

*Standing*  
**O V A T I O N**

THIS PRODUCTION  
GENEROUSLY PRESENTED BY



**JUNE 2 - 18, 2023**





David R. Kilpatrick  
Executive Director

Thank you for choosing to spend time at The Playhouse today! We know that you have options and we are grateful that you picked *Native Gardens*. This play is particularly special as it is about two disparate couples learning that there is more than one way to experience the world. This is sort of like community theatre, where you see different stories and understand we are much more alike than we are different. Thank you for being part of this community.

Our 105<sup>th</sup> season begins in September and you won't want to miss any of it. As a season ticket holder you are guaranteed a full year of entertainment at a tremendous savings. If you invite a friend or two to join you it becomes an even richer community with lots of laughter and a shared tear or two. Enjoy your favorite restaurant, delight in a show, and have a drink or piece of pie afterwards. Make it a whole evening of friendship and entertainment. You won't regret it, I promise!

For more than 100 years, The Playhouse has had one goal: To create extraordinary, shared experiences through live theatre. Our volunteer performers, backstage technicians, guest services team members, and the entire staff want you to experience the best we have to offer. If there is anything that we could do to make your time with us even more special, please let me know. This is your community theatre, by the community and for the community.

We are grateful for your support of the arts, of theatre and especially of The Playhouse.

Enjoy the show.

**NATIVE Gardens**

**VOTE for your favorite performances!**

**Scan the QR code to tell us who your favorite performers were today!**  
Outstanding performances are recognized at the Dionysos Awards each September.

From all the volunteers, cast, crew,  
and staff at The Playhouse...

# Thank you for your support!

To make a donation, please contact:

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The conversion of thousands of print materials to digital files is nearly complete. In 2023, The Playhouse hopes to unveil a website on which donors can find many historical records from prior plays and performances. The donors listed below made contributions toward the effort.

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The Tribute Program provides an opportunity to celebrate milestones such as birthdays, weddings, anniversaries and graduations. It can also be a way to honor the memory of friends and relatives.

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Jordan Booky  
Lucy Coady  
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Kathryn Clarke & Bill Kaplan  
Karen Engman  
Emily Ferdman  
Lois Fingerman  
Bud & Dorothy Hockenberg  
Jody L Jacklin  
Lawrence Kirsner  
Lindsay Koresell  
Beth Lane  
Tom Maddox & Randy Clark  
Henry Melcher  
Marilyn Melcher  
Mary Lu Roffe  
Kent & Janice Rosenberg

Harriet Ross  
Barbara Rybacki  
Lloyd & Julie Von Hagin  
Marilyn & Marvin Winick  
Rachel Zukrow

**In Honor of Ramsey Village**  
Phyllis Wolfe

**In Memory of Don Rothweiler**  
Lee Ann Bakros  
Al & Ruth Downey  
Kerrie Lee & Rob Vasilloff  
Jayme Rothweiler  
Mary Jane Tesdall

**In Memory of Maxine Rozeboom**  
Jo Cox  
Anne, Kay, & Paul Rozeboom

**In Honor of Quinlan Sandersfeld**  
Shane & Elizabeth Sandersfeld

**In Memory of Alan Scherer**  
Anne Scherer

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Banleaco  
Nancy Bone  
Karen Cross  
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## ABOUT

# NATIVE GARDENS

Katy Merriman, Playhouse Artistic Director

I first read *Native Gardens* during the pandemic when I'd just started as artistic director at The Playhouse. I was reading piles of new titles, searching for the elusive "perfect play" for us to produce in a future season after the coronavirus had been banished or at least contained. I won't claim that I found the "perfect" play, but I do remember putting it down and thinking we **have to do this at The Playhouse**. Not only is it written by one of the most talented playwrights in the country, but it also hits on themes so relevant to all of us today that it would sting to watch if it weren't so brilliantly funny.



Greg Blumhagen, Cate Miller, Javier Anselmo, and Gabriela Fuentes.

*Native Gardens* was first produced at the Cincinnati Playhouse in January 2016. The playwright, Karen Zacarías, is one of the most produced playwrights in the nation. Her plays have been performed at the John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts, The Goodman Theater, The Denver Center, Alliance Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse, Horizon's Theatre, Teatro Vista, and many more. She was the first playwright-in-residence at Arena Stage and a core founder of the LATINX THEATRE COMMONS.

Zacarías is also the founder of the Young Playwrights' Theater (YPT), which teaches playwriting in local public schools in Washington, DC. YPT was recognized by the White House in 2010 as one of the most innovative arts programs in the nation and is currently used as curriculum in public schools in six states. If you would like to learn more, go purchase "Write to Dream" on Amazon for \$5 – YPT publishes and sells their curriculum! You can also find a fantastic Tedx Broadway talk by Zacarías online at [unitedstatesartists.org/fellow/karen-zacarias](https://unitedstatesartists.org/fellow/karen-zacarias).

