

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Written by Harvey Landa  
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## **NATIVE GARDENS**

**By**

**Karen Zacharias**

## **LOVE THY NEIGHBOR**

“Native Gardens” written by Karen Zacharias (“Legacy of Light”, “Just Like Us”) and opening at The Western Stage on October 22 and playing weekends through November 7, is a rare warm-hearted comedy about two couples of whose adjacent backyards become a symbolic battleground between their different generations and cultural philosophies.

Up-and-coming lawyer Pablo Del Valle and his doctoral candidate and very pregnant wife Tania find their dream Washington DC home next door to Frank and Virginia Butley, two retired federal employees who work to create a prize-winning American version of a quaint English Cottage Garden assisted by a generous application of insecticides and chemical soil amendments.

The first meeting of these neighbors over the ivy-covered chain-link fence that separates their backyards is friendly, even though Tania expresses her preference for the wild flowers and native plants that Frank considers to be obnoxious weeds. The relationships between neighbors and even the couples themselves go awry when Pablo decides to impress his senior partners by inviting the whole law firm to their new fixer-upper for a BBQ. In the process of replacing the chain link fence that both couples abhor, they discover that the fence between the houses does not accurately reflect the legal boundary line, and that Frank’s precious and anticipated to be prize-winning blooms are actually growing on the Del Valle’s property.

With a light, comic touch, the ingenious Karen Zacarias manages to treat all of her characters with empathy and compassion while exploring their individual forays into racism, sexism, ageism and cultural privilege. She reminds us that whatever our differences, we can all live together if we are able to see things from the other side of our arbitrarily drawn lines.

**\*\*\*MORE\*\*\***

Directed by Nina Capriola  
Costume design by Rebecca Gessert  
Hair and makeup design by Meagan Roux  
Properties design by Nicole Bryant Stephens  
Lighting design by John Englehorn  
Scenic design by David Parker  
Sound design by Dante Carballo  
Stage Managed by Laura Levin  
Assistant Stage Manager Lupita Marisol Rodriguez

## **CAST**

Tania Del Valle.....Emily Morales-Ortiz  
Pablo Del Valle.....Andres Ortiz  
Virginia Butley.....Mindy Pedlar  
Frank Butley.....Jeffrey T. Heyer  
Ensemble.....Lupita Marisol Rodriguez, Robert Feeney

## **DETAILS**

**WHAT:** *Native Gardens* by Karen Zacharias presented by The Western Stage; The major theme of is “Sometimes it is hard to love thy neighbor as thyself.”

**WHEN:** October 22 through November 7. Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. Sundays at 2:00 p.m. With a special matinee on Saturday, October 30 at 2:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** In the Studio Theater of the Hartnell College Performing Arts Center, Building K, 411 Central Avenue, Salinas, California 93901.

## **TICKETS AND INFORMATION:**

\$26 General Admission; Senior and Military \$24; Children (5-15) \$12; Hartnell Students are free w/Hartnell I.D. Other Students w/school I.D. only \$20.

For more information go to [westernstage.com](http://westernstage.com) or call (831) 755-6816. The Ticket Office is open 5-8 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday and one hour before curtain time on Sunday matinees.

## **SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS**

This event is wheelchair accessible. Individuals requiring other special accommodations should contact the ticket office at least one week prior to the event.

## **IMPORTANT COVID-19 INFORMATION**

*Proof of full vaccination or negative Covid-19 test result must be presented to enter the building. Audiences are masked & distanced during performances. In compliance with Actor’s Equity Association requirements, all patrons seated in the Studio Theater must be fully vaccinated. All other guests will be seated in the Recital Hall, Room K-125 for a Live Stream of the performance.*

**PRESS:** Contact Heather Osteraa (831) 755-6984 or email: [hosteraa@hartnell.edu](mailto:hosteraa@hartnell.edu).

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**ABOUT THE WESTERN STAGE – ESTABLISHED 1974**

The Western Stage (TWS) is a professionally managed, community-based theatre company and educational program that nurtures and develops our students’ and community’s passion for the creative process and desire for high-level artistic experiences. Led by its educational mission and believing that strong Arts experiences are important for building innovative, creative, and resilient communities, TWS offers a robust variety of programs designed for personal growth and skill development and that address the need for a safe space where students and theatre enthusiasts engage in Theatre production while working side-by-side with Theatre Professionals. Through its annual production season, TWS endeavors to provide strong pathways and development for artists throughout the continuum of a career in Theatre and its related Performing Arts. TWS develops new works that speak to the history and culture of the Salinas Valley and provides educational opportunities for students of all skill levels to explore and develop their unique talent. [www.westernstage.com](http://www.westernstage.com).

**HARTNELL COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT – ESTABLISHED 1920**

The hartnell CCD serves over 17,000 students annually through its main campus in Salinas, the Alisal Campus in East Salinas, the King City Education Center and various education centers throughout the Salinas Valley. Hartnell College, a Hispanic Serving Institution provides Associate Degrees and certificate programs, workforce training courses in basic skills and prepares students to transfer to four year colleges and universities. Hartnell College is recognized for its innovative public and private partnerships that support world class education for STEM, career technical education, fine and performing arts, humanities/social sciences, nursing/healthcare and athletics. We are proud to be winners of the 2015 Innovation Award for CSin3 –a Computer Science bachelor’s degree in three years. **We are growing leaders through opportunity, engagement and achievement.** For more about Hartnell CCD, visit [www.hartnell.edu](http://www.hartnell.edu).

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