

NATIVE GARDENS ILLINOIS THEATRE

By Karen Zacarías Aaron Muñoz and J.W. Morrissette, co-directors Thursday-Saturday, October 14-16, 2021, at 7:30pm Wednesday-Friday, October 20-22, 2021, at 7:30pm Saturday, October 23, 2021, at 2pm Colwell Playhouse

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Tonight's performance of *Native Gardens* is sponsored in part by a generous gift from

SUSAN & MICHAEL HANEY

PROGRAM

NATIVE GARDENS ILLINOIS THEATRE

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- TIME: Present Day
- PLACE: The back of two houses and their gardens in Washington, DC
- Scene 1: Monday Afternoon
- Scene 2: Later that Evening
- Scene 3: Tuesday Morning
- Scene 4: Wednesday Morning
- Scene 5: Wednesday Night
- Scene 6: Thursday
- Scene 7: Thursday Evening
- Scene 8: Later that Night
- Scene 9: Friday Morning
- Scene 10: Friday Afternoon
- Scene 11: Later that Evening

This performance will be presented with no intermission.

This production contains adult language.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The difference between a flower and a weed . . . is a judgment. —Unknown

During the pandemic, we haven't been able to see a lot of our friends, and we weren't able to see our coworkers or extended family. The people we interacted with most, face-to-face (or maskto-mask), were our neighbors. Being able to wave across the street at someone walking their dog, or seeing kids interact excitedly over the prospect of having a new playmate were daily bright spots. As we try to navigate the divide between left and right, blue and red, cities and towns, social media and journalism, one thing that stays constant is the idea of being neighborly. It is the most local of being local. Like the people in the house or apartment next door, theatre is inherently local. Only your neighbors in the audience tonight will be able to hear you laugh, groan, and gasp. I take comfort that we are all sharing a story about what it means to be neighborly and what it means to live next to each other in this tumultuous time. Being a good neighbor doesn't mean that we don't hold each other accountable or have tough conversations. It also doesn't mean that we can't help each other grow or laugh at ourselves. It does mean that we are surrounded by other people living their lives, and like theatre, those constant interactions with our neighbors remind us of what it means to be human.

-Aaron Muñoz, co-director

NATIVE GARDENS

PLAYWRIGHT Karen Zacarias

CO-DIRECTORS Aaron Muñoz J.W. Morrissette

SCENIC DESIGNER Blaine Fuson

COSTUME DESIGNER Akemi Garcia

LIGHTING DESIGNER Quinn Schuster **SOUND DESIGNER** Kay Sierra Lee

MEDIA DESIGNER lan Olson

FIGHT CONSULTANT Zev Steinrock

STAGE MANAGER Duncan McMillan

CAST

TANIA DEL VALLE Amy Toruño

PABLO DEL VALLE Daniel Rivera

VIRGINIA BUTLEY Rachael Fox*

FRANK BUTLEY Jimmy Ladd

ENSEMBLE Gracie Benson ENSEMBLE/UNDERSTUDY FOR TANIA DEL VALLE Jai Torres

ENSEMBLE/UNDERSTUDY FOR PABLO DEL VALLE Tony Garcia

UNDERSTUDY FOR VIRGINIA BUTLEY Emily Albert-Stauning

ENSEMBLE/UNDERSTUDY FOR FRANK BUTLEY Jonathan Kaplan

*Appears through the courtesy of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.



PROFILES



Emily Albert-Stauning, she/ her, (Beth) is a Senior Chancellor Scholar studying acting (BFA) and neuroscience (BS) at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She has performed in over 40 film, theatre and television productions across the

Midwest. In 2016, she received an Emmy Award for Best Children's TV for hosting *Into the Outdoors*. During her time at the University of Illinois, she has been honored to perform in Lyric Theatre @ Illinois' *Crazy For You* (Lottie Child) and Illinois Theatre's *Lysistrata* (Myrrhine), *She Kills Monsters* (Fariah), *We're All Gonna Die Here* (Felicity), and *Native Gardens* (Ensemble/Virginia US). Albert-Stauning is also a singer-songwriter and recording artist (Sony Records 2016) and the host of the *Made to Lead* podcast by the Illinois Leadership Center.



