

Winter, summer, spring or fall, a garden party always sounds like something fresh and fun.

That's just what TAPIT/new works delivers with its colorful, zesty and yes, down to earth, production, "**Garden Party.**"

Combining comedy, music, tap dance and garden slides, "**Garden Party**" celebrates gardeners both casual and crazed. In linked vignettes showcasing waging garden gnomes, battling plants, mustard researchers and a meeting of Gardener's Anonymous, this cabaret-style production explores the comic possibilities of America's favorite hobby.

The women behind this production give a whole new meaning to the phrase "garden ladies." Director Carlyne Haycraft deftly weaves together Danielle Dresden's script, Barbara Chusid's original score, Donna Peckett's tap dance and slides of Jeannette Golden's country gardens in Black Earth, Wisconsin, to create a show as fun-filled and colorful as a summer evening. Costumes are by Terri Lynn Alexander, and sets by Mary Beth Gaffney transform the stage into the Teeming Sanctuary Garden Store.

Peckett and Dresden, TAPIT/new works' producing artistic directors, take on all 13 roles in "**Garden Party.**" As the garden gnomes, Xylem and Phloem, Peckett and Dresden debate whether gardening is good or bad for people, assuming the characters of gardeners and plants to advance their arguments.

Audiences are also treated to a tap dance recipe for rhubarb nut bread.

"**Garden Party**" can't make summer last forever, but it certainly leaves audiences with a warm feeling inside.

What They've Said

"The talents of Donna Peckett and Danielle Dresden certainly complement each other, much like Xylem and Phloem," *Crazed Gardener*, Madison, WI.

"Their shows are invariably witty, entertaining and topical. Laughter is clearly the best medicine for these women," *The Capital Times*, Madison, WI.

About TAPIT/new works

Artistic innovation and community connection drive TAPIT/new works. Established in 1985, the Company blends the talents of producing artistic directors Donna Peckett and Danielle Dresden, an award-winning choreographer and playwright respectively, to create, produce and tour original theater.

Through residencies, workshops and a street-level approach to touring, TAPIT/new works promotes widespread access to the arts, enriching individual lives and communities. With experience in venues ranging from international festivals to a small town judge's chambers, TAPIT/new works believes the shortest distance between people is found through the arts. We specialize in sharing our vision with others.

Outreach Options

Playwriting workshops
Rhythm dance workshops
Lecture-demonstrations
Long and short term residencies

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