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For Immediate Release  
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**TAPROOT THEATRE PRODUCES *SEVEN KEYS TO BALDPATE***

**A Mysterious Melodramatic Farce stylized as 1950s film noir**

Using stylistic conventions of film noir, director Karen Lund tells the story of writer Billy Magee who accepts an outrageous bet – 24 hours to complete a novel. With his typewriter and the only key to the remote Baldpate Inn he is ready for the challenge. When unexpected visitors, stolen money, and six more keys to Baldpate interrupt his work, it's a mystery if he will finish on time! *Seven Keys to Baldpate* runs May 18 through June 16. All performances are held at Taproot Theatre at 204 N. 85<sup>th</sup> Street in Seattle. *Seven Keys to Baldpate* is sponsored in part by Viking Bank and Ellis, Li and McKinstry, PLLC. Taproot Theatre's 2007 Season partners include 4Culture, ArtsFund, The Charles Simonyi Fund for Arts and Sciences, City of Seattle Office of Economic Development, KUOW, and PONCHO.

**About the Production**

Baldpate Inn is a writing refuge for Billy Magee to produce his best selling novel within a mere 24 hours. Possessing the only key to the secluded abode, he has the ideal setup. No sooner has he settled into his work, when he encounters the first of numerous intruders – all claiming to have the only key to Baldpate. Magee finds himself part of an unraveling story, not the pages of his novel, but entangled in a surprising and comedic mystery of stolen money, romance and deception.

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Drawing on the conventions of 1950s film noir, director Karen Lund punctuates the mystery, romance and thrill within *Seven Keys to Baldpate*. Dark wood and large banisters establish the Inn, while creating a mysterious atmosphere ideal for misdeeds and mischievous antics. Lighting elements include high contrasts of darkness and light, casting dramatic shadows throughout the play. In addition, distinguishable music and characters will authenticate the mood of film noir.

The cast of *Seven Keys to Baldpate* features Patrick Allcorn as Lou Max, Bob Borwick as Magee, Don Brady as Peters, Barbara Callander as Mrs. Quimby, Bob Gallaher as Jim Cargen, Anne Kennedy as Mary Norton, Rob Martin as The Owner, Kim Morris as Mrs. Rhodes, Darrell Olson as John Bland, Nolan Palmer as Thomas Hayden and Elijah Quimby, and Marianne Savell as Myra Thornhill. Her production team includes scenic and sound designer Mark Lund, costume designer Sarah Burch Gordon, and lighting designer Andrew Duff. Sarah Dale Rice serves as stage manager and Ian Klein as dramaturg.

### **Performance Dates & Tickets**

*Seven Keys to Baldpate* opens May 18 and runs Wednesday through Saturday through June 16. Midweek performances begin at 7:30 PM, Saturday matinees at 2:00 PM and Friday and Saturday evenings at 8:00 PM. Low cost previews are offered Wednesday, May 16 and Thursday, May 17 at 7:30 PM. There is a special pay-what-you-can performance on Wednesday, May 23. Tickets for that performance go on sale at noon the day of performance at Taproot Theatre's box office. A dessert reception with the cast and director follows the opening night performance on Friday, May 18. Post-play discussions follow all Wednesday evening performances. A senior matinee performance is offered on Wednesday, June 13 at 2:00 PM.

Tickets for *Seven Keys to Baldpate* are \$25 - \$27 for midweek performances and Saturday matinees, and \$29 - \$32 for Friday and Saturday night performances. Preview performances are \$19 - \$21. Full-time students and seniors receive a \$2 discount off all general tickets. Half-price student/senior rush tickets are available fifteen minutes prior to performance, subject to availability. Group discounts are available for parties of eight or more. Tickets may be ordered by phone by calling Ticketmaster at (206) 292-ARTS.

