

## **EXTENDED DUE TO POPULAR DEMAND: *A Woman of No Importance* at Taproot Theatre**

***Oscar Wilde's classic comedy now runs through March 4, 2023***

**SEATTLE, WA** – February 10, 2023 –Taproot Theatre Company is extending its 2023 Season opener, Oscar Wilde's *A Woman of No Importance*, through March 4. Directed by Taproot's Producing Artistic Director, Karen Lund, the play has proven to be an audience favorite since its opening on January 27, 2023. Originally scheduled to close on February 25, four new performances have been added: Thursday, March 2 at 7:30pm; Friday, March 3 at 8pm; and Saturday, March 4 at 2pm and 8pm.

*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.*

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.

"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 Brettenev Beverly, Tyler Campbell, 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).

### **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:** Now through March 4, 2023 • Wed/Thur, 7:30 PM; Fri/Sat, 8:00 PM; Sat matinee, 2:00 PM

**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	Brettenev 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  
Mrs. Rachel Arbuthnot  
Mrs. Allonby

Tyler Campbell  
Candace Vance  
Nikki Visel

Director  
Scenic & Sound Design  
Costume Design  
Lighting Design  
Fight Choreographer  
Stage Manager  
Dramaturg  
Dialect Coach

Karen Lund\*\*  
Mark Lund  
Jocelyne Fowler  
Michael Wellborn\*\*\*  
Christopher Kidder-Mostrom  
Claire Stark\*  
Sonja Lowe  
Alyssa Keene

\* AEA

\*\* SDC

\*\*\* USA

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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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