

## San Jose Rep's new season

[By Karen D'Souza](#)

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Hot new comedies such as Yasmina Reza's "God of Carnage" and Theresa Rebeck's "The Understudy" will highlight the San Jose Repertory Theatre's juicy 2011-12 season.

"We'll explore the inner complexities of teen sexuality, we'll delve into the plot of one of the sexiest examples of 'noir' fiction, we'll be charmed all over again by Charles Dickens' timeless evocation of regret and redemption, we'll laugh and be horrified by the rough edges of 'civilized behavior,' and we'll revel in the hottest choreography around," Rep artistic director Rick Lombardo says.

Reza, the darling of the European theater scene after witty Broadway hits such as "Art" and "Life X 3," turns her eye to the politics of parenting today. The French playwright is a master of the savagely chic comedy of manners.

In the Tony-winning "Carnage," which starred James Gandolfini, Jeff Daniels, Hope Davis and Marcia Gay Harden on Broadway, she skewers the concept of civilized society with repartee that bites like a great white shark. A cozy chat between two posh couples, whose little boys had a recess run-in, quickly escalates into full-fledged warfare in this sleek 90-minute farce.

Lombardo will direct this coproduction with the Arizona Theatre Company, running March 22 through April 15, 2012, in its regional premiere. Culture vultures will note that Roman Polanski also is shooting a film adaptation with Jodie Foster and Kate Winslet.

Rebeck, a Pulitzer nominee hailed for smart and sexy satires such as "The Scene" and "Bad Dates," which was a huge hit at the Rep some years back, is one of those nimble playwrights who leaps back and forth between the theater and Tinseltown. She mines her insights into the battle for box-office returns and the war between thespians and celebrities in "The Understudy," a tale of a Hollywood star slumming on the stage to earn credibility points.

The hip backstage comedy runs May 10-June 3, 2012. Rebeck will be new debuting her latest lampoon, the office spoof "What We're Up Against," at San Francisco's Magic Theatre this week.

The seven-show roster, up one play from last year, also includes "Bill W. and Dr. Bob," (June 21-July 15, 2012) the back story of the men who founded Alcoholics Anonymous; the world premiere of a new stage version of the classic noir parable "Double Indemnity" (Jan. 12-Feb. 5, 2012); and the regional premiere of Joe DiPietro's wistful love story "The Last Romance" (Oct. 13-Nov. 6), which spins around a 83-year-old falling head over heels.

Lombardo will helm the racy alt-rock musical "Spring Awakening," with choreography by Sonya Tayeh (of "So You Think You Can Dance" fame). The revival of the monster hit based on Frank Wedekind's 19th-century groundbreaker, presented in affiliation with San Jose State University, runs Sept. 1-25.

The Charles Dickens chestnut "A Christmas Carol" (Nov. 23-Dec. 24) will round out the season.

San Jose Rep

2011-12 season

When: Season begins Sept. 1

Where: San Jose Rep, 101 Paseo de San Antonio

Tickets: Subscriptions, which range \$125 to \$383, are now available. Single tickets (\$29-\$79) are slated to go on sale in August. 408-367-7255 or [www.sjrep.com](http://www.sjrep.com).