



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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For more information contact:

Guthrie: Marita Meinerts Albinson, 612.225.6142, [maritaa@guthrietheater.org](mailto:maritaa@guthrietheater.org)  
Mixed Blood: Jack Reuler, 612.338.2155, [pr@mixedblood.com](mailto:pr@mixedblood.com)

**The Guthrie Theater and Mixed Blood Theatre partner to present  
ENACTING THE DREAM: Select Readings from Karen Zacarías' *Just Like Us*  
and a Community Conversation about the DREAM Act**

**A Free Community Gathering on Tuesday, January 9 at 7 p.m.  
at Mixed Blood Theatre, 1501 South 4th Street in Minneapolis**

(*Minneapolis/St. Paul*)—The Guthrie Theater (Joseph Haj, Artistic Director) and Mixed Blood Theatre (Jack Reuler, Artistic Director) today announced their partnership to present **Enacting the Dream**: Select Readings from Karen Zacarías' *Just Like Us* and a Community Conversation about the DREAM Act (Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act) on Tuesday, January 9 at 7 p.m. at Mixed Blood Theatre, 1501 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Minneapolis. **Enacting the Dream** is an opportunity to reflect upon the lived realities of the roughly 800,000 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients living in the United States. The event is free, but reservations are required through the Guthrie Box Office at 612.377.2224, toll-free 877.44.STAGE, or online at [guthrietheater.org](http://guthrietheater.org). There will be an RSVP check-in at Mixed Blood Theater on the evening of the event. Due to limited capacity, there is a two-person limit per reservation.

**Enacting the Dream** features select readings from *Native Gardens* author Karen Zacarías' play *Just Like Us* followed by a panel discussion including public officials, immigration experts and DREAMers. As a March 5 deadline looms before the bulk of the DACA permits begin to expire, well over 6,000 DREAMers living in Minnesota remain unsure of their future status in the United States. **Enacting the Dream** provides the opportunity to build empathy and awareness about the challenges faced by those whose path to citizenship remains unclear.

Mixed Blood Artistic Director Jack Reuler said, "The Guthrie and Mixed Blood offer complementary platforms from which to observe and decry societal wrongdoings and offer affirming alternatives. **Enacting the Dream** makes the political personal. Issues of immigration and concerns of immigrants and refugees occur daily on Mixed Blood's block (on which 4,500 people from 65 countries reside). Since 1989, Mixed Blood has produced theater by, about, for, and with Latinos in Spanish and English with bilingual casts, which led me to see the heart-wrenching world premiere of *Just Like Us* in Denver in 2013. I was moved by its coming-of-age storytelling of four Latina friends in the shadow of disparate immigration consequences. As one cast member said, 'It's about finding the courage to build your own destiny.' Societal progress occurs because of an aggregation of incremental changes. **Enacting the Dream** is an important ingredient in that process."

“Our theaters make really lousy forts, but they make very good bridges,” echoes Guthrie Theater Artistic Director Joseph Haj. “Hosting these free community Happenings where listening and dialogue provide a safe backdrop for exploration and learning is an important part of our mission at the Guthrie Theater. For **Enacting the Dream**, the Guthrie is pleased to partner with Mixed Blood, which champions equity and animates social change through its artistry, community relationships and universal access.”

Based on Helen Thorpe’s bestselling book, *Just Like Us* is a documentary-style play that follows four overachieving Latina teenagers in Denver, two of whom are documented and two who are not. Their close-knit friendships begin to unravel when immigration status dictates the girls’ opportunities, or lack thereof. When a political firestorm arises, each girl’s future becomes increasingly complicated. *Just Like Us* questions what makes us American.

**Enacting the Dream**, a Guthrie Happening, is sponsored in part by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. This generous support allows the Guthrie to continue to explore how Happenings (periodic and timely events that are responsive to the world around us) take new forms in order to best serve Twin Cities communities.

**THE GUTHRIE THEATER** (Joseph Haj, Artistic Director) 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 is guided by four core values: Artistic Excellence; Community; Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; and Fiscal Responsibility. [guthrietheater.org](http://guthrietheater.org)

**MIXED BLOOD THEATRE** (Jack Reuler, Artistic Director) has invited the global village into its audience and onto its stage for its unique brand of provocative, inclusive and predictably unpredictable theater since 1976. Using theater to illustrate and animate, Mixed Blood models pluralism in pursuit of interconnections, shared humanity and engaged citizenry. [mixedblood.com](http://mixedblood.com)

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