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NATIVE GARDENS

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ARTISTICALLY SPEAKING



I have just come back from a rejuvenating visit to our cabin in Alaska, and I'm excited to continue this season with Karen Zacarias' *Native Gardens* after John Strand's *The Originalist*. In Alaska we literally share a back yard with bears (yes, grizzly bears, the big brown ones) and I witnessed them fishing for spawning salmon, greedily mowing down bushes of blueberries and eating sedge grass.

But that was nature...not our country. The events of the last few weeks have been horrifying to watch and hear. Our country is continuously examining

what it means to be American and the values that are important to our country and our families. How we advocate for these values says a lot about us individually and collectively.

Although *Native Gardens* has a narrower focus, our relationships with our neighbors feel the strain of many stresses. These relationships may bring out the territorial grizzly in each of us, exposing parts of ourselves we don't like or parts of ourselves that we do. Karen's genius as a playwright is showing us real people with honest reactions to daily life. Who hasn't complained about the way a neighbor keeps the lawn or cleans their back yard? What happens when it's not just about the yard, and ultimately about how we view each other?

Karen and I first worked together on an Arena show in 2009 with *Legacy of Light*. While we knew each other as artists, our first collaboration was her beautiful play Arena commissioned about science, the stars and the heavens from a scientific female perspective. When I think about the many artists I've collaborated with over these 20 years, Karen is definitely a stand-out. She's clever and smart. She writes plays about real people—and she writes about women. She's an important voice for our time, and a special friend for me.

The whole country is awake and politically active in a way I haven't experienced in my lifetime, making this the most exciting time to be producing plays. Arena is a theater that welcomes people from every walk of life and all political leanings. Theater involves a search for truth, not the hiding of it; a critique of power, not the exercise of it; an invitation to conversation and insight, not a shutting down of dialogue.

We are sharing this production with our friends in Minneapolis at the Guthrie Theater. It's a pleasure to work with artistic director Joe Haj and talented artists from a sister theater. This is also a collaboration with director Blake Robison, formerly of Round House Theatre and now artistic director at Cincinnati Playhouse. Blake and Karen's work together is incisive — and funny.

At Arena Stage, we commit to making art more powerfully and more provocatively than ever before. The arts have always been on the front line of fight against fear. You, our audience, drive us forward with the roars we hear each night, the provocative discussions in the lobby, the soulsearching questions.

We go to the theater to be entertained and even to escape, but the theater also makes sense of the world, especially in times of unrest and chaos. We go to our writers for an inside and outside view. It's truly wonderful to launch Karen's play, set in D.C. — which just might bring out the bear in each of us.

All Best,

Molly Smith, Artistic Director

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



We are faced with big questions almost every day these days. In leading any organization, it is important to have a clear VISION, MISSION and a strongly held set of CORE VALUES to guide — in our case — a resident theater. Although available elsewhere in our communications, I want to restate these guiding principles:

VISION: Arena Stage's vision is to galvanize the transformative power of theater to understand who we are as Americans.

MISSION STATEMENT: Arena Stage is alive as a center for American Theater in our nation's capital with productions, diverse and innovative works from around the country and the nurturing of new plays. Our focus is on American artists. We produce and present all that is passionate, exuberant, profound, deep and dangerous in the American spirit. We explore issues from the past, present and future that reflect America's diversity and challenges. These are voiced through the productions we create, the work we develop, the presentations that move beyond our stages, and community and education programs that engage artists, students and audiences.

CORE VALUES:

- Create a work culture that reflects and borrows from the culture of the rehearsal hall which values experimentation and collaboration
- Pursue excellence in all aspects of our endeavor
- Flourish by building a healthy, dynamic and powerful artistic community
- Create and steward financial resources to enable a vital Arena Stage
- Champion diversity throughout the organization and within the community
- Strive to instill in the public life long love and participation in the theater arts
- Serve artists; the national, regional, and local communities; and theater through effective partnerships and collaboration at the most sophisticated and professional levels
- Cultivate an engaged, diverse, and responsive board, staff, audience and community

Over the course of the season in my program notes I will focus on one or two of our core values to illustrate how we live our values and apply them to the decisions we make. Any feedback you may have is most welcome. My contact information is below my signature.

