



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Taproot Box Office:
206.781.9707, box@taproottheatre.org

Media Contact: Daytona Danielsen
206.529.3666, DaytonaD@taproottheatre.org

Taproot Theatre brings Dean Batali's *Lewis and Tolkien* to the Isaac Studio Theatre, 15 years after reopening in the wake of arson

*Explore the friendship and rivalry between the creators of two of the greatest
fantasy worlds, January 22 – February 22, 2025*

SEATTLE, WA – December 11, 2024 – Taproot Theatre is excited to present *Lewis and Tolkien*, an intimate and thought-provoking play by Dean Batali, in its cozy, 116-seat Isaac Studio Theatre this winter. Directed by Producing Artistic Director Karen Lund, this production invites audiences to step into the minds of two of the greatest writers of the 20th century—C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien—as they look back at their friendship and delve into their personal and professional rivalries. *Lewis and Tolkien* opens on January 24 and runs through February 22, 2025.

In the cozy Eagle and Child Pub, renowned authors C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien joust over pints and memories. Years after the Inklings, they have grown distant, diverging in matters of theology, marriage, and literature. In this fictional encounter, they delve into their personal and professional rivalries, igniting the stage with their wit and wisdom.

Karen Lund directs **Peter Cook**, **Chloe Michele**, and **Jeff Allen Pierce**. **Ays Garcia**, **James Lyle**, and **Michael Ramquist** understudy.

This timing of this production coincides with a replacement of seats in the Jewell Mainstage Theatre, offering an intimate setting to match the richness and depth of Batali's work. Batali, known for his work as a writer on *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and *That '70s Show*, has longstanding ties to Taproot Theatre, where he worked as an actor and playwright before going to Los Angeles. Audiences will experience the wit and intellect of this talented writer and come away with a deeper look and appreciation for the creators of some of the greatest fantasy works of the past century, which continue to influence fantasy writers to this day.

The production of *Lewis and Tolkien* also coincides with the 15th anniversary of Taproot reopening after an October 2009 arson on its property, which destroyed the restaurants and café that operated in the space and left the theatre gutted. In January 2010, the theatre was

restored and opened its season with an adaptation of C.S. Lewis's *The Great Divorce*, a timely coincidence given the depiction of Lewis in *Lewis and Tolkien*.

Tickets are available online at taproottheatre.org, by phone at 206.781.9707 (Tue-Sat, noon-5:00 PM), or in person at 204 N 85th St. Ticket prices range from \$32-50 with discounts available for students, seniors, active military, 25 & Under and TeenTix members. Discounts will also be 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): January 29 at 7:30 PM; regular-priced tickets available in advance, \$10 tickets offered starting at noon day of show, and pay-what-you-can pricing in-person day of show.

Senior Matinees: January 28 and February 12 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 a convenient daytime performance. Performance features a post-play discussion, immediately following the show.

Intergenerational Matinee: February 11 at 10:30 AM; With \$10 student/chaperone tickets, printed educational play guides, and a guided post-play discussion, our Intergenerational Matinees enhance student education, providing theatre as a tool and springboard for learning, growth and communication. Senior ticket price: \$20.

LEWIS AND TOLKIEN FACT SHEET

WHAT: Taproot Theatre Company presents *Lewis and Tolkien* by Dean Batali. *In the cozy Eagle and Child Pub, renowned authors C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien joust over pints and memories. Years after the Inklings, they have grown distant, diverging in matters of theology, marriage, and literature. In this fictional encounter, they delve into their personal and professional rivalries, igniting the stage with their wit and wisdom.*

WHEN: January 22 – February 22, 2025 • Wed/Thur/Fri/Sat, 7:30 PM; Sat matinee, 2:00 PM

Dates to note:

Previews: January 22 and 23, 7:30 PM

PWYC Preview: January 29, 7:30 PM

Opening Night: January 24, 7:30 PM

Midweek Matinees: January 28 and February 12 at 2:00 PM, February 11 at 10:30am

WHERE: Taproot Theatre Company's Isaac Studio Theatre, 21 N 85th St, Seattle, WA 98103

TICKETS: Tickets are available online at taproottheatre.org, by phone at 206.781.9707 (Tue-Sat, noon-5:00 PM), or in person at 204 N 85th St. Ticket prices range from \$32-50 with discounts available for students, seniors, active military, 25 & Under and TeenTix members. Discounts will also be available for groups of 8 or more by calling 206.781.9708 or by visiting taproottheatre.org/group-sales.

AGE RECOMMENDATION: 15+

PHOTOS: Press photos are available online at <https://taproottheatre.org/for-the-press/> (Jewell Mainstage Theatre → *Lewis and Tolkien* (link not to be published))

PR: Daytona Danielsen, Communications Manager, 206.529.3666,
daytonad@taproottheatre.org

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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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