



God of Carnage

by Yasmina Reza
Translated by Christopher Hampton



Produced and Directed by
Michael O. Budnick

May 11 – 14, 2023

Easthampton Theater Company



easthamptontheater.com

About ETC

Easthampton Theater Company was formed in late 2022 by a group of theater veterans to bring high quality, entertaining and thought-provoking theater to Easthampton that resonates with Valley theater-going audiences.

We currently perform in the newly renovated CitySpace Blue Room, located in the historic and beautiful Old Town Hall. We are also looking forward to the renovation of the grand upstairs performance space.

For more information or to get involved, please visit our website at easthamptontheater.com, join our Facebook page @easthamptontheatercompany or email us at info@easthamptontheater.com.



Sponsorship

Donations from corporations, businesses, foundations, and government agencies provide Easthampton Theater Company with major support for current and future productions. Your organization also receives recognition that promotes awareness and highlights your strong ties to our community. Sponsorship is available for each production at three different funding levels with an array of benefits:

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CitySpace Blue Room
43 Main Street, Easthampton MA

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GOD OF CARNAGE was produced on Broadway by Robert Fox, David Pugh & Dafydd Rogers, Stuart Thompson, Scott Rudin, Jon B. Platt, The Weinstein Company, and The Shubert Organization.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Easthampton Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Director's Notes

Welcome to Easthampton Theater Company's inaugural production of *God of Carnage*. While our theater company is relatively new, we have a seasoned and talented team with extensive experience in community and regional theater. Our mission is to create high quality live theater by and for Easthampton and the greater Pioneer Valley community. We appreciate the support of our patrons and the City of Easthampton, who have embraced us as a member of the burgeoning arts and culture scene.

Like many, I was introduced to Yasmina Reza's *God of Carnage* via the 2011 film adaptation *Carnage*. As someone who is neurodivergent and can sometimes have trouble reading people, I was intrigued by the play's portrayal of inner life versus public façade. I have always been fascinated by how people mask their true thoughts and feelings. Stories that tear down these barriers and reveal the cracks in civilized veneer fascinate me, and *God of Carnage* accomplishes this feat with humor and wit.

Our talented cast and production team have worked hard to faithfully bring this complex work to life. *God of Carnage* covers a range of relevant themes, from modern urban parenting and class differences to gender stereotypes and gentrification. It is not an easy task for actors to balance entertaining the audience with encouraging them to think critically about their own assumptions and biases. We hope that watching this "Rumble in the Living Room" will make you laugh, but also inspire you to reflect on yourself and the world around you.

I extend my gratitude to our exceptional cast and crew, who are among the finest professionals I have encountered in "amateur" theater. I would also like to thank my wife and family for their unwavering support and patience. This production is the first of many exciting theatrical experiences we hope to bring to Easthampton, my home.

Michael O. Budnick, Producing Director



The Cast

Alan Raleigh Thomas Piccin
Annette Raleigh Maggie McCally
Michael Novak Matt O'Reilly
Veronica Novak Gilana Chelimsky

The Production Team

Producing Director Michael O. Budnick
Assistant Director Eva Husson-Stockhamer
Stage Manager Manny Morales
Technical Consultant and
Sound/Light Operation Jason Rose-Langston
Set Design Jason Rose-Langston,
Eva Husson-Stockhamer, Michael O. Budnick
Props and Front of House Deborah Jacobson
Lighting Design Frank Croke
Sound Design Manny Morales
Marketing and
Poster/Graphic Design Michael O. Budnick
Costumer Theresa Allie
Special Effects Francisco Aguas
Program Design Thomas Piccin
Stagehand Amelia Wintheiser

God of Carnage as written and performed contains adult language as well as some offensive terms and stereotypes. ETC in no way considers this language to be appropriate other than in the context of the author's intent and representation of the characters in the play. We believe acknowledging that some people can and do still think and speak this way sparks important conversations that can help build a more sensitive and inclusive future.

Please turn off phones and other electronic devices during the performance.
Please do not take pictures or record audio or video during the performance.

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David Weinberg
Pam Parker

... and everyone who helped us after this program was printed!

Who's Who

Gilana Chelimsky (Veronica) has been performing in the Valley for over 10 years and is absolutely thrilled to be part of ETC's inaugural show! Some of her favourite theatrical credits include Lee in *Marvin's Room* (WTG), Siobhan in *Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (Exit 7), Belinda in *Noises Off* (Exit 7), Fran/April/Betsy/Molly in *Heidi Chronicles* (WTG), Duchess Estonia Dulworth in *Nice Work if You Can Get It* (WTG), and Mistress Ford in *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (Hampshire Shakespeare). She sends her gratitude to her loved ones for their help and support during the rehearsal period.



