

**Select performance skills associated with a theatre form or period.
'Theatre of the Absurd'**

Estragon is a low status female role. She tries to get away with minimal work, filling her time with silly activities which become rituals and give her a sense of purpose even though this is make believe. 'We always find something to give us the impression that we exist'. This is in line with Absurdist theatre where there can be little or no achievement because it mirrors our lives in a purposeless world. My character goes through the motions but cannot get beyond the repetition of scanning goods. She is stuck in a system but so is the customer. The boss would be Godot but he will never come. Our energy is the energy of desperate people who have no real hope.

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We use the supermarket to reflect the view that we become stuck in repetitive cycles and are unable to change our fortunes in the cruel world. As I send through the broccoli I gain some momentum but there will always be another meaningless item coming up and in between customers I can only fiddle with my nails. My counter is like a prison and my service job could be a symbol of many female positions. I apply the feature of repeated movement and lack of direct eye contact with the customer to show how inward looking and meaningless life is.

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We intend to shock people into paying attention.

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Key actions in our piece include the ballet ritual, knitting and vomiting. They are all very physical and show that action can be more useful for communication than all the words we exchange. We use unexpected actions and allow what starts out as an ordinary movement to morph into something a little crazy, maybe even scary.

The customer (Vladimir) approaches the checkout and the checkout chick begins to mime scanning. They compete with beep sounds. This adds a surrealist touch to our everyday realistic setting. It also shows the competitive nature of women. The use of our voices as instruments rather than communicating verbal language is a way of showing how robotic human life is in the Absurdist view.

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We use monologue conversations and parody the apparent communication of a heart to heart in our 'respecting each other' song, shrieking out the words. This is intended to make the audience take a critical view of whether or not they would be happier with us off stage. We allow our voices to become really unpleasant and to shock the audience into seeing things freshly, as in the theatre of Artaud.

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When the 'whose hand is highest' competition is at full peak, the movement turns slow, repetitive and dreamlike, turning into ritualised ballet exercises using the checkout as a bar. Here we will use extended and exaggerated movement which is way out of line with the

supermarket context. It is a way of showing how random life is and how little real meaning an occupation has. ②

The vomiting action into the checkout stool is not only about Estragon's distaste at spending her whole life in a supermarket, but also mirrors a woman with morning sickness, in line with the idea that birth brings another suffering generation into the world. The ending is inconclusive and mirrors the frustration of human life in general. It is another way of expressing the meaning of the play because vomiting is something we cannot control and it usually means sickness. Here it is sickness of the soul. ③