

Taproot Theatre Celebrates Seattle's Own Russells in New Cabaret, *A Night with the Russells: The Legacy of Us*

Watch Seattle family of actresses perform together for the first time, September 21 – October 22, 2022

OPENING SEPTEMBER 23, 2022 8:00PM – Runs September 21 – October 22, 2022 •
Wed/Thur, 7:30 PM; Fri/Sat, 8:00 PM; Sat matinee, 2:00 PM

SEATTLE, WA – August 17, 2022 – Taproot Theatre Company is excited to announce the debut of a new cabaret, *A Night with the Russells: The Legacy of Us*, with stories and songs performed by Seattle's own Faith Bennett Russell, Be Russell, and Sarah Russell—on stage together for the first time. The cabaret, directed by Jimmy Shields, with music direction by Aaron Norman, opens September 23, 2022.

An evening of laughter, love, and unrelenting joy! Seattle's own Sarah, Be, and Faith Bennett Russell carry on their family's legacy as storytellers, while celebrating their individual journeys as Black female artists. From their roots in Jamaica to their home in Seattle, this cabaret is filled with songs both new and old. Bring your tissues and party-poppers and prepare to leave with a song in your heart.

Sarah, Be, and Faith Bennett Russell have performed on stages in the Seattle area for a number of years. All three together worked most recently on *Mamma Mia!* at Village Theatre this summer, with Faith directing, and Sarah and Be on stage. They're some of Seattle's greatest performers, but they've never performed on the same stage together—until now. Experience the talent of the Russell family as they share stories and songs. The cabaret is directed by **Jimmy Shields**, with music direction by **Aaron M. Davis Norman**. The production team includes **Parmida Ziaei**, scenic design; **Andi Alhadeff**, costume design; **Ahren Buhmann**, lighting design; **Mark Lund**, Sound Design; **Colleen Nielsen**, stage manager; and **Sonja Lowe**, dramaturg.

Tickets are on sale now. 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 \$25-52 with discounts available for students, seniors, active military, 25 & Under and TeenTix members. Accessible ticket prices are also available on TodayTix. Discounts are also available for groups of 8 or more by calling 206.781.9708 or by visiting taproottheatre.org/group-sales.

SPECIAL DATES FOR THE AUDIENCE

Pay What You Can (PWYC): September 28 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 27 and October 5 at 2:00 PM; Taproot's Senior Matinee program provides anyone aged 62 and older with an affordable way to participate in live theatre in convenient daytime performance. Both performances will feature a post-play discussion, immediately following the show.

Intergenerational Matinee: October 19 at 10:30 AM; With \$10 student/chaperone tickets, printed educational 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. Senior ticket price: \$20.

***A NIGHT WITH THE RUSSELLS: THE LEGACY OF US* FACT SHEET**

WHAT: Taproot Theatre Company presents *A Night with the Russells: The Legacy of Us* with stories and songs performed by Faith Bennet Russell, Be Russell, and Sarah Russell. An evening of laughter, love, and unrelenting joy! Seattle's own Sarah, Be, and Faith Bennett Russell carry on their family's legacy as storytellers, while celebrating their individual journeys as Black female artists. From their roots in Jamaica to their home in Seattle, this cabaret is filled with songs both new and old. Bring your tissues and party-poppers and prepare to leave with a song in your heart.

WHEN: September 21 – October 22, 2022 • Wed/Thur, 7:30 PM; Fri/Sat, 8:00 PM; Sat matinee, 2:00 PM

Dates to note:

Previews: September 21 and 22, 7:30 PM

Opening Night: September 23, 8:00 PM

Pay What You Can: September 28, 7:30 PM

Midweek Matinees: September 27 and October 5 at 2:00 PM, October 19 at 10:30 AM (*limited availability*)

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

TICKETS: Tickets are now sale. 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 \$25-52 with discounts available for students, seniors, active military, 25 & Under and TeenTix members. Accessible ticket prices are also available on TodayTix. Discounts are also available for groups of 8 or more by calling 206.781.9708 or by visiting taproottheatre.org/group-sales.

AGE RECOMMENDATION: 10+

CAST

Faith Bennett Russell	<i>Playwright/Artist</i>
Be Russell	<i>Playwright/Artist</i>
Sarah Russell *	<i>Playwright/Artist</i>

PRODUCTION

Jimmy Shields	<i>Director/Choreographer</i>
Aaron M. Davis Norman	<i>Music Director</i>
Parmida Ziaei	<i>Scenic Design</i>
Mark Lund	<i>Sound Design</i>
Andi Alhadeff	<i>Costume Design</i>
Ahren Buhmann	<i>Lighting Design</i>
Colleen Nielsen *	<i>Stage Manager</i>
Sonja Lowe	<i>Dramaturg</i>

**Member of Actor's Equity Association.*

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Taproot Theatre Company is generously supported by Artsfund, 4Culture, Office of Arts & Culture, ArtsWA, NEA, US Small Business Administration, and Green Trails Maps.

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 tells stories of hope, serving the Pacific Northwest through live theatre and educational programs. Taproot Theatre Company is a member of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), Theatre Puget Sound (TPS) and Phinney Ridge Neighborhood Association (PNA).

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

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