The idea for the *Native Gardens* came from a casual conversation that began among Zacarías and her friends about conflicts with their neighbors and how uncomfortable and stressful those squabbles can be. "All of those fights are so primal and poetic and absurd in some ways," Zacarías said. "But the consequences were really real and emotionally upsetting. And I kept thinking, 'Wow, it's almost like every single battle between nations or tribes, etc., boils down to this fight about property and culture, in a sense.'"

*Native Gardens* was well-received throughout the nation in the years following its premiere. While the play addresses real and prevalent issues, it deals with them with a refreshing sense of humor. A review from DC Theatre Scene said, "*Native Gardens* is a true breath of comic fresh air. It's a biting, perceptive, and ultimately hopeful sendup to our fraught relationships with those around us – even right next door. Beyond snappy one-liners and garden hose fights, the play challenges audiences to look beyond petty differences and rediscover our shared decency."

You are in for a fantastic experience, and I am thankful that we have been lucky enough to produce it. I heartily thank Lorenzo Sandoval, the co-director of this play, and the cast of our show. We taught each other and learned so much during this experience, and I can't wait for you to now get to experience some of that with us now. Enjoy!

Resources and further reading:

*"Native Gardens review: laugh out loud comedy"* by Ben Demers

*"Native Gardens: Building the (Botanical) Wall"* by Maggie Gilroy, [americantheatre.org](https://americantheatre.org)



# NATIVE GARDENS

Katy Merriman, Playhouse Artistic Director

Leí *Native Gardens* por primera vez durante la pandemia cuando recién comenzaba como director artístico en Playhouse. Estaba leyendo montones de títulos nuevos, buscando la elusiva "obra perfecta" para que produjéramos en una temporada futura después de que el coronavirus hubiera sido desterrado o al menos contenido. No diré que encontré la obra "perfecta", pero recuerdo haberla dejado y haber pensado que teníamos que hacer esto en el Playhouse. No solo está escrito por uno de los dramaturgos más talentosos del país, sino que toca temas tan relevantes para todos nosotros hoy que dolería verlo si no fuera tan brillantemente divertido.



Greg Blumhagen, Cate Miller, Javier Anselmo, and Gabriela Fuentes.

*Native Gardens* se produjo por primera vez en el Cincinnati Playhouse en enero de 2016. La dramaturga, Karen Zacarías, es una de las dramaturgas más producidas en la nación cuyas obras se han representado en el Centro John F. Kennedy para las Artes Escénicas, el Teatro Goodman, el Denver Center, Alliance Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse, Horizon's Theatre, Teatro Vista y muchos más. Fue la primera dramaturga residente en Arena Stage y una de las principales fundadoras de LATINX THEATER COMMONS.

Zacarías también es el fundador del Young Playwright's Theatre, que enseña dramaturgia en escuelas públicas locales en Washington, DC. YPT fue reconocido por la Casa Blanca en 2010 como uno de los programas de arte más innovadores del país y actualmente se utiliza como plan de estudios en las escuelas públicas de seis estados. Si desea obtener más información, compre "Escribir para soñar" en Amazon por \$ 5. YPT publica y vende su plan de estudios! También puede encontrar una charla fantástica de Ted x Broadway de Zacarías en línea en [unitedstatesartists.org/fellow/karen-zacarias](https://unitedstatesartists.org/fellow/karen-zacarias).

La idea de *Native Gardens* surgió de una conversación informal que comenzó entre Zacarías y sus amigos sobre los conflictos con sus vecinos y lo incómodas y estresantes que pueden ser esas disputas. "Todas esas peleas son tan primitivas, poéticas y absurdas en algunos aspectos," dijo Zacarías. "Pero las consecuencias fueron realmente reales y emocionalmente perturbadoras. Y seguí pensando, 'Wow, es casi como si cada batalla entre naciones o tribus, etc., se redujera a esta lucha por la propiedad y la cultura, en cierto sentido.'"

*Native Gardens* fue bien recibido en todo el país en los años posteriores a su estreno. Si bien la obra aborda problemas reales y predominantes, los trata con un refrescante sentido del humor. Una reseña de DC Theatre Scene dijo: "*Native Gardens* es un verdadero soplo de aire fresco cómico. Es un mensaje mordaz, perceptivo y, en última instancia, esperanzador sobre nuestras tensas relaciones con quienes nos rodean, incluso justo al lado. Más allá de las ingeniosas frases ingeniosas y las peleas de mangueras de jardín, la obra desafía al público a mirar más allá de las pequeñas diferencias y redescubrir nuestra decencia compartida."

