

Samuel Beckett Related Audio Material

This catalogue pulls together descriptions of the accessible audio material that we hold within the Beckett (BC) Collection and the Katherine Worth Collection (MS 5531). Please check our online catalogue for full descriptions of this material and for audio material held in our other Beckett collections.

Please note that there is also related audio material within the Library collections, which can be searched via Enterprise, including:

Works for radio: the original broadcasts / Samuel Beckett. London : British Library Board, c 2006. Reference: BECKETT COLLECTION--21

Beckett Collection (BC)

**BC MS
1396/3/2**

Audio cassette recording of a reading of **Watt** in German
undated

Audio Cassette tape [Master]

2 items

**BC MS
2619/1/2**

Audio cassette recording of **Krapp's Last Tape** dir. Alan
Schneider with Donald Davis
1961

Alan Schneider directs Donald Davis in this 1961 audio
recording of Krapp's Last Tape for the Spoken Arts label. It was
presented by Arthur Luce Klein. The sound engineer was David
Jones.

Audio Cassette tape [ACCESS]

**BC MS
2619/2/2**

Audio cassette recording of **Endgame** dir. Alan Schneider for
Evergreen Records
17 November 1958

This Evergreen Records audio recording of the stage play,
Endgame from 17 November 1958 was directed by Alan
Schneider with music by David Amram. Schneider directed the
US première of Endgame at New York's Cherry Lane Theatre on
28 January 1958. The cast for this broadcast production
includes: Lester Rawlins (Hamm), Gerald Hiken (Clov), P. J.
Kelly (Nagg), and Nydia Westman (Nell).

Audio Cassette tape [ACCESS]

- BC MS
2619/3/2** Audio cassette recording of **Earl Kim's compositions** based on the work of Samuel Beckett
29 April 1963
The cassette contains three pieces: (1) Three Letters with Bethany Beardslee (soprano) and Robert Helps (pianoforte); (2) Dialogues for Piano and Orchestra with Earl Kim (pianoforte) and the Princeton Symphony Orchestra conducted by Nicholas Harsanyi; (3) Exercises en Route: Part I '...dead calm...' (text by Samuel Beckett) with Bethany Beardslee (soprano) and the Princeton Chamber Ensemble conducted by John Harbison. The music was recorded at the McCosh Hall at Princeton University, New Jersey on 29 April 1963.
Audio Cassette tape [ACCESS]
- BC MS
2619/4/2** Audio cassette recording of **Play** by the Chiltern Players in 1967
23 July 1967
Beckett's one-act play entitled Play was written between 1962 and 1963. It was first produced in German (Spiel) on 14 June 1963 at the Ulmer Theatre in Ulm-Donau, Germany and was directed by Deryk Mendel. The first English language performance of Play took place at the Old Vic on 7 April 1964 and was directed by Geroge Devine. This audio recording was made on 23 July 1967. It is of a staged performance by the Chiltern Players at Missenden Abbey in Buckinghamshire, England. M was played by Alan Thomas, W1 by Linden Barnett, and W2 by Sheila Davies.
Audio Cassette tape [ACCESS]
- BC MS
2619/5/2** Audio cassette recording of **Happy Days** from Copenhagen
undated
Part of Act II
Audio Cassette tape [ACCESS]; Duration: 6:05
- BC MS
2619/6/2** Audio cassette recording of **Poem Sequence** for Samuel Beckett
1965
This is a recording of John Sharkey performing his 'Poem Sequence for Samuel Beckett', part of which had first appeared in print in issue #4 of Barry Flanagan's student publication, Silâns (November 1964). A mimeographed signed edition of 50 copies of the complete work was privately published, six poems from the sequence appeared in the Times Literary Supplement, and further sections appeared in Signals #11 (1966). The Beckett Collection also holds one of the signed reel-to-reel recordings.
Audio Cassette tape [ACCESS]; Duration: 09:30

- BC MS
2619/7/2** Audio cassette recording of **Eh Joe** (He, Joe) in German
undated

Audio Cassette tape [ACCESS]
- BC MS
2619/8/2** Audio cassette recording of **Paroles et Musique**
undated

Audio Cassett tape [ACCESS]
- BC MS
2619/9/2** Audio cassette recording of **Ruthenfranz's Evokationen auf
Beckett for solo cello**
1968
German composer Robert Ruthenfranz's Evokationen auf
Beckett [Homage to Samuel Beckett] for solo cello (Günter
Eckartz) was recorded in 1968. Ruthenfranz was born in Witten
in 1905 and died there in 1970.
Audio cassette tape [ACCESS]
- BC MS 2815** Audio cassette recording of **Barry McGovern reading Dante
and the Lobster and From An Abandoned Work**
1986
Irish actor Barry McGovern, best known for his success with his
one man show I'll Go On (extracts selected from Beckett's
Trilogy) which the Gate Theatre presented at the 1985 Dublin
Theatre Festival, reads Dante and the Lobster (first pub. 1932)
and From An Abandoned Work (pub. 1957) for 'The Abbey
Reads: A Tribute to Beckett'. These readings were recorded in
1986 and directed by Kathleen Barrington.
Audio Cassette tape [Master]
- BC MS 2835** Audio cassette recording of a documentary celebration of
Beckett's 80th birthday: **All The Dead Voices**
12 May 1986
All the Dead Voices is a documentary celebration of Samuel
Beckett's 80th birthday. It was recorded at the Beckett
International Symposium held at the Pompidou Centre in Paris
from 25-27 April 1986. The recording was donated by Des
Hickey by permission of the producer, Seamus Hosey. It was
first broadcast on RTÉ Radio One on 12 May 1986. The
recording begins with a very brief excerpt from Schubert's Death
and the Maiden followed by a short reading from Malone Dies
(beginning: 'I shall soon be quite dead at last'), and overview of
Beckett's life. Scholars then discuss Beckett's work and life.

