

# art

by Yasmina Reza  
translated by Christopher Hampton  
directed by dianne k webb



presented by



ART is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.  
Produced on Broadway by David Pugh, Sean Connery and Joan Cullman, March 1, 1998.

Produced with support from the



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# Director's Note

Yasmina Reza's nimble script has been a delight to direct with Shunya's equally agile and talented cast, assistant director, and crew. From our early discussions of the complex characters penned by Reza, the universal appeal of the play became evident. During one marketing meeting, one of the volunteers expressed enthusiastically the idea that this play was written for her generation, for the challenges of identity that exist in the lives of herself and her peers. A generation older myself, I find the themes of Art just as relevant.

Set in Paris, Art captures a critical moment in the fifteen year friendship of three men...a moment when one of them purchases a rather costly piece of modern art. Thrown into a tailspin by this unexpected change in one friend, the complexities of impending marriage of another, and the mounting anxieties of the third, the three friends struggle to maintain their at times tenuous relationship.

Reza uses art as a catalyst to unearth the hidden angst and hope of her characters. Adeptly and with humor she captures their foibles and struggles creating an hour and a half of laughter, tears, nods of recognition and most of all an evening of solid theater entertainment.

It has been a pleasure to watch Karthik as Yvan, Asif as Marc, and Prateek as Serge delve into these characters and bring them to life on the stage in the intimacy of Studio 101. There has not been a moment of concern for me as director, in the skill and craft these actors wield. They have created a world for you to explore...sit back and enjoy.

dianne k webb

5/2012

# ART

By Yasmina Reza

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## cast

Marc	.....	Asif Sayani
Serge	.....	Prateek Karkal
Yvan	.....	Karthik Chander

## crew

Assistant Director	.....	Anjana Menon
Producer	.....	Sanjay Mediwala
Marketing	.....	Meha Gargi
		Lynn Cabrera
		Ravi Aggarwal
Music Composition	.....	Thomas Helton
Lighting Design	.....	Kevin Holden
Sound Design	.....	William Hesser
Lighting Tech	.....	Sarita Panchang
Sound Tech	.....	Jimmy Abraham
Set Manager	.....	Sarita Panchang
Set Build	.....	Gary Motal
		Julio Cabrera
House Managers	.....	Meha Gargi
		Sanjay Mediwala
Photography	.....	Navin Mediwala

All the paintings are by dianne k webb and are for sale. Please contact the artist, 713.248.4873 or email: [diannekwebb@gmail.com](mailto:diannekwebb@gmail.com)

# Thank you!

Houston Arts Alliance

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We would like to extend our sincere  
appreciation to our friends and family for  
their undying support, love, and  
encouragement

# Biographies



**dianne k webb** (Director) is debuting as a director with Shunya after acting in their hit comedy last season, "1-888-DIAL-INDIA." Dianne is thrilled to be directing with the talented actors and the strong production team of Shunya Theatre. Dianne has directed theater for more than 14 years in Maine and lately in Houston. Presently she co-produces the New Playwrights Reading Series at the Country Playhouse and has directed several readings there including new work by seasoned playwright Jim Tommaney of Edge Theater and the musical, "My Small Pistola" by longtime Houston playwright Diana Howie with Anna Fay Williams. Dianne believes that the mirror of theater offers a critical element in the evolution of the human being...a dynamic opportunity not only for entertainment but for self revelation.



**Anjana Menon** (Assistant Director) is very excited to be a part of Art! She made her Shunya debut acting in "The Prophet and the Poet" last season. Prior to arriving in Houston last January, Anjana was a core member of theater company Masquerade in Chennai, India for a year and a half, where she performed in many capacities: as an actor, writer, designer, producer and technician. She scripted and performed the monologue "Incestuous Bastard" for the city-wide Solo Festival in March 2010. She has also dabbled in children's theater, adapting and designing various children's stories to the stage, and scripting and directing "Sitayana" for primary and middle school students of Chettinad Hari Shree Vidyalayam in Chennai. Anjana is currently discovering the benefits of being her own boss, but is concerned she may have to fire herself someday.



**Asif Sayani** (Marc) has always enjoyed the creative process. He has been part of Shunya since its inception with the play "Reincarnation." He has also participated in "Everyone Loves A Good Tsunami," and "Merchant On Venice." He is thrilled to be a part of this production. He is blessed to have been in the company of great talent and offers

his thanks to his cast and crew for a truly amazing and memorable experience. He is exceptionally thankful for his family and friends for their amazing support throughout his soul-searching quests. When he is not on stage, Asif practices law with his own firm as a general practitioner in the City of Houston.



**Prateek Karkal (Serge)** began his professional acting career with Shunya Theatre in 2009 and has been a Shunyaiite ever since! With memorable performances in "Everyone Loves a Good Tsunami" (2009), "1-888-DIAL-INDIA" (2011), and "Merchant On Venice" (2011), Prateek is very

excited to be part of "Art" this season. He would like to thank Shunya Theatre, Friends & Family for their amazing support all these years. He is also grateful to Art's cast & crew for believing in him and is honored to be amongst such great talent. Apart from his passion for acting, Prateek has a full-time job as an Avionics Manager-cum-Engineer at Laversab, Inc, a manufacturing company based in Sugar Land, TX. Born in Houston but raised in India, Prateek is happy to be doing what he loves in his birth place, and has a keen desire to venture into TV & Film!



**Karthik Chander (Yvan)** began his career on stage as a stand-up comic in Bangalore, India. Impersonating movie personalities and mimicking their voices was one of his main comic acts. This passion eventually led him to dabble in serious theatrical work. Karthik has been part of Shunya

since 2005 and has acted and produced plays such as "Nagamandala," "Everyone Loves a Good Tsunami," and "Satyagraha." With the regional (Kannada) play "Annavaara Makkalu," Karthik has also forayed into scripting and direction. He has also taken part in various play reading series in and around Houston. In his own words, when he is not acting, he helps transporting boxes (Logistics) from one point to another for Halliburton Energy Services.



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## Upcoming events



Our monthly play reading series resumes  
in June!



August 3 – 12, 2012: Shunya Presents  
*The Adventures of Hanuman*, by Aditi  
Kapil. A youth musical, directed by  
Yaksha Bhatt

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## SAYANI LAW FIRM

ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW

CRIMINAL DEFENSE

CIVIL LITIGATION

ESTATE PLANNING

9301 SOUTHWEST FREEWAY

SUITE 250

HOUSTON, TX 77074

PH: (832) 200-0495

FAX: (832) 200-0493

[WWW.SAYANILAW.COM](http://WWW.SAYANILAW.COM)