

Taproot Theatre Hosts Work by Artist Sam Vance During the Run of *The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley*

Donut Shops & Roadside Cafes: Paintings by Sam Vance

SEATTLE, WA – November 17, 2022 – For more than a year, Taproot Theatre has hosted the work of local visual artists through our Kendall Center Exhibition Series. This series began in September 2021 with the work of longtime Taproot performer, Sam Vance. This winter, during the run of *The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley*, audiences have another chance to experience this multi-faceted artist's work in *Donut Shops & Roadside Cafes: Paintings by Sam Vance*, running November 19, 2022 – January 7, 2023.

In the current exhibition curated by Taproot's Director of Development, Gina Cavallo, Sam presents new work along with a few earlier pieces. His work in 2022 continues to explore his interest in Americana—specifically signs and wayfaring symbols. Restaurants, donut shops, and roadside cafes reminiscent of a bygone era populate these paintings. The spaces he paints can, at first glance, look like places of emptiness, lacking signs of life. But the detail he provides and the palette of bold colors he chooses give his work the vibrancy of 1960s Pop Art. These are places we remember, places we've seen on road trips as children, places we crave seeing to break up the monotony of suburban sameness.

Trained at the Art Institute of Seattle, Seattle Pacific University, Gage Academy of Art, and Goddard College, Sam has held artist residencies in the U.S. as well as abroad. His work is included in corporate and private collections. He is the art instructor at Shoreline Christian School.

Sam and his wife, Candace (Associate Professor of Theatre at Seattle Pacific University), have been seen on Taproot's Jewel Mainstage for many years. They live in Shoreline, Washington and frequently travel with their three children in a family band, *A Total Fiasco* (www.atotalfiasco.com). He has recently written and illustrated *The Old House & the Old Tree, Stories by Sam Vance*, published by Fulton Books and available on Amazon and Barnes & Noble. View more works and purchase prints by Sam Vance at www.VanceArts.com.

ABOUT THE WICKHAMS: CHRISTMAS AT PEMBERLEY:

Taproot Theatre Company holiday production, *The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley* by Lauren Gunderson and Margot Melcon, runs through December 30, 2022.

In this all-new Jane Austen-inspired story, we return to the world of the Darcys and Bennets! Lydia's come for Christmas, the halls are decked, and the aroma of everyone's favorite orange biscuits fills the air. But downstairs the loyal staff scramble to keep a secret that could upend the

festivities. Amid the chaos of Christmas, a little yuletide forgiveness might be the one gift everyone needs.

Karen Lund directs Kathryn Bogley, Ian Bond, Gretchen Douma, Kelly Karcher, Brian Pucheu, Ricky Spaulding, and Annie Yim. Understudies: William Eames, Chloe Michele, Karin Terry, and Teri Lee Thomas.

Tickets are now for sale and 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 are as follows: Early bird pricing is for November 25-30, with tickets ranging from \$15-\$30 (this includes opening night!). Reduced pricing is for December 1-3, and tickets range from \$20-\$47. Regular pricing is available for December 6-10 and December 26-30, and pricing ranges from \$23-\$51. Peak pricing is for December 12-23 and ranges from \$25-53. Taproot also has discounts available for students, seniors, active military, 25 & Under, and TeenTix members. Accessible ticket prices are also available on TodayTix. 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

PHOTOS: Press photos are available online at <http://taproottheatre.org/for-the-press/> > Jewell Mainstage Theatre > The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley. (*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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