

Contact: Marie Frederickson  
(206) 781-9705

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For Immediate Release

**New school touring plays focused on bullying prevention  
Taproot Theatre's Educational Touring announces fall repertoire  
Taproot's fall repertoire begins New plays for students focused on bullying  
prevention**

[Seattle, WA] Taproot Theatre's Educational Touring program reaches elementary and secondary school students throughout the state of Washington with powerful productions focused on social issue awareness. Their fall tour includes new plays written by local Seattle playwrights Bethany Wallace; *Star Power*, a play about bullying prevention and Nicolas D. Hubbard; *Witness*, a play about the faces of harassment and the function of community. ***13 Floors High*, a play about substance abuse and addiction is available February through April 2007. The plays are available for booking January 17 – April 28.** For booking information contact Josiah Wallace at (206) 781-9705 or [josiah@taproottheatre.org](mailto:josiah@taproottheatre.org).

The voice of a friend, the voice of a teacher, voices of your enemies. High school students are bombarded with voices. It can be difficult to know which voice to listen to.

A leader in social issue plays for schools since 1984, Taproot Theatre has earned a reputation of excellence for its work and gained the trust of hundreds of schools throughout its touring history. Taproot Theatre's Educational Touring program produces plays with profound significance to students and school culture through dynamic theatrical productions. In addition to the touring production, Taproot Theatre provides teachers' guides and resources to facilitate classroom discussion and increase the effectiveness of the message. The actors are also available for individual classroom visits.

Entering its fourth year of touring, *Elementary School Survivor* addresses the issue of bullying and harassment. It's a matter of survival for the elementary school kids at Park Place Elementary. Timmy is the new kid in class and the new target for the school bullies. Every day he runs a grueling gauntlet of harassment and teasing. But when cool kid Roxie forms an alliance with Timmy, she teaches him skills that will protect him, and make him an Elementary School Survivor. Utilizing the Committee for Children's "Steps to Respect" bullying prevention program, Taproot Theatre has drawn on its resources to bring added relevance to the school touring productions.

In its second year of touring *Fit for Life* presents the same *Elementary School Survivor* kids, Timmy, Tyson, Roxie and Julie. All they want to do is watch TV, play videogames and eat junk food. When the Elementary Fitness Challenge begins at their school they have a whole new set of obstacles to overcome. Taproot joins the efforts of the State Health Department to address the rising epidemic of obesity and increased health risks. Through nutritional eating habits and regular exercise, *Fit for Life* encourages and re-enforces a healthy lifestyle that is for life.

In its second year of touring *13 Floors High* powerfully addresses the issue of substance abuse for middle and high school students. Tony, a senior in high school, experiences pressure at home, at school and at work. A friend suggests a recipe for relaxation, and his quick relief quickly spirals into an addiction. *13 Floors High* demonstrates the need for personal and social responsibility, the dangerous effects of peer pressure, and the price of substance abuse on everyone involved.

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 an

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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