

TAPROOT THEATRE



C O M P A N Y

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Taproot to open 2009 season with *Gee's Bend*

SEATTLE – June 17, 2008 – Taproot Theatre Company is excited to announce that it will open its 2009 Mainstage season in January with *Gee's Bend* by Elyzabeth Gregory Wilder. *Gee's Bend* brings to the stage a story of courage, justice, faith and hope set in Gee's Bend, Alabama, a black community that has gained national media attention lately, particularly for the quilts made by its residents. The quilts, which the women made for function, have now become treasured pieces of art and 20th-century history that are now displayed in museums.

Gee's Bend is "a celebration of these women, their character, their stand for justice and the sustaining practice of making art," said Producing Artist Director Scott Nolte.

The play premiered at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival in January 2007, winning the playwright the 2008 M. Elizabeth Osborn New Play Award from the American Theatre Critics Association. *Gee's Bend* opens January 30 and runs through February 30, with low-price previews on January 28 & 29.

The remainder of Taproot Theatre Company's 2009 season will soon be announced.

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

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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.