Personnel featured include: Rosette Lamond; John Calder
(Beckett's London publisher); James Knowlson; Katharine

Worth; Terence Brown; Yasunari Takahashi; Gerry Dukes; Barry McGovern (actor); and John Minihan (photographer).
Audio Cassette tape [Master]

- BC MS 3327** Audio cassette recording of **Morton Feldman's operatic setting of Beckett's neither**
19 October 1978
This recording of composer Morton Feldman's musical setting of Beckett's sixteen-line poem, *neither*, was recorded on 19 October 1978. The production was for RIAS Berlin and was recorded live from the Meta-Musik-Festibal, Neue Nationalgalerie. The music was performed by Radio Symphonie Orchester Berlin. The conductor was Kaspar Richter and the soprano was Martha Herr. The one-act opera had its première at Rome's Teatro dell'Opera on 12 June 1977 and was conducted by Marcello Panni with Martha Hanneman as soprano.

For Feldman's score see: BECKETT RESERVE LARGE--45-FEL.

Audio Cassette tape [Master]; Duration: 56.57

- BC MS 3534** Audio cassette of **The Beckett Festival of Radio Plays' recording of Embers** dir. Everett Frost
13 April 1989
Voices International presents the Beckett Festival Radio Plays (BFRP) recording of *Embers* (written in 1959). This version was broadcast on National Public Radio (NPR) on 13 April 1989. It was recorded in January 1988 at the BBC Studios, London. The director and producer for *Embers* was Everett Frost, the Associate Producer was Faith Wilding, and the Project Originator was Martha Fehsenfeld. Barry McGovern played Henry, Billie Whitelaw played Ada, Michael Deacon played the Riding / Music Master, and Tika Viker-Bloss was Addie. Henry Strozier was the host for the production. The sound of the sea was recorded at Killiney beach in Ireland by Liam Saurin. Before the recording begins, Barbara Bray offers brief comments on the genesis of *Embers*. At the end of the recording, Ruby Cohn, Barry McGovern, Linda Ben-Zvi discuss the play.

For a recording of the original 1959 production: see "Works for radio [sound recording]: the original broadcasts /Samuel Beckett.", reference BECKETT COLLECTION--21.

Audio Cassette tape [ACCESS]; Duration: 50.00

- BC MS 4313** Audio cassette of a recording of **John Sessions and John Bird discussing the works of Beckett on Mightier Than The Sword** for BBC Radio 3
21 February 1996
John Sessions and John Bird (with Rebecca Front) explore the work of Samuel Beckett on BBC Radio 3. This programme is a spoof arts documentary that parodies the work and analysis of Samuel Beckett.
Audio Cassett tape [MASTER]; Duration: 15.00
- BC MS 4322** Audio cassette recordings of **Embers, Cascando, and a documentary on Beckett in Czech**
undated
These three cassettes contain Czech language versions of Embers [Žhnoucí Popel] and Cascando [Cascando], as well as 'An Imaginary Portrait of a 90th Birthday' [Imaginární podobizna k nedožitým devadesátinám] by the translator Josef Kaušitz.
Audio cassette tape [Master]
- 3 items
- BC MS 4345** Audio cassettes featuring recordings of **Aspettando Godot [Waiting for Godot], Ceneri [Embers], and L'Ultimo Nastro di Krapp [Krapp's Last Tape]**
undated
These two cassettes contain three dramatic readings of Beckett's plays in Italian: Aspettando Godot [Waiting for Godot], Ceneri [Embers], and L'Ultimo Nastro di Krapp [Krapp's Last Tape]. Godot was translated and directed by Luciano Mondolfo with Annibale Ninchi (Estragon), Claudio Ermelli (Vladimir), Renato Mainardi (Lucky), Vittorio Caprioli (Pozzo), Massimo Giuliani (boy). It was broadcast on Rai Radio 3 in 1961. Ceneri was translated by Amleto Micozzi and directed by Giorgio Bandini with Salvo Randone (Henry), Gabriella Giacobbe (Ada), Guancarlo Detiori (Music/Riding Master), Anna Maria Riva Resnati (Addie). It was broadcast on Rai Radio 3 on 29 January 1960. L'Ultimo Nastro di Krapp was translated by Mario Diacono and directed by Flaminio Bollini with Tino Buazzelli (Krapp) and Mario Chioocchio (Narrator). It was broadcast on Roma RAI in 1995.
Audio Cassette tape [Master]
- 2 items