Maggie McCally (Annette) is thrilled to be taking part in ETC's inaugural production and so grateful to the fine and talented humans who made this show happen. After performing in several Bates College shows, Maggie spent two years acting and doing technical theatre gigs in San Francisco with companies like Women's Will, Pianofight, Boxcar Theatre, the Magic Theatre, Marin Shakespeare, and other companies. She then moved to Chicago, performing or under-studying at the Victory Gardens Theatre, Remy Bumpo, Grey Ghost Theatre and others. She wants to thank her friends and family for their support, and YOU for supporting local theatre!



Thomas Piccin (Alan) is an actor, director, and playwright who recently left Baltimore to return to his home state of Massachusetts. His short plays *Tainted*, *Match*, *Ruth*, *Promise*, and *Sandalwood* have been performed online and in various venues across the U.S. Favorite stage roles have included John Proctor in *The Crucible*, Benedick in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Torvald in *A Doll's House, Part 2*, Jack Jerome in *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, and Inspector Goole in *An Inspector Calls*. His film credits include playing Death in *Near the Reaper* produced by Charm City Filmmakers, available on YouTube.



Matt O'Reilly (Michael) is thrilled to be a part of Easthampton Theater Company's inaugural production. As a Pioneer Valley native and former Easthampton resident, it is an honor to help return community theater to Easthampton. Favorite prior roles include Peter Patrone (*The Heidi Chronicles*) and Billy Bibbit (*One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*). "Be the Veronica you wish to see in the world." – Mahatma Gandhi." – Michael Scott





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Who's Who (continued)

Michael O. Budnick (Producing Director) is co-founder of Easthampton Theater Company. He previously served on the Board of Valley Light Opera and Exit 7 and has produced for children's theater. Area directing credits include *Marvin's Room* (Westfield), *Curious Incident*, *The Who's Tommy* (Exit 7) and *The Gondoliers* (VLO, where he also has played many Gilbert and Sullivan comic baritone roles). Other favorites include Lurch in *Addams Family* (Exit 7), Van Dann in *Anne Frank* (Silverthorne), Alhambra in *The Gondoliers* (Simsbury Light Opera), Police Chief in *Nice Work...*, Captain in *Anything Goes* (Westfield), Vandergelder in *Hello Dolly* (Black Cat) and Schulz in *Cabaret* (Opera House). He may be best known regionally as director/performer "Professor Micron" of Mad Science and ART-ventures for Kids. Thanks to wife Alison, family, ETC Board, cast and crew, and everyone who believed in the genesis of ETC.



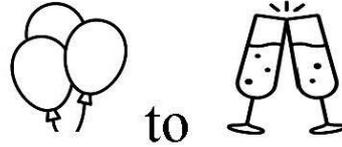
Eva Husson-Stockhamer (Assistant Director) is grateful to be part of the newly formed Easthampton Theater Company and the production of *God of Carnage*. She has had many dance and theater programs in the area and has directed over 50 productions of all types over the years. On occasion, she has been seen performing as well. Her favorite role - *Maria Morelli – Lend Me A Tenor*. As always, for PJM, my 2 and all "my kids."



Manny Morales (Stage Manager) is ecstatic to help bring more theater opportunities back to Easthampton! He recently worked with Little Theatre of Manchester in, *In The Heights* as part of the ensemble and with HCC Players on *Midsummer Night's Dream* as Flute/Thisbe. He has also worked with various Western Mass Theater Groups such as Westfield Theatre Group, Exit 7, and Paper City Productions. He is a singer, actor, and after this show he gets to add Stage Manager to his resume! A big thank you to all the production team members, cast, and crew for making the first production of Easthampton Theater Company a smash hit!

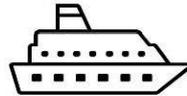
Deborah Jacobson (Props and General Factotum) caught the theater bug more than 60 years ago as a first grader, playing Dorothy in a musical performance of *The Wizard of Oz*. Though she adores being onstage, and has played in numerous productions with local community theaters, she is now discovering the allure of the off-stage side of productions. Some of you may know her as one of the first woman CPAs practicing in the Pioneer Valley. The less said about that, the better. On with the show!

Congratulations



Easthampton Theater Company

On her maiden voyage



*Looking forward to more
cruising ahead!*

Deborah Jacobson

Grateful and excited to be part of
Easthampton Theater Company
and our debut in the community.

