

Els condemnats [“**The Condemned**”], by Baltasar Porcel, was the recipient of the City of Palma Prize in 1958. This was the first of many literary awards won by the Mallorcan writer in his lifetime. The piece is existentialist in nature and closely linked to the aesthetic of Jean-Paul Sartre, much as Manuel de Pedrolo’s work was in those years. However, de Pedrolo’s work has a perspective closer to the theatre of the absurd. The piece was poorly understood and achieved limited impact.

The premise of the drama is a distressing dramatic situation: a man is assassinated, a Mallorcan smuggler is cornered by the police after being given up by his wife and children in order to safeguard their inheritance.

The work opened at the Teatre Estudi in Valencia in 1960. El text reproduced here corresponds to the text used for the performance organized by the Barcelona theatre group Agrupació Dramàtica, under the direction of Miquel Porter, on 25 April 1961, at the Palau de la Música, with sets by Antoni Bachs-Torné and a cast including the following actors: Maria Assumpció Fors, Rafael Vidal Folch, Josep Maria Grau, Joan Aymamí, Carlota Soldevila, Frederic Roda, Àngel Company, Antoni Millà, Griselda Barceló, Nadala Batista, Maria Dolors Fossas, Carme Cera, Joaquim Ferré, Jordi Salvatella, Vicenç Olivares and Edmond Sala.

A year later, Agrupació Dramàtica de Barcelona gave the premiere of another theatrical piece by Porcel, *La simbomba fosca*, under the direction of Francesc Balagué (Palau de la Música Catalana, 4 April 1962).

(ECP)

For additional information on the text and staging of *Els condemnats*, see:

COCA, Jordi. *L’Agrupació Dramàtica de Barcelona. Intent de Teatre Nacional (1955-1963)*. Barcelona: Edicions 62; Institut del Teatre (Monografies de Teatre, 9), 1978.

VIDA, Miquel Àngel. “Els inicis literaris de Porcel: *Els condemnats*”. *Lluc*, no. 856, Palma, March-April 2007, pp. 16-17.