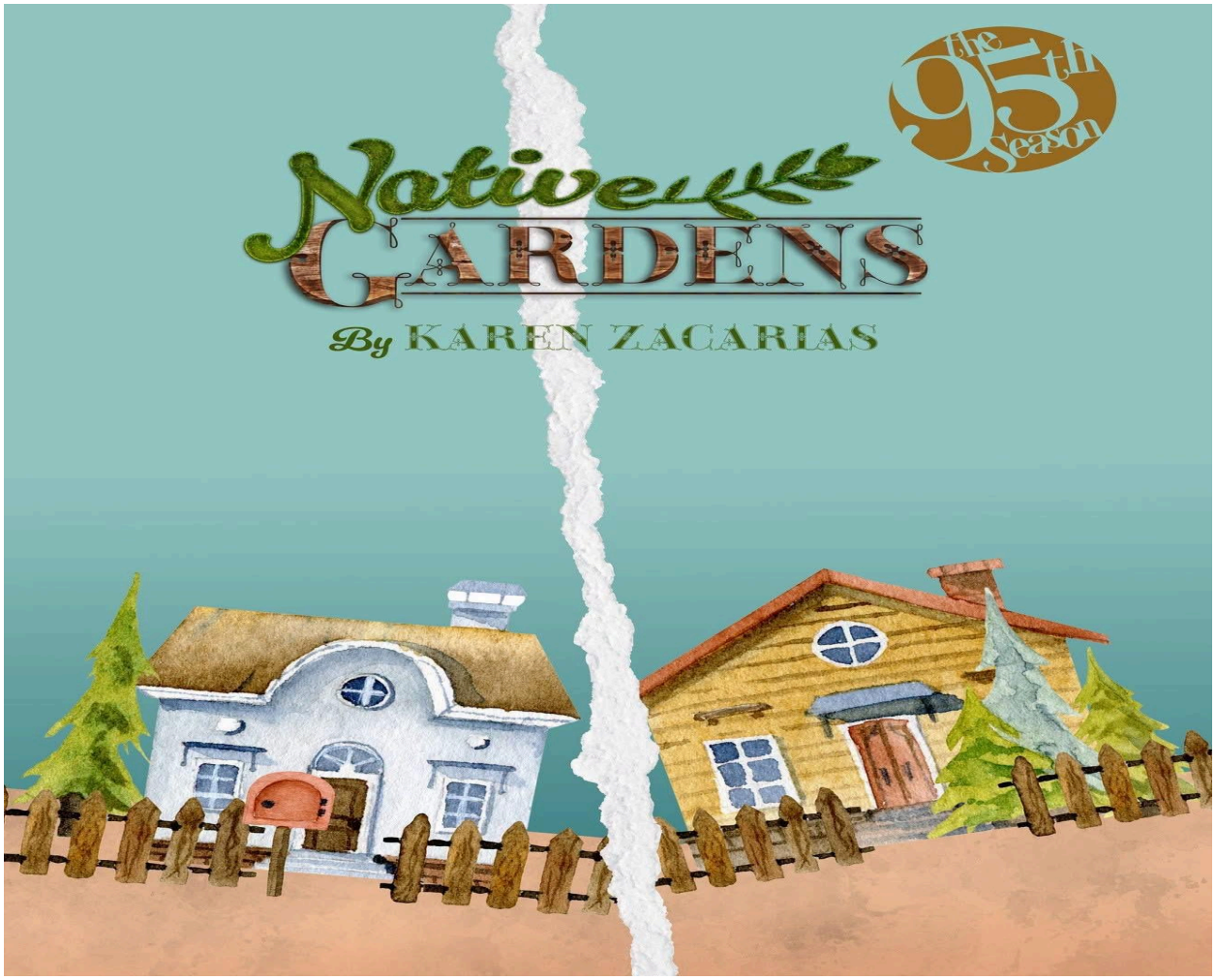

Native Gardens

Directed by:
Jake Pearsall

Auditions: November 9-10th 6:30 - 9:00pm

Pit & Balcony Community Theatre
805 N. Hamilton St, Saginaw, MI 48602

Pit & Balcony Community Theatre is committed to providing a nurturing environment in which to share diverse experiences and ideas. In employment, volunteer recruitment, and casting we do not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, or military status. We are committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members of our community.

Welcome!

