

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AS YOU LIKE IT: A 1960S LOOK AT SHAKESPEARE'S ROMANTIC COMEDY

**Shakespeare's daring romantic comedy will whisk audiences back
to the free-spirited late American 1960s.**

SEATTLE – January 3, 2008 – Taproot Theatre Company opens its 2008 Mainstage Season with Shakespeare's *As You Like It*, set in the late American 1960s. Director Karen Lund gives this romantic comedy a hip twist by transporting Shakespeare's characters, story and even his language to the hippie movement, during which the history and culture of the time naturally add new dynamics to the story and new dimensions to the characters' motivations.

Set against the backdrop of the Great Society, the story unfolds in a country divided by the youth movement's growing distrust of a usurping governmental authority. A rollicking retreat into the forest of Arden gives a group of disgruntled youths a chance to explore a new philosophy of peace and learn some lessons about love.

As You Like It runs from February 1 through March 1 with low-price previews on January 30 and 31, plus a Pay What You Can performance on February 6. In addition, Taproot Theatre offers a Valentine's Day Dinner & Theatre Package on February 14, and Late-Night Improv following the performances on February 8, 15, 22 and 29.

As You Like It is sponsored in part by KUOW.

About the Production

Setting *As You Like It* during the hippie movement has been a dream of director Karen Lund's since the late 1980s, when she came up with the idea while reading works by Walt Whitman and Henry David Thoreau and a young hippie calling himself Free (aka Abbie Hoffman.) It is perhaps those writers' ideas of transcendentalism and truth being found in nature that clicked with the forest scenes of *As You Like It*, where characters discover a new, more simple approach to living.

By setting the play in the late 1960s, Shakespeare fans will see the classic story played out in a fresh way. Simultaneously, those intimidated by Shakespeare will find his work more accessible because of the familiar settings. In many ways the play will be nostalgic for some patrons since the costuming, setting, colors and even the music will hark back to the late 1960s.

In a fun twist for this production, the cast also looks back to the past. Taproot Theatre patrons will recognize many of the cast members from 2007's hit comedy thriller *Seven Keys to Baldpate*. The actors had such great chemistry together that Lund brought them back for *As You Like It*. Of the 12 actors playing the 20-plus characters, the following are returning from *Seven Keys*: Robert Gallaher, Don Brady, Nolan Palmer, Patrick Allcorn, Anne Kennedy, Kim Morris, Bob Borwick, Darrell Olson and Marianne Savell. Only Aubrey Bean (*Smoke on the Mountain*, 2006), Aaron Lamb (*The Importance of Being Earnest*, 2007) and Mike Oliver (in his first appearance on the Taproot stage) are joining the *Seven Keys* cast.

The production team includes sound and scenic designer Mark Lund, costume designer Sarah Gordon, and lighting designer Jody Briggs. Rebecca Olson serves as stage manager and Frankie Rentas as dramaturg.

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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***As You Like It* FACT SHEET**

WHAT: *As You Like It*, by William Shakespeare. Directed by Karen Lund.

WHEN: Friday, February 1, through Saturday, March 1, with previews January 30 and 31. Pay What You Can Performance Wednesday, February 6. Opening Night with Reception on Friday, February 1. Dinner and Theatre Package, Thursday, February 14.

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

TICKETS: Weekday evenings and Saturday matinees, \$26-28; Friday and Saturday evenings, \$30-33; Friday and Saturday previews, \$20-22; Student/Senior discount of \$2 off per ticket; ages 25 and under, \$15; University Night (February 7) and High School Night (February 13), \$10 for students with ID.

Group rates are available. For tickets contact Taproot Theatre's box office at (206) 781-9707 or box@taproottheatre.org, or call Ticketmaster at (206) 292-ARTS.

Tickets for the Pay What You Can (PWYC) performance on February 6 go on sale at 5:00 p.m. day of show at the box office.

Tickets for Late-Night Improv on February 8, 15, 22 and 29 are \$10, or \$8 with ticket to that night's performance of *As You Like It*.

Tickets for the Dinner and Theatre package on February 14 are \$54. Dinner begins at 6:00 p.m. at the Greenwood Square just one-half block east of the theatre. The performance is at 7:30 p.m. at Taproot Theatre.

Children 12 and above are recommended for this production. Children under 5 are not admitted.

SCHEDULE: Wednesday and Thursday 7:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday 8:00 p.m., Saturday matinee 2:00 p.m.

CALENDAR:

Wed.	Jan. 30	7:30 p.m.	Preview
Thurs.	Jan. 31	7:30 p.m.	Preview
Fri.	Feb. 1	8:00 p.m.	Opening Night with Reception
Sat.	Feb. 2	2:00 p.m.	
Sat.	Feb. 2	8:00 p.m.	
Wed.	Feb. 6	7:30 p.m.	PWYC Performance, Post-Play Discussion
Thurs.	Feb. 7	7:30 p.m.	University Night
Fri.	Feb. 8	8:00 p.m.	Late-Night Improv following performance
Sat.	Feb. 9	2:00 p.m.	
Sat.	Feb. 9	8:00 p.m.	
Wed.	Feb. 13	7:30 p.m.	High School Night, Post-Play Discussion
Thurs.	Feb. 14	7:30 p.m.	Dinner & Theatre Package available
Fri.	Feb. 15	8:00 p.m.	Late-Night Improv following performance
Sat.	Feb. 16	2:00 p.m.	
Sat.	Feb. 16	8:00 p.m.	
Wed.	Feb. 20	7:30 p.m.	Post-Play Discussion
Thurs.	Feb. 21	7:30 p.m.	
Fri.	Feb. 22	8:00 p.m.	Late-Night Improv following performance

Sat. Feb. 23 2:00 p.m.
Sat. Feb. 23 8:00 p.m.

Wed. Feb. 27 7:30 p.m.

Thurs. Feb. 28 7:30 p.m.

Fri. Feb. 29 8:00 p.m.

Sat. March 1 2:00 p.m.

Sat. March 1 8:00 p.m.

Post-Play Discussion

Late-Night Improv following performance

Closing Night

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