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BULLYING PREVENTION TAKES CENTER STAGE WITH TAPROOT THEATRE'S ROAD COMPANY

Live Theatre Week performances October 14 at Woodland Park Zoo

Taproot Theatre brings its Road Company to Woodland Park Zoo for special Live Theatre Week performances of its elementary and secondary school assemblies, *Star Power* and *Witness*, addressing bullying prevention. These entertaining and insightful productions utilize practical methods from the Committee for Children's Steps to Respect[®] program. *Star Power* performances are at 12:00pm and 1:30pm. *Witness* performance is at 3:00pm. All performances are in the Education Center Auditorium near the south entrance at Woodland Park Zoo. Performances are free with admission to the zoo. Zoo Ticket information is available online at www.zoo.org or by calling 206.684.4800. The Woodland Park Zoo south entrance is located at N. 50th St. and Fremont Ave. N. in Seattle.

Since 1985, Taproot Theatre has performed plays focused on relevant social issues for school children. Each year over 60,000 students learn how to safely and effectively approach situations they deal with on a daily basis. Seattle playwrights Bethany Wallace and Nicholas Hubbard were commissioned to write new plays for the Road Company's 2006-2007 school touring season. Now in the fourth year of partnership with Taproot Theatre, Committee for Children provided the Steps to Respect[®] curriculum, teaching students how to recognize bullying behavior, refuse it, and report it to a trustworthy adult.

Star Power, by Bethany Wallace, follows best friends Austin and Kamea as they travel to a statewide talent competition to determine the “Most Talented Kid in Washington.” When fellow contestant Trick tries to sabotage the competition and undermine Austin and Kamea’s friendship, they learn what it takes to become a true star. *Star Power* is suitable for elementary school audiences.

Witness, by Nicholas Hubbard, is geared for secondary school audiences, and addresses the subject of harassment – how it affects students and the way in which each individual is accountable for ending it. Students learn how to respond to competing voices of fellow students, teachers and parents and about taking action to create a safe community.

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.

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