- BC MS 4346** Audio cassette with **readings from work by Samuel Beckett, James Joyce, W. B. Yeats, and George Bernard Shaw: Anna-Livia's Daughter's Sons.**
Undated
Excerpts from a programme containing readings from the four great Irish writers: George Bernard Shaw, W. B. Yeats, James Joyce, and Samuel Beckett. The tape was sent by Peter O'Shaughnessy, who produced the first production of *Waiting for Godot* in Australia in 1957. Two years later, O'Shaughnessy played Krapp in the Australian première of *Krapp's Last Tape* at the Arts Theatre in Melbourne. The extract for the Beckett reading is of *From An Abandoned Work*. It also contains the Anna Livia Plurabelle section of *Finnegans Wake* (Joyce), 'The Tower' (Yeats), and comments on Victorian women (Shaw).
- The tape also contains comments on *King Lear* and then ends abruptly.
- From An Abandoned Work*, a 'meditation for radio' by Samuel Beckett, was first broadcast on the BBC Third Programme on Saturday 14 December 1957. It was directed by Donald McWhinnie and was read by Patrick Magee. To hear a copy of this recording, see: *Works for radio [sound recording]: the original broadcasts /Samuel Beckett*, reference: BECKETT COLLECTION--21.
Audio Cassette tape [Master]
- BC MS 4647** Audio cassette recording of **Billie Whitelaw 'Talking About Beckett': In Conversation with Michael Heath** at the Courtauld Institute 1997
4 February 1997
In this 1997 Adam Lecture, chaired by Michael Heath at the Courtauld Institute, Billie Whitelaw discusses first meeting Beckett in 1964 and acting in his plays. She talks about how she changed the pace and pitch of her voice for Beckett's drama and how his work requires both the actor and audience to endure boredom. Whitelaw also speaks to Beckett's integrity and kindness before giving a reading from *Rockaby*.
- Personnel and plays discussed include: Billie Whitelaw; George Devine; Jocelyn Herbert; *Play*; *Happy Days*; *Quad*; *Footfalls*; *Eh Joe*; *Not I*.
Audio Cassette tape [Master]
- BC MS 4985/1** Audio cassette recording an **interview with Dr Geoffrey Thompson speaking about his friendship with Samuel Beckett** for a radio broadcast as a tribute to Samuel Beckett's 70th birthday

14 October 1976

Interview with Dr Geoffrey Thompson from a Raidió Teilifís Éireann recording. Thompson met Beckett in the Summer of 1921 when they were both 15-year-old pupils at Portora Royal School. They then went to Trinity College Dublin together in 1923 and remained lifelong friends, sharing interests in music, literature, and languages. Beckett was Geoffrey and Ursula Thompson's best man on 2 November 1934. Thompson begins by talking about Beckett's childhood, attachment to his family, and their shared early enthusiasm for Keats. He then discusses Beckett's early literary life (including his time with Joyce in Paris), interest in psychiatry when living in London, enthusiasm for music (especially Debussy), and concern for disability and immobility which is evident in works such as *Endgame* and *Rockaby*. Thompson also comments on Beckett's fondness for Seán O'Casey's drama, his involvement in the rehearsal process of his own plays, and the genesis of *Waiting for Godot*. The interview finishes with Thompson talking about their games of chess together.

Audio Cassette tape [Master]

BC MS
5698/1/2

Audio cassette recording of **Lessness** produced by Martin Esslin for BBC Radio 3

25 February 1971

This radio production of Beckett's short prose piece *Lessness* (originally written in French as *Sans* in 1969) was broadcast on BBC Radio 3 on 7 May 1971. Martin Esslin introduces the reading by discussing the publishing history of *Lessness*. Esslin suggests that the pattern of statements that constitute *Lessness* are only fully realised on radio. Readers include: Donal Donnelly, Leonard Fenton, Denys Hawthorne, Patrick Magee, Harold Pinter, and Nicol Williamson.

Audio Cassette tape [ACCESS]; 2 copies

2 items

BC MS
5698/2

Audio cassette recording of a reading of **Watt** in German dir. Ulrich Gerhardt

8 April 1996

This recording of *Watt* (orig. pub. in English 1953) for German radio is directed by Ulrich Gerhardt and translated by Elmar Tophoven. Hans-Peter Hallwachs is the narrator. It was recorded for Südwestfunk Hörspiel and first broadcast on 8 April 1996. Credits are as follows: Marek Kedzierski (Bearbeitung [Wort]); Heike Weyh; Johanna Fegert (Technische Realisierung); Petra Kast (Regieassistentz).

Audio Cassette tape [MASTER]

BC MS
5698/3/2

Audio cassette recording of **All That Fall** dir. Donald McWhinnie in 1972 for BBC Radio 3

4 June 1972

This production of All That Fall directed by Donald McWhinnie was prepared for stereo. McWhinnie also directed the original 1957 production. The 1972 production retains some the cast members from the earlier version: J. G. Devlin returns as Mr. Dan Rooney, Allan McClland who played Christy returns as Mr. Slocum.

