



For Immediate Release: January 3, 2012

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## Parenting at its Finest: Three-time Tony Award® Winner *God of Carnage* Comes to Asolo Rep

(SARASOTA, Fla.)- Asolo Repertory Theatre will continue its 2011-2012 season with the triple Tony Award®-winning sensation **GOD OF CARNAGE** by award-winning playwright Yasmina Reza. What critics are calling “An expert piece of stagecraft and savagely funny”- (*International Herald Tribune*) and “Gleefully nasty fun” (*New York Post*), Asolo Rep’s production of **GOD OF CARNAGE** will showcase the best of what Florida theatre has to offer. Directed by Associate Artistic Director Greg Leaming, this 75-minute production will run from January 13 to April 6.

Winner of the 2009 Tony Awards® for Best Play, Best Performance by a Leading Actress in a Play (Marcia Gay Harden) and Best Direction of a Play (Matthew Warchus) and the basis for Roman Polanski’s feature film *Carnage*, this sharp-witted comedy goes where few shows have ventured before: parenthood. After two boys get into a playground brawl, the parents must deal with the aftermath. But what happens when the adults start acting as bad as the spoiled children? **GOD OF CARNAGE** promises to bring moans and laughs from the audience as they watch the parenting war rage on.

Director Greg Leaming says, “There’s a nervous energy running under **GOD OF CARNAGE** that is an incredible challenge for an acting company. It’s a real high wire act – once the characters in this play start pushing each other’s buttons, once the mask of civility comes off, the characters don’t stop to think about the damage all around them. And that’s not only a great challenge for an acting company, but it’s also a great thrill for an audience – just like the characters in the play, we’re allowed to see human nature at its most primal in the most civilized of settings! What could be calmer than a meeting between two sets of parents trying to resolve their childrens’ differences – and what could be more explosive!”

-more-

Yasmina Reza delivers a 90-minute production full of cleverness and fun. Reza's work has garnered attention both across the country and overseas -her other Tony Award® winning play *Art* premiered in Paris to become an instant sensation and has been produced in over 30 languages. Written in French and originally set in Paris, ***GOD OF CARNAGE*** was translated by Christopher Hampton into English and the show arrived in London's West End in 2008.

Asolo Rep's production will feature company members **David Breitbarth** (*Twelve Angry Men, Men of Tortuga*) and **James Clarke** (*Deathtrap, Twelve Angry Men*) guest artist **Kate Hampton** (*Boeing, Boeing*) and third year FSU/Asolo Conservatory student **Katie Cunningham** (*Once In a Lifetime*). Sets and costumes are designed by Judy Gailen (*Boeing, Boeing* and *The Imaginary Invalid*).

Corporate sponsors for ***GOD OF CARNAGE*** are Sun Hydraulics, Morton's Gourmet Market & Catering and Scene Magazine. ***GOD OF CARNAGE*** begins previews on January 11. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.asolorep.org](http://www.asolorep.org) or by calling the Asolo Rep Box Office at 941.351.8000.

## ***GOD OF CARNAGE***

By: Yasmina Reza

Translated by: Christopher Hampton

January 13, 2012- April 6, 2012

### **Creative Team:**

Greg Leaming	Director
Judy Gailen	Scenic & Costume Design
Michelle Hart	Resident Hair & Make-up Design
Dan Kotlowitz	Lighting Design
Robert Wesley	Fight Director
Patrick Lanczki*	Stage Manager
Ann Stenehjem	Stage Management Assistant
Lauryn E. Sasso	Resident Dramaturg

**Cast (in order of appearance):**

David Breitbarth*	Michael
James Clarke*	Alan
Kate Hampton*	Veronica
Katie Cunningham+	Annette

\*Members of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

+ Appears courtesy of Actors' Equity Association

**Creative Bios:**

**Yasmina Reza** (Playwright): Reza is a French playwright and novelist, based in Paris, whose works have all been multi-award-winning, critical and popular international successes, produced worldwide and translated into 35 languages. She has written seven plays (CONVERSATIONS AFTER A BURIAL, THE PASSAGE OF WINTER, "ART," THE UNEXPECTED MAN, LIFE X 3, A SPANISH PLAY, GOD OF CARNAGE, HOW YOU TALK THE GAME) and 6 novels ("Hammerklavier," "Une Desolation (Desolation)," "Adam Haberberg," "Dans la Luge d'Arthur Schopenhauer," "Nulle Part" and "L'Aube, le Soir ou la Nuit (Dawn Dusk or Night)"). Films include: "Le Pique-Nique de Lulu Kreutz," directed by Didier Martiny and "Chicas," written and directed by the author.

**Christopher Hampton** (Translator): Christopher Hampton's plays, musicals, and translations have garnered three Tony Awards, two Olivier Awards, four Evening Standard Awards, and the New York Theatre Critics Circle Award. Prizes for his film and television work include an Academy Award, two BAFTAs, a Writer's Guild of America Award, the Prix Italian and a Special Jury Award at the Cannes Film Festival.

**Greg Leaming** (Director): For Asolo Rep, *Anything to Declare?* As well as *Boeing, Boeing, Hearts, The Imaginary Invalid, The Play's The Thing* and the world premiere of Jason Wells' *Men of Tortuga*. For the FSU/Asolo Conservatory *Pericles, Blue Window, Murder by Poe, The Mystery Plays* and *Two Gentleman of Verona*. He is also the Curator of Asolo Rep's *Unplugged* new play series. Other credits include Hartford Stage Company, Long Wharf Theatre, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Merrimack Theatre Company, Contemporary American Theatre Festival, American Stage, Banyan Theatre Company, Shakespeare Sedona, Southwest Shakespeare, Stage West and Philadelphia Drama Guild. Mr. Leaming has devoted much time to developing new plays with organizations including New Dramatists, New York Theatre Workshop, New York Stage and Film Cape Cod Theatre Project, The Gathering at Bigfork, and Theatre of the First Amendment.

**GOD OF CARNAGE** opens January 13, 2012 with previews beginning January 3. Visit [www.asolorep.org](http://www.asolorep.org) or call

941.351.8000 to order tickets today.

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Now in its 53rd season, Asolo Repertory Theatre is widely recognized as one of the premier professional theatres in the Southeastern United States. One of the few true repertory companies in the nation, Asolo Rep presents a diverse repertoire of newly commissioned plays, bold reinterpretations of contemporary and classical works, and provocative new musical theatre experiences each season. With its ambitious theatrical offerings and groundbreaking education, outreach and audience development programming, Asolo Rep is more vibrant and its work more relevant than ever before.