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"Irwin and Beckett are artistic soul mates"—San Francisco Chronicle

TONY AWARD WINNER BILL IRWIN RETURNS TO AMERICAN CONSERVATORY THEATER WITH *ON BECKETT*

**Combining his renowned skills as a master clown and dramatic actor,
this intimate 90-minute evening explores Irwin's celebrated relationship
to Irish writer and playwright Samuel Beckett**

**A.C.T.'S GEARY THEATER
OCTOBER 19–23, 2022**

SAN FRANCISCO (August 31, 2022)—Tony Award winner and A.C.T. favorite, **Bill Irwin**, returns to **American Conservatory Theater** (A.C.T.) this fall with a limited engagement of *On Beckett*, Irwin's acclaimed exploration of Irish writer and playwright Samuel Beckett. *On Beckett* will perform at A.C.T.'s Geary Theater (415 Geary St., San Francisco) for a limited engagement **beginning October 19 and running through October 23, 2022**. Tickets (\$25–\$110) and are available at the A.C.T. Box Office at 415-749-2228 or online at www.act-sf.org.

The performance schedule for *On Beckett* is as follows: **Wednesday, October 19 at 7:30 p.m. (press night); Thursday, October 20 at 7:30 p.m.; Friday, October 21 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, October 22 at 2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, October 23 at 2 p.m.**

Bill Irwin can't escape Samuel Beckett. He has spent a lifetime captivated by the Irish writer's language. In this intimate 90-minute evening, Irwin will explore a performer's relationship to Beckett, mining the physical and verbal skills acquired in his years as a master clown and Tony Award-winning actor. Irwin's approach to the comic, the tragic, to every side of Beckett's work—including *Waiting for Godot*, *Texts for Nothing*, and more—will allow audiences to experience the language and spirit in compelling new ways.

Says A.C.T. Artistic Director **Pam MacKinnon**: "I am thrilled that Bill Irwin, returning to A.C.T., continues to let us into his personal and artful wrestle with Samuel Beckett. This is theater as part lecture, part love letter, all exploration and process, all Bill, filled with humor and yearning."

"On Beckett grew out of conversations at A.C.T.—spinning ideas with Carey Perloff back in the day," said **Irwin**. "The evening is different every night, changing



constantly, but it traces back to what we premiered back in 2015 at the Strand. Same title, now a very different piece: It's both a coping mechanism (what do we do with the Samuel Beckett voice in our heads?) and a taking-stock (what is a life of working in the theatre?). I so look forward to reconnecting with Bay Area audiences, and to looking with them at this writer's life's work. And at my own—as a clown, as an actor, as a California Boy moved off to New York.”

Conceived and performed by **Bill Irwin**, *On Beckett* is an **Irish Repertory Theatre** production, produced by **Octopus Theatricals**. The creative team for *On Beckett* includes **Charlie Corcoran** (Scenic Designer), **Martha Hally** (Costume Consultant), **Michael Gottlieb** (Lighting Designer), and **M. Florian Staab** (Sound Designer).

A.C.T. would like to acknowledge its Season Presenters **Barbara Bass Bakar; Jerome L. and Thao N. Dodson; Kathleen Donohue and David Sze; Priscilla and Keith Geeslin; Michael P. N. A. Hormel**, in loving memory of **James C. Hormel; Kenneth and Gisele Miller; Barbara Ravizza and John S. Osterweis; Toni Rembe and Arthur Rock; Robina Riccitiello; Mary and Steven Swig**; and Company Sponsors **Ray and Dagmar Dolby Fund; Linda Jo Fitz; Frannie Fleishhacker; Kevin and Celeste Ford; Jo S. Hurley; Fred M. Levin**, in honor of **Nancy Livingston Levin, The Shenson Foundation; The Marymor Family Fund; Deedee McMurtry; Gerine Ongkeko; David and Carla Riemer; Patti and Rusty Rueff; Jay Yamada; Kay Yun and Andre Neumann-Loreck**. Additional support provided by **San Francisco Grants for the Arts** and **The Shubert Foundation**.

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