Te espera una experiencia fantástica, y estoy agradecido de que hayamos tenido la suerte de producirla. Agradezco de corazón a Lorenzo Sandoval, el segunda director de esta obra, y al elenco de nuestro espectáculo. Nos enseñamos y aprendimos mucho durante esta experiencia, y no puedo esperar a que ahora puedas experimentar algo de eso con nosotros. ¡Disfrutar!

Recursos y lecturas adicionales:

"*Native Gardens* review: laugh out loud comedy" by Ben Demers

"*Native Gardens: Building the (Botanical) Wall*" by Maggie Gilroy, [americantheatre.org](https://americantheatre.org)



# GUEST INFORMATION

## Accessibility

The Playhouse strives to make its facility and performances accessible to all guests. Our theatres are wheelchair accessible. Service animals are welcome. Assisted listening devices are available in the John Viars Theatre. If your hearing aid has a T-coil, toggle to that setting to receive the audio signal directly without any headset or other equipment needed. ASL interpreted performances and audio description performances are available upon request. For these and other needs, please call the ticket office with specific service requests.

## Cameras

The taking of photographs and the use of recording devices are not allowed during a performance and are a violation of state and federal copyright laws.

## Cancellations

If a show is cancelled due to bad weather, an email will be sent to ticket holders. Cancellations will be noted on the phone system, website, and social media sites. Tickets for a cancelled performance may be exchanged for another performance. Please be sure the ticket office has your email information and current phone in the event a performance is cancelled. The Playhouse does not sell its contacts and does not sell or trade its email addresses.

## Concessions

A variety of beverages and candy may be available for purchase and are allowed in auditoriums. No outside drink or food are allowed. Staff reserve the right to deny alcoholic beverage service to anyone at their discretion.

## Elevator

An elevator between levels is located at the east end of the building.

## Emergency Exits

Please note the exit nearest your seat location. In the event of an emergency, ushers will provide direction.

## Etiquette

Latecomers will be seated at an appropriate break in the play. Lobby chimes are sounded five minutes before curtain as well as the close of intermission. Disruptive, unruly guests, regardless of age, will be asked to leave. Cell phone ringers should be turned off.

## Lost Items

Lost items will be held in the ticket office.

## Parking

Free parking is available in The Playhouse lots and on streets surrounding the theatre. After 5:00 PM daily, free parking is available in the Shops at Roosevelt's east/back parking lot. Parking in the west/front Shops parking lot is restricted to Shops customers at all times. The Playhouse is not responsible for loss of any personal property left in vehicles.

## Performance Content

The Playhouse does not rate subject matter as sensitivities vary from person to person. Questions about content, age appropriateness, or other aspects of the show such as strobe lights and other theatrical affects should be directed to the ticket office.

## Performance Schedule

The regular John Viars Theatre performance schedule is 7:30 PM Wednesdays through Saturdays, and 2:00 PM Sundays. The regular Kate Goldman Children's Theatre performance schedule is 7:00 PM Fridays, and 1:00 PM and 4:00 PM Saturdays and Sundays. The Family Holiday Classic performance schedule is 7:00 PM Fridays, and 1:00 PM and 5:00 PM Saturdays and Sundays. All times are subject to change.

## Preshow Talk

A preshow talk for each John Viars Theatre performance will begin 30 minutes prior to curtain in the west lobby.

## Safety Protocols

In order to best serve our whole community, The Playhouse respectfully requests the following items are not brought into theatre:

- Alcohol, drugs, illegal substances, or any paraphernalia associated with drug use
- Weapons of any type, including chains, knives, and firearms (excluding law enforcement officers)
- Pepper spray/mace/other chemicals
- Noisemakers such as air horns
- Laser Pens/Pointers of any type
- Fireworks

## Tickets

Each audience member must occupy a seat and have a ticket, including infants.

## Ticket Office Hours

The ticket office is open Noon to 5:00 PM, Tuesday through Friday, and 90 minutes before each performance. Tickets are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, online. Ticketing fees are the same whether purchased online, by phone, or at the ticket office.

## Des Moines Community Playhouse

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657th Production  
104th Season

Opening June 2, 2023  
Closing June 18, 2023

Des Moines Community Playhouse Presents in the John Viars Theatre

# ***NATIVE GARDENS***

By Karen Zacarias

Native Gardens was commissioned and first produced by Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park under Blake Robison, artistic director, and Buzz Ward, managing director.

