

COCONUT GROVE
PLAYHOUSE

A Not-For-Profit State Theater of Florida
2000-2001 SEASON

ARNOLD MITTELMAN
Producing Artistic Director

presents

JUDD HIRSCH

COTTER SMITH JACK WILLIS

in

ART

by

YASMINA REZA

translated by

CHRISTOPHER HAMPTON

Set Design by
ANI BLACKBURN

Costume Coordinator
MURRELL HORTON

Lighting Design by
CLETUS KARAMON

Original Music by
JUDE CICCOLELLA

Production Supervisor
MARLENE MANCINI

Production Manager
BETSY P CARDWELL

Production Stage Manager
NEIL KRASNOW

Stage Manager
NAOMI LITTMAN

Directed by
MR. HIRSCH

Associate Producer
EARL HUGHES

Produced in Association with Paper Mill Playhouse, The State Theater of New Jersey;
Angelo Del Rossi, Executive Producer; Robert Johanson, Artistic Director; Roy Miller, Associate Producer

Produced on Broadway by David Pugh, Sean Connery and Joan Cullman, March 1, 1998

Director of Education & Special Projects
CHRISTOPHER BISHOP

Director of Marketing & Communications
DEBORAH EYERDAM

Director of Advancement
SUSAN FOX-ROSELLINI

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FORT LAUDERDALE
BROADWAY
Series

David and Ed Mirvish
and
SFX Theatrical Group
by arrangement with
David Pugh, Sean Connery & Joan Cullman
present

ART

By
YASMINA REZA

Translated by
CHRISTOPHER HAMPTON

Starring
SCOTT HYLANDS **STEPHEN OUIMETTE** **RICHARD POE**

Scenic Design by
MARK THOMPSON

Lighting Design by
HUGH VANSTONE

Music by
GARY YERSHON

Sound Design by
MIC POOL

Associate Scenic Designe
NANCY THUN

Associate Costume Designer
ILONA SOMOGYI

Associate Lighting Designer
ERECA HASSELL

Executive Producer
BRIAN SEWELL

Technical Producer
JOHN WILBUR

Associate Producer
JOANNA TOPP

Casting by
EVE BATTAGLIA

Directed by
WILLIAM JOSEPH BARNES

from the original London & Broadway productions
directed by
MATTHEW WARCHUS

CAST

(In order of appearance)

Marc . . . . . **Judd Hirsch**
Serge . . . . . **Cotter Smith**
Yvan . . . . . **Jack Willis**

Place:
Paris
Serge's apartment
Yvan's apartment
Marc's apartment
Serge's apartment

Time:
The Present

***Art** will be performed without an intermission.*

The Coconut Grove Playhouse is a member of the League of Resident Theaters (LORT).

The Coconut Grove Playhouse is a charter member of the Theater League of South Florida.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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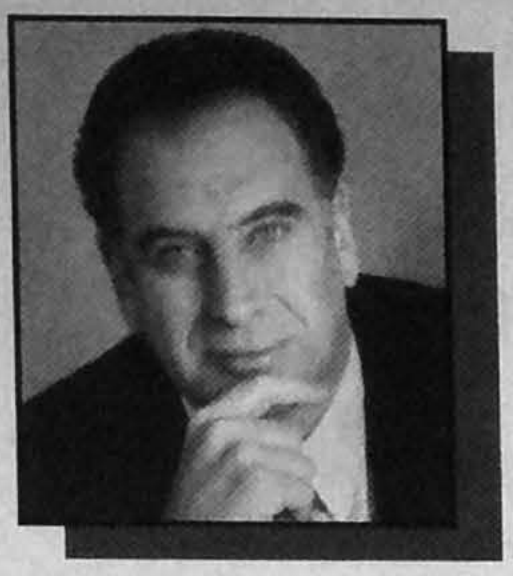
Special Thanks to New York's Ultimate Floral Designs for floral arrangements for the Opening Night Party.

Special Thanks to David Le Batard (LEBO) for his artistic design of our Opening Night Invitation.

Art by Yasmina Reza, translated by Christopher Hampton is presented by arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc. in New York.

Original music and lyrics by Jude Ciccolella from his album *Haunted*

A MESSAGE FROM . . .

