

Announcing an outstanding season of work including *The Berliner Ensemble*, Brian Friel directed by John Haidar and Gare St Lazare.

## SPRING 2020 AT THE CORONET THEATRE

February to April 2020

The Coronet Theatre will present a season of cross-art international theatre in the Spring of 2020. Work comes from Germany with *The Berliner Ensemble*, the UK with Brian Friel directed by John Haidar, and France and Ireland from Gare St Lazare with Samuel Beckett.

Theatre, music, poetry, visual art and installations will be staged in The Coronet Theatre, The Print Room and The Coronet Bar.

Artistic Director Anda Winters said 'Our policy is to present a rich mixture of international and UK work across the artistic disciplines, reinforcing our common humanity, responsibility, and excitement over artistic expression. To this end we continually make new relationships, as with *The Berliner Ensemble*, whilst developing existing partnerships with companies and artists such as Gare St Lazare. We are fortunate, in this magnificent building, to be able to offer artists spaces within the building to present different artistic aspects of their work. This Spring we are delighted to present a strong season of drama from across Europe in *The Coronet Theatre*, supported by visual art and installations in *The Print Room*, exhibiting another dimension of the work of these exceptional artists.'

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The Spring season at The Coronet Theatre includes:

- **The Berliner Ensemble** with *The Tin Drum* by Nobel-Prize winning novelist Günter Grass, make their first visit to the UK since 2006. Directed and adapted for the stage by their Artistic Director Oliver Reese, with a remarkable solo performance by actor Nico Holonics.
- **Afterplay** by Brian Friel, directed by John Haidar. Friel's haunting one-act play takes us to a café where two of Anton Chekhov's most iconic characters have happened to meet.
- **Stephen Dillane, Conor Lovett, and Gare St Lazare** return to The Coronet Theatre with the UK premiere of the second part of Samuel Beckett's novel *How It Is (Part 2)*, following the success of *Part 1* in 2018.
- **Poetry Club** with David Harsent and Anthony Anaxagorou. The Coronet Theatre's Poetry Club series continues with reading by two exciting contemporary poets in the atmospheric bar.

The Season in more detail.

## 24 - 29 February

The Berliner Ensemble with

### The Tin Drum by Günter Grass

Adapted and Directed by Oliver Reese

Performed by Nico Holonics

#### Press Night Tuesday 25 February at 7.30pm

*"Mr. Holonics brings Grass' epic to life on a scale that seems at once vast and intimate."*  
(New York Times)

The Coronet Theatre is delighted to present Berliner Ensemble with *The Tin Drum* by Nobel-Prize winning novelist Günter Grass. Directed and adapted for the stage by their Artistic Director Oliver Reese, this is the Ensemble's first visit to the UK since 2006. Grass' world-famous story is told in a solo performance by actor Nico Holonics.

Oskar is barely born when he recognises the world to be a universal disaster – and rejects it entirely. The world he is tossed into is experiencing the dawn of the National Socialist regime, with scant opportunities for a growing boy to thrive. Only when his mother promises to give him a tin drum does an acceptable prospect for survival unfold: the life of a drummer - and an observer.

Despite all the controversies around the novel and the author Günter Grass, the text is still regarded as a milestone in German post-war literature.

The Berliner Ensemble is one of the most renowned and long-standing theatres in Germany. Named after Bertolt Brecht's world-famous company, it is part of theatre history.

In German with English sur-titles

The Coronet Theatre. Monday 24 - Saturday 29 February at 7.30pm. £30/£25: Standard £20: Under 30s. Mondays only £15: Schools. Concessions available.

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## 7 March - 4 April

The Coronet Theatre presents

### Afterplay by Brian Friel

Directed by John Haidar

#### Press Night Thursday 12 March at 7.30pm

When Andrey and Sonya were young, they were told how their lives should be – marriage, children and happily ever after. Decades later they meet by chance in a Moscow café. Their dreams have given way to a rather different reality. When they look in a mirror, someone they don't recognise looks back. In the course of their encounter, they catch sight of what might have been, and the possibility of a different future.

Brian Friel's *Afterplay* hauntingly evokes what might have happened next to two of Anton Chekhov's most iconic characters in his masterful one-act play, in a new production for The Coronet Theatre directed by John Haidar.

Friel revisits characters from *Three Sisters* and *Uncle Vanya* and makes them his own.

The Coronet Theatre. Saturday 7 March – Saturday 4 April at 7.30pm.

