

Samuel Beckett, an Irish-born novelist, poet, and playwright, contributed enormously to the Theatre of the Absurd and inspired many later Absurdist. As part of the Absurdist movement, Beckett's work was primarily about contemplation, inner struggles, and instances that are unrealistic but serve as symbols or ways to explore deep concepts like death, theology, and morality. His work includes such plays as *Waiting for Godot*, *Krapp's Last Tape*, and *Endgame*.

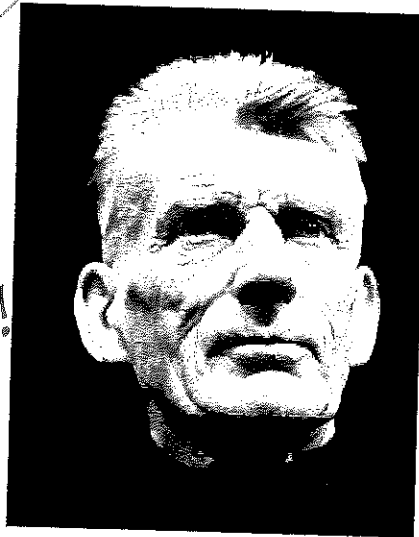
Beckett was born into a middle-class family in 1906 and thus could afford education. He became a teacher and lecturer of English, and later moved on to teaching French. After teaching for about a year at Trinity College, Beckett devoted all his time to writing. He published novels, poems, and plays in both English and French, all of which relate to his constant of Absurdism. Beckett was inspired by James Joyce, among other artists, and won a Nobel Prize, to which his wife referred as "a catastrophe" (1)

As far as personality and personal views go, Beckett was lonely and depressed for most of his life. He found comfort in Paris and silence, and believed later in his life that every word seemed like "an unnecessary stain on silence and nothingness." He believed that society in general had a lazy demand for ease of comprehensibility, and would forever defend this belief with the depth of the symbolism and philosophy woven into his extensive works (2)

Absurdism, Beckett's foremost contribution to theatre, is basically the idea that humans live in a meaningless and irrational world. The philosophy is that humans have a need for to have a purpose and for the universe to care about them, when in fact it is hostile and indifferent (4) Absurdist literature usually focuses on characters that can't find purpose in life, so they go on doing meaningless actions. Absurdism serves to implicitly explore philosophical questions (5)

In his own way, Samuel Beckett was Balanced. Though he was very stubborn in his beliefs, like refusing to abide by social conventions and basically just believing his work to be superior to the vacuous nonsense around him, he did exhibit Balanced traits. For example, he wrote in both English and French, tying him to his origins and the growing trends as well as his unique acquired passions. Beckett also was Balanced in his literary works, consisting of poems, novels, and plays, all of which are very different and difficult to master individually, much less all at once. Beckett's lifestyle, though extremely dedicated to work and silence, showed a few Balanced traits as well, as he travelled all over Europe, participated in WWII, and meeting along his way many wanderers that would later become characters in his work.

An even more applicable trait is Thinker because Beckett - instead of settling for simple or cliché work - pretty much created his own style of literature based on his beliefs that simplicity is superficial, silence and solitude is better than all the noise that comes with social obligations, and no other style worked well enough to convey his messages (2)



Samuel Beckett 1973 (3)

1. Liukkonen, Petri. "Samuel Beckett." *Books and Writers*. N.p., 2008. Web. 10 Jan. 2015. <<http://www.kirjasto.sci.fi/beckett.htm>>.
2. "Samuel Beckett (1906-1989)." *Moonstruck*. N.p., n.d. Web. 10 Jan. 2015. <<http://www.imagi-nation.com/moonstruck/clsc7.htm>>.
3. Haynes, John. *Samuel Beckett 1973*. 1973. *Beckett International Foundation*. Web. 10 Jan. 2015. <<http://www.beckettfoundation.org.uk/>>.
4. "Absurdism." *Philosophy Index*. N.p., n.d. Web. 18 Jan. 2015. <<http://www.philosophy-index.com/existentialism/absurd.php>>.
5. Bunting, Joe. "The Absurd in Literature." *The Write Practice RSS*. N.p., 18 Feb. 2013. Web. 18 Jan. 2015. <<http://thewritepractice.com/the-absurd/>>.

Tie in to trait.

See all the citations!

Visual research (Make sure you include some.)

Properly expressed resources.

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