



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CASTING ANNOUNCED FOR *NATIVE GARDENS*,
A HILARIOUS COMEDY BY KAREN ZACARÍAS**

**Featuring Jacqueline Correa, Dan Domingues,
Steve Hendrickson and Sally Wingert**

(*Minneapolis/St. Paul*)—The Guthrie Theater (Joseph Haj, Artistic Director) today announced casting for its summer comedy, *Native Gardens*, a full-length one-act play by Karen Zacarías, directed by Blake Robison. A co-production with Washington D.C.'s Arena Stage, *Native Gardens* will play July 15 - August 20, 2017 on the McGuire Proscenium Stage. Single tickets start at \$15 for preview performances and are on sale now through the Guthrie Box Office at 612.377.2224, toll-free 877.44.STAGE, 612.225.6244 (Group Sales) and online at guthrietheater.org.

"It's a thrill to present Karen's work and to welcome her and Blake to the Guthrie for the first time," stated Artistic Director Joseph Haj. "When I read *Native Gardens*, I found it to be a sheer delight, and I look forward to sharing it with our audiences this summer."

Zacarías and Robison are uniting once again in Minneapolis, a Guthrie debut for both, to revisit this original work. The Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, led by Robison, commissioned Zacarías to write *Native Gardens*, and Robison directed the world premiere in January 2016.

At the production's first rehearsal, Director Blake Robison said, "Karen is one of the few playwrights who knows how to write really great comedy—in the spirit of the good old-fashioned comedies. There's a heightened nature of the interactions between the characters, but there's also a great deal of truth in it. We have the privilege of finding where those meet and to tackle issues we're all grappling with today in a big-hearted, relatable way."

Zacarías was present at first rehearsal, providing a unique first-hand vantage point for the creative team. She said, "I care a lot about my audience. I'm very interested in the activism that comes from audience engagement where people say "no," or gasp or start clapping or booing in the middle of the performance. I'm also interested in how we approach the "dinner buffet" that is change. I've come to the conclusion that sometimes dessert is ignored, and there's a way to get into people's hearts and minds through laughter and comedy. That's something I'm trying to do through my art."

In *Native Gardens*, cultures and gardens clash, turning well-intentioned neighbors into feuding enemies. Pablo, a rising attorney, and doctoral candidate Tania, his very pregnant wife, have just purchased a home next to Frank and Virginia, a well-established D.C. couple with a prize-worthy English garden. But

an impending barbeque for Pablo's colleagues and a delicate dispute over a long-standing fence line soon spirals into an all-out border dispute, exposing both couples' notions of race, taste, class and privilege.

The cast features **Jacqueline Correa** (Guthrie/The Acting Company: *Hamlet, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*; A Guthrie Experience for Actors in Training) as Tania, **Dan Domingues** (Guthrie: debut) as Pablo, **Steve Hendrickson** (Guthrie: *South Pacific, Harvey*) as Frank Butley and **Sally Wingert** (Guthrie: *Sense and Sensibility, Harvey*) as Virginia Butley. The ensemble also includes **Pedro Juan Fonseca** (Guthrie: debut) and **Reyna Rios** (Guthrie: debut) as cast.

The creative team for *Native Gardens* includes **Joseph Tilford** (Scenic Designer), **Kara Harmon** (Costume Designer), **Xavier Pierce** (Lighting Designer), **Scott W. Edwards** (Sound Designer), **Joe Payne** (Original Sound Design), **Lucinda Holshue** (Vocal Coach), **Jo Holcomb** (Dramaturg), **Michele Hossle** (Stage Manager), **Jason Clusman** (Assistant Stage Manager) and **AnaSofía Villanueva** (Assistant Director).

Native Gardens had its world premiere in January 2016 at the Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park. This is the first production of Zacarías' work at the Guthrie and the second play by a Latina playwright on a Guthrie mainstage, following Lillian Garret-Groag's *The Magic Fire* in the 1998-99 season. This co-production of *Native Gardens* will play at Washington D.C.'s Arena Stage, September 15 – October 22.

KAREN ZACARÍAS (Playwright) was named by *American Theatre* as one of the most produced playwrights in the USA. Her plays include *Destiny of Desire*, *Into the Beautiful North* (adapted from the book by Luis Alberto Urrea), *The Book Club Play*, *Just Like Us* (adapted from the book by Helen Thorpe), *Legacy of Light*, *Mariela in the Desert*, *The Sins of Sor Juana*, *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents* (adapted from the book by Julia Alvarez). Her musicals for young audiences with composer Debbie Wicks la Puma include *Ella Enchanted*, *Oliverio: A Brazilian Twist*, *Jane of the Jungle*, *Einstein is a Dummy*, *Looking for Roberto Clemente*, *Cinderella Eats Rice and Beans*, *Ferdinand the Bull* and *Frida Libre*, and *Chasing George Washington*. Her plays have premiered at the Goodman Theater, The Kennedy Center for Performing Arts, Arena Stage, Cincinnati Playhouse, La Jolla Playhouse, Awards include: New Voices Award, 2010 Sternberg Citation-Best New Play, Paul Aneillo Award, National Francesca Primus Prize, New Voices Award, National Latino Play Award, Finalist Susan Blackburn and Helen Hayes for Outstanding New Play. Zacarías is also a founder of the Latinx Theater Commons—a national network of theater professionals seeking to update the American narrative to include Latinx stories, and Young Playwrights' Theater, an award-winning theater company that teaches playwriting in local public schools in Washington, D.C. YPT won the 2010 National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award from the White House as one of the most innovative arts programs in the nation.

