

TAPROOT THEATRE



C O M P A N Y

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Kill Date: April 27, 2008

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***DOUBT, A PARABLE* AT TAPROOT THEATRE EXPLORES MYSTERY OF UNCERTAINTY**
Intimate Taproot staging of Pulitzer Prize-winning play heightens intensity & drama

SEATTLE – February 27, 2008 – Taproot Theatre Company probes the mystery of uncertainty in *Doubt, A Parable*, a Pulitzer Prize- & Tony Award-winning drama by the accomplished playwright John Patrick Shanley. Directed by Scott Nolte, this production will put audience members up close with the intensity and tension as a strict parochial school principal seeks to oust a priest on suspicions that are nothing but gray.

When Sister Aloysius suspects wrongdoing at St. Nicholas school she instructs Sister James to keep a watchful eye. Her strong convictions set into motion a course of actions that could terminate Father Flynn. In the pursuit of truth, doubt shadows all certainty of the situation. Is Sister Aloysius right? Do convictions alone prove the accuracy of truth?

Doubt, A Parable runs from March 28 through April 26 with low-price previews on March 26 & 27, plus a Pay What You Can performance on April 2.

Doubt, A Parable is sponsored in part by KUOW and Hagen, Kurth, Perman & Co., CPA's. Seasonal support 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.

The play & the production

First produced in 2004 at the Manhattan Theatre Club, *Doubt, A Parable* has received a number of awards, perhaps most notably the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 2005, sharing the honor with such past winners as *Anna in the Tropics* (2003), *Rent* (1996), *Lost in Yonkers* (1991), *Driving Miss Daisy* (1988) and *A Chorus Line* (1976).

Doubt, A Parable also won four Tony Awards in 2005 (best play, best actress for Cherry Jones, best actress for Adriane Lenox and best director for Doug Hughes). Plus, the New York Drama Critics' Circle awarded it Best Play, and John Patrick Shanley won an OBIE Award from the Village Voice in 2005 for playwriting.

With its two-person dialogues, often focused on debates between Sister Aloysius and the priest she's seeking to terminate, it's almost as if *Doubt, A Parable* had been written for Taproot Theatre's stage. This play, while fitting for any form of stage, lends itself particularly well to Taproot's intimate setting and thrust stage, which allows audience members, no matter where they're sitting, to catch the nuances of a character's expressions, and slight hints that may influence whom they believe.

Doubt, A Parable has various forms of appeal. Its story exploring hierarchy and the inherent power-struggles within a modern-day parochial school is riveting. And the larger themes of coming to grips with doubt and uncertainty provide parallels to current social and political events.

Doubt, A Parable features William Kumma as Father Flynn, Pam Nolte as Sister Aloysius, Jesse Notehelfer as Sister James and Faith Russell as Mrs. Mueller. The production team includes sound and scenic designer Mark Lund, costume designer Sarah Gordon, and lighting designer Jody Briggs. Holly Heredia serves as stage manager and Morgan Aldrich as dramaturg.

About the playwright

John Patrick Shanley is an acclaimed playwright with a quarter-century of experience writing for the stage and screen. His screenplays include *Moonstruck*, *Alive*, *Congo* and *Joe Versus the Volcano*. He has also written a number of stage plays including *Psychopathia Sexualis* and *Defiance*, and cowrote the musical *Romantic Poetry*.

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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***Doubt* FACT SHEET**

WHAT: *Doubt, A Parable*, by John Patrick Shanley. Directed by Scott Nolte.

WHEN: Friday, March 28, through Saturday, April 26, with previews March 26 & 27. Pay What You Can Performance April 2. Opening Night with Reception on Friday, March 28.

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 (April 3) and High School Night (April 9), \$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 April 2 go on sale at 5:00 p.m. day of show at the box office.

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.	March 26	7:30 p.m.	Preview
Thurs.	March 27	7:30 p.m.	Preview
Fri.	March 28	8:00 p.m.	Opening Night with Reception
Sat.	March 29	2:00 p.m.	
Sat.	March 29	8:00 p.m.	
Wed.	April 2	7:30 p.m.	PWYC Performance, Post-Play Discussion
Thurs.	April 3	7:30 p.m.	University Night
Fri.	April 4	8:00 p.m.	
Sat.	April 5	2:00 p.m.	
Sat.	April 5	8:00 p.m.	
Wed.	April 9	7:30 p.m.	High School Night, Post-Play Discussion
Thurs.	April 10	7:30 p.m.	
Fri.	April 11	8:00 p.m.	
Sat.	April 12	2:00 p.m.	
Sat.	April 12	8:00 p.m.	
Wed.	April 16	7:30 p.m.	Post-Play Discussion
Thurs.	April 17	7:30 p.m.	
Fri.	April 18	8:00 p.m.	
Sat.	April 19	2:00 p.m.	
Sat.	April 19	8:00 p.m.	
Wed.	April 23	7:30 p.m.	Post-Play Discussion
Thurs.	April 24	7:30 p.m.	
Fri.	April 25	8:00 p.m.	
Sat.	April 26	2:00 p.m.	
Sat.	April 26	8:00 p.m.	Closing Night