

OF
GOD
CARNAGE



PROGRAMME



Welcome to tonight's performance of **God of Carnage**, a brilliantly sharp and darkly comic play by Yasmina Reza. We are thrilled to have you with us for an evening of razor-edged dialogue, uncomfortable truths, and unexpected hilarity.

My love for this play all began in the year 2008 when I directed my first ever production, which was Yasmina Reza's **Art**, another brilliantly paced yet truthful comedy. This subsequently happened at the same time that *God of Carnage* first premiered at the West End featuring Ralph Fiennes and Tasmin Grieg. To aid my creative inspiration for *Art*, I bought a ticket to see this show and was completely inspired by the play, particularly how the text ran so naturally but at the same time gave a lingering air of farce that was completely believable. I immediately said to myself "I'd like to direct this...but when I'm a father myself." So, jump forward 17 years now a fully grown adult and father of two.

In November 2024, I played the role of Leo Frank in the musical **Parade** directed by Wade Ablitt, and this marked my debut involvement with the Gallery Players. Soon after, I was offered the opportunity to direct a production for their 2025 season and in a flash, it felt that the stars aligned to direct *God Of Carnage* at this brilliant Suffolk Theatre.

Part of my reasoning to wait was to feel that uncomfortable but relatable experience that we can have as parents when settling your children's playground disputes with other parents or even how we simply present ourselves as a family unit outside of the comforts of our own homes.

This play highlights our societal fronts that slowly ruptures to show our primal imperfections in human yet hilarious fashion.

It's been a pleasure working with such a talented and committed troupe of actors on this production and welcoming three new members to the Gallery Players. Each rehearsal has been filled with laughter and complete joy from start to finish.

I'd like to thank Wade for his unwavering support throughout the production; Assistant Director Emma for being our rock through this process; our crew, the Gallery volunteers and, of course, my fantastic cast.

I hope you find yourself both laughing and wincing as the masks slip and the true nature of our characters - and perhaps ourselves!

Matt Jewson
Director

GOD OF CARNAGE

by Yasmina Reza

Translated by Christopher Hampton

THE
gallery
PLAYERS

CAST

Charlotte Curtis

Annette

Forest Morgan

Michael

Brooke Parratt

Veronica

Joseph Alexander Rawlings

Alan

CREATIVE

Director

Matt Jewson

Assistant Director

Emma Theedom

Special Thanks

**Queen Street Rehearsal Room, Laura Locke,
Felixstowe Radio, The Mercury Theatre**

*Presented by special arrangement with
Concord Theatricals*

PRODUCTION

Stage Management

Rachel Doy

Lighting/Sound Design & Equipment Hire

James Aleksic (JLA Sound & Light)

LX Operation

Ruben Hood

Marketing

Emma Theedom, Wade Ablitt

Costume

The Gallery Wardrobe

Set Construction

Dave Borthwick

Prop Sourcing/Construction

Emma Theedom

Production Assistant/Programme

Wade Ablitt

Rehearsal/Production Photography

Emma Theedom

Clafoutis Recipe

A little oil
mixed apples and
pears
ground almond
plain flour
caster sugar
two eggs
double cream

- Heat oven to **170** oil or butter a
flan dish or tin (not loose-bottomed)
and scatter the fruit over
the base

- Whizz all the batter ingredients in
a blender until smooth - pour it over
the fruits and bake for mins until
risen and golden brown -

- Serve warm

CAST



CHARLOTTE CURTIS ANNETTE

Charlotte first performed with Gallery in the 2017 production of *Far From The Madding Crowd*, since then she has played Anne Boleyn (*Wolf Hall*), Sissy (*Come Back to the Five and Dime, Jimmy Dean Jimmy Dean*), Lady Macbeth (*Macbeth*), Titania (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*) and, most recently, Francesca in *The Bridges of Madison County*.

Charlotte played Morticia Addams in *The Addams Family* with IODS, as well as taking roles in their productions of *Sunset Boulevard*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Oklahoma!* and *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*. She also worked with Paper Lantern in their productions of *The Vortex* (Helen), and *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* (Madame de Volanges).