I could not be happier than I am at our decision to open this new season with Karen Zacarías' play. It rings all our core value bells!

Hope you enjoy the season!

Warmly,

Likon

Edgar Dobie, Executive Director edgar@arenastage.org

MOLLY SMITH'S 20TH

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS AS ARENA STAGE'S ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Arena Stage's 2017/18 season marks the 20th anniversary season of Molly Smith as Artistic Director. Her appointment as the third artistic director in Arena's history was announced on December 4, 1997 and met with great enthusiasm. Riley Temple, past president of Arena Stage's Board of Trustees and the chair of the search committee commented, "We're thrilled at the notion of having Molly Smith as Artistic Director. She is absolutely the type of leader that Arena needs to take it into the next century." Molly was equally excited stating, "I am thrilled to become part of this history." Prior to Arena, she founded Perseverance Theatre in Alaska and had served as its Artistic Director for 19 years. Arena, under her leadership, has focused on the diverse work of the Americas and American writers. "There is no theater in America that is dedicated to American writers," stated Molly. "Why do we go to Washington? We go to learn what the American mind is: the ideas, drives and passions that make us American."

During her time at Arena, Molly Smith has directed more than 30 productions, workshopped over 100, produced 39 world premieres, staged numerous second and third productions and been an important part of nurturing nine projects that went on to have a life on Broadway, including 2017 Tony Award winning musical, *Dear Evan Hansen*. Additionally *Sweat* (2017) and *Next to Normal* (2010) were recipients of the Pulitzer Prize for Drama. In 2014, Molly made her Broadway debut directing *The Velocity of Autumn*, following its critically acclaimed run at Arena Stage.

Thomicide' A Heart-Stop

To read the *Washington Post's* announcement in full, and learn more about Molly Smith's history and legacy at Arena Stage, visit ARENASTAGE.ORG/MOLLYSMITH.

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Q&A WITH PLAYWRIGHT KAREN ZACARÍAS Excerpted from *DC Magazine*, September 2017, by Michael McCarthy



What inspired the play's premise? It's sounds hilarious – and insightful.

It was party small-talk that inspired the idea for *Native Gardens*. My friends were talking about a strange altercation that had happened with a neighbor and other people started bringing up their crazy neighbor stories and it struck me that these small, intense fights have many of the ingredients for the bigger battles happening in the world today. There is something both primal and absurd at the root of all these conflicts.

You're tackling race and privilege in the play – which are obviously not unique to D.C., but why did you set the play in Washington, and what is it about our city, its

neighborhoods and people that make it a rich story for telling this type of story?

I've always wanted to set a raucous comedy in our unique backyard of Washington D.C. Comedy is disarming; it can shed light on our personal foibles and allows us to examine "thorny" subjects without getting defensive. We are a city that does serious important work ... but sometimes that translates into residents feeling self-important. Being reminded to laugh at ourselves is fun, humbling, and vital; I think it is a sign of self-awareness and a remedy for intractability. It's healthy to laugh and relax. Really.

Do fences really make the best neighbors? Or is it something else entirely?

What makes a good neighbor? I would say thoughtful consideration and good communication probably do a lot more for neighborly relations...and a fence may or may not be a part of it. Also, bringing over wine and cookies never hurts.

What do you hope audience members will take away from this play?

First, I hope people laugh and have a rollicking great time. It's really exciting to see how vested and verbal the audience becomes. And then I hope the discussion goes all over the map—from mosquitos, mulch, and gardening to immigration, class, and privilege. I

would love the audience to discuss the idea of what is an American in this day and age in the United States. And to enter of discussion of how we can live respectfully alongside each other ... especially in this political climate.



CONTINUE THE CONVERSATION

Join us for a post-show conversation with the artists on:

SEPTEMBER 27, 2017 12:00 P.M.

OCTOBER 3, 2017 12:00 P.M.