Presented by **EMC Insurance Companies**

Directors: **Katy Merriman, Lorenzo Sandoval**

Scenic Designer: **Nicholas Amundson**

Costume Designer: **Jessica Van Essen**

Lighting Designer: **Amanda Pichler**

Sound Effects Designer: **Joseph Cave**

Properties Designer: **Barbara McClintock**

Stage Manager: **Kiera McGregor**

Assistant Director/Assistant Stage Manager: **Toni K. Farris**

Assistant Stage Manager: **Ashley Kientoff**

## **Cast**

In Order of Performance

\*Indicates Playhouse Debut

Tania Del Valle.....	<b>Gabriela Fuentes*</b>
Pablo Del Valle .....	<b>Javier Anselmo</b>
Virginia Butley .....	<b>Cate Miller</b>
Frank Butley.....	<b>Greg Blumhagen</b>
Landscaper/Surveyor.....	<b>Virginia Babeu*</b>
Landscaper/Inspector.....	<b>Cedric Fevrier</b>
Landscaper.....	<b>Noah Hackbart</b>

*Native Gardens* is presented without intermission.

*Native Gardens* is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French Inc.  
[www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)

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For more information please visit <https://concordtheatricals.com/resources/protecting-artists>

## CAST NOTES



**Javier Anselmo** (*Pablo Del Valle*) is a junior at Drake University studying theatre: acting, writing, and directing. He made his directorial debut this past winter with *"Please Have a Seat..."* and recently starred in *The Bacchae*

(Dionysus). At The Playhouse, he was Baron Elberfeld in *The Sound of Music* and more recently in the ensemble for *Rodgers + Hammerstein's Cinderella*. Javier loves writing stories, hanging out with friends, and trying new foods. He is grateful to his friends and family for their belief in him.



**Virginia Babeu** (*Landscaper/Surveyor*) is new to Des Moines but was active in community theatre in Tucson, AZ, where she lived for 32 years prior to moving to Iowa. She manages a multinational company, Kellermeyer Bergunsons Services.

She lives in the Historic East Village with her partner, Veronica, and is falling in love with Iowa and its people.



**Greg Blumhagen** (*Frank Butley*) was last seen on The Playhouse stage as Otto Frank in *The Diary of Anne Frank*. Among his many Playhouse roles are memorable characters such as Atticus Finch in

*To Kill a Mockingbird*, Bilbo Baggins in *The Hobbit*, and Pa Ingalls in *Little House on the Prairie*. He is also familiar to audiences at Tallgrass Theatre Co, Iowa Stage Theatre Company, Urbandale Community Theatre, and Ankeny Community Theatre. A new grandpa, Greg and his wife, Lisa, enjoy traveling and participate in missions to Haiti.



**Cédric Fevrier** (*Landscaper/Inspector*) played Hercule Poirot (Dionysos Award winner, Broadway World winner) in *Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express* at The Playhouse. He was in *Tiny Beautiful Things* at Tallgrass

Theatre Company and *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* (Cogsworth) at Urbandale Community Theatre. He has appeared in commercials and training videos and will be in his first feature film this summer. Cédric is a substitute teacher, umpire, and classically trained chef who loves writing music; playing golf; fine dining, bourbon, and cigars; and collecting books, art, and antiques.



**Gabriela Fuentes** (*Tania Del Valle*) is Bolivian-Chilean-American.

Her passions for performing arts and helping others drove her to pursue her master's degree in the US. Her research focused on the importance of performing arts in international NGOs' development projects. Her performance career started at three as a flamenco dancer. She then continued doing theatre independently. She has performed internationally and, in Des Moines, with Gateway Dance Theatre among other arts groups. Gabriela works at Planned Parenthood, is learning pole dance, and is always looking for opportunities to perform.



**Noah Hackbart** (*Landscaper*), now in his ninth production at The Playhouse since his first in 2013 (*Michael, Peter Pan*), most recently played Michael Wormwood in *Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical* and was production intern and dramaturg

for *Calendar Girls*. Other area credits include *Dog Sees God* (Broadway World Best Actor Award winner) and *Akeelah and the Bee* at Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre (DMYAT). Noah, who is the director of governmental relations for the University of Northern Iowa's student government, is a senior majoring in political communication.



**Cate Miller** (*Virginia Butley*) delighted Playhouse audiences as Helen Hubbard in *Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express*.

In addition to acting roles, she has volunteered on Playhouse backstage crews – she made it rain in *Singin' in the Rain* – and teaches in the theatre's education department. Cate is an instructional coach at Central Campus, Des Moines Public Schools. She shares her love of words with Paul, their daughter Taylor, and her mom, who has always been her biggest fan.