FOREST MORGAN MICHAEL



Forest was born in Colchester, Essex and began acting at the age of seven. Initially performing in stage productions such as *Grimm's Tales* and *Caucasian Chalk Circle*, Forest continued to act as part of the youth theatre for the Mercury Theatre, based in Colchester, until the age of eighteen.

While studying a BA in Drama at the University of Essex in 2011, Forest began to additionally write and direct for stage. Forest directed numerous productions for the stage including Martin McDonagh's *The Pillowman*.

In 2017, Forest auditioned and received a place at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts. Having then studied and graduated with an MA in Acting, he then signed with his agent Miriam Chinnick, as part of the agency Davis Gordon Management.

Recent stage production credits include; Landlord and other characters in *Two* (Headgate Theatre), Leather Man in *Market Boy* (Union Theatre) and various characters in *Love and Information* (The Pleasance Theatre).

Forest is looking forward to spending the rest of the year directing. He will be directing Ross Howard's *Our Walk Through the World* (Headgate Theatre) and Caryl Churchill's *Love and Information* (Mercury Theatre). In addition to this, Forest will be taking a fairly major role as a father to his firstborn child in July. He suspects this will be a super straight forward and purely enjoyable role. He hopes to be the opposite to Michael and for there to be as little carnage as possible.



BROOKE PARRATT VERONICA

Brooke trained at *Guildford School of Acting* and graduated in 2016 with a first in BA(Hons) Acting.

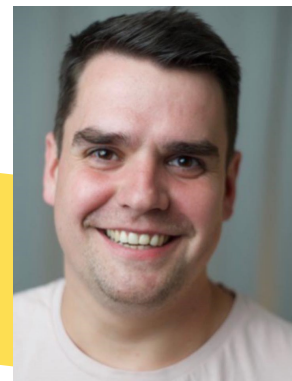
An Essex girl, now living in Colchester, she is getting involved in the vibrant arts scene this part of the country has to offer. She is a Drama facilitator working freelance for companies such as the *Mercury Theatre*. Brooke has written and is developing a couple of her own short films, as well as rehearsing for *God of Carnage*. She's very excited to get to perform as Veronica with such a fun cast and has loved working with everyone on the project.

JOSEPH ALEXANDER RAWLINGS ALAN

Training: East 15 Acting School, Goldsmiths – University of London

Theatre Credits: Hide My Porn (Minty Spectre) 2025-2024, A Christmas Carol (Minty Spectre) 2024, Poop Poop! (Minty Spectre) 2024, Snow White in the Woods (Alfresco Theatre) 2023, Treasure Island (Minty Spectre) 2023, A Midsummer Night's Dream (Castle Park Theatre) 2023, A Christmas Carol (Christmas Carol Experience Ltd) 2022, Ben Hur (Castle Park Theatre) 2022, A Christmas Carol (Christmas Carol Experience Ltd) 2021, The Haywain (Castle Park Theatre) 2021, Macbeth (Protocol Theatre) 2019, The Gift (Castle Park Theatre) 2019, A Christmas Carol (Christmas Carol Experience Ltd) 2018, A View from the Bridge (Protocol Theatre) 2017, As You Like It (TWWAS Theatre) 2016

Film/Audio Credits: A Christmas Carol: A Musically Accompanied Narration (Spotify/Amazon Music/Apple Music) 2022, Essex Green Day (Mercury Theatre) 2022, Isolation Alan - Audio Play (15 Episodes) 2020, Cold Sunflowers – Audiobook (Audible/Apple/Google Books) 2020





PRODUCTION TEAM



MATT JEWSON

Director

Matt is alumnus of the Mercury Theatre Directors Programme, Creative Estuary Producers placement and remains a mentor on the Mercury Creatives Programme.

This year, Matt has been producing with Norwich Theatre Royal in their production of *Edgeland* produced by Limbik Theatre and project managing *Dyslexia & Me* funded by Essex Council Council's Arts & Cultural Fund.

