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UNIVERSITY NIGHT MAKES LIVE THEATRE FINANCIALLY ACCESSIBLE TO STUDENTS

February 7 at Taproot Theatre for Shakespeare's daring romantic comedy

***As You Like It*, set in the free-spirited late American 1960s**

SEATTLE – January 7, 2008 – University students with school ID can experience the excitement of Shakespeare's *As You Like It* at a dramatically reduced price of \$10 on Taproot Theatre Company's University Night, February 7, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. 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.

Taproot Theatre Company strives to make live theatre accessible to students who may be financially strapped by offering a University Night for select productions. Taproot also offers a \$2 discount for students and a \$15 ticket to people ages 25 and under for all performances during the regular season. To purchase tickets, contact the box office at 206.781.9707. Half-price rush tickets are available at the box office to students 15 minutes prior to curtain when available.

As You Like It runs from February 1 through March 1 with 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 for just \$54, and Late-Night Improv following *As You Like It* on February 8, 15, 22 and 29 for just \$10, or \$8 with a ticket to that night's performance.

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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