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For Immediate Release
Kill Date: October 28, 2007

**THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST
STAGED AT TAPROOT THEATRE**

Delightful comedy set at the turn of the 20th century

Oscar Wilde's rousing escapade of romance, mistaken identities and comedic antics comes to Taproot's stage September 28 through October 27. Low cost previews are offered September 26 and September 27. A pay-what-you-can performance is offered Wednesday October 3. Post-play discussions follow all Wednesday evening performances. Taproot Theatre will participate in Live Theatre Week by offering 50 free tickets on October 18. Sign up through the TPS Live Theatre Week website at www.tpsonline.org. *The Importance of Being Earnest* is sponsored in part by Puget Sound Energy. Taproot Theatre's 2007 Season partners include 4Culture, ArtsFund, The Charles Simonyi Fund for Arts and Sciences, City of Seattle Office of Economic Development, KUOW, and PONCHO.

About the Production

Known for her hit comedies, director, Karen Lund, sets Oscar Wilde's comedy of manners at the turn of the 20th century. Staying true to Wilde's philosophy of the play, "That we should treat all trivial things very seriously and all the serious things of life with sincere and studied triviality," Lund's artistic objective is to stay loyal to the humor, romantic beauty and intelligent word-play throughout the story, creating a delectable evening of laughter and enjoyment.

The cast of *The Importance of Being Earnest* features Kevin Brady as John Worthing, Bethany Hudson as Cecily Cardew, Bill Johns as Rev. Canon Chasuble, Aaron Lane as

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Algernon Moncrieff, Kim Morris as Miss Prism, Pam Nolte as Lady Bracknell, Nolan Palmer as Merriman and Lane, and Charity Parenzini as Gwendolen Fairfax. Her production team includes scenic designer Mark Lund, costume designer Sarah Gordon, lighting designer Jody Briggs and sound designer Mark Lund. Rebecca Olson serves as stage manager and Morgan Aldrich as dramaturg.

About the Playwright

Known as one of the great playwrights of the Victorian Era, Oscar Wilde wrote nine plays during his lifetime, including *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Lady Windermere's Fan*, *A Woman of No Importance* and *An Ideal Husband*. *The Importance of Being Earnest* opened at the St. James Theatre in London on February 14, 1895. *The Importance of Being Earnest* was the last play he wrote before his imprisonment.

Wilde is best known for his wit and poignant comments on Victorian society. Wilde's contribution to the Victorian melodrama was the dandy – a character who values aestheticism in all areas of life – physical appearance, poetic language and cultural flair. Wilde was a leading aesthete of his day, expressing these ideals not only through his writing, but also in his teachings throughout London. The social ideas and clever wit within his plays continue to resonate and entertain modern audiences. Kurt Baker directed a film version of *The Importance of Being Earnest*, released in 1992 and Oliver Parker's film version, starring Colin Firth, Reese Witherspoon and Dame Judi Dench was released in 2002.

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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***The Importance of Being Earnest* FACT SHEET**

WHAT: *The Importance of Being Earnest*, by Oscar Wilde. Directed by Karen Lund.

WHEN: Previews September 26 and 27. Opens September 28 and runs Wednesday through Saturday through October 27. Pay What You Can Performance October 3.

WHERE: Taproot Theatre, 204 N. 85th Street in Seattle

TICKETS: Wednesday and Thursday evenings and Saturday matinees, \$25 and \$27; Friday and Saturday evenings, \$29 and \$32; Wednesday and Thursday previews, \$19 and \$21; Student/Senior discount of \$2 off per ticket. Group rates are available. For tickets contact Taproot Theatre's box office at (206) 781-9707, box@taproottheatre.org or Ticketmaster at (206) 292-ARTS.

SCHEDULE: Wednesday and Thursday 7:30 PM, Friday and Saturday 8:00 PM, Saturday Matinee 2:00 PM

CALENDAR:

Wed.	Sept. 26	7:30 PM	Preview
Thurs.	Sept. 27	7:30 PM	Preview
Fri.	Sept. 28	8:00 PM	Opening Night with Reception
Sat.	Sept. 29	2:00 PM	
Sat.	Sept. 29	8:00 PM	
Wed.	Oct. 3	7:30 PM	PWYC Performance, Post Play Discussion
Thurs.	Oct. 4	7:30 PM	
Fri.	Oct. 5	8:00 PM	
Sat.	Oct. 6	2:00 PM	
Sat.	Oct. 6	8:00 PM	
Wed.	Oct. 10	7:30 PM	
Thurs.	Oct. 11	7:30 PM	
Fri.	Oct. 12	8:00 PM	
Sat.	Oct. 13	2:00 PM	
Sat.	Oct. 13	8:00 PM	
Wed.	Oct. 17	7:30 PM	Post Play Discussion
Thurs.	Oct. 18	7:30 PM	
Fri.	Oct. 19	8:00 PM	
Sat.	Oct. 20	2:00 PM	
Sat.	Oct. 20	8:00 PM	
Wed.	Oct. 24	7:30 PM	Post Play Discussion
Thurs.	Oct. 25	7:30 PM	
Fri.	Oct. 26	8:00 PM	
Sat.	Oct. 27	2:00 PM	
Sat.	Oct. 27	8:00 PM	Closing Night

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