Donald McWhinnie directs the following cast: Marie Kean (Mrs. Maddy Rooney), J. G. Devlin (Mr. Dan Rooney), James Greene (Christy), Kevin Flood (Mr. Tyler), Allan McClelland (Mr. Slocum), Derry Power (Mr. Barrell) , Ron Flanagan (Tommy), Kate Binchy (Miss Fitt), Brenda Gogan (a Female Voice), and Judy Bennett (Jerry, a Small Boy).

Note that the talk by John Fletcher, detailed on the tape card is not on this tape.

Audio Cassette Tape [ACCESS]

See also MS 5531 C/2/4

BC MS
5698/4/2

Audio cassette recording of **Billie Whitelaw In Conversation at the University of Reading: Part 1 and 2**

3 May 1991

The recording begins with John Pilling introducing Billie Whitelaw, Mary Bryden (Beckett Research Fellow for the Beckett International Foundation) and Anna McMullan (Film and Drama Department at Bulmershe, UoR) to discuss Rockaby and working with the director Alan Schneider. Questions are then taken from the audience where discussions incorporate Happy Days, Not I, and Beckett's method of directing. After this Q&A, Whitelaw takes a masterclass on Play.

In Part Two, Billie Whitelaw talks about her acting process in Beckett's drama, stressing the musicality of each work and her costume & makeup. She gives impromptu performances when referring to specific plays (e.g. Not I).

Audio Cassette tape [ACCESS]

2 items

BC MS
5698/5

Audio cassette recording **Billie Whitelaw's talk: An Informal Evening with Beckett**

7 May 1993

James Knowlson introduces Billie Whitelaw as the first Annenberg Fellow for the work of Samuel Beckett. The evening was supported and attended by the Beckett Estate, represented by Edward and Felicity Beckett, and funded by The Annenberg Foundation (US) and Beckett International Foundation (UK). It

was held on 7 May 1993 at Bridges Theatre, Bulmershe Court, and was in aid of Victims of Torture. Whitelaw discusses her working life and friendship with Beckett, she also delivers readings from Happy Days, Eh Joe, and Rockaby.

Audio Cassette tape [MASTER]

**BC MS
5698/6**

Audio cassette recording of **Marcel Mihalovici's opera The Last Krapp**

26th September 1961-29th September 1961

Marcel Mihalovici's opera, Krapp, ou, La dernière bande [The Last Krapp], was commissioned by the Radiodiffusion-Télévision Française and Bielefeld Opera, Germany. Mihalovici knew Beckett and around the same time he was working on the composition for the music element of Cascando, which was first broadcast in 1963. The libretto for Krapp was originally written in three languages: English, French, and German. It premiered using the French language version on RTF radio on 15 May 1961 and had its stage debut in Paris on 3 July 1961 at the Théâtre des Nations. This recording is of the Orchestre Radio Zurich conducted by Serge Baudo.

Audio Cassette Tape [MASTER]

**BC MS
5698/7**

Audio cassette recording of **Words and Music**, with music by Humphrey Searle

12 December 1973

This version of Beckett's radio play Words and Music was produced by Katharine Worth and directed by David Clark. The music was composed by Humphrey Searle and performed by the London Sinfonietta. Words was voiced by Patrick Magee, and Croak was voiced by Denys Hawthorne. It was recorded on 12 December 1973 at the University of London's AV Centre. The recording sits alongside two other versions of the play whose music was composed by John Beckett (who removed the score soon after the piece premiered on the BBC in 1962) and Morton Feldman (whose music is used in the 1986 recording directed by Everett Frost).

Audio Cassette Tape [ACCESS]; Duration: 25.00

**BC MS
5698/8**

Audio cassette recording of **Embers** with Patrick Magee as Henry

30 January 1976

Embers was Beckett's second play for radio. It was written in English in 1957 and first broadcast two years later for the BBC Third Programme. This recording was made on 30 January 1976. It was produced by Katharine Worth at the University of London's AV Centre. It was directed by David Clark. Henry was played by Patrick Magee, Ada and Addie were both played by

Elvi Hale, and the Music/Riding Master was played by Nigel Anthony.
Audio Cassette Tape [ACCESS]; Duration: 44.00

**BC MS
5698/9**

Audio cassette recording of **Cascando** with music by Humphrey Searle
1984
The radio drama *Cascando* was originally written by Beckett (text) and Marcel Mihalovici (score). It was completed in French in December 1961 and first broadcast on 'France Culture' on 13 October 1963. The English production premièred on 6 October 1964 on BBC Radio 3. This production uses Humphrey Searle's composition (performed by the London Sinfonietta) for the music, and has David Warrilow (Voice) and Sean Barrett (Opener) speaking Beckett's words. It was directed by David Clark and produced by Katharine Worth at the University of London's AV Centre.
Audio Cassette Tape [ACCESS]; Duration: 25.00

**BC MS
5698/11**

Audio recording of **Waiting for Godot** dir. Peter Wood for BBC Radio 3
4 September 1994
Waiting for Godot directed by Peter Wood was broadcast on BBC Radio 3 on 4 September 1994. It was produced by Catherine Bailey. The cast for this adaptation of *Godot* for radio includes: Michael Maloney (Estragon), Alan Howard (Vladimir), Stratford Johns (Pozzo), Simon Russell-Beale (Lucky), Tristan Moriarty (boy), and Geraldine McEwan (narrator). The play was previously broadcast for a season of programmes of the cultural highlights of the 1950s on 5 February 1962. This production uses the revised production text which was published in Dougald McMillan and James Knowlson's edition of *The Theatrical Notebooks of Samuel Beckett, Vol. I* (London: Faber and Faber, 1994).
Audio Cassette Tape [MASTER]; Two cassette tapes

