

## How Absurd!

Reader's Theatre Script by Cat Chiappa

1	Hey, what are you doing?	All	How absurd! [sound effect].
2	I'm waiting for Godot.		[gesture]
3	Waiting for who? [gesture]	4	Typically this genre departs from
2	Godot. It's a play by Samuel	6	Realistic characters, [gesture]
	Beckett.	5	Situations.
All	Oh! [gesture]	7	And everything else that
4	Isn't he one of those absurd		we consider to be normal [gesture-
	guys?		Quotation marks] in theatre.
5	What do you mean? Is he all	1	Oh! [gesture] How else can I tell?
	crazy [gesture] and stuff?	10	Well, these plays often have
6	No! [groans]		meaningless plots,
3,4	Well then what are you talking	9	Repetitive speech,
	about?	8	Or nonsensical dialogue.
2	I'm talking about Theatre of the	All	How absurd! [sound effect],
	Absurd.		[gesture]
All	How absurd! [sound effect],	2	All of these things are often used to
	[gesture]		create dreamlike sequences, [sound
7	Theatre of the Absurd describes		effect-hum Twilight Zone theme],
	plays written [gesture] by a		[gesture]
	number of European playwrights	1	Or nightmarish [gesture] moods.
	in the 1940s, 50s and 60s.	3	[Sound effect, Scream] You scared
8	[sound effect, clearing throat..Ah		me!
	hem] Doesn't it also describe a	All	How absurd! [sound effect],
	certain style of theatre as well?		[gesture].
2	Yes. [gesture]	5	All this sounds like chaos. [gesture]
3	But why is it called Theatre of	10	It does, but it's not. There is usually
	the Absurd?		some hidden [gesture] structure.
All	How absurd! [sound effect],	5	Oh! [gesture]
	[gesture]	9	Theatre of the Absurd usually tries
9	It is a term coined by Martin		to startle [gesture] the viewer.
	Esslin in his 1962 book by that	3	[Sound effect, Scream] Sorry, you
	title.		startled me.
10	He says that Theatre of the	All	How absurd! [sound effect],
	Absurd doesn't argue about the		[gesture]
	absurdity of the human condition	9	In startling [gesture] the viewer the
9	but that it instead presents it as		hope is that it will
	being absurd in general.	10	Shake the audience out of their
7	In other words, as there is no		comfortable, everyday lives.
	[gesture] rational explanation of	All	I see. [gesture]
	the universe	2	Well thanks for the lesson, but I've
2	then the world must ultimately be		got to go. [gesture]
	seen as being absurd.	All	Why? [gesture]
All	How absurd! [sound effect],	2	Because I'm waiting for Godot!
	[gesture]	All	How absurd! [sound effect],
1,3	Well how can I tell if a play is		[gesture]
	Absurd?		