

## **Crazy parents abound in 'Carnage'**

BY JENNIFER GOLDBERG

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Parenthood isn't easy. When Veronica and Bob's son gets his teeth knocked out on the playground by a classmate wielding a stick, they invite the assailant's parents, Alan and Annette, over to discuss the matter.

What should be a mature discussion between four adults turns into a display of irrationality and crazed behavior in "God of Carnage," the new Arizona Theatre Company production.

The play, which won the Tony Award for Best Play in 2009, was written by French-Jewish playwright Yasmina Reza. Actress Amy Resnick, who plays Veronica, learned about Reza's background during her research.

Resnick had already decided to make Veronica a Jewish character, she says.

"I just feel that Veronica has a Jewish voice," she says, "so I'm bringing that little bit of flavor to it."

Resnick, who resides in San Francisco, is an ATC veteran, having appeared in the company's productions of "Pride and Prejudice" and "For Better or Worse."

"Their staff is actually quite exemplary, so it's really always a good experience," Resnick says. "I enjoy my time there."

Performing runs in Resnick's family; her mother's cousin was the late actor Zero Mostel of "The Producers" and "Fiddler on the Roof" fame.

"The Mostels took me to a lot of Broadway shows," Resnick recalls, "and they'd always say the same thing after the show. No matter what the show was, they'd say, 'It was good; not as good as "Fiddler." Now "Fiddler" had some songs!"

"Then they'd start to sing 'Sunrise, Sunset' on the sidewalk, and we'd go get a sundae at Howard Johnson."

Resnick hopes buzz about the film version of "God of Carnage," called "Carnage" and due to be released Dec. 16, will help generate interest in the play.

The film is directed by Roman Polanski and boasts an all-star cast of Christoph Waltz, Kate Winslet, John C. Reilly and Jodie Foster. (Resnick plays the Jodie Foster role.)

Resnick says word of mouth about "God of Carnage," which has already been staged in Tucson, has been "incredible."

"People expect it to be a very serious, dark, dark piece, but I don't remember getting this many laughs in a show in a long, long time. (Reza) wrote pure farce. It's full of physical comedy," she says.

### **Details**

- Who: Arizona Theatre Company
- What: "God of Carnage"
- When: Through Dec. 4
- Where: Herberger Theater Center, 222 E. Monroe St., Phoenix
- Cost: \$31-\$56
- Contact: 602-256-6995 or [A HREF="http://arizonatheatre.org" TARGET="\\_blank">arizonatheatre.org](http://arizonatheatre.org)