2 items

**BC MS
5698/12/1**

Audio cassette recording of readings from Beckett's short prose: **Imagination Dead Imagine** was read by Jack MacGowran, introduced by Barbara Bray
18 March 1967
This starts 11 minutes into the tape. *Imagination Dead Imagine* was read by Jack MacGowran, introduced by Barbara Bray (who discusses Beckett's work in relation its form and brevity), and produced by Martin Esslin on 18 March 1967 for BBC Radio 3.
Audio Cassette Tape [MASTER]

- BC MS
5698/12/2** Audio cassette recording of a selection of readings of Beckett's short prose: **Text For Nothing 8**, read by Jack MacGowran November 1967
Starts 13 mins into the tape. Text For Nothing 8 was read by Jack MacGowran in November 1967 for Aspen Records, then edited and compiled by Brian O'Doherty.
Audio Cassette Tape [MASTER]
- BC MS
5698/13** Audio cassette recording of **En Attendant Godot** dir. Roger Blin in 1953
3 September 1994
This rare audio recording of En Attendant Godot was made shortly after the now famous première of the stage play in France at the Théâtre de Babylone on 5 January 1953. It was directed by Roger Blin who also played Pozzo. The original cast includes: Pierre Latour (Estragon), Lucien Raimbourg (Vladimir), Jean Martin (Lucky), and Serge Lecointe (Boy). This recording was broadcast on the BBC Third Programme on 3 September 1994 as part of the French Challenge.
Audio Cassette Tape [MASTER]
- BC MS
5698/14/2** Audio cassette recording of **Play** with Billie Whitelaw for BBC Radio 3 in 1966
11 October 1966
Play is introduced by Martin Esslin who discusses the difficulty of adapting this visually striking piece – it uses a beam of light to impel the heads in urns to speak – for radio. Esslin then describes this spotlight as the fourth and principal character of the play. Having remarked on the visuality of Play, Esslin defends this radio adaptation by stressing the suitedness of Play, as an equally musical piece, to radio. This 1966 broadcast for the BBC Third Programme came about through a process of trial and error. Beckett, after hearing the first attempt, said that he did not like it at all but later suggested ways in which Play could work well on the radio medium. The cast for this BBC Third Programme production of Play includes Billie Whitelaw (W2), Pauline Jameson (W1), and Robert Stephens (M). It was produced by Bennett Maxwell and Pauline Jameson. Brian Hodgson was the studio manager and technical producer. The tape finishes with Franz Schubert's Ländler in A major D.366 played by Sviatoslav Richter.
Audio Cassette Tape [ACCESS]; Duration: 18:04
- BC MS
5698/15** Audio cassette recording of **Billie Whitelaw, Jocelyn Herbert, and Leonard Fenton talking about Happy Days**
June 1994
James Knowlson chairs a discussion about Happy Days with Beckett's scenographer, Jocelyn Herbert, and the actors Billie

Whitelaw (Winnie) and Leonard Fenton (Willie) who performed Happy Days in 1979 at the Royal Court Theatre under Beckett's direction.

Audio Cassette Tape [MASTER]

**BC MS
5698/16**

Audio recording of discussions on **Footfalls with Jocelyn Herbert, Billie Whitelaw, and Cathy Courtney**

June 1994

Anna McMullan chairs a discussion about Footfalls with Jocelyn Herbert, Billie Whitelaw, and Cathy Courtney. Whitelaw performed in the 1976 première production of Footfalls at the Royal Court Theatre in London in a costume designed by Herbert. The Beckett Collection holds the original dress.

Audio Cassette Tape [MASTER]

2 items

**BC MS
5698/17**

Audio cassette recording of **Words and Music and Cascando** dir. Mark Lutwak in 1979

27 May 1979

This production of Beckett's two radio plays that require music, Words and Music and Cascando, were directed by Mark Lutwak and produced by Leo Lutwak. The recording took place at Bayside Studios, Queens, New York. Permission was granted by Samuel Beckett and Grove Press, Inc. The music was composed by Mark E. Miller (Words and Music) and Wayne B. Horvitz (Cascando). The sound engineer was David Eng. The voiced parts were performed by Joseph J. Casallini (Words and Voice) and Frank Collison (Corak and Opener) from 'Theatre For Your Mother'. Instrumentalists include Lesli Dalaba (Music and Trumpet), Mark E. Miller (Percussion, Vibraphone), and Wayne B. Horvitz (Contrabass, Harmonica).