OCTOBER 10, 2017 7:30 P.M.

OCTOBER 11, 2017 12:00 P.M.

OCTOBER 12, 2017 8:00 P.M



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TITLE PAGE

Arena Stage Molly Smith, Artistic Director | Edgar Dobie, Executive Director in a co-production with Guthrie Theater

PRESENTS

NATIVE GARDENS KAREN ZACARÍAS

DIRECTED BY BLAKE ROBISON

SET DESIGNER JOSEPH TILFORD COSTUME DESIGNER

LIGHTING DESIGNER

SOUND DESIGNER

SCOTT W. EDWARDS

ORIGINAL SOUND DESIGN JOE PAYNE FIGHT DIRECTOR

VOCAL COACH

ANITA MAYNARD-LOSH

CASTING DIRECTOR AMELIA ACOSTA POWELL NY CASTING DIRECTOR PATRICIA MCCORKLE

STAGE MANAGER JANA LLYNN* ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER **BACHAEL DANIELLE ALBERT***

Originally Produced by CINCINNATI PLAYHOUSE IN THE PARK Blake Robison, Artistic Director | Buzz Ward, Managing Director

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SETTING

The back of two houses. Two back gardens. A wire fence with ivy divides them. One garden is a beautiful garden with lush grass and very symmetrical garden beds. The other is unkempt: dying peonies ... straggly rose bushes, grass, a large oak tree, leaves and acorns.

CAST LIST (in order of appearance)

Tania Del Valle	JACQUELINE CORREA*
Pablo Del Valle	DAN DOMINGUES*
	STEVE HENDRICKSON*
	JAVIER DEL PILAR, CHRISTOPHER RIOS

*Member of Actors' Equity Association

FOR THIS PRODUCTION

Technical Director Properties Director Costume Director	NATALIE BELL
Properties Director	
Costume Director	JOSEPH P. SALASOVICH
Mactor Flootrician	
Sound Director Directing Fellow Stage Management Fellow Show Carpenter Props	TIMOTHY M. THOMPSON
Directing Fellow	SELENE BETANCOURT
Stage Management Fellow	LUCÍA RUPPERT
Show Carpenter	MICK COUGHLAN
Props	KYLE HANDZIAK
Light Board Operator Assistant to the Lighting Designer Sound Engineer	BRIAN FLORY
Assistant to the Lighting Designer	SYDNEY BECKER
Sound Engineer	REID MOFFATT
Wardrobe Supervisor	ALICE HAWFIELD
Wardrobe	CARISSA GILSON
Hair and Makeup Supervisor	LASHAWN MELTON
Wardrobe Supervisor Wardrobe Hair and Makeup Supervisor Hair and Makeup	D. CREESE



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CAST (in alphabetical order)



JACQUELINE CORREA (Tania Del Valle) makes her Arena Stage debut. Regional theater credits include Confluence (The Guthrie); The Women of Padilla (Two River Theater); Macbeth (Arkansas Repertory); Hamlet and the

national tour of Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead (The Acting Company); Macbeth (Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival); and On the Verge and Sonia Flew (Contemporary American Theater Festival). Film credits include The Dog Days. Jacqueline received her M.F.A. from the Professional Theater Training Program at University of Delaware.



DAN DOMINGUES (Pablo Del Valle) makes his Arena Stage debut. Off-Broadway credits include The Undertaking (BAM/Next Wave); Locusts Have No King (INTAR Theatre); Wild Goose Dreams, Fidelis, and The Great Immensity

(The Public); *The Jammer* and *The Cherry Orchard* (Atlantic Theater Company); and *To the Bone* (Cherry Lane). Regional theater credits include The Guthrie, Goodman, NY Stage & Film, Hangar Theatre, Passage Theatre, Long Wharf, Kansas City Repertory, Studio Theatre, Portland Stage Company, Florida Stage, Pioneer Theater, George Street Playhouse and Repertory Theatre of St. Louis. Film credits include *Run All Night, In Stereo, Future '38* and *Suffer the Little Children,* and TV credits include *West 40s, The Blacklist, Law and Order* and *Royal Pains.* Dan received his M.F.A. from the American Repertory Theater Institute for Advanced Theater Training at Harvard University.



