



The Brookfield Theatre
for the Arts

presents

Native Gardens

by **Karen Zacarias**

directed by **Terry Sagedy**

assistant director **Stacey Snyder**

produced by **Sarah Denn**



The Brookfield Theatre for the Arts, Inc.

July 2021

Dear theater family & friends,

Welcome back—we are so happy to return back to the Brookfield Theatre stage for a live show! We hope you were able to enjoy the many virtual and limited shows we produced throughout the pandemic lockdown. We recently celebrated our annual Paddy Awards where we honored Volunteer of the Year Emma Okell for all her help with our virtual shows.

Brookfield Theatre is so thankful and grateful for the many people who reached out with their moral and financial support throughout this past year. Special thanks go to our theatre "angel" Josephine H. Luicci who contacted us to be sure we would be able to restart after the shutdown. I am continually humbled by the support and dedication of so many who keep the arts alive in Brookfield. Thank you so very much!

Please be assured that we are taking every precaution possible concerning the Covid-19 pandemic including re-evaluating our cleaning and ventilation. If you have any questions or concerns, please see the House Manager. We have limited our tickets to allow for patrons to leave space between seats and avoid overcrowding. Please be thoughtful of your fellow patrons throughout the show. We recommend wearing masks indoors, even if you are fully vaccinated. We hope this crisis is over quickly and with limited impact to our community.

Please watch our web site and emails for information about upcoming shows and special events. We hope you will join us for the rest of our 2021 season. Thank you for supporting our 64th year as an all volunteer non-profit organization, providing a brave space for the arts. Brookfield Theatre relies on our loyal patrons to continue the work of providing a creative center for the Brookfield community.

Enjoy the show,
Lou Okell, President

In Memoriam

2020

Ray Sipherd

2021

Larry Stewart

Diana McCauley

Helen Masterson Bechard

Thank you to our 2020–2021 Supporters

SEASON ANGEL \$15,000+

Josephine H. Luicci

FRONT ROW CENTER \$2,500+

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Rodney L. White Foundation**

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Roberto Perez • Rebecca Pokorski-Cebollero
Gretchen & Vito Rossi • Terry Sagedy • Thomas Samuels
Ray Sipherd & Anne Marie Foran • David Tabasko
Christopher Wallin • Danuta & Steve Wright • Vincent Young**

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Laurel Lettieri • Valerie Lorimer • Mike Lozier • Peter & Anne Lloyd
Will Mahan • Judy Mangan • Bruce McQueen • Craig David Rosen
Jordan Roy • Joyce Schriebman • Ted Schwartz • Robert R & Susan Smith
Joy Tagliavento • The Waterbury Family**

FRIENDS up to \$25

Gayle Baker, Ashley Brundage, Vivian Cebollero, Roseanne Coppola, Alicia Dempster, Loretta Donovan, Jillian Dyer-Doherty, Chris Fay, Molly Farrell-Savage, Jacklyn Fischetto, Jill Gentile, Anna Hicks, Barbara Kessler, Sean Latasa, Leonard Leibowitz, Peter Lerman, Laurel Lettieri, Will Mahan, Jennifer McCaughan, The Munn Family, Jennifer O'Farrell, Andrew Okell, Anthony & Kristin Papucci, Craig David Rosen, Michele Sacco, Mark Simpson, Ascuncion Sosa, Jo-Ann St Leger, Jennifer Titus, Jami Valzania, Deirdra Wallin, Melissa Young

**In memory of Larry Stewart.*

List current as of press time. We apologize for any errors or omissions. The Brookfield Theatre for the Arts is a 501(c)(3) non-profit community theater. Donations are tax deductible—please consult your tax professional.

NATIVE GARDENS

by **KAREN ZACARIAS**

directed by **TERRY SAGEDY**

assistant directed by **STACEY SNYDER**

produced by **SARAH DENN**

STARRING

Andrea Flores *Tania DelValle*

Ron Malyszka *Frank Butley*

Laurel Lettieri *Virginia Butley*

Ian Arbués *Pablo DelValle*

Miles Snyder *Garden Crew*

Ben Wallin *Garden Crew*

SETTING

Current day

Washington, DC

There will be no intermission.