Audio Cassette Tape [MASTER]; Duration Words and Music (24:06); Cascando (16:59)

**BC MS
5698/18**

Audio cassette recording of **All That Fall** dir. Everett Frost for the Beckett Festival of Radio Plays

13 April 1989

All That Fall was Beckett's first play for radio. It was written in 1956 in response to an invitation from the BBC. This production is part of the Beckett Festival of Radio Plays (BFRP) which broadcast all of Beckett's radio drama in 1989 on National Public Radio (NPR), becoming the first American production of Beckett's radio drama. Each work was directed and produced by Everett Frost, and recorded at RCA Studios (NY) by Mike Moran. The associate producer was Faith Wilding and sound effects were created by Charles Potter. Martha Fehsenfeld was the project originator. The cast includes: Billie Whitelaw (Maddy

Rooney), David Warrilow (Dan Rooney), Jerome Kilty (Christy and Mr. Barrell), George Bartenieff (Mr. Tyler), Alvin Epstein (Mr. Slocum), Brad Friedman (Tommy), Susan Willis (Miss Fitt), Melissa Cooper (Female Voice), Christine Eddis (Dolly), Lute Ramblin' (Jerry). Henry Strozier was the host. An accompanying documentary (at the end of the second cassette) includes interviews with Donald McWhinnie, Richard Ellmann, Billie Whitelaw, Enoch Brater, Linda Ben Zvi, Hersh Zeifman, David Hesla, and Everett Frost. Discussions range from Beckett's radio drama 'coming out of the dark' to Beckett's insistence that actors perform 'without colour'.
Audio Cassette Tape [MASTER]

2 items

**BC MS
5698/19**

Audio cassette recording of **Cascando** dir. Everett Frost with music by William Kraft for the Beckett Festival of Radio Plays 13 April 1989
Cascando was written in French in 1962 for a collaboration with composer Marcel Mihalovici for French National Radio. It was first produced in English by the BBC in 1964. For this production, directed and produced by Everett Frost for the Beckett Festival of Radio Plays (BFRP) in 1989, the score was written by William Kraft. It was recorded at RCA Studios (NY) by Mike Moran. The associate producer was Faith Wilding and Martha Fehsenfeld was the project originator. Alvin Epstein plays Voice and Frederick Neumann plays Opener. Kraft's music was performed by Speculum Musicae: Susan Palma (flute, piccolo), Allen Blustine (clarinets), Benjamin Hudson (violin), Erick Bartlett (cello), Alec Karis (piano), William Kraft (conductor). Henry Strozier was the host and Charles Potter produced the documentary that features at the end of the play. Thomas Bishop regards Cascando as fundamentally about creativity itself, Neumann discusses the importance of timing, the resonance of the voice, and the sound of the phrases, Epstein talks about the relationship between Voice and Opener, and Kraft speaks of developing an interest in Beckett's work.
Audio Cassette Tape [ACCESS]

**BC MS
5698/20**

Audio cassette recording of **Words and Music** dir. Everett Frost with music by Morton Feldman for the Beckett Festival of Radio Plays 13 April 1989
Words and Music was Beckett's third venture into writing specifically for radio. It was written at the invitation of the BBC and was originally broadcast at the BBC's 40th anniversary jubilee in 1962 with music by the author's cousin, John Beckett. This score was soon withdrawn by the composer soon after the

original production was first broadcast. For this production, Music (Bob) was composed by Morton Feldman and conducted by Nils Vigeland. It was performed by the Bowery Ensemble: Rachel Rudich (flute), Barbara Held (flute), Bunita Marcus (piano), Laura Seaton (violin), Tina Pelikan (violin), Sarah Carter (cello), Michael Pugliese (percussion). Words (Joe) was performed by David Warrilow and Croak was performed by Alvin Epstein. Sound effects were created by Laura Belsey (thumps) and Charles Potter. Henry Strozier was the host for this production. The accompanying documentary features interviews with Feldman, Everett Frost, Linda Ben Zvi, and Maurice Beja. Feldman speaks about the task of writing a score for the part of Music in Words and Music, Ben-Zvi discusses Beckett's medium specificity, Beja talks about how Beckett is a 'non-knower' who deals in silence, and Frost speaks to the concept of collaboration - between Joe and Bob, words and music, Beckett and Feldman - at the heart of the radio drama.
Audio Cassette Tape [ACCESS]

**BC MS
5698/21**

Audio cassette recording of **Rough for Radio II** dir. Everett Frost for the Beckett Festival of Radio Plays
13 April 1989

Unlike Rough for Radio I, which remained unfinished (probably an early draft for Cascando) and therefore not included in the Beckett Festival of Radio Plays (BFRP), Rough for Radio II is a complete radio drama. It was first written in French in 1961 (Pochade radiophonique) and translated into English shortly before its broadcast on BBC Radio 3 on 13 April 1976 for a production directed by Martin Esslin with Harold Pinter (Animator), Billie Whitelaw (Stenographer) and Patrick Magee (Fox). This production, directed and produced by Everett Frost for the BFRP and broadcast on National Public Radio in 1989 is its American première. It was recorded in 1988 at RCA Studios (NY) by Mike Moran. The associate producer was Faith Wilding and Martha Fehsenfeld was the project originator. The cast includes: W. Dennis Hunt (Animator), Amanda Plummer (Stenographer), Barry McGovern (Fox), and Charles Potter (Dick; mute). The host for the production was Henry Strozier.
Audio Cassette Tape [MASTER]

**BC MS
5698/22**

Audio cassette recording of Patrick Magee reading **The Lost Ones**
3 September 1972

