



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## EXTENDED! Taproot Theatre extends Dean Batali's *Lewis and Tolkien* for two weeks (Production photos available)

*Explore the friendship and rivalry between the creators of two of the greatest  
fantasy worlds, now through March 8, 2025*

**SEATTLE, WA – January 24, 2024** – Due to demand and the first two weeks being nearly sold out by the time of opening night, Taproot Theatre is excited to announce the extension of *Lewis and Tolkien* in its cozy, 116-seat Isaac Studio Theatre. Directed by Producing Artistic Director Karen Lund, Dean Batali's intimate and thought-provoking play invites audiences to step into the minds of two of the greatest writers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century—C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien—as they look back at their friendship and delve into their personal and professional rivalries. Originally scheduled to run through February 22, *Lewis and Tolkien* now runs through March 8, 2025.

**NOTE:** New production photos are available online at <https://taproottheatre.org/for-the-press/> (Isaac Studio Theatre → *Lewis and Tolkien* (link not to be published))

*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 15<sup>th</sup> 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](http://taproottheatre.org), by phone at 206.781.9707 (Tue-Sat, noon-5:00 PM), or in person at 204 N 85<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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. *Both shows are sold out.*

**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:** Extended through March 8, 2025 • Wed/Thur/Fri/Sat, 7:30 PM; Sat matinee, 2:00 PM

*Dates to note:*

Opening Night: January 24, 7:30 PM

PWYC: January 29, 7:30 PM

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

**WHERE:** Taproot Theatre Company's Isaac Studio Theatre, 212 N 85<sup>th</sup> St, Seattle, WA 98103

**TICKETS:** Tickets are available online at [taproottheatre.org](http://taproottheatre.org), by phone at 206.781.9707 (Tue-Sat, noon-5:00 PM), or in person at 204 N 85<sup>th</sup> 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](http://taproottheatre.org/group-sales).

**AGE RECOMMENDATION:** 15+

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(Isaac Studio Theatre → *Lewis and Tolkien* (link not to be published))

**PR:** Daytona Danielsen, Director of Marketing, 206.529.3656, [daytonad@taproottheatre.org](mailto: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*  
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