

BUCKNELL THEATRE & DANCE PRESENTS

# GOD OF CARNAGE

BY YASMINA REZA

TRANSLATED BY CHRISTOPHER HAMPTON

DIRECTED BY BRYAN M. VANDEVENDER



**Bucknell**  
UNIVERSITY | Theatre  
& Dance

TUSTIN STUDIO THEATRE | FEBRUARY 2024

Bucknell University Department of Theatre & Dance presents

# GOD OF CARNAGE

by Yasmina Reza

Translated by Christopher Hampton

Directed by Bryan M. Vandevender

**Stage Manager:** Jenna Galla '27

**Scene Design:** F. Elaine Williams

**Costume Design:** Natalie Shoch

**Light Design:** Jack Filpi

**Sound Design:** Heath Hansum

**Assistant Director:** Caroline Pritchard '26

**Fight Choreography:** Samantha Norton

**CONTENT ADVISORY:** God of Carnage features language related to race, sexuality, and ability that is commonly identified as violent or pejorative. The play is recommended for mature audiences.

GOD OF CARNAGE was produced on Broadway by Robert Fox, David Pugh & Dafydd Rogers, Stuart Thompson, Scott Rudin, Jon B. Platt, The Weistein Company, and The Shubert Organization.

GOD OF CARNAGE is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC, servicing the Dramatists Play Service collection. ([www.dramatists.com](http://www.dramatists.com))

# Cast

Alan Raleigh.....	Reid Fournier ‘24
Annette Raleigh .....	Emma Olsen ‘24
Michael Novak.....	Kieran Calderwood ‘24
Veronica Novak.....	Joselyn Busato ‘24
Annette/Veronica Understudy.....	Caroline Pritchard ‘26
Alan/Michael Understudy.....	Trevor Seymour ‘27

# Production Staff

Assistant Stage Manager .....	Giselle Mayer ‘27, Abby Wrightsmith ‘27
Makeup and Hair Design .....	Natalie Shoch
Master Electrician.....	Joe Dox ‘25
Costume TAs .....	Emma Burns ‘24, Nicole Chesla ‘24, Lindsey Kaufman ‘24, Haley Qualls ‘24, Anneliese Smith ‘24, Eliana Estes ‘25, Ana Eckert ‘26, Alison La Force ‘27
Props Coordinator .....	Madison Buckley ‘24, Caitlyn Hickey ‘26
Wardrobe .....	Ainsley Manlowe ‘24, Zoha Nadeer ‘25
Vomit Coordinator.....	Abby Wrightsmith ‘27
Scenery and Lighting Production Crew .....	Riley Steere ‘24, Harper Dick ‘25, Joe Dox ‘25, Evelyn Pierce ‘25, Austin Bennett ‘26, Jennaye Pointer ‘26, Josh Gomes ‘27
Publicity.....	Libby Hoffman ‘24, Clea Ramos ‘25, Aisling McGrath ‘26, Jennaye Pointer ‘26, Katie Schadler ‘26, Abby Campion ‘27
Poster Design .....	Clea Ramos ‘25

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*The Department of Theatre and dance respectfully acknowledges and recognizes our responsibility to the original and current caretakers of this land, water and air: the Susquehannock peoples and all of their ancestors and descendants, past, present, and future. We live and create our art here within the Bucknell community and we strive to honor those caretakers of this homeland in our presence and work.*

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**Please Note:** Smoking, the taking of photographs, and the use of recording devices are strictly prohibited.  
Please turn off your cell phones and other electronics before the performance begins. Thank you.

# Director's Note

Bryan M. Vandevender

'Cry 'Havoc!', and let slip the dogs of war."

– William Shakespeare, *Julius Caesar* (Act III, Scene 1)

When viewed in the current cultural moment, Yasmina Reza's *God of Carnage* might appear to be a play that satirizes our collective inability to engage in civil dialogue. This reading is especially tempting as political tribalism seems to have penetrated every sector of American life. The more time I spend with the play, however, the more I have come to recognize that its conflict emerges not from ineffective communication, but rather the characters' obstinance and unwillingness to abandon what they recognize as the moral high ground. When opposing parties refuse to recognize their shared interests and instead focus on winning an argument, how can anything but chaos follow? This orientation toward addressing conflict is in no way new. As Alan notes, the god of carnage "has ruled, uninterruptedly, since the dawn of time." The play's contemporary relevance, however, is palpable. I'm keenly aware that this production anticipates what is sure to be another volatile election season. As we prepare for a deluge of misinformation, mudslinging, and ad hominem fallacy, I challenge you to contemplate the urgent ideas that Reza poses not only about interpersonal conflict, but also human behavior writ large. If I were to confront the play's belligerent quartet, I would be very tempted to pose the following questions: Is winning today's argument more important than being able to look at yourself (and your children) tomorrow? Why is cultivating grievance and inciting chaos more valuable than generating actionable solutions that benefit the aggregate? Are you truly at peace with the consequences of crying "havoc" at this (or any other) moment?

## Special Thanks

ART WORK "As Kids Go" by Sam Gilliam, courtesy of the Samek Art Museum.

