

READERS' THEATRE PRESENTS "HIGH VOLTAGE" AWARD-WINNING PLAY

In November, The Readers' Theatre of Ithaca (RTI) will have performance readings of **Yasmina Reza's GOD OF CARNAGE**. In 2009, the play won the Tony Award for "BEST PLAY." The performance readings will take place at the theatre's performance space, **The Black Box Theatre at Lehman Alternative, 111 Chestnut Street**.

The performance readings will be **Friday, November 15th and Saturday, November 16th at 8pm**, and **Sunday, November 17th at 6:30pm**. The Reader's Theatre production will star Cynthia Henderson, Ithaca College Professor of Acting and RTI Artistic Board Member as Veronica; **Darcy Martin Rose**, RTI artistic board member as Annette; **Tim Perry**, RTI's Associate Artistic Director as Michael; and **Scott Whitham**, returning RTI actor as Alan.

GOD OF CARNAGE is about a playground fight between 11-year-old boys that brings together two sets of Brooklyn parents for a meeting to resolve the matter. While they maintain cordiality at first, as the meeting progresses and the liquor flows, tensions emerge, leaving the couples with more than just their liberal principles in tatters.

Given the subject matter, GOD OF CARNAGE invites a great deal of discussion about the underlying topic of bullying and violence. In his 2012 review of Reza's play at the Gulfshore Playhouse, Chris Silk described the play as *"an exciting, brutal, terrifying thrill ride down the slippery slope of humanity as it stares into the bottomless pit of beastly behavior."*

The New York Times called this play, *"A streamlined anatomy of the human animal...delivers the cathartic release of watching other people's marriages go boom. A study in the tension between civilized society and savage instinct, this play is itself a satisfyingly primitive entertainment."*

There will be free talk-backs following each reading of GOD OF CARNAGE. NYS Assemblywoman **Barbara Lifton** will be delivering a talk-back entitled, *"Bullying and What Our Community Can Do About It"* following the **Friday, November 15th** reading. **Dick Polenberg**, Marie Underhill Noll Professor of History Emeritus with Cornell University will give a talk following the **Saturday, November 16th** performance reading entitled, *"The History of Bullying in America."* Following the **Sunday, November 17th** performance **Mayor Svante Myrick**, along with **IPD Chief John Barber** will give a talk also entitled, *"Bullying and What Our Community Can Do About It."*

Accompanying GOD OF CARNAGE is a piece of **Hank Roberts'** music (Music Advisor to RTI), *Cola People*, from his award-winning album "Green" which won the 2008 German Recording Critics Award in the jazz category. Also, experimental jazz selections from Roberts' album "Miniature" will accompany the play as well.

Cummings said of her reason for choosing this play, "What attracted me to directing this play is Reza's witty, comically paced writing, as well as her description for the play, 'no realism.' I'll be directing the play in a very stylized way that borders theatre of the absurd."

The Readers' Theatre of Ithaca is also very excited to announce that along with Acting Out New York (Darcy Martin Rose, Director), and the Ithaca Suicide Prevention & Crisis Services (Lee-Ellen Marvin, Executive Director), they have aligned with PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center (in Minnesota) to support the cause against bullying. The Readers' Theatre studied 30-plus anti-bullying campaigns across the US and chose PACER's because of the vast amount of information available. Theater (i.e. plays such as GOD OF CARNAGE) and film are often creative venues to spread important messages against bullying. The Readers' Theatre has provided a page of information on their website with important facts about bullying. Annually, the three local organizations will team up and create an anti-bullying video, interviewing local youth, which will be available on all four of the organizations' websites.

The corporate sponsors for GOD OF CARNAGE are **Ithaca Bakery** and **Kionix**. The supporting sponsors are **Acting Out New York** and **Ithaca's Suicide Prevention and Crisis Service**. **Tickets for students are \$10 with a reservation (student ID required at the door) and \$12 at the door. Tickets for adults and seniors are \$12 with a reservation and \$15 at the door.** Reservations are recommended, and can be made by calling **607.217.6272**. www.thereaderstheatre.com.