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GEVA'S 46TH SEASON CONTINUES WITH ***NATIVE GARDENS***

***ESL Federal Credit Union/Rochester Regional Health 2018-2019 Season
continues with one of this year's most produced plays.***

Rochester, N.Y., March 13, 2019 – Geva Theatre Center presents *Native Gardens*, by **Karen Zacarías** and directed by **Melissa Crespo**, in the Elaine P. Wilson Stage from **March 26 through April 21, 2019**.

One of this year's most-produced plays: A brilliant new backyard comedy redefining what it means to be "neighborly". When a disagreement over a property line turns into a war of green thumbs, neighbors spin out of control with hilarious results.

Mexican-born playwright **Karen Zacarías** was recently hailed as one of the most produced playwrights in the United States. In addition to *Native Gardens*, her award-winning plays include *Destiny of Desire*, *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 ten renowned theatre for young audiences (TYA) musicals 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, and a founder of Young Playwrights' Theater. She was voted 2018 Washingtonian of the Year by *Washingtonian Magazine* for her advocacy work in the arts. Recently, the League of Professional Theatre Women announced that she will be the recipient of the 2019 Lee Reynolds Award, given annually to a woman in theatre who has helped to illuminate the possibilities for social, cultural or political change.

Native Gardens had its world premiere at Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park in 2016. It was one of the top 10 most produced plays of the 2018-2019 Season.

This production of *Native Gardens* is a co-production with Syracuse Stage, where it ran from February 13 to March 3, and Portland Center Stage, where it will run from May 18 to June 16.

Native Gardens features an ensemble cast. **Anne-Marie Cusson** (Broadway production of *Magic/Bird*) returns to Geva where she has appeared in *The Clean House*, *Our Town* and *Inherit the Wind*. Ms. Cusson appears as Virginia Butley. Making their Geva Theatre Center debuts are **Paul DeBoy** (Broadway productions of *Mamma Mia!* and *Sight Unseen*; National Tour of *Mamma Mia!*) as Frank Butley; **Erick González** (New York productions of *El Coronel No Tiene Quien Le Escriba*, and *Valor Agravio y Mujer* at Repertorio Español; and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Macbeth*, *The Taming of the Shrew* for Hip to Hip Theatre Company) as Pablo Del Valle; **Monica Rae Summers Gonzalez** (Off-Broadway production of *The Siblings Play* at Cherry Lane Theatre; TV's *Orange is the New Black* and *Shades of Blue*) as Tania Del Valle. In addition to the four principals, local actors **Julio Jordan**, **Samantha Parisi**, **Martin H Pedraza** and **Anthony Rosado** appear as "gardeners."

Native Gardens is directed by **Melissa Crespo**. The creative team includes **Shoko Kambara** (scenic design), **Lux Haac** (costume design), **Dawn Chiang** (lighting design), **Elisheba Ittoop** (sound design/original music), **Derek Madonia** (Associate Lighting Designer), **Andrew Mark Wilhelm** (Associate Sound Designer), **Jenny Daniels** (Stage Manager) and **Jared Morgan** (Assistant Stage Manager).

The 2018-2019 Season is sponsored by **ESL Federal Credit Union** and **Rochester Regional Health**. The Honorary Season Producer is **Dr. Dawn Lipson**. *Native Gardens* is produced with support from Co-Producer **Rockcastle Florist**; Associate Producer **Hurlbut Care Communities**; Associate Producer **Madeleine's Catering**; and Media Sponsor **13WHAM**.

***Native Gardens* begins previews on March 26, opens March 30 and runs through April 21.**

**For further information, photographs or to arrange interviews, please contact:
Dawn Kellogg, Communications Manager, (585) 420-2059.**

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Previews: Tuesday, March 26 @ 7:30pm
Wednesday, March 27 @ 7:30pm
Thursday, March 28 @ 7:30pm
Friday, March 29 @ 8pm
Saturday, March 30 @ 2pm (Open Captioned Performance)

Opening: Saturday, March 30 @ 8pm

Performances: Sunday, March 31 @ 2pm and 7pm
Tuesday, April 2 @ 6pm
Wednesday, April 3 @ 7:30pm
Thursday, April 4 @ 7:30pm
Friday, April 5 @ 8pm
Saturday, April 6 @ 4pm and 8:30pm

Sunday, April 7 @ 2pm (Sunday Salon) and 7pm
Tuesday, April 9 @ 7:30pm
Wednesday, April 10 @ 7:30pm
Thursday, April 11 @ 7:30pm
Friday, April 12 @ 8pm
Saturday, April 13 @ 4pm and 8:30pm
Sunday, April 14 @ 2pm (Audio Described Performance) and 7pm
Tuesday, April 16 @ 7:30pm
Wednesday, April 17 @ 2pm and 7:30pm (Open Captioned Performances)
Thursday, April 18 @ 7:30pm (ASL Interpreted Performance)
Friday, April 19 @ 8pm
Saturday, April 20 @ 4pm and 8:30pm
Sunday, April 21 @ 2pm (Sunday Salon)

Ticket Prices: Tickets start at \$25.

Reservations: (585) 232-GEVA (4382), Website: www.gevatheatre.org

Location: Geva Theatre Center, 75 Woodbury Blvd, Rochester, NY 14607

* Partial support for open captioning provided by Theatre Development Fund.

GEVA THEATRE CENTER

Founded in 1972, Geva Theatre Center is a not-for-profit, professional theatre company dedicated to creating and producing professional theatre productions, programs and services of a national standard. As Rochester's leading professional theatre, Geva Theatre Center is the most attended regional theatre in New York State, and one of the 25 most subscribed in the country, serving up to 160,000 patrons annually, including more than 16,000 students.

The 516-seat Elaine P. Wilson Stage is home to a wide variety of performances, from musicals to American and world classics. The 180-seat Ron & Donna Fielding Stage is home to Geva's own series of contemporary drama, comedy and musical theatre; Geva's New Play Reading Series and the Hornets' Nest - an innovative play-reading series facilitating community-wide discussion on controversial topics. In addition, the Fielding Stage hosts visiting companies of both local and international renown.

Geva Theatre Center offers a wide variety of educational, outreach and literary programs, nurturing audiences and artists alike. Since 1995, the organization has been under the artistic direction of Mark Cuddy.