Recent directing credits include: *Legally Blonde* (Colchester Operatic Society) at Mercury Theatre Colchester, *The Tempest* (Mercury Theatre Adult Company), *Buckets* and *Underdogs* (Mercury Young Company) at the Mercury Studio Theatre, *Treasure Island: A Musical Misadventure* (Minty Spectre) for Colchester Fringe Festival 2023, *Carrie*, *Spring Awakening & Godspell* at University Centre Colchester BA Musical Theatre degree course.

Upcoming: Matt will be directing *Charlie & The Chocolate Factory* for Colchester Operatic Society at the Mercury Theatre (September 18th-21st) and you can also catch Matt acting in *Twelfth Night* at Castle Park Theatre Colchester (June 10th- 21st)



EMMA THEEDOM

Assistant Director

Emma is first and foremost an actor; She performed alongside Director Matt Jewson in *The Addams Family* at the Headgate Theatre, as Alice Beineke and Gomez Addams respectively. Herself and Matt have also worked together for a Colchester Fringe performance of *Treasure Island: The Musical Misadventure* with Emma portraying Benjamin Gunn, with direction from Matt.

Previous roles include: Chef Louis in *The Little Mermaid* (Mercury Theatre), Carla in *Nine* (Best Supporting Actress in a Musical, Keep Colchester Cool Awards), Julia in *Treatment* (Best Supporting Actress nominee, NETG) and Donkey in *Shrek* (Best Supporting Actress nominee, NETG). **Film credits include** appearing as 'Abomination' in the horror musical film, *Powertool Cheerleaders and the Boyband of the Screeching Dead*, which won Best Original Score at Birmingham Film Festival.

This is Emma's return as a creative for a production and debut assisting direction for a straight play. Her biggest direction credit would be *9 to 5* at Braintree Arts Theatre (awarded Best Musical by NODA East). Emma is extremely pleased to be working with Matt on this clever, wry and extremely entertaining play with a stupendous cast. With very similar senses of humour, it was obvious the arrangement with Matt was going to work well. The cast have filled rehearsal time with endless laughter and enjoyment and Emma cannot wait for the audience to see the sheer array of talent on that stage and to enjoy a good text.

THE GALLERY STEERING GROUP

Wade Ablitt, Dave Borthwick, Helen Clarke, Will Dowe, Steve Taplin, Steve Wooldridge

THE GALLERY PLAYERS

PAST SHOWS

1985 Cowardy Custard **1986** Happy as a Sandbag **1987** Sail Away **1988** Something's Afoot **1989** Company **1990** The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas **1991** The Hired Man **1992** Snoopy – The Musical, A Little Night Music **1993** Stepping Out, Cabaret **1994** Assassins, The Ghost Train, Into the Woods, Hobson's Choice **1995** Man of La Mancha, Steel Magnolias, City of Angels, Scent of Flowers **1996** Little Shop of Horrors, The Most Happy Fella, Blue Remembered Hills **1997** Dancing at Lughnasa, Pacific Overtures, Chicago, Hard Times **1998** The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui, Sweeney Todd (The Demon Barber of Fleet Street), Shadowlands, Something's Afoot **1999** Carnival, Trip to Bountiful, The Boys From Syracuse, Tons of Money **2000** On Golden Pond, The Bakers Wife, Kiss of the Spiderwoman, A Slice of Saturday Night, One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest **2001** Mrs Warren's Profession, A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum, Billy, Breezblock Park **2002** The Memory of Water, Flora The Red Menace, A Slice of Saturday Night, Radio Times **2003** Kiss Me Like You Mean It, Days of Hope, Honk!, And A Nightingale Sang **2004** Bouncers, Merrily We Roll Along, Talking Heads, You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown **2005** Kindertransport, She Loves Me, A Night At The Dogs **2006** Amy's View, Passion, With Love, Colder Than Here **2007** This Happy Breed, Grand Hotel, You Want Chillli Sauce With That & Marry Me A Little, The Sunshine Boys **2008** Oh Kay!, Spend Spend Spend, To Kill A Mockingbird **2009** The Long Road, Follies, Flare Path **2010** Ordinary Days, Rent, Spring & Port Wine **2011** My Mother Said I Never Should, Our House, Heroes **2012** Putting it Together, Love Story, Be My Baby **2013** A Man of No Importance, Into the Woods, The Importance of Being Earnest **2014** Oh What a Lovely War!, Galileo, The History Boys **2015** A Day in the Death of Joe Egg, Hairspray, A Streetcar Named Desire **2016** Jumpers For Goalposts, The House Of Bernarda Alba, Spring Awakening, Ushers **2017** Urinetown, Far From The Madding Crowd **2018** Wolf Hall, Grow Up Grandad, Lucky Stiff **2019** The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, The Lady In The Van, A New Brain **2020** Gallery@35 **2021** The Mystery of Edwin Drood, Macbeth, Mortuary Sisters/Bully Boy **2022** Celebrating Sondheim, Gutenberg – The Musical!, Di and Viv and Rose, Come Back to the Five & Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean, The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole aged 13¾, Sunday in the Park with George **2023** Daddy Long Legs, The Kitchen Sink, Xanadu, Kiss of the Spider Woman, Piaf **2024** Celebrating Sondheim Vol. 2, Playhouse Creatures, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Lovesong, The Bridges of Madison County, Parade **2025** Fun Home

