

STOKE
Rep Players



GOD of CARNAGE

BY **YASMINA REZA**

TRANSLATED BY **CHRISTOPHER HAMPTON**

6 ~ 10 FEBRUARY 2024

Stoke Repertory Theatre

Leek Road | Stoke-on-Trent | ST4 2TR



Mesdames et messieurs — welcome to our theatre. Here is some information that may be of interest to you...

The Stoke Repertory Theatre is supported and run by volunteers who regularly donate their valuable time — and without whom we could not deliver the standard of production and customer service our patrons have come to rightfully expect. Some of these people you will meet on your visit today, others fulfil less visible, but no less vital, roles behind the scenes. We are deeply indebted to our exceptional backstage crews, brilliant front-of-house helpers, bar and coffee staff and to all wonderful members and friends who help run the theatre.

The bar is open from 6:45pm until shortly after the end of the performance. Drinking up time is 20

minutes. Coffee, tea and confectionery are available from the coffee bar from 6:45pm. Interval refreshments may be ordered before the performance to avoid queuing later.

The car park is open from 6:30pm until 11pm on performance evenings. Over-spill parking is available in Staffordshire University's car park further along Leek Road — this is free Monday to Friday and £1 Saturday matinée and evening. Neither The Repertory Theatre nor The University can accept any responsibility for damage to, or loss of, vehicles from their car parks.



STOKE REP PLAYERS
PRESENT

GOD of CARNAGE

BY **YASMINA REZA**

TRANSLATED BY **CHRISTOPHER HAMPTON**

DIRECTOR ~ David Bryan
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR ~ Sarah Stockdale

No hamsters were harmed during this production.

*This amateur production of 'God Of Carnage' is presented by arrangement
with Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Samuel French Ltd.
www.concordtheatricals.co.uk*

**Please refrain from smoking or vaping in
any part of the theatre.**

**Please ensure your phones are turned
off during the performance. Thank you.**

THE PLAYERS



Annette Reille

Véronique Vallon

Alain Reille

Michel Vallon

Caroline Keen

Tracey Brough-Chesters

James Freeman

Leo Capernaros

The play takes place at the home of the Vallon family in the present day.

There will be an interval of 20 minutes.

The videotaping or making of electronic or other audio and/or visual recordings or streams of this production is strictly prohibited, a violation of United Kingdom Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 and an actionable offense.



We are indebted to the St John Ambulance Brigade whose members attend all of our performances.



CREDITS



Director
Assistant Director
Stage Director
Stage Manager
Set Design
Lighting
Sound
Props

Set Dressing
Specialist Props

Costumes
Wardrobe Co-Ordinator
Front-of-House Manager
Box Office
Social Media
Company Photographer
Programme

David Bryan
Sarah Stockdale
Terry Wright
Ray Vernon
David Bryan
Stuart Campbell
Tina Campbell
Chris Birks
Dawn Pearce
Poppy Martin
Margo Bloor
Tony Rogerson
Ray Vernon
Rep Players
Sylvia Wright
Nick Bailey
Sharon Lawton
John Stone
Peter Croft
Jayne Blake

With thanks to North Staffs Operatic Society



ABOUT THE CAST



Caroline Keen

Caroline started on the stage at the age of five, singing with her father in clubs, charities and old folks' homes and she's been performing ever since. As a teenager and young adult she benefited from the guidance and wisdom of some excellent local directors and professional actors. Particular mention go to Ken Lowe and Gordon Alcock. Those lessons have stayed with her and support her passion for drama to this day.

Caroline has played many diverse roles on stage, from Nancy in *OLIVER!* and Katherine in *THE TAMING OF THE SHREW* to Geraldine Granger in *THE VICAR OF DIBLEY*. Besides performing, Caroline has directed many plays and musicals and gives private lessons and coaching for actors of all ages preparing for auditions for film, stage, television, drama schools or festivals. She teaches at Stage Coach in Newcastle where she loves seeing the confidence of children grow week by week.

She has been a member of the Rep since 2004 when she played Sonya in *UNCLE VANYA*. Her most recent role was Judy in *THE LAST OF THE HAUSSMANS*. She is looking forward to playing Annette in *GOD OF CARNAGE*, alongside "a fabulous cast and with the help of the wonderful production team."

This is Tracey's first show with The Stoke Rep Players.

Tracey has been fortunate in her passion for theatre to have the opportunity to play in many superb local venues such as The Mitchel Arts Centre, Regent Theatre, Stoke Repertory Theatre, The New Vic, Stone, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre and The Met, as well as experiencing the thrill of outdoor theatre at Bishton Hall.

Over the years Tracey has enjoyed being a member of a number of theatre groups, and has been involved in many great shows. Her favourite performances to date include Liz Morden in *OUR COUNTRY'S GOOD*; Amy in *COMPANY*; Mary in *MERRILY WE ROLL ALONG*; Mrs Swabb in *HABEAS CORPUS*, Mrs Lovett in *SWEENEY TODD*, Patsy in *SPAMELOT*, Tracey has also appeared in *FULL MONTY*, *MADE IN DAGENHAM*, *ADDAMS FAMILY* and was fortunate to be cast in a premier of a new show *A SONG FOR YOU*.

