

# Waiting for Godot

## Performed in Japanese

“Waiting for Godot” is an undisputed masterpiece by the Irish novelist, playwright, poet, theatre director and 1969 Nobel Laureate in Literature, Samuel Beckett.

Written in French and given the title “En attendant Godot” by Beckett, who spent most of his adult life in France, the play premiered in Paris in 1953 two years before his English translation was staged in London.

Centered on two characters waiting for someone called Godot to arrive, who never does, this classic of the theatre of the absurd never even reveals how long they have been there, or how long they will continue to wait.

This time, though, the director Junnosuke Tada — the first foreigner to receive Korea’s prestigious Dong-A Ilbo Drama Award, for his 2013 take on Anton Chekhov’s “Seagull” (titled “Karumegi” in Korean) — is not only tackling this iconic work for the first time, but he’s doing it twice over.

That’s because he’s staging both a Showa-Heisei version — with the main protagonists Vladimir and Estragon played by the over-60 actors Hiroo Otaka and Takayasu Komiya, respectively — and a Reiwa version with the thirtysomething Sennojo Shigeyama and Gota Watabe in those roles.

Certainly, it will be interesting to see how these two versions reflecting Japan before and after 2019’s change of Emperor compare, even though the actors say exactly the same lines in both. However, perhaps in a hint toward his approach, the director is on record wondering whether people who have been waiting for ages through the Showa-Heisei eras will continue to do so through the new Reiwa era as well.

So, as “waiting” isn’t part of most people’s hectic daily lives in today’s digital society, how the director views Beckett’s masterpiece through lenses of the past and present — and future — presents a fascinating prospect for Kanagawa ArtsTheatre’s audiences coming to see these two distinct takes on a truly timeless work of art.

## STAFF

Text Samuel Beckett  
Translation Minako Okamuro  
Direction Junnosuke Tada

## CAST

Hiroo Otaka  
Takayasu Komiya  
[Showa-Heisei version]

Sennojo Shigeyama  
Gota Watanabe  
[Reiwa version]

Hideki Nagai  
Toshiaki Inomata  
Futa Kimura

## SCHEDULE

12 -23 June,2019

## VENUE

**KANAGAWA ARTS THEATRE**

## TICKETS

¥5,000  
Concession tickets are available.

## INQUIRY

◇Tickets Kanagawa  
Tel:0570-015-415(10:00-18:00)  
◇Box Office  
Kanagawa Arts Theatre 2F(10:00-18:00)  
<http://www.kaat.jp>