

Taproot Theatre Hosts Work by Two of Seattle's Master Artists in *Perpetual Snow*, Corresponding with *Babette's Feast*

Tied to the Norwegian setting of *Babette's Feast*, *Perpetual Snow* showcases paintings by Seattle's Juliette Aristides and Mark Kang-O'Higgins.

SEATTLE, WA – November 19, 2021 – As Taproot Theatre Company celebrates its return to live, in-person performances this fall with *Babette's Feast* (through December 30), it is thrilled to showcase the work of Juliette Aristides and Mark Kang-O'Higgins—two of Seattle's master artists—in its Kendall Central Lobby in a complementary painting exhibit called *Perpetual Snow*, which ties into the Norwegian setting of the play.

"The story of *Babette's Feast* reflects the quiet solitude of its setting in Norway," writes the exhibit's curator, Gina Cavallo, who is also Taproot's Director of Development. "It speaks to the contemplative existence of a life surrounded by a harsh, but exquisitely beautiful land. The serenity of Martine and Philippa's lives is broken by the arrival of Babette and her stories. Snow blankets everything under it, but even in the coldest climates, reality peaks from beneath."

Juliette and Mark lead two of the Ateliers at Gage Academy of Art in Seattle's Capitol Hill. They train painters in fundamental drawing and painting skills with a strong emphasis on observation from life.

In addition to her Classical Atelier at Gage Academy of Art, Juliette Aristides teaches workshops nationally and internationally. She is the author of four books on drawing and studio practice and has been featured in numerous art magazines and exhibitions. She acquired a rigorous education on the principles of classical realism under prominent artists and at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Art, the Atelier in Minneapolis, and the New York Academy. She was a founding member of the Water Street Studio in Brooklyn and is the Vice President and co-founder of the Da Vinci Initiative.

Mark Kang-O'Higgins' work has been shown in exhibitions in Seattle, New York and around the world. His work has appeared in publications, and is included in public and private collections both nationally and internationally. He founded the Kang-O'Higgins Atelier at Gage Academy of Art in 2004. He earned his BA and MA in Sociology and Political Science at University College Galway, Ireland. He studied art at the Leith School of Art and Edinburgh College of Art in Scotland, and earned an MFA at the New York Academy of Art, where he received the Most Promising International Student Award in 2003.

View more works by Juliette Aristides at www.AristidesArts.com and Mark Kang-O'Higgins at www.KangOHiggins.com. Works in the exhibition are available for sale unless marked NFS (not for sale) or by a red dot. Please contact the artist to purchase, aristidesart@gmail.com or markohiggins@hotmail.com.

ABOUT BABETTE'S FEAST:

Taproot Theatre Company is thrilled to resume live, in-person performances this fall with the Pacific Northwest debut of a new adaptation of *Babette's Feast*. Originally slated for spring of 2020, this story of the power of gathering and generosity is especially timely after the pandemic curtailed public events and many private gatherings as well. Hopeful even in the uncertainty of the beginning of the pandemic, Taproot staff kept the set on the stage and the costumes hanging in the dressing room throughout the pandemic. All but two of the original actors are returning to stage the production.

Crossing thousands of miles in search of asylum, Babette finds safety in a tiny mountain village. But petty squabbles and personal slights render the pious villagers as frigid and unforgiving as their surroundings. On one snowy December night, in an act of radical generosity, Babette prepares a feast so lavish that it awakens and transforms the brittle hearts in the village.

This theatrical adaptation of *Babette's Feast* is conceived and developed by Abigail Killeen, written by Rose Courtney, and adapted from the short story by Isak Dinesen. Scott Nolte, Taproot's co-founder and former Producing Artistic Director, directs. Co-founder Pam Nolte plays Babette and is joined by a cast of Jenny Cross, James Faley, Jenny Vaughn Hall, Nolan Palmer, Kevin Pitman, April Poland, Matt Posner, and Teri Lee Thomas.

For patrons whose holiday plans are still uncertain, Taproot is putting tickets for *Babette's Feast* on sale in three waves. This will allow patrons to still get great seats while purchasing tickets closer to the performance date. Tickets for the first two waves are currently on sale for performances through December 11, and on November 26 they open for performances for the rest of the run. Sign up to receive information via email as tickets become available: <https://taproottheatre.org/shows/2021/babettes-feast-2/> Tickets are available online at taproottheatre.org, by phone 206.781.9707 (Tue-Sat, noon-5:00 PM) or in person at 204 N 85th St. Ticket prices range from \$25-52 with discounts available for students, seniors, active military, 25 & Under and TeenTix. Discounts are also available for groups of 8 or more by calling 206.781.9708 or by visiting taproottheatre.org/group-sales.

Taproot Theatre Company's Jewell Mainstage Theatre, 204 N 85th St, Seattle, WA 98103

CAST (in order of appearance)

Pam Nolte	<i>Babette</i>
Jenny Vaughn Hall	<i>Martine</i>
April Poland*	<i>Philippa</i>
Nolan Palmer	<i>Player #1</i>
Jenny Cross	<i>Player #2</i>
Matthew Posner*	<i>Player #3</i>
Kevin Pitman	<i>Player #4</i>
James Faley	<i>Player #5</i>
Teri Lee Thomas	<i>Player #6</i>

PRODUCTION

Scott Nolte**	<i>Director</i>
Andrew Eric Davison	<i>Music Director</i>
Mark Lund	<i>Scenic & Sound Design</i>
Jocelyne Fowler	<i>Costume Design</i>
Tim Wratten	<i>Lighting Design</i>
Rachel Victoria Miller*	<i>Stage Manager</i>
Bailey Siplila	<i>Dramaturg</i>
Elizabeth Kaye	<i>Dialect Coach</i>
Mariah Eames	<i>Directing Intern</i>

*Member of Actor's Equity Association.

**Member of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers.

PHOTOS: Press photos are available online at <http://taproottheatre.org/for-the-press/> > Jewell Mainstage Theatre > Babette's Feast. (*This link is not to be published.*)

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Babette's Feast is also sponsored in part by Ellis, Li & McKinstry PLLC, Ballard Industrial Inc., and Piper Village.

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 Jewell Mainstage Productions, Isaac Studio Theatre Productions, Touring Productions and the Acting Studio. Taproot Theatre Company tells stories of hope, serving the Pacific Northwest through live theatre and educational programs. Taproot Theatre Company is a member of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), Theatre Puget Sound (TPS) and Phinney Ridge Neighborhood Association (PNA).

Karen Lund, *Producing Artistic Director*
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