**Katy Merriman** (*Director/Artistic Director*) has been an active member of the local theatre community since moving to Des Moines in 2013. Her Playhouse directing credits include *Go, Dog, Go!*; *Guys and Dolls*; *The Sound of Music*; the world premiere of *Escaping the Labyrinth*; *A Love Offering* (co-directed with Tiffany Johnson and Pyramid Theatre Company); and *I and You*. Other



## CAST NOTES

local performance and directing credits include *The Glass Menagerie* (Laura), *King Lear* (Cordelia), *Our Town* (Emily), and *Fun Home* (director) with Iowa Stage Theatre Company. She has coached for IHSSA and will adjudicate the monologue competition this summer at American Association of Community Theatre's national festival. Prior to her time in Des Moines, Katy worked with numerous theatres in the Midwest as a performer, director, musician, and administrator.



**Lorenzo Sandoval** (*Director*) has extensive experience in theatre as an actor, director, and playwright. He is the artistic director of the Iowa Shakespeare Experience and an adjunct instructor at Des Moines Area Community College.

Playhouse audiences will remember him from his roles in *Twelve Angry Men*, *Ken Ludwig's Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery*, and *Plaza Suite*. Lorenzo received his Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of Iowa's Playwrights Workshop.



**Nicholas Amundson** (*Scenic Designer*) earned his B.F.A in theatre design and technology from the University of South Dakota. Working on theatre all over town, he has designed in many different styles with StageWest Theatre

Company (*Ugly Lies the Bone*, *Marjorie Prime*), Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre (*The Hobbit*, *James and the Giant Peach Jr.*), Noce (*bare: A Pop Opera*), and Kata Klysmic Productions (*The Rocky Horror Show*, *Reefer Madness*). He served as scenic designer for *The New Mel Brooks Musical Young Frankenstein*, *Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka*, *A Chorus Line*, *Choices*, *Disney's The Little Mermaid*, *Ragtime*, *Catch Me If You Can* and many more at The Playhouse. In the 2019-20 season, he directed and designed *James and the Giant Peach* in the Kate Goldman Children's Theatre. His favorite thing about theatre is creating out-of-the-box ways to present a story that gives the audience something fun to experience.



**Jessica Van Essen** (*Costume Designer*) has spent much of her career in schools as a professor/costume shop manager and working with professional theatres as a costume designer and technician. Before moving back to

Iowa, Jessica spent three seasons with the American Shakespeare Center in Staunton, VA, as their

costume designer and shop manager, designing such shows as William Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*, *The Winter's Tale*, and *The Comedy of Errors* among others. She is delighted to bring the joy of live theatre to younger audiences as well.



**Amanda Pichler** (*Lighting Designer*) designed the lights for The Playhouse productions of *Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, and *Catch Me If You Can*. She is an aerialist with Cirque Wonderland.

With an M.A.T. in theatre education from Brenau University (Gainesville, GA), Amanda works as the Staplin Performing Arts Center manager at Valley High School. When not at the theatre, she can be found visiting national parks, backpacking, hiking, biking, and taking photographs.



**Joseph Cave** (*Sound Effects Designer*) graduated in May 2023 with a Bachelors of Performing Arts degree from Iowa State University and with a wide variety of experiences at ISU's Fisher Theatre including *Corner's Grove*, *Baba Yaga*, and *Polaroid Stories*. Previously at The Playhouse, Joseph assisted the sound designer for *August Wilson's The Piano Lesson*. Joseph is relocating to Mt. Carroll, IL, to serve as resident sound designer at the Timber Lake Playhouse.



**Barbara McClintock** (*Properties Designer*) came to the theatre later in life, starting as backstage crew at StageWest Theatre. She graduated to properties assistant, learning from Joy Kripal. She finds the role of properties design challenging,

fun, and at times frustrating. From getting birds to fly for *Into the Woods* to rolling hundreds of joints for *Girls' Weekend*, she's had a blast. In her spare time, she likes to travel, read, and cook for friends.



**Kiera McGregor** (*Stage Manager*) received her B.F.A. in theatre: acting and public relations from Drake University. At Tallgrass Theatre Company, she played Marianna Angelle in *The Revolutionists* and served as stage manager. Kiera

is an actor with The Playhouse's Friday Funday program. She has stage managed Playhouse productions of *A Love Offering* and *The Sound of*



## CAST NOTES

*Music.* When not at the theatre, Kiera likes thrifting, fashion, dancing, going to the movies, walking outdoors, and all things arts and crafts.



