



Press Release

Friday 23 June 2023

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FULL CASTING ANNOUNCED FOR YASMINA'S REZA'S GOD OF CARNAGE

- THE LYRIC HAMMERSMITH THEATRE'S MAJOR REVIVAL OF YASMINA REZA'S OLIVIER AND TONY AWARD WINNING COMEDY WILL STAR FREEMA AGYEMAN, ARIYON BAKARE, DINITA GOHIL AND MARTIN HUTSON
- FORMER *DOCTOR WHO* STAR FREEMA AGYEMAN RETURNS TO THE STAGE AFTER STARRING IN SKY TV SERIES *DREAMLAND*
- GOD OF CARNAGE IS THE NEXT MAJOR MAIN-HOUSE PRODUCTION IN RACHEL O'RIORDAN'S 2023 SEASON. IT FOLLOWS THE WEST END TRANSFER OF ACCIDENTAL DEATH OF AN ANARCHIST, AND THE SMASH HIT UK PREMIERE OF SCHOOL GIRLS; OR, THE AFRICAN MEAN GIRLS PLAY
- THIS 'COMEDY OF MANNERS (WITHOUT THE MANNERS)' PREVIEWS FROM 01 SEPTEMBER WITH PRESS NIGHT ON 06 SEPTEMBER. THE RUN MUST END 30 SEPTEMBER. TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW WWW.LYRIC.CO.UK

The **Lyric Hammersmith Theatre** today announces full casting for the revival of **Yasmina Reza's** savagely dark comedy *God of Carnage*, in a translation by **Christopher Hampton**, which won both the Tony and Olivier Award for Best Comedy in 2009, as well as picking up Tony Awards for Best Play and Best Actress for Marcia Gay Harden.

Making her Lyric stage debut is **Freema Agyeman** as Veronique Vallon, best known for her role as the companion Martha Jones in *Doctor Who* (BBC) as well as Trish in *Dreamland* (Sky). Also joining Lyric Associate Director Nicholai La Barrie's production is **Ariyon Bakare** who previously appeared in BBC hit-series *His Dark Materials*, playing Alain Reille; **Dinita Gohil**, recently seen in the *Father and the Assassin* (National Theatre) takes on the role of Annette Reille; and **Martin Hutson**, seen in *Small Island* (National Theatre), plays Michel Vallon.

Nicholai La Barrie, Director, said: "God of Carnage pokes fun at wealth, power and money. It lifts the lid on civility which is immensely funny to watch. I couldn't be luckier to be joined by some of the UK's most phenomenal actors, including Freema Agyeman, Ariyon Bakare, Dinita Gohil and Martin Hutson. I can't wait to see this stellar cast breathe new meaning and relevance into these already iconic roles. From the moment I read this play, I imagined it to be a reflection of the cosmopolitan cities that we live in.

We're obsessed with the idea of social respectability, good manners and behaving in a civilised way. But what happens when those people who declare themselves as respectable, act in the very opposite way? God of Carnage will feel like sweet revenge for audiences. You'll recognise these characters, and you'll revel in their carnage."

Freema Agyeman, actor playing Veronique Vallon said: *"I am beyond thrilled to be returning to the London stage, and where better than the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre, with its incredible history and tradition ~ a space where consistently solid, inclusive and high calibre work is created and shared. I'm also happy to be staying in the genre of dark comedy post Dreamland ~ God of Carnage made me gasp and guffaw in equal measure! I look forward to performing in this play alongside the fantastic cast and am very excited to be working with director Nicholai La Barrie whose enthusiasm is infectious!"*

God of Carnage is designed by **Lily Arnold** who returns to the Lyric following the triumph of *A Doll's House* (2019), the lighting design is by **Richard Howell**, sound design and composition by **Asaf Zohar**, and casting by **Heather Basten CDG**.

With her sharp corrosive wit, Reza rips the thin veneer of civility with heart-pounding honesty. *God of Carnage* is the unmissable darkly funny roller-coaster you won't want to end.

When 11 year old Ferdinand knocked 11 year old Bruno's two front teeth out. Their parents meet up to have a civil conversation about the misdemeanours of their children in a suitably calm and rational way... what can go wrong? As night falls chaos ensues with explosive tantrums, name-calling and tears.

Notes to Editors

IMAGES available to download [here](#).

CREATIVE biographies available to download [here](#).