Thank you so much for considering being a part of Native Gardens by Karen Zacarias . This being my directorial debut means so much more to me that you want to be a part of this show. As a Second Generation Honduran American, this show hits very close to home knowing the battle of race and class. I am looking to really focus on the comedic relief that this show has to offer, but also focus on the morals of the story with the focus that we are all the same with a different story.

This show follows two neighboring couples clashing over a property line, turning a backyard dispute into a hilarious battle over gardening, culture, class, and privilege. As tensions grow, the neighbors discover that finding common ground may be harder than it seems.

Audition Expectations

Please complete the online audition form: {Place the link to the form here - from Production Manager}

Please come prepared with a contemporary comedic or dramatic monologue that showcases your personality, timing, and emotional range. No longer than 2 minutes After we hear the monologues there will be some warm reads for each character. You may be asked to read for a character, that does not mean you are only being considered for that role.

Character Descriptions (The Roles of Tania and Pablo must be Latinx)

TANIA DEL VALLE — early thirties, Latinx; smart, likeable, positive, passionate, highly-energized, pregnant PhD candidate and gardener

PABLO DEL VALLE — early thirties, Latinx; smart, likeable, ambitious, savvy young attorney

VIRGINIA BOTLEY — Sixty to mid-seventies, White; Smart, likeable, assertive, direct, no-nonsense engineer

FRANK BUTLEY — Sixty to mid-seventies, White; Smart, likeable, excitable, caring, detail-oriented federal employee and gardener

This show also uses two to four extras to play the silent roles of the SURVEYOR, LANDSCAPERS, and BUILDING EXAMINER. There are short theatrical vignettes between scenes that can help transform the garden. These workers should preferably be Latinx and exude unique personalities as they work. They are the witnesses and the energetic transformers of both the play and the situation

Rehearsal Calendar

PLEASE NOTE ANY CONFLICTS YOU MAY HAVE.

CONFLICTS DO NOT AUTOMATICALLY ELIMINATE YOU FROM CONSIDERATION BUT ALLOW US TO PLAN REHEARSALS AS CONVENIENTLY AS POSSIBLE

CONFLICTS AFTER NOVEMBER 23RD

November						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 Auditions 6:00-9:00pm	10 Auditions 6:00-9:00pm	11	12	13	14
15	16 Read Through 6:30 - 9:00pm	17	18 REHEARSAL 6:30-9:30	19 REHEARSAL 6:30-9:30	20 REHEARSAL 6:30-9:30	21
22	23 REHEARSAL 6:30-9:30	24 REHEARSAL 6:30-9:30	25 Thanksgiving Break	26 Thanksgiving Break	27 Thanksgiving Break	28
29	30					
December						
		1 REHEARSAL 6:30-9:30	2 REHEARSAL 6:30-9:30	3 REHEARSAL 6:30-9:30	4 REHEARSAL 6-10	5
6	7	8 REHEARSAL 6:30-9:30	9 REHEARSAL 6:30-9:30	10 REHEARSAL 6:30-9:30	11 REHEARSAL 6:30-9:30	12
13	14 REHEARSAL 6:30-9:30	15 REHEARSAL 6:30-9:30	16 REHEARSAL 6:30-9:30	17 REHEARSAL 6:30-9:30	18 REHEARSAL 6:30-9:30	19

20	21 REHEARSAL 6:30-9:30	22 REHEARSAL 6:30-9:30	23 REHEARSAL 6:30-9:30	24 Christmas Break	25 Christmas Break	26 Christmas Break
27	28	29	30 New Years Break	31 New Years Break		

January

					1 New Years Break	2 Tech Day
3	4 TECH 6-10	5 TECH 6-10	6 TECH 6-10	7 TECH 6-10	8 REHEARSAL 6-10	9 REHEARSAL 6-10
10	11 DRESS REHEARSAL 6:00-10:00p	12 DRESS REHEARSAL 6:00-10:00p	13 DRESS REHEARSAL 6:00-10:00p	14 DARK NIGHT	15 OPENING NIGHT 6:00 CALL	16 PERFORMANCE 6:00 CALL
17 PERFORMANCE 1:30 CALL	18	19	20	21 BRUSH UP REHEARSAL 6:00-10:00p	22 PERFORMANCE 6:00 CALL	23 PERFORMANCE 1:30 CALL
24 PERFORMANCE 1:30 CALL	25	26	27	28	29	30 103.5 total Hours
31						

COVID-19 POLICY

Pit & Balcony is committed to the health, safety, and privacy of all of its employees and volunteers. To this end we keep a close eye on all regulations and recommendations set forth by the Federal and State governments as well as local, state, and national health organizations.

