

PRESS RELEASE
Chicago, IL, January 5, 2010
Media passes, photographs, videos, interviews and additional materials are available on request.

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Lifeline Theatre Presents "The Blue Shadow"
A World Premiere Family Musical by Nambi E. Kelley
Adaptation of World Folktales Opens March 14
- Newly Published Book Available Only at Lifeline -

WHAT: Lifeline Theatre KidSeries presents the world premiere musical based on global folktales, "**The Blue Shadow**," written by Nambi E. Kelley, music and lyrics by Joe Plummer, and directed by Ilesa Duncan. A Native American girl named Shadow feels blue because she knows nothing of her heritage. When she brings her neighbors together to share their friendship and storytelling traditions, Shadow learns to embrace who she is, and to celebrate the beauty of all cultures. Explore a whole world of mythology – including African, Chinese, Mayan and Russian traditions – in this new musical filled with folklore, laughter and dancing. The production, appropriate for children ages 5-10 (and their families), runs about one hour with no intermission.

Kelley's original book, "**The Blue Shadow**," with illustrations by Kirk Anderson, will be available at Lifeline only. Kelley and Anderson will attend the March 14, 2010, opening from 12 noon-1 p.m. for a meet-and-greet and book signing (this pre-show event is free). In the lobby, books will be on sale for \$15, and the cast recording CD is \$10.

Also list: **Stories Come Alive! "The Blue Shadow"** will be presented for free on Saturday, February 27, 2010, 3-4 p.m., at Rogers Park Library, 6907 N. Clark St., in Chicago. Lifeline actors will read the folktales upon which "**The Blue Shadow**" is based, and play drama games with children aged 5-8 (parents welcome too). Further information at 773-761-4477.

WHERE: Lifeline Theatre, 6912 N. Glenwood Ave., Chicago, IL 60626
Parking available (street and lot – see below); CTA accessible (Red Line Morse stop/buses)
Free designated parking lot west of the theatre at the NE corner of Morse and Ravenswood with free shuttle service before and after the show
Handicapped accessible

WHEN: Press opening Sunday, March 14, 2010, at 1 p.m. (Daylight Saving Time begins this day)
Closes May 2, 2010
Runs Saturdays at 1 p.m., and Sundays at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.
Previews on March 13 at 1 p.m., and March 14 at 11 a.m.
NO performances on Easter Sunday, April 4, 2010

TICKETS: Publish this number – 773-761-4477; <https://www.ovationtix.com/trs/cal/1371>
\$12 for both children and adults for all shows
Pay-what-you-can tickets (half-hour before the show – *subject to availability*)
Group rates and other discounts also available on request
Party room available for full-service birthday and special event parties
Rogers Park Theatre Flex Pass at www.rogersparkflexpass.com

STAFF: Guest artists **Ilesa Duncan** (Director), **Sarah Hughey** (Lighting Design), **Nambi E. Kelley** (Playwright), **Christine Pascual** (Costume Design), **Joe Plummer** (Composer and Sound Design), **Lisa Johnson Willingham** (Choreographer), and **Ian Zywica** (Scenic and Props Design).

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CAST: Guest artists **Ben Chang** (Wei), **Susaan Jamshidi** (Shadow), **Mallory Nees** (Roksana), **Miguel Nunez** (Ernesto), and **Dawn Pryor** (Zuri). With understudies **Scott Allen Luke** and **Jennifer Young**.

NEXT: Lifeline MainStage production of "*Neverwhere*," April 30-June 20, 2010 (opens 5/10/10).

Lifeline Theatre's 28th anniversary, 2010-11 season is slated to be announced in February 2010.

A Martin Luther King Day Workshop will be held on Monday, January 18, 2010, 9 a.m. to 12 noon, at Lifeline Theatre, 6912 N. Glenwood Ave., Chicago. Members of Alternatives, Inc.'s break dance troupe Connect Force teach a three-hour workshop on break dancing basics, appropriate for ages 7-12. Tuition is \$30, available at 773-761-4477 (advance registration recommended).

A Presidents' Day Workshop will be held on Monday, February 15, 2010, 9 a.m. to 12 noon, at Lifeline Theatre, 6912 N. Glenwood Ave., Chicago. Noted Chicago fight choreographers David Gregory and Richard Gilbert will teach a three-hour workshop on basic stage combat techniques, appropriate for ages 9-12. Tuition is \$30, available at 773-761-4477 (advance registration recommended).

Lifeline's 10th Annual Summer Drama Camp will run July 12-23, 2010, where the theatre's professional artists teach drama skills to ages 7-12 that emphasize self-esteem building, artistry and teamwork in an atmosphere of mutual encouragement and respect. For information and to register, call 773-761-4477.

The 9th Annual Glenwood Avenue Arts Festival will run August 20-22, 2010, and takes place on 6900 – 7000 North Glenwood Avenue (between Farwell and Lunt), and the 1400 block of Morse Avenue, steps from the Morse Ave stop on the CTA Red Line, with free parking nearby. This popular Northside free festival features arts and crafts, theater, music, food and drink for the whole family on the brick streets of historic Rogers Park. More details will be available later at 773-761-4477 and www.GlenwoodAve.org.

INFO: General theatre info, 773-761-4477, www.lifelinetheatre.com
Robert Kauzlaric, Marketing Director, 773-761-4477 x704, rob@lifelinetheatre.com
Lifeline Theatre's programs are partially supported by **Alphawood Foundation; The Arts Work Fund; Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation; The Chicago Community Trust; CityArts 3 grant from the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs; Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation; The Richard H. Driehaus Charitable Lead Trust; Lloyd A. Fry Foundation; Illinois Arts Council, a state agency; MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture at Prince; The Albert Pick, Jr. Fund; The Rhoades Foundation; The Polk Bros. Foundation; S&C Foundation; Taproot Foundation;** and the annual support of **businesses** and **individuals**.

MISSION: Now in its 27th season, Lifeline Theatre is known for specializing in original literary adaptations. Its ensemble of artists uses imaginative, unconventional staging to portray sprawling stories in an intimate space. Lifeline is committed to promoting the arts in its Rogers Park neighborhood and is an anchor of the Glenwood Avenue Arts District. We aspire to create art that is relevant to our culturally diverse, increasingly youthful neighborhood. Lifeline Theatre – Big Stories, Up Close.

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