

ADDRESS: 4200 Campbell Ave. Arlington, Virginia 22206  
BOX OFFICE: 703 820 9771  
ADMIN OFFICE: 571 527 1860  
FACSIMILE: 703 845 0236  
WEBSITE: www.signature-theatre.org  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR: Eric Schaeffer  
MANAGING DIRECTOR: Maggie Boland

**signature**news

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 10, 2011

Contact: Peter Eramo, Jr.

Publicist

(571) 527-1833

[eramop@signature-theatre.org](mailto:eramop@signature-theatre.org)

## Signature Theatre Presents Yasmina Reza's Tony Award®-Winning Play *Art*

**Matthew Gardiner Directs Cast of DC Favorites Mitchell Hébert,  
John Lescault, and Michael Russotto**

\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*

Arlington, VA, March 10, 2011 – A simple white canvas. A 200,000 franc price tag. The real cost? A 15-year long friendship. Virginia's Tony Award®-winning **Signature Theatre** presents **Yasmina Reza's** (*God of Carnage*) scathing dark comedy *Art*. Translated by **Christopher Hampton**, Reza's play examines the pressures friends place on one another and asks the question – are you who you think you are or are you who your friends want you to be? Signature Theatre's Resident Director **Matt Gardiner** will direct the award-winning play. Produced worldwide and performed in over thirty languages, *Art* won the 1998 Tony Award® for Best Play and the Laurence Olivier Award for Best Comedy.

Serge has bought an avant-garde painting for a huge sum of money which he absolutely loves. His close friend Marc hates it and cannot believe that a friend of his could possibly admire such a work. Mild-mannered Yvan attempts to placate both sides as best as he can. Insults and arguments slowly shift from the theoretical and artistic to the very private and personal, as their close friendship is examined and put to the ultimate test.

**Matt Gardiner** said, "Reza's wildly funny play already has such a history to it. I've always been attracted to her minimalist writing which miraculously says so much between the lines. Each new production of the show relies so heavily on the trio of actors cast – and this re-creation features three of the finest actors I know, who have had a long history of working in Washington, DC."

**Reza's** thought-provoking comedy features a trio of local favorites -- **Mitchell Hébert** (Helen Hayes nominee for *The Drawer Boy*, *Clybourne Park*), **John Lescault** (*The Lieutenant of Inishmore*, *Angels in America* (Parts 1 & 2) at Signature), and **Michael Russotto** (Helen Hayes nominations for *She Stoops to Comedy* and *Vigils*). The creative team features **James Kronzer** (scenic design), **Kathleen Geldard** (costume design), **Mark Lanks** (lighting design), **Matt Rowe**

(sound design), with original musical works by **Peter Lerman** (winner of the 2010 Jonathan Larson Award).

**Eric Schaeffer**, Signature Theatre's Artistic Director, stated, "Audiences are in for an extraordinary evening of entertainment. The cast we have here is really second-to-none. And Matt has such a remarkable sense of creativity in his staging and a highly sophisticated approach to the art of storytelling – it truly makes him the ideal person to direct this particular show."

## **PERFORMANCE DATES & TICKET INFORMATION**

Performances of *Art* run from March 29, 2011 to May 22, 2011. Showtimes are Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 7:30 pm, Thursdays and Fridays at 8:00 pm, Saturdays at 2:00 pm and 8:00 pm, and Sundays at 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm. A Funders' performance will take place on Tuesday, April 5. There will only be an 8pm performance on Saturday, April 2.

Signature Theatre will be hosting two '**Pride Night**' performances that will take place on **Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup> and Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup> (both at 8:00pm)**.

Tickets range from \$50 - \$76 and are available by calling Ticketmaster at (703) 573-SEAT (7328) or visiting [www.signature-theatre.org](http://www.signature-theatre.org). Group discounts are available for parties of ten or more by contacting **Bethany Shannon** at [shannonb@signature-theatre.org](mailto:shannonb@signature-theatre.org) or by calling (571) 527-1831. For more information please visit [www.signature-theatre.org](http://www.signature-theatre.org).

## **SPONSORSHIP**

*Art* is sponsored by Arlene and Robert Kogod.

## **MEDIA SPONSORSHIPS**

*Metro Weekly* is the media sponsor for *Art*.

## **LOCATION – PROXIMITY TO WASHINGTON, DC**

Located in Arlington, Virginia and complete with free parking, Signature Theatre is just 5.2 miles from the Washington Monument, an estimated 10-15 minute drive according to [googlemaps.com](http://googlemaps.com). Using public transportation, Signature can be reached by the 7, 25 and 25A buses from Pentagon Metro Station or via a \$12 taxi ride from the Pentagon City Metro stop (on both the Blue & Yellow lines) with a taxi stand located in front of the Ritz Carlton Hotel.

## **SIGNATURE'S 2010-11 SEASON TICKETS**

The final show in Signature's 2010-11 season will be *Side by Side by Sondheim*, directed by Matthew Gardiner. Tickets are available by calling Signature's Box Office at (703) 820-9771.

