

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO GODOT?  
Jonathan Dorf

First produced by City Theater Company, Wilmington, Delaware

## Cast of Characters

GODOT, 30s to 60s, con man

BOY, early teens, but likely played by an older actor

MAN, big and dangerous, and probably young and dumb

Any of these roles could be cast as women if necessary, though if Godot is a woman, the role of the Man must also be cast as a woman.

(A dingy apartment. Morning. GODOT, anywhere from early 30s to 60s and looking like a con man, fusses with a stick-on white beard, half on and half off, that makes him look like Santa. The BOY, early teens but likely played by an adult, dressed in knickers that make him look ridiculous, futilely folds an uncooperative paper flower.)

GODOT

Nothing to be done. That bird is on its last legs.

BOY

It's a flower, sir.

GODOT

It's so wrinkled you can't tell what it is anymore.

BOY

Yes, sir.

GODOT

Have you seen your brother?

BOY

What brother, sir?

GODOT

Must we go through this every day?

BOY

Go through what, sir?

GODOT

Pull out your memory book.

BOY

My what?

(Godot, the beard still half on his face, picks up a book and shoves it into the Boy's hands.)

GODOT

Your memory book.

BOY

How long have I been here, Mr....Mr...?

GODOT

Godot.

BOY  
Have I been here long, Mr. Godot?

GODOT  
Terribly.

BOY  
How long is terribly long, Mr. Godot?

GODOT  
A terribly long time. And terrible that we go through this every single morning.

BOY  
I'm sorry, Mr. Godot. I don't mean to--

GODOT  
And stop calling me Mr. Godot.

BOY  
But isn't it your name, Mr. Godot?

GODOT  
Of course it is. But I know it's my name. You don't have to keep saying it over and over. Mr. Godot. Mr. Godot. Godot. Godot. Godot. If you say it over and over again, it won't mean anything at all.

BOY  
(very quickly to himself)  
Godot. Godot. Godot. God--

GODOT  
Stop that.

BOY  
Sorry, Mr. G--  
(stopping himself)  
Sir, I thought perhaps if I said it enough, I might remember it tomorrow.

GODOT  
There, there. Read your book.

(The Boy looks at the book.)

BOY  
It's only pictures, sir. I can't *read* pictures. Where are the words?

GODOT  
And if one day you forget your letters, where will you be then?

GODOT (cont'd)  
 (The Boy looks terrified by this prospect. Godot tries to pat the Boy on the back, but the Boy flinches. Godot moves to pat him again, and again the Boy pulls away.)

Stay...

(This goes on for a while before Godot is finally able to pat the Boy on the head.)

BOY  
 I thought you were going to beat me.

GODOT  
 Of course not.  
 (Godot fakes a punch. The Boy flinches.)  
 Two for flinching!

BOY  
 What?

GODOT  
 You flinched, so I get to punch you twice on the arm.

BOY  
 But you said--

GODOT  
 Take it like a man.

BOY  
 But--

GODOT  
 Take your lumps, and then I have an errand for you.

(The Boy runs to the other side of the room.)

BOY  
 You said you wouldn't beat me.

GODOT  
 I'm not beating you. I'm punching you.

BOY  
 It looks like a beating to me.

GODOT  
 You don't even remember who you are. How can you expect to remember the subtle nuances of language?

(Godot gives chase, lunging at the Boy and missing.)

BOY

You're a bully.

(Godot gets a hold of the Boy's wrist, but the Boy escapes by pulling off Godot's beard. Godot lets out a howl, and the Boy runs to the corner. Godot, nursing his injured face, traps him.)

GODOT

The two most splendid marks are waiting for me on a road not far from here.

BOY

I don't know any roads.

GODOT

(points)

It's that way. It has a single tree, that may or may not have leaves. They go by Vladimir and Estragon, or Didi and Gogo, and they may or may not be wearing boots.

Like what you see? Hit the back button and follow the instructions to order a perusal copy of the full script!