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978-1-107-05392-2 - The Cambridge Introduction to Theatre and Literature of the Absurd

Michael Y. Bennett

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*The Cambridge Introduction to
Theatre and Literature of the Absurd*

MICHAEL BENNETT'S accessible *Introduction* explains the complex, multi-dimensional nature of the works and writers associated with the absurd – a label placed upon a number of writers who revolted against traditional theatre and literature in both similar and widely different ways. Setting the movement in its historical, intellectual, and cultural contexts, Bennett provides an in-depth overview of absurdism and its key figures in theatre and literature, from Samuel Beckett and Harold Pinter to Tom Stoppard. Chapters reveal the movement's origins, development, and present-day influence upon popular culture around the world, employing the latest research to this often-challenging area of study in a balanced and authoritative approach. Essential reading for students of literature and theatre, this book provides the necessary tools to interpret and develop the study of a movement associated with some of the twentieth century's greatest and most influential cultural figures.

MICHAEL Y. BENNETT is Associate Professor of English and affiliated faculty in Philosophy at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

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To my best friend, Eyal Tamir, with whom I laugh at life's absurdities

In memory of

Robert A. Bennett (1941–2014)

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