



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Kill Date: August 13, 2023

America's first female soldiers feature in regional premiere of *The Hello Girls* at Taproot Theatre

July 12 – August 12, 2023

OPENING JULY 14, 2023 8:00PM – Runs July 12 – August 12, 2023 • Wed/Thur, 7:30 PM; Fri/Sat, 8:00 PM; Sat matinee, 2:00 PM

SEATTLE, WA – June 6, 2023 – America's first female soldiers answer the call in Taproot Theatre's summer musical, the regional premiere of *The Hello Girls*, with music and lyrics by Peter Mills and book by Peter Mills and Cara Reichel. Directed by Karen Lund, the show opens on July 14, 2023 and runs through August 12, 2023.

"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.

Karen Lund directs a cast including **Miranda Antoinette, Jeff Church, Rebecca Cort, Lauren Engstrom, Cassie Q. Kohl, Rico Lastrapes, Casey Raiha, Jeremy Steckler, Fune Tautala,** and **Jessica Ziegelbauer**. Understudies include **Jaqueline Tardanico, Keola Holt,** and **Abigail Brittle**.

Tickets are available online at taproottheatre.org, by phone at 206.781.9707 (Tue-Sat, noon-5:00 PM), or in person at 204 N 85th 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.

SPECIAL DATES FOR THE AUDIENCE

Pay What You Can (PWYC): July 19 at 7:30 PM; regular-priced tickets available in advance, \$10 tickets offered starting at noon day of show, and pay-what-you-can pricing in-person day of show.

Senior Matinees: July 18 and August 9 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 a convenient daytime performance. Performance features a post-play discussion, immediately following the show.

Wine Tasting: July 20, 6pm; while America's first female soldiers make history in France in World War 1 in *The Hello Girls*, savor the expressions of French grapes artfully crafted by American winemakers in a special pre-show wine tasting event presented in partnership with The Orcas Project. Buy your tickets to the July 20 performance and you'll have the option to add the wine tasting for just \$10.

Knitting Night: Knit your way through the show on July 21, to honor the remarkable knitting efforts of over 6,000 Seattle-area knitters who produced items for American soldiers during World War 1. Unlock access to the exclusive Knitting Gallery, where you can knit alongside fellow crafters, by using code NEEDLE at checkout.

THE HELLO GIRLS FACT SHEET

WHAT: Taproot Theatre Company presents *The Hello Girls*, with music and lyrics by Peter Mills and book by Peter Mills and Cara Reichel. 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.

WHEN: July 12 – August 12, 2023 • Wed/Thur, 7:30 PM; Fri/Sat, 8:00 PM; Sat matinee, 2:00 PM

Dates to note:

Previews: July 12 & 13, 7:30 PM

Opening Night: July 14, 8:00 PM

Pay What You Can: July 19, 7:30 PM

Midweek Matinees: July 18 & August 9 at 2:00 PM (*limited availability*)

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

TICKETS: Tickets are available online at taproottheatre.org, by phone at 206.781.9707 (Tue-Sat, noon-5:00 PM), or in person at 204 N 85th 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.

AGE RECOMMENDATION: 12+

CAST:

Grace Banker
Suzanne Prevot
Helen Hill
Bertha Hunt

Cassie Q. Kohl *
Rebecca Cort
Lauren Engstrom
Jessica Ziegelbauer

Louise Lebreton
Cpt. Joseph Riser
Man 1/ Wessen/ Ackerman/ Beaumont
Man 2/ PVT Eugen Matterson
Man 3/ Dempsey/ Morris/ German Soldier
Gen. John Pershing

Miranda Antoinette
Rico Lastrapes *
Fune Tautala
Jeremy Steckler
Casey Raiha
Jeff Church

UNDERSTUDIES:

Bertha Hunt & Suzanne Prevot
Grace Banker & Louise Lebreton
Helen Hill
Man 2, 3 & Pershing
Riser & Man 1

Jaqueline Tardanico
Keola Holt
Abigail Brittle
TBA
TBA

PRODUCTION:

Director
Music Director
Scenic & Sound Design
Costume Design
Lighting Design
Choreographer
Stage Manager
Dramaturg
Dialect Coach
Dramaturg Intern
Directing Observers

Karen Lund **
Michael Nutting
Mark Lund
Nanette Acosta
Ahren Buhmann
Katy Tabb
Rachel Victoria Miller *
Rowan Gallagher
Marianna de Fazio
Dami Munroe
Jane Broderson, Solomon Hess

* AEA
** SDC
*** USA

PHOTOS: Press photos will soon be available online at <https://taproottheatre.org/for-the-press/>
(Jewell Mainstage Theatre → *The Hello Girls* (link 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*

204 N 85th St | Seattle, WA 98103
206.781.9705 | taproottheatre.org

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