Matinee Thursday 2 April at 2.30pm. £30/£25: Standard £20: Previews, Under 30s Mondays only £15: Schools. Concessions available.

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**15 April - 2 May**

Gare St Lazare Ireland in a co-production with The Coronet Theatre  
in association with The Everyman (Cork)

## **How It Is (Part 2) by Samuel Beckett**

Directed and Designed by Judy Hegarty Lovett

Performed by Stephen Dillane & Conor Lovett

Music composed and performed by Mel Mercier and The Irish Gamelan Orchestra

**Press Night Friday 17 April at 7.30pm**

*'A high recommendation – it's a beautiful piece of work.'* Helen Meany RTÉ Radio Ireland

Director/designer Judy Hegarty Lovett, with actors Stephen Dillane and Conor Lovett, and sound designer/composer Mel Mercier, return to The Coronet Theatre, joined by the Irish Gamelan Orchestra, with the UK premiere of the second tranche of Beckett's tripartite novel, *How It Is*, following the success of *Part One* in 2018.

*How It Is (Part 1)* saw an unnamed narrator recount a journey in mud and darkness towards a fellow traveller, Pim, repeating his life as he heard it uttered by another voice. Now, he is with Pim, and their bizarre relationship of tormentor and victim unfolds as the narrator attempts to make sense of his predicament.

Beckett's extraordinary 1964 novel was written in a form between verse and prose, without punctuation. Its telling is a tribute to the skills of the creative team.

Gare St Lazare Ireland has an international reputation for their Beckett productions. For over 20 years, joint artistic directors Judy Hegarty Lovett and Conor Lovett have explored Samuel Beckett's work, paying particular attention to that which was not written for the stage. They continue their three-part adaptation of Beckett's masterpiece *How It Is*, engaging once more with The Coronet Theatre's auditorium and with the gleaming instruments of The Irish Gamelan Orchestra.

Mel Mercier is a multi-award-winning, Tony-nominated composer and sound designer. Mel has collaborated with Deborah Warner and Fiona Shaw for nearly 20 years and with Gare St Lazare Ireland for the last 4 years on *How It Is Part 1* and *How It Is Part 2*. Mel is the Director of the Irish Gamelan Orchestra and Professor and Chair of Performing Arts at the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance at the University of Limerick.

The Coronet Theatre. Wednesday 15 April – Saturday 2 May 7.30pm.

£30/£25: Standard £20: Previews, Under 30s Mondays only £15: Schools. Concessions available.

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## **Poetry Club**

**David Harsent and Anthony Anaxagorou.**

**Tuesday 3 March 7.30pm**

David Harsent and Anthony Anaxagorou – are two high profile poets who will read in the atmospheric Coronet Bar. Harsent won the 2014 TS Eliot Prize with *Firesongs*; Anaxagorou is on the current shortlist with *After the Formalities*.

Anthony Anaxagorou is a British-born Cypriot poet, fiction writer, essayist, publisher and poetry educator based in Hackney. His second collection *After the Formalities*, is shortlisted for the TS Eliot Prize 2020. Anthony is artistic director of Out-Spoken, a monthly poetry and music night held at London's Southbank Centre, and publisher of Out-Spoken Press.

David Harsent has published twelve collections of poetry. His latest, *Loss* is published in January 2020. *Fire Songs* (2014) won the T. S. Eliot Prize. *Night* (2011), a Poetry Book Society Choice, was shortlisted for the Costa, Forward and T. S. Eliot poetry prizes and won the Griffin International

Poetry Prize. *Salt* was published in 2017. . . '...one book makes up for a great deal and *Salt* is a masterpiece' John Burnside, New Statesman Book of the Year. Harsent also works in music theatre and is Professor of Creative Writing at the University of Roehampton and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature.

Supported by The TS Eliot Foundation

For general information about The Coronet Theatre, and information and reviewing tickets please contact Sharon Kean 07973 843133 [sharon@keanlanyon.com](mailto:sharon@keanlanyon.com)  
Photographs can be downloaded at [keanlanyon.smugmug.com](http://keanlanyon.smugmug.com) Password:download

## HOW TO BOOK

020 3642 6606

[thecoronettheatre.com](http://thecoronettheatre.com) (no booking fee)

In person at the Box Office (Mon - Sat, 10am - 6pm)

Address: The Coronet Theatre, 103 Notting Hill Gate, London W11 3LB

Nearest tube: Notting Hill Gate (Central, Circle and District lines)

Website: [thecoronettheatre.com](http://thecoronettheatre.com) t: @coronetttheatre