Listings

Lyric Hammersmith Theatre
Lyric Square, King Street, London, W6 0QL
Box office: 020 8741 6850
www.lyric.co.uk
Tickets from £10

Twitter: [@LyricHammer](https://twitter.com/LyricHammer)

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A Lyric Hammersmith Theatre production

God of Carnage

By **Yasmina Reza**

Translated by **Christopher Hampton**

Directed by **Nicholai La Barrie**

Dates: Friday 01 – Saturday 30 September 2023

Press Night: Wednesday 06 September 2023, 7pm

Open Captioned Performance: Fri 15 September, 7.30pm

Chilled Environment Performance: Wednesday 20 September, 2.30pm

BSL Performance: Thursday 21 September, 7.30pm

Audio Described Performance: Tuesday 26 September, 7.30pm

Biographies

Freema Agyeman plays Veronique Vallon. Her theatre credits include *Apologia* (Trafalgar Studios). For television, her work includes, and for television; *Dreamland*, *New Amsterdam*, *Sense8*, *Rubenesque*, *The Carrie Diaries*, *Old Jack's Boat*, *Law and Order* as series regular Alesha Philips, *Survivors*, *Little Dorrit*, *Doctor Who* (as companion Martha Jones), *Torchwood*, *Silent Witness*, *Mile High* and *Crossroads*; and for film, *The Matrix Resurrections*, *Eat Local*, *North V South*, *Rulers and Dealers* and *Aisha the American*.

Ariyon Bakare returns to the Lyric to play Alain Reille. He previously appeared in *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*. His other theatre credits include *A Lesson from Aloes* (Hartford Stage), *Far Away* (Young Vic Theatre), *The Mountaintop* (Guildhall Theatre), *Dream of the Dog* (Finborough Theatre and Trafalgar Studios), *Riff Raff* (Arcola Theatre), *Julius Caesar*, *The Servant of Two Masters*, *Ion* (RSC), *To Kill a Mockingbird* (Salisbury Playhouse), *The Merchant of Venice* (Sheffield Theatres), *The Cricket Test* (Riverside Studios), *The Lights* (Royal Court Theatre) and *A Taste of Honey* (Glasgow Citizens Theatre). For television, his credits include *Mosquito Coast*, *Crossfire*, *Wedding Season*, *Karen Pirie*, *Too Close*, *His Dark Materials*, *Carnival Row*, *Good Omens*, *Doctor Foster*, *New Blood*, *Thirteen*, *Dancing on the Edge*, *Waking the Dead*, *A Touch of Frost*, *Supply & Demand*, *The Roman Mysteries*, *Shoot the Messenger*, *Casement*; and for film, *The Amazing Maurice*, *Frankie*, *The Drifters*, *Life*, *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*, *Jupiter Ascending*, *Soul of a Spy*, *Full Firearms*, *Happy Ever Afters*, *The Dark Knight*, *Dead Bolt Dead*, *After The Rain*, *Secret Laughter of Women* and *More is Less*.

Dinita Gohil plays Annette Reille. Her theatre credits include *The Father and The Assassin* (National Theatre), *The Contingency Plan* (Donmar Warehouse), *Twelfth Night*, *A Christmas Carol* (RSC), *Hurling Rubble At Moon* (Park Theatre), *Tartuffe* (Birmingham Rep Theatre), *Deadlock* (Soho Theatre), *After Juliet* (Birmingham Hippodrome) and *Totally Over You* (The Nottingham Playhouse). Her television credits include *Treason*, *Sandman*, *Our House*, *Flack*, *Clink*, *Motherfathers On*, *Moving On*, *The Boy with the Topknot*, *Year Million*, *Our Girl*, *New Blood PC*, *Guilt*, *The Last Train* and for film; *Greed*, *The Snowman*, *The Infiltrator*, *Kill Your Friends* and *One*.

Martin Hutson plays Michel Vallon. His theatre credits include *Small Island* (National Theatre), *Candida* (Orange Tree Theatre), *The Bay at Nice* (Menier Chocolate Factory), *Julius Caesar*, *Titus Andronicus*, *The Heart of Robin Hood*, *As You Like It* (RSC), *The Master Builder* (The Old Vic), *The Libertine* (Glasgow Citizens Theatre), *If Only*, *A Marvellous Year for Plums*, *Anthony and Cleopatra*, *Taking Sides*, *Collaboration* (Chichester Festival Theatre), *The Voyage Inheritance*, *The Mandate* (National Theatre), *The Comedy of Errors*, *Charley's Aunt* (Sheffield Theatres), *The Rubenstein Kiss* (Hampstead Theatre), *The Rivals* (Bristol Old Vic), *Love in a Maze* (Watermill Theatre), *Cyrano de Bergerac* (Nuffield Theatre), *The Jew of Malta* (Almeida Theatre), *Hamlet*, *The Merchant of Venice* (Birmingham Rep), and *The Tempest* (New Vic Theatre). His television credits include *Endeavour*, *The Trial of Christian Keeler*, *Tutankhamun*, *The Honourable Woman*, *Foyle's War*, *The Passion*, *Who Gets the Dog*, *A Very British Scandal*, *New Tricks*; and for film, *Backdraft 2*, *Dragonheart: Battle for the Heartfire*, *Atonement*, *Virtual Sexuality* and *One For The Girls*.

- ENDS -

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