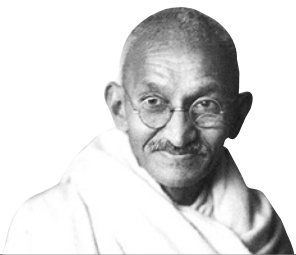


1949

Nathuram Godse and **Narayan Apte** are executed for assassinating Mahatma Gandhi.



1951

Greek resistance leader **Nikos Beloyannis**, along with 11 resistance members, is sentenced to death by the court-martial.

1955

The first part of **Saint Petersburg Metro** is opened.

1959

The murders of the Clutter Family in **Holcomb, Kansas**, which inspired Truman Capote's non-fiction book *In Cold Blood*.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



My heart is with everyone affected by the devastating fires in California—the brave first responders, those who've lost loved ones or homes, and many others. Let's all do our part to support these families. It's who we are.

@MichelleObama

02



As we had cautioned, AP's Fasal Bima Yojana (crop insurance scheme) was designed to profit the insurance companies at the cost of the farmers

@PChidambaram_IN

03



A generation that does not know Nehru is trying to judge him. I suggest read *The Discovery of India* first. That was the first book my father gave me to read.

@PritishNandy

04



Say what you will about Harry Truman, but he didn't live the billionaire partying lifestyle after his Presidency. Unlike some ex-Presidents.

@matthewstoller

05



Whenever I travel for the foundation, the farmers I meet talk about one thing that holds them back: they can't save their money. @myAgroFarms is one of the companies working on creative solutions to this problem.

@BillGates

Disclaimer: (Views expressed by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our editorial stances)

Harold Pinter's legacy — and terrifying relevancy

A months long celebration of the playwright a decade after his death is both exhilarating and exhausting in its urgency

DAVID BELCHER

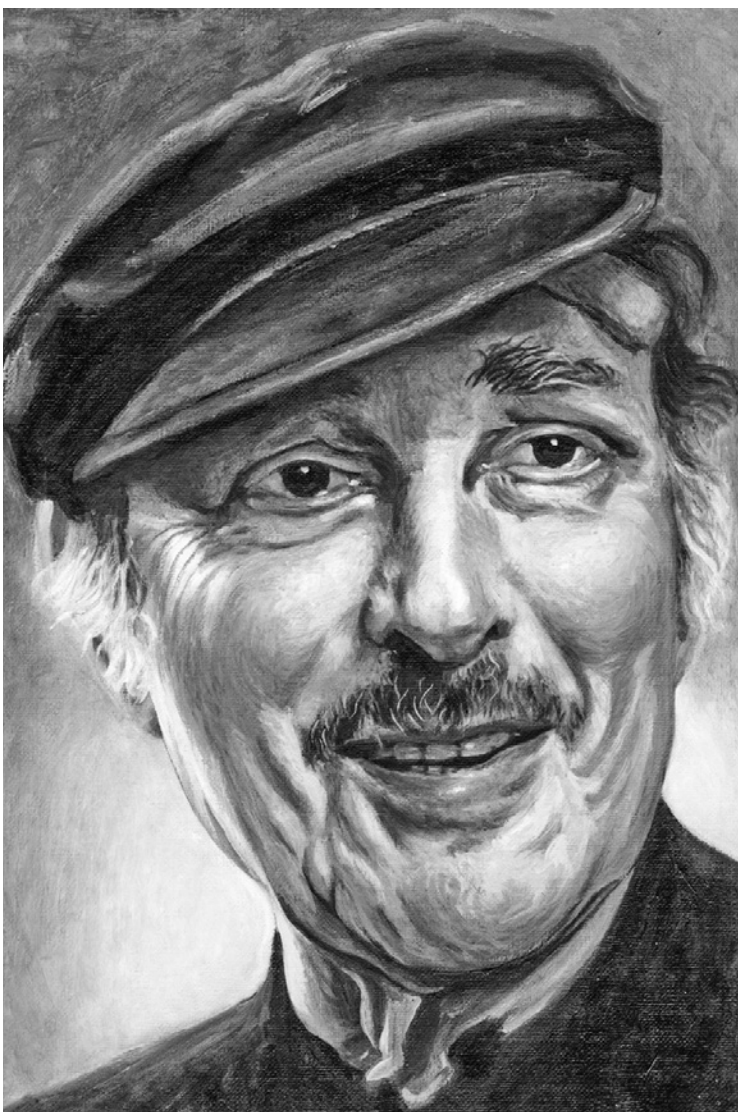
Ten years after Harold Pinter's death, it almost feels as if we're trapped in one of his furrowed-brow-inducing plays. What is real? What is untrue? Why is everyone so creepy and annoying?

And how frighteningly relevant the works of that most curmudgeonly of British playwrights suddenly feel given the state of the world, as evidenced by a celebration here of the more obscure works of Sir Harold, who could turn family dysfunction into squirm-in-your-seat hysteria, and loneliness and despair into the worst nightmare of a theatre full of well-heeled couples.

All 20 of his one-acts, and a few poems and sketches thrown in to test your threshold for long and awkward pauses, are being performed through Feb 23 under the title "Pinter at the Pinter" at the quaint West End theater renamed in 2011 for the playwright, who died in December 2008. Recent matinee viewings of the first two groupings — five more are being rolled out through Feb 23 — reveal just how eerily applicable these pieces are to current news events and the general malaise that seems to have settled over the world. Pinter Land, which some of us enjoy regularly visiting, is a rather rough place to hang out these days.

