



## AUDITION NOTICE

### **NATIVE GARDENS**

by Karen Zacarías

Directed by Kirsten Brooks

Rehearsals start: February 4, 2025

Performance Dates: February 28 – March 16, 2025

**Audition date/time: November 20, 7:30-10:00pm**

Riverside Theatre in Iowa City is seeking local performers for its production of *Native Gardens* by Karen Zacarías, directed by Kirsten Brooks. Rehearsals begin February 4, 2025, with performances February 28 - March 16, 2025.

### Synopsis

Well-intentioned neighbors become feuding enemies when cultures and gardens clash. Pablo is a rising attorney and Tania is a doctoral candidate. With their first child on the way, they purchase a home next to Frank and Virginia, an established D.C. couple with a prize-worthy English garden. But an impending barbecue for Pablo's colleagues and a sensitive conflict over a property line quickly spirals into an all-out border dispute!

### Breakdown

**TANIA DEL VALLE: (Female, mid 20s-early 40s: Reads as early 30s).** Described by the playwright as “smart, likeable, positive, passionate, highly-energized, pregnant PhD candidate and gardener,” Tania is a feminist, decolonial scholar who loves to learn and educate on everything from anthropology and the role of origins (the subject of her dissertation) to regional ecosystems (a hobby and the guiding principle of her gardening style). At once grounded and fiery, Tania grew up in a financially struggling family in New Mexico, and has a keen sense of justice and compassion. She is able to see some of the nuance of the conflict with her neighbors, and it is precisely her sense of justice and compassion that make the situation so difficult for her to navigate. She identifies as Mexican-American and Latinx, swears fluently in Spanish but doesn't speak very much of it, and finds it soothing to play in the dirt. (*Intimacy requirements: spousal demonstrations of affection with PABLO possibly including brief kisses. Begins to go into labor onstage.*)

**PABLO DEL VALLE: (Male, mid 20s-early 40s: Reads as early 30s).** Described by the playwright as “smart, likeable, ambitious, savvy young attorney,” Pablo is very aware that, as a Chilean immigrant in Washington legal society, he has something to prove, and he is determined to prove it! Pablo grew up in an affluent family in Las Condes, a wealthy suburb of Santiago, and went to boarding school in the D.C. area. He adores his wife, Tania, and shares her firm belief in beauty and justice, even if he doesn't always understand or even agree with her perspectives on what that means. He genuinely wants to be a good provider, husband and father. Pablo also believes in the American Dream, and is tenacious enough to make it a reality for his young, growing family. (*Intimacy requirements: spousal demonstrations of affection with TANIA possibly including brief kisses. Supports TANIA when she begins to go into labor onstage.*)

**GOMEZ LANDSCAPERS: (2-4 roles, 20s+, any gender, Latinx).** Non-speaking but essential roles (full irony intended). The Gomez landscapers very literally tell the story of the conflict in the garden by progressing the development of the fence construction. They also provide a commentary on the unfolding of the upper-middle class drama of the two neighboring households, and they tell their own story by the way they inhabit the space, interact with each other, and go about their work. Lots of room for developing and individualizing characters through improvisation and physicality here. *(Performers will be involved with scenic changes.)*

Riverside Theatre encourages actors of all gender identities, as well as performers of differing abilities to submit for available roles.

The roles of Frank and Virginia have been cast, and will be played by Ron Clark and Jody Hovland.

#### Performer stipends

Tania / Pablo (\$1,200). Gomez Landscapers (\$500). AEA members: Special Appearance Contract Tier II.

#### Audition info

Auditions will be held Wednesday 11/20 from 7:30-10:00pm. Performers will be asked to prepare one contemporary monologue, along with side(s) from the play, which will be provided.

**To sign up for this audition, please send headshot and resume to [artistic@riversidetheatre.org](mailto:artistic@riversidetheatre.org).** A member of the artistic team will then follow up with an audition slot time and any follow up questions!

**[www.riversidetheatre.org](http://www.riversidetheatre.org)**