

# Double standards don't stand a chance in Taproot Theatre's 2023 Season opener, *A Woman of No Importance*

*As relevant today as it was in Oscar Wilde's time, this classic comedy runs  
January 25 – February 25, 2023*

**OPENING JANUARY 27, 2023 8:00PM** – Runs January 25 – February 25, 2023 • Wed/Thur,  
7:30 PM; Fri/Sat, 8:00 PM; Sat matinee, 2:00 PM

**SEATTLE, WA** – December 8, 2022 – Kicking off Taproot Theatre's 2023 Jewell Mainstage Season this winter is Oscar Wilde's comedic classic, *A Woman of No Importance*. As relevant today as it was when it was first staged 130 years ago, the play looks at the way that society upholds double standards and subverts the very things that other stories of its era endorsed. Directed by Taproot's Producing Artistic Director, Karen Lund, the show opens on January 27, 2023 and runs through February 25, 2023.

*Gerald's prospects are bright as he celebrates his new position with the notorious Lord Illingsworth. 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.*

"In his comedies, Wilde laughs at the hypocrisies of the British elite in the 1890s," said Lund. "*A Woman of No Importance* involves Lord Illingsworth, who is a rake. Many years ago, he seduced a young woman with a promise of forever love. But he refused to marry her when she became pregnant. *She* paid the price for their affair. But in a society that is indulgent of men who sow their wild oats, scandal can't damage *him*. In this play, we find an older Lord Illingsworth at a weekend house party, still chasing the ladies. He wants to have his cake and eat it too. And that's where Wilde comes in and upends the way things are done."

*A Woman of No Importance* is the fourth and final of Oscar Wilde's comedies that Taproot's Producing Artistic Director **Karen Lund** will have directed. She first directed *The Importance of Being Earnest* in 2007, followed by *An Ideal Husband* in 2011 and *Lady Windermere's Fan* in 2018.

"*A Woman of No Importance* is part of a canon of Wilde's incredible wit. What's so great about it is that it plays with all the ideas that are in the other three," Lund said. "This play was one of the most modern pieces of its time when it premiered in 1893. Wilde managed to poke fun at the very people who paid to sit in the seats, and he got them to laugh, too, as he gave them a

compelling story that addresses grace, humanity, and forgiveness, as well as responsibility and sacrifice—things that are as relevant in our society today as they were in Wilde’s time.”

“In the way that Wilde addressed sacrifice and revenge--particularly involving Mrs. Arbuthnot, who would be the title’s “woman of no importance”—he was doing something subversive that was pushing the envelope during his time,” Lund said. “I won’t give any spoilers, but he refused to play into what was considered the assumed ‘happy ending’ of his day.”

**Lund directs Brettney Beverly, Rebecca M. Davis, Will Eames, Melanie Hampton, Bill Johns, Juliette Jones, Aaron Lamb, Nolan Palmer, Candace Vance, and Nikki Visel.**

Tickets are available online at [taproottheatre.org](http://taproottheatre.org), by phone at 206.781.9707 (Tue-Sat, noon-5:00 PM), or in person at 204 N 85<sup>th</sup> St. Ticket prices range from \$25-56 with 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](http://taproottheatre.org/group-sales).

## **SPECIAL DATES FOR THE AUDIENCE**

**Pay What You Can (PWYC):** February 1 at 7:30 PM; a limited number of \$10 tickets are available at noon, tickets may be purchased in person or by phone (card fees may apply). Beginning at 5:00 PM, tickets are name-your-own-price; these tickets may be purchased in person only. Limit 4 tickets per person. Seating for PWYC performances is General Admission, there is no reserved seating. If you have accessible seating needs please call the Box Office directly.

**Senior Matinees:** January 31 and February 22 at 2:00 PM; Taproot’s Senior Matinee program provides anyone aged 62 and older with an affordable way to participate in live theatre in convenient daytime performances. Both performances will feature a post-play discussion, immediately following the show.

**Intergenerational Matinee:** February 8 at 10:30 AM; With \$10 student/chaperone tickets, printed educational play guides, and a guided post-play discussion, our Intergenerational Matinee enhances student education, providing theatre as a tool and springboard for learning, growth and communication. Senior ticket price: \$20.

## **A WOMAN OF NO IMPORTANCE FACT SHEET**

**WHAT:** Taproot Theatre Company presents *A Woman of No Importance* by Oscar Wilde. 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.

**WHEN:** January 25 – February 25, 2023 • Wed/Thur, 7:30 PM; Fri/Sat, 8:00 PM; Sat matinee, 2:00 PM

*Dates to note:*

Previews: January 25 & 26, 7:30 PM

Opening Night: January 27, 8:00 PM

Pay What You Can: February 1, 7:30 PM

Midweek Matinees: January 31 and February 22 at 2:00 PM, February 1 and 8 at 10:30 AM  
(*limited availability*)

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

**TICKETS:** Tickets are available online at [taproottheatre.org](http://taproottheatre.org), by phone at 206.781.9707 (Tue-Sat, noon-5:00 PM), or in person at 204 N 85<sup>th</sup> St. Ticket prices range from \$25-56 with 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](http://taproottheatre.org/group-sales).

**AGE RECOMMENDATION:** 12+

**CAST & PRODUCTION:**

Lady Caroline Pontefract	Bretteney Beverly*
Lady Jane Hunstanton	Rebecca M. Davis
Gerald Arbuthnot	Will Eames
Lady Stutford/Alice	Melanie Hampton
Mr. Kelvin	Bill Johns
Hester Worsley	Juliette Jones
Lord George Illingworth	Aaron Lamb*
Archdeacon Daubney	Nolan Palmer
Sir John Pontefract	TBA
Mrs. Rachel Arbuthnot	Candace Vance
Mrs. Allonby	Nikki Visel

Director	Karen Lund**
Scenic & Sound Design	Mark Lund
Costume Design	Jocelyne Fowler
Lighting Design	Michael Wellborn***
Fight Choreographer	Christopher Kidder-Mostrom
Stage Manager	Claire Stark*
Dramaturg	Sonja Lowe
Dialect Coach	Alyssa Keene

\* AEA

\*\* SDC

\*\*\* USA

**PR:** Daytona Danielsen, Communications Manager, 206.529.3666,  
[daytonad@taproottheatre.org](mailto:daytonad@taproottheatre.org)

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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*  
204 N 85<sup>th</sup> St | Seattle, WA 98103  
206.781.9705 | [taproottheatre.org](http://taproottheatre.org)

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