

## Art - Westport Country Playhouse, Westport, CT, USA



**Art**, the **Tony award-winning comedy** by **French Playwright and Novelist Yasmina Reza** at the **Westport Country Playhouse** in **Westport, Connecticut**, is brilliant! Plato said "Beauty lies in the eyes of the holder," which could be applied to the play whose plot is the purchase of an expensive painting and the reactions to it by three friends. Fast-paced witty dialogue makes for an evening of hilarity. Directed by **Mark Lamos**, **Art** runs from May 4 - 28, 2016.

This year the Westport Country Playhouse (WCP) opened their 2016 season a bit differently with two plays "in rep" and for those not familiar with the term "in repertory" it refers to "the presentation of multiple plays which can be performed in rotation" and for them that means presenting two plays, **Art**, a comedy written by French playwright Yasmina Reza and **Red**, a drama, written by John Logan, every other day.



**Benton Greene (Marc) and Sean Dugan (Yvan)**

What we especially enjoy about the WCP is that the directors and the casts always push the envelope when it comes to engaging and challenging audiences each season, and seeing the 2016 season's opening plays, **Art**, and **Red**, concurrently, provide audiences with two intriguing looks at the world of art and artists.



**John Skelley (Serge) and Sean Dugan (Yvan)**

**Art**, written by French playwright Yasmina Reza, with translation by Christopher Hampton, premiered in

Created by: Debra C. Argen and Edward F. Nesta

Paris on October 28, 1994, traveled to London's West End in October 1996, ran on Broadway in New York City from February 12, 1998 until August 8, 1999, and won a Tony Award for Best Play. We first saw the play on Broadway in 1998 with its cast of Alan Alda (as *Marc*), Victor Garber (as *Serge*), and Alfred Molina (as *Yvan*) who was nominated for a Tony Award for Best Actor in a Play, and we were enchanted with its premise.



**Benton Greene (Marc) and John Skelley (Serge)**

On May 10, 2016, we saw the play *Art* again, this time at the Westport Country Playhouse and the play still kept us enthralled. **Director Mark Lamos** worked his magic to elicit *tour-de-force* from the well-credentialed talented cast of **Sean Dugan** as *Yvan*, **Benton Greene** as *Marc*, and **John Skelley** as *Serge*.



**Benton Greene (Marc) and John Skelley (Serge)**

Set in the main room of Serge's flat, the plot revolves around Serge's purchase of an expensive painting, and the reactions to it by his friends, Marc and Yvan. The result is a well-crafted look into how people often depend on their friends' opinions to justify and verify their own, and when the views are not enthusiastically shared as one would hope, the results can be disastrous. The fast-paced, witty, and hilarious dialogue cut through human emotions that left us reflective at the end of the play, and had the audience on its feet for a standing ovation. Bravo!

#### **ArtCast**

#### **Sean Dugan**

*Yvan*

**BentonGreene**

*Marc*

**John Skelley**

*Serge*

**The Creative Team**

**John Logan**

*Yasmina Reza*

**Christopher Hampton**

*Translation*

**Mark Lamos**

*Director/Artistic Director*

**Rachel Kenner**

*Props Master*

**Allen Moyer**

*Scenic Design*

**Candice Donnelly**

*Costume Design*

**Matthew Richards**

*Lighting Design*

**David Budries**

*Sound Design*

**Michael Rossmly**

*Fight Director*

**Tara Rubin Casting**

*Casting*

**Megan Smith**

*Production Stage Manager*

**Garrett Rollins**

*Assistant Stage Manage*

**Michael Ross**

*Managing Director*

**John Logan**

*Playwright*

**Performance Information:** Running time for *Art* is 75 minutes with no intermission.



**John Skelley (Serge), Benton Greene (Marc),  
and Sean Dugan (Yvan)**

For information on the play or to purchase tickets, please call the box office at 203-227-4177 or call the toll-free number at 888-927-7529, or visit them on the website at [www.WestportPlayhouse.org](http://www.WestportPlayhouse.org).

The Westport Country Playhouse Box Office is open during Performance Days Tuesday through Friday from 12:00 pm until 8:30 pm, Saturday from 11:00 am until 8:30 pm, Sunday from 11:00 am until 3:30 pm, and is closed on Monday. Non-Performance Days, the Box Office is open Tuesday through Friday from 12:00 pm until 6:00 pm, and is closed on Monday.

The Westport Country Playhouse named as "Theatre Company of the Year" in December 2013 by The Wall Street Journal, opened in the 1930s in a transformed 1835 cow barn, which has, and continues to attract, a "who's who" of prominent actors. Looking at the framed posters of past shows that line the lobby walls was like entering an encyclopedia of the arts. A few of the many renowned actors who have appeared on the stage there include Ethyl Barrymore, Dorothy and Lillian Gish, Tallulah Bankhead, Gloria Swanson, Don Ameche, Hume Cronin and Jessica Tandy, Jane Fonda, Danny Aiello, Blythe Danner, Jill Clayburgh, Richard Dreyfus, Whoopi Goldberg, Liza Minnelli, Bernadette Peters, Lynn Redgrave, Gene Wilder, and Westport residents Joanne Woodward and Paul Newman.

"Westport Country Playhouse, a not-for-profit theater, serves as a cultural nexus for patrons, artists and students and is a treasured resource for the State of Connecticut. There are no boundaries to the creative thinking for future seasons or the kinds of audiences and excitement for theater that Westport Country Playhouse can build."

For information on upcoming events and other performances, please visit the website: [www.WestportPlayhouse.org](http://www.WestportPlayhouse.org).

**Upcoming Performances in 2016 - 2017**

**Plays**

**Dates Running**

*Art/Red* in repertory

May 3 - May 29, 2016

*Buyer and Cellar*

June 14 - July 3, 2016

*The Invisible Hand*

July 19 - August 6, 2016

*What the Butler Saw*

August 23 - September 10, 2016

*Camelot*

October 4 - October 30, 2016

**Script in Hand Reading**

**Date Running**

*The Late Christopher Bean*

June 27, 2016

**Family Festivities**

**Dates Running**

*The Mixed-Up Fairy Tale*

November 20, 2016

*A Very Electric Christmas*

December 18, 2016

*Biscuit*

January 22, 2017

*Twinkle Tames a Dragon*

February 12, 2017

*The Cat in the Hat*

March 19, 2017

*Pete the Cat*

April 2, 2017

## **WESTPORT COUNTRY PLAYHOUSE**

**Westport Country Playhouse**  
**25 Powers Court**  
**Westport, Connecticut 06880**  
**United States**

**Box Office: +1-203-227-4177**

**Toll-Free: +1-888-927-7529**

**Fax: +1-203-454-3239**

**Box Office: +1-203-227-4177**

**Website:**[www.WestportPlayhouse.org](http://www.WestportPlayhouse.org)

**Facebook:**[www.Facebook.com/WestportCountryPlayhouse](https://www.Facebook.com/WestportCountryPlayhouse)

Follow the **Westport Country Playhouse** on **Facebook** at [www.Facebook.com/WestportCountryPlayhouse](https://www.Facebook.com/WestportCountryPlayhouse).

Follow **Luxury Experience** on **Facebook** at [www.Facebook.com/LuxuryExperience](https://www.Facebook.com/LuxuryExperience)

© May 2016. Luxury Experience. [www.LuxuryExperience.com](http://www.LuxuryExperience.com). All rights reserved.