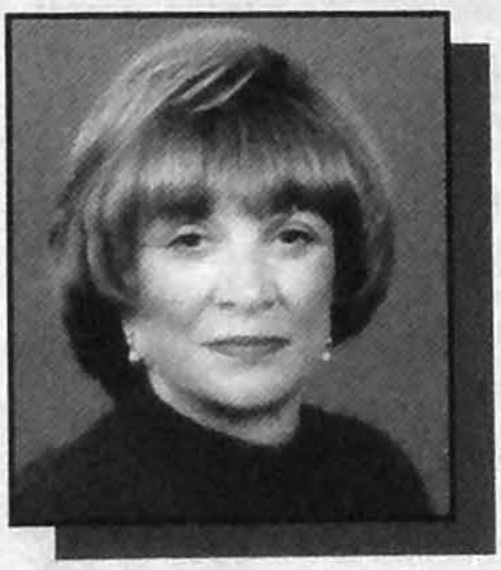


ARNOLD MITTELMAN
PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder. What may be an inspiring piece of art to one person may certainly be viewed quite differently by another. That is the case in Yasmina Reza's stunningly witty Tony Award winning play, **Art**, (for the 2000-2001 season) our second production in the Arthur F. and Alice E. Adams Theater. Originally written in French and translated by Christopher Hampton, **Art**, (which already has been performed in over twenty different languages) transports us to a world where a white-on-white painting inspires in-depth conversations that have the ability to threaten long time friendships. The inside story, however, is how a piece of art can serve as a catalyst in revealing why relationships evolve the way they do; more importantly, what defines our friendships and whether they are able to stand the tests of time and taste.

We are fortunate to have an extraordinary artist, Judd Hirsch, doing double duty in this production as director and one of three actors in this production. He is joined by two exceptional co-stars, Cotter Smith and Jack Willis. Their work in this production of **Art** is as inspiring as any true friendship. **Art** will be here on the Mainstage through December 23rd, and is a great way to share the holidays with family and friends.

A MESSAGE FROM . . .



SENATOR GWEN MARGOLIS
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Happy holidays from all of us here at the Coconut Grove Playhouse! We hope during this season that you take the time to share some special moments with your loved ones. What better to do that than to share with them the gift of theater? At the information table in our main lobby a Playhouse representative will be able to help if you are interested in sharing this wonderful play, **Art**, with a friend or family member as a gift for the holidays. Perhaps you would like to include that someone special in the rest of our season that includes playwrights such as Arthur Miller, Donald Margulies (who was the recipient of the Pulitzer Prize for **Dinner With Friends**) and Edward Albee, and musical theater great Stephen Sondheim. Attractive ticket packages are still available for the remainder of the season. While you are in a giving mood, do not forget the not-for-profit Playhouse on your year-end giving list. Contributions from patrons, such as yourself, help us to balance our budget each year, and enable us to provide educational outreach programs to thousands of children throughout our community. In addition, you can make a donation at the information table.

We thank you for your support and commitment to this institution, and hope that you will spread the word others about your Playhouse experience. We cannot do it with out you.

FRIENDSHIP'S COMPLEX ART

by Howard A. Kerner

Did you ever have a trivial disagreement with a close friend, the fight escalates and you end up re-evaluating your whole relationship? "From him it's heartbreaking; from you it's just comical," says *Marc* to his two best friends. Although they are discussing each one's opinion of a white painting, Yasmina Reza's **Art** concerns both the heartbreak and comedy of friendship.

Think how complicated, fragile and peculiar friendship is. Do we love a friend because of how good he/she makes us feel or because he/she never challenges us? Do we love a friend because he/she always lets us control the relationship? Do we love in a friend that which we do or don't have in ourselves? And do we pigeonhole our friends so that we are alarmed or defensive when the "serious" one acts frivolously and the "funny" one is hurting? **Art** explores friendship's complex contradictions.

Born in 1960 and raised in Paris, the life of playwright Yasmina Reza is equally complex and contradictory. For example, her father (an Iranian Jew born in Moscow) relocated to Paris where he became a businessman (although his education was in engineering) and he stayed in France though most of his family lived in New York! (got that?) Her mother, a Hungarian Jew, was a violinist. Teenage Yasmina hung a picture of her hero –Beethoven – in her room and she wrote short fiction. She started college as a sociology major but switched to acting although she became disillusioned since, "I was the slave of the director."

Reza returned to writing. Her first work, **Conversations After a Burial**, (1987) was a huge success as was her next play, **Winter Crossing** (1990). **Art**, her third work, played to sold-out houses in Paris and caught the eye of Sean Connery's wife, Micheline. Connery bought the rights to **Art** and Reza demanded that the play be produced in London and New York.

Thanks to Christopher Hampton's English translation and Connery as producer, **Art** opened in London in 1996 with legendary British actors Albert Finney and Tom Courtenay. It won the Olivier Award for Best Comedy and later the



Tony Award for Best Play for the Broadway production starring Alan Alda, Victor Garber and Alfred Molina. Now translated into 30 languages with productions worldwide, **Art** has become an international phenomenon because it clearly identifies the universal, fragile, funny/sad nature of friendship.

