

## 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*

**SEATTLE, WA** – January 23, 2019 – 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, will direct 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.*

Tickets are available online at [taproottheatre.org](http://taproottheatre.org), by phone 206.781.9707 (Tue-Sat, noon-5:00 PM) or in person at 204 N 85<sup>th</sup> St. Discounts are available for groups of 8 or more by calling 206.781.9708 or by visiting [taproottheatre.org/group-sales](http://taproottheatre.org/group-sales).

The cast features **Amy Helms** (Asolo Repertory Theatre's *Rhinoceros*) as Sophie Scholl, **Jon 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.

### SPECIAL DATES FOR THE AUDIENCE

#### **Raised Voices: A CONVERSATIONS Series**

*We Will Not Be Silent* is a play that explores the reasons behind protest and the motivations of those who decide to speak out. Taproot Theatre is excited to host a series of discussions following select Thursday performances of *We Will Not Be Silent* on March 28, April 4, 11 and 25. These events are open to the public and will begin immediately following the performance of *We Will Not Be Silent* at 204 N 85<sup>th</sup> St. This Raised Voices series is sponsored by the Church Council of Greater Seattle and The Sheri and Les Biller Family Foundation.

#### **Monday, March 25, 7:00-10:00 PM – Raised Voices: *The Power of Youth Activism***

This kick-off event for the *Raised Voices* series will be moderated by **Pastor Ruby Varghese**, Youth & College Ministries at Quest Church. The panelists include **Amina**

**Dawud** (Artist & Activist, *Art of Resistance & Resilience at Franklin High School*), **Chloe Rubin** (Activist & Commissioner, *Seattle Youth Commission*) and **Aurelio Valdez** (Artist & Activist, *Facilitator for Youth Rising with Northwest Folklife*). A reception will follow directly after the event. Doors open at 6:30 PM. The event is free, but space is limited. Tickets are available online at [taproottheatre.org](http://taproottheatre.org).

**Thursday, March 28 – Raised Voices: *Homelessness***

Discussion Moderator: Sonja Lowe, *Resident Dramaturg, Taproot Theatre Company*

Speakers: Jennifer Adams, *Case Manager, Bridge Care Center*, Rex Holbein, *Founder & Creative Director, Facing Homelessness*

This event is open to the public, tickets are not required.

**Thursday, April 4 – Raised Voices: *Immigration***

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

Speakers: TBA

This event is open to the public, tickets are not required.

**Thursday, April 11 – Raised Voices: *Environmental Justice***

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

Speakers: TBA

This event is open to the public, tickets are not required.

**Thursday, April 25 – Raised Voices: *Racism & White Privilege***

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

Speakers: TBA

This event is open to the public, tickets are not required.

**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 March 26 and April 17 at 2:00 PM and April 3 at 10:30 AM.

**Pay What You Can (PWYC):** March 27 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:** March 26 (*post-play discussion*) & April 17 (*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:** April 3 (*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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## **WE WILL NOT BE SILENT FACT SHEET**

**WHAT:** Taproot Theatre Company presents David Meyer's *We Will Not Be Silent*. A college student resisting the Nazi regime fights for her life and soul in a German prison.

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 that is sometimes required to live out your values.

**WHEN:** March 20 – April 27, 2019 • Wed/Thur, 7:30 PM; Fri/Sat, 8:00 PM; Sat matinee, 2:00 PM

*Dates to note:*

Previews: March 20 & 21, 7:30 PM

Opening Night: March 22, 8:00 PM

Pay What You Can: March 27, 7:30 PM

Midweek Matinees: March 26 at 2:00 PM (*limited availability, post-play discussion*), April 3 at 10:30 AM (guided post-play discussion) and April 17 at 2:00 PM (post-play discussion).

CONVERSATIONS: March 28, April 4, April 11 & April 25 following performances

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

**WHERE:** Taproot Theatre Company's Jewell Mainstage Theatre, 204 N 85<sup>th</sup> St, Seattle, WA 98103

**TICKETS:** Tickets are available online at [taproottheatre.org](http://taproottheatre.org), by phone 206.781.9707 (Tue-Sat, noon-5:00 PM) or in person at 204 N 85<sup>th</sup> St. Discounts are available for groups of 8 or more by calling 206.781.9708 or by visiting [taproottheatre.org/group-sales](http://taproottheatre.org/group-sales).

**AGE RECOMMENDATION:** 15+, for intense sequences of interrogation

### **CAST** (in alphabetical order)

Amy Helms	<i>Sophie Scholl</i>
Jonathan Stutzman	<i>Kurt Grunwald</i>
Ben Wippel	<i>Hans Scholl</i>

### **PRODUCTION**

Scott Nolte	<i>Director</i>
Kelly McDonald	<i>Costume Design</i>
Kent Cabbage	<i>Lighting Design</i>
Mark Lund	<i>Scenic &amp; Sound Design</i>
Maria Gray	<i>Stage Manager</i>
Sonja Lowe	<i>Dramaturg</i>
Ben Wippel	<i>Dialect Coach</i>

**PHOTOS:** Press photos are available online at <http://taproottheatre.org/for-the-press/> > Jewell Mainstage Theatre > *We Will Not Be Silent*. (*This link is not to be published.*)

**PR:** Isaiah Custer, Communications Manager, 206, 529.3666, [isaiahc@taproottheatre.org](mailto: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.

*We Will Not Be Silent* is sponsored in part by:

John and Ann Collier, *Producing Artistic Sponsors*

The Sheri and Les Biller Family Foundation, *Associate 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 85<sup>th</sup> St | Seattle, WA 98103  
206.781.9705 | [taproottheatre.org](http://taproottheatre.org)