**Toni K. Farris** (*Assistant Director/Assistant Stage Manager*) first volunteered behind-the-scenes at The Playhouse for the 1989 production of *A... My Name is Alice* (properties/shift crew). Since then, she has volunteered on every

production team crew except costumes – She can't sew. – for numerous productions. She has been a stage manager for *Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story*, *Proof*, *Schoolhouse Rock Live!* and many more. She has been assistant director for the world premiere of *Escaping the Labyrinth*, *Guys and Dolls*, and *Go, Dog. Go!* Toni is recently retired. In her free time, she enjoys traveling, reading, true crime TV, trying new restaurants, and supporting the Liverpool Football Club.



**Ashley Kientoff** (*Assistant Stage Manager*) received their B.A. in theatre arts from Simpson College. While at Simpson, their theatre career included box office manager, prop and deck crew member, and costume crew member.

They stage managed numerous shows at Simpson including *Virtuous Burglar*, *Cabildo/Cendrillon*, *The Undercurrent*, *Prospera's Island*, and, their favorite, *Trouble in Tahiti/Gallantry: A Soap Opera*. In their free, Ashley likes to read, exercise, and spend time with their partner, Sid, and Sid's cat, Sho.



**Karen Zacarias** (*Playwright*) was recently hailed by *American Theater* magazine as one of the 10 most-produced playwrights in the US. Her award-winning plays include *The Copper Children*, *Destiny of Desire*, *Native Gardens*, *The Book*

*Club Play*, *Legacy of Light*, *Mariela in the Desert*, *The Sins of Sor Juana*, and the adaptations of *Just Like Us*, *Into the Beautiful North*, and *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accent*. She is the author of 10 renowned TYA musicals including *Ella Enchanted: The Musical* and the librettist of several ballets. She is one of the inaugural resident playwrights at Arena Stage, a core founder of the Latinx Theatre Commons – a large national organization of artists seeking to update the American narrative with the stories of Latinos – and she is the founder of the award-winning Young Playwrights' Theater (YPT). YPT was cited by

the Obama administration as one of the best arts-education programs on the nation. Karen was voted 2018 Washingtonian of the Year by *Washingtonian* Magazine for her advocacy work involving the arts. She is an inaugural 2019 Sine Fellow for Policy Innovation at American University and is selected by The League of Professional Theatre Women to receive the 2019 Lee Reynolds Award, given annually to a woman in theater who has helped illuminate the possibilities for social, cultural, or political change. In 2021, she was awarded a United States Artists Fellowship award. Karen lives in Washington, D.C. with her husband and three children. [www.KarenZacarias.com](http://www.KarenZacarias.com)

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# 2023-24 SEASON

## JOHN VIARS THEATRE

**Once**  
Sept. 8–24, 2023

**All is Calm**  
Dec. 1–17, 2023

**Our Town**  
Feb. 2–18, 2024

**Beautiful: The Carole King Musical**  
Mar. 27–Apr. 14, 2024

**The Play That Goes Wrong**  
May 31–June 16, 2024

**Summer Musical TBA**  
July 12–28, 2024

## KATE GOLDMAN CHILDREN'S THEATRE

**Seussical TYA**  
Oct. 27–Nov. 5, 2023

**Dragons Love Tacos**  
Mar. 1–10, 2024

**The Secret Garden Spring Version**  
Apr. 26–May 12, 2024

### SPECIAL EVENTS

**Penguin Project**  
**Disney's High School Musical Jr**  
Oct. 13–15, 2023

**Guys and Dolls**  
2022-23 Season



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# PRODUCTION CREWS

Technical Directors: **Nicholas Amundson, Paul Cartwright**

Dresser: **Jenny Bryant**

Run Crew: **Jenny Bryant, Al Downey, Ashley Kientoff, Lindsey Nelson**

Sound Board Operators: **Kyle Bochart, Lindsey Nelson**

Light Board Operator: **Kiera McGregor**

Set Construction: **Isaiah Cunnally, Sophia Hobbs, Kristine Hoisington, Andrew Johnson, Akosua Wiafe**

Set Painting: **Kathleen Baustian, Isaiah Cunnally, Harold Hinkhouse, Sophia Hobbs, Kristine Hoisington, Andrew Johnson, Darlene Pullen, Ann Youngs, Akosua Wiafe**

Master Electrician: **Virgil Kleinhesselink**

Audition Crew: **Pilar Burg**

Historians: **Mark Morrison, Lloyd Von Hagen**

*NATIVE GARDENS* SPECIAL THANKS  
**Katherine Jurado**

*KINKY BOOTS* SPECIAL THANKS  
*Due to print deadlines, these individuals could not be acknowledged in the previous payroll.*

