

# TAPROOT THEATRE



C O M P A N Y

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## TAPROOT THEATRE PRESENTS REGIONAL PREMIERE OF MARGULIES' *BROOKLYN BOY*

SEATTLE – February 16, 2010 – Taproot Theatre continues its 34<sup>th</sup> season in March with the regional premiere of *Brooklyn Boy* by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Donald Margulies. As Margulies' newest play receives rave reviews on Broadway, Seattle audiences are in for a treat as his comedic and heartfelt play about middle-aged novelist Eric Weiss comes to the Northwest for the first time. In *Brooklyn Boy*, Eric finally starts to come of age—a couple decades too late. He's finally made it big with a best seller and a shot at a Hollywood film, but then an inconvenient phone call brings him back to the Brooklyn neighborhood he grew up in and happily left behind. Witty and deeply touching, this story of growing up, coming home and making sense of it all is sure to warm your heart. Directed by associate artistic director Karen Lund, *Brooklyn Boy* opens on March 19 and runs through April 17, with low-price previews on March 17 and 18, plus a pay-what-you-can performance on March 24.

Margulies—who won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama for his play *Dinner With Friends* in 2000—was inspired to write *Brooklyn Boy* by his friend and fellow playwright Herb Gardner. Having incorporated his hometown of Brooklyn in past plays (*Found a Peanut*, 1984; *What's Wrong With This Picture?*, 1985; *The Loman Family Picnic*, 1989; *Sight Unseen*, 1992), Margulies went for over a decade without writing about it again. However, when having trouble starting a new script, Margulies says in the introduction to *Brooklyn Boy*, “Gardner urged me to go back”—back to Brooklyn.

“Comedy runs through the play, but it's also a heartfelt story about returning home and rediscovering one's roots, and realizing how much the past has shaped who you are today, whether you like it or not,” said Lund. “And who can't relate to that? At the same time it's an examination of success and self-worth, acceptance—or lack thereof—and what defines all these things.”

*Brooklyn Boy* premiered in Costa Mesa, California, in September 2004 and in New York City in January 2005 in a production co-produced by South Coast Repertory

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and Manhattan Theatre Club. It was commissioned by South Coast Repertory. Margulies' newest work, *Time Stands Still*—directed by Daniel Sullivan—opened on Broadway in January in a Manhattan Theatre Club production at the Samuel J. Friedman Theatre, after receiving its world premiere at California's Geffen Playhouse.

*Brooklyn Boy* features Jeff Berryman as Eric Weiss, along with Nicholas Beach, Bob Gallaher, Jesse Notehelfer, Lisa Peretti, Alex Robertson and Nikki Visel. The production team includes scenic and sound designer Mark Lund, costume designer Dana Friedli and lighting designer Richard Schaefer. Jenny Schmidt serves as stage manager, Kate Forster as dialect coach and Judy Naegeli as dramaturg.

After *Brooklyn Boy*, Taproot Theatre's 2010 Season continues with Brandon Thomas's *Charley's Aunt* (May 12-June 12), *Man of La Mancha* (a musical play by Dale Wasserman with music by Mitch Leigh and lyrics by Joe Darion; original production staged by Albert Marre; originally produced by Albert W. Selden and Hal James; July 7-August 7), and the regional premiere of *Wedding Belles* by Alan Bailey and Ronnie Claire Edwards (September 22-October 23).

## ***Brooklyn Boy* Fact Sheet**

**WHAT:** *Brooklyn Boy*, by Donald Margulies, directed by Karen Lund

**DESCRIPTION:** Can we ever go home... and do we want to? Eric Weiss has finally made it big with a best seller and a shot at a Hollywood film. An inconvenient phone call brings him back to the Brooklyn neighborhood he grew up in and happily left behind. Witty and deeply touching, this story of growing up, coming home and making sense of it all is sure to warm your heart.

**WHEN:** March 17 through April 17, 2010. Opening Night with Reception on Friday, March 19. Pay-what-you-can (PWYC) performance on Wednesday, March 24, 7:30 p.m. Senior Matinee on Wednesday, March 24, 2 p.m.

**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. Senior matinee performance on March 24, \$20. Student/senior discount, \$3 off regular priced tickets (excludes previews).

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 March 24 go on sale day of show at the box office only. Plus, a limited supply of \$10 tickets will be offered from 12-5 p.m. for that evening's performance. Limit 6 tickets per person from 12-5 p.m., and 4 tickets per person after 5 p.m.

**CALENDAR:**

Wed.	March 17	7:30 p.m.	Preview
Thurs.	March 18	7:30 p.m.	Preview
Fri.	March 19	8:00 p.m.	Opening Night with Reception
Sat.	March 20	2:00 p.m.	
Sat.	March 20	8:00 p.m.	
Wed.	March 24	2:00 p.m.	Senior Matinee
Wed.	March 24	7:30 p.m.	Post-play Discussion, PWYC
Thurs.	March 25	7:30 p.m.	Pizza and a Play Night for ages 18-25 ( <i>Pizza party from 6:30-7:15 p.m.; show starts at 7:30 p.m.</i> )
Fri.	March 26	8:00 p.m.	
Sat.	March 27	2:00 p.m.	
Sat.	March 27	8:00 p.m.	
Wed.	March 31	7:30 p.m.	Post-play Discussion
Thurs.	April 1	7:30 p.m.	
Fri.	April 2	8:00 p.m.	
Sat.	April 3	2:00 p.m.	
Sat.	April 3	8:00 p.m.	
Wed.	April 7	7:30 p.m.	Post-play Discussion
Thurs.	April 8	7:30 p.m.	
Fri.	April 9	8:00 p.m.	
Sat.	April 10	2:00 p.m.	
Sat.	April 10	8:00 p.m.	
Wed.	April 14	7:30 p.m.	Post-play Discussion
Thurs.	April 15	7:30 p.m.	
Fri.	April 16	8:00 p.m.	
Sat.	April 17	2:00 p.m.	
Sat.	April 17	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 media sponsor, KUOW, 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, ArtsFund, 4Culture, PONCHO and the Nesholm Family Foundation.

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