



AIMÉE HAYES, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR MARIEKE GABOURY, MANAGING DIRECTOR
* THEATRE NEWS *** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE *

August 29, 2011

**SOUTHERN REP LAUNCHES ITS 2011-2012 25th ANNIVERSARY SEASON
WITH YASMINA REZA'S 2009 TONY AWARD WINNING PLAY
GOD OF CARNAGE**

**"Never underestimate the pleasure of watching really
good actors behaving terribly." – *New York Times***

New Orleans – Southern Rep kicks off its 25th Anniversary Season with the 2009 Tony Award Winning play **GOD OF CARNAGE**, by Yasmina Reza (1998 Tony Award Winning play **ART**), translated by Christopher Hampton (*Dangerous Liaisons*, *Atonement*). **The production boasts an all-star cast of New Orleans favorites, John "Spud" McConnell, Maureen Brennan, Lara Grice and Gary Rucker, directed by comedic virtuoso, Ricky Graham.**

It's great, funny show with great, funny actors. I just try to get out of the way! – Director, Ricky Graham

What starts as a civilized get-together quickly devolves into a scrappy, laugh-out-loud evening that *The New Yorker* calls "ninety minutes of sustained mayhem." In rave reviews for what became the third longest running play on Broadway in the past decade, **GOD OF CARNAGE** has been called "brutally entertaining" (*NY Newsday*), "the best play in town!" (*New York Post*) and "scabrously funny" (*USA Today*). The play has earned the Laurence Olivier Award for Best New Comedy and three Tony Awards, including Best Play.

Quote by AH. – Artistic Director, Aimée Hayes

INTERVIEWS: For photo requests or interviews with cast, director, or Artistic Director, Aimée Hayes, please contact Marketing & Box Office Manager Sarah Zoghbi at szoghbi@southernrep.com. **LIVE INTERVIEW POSSIBILITIES INCLUDE a highly entertaining "Cooking Clafoutis" demonstration by actress Maureen Brennan**, inspired by the French fare that is served onstage during the play!

LISTING INFORMATION: **GOD OF CARNAGE.** By Yasmina Reza. Translated by Christopher Hampton. Directed by Ricky Graham. Featuring John "Spud" McConnell, Maureen Brennan, Lara Grice and Gary Rucker.

DATES: Previews September 14 – 16, Opening September 17, Closing October 9. Contact: Box Office (504) 522 – 6545 or book online at www.SouthernRep.com. **PERFORMANCE TIMES:** Wed-Sat 8pm, Sun 3pm

TICKET PRICES: Previews: \$20 – Thursdays & Sundays: \$29 – Fridays & Saturdays: \$35

\$10 Student Rush: Available at the door 15 minutes before curtain. Cash only. Must have valid student ID.

& INTRODUCING 2nd THURSDAY PAY WHAT YOU CAN! On Thursday, Sept 20 – You can buy tickets in advance at the regular price of \$29, or **PAY WHAT YOU CAN** at the door!

SYNOPSIS: Winner of the 2009 Tony Award. How "civilized" are we, really? A playground altercation between eleven-year-old boys brings together two sets of parents for a meeting to resolve the conflict. At first, diplomatic niceties are observed, but as the meeting progresses, the rum flows, tensions emerge and the gloves come off...



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Southern Rep enters its 25th season as the region's premiere professional theatre, continuing to produce bold world and regional premieres under the leadership of Artistic Director, Aimée Hayes and Managing Director, Marieke Gaboury. In addition to Southern Rep's ongoing commitment to new play development with exciting programs like 6X6, PlayLab, and DEBAUCHERY, a host of evocative main stage shows are arriving for this important Southern Rep anniversary. This fall starts with the underlying animalisms of seemingly civilized parents in *GOD OF CARNAGE*, followed by the trials of an ambitious artist in *RED*, while spring brings a fresh production of the American and New Orleanian classic, *A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE*. Southern Rep offers educational programs such as free student matinees, \$10 student rush tickets and Academy SRT; as well as providing an artistic home to new works in development in the annual New Play Bacchanal.

Southern Rep continues to show that it is staging the most important, challenging, and downright mesmerizing pieces of theater New Orleans audiences are graced to experience. - Theodore P. Mahne, The Times-Picayune Lagniappe