

Press/Media contact:

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**The Athena Theatre Company presents *Waiting for Godot*
By Samuel Beckett at The Raven Playhouse, NoHo Arts District**

Nobel Prize Winner Samuel Beckett's absurd, existential, and darkly funny play is noted as one of the most influential pieces of drama in the 20th century. Revolutionary in part due to its absence of a traditional plot, *Waiting for Godot* examines two days in the life of Vladimir and Estragon. Beckett's self-termed "tragicomedy" remains a "mystery wrapped in an enigma", as New York Times review famously proclaimed. But this inscrutable play poses a wealth of stimulating questions, diversionary gags, and rich material for extraordinary actors.

"One of the most noble and moving plays of our generation, a threnody of hope deceived and deferred but never extinguished; a play suffused with tenderness for the whole human perplexity; with phrases that come like a sharp stab of beauty and pain." -*The Times* (London)

Playwright, Samuel Beckett wrote *Eleutheria*, *Waiting for Godot*, *Endgame*, the novels *Malloy*, *Malone Dies*, *The Unnamable*, and *Mercier et Camier*, two books of short stories, and a book of criticism. Beckett was the first of the absurdists to win international fame. His works have been translated into over twenty languages. In 1969 he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature. He continued to write until his death in 1989, but the task grew more and more difficult with each work until, in the end, he said that each word seemed to him "an unnecessary stain on silence and nothingness."

The specific purpose of Athena Theatre is to educate by providing a supportive and creative environment for artists (actors and crew), where they take risks, try new things, consider new approaches; to provide theatre they are proud of and passionate about. Véronique Ory and Elizabeth Welsh are the founding members of Athena Theatre. The formation began coming together while working on *Two Encounters*, *Birdbath* and *Ferryboat* in November 2002.

Athena Theatre Company's previous productions have received strong critical response. *Beirut* had people raving "...the actors create an energy that makes it easy for the audience to be captivated and wondering just what will happen next."-*Systems Reviews*. *Crimes of the Heart* was called "Pure Joy"-NoHo LA. "The four women have great interaction between them"-*reviewplays.com* "After presenting a family show such as *Crimes*, we really wanted to present *Beirut* that forced audiences to be inspired, moved and leaving the theatre a bit uncomfortable."-Elizabeth Welsh, co-artistic director.

Directed by: Claire Titelman

The Raven Playhouse, 5233 Lankershim Blvd, NoHo Arts District
Previews: Thursday, June 10th; Performances: June 11th, 12th, 18th, 19th
Friday, Saturday @ 8:00pm Tickets: \$15; Group Discounts Available
Reservations and Information: 818.754.1423 OR at www.athenatheatre.com