Gracie Benson, she/her (Ensemble) is currently a sophomore pursuing a BFA in acting at the University of Illinois. Before transferring to Illinois, she studied acting at Loyola University Chicago. This is her first production with Illinois, but she has taken part

in many productions with Libertyville High School prior to joining the Illinois program, including *Love/Sick* (Kelly), *The Laramie Project* (Ensemble), and *Romeo and Juliet* (Benvolio). In addition to these performances, she has performed with her local community theatre, Improv Playhouse, in *The Diary of Anne Frank* (Anne Frank), *You Can't* Take It with You (Essie), and A Thousand Paper Cranes (Sadako). When not onstage, she enjoys watching true crime television shows, reading, and walking her dog.



Rachael Fox (Virginia Butley) is a fourth-year MFA actor at the University of Illinois. Off-Broadway credits include The Inferno, The King's Masquerade, and The Forgotten (Sleep No More). Regional credits include Blood at the Root and Commedia

(Chautauqua Theatre Company); Why Did Desdemona Love the Moor? (Provincetown Tennessee Williams Festival and St. Louis Tennessee Williams Festival): Much Ado About Nothing, The Learned Ladies, Tovarich, As You Like It, Trelawny of the Wells, Measure for Measure, Macbeth, and A Midsummer Night's Dream (Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey); King Lear, Much Ado About Nothing, and Tame That (Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre). Film credits include the recurring role of Charlie on the award-winning web series Here We Wait as well as independent films The Sound of III Days, Manhattan, and Campus Life with Martin Scorsese and Ray Liotta. Her Illinois Theatre credits include Why Did Desdemona Love the Moor?, Curse of the Starving Class, Lysistrata, Titus Andronicus, Because I Am Your Queen, and Tame That.



Tony Garcia, he/him, (Ensemble, Pablo Del Valle u/s) is a transfer student from the southern region of Chicago. He is currently pursuing his BFA in acting at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Garcia started college at the University of Illinois Chicago

until he transferred to his community college, Prairie State College, where he played Edwin Greener and The Vagrant in *Miss Holmes*. From there, he transferred to Illinois to perform as Arnold in A Moth to the Flame at the Illinois annual Impulse 24/7. He has also co-written for *Red Ball*, which premiered at Krannert Center, and is also the lead role, Sean, in the local film *Chase* and *Shep's Summer Camp of Horrors*. Apart from his acting, Garcia also likes to work independently on his music and fitness.



Jonathan Kaplan (Ensemble, Frank Butley u/s) is a sophomore pursuing his BFA in acting at the University of Illinois. *Native Gardens* is his debut performance with Illinois Theatre. His past theatre credits include high school productions of

Matilda: The Musical (Miss Trunchbull), Into the Woods (Baker), and Shakespeare in Love (Henslowe). When not acting on stage, Kaplan spends his free time composing music, both instrumental and lyrical.



Jimmy Ladd, he/him, (Frank Butley) is a senior BFA acting student at the University of Illinois. His credits since coming to Illinois include *Fugitives in America* (multiple roles) and *Gay Card* (Logan). Before moving to Urbana, his acting credits consisted of

Holler If You Hear Me (J. Edgar Hoover) with Leading Man Productions, By the Way Meet Vera Stark (Mr. Slasvick/Brad Donovan) with the Loop Players, Midsummer Night's Dream (Demetrious) with the Loop Players, and Farinelli and The King (Jasper) at The Station Theatre.



Daniel Alexander Rivera, he/ him, (Pablo Del Valle) is an MFA acting candidate in his final year at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. A Los Angeles native, Rivera holds a BA in theatre arts from California State University, Northridge. Prior

University of Illinois credits include Hit the Wall (Tano), Titus Andronicus (Demetrius), and References to Salvador Dali Make Me Hot (Benito). Los Angeles credits include The Last Days of Judas Iscariot (Judas) and Shakespeare's Rose Queen (Ensemble) with the Ensemble Shakespeare Theatre Company.



