



BETWEEN THE LINES

Taproot Theatre Company's
Subscriber Newsletter
Volume 27, Issue 2

BOX OFFICE INFORMATION

Phone:
206.781.9707

Email:
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Box Office Hours:
Tuesday - Saturday,
Noon - 5 pm

*On performance days,
the box office phone
is answered until
30 minutes
prior to show time.*

**Tickets always
available online at
taproottheatre.org**

**Young activist challenges Nazis in
We Will Not Be Silent at Taproot Theatre**

"Questions of faith, honor and courage are not new ones, and 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." — Washington Independent Review of Books

Based on a true story of faith and moral courage, David Meyers' *We Will Not Be Silent* finds Sophie Scholl fighting for her life against a fascist regime. **Scott Nolte**, Taproot Theatre's Producing Artistic Director directs this historical drama.

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 Gestapo interrogator. This emotionally charged story testifies to the courage that is sometimes required to live out your values.

The cast features **Amy Helms** (Asolo Repertory Theatre's *Rhinoceros*) as Sophie Scholl, **Jonathan Stutzman** (ACT Theatre's *A Christmas Carol*) as Kurt Grunwald and **Ben Wippel** (Taproot Theatre's *A Charlie Brown Christmas*) as Hans Scholl.

Following David Meyer's *We Will Not Be Silent* is *Kim's Convenience* by Ins Choi. The comedy-turned-television-sitcom is open for business May 15 – June 22, 2019.

PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

Previews: March 20 & 21 at 7:30pm | **Opening:** March 22 at 8:00pm
Running: March 20 - April 27 | **PWYC:** March 27 at 7:30pm

Show Times: Wed & Thur, 7:30 pm; Fri & Sat, 8:00 pm; Sat Matinee, 2:00 pm

Running Time: Approximately 90 minutes with no intermission

We Will Not Be Silent is recommended for ages 15 and above.
Children under 5 are never admitted.

Thank you to our 2019 Jewell Mainstage Season Supporters!

The Sheri and Les
BILLER FAMILY FOUNDATION

**Associate Artistic
Sponsor**



Actor Spotlight: Amy Helms Returns To Her Theatrical Home.



Amy Helms makes her Jewell Mainstage debut Sophie Scholl in *We Will Not Be Silent*.

My Favorite Things:

Rehearsal Snack:

Chex mix and a piece of fruit.

Hiding Spot:

The drama section of bookstores (I can disappear there for hours!)

Drink:

Diet Coke

Book:

Jane Eyre

TV Show:

Great British Bake Off

This is your first Jewell Mainstage production, but you're no stranger to Taproot. Tell us a bit about your history with Taproot.

I grew up at Taproot, from attending mainstage shows and seeing the touring company at school to taking classes and performing with Taproot's Acting Studio. My earliest acting memory was in a summer camp at Taproot: I was the White Dog in *Brown Bear, Brown Bear!* Taproot Theatre is definitely my home theatre and holds a very special place in my heart.

What was the first thing you did when you found out you got the role?

I jumped up and down and screamed a little! My parents were out of the country so I sent them a text and then called my brother. I had to tell my family!

How do you prepare for such an emotionally demanding role?

I give myself a lot of grace! On the most basic level: there's a lot of text to memorize! Trying to get words to stick in your brain can be a long and frustrating process so giving yourself grace, and knowing when to take a break, is key! This role is very emotional and Sophie is struggling with a lot: fear, doubt, courage and right and wrong. In order to embody those things, I go through a very specific process of relaxing and opening myself up so I can live this story truthfully. I also acknowledge to myself, that I am willing to feel each of those emotions—this helps me fully engage with each emotion as I'm telling Sophie's story.

What is one thing people may not know about Sophie or her family?

This is my favorite description of the White Rose's leadership: Hans is the leader of the White Rose and Sophie is heart of the White Rose. Another fact that I love: Sophie asked to receive the same punishment as Hans. She believed that she should be held just as responsible for their actions as him.

What do you hope patrons are thinking after they see the show?

I hope that walk out of the theatre reflecting on how Sophie's courage can inspire courage in their lives. It might be something large or it might be something small, but I hope patrons are inspired to have the courage to assess their own lives and to take action!

