****Absurd Theatre – Sam Beckett**

*- 20th century*

*- Questions the nature of reality and illusion*

*- Appears to be without meaning*

**Ideas:**

* Explores what happens when human existence has no meaning or purpose
* Logical construction and argument gives way to irrational and illogical speech and silence
* Humans are controlled or menaced by invisible or outside forces

**Characteristics:**

* Broad comedy
* Vaudeville elements
* Absurd and tragic imagery together
* Characters in hopeless situations
* Forced to do repetitive or meaningless actions
* Dialogue full of clichés
* Wordplay
* Nonsense
* Cynical plots

**Conventions:**

* Time, place and identity are ambiguous or fluid, and even basic causality breaks down often
* Non realistic or surreal characters or situations
* Meaningless (or seemingly so) plots full of pointless chaos and elements of non realism
* Seemingly meaningful or artful use of chaos
* Human condition portrayed as absurd or meaningless or illogical
* Language, words and communication lose function and create misunderstandings between characters
* Minimal plot, minimal staging, babbling, abstract setting, arbitrary and illogical action

<http://theatrestyles.blogspot.com/2014/12/the-theatre-od-absurd.html>