### **About the Playwright**

Born into a family of vaudeville performers, George M. Cohan's upbringing laid the ground work for his highly successful career in theatre. By his teenage years he became known as one of vaudeville's best dancers, and

well known for his audience response during the curtain bow -*"Ladies and gentlemen, my mother thanks you, my father thanks you, my sister thanks you, and I thank you!"* Cohan became a highly successful actor, singer, dancer, songwriter, playwright, director and producer. Throughout his career Cohan wrote 1500 original songs and produced over three dozen shows on Broadway, Cohan's writing included both Broadway musicals and plays. His credits include *Forty-five Minutes from Broadway* (1905), *George Washington, Jr.* (1906), *The Talk of New York* (1907), *The Honeymooners* (1907), *Fifty Miles from Boston* (1908), *The Yankee Price* (1908), *Broadway Jones* (1912), *The Cohan Revue of 1918*, *The Tavern* (1920), *The Rise of Rose O'Reilly* (1923), *The Song and Dance Man* (1923), *American Born* (1925), *The Baby Cyclone* (1927), *Elmer the Great* (1928), *Pigeons and People* (1933). In 1936 Cohan was honored with the Congressional Gold Medal from President Franklin Delano Roosevelt for his songs "You're a Grand Old Flag" and "Over There" which he contributed during World War I. Cohan was inducted into the Songwriter's Hall of Fame in 1970, the American Folklore Hall of Fame in 2003 and the Long Island Music Hall of Fame in 2006. In 1959 a statue of George M. Cohan was erected on Broadway and 46<sup>th</sup> St. Cohan's star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame is located at 6734 Hollywood Boulevard.

*Seven Keys to Baldpate* received its premiere at the Astor Theatre in 1913. The play was intended to perform only one night, but ran a full season on Broadway, including a successful tour. Cohan wrote the play based on Earl Derr Biggers debut novel, with the same name. Six movies were made of the mystery farce, including the 1917 silent movie, with George M. Cohan playing the role of Magee.

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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## **Seven Keys to Baldpate FACT SHEET**

WHAT: *Seven Keys to Baldpate*, by George M. Cohan. Directed by Karen Lund.

WHEN: Previews May 16 and May 17. Opens May 18 and runs Wednesday through Saturday through June 16. Pay What You Can Performance May 23. Senior Matinee performance June 13.

WHERE: Taproot Theatre, 204 N. 85th Street in Seattle

TICKETS: Wednesday and Thursday evenings and Saturday matinees, \$25 and \$27; Friday and Saturday evenings, \$29 and \$32; Wednesday and Thursday previews, \$19 and \$21; Student/Senior discount of \$2 off per ticket. Group rates are available. For tickets contact Taproot Theatre's box office at (206) 781-9707, [box@taproottheatre.org](mailto:box@taproottheatre.org) or Ticketmaster at (206) 292-ARTS.

SCHEDULE: Wednesday and Thursday 7:30 PM, Friday and Saturday 8:00 PM, Saturday Matinee 2:00 PM

### CALENDAR:

Wed.	May 16	7:30 PM	Preview
Thurs.	May 17	7:30 PM	Preview
Fri.	May 18	8:00 PM	<b>Opening Night with Reception</b>
Sat.	May 19	2:00 PM	
Sat.	May 19	8:00 PM	
Wed.	May 23	7:30 PM	<b>PWYC Performance, Post Play Discussion</b>
Thurs.	May 24	7:30 PM	
Fri.	May 25	8:00 PM	
Sat.	May 26	2:00 PM	
Sat.	May 26	8:00 PM	
Wed.	May 30	7:30 PM	<b>Post Play Discussion</b>
Thurs.	May 31	7:30 PM	
Fri.	June 1	8:00 PM	
Sat.	June 2	2:00 PM	
Sat.	June 2	8:00 PM	
Wed.	June 6	7:30 PM	<b>Post Play Discussion</b>
Thurs.	June 7	7:30 PM	
Fri.	June 8	8:00 PM	
Sat.	June 9	2:00 PM	
Sat.	June 9	8:00 PM	
Wed.	June 13	7:30 PM	<b>Post Play Discussion</b>
Thurs.	June 14	7:30 PM	
Fri.	June 15	8:00 PM	
Sat.	June 16	2:00 PM	
Sat.	June 15	8:00 PM	<b>Closing Night</b>

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