

# Krapp's Last Tape

By Samuel Beckett



Directed by Stockard Channing  
with David Westhead as "Krapp"

Revel in Samuel Beckett's classic play, as audiences are invited into Krapp's world of solitude, memories, dreams, elation, and despair. Brought to life in disused function rooms, underground vaults, former jails, and dusty factories, we are transported to a land of joy, sadness, lost ambition, love, madness, and hope.

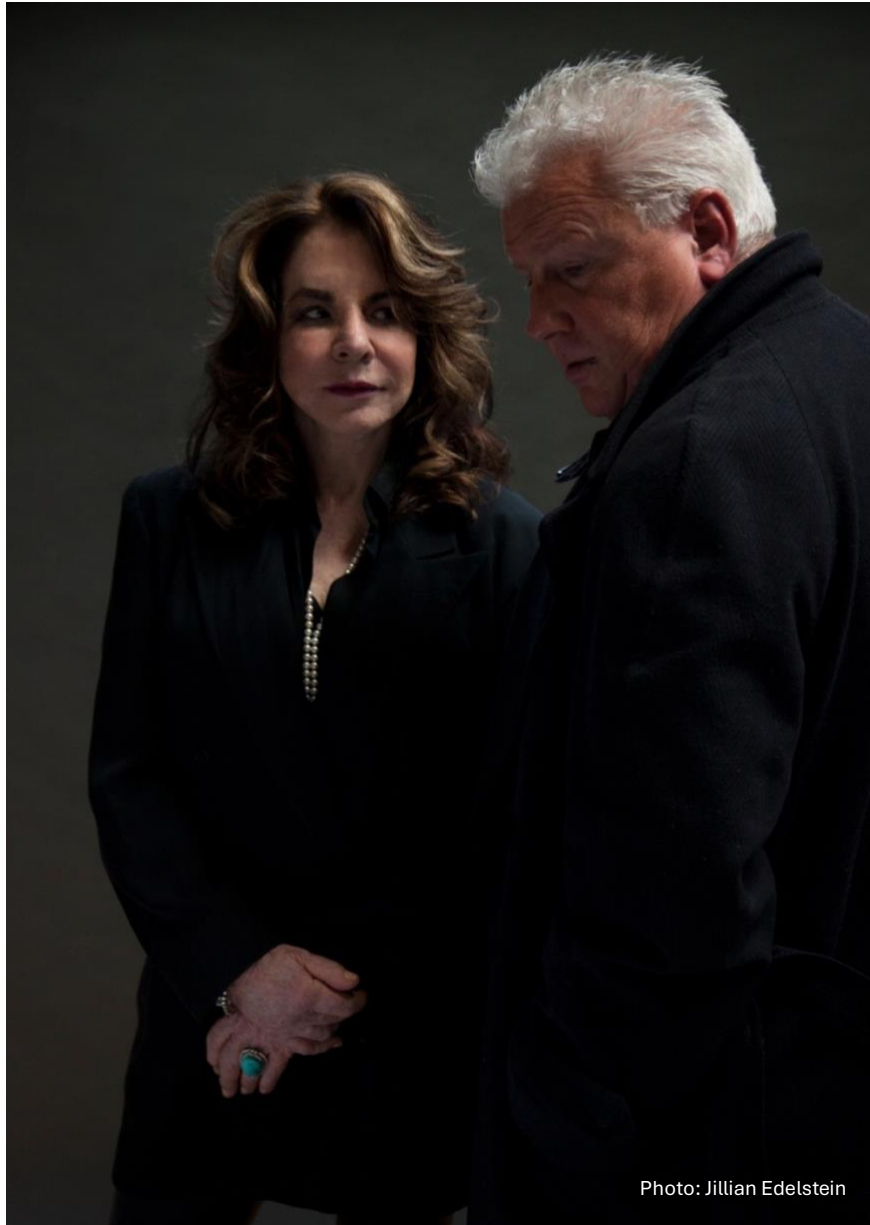


Photo: Jillian Edelstein

This production, directed by Academy Award nominee Stockard Channing and starring David Westhead, tours globally throughout 2026.

## About the Play

Krapp's Last Tape is a journey through an old man's life, filled with hilarious memories and hopes for the future, coupled with the mourning of lost love and unfulfilled ambition.

## Trailer

To view the trailer, please follow this Vimeo link and use the password **Dan123**

<https://vimeo.com/953207141?share=copy>



## Director and Lead Actor

**Stockard Channing:** Tony, Emmy and Golden Globe-winning, Stockard Channing brings her unique directorial vision to this production, exploring the intricate layers of Beckett's masterpiece and Krapp's solitary world.

**David Westhead:** A veteran of The Royal National Theatre and the Royal Shakespeare Company, multi-award-winning actor David Westhead embodies the complexities of Krapp, delivering a performance that is by turns powerful, funny and deeply moving.



