

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

TAPROOT THEATRE PRESENTS STAGED READINGS OF *SHERLOCK HOLMES* *AND THE CASE OF THE CHRISTMAS CAROL* DESPITE GREENWOOD FIRE

Theatre plans to present world premiere production in 2010

SEATTLE – November 12, 2009 – Taproot Theatre presents two staged readings of John Longenbaugh's *Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol* this December 4 and 5 at 8 p.m. at Seattle Pacific University's McKinley Hall. Forced to postpone the world premiere production until 2010 due to the Greenwood fire on October 23, Taproot Theatre producing artistic director Scott Nolte and playwright John Longenbaugh still wanted to offer a taste of what is to come.

"When the extent of the damage from the fire was clear and we had to make the decision to postpone the show I was as heartbroken as anyone at Taproot," said Longenbaugh, who has been actively involved in the Seattle theatre scene for years. "Scott had pulled together such an incredible cast for the show and rehearsals were giving me a chance to truly hone the script. I'm immensely grateful that the Theatre is giving the cast, and me, a chance to give Seattle a little peek at this play that we're all so excited about."

The Greenwood fire happened just days after the cast met for the first rehearsal. While Alex Robertson, Jesse Notehelfer and Eric Riedmann were recast in Taproot Theatre's new holiday production, *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*, at its temporary location, the other actors return to perform in the staged readings in the roles in which they were originally cast. Terry Edward Moore returns as Sherlock Holmes and David Nail as Watson, plus David Dorrian, Aaron Lamb and Pam Nolte. They are joined by Kevin Brady and Charity Parenzini.

"These readings should be a lot of fun and give audiences who were anticipating the show something to whet their appetite," Longenbaugh said. "For me, the feedback from a live audience is crucial in developing this work, which we hope to be able to present to our audiences in a full production next year."

The staged readings of *Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol* take place at McKinley Hall at Seattle Pacific University, located at 3307 Third Avenue West. Tickets will be available on a pay-what-you-can basis at the door only, with proceeds benefitting the Greenwood Fire Relief Fund. For questions or more information, please call Taproot Theatre at 206-781-9707.

Taproot Theatre plans to produce the world premiere of *Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol* next year. In the meantime, it's presenting *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*, adapted for the stage by Joe Landry, at the Stage One Theatre at North Seattle Community College this holiday season from November 25-December 30.

Fact sheet for staged readings of *Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol*

"Puzzles, enigmas—I never understood your delight in such things. Well then: let's see if you can solve the riddle of who you are, and what you will become." – Moriarty

WHAT: Staged readings of *Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol* by John Longenbaugh, directed by Scott Nolte

DESCRIPTION: These then are the facts: The year, 1894. The date, Christmas Eve. The location, 221B Baker Street. After being presumed dead for three years, a hardened Sherlock Holmes resurfaces, turning his back on the people who need him most. Three unexpected callers arrive on Christmas Eve uncovering clues from the detective's past, present and future. Can they save Holmes and his world from a dire end? They must "do it all in one night" to accomplish the task. A mystery full of Christmas spirits your whole family will enjoy.

WHEN: December 4 and 5, 2009, at 8 p.m.

WHERE: Seattle Pacific University's McKinley Hall, 3307 Third Avenue West.

TICKETS: Pay-what-you-can at the door, with proceeds benefitting the Greenwood Fire Relief Fund.

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 Bank of America, our show sponsor for *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*, and The Upper Crust, our Opening Night sponsor.

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