

THE  
STREET



# Art

BY YASMINA REZA  
TRANSLATED BY CHRISTOPHER HAMPTON



**FEATURING**  
CRAIG ALEXANDER, CHRISTOPHER CARROLL, SHANE DUNDAS

THE STREET PRESENTS

# Art

WRITTEN BY YASMINA REZA  
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► 6<sup>th</sup>–11<sup>th</sup> September 2022 The Street Theatre, Canberra



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## SYNOPSIS

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.

The play takes place in the main room of a flat.

## BIOGRAPHIES

### YASMINA REZA

Writer



CREDIT: WWW.NYTIMES.COM

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 in 1996, it has since been translated and performed in over 30 languages. 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.

### CHRISTOPHER HAMPTON

Translation



CREDIT: ODESSAREVIEW.COM

Born 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*. He is also well known as a screenwriter, 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.

## CAST

Craig Alexander	Yvan
Christopher Carroll	Marc
Shane Dundas	Serge

## CREATIVE TEAM

Writer  
Yasmina Reza

Translated by  
Christopher Hampton

Director  
Shelly Higgs

Stage and Costume Design  
Imogen Keen

Sound Design  
Kimmo Vennonen

Lighting Design  
Gerry Corcoran

Rehearsal Observer  
Mirjana Ristevski

## PRODUCTION TEAM

Production Manager  
James Tighe

Stage Manager  
Brittany Myers

Lighting Operation  
William Malam

Sound Operation  
Brittany Myers

Set Build  
Imogen Keen  
Anthony Theobald

Stage Technicians  
Lachlan Brayshaw  
Paul Portelli  
William Malam

Publicity  
Su Hodge

Social Media  
The Street

Production Photography  
Creswick Collective

Videography  
SCREENCRAFT Media  
Craig Alexander

Poster Artwork  
Susan Earl

Marketing Artwork  
DAMS / DESIGN♡CULT

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Landscape for best results.



### CRAIG ALEXANDER

Yvan

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*; *Exclusion*; *Venus in Fur*; *War of The Worlds/Tourmaline*; *Cold Light*; *Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol and Wolf Lullaby* 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 *Trainee Bomb Squad*.



### CHRISTOPHER CARROLL

Marc

Christopher Carroll is a professional actor, writer and director from Ireland, trained at The Samuel Beckett Centre, Dublin, and Ecole Jacques Lecoq, Paris. In 2019 he was awarded 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*, *Icarus*, *War of The Worlds*, *Tourmaline*. As artistic director of Bare Witness Theatre Co., he has produced shows in Ireland, the U.K., France and Australia. Recent work has included directing *Carpe DM* for Canberra Youth Theatre's Emerge Company; a solo adaptation of *The Stranger* by Albert Camus, (Gorman Arts Centre) and directing and acting in *Smokescreen*, his sharp-shooting showdown about the dark arts of marketing, at The Q.



### SHANE DUNDAS

Serge

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 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 children's 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*. Internationally, Shane has appeared on programs 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.

### SHELLY HIGGS

Director

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 Canberra Youth Theatre, The Jetty Theatre, and The Street Theatre. Shelly is currently The Street's Arts Programs Producer undertaking the 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* (mid pandemic 2020), creative development and direction of *Fragments*; *Epitaph*, (The Street and The Australian War Memorial); and *7 Great Inventions of the Modern Industrial Age*. 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.



### IMOGEN KEEN

Set and Costume Designer

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 numerous theatre companies. Imogen graduated from the ANU School of Art in 1993.



**KIMMO VENNONEN****Sound Designer**

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****Lighting Designer**

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 provides support for all types of productions, performances and events in the Bega Valley and beyond. Lighting design credits for The Street include *Breaking The Castle*; *Milk*; *Doll's House Part 2*. Other work includes *The Iliad-Out Loud* (Four Winds Festival); *Mamma Mia!* (Dreamcoat Theatre Productions); *Ladies in Black* (Spectrum Theatre Group).

**BRITTANY MYERS****Stage Manager**

Brittany Myers graduated with a Bachelor of Communications (Theatre/Media) from Charles Sturt University. She is predominantly a stage manager, though also has credits as an actor, deviser and costumer. Brittany has a passion for storytelling and bringing engaging shows to all audiences, which began with her involvement in children's theatre back in 2012 acting at Sydney's Marian Street Theatre for Young People. Brittany's stage management credits include: *Twenty Minutes With The Devil*, *Breaking the Castle*, *Milk* (The Street Theatre), *Ruthless!* (Echo Theatre); *The Shape of Things* (Flightpath Theatre); *Good Mourning* (Old 505 Theatre); *Wunderage* (Circus Oz); *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Bound* (Charles Sturt University).

**ABOUT THE STREET**

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.

[thestreet.org.au](http://thestreet.org.au)

**THE STREET — STAFF**

**Artistic Director/CEO**  
Caroline Stacey OAM

**Producer**  
Dean Ellis

**Technical Manager**  
James Tighe

**Arts Program Producer**  
Shelly Higgs

**Customer Service & Ticketing**  
Pierce Craswell / Lilia Walsh

**Communications/Publicity**  
Su Hodge

**Front of House**  
Lilia Walsh, Pierce Craswell,  
William Malam

**Street Board**

Mark Craswell, Susan Blain, Susana Fior,  
Kate Shepherd, Penny Calvert, Christina Graves

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SCREENCRAFT Media

We acknowledge the Ngunnawal and Ngambri peoples as the Traditional Owners of the lands on which The Street Theatre stands and where we live and create. We recognise their continuing connection to land, waters, and culture, and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and future.



# THE STREET

PRODUCING FOR THE ACT  
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We thank our Street Supporters for their donations ensuring this work was produced and opportunities created for Canberra artists to bring excellence to the stage.

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The Street is managed by The Stagemaster Inc., a not-for-profit organisation. The Street is supported by the ACT government through artsACT and is an ACT Government arts venue.

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