Ten Thousand Things finishes season with first-ever production of *The Sins of Sor Juana* by Karen Zacarías

Show tours throughout Twin Cities and to Big Fork, Northfield & Virginia
May 3–June 9

(Minneapolis, MN) — Ten Thousand Things closes its 2018–19 season with the company’s first-ever production of *The Sins of Sor Juana*, by Latina playwright Karen Zacarías. The romantic and humorous play was inspired by the true story of famed writer Juana Inés de la Cruz, a woman of great resilience who was determined to break the conventions of 17th century Mexico.

Marcela Lorca directs the show, which tours May 3–June 9 to prisons, shelters, low-income centers, and locations in Big Fork, Northfield, and Virginia (MN) before playing to paid public audiences at Open Book (1011 Washington Ave S, Minneapolis).

The cast features Pedro Bayón, Sun Mee Chomet, Ryan Colbert, George Keller, Jason Rojas, Thallis Santesteban and Ava Saunders.

Sound and music are by Robert Everest, costumes by Sarah Bahr, sets by Cate Whittemore, and props by Abbee Warmboe.

“I chose this poetic play because it so brilliantly celebrates the resilience and drive of the human spirit,” says Lorca. “Sor Juana fought for a woman’s right to education at a time when this idea was considered absurd. The play also brings to life the rich complexity of Mexico. At a time when the rhetoric about our neighboring country is often dismissive, it is tremendously valuable to remember both the beauty of its culture and our common humanity.”

Tickets for public performances are $30 (with the exception of opening on May 17, which is $40 and includes a post-show celebration). A pay-what-you-can option is available for every performance for audience members under age 30, with a minimum of $10. Tickets are available at https://tenthousandthings.org or 800-838-3006.
About the Playwright
Zacaría won the Helen Hayes Award for *The Sins of Sor Juana*. Her most recent critically acclaimed plays, *Native Gardens* and *Destiny of Desire*, have been produced in major theaters across the country, including the Guthrie, Old Globe, Arena Stage, South Coast Repertory, and Goodman Theater. Her other award-winning plays include *The Book Club Play, Just Like Us, Legacy of Light*, an adaptation of *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents*, and the Francesca Primus award-winning *Mariela in the Desert*. Her musical *Chasing George Washington* premiered at The Kennedy Center before embarking on a national tour, and the script was subsequently adapted into a book with a foreword by Michelle Obama. Zacarías is currently working on the adaptation of Edith Wharton’s *The Age of Innocence* for Oregon Shakespeare Festival and a musical, *Oliverio: A Brazilian Twist on Dickens*, for the Kennedy Center.

About Ten Thousand Things
Ten Thousand Things bring lively, intelligent, professional theater to people with little access to the wealth of the arts—who in turn help our artists and traditional audiences re-imagine what theater can be. Theater-goers experience the immediacy and vibrancy of theater through a performance in which there is no stage and the finest actors perform in the middle of the audience, inches away from patrons with minimal sets and costumes.

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*Full performance schedule on page 3*
FREE PUBLIC PERFORMANCES (reservations required)

- Mon May 6, 7pm, Lyric Center for Arts (510 Chestnut St, Virginia)
- Wed May 8, 2pm, Bigfork Valley Villa Assisted Living (258 Pine Tree Dr, Bigfork)
- Wed May 8, 7pm, with The Edge at Village Hall (200 Main Ave, Big Fork, MN) (suggested donation of $5 for adults only)
- Thu May 9, 6pm, Project SUCCESS (1 Groveland Terr, Suite 300, Minneapolis)
- Sat May 11, 4pm, YMCA at Cora McCorvey (1015 N 4th Ave, Minneapolis)
- Mon May 13, 10am, Harmony Learning Center (1961 County Rd C E, Maplewood)
- Tue May 14, 7pm, St Paul’s ELCA (2742 S 15th Ave, Minneapolis)
- Thu May 16, 7pm, location TBD (Northfield, MN)
- Tue May 21, 6:30pm, Tapestry at Oak Grove Lutheran Church (7045 Lyndale Ave S, Richfield)
- Mon May 27, 7pm, Indigenous Roots Cultural Arts Center (788 E 7th St, St Paul)

PAID PERFORMANCES

- Times: Friday & Saturday at 7:30 pm, Sundays at 4 pm.
- Location: Open Book, 1011 Washington Ave S, Minneapolis
- Prices: $30 (except for May 17 opening celebration, $40); Pay-what-you-can option available (minimum $10) for all shows for audience members under 30

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, May 17*</td>
<td>Open Book</td>
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* pre-show talk w/playwright post-show reception

PRISON PERFORMANCES (open to media only)

- Ramsey County Women’s Workhouse, St Paul, Thursday, May 23, 1:30pm
- Ramsey County Men’s Workhouse, St Paul, Monday, June 3, 1:30pm
- Shakopee Women’s Corrections, Thursday, June 6, 1pm

Additional performances not open to public/media: Interact Center, MCF – Togo and South Education Center Alternative
CAST & CREATIVE TEAM

PEDRO BAYÓN (Padre Nune, Viceroy) was born and raised in Puerto Rico and came to the Twin Cities to study at Macalester College, where he got the theatre bug. Inspired by the vibrant local theatre scene, Pedro started working for Teatro Latino de MN, where he honed his acting, directing, and writing skills. That led to doing work with other theatres in town, including Mixed Blood Theatre, History Theatre, Children’s Theatre, Frank Theatre, Teatro del Pueblo, Pangea World Theatre, and Ordway Center, among others.

