

AMERICAN CONSERVATORY THEATER
Carey Perloff, Artistic Director • Ellen Richard, Executive Director

PRESENTS

WORDS ^{on} PLAYS

INSIGHT INTO THE PLAY, THE PLAYWRIGHT, AND THE PRODUCTION

No Exit

BY JEAN-PAUL SARTRE

ADAPTED FROM THE FRENCH BY PAUL BOWLES

PERFORMED IN CONCERT WITH *THE VALET*,
BY JONATHON YOUNG

CONCEIVED AND DIRECTED BY KIM COLLIER

ORIGINALLY PRODUCED BY THE VIRTUAL STAGE AND
ELECTRIC COMPANY THEATRE

AMERICAN CONSERVATORY THEATER

APRIL 7—MAY 1, 2011

WORDS ON PLAYS PREPARED BY

ELIZABETH BRODERSEN
PUBLICATIONS EDITOR

DAN RUBIN
PUBLICATIONS & LITERARY ASSOCIATE

MICHAEL PALLER
RESIDENT DRAMATURG

EMILY HOFFMAN
PUBLICATIONS FELLOW

ZACHARY MOULL
DRAMATURGY FELLOW

MADE POSSIBLE BY



A.C.T.
american conservatory theater

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. How does keeping the audience outside *No Exit*'s hotel room, and the use of live cinema, affect the viewer's experience of the characters' plight?
2. What is the fate of The Valet? What is his relationship with his uncle? How is his story similar to that of the three occupants of the room? How is it different?
3. How does *No Exit* articulate Sartre's basic principles of existentialism?
4. What other plays could effectively be adapted using this technique of live cinema?
5. How do gender and sexuality play into Sartre's portrait of hell?
6. If hell is other people, who would occupy your hell? Why?

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

ArtsAlive.ca. "ArtsAlive.ca Interview with Jonathon Young, Actor, Co-Artistic Director of Electric Company Theatre." March 31, 2006. <http://www.electriccompanytheatre.com/coverage/68-artsaliveca-interviews-jonathon-young.html>.

Cohen-Solan, Annie. *Sartre: A Life*. Trans. Anna Cancogni. New York: Pantheon, 1987.

Collier, Kim. "Acceptance Speech for the 2010 Siminovitch Prize in Theatre." <http://www.electriccompanytheatre.com/coverage/129-kim-colliers-acceptance-speech-for-the-siminovitch-prize-in-theatre.html>.

de Beauvoir, Simone. *The Prime of Life: The Autobiography of Simone de Beauvoir*. New York: Marlowe & Co., 1992.

Electric Company Theatre. *No Exit*. <http://www.electriccompanytheatre.com/upcoming/no-exit.html>.

Riding, Alan. *And the Show Went On: Cultural Life in Nazi-Occupied Paris*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2010.

Sartre, Jean-Paul. *Existentialism Is a Humanism*. Trans. Carol Macomber. Yale University Press: New Haven, 2007.

_____. *Jean-Paul Sartre: Basic Writings*. Trans. Stephen Priest. London: Routledge, 2001.

_____. *No Exit*. Adaptor Paul Bowles. New York: Samuel French, Inc., 2010.

_____. *No Exit and Three Other Plays*. New York: Vintage International, 1989.

_____. *Sartre on Theater*. Michel Contat, Michel Rybalka, eds. New York: Pantheon, 1976.

The Virtual Stage. *No Exit*. <http://www.thevirtualstage.org/no-exit.htm>.