



Native Gardens

a comedy

WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD?

Four evenings: 7:30 pm
Thursday, Fridays
and first weekend Saturday

by Karen Zacarias

Directed by Lori Raffel

Three matinees: 2:30 pm
Sundays and second
weekend Saturday

Tickets: \$20 (Fri, Sat, Sun)
Thursday: \$15

AUGUST 7-16, 2026

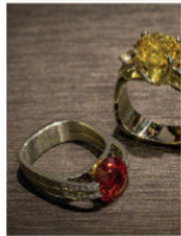
The Cat in Carmel

254 Veterans Way • Carmel, IN 46032

carmelplayers.org • 317-815-9387

Digital Program





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**Carmel Community Players
Proudly Presents**

Native Gardens

a comedy

WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD?

By Karen Zacarías

Directed by Lori Raffel

Produced by Rich Phipps

**PLEASE ENSURE YOUR SMART PHONES AND DEVICES ARE
POWERED OFF DURING THE PERFORMANCE**

Any video and/or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

Native Gardens is produced by special arrangement with Concord
Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com
Concord Theatricals 250 W. 57th Street 6th Floor New York, NY 10107-0102

Native Gardens was commissioned and first produced by Cincinnati Playhouse in the
Park under Blake Robison (Artistic Director) and Buzz Ward (Managing Director)

Carmel Community Players

For reservations, call (317) 815-9387 or see the link at our website:
www.carmelplayers.org

Thank You!

We would like to humbly thank the following people and groups who were kind enough to assist in creating this production.



Basile Westfield Playhouse
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Cast of *Native Gardens*

Tania Del Valle.	Yolanda Valdivia
Pablo Del Valle.	Oscar Otero Ortiz
Virginia Butley.	Vickie Cornelius Phipps
Frank Butley.	Larry Adams
Ensemble.	Katherine Floyd and Jacob Slager

Production Staff of *Native Gardens*

Director.	Lori Raffel
Producer.	Rich Phipps
Stage Manager.	Susan Yeaw
Sound Design	Lori Raffel
Light Design.	Karissa Henschen
Board Operator.	Adrian Blackwell
Properties.	Joyce Pendleton
Set Design.	Lori Raffel
Set Construction.	Charlie Hanover & Dave Muse
Set Decoration	Joyce Pendleton
Webmaster	Daniel Smith
Poster	Lori Raffel
Social Media Manager	Hannah Janowicz
Program Coordinator	Kat Watson
Programs and Graphics.	Bill Miller

Native Gardens Scenes and Setting

The Setting:

The back of two houses in an affluent, historic neighborhood in Washington DC. Two backyard gardens. A disheveled fence divides them. One garden is beautiful. The other is unkempt.

The Scenes:

Prologue: Spotlights

Scene 1: Monday afternoon

Scene 2: Monday evening

Scene 3: Tuesday morning

Scene 4: Wednesday morning

Scene 5: Wednesday night

Scene 6: Thursday

Scene 7: Thursday evening

Scene 8: Thursday evening

Scene 9: Friday morning

Scene 10: Friday morning

Scene 11: Friday afternoon/evening

Scene 12: Friday evening

Epilogue: Spotlights – One Year and One Month Later

There will be a 15 minute intermission between acts.

*“The difference between a flower and a weed...
is a judgment.” – Unknown*

Director's Message



When I first read this play in 2019, I instantly fell in love with the characters and the playwright's sense of humor. I mean, who can't relate to conflicts with neighbors. Several examples from my own life came to mind: specifically the 2002 Chipmunk Incident with my mother and the guy next door, but that's another story for another time.

What struck me most is how validating the story is and how all these people are truly good people. Kind people. Loving people. These four characters are all going through challenges in their lives and their struggles come out when they are forced to deal with change and compromise in the shape of backyards.

This play somehow deals with just about every conflict in the world today and does it with humor and realistic characters who are likeable and so much like each of us that it's scary. Walls are in our lives right now: Divisions, separations, and borders are very much influences in our daily lives.

Many thanks go out to the cast, crew, staff, and my mother's chipmunks. This production would not be possible without them.

Enjoy the show!

Lori Raffel

Director

Native Gardens Synopsis

Pablo, a high-powered lawyer, and doctoral candidate Tania, his very pregnant wife, are realizing the American dream when they purchase a house next door to community stalwarts Virginia and Frank. But a disagreement over a long-standing fence line soon spirals into an all-out war of taste, class, privilege, and entitlement. The hilarious results guarantee no one comes out smelling like a rose.



