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Alliance Française Dublin
1960-2010

Contact: Françoise Brung
Cultural Coordinator
01 638 1447
gallery@alliance-francaise.ie

EXHIBITION OF PHOTOGRAPHS

14 April - 25 June

Beckett's Paris

by John Minihan

Opening: Tuesday 13 April at 6.30pm

This exhibition is part of the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the Alliance Française in Dublin.

The Irish photographer John Minihan first met Samuel Beckett in May 1980, and was to photograph him many times thereafter, in both Paris and London, a privilege afforded to very few. Impossible to interview and famously camera-shy, Beckett was nevertheless a remarkable photographic subject, with his wise, eagle-like face which reflected his greatness and profundity as a writer. This exhibition presents some impressive portraits of Beckett and of his surroundings in Paris together with portraits of the famous, like French actor Jean-Louis Barrault or French writer Nathalie Sarraute, who worked and spent time with Beckett in Paris at that time.

"Paris is the city of photography," says John, "the city of street photography." Acutely aware that "photography creates myths and destroys lives", his relationship with Beckett was always one of intense respect. "You couldn't just take a photograph of Sam", it had to be on his instigation. But far from being distant and difficult Beckett was, as Stephen Rea says, "very open to friendship, if you had the nerve ..."

John Minihan was born in Dublin in 1946. From the age of 11, he went to live in London, leaving school to work as an office boy at the Daily Mail, where he began his career as a photographer. "I was one of 10 runners on the editorial floor of the evening news," he says. "Part of my job involved going up to the darkroom; I got to know the technicians there. After three months, an opening in the darkroom came up and my five-year apprenticeship there began my life as a photographer."

This exhibition is kindly sponsored by www.parisbynumbers.ie

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Admission free - Opening hours: Monday – Friday 8.30am 7.30pm
Saturday 9.30-1.30pm (from 5th June the Alliance is closed on Saturday morning)