ARENA DINNER THEATER Presents

Directed by Amy Ross

Rehearsals begin December 15th

Performances are scheduled for January 22, 23,28,29,30,31 and February 5,6

Auditions will be on December 6th and 7th. Please prepare the audition sides for the character you are interested in. Sign up for a slot on Sunday December 6th and prepare to be called back on Monday December 7th at 7pm. All auditions are at Arena Theater.

Questions?

GOD OF CARNAGE

Winner of the 2009 Tony Award for Best Play, the internationally acclaimed comedy ***God of Carnage*** takes you to the most dangerous place on Earth: *parenthood!*

When two parents meet to discuss their children's unruly behavior, you might expect a calm, rational conversation about responsibility and good manners. Instead, what begins as a civilized discussion quickly spirals into a hilarious evening of insults, tantrums and emotional meltdowns.

The children may have started the conflict, but it's the adults who truly lose control. Sharp, savage and outrageously funny, ***God of Carnage*** is an award winning comedy of manners- without the manners!

CHARACTERS:

- ***Veronica Novak***: The host of the meeting. She is a deeply idealistic, rigid, and judgmental writer/researcher who takes great pride in her cultural sophistication and desire for a civilized resolution.
- ***Michael Novak***: Veronica's husband. A seemingly mild-mannered wholesale fabric/merchandise dealer who initially tries to play the peacemaker, but eventually reveals an unrefined, cynical, and aggressive streak.
- ***Alan Raleigh***: A wealthy, ultra-cynical corporate lawyer. He spends almost the entire play tethered to his cell phone trying to shield a pharmaceutical company from a major liability scandal.
- ***Annette Raleigh***: Alain's wife. A wealth manager who is tightly wound, deeply frustrated by her husband's neglect, and physically falls apart—most famously suffering a projectile vomiting fit all over Veronica's precious art books.

ANNETTE:

(At this point (near the end of the show) she is decidedly tipsy)

(Cue: You want to use our phone? I have to say…)

ANNETTE: Yes, what is it you have to say , Michael?

(Cue: No… I really can't think what to say.)

ANNETTE: Well, if you ask me, everyone's feeling fine. If you ask me, everyone's feeling better. (*Pause*)... Everyone's much calmer, don't you think? … Men are so wedded to their gadgets… It belittles them… It takes away all their authority… A man needs to keep his hands free… if you ask me. Even an attache' case is enough to put me off. There was a man once, I found really attractive, then I saw him with a square shoulder bag, a man's shoulder bag, but that was it. There's nothing worse than a shoulder bag. Although there's also nothing worse than a cell phone. A man ought to have the impression that he's alone… if you ask me. I mean, that he's capable of being alone…! I also have a John Wayne-ish idea of virility. And what was it he had? A Colt 45. A device for creating a vacuum… A man who can't give the impression that he's a loner has no texture… So, Michael, are you happy? Is it somewhat fractured, our little… what was it you said?... I've forgotten the word,... but in the end… everyone's feeling more or less all right… if you ask me.

(also… can you vomit convincingly?)

VERONICA:

(opening the show, when she is very much in charge)

VERONICA: So, this is our statement… You'll be doing your own, of course… At 5:30 PM on the third of November, in Cobble Hill Park, following a verbal altercation, Benjamin Raleigh, eleven, armed with a stick, struck our son Henry Novak in the face. This action resulted in, apart from the swelling of the upper lip, the breaking of two incisors, including injury to the nerve of the right incisor.

(Cue): Armed?

VERONICA: Armed? You don't like armed, what shall we say, Michael, furnished, equipped, furnished with a stick, is that all right?

(Cue): Yes, furnished with a stick.

VERONICA: (making the correction) Furnished. The irony is, we've always regarded Cobble Hill park as a haven of security, unlike Whitman Park.

(Cue): She's right. We've always said, Cobble Hill Park yes, Whitman Park no.

VERONICA: Absolutely. Anyway, thank you for coming. There's nothing to be gained from getting stuck down some emotional cul-de-sac.

(Cue): We should be thanking you, we should

VERONICA: I don't see that any thanks are necessary. Fortunately, there is still such a thing as the art of co-existence, isn't there?

MICHAEL:

(Cue): You got rid of the hamster?

MICHAEL:Yes. This hamster makes the most god awful racquetball night, then spends the whole day fast asleep! Henry was in a lot of pain last night; he was being driven crazy by the noise that hamster was making.And to tell the truth, I've been wanting to get rid of it for a long time, so I said to myself, OK, that's it, I took it and put it in the street. I thought they loved drains and gutters and all that, but I guess not, it just sat there paralyzed on the sidewalk. Well, they're not domestic animals, they're not wild animals, I don't really know where their natural habitat is. Dump them in the woods, they're probably just as unhappy, so I don't know where you're supposed to put them.

—----------

(Cue) There's a connection between Henry having his teeth broken and our marriage?!

MICHAEL: Children consume our lives and then destroy them. Children drag us toward disaster; it's unavoidable. When you see those laughing couples casting off into the sea of matrimony, you say to yourself, they have no idea, poor things, they just have no idea, they're happy. No one tells you anything when you start out. I have an old school buddy who's just about to have a child with his new girlfriend. I said to him, a child, at our age, are you insane? Ten or twelve good years we have left before cancer or a stroke, and you're going to screw yourself up with come brat?

ALAN:

Cue: (Alan's cell phone vibrates, he answers.)

ALAN: …Don't make any statement…No comment…No, of course you can't take it off the market! If you take it off the market, you become responsible… the minute you take Antril off the market, you're admitting liability! There's nothing in the annual accounts. If you want to be sued for falsifying the executive report and get shitcanned in two weeks, take it off the market… (pause)

…They're panicking, they've got the media up their ass, you have to prepare a press release, not something defensive, not at all, on the contrary, go out all guns blazing, you insist that Verenz-Pharma is the victim of a destabilization attempt two weeks before its annual shareholder's meeting, where does this paper come from, why did it have to fall from the sky right now, et cetera and so on… Don't say anything about health problems, just ask one question: Who's behind this report?

—----------

Cue: (If Benjamin is forced to meet Henry in a punitive context, I can't see the results would be very positive.)

Alan: Madam, our son is a savage. To hope for any kind of spontaneous repentance would be fanciful. Right, I have to get back to the office. You stay Annette, you'll tell me what you"ve decided, I'm no use whichever way you cut it. Women always think you need a man, you need a father, as if they'd be any help at all. Men are dead weight, they're clumsy and maladjusted, oh, you can see the F train, that's great!