

ENDGAME

by Samuel Beckett



Cast **Julie Forsyth, Colin Friels, Rhys McConnochie, Luke Mullins**
Director **Sam Strong**
Set Designer **Callum Morton**
Associate Set Designer **Andrew Bailey**
Costume Designer **Eugene Teh**
Lighting Designer **Paul Jackson**
Sound Designer **Russell Goldsmith**

★★★★★

'That such a dark, unsparing play can leave its audience feeling so richly rewarded is one of the mysteries of great art.'

The Telegraph

'Versatile, dedicated, accomplished and compelling.'

Crikey (on Colin Friels)

'Strong has an uncanny ability to create compelling visuals and narrative cohesion out of the simplest theatrical techniques.'

Arts Hub

Venue

Southbank Theatre, The Sumner

Season dates

Saturday 21 March –

Saturday 25 April 2015

Opening night

8pm Thursday 26 March 2015

Production Briefing

6pm Monday 16 March 2015

Tickets

From \$73; Under 30s \$36

Bookings

Southbank Theatre Box Office

03 8688 0800 or mtc.com.au

#mtcEndgame
@MelbTheatreCo
mtc.com.au/endgame

Nothing is funnier than unhappiness

MTC Associate Artistic Director **Sam Strong** directs master craftsman **Colin Friels** in *Endgame*. Bringing Samuel Beckett's great modernist masterpiece back to the mainstage on a set designed by acclaimed visual artist **Callum Morton**, *Endgame* opens at 8pm Thursday 26 March 2015 at Southbank Theatre, The Sumner.

Returning to MTC following his triumph in *Red*, **Colin Friels** plays the blind man who cannot stand. He is joined by **Luke Mullins** (*Waiting for Godot*) as the servant who cannot sit, alongside **Julie Forsyth** (MTC's *Private Lives*) and **Rhys McConnochie** (MTC's *History Boys*) as the parents who live in dustbins.

Director **Sam Strong** said, '*Endgame* is an undisputed masterpiece by one of the greatest playwrights of the 20th century. No other writer so successfully puts unadorned humanity on stage in a way that can make us laugh at the same time as breaking our hearts. And no other writer creates experiences as profound and enduring in the theatre. *Endgame* is a theatrical Everest for artists and the team, and I can't wait to bring this great work of art to life for Melbourne audiences.'

In a bare room where two windows look out on desolation, four little lives go on. In this petty realm, Hamm is enthroned, blind and old, immobile and unmoved. His aged parents, Nagg and Nell, own nothing but their fading memories. His servant Clov, upstanding and downtrodden, hobbles about performing his ritual duties, keeping things going for all of them. Four pieces in someone else's game, playing out their final moves.

MTC Associate Artistic Director **Sam Strong** is one of Australia's preeminent theatre directors and arts leaders. His directing credits include *Masquerade* (Sydney Festival/Griffin/STSA/Melbourne Festival); *The Sublime*, *The Speechmaker*, *Private Lives*, *The Crucible*, *Other Desert Cities* and *Madagascar* (Melbourne Theatre Company); *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* (Sydney Theatre Company); *The Boys* (Sydney Festival/Griffin Theatre Company); *The Floating World*, *Between Two Waves*, *And No More Shall We Part* and *Speaking in Tongues* (Griffin); *The Power of Yes* (Company B Belvoir); and *Red Sky Morning* and *Faces in the Crowd* (Red Stitch). He has been nominated for multiple Best Director and Best Production awards at the Helpmann Awards, Sydney Theatre Awards and Green Room Awards and won the 2013 Sydney Theatre Award for Best Direction of a Mainstage Play.

Irish novelist, playwright and poet **Samuel Beckett** was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1969. His first published work was an essay on his friend, and renowned Irish novelist, James Joyce. Beckett went on to write his famous trilogy of novels *Molloy*, *Malone Dies*, and *The Unnameable*, and his first and most celebrated play, *Waiting for Godot*. This play began Beckett's association with Theatre of the Absurd, which influenced later playwrights such as Harold Pinter and Tom Stoppard. His most well-known subsequent plays include *Endgame* and *Happy Days* with his work characterised by a tragicomic outlook on human nature, often coupled with black comedy and gallows humour.



(from left)
Julie Forsyth, Colin Friels,
Rhys McConnochie
and Luke Mullins

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MTC is a department of the University of Melbourne

