

TAPROOT THEATRE



C O M P A N Y

Scott L. Nolte
Producing Artistic Director

Mailing Address
P.O. Box 30946
Seattle, Washington 98113

Administrative Office
312 North 85th St., Suite 103
Seattle, Washington 98103
206.781.9705
(Fax) 206.297.6882

Box Office
204 North 85th St.
Seattle, Washington 98103
206.781.9707
(Fax) 206.706.1502

E-mail
info@taproottheatre.org

www.taproottheatre.org

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CONTACT:
Daytona Strong
Communications Manager
206-529-3676
daytona@taproottheatre.org

Discover Family at Taproot Theatre this Spring

Over the River and Through the Woods

**Joe DiPietro's hilarious & heartwarming comedy
illustrates the ties between family and the American Dream**

SEATTLE – April 14, 2008 – Taproot Theatre Company celebrates family in Joe DiPietro's hilarious sitcom-style play *Over the River and Through the Woods* – a story about a young Italian-American man leaving New Jersey to pursue a career in Seattle, and his two sets of grandparents who conspire to get him to stay.

When Nick gets offered a promotion in Seattle, an offer that promises him fulfilled dreams and a new life, he jumps at the opportunity. His only obstacle: his traditional Italian grandparents, who propose a compelling reason to stay in New Jersey – the lovely and single Caitlin O'Hare. Their weekly Sunday dinners turn into a comic dance, as the entire family tires to influence Nick's choice.

Over the River and Through the Woods, directed by Scott Nolte, runs from May 16 through June 14 with low-price previews on May 14 & 15, plus a Pay What You Can performance on May 21. Taproot Theatre is also bringing back Late-Night Improv after the performances on four Fridays (May 23, 30, June 6 and 13). *Go Forth! An Improv Adventure* is a brand-new comedy about life transitions, developed just in time for graduation season and Father's Day (fact sheet included).

Over the River and Through the Woods is sponsored in part by KUOW and Puget Sound Energy. Seasonal support is generously provided by 4Culture; ArtsFund; The Boeing Company; The Charles Simonyi Fund for Arts and Sciences; Ellis, Li & McKinstry PLLC;

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Hagen, Kurth, Perman & Co., CPA's; Microsoft; PONCHO; The Seattle Foundation; Viking Bank; and Washington State Arts Commission.

About the production

This heartwarming comedy by the playwright behind the hit comedy *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* illustrates the love between generations of family members, and how traditions survive – but transform – throughout generations.

“Seldom do you find a play that is so funny and celebrates the family as much as *Over the River and Through the Woods*,” Nolte said. “As family members disperse, taking jobs or retiring to the far reaches of the country, and as cultural differences seem so distinct between grandparents and grandkids, this play reminds us – hilariously so – how much we have in common and the love we share.”

Over the River and Through the Woods features a comical cast of Kevin Brady as Nick, Charity Parenzini as Caitlin, and Kim Morris, Nolan Palmer, Bill Johns and Gretchen Douma as the grandparents. The production team includes sound and scenic designer Mark Lund, costume designer Mandy Mueller and lighting designer Monty Taylor. Rebecca Olson serves as stage manager and Judy Naegeli as dramaturg.

About the playwright

Joe DiPietro is a Manhattan-based playwright known for a number of productions including the hit musical comedy *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*, for which he wrote the book and lyrics. He also wrote *All Shook Up* and *Babes in Arms*, among other productions.

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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***Over the River and Through the Woods* FACT SHEET**

WHAT: *Over the River and Through the Woods* by Joe DiPietro. Directed by Scott Nolte.

WHEN: Friday, May 16, through Saturday, June 14, with low-price previews May 14 & 15. Pay What You Can Performance May 21. Opening Night with Reception on Friday, May 16.

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 (May 22) and High School Night (May 28), \$10 for students with ID. Senior matinee performances on June 4 & 11 are \$20. 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 May 21 go on sale at 5:00 p.m. day of show at the box office.

Tickets for Late-Night Improv on May 23, 30, June 6 and 13 are \$10, or \$8 with ticket to that night's performance of *Over the River and Through the Woods*.

We recommend this production for ages 10 and above. 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.	May 14	7:30 p.m.	Preview
Thurs.	May 15	7:30 p.m.	Preview
Fri.	May 16	8:00 p.m.	Opening Night with Reception
Sat.	May 17	2:00 p.m.	
Sat.	May 17	8:00 p.m.	
Wed.	May 21	7:30 p.m.	PWYC Performance, Post-Play Discussion
Thurs.	May 22	7:30 p.m.	University Night
Fri.	May 23	8:00 p.m.	Late-Night Improv following performance
Sat.	May 24	2:00 p.m.	
Sat.	May 24	8:00 p.m.	
Wed.	May 28	7:30 p.m.	High School Night, Post-Play Discussion
Thurs.	May 29	7:30 p.m.	
Fri.	May 30	8:00 p.m.	Late-Night Improv following performance
Sat.	May 31	2:00 p.m.	
Sat.	May 31	8:00 p.m.	
Wed.	June 4	2:00 p.m.	Senior Matinee
Wed.	June 4	7:30 p.m.	Post-Play Discussion
Thurs.	June 5	7:30 p.m.	
Fri.	June 6	8:00 p.m.	Late-Night Improv following performance
Sat.	June 7	2:00 p.m.	
Sat.	June 7	8:00 p.m.	
Wed.	June 11	2:00 p.m.	Senior Matinee
Wed.	June 11	7:30 p.m.	Post-Play Discussion
Thurs.	June 12	7:30 p.m.	
Fri.	June 13	8:00 p.m.	Late-Night Improv following performance
Sat.	June 14	2:00 p.m.	
Sat.	June 14	8:00 p.m.	Closing Night

Go Forth! An Improv Adventure
Late-Night Improv FACT SHEET

- WHAT:** *Go Forth! An Improv Adventure*
Created by Darrell Olson and Danny Walter.
New grads, fathers and all those who love them, beware! Life is full of discoveries, challenges, failures and triumphs. In this improvised tale of adventure, Taproot's actors use the audience's suggestions as the building blocks for a performance of epic (and hilarious) proportions!
- WHEN:** Fridays, May 23, 30, June 6 and 13, after *Over the River and Through the Woods*.
- WHERE:** Taproot Theatre
204 North 85th Street
Seattle, WA 98103
- TICKETS:** Tickets are just \$10, or \$8 with your ticket to *Over the River and Through the Woods*. Contact Taproot Theatre's Box Office at 206.781.9707 or box@taproottheatre.org to purchase your tickets.