



## BETWEEN the LINES

Taproot Theatre Company's  
Subscription Newsletter  
Volume 25, Issue 3

### BOX OFFICE INFORMATION

206.781.9707

[box@taproottheatre.org](mailto:box@taproottheatre.org)

**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](http://taproottheatre.org)**

Following  
***Busman's Honeymoon***  
on the Jewell Mainstage is  
***Persuasion.***

A world premiere  
musical adaptation of  
Jane Austen's final novel,  
playing July 12 – August 19.



### **A Dorothy L. Sayers Murder Mystery**

"Speaking for his lordship and myself,  
we are accustomed to corpses."

Newlyweds Lord Peter Wimsey and Harriet Vane discover a body in the basement of their country honeymoon hideaway – murder or accident? Alibi or lie? While the supporting cast of characters complicate this confusing case, Peter and Harriet must decide if the pursuit of truth outweighs the pursuit of happiness.

**Scott Nolte**, Taproot Theatre's Producing Artistic Director, will direct these beloved literary characters. He most recently directed the world premieres of *Evidence of Things Unseen*, *Dracula* and *This Christmas*. His other recent work at TTC includes *The Trial of Ebenezer Scrooge*, *Joyful Noise* and *Best of Enemies*.

The cast includes **Terry Edward Moore** (Thalia's Umbrella's *A Lesson From Aloes*), **Alyson Scadron Branner** (*Gaudy Night*), **Jenny Cross** (*Illyria*), **Reginald Jackson** (Seattle Shakespeare Company's *The Winter's Tale*), **Nolan Palmer** (*The Trial of Ebenezer Scrooge*), **Pam Nolte** (*Joyful Noise*), **Robert Gallaher** (*The Trial of Ebenezer Scrooge*), **Keith Dahlgren** (Wooden O's *The Comedy of Errors*), **Kevin Pitman** (*Joyful Noise*), **Brad Walker** (*A Charlie Brown Christmas*) and **Frank Lawler** (*Joyful Noise*).

The production team includes **Sarah Burch Gordon** (*The Trial of Ebenezer Scrooge*), costume design; **Timothy Wratten** (*The God Game*), lighting design; **Mark Lund** (*Room Service*), scenic & sound design; **Sara Keats** (*Joyful Noise*), dramaturg; and **Michelle Rodriguez** (*The Realization of Emily Linder*), stage manager.

### PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

**Previews:**  
May 17 & 18 at 7:30pm

**Opening:**  
May 19 at 8:00pm

**Running:**  
May 17 - June 24

**PWYC:**  
May 24 at 7:30pm

**Show Times:**  
Wednesday & Thursday,  
7:30 pm  
Friday & Saturday,  
8:00 pm  
Saturday Matinee,  
2:00 pm

**Approximate  
Running Time:**  
2 hours and 30 minutes  
with one 15 minute  
intermission

***Busman's Honeymoon***  
is recommended for ages  
12 and up.  
Children under 5 are  
never admitted.

Thank you to our 2017 Jewell Mainstage Season Supporters!



NESHOLM FAMILY  
FOUNDATION

## Actor Spotlight: an interview with Terry Edward Moore



**Terry Edward Moore**  
plays Lord Peter Wimsey  
in *Busman's Honeymoon*.

### **What sorts of plays interest you the most?**

I love plays that have both complex characters and complex, chewy language.

### **Why did you decide to become an actor?**

It was the one thing (and I mean the ONE thing!) that my older brother couldn't do to save his life. And it's good training for sainthood. In the last act of Thornton Wilder's *Our Town*, Emily famously asks, "Does anyone ever realize life while they live it...every, every minute?" To which the Stage Manager replies, "No. Saints and poets maybe...they do some." On stage, I can do that for whole seconds at a time...

### **What is the most interesting show you've seen recently?**

I loved the first season of *Broadchurch*, on BBC. Beautifully acted and directed a lovely look at how a mysterious death affects a whole community.