SUN MEE CHOMET (Sor Sara, Vicereine) has worked with TTT on A Midsummer Night's Dream, The Good Person of Szechuan, Dirt Sticks and Forget Me Not When Far Away. She has also worked at Lincoln Center's LCT3, Syracuse Stage, Cincinnati Playhouse/Hartford Stage/Repertory Theatre of St. Louis/Kansas City Repertory (Broadway tour of Mary Zimmerman's Metamorphoses); California Shakespeare Company; Guthrie Theater; Mu Performing Arts; Penumbra Theatre; Jungle Theater and Mixed Blood Theatre. She is the recipient of two 2018 MN Theater Awards and two Ivey Awards.

RYAN COLBERT (Silvio) is making his TTT debut with this show. A graduate of the University of Minnesota/Guthrie BFA Actor Training Program, he has been seen on the stages of The Guthrie, Mixed Blood Theater, Pillsbury House + Theater, Children’s Theatre Company, and Park Square Theater.

GEORGE KELLER (Filotea, Xochitl) is returning for her sixth show with TTT having most recently been seen in The Unsinkable Molly Brown and Park and Lake. Her theater credits include ten years with Tony N’ Tina’s Wedding with Hey City Theater, as well as shows with Pillsbury House Theater, Guthrie Theater, Huge Theater, Dudley Riggs Brave New Workshop, Children’s Theater Company, Penumbra Theatre and Mixed Blood Theatre.

JASON ROJAS (Pedro) has been seen with the Guthrie Theater, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Trademark Theater, Park Square Theatre, Great River Shakespeare Festival, Gremlin Theatre, Workhaus Theater Collective, Mixed Blood Theatre and Minnesota Centennial Showboat. He is a graduate of the University of Minnesota/Guthrie Theater BFA Actor Training Program

AVA SANDERS (Novice) was born and raised on the South Side of Chicago and attended the Chicago Academy for the Arts for musical theatre, where she was selected to lead acting and dance workshops for the students at Katta Kuthu Nadagam in India through a performing arts & cultural exchange leadership program. She currently is a junior company member at the University of Minnesota/Guthrie Theatre BFA Actor Training Program. This is her first TTT show.

THALLIS SANTESTEBAN (Sor Juana) has performed with Mixed Blood Theatre, the Guthrie Theatre, Jungle Theater, Teatro del Pueblo, Pillsbury House Theatre, Miami New Drama, Repertorio Español (NYC), and UNAM (Mexico City). She is a graduate of the University of Minnesota/Guthrie Theatre BFA Actor Training Program.

MARCELA LORCA (Artistic Director, Director) became TTT’s Artistic Director in June 2018. She has directed numerous shows at the Guthrie Theater, McCarter Theater, Milwaukee Rep, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Syracuse Stage, Mixed Blood Theater, Goodman Theater, Washington Shakespeare and Julliard Drama School. She was Director of Company Development at the Guthrie Theater, in charge of the University of Minnesota/Guthrie Theater BFA Actor Training Program and A Guthrie Experience for Actors in Training. She also served as Movement Director/Choreographer for the Guthrie where she choreographed more than 20 plays and coached movement for more than 150.

NORA MONTAÑEZ PATTERSON (Assistant Director) is a Peruvian-born actress, singer, playwright and community advocate. She has worked with Congo Square, Chicago Dramatist, Teatro Vista and Court Theatre in Chicago. Locally, she has appeared with the Guthrie Theater, Children’s Theatre, Jungle
Theater, Park Square Theater, Mu Performing Arts and Mixed Blood Theatre. She is a Breaking Ice Company Member with Pillsbury House Theatre and works as a teaching artist with Interact Center for the Performing Art and Theatre 45°.

SARAH BAHR (Costumes) is making her TTT debut. She has designed for Mixed Blood Theatre, Jungle Theater, Penumbra Theater, Mill City Summer Opera, and Yellow Tree Theater, among many others. She also Sarah serves as costume designer, costume shop manager, and adjunct faculty at Augsburg University.

ROBERT EVEREST (Sound and Music) is a vocalist, composer, and multi-instrumentalist who performs his original compositions and many diverse musical styles locally, nationally and internationally. He is also fluent in multiple languages and works part-time as a Spanish and Portuguese medical interpreter at Hennepin Healthcare. He has studied guitar and percussion in countries throughout the world and performed locally at Orchestra Hall, Fitzgerald Theatre, Dakota Jazz Club, and the MN State Fair’s International Bazaar.

NANCY WALDOCH (Production Manager) has been with TTT since 2006 and managed more than 35 productions. She is the productions stage manager as well as community connector. If you have an idea for a community that TTT should connect with, please let her know.

ABBEE WARMBOE (Props Manager) is happy to be joining TTT for another season, having previously propped Into the Woods, Scapin, Good Person of Szechwan, Park and Lake, Electra and Intimate Apparel. Other recent credits include Ordway Center, Theater Latte Da, Penumbra Theatre, Theater Mu, Guthrie Theater, Park Square Theater, History Theater and Mixed Blood Theatre. She has received Ivey Awards for Production Design and Execution, Overall Excellence, and Conception and Execution.

CATE WHITTEMORE (Sets) entered the theatrical union in 1981 as a scenic artist for feature films, television and Broadway shows, such as The Book of Mormon and Spiderman. She has worked as a court room illustrator and live-sketch artist. During the 2016 political campaigns, she began making political sketches, which have been exhibited and won juried contests. In 2011 she was commissioned by the International Campaign for Tibet, to design a poster for the Dalai Lama World Peace Kalachakra event in Washington, DC.