

TAPROOT THEATRE



C O M P A N Y

Scott L. Nolte
Producing Artistic Director

Mailing Address
P.O. Box 30946
Seattle, Washington 98113

Administrative Office
312 North 85th St., Suite 103
Seattle, Washington 98103
206.781.9705
(Fax) 206.297.6882

Box Office
204 North 85th St.
Seattle, Washington 98103
206.781.9707
(Fax) 206.706.1502

E-mail
info@taproottheatre.org

www.taproottheatre.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Kill Date: August 14, 2011

MEDIA CONTACT:
Daytona Strong
Communications Manager
206-529-3676
daytona@taproottheatre.org

Taproot Theatre asks 'Whodunit?' with *Something's Afoot*

Murder mystery musical continues 35th Anniversary Season, opens on July 15

SEATTLE – June 9, 2011 – Taproot Theatre Company continues its 35th Anniversary Season this summer with *Something's Afoot*. "The butler didn't do it!" So starts this murder mystery musical that has been delighting audiences for decades. When wealthy Lord Rancour is found dead at his lakeside estate, the race to find out whodunit begins. Filled with booby-traps and belted songs, this hilarious spoof hums along as you play armchair detective to a zany cast of characters. *Something's Afoot*, directed by Scott Nolte, opens on July 15 and runs through August 13, with previews on July 13 & 14.

"Murder mysteries have always been a big hit among our patrons, since the early days of Taproot Theatre," said Nolte. "So, we got to thinking, what better way to celebrate our 35th Anniversary Season and say thanks for the years of support than to present a murder mystery *musical*? This clever spoof honors the mystery greats like Agatha Christie and Dorothy Sayers."

With characters including a "saucy maid," a "black sheep nephew" and a "tweedy, elderly amateur detective" known as Miss Tweed—who sings "I Owe It All to Agatha Christie"—fans of the genre will see elements of their favorite mystery novels parodied in this "engaging, funny, refreshing and original musical" (*The New York Post*).

Something's Afoot features book, music and lyrics by James McDonald, David Vos and Robert Gerlach, with additional music by Ed Linderman. It premiered in 1972 at the Alliance Theater in Atlanta, and then was produced at Goodspeed Musicals in 1973. Opening on Broadway at Lyceum Theatre in May 1976, it went on to the West End's Ambassadors Theatre in 1977.

The production features a talented cast of Dale Bowers, Gerald B. Browning, Ryan Childers, Jenny Cross, William Hamer, Ian Lindsay, Natalie Anne Moe, Deanna Sarkar, Pat Sibley and Tim Tully. The production team includes scenic and sound designer Mark Lund, costume designer Sarah Burch Gordon and lighting designer Andrew Duff. Kristi Matthews serves as stage manager and Judy Naegeli as dramaturg.

Following *Something's Afoot*, Taproot Theatre concludes its 35th Anniversary Season with Oscar Wilde's *An Ideal Husband*, running September 21 through October 22.

###

Something's Afoot

Book, music and lyrics by James McDonald, David Vos and Robert Gerlach

Additional music by Ed Linderman

Directed by Scott Nolte

WHEN: July 13-August 13 (Wednesday-Thursday, 7:30 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 8 p.m.; Saturday matinees, 2 p.m.)

Dates to note:

- Previews: July 13 & 14, 7:30 p.m.
- Opening night: Friday, July 15, 8 p.m.
- Pay What You Can: July 20, 7:30 p.m.
- Post-play Discussions: Wednesday nights, excluding preview

WHERE: Taproot Theatre Company, 204 North 85th Street, Seattle, WA 98103

TICKETS: Tickets are available online at www.taproottheatre.org/buy-tickets/ and through Taproot Theatre's box office, in person or by phone at 206.781.9707. Tickets range from \$20-35, depending on the performance. Taproot offers a \$3 senior/student discount off regular priced tickets (excludes previews). \$10 tickets are available for ages 25 and under. Discounts are available for parties of 8 or more through Group Sales; call 206.781.9708. Tickets for the pay-what-you-can performance are available day of show at the box office only; contact the box office for details.

ABOUT: "The butler didn't do it!" So starts this murder mystery musical that has been delighting audiences for decades. When wealthy Lord Rancour is found dead at his lakeside estate, the race to find out whodunit begins. Filled with booby-traps and belted songs, this hilarious spoof hums along as you play armchair detective to a zany cast of characters.

ABOUT TAPROOT THEATRE COMPANY

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 Mainstage Productions, Touring Productions and the Acting Studio. Taproot exists to create theatre that explores the beauty and questions of life while bringing hope to our search for meaning. Taproot Theatre Company is a member of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), Theatre Puget Sound (TPS), and the Greenwood-Phinney Chamber of Commerce.

Thanks to our opening night sponsor, The Upper Crust. Support for Taproot Theatre's 2011 Mainstage season is generously provided by The Charles Simonyi Fund for Arts and Sciences, The Seattle Foundation, 4Culture, ArtsFund and PONCHO.