## **ART**

by **Yasmina Reza**

Translated by **Christopher Hampton**

Directed by **Matthew Gardiner**

March 29, 2011 – May 22, 2011

The ARK

## **CAST BIOS**

**Mitchell Hébert** (Marc) DC AREA: Woolly Mammoth Theatre: *Clybourne Park*, *The Gigli Concert*, *Patience*, *Kvetch*, *The Clean House*; Round House Theatre: *Charming Billy*, *Around the World in 80 Days*, *Crime & Punishment*, *Treasure Island*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *The Drawer Boy* (Helen Hayes nomination), *Criminal Genius*, *Escape from Happiness*; Olney Theatre Center, *Rabbit Hole* (director), *Peter Pan*, *Amadeus*, *Equus*; Shakespeare Theatre Company: *Don Carlos*; Theatre of the First Amendment: *Nathan the Wise*; Rep Stage: *Mrs. Farnsworth*; Everyman Theatre: *Uncle Vanya* (Greater Baltimore Theatre Award for Outstanding Actor). TEACHING: Faculty of University of Maryland's School of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies.

**John Lescault** (Serge) SIGNATURE: *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*, *Crave*, *Angels in America* (Parts 1 & 2), *Available Light*, *Shooting in Madrid*, *Melville Slept Here*. DC AREA: Kennedy Center Concert Hall: *Defiant Requiem*; KC Terrace: *Opera Lafayette's Sancho Pansa*, *Le Deserteur*; Round House Theatre: *A Prayer for Owen Meany*, *Shakespeare*, *Moses and Joe Papp*, *Wintertime*, *Our Town*; Folger Shakespeare Theatre: *The School for Scandal*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Elizabeth the Queen*, *Macbeth*; Shakespeare Theatre Company: *Tamburlaine*, *Edward II*, *The Winter's Tale*, *Richard II*, *Don Carlos*; Theatre J: *The Disputation*, *Hannah and Martin*, *Death and the Maiden*; Woolly Mammoth: *Heaven*, *Psychic Life of Savages*. INTERNATIONAL: Prague Spring Music Festival: *Defiant Requiem*. FILM/TV: *The Day Lincoln Was Shot*, *Unsolved Mysteries*, *The Arc*.

**Michael Russotto** (Yvan) DC AREA: Arena Stage: *Legacy of Light*, *On the Jump*, *The Wild Duck*; Woolly Mammoth Theatre: *House of Gold*, *Full Circle*, *She Stoops to Comedy* (Helen Hayes nomination), *Vigils* (Helen Hayes nomination), *The Faculty Room*, *The Velvet Sky*, *The Art Room*, *Lenny and Lou*, *Homebody/Kabul*, *Fuddy Meers*, *Wonder of the World*, *The Gene Pool*, *The Pitchfork Disney*; Folger Theatre: *Comedy of Errors*, *Macbeth*, *Much Ado About Nothing*; Kennedy Center: *American Scrapbook*, *Teddy Roosevelt and the Ghostly Mistletoe*, *Mermaids*; Rep Stage: *Travels with my Aunt*; Theatre J: *The Chosen*, *Born Guilty*, *Love and Yearning*; Olney Theatre: *Stanley*, *Present Laughter*; MetroStage: *Girl in the Goldfish Bowl*; Washington Stage Guild: *Aristocrats*; Studio Theatre: *Love! Valour! Compassion!*, *The Slab Boys Trilogy*. REGIONAL: L.A. Theatre Works: *Seven Days in May*.

## **ABOUT SIGNATURE**

Recipient of the 2009 Regional Theatre Tony Award®, Signature Theatre is a non-profit professional theater company in Arlington, Virginia dedicated to producing contemporary musicals and plays, reinventing classic musicals, and developing new work. Under the leadership of co-founder and Artistic Director Eric Schaeffer and Managing Director Maggie Boland, Signature has presented 32 world premiere productions and is renowned for combining Broadway-quality productions with intimate playing spaces.

In addition to hosting the finest talent from the DC metropolitan area and New York, Signature has been home to such theatre luminaries as Chita Rivera, George Hearn, Hunter Foster, Emily Skinner, Marc Kudisch, Judy Kuhn, John Kander and Fred Ebb, Cameron Mackintosh, Terrence McNally, and the company's signature composer, Stephen Sondheim. Since its founding in 1989, Signature has won 70 Helen Hayes Awards for excellence in the Washington, DC region's professional theater and has been honored with 293 nominations.

Signature is partially supported by a grant from the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts and by a gift from Arlington County through the Arlington

Commission for the Arts and the Cultural Affairs Division of the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources.

**Directions**

Signature Theatre is located at 4200 Campbell Avenue (22206) off I-395 at the Shirlington exit. After the exit, blue Signature signs mark the way to the theatre. Free parking is available in two adjacent public garages. Please note that Campbell Avenue is a new street and some GPS online mapping systems do not yet recognize Signature Theatre's address. For directions visit <http://signature-theatre.org/map.htm>.

**Contact Information**

Subscriptions: (703) 820-9771

Single Tickets: Ticketmaster (703) 573-SEAT (7328)

Signature Administration (571) 527-1860

Signature Theatre • 4200 Campbell Avenue • Arlington, VA 22206

<http://www.signature-theatre.org>

# # #