



Presents

Yasmina Reza's

The God Of Carnage

***Opening Night: Feb 15th
15, 16, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 25 February at 7 p.m.
17, 24 February at 4 p.m.
at Teater Brunnsgratan 4***

THE GOD OF CARNAGE - Following a playground altercation between two 11-year-old boys in an affluent London neighborhood, the parents agree to meet to discuss the situation civilly. However, the facade of polite society soon falls away as the two couples regress to childish accusations, bullying and bickering themselves. Originally written in French and entitled *Le Dieu du Carnage*, *The God of Carnage* premiered in 2006 at the Schauspielhaus in Zurich directed by Jürgen Gosch and it made its French-language debut at the Théâtre Antoine in Paris in January 2008 directed by the author. Reza's long-time collaborator Christopher Hampton translated and adapted an English-language version that premiered at the Gielgud Theatre in London's West End in March 2008 and the production won the 2009 Olivier Award for Best New Comedy. Hampton further adapted the script for an Americanized edition, which premiered on Broadway at the Bernard B. Jacobs Theatre in February 2009 and the production won Best Play (Reza's second win). The international popularity of the play led to a film adaptation called *Carnage*, which premiered in Italy at the Venice Film Festival before being released in the United States in September 2011. Written by Reza with director Roman Polanski, the film starred Jodie Foster, Kate Winslet, John C. Reilly and Christoph Waltz.

ABOUT SEST

SEST – The Stockholm English Speaking Theatre, now in its third year, presents Yasmina Reza's *The God of Carnage*, translated by Christopher Hampton, from Feb 15 to Feb 25 at Teater Brunnsgränd 4. Samuele Caldognetto directs this award-winning action-packed, knockout farce that has become an international hit and major motion picture. SEST-founders Kristina Leon and Ingela Lundh take on the female leads and SEST-newcomers Keith Foster and Henrik Norman complete the cast. We are also proud to present our production team consisting of both new and familiar faces: assistant director Cheryl Murphy, set-designer Suzanne Earle, costume-designer Josefina Ehlin and newcomer Bethany Thompson.

SEST was founded in 2010 by Samuele Caldognetto, Kristina Leon and Ingela Lundh, all of whom have trained and worked professionally in Italy and The United Kingdom respectively for over 10 years. In 2011 SEST was joined by a new company member, the actor and assistant director Cheryl Murphy. Our vision for SEST is a company based on joint dedication where the ensemble comes first and not the individual actor, a desire to explore language and vastly contrasting themes using and mixing our different training methods from our respective countries. Our previous productions include *4.48 Psychosis* by Sarah Kane (Teaterverket), *Boston Marriage* by David Mamet (Playhouse) and *Tales from Ovid* by Ted Hughes (School's production). In the summer of 2012 SEST performed outdoors for the very first time with *Shakespeare in the Park – As We Like*, a mixture of the best bits from the Bard, at venues such as Hallwylska Palatset, Observatoriemuseet and Parkteatern (Galärvarvet). The production was a collaboration with Stockholm's Stadsteater and was funded by Stockholms Stad. We want to reach out to a wide audience of native English speakers, Swedes and other nationalities where English is the second language.

SEST also reaches out to schools, colleges and corporate companies with custom-made workshops. The workshops can be adapted to students of all ages, corporations and private associations, incorporating voice training, movement and improvisation as well as performances of extracts from plays by well-known playwrights.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

Yasmina Reza is a French playwright and novelist, based in Paris, whose works have all been multi-award-winning, critical and popular international successes. Her plays *Conversations after a Burial*, *The Passage of Winter*, *ART*, *The Unexpected Man*, *Life X 3* and *A Spanish Play*, have been produced worldwide and translated into thirty-five languages. She has also written several novels and screenplays.

Christopher Hampton was born in the Azores in 1946. His work for the theatre and cinema includes *The Philanthropist*, *Savages*, *Treats*, *Tales From Hollywood*, *The Talking Cure* and screenplays such as *Dangerous Liaisons*, *Total Eclipse* and *The Quiet American* and he has been rewarded with numerous awards throughout the years.