STEVE HENDRICKSON (Frank Butley) makes his Arena Stage debut. Regional theater credits include Cyrano de Bergerac (Folger Theatre); South Pacific, Harvey, The Falls, Antony and Cleopatra and Lysistrata (The Guthrie); 1776

(American Conservatory Theater); *Murderers* (Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park); *A Christmas Carol* (Syracuse Stage); *Hay Fever* (Pittsburgh Public Theater); *The Matchmaker*, and *Both Your Houses* (Asolo Repertory); *An Enemy of the People* (Barrington Stage); *Mercy of a Storm, Blackbird*, *Crime and Punishment*, and *An Iliad* (Chester Theatre); *Romeo and Juliet* (Chicago Shakespeare Theater); Compleat Female Stage Beauty (Old Globe); and Much Ado About Nothing, Waiting for Godot, and A Doll's House (PlayMakers Repertory). Awards include 2013 Berkshire Eagle Best Actor Award, 2009 Ivey Award for Best Production and 2005 Ivey Award for Best Performance in Cyrano de Bergerac. He is the founder of Audio-Visceral Productions. www.audio-visceral.com



SALLY WINGERT (Virginia Butley) makes her Arena Stage debut. She performed in *La Bête* on Broadway and the West End. Regional theater credits include over 90 productions with The Guthrie; *Tartuffe* (McCarter Theatre/Yale

Repertory); Paradise Lost (American Repertory Theater); Six Degrees of Separation, Sweeney Todd, Master Class and Cabaret (Theater Latté Da); Hir (Mixed Blood Theatre); The Tale of the Allergist's Wife, Rose and Woman Before a Glass (Minnesota Jewish Theatre); Sylvia and Entertaining Mr. Sloane (Jungle Theater); The Beauty Queen of Leenane (Theatre Pro Rata); Doubt and Vasa Lisa (Ten Thousand Things); Henry V (Chicago Shakespeare Theater); and Wit (Artistry), among others. Film credits include Brennan Vance's The Missing Sun, North Country, Factotum, Grandfather's Birthday (with Robert Prosky), Fargo, With or Without You, The Straight Story and Last Seen.



GUADALUPE CAMPOS (Supplemental Ensemble) is thrilled to be making her Arena Stage debut. D.C. credits include work with Arts on the Horizon, Olney Theatre Center and OTC's National Players. Regionally, she has worked with

North Dakota Shakespeare and Theatre Squared. Guadalupe holds and MFA in Drama from the University of Arkansas.



OSCAR CEVILLE (Supplemental Ensemble) was last seen at Arena Stage in Destiny of Desire. His D.C. credits include Chronicle of a Death Foretold, Anna in the Tropics and The Knight form Olmedo (GALA Hispanic Theatre —

company member for 10 years); *Fear Eats the Soul* (Scena Theatre), *Goyescas* (The In Series), *Zorro* (Constellation Theatre) and *Host & Guest* (Synetic Theatre).



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WHO'S WHO



JAVIER DEL PILAR (Supplemental Ensemble) makes his Arena Stage debut! D.C.-area credits include Ella Enchanted (Adventure Theatre MTC); A Christmas Carol and Three Musketeers (Chesapeake Shakespeare Company); Dogfight,

Avenue Q and Spring Awakening (Red Branch Theatre Company); and The Taming of the Shrew (Pallas Theatre Collective). He can be seen next in Charlotte's Web at Imagination Stage.



CHRISTOPHER RIOS (Supplemental Ensemble) is excited to make his Arena Stage debut! Chris toured with Imagination Stage as Esteban in Oyeme, the Beautiful. Other D.C. credits include performing as a super in WNO's The Ring Cycle at

the Kennedy Center. He is a performing arts instructor at Lopez Studios, Inc. Chris thanks his friends and family for their support.

