



**'Art' by Yasmina Reza translated by Christopher Hampton**

Are you who you think you are or are you who your friends think you are?

Serge has bought a modern work of art for a large sum of money. Marc hates the painting and cannot believe that a friend of his could possibly want such a work. Yvan attempts, unsuccessfully, to placate both sides with hilarious consequences. As debate over the purchase becomes ever less amicable and the trio are reduced to questioning what they had in common in the first place, only an artful sacrifice can repair the breach and restore the bonds of friendship.

**A Street produced professional theatre production**

Writer: Yasmina Reza

Translator: Christopher Hampton

Artwork: Susan Earl

Director: Shelly Higgs

Cast: Shane Dundas, Christopher Carroll, Craig Alexander

Design: Imogen Keen

Sound Design: Kimmo Vennonen

Lighting Design: Gerry Corcoran

**A Street Produced Professional Theatre Production**

**Season: 6 – 11 September 2022**

Performance Details

Monday 5 September, 7.30pm PREVIEW

Tuesday 6 September, 7:30pm OPENING

Wednesday 7 September, 6:30pm

Thursday 8 - Saturday 10 September, 7:30pm

Sunday 11 September, 4pm

Duration: 90min

Venue: Street 1

**Meet The Makers: 'Art' Director and Designers in Conversation**

Pre-show 3pm Sunday 11 September

A conversation between The Street's Artistic Director & CEO Caroline Stacey OAM, 'Art' director Shelly Higgs, and designers Imogen Keen and Gerry Corcoran as they delve into the production of 'Art'. Find out more about how this classic contemporary comedy mixing friendship and modern art is brought to life on stage.



**The Street Theatre** is Canberra's award-winning home of live storytelling and performance in the ACT. An essential part of Canberra's cultural and imaginative life The Street is a major investor in live performance work. Just as Canberra is considered a petri-dish for new policies, ideas and cultural products within the broader national landscape, The Street serves a vital role as a key creative generator of new work and regenerator of place and community within the nation's political heart.

Our creative hub, situated between the city and ANU, is a meeting place for people across society providing a space to experience diverse perspectives. As Canberra's leading creative producer we're inspired by our geography, history and people, we champion creative process alongside finished work; rich dialogue with our community, and in our city of ideas, inquisitive artists. We commission, develop, produce and present live performance work that talks to the world we live in now and employ some of the finest and much-loved creative talent in the region as well as from Canberra's creative diaspora. A creative powerhouse, The Street was the recipient of a 2020 Sidney Myer Performing Arts Award for outstanding achievement. The Street is a Key Arts Organisation supported by the ACT Government and an essential contributor to the well-being of residents in the ACT and artistic vibrancy in the region. [www.thestreet.org.au](http://www.thestreet.org.au)

#### **ART: Writers, Director, Cast and Creatives Bios**

Born in France in 1959 to Iranian parents, **Yasmina Reza** is an acclaimed playwright, screenwriter and novelist with many accolades to her name. Reza studied at the University of Paris X, Nanterre, and at the drama school of Jacques Lecoq before working as an actress. Her first two plays, both winners of a Molière Award, were *Conversations après un enterrement* (1986; *Conversations After a Burial*), and *La Traversée de l'hiver* (1989; *Winter Crossing*). "Art" which premiered in 1994 was the first of her plays to be widely seen outside France, produced in 45 countries and on major stages worldwide virtually continuously after its opening, winning the triple crown in the theatre world – the French Molière award, the British Olivier award and the American Tony award. First translated into English by Christopher Hampton, it has since been translated and performed in over 30 languages. At this time she also wrote for the film *See You Tomorrow*. Her play, *Le Dieu du Carnage* (God of Carnage) won Best Play at the 2009 Tony Awards. She has written eight plays, ten novels, including the 2007 nonfiction novel *Dawn Dusk Or Night: A Year with Nicolas Sarkozy* and four screenplays.

