

No Way Out

(Huis Clos)

by Jean-Paul Sartre

Translated by Frank Hauser

| Director's notes |

| I first saw *Huis Clos* in the BBC version with Harold Pinter as Garcin when it was first broadcast in 1964 or thereabouts. I can't say I remembered it all, but it was one of those plays which stayed with me.

I have tried over the last couple of years to obtain the rights to perform the play, but they have been blocked as major theatres in London took options on the rights to *No Exit*, the Stuart Gilbert translation of Sartre's *Huis Clos*.

It became like an itch that you cannot scratch. However, the rights did become available last

year and, in discussion with Eric Glass Limited, Sartre's agents for England, I was offered a more modern translation of the play by Frank Hauser.

When I read it I leapt at the chance to use his version. To me it seemed to be a more direct translation than Gilbert's *No Exit*. Interestingly it was translated in the year that Gilbert died.

All I had to do now was make sense of it. Playing around with the flyer design, one thought I had was to combine the names Garcin, Ines and Estelle which gave me GARCINESTELLE. This put Ines at the heart of the play



in a mechanical way.

My Assistant Director, Bob Havard, found Dr. Jonathan Webber's piece '*There is Something About Inez*' (he uses the spelling used by Gilbert rather than Sartre's own spelling).

I am indebted to Dr. Webber for insights into her character and her function in the play which had always puzzled me.

This put Ines at the heart of the play from an intellectual perspective. I then knew how I was going to shape the play to tell the story of three people trapped in hell. 'Hell is other

people' - my objective is to show how that came about.

Frank Hauser died this week in 2007. It is fitting that his translation is being performed on the anniversary of his death. |

| Ralf Togneri |

| Director |

Above: Ralf, centre, shows the way to his cast.