Guest Services: **Brenda Amro, Jack Andersen, Victoria Bakros, Linda Baltzley, Natalie Batiste, Maddy Baumann, Paige Benard, Elizabeth Binkley, Kim Blakesley, Steve Blakesley, Claire Boerre, Bonnie Braatz, Shannon Bristow, Juls Bruns, Alison Buechler, Darlene Cangas, Karna Converse, Kenneth Converse, Judi Cooper, Rhya Cowden, Carol Culmer, Abdurauf Dadabaev, Sophia Davis, Amara Dorr, Marcella Edmonds, Leah Eichhorn, Sarah Eichhorn, Mark Eikenberry, Abby Elsbernd, Mark Ferguson, Susan Ferguson, Pat Finan, Jeremy Fitzpatrick, Kathryn Fitzpatrick, Sara Fitzpatrick, Jane Flagler, Gayle Freel, Simone Freeman, Rory Freeman, Maarz Friesleben, Allison Gonyo, Jill Gray, Tesa Greenlee, Genevieve Gualerzi, Noah Hackbart, Rain Hall, Maria Heath, Linda Hendricks, Harold Hinkhouse, Pat Hipple, Riley Hogendorn, Kristine Hoisington, Carol Holland, Laura Hollinrake, Tamera Holzhauser, Madison Holzhauser, Lucas Holzhauser, Kevin House,**

**Jeffrey House, Cassandra House, Abigail Houston, Elizabeth Huebsch, Charlie Johnson, Laurie Johnson, Anne Jung, Mary Kahl, Abhishak Khanna, Shahriyorkhoja Khojaev, Abby Kilpatrick, Elysa Koss, Frank Koss, Susan Lee, Rachel Lewis, Savannah Lucas, Marcia Lyon, Mary Marshall, Linda McClure, Barb Merrill, Marisa Mickunas, Tatum Murphy, Yevhenii Nakonechnyi, Rebecca Newbury, Judy O'Keefe, Paige Olsen, Greta Paulsen, Janet Peck, Kasy Pemberton, Kathy Polson, Karen Puffett, Mark Pullen, Darlene Pullen, Colton Quintanilla, Shirlee Reding, Jamie Rempe, Isabella Rempe, Emmitt Reyerson, Stephanie Roe, Nick Root, Kendric Santos-Briggs, Kade Shafer, Amy Shafer, Olivia Simons, Amy Skarin, George Sparks, Sydney Swanson, Jenny Ta, Carey Templeton, Oliver Thrun, Marcus Troung, Sandra Valukaran, Lori Van Zee, Maddox Wajda, Nancy Ward, Fran Watson, Cliff Wendal, Susan Wendal, Janet Whiteside, Elle Wood, Mary Wyant, Chammie Yarlee, Ashlyn Yu**

*HOW I BECAME A PIRATE* SPECIAL THANKS

*Due to print deadlines, these individuals could not be acknowledged in the previous payroll.*

Run Crew: **Jonathan Garton, Joe Smith**  
Sound Board Operators: **Travis Edrington, Abby Kilpatrick**  
Preshow announcement: **Adam Fast**  
Guest Services: **Phyllis Allen-Morris, Michelle Anthoney, Thora Anthoney, Mia Backous, Naomi Backous, Nathalie Batiste, Corley Blackford, Emery Blackford, Miranda Blackford, Kim Blakesley, Steve Blakesley, Juls Bruns, Rhya Cowden, Carol Culmer, Kent Davis, Lydia Davis, Patty Davis, Al Downey, Ruth Downey, Penny Edmonds, Mark Eikenberry, Tami Fetters, Janet Flagler, Maarz Friesleben, Jill Gray, Brody Haugh, Keith Hayes, Harold Hinkhouse, Charlie Johnson, Laurie Johnson, Jerome Keller, Thomas Ksobiech, Jack Meyer, Rebecca Newbury, Izzabella Olson, Kathy Polson, Darlene Pullen, Mark Pullen, Denise Rees, Kayla Rees, Peter Schubert, Olivia Simons, Amy Skarin, Shane Snitker, Brian Sturges, Cecilia Talley, Aaliyah Trimble, Janet Whiteside**

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## Leadership

David R. Kilpatrick, *Executive Director*  
Katy Merriman, *Artistic Director*

## Staff

Cal Adame, *Ticket Office*  
Nicholas Amundson, *Technical Director*  
Javier Anselmo, *Education Intern*  
Lee Ann Bakros, *Marketing & Public Relations Director*  
Lindsey Ballard, *Concessions Manager*  
Tiffany Briggs, *House Manager*  
Paul Cartwright, *Technical Director*  
Ryan Crane, *Director of Philanthropy*  
Caitlyn Dean, *Education Intern*  
Peyton Haas, *Marketing & Philanthropy Intern*  
Mary Hofer, *Finance*  
Debbie Jacobson, *Ticket Office Manager*  
Angela Lampe, *Associate Artistic Director*  
Katy McCaull, *Marketing & Philanthropy Coordinator*  
Cherie Moen, *House Manager*  
Bartley Mullin, *House Manager*  
Derek Phelps, *Volunteer & Production Coordinator*  
Robin Heldt Spahr, *Education Director*  
Jessica Van Essen, *Costume Shop, Supervisor*  
David A. VanCleave, *House Manager*  
Henry Vermeer, *Education Intern*  
Kami Waymire, *Education Intern*  
Nate Weber, *Education Outreach*