Dr. Cymone Fourshey (Griot Institute for the Study of Black Lives and Cultures)

Dr. John Westbrook (French and Francophone Studies)

Curio cabinets were originally created for Industrious Angels, performed and written by Laurie McCants, scene design by F. Elaine Williams, and built by Nick Troisi.

Laurie McCants

Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble



# Cast Biographies

**JOSELYN BUSATO '24** she/her (**Veronica Novak**) - Bucknell Theatre & Dance: *Men On Boats* (John Colton Summer), *The One-Act Play that Goes Wrong* (Assistant Stage Manager), *Lost Girl* (C/Krista), *Fun Home* (Costume/Hair/Makeup), *Electra* (Costume/Hair/Makeup), *Cocktails: Caution* (Rachelle). *Cocktails: Please Have a Seat and Someone Will be With You Shortly* (Sue).

**KIERAN CALDERWOOD '24** (**Michael Novak**) - Bucknell Theatre & Dance: *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde* (Douglas/Lockwood), *Lost Girl* (Slightly), *Electra* (Orestes), *Appropriate* (Rhys), *Bliss* (Apollo U/S), *Love/Sick* (Mark).

**REID FOURNIER '24** he/him (**Alan Raleigh**) - Bucknell Theatre & Dance: *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde* (Oscar Wilde), *The One-Act Play That Goes Wrong* (Director), *Lost Girl* (Peter), *Caution* (Director), *Taming of the Shrew(s)* (Petruchio), *The DMV One* (Man), *Love/Sick* (Keith).

**EMMA OLSON '24** she/her (**Annette Raleigh**) - Bucknell Theatre & Dance: *Fun Home* (Joan), Fall 2021 Dance Showcase (Dancer), *Soup* (Finley), *Love/Sick* (Emily).

**CAROLINE PRITCHARD '26** she/her (**Assistant Director; Annette/Veronica U/S**) - Bucknell Theatre and Dance: *Cocktails: Annd Scene of the Crime* (Director), *Men on Boats* (Goodman/Mr. Asa), *Gross Indecency* (U/S), *The One-Act Play That Goes Wrong* (Sandra), *Lost Girl* (Cora/A), *Kodachrome* (Photographer).

**TREVOR SEYMOUR '27** he/him (**Alan/Michael U/S**) - Bucknell Theatre & Dance: *University: A New Generation* (Football Player/Curtis/Gordo).

# Crew Biographies

**JENNA GALLA '27** she/her (**Stage Manager**) - Bucknell Theatre & Dance: Fall Dance Showcase (Stage Manager).

**GISELLE MAYER '27** she/her (**Assistant Stage Manager**) - Bucknell Theatre & Dance: *University: A New Generation* (Girl #3 and Tina).

**ABBY WRIGHTSMITH '27** she/they (**Assistant Stage Manager**) - Bucknell Theatre & Dance: *Men On Boats* (Assistant Stage Manager).

# Department of Theatre & Dance

Jack Filpi .....	entertainment technology assistant
Katie Hanes.....	academic assistant
Heath J. Hansum, co-director of theatre .....	lighting and sound design
Carly Holzwarth .....	costume design and history
Er-Dong Hu.....	dance technique and theory
Anjalee Deshpande Hutchinson, co-director of theatre .....	acting, directing, devising
Mark Hutchinson .....	technical coordination, stage management
Kelly Knox, director of dance .....	dance technique and theory
Dustyn Martincich, chair .....	theatre and dance technique and theory
Sierra Pete .....	costume studio manager
Natalie Shoch .....	assistant costumer
Bryan M. Vandevender .....	theatre history, theory
F. Elaine Williams.....	scenography

## Theatre & Dance Affiliates

Dr Jaye Austin Williams  
Dr Meenakshi Ponnuswami  
Dr Elena Machado

Generous support by the Bucknell Association for the Arts, Richard A. Klein Theatre and Dance Endowment, the Skvarla Family, the Office of the President, and the Benson Fund have made guest artists' residencies, master classes and workshops for our 2023-24 artistic season possible.

### Upcoming Theatre & Dance Events

#### **Choreographer's Showcase**

Friday, April 5, 7:30 p.m.  
Saturday, April 6, 2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.  
Tustin Studio Theatre

#### ***The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee***

Friday, Saturday, & Monday, April 12, 13, & 15, 7:30 p.m.  
Sunday, April 14, 2 p.m.  
Harvey M. Powers Theatre

#### **Spring Dance Concert**

Friday & Saturday, April 26 & 27, 7:30 p.m.  
Weis Center for the Performing Arts



*The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, part of the Rubenstein Arts Access Program, is generously funded by **David M. Rubenstein.***

*Special thanks to The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust for supporting the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts' Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.*

*Additional support is provided by The Honorable Stuart Bernstein and Wilma E. Bernstein; and the Dr. Gerald and Paula McNichols Foundation.*

*Kennedy Center education and related artistic programming is made possible through the generosity of the National Committee for the Performing Arts.*

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for invitation to the KCACTF regional festival and may also be considered for national awards recognizing outstanding achievement in production, design, direction and performance.

Last year more than 1,500 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.

# 2023-2024 Theatre & Dance Contributors

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