Taproot is exploring *Family Ties* this year, how does family affect your character?

Sophie was very close to her family. They were the ones who encouraged her to think critically and stand up for what she believed. In fact, Sophie first became critical of the Nazi regime during Hans' first arrest. All of her siblings were arrested while the police were looking for Hans and the injustice of that arrest started Sophie down her path of resistance. Family gave Sophie the strong foundation that supported her as she followed her convictions.

What's the best piece of advice you've ever received, theatrical or otherwise?

The best piece of advice I've ever received was this: "Don't be afraid to excel." No matter what you're doing, give it your best and don't be afraid to strive for excellence!

Raised Voices

TAPROOT THEATRE

CONVERSATIONS

Raised Voices: A Conversations Series at Taproot Theatre Company

We Will Not Be Silent examines the story of Sophie Scholl, a young woman who raised her voice in protest against the Nazi regime in the 1940s. Scholl's story is a remarkable tale of courage, but it's important to remember that history is full of heroes like Sophie—ordinary people who raised their voices to protest injustice and who paid a cost for speaking out.

Taproot Theatre is excited to partner with the Church Council of Greater Seattle and The Sheri and Les Biller Family Foundation to present *Raised Voices*—a series of events celebrating the stories of Seattle activists who are speaking into specific areas of injustice in our city.

Raised Voices is a chance to learn, a chance to share and a chance to put real faces onto issues that are all too often impersonalized in the news. Join us!

Monday, March 25 Raised Voices: The Power of Youth Activism

Location: Taproot's Isaac Studio 7pm-10pm

Discussion Moderator: **Pastor Ruby Varghese**, *Youth & College Ministries, Quest Church*

This kick-off event for the *Raised Voices* will feature a panel of local youth activists and representatives from various youth organizations in Seattle. Reception will follow directly after the event. Doors open at 6:30pm. Event is free, but space is limited.

Thursday, March 28 Raised Voices: Homelessness

Location: Taproot's Jewell Mainstage Theatre.

Discussion Moderator: **Rev. David Bloom**, *Inter-Faith Taskforce on Homelessness*

Event begins directly after the performance of *We Will Not Be Silent*.

Thursday, April 4 Raised Voices: Immigration

Location: Taproot's Jewell Mainstage Theatre.

Discussion Moderator: **Michael Ramos**, *Executive Director, Church Council of Greater Seattle*

Event begins directly after the performance of *We Will Not Be Silent*.

Thursday, April 11 Raised Voices: Environmental Justice

Location: Taproot's Jewell Mainstage Theatre.

Discussion Moderator: **Beth Amsbury**, *Philanthropy Manager, Church Council of Greater Seattle*

Event begins directly after the performance of *We Will Not Be Silent*.

Thursday, April 25 Raised Voices: Racism & White Privilege

Location: Taproot's Jewell Mainstage Theatre.

Discussion Moderator: **Michael Ramos**, *Executive Director, Church Council of Greater Seattle*

Event begins directly after the performance of *We Will Not Be Silent*.

To learn more about these *Conversations* visit taproottheatre.org/we-will-not-be-silent

Production Spotlight: Resident Dramaturg, Sonja Lowe Explains it All



Taproot Theatre's resident dramaturg, Sonja Lowe.

My Favorite Things:

Rehearsal Snack:

Dove Dark Chocolates

Hiding Spot:

In the Jewell Mainstage Theatre, in the upstairs lobby, on the floor, in the corner, underneath the dramaturgy board, with a book, during lunchtime.

Drink:

Stash Double Spice Chai Tea

Book:

Whatever is on my Kindle at the moment

TV Show:

Doctor Who

Podcast:

Not really a podcast listener, but I like TedTalks.

Can you give a brief explanation of a dramaturg's duties?

I often describe dramaturgs as the librarians of the theatre. A rehearsal dramaturg does research regarding the time period and the historical setting of the play in order to help the artistic team create a believable world for the audience. Dramaturgs spend a lot of time thinking about the "whys" of storytelling. Why did a playwright choose to tell this story at that time? And why is this story relevant to our audience in our time?

You've helped develop new scripts for Taproot like *Dracula* and *Persuasion*; how is your role as dramaturg different for *We Will Not Be Silent*?

