

5 BY 4 PRODUCTIONS  
PRESENTS



by Yasmina Reza  
translated by Christopher Hampton

# 'ART'

by **Yasmina Reza**  
translated by Christopher Hampton

## CAST

MARC.....BILLY DRAGOO  
SERGE.....KYLE ODOM  
YVAN.....JOE REYNOLDS

## PRODUCTION TEAM

Director.....Jenny Lavery  
Stage Manager.....Alan Holt  
Scenic Consultant.....Derek Kolluri  
Lighting Designer.....Mark Pickell  
Costume & Sound Designer.....Jenny Lavery

Fight Choreographer.....Toby Minor  
Production Photos.....Will Hollis Snyder  
Andrea Smith.....Marketing/PR

Light Board Operators.....Catherine Schwartz, Kat Mateja  
Sound Board Operators.....Cooper Acord, Aubrey Elenz  
Running Crew.....Angel Bottera, Kelsey Williams  
Production Assistants.....Ethan Guion, Matilda Westerman



JOE REYNOLDS (Yvan) is thrilled to be a part of this production! 'Art' is one of his favorite plays and he hopes you enjoy the show! He has been seen locally at Hyde Park Theater in Capital T's critically acclaimed productions of *Killer Joe* and *Sick* both directed by Mark Pickell. On television he has appeared on *Frasier*, *Medium*, *State of Grace*, *Star Trek*, *My Generation* and *The Deep End*. This spring you can find him (if you don't blink) in Richard Linklater's new film *Bernie* starring Jack Black. Regionally, he has performed at The Utah Shakespearean Festival, Yale Repertory Theatre, The Court Theatre in Los Angeles and The John Houseman Theatre in New York City. Joe earned a B.F.A. in Theatre from The University of Texas and an M.F.A in Acting from Yale Drama School.



KYLE ODOM (Serge) holds a BFA in Theatre from the University of Texas at Austin. He has enjoyed a varied career, which includes teaching, professional training, marketing, and organizational development. Favorite roles in the theatre include those in Genet's *The Balcony*, Anouilh's *The Lark*, and Durang's *Titanic*. Kyle is excited to be working with long-time friends in this production of 'Art'.

JENNY LAVERY (Director) is making her Austin directorial debut with 'Art'! A year ago, she relocated to Austin from New York City (via Boston) to find her niche as a theatre-maker in this growing arts community. Jenny has been freelance directing throughout the northeast for the past 10 years. She earned her BFA in Directing/Acting from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. In 2006 & 2007, Jenny was named a Theatre Mitu Directing Fellow & Witness Relocation company member. After working for many years as a director, actor, and theatre-maker in New York City, she relocated to Boston to earn her Masters from Boston Residency. Some of her directing credits include: *The Shape Of Things*, *Three More Sleepless Nights*, *Six Degrees Of Separation*, *Hamletmachine*, *Contemplacion*, *Asleep On The Wind*, *The Hero Killed The Clown*, *The Inner Circle*, & *Seduced*.

DEREK KOLLURI (Scenic Consultant)) a theatre maker versed in acting, directing and designing, is the Artistic Director of Sustainable Theatre Project. Last year Derek directed two plays: *Dying City* for Capital T Theatre and *Dead White Males* for STP, for which he was nominated on both occasions as outstanding director of a comedy and a drama. Derek holds a BIS degree from Emporia State University and an MFA in Acting from the University of Arkansas. Look for two upcoming STP productions: *This Is Our Youth* by Kenneth Lonergan and *Seller Door* by Larry Mitchell.

TOBY MINOR (Fight Choreographer) is a certified actor combatant with the Society of American Fight Directors (SAFD). He also holds shodan rank in budo -taijutsu. Toby has done fight choreography locally for shows including *Hamlet* (Black Swan Productions: ATE nominated), *The Crucible* (City Theatre), *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Georgetown Palace), *How the Other Half Loves* (City Theatre), *Marisol* (The Vestige Group), and will be performing in and choreographing the fights for *Lear* at the Vortex Theatre. Film choreography credits include *Haze* (UT Film), and *Omniscience* (Stage Left, Chicago). Toby is very happy to have been able to help a project of this kind and hopes more students are able to follow their bliss and create art in all it's forms.



