



# The Theatre of the Absurd

*Martin Esslin*

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## **The Theatre of the Absurd** Martin Esslin

Hamm: We're not beginning ... to ... to ... mean something?

Clov: Mean something? You and I mean something?

(from 'Endgame' by Samuel Beckett)

Martin Esslin coined the phrase 'Theatre of the Absurd' in this ground-breaking book, and the term has become part of the language just as this book has become an indispensable part of any literature and drama library: the definitive study of the playwrights who have dramatised the fundamental absurdity of the human condition. In this readable and illuminating work - still a classic of theatre studies - Esslin shows how Beckett, Ionesco, Genet, Pinter and others have confronted a world in which there is no communication and where man flounders in a void, cut off from his roots and shorn of all certainties. "A seminal work"

(Independent)

"An exciting and stimulating book, a very useful reference work and a standard textbook" (Literary Review)

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