THE VIDEOTAPING OR MAKING OF ELECTRONIC OR OTHER AUDIO AND/OR VISUAL RECORDINGS OF THIS PRODUCTION OR DISTRIBUTING RECORDINGS ON ANY MEDIUM, INCLUDING THE INTERNET, IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

NATIVE GARDENS is presented through special arrangement with Concord Theatricals for Samuel French, Inc., New York.

IN THE GALLERY

NOW SHOWING in our lobby gallery: the artwork of Jeanne Steers.

Jeanne Steers is a professional artist and a graduate of RISD. She is the curator of Brookfield Theatre's gallery art shows.

Known for her dynamic and colorful paintings, Jeanne Steers works mainly in acrylic or wax oil crayon on shaped masonite board. Over the years her work on shaped board has evolved, the shaped canvas adding an additional dimension and element to the meaning of the piece. This third dimension adds depth while providing an unique framework for the art.

The gallery show features pieces from the Zest collection.

BIOGRAPHIES

Ian Arbués (PABLO DELVALLE) is happy to return to the Brookfield stage after appearing here in FROST/NIXON, and DAMN YANKEES. He also appeared in last year's virtual staged reading of ARE YOU MY SISTER. He thanks Terry for the opportunity and the cast and crew for making this show such a great experience. Ian is currently writing and directing an audio drama original podcast along with other writing projects.

Lilli Bottelsen (SOUND ENGINEER) is excited to be back in the tech booth for NATIVE GARDENS! They have helped with many shows at Brookfield Theater over the years. Lilli is currently a Mathematics major at WCSU with plans to graduate in early 2022.

Sarah Denn (PRODUCER) is so proud of the entire NATIVE GARDENS team! She is also intensely grateful to her Brookfield Theater family for giving her the opportunity to use what she learned from her theater degree. Sarah doesn't particularly like Autumn Olive or Bradford Pear and has never planted a Japanese Honeysuckle although she does think that Peonies are pretty.

Andrea Flores (TANIA DELVALLE) makes her Brookfield Theatre debut with NATIVE GARDENS. Previous performances include her high school class musicals and "performing" as a Spanish teacher. She thanks Terry and Sarah for this amazing opportunity, her fellow castmates and the crew for all their hard work on the show, and her husband for his patience and love.

Ron Malyszka (FRANK BUTLEY) Over the last few decades, Ron has more than 50 credits in regional and community theatre productions throughout western CT and beyond. Performances here include MACBETH, THE LION IN WINTER, NOISES OFF, THE FANTASTIKS, AND THEN THERE WERE NONE, and TUESDAYS WITH MORIE to name a few. Ron also appeared in the recent virtual productions of HENRY V, A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM, and RICHARD II. He is thrilled to be back on stage with a live audience in this wonderful production of NATIVE GARDENS! Enjoy the show.

Andrew Okell (PRODUCER/SET DESIGNER/SET BUILDER-2011 Volunteer of the Year) first started in theatre at the tender age of 8 in THE TIME MACHINE, ROBIN HOOD and some not so well known productions. Becoming less desirable on stage, set building and design became a better option. Numerous sets have been built and some designed over the last decade including LAST OF THE RED HOT LOVERS, I LOVE YOU, YOU'RE PERFECT..., MOONLIGHT & MAGNOLIAS (Rose Brand Best Amateur Set Design 2012), STEEL MAGNOLIAS, LION IN WINTER, MACBETH, AMERICAN IDIOT, MOON OVER BUFFALO, and personal favorite NOISES OFF. Thank you to Brookfield theatre and building cohorts Bob Lane, Don Lombardo, and Larry Coleman for enabling me.

BIOGRAPHIES

Lou Okell (LIGHTING & SOUND DESIGN-2009 *Volunteer of the Year*) serves as theatre president. Having enjoyed many theater tasks throughout the years, it is very exciting to be back in the booth with a live audience! Many thanks to Terry, Sarah, Stacey, and Ben for all their work on the show and for the talented cast—it's so great to hear laughter in the theatre again. Love and thanks especially to Emma.

