

THE RISE AND FALL AND LIFE AND DEATH OF THEATRE IN THE WESTERN
WORLD AS WE KNOW IT-A VERY SHORT PLAY

by

Anthony Clark Vines

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The setting is an empty stage. Eerie music (something in the line of Phillip Glass) plays in the background. An androgynous figure enters wearing an all grey outfit and proceeds to the center stage. The Figure produces a cigarette and lights it.

FIGURE

Ladies and gentlemen. Patrons one and all; I thank you for joining us. Tonight, we are here to celebrate one of theatre's greatest artisans; Samuel Beckett.

(Figure entices audience to clap.)

FIGURE

Yes, yes. I know. Isn't it wonderful? Now, I think to get things started I should require the help of someone in the audience. How about you (Sir/Madam)?

(Figure chooses someone randomly from the audience.)

FIGURE

That's right. Don't be shy. Come right on up. Everyone. Let's give them a hand.

(Figure entices audience to clap. Member comes up.)

FIGURE

Lovely. Lovely. Thank you for helping us tonight. Are you excited? Yes, yes. I know. Now, are you ready? Yes? (*To audience*) Are we all ready? Yes? Good. Now, when I say go, I would like you to take a big breath and hold it. Can you do that for us? Sure. Sure. Okay? Good. And (*pause*) Go!

(Member holds breath. Figure quickly takes out a bottle of whiskey or flask, takes a swig and turns to audience member on stage.)

FIGURE

Fuck you, you stupid git!

(Figure exits stage. The music fades.)

Finis