Jailene Torres, she/her, (Ensemble, Tania Del Valle u/s) is currently a sophomore studying acting at the University of Illinois. Native Gardens is her debut at Krannert Center. She is also an understudy for this fall's production of *Redline*

Collection. Torres performed all throughout her middle school and high school career in Chicago, Illinois. Her most notable performances include Titania in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Lilith in *She Kills Monsters* by Qui Nguyen, and Elvira in *Blithe Spirit* by Noel Coward. Torres is a proud queer Latina artist who embraces her sexuality and her Puerto Rican culture. When she's not acting, she loves to do her makeup, cook, and spend time with friends and family.



Amy Toruño (Tania Del Valle) is a Nicaraguan native raised in Miami, Florida. She holds a BA from The University of lowa and is a current MFA theatre candidate at the University of Illinois. Her favorite credits include Fraulein Kost in *Cabaret*, Miss

B in Back in The Day, and Gabriela in References to Salvador Dalí Make Me Hot. Toruño is also a published author of a collection of poems The F*uckboy Chronicles as well as the 2021 winner of The Kennedy Center's Latinx Playwright award.

Karen Zacarías (Playwright) has won awards for many of her works including the sold-out/ extended comedy *The Book Club Play*, the sold-out world premiere drama *Just Like Us* (adapted from the book by Helen Thorpe) at Denver Theater Center, the Steinberg-citation award play *Legacy of Light*, the Francesca Primus Award-winning play Mariela in the Desert, the Helen Hayes Award-winning play The Sins of Sor Juana, and the adaptation of Julia Alvarez's How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents. She also has a piece in the Arena Stage premiere of Our War. Her TYA musicals with composer Debbie Wicks la Puma include Jane of the Jungle, Einstein Is a Dummy, Looking for Roberto Clemente, Cinderella Eats Rice and Beans, Ferdinand the Bull, and Frida Libre. Her musical Chasing George Washington premiered at The Kennedy Center for Performing Arts and went on a national tour. Her script was then adapted into a book by Scholastic with a foreword by First Lady Michelle Obama. Zacarías is currently working on the adaptation of Edith Wharton's The Age of Innocence, a drama for Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and a Brazilianthemed Oliver Twist musical: Oliverio: A Brazilian Twist on Dickens for the Kennedy Center. Her libretto of The Sun Also Rises for the Washington Ballet received accolades in The New York Times. and she is currently writing the libretto for The Legend of Sleepy Hollow with Washington Ballet Artistic Director Septime Webre. She is proud to be currently commissioned to write new plays for Arena Stage, Cincinnati Playhouse, Ford's Theatre, Adventure Theatre, and First Stage. Her plays have been produced at The John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts, Arena Stage, The Goodman Theatre, Round House Theatre, The Denver Center, Alliance Theatre, Imagination Stage, GALA Hispanic Theatre, Berkshire Theatre Festival, South Coast Rep, La Jolla Playhouse, Cleveland Playhouse, San Jose Repertory Theatre, GEVA Thearer, Horizon's Theatre, People's Light and Theatre, Walnut Street Theatre, Arden Theatre, Milagro Theatre, Teatro Vista, Aurora Theatre, and many more. Her awards include: New Voices Award, 2010 Steinberg Citation-Best New Play, Paul Aneillo Award, National Francesca Primus Prize, New Voices Award, National Latino Play Award, Finalist

Susan Blackburn, Helen Hayes for Outstanding New Play. Zacarías is the first playwright-inresidence at Arena Stage in Washington, DC, and has taught playwriting at Georgetown University. She is the founder of Young Playwrights' Theater (YPT), an award-winning theatre company that teaches playwriting in local public schools in Washington, DC. 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. The YPT curriculum is currently being used in public schools in DC, Virginia, Maryland, New Orleans, Detroit, and Texas and is published on Amazon as "Write to Dream." She is represented by the Graham Agency and published by Dramatic Publishing. Karen. She has a BA with distinction from Stanford University and a Master in Creative Writing from Boston University and is fluent in English and Spanish and highly proficient in Danish and French. Born in Mexico, Zacarías now lives in Washington, DC, with her husband and three children.