The Lost Ones was first written in French, Le Dépeupleur, in 1966 and finished shortly before its publication in 1970. The genesis of this short text proved difficult as Beckett abandoned it for some time. He then translated the story in 1971. This recording is a reading of The Lost Ones by Patrick Magee,

produced by Martin Esslin. It was recorded for the BBC on 3 September 1972 and broadcast on Radio 3 on 2 January 1973. See MS 5331 C/2/17 for the original 1/2" open reel tape [MASTER], although there are no facilities to play this tape. Audio Cassette Tape [ACCESS]; Duration 60:00

**BC MS
5698/25/2**

Audio cassette recording of **From An Abandoned Work: A meditation on radio**

14 December 1957

From An Abandoned Work: A meditation on radio - was read by Patrick Magee and produced by Donald McWhinnie for the BBC Third Programme on 14 December 1957.

Audio Cassette Tape [ACCESS]

**BC MS
5701/1/2**

Audio cassette Recording of **Not I for Pianoforte** composed by Paul Rhys

9 December 1995

Not I for solo piano by Paul Rhys. First performed by Ian Pace on 9 December 1995 at the University of Reading. It was commissioned by the Annenberg/Beckett Foundation.

Rhys discusses his composition in Beckett and Musicality edited by Sara Jane Bailes and Nicholas Till (London: Routledge, 2014)

Audio Cassette Tape [ACCESS]; Duration: 13:45

**BC MS
5701/2**

Audio cassette recording of **Paul Rhys' lecture at the University of Reading**

9 December 1995

A recording of composer Paul Rhys talking about Beckett and music. Rhys also demonstrates how he adapted Beckett's text (Not I) into a composition for solo piano.

Audio Cassette Tape [MASTER]: Poor quality recording

**BC MS
5701/3**

Audio cassette recording containing **music by Richard Barrett, Heinz Holliger, Paul Rhys, and Elliott Carter, recorded at Leighton House**

4 July (unknown year)

This cassette contains five compositions from twentieth-century composers:

(1) Tract 1 (1984-96) for solo piano composed by Richard Barrett (performed by Ian Pace);

(2) Sequenzen über Johannes I, 32 (1962) for solo harp composed by Heinz Holliger (performed by Christina Rhys);

(3) String Quartet No. 1 (1994) composed by Paul Rhys (performed by the Lyric Quartet);

(4) Bariolage (1992) for solo harp composed by Elliott Carter (performed by Christina Rhys);

(5) Not I (1994) for solo piano composed by Paul Rhys
(performed by Ian Pace).
Audio Cassette Tape [MASTER]

Katherine Worth Collection (MS 5531)

MS 5531
C/2/2

Audio cassette recording of **Embers** dir. Donald McWhinnie in 1959 (original production), this broadcast was in celebration of Beckett's 70th birthday and also a recording of Benjamin Britten rehearsing *The Little Sweep* in 1976

11 April 1976

Embers, Beckett's second play for radio, was first produced and broadcast by Donald McWhinnie for the BBC Third Programme in 1959. *Embers* won the Radiotelevisione Italiana Award in the same year. The contributors are as follows: Samuel Beckett (broadcasting), Cicely Hoyer (pianist), Donald McWhinnie (producer), Jack MacGowran (Henry), Kathleen Michael (Ada), Kathleen Helme (Addie), Patrick Magee (Music/Riding Master). This broadcast was in celebration of Beckett's 70th birthday. The back of the cassette contains a recording of Benjamin Britten's *The Little Sweep* (libretto: Eric Crozier) originally composed in 1949.

Audio Cassette Tape [MASTER]

MS 5531
C/2/4

Audio cassette recording of **All That Fall** dir. Donald McWhinnie in 1972 for BBC Radio 3

4 Jun 1972

This production of *All That Fall* directed by Donald McWhinnie was prepared for stereo. McWhinnie also directed the original 1957 production. The 1972 production retains some of the cast members from the earlier version: J. G. Devin returns as Mr. Dan Rooney, Allan McClland who played Christy returns as Mr. Slocum.

Audio Cassette Tape [ACCESS]

See also BC MS 5698/3/2

MS 5531
C/2/5

Reel-to-reel audio recording of readings from **Harold Pinter's drama with discussions by scholars**

1975

This is a Reel-to-reel audio tape by Sussex Tapes about Harold Pinter. Speakers include Katharine Worth and Alan Sinfield. In the readings, Iain Mitchell plays Petey and Lenny, and Sandra Freize plays Meg and Ruth. The plays from which readings are

excerpted include: The Birthday Party, The Caretaker, The Homecoming, and Old Times.

Currently the tape cannot be listened to but the accompanying booklet can be requested.

1/4" Open Reel Audio Tape [MASTER]

**MS 5531
C/2/7**

Audio cassette recording of **Patrick Magee reading Company**
February 1979

Patrick Magee reads Beckett's short prose text, *Company*, one month after its publication on 1 January 1979 by John Calder.

The programme was produced by Tom Sutcliffe.

Audio Cassette Tape [MASTER]

**MS 5531
C/2/11**

Audio cassette recording of **Stephen Dillane reading First Love** for BBC Radio 4

27 February 2001

Stephen Dillane reads *First Love*, a novella by Samuel Beckett.

