

Gare St Lazare Ireland present

## **HOW IT IS (PART 2)**

by **Samuel Beckett**

A Co-production with The Coronet Theatre.  
In Association with The Everyman (Cork)

Directed and Designed by Judy Hegarty Lovett  
Performed by Stephen Dillane & Conor Lovett  
Music composition by Mel Mercier and the  
Irish Gamelan Orchestra

**20 April - 7 May 2022**

**Press Night Friday 22 April at 7.30pm**

*'The spine tingles... Dillane and Lovett are once again compelling in their symbiosis... there is no sense of confusion, rather a feeling that somehow we are nearer to the essence of what it is to be human.'* Irish Examiner

Exactly two years after originally planned, the award-winning Irish company **Gare St Lazare** return to The Coronet Theatre with the UK premiere of *How It Is (Part 2)*, the second stand-alone part of a three part staging of Beckett's novel, following the success of *(Part 1)* in 2018.

Actors **Conor Lovett** and **Stephen Dillane** are directed by **Judy Hegarty Lovett** who also designed the production. The music is composed by Gare St Lazare's long time collaborator **Mel Mercier** with the 14 member **Irish Gamelan Orchestra** - a collaboration six years in the making. It is performed by **Mel Mercier, Irish Gamelan Orchestra, Cathal Roche** and **Claudia Schwab**. Lighting is designed by **Simon Bennison**.

*'Beckett is one of those artists who come along rarely and change everything. Like Beethoven, Coco Chanel or Dylan; artists with such skill, vision and commitment that they can genuinely change the world.'* Conor Lovett, Gare St Lazare Ireland.

A Best Director nominee for this production at the upcoming The Irish Times Irish Theatre Awards, Hegarty Lovett knows that with Beckett, you let the words be your guide. *"It's not about what we can do to Beckett; rather it's about what he brings out in us"*.

*How It Is (Part 2)* is both a continuation of *(Part 1)*, and a stand-alone piece in its own right.

*How It Is (Part 1)* saw an unnamed narrator in a landscape of mud and darkness with only a sack of tins and a tin opener, as he recounts a journey towards a fellow traveller, Pim, repeating his life as he heard it, uttered by another voice. In *(Part 2)*, he is with Pim, and when a brief honeymoon period ends, violence seems the only way to make sense of their bizarre predicament.

Music performed by **Mel Mercier, the Irish Gamelan Orchestra, Nick Roth and Claudia Schwab**. Lighting designed by **Simon Bennison**.

Originally written in 1961 in French, *How It Is (Comment c'est)* was Beckett's last full-length prose work. This production offers audiences a new way to encounter a book in which, with a profound compassion and understanding, Beckett explores the essence of human relations.

For over 20 years, joint artistic directors Judy Hegarty Lovett and Conor Lovett have explored Samuel Beckett's work, gaining an enviable reputation worldwide for their distinctive stagings of his prose and novels in productions that are at once accessible and innovative. *How It Is (Part*



Kean Lanyon  
07973 843133  
keanlanyon.com

photos are  
available at

www.keanlanyon.  
smugmug.com

password:  
download

2) continues a 6 year engagement with Beckett's masterpiece. The company filmed all three parts for the Dublin Theatre Festival in 2021 in a wonderful collaboration with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment. View excerpt: [https://youtu.be/CRVa\\_ur\\_1Q0](https://youtu.be/CRVa_ur_1Q0)

Taking the lead from the novel's linguistic experiments and breaks with convention, Hegarty Lovett's design and Simon Bennison's lighting engages spatially, visually and aurally with The Coronet's auditorium and the glinting Javanese Gamelan instruments.

Supported by The Arts Council of Ireland and Culture Ireland.

**For further 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

### **BOOKING INFORMATION**

**Venue:** The Coronet Theatre

**Dates and Times:** Wed 20 Apr - Sat 7 May, 7:30pm

Running Time: Approx 2 hours

#### **Tickets:**

Previews (20 & 21 April): £35

Standard: £40

Concessions: £20

#### **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: @thecoronettheatre

### **BIOGRAPHIES**

#### **Judy Hegarty-Lovett**

Judy has a degree in Fine Art from Crawford College, Cork, a post graduate degree in Dramatherapy and this year was awarded a PhD for her practice of staging Beckett's prose. She has directed all but one of Gare St Lazare Ireland's 23 Beckett titles since 1996 when she first directed Conor Lovett in *Molloy* by Samuel Beckett at Riverside Studios, London and at Edinburgh. Other directing credits includes *Copenhagen* (*Los Angeles Times critics pick 2016*), *Title and Deed* by Will Eno (*New York Times/New Yorker/Time Out NY critics picks 2012*), *Moby Dick* by Herman Melville (adapted by Judy with Conor Lovett), *Swallow* by Michael Harding, *Tanks a Lot* by Judy Hegarty Lovett and Raymond Keane and *The Good Thief* by Conor McPherson.

Her work has been recognized at Awards in London, Berlin, Boston, Dublin, Edinburgh, New York, Santa Barbara and Shanghai. *How It Is* has been nominated for 5 Irish Times Theatre Awards, with 2018's *How It Is (Part 1)* winning Best Soundscape (Mel Mercier) and Best Lighting (Kris Stone).