### **What's your favorite mystery book, play, TV show or movie?**

I'm very fond of Laurie King's Sherlock Holmes/Mary Russell novels. I'm a bit of a Sherlock snob, and these are the only (new) novels that I think get him right—and they're great fun.

### **What is the most challenging part of being an actor?**

#### **What is the most fulfilling?**

The most challenging part is being (figuratively) naked onstage. We spend most of our lives carefully building up deflectors and defenses to keep people from seeing our inner selves... but to do this job properly, we need to learn to strip that all away: "This is what it's like to be (a part of) me." The most fulfilling is when an audience, through laughter or (better yet) silence, says, "Yes, that's what it's like to be me, too."

### **What advice would you give an aspiring actor?**

Do as much theater as you can. See as much as you can. Find some good, rigorous training. Never be satisfied.

### **What interests you the most about *Busman's Honeymoon*?**

The relationship between Peter and Harriet. They've spent books and books being clever with each other; here (in addition to being clever), they have to learn to be intimate. It's lovely to watch—and challenging to do.

### **What is it like returning to this show after several years?**

When I first reread it, I thought that I didn't remember a thing. But the more we've worked on it, I'm conscious that many of the discoveries are re-discoveries. It's wonderfully appropriate that the only other returning cast member from that production is Nolan Palmer, who played (and plays) Peter's valet, Bunter. Since Peter's relationship with Bunter is the twenty-years-long constant in the books, I love revisiting and reinvesting that with Nolan. But it's also great to have all the new energy from the other actors—and to fall in love with a new Harriet!

### **Do you have any interesting memories from the original production you would like to share?**

We dyed my hair blond for that production—and for many years my driver's license picture was startlingly blond. This time they're planning a wig...probably because I have less hair to dye.

### **Having played both Lord Peter Wimsey and Sherlock Holmes twice at Taproot, how would you compare their characters and their styles of deduction?**

Sherlock is more methodical—I can't imagine Lord Peter publishing a study of 140 kinds of tobacco ash, or making an inventory of the various kinds of soil found throughout London, as Sherlock did. But both base their deductions on a relentless attention to detail, and both have a profound intuition about human behavior.

## Actor Spotlight: an interview with Terry Edward Moore

Sherlock is also more monomaniacal—his only recreations being music or (tellingly, when work is too slow) cocaine. Lord Peter has a variety of other interests—and a better sense of humor—which perhaps give him a little more breadth.

**You have had a prolific theatrical career, including many shows here at Taproot. What would you say is the highlight of your career so far?**

That's like asking which is my favorite child.

**What is one thing people probably don't know about you?**

Like Sherlock, my avocation is playing music—though in my case, the cello.

**What inspires you?**

My wife, my kids, a beautiful piece of music, a sunny day... but mostly, walking into a rehearsal room with a good script in my hand, and a handful of fine artists to play with and dig deep with. It doesn't get better than that.

**Where's your favorite place to go in Seattle?**

Besides that rehearsal room? I love both Carkeek Park, in northwest Seattle—sky, sea, beach (and for added excitement, the occasional train!)—and Benaroya Hall, which is like sitting inside a giant cello. How's that for two extremes?

**Is there anything else you would like to say?**

(Re)read the Lord Peter books. They're great fun!



Karen Lund and Terry Edward Moore celebrate the Opening Night of *Busman's Honeymoon* with a wedding cake in 1998.

## A One Night Only Event In the Isaac Studio

# Peace Concert

A Ghost Light Project

[theghostlightproject.com](http://theghostlightproject.com)

In Taproot Theatre Company's Isaac Studio Theatre

212 N 85<sup>th</sup> St, Seattle, WA 98103

Monday, May 22 at 7:30 PM

*Peace Concert, a Ghost Light Project*, is a free, non-partisan, curated event featuring local music, spoken word and other creative art forms. The goal of this concert is to offer a creative peaceful demonstration along with practical resources which can encourage positive change. The theme of this event is immigration.

A donation will be asked for in support of participating organizations.

