



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Kill Date: October 22, 2023

Taproot Theatre and The Hansberry Project present new play by Seattle playwright Andrew Lee Creech

Black cowboy love story Last Drive to Dodge runs September 20 – October 21, 2023

OPENING SEPTEMBER 22, 2023 8:00PM – Runs September 20 – October 21, 2023 •
Wed/Thur, 7:30 PM; Fri/Sat, 8:00 PM; Sat matinee, 2:00 PM

SEATTLE, WA – August 8, 2023 – This fall, Taproot Theatre and The Hansberry Project present the world premiere production of *Last Drive to Dodge* by Seattle playwright Andrew Lee Creech. Set during the golden age of the American west, this Black cowboy love story is about creating a home in the American west and continues the theme of history that is left out of the history books. *Last Drive to Dodge* is directed by Valerie Curtis-Newton, the Founding Artistic Director for The Hansberry Project, which is a professional Black theatre company dedicated to the artistic exploration of African American life, history and culture. The show opens on September 22, 2023 and runs through October 21, 2023.

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.

Valerie Curtis-Newton directs **Tim Gouran, Jonelle Jordan, Yusef Seevers, and Dedra D. Woods.** **Marianna DeFazio, Nik Donner, Esther Okech, and Jarron Williams** understudy.

During the run of *Last Drive to Dodge*, Taproot hosts *Eight Seconds: The Photography of Ivan McClellan* in its Kendall Center Lobby. Photographing portraits of Black horsemen and women across America, McClellan—a photojournalist based in Portland—sheds light on Black cowboy culture in the 21st century. *Eight Seconds* is on display September 8 through October 28 at Taproot Theatre.

Tickets to *Last Drive to Dodge* 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): September 27 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: September 26 and October 11 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.

Intergenerational Matinee: October 18 at 10:30 AM; With \$10 student/chaperone tickets, printed educational play guides, and a guided post-play discussion, our Intergenerational Matinees enhance student education, providing theatre as a tool and springboard for learning, growth and communication. Senior ticket price: \$20.

LAST DRIVE TO DODGE FACT SHEET

WHAT: Taproot Theatre Company and The Hansberry Project presents the world premiere of *Last Drive to Dodge* by Andrew Lee Creech. 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.

WHEN: September 20 – October 21, 2023 • Wed/Thur, 7:30 PM; Fri/Sat, 8:00 PM; Sat matinee, 2:00 PM

Dates to note:

Previews: September 20 & 21, 7:30 PM

Opening Night: September 22, 8:00 PM

Pay What You Can: September 27, 7:30 PM

Midweek Matinees: September 26 and October 11 at 2:00 PM, October 18 at 10:30 AM (*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: 14+

CAST:

Ro	Dedra D. Woods
Prophet	Yusef Seevers
Bennett	Tim Gouran
Millie	Jonelle Jordan

UNDERSTUDIES:

Ro u/s	Esther Okech
Prophet u/s	Jarron Williams
Bennett u/s	Nik Donner
Millie u/s	Marianna DeFazio

PRODUCTION (FULL LIST COMING SOON):

Director	Valerie Curtis-Newton
Assistant Director	Bretteney Beverly
Scenic Design	Matthew Smucker
Costume Design	Melanie Burgess
Lighting Design	Brian Engel
Sound Design	Evan Mosher
Stage Manager	Kathryn Greaser
Dialect Coach	Gin Hammond
Dramaturg	Sonja Lowe

PHOTOS: Press photos are available online at <https://taproottheatre.org/for-the-press/> (Jewell Mainstage Theatre → *Last Drive to Dodge* (link not to be published))

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Taproot Theatre Company is generously supported by Artsfund, KCTS, 4Culture, Office of Arts & Culture, ArtsWA, NEA, Green Trails Maps, Janus Apartments, Piper Village, and Susan Rutherford, MD, and Period Corsets.

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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