CREATIVE

BLAKE ROBISON (Director) is Artistic Director of Cincinnati Playhouse, one of the largest regional theaters in the Midwest, where he directed the world premiere of Native Gardens last season. He is thrilled to continue his collaboration with Karen Zacarías, having produced the world premiere of her hit comedy The Book Club Play and directed her adaptation of Julia Alvarez's How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents at Round House Theatre, where he served as producing artistic director from 2005-2012. Other credits include productions at The Guthrie, Milwaukee Repertory, Utah Shakespeare Festival, Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Folger Theatre, PlayMakers Repertory Company and Vermont Stage. As an adaptor, he created successful stage productions of Jay Parini's The Last Station and Alice McDermott's Charming Billy.

KAREN ZACARÍAS (Playwright) was recently hailed by American Theatre magazine as one of the most produced playwrights in the U.S.A. Her Arena Stage world premieres include Legacy of Light, The Book Club Play and Destiny of Desire. Other plays include Mariela in the Desert, and The Sins of Sor Juana, and adaptations of Just Like Us, How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accent, Into the Beautiful North, Oliverio: A Brazilian Twist, Ella Enchanted: The Musical and others. She collaborated on the libretto for Sleepy Hollow and Hemingway: The Sun Also Rises for the Washington Ballet, and has written 10 TYA musicals with composer Deborah Wicks La Puma. Karen is one of the inaugural resident playwrights at Arena Stage, a core founder of the Latino Theatre Commons and founder of Young Playwrights' Theater.

JOSEPH TILFORD (Set Designer)'s Off-Broadway credits include Sing Hallelujah and Around the World in 80 Days. Regional credits include Glass Menagerie (Denver Center); Night of the Iguana (Resident Ensemble Players); Pride and Prejudice, Native Gardens, One, Victoria Musica, Stone My Heart and Much Ado About Nothing (Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park); Jar the Floor (The Old Globe); Twelfth Night, Ah, Wilderness! and The Lion in Winter (St. Louis Repertory); Black Star Line (Goodman); As You Like It (Chicago Shakespeare Theater); If We Are Women and The Last Adam (Syracuse Stage); and The Dayton Ballet and The Cincinnati Ballet. His design work has been exhibited at the Prague Quadrennial International Exhibit of Stage Design and in a solo retrospective exhibit for the 50th Anniversary of the United States Institute of Theatre Technology.

KARA HARMON (Costume Designer)'s Broadway credits include assistant costume designer for The Crucible, Magic Bird, First Date and Memphis. Regional theater credits include The Legend of Georgia McBride (Marin Theatre); The Mountaintop (Trinity Repertory); Barbecue (Geffen Playhouse); The Rape of Lucretia (Wolf Trap); Ethel and God of Carnage (Alliance Theatre); Seven Guitars (Actors Theatre of Louisville): Much Ado About Nothing and The Comedy of Errors (Oregon Shakespeare); Safehouse (Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park); Clybourne Park and The Trip to Bountiful (Hangar Theatre); Dot (Vineyard Theatre); and Seven Guitars and Broke-ology (The Juilliard School). TV credits include assistant costume designer on Netflix's Daredevil and HBO's Boardwalk Empire. Kara received her M.F.A. from NYU Tisch School of the Arts. www.KaraHarmonDesign.com

XAVIER PIERCE (Lighting Designer)'s Off-Broadway credits include Yours Unfaithfully and A Day by the Sea (Mint Theatre). Regional credits include Smart People (Arena Stage); Harvey and Native Gardens (The Guthrie); Fences (California Shakespeare Theater, Long Wharf, McCarter Theatre); The Mountaintop (Playmakers Repertory, Triad Stage); Red and Common Enemy (Triad Stage); A Raisin in the Sun (Westport Country Playhouse); Two Trains Running (Two River Theatre, Arden Theatre Company); Intimate

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1101 4th Street SW • Washington, DC 20024 • 202-554-1101 WWW.MASALAARTDC.COM Apparel, Peter and the Starcatcher, Detroit '67 and 4,000 Miles (Playmakers Repertory); Fly (Florida Studio Theatre); Shakespeare in Love (Oregon Shakespeare); and The Glass Menagerie (California Shakespeare Theater). National and international tour credits include Drumline Live! He received a Handy Award for Best Lighting, Thomas C. Fichandler Award for Excellence in Lighting, Marvin Sims Fellowship at the Kennedy Center and was an Allen Lee Hughes Lighting Design Fellow.