Samuele Caldognetto (Director) was born in Milan and studied theatre at the universities of Florence and Milan. He trained as an actor with the theatre group 'La compagnia di Proteo'. In 2005 he started his own cultural society 'Isenzatetti' where he still holds the position of artistic director. During the course of three years he directed several plays at well known theatres in Milan among those *Happy Days* by Samuel Beckett. Samuele moved to Sweden in 2009 where he is the founding member of two theatre companies: the Italian group *Teater Pi* and *SEST*. With *Teater Pi* Samuele has performed and directed *La signorina Papillon* (*Teaterverket*, 2010), *Novecento* (*italienska kulturinstitutet*, 2010), *Il bar sotto la neve* (*Fria Teatern* 2011), *L'uomo dal fiore in bocca* (*Folkuniversitetet* 2012) and *Pinocchio* (November, 2012). Samuele has directed and created the scenography for all of *SEST*'s productions.

Keith Foster (Michael) Keith Foster – actor, hails from Kent in southeast England. He studied journalism in Harlow, Essex and but although he worked for both broadcasting and print media he maintained a steady interest in acting, appearing in plays in his home area and performing comedy on stage and for BBC Radio. After coming to Sweden in the late 80s he merged acting into his broadcasting duties on community radio and *Sveriges Radio*, often presenting programs "in character". ON Swedish TV Keith has presented the talk show *Living Room*, English quiz show *Big Words* and a look at the English language's global spread in *Family Foster*. He has written and performed comedy live on stage all over Stockholm and had a role in the Swedish film thriller *Nobels Testamente* (2011). The role of Michael in *SEST*'s *The God of Carnage* will be his first in a full-length play in the Swedish capital.

Kristina Leon (Veronica) was born in Athens and grew up in Greece, Sweden and in Kenya. She trained at The Central School of Speech and Drama in London between 1998-2001. Since graduating she has worked extensively in the theatre both in the UK, Greece and in Sweden. Her credits include: *Edgar* in *King Lear* at the Embassy Theatre, *Witch/Lady Macduff* in *Macbeth* at The Union Theatre, the title role in *Judith* by Howard Barker at the Etcetera Theatre and the title role in *Guernica* at The National Theatre in Athens. Since returning to Sweden in 2008 she has worked in theatre, film and as a voice-over artist. Kristina is a founding member of *SEST* and played the title role in *4.48 Psychosis*, *Claire* in *Boston Marriage*, *Juno* among others in *Tales from Ovid* and *Cleopatra*, *Petruchio* *Lady Anne*, *Olivia*, *Henry V*, *Macbeth* and *Orlando* in *Shakespeare As We Like It*.

Ingela Lundh (Annette) was born and raised in Stockholm and trained as an actress in London at East 15 Acting School between 1996 -1999. Since graduating she has worked as an actor and director in England, Italy, Denmark and Sweden. In England she worked with such groups as Oddsocks Productions and Forest Forge and her credits include Helena and Titania in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Ophelia in Hamlet*. In 2003 she returned to Sweden where she made her debut as Helena in *Den första hösten* at Elverket. She has continued to work in theatre and as a voice-over artist both in English and Swedish and gave the English voice to Mrs. Alving in Ingmar Bergman's productions of 'Ghosts' in its guest performance at The Barbican Centre in London. Ingela is a founding member of SEST and performed the voice in *4.48 Psychosis*, *Anna in Boston Marriage*, various roles in *Tales from Ovid* and *Charmian, Helena, Richard III, Maria, Malvolio, Catherine, Lady Macbeth* and *Celia in Shakespeare As We Like It*.

Henrik Norman (Alan) was born in Lund, where he also studied and took part in several performances at the university theatre. After graduation he worked as a radio and TV news reporter and then joined the Swedish Foreign Ministry in 1988. Having returned to Stockholm after a few years of assignments abroad, he got his first professional part in a play in 1996 and a year later decided to leave diplomacy and venture a new career in the realms of theatre. His credits include playing Sigmund Freud in the musical *Freudomamia* (2005) and one of the male strippers in *The Full Monty* (2008), the Roman general Lycius in the international film *Clash of the Empires* (2011) and roles such as Prospero and Little John in big outdoor performances of *The Tempest by Shakespeare* (2010) and *Robin Hood* (2011). He has performed in classics such as *The Seagull by Anton Chekhov* (2007), *No Exit by Jean Paul Sartre* (2005) and *To Damaskus by August Strindberg* (2004). In 2011 he played Alfons' father in *Alfons och trollkarlen* at Intiman in Stockholm. Henrik has also appeared in several Swedish TV-series and feature film, has recently recorded an audiobook and is a frequently used speaker for film, television and radio.

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