



presents...



THE
ROSE
CENTRE

GOD OF CARNAGE

written by Yasmina Reza
directed by Kate Birch



15 - 17 July 2022

book at www.iticket.co.nz or phone 09 361 1000



Welcome

from Stephen Hood

PRESIDENT OF COMPANY THEATRE

Company Theatre welcomes you to the first of its three shows in 2022! Returning from a five-year hiatus after directing Company Theatre's *Deathtrap* in 2017, we have Kate Birch back directing *God of Carnage*. Although our talented cast won't be mixing and mingling as much as usual outside the show, we're looking forward to a full season of this awesome play. Later this year, Kathy Gent is directing *The Thrill of Love* by Amanda Whittington – after directing last *Neville's Island* only to see three quarters of its season cut due to COVID-19. Following this, Kristof Haines is directing Jez Butterworth's *Jerusalem* in November 2022. It would be great to see you there!

Thoughts on the Play

from Kate Birch

DIRECTOR - GOD OF CARNAGE

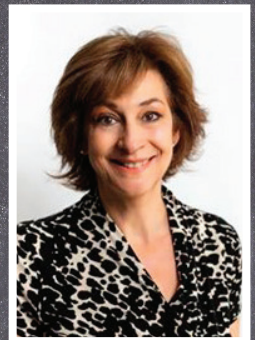
God of Carnage (originally written in French *LE DIEU DU CARNAGE*) is a play by **Yasmina Reza** and was first published in 2008. We are using the US script which was translated by Christopher Hampton and updated to modern day.

Two couples meet to discuss a playground incident. The Raleigh's son hit Michael and Veronica Novak's son in the face with a stick, resulting in two broken teeth. The couples agree to discuss the incident civilly, but as the day wears on and the drinks are imbibed, the polite veneer breaks down.

While much of the play's conflict is between the Novaks and the Raleighs, a battle of the sexes is also interwoven throughout the storyline. Sometimes a female character makes a disparaging claim about her husband and the second will chime in with her own critical anecdote. Likewise, the husbands will make snide comments about their family life, creating a bond, albeit a fragile one, between the males.

"You'll be relieved to know the cast are nothing like their characters! It has been an absolute pleasure to work with such a talented bunch of actors. The crew have also been amazing to work with – providing a real whānau feel to our production. Huge thanks to everyone involved."

Kate Birch, Director



THE CAST

Veronica Novak

Michael Novak

Annette Raleigh

Alan Raleigh

Marissa Willson

Dion Hunt

Rebecca Wright

Oliver Roberts

SETTING THE SCENE

Our play is set in modern day New York, at the apartment of Michael and Veronica Novak. The characters begin as civilised adults, but despite their diplomatic intentions, gradually unravel their dark sides and end up acting like rude, petulant children.

Michael & Veronica Novak - Michael is a self-made man from Maryland, USA. He married his English wife, Veronica, whilst travelling in Europe. Initially Michael is eager to create peace, until his uncouth nature is slowly revealed. Veronica is a writer with a great passion for art and Africa. She pictures herself as the queen of social conscience and common courtesy but maybe more judgmental and domineering.

Alan and Annette Raleigh – Alan may be the most stereotypical character of the group, a smarmy openly rude and misogynistic lawyer. He is married to Annette who first presents herself as an elite member of society, but who is actually on the brink of a panic attack. Her self-confidence has been eroded by her husband's eternal preoccupation with work.

The play runs for 90 minutes without an interval, giving you plenty of time to join us in the bar after the performance, and still get an early night!

The theatre doors open at 7.45pm, to allow you to immerse yourself in the anticipation of what is to come. Get your drinks and snacks early.

Then take your seat and join the Novaks as they prepare for the arrival of Alan and Annette Raleigh.



MEET THE CAST



MARISSA WILLSON
Veronica Novak

Marissa epitomises what it means to rekindle an old passion that had been forgotten for many years. She loved acting as a child, however, real life took over and only 3 years ago, after a gap of over 30 years, she has taken to the boards again. Since then, she has immersed herself in bringing a wide range of characters to life from Shakespeare to Agatha Christie and Dickens. Last year she performed in *Speaking in Tongues* which won best Drama at the ACTT Awards.