Of her character Veronique Vallon Tracey says it's been both challenging and fun to get to grips with and to find light and depth in the dark comedy. *GOD OF CARNAGE* rehearsals have "made me gasp and laugh in equal measure. I look forward to performing in this play alongside the fantastic cast and production team."



Tracey Brough-Chesters





James Freeman

James has performed in productions for many local companies including Porthill Players, Newcastle Players, Studio One, Trentham Shakespeare Company, Alsager Community Theatre, Derby Shakespeare Company, North Staffs Operatic Society, Newcastle Operatic Society, Stage Productions and Scarlett Theatre.

He has played a wide range of roles from serious drama to high farce, from Shakespeare to musicals, in classic plays to modern masterpieces and everything in between! These have been at venues across the region including The Victoria Hall, Regent Theatre, Stafford Playhouse, The Mitchell Arts Centre, Derby Guild Hall and open-air at Trentham Gardens and Little Morton Hall.

James has performed in every season of the Rep Players for the last 27 years! His favourite roles for the Players included Raleigh in *JOURNEY'S END*, Oswald in *GHOSTS*, Donal in *DAYS OF WINE & ROSES*, Merrick in *THE ELEPHANT MAN*, John Hall in *THE HERBAL BED*, Hannay in *THE 39 STEPS*, Bernard in *DON'T DRESS FOR DINNER* and, most recently, Jack Manningham in last year's production of *GASLIGHT*.

James has also directed several Rep Players productions: *HUMBLE BOY* and *MY BOY JACK*, being personal favourites. He has also directed many musical theatre productions including *BARNUM*, *CHICAGO*, *FIDDLER ON THE ROOF* and *THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME*. He is really looking forward to appearing in the "brilliantly written *GOD OF CARNAGE*, alongside such an incredibly talented cast."

Leo has been treading the amateur boards across Staffordshire for nearly 20 years now, having moved up from Kent back in 2005.

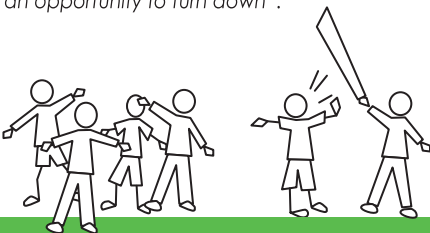
He has performed in several plays at The Rep, including Alan Ayckbourn's *TIME OF MY LIFE* (2015), David Haig's *MY BOY JACK* and Graham Linehan's *THE LADYKILLERS* in 2016, Jessica Swale's *Nell Gwynn* in 2018 (which was also directed by David Bryan).

Delighted to be involved in *GOD OF CARNAGE*, Leo has said what a privilege it has been to share the rehearsal room and stage with Director, production team and his fellow cast members.

When he received a call to join the cast Leo says "It was a scary thought but having been fortunate enough to work with the Director and the rest of the cast before, I knew this was too good an opportunity to turn down".



Leo Capernaros



DIRECTOR TEAM



David Bryan

David has been a member of The Stoke Rep Players for many years. He's appeared over the years in several plays including *THE CRUCIBLE* by Arthur Miller in 1993, Alfred Doolittle in George Bernard Shaw's *PYGMALION*, Thomas Cromwell in *A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS*.

He played Toad in a production of *WIND IN THE WILLOWS* in 1999 — a joint cast of The Rep Players and The Young Rep. He appeared in a couple of Shakespeare plays namely *TWELFTH NIGHT* (2003) and *MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING* (2009).

In 2017 The Rep staged a production of Willy Russell's *BREEZE-BLOCK PARK* in which David played Assistant Director, Sarah Stockdale's sister; Caroline Keen and James Freeman also appeared in the production — making *GOD OF CARNAGE* somewhat of a reunion!

David has also directed several plays for The Rep including Tennessee Williams' *THE GLASS MENAGERIE* and another Willy Russell classic — *EDUCATING RITA* amongst others.

Sarah began acting and directing at university and appeared in two productions at the Edinburgh Fringe. Whilst living in Surrey for over 20 years she worked with a couple of theatre groups involved in both directing and acting in a variety of roles, the highlight of which was playing the role of Elizabeth Proctor in *THE CRUCIBLE*.

She joined Stoke Rep, having moved back to Shropshire, at the end of 2009. Her first acting role for The Rep Players was in Neil Simon's *RUMORS*. Over the years she has gone on to appear in a variety of productions including *ALLO, ALLO!*, *THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR* and loved the role of M'Lynn in *STEEL MAGNOLIAS*.

Sarah's all time favourite role was in Patrick Barlow's *39 STEPS* in which she played all three female characters, which she says was "enormous fun, but totally exhausting."

She has directed for The Players on a number of occasions including the ghost story, *TURN OF THE SCREW*, Noel Coward's *WAITING IN THE WINGS* and most recently *GASLIGHT* by Patrick Hamilton.



Sarah Stockdale





THE AUTHOR



GOD OF CARNAGE was written by French playwright, actress, novelist and screenwriter Yasmina Reza. She was born in 1954 to Jewish parents — her father was Russian and her mother Hungarian. During the Nazi occupation, her father was deported from Nice to Drancy internment camp.