Born in in Portugal in 1946, **Christopher Hampton** spent his childhood in Aden, Egypt and Zanzibar, then studied French and German at Oxford University. He was the youngest writer ever to have a play staged in the West End, and was resident dramatist at the Royal Court Theatre during the 1960s. His own stage plays include *When Did You Last See My Mother*, *Total Eclipse*, *The Philanthropist*, *Savages* and *Treats* and his most famous work *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, an international success as the film *Dangerous Liaisons*. He wrote the film adaptation of the novel by Choderlos de Laclos and the stage adaptation for Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Sunset Boulevard*. Also well known as a screen-writer, most recently the Oscar winning *The Father*, and the screenplay for the BAFTA and Oscar-nominated film, *Atonement*. As a translator, he worked with Yasmina Reza on the English translation of 'Art' in 1994 and other works by her including *Conversations After a Burial*, *Life x 3* and *God of Carnage*. He has written musicals and lyrics for Andrew Lloyd Webber including *Sunset Boulevard* and librettos for music by Phillip Glass.

**Shelly Higgs** is a theatre director, producer, dramaturg, occasional playwright and multi award- winning photographer. Shelly trained as an actor (BA Acting CSU 2002), (RADA 2004) and co-founded regional theatre company Gearstick Theatre; spending a decade producing, touring, playing Fringe Festival circuits and creating theatre in education performances for schools within the Riverina. She has worked independently and with companies such as The Jetty Theatre, Canberra Youth Theatre and The Street Theatre. Shelly is currently The Street's Arts Programs Producer including coordination of the First Seen: New Works- In-Progress and the Early Phase development programs. Recent productions for The Street include direction of hybrid cinematic live stream/ theatre work *St Nicholas* by Conor McPherson (mid pandemic 2020), creative development and direction of *Fragments* by Maura Pierlot; *Epitaph* by Ross Mueller, (*The Street and The Australian War Memorial*); and, *7 Great Inventions of the Modern Industrial Age* by Sally Greenway. Shelly has worked extensively with The Street on new work including dramaturgy of *Breaking the Castle* by Peter Cook, *Just Wrong* by David Atfield and creative developments including: *The Refuge* by Geraldine Turner; *Marion and Walter* by Peter Coleman; *Life's a Bitch* by David Cole and *Diode Yang* by Graham McBean.

**Shane Dundas** has travelled all over the world as half of the renowned comedy duo The Umbilical Brothers, writing, directing and performing theatre shows and television pieces that combine his work as an actor with a unique mix of stand-up and physical comedy. He has toured to such exciting cities as New York (a year-long season of the Umbilicals' show Thwak! garnered the duo rave reviews in the NY Times and a New York Drama Desk nomination), LA, Tokyo, London, San Paulo, Amsterdam, Montreal and Berlin. He also co-created (with Sesame Workshop) and performed in the award-winning childrens' series *The Upside Down Show*, acclaimed in the US, Australia, Canada, and the UK. On the screen, Shane, as an actor, has appeared in *The Tourist*, *Drop Dead Weird*, *Oh Yuck* and *Double The Fist*. In addition, appearances on numerous programmes internationally, including Late Night with David Letterman, The Tonight Show with Jay Leno, Rove live, Good News Week, Montreal's Just For Laughs and the Melbourne Comedy Festival Gala.

**Christopher Carroll** is a professional actor, writer and director from Ireland, trained at The Samuel Beckett Centre, Dublin, and Ecole Jacques Lecoq, Paris. Since moving to Canberra in 2016, he has become one of the city's most prolific and celebrated performers, winning the inaugural Helen Tsongas Award for Excellence in Acting in 2019 for roles in *Twelfth Night*, *Icarus*, *Howie the Rookie*, and *Metamorphosis*. Performances at The Street include *Metamorphosis* (2019), *Icarus* (2019), *War of The Worlds* (2018), *Tourmaline* (2018). As artistic director of Bare Witness Theatre Co., he has produced ten shows to date, in Ireland, the U.K., France and Australia, winning a reputation for raw, pulsating theatre that ignites the imagination. Recent work has included directing *Carpe DM* for Canberra Youth Theatre's Emerge Company; a solo adaptation of *The Stranger* by Albert Camus, hailed as "a form of theatrical and artistic genius," at Gorman Arts Centre; and directing and acting in *Smokescreen*, his sharp-shooting showdown about the dark arts of marketing, at Queanbeyan Performing Arts Centre. He will be directing, devising and acting in the Bare Witness production of *I Have No Enemies* at Gorman Arts Centre later this year.