J.W. Morrissette, he/him, (Co-Director) is the Associate Head of the Department of Theatre at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and has served in the Department of Theatre for 26 years. He has served as chair of the BFA Theatre Studies Program, the Assistant Head for Academic Programs, as well as the Assistant Program Coordinator for INNER VOICES Social Issues Theatre. He worked for Stuart Howard and Associates Casting in New York interning as a casting assistant for many Broadway productions and television commercials. Morrissette has taught and directed for the past 23 years with the summer Theatre Department at Interlochen Center for the Arts. At the University of Illinois, his classes include Acting, Directing, Introduction to Theatre Arts, and Broadway Musicals. He has been integral in developing components for the online course offerings in the department 10

as well as supervising all senior Theatre Studies thesis projects. He has spent several summers acting with the Utah Shakespeare Festival and the Interlochen Shakespeare Festival and directs professionally when time allows. He has received the Provost's Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award as well as the College of Fine and Applied Arts Specialized Faculty Award for Excellence at the University of Illinois.

Aaron Muñoz (Co-Director) is an Assistant Professor of Acting at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Illinois Theatre: Tocaya (Director) by Nancy García Loza, A New Play Workshop, Director of Performance for last season's *Folxtales*, and the one-night only performance as Daddy Ubu in Pshitter! A Drinking Song for the Year of Our Lord 2020. Other directing credits include 2 Households, 2 Assholes: Shakespeare's R & J (New York International Fringe Festival), Fronteras Americanas (Humanitarian Theatre), Halloween Campfire (Verge Theatre) and the short film Tennis Tips with Freddy Love (Nashville Film Festival). Muñoz is the Founder and Artistic Director of Nashville Story Garden, an incubator for original plays, films, and new media. He holds a BA from Columbia College Chicago and an MFA from Alabama Shakespeare Festival's Professional Actor Training Program.

Blaine Fuson, she/her, (Scenic Designer) is currently a senior pursuing a BFA in scenic design at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Her Illinois Theatre credits include *Great Scenes From American Kitchen Sink Theatre* (Scenic Design), *Titus Andronicus* (Assistant Scenic Design), and *Because I Am Your Queen* (Assistant Scenic Design). She is also the Scenic Charge for Lyric Theatre's upcoming production of *Fun Home.* This past summer she had the pleasure of interning as part of the scenic design team at The Muny, the Municipal Opera of St. Louis. Akemi Garcia (Costume Designer) is currently a senior pursuing a BFA in costume design and technology at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Their recent Krannert Center credits include March Dance (Assistant Designer/ Wardrobe Head), Tryon Lyric Scenes (Costume Coordinator), Turn of the Screw (Wardrobe Crew), and Cabaret (Wardrobe Crew). Outside of costume design, Garcia enjoys cosplaying as their favorite video game/anime character at local comic conventions.

Duncan McMillan, he/him, (Stage Manager) is a senior pursuing his BFA in stage management at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. He has previously served as the stage manager for Illinois Theatre's *Why Did Desdemona Love the Moor*? and was the assistant stage manager for Illinois Theatre's productions of *Lysistrata* and *Hit the Wall* and Lyric Theatre @ Illinois' production of *The Turn of the Screw*. This past summer, McMillan was the production intern for The Great Lakes Center for the Arts where he also had the opportunity to be the assistant stage manager for their production of *Always, Patsy Cline* with the Taproot Theatre Company. In his spare time, he enjoys playing board games and taking care of his plants.

