

The God of Carnage

by Yasmina Reza (translated by Christopher Hampton)

SHOW DATES	23 rd May – 1 st June 2019 Includes a matinee on Saturday 1 st June at 2.30pm
READING	Tuesday 11th December 2018 at 8pm in the Studio
AUDITIONS	Sunday 13th January 2019 at 2pm in the Theatre
REHEARSALS	From Wednesday 3 rd April 2019 Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, some Sundays - 8pm onwards
DIRECTOR	Natalie Jones: nat90mins@hotmail.com 07787 310581
PA	Robin Clark: robinclark90@gmail.com 07944 050289

THE PLAY

What happens when two sets of parents meet up to deal with the unruly behaviour of their children? A calm and rational debate between grown-ups about the need to teach kids how to behave properly? Or a hysterical night of name-calling, tantrums and tears before bedtime? Boys will be boys, but the adults are usually worse – much worse. It is a modern day 'Rumble in the Living Room', a comedy of manners without the manners!

Christopher Hampton's translation of Yasmina Reza's sharp-edged play *The God of Carnage* premiered at the Gielgud Theatre, London in March 2008. It starred starring Janet McTeer, Ken Stott, Tamsin Greig and Ralph Fiennes and it went on to win the Olivier Award for Best New Comedy in 2009.

For more information (and inspiration), check out this Yasmina Reza interview which explains her approach to writing for the theatre and how *The God of Carnage* came about.

<https://www.theguardian.com/stage/2012/jan/22/yasmina-reza-interview-carnage-polanski>

THE CHARACTERS, PLAYING AGE and AUDITION PIECES

All 4 characters are on stage for the duration of the play, with some briefly stepping off/out to an unseen room. The play runs around 90 minutes and there is no interval.

Ages: All are listed as in their 40s, although there is some flexibility on this. All that is required is that it is believable that you could have an 11-year-old child. It is also important that the couples work together well.

Alain Reille

He is married to Annette and it is his son who hits the Vallon's son. Alain is a cynical lawyer always on his mobile throughout the play and treats the Vallon's living room as though it is his office! He's detached, bruisingly rude and provides a fair bit of the comic fodder. Like all four of the characters, he goes on quite a ride over the evening's proceedings, from being comically indifferent to acquiring a rather tragic edge.

Annette Reille

She is married to Alain and it is her son who hits the Vallon's son. Annette is a wealth manager and probably the sanest of the quartet or is she? She conveys a sickly impotence of liberalism and is a rather nervous sort, which she eventually casts off and goes wild, screeching like a gleeful witch at one point. (*Please note : must be able to throw up believably onstage*).

Veronique Vallon

She is married to Michel and the Reille's son has attacked her son. Veronique is a writer, her most recent book has been on Dafur. She's the moral crusader of the four characters, a chic radical. As the night goes on she starts to reveal her true values and allows her mask to slip, exposing the hollowness of her marriage to Michel. She also reveals some real venom at one point, roaring like a lioness.

Michel Vallon

He is married to Michel and the Reille's son has attacked his son. Michel is a wholesaler and seems eager to create peace between the two boys and the Reilles. As the conversation and night progresses he turns from a would be pacifier into a bit of bruiser with an uncouth nature, making some racial slurs. Behind the macho bombast, an element of cowardice is revealed.

If you are unable to attend the audition then please contact either the Director or PA to arrange a suitable date to be seen.

AUDITION PIECES

All four characters required.

Page 3 – Page 7 (btm).

Veronique: *“So, this is our statement – you’ll be doing your own....”* to Annette: *“You left it outside”*

Page 33 – Page 37

From where Annette returns, Veronique: *“Ah, Annette! I was worried about you...”* to where the Vallons' telephone rings, Veronique: *“Go on, go, I give it up”*.