

Taproot Theatre Company announces 2018 Jewell Mainstage Season

SEATTLE, WA – September 29, 2017 – Taproot Theatre Company is proud to announce its 2018 Jewell Mainstage Season. The five rousing and powerful plays feature playwrights Regina Taylor, Mark St. Germain and Oscar Wilde, plus productions of Ken Ludwig's *Baskerville* and the West Coast Premiere of the new musical, *Sweet Land*. Season 42 moves through stories with biting wit, swelling music, gripping narratives, social insights and intriguing mystery.

The season runs January 2018 through October 2018. New subscriptions for the 2018 Season are available beginning October 3 online at taproottheatre.org/subscribe, by mail or drop off your form at the Taproot Theatre Box Office at 204 N 85th St.

The 2018 Jewell Mainstage Season

Mark St. Germain's *Camping with Henry and Tom* opens the 2018 Jewell Mainstage Season. Based on the well-publicized camping trips of Henry Ford, St. Germain expertly imagines the conversations held in private amongst three titans of history. Producing Artistic Director Scott Nolte directs.

The second show of the season is Regina Taylor's *Crowns*, adapted from the book by Michael Cunningham and Craig Marberry, which chronicles the lives of African American women and their hats. Faith Bennett Russell directs this gospel musical that fills the soul with its powerful narrative and impeccable costuming.

Renowned playwright Oscar Wilde's classic comedy, *Lady Windermere's Fan*, transforms the Jewell Mainstage into the social party of the season. Follow the Windermere's as rumors swirl, secrets are revealed and rules are broken. Award-winning comedy director Karen Lund directs.

Following the success of last summer's world premiere musical adaptation of *Persuasion*, Taproot hosts the West Coast Premiere of *Sweet Land*. Based on the film by the same name, *Sweet Land* is the story of a German mail-order bride immigrating to the United States following the end of World War I. Karen Lund returns to direct.

Sherlock Holmes graces the Jewell Mainstage to close the 2018 Season. Ken Ludwig's *Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery* places comedy and quick changes at the center of this baffling mystery directed by Scott Nolte.

About the 2018 Jewell Mainstage Season

Camping with Henry and Tom
By Mark St. Germain

Jan 24 – Feb 24, 2018

Inspired by a real event – three titans of history find themselves stranded in the woods while on a camping trip in Maryland. Fact and fiction collide for Henry Ford, Thomas Edison and President Warren G. Harding as they try to kill time without killing each other in this comedic and dramatic clash of wits and wills.

Crowns

By Regina Taylor

Adapted from the book by Michael Cunningham and Craig Marberry

Mar 21 – Apr 21, 2018

Gospel music and storytelling come together to surprise, delight and remind us all of the unique and diverse ways we express ourselves. When a young woman from Brooklyn struggles to find her place in the world, she is surrounded by a community of women that transcend place and time to infuse her with stories of faith, fortitude and pride.

Lady Windermere's Fan

By Oscar Wilde

May 16 – Jun 16, 2018

It's the party of the social season, but instead of celebrating, Lady Windermere suspects her husband is having an affair with a mysterious and beautiful stranger. As rumors swirl and secrets are revealed, the Windermere's lives are upended and threatened to end in disgrace. This comedy classic from Oscar Wilde will charm you with its cleverness and wit.

Sweet Land

Book by Perrin Post and Laurie Flanigan Hegge

Music by Dina Maccabee

Lyrics by Laurie Flanigan Hegge

From the film *Sweet Land* by Ali Selim and the short story "A Gravestone Made of Wheat" by Will Weaver

Jul 11 – Aug 18, 2018

In this sweeping musical that soars like the Minnesota skies, a young German woman crosses the sea to marry a man she's never met. What should be their happy ending is met with suspicion and prejudice as friends and neighbors abandon them. But when hardship befalls the community, Inge and Olaf sacrifice everything to save their friends.

Ken Ludwig's Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery

By Ken Ludwig

Sep 12 – Oct 13, 2018

Sherlock Holmes is back and searching for clues to explain a mysterious death on a haunted moor. Five fearless actors conjure over 35 characters to deliver laughter and chills in this dizzyingly inventive adaptation of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. Bite your nails and howl with delight as Holmes and Watson face their most diabolical case ever.

2018 Jewell Mainstage Season Fact Sheet

WHAT: Taproot Theatre Company announces its 2018 Jewell Mainstage Season.

WHEN: Taproot's 2018 Jewell Mainstage Season begins January 24, 2018 and ends October 13, 2018. Performances are Wednesday/Thursday at 7:30 PM, Friday/Saturday at 8:00 PM and Saturday matinees at 2:00 PM. Select Midweek Matinee dates are available for each production.

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS: New subscriptions for the 2018 Jewell Mainstage Season go on sale October 3 online at taproottheatre.org/subscribe, by mail or you may drop off your form at the Taproot Theatre Box Office at 204 N 85th St.

SINGLE TICKETS: Single tickets for the 2018 Jewell Mainstage go on sale January 2, 2018.

SEASON GRAPHICS: <http://taproottheatre.org/for-the-press/>. *This link is not to be published.*

PR: Isaiah Custer, Communications Manager, 206.529.3666, IsaiahC@taproottheatre.org

Support for Taproot Theatre Company's 2018 Jewell Mainstage Season is generously provided by 4Culture, ArtsFund and the Seattle Office of Arts & Culture.

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

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