Featuring music by A Total Fiasco; opera by Molli Corcoran; songs by Bethanie Russell, Chelsea LeValley, Shana Bestock, Asha Stitcher, Sarah Deiner, Lydia Hayes; gospel music by Rev. Kelle Brown; music and folk tales by Ben Hunter; comedy by Troy Mink; jazz guitar by Gordon Tibbetts; stories by Hana Lass and Adham Smadi; poetry by Lama Chikh; a special prayer for peace by the lamas of Sakya Monastery and a group number led by Tyler Kimmel.

City of Seattle Deputy Mayor Hyeok Kim will start off the event with a word about Seattle's status as a Sanctuary City.

Organizations represented include World Vision, World Concern, One Cup Coffee Co., Seattle Rotary Club, The John Perkins Center for Leadership & Reconciliation and El Centro de la Raza.



## Returning to the Scene of the Crime



**Scott Nolte**  
Taproot Co-Founder and  
Producing Artistic Director

### **Busman's Honeymoon: Then and Now**

Scott Nolte, Taproot Theatre's Producing Artistic Director, has long been a fan Dorothy L. Sayers' detective novels, having discovered them many years ago, in Taproot's early days, while the company was on tour in Canada. Sayers (1893 - 1957), a prolific author and theologian, wrote twelve mystery novels and several short stories which featured her brilliant detective protagonist, Lord Peter Wimsey. Nolte originally produced and directed Sayers' Lord Peter Wimsey murder mystery *Busman's Honeymoon* as a part of Taproot's 1998 season and is excited to have the play returning to the Jewell Mainstage again this season.

"The Wimsey stories are fun and smart," Nolte said, "Sayers' insights into humanity and into British society, the enticement of solving the crime and the humor of the characters make her stories a great reading experience."

As an enthusiast of the Lord Peter detective series, Nolte had been aware of the novel *Busman's Honeymoon*, in which Wimsey solves a murder while on honeymoon with his new bride, mystery writer Harriet

Vane; but when Nolte found out that Sayers had originally written the story as a play, he was certain he wanted to produce the dashing detective's story as a part of Taproot's 1998 season. However, when he began to inquire about the production rights for the script, he discovered that he would need to do some sleuthing of his own in order to bring the show to Taproot's stage.

While the play *Busman's Honeymoon* had been well received when it debuted in London in 1936, the script had very few additional productions after Dorothy L. Sayers had adapted the script into a novel for the Wimsey mystery book series in 1937. The play had been written as an attempt by Sayers and her colleague M. St. Clare Byrne to write a fair-play detective story for the stage. According to Sayers, in a fair-play detective story "every clue must be shown at the same time to the public and to the detective, so that both have an equal chance to solve the problem. The public must not be told the secret of the crime beforehand; nor must the detective acquire any private information which he does not immediately impart to the public."

The fair-play rule can create some interesting challenges when staging a play that are different from the writing of a novel. A detective novel relies on the author's descriptions and explanations of what is going on, whereas a play depends on what the audience can experience for themselves as they observe the action on stage. Therefore, in the case of *Busman's Honeymoon*, it is only fair that the murder weapon be onstage and in plain sight from the very beginning, thus enabling the audience to have a fair chance at solving the puzzle.

At first, when Nolte tried to reserve the production rights from Dramatist's Play Services in order to produce the play for Taproot's 1998 season, he discovered that the script was out of print. It would seem that the success of Sayers' adaptation of the story into a novel had actually

**"*Busman's Honeymoon* was a  
delight to work on in 1998."**

**-- Scott Nolte**

## Returning to the Scene of the Crime

doomed the play version to relative obscurity. Nevertheless, the publishers were kind enough to send a Xeroxed copy for him to use and Taproot was eventually able to produce the show.

“We’re working from photocopies of a photocopy of the original 1937 script; there are no published actor-formatted scripts available,” Nolte said, “there are also no other contemporary productions that we can refer to and glean staging insights from. We’re on our own!”

