

TAPROOT THEATRE



C O M P A N Y

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TAPROOT THEATRE MAKES PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING PLAY AFFORDABLE FOR STUDENTS

Steep discount offered for *Doubt, A Parable* on University Night, April 3

SEATTLE – February 27, 2008 – University students with school ID can explore the mystery of uncertainty in the Pulitzer Prize- and Tony Award-winning play *Doubt, A Parable* at a dramatically reduced price of \$10 on Taproot Theatre Company's University Night, April 3, 2008, at 7:30 p.m. 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?

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.

Doubt, A Parable runs from March 28 through April 26 with previews on March 26 and 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.

Scott Nolte directs a talented cast of 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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