

TAPROOT THEATRE



C O M P A N Y

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Producing Artistic Director

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Taproot Theatre invites you to *Beasley's Christmas Party* Imagination bursts from the stage in this holiday classic

SEATTLE – October 17, 2011 – Taproot Theatre Company invites you to *Beasley's Christmas Party*, an “enchancing” (*Variety*), “charming” (*Village Voice*) and “heartwarming” (*Curtain Up*) occasion for the whole family. Can one man’s kindness really be the answer to one child’s Christmas wish? David Beasley believes it can and sets out to show us that “Christmas time is the best time because it is the kindest time.” Full of quick changes, side-splitting antics and surprising twists, four actors weave this heartwarming tale that will delight and entertain your entire family. Adapted for the stage by C.W. Munger from the 1909 novel by Booth Tarkington, this regional premiere is directed by Scott Nolte. *Beasley's Christmas Party* opens on November 25 and runs through December 30, with low-price previews on November 18 & 19, plus a pay-what-you-can performance on November 23.

Better known for his Pulitzer Prize winning novels, *The Magnificent Ambersons* and *Alice Adams*, Booth Tarkington’s writing is primarily set in the Midwest, typifying the small-town America he loved. He is one of only three American novelists to have won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction more than once and was an accomplished playwright with over 25 works produced on Broadway in the early 1900’s. C.W. Munger’s adaptation was originally produced Off-Broadway in 2008 by Keen Company at Clurman Theatre in New York City. The three person cast of Joseph Collins, Christa Scott-Reed and Tony Ward was directed by Keen Company’s Artistic Director, Carl Forsman.

Your imagination will come to life when you join *Beasley's Christmas Party* as three of the four cast members swiftly shift between the twelve roles the actors collectively play throughout the production, convincingly slipping from one character to the next.

Producing Artistic Director Scott Nolte directs a talented cast of Don Brady, Aaron Lamb, Frank Lawler, and Lisa Peretti. The production team includes scenic and sound designer Mark Lund, costume designer Sarah Burch Gordon and lighting designer Brian Engel. Kristiana Matthews serves as stage manager with Sonja Lowe and Sarah Dale Lewis as dramaturgs.

Following *Beasley's Christmas Party*, the comic masterpiece *Tartuffe* launches Taproot Theatre’s 2012 season, running February 1 through March 3.

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Beasley's Christmas Party

**adapted by C.W. Munger
from the story by Booth Tarkington
Directed by Scott Nolte**

WHEN: November 25-December 30 (Wednesday-Thursday, 7:30 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 8 p.m.; Saturday matinees, 2 p.m.)

Dates to note:

Previews: November 18 & 19, 8 p.m.

\$20 Tuesdays: November 22 & 29, 7:30 p.m.

Pay What You Can: November 23, 7:30 p.m.

Opening night: Friday, November 25, 8 p.m.

Student Matinee: November 29, 2 p.m.

Senior Matinee: December 7, 2 p.m.

Dinner & Theatre Performances: November 30, December 6, 7 & 13

Post-play Discussions: Wednesday nights

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. Tickets for the senior matinee are \$20. 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: When a curious journalist moves to a small Midwestern town in 1909 he's captivated by his unusual next door neighbor, gubernatorial candidate David Beasley. Is Beasley crazy or does he just have more imaginary friends than we can count? Brimming with hope and heart, this holiday tale will charm your whole family with its surprising twists.

AGE RECOMMENDATION: Ages 8 and above.

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 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, ArtsFund, 4Culture, PONCHO and Nesholm Family Foundation.