At the time of compiling this packet, Pit & Balcony does not *require* masking or vaccination in order to take part in its productions and safety protocols may differ from person to person based on their vaccination status. Vaccination status may or may not impact castability. All volunteers and employees are encouraged to receive the COVID-19 vaccine and all booster shots as soon as they are able. All policies and protocols are subject to change without warning based on recommendations set forth by governing bodies and health agencies.

Sides

SIDE 1 — TANIA DEL VALLE

TANIA. Pablo, you're home early.

PABLO. Should you be doing that?

TANIA. It's fine. I'm so sick of unpacking. I hate being inside on such a beautiful day!

PABLO. You should take it easy.

TANIA. Gardening relaxes me. You're the one who's been working so hard.

PABLO. I have to. This firm is so intense... so intensely...

TANIA. Competitive?

PABLO. American.

TANIA. American...

PABLO. American.

TANIA. You're just the new guy.

PABLO. No. I'm the foreign guy. And that's different.

TANIA. That's why they want you, because you are different.

PABLO. Tania, I think I've done something I might regret.

TANIA. Really? What?

PABLO. I invited the entire firm to our house.

TANIA. You did what?

PABLO. The senior partners were joking about me being the 'new guy.' And Mr. Krause said he barely thinks you exist—

TANIA. But you told him I'm finishing my dissertation... and the baby—right?

PABLO. Before I knew it, I channeled my father and invited all of them over to our house.

TANIA. Puta madre!

PABLO. Breathe. Breathe. Remember the Lamaze...

TANIA. Maldita sea. Are you crazy?! How did that happen?

PABLO. It was a test. He was watching me with this gleam in his eye.

TANIA. This is where you say NO... it doesn't work for me or my beloved pregnant wife!

PABLO. I didn't skip a beat. I said, 'YES! This Saturday is perfect.'

TANIA. Oh God.

PABLO. I see it as his form of cultural outreach. Which could be a good sign to becoming partner.

TANIA. No! Nothing about this ballsy, machista law-firm party-planning is good!

SIDE 2 — PABLO DEL VALLE

PABLO. I have to. This firm is so intense... so intensely...

TANIA. Competitive?

PABLO. American.

TANIA. American...

PABLO. American.

TANIA. You're just the new guy.

PABLO. No. I'm the foreign guy. And that's different.

TANIA. That's why they want you, because you are different.

PABLO. Tania, I think I've done something I might regret.

TANIA. Really? What?

PABLO. I invited the entire firm to our house.

TANIA. You did what?

PABLO. The senior partners were joking about me being the 'new guy.' And Mr. Krause, as in Smith, Krause, and Wilson, said he barely thinks you exist—

TANIA. But you told him I'm finishing my dissertation... and the baby—right?

PABLO. Before I knew it, I channeled my father and invited all of them over to our house.

TANIA. This is where you say NO... it doesn't work for me or my beloved pregnant wife!

PABLO. I didn't skip a beat. Looked him straight in the eye and said: 'YES! Mr. Krause, this Saturday is perfect.'

TANIA. Mr. Krause actually said 'cojones'?

PABLO. He even did the quotation marks.

TANIA. Oh God.

PABLO. I see it as his form of cultural outreach. Which could be a good sign to becoming partner.

PABLO. I know! I know. It's too much. I'm so stressed. I don't want to let you down. I don't want to let the baby down. I want to fix up the house for us. I need to make partner.

SIDE 3 — VIRGINIA BUTLEY

VIRGINIA. Well, we are so happy to finally have real homeowners living next door. It used to be such a beautiful place until Mr. Whitefield died and then Mrs. Whitefield died and her stupid stepson took over and rented it to a bunch of sloppy Georgetown students. But now. A fresh start. And a baby! We love babies. Maybe we can babysit! Frank's bringing out wine glasses. Frank! Bring out some iced tea. For the little pregnant lady!

TANIA. We don't mean to bother you on a work night.

VIRGINIA. Nonsense, Frank does his consulting from home now. And I've been an engineer at Lockheed Martin so long, I have my own bathroom.

PABLO. At Lockheed Martin!

VIRGINIA. Yes, shocking, huh?

PABLO. Oh no, not at all.

VIRGINIA. I bet some of your best friends are old female defense contractors. Right?

(Frank joins them, proud of his garden.)

