

TAPROOT THEATRE



C O M P A N Y

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CURTAIN CLOSES ON TAPROOT THEATRE COMPANY'S 2007 SEASON OF ADVENTURE, OPENS TO 2008 SEASON OF DISCOVERY

Reflecting on the past year, while looking ahead to what's next

SEATTLE – February 22, 2008 – Taproot Theatre Company closed its final production of 2007 on December 29, wrapping up a year of artistic and financial successes, and ready to enter a new Season of Discovery on the Mainstage, as well as looking forward to exciting opportunities for both the Road Company and Acting Studio.

MAINSTAGE – an exhilarating journey to colorful places and exciting times

In its 2007 Season of Adventure, Taproot Theatre Company produced five Mainstage plays in its intimate North Seattle theatre, followed by a holiday production. TTC began the season with the regional premiere of the modern medical drama *The God Committee*. For this riveting story that centers around which patient is the best candidate to receive a life-giving organ transplant, TTC partnered with the Living Legacy Foundation to increase awareness of the importance of organ donation. TTC also brought to the stage the Northwest premiere of *Mary's Wedding*, a beautiful portrait of love during World War I by Canadian playwright Stephen Massicotte. The season continued with *Seven Keys to Baldpate*, a mystery farce by George M. Cohan, the beloved musical *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor® Dreamcoat*, which had such demand that it warranted a three-week extension, and the box office hit *The Importance of Being Earnest*. TTC wrapped up the year with *The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society's Production of A Christmas Carol*.

During the 12 student matinee performances of these productions, TTC served 2,410 students from schools throughout Western Washington. For these performances,

the students gathered in the theatre for special performances scheduled just for them, plus received educational classroom visits from Taproot staff to increase the students' appreciation of the plays and the art of theatre. In addition, TTC hosted five senior matinees throughout the year, bringing the total number of Mainstage performances for the year to 188, and the total number of ticketholders to 32,313.

ROAD COMPANY – teaching and entertaining audiences beyond the Mainstage

The Road Company broke an all-time record for TTC in 2007 by giving 347 touring performances at schools, community groups and organizations during the year. With 12 different plays for schools and community groups, the Road Company performed for 111,623 people in 81 cities in three states and Canada in 2007. Schools were the primary venue, with primary and secondary schools booking 243 performances throughout the year, giving the Road Company the opportunity to teach important harassment and bullying prevention messages to 93,458 children and teenagers.

ACTING STUDIO – serving others and preparing the next generation of theatre artists

The Acting Studio also reached a new record, serving 2,210 students this year through its on- and off-site classes, a conference for drama directors of private schools and churches, and classes at Fairfax Hospital. While some people might be most aware of the Acting Studio's on-site classes, the Studio also continued to grow its residency program, in which teachers provide drama training to schools and communities. Plus, Taproot professionals continued weekly teaching visits to Fairfax Hospital, a psychiatric hospital in Kirkland, where they served approximately 1,500 youth.

A YEAR OF FINANCIAL SUCCESS

In addition to artistic accomplishments, Taproot Theatre Company experienced a year of financial success. Taproot wrapped up 2007 with a net operating surplus for a third consecutive year, while supporting an operating budget of almost \$1.5 million. TTC also strengthened its balance sheet by reducing mortgage debt by 33 percent through its Prologue Campaign. In March 2007, Taproot Theatre Company launched the Prologue Campaign, a two-year campaign with a goal of raising \$2.2 million toward four specific initiatives. TTC is pleased to announce nearly \$850,000 worth of donations was received as of December 31, 2007 towards the Prologue goal.

AUDIENCE SERVICES – a new area created to serve our guests in the best way possible

In late 2007, Taproot Theatre Company formed a new area aimed at giving our Mainstage audience members a richer experience, from their first encounter with Taproot, to the day of the performance and into the theatre, and through their post-play experience. Our new Audience Services area seeks to provide extraordinary service to our patrons and the community!

LOOKING FORWARD – a year of discovery & opportunity awaits us

Moving into 2008, the season is already off to a great start with *As You Like It*. Future productions this season include the Pulitzer Prize-winning drama *Doubt, A Parable*; the sitcom-like comedy *Over the River and Through the Woods*, which has been likened to the hit film *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*; *Big River: The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, a seven-time Tony Award-winning musical adaptation of Mark Twain's classic; plus a 1930s social satire, *Susan and God*.

Off the Mainstage, the Road Company is continuing to bring its social-issues plays to schools across Western Washington and beyond. The team is visiting schools in Yakima next month, then heading to Portland in April for the first time since 2001. The Acting Studio is offering exciting new opportunities this year, including beginning playwriting this winter, introductory dance in the spring, and new mini camps this summer. The Acting Studio also offers two-week supercamps in musical theatre and Shakespeare, each ending with the students performing for an audience on Taproot Theatre's stage! In addition, preparations are currently underway for Taproot Theatre's Gala fundraiser, taking place April 19th at the Triple Door, featuring Grant Goodeve as master of ceremonies, and a three-course dinner catered by Wild Ginger.

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; The Seattle Foundation; Viking Bank; and Washington State Arts Commission.

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 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.