

Pulitzer Prize-winning Paula Vogel's play at Taproot Theatre

SEATTLE, WA – October 11, 2017 – Taproot Theatre Company is proud to produce Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Paula Vogel's *A Civil War Christmas: An American Musical Celebration* this Christmas season. Karen Lund and longtime TTC collaborator Faith Bennett Russell co-direct this ensemble musical. Tickets are on sale online at taproottheatre.org, by phone at 206.781.9707 (Tue-Sat, noon-5:00 PM) or in person at 204 N 85th St. Group discounts are available for groups of 8 or more by visiting taproottheatre.org/group-sales or calling 206.781.9708.

The NY times said of her work, "Ms. Vogel manages to humanize most of her many characters in a few crisp strokes of dialogue, so they come across as full-blooded people, glimpsed clearly if quickly, rather than talking statues in a historical diorama."

It's a bitterly cold Christmas Eve on the banks of the Potomac River where the lives of abolitionists, assassins, soldiers, enslaved and free are woven together in an American tapestry. In their darkest hour, when peace seems impossible, the promise of Christmas breaks through despair in this musical celebration of compassion and hope by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Paula Vogel.

Karen Lund (Taproot Theatre's *Persuasion*), TTC's Associate Artistic Director, will co-direct with longtime Taproot collaborator Faith Bennett Russell (Village Theatre KIDSTAGE's *The Lion King*). Edd Key (Taproot Theatre's *Big Fish*) will serve as Music Director.

The cast includes Maya Burton, Tré Calhoun, Elena Clipper, Marianna de Fazio, Robert Gallaher, Hazel Rose Gibson, Jelani Kee, Jon Lutyens, Evangeline OpongParry, Marianne Savell, Chris Shea, Tyler Trerise, Nick Watson and Dedra D. Woods.

The production team includes Mark Lund, scenic and sound design; Jocelyne Fowler, costume design; Kent Cabbage, lighting design; Abigail Pishaw, stage manager; Andrea Spraycar, props master; Dimitri Woods, dialect coach and Sonja Lowe, dramaturg.

SPECIAL DATES FOR THE AUDIENCE

Post-Play Discussions: TTC staff and cast members will join the audience to discuss the play and its production process. Post-play discussions are held after every Wednesday performance (excluding Pay What You Can) and after the Midweek Matinee performance on November 29 at 10:00 AM.

Pay What You Can Preview (PWYC): November 22 at 7:30 PM; a limited number of \$10 tickets are available at noon, tickets may be purchased in person or by phone (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.

Early Bird Performances: November 25, 29 and 30; Get in the holiday spirit early by attending these specially discounted performances. Tickets start at \$25.

Dinner & Show Package: December 6 & 7; Join us for a special evening of dinner and theatre! Dinner starts at 6:00 PM in our Isaac Studio Theatre with a performance by The Dickens Carolers. Then the performance of *A Civil War Christmas: An American Musical Celebration* begins at 7:30 PM in our Jewell Mainstage Theatre. Tickets for December 6 are \$80 per person; tickets for December 7 are \$85 per person. Please note: *If you have any food allergies notify the Box Office if purchasing by phone, or include your allergy in the Notes section online.* No discounts are available on this package.

Senior Matinees: December 5 & 20 at 2:00 PM; Our Senior Matinee program provides anyone aged 62 and older with an affordable way to participate in live theatre in a convenient daytime performance.

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WHAT: Taproot Theatre Company produces *A Civil War Christmas: An American Musical Celebration* this Nov 22 through Dec 30. It's a bitterly cold Christmas Eve on the banks of the Potomac River where the lives of abolitionists, assassins, soldiers, enslaved and free are woven together in an American tapestry. In their darkest hour, when peace seems impossible, the promise of Christmas breaks through despair in this musical celebration of compassion and hope by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Paula Vogel.

WHEN: November 22 – December 30, 2017 • Wed/Thur, 7:30 PM; Fri/Sat, 8:00 PM; Sat matinee, 2:00 PM

Dates to note:

Pay What You Can Preview: November 22, 7:30 PM

Opening Night: November 24, 8:00 PM

Early Bird Dates: November 25, 29 & 30

Dinner & Show Package Nights: December 6 & 7, 6:00 PM

Special Tuesday Performance: December 19, 7:30 PM

Midweek Matinees: November 29 at 10:00 AM (with guided post-play discussion), December 5 and December 20 at 2:00 PM

Post-play Discussions: Wednesday nights following performances (excluding Pay What You Can)

There are no shows on Thanksgiving (November 23), Christmas Eve (December 24) or Christmas Day (December 25).

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

TICKETS: Tickets are on sale online at taproottheatre.org, by phone at 206.781.9707 (Tue-Sat, noon-5:00 PM) or in person at 204 N 85th St. Tickets range from \$27-50, depending on the performance. Taproot offers a \$5 senior/student discount off regularly priced tickets (excludes Pay What You Can or specially priced performances). Tickets for the Senior Matinees are \$20; tickets for the Intergenerational Matinee cannot be purchased online. Discounts are available for groups of 8 or more by calling 206.781.9708 or by visiting taproottheatre.org/group-sales. Tickets for the PWYC performance are available day-of-show at the Box Office window; contact the box office for details.

AGE RECOMMENDATION: 12 & up

CAST

Maya Burton
Tré Calhoun
Elena Clipper
Dedra D. Woods
Marianna de Fazio
Robert Gallaher
Hazel Rose Gibson
Jelani Kee
Jon Lutyens
Evangeline OpongParry
Marianne Savell
Chris Shea
Tyler Trerise
Nick Watson

PRODUCTION

Karen Lund	Co-Director
Faith Bennett Russell	Co-Director
Edd Key	Music Director
Mark Lund	Scenic & Sound Design
Jocelyne Fowler	Costume Design
Kent Cabbage	Lighting Design
Abigail Pishaw	Stage Manager
Andrea Spraycar	Props Master
Sonja Lowe	Dramaturg
Dimitri Woods	Dialect Coach

PHOTOS: Press photos are available online at <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 2017 Jewell Mainstage Season is generously provided by 4Culture, ArtsFund, Seattle Office of Arts & Culture and the Nesholm Family Foundation.

A Civil War Christmas: An American Musical Celebration is sponsored in part by Walter and Theresa Bachman, Producing Artistic Sponsor.

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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