YOLANDA VALDIVIA (Tania Del Valle)

Yolanda is excited to be working with Carmel Community Players for the first time in their production of *Native Gardens*. Recent stage credits include Fonseca Theatre's *The Hispanic/Latino/Latina/Latinx/Latine Vote* (Paola), Epilogue Players' *A Jukebox For The Algonquin* (Josefina), *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* with Mud Creek Players, *A Skeptic and a Bruja* (Remy) with Fonseca Theatre, and *Sh!t Cake* (Cassandra) with Southbank Theatre. Endless gratitude to Brant for his unwavering love and support!



OSCAR ORTIZ (Pablo Del Valle)

Oscar is so excited to make his debut performance with Carmel community players. He is particularly excited to be playing a Latino on stage for the first time, as his Colombian roots are so very important to him. He would like to thank his family, both here and still in Colombia, for always supporting him in all he does. As his on-stage wife, Tania, says, "¡Viva la raza!"



VICKIE CORNELIUS PHIPPS (Virginia Butley)

Vickie has been involved with Carmel Community Players since 1996. She claims CCP as her home theatre with *Native Gardens* being her 39th production. Vickie has performed on several different stages throughout the Indianapolis community including Beef and Boards, ATI, Booth Tarkington, TOTS, Belfry, & Buck Creek. Favorite rolls are Rose in *Gypsy*, JoAnn in *Company*, Frau Blucher in *Young Frankenstein*, Sister Mary Hubert in *Nunsense*, Lynn in *The Great American Trailor Park Musical*, and Mrs. Tottendale in *The Drowsy Chaperone*. Vickie would like to thank Lori Raffel and the cast and crew of *Native Gardens*, It's been a great time! As always thanks to Rich and Carley for their support.



LARRY ADAMS (Frank Butley)

Larry has been appearing on Indianapolis-area stages for the past thirty-six years. A few of his favorite roles over the years include Norman in *On Golden Pond*, Marc in *Art*, Donny Dubrow in *American Buffalo*, Jake in *Jake's Women* and Matt in *The Dealer Smiles*. He most recently directed *Joined at the Head* for the Hamilton County Theatre Guild, staged here at the Cat. He thanks his mother, Jean Adams, for sharing her love of theatre, and his wife, Anita, for her support always.

**KATHERINE FLOYD (Ensemble)**

Katherine Floyd is delighted to share the stage with this talented cast. She has enjoyed performing in theatre, film, and voiceover projects and is thankful for the chance to continue growing as an artist. Outside of rehearsals, Katherine loves traveling, dancing, and curling up with a great book. She extends her heartfelt thanks to the director, cast, crew, and everyone who helped bring this production to life, as well as her family and friends for their unwavering love and support. Enjoy the show!

**JACOB SLAGER (Ensemble)**

Jacob is thrilled to be in his first show with CCP. This is his first show in the Indianapolis area since moving from the Chicago suburbs last year, and intends on performing in more. Past performances include *Fiddler on the Roof*, *The Music Man*, and *Sound of Music*. Jacob would like to thank everyone involved in putting this show together, as well as his cat Hank for keeping an eye on his apartment while Jacob is at rehearsal.

STAFF BIOS**LORI RAFFEL (Director)**

Lori has directed, stage-managed, costumed, set designed, sound designed, and even done a little acting at several places including the Phoenix Theatre, Theatre on the Square, Fringe Theatre, and many other professional and community theatres throughout central Indiana. She admits that Carmel Community Players is her all-time favorite. Lori is proud to be a part of community theatre and thanks you for supporting these shows.

**RICH PHIPPS (Producer)**

Rich has directed, produced and appeared in dozens of shows for Carmel Community Players over the past 30 years. His favorite show to direct was *The Fantasticks* (2023), his favorite show to produce was *Driving Miss Daisy* (2016), and his favorite role on stage was in *Forever Plaid* (every year from 2001-2010, and again in 2018). But the most important show he was in was *Gypsy* in 1997, where he met his wife Vickie. He has also served on the Board of Directors for CCP since 2009 and currently serves as Treasurer.