Laurel Lettieri (VIRGINIA BUTLEY) Touring credits include the Northwest with Seattle Repertory Theatre. Local credits: PERFECT ARRANGEMENT (Brookfield Theatre), RETREAT FROM MOSCOW, LEND ME A TENOR, ALMOST MAINE, THE VEIL, SUDDENLY LAST SUMMER (Town Players of Newtown); A DELICATE BALANCE, MOON OVER BUFFALO, LATER LIFE, DOUBT (Pound Ridge Theater Company); WATCH ON THE RHINE (Westport Community Theater); THE UNEXPECTED GUEST, BAREFOOT IN THE PARK, THE BEST MAN (Curtain Call); IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST, GLASS MENAGERIE, OUR TOWN, 12 ANGRY JURORS (Brewster Theater Company); THE HEIRESS (Town Players of New Canaan); MEMORY OF WATER, ROUND AND ROUND THE GARDEN, AUGUST O'SAGE COUNTY, OLD RINGERS (Ridgefield Theater Barn). Training: NYU School of the Arts, The Linklater Institute, HB Studios. Laurel also performed in a virtual production of THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH with Terry for Brookfield. Thank you to Terry, Sarah, Stacey and Ben, and all the dedicated, talented cast and crew members here at Brookfield Theatre!

Rebecca Pokorski Cebollero (COSTUME DESIGN-2017 *Volunteer of the Year*) is very happy to be costume designing for the NATIVE GARDENS cast! Rebecca is a past vice president of the theatre and resides here in Brookfield with her lovely daughter Eden and her wonderful and supportive husband Joe. Rebecca's stage credits include THE WILD PARTY; INTO THE WOODS; I LOVE YOU, YOU'RE PERFECT, NOW CHANGE; and DAMN YANKEES. She co-directed BLITHE SPIRIT, directed a staged reading of THE CRUCIBLE, and costumed designed many, many shows. Other favorite roles include Madame Thernardier in LES MISERABLES at Thomaston Opera House, Vicki in THE FULL MONTY at Brewster Theatre and Mayor Matilda Hyde in ALL SHOOK UP with Warner Stage. Rebecca has a degree in Costume Design from SUNY Fredonia and has worked as a costume professional at The Wisconsin Shakespeare Festival, The Mac-Haydn Theatre and Tennessee Repertory Theatre before moving on to Broadway at Disney's BEAUTY & THE BEAST, JEKYLL & HYDE, MISS SAIGON and with The Royal Ballet at The Met.

Terry Sagedy (DIRECTOR) is a rare combination of marketeer and arts enthusiast rolled up into one. An actor, playwright and lifelong aficionado of the theatre who has served as the Marketing Director of the Alliance Theatre, the southeast's largest and most acclaimed Tony Award-winning equity theatre where he marketed three world premiere musicals

BIOGRAPHIES

including GHOST BROTHERS OF DARKLAND COUNTY, TWIST and BRING IT ON: THE MUSICAL. He has over 35 years' combined experience on the boards of directors of non-profit arts organizations throughout the southeastern US and has appeared in over 40 productions. In addition to NATIVE GARDENS, he has directed PERFECT ARRANGEMENT and virtual productions of THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH and MISS BENNET: CHRISTMAS AT PEMBERLY at Brookfield, and PORCH and ALMOST MAINE at Town Players of Newtown. Terry also served as the Chairman of the Newtown Arts Festival for four years. He would like to thank the Brookfield Board for this opportunity, especially Sarah, Lou, and Andy, and the wonderful cast and crew for making this show a success. Love and thanks for the support to Paul and Ollie Good Boy.

Miles Snyder (GARDENER) is an extremely talented BHS student who has performed as an actor, singer, and musician in various venues. He most recently appeared in Brookfield's WINTER CABARET. He is happy to lend his talents to NATIVE GARDENS and thanks his family for their support.