SCOTT W. EDWARDS (Sound Designer)'s theater credits include Nice Fish (American Repertory Theater, St. Ann's Warehouse and West End); The Guthrie (120 productions since 1997); Seattle Repertory; San Jose Repertory; Children's Theatre Company; Jungle Theater; Penumbra Theatre; Mixed Blood Theatre; Illusion Theater; Arizona Theatre Company; Ballet of the Dolls (founding member); Theater Mu; Eye of the Storm Theatre; Teatro Latino; and Minnesota Opera. Other credits include production manager and live sound engineer for A Prairie Home Companion. Awards include a San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Award for The Kite Runner at San Jose Repertory, Star Tribune Outstanding Sound Designer for Pride and Prejudice and The Pirates of Penzance and a Helen Hayes Award nomination for You Can't Take It With You at Arena Stage.

JANA LLYNN (Stage Manager) returns to Arena Stage where recent credits include The Originalist, Intelligence and Sweat. Broadway credits include The Drowsy Chaperone, Bridge & Tunnel, Company and The Moliere Comedies. Off-Broadway credits include SILENCE! The Musical, SHOUT! The Mod Musical, That Physics Show, Matt & Ben (starring Mindy Kaling), Dancing On Moonlight (starring André De Shields), Echoes of War (starring Frances Sternhagen), The Entertainer (starring Brian Murray and Jean Stapleton), The Shawl (director Sidney Lumet, starring Dianne Wiest), Beau Jest (three years Off-Broadway, director for Boston production), The Public, Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall. Regional credits include Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Arkansas Repertory, Crossroads, Hartford Stage, Laguna Playhouse, La Jolla Playhouse, Philadelphia Theatre Company, Round House, Shakespeare Theatre Company and Studio Theatre. PSM for Pfizer-Brazil's Viagra Launch.

RACHAEL DANIELLE ALBERT (Assistant Stage Manager) is thrilled to return to Arena Stage after working on A Raisin in the Sun, Watch on the Rhine, Erma Bombeck: At Wit's End and The City of Conversation. New York credits include The Roads to Home (Primary Stages); Maize & Blue on Broadway and The Last Word (New York Musical Theatre Festival); and Howards End. Regional credits include Bright Star (pre-Broadway, the Kennedy Center); Souvenir (New London Barn Playhouse); Up Here, Ether Dome and Peer Gynt (La Jolla Playhouse); Rich Girl (The Old Globe); and The Last Days of Judas Iscariot (Stage 773). She is a founding member of Ubuntu Theater Project. Rachael received her M.F.A. from University of California, San Diego, and B.F.A. from University of Michigan. Proud AEA member.

ANITA MAYNARD-LOSH (Vocal Coach) is in her 14th season at Arena Stage. She directed the world premiere of Our War and served as associate director on several productions, including Carousel, Oliver! and Erma Bombeck: At Wit's End. Anita trained and taught at American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco, was on the faculty at Webster University in St. Louis, headed the theater department at the University of Alaska Southeast and was the associate artistic director of Perseverance Theater in Juneau, Alaska. The Alaska native-inspired production of Macbeth that Anita conceived and directed was performed in English and Tlingit at the National Museum of the American Indian in D.C. Through Arena Stage's devised theater program, Voices of Now, Anita has collaborated on creating and directing original plays with communities in India and Croatia.

