

Taproot Theatre presents Marx Brothers comedy *Room Service*

SEATTLE, WA – February 3, 2017 – Taproot Theatre Company will open its 2017 Jewell Mainstage Season with the comedy *Room Service*, by John Murray and Allen Boretz, and directed by Associate Artistic Director Karen Lund. *Room Service* was popularized by the Marx Brothers film of the same name that came out in 1938. Single tickets are on sale online at www.taproottheatre.org, by phone at 206.781.9707 or in person at 204 N 85th St. Group tickets are available for groups of 8 or more by calling 206.781.9708 or by visiting www.taproottheatre.org/group-sales/.

Madcap mishaps and little lies take on lives of their own as a theatrical troupe chases their dream of Broadway. Or Off-Broadway. Make that Off-Off-Broadway. Laugh yourself silly with this hit comedy that inspired a Marx Brothers classic.

Lund is TTC's Associate Artistic Director of 24 years and has most recently helmed *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, *Cotton Patch Gospel*, *Silent Sky* and *Godspell*. She is currently serving as the President of the Board of Directors for Theatre Puget Sound.

The cast includes **Laura Lee Caudill** (Ghostlight Theatricals' *Chorestia*) as Hilda Manney, **Eric Hampton** (*Mark of Immediacy*) as Faker Englund, **Melanie Hampton** (*Dracula*) as Christine Marlowe, **Erwin Galán** (Sound Theatre Company's *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*) as Gordon Miller, **Bill Johns** (*The Explorers Club*) as Sasha Smirnoff/Dr. Glass/Bank Messenger/Senator Blake, **Kim Morris** (*Silent Sky*) as Sylvia Jenkins/Thelma Hogarth, **Christopher Morson** (*A Charlie Brown Christmas*) as Leo Davis, **Mike Spee** (*Godspell*) as Joseph Gribble, **Daniel Stoltenberg** (*The Trial of Ebenezer Scrooge*) as Harry Binion and **Nikki Visel** (*The God Game*) as Gladys Wagner.

The production team includes **Mark Lund** (*The Trial of Ebenezer Scrooge*), scenic/sound design; **Nanette Acosta** (*Joyful Noise*), costume design; **Amanda Sweger** (*Silent Sky*), lighting design; **Abigail Pishaw** (*A Charlie Brown Christmas*), stage manager; **Andrea Spraycar** (*Joyful Noise*), props master; **Baylie Heims** (*Cotton Patch Gospel*), dramaturg; and **Benjamin Wippel** (*Big Fish*), dialect coach.

Following *Room Service* is the World Premiere production of Katie Forgette's *Evidence of Things Unseen* on Taproot Theatre's Jewell Mainstage. The drama will star Michael Winters (*Gilmore Girls*), Jenny Vaughn Hall (TTC's *Best of Enemies*), Christine Marie Brown (Village Theatre's *Mary Poppins*) and Chip Wood (Sound Theatre Company's *Parade*). Single tickets for this production are on sale; the drama will run March 29 - April 29, 2017.

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 and after the Midweek Matinee performances on February 15 at 10:00am and February 7 (*limited availability*) at 2:00pm.

Pay-What-You-Can (PWYC): February 8 at 7:30pm; a limited number of \$10 tickets are available at noon, tickets may be purchased in person or by phone. Beginning at 5:00pm, 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.

Valentine's Day Performance: A performance has been added on Tuesday, February 14 at 7:30pm.

Intergenerational Matinee: February 15 at 10:00am (with post-play discussion); 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.

Senior Matinees: February 7 (with post-play discussion, *limited availability*) & March 1 at 2:00pm; Our Senior Matinee program provides anyone aged 62 and older with an affordable way to participate in live theatre in convenient daytime performance.

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WHAT: Taproot Theatre opens its 2017 Jewell Mainstage Season with the comedy *Room Service*, by John Murray and Allen Boretz. Madcap mishaps and little lies take on lives of their own as a theatrical troupe chases their dream of Broadway. Or Off-Broadway. Make that Off-Off-Broadway. Laugh yourself silly with this hit comedy that inspired a Marx Brothers classic.

WHEN: February 1 – March 4, 2017 • Wed/Thur, 7:30 pm; Fri/Sat, 8:00 pm; Sat matinee, 2:00 pm

Dates to note:

Previews: February 1 & 2, 7:30 pm

Opening night: February 3, 8:00 pm

Pay What You Can: February 8, 7:30 pm

Midweek Matinees: February 15 at 10:00am (with guided post-play discussion), February 7 (with post-play discussion) at 2:00pm and March 1 at 2:00pm.

Post-play Discussions: Wednesday nights following performances

One Tuesday evening performance will be held on February 14 at 7:30pm.

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

TICKETS: Single tickets are on sale online at www.taproottheatre.org, by phone at 206.781.9707 or in person at 204 N 85th St. Tickets range from \$27-47, 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 Matinees are \$20 and cannot be purchased online. Discounts are available for groups of 8 or more by visiting www.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 details.

AGE RECOMMENDATION: 12 & up

PHOTOS: Press photos for *Room Service* are available at <http://taproottheatre.org/press-photos-for-room-service/>. Password: press2017. (This link and password are not to be published.)

CAST (in alphabetical order)

Laura Lee Caudill	<i>Hilda Manney</i>
Erwin Galán	<i>Gordon Miller</i>
Eric Hampton	<i>Faker Englund</i>
Melanie Hampton	<i>Christine Marlowe</i>
Bill Johns	<i>Sasha Smirnoff/Dr. Glass/Bank Messenger/Senator Blake</i>
Kim Morris	<i>Sylvia Jenkins/Thelma Hogarth</i>
Christopher Morson	<i>Leo Davis</i>
Mike Spee	<i>Joseph Gribble</i>
Daniel Stoltenberg	<i>Harry Binion</i>
Nikki Visel	<i>Gladys Wagner</i>

PRODUCTION CREW

Karen Lund	<i>Director</i>
Mark Lund	<i>Scenic & Sound Design</i>
Amanda Sweger	<i>Lighting Design</i>
Nanette Acosta	<i>Costume Design</i>
Andrea Spraycar	<i>Props Master</i>
Abigail Pishaw	<i>Stage Manager</i>
Baylie Heims	<i>Dramaturg</i>
Benjamin Wippel	<i>Dialect Coach</i>

PR: Isaiah Custer, Communications Manager, 206.529.3666, isaiahc@taproottheatre.org

Support for Taproot Theatre Company's 2017 Jewell Mainstage Season is generously provided by 4Culture, ArtsFund and The Seattle Office of Arts & Culture.

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 85th St | Seattle, WA 98103
206.781.9705 | taproottheatre.org

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