At the beginning of her career, Reza acted in several plays by Molière and Marivaux as well as newly written plays.

In 1987, she wrote *CONVERSATIONS AFTER A BURIAL*, which won the Molière Award (the French equivalent of the Tony Award) for Best Author. In the late 1980s Reza translated Roman Polanski's stage version of Kafka's *METAMORPHOSIS*. Her second play, *WINTER CROSSING*, won the 1990 Molière Award for Best Fringe Production, and her next play, *THE UNEXPECTED MAN*, enjoyed successful productions in several countries.

In 1994, *ART* premiered in Paris and went on to win the Molière Award for Best Author. Since then it has been produced internationally and translated and performed in over 30 languages. The London production received Laurence Olivier Award and Evening Standard Awards. It also won the Tony Award for Best Play. *TROIS VERSIONS DE LA VIE (LIFE X 3)* has been produced in Europe, North America and Australia. Screenwriting credits include *SEE YOU TOMORROW*, directed by Reza's then-partner Didier Martiny.

Her first novel, *HAMMERKLAVIER*, was published in 1997 and another work of fiction, *UNE DÉSOLATION*, was published in 2001. *L'AUBE LE SOIR OU LA NUIT (DAWN EVENING OR NIGHT)*, written in 2007 after a year of following the campaign of Nicolas Sarkozy, caused a sensation in France.

In November 2007 *LE DIEU DU CARNAGE (GOD OF CARNAGE)*, received a Viennese Nestroy Theatre Prize. It opened in London in March 2008, it was translated by Christopher Hampton. The London production won the Laurence Olivier Award for Best New Comedy, which Hampton accepted on her behalf.

Her 2016 novel, *BABYLONE*, received the Prix Renaudot. The English version, translated by Linda Asher, was published by Seven Stories Press in 2018



THE TRANSLATOR



Christopher Hampton is a British playwright, screenwriter and film director born in 1946 in Portugal.

His most famous plays are *LES LIAISONS DANGEREUSES* (1988) (from the book of the same title), an adaptation of Ian McEwan's *ATONEMENT* (2007) and *THE FATHER* (2020).

He has received numerous awards for his work, including an Academy Award for Best Adapted Screenplay.

He was appointed Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in 1999 and awarded Knight Bachelor of the Order of the British Empire in the 2020 Queen's New Years Honours List for his services to Drama.

From 1964, Hampton read German and French at New College, Oxford, as a Sacher Scholar. He graduated with a starred First Class Degree in 1968.

He became involved in the theatre while at Oxford University. The Oxford University Dramatic Society performed his first play *WHEN DID YOU LAST SEE MY MOTHER?*, about adolescent homosexuality which he drew from his own experiences. The play was performed at the Royal Court Theatre in London, and in 1966 was transferred to the Comedy Theatre, Hampton was the youngest writer in the modern era to have a play performed in the West End.

Hampton's work on screenplays for the cinema also began around this time. He adapted this play for Richard Attenborough and Bryan Forbes, but a film version was never made.

From 1968 to 1970, Hampton worked as the Resident Dramatist at the Royal Court Theatre, and also as the company's literary manager. He continued to write plays. His *TOTAL ECLIPSE*, about the French poets and lovers Arthur Rimbaud and Paul Verlaine, was turned into a film in 1995 starring Leonardo DiCaprio.

Hampton has had a full and eclectic career including involvement in musicals, librettos, screenwriting and directing films; in addition to these he translated playwrights such as Ibsen and Chekhov, and of course, Yasmina Reza.

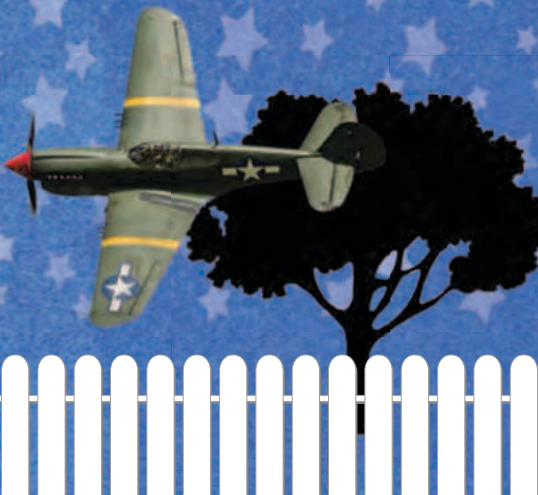


STOKE
Rep Players

COMING NEXT...

ARTHUR MILLER

ALL MY SONS



A touching snapshot of an American family recuperating from the tragedies of war, both abroad and at home.

16 ~ 20 April 2024

SAND CASTLES

A COMEDY
BY BOB LARBEBY

Based on an idea by Trish Larbey

11 ~ 15 June 2024



STOKEREPPPLAYERS.CO.UK

Stoke Rep Players Box Office: 01782 209784
Email: BoxOffice@StokeRepPlayers.co.uk
Online: TicketSource.co.uk/StokeRepBoxOffice
(Online booking fee applies)

