

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**DICKENS' CHRISTMAS CLASSIC GETS A COMEDIC TWIST IN TAPROOT THEATRE'S PRODUCTION OF
THE FARNDALE AVENUE HOUSING ESTATE TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD
DRAMATIC SOCIETY'S PRODUCTION OF A CHRISTMAS CAROL**

Anything that Can Happen *Does* in this Play-Within-A-Play Rooted in a Popular British Series

SEATTLE – October 25, 2007 – 'Tis the season for *A Christmas Carol*, like you've never seen it before. Starting November 16, Taproot Theatre Company presents *The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society's Production of A Christmas Carol* by David McGillivray and Walter Zerlin Jr, a hilarious play-within-a-play adaptation of the beloved Dickens classic. TTC's Producing Artistic Director Scott Nolte directs this comedy about a fictional amateur drama group that stumbles in its attempts to bring to life on stage Scrooge, Tiny Tim, and the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Future, and Present. Actors run late, botch their lines, and argue while trying to perform – but the show goes on in all of its festive, comedic glory.

The Farndale Ave/A Christmas Carol runs from November 21 through December 29 with previews on November 16 and 17, plus a special Pay What You Can performance on November 21, and a senior matinee on November 28. In addition, Taproot Theatre offers Dinner & Theatre packages on November 29 and December 5 and 6. There are no performances on Thanksgiving (November 22) or Christmas (December 25).

The Farndale Ave/A Christmas Carol is sponsored in part by Viking Bank and KUOW. Taproot Theatre's 2007 Season partners include 4Culture, ArtsFund, Washington State Arts Commission, KUOW, and PONCHO.

About the Production

The ladies of the Farndale Dramatic Society are the creations of David McGillivray and Walter Zerlin Jr, who have made a franchise out of the amateur drama group and its comedic ineptitude. The playwrights introduced the characters at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in the mid-1970s with *The*

Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society's Production of Macbeth. The ladies also attempted murder mystery, sci-fi, and other productions before giving *A Christmas Carol* the Farndale touch in the 1980s.

This play-within-a-play will get audience members in the mood for the holiday season with festive decorations, music, and a familiar story told with a creative twist. Whether the costumes clash or the ladies of the Farndale Dramatic Society deliver their lines clumsily, it's all intentional by the production staff and cast members of Taproot Theatre, who are precisely planning the best ways to convey the ineptitude of the characters.

"The show is a bit of a comic train-wreck," says director Scott Nolte. "We, the audience, know how the story should unfold, but in the hands of the Farndale ladies' dramatic guild absolutely anything is possible and subject to a laughable outcome. The cast's challenge is to remember the serious commitment the ladies feel toward telling this famous story, even as it goes awry."

The cast of Taproot Theatre's production of *The Farndale Ave/A Christmas Carol* features Larry Albert as Gordon, Alyson S. Branner as Thelma, Lorrie Fargo as Mercedes, Shellie Shulkin as Mrs. Reece, and Bethany Wallace as Felicity. The production team includes sound and scenic designer Mark Lund, costume designer Sarah Gordon, and lighting designer Jody Briggs. Kate Parker serves as stage manager and Judy Naegeli as dramaturg.

About Taproot Theatre

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 Mainstage Productions, Touring Productions and Acting Studio. Taproot exists to create theatre that explores the beauty and questions of life while bringing hope to our search for meaning. Taproot Theatre Company is a member of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), Theatre Puget Sound (TPS), and the Greenwood-Phinney Chamber of Commerce.

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***The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild
Dramatic Society's Production of A Christmas Carol*** FACT SHEET

WHAT: *The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society's Production of A Christmas Carol*, by David McGillivray and Walter Zerlin Jr. Directed by Scott Nolte.

WHEN: Wednesday, November 21, through Saturday, December 29, with previews November 16 and 17. Pay What You Can Performance November 21. Opening Night with Reception on November 23. Senior matinee on November 28. Additional performance on Tuesday, December 18. No performances on Thanksgiving or Christmas.

WHERE: Taproot Theatre, 204 N. 85th Street in Seattle.

TICKETS: Weekday evenings and Saturday matinees, \$26-28; Friday and Saturday evenings, \$30-33; Friday and Saturday previews, \$20-22; Student/Senior discount of \$2 off per ticket; Dinner & Theatre Packages are available November 29 and December 5 & 6 for \$52. Group rates are available. For tickets contact Taproot Theatre's box office at (206) 781-9707 or box@taproottheatre.org, or call Ticketmaster at (206) 292-ARTS.

Tickets for the Pay What You Can (PWYC) performance on November 21 go on sale at 5:00 p.m. day of show at the box office. Tickets for the senior matinee on November 28 are \$15-19. Call (206) 781-9707. For groups of 8 or more, call (206) 781-9708.

Children 10 and above are recommended for this production. Under 5 are not admitted.

SCHEDULE: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 7:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday 8:00 p.m., Saturday matinee 2:00 p.m., Senior matinee 2:00 p.m.

CALENDAR:

Fri.	Nov 16	8:00 p.m.	Preview
Sat.	Nov 17	8:00 p.m.	Preview
Wed.	Nov 21	7:30 p.m.	PWYC Performance, Post-Play Discussion
Thurs.	Nov 22	N/A	No Performance, Thanksgiving Day
Fri.	Nov 23	8:00 p.m.	Opening Night with Reception
Sat.	Nov. 24	2:00 p.m.	
Sat.	Nov. 24	8:00 p.m.	
Wed.	Nov. 28	2:00 p.m.	Senior Matinee
Wed.	Nov. 28	7:30 p.m.	Post-Play Discussion
Thurs.	Nov. 29	7:30 p.m.	Dinner & Theatre Package available
Fri.	Nov. 30	8:00 p.m.	
Sat.	Dec. 1	2:00 p.m.	
Sat.	Dec. 1	8:00 p.m.	
Wed.	Dec. 5	7:30 p.m.	Post-Play Discussion, Dinner & Theatre Package available
Thurs.	Dec. 6	7:30 p.m.	Dinner & Theatre Package available
Fri.	Dec. 7	8:00 p.m.	
Sat.	Dec. 8	2:00 p.m.	
Sat.	Dec. 8	8:00 p.m.	

Wed.	Dec. 12	7:30 p.m.	Post-Play Discussion
Thurs.	Dec. 13	7:30 p.m.	
Fri.	Dec. 14	8:00 p.m.	
Sat.	Dec. 15	2:00 p.m.	
Sat.	Dec. 15`	8:00 p.m.	
Tues.	Dec. 18	7:30 p.m.	Post-Play Discussion
Wed.	Dec. 19	7:30 p.m.	
Thurs.	Dec. 20	7:30 p.m.	
Fri.	Dec. 21	8:00 p.m.	
Sat.	Dec. 22	2:00 p.m.	
Sat.	Dec. 22	8:00 p.m.	
Wed.	Dec. 26	7:30 p.m.	Post-Play Discussion
Thurs.	Dec. 27	7:30 p.m.	
Fri.	Dec. 28	8:00 p.m.	
Sat.	Dec. 29	2:00 p.m.	Closing Night
Sat.	Dec. 29	8:00 p.m.	

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