

# Taproot Theatre Announces 2023 Season, *New Territory*

**Featuring three regional premieres, one world premiere, and a comedic classic by one of theatre's best-loved playwrights**

**SEATTLE, WA** – August 9, 2022 – Taproot Theatre Company is thrilled to announce its 2023 Jewell Mainstage Season, titled *New Territory*. The 5-play season features three regional premieres (*As It is in Heaven*, *The Hello Girls*, and *Jeeves Take a Bow*), a world premiere (*Last Drive to Dodge*), and Oscar Wilde's comedic classic, *A Woman of No Importance*. The 2023 season begins with the opening of *A Woman of No Importance* on January 27, 2023.

Each of these plays is set in the late 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century. Producing Artistic Director Karen Lund says, "Why go back in time? Because the past is filled with moments that show hope and perseverance becoming the seeds of possibility and change for the future. *As It Is in Heaven*, *Hello Girls*, and *Last Drive to Dodge* reveal captivating, rarely told stories from American history. The comedies, *A Woman of No Importance* and *Jeeves Takes a Bow*, will have you laughing about double standards, mistaken identities, and cultural differences while reminding us all that there's more than one way to get things 'right.'"

She adds, "Together we'll explore how old assumptions give way to new possibilities when a few courageous folks boldly (or barely) step into *New Territory*."

The 2023 Jewell Mainstage Season starts in January with Oscar Wilde's *A Woman of No Importance* (January 25 – February 25, 2022).

*Gerald's prospects are bright as he celebrates his new position with the notorious Lord Illingworth. But amidst the glittering banter at Lady Hunstanton's party, a long buried scandal is revealed. Will the unveiling of Gerald's lineage change the trajectory of his future? And what of the lovely American who's captured his heart? This comedic classic from Oscar Wilde will charm you with its cleverness and wit.*

Next on the Jewell Mainstage, is *As It is in Heaven*, Arlene Hutton's play set in the Shaker community of Pleasant Hill (March 22 – April 22, 2022).

*"Tis a gift to be simple," sing the Shakers of Pleasant Hill. But as the young women in the community claim new spiritual gifts, Sister Hannah and the other elders must judge whether these gifts are real or rebellion. Set during America's surge of Utopian communities, the play wrestles with belief and doubt in a swiftly changing world.*

In the spring comes the comedic *Jeeves Takes a Bow* (May 17 – June 17)

*Bertie's back! And this time his talent for trouble trails him to the Big Apple. When childhood chum Binkey Binkersteth knocks, one knacky notion leads to masterful mayhem and soon the notorious Knuckles McCann is fitting Bertie for a Chicago overcoat. Fortunately, the unflappable Jeeves is close at hand with a stiff cuppa joe and a penchant for putting things right!*

The rarely-told story of America's first female soldiers comes to the stage in the summer with the regional premiere of the musical ***The Hello Girls*** (July 12 – August 12).

*"Imagine a time when the world was divided. ... A world where freedom is under assault ... A world where nationalism is on the rise... We're talking about the year 1918, of course".  
Helmet, check. Gas Mask, check... Lipstick, check. In this new musical, Grace Banker and her fellow switchboard operators are answering the call when the Bell Battalion Telephonic Ladies' Switchboard Unit #1 makes history as America's first female soldiers.*

Closing out the season, Taproot stages the world premiere of Andrew Lee Creech's ***Last Drive to Dodge*** (September 20 – October 21).

*Prophet and Ro are chasing dreams faintly whispered on the wind that sweeps the dusty Texas plain, where ranching is brutal work and change is on the horizon. Set at the end of the Cowboy Golden Age, Last Drive to Dodge examines race, love, and legacy in a time when everyone is scrambling for their piece of the American Dream.*

## **2023 Jewell Mainstage Season Fact Sheet**

**WHAT:** Taproot Theatre Company announces its 2023 Jewell Mainstage Season.

### ***A Woman of No Importance***

By Oscar Wilde

Directed by Karen Lund

January 25 – February 25, 2023

### ***As It is in Heave***

By Arlene Hutton

Directed by Marianne Savell

March 22 – April 22, 2023

### ***Jeeves Takes a Bow***

Adapted by Margaret Raether, from the stories of P. G. Wodehouse

Directed by Scott Nolte

May 17 – June 17, 2023

### ***The Hello Girls***

Music and Lyrics by Peter Mills

Book by Peter Mills and Cara Reichel

Directed by Karen Lund

July 12 – August 12

### ***Last Drive to Dodge***

By Andrew Lee Creech  
Directed by Valerie Curtis-Newton  
September 20 – October 21, 2023

**WHEN:** Taproot's 2023 Jewell Mainstage Season runs January through October 2023. Performances are Wednesday/Thursday at 7:30 PM, Friday/Saturday at 8:00 PM and Saturday matinees at 2:00 PM. Select Midweek Matinee dates are available for each production.

**WHERE:** Taproot Theatre Company's Jewell Mainstage Theatre, 204 N 85<sup>th</sup> St, Seattle, WA 98103

**SUBSCRIPTIONS:** 2022 Subscribers may renew their current subscription until September 19, 2022. New subscriptions for the 2023 Jewell Mainstage Season start at \$87 and go on sale October 11, 2022. Subscriptions may be purchased online at [taproottheatre.org/subscribe](http://taproottheatre.org/subscribe), by mail or by dropping off a subscription form at the Taproot Theatre Box Office at 204 N 85<sup>th</sup> St. No discounts are available on subscriptions.

**SINGLE TICKETS:** Single tickets go on in the months leading up to each production

**SEASON GRAPHICS COMING SOON:** <http://taproottheatre.org/for-the-press/> > Jewell Mainstage Season > 2023 Season. *This link is not to be published.*

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**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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