

Budapest, 12-14 June 2013

**The Stranger**  
– *felolvasóSZÍNHÁZ* –  
("reading theatre")

Players:

Mersault - Tóth András  
Judge - Csapó Attila  
Prosecutor - Zoltán Áron  
Solicitor - Zsigmond Emőke

Adaptation/director: **SIPOS BALÁZS**

If the court of justice does not earn its own, always questionable, legitimacy with its conduct, its exemplary discipline, the terrible result is that we start to sympathise with the murderer; thus all that was inherently clear becomes hopelessly confused. The lines are very thin here. There is nothing shakier than the moral justifications meant to support the accusation, and especially the sentence – and without this support all judgement is merely the absurd parody of the majestically threatening image it creates/suggests of itself; we can easily slide into unjustifiable, barbarian tyranny. What is impenetrably grotesque about all this is that the conditions of moral legitimation and those of public office in practice do not depend on one another: legal power is exclusive, the *underlying morality* is relative. Consequently the infantile can stigmatise, interrogate, judge, ultimately even murder, if he deems it fit, and if he has the permission of his superior. No morality or god can hold him accountable, except – ironically – his superior, who in a moral sense is often no less infantile than him.

From the drily moralising basis laid out above, the third-year acting students of the University of Theatre and Film Arts have composed a short, absurd etude based on *The Stranger* by Camus, that contains revue elements, is socially sensitive, politically independent, starts with clowning around and ends in a deathly serious, slightly satirical, greatly playful, manipulative way, alienated to the point of being mechanical, but not the least bit inhuman, etc. etc. etc.

*“Having slowly raised their eyes from their clever books, they cautiously looked upon their land, and what they saw was not to their liking.”*