UPCOMING

Gallery's 40th Anniversary Season

THE GREAT BRITISH BAKE OFF MUSICAL

23 – 26 July 2025

By Jake Brunger & Pippa Cleary

Directed by Wade Ablitt

"Good things come to those who bake..."

Inspired by the Channel 4 show and fresh from the West End, The Gallery Players are proud to celebrate their 40th anniversary with the area premiere of *The Great British Bake Off Musical*.

Follow the musical journey of 8 contestants as they whisk, knead, and bake their way to glory, all whilst juggling love, fame and petit fours. Can the bakers prove that they know how to prove, whilst under the watchful blue and bespectacled eyes of TV's favourite judges? Watch as The Bake Off tent comes to life – from tense technical challenges to joyous showstoppers – the musical creates a vibrant and immersive experience. Expect a rollercoaster of emotions as friendships form, cakes collapse, and dreams come true.

This hilarious and heartwarming new musical blends the charm of the hit TV show with toe-tapping original songs! Whether you're a die-hard Bake Off fan or simply love a good musical, this is a theatrical treat that promises to rise to the occasion.

THE WAY OLD FRIENDS DO

5-13 September 2025

By Ian Hallard

Directed by Tony Flack

☆☆☆☆

"A super-trouper of a show!"

In 1988, two Birmingham school friends tentatively come out to one another: Edward as gay; Peter, even more daringly, as an ABBA fan.

Nearly thirty years later, they meet again – and take a chance by forming the world's first ABBA tribute band in drag. It's a riot of platform boots and dodgy beards, 'Waterloos' and 'Chiquititas', and they couldn't escape if they wanted to. But can Edward and Peter's friendship survive the tribulations of a life on the road?

Ian Hallard's *The Way Old Friends Do* is a tender, laugh-out-loud comedy about devotion, desire and dancing queens.

WONDER BOY

March 2026

By Ross Willis

Directed by Steve Wooldridge

A heart-warming and inspiring story about the power of communication.

Sonny is twelve. He stammers and is finding his way in a world ruled by vicious vowels, confusing consonants, and let's not forget the biggest beast of them all – small talk.

Sonny's only friend is Captain Chatter, a comic book hero of his own creation, but in the real world, language is power, and Sonny must find a way to be heard. When cast in the school production of Hamlet by the Headteacher, he finds the real heroes are closer than he thinks.

MORE TO BE ANNOUNCED...

THE SHOWSTOPPING NEW
MUSICAL COMEDY!

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TICKETS
FROM £15

23 - 26 JULY

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