YASMINA REZA

**ART**

*Three friends and a white painting. What happens when one of them buys a work of modern art? Is Serge right, and it is worth every cent of the 100,000 Euros that he paid for it? Or is Marc right and it is a piece of shit? And can either of them work out what Yvan really thinks - about anything?*

*Will their 15-year friendship survive the turmoil generated? Are they still friends? Were they ever?*

Director

Peter Harding-Roberts

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| **Performance Dates** | Tuesday 9 May – Saturday 13 May 2023  N.B. There will be a matinee on the Saturday |
| **Performance Venue** | Seligman Theatre, Chapter |
| **Rehearsal Dates** | Throughout February, March & April   * Exact nights TBC; two weeknights and one full weekend day   Get-in: Sunday 7 May  Dress rehearsal: Monday 8 May |
| **Auditions** | Everyman Clubroom, Chapter  FRIDAY 9 DECEMBER  18:00 – 22.00  SUNDAY 11 DECEMBER  10:00 – 13:00 and 14:00 – 17:00  MONDAY 12 DECEMBER  18:00 – 21.30  THURSDAY 15 DECEMBER: Recalls (if needed)  From 18:00 |
| **Book your audition:** | CONTACT EVERYMAN  Email: auditions@everymantheatre.co.uk  *Please state your preferred audition date.* |
| **Preparation:** | Please include as much information as possible on the accompanying form and send it **when booking your audition**.  There is no need to prepare anything in advance of the auditions. You will be provided with text on the day and given time to prepare, with auditions then taking the form of workshops and reading scenes from the script. However, an advance familiarity of the play and the characters will, as always, assist you. If you need any assistance in that regard, please contact the director at peterhardingroberts@gmail.com. |

**ABOUT THE PLAY**

The question is: Are you who you think you are, or are you who your friends think you are?

ART is a multi-award-winning play written by French playwright Yasmina Reza. The English translation opened in the West End in 1996, winning the 1997 Laurence Olivier Award for Best New Comedy. It ran for eight years with the cast changing every six months, starting with Albert Finney, Tom Courtenay and Ken Stott, and finishing with Reece Shearsmith, Steve Pemberton and Mark Gatiss. It opened on Broadway in 1998, winning the Tony Award for Best Play, and went on to a 600-performance run.

*“Art is smart, sharp and wonderfully funny.”*

*“… an actor’s dream, a nonstop crossfire of crackling language, serious issues of life and art…”*

*“… the text leaves its own blank spaces for the actors to fill with technique.”*

*“Oscar Wilde to Yasmina Reza via Joe Orton.”*

**CHARACTER BREAKDOWN**

**CAST**

Three males, playing ages 30s to 60+, who have been friends for over 15 years.

**SERGE *(M, 30-60+)***

“Serge has bought a painting. It’s a canvas about five foot by four. The background is white and, if you screw up your eyes, you can make out some fine white diagonal lines…he’d been lusting after it for several months.”

“He’s done very well for himself, he’s a dermatologist and he’s keen on *art.”*

“You paid a hundred thousand euros for this shit?”

**MARC *(M, 30-60+)***

“Marc’s an intelligent enough fellow… but he’s one of those intellectuals who are not only enemies of modernism but seem to some sort of incomprehensible pride in running it down. In recent years, these nostalgia merchants have become quite breathtakingly arrogant.”

**YVAN *(M, 30-60+)***

“Yvan’s a very tolerant bloke, which, of course, when it comes to relationships, is the worst thing you can be. Yvan’s tolerant because he couldn’t care less.”