Ian Olson, he/him, (Media Designer) is currently a first-year graduate student pursuing a master's in media design at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He has worked previously as an actor and as the Media and Sound Shop manager at Hamline University in St. Paul, Minnesota. There, he worked on multiple projects that ranged from creating projections for student pieces to being the cinematographer and editor for multiple campus short films (*Sonder*, *365 Days/365 Plays, 2020: What We Saw, What We Said*, and others). In his free time, he loves to create daily digital art for his Instagram @ ianolson_art; he is currently over 500 days in and plans to reach at least 1,000 days, then go from there. His dream goal is to one day work in the cinema field, whether it be acting in front of a camera or being the one behind it.

Quinn D Schuster, he/him, (Lighting Designer) is a theatrical lighting designer currently based in the Central Illinois region. Schuster recently became an alumnus of the theatre design and technology Bachelor of Arts program at San Diego State University, emphasizing in lighting design. He has worked in every aspect of lighting design and technology, from touring Broadway musicals to storefront community theatre. Notably, Schuster worked as resident designer for both House of Blues San Diego and Observatory North Park concert venues in San Diego, California. Recent design credits include The Heist: A Theatrical Escape Room at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts and Cendrillon for Opera in the Ozarks. Schuster has always sought expression through storytelling and artistic excellence. He enjoys being a legislative advocate for educational theatre programs and organized labor. In his off time, he loves working on cars and going on long bike rides.

Kayla Sierra-Lee (Sound Designer) is a third-year sound design MFA at the University of Illinois. While *Native Gardens* is their first large theatre design, they previously designed and engineered March Dance 2021 and Tryon Scenes, engineered November Dance 2020 and *Titus Andronicus*, and was the mix engineer for *Cabaret* and *Ordinary Days*. While away from Krannert Center, Sierra-Lee is a sound designer and mix engineer at Circa '21 and Quad City Music Guild and was previously a technician at Walt Disney World.

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The University of Illinois System carries out its mission in its namesake state, which includes the traditional territory of the Peoria, Kaskaskia, Piankashaw, Wea, Miami, Mascoutin, Odawa, Sauk, Mesquaki, Kickapoo, Potawatomi, Ojibwe, Menominee, Ho-Chunk, and Chickasaw Nations. These lands continue to carry the stories of these Nations and their struggles for survival and identity.

As a land-grant institution, the University of Illinois has a particular responsibility to acknowledge the peoples of these lands, as well as the histories of dispossession that have allowed for the growth of this institution for the past 150 years. We are also obligated to reflect on and actively address these histories and the role that this university has played in shaping them. This acknowledgement and the centering of Native peoples is a start as we move forward for the next 150 years.

Krannert Center affirms the commitment by the university to move beyond these statements, toward building deeper relationships and taking actions that uphold and preserve Indigenous rights and cultural equity.

As we gather to experience this performance, we have an opportunity to reflect on the ways that systems of oppression have shaped our society. We can work together to create systems that support human dignity, establish equity, strengthen cross-cultural relationships, and draw upon the creative capacity of all people that make up this community, state, nation, and world.

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We are living through history. In the midst of it, Illinois Theatre continues to be a leader in producing art that helps us know ourselves and the world we live in. We are training students today to imagine the art of tomorrow. If you'd like to help, we welcome you as a Friend of Illinois Theatre. We'll use your financial contributions to support our students through scholarships, visiting artist residencies, new work development, and production. Help Illinois Theatre make theatre that matters today, tomorrow, and beyond.

Contributions to Friends of Illinois Theatre can be made by visiting **theatre.illinois.edu/giving**, scanning the QR code, or by check payable to UIF/Friends of Illinois Theatre and sent to: University of Illinois Foundation, PO Box 3429, Champaign, IL 61826-3429.