Stacey Snyder (ASSISTANT DIRECTOR) is so happy to be part of the amazing team for NATIVE GARDENS. Her favorite past productions include BEST LITTLE WHOREHOUSE and M'ADO here at Brookfield along with LYSISTRATA (SWFL), THE ELEVEN DOLLAR PROPHET (Fringe Festival), VEGETABLE DUMPLINGS (NYC), and CHILDREN OF EDEN (MAR). Stacey is currently collaborating on writing her first musical which she hopes to debut sometime next year. She thanks her sweet family for their love and support. Enjoy the show!

OUR HISTORY

The Country Players of Brookfield was founded in 1957 by Tillie Ciccala and Dot French with an ad in the local newspaper asking, "Are you a ham?" They found many hams to join their ranks and their first play was produced in 1958. Plays were initially performed in church halls and school auditoriums. After a school complained about an actor appearing on stage with no shirt, it became clear that the band of players needed a home of its own. After refurbishing this building (originally the Curtis school gym built in 1907), it has been the permanent home of Brookfield's community theater. The organization eventually grew to include a wide range of cultural offerings and, in 2003, changed its name to "The Brookfield Theatre for the Arts, Inc." to reflect this commitment. At the same time, plans began for the building of a lobby annex to offer a gathering place for social events and concerts, and gallery space for art exhibits. The new lobby was dedicated in 2005. This year marks Brookfield's 64th year as an all-volunteer, non-profit organization providing quality live performances, cultural events, and educational workshops to the community. We rely on YOU to add your love of theatre and your willingness to volunteer to help keep this dream alive! Please help us by spreading the word or consider donating your time and talent and help keep the arts alive in Brookfield!

Thank you for supporting our work—please help us spread the word!

NATIVE GARDENS

by KAREN ZACARIAS

directed by TERRY SAGEDY

PRODUCTION CREW

DIRECTOR Terry Sagedy
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR Stacey Snyder
PRODUCER Sarah Denn
STAGE MANAGER Ben Wallin
SET DESIGN/CONSTRUCTION Andrew Okell
COSTUME DESIGN Rebecca Pokorski
LIGHTING & SOUND DESIGN Lou Okell
SOUND ENGINEER Lilli Bottelsen
SET CONSTRUCTION & DECORATION Andrew Okell, Emma Okell,
Lou Okell, Terry Sagedy
HOUSE PHOTOGRAPHER Stephen Cihanek
HOUSE MANAGER Joy Tagliavento & volunteers
BOX OFFICE Danette Bottelsen & volunteers

For the safety of performers, the courtesy of patrons, and in compliance with CDC recommendations, please follow current mask & social distance guidelines. Remain seated throughout the performance and mingle with cast and friends outdoors after the show. Please use all exits.

For the safety of performers, the courtesy of patrons, and in compliance with copyright laws, the taking photos or recordings of any kind is strictly prohibited. **PLEASE TURN OFF ALL** non-essential electronic devices as they can interfere with our technical systems. **Patrons are welcome to text or tweet in the lobby.**

EMERGENCY FIRE NOTICE

Please observe the **EXIT** sign nearest to the seat which you occupy. It is the shortest route to the exterior of the building. In the unlikely event of an emergency, theatre personnel will be available to assist your orderly departure.

Members & Subscribers

Membership is still only \$20 and is a great way to support the theatre!

2020 Members

David Anctil, Eric Bosco-Schmidt, Tony Bosco-Schmidt,
Danette Bottelsen, Arlene Coleman, Larry Coleman, Sarah Denn,
Purvi Dudhedia, Jane Farnol, Faith Fernandes, Sandra Haydon,
Paget Haylon, Rick Haylon, Donald Lombardo, Karlene Lombardo,
Andrew Okell, Lou Okell, Rebecca Pokorski-Cebollero,
Doreen Rafferty, Terry Sagedy, Joy Tagliavento

Lifetime Members

Wendell MacNeal, Barbara Locke, Imelda Roth, Bill Possidento,
Bart Geissinger, David Tuttle, Stephanie Skrok Daniels,
Carol Hoose, Michael Burnett