#### **Conor Lovett - Actor**

Trained at Ecole Jacques Lecoq in Paris, Conor has performed over 18 Beckett roles in 21 productions. Joint artistic director of Gare St Lazare Ireland he has toured to over 84 cities in 25 countries with the company, collaborating with Judy Hegarty Lovett on most of them. He has also been directed by Walter Asmus in *A Piece of Monologue* (for Gare St Lazare) and *Waiting For Godot* (in productions for The Gate Theatre, Dublin's and Rubicon Theatre, Los Angeles).

Other theatre work includes The Gate Beckett Festival at The Barbican, *Leaves* (Druid/Royal Court), *The Bull* (Fabulous Beast), *The Feast During The Plague* (Clod Ensemble), *Orpheus*

(Steeple) and *The Oginski Polonaise* (The Gate, London).

Film and TV includes *Charles De Gaulle, I'll Find You, Endeavour, Belgravia, Acceptable Risk and Father Ted*.

### **Stephen Dillane - Actor**

Prior to the Cork premier of *How It Is (Part 2)*, Stephen Dillane's latest theatre work was in Martin Crimp's *When We Have Sufficiently Tortured Each Other* at the National Theatre in London in February. Before that he was at *The Coronet* and *The Everyman* in Cork with Gare St Lazare's *How It Is (Part 1)*. Previous London work includes *Faith Healer*, the Abbey production of *Dancing at Lughnasa* (at the NT), *Endgame, Hamlet, The Real Thing* (also in New York), *Uncle Vanya, Macbeth* (also in LA, Sydney and Adelaide), *Coast of Utopia, Long Day's Journey into Night, Hush, The Masterbuilder, Drunk Enough to Say I Love You, Angels in America, Four Quartets* and a production of *Schubert's Winterreise* interspersed with Beckett poems called *One Evening* (with Mark Padmore).

TV and film work includes: *Boxing Day, Vigil, Alex Rider, The Tunnel, John Adams, The Crown, The Killing of Thomas Hurndall, Game of Thrones, Welcome to Sarajevo, The Hours, Spygame, Darkest Hour* and *Outlaw King*.

He has also collaborated with Tacita Dean on two films: *Antigone* and *Event for a Stage*.

### **Mel Mercier - Composer/Founder of 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.

### **Simon Bennison - Lighting Design**

From Manchester, trained in lighting, architecture and music. He is Lighting Associate for the Royal Opera House. Previous work for Gare St. Lazare includes *How it Is Part 1, Here all Night, The Beckett Trilogy, The End, First Love* and *Hello Sam* by artist Brian O'Doherty.

At the Print Room: *Lady from the Sea, Title & Deed, The Dead Dogs, Smoke and Ivy & Joan*. Other recent designs include *Happy Days* and *Disgraced* for the Norwegian National Theatre, for the Royal Ballet *Inferno, Anemoui, The Illustrated Farewell, and Morgen*. And elsewhere *Ondine* (Bolshoi Ballet) and *Romeo and Juliet* (Royal Ballet of Flanders & Ekaterinburg Ballet) and *Le Baisir de la Fée*, (Perm Ballet & Scottish Ballet), and *Three & Four Quarters* and *If Play Is Play* (Headspace Dance Company). Recent works for film includes *Agnus Dei* for Arthur Pita and Ballet Boyz and *How it Is* for Gare St. Lazare.

**Gare St Lazare Ireland** (GSLI) is an Irish theatre company run by joint artistic directors Judy Hegarty Lovett & Conor Lovett and associate producer Maura O'Keeffe. Over 23 years it has toured work all over Ireland and around the world. With over 17 titles by Samuel Beckett in the repertory the company has built a reputation as premier exponents of the Nobel prizewinning Irish author's work with a particular emphasis on his prose and novels. *How It Is (Part 1)* was produced at *The Everyman*. *(Part 2)* premiered at *The Everyman* in 2019. In 2021 a 6 hour 17 minute film of the entire 3 parts was made in Cork and broadcast during Dublin Theatre Festival. It is hoped to perform the entire novel live on stage at a future date.  
[garestlazareireland.com](http://garestlazareireland.com)

**The Irish Gamelan Orchestra** (IGO) was established in 2013 with the aim of developing a collaborative approach to the composition and performance of new music for gamelan. Led by Musical Director Mel Mercier and Assistant Directors Kelly Boyle and Kevin McNally, the 14-member ensemble performs a repertoire of original music, which is co-created with a variety of artists across a wide range of genres.

In *How It Is (Part 2)*, the IGO performs on the UCC gamelan – Ireland's first full set of Javanese traditional instruments - and the ensemble is joined by Nick Roth (saxophone/ flutes) and Claudia Schwab (violin). The UCC gamelan instruments were commissioned by Mel Mercier from the master Javanese gongsmith, Pak Tentrem, and named *Nyai Sekar Madu Sari* (Venerable Flower of Honey Essence) at a ceremony in Pak Tentrem's forge in Solo, Java in 1995.

[facebook.com/irishgamelanorchestra](https://facebook.com/irishgamelanorchestra)