VIRGINIA. I meant great as in big. Frank and Phillip have a gardening rivalry.

FRANK. Very friendly and neighborly, I assure you.

VIRGINIA. Every year awards are given by the garden club—

FRANK. Potomac Horticultural Society.

VIRGINIA. And Frank's garden always wins... honorable mention!

TANIA. We were coming over to talk about replacing the fence.

FRANK. Replacing that fence?

TANIA. By Saturday... for an event we are having.

VIRGINIA. You want to replace the fence this week?

TANIA. I'm sorry. Pablo, this isn't going to work—

FRANK. Sorry? This is the best news I've heard in a while.

SIDE 4 — FRANK BUTLEY

FRANK. It's not that great—

VIRGINIA. I meant great as in big. Frank and Phillip have a gardening rivalry.

FRANK. Very friendly and neighborly, I assure you.

VIRGINIA. Every year awards are given by the garden club—

FRANK. Potomac Horticultural Society.

VIRGINIA. And Frank's garden always wins... honorable mention!

FRANK. But Phillip Saxon has won Best Garden for the last three years.

VIRGINIA. Maybe not this year. I think you've outdone yourself.

FRANK. The Horticultural Society judges come by this Sunday.

TANIA. This Sunday?

PABLO. Oh no.

TANIA. We were coming over to talk about replacing the fence.

FRANK. Replacing that fence?

TANIA. By Saturday... for an event we are having.

FRANK. Are you serious?

VIRGINIA. You want to replace the fence this week?

FRANK. Sorry? This is the best news I've heard in a while.

TANIA. It is?

FRANK. But no matter what I do, Phillip Saxon doesn't have to contend with a disheveled wire fence.

TANIA. Well, if you are okay about us cutting away your ivy, we could get rid of the wire fence.

PABLO. And replace it with a tall, stately wood one.

FRANK. A Christmas miracle in September.

PABLO. I'm so relieved you're 'on board' with this.

FRANK. I'm surprised how elated I am. I hate that fence.

PABLO. So do we.

FRANK. I hate losing to Phillip Saxon too!

VIRGINIA. Frank, calm down. The point of gardening is for you to relieve your chronic stress.

FRANK. It's not that bad.

VIRGINIA. Yeah, right.

SIDE 5 — TANIA & VIRGINIA

FRANK. Well, gardener to gardener, the one thing you should get rid of is that tree—

PABLO. You mean, our oak?

VIRGINIA. You mean your future disaster!

TANIA. Disaster?

FRANK. It's so dangerous.

TANIA. But. We. Love. The Tree.

PABLO. We do.

VIRGINIA. Really?

TANIA. Really.

FRANK. We used to have the sister oak in our backyard, but we decided to get rid of it. To safeguard our roof and give us a canvas on which to plant. One life for so many.

TANIA. It's a healthy tree. We had that inspected before we bought the house.

FRANK. But the tree is why your lawn looks so messy. All the leaves and acorns. Everywhere.

VIRGINIA. And we get your leaves and acorns. All over our lot.

TANIA. The tree is the centerpiece of our plan for a Native Garden.

VIRGINIA. My. That's a patriotic call to action.

TANIA. Actually, it's very traditional. We want to go back to the basics, get rid of foreign plants like Bermuda grass and English ivy, and nurture a native Mid-Atlantic forest bed.

FRANK. So... you are suggesting: no azalea? No peonies? No hydrangeas?

TANIA. No Japanese honeysuckle, no Asian azalea, no kudzu, no Bradford pear, no autumn olive.

FRANK. Blasphemy!

SIDE 6 — PABLO & FRANK

FRANK. So did you know that all the houses on this street were built in 1908?

PABLO. Really?

VIRGINIA. As were most of the residents!

FRANK. It's an old neighborhood. Mr. and Mrs. Jenkins across the street were part of the Bush administration.

PABLO. It's beautiful. It reminds me of my parents' garden.

FRANK. Thank you. But Phillip Saxon has won Best Garden for the last three years.

PABLO. We were coming over to talk about replacing the fence.

FRANK. Replacing that fence?

PABLO. By Saturday... for an event we are having.

FRANK. Are you serious?

PABLO. And replace it with a tall, stately wood one.

FRANK. A Christmas miracle in September.

PABLO. I'm so relieved you're 'on board' with this.

FRANK. I'm surprised how elated I am. I hate that fence.

PABLO. So do we.

FRANK. I hate losing to Phillip Saxon too!