



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Kill Date: October 23, 2019

**TAPROOT THEATRE COMPANY ANNOUNCES
2019 JEWELL MAINSTAGE SEASON: *FAMILY TIES***

**Highlights include Steve Martin & Edie Brickell's Tony-nominated *Bright Star*,
Ins Choi's award-winning comedy *Kim's Convenience*
and perennial favorite *Arsenic and Old Lace*.**

SEATTLE, WA – October 15, 2018 – Taproot Theatre Company is proud to announce its 2019 Jewell Mainstage Season: *Family Ties*, which includes the American classic ***Arsenic and Old Lace***; ***We Will Not Be Silent***, by David Meyers; the play-turned-television-comedy ***Kim's Convenience*** by Ins Choi; the Drama Desk-, Grammy- and Tony-nominated ***Bright Star***, which is based on Steve Martin and Edie Brickell's Grammy-winning bluegrass album *Love Has Come For You*; and Richard Helleesen's ***Necessary Sacrifices***.

"As we considered the season, one thing that surfaced was the idea of families and how their interactions and relationships inform wider decisions. And in each show, we find families at their connecting or breaking points," said Taproot's Producing Artistic Director, Scott Nolte. "We're tying healing, humor, courage and hope together for a captivating season."

Subscriptions start at \$84 and are available online at taproottheatre.org, by mail or by dropping of a subscription form at the Box Office at 204 N 85th St.

The 2019 Jewell Mainstage Season opens with Joseph Kesselring's killer Broadway comedy ***Arsenic and Old Lace*** (January 23 – March 2, 2019). Pam Nolte (TTC Co-Founder, *Sweet Land, Relativity*) and Kim Morris (Taproot Theatre's *Lady Windermere's Fan, Room Service, Silent Sky*) co-star as the meddling matriarchs under the direction of Marianne Savell (Taproot Theatre's *Lady Windermere's Fan*) in her first solo directing gig on the Jewell Mainstage. The Brewsters are an eccentric bunch: Mortimer's a theatre critic, his brother thinks he's Teddy Roosevelt and Aunts Abby and Martha are the most gracious killers. When Mortimer casually proposes to the pastor's daughter he unwittingly opens the lid on buried family secrets. As strangers and cops keep calling, the Brewster's will go to hilarious lengths to protect the skeletons in the cellar.

After it opened on Broadway in 1941, *Arsenic and Old Lace* ran for more than 1,400 performances. But, it's perhaps best known from the film adaptation that starred Cary Grant as Mortimer Brewster.

We Will Not Be Silent (March 20 – April 27, 2019) is a gripping historical drama based on the true story of an ordinary young woman during the meteoric rise of Nazi Germany. Twenty-one-year-old Sophie Scholl is a college student, anti-Nazi activist and, along with her brother, a member of The White Rose resistance. Charged with treason and held in a German prison, Sophie is forced to play a psychological game of cat and mouse as she fights for her life and soul with a Nazi interrogator. This emotionally charged story testifies to the courage required to live out your values.

Washington Independent Review of Books said, "Questions of faith, honor and courage are not new ones, and [are] more relevant at this time in history than ever before. Intelligence is never boring, and psychological action is the most powerful ballast in a drama of ideas."

The season continues with Canadian playwright Ins Choi's award-winning family comedy, ***Kim's Convenience*** (May 15 – June 22, 2019). Taproot's Producing Artistic Director, Scott Nolte, will co-direct with David Hsieh, of Seattle's ReAct Theatre. Enter *Kim's Convenience* store and meet the Kims, a loving, if imperfect, Korean family making their way in Toronto. As they face an uncertain future Appa (dad), Umma (mom), their unmarried daughter Janet and disappointing son Jung learn to see each other in a new light. This hilarious and heartwarming story reminds us that family isn't always convenient, but it might be the best deal out there.

American audiences may recognize *Kim's Convenience* from the CBC television adaptation that was recently added to Netflix. Choi's play won Best New Play at the 2011 Toronto Fringe Festival, two Toronto Theatre Critics awards in 2012 and subsequently toured Canada from 2013-2016.

In its first Seattle production, Steve Martin and Edie Brickell's time-travelling ***Bright Star*** (July 10 – August 17, 2019) will captivate and charm with its musicality. Steve Martin and Edie Brickell's Under a serene North Carolina sunset, a simple summer romance blossoms into true love. When Alice and Jimmy Ray's parents forbid their union, the young couple are propelled into a daring future. Inspired by a true story, this powerful tale of love and redemption will make your heart soar and your toes tap. Hold on, love is coming home.

Bright Star received nominations for Tony, Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle, Theatre World, Drama League, Fred & Adele Astair and Grammy awards. It won Drama Desk, Theatre World and Outer Critics Circle awards. While the production did not last long on Broadway, its lead Carmen Cusack was praised for her portrayal of the main character.

Necessary Sacrifices (September 18 – October 26, 2019), is the political and personal debate by Richard Hellesten that closes the 2019 Jewell Mainstage Season. Eavesdrop on history as abolitionist and Union recruiter Frederick Douglass challenges his president to act on the statement that "all men are created equal." Glimpse into the hearts and souls of two brilliant Americans as their choices affect not only their sons, but the future of a nation. This battle of ideas is based on documented meetings, public speeches and personal writings.

Commissioned by Ford's Theatre, *Necessary Sacrifices* had its world premiere in 2012.

2019 JEWELL MAINSTAGE SEASON FACT SHEET

WHAT: Taproot Theatre Company announces its five-show 2019 Jewell Mainstage Season: *Family Ties*.

Arsenic and Old Lace

By Joseph Kesselring

Directed by Marianne Savell

January 23 – March 2, 2019

We Will Not Be Silent

By David Meyers

Directed by Scott Nolte
March 20 – April 27, 2019

Kim's Convenience

By Ins Choi
Directed by Scott Nolte & David Hsieh
May 15 – June 22, 2019

Bright Star

Music, Book, & Story by Steve Martin
Music, Lyrics, & Story by Edie Brickell
Directed by Karen Lund
July 10 – August 17, 2019

Necessary Sacrifices

By Richard Hellesten
Directed by Karen Lund
September 18 – October 26, 2019

WHEN: Taproot's 2019 Jewell Mainstage Season begins January 23, 2019 and ends October 26, 2019. 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 2019 Jewell Mainstage Season are available online at taproottheatre.org, by mail or by dropping off a subscription form at the Taproot Theatre Box Office at 204 N 85th St.

SINGLE TICKETS: Single tickets for the 2019 Jewell Mainstage go on sale January 2, 2019.

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

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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
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