

Contact: Marie Frederickson  
(206) 781-9705

February 21, 2006  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Taproot Theatre announces 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Church Drama Conference for Artists of Faith**

Featuring Cory Edwards, Writer and Director of the Box Office Hit "Hoodwinked"

[Seattle, WA] Artists of faith have the opportunity to enhance their theatre skills and gain insight as an artist at Taproot Theatre's 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Church Drama Conference June 2 and 3 at Northshore Christian Church in Everett, WA. The conference opens Friday, June 2 at 6:30 p.m. with entertainment and keynote address by filmmaker and comedian Cory Edwards. The conference continues Saturday, June 3 from 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. with class sessions, workshops and seminars. Early registration is \$75 per person. Registration forms are available online at [www.taproottheatre.org](http://www.taproottheatre.org), or by contacting Sara Willy at (206) 781-9705 or [saraw@taproottheatre.org](mailto:saraw@taproottheatre.org).

Cory Edwards is a Christian artist and co-founder of Blue Yonder Films, creators of the hit animated film "Hoodwinked," a hilarious, irreverent take on the fairy tale of Little Red Riding Hood.

" Though it's far from the likes of a Pixar release, 'Hoodwinked,' now a lock for \$50 million domestically, will be one of the more important computer animated films ever made." BoxOfficeProphets.com

Edwards has over 15 years experience in the entertainment industry as a writer, director, producer, actor, animator, art director, and editor. He produced and acted in Blue Yonder Films' feature debut, "Chillocothe," a live action, coming-of-age drama that was an official selection of the Sundance Film Festival in 1999. In "Hoodwinked" he voices the coffee-addicted squirrel, Twitchy.

"I've been hands-on in a lot of areas," says Edwards. "But I love the collaborative process that happens on a movie, when a lot of talented people come together to produce one big idea."

Taproot Theatre's Church Drama Conference is a unique gathering of theatre artists of faith. Through a wide variety of class sessions including acting, directing, playwriting, producing, and technical production attendees will learn techniques, tools and tips to grow as a Christian artist. The annual conference features classes taught by theatre professionals. Past teachers include actor, director and playwright, Jeff Berryman; playwright and screenwriter, Sean Gaffney; theatre and film director, Karen Lund; actress Candace Vance, and actor Sam Vance. The conference is perfect for teachers, youth leaders, worship and drama directors, pastors and any artist of faith who is looking to refine and build their theatre craft.

Tickets for the Friday evening session are \$25. Full weekend registration, which includes study materials, breakfast and lunch on Saturday, is \$75 by April 1. Registration is \$80 after April 1, and \$85 at the door. Registration for Saturday only is \$75. For further information and online registration go to [www.taproottheatre.org](http://www.taproottheatre.org). Taproot's Church Drama Conference is co-hosted by Northshore Christian Church, located at 5700 23<sup>rd</sup> Drive W. in Everett. A map is included on Taproot Theatre's website, [www.taproottheatre.org](http://www.taproottheatre.org).

Taproot Theatre Company is a professional, non-profit theatre company with a multi-faceted production program. Founded in 1976, Taproot Theatre serves the Pacific Northwest with Mainstage Productions, Touring Productions and Acting Studio. Taproot exists to create theatre that explores the beauty and questions of life while bringing hope to our search for meaning. Taproot Theatre Company is a member of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), Theatre Puget Sound (TPS), and the Greenwood-Phinney Chamber of Commerce.

###