

TAPROOT THEATRE



C O M P A N Y

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Taproot Theatre introduces Freud to C.S. Lewis in *Freud's Last Session* Two great minds spar on Taproot's stage beginning March 23

SEATTLE – February 2, 2012 – Science and religion, body and soul, reality and fantasy, nothing is off limits in the award winning play, *Freud's Last Session*, making its West Coast premiere at Taproot Theatre this March. Air raid sirens sound overhead, C.S. Lewis is a young and rising academic star and Sigmund Freud has invited him for tea. What could possibly come next? Written by Mark St. Germain and directed by Producing Artistic Director Scott Nolte *Freud's Last Session* runs from March 23 through April 21, with previews on March 21 and 22 and a pay what you can performance on March 28.

Join us for the regional premiere of the play that has touched the soul of New York audiences and brought them to their feet again and again. This riveting and lively new play opened in New York July 2010, and is currently the longest running Off-Broadway show this season. Winner of the 2011 Off-Broadway Alliance Award for Best Play, *Freud's Last Session* is an engrossing and thoughtful encounter between two significant men who are drawn into an honest discussion that will amuse and amaze.

Mark St. Germain's distinguished new play that Entertainment Weekly called, "... spirited, witty and eminently engaging" was suggested by the bestselling book *The Question of God* by Armand Nicholi, Jr., a Harvard professor who for over thirty-five years has taught a course comparing the writings, biographies and philosophies of both Sigmund Freud and C.S. Lewis.

C.S. Lewis was a Christian apologist who wrote books such as *The Chronicles of Narnia*, *Mere Christianity* and *The Screwtape Letters*. Sigmund Freud was the founder of psychoanalysis and a staunch advocate for the atheist worldview. Even though it is unlikely Freud and Lewis ever met, the conversation presented is historically and ideologically sound, musing about issues that were important to Freud and Lewis and remain important today.

Taproot Theatre's production features Nolan Palmer as Sigmund Freud and Matt Shimkus as C.S. Lewis. The production team includes scenic and sound designer Mark Lund, costume designer Sarah Burch Gordon and lighting designer Andy Duff. Debbie Evans serves as stage manager and Sonja Lowe as dramaturg.

In conjunction with *Freud's Last Session* Taproot Theatre is putting on a *Conversations* panel discussion that will be hosted by *The Kindlings Muse* and is free to the community on April 3.

Following *Freud's Last Session*, Taproot Theatre presents *Leaving Iowa*, running May 16 through June 16 (opening on May 18).

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Freud's Last Session

By Mark St. Germain

Suggested by *The Question of God* by Dr. Armand Nicholi, Jr.

Directed by Scott Nolte

WHEN: March 21-April 21 (Wednesday-Thursday, 7:30 pm; Friday-Saturday, 8 pm; Saturday matinees, 2 pm)

Dates to note:

Previews: March 21 & 22, 7:30 pm

Opening night: March 23, 8 pm

Pay What You Can: March 28, 7:30 pm

Senior Matinee: April 11, 2 pm

Student Matinee: March 27 & April 4, 10 am

Post-play Discussions: Wednesday nights, excluding preview

Conversations Panel Discussion: April 3, 7:30 pm

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 \$22-37, depending on the performance. Taproot offers a \$5 senior/student discount off regular priced tickets (excludes previews). \$15 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: Air raid sirens sound overhead, C.S. Lewis is a young and rising academic star and Sigmund Freud has invited him for tea. What could possibly come next? Join us for the West Coast premiere of the play that has touched the soul of New York audiences and brought them to their feet again and again.

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 2012 Mainstage season is generously provided by The Charles and Lisa Simonyi Fund for Arts and Sciences, ArtsFund, 4Culture, Fales Foundation Trust and Nesholm Family Foundation.