Break legs! To all involved in

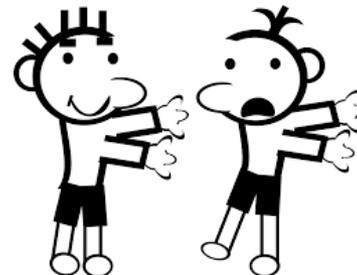
God of Carnage

With love & appreciation - Eva



Playwright Yasmina Reza talks about *God of Carnage*

“There was a little incident in the life of my son. He was then about 13 or 14 and his friend was in a fight with another friend; they exchanged blows and my son's friend had his tooth broken. A few days later, I met with the mother of this boy in the street. I asked her how her son was, if he was better, because I knew they'd had to do something to the tooth – they'd had to operate or something. And she said, ‘Can you imagine? The parents [of the other boy in the fight] didn't even call me.’ It was suddenly, click! I thought, ‘This is an incredible theme.’”



From an interview published in *The Guardian*
1/21/2012 by Elizabeth Day

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What is Clafouti?

Clafouti is a French dessert made with fruit that is covered with batter that consists of eggs, sugar, milk, and flour. It's a thick custard that is similar to flan in texture. It's commonly made with cherries, but other fruits can be used, especially apples and pears! Thank you **Deb Jacobson** for making the extraordinary clafouti used in our performances and rehearsals!



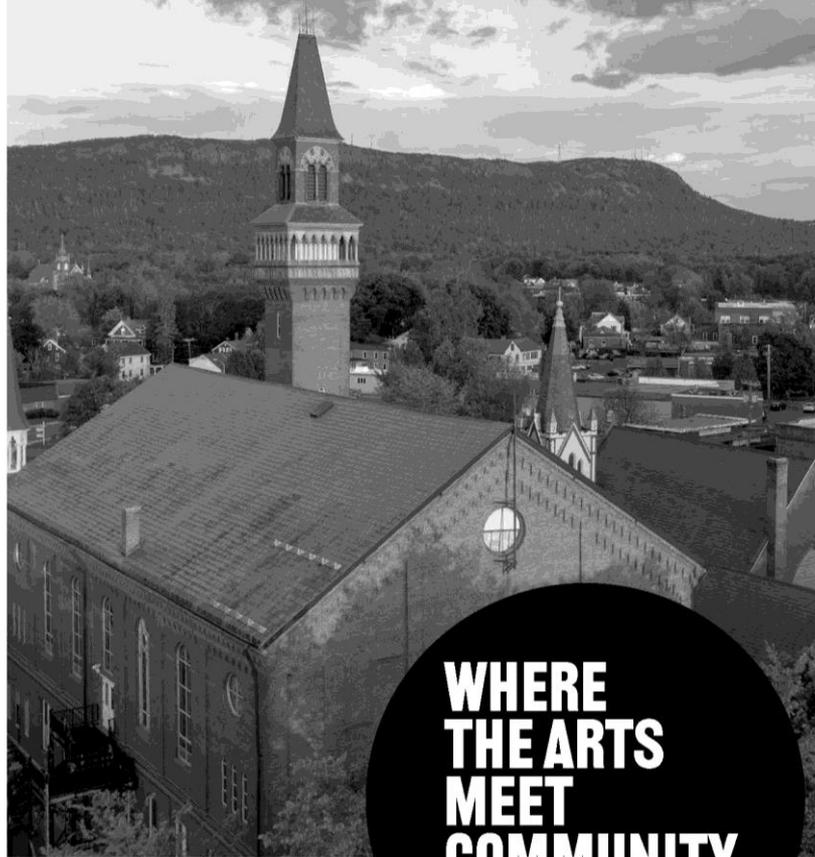
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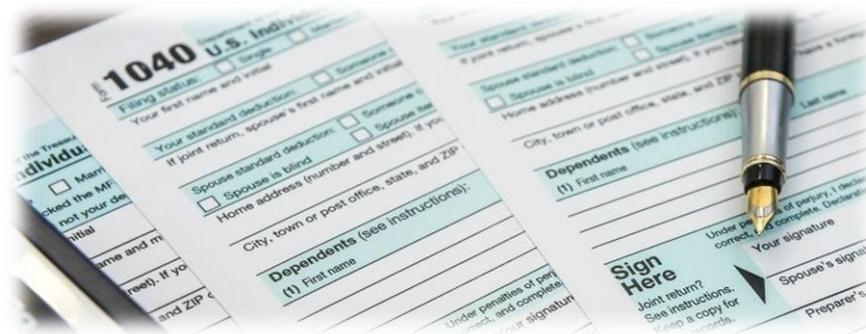
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