**ADRIAN BLACKWELL (Board Operator)**

Adrian is excited to be working with CCP again! He has worked backstage in many productions as a board operator or stage manager, most recently as light & sound board operator for *The Vanities* (Belfry). He was also recently seen onstage in *Gaslight* (Center Stage Community Theater), *Pride & Prejudice* (Center Stage Community Theater) as Mr. Darcy/Mr. Collins, and Glenn Cooper in *Rumors* (Anderson Mainstage Theater). Being part of theatrical productions is one of the great joys of his life.

**JOYCE PENDLETON (Properties & Set Decoration)**

Whether it's acting on the stage, working behind the scenes, or creating sets, Joyce has always loved the theater. This particular set has been one of the most complex, fun, and beautiful she's had the honor to work on. As an avid gardener, this play speaks to her in more ways than one. Joyce sends many thanks to Lori Raffel for trusting her with this show and a special shout out to her family for their support.

**KARISSA HENSCHEN (Light Designer)**

Karissa is excited to be a part of another Carmel Community Players show! She has worked on many shows at CCP, some of her favorites include: *The Fantasticks*, *Godspell*, and *Women in Black*. By day, she works as the Director of Technology and Operations at LifeJourney Church. Karissa loves getting to be creative and get back to her theatre roots!

SUSAN YEAW (Stage Manager)

Susan is very happy to be working with CCP and with Lori Raffel again!! Her first show with CCP was the *Wild and Wacky Holiday Variety Show* in 2009 at Clay Terrace! It was a hoot and she is glad to be back! She has had the pleasure of performing and working at many theaters in the Indianapolis and surrounding areas since 1997. She is mostly behind the scenes now and likes this because she doesn't have to remember any lines. But she will occasionally dust the cobwebs of her mind off and trod the boards. Susan wishes to thank her family and friends for supporting her "hobby" of 52 years, and especially YOU for your support of the arts which is needed now more than ever! Enjoy this clever, witty, funny show!

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Lori Ann Gerdisch

Jeffrey Haight

Ashley Halberstadt

Bridget Hoelzel

Tracy Hoffman

Thomas Huser

Mark Janicki

Hannah Janowicz

Thom Johnson

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Sara Kovacs

(in honor of David Muse)

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OUR NEW SEASON



Sep 25 – Oct 4, 2026

The Cat
254 Veterans Way
Carmel, IN 46032

HOME, I'M DARLING

by Laura Wade
Directed by Nicole Amsler

After losing a job, Judy has reinvented herself as the perfect 1950's housewife in a modern world. How long can she keep up this vintage facade? A dark comedy exploring identity, marriage, balancing fantasy and reality.



December 4-13, 2026

The Cat
254 Veterans Way
Carmel, IN 46032

DROP DEAD!

by Billy Van Zandt
and Jane Milmore
Directed by Elizabeth Ruddell

A cast of has-been actors plan to revive their careers in a murder mystery, only for the scripted events to become a bit too real. A non-stop physical comedy with everyone dying to solve the mystery.



March 12 – 21, 2027

The Switch Theatre
10029 126th St D
Fishers, IN 46038

BLOOD BROTHERS

book, lyrics, and music by
Willy Russell

Directed by Kathleen Clarke
Horriagan

Twin brothers were separated at birth, raised in different social classes, and grow up to be friends. A haunting rags-to-riches musical exploring nature vs. nurture, and the real cost of separation.



April 16 – 25, 2027

The Cat
254 Veterans Way
Carmel, IN 46032

THE BOOK OF WILL

by Lauren Gunderson
Directed by Glenn Dobbs

After the death of Shakespeare, two actors borrow, beg, and band together to preserve the Bard's immortal words. An unforgettable story of love, loss, and laughter, shedding new light on a man you may think you know.



June 11 – 20, 2027

The Cat
254 Veterans Way
Carmel, IN 46032

AND A CHILD SHALL LEAD

Rising Star Production
by Michael Slade
Directed by Amber K. Roth

In the face of a World War, the children of Terezin, "The Jewish City," ignite hope by studying, making art, and writing an underground newspaper. A fast-paced, poetic drama about finding a light in the darkness.



July 30 – Aug 8, 2027

The Cat
254 Veterans Way
Carmel, IN 46032

ON THE VERGE

by Eric Overmyer
Directed by Samantha Kelly

Three Victorian-era female explorers, in search of Terra Incognita, land in a surreal, time-bending landscape with some unlikely allies. Part sci-fi adventure, part hilarious romp, a witty exploration of discovery and adventure.