2020-2021 Season Subscribers

Sherry Asch, Ken Ayoub*, Angela & Joseph Barna*,
Tony & Eric Bosco-Schmidt*, Danette & John Bottelsen*, Laurie Boxer,
Elizabeth Breitsch*, Anna & Roy Chan*, Anthony Chiodo,
Larry & Arlene Coleman*, Susan Corretti, Paula Culbreth*,
Christine Daley, Brian DeToma, Purvi Dudhedia, Jane Farnol,
Dennis & Diana Filibert*, Anne & Neil Gardner*, Sandra Haydon,
Wilda Hayes & Ronald Olsen*, Rick & Paget Haylon*,
Cathy & Bill Hunt*, Pamme Jones, Don & Karlene Lombardo*,
Margaret & Kevin McLoone**, Larry Meth, Kenneth Ng, Susie Ng,
Tara Peterson, Jared Reynolds, Clint & Anne Rickards*, Terry Sagedy,
Bettianne Smith, Stacey Snyder, Jeanne & Chris Steers, Steven Stott,
Renee Sutherland, Patricia Vallera, Mary & Ron Vallo*, Patricia Villella,
Christine Volo*, Deirdra Wallin, Steve & Danuta Wright*

*subscription for 2, **subscription for 3, ***subscription for 4

Gift of Theatre Givers

Rachel Almeida • William Hunt • Bernadette Parker • Denise Reidy

IN-KIND SERVICES

Arketype • Beyond The Wall • Simpson & Vail • Brian Casella—Vivid Events

*List current as of press time. We apologize for any errors or omissions.
The Brookfield Theatre for the Arts is a 501(c)(3) non-profit community theater. Donations are tax
deductible—please consult your tax professional.*

Thank you for your support!

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Brookfield Theatre for the Arts, Inc.

Lou Okell, PRESIDENT • Andrew Okell, VICE PRESIDENT
Danette Bottelsen, TREASURER • Sarah Denn, SECRETARY

DIRECTORS: David Anctil, Faith Fernandes, Terry Sagedy, Joy Tagliavento
Ben Wallin (*student representative*)

Join our team! Contact us at BrookfieldTheaterCT@gmail.com

Jesse Lewis Choose Love Movement™

JesseLewisChooSELove.org



Jesse Lewis Choose Love Movement™ is a nonprofit organization with a mission to ensure that every child has access to Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) in their classrooms and to help facilitate this teaching within their families, schools and communities. Learn more about the no cost programs offered here: jesselewischooselove.org.

Founder Scarlett Lewis' six-year-old son, Jesse Lewis, was murdered in his first-grade classroom at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut in December 2012, alongside 19 of his classmates, and six educators in one of the worst mass shootings in U.S. history. Scarlett found out shortly after the tragedy that Jesse used his final moments to heroically save nine of his classmates. When the

shooter stopped to reload, Jesse yelled to his classmates to run while he stayed by his teacher's side.

Before Jesse's funeral, Scarlett found a message he wrote on their kitchen chalkboard shortly before he died, "Norturting Helinn Love" (Nurturing, Healing Love). These words are not in the vernacular of a six-year-old and were phonetically spelled because Jesse was in first grade and just learning to write. However, they are in the definition of compassion across all cultures. Love is as necessary to our healthy existence as food and water and is a universal need that connects all of humanity. Scarlett realized the solution is simple. If we infuse our classrooms with love and teach children how to give, and receive love, they won't want to harm one another and could actually add to a more peaceful and loving world.

Scarlett realized this violent act started with an angry thought in the young man's head that was responsible for the mass shooting. She also understood that an angry thought can be changed. Scarlett set out to get Jesse's message into classrooms with the understanding that if the shooter knew how to give and receive "nurturing healing love," that the tragedy would never have happened. Scarlett started the **Jesse Lewis Choose Love Movement™** to foster the understanding that with the right tools, we can educate and encourage individuals to choose loving thoughts over angry thoughts.

JesseLewisChooSELove.org