BLAKE ROBISON (Director) is artistic director of the Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park. At the Playhouse, he directed the world premiere of *Native Gardens*, a stage adaptation of John Irving's *A Prayer for Owen Meany*, *Mad River Rising*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Tenderly: The Rosemary Clooney Musical*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *4000 Miles*, *The Three Musketeers*, *The Book Club Play* and the world premiere of Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa's *Abigail/1702*. Other directing includes productions at Milwaukee Repertory Theater, The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Utah Shakespeare Festival, PlayMaker's Repertory Company and the Folger Theatre, among others.

Native Gardens begins July 15 and continues through August 20, 2017 on the McGuire Proscenium Stage. Single tickets start at \$15 for preview performances and are now on sale through the Box Office at 612.377.2224, toll-free 877.44.STAGE, 612.225.6244 (Group Sales) and online at guthrietheater.org.

THE GUTHRIE THEATER (Joseph Haj, Artistic Director) was founded by Sir Tyrone Guthrie in 1963 and is an American center for theater performance, production, education and professional training, dedicated to producing the great works of dramatic literature and to cultivating the next generation of theater artists. Under Haj's leadership, the Guthrie produces a mix of classic and contemporary plays on three stages, and continues to set a national standard for excellence in theatrical production and performance. In 2006, the Guthrie opened its new home on the banks of the Mississippi River in Minneapolis. Designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Jean Nouvel, the Guthrie Theater houses three state-of-the-art stages, production facilities, classrooms, full-service restaurants and dramatic public lobbies. guthrietheater.org

FACT SHEET

Native Gardens

by Karen Zacarías
directed by Blake Robison

About the show: In this brilliant new comedy, cultures and gardens clash, turning well-intentioned neighbors into feuding enemies. Pablo, a rising attorney, and doctoral candidate Tania, his very pregnant wife, have just purchased a home next to Frank and Virginia, a well-established D.C. couple with a prize-worthy English garden. But an impending barbeque for Pablo's colleagues and a delicate dispute over a long-standing fence line soon spirals into an all-out border dispute, exposing both couples' notions of race, taste, class and privilege.

Cast: Jacqueline Correa (Tania), Dan Domingues, (Pablo), Steve Hendrickson (Frank Butley), Sally Wingert (Virginia Butley). Pedro Juan Fonseca and Reyna Rios as cast.

Creative Team: Blake Robison (Director), Joseph Tilford (Scenic Designer), Kara Harmon (Costume Designer), Xavier Pierce (Lighting Designer), Scott W. Edwards (Sound Designer), Lucinda Holshue (Vocal Coach), Jo Holcomb (Dramaturg), Michele Hossle (Stage Manager), Jason Clusman (Assistant Stage Manager) and AnaSofía Villanueva (Assistant Director).

Performance Dates: July 15 - August 20, 2017 on the McGuire Proscenium Stage

Opening Night: Friday, July 21 at 7:30 p.m.

Performance Times: Tuesdays – Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.; select Sundays at 7 p.m.; matinees on select Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays at 1 p.m. Visit guthrietheater.org for the complete performance schedule.

Location: Guthrie Theater – McGuire Proscenium Stage
818 South 2nd Street, Minneapolis, MN 55415

Pricing: Single tickets start at \$34 (\$15 for previews)
(Discounts for students and seniors available)

Tickets: Tickets may be purchased online at guthrietheater.org
Guthrie Box Office: 612.377.2224 or 877.44.STAGE
Box Office hours: 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. (11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on non-performance days)
Group Sales: 612.225.6244 or 877.225.6211

RELATED EVENTS

All events will be held at the Guthrie Theater (818 South 2nd Street, Minneapolis) unless otherwise noted.

Post-Play Discussions

Stay late on these dates for a discussion with the artists who bring the show to life.

Sunday, July 23 at 1 p.m.
Tuesday, July 25 at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, July 30 at 1 p.m.
Saturday, August 12 at 1 p.m.
Saturday, August 19 at 1 p.m.

ACCESS DATES

ASL Performances

Friday, August 11 at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, August 12 at 1 p.m.

Audio Described Performances

Friday, August 11 at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, August 12 at 1 p.m.

Open Captioned Performances

Saturday, August 5 at 1 p.m.
Friday, August 11 at 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, August 16 at 1 p.m.

If you have specific program questions or need an accommodation, please contact the Accessibility Office by phone at 612.225.6390 (voice) or 612.225.6391 (TTY) or email at accessibility@guthrietheater.org.

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