But this isn't just a case of art reflecting current political and humanitarian issues, which can be applied to virtually any era as history keeps repeating itself. How often do we get the "Shakespeare is so contemporary" routine — 400 years later, yes, people fall in love and tyrants are jerks. But these Pinter morsels are not just pertinent. They almost feel like cries of desperation from beyond the grave about humanity's immediate future.

A case in point is "The Pres



Harold Pinter

and an Officer," which Pinter apparently scribbled down on a notepad shortly before his death and which his widow, Lady Antonia Fraser, discovered last year among her mementos. A mere six pages, it's about a president obsessed with dropping a nuclear bomb on London (convinced it's the capital of France). It almost feels like a before-I-die slap to President Donald Trump, yet written at the time when "The Apprentice" was as far as any

of us ever imagined he would ascend.

As presented in its world premiere in the first batch of one-acts, "Pinter One" was hysterically funny but shockingly real — a spot-on depiction by a playwright who seemed to foretell the rise of a geographically challenged loose cannon of a president. Jon Culshaw plays the president as a Trump look-alike (perhaps too obvious a choice by the director Jamie Lloyd).

As presented in its world premiere in the first batch of one-acts, "Pinter One" was hysterically funny but shockingly real — a spot-on depiction by a playwright who seemed to foretell the rise of a geographically challenged loose cannon of a president

Even creepier was "One for the Road," with Antony Sher as a state functionary career-ing between charm and brutality as he interrogates three tortured members of a family. But the truly skin-crawling offering was "The New World Order," in which two tormentors crack jokes about their strategy as a trembling prisoner sits blindfolded, awaiting torture.

"Pinter Three" and "Pinter Four" (opening this week and running through Dec 8 include such gems as the monologue "Tess," performed by Penelope Wilton, for whom Pinter wrote the piece in 2002, and the London stage favourite Tamsin Greig in "Landscape," as well as "A Kind of Alaska," in which a woman awakens from a 29-year sleep (envious, anyone?). "Moonlight," which was one of Jason Robards's final New York stage appearances, explores regret and loneliness from an elderly man's deathbed.

"Pinter Five" and "Pinter Six" (running mid-December through Jan. 26) features rarely performed works like "Family Voices" and "Party Time" and include the actors Martin Freeman and Jane Horrocks, and "Pinter Seven" (Jan 31 to Feb 23) pair "The Dumb Waiter" and

"A Slight Ache," two of Pinter's better known one-acts.

One highlight of the season thus far has been two benefit performances by the Oscar-winning actor Mark Rylance reciting the Nobel Prize acceptance speech that Pinter delivered in 2005, which is one of the most brilliant and bitter offerings on YouTube. Pinter's evisceration of George W Bush and Tony Blair for mixing truths and untruths during the Iraq War almost feels like gee-whiz acknowledgment of a more innocent time. Ah, to be back in the aughts (or whatever the heck we're supposed to call that lost decade), when all we had to worry about was the Iraq war and little George and Tony.

Thirteen years after Pinter's videotaped speech from Britain (he was too ill to attend the Nobel ceremony in Stockholm) and 10 years after his death from cancer, it's astonishing to watch his acceptance speech. He begins with the words he wrote in 1958: "There are no hard distinctions between what is real and what is unreal. Nor between what is true and what is false."

Pinter clarifies that as an artist, he stands by his assertion. But as a citizen, he cannot.

"Truth in drama is forever elusive. You never quite find it. But the search for it is compulsive," he said. "The search is clearly what drives the endeavour. The search is your task."

With these words, and this ambitious staging of his shockingly relevant body of one-acts as 2018 nears its finale, the search for truth feels more immediate — and harder to grasp — than ever. It's a clear indication that this fiendishly existential playwright's works couldn't be more fresh or timely Or more terrifying.

(David Belcher is an editor in the Hong Kong office of the New York Times Opinion section.)

CIVILIAN'S TRIBUNE

Paraben, I'm scared of you!

The latest trend of beauty for ladies is a straight hair. When you go to the markets you will see a variety of beauty products, the shampoos, that made you overwhelmed. If you read the ingredients closely you will see a life threatening danger in it. The parabens, methyl, ethyl, propyl, tetra ethyl parabens. If your dear husband buys one of the shampoos that contains any of the Parabens in the ingredients, just say thanks to him and toss the shampoo bottle into the trash bin as paraben could cause you cancer.

Truly, you are beautiful with a wavy or curly or crisp hair.

May May Nu

Risking health for beauty

Tribune had carried a report on the harmful effects of hair straightening. I think its high time the Health Ministry come up with some guidelines for beauty parlours and shampoo manufactures over the use of chemicals in their products. According to Costmeticsinfo.org, data indicate that methyl, propyl, and butyl forms of parabens interfere with the functioning of the endocrine system. Specifically, parabens are endocrine disruptors stored in the body tissue that interfere with glandular activity and hormone production. Moreover, these preservative chemicals

are associated with the following in infants and children: developmental disorders, dysfunction of the immune system, learning problems as well as reproductive disorders. The Food and Drug Administration states that several assessments made by the Cosmetic Ingredient Review report that parabens are safe, with no side effects, in cosmetics at levels up to 25 per cent. It is advised that one read the ingredients in cosmetics before buying any products containing these preservatives. Ironically, while several of the commercial products that contain parabens are beauty products that are

supposed to enhance the skin, such as lotions and moisturisers, research has found they accelerate the skin ageing process. As reported by live-naturally.co.uk, researchers from the Kyoto Prefectural University of Medicine in Japan found that the methyl type of parabens increases sensitivity to and damage from the sun; that is, when exposed to ultraviolet rays, skin cells die at a much faster rate than normal. Therefore, one should read the ingredients to check for methylparabens before buying beauty products for the skin.

Dr Madhu Mohan