**Craig Alexander** is an award-winning actor, writer, film and theatre maker, with a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Acting from CSU. Upon graduation he co-founded Riverina based Gearstick Theatre; which he led as Artistic Director for almost ten years, creating a multitude of productions in a variety of genres and honing his character skills with a wide array of roles - ranging from Dracula himself to Pat the Dog. Recent stage performance credits at The Street include: *St Nicholas* (2020); *Exclusion* (2018); *Venus in Fur* (2018); *War of The Worlds/Tourmaline* (2018); *Cold Light* (2017); *Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol* (2016); and, *Wolf Lullaby* (2021) for Echo Theatre at The Q. Recent screen performance credits include: *Murder In The Outback* (Channel 7/Beyond); *Invited* (Berger-Alexander, Best Actor CSFF 2021); *The Photographer* (The Horse You Rode In On Media, Best Actor CSFF 2019); *Dirt* (Next In Line Films, Best Actor Fleurieue Film Fest 2018 ); several national TVC campaigns, and donning a wicked moustache to bring the story of Deano and Marty Colt to life in the hilarious *Trainee Bomb Squad*. He's currently developing a feature length comedy/thriller based on Louis Stevenson's *The Body Snatchers*.

**Imogen Keen** is an award-winning set and costume designer for professional theatre production. She has enjoyed a long collaboration with The Street Theatre, including design for: *Twenty Minutes With The Devil*; *Milk*; *Breaking The Castle*; *Flight Memory*; *Fragments*; *Metamorphosis*; *A Doll's House, Part 2*; *Venus in Fur*; *Diary of a Madman*; *The Weight of Light*; *Boys Will Be Boys*; *Under Sedation: Canberra verse Remixed*; *Constellations*; *Cold Light*; *The Faithful Servant*; *The Chain Bridge*; *MP*; *Where I End & You Begin*; *The Give & Take*; *To Silence*; *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris*; *Lawrie and Shirley*; *Albert Herring*; *Dido and Aeneas*. Imogen has received Canberra Critics Circle Awards for Theatre Design (2009; 2011) and an MEAA Peer Acknowledgement Award (2011). She has worked on a wide variety of theatre, film, music and cross-disciplinary productions for: Aspen Island Theatre Company, This Band Will Self Destruct, COUP Canberra, Handel In The Theatre, Barking Spider Visual Theatre, Polyglot Theatre, Canberra Youth Theatre, Little Dove Theatre and Urban Theatre Projects. Imogen graduated from the ANU School of Art in 1993.

**Kimmo Vennonen** won the MEAA Green Room Award in 2010 for creative and innovative sound design. In 1991 his work on Collaborations with Jim Denley won the prestigious Prix Italia for the ABC. He studied immersive sound in a geodesic dome, becoming an ANU Visiting Fellow in the late nineties. He has run a music mastering studio at Gorman Arts Centre since 1997. Designs for The Street include: *Breaking The Castle*; *Flight Memory*; *Metamorphosis*; *Icarus*; *Revolt. She Said. Revolt Again*; *Cold Light*; *The Faithful Servant*; *The Chain Bridge*; *Where I End and You Begin*; *Bartleby and All This Living*. Other work includes *The Slip Lane* (AITC); *Ghosts in the Scheme* (bigHart); *Verbatim*; *Antigone* (CYT); *Blue Roof*; *The Lost Thing*; and *Pearl vs the World* (Jigsaw Theatre). He collaborated with Denise Higgins and Gary Smith on *Vox Nautica* (ANCA), *The Barbed Maze* (CCAS) and on *Anthology* (Morris & Buining) at Westlake.

**Gerry Corcoran** is a Lighting Designer/Technician based in Wolumla, NSW and is originally from Scotland. Gerry has been Chief Electrician/Lighting Designer at Pitlochry Festival Theatre in the Scottish Highlands and Chief Electrician/Technical Training Tutor (Lighting) for the Royal Scottish Academy of Music Drama in Glasgow, for which he designed over 40 productions ranging from small one-person scenes to full scale opera. Operating as GCLX: Gerry Corcoran Production Lighting, he offers Lighting Design, Hire, Sales and Consultancy for all types of venues and events. He recently completed the supply and install of an all LED lighting system for Bega High School and is advising on a new 200 seat theatre build in Merimbula. Recent lighting design works include: *Breaking The Castle* (The Street Theatre); *Milk* (The Street Theatre); *Doll's House Part 2* (The Street Theatre); *The Iliad-Out Loud* (Four Winds Festival); *Mamma Mia!* (Dreamcoat Theatre Productions); *Ladies in Black* (Spectrum Theatre Group) and local school productions of *Grease the Musical* and *Peter Pan*.