## **Audience Reviews**

*"Just terrific.....such a wonderful piece of work. Brilliant, outrageous, and a tribute to the vaudeville that exists in Beckett...heartbreaking."*

**John McAndrew, Royal Shakespeare Company.**

*"A magical evening in a wonderfully evocative setting full of ghosts....."*

**Duncan Duff, Royal National Theatre**

*"A fantastic night. Unforgettable actually."*

**Kelly Hunter MBE, Flute Theatre Company**

*"Fantastic performance from David Westhead - Ms Channing clearly kicked him into shape. My daughter said it was the best thing she had ever seen!"*

**Ed Stobart, Director, Alleycats Film and TV**

*"Absolutely amazing performance."*

**David Magliano, MBE, Director of Strategy, London Olympic Games**

*"A really wonderful evening....absolutely the most perfect setting and production and, of course, performance."*

**Adrian Dannatt, actor, author, editor, artist.**

*"Just the same old Krapp, but somehow better than ever...."*

**Andrew Darnton, independent researcher in behavioural theory and systems change.**

*"What a stirring and remarkable performance by David Westhead in the perfect setting!"*

**Lucy Lubbock, Art Historian**

*"Just so special - a fabulous performance...."*

**Claudia Selby, TV producer and director**

*"Monday night was a revelation for me. To be in that small space and witness how, from nothing and nowhere, David Westhead transformed into the eponymous "Krapp" was mesmerising.*

*Without getting too purple, I found Westhead's performance quite magical...producing from within, an entirely formed and believable elderly man, auditing his life and times and raging at his end of days. Hopefully, with regards to Stockard Channing's beautiful, edgy production, it will not encounter the dying of the light for many years to come."*

**Geoffrey Seed, BBC Panorama and novelist**

*"Outstanding performance by one of UK's leading character actors. It was a privilege to see it such a small, intimate environment - it was an unforgettable night."*

**Bridget Whelan, University Lecturer**

*"Lovely visit to Midlands Art Centre to see David Westhead in Krapp's Last Tape, directed by the very lovely Stockard Channing. Great to see a full house for this Beckett play. My first bit of Beckett."*

**Jax Sheppard, Fine Art Curator**

# Krapp's Last Tape – “intense and compelling”

Birmingham Press / 23 September, 2024

Jessica Harris visits the Midlands Arts Centre for a Samuel Beckett classic.

David Westhead and Stockard Channing are keen to stress the teamwork that went into their production of this masterpiece by Samuel Beckett, and the resulting show at MAC was a stunner. As the Beckett Estate has determined that Beckett's works must be produced and performed within the parameters of his detailed stage directions, there is little room for interpretation by those who choose to stage his works. Everything comes down to the acting and, in the case of Krapp's Last Tape, to the ability of one man to hold that stage. Westhead, intense and compelling, and returning to the theatre after several years of absence, looked as if he had never been away.

Krapp, at the age of 69, looks back over his life and tries to make sense of it through listening to recordings he made as a younger man, recordings which diarise the daily events of his life. As he listens, he recounts the bitterness of lost loves, unachieved ambitions and of too many nights of drinking in solitude. Westhead is in complete control of this material, his performance charged at times with hope and passion, and at other times with cynicism and regret.

The set, a desk covered with boxes of spools and the all-important reel-to-reel tape recorder, enables Krapp to travel back in time and relive his earlier years. Sometimes it substitutes for an old lover as he cradles it in his arms. Lighting kept the gaze on this spot, making Krapp at his desk appear to be frozen in time. And, as he hurls tapes to the floor, it is the derision in which he holds his past life and his seeming denial that there was ever any reason to hope in the first place that really bites. This is nihilism without the saving grace of existentialism.

Krapp's Last Tape was performed by David Westhead and directed by Stockard Channing. Its performance at MAC clearly intrigued its audiences since large numbers stayed on for a question and answer session.

## Technical Specifications

Running Time: 50 minutes (or 1 hour 20 mins with Q&A)

Auditorium: Any space capable of accommodating 50+ audience members

Stage area (bare floor) minimum dimensions: 2.5m x 2.5m

Same day get in (90 mins max) and get out (1 hour max)

Self-sufficient sound and lighting. Electrical supply is beneficial, but a mobile generator can be provided if needed.



## **Thanks to:**

Anthony Roberts and all at Colchester Arts Centre, Roc Sandford and The Paddington Club, John Phillips at Ips and the Museum of Unrest, Jem Wall at Hydrocracker, Alfie Westhead, Chris Cope, Geoff Kirzynowski, Pete Spokes, Claudia Selby, Tom Dalton and Brown Bear Studios, Anne Clarke at Landmark Productions, Curtis Brown and The Beckett Estate.

## **Producers:**

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**Jem Wall:** [jem.wall@hydrocracker.co.uk](mailto:jem.wall@hydrocracker.co.uk)

This production of "Krapp's Last Tape" will tour worldwide throughout 2026, aimed at diverse audiences and cultures, both in bustling urban centres as well as remote, often forgotten communities.

**"Krapp's Last Tape" – an unforgettable exploration of the human soul.**