Samuel Beckett, in full Samuel Barclay Beckett, born April 13?, 1906, Foxrock, County Dublin, Ireland—died December 22, 1989, Paris, France, author, critic. Beckett was an Irish avant-garde novelist, playwright, theatre director, poet, and artist. He was one of the most influential writers of the 20th century. His major works include Waiting for Godot, which was a landmark play of minimalism and was later adapted into a comic strip and a musical. Beckett was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1969.

Beckett was born in Dublin and educated at Trinity College. He moved to Paris in 1937, where he settled and spent the rest of his life. His early works were influenced by Surrealism, but he later developed a minimalist style that was characterized by a lack of dialogue and a focus on the absurdity of human existence.

Beckett's writing is known for its spare, minimalist style, and his works often deal with themes of existentialism and the human condition. His works have been translated into many languages and have been adapted into films and plays. Beckett's influence can be seen in the works of many contemporary writers and artists.