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Inland Stage Presents 'God of Carnage'

The Inland Stage Company features "God of Carnage," a comedy by Yazmina Reza, Jan. 24 through Feb. 3 at the Esplanade Art Center in San Jacinto.

According to Director Kristofer Ourth, "'God of Carnage' strives to present a vision where adults take off the masks of polite behavior and reveal just how ugly people can really be. We're not nice. And when all the social veneers are broken down, *carnage* usually ensues."

Although the play was originally written in French and set in Paris, ISC is utilizing a translated script by Christopher Hampton, which more closely reflects American culture, according to Ourth.

"The only changes from the original script are that now it is set in New York, and some of the language has been Americanized," Ourth said.

This is very much a dream cast for Ourth.

"Jim Marbury as Michael brings such a dimension to his character, as both someone who appeases his wife by acting in a manner that she suggests, yet is at every moment ready to tear out of the disguise," Ourth said. "Jeannette Gardea is one of those rare gems I have been so anxious to work with, who takes Veronica to a very special place, utilizing Veronica's unhappiness as a weapon to bludgeon everyone around her."

"Venissa Timbreza does a remarkable job handling her character Annette's detestation of her husband, holding back her physical disgust of him," Ourth continued. "Her husband, Alan, played by Adam Fagaly, drips with just the right amount of arrogance as he barks orders obnoxiously into his Bluetooth."

For Ourth, *this* is the show to direct.

"I have been so excited—four wonderful actors, an absurd situation, and lots of time to chew this material up, and spit it back out. Why, you ask, is it *the show* to direct? Because it is just so much about human nature, so much about us being each of these characters at one time or another, and about being none of them," Ourth said. "It is emblematic of the vast differences between our inner selves and our social veneers. It is about trying so valiantly to show the world we are no longer cave dwellers, but respectful, beautiful, and well-behaved creatures of our shiny new worlds, when really, in most cases, it is only about putting on a good show."

Jim Marbury is also ISC's Artistic Director.

"'God of Carnage' is a smart, quick-witted show and everyone knows people like this – perhaps not in this situation, but you have a friend who is a bit of a bore, a bit superior in attitude, and this show puts those folks on trial in a very, very funny way," Marbury said. "This is absolutely some great writing."

Due to staging considerations, audience seating is limited for this production. "We are continuing our Pay-What-You-Can Thursdays, and this production is an '8 show only - special engagement'" Marbury said.

"God Of Carnage" plays at 8 p.m. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 24 through Feb. 3. All tickets are only \$10 and can be purchased on the website at www.inlandstage.org. Thursdays are 'Pay What You Can Night,' with a suggested \$5 donation.

ISC also offers group rates and season tickets.

The Esplanade Art Center is located at 2181 W. Esplanade Ave., San Jacinto, Ca.

For more information or reservations, please call the box office at (951) 600-7273 x100.



Photo Caption: (Left to Right) Venissa Timbreza, Jeannette Gardea, Jim Marbury and Adam Fagaly

Other photo options are also available upon request.