

Taproot Theatre opens 2024 Mainstage Season celebrating Shakespeare's legacy and the 400th anniversary of his First Folio with *The Book of Will*

Lauren Gunderson's witty and surprisingly modern story of friendship and the First Folio runs January 24 – February 24, 2024

OPENING JANUARY 26, 2024 7:30PM – Runs January 24 – February 24, 2024 •
Wed/Thur/Fri/Sat, 7:30 PM; Sat matinee, 2:00 PM

SEATTLE, WA – December 13, 2023 – Kicking off Taproot Theatre's 2024 Jewell Mainstage Season this winter is Lauren Gunderson's *The Book of Will*, a witty, irreverent, and surprisingly modern tale of how Shakespeare's friends preserved his theatrical legacy and made his First Folio happen 400 years ago. Directed by Taproot's Producing Artistic Director, Karen Lund, the show opens on January 26, 2024 and runs through February 24, 2024.

An unforgettable true story! In an act of undying devotion, Shakespeare's best friends race to do the impossible: Publish every play he wrote. This irreverent, witty, and surprisingly modern tale celebrates friendship, found family, and an unselfish act that changed the world forever. From the author of Silent Sky and the Christmas at Pemberley series.

Karen Lund directs **Chris Clark, William Eames, Nik Doner, Melanie Godsey, Llysa Holland, Reginald André Jackson, Eric Jensen, Andrew Litzky, Nolan Palmer, and Nikki Visel. Zandi Carlson, Mark Kuntz, Joe Moore, and Jeff Allen Pierce** understudy.

Tickets to *The Book of Will* are available online at taproottheatre.org, by phone at 206.781.9707 (Tue-Sat, noon-5:00 PM), or in person at 204 N 85th St. Ticket prices range from \$25-62 with discounts available for students, seniors, active military, 25 & Under and TeenTix members. Accessible ticket prices are also available on TodayTix. Discounts are also available for groups of 8 or more by calling 206.781.9708 or by visiting taproottheatre.org/group-sales.

SPECIAL DATES FOR THE AUDIENCE

Pay What You Can (PWYC): January 31 at 7:30 PM; regular-priced tickets available in advance, \$10 tickets offered starting at noon day of show, and pay-what-you-can pricing in-person at 5:00 PM day of show.

Senior Matinees: January 30 and February 14 at 2:00 PM; Taproot's Senior Matinee program provides anyone aged 62 and older with an affordable way to participate in live theatre in a convenient daytime performance. Performance features a post-play discussion, immediately following the show.

Intergenerational Matinee: January 31 at 10:30 AM; With \$10 student/chaperone tickets, printed educational play guides, and a guided post-play discussion, our Intergenerational Matinees enhance student education, providing theatre as a tool and springboard for learning, growth and communication. Senior ticket price: \$20.

THE BOOK OF WILL FACT SHEET

WHAT: Taproot Theatre Company presents *The Book of Will* by Lauren Gunderson. An unforgettable true story! In an act of undying devotion, Shakespeare's best friends race to do the impossible: Publish every play he wrote. This irreverent, witty, and surprisingly modern tale celebrates friendship, found family, and an unselfish act that changed the world forever. From the author of *Silent Sky* and the *Christmas at Pemberley* series.

WHEN: January 24 – February 24, 2024 • Wed/Thur/Fri/Sat, 7:30 PM; Sat matinee, 2:00 PM

Dates to note:

Previews: January 24 & 25, 7:30 PM

Opening Night: January 26, 7:30 PM

Pay What You Can: January 31, 7:30 PM

Midweek Matinees: January 30 and February 14 at 2:00 PM, January 31 at 10:30 AM (*limited availability*)

WHERE: Taproot Theatre Company's Jewell Mainstage Theatre, 204 N 85th St, Seattle, WA 98103

TICKETS: Tickets to *The Book of Will* are available online at taproottheatre.org, by phone at 206.781.9707 (Tue-Sat, noon-5:00 PM), or in person at 204 N 85th St. Ticket prices range from \$25-62 with discounts available for students, seniors, active military, 25 & Under and TeenTix members. Accessible ticket prices are also available on TodayTix. Discounts are also available for groups of 8 or more by calling 206.781.9708 or by visiting taproottheatre.org/group-sales.

AGE RECOMMENDATION: 14+

CAST:

<i>Henry Condell</i>	Reginald André Jackson *
<i>John Heminges</i>	Eric Jensen *
<i>Richard Burbage/ William Jaggard/ Horatio</i>	Nolan Palmer
<i>Elizabeth Condell/ Emilia Bassano Lanier/ Fruit Seller/ Marcellus</i>	Nikki Visel
<i>Rebecca Heminges/ Anne Hathaway Shakespeare</i>	Llysa Holland
<i>Ralph Crane/ Barman/ Compositor/ Francisco</i>	Andrew Litzky
<i>Alice Heminges/ Susannah Shakespeare</i>	Melanie Godsey

*Ed Knight/ Isaac Jaggard
Marcus/ Boy Hamlet/ Crier/ Bernardo
Ben Johnson/ Barman 2/ Sir Edward
Dering*

Chris Clark
William Eames
Nik Doner

UNDERSTUDIES:

*Marcus/ Boy Hamlet/ Crier/ Bernardo/
Ed Knight/ Isaac Jaggard u/s*

Joe Moore

*John Heminges/Richard Burbage/
William Jaggard/ Horatio/Ben Johnson/
Barman 2/ Sir Edward Dering u/s*

Mark Kuntz

*Henry Condell, Ralph Crane/ Barman/
Compositor/ Francisco u/s*

Jeff Allen Pierce

*Elizabeth Condell/ Emilia Bassano
Lanier/Fruit Seller/ Marcellus/ Rebecca
Heminges/ Anne Hathaway
Shakespeare/ Alice Heminges/
Susannah Shakespeare u/s*

Zandi Carlson

PRODUCTION (FULL LIST COMING SOON):

Director

Karen Lund

Assistant Director

TBA

Scenic & Sound Design

Mark Lund

Costume Design

Nanette Acosta

Lighting Design

Michael Wellborn

Stage Manager

Kathryn Louise *

Dialect Coach

TBA

Dramaturg

Dami Munroe

* AEA

PHOTOS: Press photos will soon be available online at <https://taproottheatre.org/for-the-press/>
(Jewell Mainstage Theatre → *Book of Will* (link not to be published))

PR: Daytona Danielsen, Communications Manager, 206.529.3666,
daytonad@taproottheatre.org

Supported in part by: Taproot Theatre Company is generously supported by Artsfund;
4Culture; Office of Arts & Culture; ArtsWA; NEA; Ellis, Li & McKinstry; Green Trails Maps; Janus
Apartments; Piper Village; and Period Corsets.

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 tells stories of hope, serving the Pacific Northwest through live theatre and educational programs. Taproot Theatre Company is a member of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), Theatre Puget Sound (TPS) and Phinney Ridge Neighborhood Association (PNA).

Karen Lund, *Producing Artistic Director*
204 N 85th St | Seattle, WA 98103

206.781.9705 | taproottheatre.org

###