

Jane Austen's characters come home for the holidays in Taproot Theatre's *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley.*

SEATTLE, WA – August 16, 2018 – The favor of your presence is requested at Taproot Theatre as Jane Austen's beloved characters from *Pride and Prejudice* return for the new romantic holiday treat *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*. This charming new Christmas play by Lauren Gunderson and Margot Melcon can be seen November 21 – December 29 on Taproot Theatre's Jewell Mainstage. Tickets are available 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.

In this witty sequel to Pride and Prejudice, bookish middle-sister Mary pounds her pianoforte alone until a curious visitor drops hints of being her intellectual match. Seizing the opportunity to be the heroine of her own story, Mary pursues her equal. This funny, smart and romantic comedy makes for a most stylish holiday outing.

With the smashing success of 2017's *Persuasion* under her belt, award-winning director Karen Lund (Taproot Theatre's *Sweet Land, the Musical, Lady Windermere's Fan, A Civil War Christmas*) is set to bring another Austen-inspired work to Seattle. Lauded as one of the city's best comedic directors, this new story featuring overlooked middle-sister Mary will be a splendid showcase of Lund's finesse for Taproot's stage and Austen's beloved characters.

The cast includes **Shanna Allman** (Seattle Shakespeare's *The Government Inspector*) as Mary Bennet, **Calder Shilling** (Taproot Theatre's *Silent Sky*) as Arthur de Bourgh, **Hana Lass** (Seattle Rep's *Pride and Prejudice*) as Elizabeth Darcy, **Brian Pucheu** (Village Theatre's *A Proper Place*) as Fitzwilliam Darcy, **Melanie Hampton** (Taproot Theatre's *Lady Windermere's Fan*) as Jane Bingley, **Dimitri Woods** (Book-It Rep's *Welcome to Braggsville*) as Charles Bingley, **Kelly Karcher** (Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre's *Hamlet*) as Lydia Wickham and **Sarah Ware** (Taproot Theatre's *A Charlie Brown Christmas*) as Anne de Bourgh.

The production team includes **Amanda Sweger** (Taproot Theatre's *Evidence of Things Unseen*), scenic design; **Pete Rush** (Intiman/ArtsWest's *Hir*), costume design; **Kent Cubbage** (Taproot Theatre's *Lady Windermere's Fan*), lighting design; **Mark Lund** (Taproot Theatre's *Baskerville*), sound design; **Malie Fujii** (ArtsWest's *An Octoroon*), stage manager and **Tina Polzin** (Taproot Theatre's *Relativity*), 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 28 at 10:30 AM.

Pay What You Can Preview (PWYC): November 21 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 24, 28, 29 and 30; Get in the holiday spirit early by attending these specially discounted performances. Tickets start at \$25.

Intergenerational Matinee: November 28 at 10:30 AM; With \$10 student/chaperone tickets, play guides and a guided post-play discussion, our Intergenerational Matinee enhances student education, providing theatre as a tool and springboard for learning, growth and communication.

Dinner & Show Package: December 5 & 6; Join us for a special evening of dinner and theatre! Dinner starts at 6:00 PM in our Isaac Studio Theatre followed by the performance of *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley* at 7:30 PM in our Jewell Mainstage Theatre. Tickets for December 5 are \$80 per person; tickets for December 6 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 11 & 19 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.

FACT SHEET

WHAT: Taproot Theatre Company produces *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley* this Nov 21 through Dec 29. In this witty sequel to *Pride and Prejudice*, bookish middle-sister Mary pounds her pianoforte alone until a curious visitor drops hints of being her intellectual match. Seizing the opportunity to be the heroine of her own story, Mary pursues her equal. This funny, smart and romantic comedy makes for a most stylish holiday outing.

WHEN: November 21 – December 29, 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 21, 7:30 PM

Opening Night: November 23, 8:00 PM

Early Bird Dates: November 24, 28, 29 & 30

Dinner & Show Package Nights: December 5 & 6, 6:00 PM

Special Tuesday Performance: December 18, 7:30 PM

Midweek Matinees: November 28 at 10:30 AM (with guided post-play discussion), December 11 and December 19 at 2:00 PM

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

There are no shows on Thanksgiving (November 22), 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 available 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 \$25-52, 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

Shanna Allman	<i>Mary Bennet</i>
Calder Shilling	<i>Arthur de Bourgh</i>
Hana Lass	<i>Elizabeth Darcy</i>
Brian Pucheu	<i>Fitzwilliam Darcy</i>
Melanie Hampton	<i>Jane Bingley</i>
Dimitri Woods	<i>Charles Bingley</i>
Kelly Karcher	<i>Lydia Wickham</i>
Sarah Ware	<i>Anne de Bourgh</i>

PRODUCTION

Karen Lund	<i>Director</i>
Amanda Sweger	<i>Scenic Design</i>
Pete Rush	<i>Costume Design</i>
Kent Cabbage	<i>Lighting Design</i>
Mark Lund	<i>Sound Design</i>
Malie Fujii	<i>Stage Manager</i>
Tina Polzin	<i>Dramaturg</i>

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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.

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).

206.781.9705 | taproottheatre.org

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