## Education Staff

Nicole Chavas-Schwegler	Nate Jorgensen
Allison Crain	Greg Millar
Jenna Darsee	Taylor Millar
Katie Dorrell*	Catie Miller
Rusk Dorsett	Deb Paul
Tali Eisenstadt	Brett Spahr*
Cedric Frevier	Molly Thorsen
Anne Frett	Kim Van Haecke
Robin Breen Fulton*	Anna Zimney
Maren Grant	
Ron Hyde	*Master Teacher

## Board of Directors

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Eric Smith, *Grinnell State Bank*  
Lu Spaine, *Zumi LLC*  
Kevin Waetke, *Sammons Financial Group*

## Pre-Intern Program (PIPs)

Grace Aerisophal	Sam Nigg
Jack Andersen	Hudson Pulver
Alexander Baker	Claire Riesberg
Isabelle Baker	Ridge Rutherford
Celeste Brown	Ashley Scarbrough
Anica Burch	Evie Smith
Delaney Dorsey	Lily Spahr
Mar Feltelson	Nina Spahr
Katelyn Gallagher	Sophie Thomsen
Aya Haidar	Sofia Titarenko
Teddi Karnes	Aaliyah Trimble
Kalya Kothavale	Addie Van Dyke
Tatum Lowell	Emmett Van Haecke
Ailie McLaren	Franny Winn
Samantha Miller	Ashlyn Yu
Caroline Muelhaupt	McKenna Yu

## MISSION

To create extraordinary, shared experiences through live theatre.

## VISION

To be the home for artistic collaboration where any story can be told.

## STATEMENT ON EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION

We at The Playhouse grieve at the injustice and systemic inequalities committed to marginalized people in our world. We support community as we bond to create awareness and encourage dialogue.

We denounce racism and violence against all people.

Our team makes it our mission to engage and enrich all people to provide lifelong educational opportunities and is committed to creating and supporting an inclusive theatre that will give everyone a platform to heal and to move forward into better days.

*Published: June 2, 2020*

## POLICY ON EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION

All volunteers who come to audition for a show at The Des Moines Community Playhouse are welcome, and we do not ask or keep a record of their race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, sexual identity, age, or disability status.

The Playhouse is deeply committed to and supportive of diversity in local theatre. We work to include and serve all members of the community, to the extent possible, in stage productions and in our educational offerings.

The Playhouse has a strong and well-documented history of reaching out to diverse groups for inclusion in its programming. Our goal is to provide a rewarding experience for all volunteers and participants, from performers and students to their families and our audience members.

*Policy published August 18, 2016*

*Reiterated June 2, 2020*



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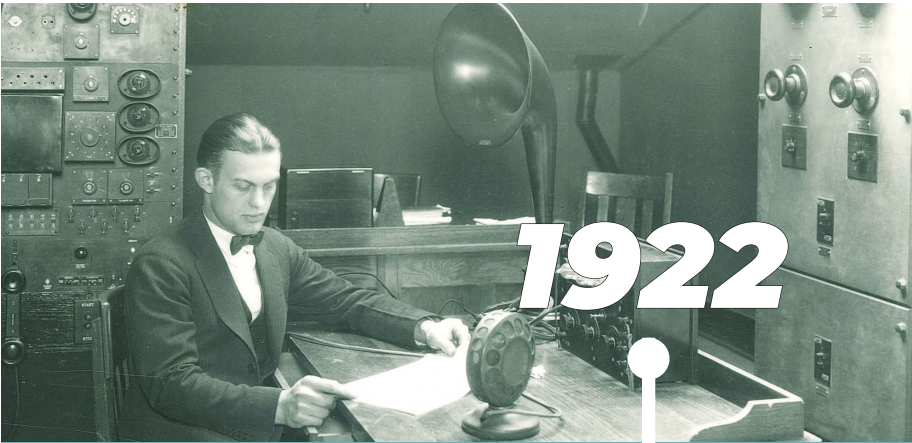


Keelin Reilly,  
*Gyps and Dolls*,  
2022-23 Season

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Researcher,  
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