

***Arsenic and Old Lace* opens Taproot's 2019 Jewell Mainstage Season**

SEATTLE, WA – October 30, 2018 – Taproot Theatre Company's 2019 Jewell Mainstage Season: *Family Ties* opens with Joseph Kesselring's killer Broadway comedy *Arsenic and Old Lace* (January 23 – March 2, 2019). **Pam Nolte** (TTC Co-Founder, *Sweet Land* and *Relativity*) and **Kim Morris** (Taproot Theatre's *Lady Windermere's Fan*, *Room Service* and *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.

Director Marianne Savell said, "*Arsenic* is the hilarious and smartly written comedy that takes protecting family to a comedic extreme. It's about community, friendship and unconditional love. People love this play and we've put together an incredible ensemble that sparkles with intelligence and comedic ability."

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.

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 Brewsters will go to hilarious lengths to protect the skeletons in the cellar.

Savell's extensive credits most recently include co-directing *Lady Windermere's Fan* at Taproot Theatre and directing *A Long Day's Journey into the Night*, *Yours Isabel*, *King Lear* and *Backstage West* at Actors Co-Op in Hollywood, CA. She also directed *The (Improvvised) Nutcracker*, *Twas the Night Before a Wonderful Christmas* and *Translations* at Taproot.

The cast also includes **Gretchen Douma** (Annex Theatre's *The Changeling*) as Lieutenant Rooney, **David Drummond** (Taproot Theatre's *The God Game*) as Jonathan Brewster, **Stephen Grenley** (Taproot Theatre's *Jeeves Intervenes*) as Teddy Brewster, **Bill Johns** (Taproot Theatre's *Room Service*) as Dr. Harper/Mr. Gibbs/Mr. Witherspoon, **Elizabeth Keck** (Taproot Theatre's *Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery*) as Elaine Harper, **Tyler Todd Kimmel** (Taproot Theatre's *Sweet Land*) as Officer O'Hara, **Kristen Natalia** (Taproot Theatre's *Crowns*) as Officer Brophy, **Nolan Palmer** (Taproot's *The Trial of Ebenezer Scrooge*) as Dr. Einstein, **Kevin Pitman** (Taproot Theatre's *Camping with Henry and Tom*) as Officer Klein and **Richard Nguyen Sloniker** (Taproot Theatre's *Lady Windermere's Fan*) as Mortimer Brewster.

Arsenic and Old Lace is followed by David Meyers' *We Will Not Be Silent*, a deadly game of cat and mouse between Sophie Scholl and a Nazi interrogator. Based on the true story, this drama plays March 20 – April 27, 2019.

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 performances on January 29 at 2:00 PM and February 27 at 2:00 PM.

Pay What You Can (PWYC): January 30 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 Matinees: January 29 (*post-play discussion, limited availability*) & February 27 (*post-play discussion*) at 2:00 PM; Our Senior Matinee program provides anyone aged 62 and older with an affordable way to participate in live theatre in convenient daytime performance.

Intergenerational Matinee: February 6 (*guided post-play discussion*) 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.

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ARSENIC AND OLD LACE FACT SHEET

WHAT: Taproot Theatre Company presents Joseph Kesselring's *Arsenic and Old Lace*. 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 Brewsters will go to hilarious lengths to protect the skeletons in the cellar.

WHEN: January 23 – March 2, 2019 • Wed/Thur, 7:30 PM; Fri/Sat, 8:00 PM; Sat matinee, 2:00 PM

Dates to note:

Previews: January 23 & 24, 7:30 PM

Opening Night: January 25, 8:00 PM

Pay What You Can: January 30, 7:30 PM

Midweek Matinees: January 29 at 2:00 PM (*limited availability, post-play discussion*), February 6 at 10:30 AM (*guided post-play discussion*) and February 27 at 2:00 PM (*post-play discussion*).

Post-Play Discussions: Wednesday nights (excluding Preview) following performances and after all Midweek Matinees.

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)

Gretchen Douma	<i>Lieutenant Rooney</i>
David Drummond*	<i>Jonathan Brewster</i>
Stephen Grenley	<i>Teddy Brewster</i>
Bill Johns	<i>Dr. Harper/Mr. Gibbs/Mr. Witherspoon</i>
Elizabeth Keck	<i>Elaine Harper</i>
Tyler Todd Kimmel	<i>Officer O'Hara</i>
Kim Morris	<i>Abby Brewster</i>
Kristen Natalia	<i>Officer Brophy</i>
Pam Nolte	<i>Martha Brewster</i>
Nolan Palmer	<i>Dr. Einstein</i>
Kevin Pitman	<i>Officer Klein</i>
Richard Nguyen Sloniker*	<i>Mortimer Brewster</i>

PRODUCTION

Marianne Savell	<i>Director</i>
Jocelyne Fowler	<i>Costume Design</i>
Tim Wratten	<i>Lighting Design</i>
Mark Lund	<i>Scenic & Sound Design</i>
Julianna Brei-Crawley*	<i>Stage Manager</i>
Baylie Heims	<i>Dramaturg</i>
Dimitri Woods	<i>Dialect Coach</i>

**Member of the Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.*

PHOTOS: Press photos for *Arsenic and Old Lace* are available at <http://taproottheatre.org/for-the-press> > Jewell Mainstage Theatre > Arsenic and Old Lace. *This link is not to be published.*

PR: Isaiah Custer, Communications Manager, 206, 529.3666, isaiahc@taproottheatre.org

Support for Taproot Theatre Company's 2019 Jewell Mainstage Season is generously provided by 4Culture, ArtsFund, the Seattle Office of Arts & Culture and Verity Credit Union.

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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