***Native Gardens bios:***

**Priscilla Locke – Virginia Butley**

Priscilla has performed in Sonoma County theater, TV and radio since the early 1990s. Favorite shows include *Bad Dates, Murder in Green Meadows, Dancing at Lughnasa, As Bees in Honey Drown, Woman in Mind, Absurd Person Singular, Blythe Spirit, Seasons Greetings, Playboy of the Western World, Hay Fever, Sylvia, Lost in Yonkers, Arsenic & Old Lace* and *Winnie the Pooh*. This is Priscilla’s first performance with Left Edge.

**Justin P. Lopez** is an actor, singer, writer, and boba-milk-tea enthusiast, who is passionate about new works and loves finding true connection and humanity in each script. As an actor, recent credits include the world premieres of *Kiss My Aztec!* (Berkeley Repertory Theatre) and *Unbreakable* by Andrew Lippa (SFGMC). Other favorite roles include Anthony (*I And You*), Claudio (*Much Ado About Nothing*), Miqueo (*Heart Shaped Nebula*), and Juan Perón (*Evita*). As a writer, Justin's work has been recognized by the Bay Area Playwrights Festival and has been featured by many organizations around the country, including Playground SF, Custom Made Theatre Company, and The Playground Experiment. Find out what else Justin is up to at [www.justinplopez.com](http://www.justinplopez.com/)

**Livia Gomes Demarchi** (she/her/hers)- Livia is absolutely thrilled to be making her Left Edge debut in the company of great artists. Recent credits: Cassandra in *Somewhere* by Marisela Treviño Orta at Perspective Theater, Miri in *Sapience* at Playground SF and San Diego Rep Latinx festival, and Lola in the world premiere of *Ghosts of Bogotá* at AlterTheater (both by the incredible Diana Burbano), Tania in *Native Gardens* at Center Rep, Titania/Hyppolita in a *Midsummer Night’s Dream* with SF Shakes and Olivia/Maria in *Twelfth Night* also with Perspective Theater (formerly Arabian Shakes, TBA Winner for Best Ensemble). She was also a part of the original production of *The River Bride* as Belmira*,* presented at Alter Theater Ensemble*.* Other companies: SF Playhouse, Magic Theater, Marin Shakespeare, Playwrights Foundation, BRAVA, Shotgun Players, among others. She holds a B.A. in Theater and performance studies from UC Berkeley, where she workshopped her solo bilingual piece *Quem Eu*. She is a member of the theater collective Latinx Mafia as well as associate artist with Alter Theater Ensemble and company member at Playground SF. As always: to my familia, here and in Brazil!

**Mike Pavone**

Mike Pavone has been acting in the North Bay since he relocated from Los Angeles in 2001.  He worked in Hollywood as a writer, producer, director and actor in television and film for thirty-five years.  He decided to leave LA the day he got there but he kept getting work for some reason.  Mike was delighted to get back to Northern California where he was raised, in San Mateo. Mike discovered he wasn’t very good at golf when he retired so he decided community theater was the next best thing.  Mike loves working with the great team at Left Edge Theatre.

**Sky Hernandez**

Sky Hernandez-Simard is a Sonoma County based actor. Recent theater credits include *Cunégonde* in *Bernstein’s* *Candide*, *Mother* in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, and *Judy Boone* in *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*. She graduated Cum Laude in 2018, studying Vocal Music Education at Sonoma State. When not on stage- Sky is a barista, songwriter, and weightlifter.“

**Carlo Lopéz**

Originally from Mexico Carlo studied drama-art at Guanajuato Mexico. He is a former member of Free Arts Expression group “MASCARONES". Latest performing works in Santa Rosa are *Extranjeros en su Tierra* (Strangers in their own land) & *Los Actores* (To The Actors) in collaboration with the local The Imaginists Theatre Company.

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**Jenny Hollingworth**

Jenny has worked with several Bay Area theatre companies since moving here from the U.K in 2004. A long-time Harold Pinter aficionado, her production of Pinter’s Betrayal was awarded the Silicon Valley Small Theatre Award for Standout Adult Contemporary Drama (2012) and her direction of The Birthday Party led to her nomination for Best Director, Theatre Bay Area Awards (2014). Recent productions include *George Orwell’s 1984* (Los Altos Stage Company), *Equivocation* (Dragon Theatre Productions), *An Ideal Husband* (The Pear Theatre) and *The Nether* (Dragon Theatre Productions), all of which were recommended Theatre Bay Area productions. Jenny has a career in PR for a global business consulting firm. She is a member of the Left Edge Theatre Board and currently its communications director. She is also the theatre reviewer for the Sonoma County Gazette.

**Native Gardens – Director’s Notes**

Variety is the spice of life, isn’t it? How dull it would be if we were all the same!

Frank and Virginia Butley are looking forward to making the acquaintance of new neighbors Pablo and Tania Del Valle. Pablo and Tania are keen to be a part of their new neighborhood. The two couples may have a few differences in their outlook on life – age, culture, ethnicity, politics, to name a few. They may even have a few misconceptions about each other. But crack open a bottle of wine and that all makes for interesting conversation. Doesn’t it?

In a world where border disputes on a large scale make headline news and terrifying reading, what does it take to be a good neighbor right here in our communities? How do we genuinely embrace the differences between us instead of feeling threatened by them at the smallest provocation? Every day, we read stories of people operating from a place of suspicion and narrow-mindedness. We comment on their ‘tribe mentality’ and criticize their impossibly entrenched positions. We see their actions encouraged and exacerbated by social media and on-24 news channels, which instead of promoting reasonable discussion escalate every topic into the personal, immediate and emotional. We shake our heads at the appalling attitudes of - *those people.*

The Butleys and the Del Valles are all well-educated, smart, likeable characters. They are – dare I say it? – just like us. And yet, they all have their share of prejudices and lazy, uniformed opinions, and when push comes to shove and personal territory is suddenly at stake, even the nicest people behave badly. We all behave badly.

Beneath its comic absurdity, the evergreen message of Native Gardens is that we’re none of us so different. Let’s all take a step back, breathe, enjoy the richness of the world around us and the people in it. Let’s learn to recognize good intentions, look for the humor, share a laugh with our neighbors. Above all, let’s remember how to laugh at ourselves.