

PRESS RELEASE

OFF THE LEASH THEATRE presents:

God of Carnage by Jasmina Reza

Laurence Olivier Award for Best Comedy 2009

Tony Award for Best Play 2009

November 3,4,5 @ 8pm

Matinee performance Nov 5th @ 3pm

Tickets: \$30, \$25 [West Gippsland Arts Centre](#) 56 242 456

LOCAL ARTISTS UNITE TO PRODUCE 'CARNAGE'

An internationally successful play deserves an international artist's work as the centrepiece for its stage set. Of course it does!

Imagine the delight of Director of *God of Carnage*, Tracey Gaylard, when she was introduced to the work of [Kerrie Warren](#), and to the prolific and highly successful artist herself.

"The play has a contemporary setting, so I was looking for something bold and abstract such as a Mondrian as a centrepiece for the show," says Tracey, "but I was very excited by Kerrie's artwork and over the moon when she agreed to create a work especially for the upcoming show. How lucky are we!"

Kerrie Warren is widely recognised for her large abstract expressionist paintings and has exhibited across the globe in countries as diverse as China, Italy, the USA, Canada and Singapore. More recently she has released a collection of designer items such as scarves, ties, and a 2012 diary, all stamped with the distinctive and individual style that Kerrie brings to her work.

The cast of *God of Carnage*, Michael Gaylard, Russell Taylor, Carmel Walton and Rebecca Wilson love the rehearsals and the challenges thrown at them by the award-winning script and by their very talented Director, Tracey.

"It is such a great story, with such a recognisable thing triggering off the hilarious chain of events. Two children have a fight in a playground. Their parents meet to discuss the matter. It could be any one of us," says Rebecca Wilson. "I have children myself so I know."

Michael Gaylard is a well known teacher whose earlier roles in the TV series *G.P.* make his face very recognisable. Both he and his wife Tracey, the Director of *God of Carnage*, trained at NIDA and had early acting careers. Carmel Walton and Rebecca Wilson are very

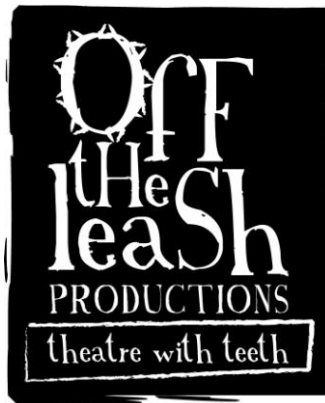
recognisable too, having recently been on our TV screens in advertising campaigns. Russell Taylor is the fourth member of the cast and, like the others, has been acting for many years.

God of Carnage by award-winning playwright Yasmina Reza well deserves its international reputation and universal popularity. A hilarious satire, it is riddled with belly laughs and outrageously funny observations of primal instincts at play in a setting, oh so civilised.

“This play is a riot. Your face will ache from laughing. Wildly entertaining... slick and inventive,” are some of the comments from Melbourne papers when the play was produced by the Melbourne Theatre Company.

Local production company, Off the Leash, is looking forward to producing such a blatantly funny play which will complement their previous darker, grittier works, *The Return* by Reg Cribb; *LightLine* an original local work, and *Torrez*, by Ian Wilding.

“The November season is perfect for groups looking to have an end of year get together,” Tracey reminds us, “Theatre 2 at West Gippsland Arts Centre is much smaller and more intimate, but tickets are limited. Book early so you don’t miss out seeing the show and the Kerrie Warren painting.”



www.carnage.offtheleashtheatre.com.au

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