BILLY DRAGOO (Marc) taught at Granbury High School and Bowie High School in Arlington before coming to Austin High in the fall of 1993. Mr. Dragoo earned a BFA from The University of Texas in 1987 and a Master of Arts in Directing from The University of London in 1990. In the summer of 2002, Mr. Dragoo was granted a scholarship to study at the Globe Theatre in London. He has directed 74 shows in his career. Among his favorites are *Equus*, *The Secret Rapture*, *A Flea in Her Ear*, *Anna in the Tropics*, *Juno and the Paycock* and *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me*. He and his students have appeared at the UIL One Act Play State Finals six times. Granbury High School appeared there in 1988 (taking third place in 4A) and in 1989. Austin High School appeared there in 2007, 2008, 2009 (when they won the 5A State Championship), and in 2010. While teaching at Austin High, he has twice been named "Teacher of the Year" -- in 1997 and 2003.



## ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT -

'Art' was born to Yasmina Reza from the inspiration of her friend Serge, a dermatologist. Like the character of the same name, Serge had bought a white painting for 200 grand. Reza's reaction? "I laughed and said you must be mad and then we both laughed." That evening at home, Reza pondered the question, "What if he hadn't laughed?" So became the springboard for 'Art', a play about a friendship and, well, art.

French-born Reza was an actress long before the success of 'Art'. After spending a good deal of time on stage and in the company of a lot of wonderful actors, Reza started to work off stage on a craft that soon brought her prestigious recognition. At age 28, Reza received the Moliere Award (the French equivalent to the Tony Award), SACD New Talent Award, and the Johnson Foundation Award for *Conversations after a Burial*. The following year brought Reza a Moliere nomination for her translation of Franz Kafka's *The Metamorphosis* for Roman Polanski and quick to follow was another Moliere Award for *Winter Crossing* (Best Fringe Production). 'Art' came to the stage in 1995, with a succession of prizes: the 1994 Moliere Award for Best Play, the 1996 Olivier Award for Best Comedy, the Evening Standard Award, and the 1998 Tony Award for Best Play.

The recognition of 'Art' as a comedy initially shocked Reza. "They laugh the minute they see it, everywhere. That's what's odd," said Reza in an interview with Mary Blume of International Herald Tribune. "It is the destruction of a friendship, after all." But no matter what audiences label it, 'Art' - now translated in 20 languages - has universal appeal as does Yasmina Reza's gift for writing. Most recently, her penmanship has led her into the worlds of screenwriting (*See You Tomorrow* and *Lulu Kreutz's Picnic*) and fiction (*Hammerklavier*). Yasmina Reza, like minimalist artist Robert Rymann, doesn't stop at the corners of her canvas; her craft expands over the edges into new forms.

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE -

I was a teenager when I first saw 'Art' on Broadway in 1996. Despite my young age, I immediately fell in love with this piece and its dual themes: the intricacy of friendships & the classic question "What is art?".

Take a look at your relationships. What binds you to your friends or loved ones? If your friendship is based on tacit mutual agreement, what happens when one person does something completely different and unexpected? The question is: Are you who you are because you are who you are or are you who you are because your friends are who they are? Moreover, can your relationship withstand your evolutions as individuals?

"What is art?" While I believe all artists should continuously explore how they define 'art', the years that I spent studying theatre in higher education allowed me the time & space to actually wrestle with this question & refine my own answer. My definition aligns with Thomas Hoving, the director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, who says, "Art happens when anyone in the world takes any kind of material and fashions it into a deliberate statement." Our production tonight is creating scholarships to ensure that the next generation of artists has the time in higher education to devise their own answers to "What is Art?" I look forward to learning from the next generation of artists. Thank you for supporting Austin High artists!



Special Thanks to Scott & Cooner for being a sponsor of 'ART'