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**TAPROOT THEATRE COMPANY'S 2008 SEASON OF DISCOVERY**

SEATTLE – December 13, 2007 – Taproot Theatre Company's 2008 Mainstage Season is just around the corner with a diverse repertoire of plays that will allow audiences to discover love, truth, freedom and more, while reflecting on the joys and challenges of life.

"This is an election year, and one that will be packed with speeches and sound bites. We wanted to select plays that would remind us of our heritage, our families and our beliefs," said Producing Artistic Director Scott Nolte. "A sane, compassionate society begins with people getting their perspectives clear and being willing to see how others live and think. Theatre provides an enlightening and entertaining mode of experience and insight."

From reimagining a Shakespeare comedy by setting it during the hippie movement to telling a heartwarming story of Italian immigrants who hold firm to the value of family while experiencing life in America, the season will resonate with audiences across generations and cultures. The season also features a Tony Award-winning adaptation of a Mark Twain classic, and a Pulitzer Prize-winning drama centered on the mystery of uncertainty.

***As You Like It* – DISCOVER LOVE**

*by William Shakespeare*

*February 1 – March 1, Previews January 30 & 31*

Shakespeare's daring romantic comedy will whisk audiences back to the free-spirited America of the late 1960s. Associate Artistic Director Karen Lund finally brings to the stage an idea she's been developing since the 1980s: setting this Shakespeare classic during the hippie movement, transposing a court that's usurped its power to a time when people distrust the establishment. In this interpretation, which spans the United States from Washington, D.C., to the Redwood National and State Parks, people escape to the forest to try a new philosophy and discover transformation.

***Doubt* – DISCOVER TRUTH**

*by John Patrick Shanley*

*March 28 – April 26, Previews March 26 & 27*

How can one prove convictions when there's no evidence but the heart? That's the issue facing Sister Aloysius in this Pulitzer Prize-winning play by John Patrick Shanley, which deals bravely with the issue of molestation in the Catholic Church. Producing this newer work, which premiered at Manhattan Theatre Club in 2004, in TTC's theatre will heighten the play's intensity.

"Doubt is almost entirely built around two-person scenes, and personally revealing or concealing dialogue," said director Scott Nolte. "I'm looking forward to staging it in our intimate, 226-seat theatre, where audiences will feel like they're in the room with characters."

***Over the River and Through the Woods –DISCOVER FAMILY***

*by Joe DiPietro*

*May 16 – June 14, Previews May 14 & 15*

This Seattle premiere, which has been likened to the hit film *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*, draws on the traditions and family values of an Italian-American family and how they change through the generations. Audiences will laugh out loud and shed some tears in this heartwarming comedy by the playwright behind *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*. *Over the River and Through the Woods* will remind them that in a world of opportunity, family is still there by their side – especially when they won't let go.

***Big River: The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn – DISCOVER FREEDOM***

*book by William Hauptman, adapted from the novel by Mark Twain, music & lyrics by Roger Miller*

*July 11 – August 9, Previews July 9 & 10*

Adapted from Mark Twain's classic novel, this seven-time Tony Award-winning musical reminds audiences of the privilege of freedom and the importance of friendship during times of injustice. Revisit the familiar 19<sup>th</sup> century story of Huck and his friend Jim, a runaway slave, making their journey down the Mississippi River.

***Susan and God – DISCOVER FAITH – 1930s hit, recently revived off-Broadway***

*by Rachel Crothers*

*September 26 – October 25, Previews September 24 & 25*

See what audiences on Broadway were treated to in the 1930s with this stylish social satire which the *New York Times* called "a rare gem" in 2006. In this play by Rachel Crothers, the charming socialite Susan Trexel returns from Europe looking great, and accessorized with a newfound faith. But is

it authentic, or just the latest fad? Find out in this smart and sophisticated play, which became a film in 1940 starring Joan Crawford as Susan with Rita Hayworth and Fredric March.

### **Ticket and Subscription Information**

Performances are Wednesday through Saturday evenings, with matinees on Saturday afternoons. All plays are subject to change. Single tickets range in price from \$20 to \$33, with a Pay What You Can performance for each production, a \$15 ticket available for ages 25 and under, discounts for students and seniors, and group rates for parties of eight or more.

Subscribers save up to 20% over single ticket prices, plus enjoy great benefits like priority seating, free ticket exchanges, subscriber rewards card and more! A season subscription is a great way to enjoy a regular night out with loved ones and friends. Taproot is currently offering three- and five-play season subscriptions, as well as a new FlexPass option for those who like to keep their dates open. The FlexPass allows you the same great subscriber pricing and benefits, but with more flexibility.

More information about tickets and subscriptions is available at [www.taproottheatre.org](http://www.taproottheatre.org) or by contacting the box office at 206.781.9707 or [box@taproottheatre.org](mailto:box@taproottheatre.org). The box office is open Tuesday through Saturday from noon to 5:00 p.m. and until show time on performance nights.

All performances are held at Taproot Theatre, located at 204 N. 85<sup>th</sup> St. in Seattle's Greenwood neighborhood. The 226-seat theatre is wheelchair accessible and is equipped with assisted listening devices.

Support for Taproot Theatre's 2008 Mainstage Season is generously provided by 4Culture; ArtsFund; The Boeing Company; The Charles Simonyi Fund for Arts and Sciences; Ellis, Li & McKinstry PLLC; Hagen, Kurth, Perman & Co., CPA's; KUOW; Microsoft; PONCHO; Puget Sound Energy; Viking Bank; and Washington State Arts Commission.

### **About Taproot Theatre**

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.

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