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Rick Scholwin, Audio Director Alec LaBau, Assistant Audio Director/ Video Director

Costume Shop

Andrea Bouck, Costume Director Richard Gregg, Costume Rentals Director Tonya Bernstein, Assistant Costume Shop Manager April McKinnis, EB McTigue, Cutters/Drapers Julianna Steitz. Theatrical Stitcher

Lighting Department

Michael W. Williams, Lighting Director Lisa Kidd, Associate Lighting Director

Properties Department

Adriane Binky Donley, Properties Director Megan Dietrich, Assistant Properties Director and Rentals Coordinator Kira Lyon, Assistant Properties Director

Scene Shop

Ryan Schultz, Technical Director Tatsuya Ito, Associate Technical Director Bill Kephart, Scene Shop Chief Clerk Dylan Kind, Theatrical Scene Shop Coordinator Vincent Meade, Theatrical Scene Shop Assistant Bobby Reynolds, Theatrical Scene Shop Assistant

Stage Management

Cynthia Kocher, Production Stage Manager

WE'RE SO GLAD YOU'RE AT THE CENTER

We work to create the best possible setting for the experiences you seek and find here.

NECESSARIES

Restrooms are located in the foyers of Foellinger Great Hall, Tryon Festival Theatre, and Colwell Playhouse; the east entrances on the Lobby level; and in each elevator lobby on Level 1 and Level 3. Lobby restrooms and one restroom in each elevator lobby are fully accessible and contain baby-changing stations.

Ushers will be happy to provide you cough drops courtesy of St. Joseph Apothecary, or disposable foam earplugs if the place starts rockin'.

If you or a companion needs medical assistance, contact an usher or other staff member.

Please take a moment before the performance to note the theatre exits nearest to you. If it becomes necessary to evacuate the theatre, please remain calm, follow the instructions of the house staff, and exit in an orderly fashion to the appropriate safe meeting location, which will be announced to you.

SIGHTS AND SOUNDS

The use of cell phones, cameras, and recording devices during performances is prohibited unless otherwise announced from the stage.

LATE ARRIVALS

As a courtesy to performers and audience members, latecomers will be seated only at times selected in advance by the artist. Should you find that you've arrived late to a performance, our Patron Services staff will keep you informed about the earliest seating opportunity.

LOST ITEMS

If you are in need of Lost and Found, please visit the Patron Services counter. We will do our best to reunite object and owner!

TICKET RETURNS

If you find you can't attend a performance, please contact the Ticket Office in advance, preferably by 6pm the day before the performance (kran-tix@illinois.edu or 217.333.6280). We never charge a handling fee on ticket transactions.

SERVICES

Krannert Center for the Performing Arts is committed to making experiences accessible for all patrons, and we are delighted to provide a number of services to assist you. Krannert Center is equipped with an assisted listening system, wheelchair-accessible and no-step/few-step seating, and large-print programs, Braille programs, and American Sign Language interpreters are available with three weeks' advance notice.

For assistance regarding your visit, please email: Para ayuda en relación con su visita, favor de enviar un email a:

Pour vous aider dans votre visite, prière de nous envoyer un courriel à:

欢迎!如若您对您的造访需要帮助,请发送电子邮件至:

स्वागत हे! अगर आपको अपने रहने के लिए मदद चाहिए, ईमेल कीजिए:

환영합니다! 방문에 관해 도움이 필요하실 때에는... 에게 이메일로 문의하시기 바랍니다:

PATRONSERVICES@KRANNERTCENTER.ILLINOIS.EDU 217.333.9716



DINING

Our lobby services are open day and evening to serve you:



Intermezzo cafe

SUSTAINABLE SPECIALS + EVERYDAY INDULGENCES



SMOOTH SELECTIONS + ARTISANAL APPETIZERS

WHY WAIT?

Order before you head into the theatre, and we'll have your food and beverages waiting for you at intermission or after the show.

COME AS YOU ARE. LEAVE DIFFERENT.



STUDEN

U OF

\$10

U of I students, come on in. In whatever clothes, whatever state of mind, from whatever world of experience, you are welcome here. We don't have a dress code, we don't have an opinion code, and we want the Center to be your kind of place. Because of the vital support of Krannert Center donors and the Krannert Center U of I student fee, U of I students never pay more than \$10 for a ticket, and dozens of events each year are completely free.

Your presence helps to make Krannert Center a place like nowhere else—and what you can experience here makes your education like nobody else's. If you are inspired by what you find here, invite others to join you.

When you come to Krannert Center, we promise that you'll leave different: refreshed, reaffirmed, renewed!