



The Crescent Theatre Company

presents

ART

by
Yasmina Reza
Translated by
Christopher Hampton

Ron Barber Studio Theatre
30 September – 14 October 2006
at 7.45pm

Matinees 7 & 14 October at 2.45pm

Box Office – 0121 643 5858

Sheepcote Street : Brindleyplace : Birmingham : B16 8AE



The Crescent Theatre is a Registered Charity
No. 245054

The Crescent Theatre is a Founder Member of
The Little Theatre Guild of Great Britain

Member of NODA: The National Operatic and
Dramatic Association



Noda

Serving amateur theatre since 1899

www.crescent-theatre.co.uk
the **crescent** theatre

Director's Notes

I have had a wonderful time working on *Art*, it's such an intelligent and witty play, both touching and harsh, dealing with the question; "Are we who we think we are or are we who our friends think we are?"

The writer, Yasmina Reza has an amazing track record; her works have all been multi-award-winning critical and popular international successes. Her plays have been produced worldwide and translated into thirty-five languages. She has also written several books and a screenplay.

I really like her style of dialogue; its rhythm's and repetition are very musical. Christopher Hampton wrote his first play at the age of eighteen. Since then, his plays have included *The Philanthropist*, *Savages* and *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*. He has translated plays by Ibsen, Moliere and Chekhov. He has also written for television and film: some of which he has himself directed. I am very fond of his work.

I approached the direction of the play in both a naturalistic and stylised way, it has no interval and although time passes within the play we follow the action in a simple, smooth flow.

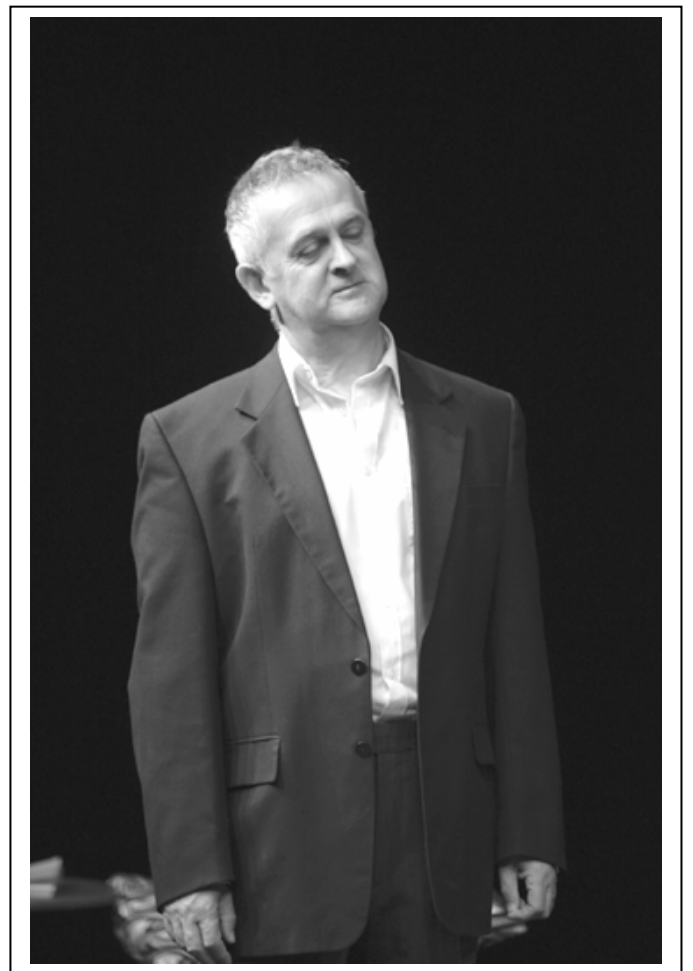
I designed the set to represent three apartments, but with the overall feeling that it could be one and the same. I used basic shapes of modern art within it, and my influences were Picasso, Mondrian, Kandinsky and Kline.

Enjoy.

