

Native Gardens

by Karen Zacarias

Directed by Esdras Toussaint

Los Angeles Pierce College Arena Stage

AUDITIONS: Monday, Dec. 07 from 3pm to 6pm

CALLBACKS: Friday, Dec. 11 from 3pm to 6pm

Please prepare a 1–2-minute contemporary monologue for the audition.

Production Notes: All roles are ethnic specific but open to all genders. Rehearsals begin in January. Dates and Times TBD.

Production Description:

In the suburbs of Washington D.C., a high-powered lawyer named Pablo and his very pregnant, doctoral candidate wife named Tania, have just purchased their dream home. It's a bit of a fixer-upper, but luckily Tania is a brilliant gardener and plans to transform their outdoor space into a beautiful native garden. Their new next-door neighbor, Frank, is a gardener himself and spends most of his time nurturing his non-native garden to win the annual gardening competition in the neighborhood. Frank and his wife Virginia have lived here for a long time and welcome Pablo and Tania with open arms. However, when Pablo invites his whole law firm over for a BBQ, Tania and Pablo set to work on building a fence

and discover that their property line is 2 feet into Frank's beloved garden. This creates friction between the neighbors, and an all-out border dispute erupts. The two couples show their true colors, and it is unclear who will win the war. Can such different people from totally different backgrounds find a way to compromise? How can you love your neighbor when you're sure they're invading your space?

Character Breakdown:

Tania Del Valle: (Character Gender Female. Age Range: 29+): Tania is a 29-year-old doctoral candidate who is 8 months pregnant. Her doctoral dissertation is in anthropology, and she is conducting identity experiments. Bright, energetic, and naturally optimistic, she wants to co-exist with the neighbors but is fiercely protective of her ideas.

Pablo Del Valle: (Character Gender Male. Age Range: 30+): Pablo is a 31-year-old attorney who is very serious about making partners at his law firm. He grew up in Chile to a very wealthy family. He is smart, argumentative, generally tolerant, and willing to overlook a lot—until he is pushed over the edge by The Butleys.

Virginia Butley: (Character Gender Female. Age Range: 55-65): Virginia Butley is the 55-65-year-old neighbor of Tania and Pablo. She has been married to Frank and has been living in this house for a long time. She is an executive working for a large defense contractor in the DC area. Friendly and civil, her opinions are deeply ingrained, and she will fight ruthlessly to protect her turf.

Frank Butley: (Character Gender Male. Age Range: 55-65): Frank Butley is the 55-65-year-old husband of Virginia. He is incredibly passionate about his garden. He works all year round to make sure it's perfect for the annual festival. He is a gentle and sensitive soul who has devoted himself to his pristine English garden in his retirement. He wants to get along with the neighbors but cannot embrace a native garden next door.

Ensemble: The ensemble comes in during many of the vignettes/transitions between scenes. They usually act as the landscape technicians that Tania and Pablo have hired to build the fence and fix up the yard. These workers: **SURVEYOR**, **LANDSCAPERS (2)**, and **BUILDING EXAMINER** should preferably be Latinx and exude unique personalities as they work. They are the witnesses and the energetic transformers of both the play and the situation.