When developing a new play, like *Dracula* or *Persuasion*, in addition to regular historical research, you're also providing feedback to the playwright about changes in the script that might help to tell the story better.

A dramaturg's job in these situations is to understand the playwright's vision for the story as clearly as possible and then serve as a kind of editor—giving feedback about changes in dialogue or scenes that will help keep the story clear and communicate the playwright's vision more effectively. But, the true test of good storytelling always comes when you get in front of an audience. Neither the playwright nor the dramaturg can know for sure what's working in a script until they hear an audience respond to it. In the case of both *Dracula* and *Persuasion*, the playwrights learned a lot from the Taproot audiences' response. In both cases, the playwrights wrote changes into their scripts after the original Taproot production.

We Will Not Be Silent is a new script, but the process is different because Taproot is not the first production of this show. So, the playwright, David Meyers has already learned a lot about what works and what doesn't from previous audiences in Boston, Florida, West Virginia, etc. He has already made some significant changes to the first production draft of his script and now he's focusing on smaller edits—changing a few words here and there to make sure the story is clear.

What do you hope patrons are thinking after they see the show?

I hope that patrons walk out of the theatre thinking about small actions that can have a big impact. On the surface of Sophie Scholl's story, it seems like six anonymous leaflets isn't much when going up against the power of the Nazi regime. But those words had impact and continue to have impact. Too often, I allow myself to be apathetic in the face of injustice because, "What difference can I make?" I forget that resistance against injustice is rarely about one big dramatic action. It's much more often a series of small actions; a continuous choosing of resistance.

If someone was interested in dramaturgy work, how would you suggest they start?

Give yourself a test research project. Pick a script set in a historical time period set in a place you are not familiar with, read through it and write down all the things that you think an actor would need to know in order to understand this story. What questions would you be asking if you had to perform a role in this play? Then do some research to try and answer some of those questions. If you discover that this project was really fun for you, then you might enjoy being a rehearsal dramaturg! You should contact a dramaturg and take them out to coffee and ask them about their work. You can email me at Taproot anytime.

Now Playing in the Isaac Studio: *Always... Patsy Cline* | Mar 14 - Apr 6

Playing in the
Isaac Studio
Theatre!



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**Cayman Ilika and Kate Jaeger star in
Always... Patsy Cline
in Taproot's Isaac Studio**

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Cayman Ilika (5th Avenue Theatre's *Kiss Me, Kate; Annie*) and **Kate Jaeger** (Taproot Theatre's *Persuasion*, Village Theatre's Beta Series ZM) star as Patsy Cline and Louise Seger, respectively, in *Always... Patsy Cline*. This musical tribute features over 25 songs, including hits like "Walkin' After Midnight," "I Fall to Pieces" and "Crazy."

Taproot Theatre's Associate Artistic Director, **Karen Lund** (Taproot Theatre's *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*), directs this big-hearted tale of love and loss.

The Bodacious Bobcats Band includes **Claire Marx**, piano/conductor; **Olivia D. Hamilton**, bass; **Jesse Whitford**, percussion; **Justin S. Davis**, electric guitar and **Dave Harmonson**, pedal steel.

The production team includes **Julia Thornton**, music director; **Brynne McKeen**, costume design; **Kent Cabbage**, lighting design; **Mark Lund**, scenic and sound design; **Abigail Pishaw**, stage manager; **José Samuel Clair**, dramaturg and **Alyssa Keene**, dialect coach.

PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

Running: March 14 - April 6

PWYC Preview: March 14 at 7:30pm | **Opening:** March 15 at 8:00pm

Show Times: Wed & Thu, 7:30 pm; Fri & Sat, 8:00 pm; Sat Matinee, 2:00 pm

Running Time: 1 hour & 45 minutes, including one 15-minute intermission.

Always... Patsy Cline is recommended for ages 12 and above.
Children under 5 are never admitted.

Subscriber Discount:
\$7 off per ticket.
Discount not available online.

**All seating in the Isaac
Studio Theatre is General
Admission. There are no
reserved seats.**

Actor Spotlight: Regional favorite Cayman Ilika stars in *Always... Patsy Cline*



Cayman Ilika plays Patsy Cline in *Always... Patsy Cline* in Taproot Theatre's Isaac Studio.

