

# TAPROOT THEATRE



C O M P A N Y

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## **TAPROOT THEATRE CONCLUDES 2010 SEASON WITH REGIONAL PREMIERE OF *WEDDING BELLES***

**Comedy opens on September 24**

SEATTLE – August 18, 2010 – Pour yourself a glass of lemonade and get married all over again this fall with the regional premiere of *Wedding Belles*, the final production in Taproot Theatre's 34<sup>th</sup> season. When a bedraggled bride is found stranded at an East Texas bus station in 1942, the determined ladies of the Eufala Springs Garden Club leap into action! Lemonade, wedding cake and a gown are easy enough to come by... but where's the groom? This side-splitting comedy overflows with love, laughter and Southern hospitality at its best! *Wedding Belles* was written by Alan Bailey and Ronnie Claire Edwards. Directed by associate artistic director Karen Lund, *Wedding Belles* opens on September 24 and runs through October 23, with low-price previews on September 22 and 23, plus a pay-what-you-can performance on September 29.

A delightful story of love, generosity, bickering and forgiving, *Wedding Belles* introduces audiences to the world of four friends and garden club members each with their own story of love and matrimony, or lack thereof. Glendine's on husband number 7 or 8, Violet's a spinster, Laura Lee is widowed and Bobrita is happily married. An ordinary club meeting gets derailed when a helpless young bride stumbles into town and into their meeting. Desperately needing their help planning a wedding—and finding her groom, who's shipping off to the war—18-year-old Ima Jean surrenders herself to the varying degrees of experience, cynicism, optimism and fastidiousness of the four women who want the bride's wedding day to be nothing short of spectacular.

Creator of the Sanders Family series, including *Smoke on the Mountain*, Alan Bailey is best known for his musicals, but *Wedding Belles* presents his non-musical comedic sensibilities. He teamed up with Ronnie Claire Edwards to create this sweet story that was nominated for the American Theatre Critics Association Best Play Award. In addition to writing, Edwards has appeared on stage, film and television for decades, including as Carabeth on *The Waltons*, and appearances on *The Torkelsons*, *Designing*

*Women, Star Trek: The Next Generation* and *Murder She Wrote*, among others. *Wedding Belles* premiered in October 2008 by One Thirty Productions in Dallas, in association with the Bath House Cultural Center and the City of Dallas' Office of Cultural Affairs.

Taproot Theatre's cast features Charissa Adams, Gretchen Douma, Karen Nelson, Kim Morris and Pat Sibley. The production team includes scenic designer Richard Lorig, costume designer Sarah Burch Gordon, lighting designer Monty Taylor and sound designer Mark Lund. Anne L. Hitt serves as stage manager, Nikki Visel as dialect coach and L. Nicol Cabe as dramaturg.

After *Wedding Belles*, Taproot Theatre presents the world premiere of *Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol* by Seattle playwright John Longenbaugh, opening November 26 and running through December 30, with previews November 19, 20 and 24.

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## ***Wedding Belles* Fact Sheet**

**WHAT:** *Wedding Belles*, by Alan Bailey and Ronnie Claire Edwards, directed by Karen Lund

**DESCRIPTION:** When a bedraggled bride is found stranded at an East Texas bus station in 1942, the determined ladies of the Eufala Springs Garden Club leap into action! Lemonade, wedding cake and a gown are easy enough to come by... but where's the groom? This side-splitting comedy overflows with love, laughter and Southern hospitality at its best! From the creator of *Smoke on the Mountain*.

**WHEN:** September 22 through October 23, 2010. Opening Night with Reception: Friday, September 24. Pay-what-you-can (PWYC) performance on Wednesday, September 29.

**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. 85<sup>th</sup> St. in Seattle.

**TICKETS:** Ticket prices are \$20-35. Ages 25 and under, \$10. Student/senior discount, \$3 off regular priced tickets (excludes previews). Senior matinee performance on September 29 is \$20.

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 29 go on day of show at the box office only. Contact the box office for details.

**CALENDAR:**

Wed.	September 22	7:30 p.m.	Preview
Thurs.	September 23	7:30 p.m.	Preview
Fri.	September 24	8:00 p.m.	Opening Night with Reception
Sat.	September 25	2:00 p.m.	
Sat.	September 25	8:00 p.m.	
Wed.	September 29	2:00 p.m.	Senior Matinee
Wed.	September 29	7:30 p.m.	Post-play Discussion, PWYC
Thurs.	September 30	7:30 p.m.	
Fri.	October 1	8:00 p.m.	
Sat.	October 2	2:00 p.m.	
Sat.	October 2	8:00 p.m.	
Wed.	October 6	7:30 p.m.	Post-play Discussion
Thurs.	October 7	7:30 p.m.	
Fri.	October 8	8:00 p.m.	
Sat.	October 9	2:00 p.m.	
Sat.	October 9	8:00 p.m.	
Wed.	October 13	7:30 p.m.	Post-play Discussion
Thurs.	October 14	7:30 p.m.	
Fri.	October 15	8:00 p.m.	
Sat.	October 16	2:00 p.m.	
Sat.	October 16	8:00 p.m.	
Wed.	October 20	7:30 p.m.	Post-play Discussion
Thurs.	October 21	7:30 p.m.	
Fri.	October 22	8:00 p.m.	
Sat.	October 23	2:00 p.m.	
Sat.	October 23	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.

Thanks to our show sponsor, Viking Bank, our opening night sponsor, The Upper Crust, and our Pizza and a Play sponsor, Romio's Pizza and Pasta. Support for Taproot Theatre's 2010 Mainstage season is generously provided by The Charles Simonyi Fund for Arts and Sciences, The Seattle Foundation, 4Culture, ArtsFund, PONCHO and Nesholm Family Foundation.

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