

Director's Note

In 2006 I had the pleasure of directing the amateur premiere of Yasmina Reza's highly successful play 'Art' for the Criterion. Since then I have watched her subsequent plays with interest, looking for the same perception and incisive wit.

The God of Carnage was performed for a short run in the Gielgud Theatre in March 2008 with a stellar cast and to terrific reviews. A quick read convinced me that this was a 'must' for us and waited for the amateur availability - which arrived this year.

It has proved a joyous experience to work with this able, thoughtful and articulate cast. Well, we all have views on parenting, don't we?!

Much discussion has ensued on the lengths we would go to in supporting our children, and the differing effects of over-indulgence on rum!

I am pleased to say that from the team of Art, Jon (Alan) and Emma (Designer), have stuck with me. And a big thanks needs to be given to Clair, Karl and Les for solving a puzzling issue inherent in the staging of this play.

All will be revealed!

I do hope you enjoy the evening.

Helen Withers



If you have any comments about your experience at The Criterion Theatre, please email us at comments@critteriontheatre.co.uk



www.criteriontheatre.co.uk



Our next production...

*A riveting story of love, loss,
and the life unlived.*

Port Authority

By Conor McPherson

Studio Production
10th - 13th April 23

A boy leaves home for the first time. A man starts a job for which he is not qualified. A pensioner has just been sent a mysterious package. Away from Dublin's bar-room bravado, three men show us the reality of big dreams and missed chances, of loves lost and trouble found of the messiness of life and the quirkiness of fate.

In three overlapping monologues, Port Authority weaves together a wry, moving and funny tale of how modern man faces up to the responsibility of love.

BOX OFFICE (Direct) 024 7667 5175

This is a notice to members



Production photography by
Richard Johnson
079 0450 6280

**No photography or videoing allowed.
The Criterion is a non-smoking theatre.**

*"Parents behaving
very badly indeed..."*



By Yasmina Reza

This production contains strong language.

Programme

By arrangement with Samuel French Ltd

GOD OF CARNAGE



Cathryn Bowler (Veronica Fenton)

Cathryn first appeared on the Criterion stage almost ten years ago as Goody Proctor in *The Crucible* (directed by Helen Withers), and since then has been in various productions including *Talking Heads* (Susan in *'Bed Among the Lentils'*), *'Single Spies'* (Coral Browne), *'The 39 Steps'* (Annabella Schmidt/Margaret/Pamela), *'Four Nights in Knarborough'* (Catherine), *'The Blue Room'* (Girl/Au Pair/Married Woman/Model/Actress), *'Brassed Off'* (Sandra), *'Hedda Gabler'* (Hedda), *'Oliver Twist'* (Nancy), *'Memory of Water'* (Mary), *'Life x 3'* (Sonya) and *'Educating Rita'* (Rita) at The Loft in Leamington Spa.



Trev Clarke (Michael Fenton)

This is Trev's fifth appearance at the Criterion Theatre and his first since *'The Seafarer'* in 2011. He hopes to appear more often once he lives in a house again rather than a storage cupboard. He dislikes rodents and knows a reasonable amount about plumbing. He had never even heard of a clafoutis before this show.



Jon Elves (Alan Garrod)

Jon first came to the Criterion Theatre in the early 1990's and has since appeared in various productions. Some of his favourite roles have included Mozart in *'Amadeus'*, Phil in *'Brassed Off'*, James 'Sharkey' Harkin in *'The Seafarer'*, and Ben Hecht in *'Moonlight and Magnolias'*. Jon was last seen in *'39 Steps'* and *'The Cripple of Inishmaan'* and he is very happy to be back on stage. The themes surrounding this play have resonated with Jon from the first reading. After living with it for the past eight weeks he really understands how a smack in the face with a stick might seem the answer...



Annie Gay (Annette Garrod)

Annie is delighted to be making her second appearance at the Criterion Theatre, having made her debut in *'The Cripple of Inishmaan'* last year. She has worked in many productions elsewhere and has written and performed in numerous sketches for NHS training workshops. Annie is part of a team of murder mystery actors at Coombe Abbey and she regularly kills people.

Cast

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Veronica Fenton | Cathryn Bowler |
| Michael Fenton | Trev Clarke |
| Alan Garrod | Jon Elves |
| Annette Garrod | Annie Gay |

There will be NO interval during the performance.

Director Helen Withers

Crew

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Set Designer | Emma Withers |
| Set Builders | I/C Pete Bagley Bill Hamill, Dave Holmes Terry Rahilly, Judy Sharpe Simon Sharpe |
| Caterer to the Cast and Crew | Judy Sharpe |
| Set Painters | I/C Emma Withers Becky Cribdon, Emma Searles Judy Talbot |
| Lighting Design | Karl Stafford |
| Lighting Operators | Karl Stafford |
| Sound Design | Becky Barlett |
| Sound Operator | Joshua Pink |
| Set Dresser | Emma Withers |
| Properties | I/C Les Rahilly |
| Wardrobe | Pam Coleman, Maureen Liggins |
| Prompt | Joe Fallowell |
| Stage Manager | Clair Henrywood |