

TAPROOT THEATRE



C O M P A N Y

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TAPROOT THEATRE PRESENTS ROMANTIC COMEDY ***ENCHANTED APRIL*, BASED ON 1920S NOVEL**

A romantic escape to paradise opens on September 25

SEATTLE – August 18, 2009 – Bask in the warmth and enchantment of Italy without leaving Seattle during Taproot Theatre Company’s production of *Enchanted April*. Elizabeth von Arnim’s resplendent 1920s novel comes to life on stage in this Tony Award-nominated play by Matthew Barber. The enticement of an enchanting Italian holiday captivates the hearts of two British housewives on a drizzly London afternoon in 1922, and fills their imaginations with wisteria and sunshine. By the time they arrive at their Mediterranean villa, an aging matron and a young socialite have joined their quest for something more. The gardens, sea, cinnamon and pasta are just the beginning of the transformation they discover. *Enchanted April*, directed by associate artistic director Karen Lund, opens on September 25 and runs through October 24 with low-price previews on September 23 & 24, plus a pay-what-you-can performance on September 30.

Adapted first for the stage in 1925 and for film in 1935, von Arnim’s novel was also the basis for the popular 1992 film, the DVD of which was just released this year. This stage play based on von Arnim’s novel was originally produced in February 2000 by the Hartford Stage Company in Connecticut, and produced on Broadway in April 2003 at the Belasco Theatre, with Molly Ringwald as Rose Arnott.

Ultimately a story of escaping to a place of beauty and being transformed, the play begins in Great Britain just a few years after World War I, in a time of darkness and devastation, when people are still dealing with the great losses from the war.

“There’s this need to get away,” said Lund. “For all four of the women, there’s an amazing transformation that happens once they get to Italy where there’s sun, flowers and fresh air, and a new way of looking at life. It’s almost magical how the sunshine and fresh air brings them back to life emotionally, spiritually and sexually.”

“We’re in some really difficult times right now,” said Lund, “and it’s easy to be discouraged and disheartened. And so to come back to what gives us hope and the drive to keep moving forward is very inspiring. It’s a reminder that things can be restored—that marriages, happiness and balance can be restored.”

Taproot Theatre’s production features Jeff Berryman, Ryan Childers, Aaron Finley, Llysa Holland, Anne Kennedy, Kim Morris, Charity Parenzini and Nikki Visel. The production team includes scenic and sound designer Mark Lund, costume designer Sarah Burch Gordon and lighting designer Monty Taylor. Anne Hitt serves as stage manager, Gin Hammond as dialect coach and Katrina Moore as dramaturg.

After *Enchanted April*, Taproot Theatre presents the world premiere of *Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol* by Seattle playwright John Longenbaugh. (November 20-December 30).

***Enchanted April* Fact Sheet**

*"Perhaps that's why we need something beautiful now. To remind us of the possibility."
- Lotty, Enchanted April*

WHAT: *Enchanted April*, by Matthew Barber, from the novel by Elizabeth von Arnim, directed by Karen Lund

DESCRIPTION: The enticement of an enchanting Italian holiday captivates the hearts of two British housewives on a drizzly London afternoon in 1922, and fills their imaginations with wisteria and sunshine. By the time they arrive at their Mediterranean villa, an aging matron and a young socialite have joined their quest for something more. The gardens, sea, cinnamon and macaroni are just the beginning of the transformation they discover.

WHEN: September 23 through October 24, 2009. Opening Night with Reception: Friday, September 25. Pay-what-you-can (PWYC) performance on Wednesday, September 30.

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

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

TICKETS: Wednesday and Thursday evenings and Saturday matinees, \$26-28; Friday and Saturday evenings, \$30-33; preview performances, \$20-22; senior/student discount is now 10% off regular priced ticket; ages 25 and under, \$10. Senior matinee performance on September 30 is \$20. Pizza and a Play Night on October 1 is \$10 for ages 18-25, and includes free Romio’s pizza; the pizza party starts at 6:30 p.m.

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

Tickets for the pay-what-you-can performance on September 30 go on sale at 5 p.m. day of show at the box office only. Plus, a limited supply of \$10 tickets will be offered from 12-5 p.m. on September 30 for that evening’s performance. Limit six tickets per person from 12-5 p.m., and four per person after 5 p.m.

CALENDAR:

Wed.	September 23	7:30 p.m.	Preview
Thurs.	September 24	7:30 p.m.	Preview
Fri.	September 25	8:00 p.m.	Opening Night with Reception
Sat.	September 26	2:00 p.m.	
Sat.	September 26	8:00 p.m.	
Wed.	September 30	2:00 p.m.	Senior Matinee
Wed.	September 30	7:30 p.m.	Post-play Discussion, PWYC
Thurs.	October 1	7:30 p.m.	Pizza and a Play Night (<i>Pizza party from 6:30-7:15 p.m.; show starts at 7:30 p.m.</i>)
Fri.	October 2	8:00 p.m.	
Sat.	October 3	2:00 p.m.	
Sat.	October 3	8:00 p.m.	
Wed.	October 7	7:30 p.m.	Post-play Discussion
Thurs.	October 8	7:30 p.m.	
Fri.	October 9	8:00 p.m.	
Sat.	October 10	2:00 p.m.	
Sat.	October 10	8:00 p.m.	
Wed.	October 14	7:30 p.m.	Post-play Discussion
Thurs.	October 15	7:30 p.m.	
Fri.	October 16	8:00 p.m.	
Sat.	October 17	2:00 p.m.	
Sat.	October 17	8:00 p.m.	
Wed.	October 21	7:30 p.m.	Post-play Discussion
Thurs.	October 22	7:30 p.m.	
Fri.	October 23	8:00 p.m.	
Sat.	October 24	2:00 p.m.	
Sat.	October 24	8:00 p.m.	Closing Night

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 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.

Support for Taproot Theatre's 2009 season is generously provided by The Charles Simonyi Fund for Arts and Sciences, ArtsFund, 4Culture, Washington State Arts Commission, PONCHO, and Nesholm Family Foundation. Thanks to The Upper Crust, our Opening Night sponsor, and Romio's Pizza and Pasta and Dry Soda, our Pizza and a Play sponsors.

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