



GUTHRIE
THEATER

60 YEARS



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**GUTHRIE THEATER PRESENTS THE WORLD PREMIERE OF KAREN ZACARÍAS’ *SHANE* IN
CO-PRODUCTION WITH CINCINNATI PLAYHOUSE IN THE PARK, DIRECTED BY BLAKE
ROBISON**

**Co-commissioned by the Guthrie, *Shane* is a bold reimagining of Jack Schaefer’s 1949
Western novel**

**Previews begin Saturday, July 15; Opening on Friday, July 21
Playing through Sunday, August 27 on the McGuire Proscenium Stage**

(Minneapolis/St. Paul) — The Guthrie Theater (Joseph Haj, Artistic Director), in co-production with Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, proudly presents the world premiere of *Shane* by **Karen**

Zacarías, adapted from the novel by Jack Schaefer and directed by Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park Artistic Director **Blake Robison**. Co-commissioned by the Guthrie and Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park in 2021, *Shane* will play July 15 – August 27, 2023, on the McGuire Proscenium Stage. Single tickets start at \$20 for preview performances (July 15–20). All other performances range from \$31 to \$80. Single and group tickets are on sale now through the Box Office at 612.377.2224 (single), 1.877.447.8243 (toll-free), 612.225.6244 (group) or online at guthrietheater.org. Accessibility services (ASL-interpreted, audio-described and open-captioned performances) are available on select dates.

“It is an honor to welcome Karen Zacarías back to the Guthrie and produce her world-premiere adaptation of *Shane* in co-production with Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park. When Karen first described her own relationship to Jack Schaefer’s 1949 novel, and the lens through which she intended to explore its narrative and themes in a new play, I was instantly captivated,” said Artistic Director Joseph Haj. “Under Blake Robison’s direction, *Shane* promises to be a thrilling production for longtime fans of this Western classic and theater newcomers alike as well as a dynamic end to a historic Guthrie season.”

In *Shane*, Zacarías interrogates the assumptions and myths of the American West by transporting audiences to 1889 when Shane, a loner with a dark and mysterious past, rides into the heart of Wyoming’s cattle country. He’s instantly idolized by the young Bob Starrett, whose settler parents welcome Shane into their home and put him to work on their farm, where Shane discovers the family he never had. Meanwhile, hostility grows between the ruthless rancher Fletcher and the settlers starting their farms. When Fletcher plans to squeeze them out, Shane’s dangerous ways resurface as he fights to save the Starretts from ruin.

Shane marks the second play by Zacarías to be produced at the Guthrie, following *Native Gardens* (2017). When asked about her adaptation of Schaefer’s classic novel, Zacarías said, “*Shane* is a little emerald of a story we can look at from many directions and lenses, from the myths of the West to who else was part of the Western frontier.” She added, “It examines the American family, the war between individualism and community, and how we need each other to survive.”

The cast of *Shane* features **Juan Arturo** (Guthrie: debut) as Older Bob/Bobby Starrett, **Ricardo Chavira** (Guthrie: *An Enemy of the People, A Streetcar Named Desire*) as Joe Starrett, **William DeMeritt** (Guthrie: debut) as Shane, **Gabriela Fernandez-Coffey** (Guthrie: debut) as Marian Starrett, **Grant Goodman** (Guthrie: debut) as Ernie Wright/Stark Wilson, **Terry Hempleman** (Guthrie: *Sweat, A Raisin in the Sun, West Side Story*) as Jake Ledyard/Sam Grafton, **Shayna Jackson** (Guthrie: debut) as Winona Stephens, **Bill McCallum** (Guthrie: *The Tempest, West Side Story, Romeo and Juliet*) as Luke Fletcher and **Mikell Sapp** (Guthrie: debut) as Chris Johnson.

The creative team for *Shane* includes **Karen Zacarías** (Playwright), **Blake Robison** (Director), **Lex Liang** (Scenic Designer), **Trevor Bowen** (Costume Designer), **Pablo Santiago** (Lighting

Designer), **Matthew M. Nielsen** (Sound Designer/Composer), **Jocelyn Clarke** (Dramaturg), **Vanessa Severo** (Movement Director), **Sordelet, Inc.: Rick Sordelet and Christian Kelly-Sordelet** (Fight Directors), **Tipiziwin Tolman** (Lakota Language and Cultural Consultant), **Jennifer Liestman** (Resident Casting Director), **Jason Clusman** (Stage Manager), **Lyndsey R. Harter** (Assistant Stage Manager), **Stephanie Klapper, C.S.A.** (NYC Casting Director) and **McCorkle Casting, Ltd.** (NYC Casting Consultant).

Karen Zacarías (Playwright) is currently one of the most-produced Latina playwrights in the U.S. She was born in Mexico to what she calls “an artistic family.” The granddaughter of a well-known movie director and writer, Zacarías was initially reluctant to identify herself as an artist. Her work includes *Native Gardens*, an adaptation of *How the García Girls Lost Their Accents*, *The Book Club Play*, *Mariela in the Desert* and *The Sins of Sor Juana*, which won her The Kennedy Center’s Charles MacArthur Prize for Outstanding New Play.

Blake Robison (Director) is the Osborn Family Producing Artistic Director at Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park. During his 11-season tenure, he has directed the world premieres of Karen Zacarías’ *Native Gardens*, Audrey Cefaly’s *The Last Wide Open* and Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa’s *Abigail/1702*; adaptations such as *Treasure Island*, *Shakespeare in Love*, *A Prayer for Owen Meany*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *The Three Musketeers*, Margaret Atwood’s *Alias Grace* and Stephen King’s *Misery*; and contemporary works such as Amy Herzog’s *4000 Miles*, Karen Zacarias’ *The Book Club Play* and Dana Yeaton’s *Mad River Rising*. Other directing credits include productions at the Guthrie Theater, Arena Stage, Baltimore Center Stage, Milwaukee Rep, Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Utah Shakespeare Festival, PlayMakers Repertory Company, Folger Theatre, Round House Theatre, Clarence Brown Theatre, National Shakespeare Company and Vermont Stage. Robison served on the Theatre Communications Group board for six years and was a finalist for the 2019 Zelda Fichandler Award from SDCF honoring extraordinary work in regional theater.

This production of *Shane* is generously sponsored by Ameriprise Financial.

Land Acknowledgment

The Guthrie Theater would like to acknowledge that it resides on the traditional land of the Dakota People and honors with gratitude the land itself and the people who have stewarded it throughout the generations, including the Ojibwe and other Indigenous nations.

The **GUTHRIE THEATER** (Joseph Haj, Artistic Director) is an American center for theater performance in Minneapolis, Minnesota, celebrating 60 years of artistic excellence during its 2022–2023 Season. Under Haj’s leadership, the Guthrie has continued its dedication to producing a mix of classic and contemporary plays and cultivating the next generation of theater artists. Since its founding in 1963, the theater has set a national standard for excellence in the field and served the people of Minnesota as a vital cultural resource. The Guthrie houses three state-of-

the-art stages, production facilities, classrooms, restaurants and dramatic public spaces.

guthrietheater.org.

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Guthrie Theater
818 South 2nd Street
Minneapolis, MN 55415

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Guthrie Theater Est. 1963

Box Office Hours

Monday: Closed

Tuesday – Sunday: 1–8 p.m. (opens at 10 a.m. for matinees)

On days with no performances or matinees only, the Box Office closes at 6 p.m.

612.377.2224 or 1.877.447.8243 (toll-free)

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