"How Absurd!" A CBRT Script about the Theatre of the Absurd
Reader's Theatre Script by Cat Chiappa, a student in Dr. Rosalind Flynn's course,
The Teaching of Theatre, at The Catholic University of America

1	Hey, what are you doing?
2	I'm waiting for Godot.
3	Waiting for who? [gesture]
2	Godot. It's a play by Samuel Beckett.
All	Oh! [gesture]
4	Isn't he one of those absurd guys?
5	What do you mean? Is he all crazy [gesture] and stuff?
6	No! [groans]
3,4	Well then what are you talking about?
2	I'm talking about Theatre of the Absurd.
All	How absurd! [sound effect], [gesture]
7	Theatre of the Absurd describes plays written [gesture] by a number of European playwrights in the 1940s, 50s and 60s.
8	[sound effect, clearing throat..Ah hem] Doesn't it also describe a certain style of theatre as well?
2	Yes. [gesture]
3	But why is it called Theatre of the Absurd?
All	How absurd! [sound effect], [gesture]
9	It is a term coined by Martin Esslin in his 1962 book by that title.
10	He says that Theatre of the Absurd doesn't argue about the absurdity of the human condition
9	but that it instead presents it as being absurd in general.
7	In other words, as there is no [gesture] rational explanation of the universe
2	then the world must ultimately be seen as being absurd.
All	How absurd! [sound effect], [gesture]
1,3	Well how can I tell if a play is Absurd?

All	How absurd! [sound effect]. [gesture]
4	Typically this genre departs from
6	Realistic characters, [gesture]
5	Situations.
7	And everything else that we consider to be normal [gesture-Quotation marks] in theatre.
1	Oh! [gesture] How else can I tell?
10	Well, these plays often have meaningless plots,
9	Repetitive speech,
8	Or nonsensical dialogue.
All	How absurd! [sound effect], [gesture]
2	All of these things are often used to create dreamlike sequences, [sound effect-hum Twilight Zone theme], [gesture]
1	Or nightmarish [gesture] moods.
3	[Sound effect, Scream] You scared me!
All	How absurd! [sound effect], [gesture].
5	All this sounds like chaos. [gesture]
10	It does, but its not. There is usually some hidden [gesture] structure.
5	Oh! [gesture]
9	Theatre of the Absurd usually tries to startle [gesture] the viewer.
3	[Sound effect, Scream] Sorry, you startled me.
All	How absurd! [sound effect], [gesture]
9	In startling [gesture] the viewer the hope is that it will
10	Shake the audience out of their comfortable, everyday lives.
All	I see. [gesture]
2	Well thanks for the lesson, but I've got to go. [gesture]
All	Why? [gesture]
2	Because I'm waiting for Godot!
All	How absurd! [sound effect], [gesture]