GUTHRIE THEATER (Joseph Haj, Artistic Director) was founded by Sir Tyrone Guthrie in 1963 and is an American center for theater performance, production, education and professional training dedicated to producing the great works of dramatic literature and to cultivating the next generation of theater artists. Under Haj's leadership, the Guthrie is guided by four core values: artistic excellence; community; diversity, equity and inclusion; and fiscal responsibility. The Guthrie produces a mix of classic and contemporary plays on three stages and continues to set a national standard for excellence in theatrical production and performance, serving nearly 400,000 patrons annually. In 2006, the Guthrie opened a new home, designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Jean Nouvel, on the banks of the Mississippi River in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Open to the public year-round, it houses three state-ofthe-art stages, production facilities, classrooms, full-service restaurants and dramatic public lobbies. guthrietheater.org

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ARENA STAGE LEADERSHIP

MOLLY SMITH (Artistic Director) has served as Artistic Director since 1998. Her more than 30 directing credits at Arena Stage include Carousel, Oliver!, The Originalist, Fiddler on the Roof, Camp David, Mother Courage and Her Children, Oklahoma!, A Moon for the Misbegotten, My Fair Lady, The Great White Hope. The Music Man, Orpheus Descending, Legacy of Light, The Women of Brewster Place, Cabaret, South Pacific, Agamemnon and His Daughters, All My Sons and How I Learned to Drive. She most recently directed Our Town at Canada's Shaw Festival. Her directorial work has also been seen at The Old Globe, Asolo Repertory, Berkeley Repertory, Trinity Repertory, Toronto's Tarragon Theatre, Montreal's Centaur Theatre and Perseverance Theater in Juneau, Alaska, which she founded and ran from 1979-1998. Molly has been a leader in new play development for over 30 years. She is a great believer in first, second and third productions of new work and has championed projects including How I Learned to Drive; Passion Play, a cycle; Next to Normal; and Dear Evan Hansen. She has worked alongside playwrights Sarah Ruhl, Paula Vogel, Wendy Wasserstein, Lawrence Wright, Karen Zacarías, John Murrell, Eric Coble, Charles Randolph-Wright and many others. She led the re-invention of Arena Stage, focusing on the architecture and creation of the Mead Center for American Theater and positioning Arena Stage as a national center for American artists. During her time with the company, Arena Stage has workshopped more than 100 productions, produced 39 world premieres, staged numerous second and third productions and been an important part of nurturing nine projects that went on to have a life on Broadway. In 2014, Molly made her Broadway debut directing The Velocity of Autumn, following its critically acclaimed run at Arena Stage. She was awarded honorary doctorates from American University and Towson University.

EDGAR DOBIE (Executive Director) Born in Vernon, British Columbia, a village next to the Rocky Mountains (three years before Arena had its first performance in 1950), I am one of five brothers raised by my Dad – Edgar, a mechanic and small businessman - and Mom - Connie, a telephone operator and union organizer. I am the only Dobie to make a career in theater. Luckily for me, drama was an arts elective I was offered at the tender age of 12, so I hung up my hockey skates and joined the drama class, led by teacher Paddy Malcolm and her fledgling Powerhouse Community Theater after school. By the time I graduated from high school, we volunteers had built ourselves a 200 seat fully-equipped theater on its own piece of land in the center of town and found a sell-out audience for the full season of plays we had to offer. That experience taught me so many lessons about the power of theater to foster collaboration and share meaningful stories, as well as the public values that attach themselves to building a safe place where everyone is welcome. All those lessons served me well as a managing leader and producer both sides of the border, and both sides of the commercial and non-profit theater divide. Arriving here at Arena in 2009 makes me feel like I am wellequipped for the best job in the world.

This theater operates under an agreement between the League of Resident Theatres and Actors' Equity Association.



The actors and stage managers are members of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.



The scenic, costume, lighting and sound designers in LORT theaters are represented by United Scenic Artists, Local USA-829 of the IATSE.



The Director and Choreographer are members of the STAGE DIRECTORS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS SOCIETY, a national theatrical labor union.

Arena Stage is a constituent of the Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theater.

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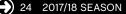
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"We feel the long-term viability of theater really has to come from two sources — annual fundraising efforts and long-term donations [in the form of a planned gift] from the people who love the theater and are willing to commit to it in perpetuity."

-Beth Newburger Schwartz and the late Richard Schwartz



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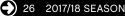
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