Jo Thackwray

Director

Friday, 29 September 2006



The Cast



Marc

Brian Wilson

Serge

Andy Jones

Yvan

James Allan

Production Team

A

Director &
Designer

Jo Thackwray

Lighting
Designer

Chris Briggs

Sound Design

Ken Clarke

Costume
Design

Toni Ford

Properties

Robert Mrozek

R

Stage Manager

Gillian Churcher

Production
Assistants

Zoe Wilson
Kate Stanford

Assistant to
Director

Nick Snowdon

T

Set Painting

Mal Culverwell

Photography

Paul Vokes

Programme

Jane Frisby

View of Carcassone painted by Dan Ashton-Booth
(01905 456579)

Cast

BRIAN WILSON: Brian has been a member of the Crescent Theatre since 1975. This year, he has already appeared in *Shadowlands* and *Oh! What a Lovely War*.

Among his favourite roles are Dennis in *One for the Road*, Steve in *Privates on Parade*, Tobias in Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd*, Harry Brewer in *Our Country's Good* and Harold Peach in *Nasty Neighbours*. He also enjoys working backstage, especially as part of the fly team.



ANDY JONES: Andy has just joined the Crescent Theatre: he has wanted to be an actor for as long as he can remember but didn't actually get

round to it until he was forty eight. Since then, he has been making up for lost time. During the past six years he has appeared in twenty different productions.

He is delighted to be playing Serge, the role played by Tom Courtenay in the first production of *Art*. It was Tom Courtenay's performance in the film *The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner* that inspired Andy to want to act. Having said that, he wouldn't have minded the Albert Finney part either! Honestly, there's no stopping him!

Biographies

JAMES ALLAN: Whilst at university in Newcastle, James played Algernon in the Union Theatre production of *The Importance of Being Earnest* and followed this with Alan Ayckbourn's *Bedroom Farce*. Then followed his first directing credit with a production of *The Liver Birds*. After graduating in 1993,

James joined the Crescent a year later and debuted in Christopher Hampton's version of *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*. Since then James has had numerous theatre credits



including Romeo in *Romeo and Juliet*, Frank in *This Lime Tree Bower*, Sandy in *Gaspig*, Reuben in *Cold Comfort Farm*, Pato in *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, Eric in *Wallop Mrs Cox*, Henry Carver in *Design for Living*, Tesman in *Hedda Gabler*, Tom in *Friction*, Sheridan in *The Madness of King George*, Crook Fingered Jack in *The Beggars Opera*, Dick in Woody Allen's *Play it Again Sam*, Ralph in Peter Whelan's *The Accrington Pals* and as Greg in the premiere of Jonathan Owen's *Teapots and Superglue*.

Most recently, he appeared as Richard Greenleaf in *The Talented Mr Ripley* and as Antonio in *The Duchess of Malfi*. Film credits include *The Door* (2005) directed by Gareth Edwards.

Every work of art causes the receiver to enter into a certain kind of relationship both with him who produced, or is producing, the art, and with all those who, simultaneously, previously, or subsequently, receive the same artistic impression.

The activity of art is based on the fact that a man, receiving through his sense of hearing or sight another man's expression of feeling, is capable of experiencing the emotion which moved the man who expressed it.

*Leo Tolstoy
(1828 - 1910)*



Definitions of art on the Web:

- the products of human creativity; works of art collectively; "an art exhibition"; "a fine collection of art"

- the creation of beautiful or significant things; "art does not need to be innovative to be good"; "I was never any good at art"; "he said that architecture is the art of wasting space beautifully"

- a superior skill that you can learn by study and practice and observation; "the art of conversation"; "it's quite an art"

- artwork: photographs or other visual representations in a printed publication; "the publisher was responsible for all the artwork in the book"

- Art, in its broadest meaning, is the expression of creativity or imagination, or both

- A skill acquired by experience, study or observation.

An occupation requiring knowledge or skill. The conscious use of skill and creative imagination especially in the production of aesthetic objects