



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Updated: June 6, 2018

Kill Date: August 19, 2018

Taproot Theatre produces West Coast Premiere of *Sweet Land, the Musical*

SEATTLE, WA – March 14, 2018 – Taproot Theatre will produce the West Coast Premiere of the “heart-warming and heart-winning” (TwinCities.com) new musical, *Sweet Land*, book by Perrin Post and Laurie Flanigan Hegge, music by Dina Maccabee and lyrics by Laurie Flanigan Hegge. This soaring musical is based on the film *Sweet Land* by Ali Selim and the short story “A Gravestone Made of Wheat” by Will Weaver. Following its inaugural production and subsequent touring in Minnesota, Karen Lund will direct the new staging. Single tickets are available online at taproottheatre.org, by phone 206.781.9707 or in person at 204 N 85th St. Discounts are available for groups of 8 or more by calling 206.781.9708 or by visiting taproottheatre.org/group-sales.

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.

Lund, Taproot Theatre’s Associate Artistic Director, led the lauded new musical adaptation of Jane Austen’s *Persuasion* for Taproot’s last season. Additionally, she’s directed the musicals *Godspell*, *A Charlie Brown Christmas* and *Jane Eyre* in recent years.

The cast features **Molli Corcoran** (Village Theatre’s *Into the Woods*) as Inge Altenberg, **Jenny Cross** (Taproot Theatre’s *Illyria*) as Gail/Esther/Ensemble, **Eric Dobson** (Village Theatre’s *Dreamgirls*) as Lars Torvik/Nelson/Ensemble, **Hugh Hastings** (5th Avenue Theatre’s *Ragtime*) as Pastor Sorenson, **Tyler Todd Kimmel** (Taproot Theatre’s *Godspell*) as Olaf Torvik, **Pam Nolte** (Taproot Theatre’s *Jane Eyre, the musical*) as Mother/Anna/Ensemble, **April Poland** (Taproot Theatre’s *Illyria*) as Marta “Brownie” Frandsen, **Chris Shea** (Taproot Theatre’s *A Civil War Christmas*) as Alvin Frandsen, **Daniel Stoltenberg** (Taproot Theatre’s *Godspell*) as Auctioneer/Ensemble and **Michael Winters** (Taproot Theatre’s *Evidence of Things Unseen*) as Station Agent/Harold/Ensemble.

The production team includes **Michael Nutting** (Village Theatre’s *String*), Music Director; **Katy Tabb** (Village Theatre’s *Newsies*), Choreographer; **Mark Lund** (Taproot Theatre’s *Persuasion*), Scenic and Sound Design; **Kelly McDonald** (Seattle Public Theatre’s *Vanishing Point*), Costume Design; **Amanda Sweger** (Taproot Theatre’s *Room Service*), Lighting Design; **Marie Morache**, Assistant Director; **Michael Matlock** (Taproot Theatre’s *Persuasion*), Assistant Music Director; **Annie Szeliski**, Stage Manager; **Annika Bennett** (Goodman Theatre’s Dramaturgy Intern), Dramaturg and **Katya Landau** (Book-It Rep’s *Howl’s Moving Castle*), Dialect Coach.

The band includes Michael Matlock as Conductor/Piano, Leah Pogwizd on Bass, Emily Ravenscraft on Violin and Dexter Stevens on Reeds.

Following *Sweet Land, the Musical* is Ken Ludwig's *Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery* playing September 12 – October 20, 2018. Scott Nolte, Taproot's Co-Founder and Producing Artistic Director, will direct.

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 Preview) and after the Midweek Matinee performance on July 17 at 2:00 PM (*limited availability*).

Pay What You Can (PWYC): July 18 at 7:30 PM; a limited number of \$10 tickets are available at noon, tickets may be purchased in person or by phone (card 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.

Senior Matinee: July 17 (*post-play discussion, limited availability*); Our Senior Matinee program provides anyone aged 62 and older with an affordable way to participate in live theatre in convenient daytime performance.

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***SWEET LAND, THE MUSICAL* FACT SHEET**

WHAT: Taproot Theatre Company presents *Sweet Land, the Musical* book by Perrin Post and Laurie Flanigan Hegge, music by Dina Maccabee and 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. 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.

WHEN: July 11 – August 18, 2018 • Wed/Thur, 7:30 PM; Fri/Sat, 8:00 PM; Sat matinee, 2:00 PM

Dates to note:

Previews: July 11 & 12, 7:30 PM

Opening Night: July 13, 8:00 PM

Pay What You Can: July 18, 7:30 PM

Midweek Matinee: July 17 at 2:00 PM (*limited availability, post-play discussion*)

Post-Play Discussions: Wednesday nights following performances, excluding Preview.

There is no evening performance on July 25 due to the Greenwood Seafair Parade, a 7:30 PM performance has been added on July 24.

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

TICKETS: Single tickets are available online at taproottheatre.org, by phone at 206.781.9707 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 previews or specially priced performances). Tickets for the Midweek Matinee are \$20. Discounts are available for groups of 8 or more by visiting taproottheatre.org/group-sales/ or by calling 206.781.9708. Tickets for the PWYC performance are available day-of-show at the Box Office window; contact the Box Office for additional details.

AGE RECOMMENDATION: 12+

CAST (in alphabetical order)

Molli Corcoran	<i>Inge Altenberg</i>
Jenny Cross	<i>Gail/Esther/Ensemble</i>
Eric Dobson	<i>Lars Torvik/Nelson/Ensemble</i>
Hugh Hastings	<i>Pastor Sorenson</i>
Tyler Todd Kimmel	<i>Olaf Torvik</i>
Pam Nolte	<i>Mother/Anna/Ensemble</i>
April Poland	<i>Marta "Brownie" Frandsen</i>
Chris Shea	<i>Alvin Frandsen</i>
Daniel Stoltenberg	<i>Auctioneer/Ensemble</i>
Michael Winters	<i>Station Agent/Harold/Ensemble</i>

MUSICIANS

Michael Matlock	<i>Conductor/Piano</i>
Dexter Stevens	<i>Reeds</i>
Emily Ravenscraft	<i>Violin</i>
Leah Pogwizd	<i>Bass</i>

PRODUCTION

Karen Lund	<i>Director</i>
Michael Nutting	<i>Music Director</i>
Katy Tabb	<i>Choreographer</i>
Mark Lund	<i>Scenic & Sound Design</i>
Kelly McDonald	<i>Costume Design</i>
Amanda Sweger	<i>Lighting Design</i>
Marie Morache	<i>Assistant Director</i>
Michael Matlock	<i>Assistant Musical Director</i>
Annie Szeliski	<i>Stage Manager</i>
Annika Bennett	<i>Dramaturg</i>
Katya Landau	<i>Dialect Coach</i>

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, the Seattle Office of Arts & Culture, Verity Credit Union and the Nesholm Family Foundation.

Sweet Land, the Musical is supported in part by Glenna Kendall, *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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