The comedy in **Art** will hit home for everyone who has a close friend. One critic relates it to those "I Love Lucy" episodes where "Lucy and Ethel would fall out after something as seemingly insignificant as their taste in dresses…a situation in which a character will say, 'I'm not touchy' with infinite touchiness." "Reza is a fiendishly clever writer," says one critic. "**Art** is like the marriage of Moliére and Woody Allen."

But there is a serious side to **Art** as well. "**Art** is about authenticity," says Reza. "What is really authentic in a relationship? What doesn't depend on something other than natural affection?" Friendships, like paintings, are open to many contradictory interpretations.

And like friendship, Reza herself is filled with contradictions. A stage technician approached a sad-looking Reza backstage during the opening performance of **Art** in London. "It's a great success!" he said. "No, it's a catastrophe," she replied. "Why?" "Because the people are laughing all the time and you can't hear the words," said Reza.

Contradictions aside, "**Art** moves like the wind and leaves you exhilarated. It's theater pure and elegant," writes one critic. See it with your friends!

Professor of English & Communications at Polk Community College and for Nova Southeastern University, Howard Kerner has published nearly 500 theater-related articles, several literary biographies and served for 10 years as Literary Manager at Syracuse Stage and the Berkshire Theater Festival under Arthur Storch's artistic directorship. He is the only Florida resident elected to the prestigious Outer Critics Circle of NY.

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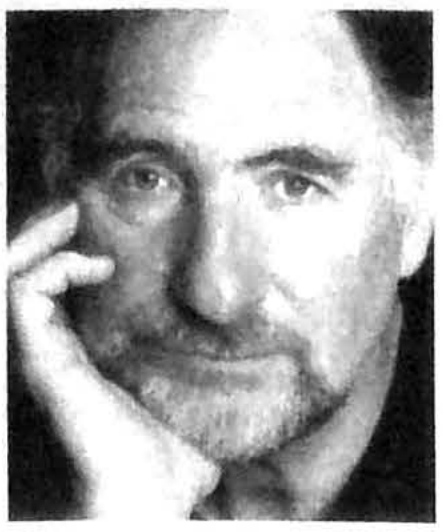
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WHO'S WHO



JUDD HIRSCH* (*Marc, Director*) WHO was twice honored with the coveted Tony Award on Broadway (**I'm Not Rappaport** and **Conversations with My Father** both by Herb Gardner) has just returned from the extensive national tour of **Art** after starring in it both on Broadway and in London. Mr. Hirsch made his Broadway debut in **Barefoot in the Park** and created the role of *Matt Friedman* in Lanford Wilson's Pulitzer Prize-winning play, **Talley's Folly**, for which he was nominated for a Tony. On Broadway, he also starred in **Chapter Two** and played the multi-faceted character of *Wiseman* in Jules Feiffer's **Knock, Knock**, for which he won a Drama Desk Award. Mr. Hirsch developed a production of **Death of a Salesman** playing *Willy Loman* at the Manitoba Theatre Center in Winnipeg and then at the Royal Alexandra Theatre in Toronto. He appeared off-Broadway with a string of performances including Bruce Jay Friedman's **Scuba Duba**, Jean-Claude Van Itallie's **King of the United States**, Lanford Wilson's **Hot L Baltimore** and Mr. Wilson's **Talley's Folly** before receiving an Obie Award for these achievements. Afterwards, he appeared in Chekhov's **The Seagull** and Richard Dresser's **Below the Belt**. He made his TV debut in the Emmy Award-winning movie *The Law* and has since headlined four TV series: "Delvecchio", Taxi", (two Emmy Awards), "Dear John" (Golden Globe Award) and "George & Leo" with Bob Newhart. Mr. Hirsch's film credits include: *King of the Gypsies*, *Ordinary People* (Oscar nomination), Herb Gardner's *The Goodbye People*, *Without a Trace*, *Teachers*, Sidney Lumet's *Running on Empty*, *Independence Day* and *Man on the Moon*. Mr. Hirsch has directed before and may soon direct again.



COTTER SMITH* (*Serge*) has appeared on Broadway in **An American Daughter** by Wendy Wasserstein at Lincoln Center and off-Broadway in Paula Vogel's 1998 Pulitzer Prize-winning play, **How I Learned to Drive**, and **The Dying Gaul** by Craig Lucas (Vineyard), **The Blood Knot** with Danny Glover (Roundabout), **Death of a Miner** (American Place Theatre) and **A Soldier's Play** (Negro Ensemble Company). In addition, he was a member of Circle Rep for 10 years where he appeared in

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