

REVIEW

Between the Devil and the Deep Dish Clafouti

By: *hernashville.com*

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Last night a friend and I went to see Tennessee Rep's production of "God of Carnage," the 2009 Tony Award winning play that runs through February 18. Any parent – any honest parent, that is – can find hilarity, irony, familiarity and/or truth between the humorous lines of the four characters.

Two sets of well-to-do parents awkwardly meet for the first time at one of the couple's home to discuss a playground dispute between their respective 11-year-old sons. All is polite and amicable as the parents decide that the boys should also meet to try to work things out...at first.

I don't want to give it all away but let's just say the couples are very different. Veronica is a self-righteous art historian who's writing a book about Darfur while her husband, Michael, is a wholesaler and self-proclaimed Neanderthal. Alan, a cocky and obnoxious attorney and his wife Annette, in "wealth management," are the parents of the boy who hit his schoolmate with a stick.

Playwright Yasmina Reza zeroes in on the inside jokes of upper-class parents, weaving in topics such as politics, racial prejudice, misogyny, narcissism and more and revealing modern society it all its pretentious glory.

What's more, I learned a new word: clafouti. If you don't know what it is, Google it. Or, better yet, go see the play.