

# 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: March 4, 2012**

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## **Taproot Theatre begins its 2012 season with Molière's *Tartuffe* Follies & fools, charlatans & scoundrels take the stage on February 1**

SEATTLE – December 29, 2011 – Taproot Theatre kicks off the 2012 season with Molière's hilariously clever satire, *Tartuffe*. Molière's comic masterpiece brings us a con artist extraordinaire who oozes piety and charm. Will Tartuffe's hypocrisy be discovered before Orgon's household is turned on its head? Enjoy lightning-quick wit, star-crossed lovers, a badgering grandma and a plot that could be ripped from today's headlines – or a Saturday night comedy show. Associate Artistic Director Karen Lund directs *Tartuffe* which opens February 3 and runs through March 3, with previews on February 1 and 2.

*Tartuffe* scandalized many of Molière's contemporaries and was banned in 1664. Molière himself believed that, "As the duty of comedy is to correct men by amusing them, I believed that in my occupation I could do nothing better than attack the vices of my age by making them ridiculous..." and in his first appeal to the King wrote that, "since hypocrisy is, without doubt, one of the most common, the most harmful, and the most dangerous of these, I thought, Sire, that I would render no small service to all the honorable men of your kingdom if I were to make a comedy that would discredit the hypocrites and present all the artificial gestures that these worthy folk display..."

"The more I read it, the more modern it feels," director Karen Lund said about this powerful story of grace and hopes the audience will, "take a kernel of truth about life" while falling in love with the stylized absurdity that comes to life on stage through various forms of comedy—the hilarity of physical slapstick to Richard Wilbur's smart translation of Molière's play on words. Wilbur's version stays true to Molière's rhyming verse, writing the entire play in rhyming couplets.

The production features a talented cast of Charissa Adams, Don Brady, Ryan Childers, Solomon Davis, Nathan Jeffrey, William Hamer, Frank Lawler, Ruth McRee, Jesse Notehelper, Charity Parenzini and Josh Smyth. The production team includes scenic and sound designer Mark Lund, costume designer Sarah Burch Gordon and lighting designer Roberta Russell. Anne L. Hitt serves as stage manager and David Anthony Lewis as dramaturg.

Following *Tartuffe*, Taproot Theatre presents *Freud's Last Session*, running March 21 through April 21 (opening on March 23)

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# *Tartuffe*

By Molière, translated into English verse by Richard Wilbur

Directed by Karen Lund

**WHEN:** February 1-March 3 (Wednesday-Thursday, 7:30 pm; Friday-Saturday, 8 pm; Saturday matinees, 2 pm)

*Dates to note:*

Previews: February 1 & 2, 7:30 pm

Opening night: February 3, 8 pm

Pay What You Can: February 8, 7:30 pm

Senior Matinee: February 15, 2 pm

Student Matinee: February 7, 10 am

Post-play Discussions: Wednesday nights, excluding preview

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

**TICKETS:** Tickets are available online at [www.taproottheatre.org/buy-tickets/](http://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:** Molière's comic masterpiece brings us a con artist extraordinaire who oozes piety and charm. Will Tartuffe's hypocrisy be discovered before Orgon's household is turned on its head? Enjoy lightning-quick wit, star-crossed lovers, a badgering grandma and a plot that could be ripped from today's headlines – or a Saturday night comedy show.

**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.