Veronica is a character who can be passionate about her beliefs and the important role society plays in keeping up standards, however, because of her condescension, she can be very unlikeable at times. She refuses to see fault in herself, thinks she is better than everyone else and causes pain for others. There are times that she can be fun and loving and this makes her real and relatable and Marissa has loved getting to know Veronica and bringing her to life. Marissa says this experience has been an absolute joy for her as the cast and crew have been incredibly fun to work with and very talented. She is also proud to be finally acting with **Company Theatre** whose productions she has admired for many years.



DION HUNT
Michael Novak

This is Dion's first play with **Company Theatre** and his first theatre performance in New Zealand since playing Leslie in *'The Hostage'* at Devonport's Vic in 1990. Since then, Dion has performed in theatre and film in Australia and the UK.

Making Michael someone the audience can be unsure of, whether to like or loathe, has been a fun challenge and being a part of this amazing team has been a great return to a field of arts he has loved since childhood.



REBECCA WRIGHT

Annette Raleigh

Rebecca has loved acting and the theatre since she was a child. She majored in theatre studies at Otago University where she studied acting, writing and directing for the stage. Following that she worked for many years in television production: directing, casting and post-producing on some of New Zealand's most popular reality TV series and other shows.

Taking on the role of Annette Raleigh, Rebecca is excited to be back on stage again. Annette's journey throughout the play, from her polite well-meaning intentions at the beginning through to finding her voice and leaving nothing unsaid by the end, has been a challenge and a joy to portray. To quote Annette, "*How many parents become infantile themselves when standing up for their children?*" For Rebecca, being part of a supportive and talented cast and crew at **Company Theatre** has been a real pleasure, not to mention a whole lot of fun!



OLIVER ROBERTS

Alan Raleigh

One skim of the script and Oliver was smitten - and knew he wanted to play self-obsessed lawyer Alan Raleigh. He says it's such a fun part, made even better by working with the fantastic team - director, cast and crew. And after the lockdowns and alert levels, it is such a relief and pleasure to be able to bring the show to life for Auckland audiences. The themes and characters are painfully recognisable - and people will see themselves in them (but hopefully not too much).

This is Oliver's first show at the Rose Centre Theatre, having most recently performed in Ellerslie last year as the infamous Lord Henry Wotton in Oscar Wilde's ***The Picture of Dorian Gray***. He says there is something irresistible about playing someone with dodgy principles. As Alan himself says: "*morality decrees we should control our impulses - but sometimes it's better not to control them*".

THE CARNAGE CREW

Director	Kate Birch
Production Assistant & Understudy	Jessica Silva de Jesus
Stage Manager	Janet Lyons
Assistant Stage Manager	Annie McGrath
Production Manager	Stephen Hood
Set Design, Dressing & Props	Sherry Berg
Costumes	Janet Lyons & Annie McGrath
Lighting /Sound Design	Stephen Hood
Publicity & Group Bookings	Kathy Gent
Facebook/Instagram/Newsletter	Stephen Hood
Poster Design	Jessica Silva de Jesus
Fight Director	Matt Smith
Photography	Kathryn Nobbs
Programme Design	Sherry Berg
Front of House Manager	Lesley Hawkey
Bar Manager	Alastair Fletcher
Set Construction Manager	Sherry Berg
Set Construction	Sherry Berg, Stephen Hood, Anne Rimmer, Joe Rouse, Oliver Roberts, Dion Hunt, Kathy Gent, Annie McGrath, Janet Lyons, Alastair Fletcher, Marissa Willson, Rebecca Wright, Kate Birch





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NEXT WITH COMPANY THEATRE



UPCOMING SHOW 13-27 AUGUST 2022



Ruth Ellis was the last woman to be hanged in Britain after being convicted of shooting her lover, David Blakely, in cold blood. Using the evocative and haunting songs of Billie Holiday as a springboard, **THE THRILL OF LOVE** dramatises this true story and delves behind the headlines to take a closer look at Ruth and the women in her life.

A divorcee with two young children, Ruth worked in the sort of 1950's London nightclubs where there was more than a drink on offer, where hostesses worked hard, played hard and dreamt of leaving the sleaze and heading to Hollywood for a movie-star life.

Amanda Whittington's play focuses on Ruth's life and, in particular, her friendships with Sylvia the dependable nightclub manageress, Vicky a vivacious actress and model and the selfless and kind charwoman Doris who has aspirations to be more than a char, the friends who provide comfort as she battles her abusive lovers.

Detective Jack Gale follows Ruth's story throughout the play, always in the shadows in an attempt to unravel her motive for murder... and more.....



Directed by
KATHY GENT