My Favorite Things:

Rehearsal Snack:
Chocolate!

Hiding Spot:
My bathtub.

Patsy Outfit:
Her old cowgirl outfits were pretty amazing. The thing I'm most excited to wear this time around is the wig by Dennis Milam Bencie! For me, the right hair really helps me drop into a character - and Dennis has done an incredible job bringing Patsy's hair to life.

Karaoke Song:
Patsy's version of *Crazy*.

Book:
The Harry Potter series, *The Guernsey Literary* and *Potato Peel Pie Society*, *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *The Crimson Petal and the White*, anything by David Sedaris, Roald Dahl, or Jane Austen.

Can you share a favorite memory from your time in *Persuasion*?

Persuasion was an exceptional experience for me in a number of ways. It was exciting to get to originate the role of Anne Elliot and to immerse myself in one of my favorite novels. I loved Chris Jeffries' dreamy score and the masterful way Harold Taw adapted the book. Karen Lund is such a smart, creative, inclusive, and supportive director. The cast was comprised of many of my favorite actors and humans in Seattle. It really couldn't have been better. My favorite thing about the experience was being reunited with Kate. I have loved her and been in awe of her array of talents ever since we met in 2008 - the first time we did *Always... Patsy Cline*. Getting to spend the entire summer with her was an absolute blast. She is one of the kindest, funniest, smartest, most fiercely loyal people I've ever known. I love her so much!

What most people may not know is that you asked Taproot to produce this show. Why did you pick Taproot?

People who saw the production of *Always... Patsy Cline* we did at Centerstage in 2008 and 2009 have been asking us to remount it since the day we closed. We're not producers ourselves, so we didn't really have the power to make that happen on our own. During *Persuasion*'s rehearsal process, Karen expressed that Taproot was looking for small musicals that might be right for their stage and audience. "THIS IS OUR CHANCE," I thought! It's a show that really lends itself to an intimate space (like the one here). With the audience so close, we get to invite them to feel like they're really there with Louise and Patsy. We loved Karen both as a human being and as a director, so it felt like destiny. We also believed it would be mutually beneficial. Kate and I would have a really fun job, and Taproot would have a super fun show that really brings in an audience.

It's been 10 years since you last performed these roles, do you think your portrayals of the characters will change?

It's hard to say. In the ten years that have passed, I know I have learned a lot about my voice and have grown as an actor. Hopefully, the decade of life experiences I've gained will make my performance richer and more nuanced. Also, Kate and I have now been friends for a full decade - so our chemistry will be even more palpable and authentic.

What song do you feel the strongest connection to?

Revisiting the score in rehearsal, I find myself saying "This is my favorite song!" pretty much every time I turn the page. The most fun songs for me are *Three Cigarettes in an Ashtray*, *Come On In* and *Lovesick Blues*. The most emotionally satisfying songs for me are *You Belong to Me*, *Sweet Dreams* and *Faded Love*. I love a good ballad, and Patsy sure sang a lot of them.

What makes this musical special?

It's a story that celebrates how art can connect people. I think most people have a fantasy of meeting and befriending their favorite singer, actor, author, etc. Louise's experience is the ultimate fulfillment of that fantasy. It's such a joyful show - and Patsy's music is divine. I think it's impossible to leave the theatre without a smile on your face.

What's the best piece of advice you've ever received, theatrical or otherwise?

Be kind. Be present. Don't be afraid to ask for the things you need. Hydrate.

2019 Subscriber Rewards Discounts



American Dance Institute — NEW THIS YEAR!

8001 Greenwood Ave N, Seattle, WA 98103 | americandanceinstitute.com

Discount: \$40 registration fee will be waived when you show your Subscriber Rewards Card at any of our three locations in Greenwood, Magnolia and Shoreline.

Dance classes taught with an emphasis on technique, sensitivity and respect.

Additional locations: Magnolia – 3116 W Smith St & Shoreline – 1240 NE 175th St



The Cookie Counter

7415 Greenwood Ave N, Seattle, WA 98103 | seattlecookiecounter.com

Discount: 2 for 1 cookie when using your Subscriber Rewards Card.