The programme was produced by Rebecca Stratford and

Katharine Mendelssohn and the singer was Sarah Corbett.

Beckett wrote this short story first in French in 1946 (*Premier Amour*) and published it much later in 1970. He then translated

and published it in English in 1973 due to increasing demands for new work after being awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature

in 1969. The reading is interspersed with commentary from academics and people who knew Beckett professionally. James Knowlson talks about reading the manuscript of *First Love* whilst

waiting outside a railway station near Paris. Knowlson adds that the story takes autobiographical fragments and uses them fictionally. John Calder talks about meeting Beckett in the early

1950s in London and becoming his publisher. Calder suggests that it is the first work Beckett wrote in French and claims that the character is much like Beckett himself. Declan Kiberd talks

about how the landscape is reminiscent of that from *Greystones*, Dublin. He also refers to Beckett's return to the countryside of his upbringing after the death of his father. Billie Whitelaw

discusses the musicality within Beckett's prose. Discussions also include Beckett's attitude towards love and behaviour towards women.

Audio Cassette Tape [MASTER]

**MS 5531
C/2/12**

Audio cassette recording of **Professor Worth, Lionel Butler, Mr Pire, Mr Sealey, at a luncheon for Mr Pire, with letter**

c.1986

Audio Cassette Tape [MASTER]

2 items

- MS 5531**
C/2/13 Audio cassette recording of a documentary **A Stain Upon the Silence** for RTE
October 1991
In this documentary Liz McSkeane looks at the work of Samuel Beckett with Katharine Worth (London University), Brian Coffey (Irish poet and publisher), Walter Asmus (German director), and Jasbinder Garnermann (director of the Jung Institute, Ireland). It was produced by Peter Mooney. It contains excerpts of readings from Beckett's prose and drama as well as a recording of All That Fall. Discussions include: Beckett's decision to write in French; his relationship with his mother; friendship with Joyce; escape from the Gestapo; as well as comments on the themes of and aesthetic concepts behind his work. The extracts featured Barry MacGovern (from the RTÉ production 'Beckett at 80') and Krapp's Last Tape performed by Donald Davis. Other readings from Molloy, Endgame, and The Unnamable were performed by Jack MacGowran.
Audio Cassette Tape [MASTER]
- MS 5531**
C/2/14 Audio cassette recording of **Jack MacGowran reading Beckett's poems and Gordon Craig's 'A Note on Masks'**
25 December 1952 and 14 April 1976
Jack MacGowran (1918-1973) took part in two programmes of readings of Beckett's poetry. Both productions were recorded at Broadcasting House in January and February 1966 and broadcast in March and November of the same year. Beckett was present during the recording of these two programmes and in some cases made last minute changes to the wording of his poems. In this 'Tribute to Samuel Beckett on the Occasion of his 70th Birthday', MacGowran's readings are rebroadcast. The production was produced by Martin Esslin. The poems include: (1)'Echoes Bones'; (2)'Serena II'; (3) 'Serena III'; (4)'Sanies I'; (5)'Alba'; (6)'Whoroscope'; (7)'Saint-Lô'; (8) From the appendix to Watt; (9)'What would I do without this world'; (10) 'I would love my love to die'; and (11) 'Gnome'. On Side B of the cassette there is a talk by Edward Gordon Craig. Craig gave sixteen talks that were broadcast on the BBC between 1951 and 1960. This is a broadcast from 25 December 1952 entitled 'A Note on Masks'. Craig discusses Marionettes, something that Beckett was also interested in as James Knowlson has shown through reference to Heinrich von Kleist's essay 'On the Marionette Theatre' (first pub. from December 12 to 15, 1810).
Audio Cassette Tape [MASTER]
- MS 5531**
C/2/15 Audio cassette recording of excerpts from **All That Fall, Words and Music, Cascando**
Undated

Selected extracts from three of Beckett's radio plays: All That Fall, Words and Music, and Cascando.
Audio Cassette Tape [MASTER]

MS 5531
C/2/16

Audio cassette recording of **All That Fall** dir. Everett Frost, co-produced by Soundscape Incorporated and West German Radio Station RIAS-Berlin

April 1986

All That Fall was Beckett's first play for radio. It was written in 1956 in response to an invitation from the BBC. This production was the first in The Beckett Festival of Radio Plays. This is a preview recording of the American national broadcast premiere. Each work was directed and produced by Everett Frost, and recorded at RCA Studios (NY) by Mike Moran. The associate producer was Faith Wilding and sound effects were created by Charles Potter. Martha Fehsenfeld was the project originator. The cast includes: Billie Whitelaw (Maddy Rooney), David Warrilow (Dan Rooney), Jerome Kilty (Christy and Mr. Barrell), George Bartenieff (Mr. Tyler), Alvin Epstein (Mr. Slocum), Brad Friedman (Tommy), Susan Willis (Miss Fitt), Melissa Cooper (Female Voice), Christine Eddis (Dolly), Lute Ramblin' (Jerry). Henry Strozier was the host.

Audio Cassette Tape [MASTER]; Duration Side A: 44:45; Side B: 44.00