Although there are now newer stage adaptations of select Sayers’ novels being adapted by other playwrights, (such as the script Taproot used for its 2012 production of Sayers’ *Gaudy Night*), *Busman’s Honeymoon* has the unique distinction of being the only Lord Peter play-script penned by Sayers herself.

“*Busman’s Honeymoon* was a delight to work on in 1998,” Nolte said. “We did *Gaudy Night* a few years ago, in which Harriet Vane accepts Lord Peter Wimsey’s proposal to marry. It seemed especially opportune to join them on their honeymoon by revisiting this play.”

So what’s it like to return to a project like this after so long? “I’m conscious of a déjà vu feeling,” Nolte said. “It’s a bit of a reunion with the characters, the story - and we’re staging it in the same performance space.”

Another part of that reunion is the return of Taproot’s original Lord Peter Wimsey, veteran actor Terry Edward Moore.

“Terry’s great fun to work with,” Nolte said. “And he’s also a huge fan of Sayers’ Lord Peter Wimsey novels and short stories. Our loyalty to the *Busman’s Honeymoon* story and characters is strong, coupled with our understanding of the differences between reading a novel and performing it live, onstage.”

“We don’t want to simply replicate what we did in 1998. Since it’s been 19 years since we last did this play, we’re building on more theatre experience and accommodating a new cast, and we have resources and skills that have grown since then.”



Terry Edward Moore and Alyson Scadron Branner in *Busman’s Honeymoon* at Taproot Theatre (2017). Photo by Erik Stuhaug.



Terry Edward Moore and Karen Lund in *Busman’s Honeymoon* at Taproot Theatre (1998). Photo by John Ulman.

## Box Office Debuts Patron Manager Software

Hey Subscriber!

Yes, you've seen this article already this year - but we think it's worth mentioning again. We're four months in to working with our new ticketing software and we have learned a lot about how it works! That said, you could still help us by following these helpful tips:



- If you receive anything with outdated information, please let us know and we will be happy to update it.
- Our Box Office staff may be a little slower with processing your order than normal:
  - **When calling the Box Office**, please start by giving us your name and then tell us what you would like to do. The new program organizes information by individual first rather than by show dates and times like our old system.
    - **If you are using a flex pass, day pass, gift certificate or gift card**, please let us know before placing your ticket order as this will greatly expedite the process.
    - Remember, exchanges can be made via email when exchanging to a performance of equal or lesser value. Your Subscriber Packet has additional details about exchanges.
    - When purchasing single tickets, please note that because Patron Manager is a cloud-based system, for your security the program will not save previously used credit cards. So, please have your card number ready when ordering.

Thank you for supporting Taproot Theatre!

We're excited to continue serving you throughout the rest our 2017 Season!

## Stay Healthy This Spring With These Subscriber Rewards Partners!



### Greenwood Vision

133 N 85th St, Seattle, WA 98103

[greenwoodoptical.com](http://greenwoodoptical.com) | 206.783.2050

**Discount: 10% off on glasses or contacts when you mention code TPG017.**

An optical office providing exams, contact lenses and eyewear.



### Heal with Wendy, Inc

2319 N 45th St, Suite 305, Seattle, WA 98103

[healwithwendy.com](http://healwithwendy.com) | 206.355.8069

**Discount: Show your Subscriber Rewards Card and receive 10% off treatment services through-out the year. Not valid with packages.**

Providing stress relief for over 20 years, Wendy takes genuine interest in being a pain detective. Board Certified as both an Acupuncturist and Massage Therapist, she also provides cutting edge treatments in Neural Reset Therapy ([neuralreset.net](http://neuralreset.net)). Collaborative in her style, Wendy will work to provide you healthcare services that are specifically designed to your situation. Treating what is present on any given day, she delights in assisting anyone toward optimal performance, health and wellbeing goals.



**LADYWELL'S**  
VITALITY SPA & SAUNA

### Ladywell's Vitality Spa & Sauna

8538 1st Ave NW, Seattle, WA 98177

[ladywells.com](http://ladywells.com) | 206.420.7923

**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).