We are a small batch bakery and ice creamery offering traditional and nostalgic flavors, with something for everyone! We have a full espresso bar, featuring Cafe Mam Espresso and Taglewood Chai. Open until 10pm, Wednesday – Saturday.



Flying Bike Cooperative Brewery

8570 Greenwood Ave N, Seattle, WA 98103 | flyingbike.coop

Discount: \$1 off your first beer when you show your rewards card and a ticket stub from a recent show at Taproot Theatre.

Flying Bike is Washington's first co-op brewery! We strive to ensure our tasting room and delicious brews are accessible to all. We're also a Cooperative which means we are owned by our members (100%!). Co-op member also gets you some great deals, and once you're a member it lasts for life — come be a part of this great community!



Greenwood Vision

133 N 85th St, Seattle, WA 98103 | greenwoodoptical.com

Discount: 10% off on glasses or contacts when you mention code TPG019.

An optical office providing exams, contact lenses and eyewear.



Hounds Tooth Public House

8551 Greenwood Ave N, Seattle, WA 98103 | houndstoothpublic.com

Discount: 10% off all purchases when using your Subscriber Rewards Card.

Consider Hounds Tooth Public House the next time you want to really feel at home at a Greenwood venue! A sports/pinball bar with a rock and roll edge. Great food, awesome staff, cool music and good times are a guarantee. Weekly pinball tournament Wednesday, Thursday Trivia and sports all day, every day.



Ladywell's Vitality Spa & Sauna

8538 1st Ave NW, Seattle, WA 98177 | ladywellspa.com

Discount: 10% off entry when you present your Subscriber Rewards Card.

We are a woman's hydrotherapy facility. We have three different heated tubs, (a hot tub, tepid tub, and a cold plunge) and three different heated saunas, (A steam room, Cedar Sauna, and a Pink Himalayan infrared salt room).

2019 Subscriber Rewards Discounts



Luna Azul Latin Cuisine — NEW THIS YEAR!

8552 1/2 Greenwood Ave N, Seattle, WA 98103 | lunaazulseattle.com

Discount: 10% off when you use your Subscriber Rewards Card.

Cheery, no-frills taqueria dishes out tacos, salsas, enchiladas and other basic Mexican eats.



Luso Food and Wine

8218 Greenwood Ave N, Seattle, WA 98103 | lusoseattle.com

Discount: Special pricing when you show your Subscriber Rewards Card.

(Wine Tasting: \$10 Wed – Sat, 3 PM - 6 PM; 2 white, 2 red and 2 fortified wines. Lunch: Two menu items for \$10, Fri - Sat 11 AM - 3 PM. Dinner: One item on the menu for \$12, Wed – Thurs 6 PM - 9 PM.)

A small corner of Portugal in the heart of Greenwood! Welcoming everyone to experience some tranquil time over a glass of wine and some delicious food.



Modern Japanese Cuisine

6108 Phinney Ave N, Seattle, WA 98103 | modern-seattle.com

Discount: 10% off both lunch and dinner when you present your Subscriber Rewards Card. (No discount on happy hour items.)

We are a Japanese cuisine and desserts restaurant. We serve Japanese comfort food, sushi, curry, noodle, desserts, sake and beer.



The Olive and Grape

8516 Greenwood Ave N, Seattle, WA 98103 | theoliveandgrape.com

Discount: 10% discount off your bill when you present your Subscriber Rewards Card.

Traditional Italian and Turkish Grill.



Seatown Veterinary Care

8542 1st Ave NW, Seattle, WA 98117 | seatownvet.com

Discount: Show your Subscriber Rewards Card and receive 10% off on all professional services. (Does not include lab work or prescriptions/OTC products).

We are a state of the art, full service veterinary clinic located in the heart of Greenwood. We offer exams, surgical and dental services, as well as a full suite of in house and send out diagnostic capabilities. On site specialist consults also available on a limited basis.



Truffle Queen — NEW THIS YEAR!

1524 Pike Place Seattle, WA 98101 | trufflequeen.com

Discount: \$8 Wine Tasting and \$5 Pours. (Normally \$10 each.)

Gourmet specialty foods and wine located in the Pike Place Market.