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## The Bald Soprano and The Lesson postcard

Department of Theatre, Florida International University

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*The*  
**BALD SOPRANO**  
*and*  
**THE LESSON**



FIU Theatre presents

# **THE BALD SOPRANO** and **THE LESSON** by Eugene Ionesco

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During 1951 in Paris, a young man of 36 yrs. burst upon the French theatre scene with his first short one-act play, breaking all traditional conventions, and setting audiences on their ear with shock and respect. His name—**EUGENE IONESCO**, and the play—**THE BALD SOPRANO**. This was a courageous move in defiance of the safe sophistication of the “drawing-room drama,” long in evidence since Ibsen. Ernst, Picasso, Eluard, Breton and Camus hailed Ionesco as a new force in the revolution against “reality.” With hilarious ingenuity, Ionesco pens an unorthodox examination into the social values of bourgeois middle-class life. His surreal doctrine paved the way for much of our present-day comedy, Monty Python being a descendant of Ionesco’s “theatre de l’absurde.”

His second play, **THE LESSON**, was equally provoking. Seen as a political condemnation of fascist rule, in war-torn Europe, Ionesco skillfully uses the metaphor of education to outline the cruelty of his truth. Both plays concern themselves with language; **THE BALD SOPRANO** highlights a pathetic degeneration of communication, while **THE LESSON** illuminates the horrifying capability of power that language can wield its own inventor, mankind!

Both plays are directed by Philip M. Church, (whose production of **THE DINING ROOM** will shortly be seen for South of Broadway at the James L. Knight Centre), costumes designed by Marilyn Skow, sets and lights by Rolfe Bergsman.

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February 2, 3, 4 and 9, 10, 11, Studio Theatre DM 150, 8 p.m.  
Tickets: \$5.00, Students \$4.00, FIU Students Free  
Telephone: 554-2895 between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

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