



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Kill Date: October 27, 2019

Lincoln and Douglass battle in West Coast Premiere of *Necessary Sacrifices*

“...provide[s] a glimpse at the prospect for hope... and peace.”
DC Theatre Scene

“... nothing we do is for ourselves alone. It cannot be.”
Frederick Douglass in *Necessary Sacrifices*

SEATTLE, WA – June 21, 2019 – Five words were meant to change a young country divided by civil war when abolitionist and Union recruiter Frederick Douglass challenged his president to act on the statement that “all men are created equal.” As these two brilliant Americans wage a battle for the future of the Union, their arguments affect not only their sons but the nation we live in today. Originally commissioned for Washington, DC’s Ford’s Theatre, Taproot Theatre produces the West Coast Premiere of Richard Helleesen’s drama.

“Audiences will be stunned to learn of the heartaches, considerations and challenges surrounding some of the decisions Lincoln made,” said director **Karen Lund**. “But Frederick Douglass is the real gift. His vision, sacrifices and ideas resulted in an honest and heartfelt debate that left both men different.”

Tickets are available online at taproottheatre.org, by phone 206.781.9707 (Tue-Sat, noon-5:00 PM) or in person at 204 N 85th St. Ticket prices range from \$21-50 with discounts available for students, seniors, active military, 25 & Under and TeenTix. Discounts are also available for groups of 8 or more by calling 206.781.9708 or by visiting taproottheatre.org/group-sales.

Lund’s previous Taproot directing credits include *A Civil War Christmas*, *Bright Star*, *Always... Patsy Cline*, *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*, *Sweet Land*, *Persuasion* and *Godspell*.

The cast includes **Lamar Legend** (Strawberry Theatre Workshop’s *Take Me Out*) as Frederick Douglass, **Andrew Litzky** (Taproot Theatre’s *The Explorers Club*) as George Stearns and **Ted Rooney** (*Gilmore Girls*, *Boardwalk Empire*) as Abraham Lincoln.

The production team includes **Pete Rush**, costume design; **Brian Engel**, lighting design; **Mark Lund**, scenic and sound design and **Mario Gomez**, dramaturg.

SPECIAL DATES FOR THE AUDIENCE

Post-Play Discussions: TTC staff and cast members will join the audience to discuss the play and its production process. Post-play discussions are held after every Wednesday performance (excluding Preview) and after the Midweek Matinees.

Pay What You Can (PWYC): September 25 at 7:30 PM; a limited number of \$10 tickets are available at noon, tickets may be purchased in person or by phone (card fees may apply). Beginning at 5:00 PM, tickets are name-your-own-price; these tickets may be purchased in person only. Limit 4 tickets per person. Seating for PWYC performances is General Admission, there is no reserved seating. If you have accessible seating needs please call the Box Office directly.

Senior Matinees: September 24 (*post-play discussion*) and October 9 (*post-play discussion*) at 2:00 PM; Our Senior Matinee program provides anyone aged 62 and older with an affordable way to participate in live theatre in convenient daytime performance.

Intergenerational Matinee: October 16 (limited availability, *post-play discussion*) at 10:30 AM; With \$10 student/chaperone tickets, play guides and a guided *post-play discussion*, our Intergenerational Matinee enhances student education, providing theatre as a tool and springboard for learning, growth and communication.

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NECESSARY SACRIFICES FACT SHEET

WHAT: Taproot Theatre Company presents *Necessary Sacrifices* by Richard Helleesen. *Eavesdrop on history as abolitionist and Union recruiter Frederick Douglass challenges his president to act on the statement that "all men are created equal." Glimpse into the hearts and souls of two brilliant Americans as their choices affect not only their sons but the future of a nation. This battle of ideas is based on documented meetings, public speeches and personal writings.*

WHEN: September 18 – October 26, 2019 • Wed/Thur, 7:30 PM; Fri/Sat, 8:00 PM; Sat matinee, 2:00 PM

Dates to note:

Previews: September 18 and 19, 7:30 PM

Opening Night: September 20, 8:00 PM

Pay What You Can: September 25, 7:30 PM

Midweek Matinees: September 24 at 2:00 PM (*limited availability, post-play discussion*), October 9 at 2:00 PM (*post-play discussion*) and October 16 at 10:30 AM (*limited availability, post-play discussion*)

Post-Play Discussions: Wednesday nights (excluding Preview) following performances and after the Midweek Matinees.

WHERE: Taproot Theatre Company's Jewell Mainstage Theatre, 204 N 85th St, Seattle, WA 98103

TICKETS: Tickets are available online at taproottheatre.org, by phone 206.781.9707 (Tue-Sat, noon-5:00 PM) or in person at 204 N 85th St. Ticket prices range from \$21-50 with discounts available for students, seniors, active military, 25 & Under and TeenTix. Discounts are also available for groups of 8 or more by calling 206.781.9708 or by visiting taproottheatre.org/group-sales.

AGE RECOMMENDATION: 12+

CAST *(In alphabetical order)*

| | |
|---------------|---------------------------|
| Lamar Legend | <i>Frederick Douglass</i> |
| Andrew Litzky | <i>George Stearns</i> |
| Ted Rooney* | <i>Abraham Lincoln</i> |

PRODUCTION

| | |
|--------------|----------------------------------|
| Karen Lund** | <i>Director</i> |
| Pete Rush | <i>Costume Design</i> |
| Brian Engel | <i>Lighting Design</i> |
| Mark Lund | <i>Scenic & Sound Design</i> |
| Mario Gomez | <i>Dramaturg</i> |

**Member of Actor's Equity Association.*

***Member of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers.*

PR: Isaiah Custer, Communications Manager, 206, 529.3666, isaiahc@taproottheatre.org

Support for Taproot Theatre Company's 2019 Jewell Mainstage Season is generously provided by 4Culture, ArtsFund, the Seattle Office of Arts & Culture and Verity Credit Union.

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 Jewell Mainstage Productions, Isaac Studio Theatre Productions, Touring Productions and the Acting Studio. Taproot Theatre Company creates theatre experiences to brighten the spirit, engage the mind and deepen the understanding of the world around us while inspiring imagination, conversation and hope. Taproot Theatre Company is a member of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), Theatre Puget Sound (TPS) and Phinney Ridge Neighborhood Association (PNA).

Scott Nolte, Producing Artistic Director | Karen Lund, Associate Artistic Director
204 N 85th St | Seattle, WA 98103
206.781.9705 | taproottheatre.org