

# TAPROOT THEATRE



C O M P A N Y

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*Producing Artistic Director*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Kill Date: February 8, 2012**

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**Taproot Theatre Hosts “Comedy as Commentary”  
Taproot Theatre’s *Conversations* Series Presents “Comedy as Commentary”**

SEATTLE – January 18, 2012 – In conjunction with its Mainstage show, *Tartuffe*, Taproot Theatre Company hosts a special free event called “Comedy as Commentary” on February 7 at 7:30 pm. Beginning with the Ancient Greeks and continuing straight through to late night stand-up, comedy has always functioned as social commentary. What makes humor such a powerful tool? Can classic comedies speak to our modern society? Taproot Theatre hosts a panel of theatre professionals to discuss the role of comedy in today’s arts and entertainment culture.

Moderated by Jeff Berryman (Actor/Playwright), panelists include Misha Berson (Theatre & Arts Critic, *The Seattle Times*), Kathy Hsieh (Actor/Director, *SIS Productions*), Karen Lund (Associate Artistic Director, *Taproot Theatre Company*) and Brian Willis (Playwright, *Northwest Playwrights Alliance*).

This event is first in Taproot Theatre’s *Conversations* series, taking place throughout the 2012 season. Upcoming *Conversations* will be during *Freud’s Last Session* (April 3) and *Gaudy Night* (date to be announced).

“Comedy as Commentary” takes place on Tuesday, February 7 at 7:30 pm (doors open at 7 pm) at Taproot Theatre Company, located at 204 North 85<sup>th</sup> Street, Seattle. Admission is free, but guests are encouraged to RSVP in advance due to limited seating. RSVP by February 6<sup>th</sup> to guarantee seating with Sonja Lowe at 206.529.3666 or [sonjal@taproottheatre.org](mailto:sonjal@taproottheatre.org). Tickets to *Tartuffe*, running February 1 through March 3, are available through Taproot Theatre’s box office at 206.781.9707 or online at [www.taproottheatre.org](http://www.taproottheatre.org).

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**Taproot Theatre's Conversations: Comedy as Commentary  
and *Tartuffe***

**WHEN:** Tuesday, February 7, 7:30 pm

**WHERE:** Taproot Theatre Company, 204 North 85<sup>th</sup> Street, Seattle, WA, 98103

**ADMISSION:** Free. Due to limited seating, RSVP is highly encouraged to guarantee admission. RSVP with Sonja Lowe by February 6<sup>th</sup> at 206.529.3666 or [sonjal@taproottheatre.org](mailto:sonjal@taproottheatre.org).

**ABOUT:** Beginning with the Ancient Greeks and continuing straight through to late night stand-up, comedy has always functioned as social commentary. What makes humor such a powerful tool? Can classic comedies speak to our modern society? Taproot Theatre hosts a panel of theatre professionals to discuss the role of comedy in today's arts and entertainment culture. *Panelists include:* Jeff Berryman (Actor/Playwright), Misha Berson (Theatre & Arts Critic, *The Seattle Times*), Kathy Hsieh (Actor/Director, *SIS Productions*), Karen Lund (Associate Artistic Director, *Taproot Theatre Company*) and Brian Willis (Playwright, *Northwest Playwrights Alliance*).

**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.