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**TAPROOT THEATRE COMPANY CONTINUES ITS 30th ANNIVERSARY SEASON
WITH *THE FOREIGNER* BY LARRY SHUE**

Taproot Theatre Company continues its 30th Anniversary Season, "A Season to Celebrate" with Larry Shue's hilarious comedy, *The Foreigner*. A fishing lodge in rural Georgia provides a needed holiday for Charlie, a weary British gentleman. The plan for solitude turns simply hilarious when his friend introduces him as an exotic foreigner. Soon, Charlie is in over his head when Southern locals dish up mysterious schemes with hysterical and unexpected results. This 1996 favorite returns to the Taproot stage for our 30th Anniversary Celebration. *The Foreigner* runs May 19 through June 17. All performances are held at Taproot Theatre at 204 N. 85th Street in Seattle. *The Foreigner* is sponsored in part by Viking Bank and Jeff Kyle Agency. Taproot Theatre's 2006 Season partners include ArtsFund, 4 Culture, KUOW, Nesholm Family Foundation, The Seattle Foundation, and The Charles Simonyi Fund for Arts and Sciences.

A shy, self-deprecating man, Charlie Baker, sees his personal life headed down the drain. When his friend "Froggy" is assigned to military training in Georgia, he talks Charlie into coming along and puts him up at a quiet fishing lodge. But a house full of strangers is the last thing Charlie had in mind. Froggy comes up with a seemingly brilliant plan to pass Charlie off as an exotic foreigner who doesn't speak English. Hilarity ensues as the locals attempt to show this new foreigner some southern hospitality.

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The Foreigner was first produced by Taproot Theatre in 1996 to critical acclaim. The 2006 revival is produced under the direction of Associate Artistic Director, Karen Lund. Her production team includes scenic and sound designer Mark Lund, costume designer Sarah Burch Gordon, lighting designer Jody Briggs and properties designer Charity Parenzini. Rebecca Patterson serves as stage manager and Sonja G. Lowe as dramaturg.

The cast of *The Foreigner* features Jason Adkins as Owen Musser, Don Brady as “Froggy” LeSueur, Matthew Edwards as Ellard Simms, Darrell Olson as Rev. David Marshall Lee, and Nikki Visel as Catherine Simms. Scott Nolte and Kim Morris reprise their roles as Charlie Baker and Betty Meeks from Taproot’s 1996 production.

“...everything a feel good summer comedy should be...the light comedy of the summer...” The Stranger (1996).

The Foreigner opens Friday, May 19 and runs Wednesday through Saturday through June 17. Low cost previews are offered Wednesday, May 17 and Thursday, May 18. Midweek performances begin at 7:30 PM, Saturday matinees at 2:00 PM and Friday and Saturday evenings at 8:00 PM. There is a special pay-what-you-can performance on Wednesday, May 24. Tickets for that performance go on sale the day of performance at noon at Taproot Theatre’s box office. A dessert reception with the cast and director follows the opening night performance on Friday, May 19. Post-play discussions follow all Wednesday evening performances except the preview.

Tickets for *The Foreigner* are \$23 - \$25 for midweek performances and Saturday matinees, and \$27 - \$30 for Friday and Saturday night performances. Wednesday and Thursday preview performances are \$19 –

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\$21. Individuals 25 or under can purchase \$15 tickets to all performances with photo ID. Full-time students and seniors receive a \$2 discount off all general tickets. Half-price student/senior rush tickets are available fifteen minutes prior to performance, subject to availability. Group discounts are available for parties of eight or more. Tickets may be ordered by phone by calling the TTC box office at (206) 781-9707 or Ticketmaster at (206) 292-ARTS.

One of Larry Shue's most highly produced comedies; *The Foreigner* premiered at Milwaukee Repertory Theatre in 1983 and ran for nearly 2 years off-Broadway at Astor Place Theatre. Shue played the supporting role of "Froggy" LeSeuer in this successful production. The play received two 1985 Obie Awards for Direction by Jerry Zaks and Performance by Anthony Heald and two Outer Critics Circle Awards for Best New American Play and Best Off-Broadway Production.

As playwright-in-residence at the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre Larry Shue premiered *The Foreigner* and *The Nerd* which became his most highly produced comedies. Shue graduated cum laude from Illinois Wesleyan University and served in the Army during Vietnam before starting a career as a playwright and actor. His other plays include *Grandma Duck is Dead*, *My Emperor's New Clothes* and *Wenceslas Square*. As an actor his short film appearances include *A Common Confusion*, *Another Town* and *The Land of the Blind: or The Hungry Leaves*, and feature film appearance in *Sweet Liberty*. He was also seen in the television series *One Life to Live*. Shue was killed in a plane crash in September 1985, just after the successful off-Broadway run of *The Foreigner*.

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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TAPROOT THEATRE FACT SHEET

WHAT: *The Foreigner* by Larry Shue. Directed by Karen Lund.

WHEN: Previews May 17 and 18. Opens May 19 and then runs Wednesday through Saturday through June 17.

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

TICKETS: Wednesday and Thursday evenings and Saturday matinees, \$23 and \$25; Friday and Saturday evenings, \$27 and \$30; Wednesday and Thursday previews, \$19 and \$21; Student/Senior discount of \$2 off per ticket. Tickets are \$15 for individuals 25 and under. Group rates are available.

SCHEDULE: Wednesday and Thursday 7:30 PM, Friday and Saturday 8:00 PM, Saturday Matinee 2:00 PM

CALENDAR:

Wed.	May 17	7:30 PM	Preview
Thurs.	May 18	7:30 PM	Preview
Fri.	May 19	8:00 PM	Opening Night with Reception
Sat.	May 20	2:00 PM	
Sat.	May 20	8:00 PM	
Wed.	May 24	7:30 PM	Pay What You Can, Post play discussion
Thurs.	May 25	7:30 PM	
Fri.	May 26	8:00 PM	
Sat.	May 27	2:00 PM	
Sat.	May 27	8:00 PM	
Wed.	May 31	7:30 PM	Post play discussion
Thurs.	June 1	7:30 PM	
Fri.	June 2	8:00 PM	
Sat.	June 3	2:00 PM	
Sat.	June 3	8:00 PM	
Wed.	June 7	7:30 PM	Post play discussion
Thurs.	June 8	7:30 PM	
Fri.	June 9	8:00 PM	
Sat.	June 10	2:00 PM	
Sat.	June 10	8:00 PM	
Wed.	June 14	7:30 PM	Post play discussion
Thurs.	June 15	7:30 PM	
Fri.	June 16	8:00 PM	
Sat.	June 17	2:00 PM	
Sat.	June 17	8:00 PM	Closing Night

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