

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Kill Date: December 28, 2008

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



Taproot Theatre celebrates the holidays with a charming play set during the California Gold Rush, featuring Northwest favorite Grant Goodeve

SEATTLE – October 23, 2008 – Taproot Theatre Company gets in the holiday mood this November and December with the charming play *The Christmas Foundling* by award-winning playwright Norman Allen and inspired by the popular 19-century writer Bret Harte. Set during the California Gold Rush, *The Christmas Foundling* will transport audiences to a cabin in the Sierra foothills, where a group of miners gets a life-altering surprise one Christmas Eve. *The Christmas Foundling*, directed by Karen Lund and featuring Northwest favorite Grant Goodeve, runs from November 28 through December 27 with low-price previews on November 21, 22 & 25, plus a Pay-What-You-Can performance on November 26.

The California Gold Rush is on and rough-and-tumble miners fill their days chasing fortunes and their nights with story and song. When an infant appears on their doorstep on Christmas Eve, their carefree existence is turned topsy-turvy and they discover that the greatest wealth sometimes comes in surprising packages. *The Christmas Foundling* is a play rich with the spirit of Christmas and filled with traditional folk music and carols.

Taproot Theatre is also offering Dinner & Theatre performances on five evenings in December. Before the performance of *The Christmas Foundling*, guests will enjoy

--more--

dinner at the Greenwood Square, catered by The Upper Crust, with entertainment by The Dickens Carolers. Afterward, they'll walk half a block to Taproot Theatre for the production.

About *The Christmas Foundling*

The Christmas Foundling premiered in 2001 at the Sierra Repertory Theatre, which commissioned Norman Allen to write it; this is the first time it has been produced in the Northwest. Allen based his play off the stories of Bret Harte, "who in his day was considered one of America's best writers," said director Karen Lund. "At the time he was writing, he was considered the American equivalent of Charles Dickens."

When a baby appears on the doorstep of a cabin, the miners—having no clue as to the identity of the deceased mother—decide to raise him on their own. The presence of this new life in their midst has a major impact on their lives, and when a woman claiming to be a relative of the boy shows up ten years later, they're not so quick to give him up.

The Christmas Foundling "talks about how the unexpected birth of a child brings hope and the semblance of family into this isolated, desolate place and gives renewed value to these men, whose whole focus has been mining for gold and 'get rich quick.' Suddenly life becomes much, much more than any of that," said Lund.

The Christmas Foundling features a talented cast of Grant Goodeve, Jason Adkins, Justin Emerick, Danny Helms, David Anthony Lewis, Jake Lund, Eric Riedmann and Casi Wilkerson. The production team includes scenic and sound designer Mark Lund, costume designer Sarah Burch Gordon and lighting designer Monty Taylor. Sarah Dale Rice serves as stage manager and Megan Smithling as dramaturg.

The Christmas Foundling is sponsored by Viking Bank. Opening Night is sponsored by Hagen, Kurth, Perman & Co., CPA's. Media Sponsors are ParentMap and SPIRIT 105.3 Radio. Seasonal support is generously provided by The Charles Simonyi Fund for Arts and Sciences; ArtsFund; 4Culture; The Seattle Foundation; Washington State Arts Commission; and PONCHO.

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.

***The Christmas Foundling* FACT SHEET**

WHAT:

The Christmas Foundling
Norman Allen
Inspired by the stories of Bret Harte
Directed by Karen Lund

November 28 – December 27
Previews November 21, 22 & 25

SHOW DESCRIPTION: The California Gold Rush is on and rough-and-tumble miners fill their days chasing fortunes and their nights with story and song. When an orphaned infant is thrust into their lives on Christmas Eve, their carefree existence is turned topsy-turvy and they discover that the greatest wealth sometimes comes in surprising packages. ***A play rich with the spirit of Christmas and filled with traditional folk music and carols.***

WHEN: Friday, November 28, through Saturday, December 27, with low-price previews November 21, 22 & 25. Pay-What-You-Can (PWYC) performance on Wednesday, November 26. Opening Night with Reception on Friday, November 28. Dinner & Theatre performances on December 2, 3, 9, 10 and 16. No shows on Thanksgiving (November 27), Christmas Eve (December 24) or Christmas Day (December 25).

WHERE: Taproot Theatre, 204 N. 85th Street in Seattle.

TICKETS: Weekday evenings and Saturday matinees, \$26-28; Friday and Saturday evenings, \$30-33; previews, \$20-22; Student/Senior discount of \$2 off per ticket. Senior matinee performance on December 3 is \$20. Dinner & Theatre performances are \$55, all-inclusive.

For tickets contact Taproot Theatre's box office at (206) 781-9707 or call Ticketmaster at (206) 292-ARTS. Group rates are available. For groups, call (206) 781-9708.

Tickets for the Pay-What-You-Can performance on November 26 go on sale at 5:00 p.m. day of show at the box office. In addition, a limited supply of \$10 tickets will be offered from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. for that evening's performance.

SCHEDULE: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 7:30 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 8:00 p.m.; Saturday matinee, 2:00 p.m.

CALENDAR:

Fri.	November 21	8:00 p.m.	Preview
Sat.	November 22	8:00 p.m.	Preview
Tues.	November 25	7:30 p.m.	Preview
Wed.	November 26	7:30 p.m.	PWYC Performance, Post-Play Discussion
Thurs.	November 27	-----	<i>No show due to Thanksgiving</i>
Fri.	November 28	8:00 p.m.	Opening Night with Reception
Sat.	September 29	2:00 p.m.	
Sat.	September 29	8:00 p.m.	
Tues.	December 2	7:30 p.m.	Dinner & Theatre performance available
Wed.	December 3	2:00 p.m.	Senior Matinee
Wed.	December 3	7:30 p.m.	Post-Play Discussion, Dinner & Theatre performance available
Thurs.	December 4	7:30 p.m.	

Fri. December 5 8:00 p.m.
Sat. December 6 2:00 p.m.
Sat. December 6 8:00 p.m.

Tues. December 9 7:30 p.m.
Wed. December 10 7:30 p.m.
Thurs. December 11 7:30 p.m.
Fri. December 12 8:00 p.m.
Sat. December 13 2:00 p.m.
Sat. December 13 8:00 p.m.

Dinner & Theatre performance available
Post-Play Discussion, Dinner & Theatre performance available

Tues. December 16 7:30 p.m.
Wed. December 17 7:30 p.m.
Thurs. December 18 7:30 p.m.
Fri. December 19 8:00 p.m.
Sat. December 20 2:00 p.m.
Sat. December 20 8:00 p.m.

Dinner & Theatre performance available
Post-Play Discussion

Tues. December 23 7:30 p.m.
Wed. December 24 -----
Thurs. December 25 -----
Fri. December 26 8:00 p.m.
Sat. December 27 2:00 p.m.
Sat. December 27 8:00 p.m.

No show due to Christmas Eve
No show due to Christmas

Closing Night