

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**LIFELINE THEATRE ANNOUNCES 2016-2017 SEASON OF BIG STORIES, UP CLOSE:
FOUR WORLD PREMIERES AND THE RETURN OF TWO AUDIENCE FAVORITES,
PLUS THE 20TH ANNUAL FILLET OF SOLO FESTIVAL
AND THE LIFELINE CONCERT READING SERIES.**

Subscriptions available now

CHICAGO – **Lifeline Theatre** Artistic Director **Dorothy Milne** and the artistic ensemble announce their 2016-2017 season of *Big Stories, Up Close*. It's a year of six unforgettable books brought to life – sprawling, classic stories and thrilling modern titles – as Lifeline retains its reputation for fresh, imaginative interpretations of beloved favorites and embraces the challenges of new, thought-provoking works. The MainStage season features the Victorian-era mystery of *“Miss Holmes,”* followed by the modern sci-fi adventure of *“A Wrinkle in Time,”* and concludes with an Elizabethan swashbuckling romp, *“Her Majesty’s Will.”* The KidSeries season opens with a dance and movement-inspired update of the classic, *“Thumbelina,”* followed by *“Fable-ous!”*, a wacky new twist on the world of Aesop’s fables; and ends with the beloved hit musical *“Giggle, Giggle, Quack.”* Additionally, Lifeline Theatre will produce the 20th annual **Fillet of Solo Festival**, a three-week, multi-venue solo performance and storytelling festival; and the **2016-17 Concert Reading Series** will feature Georgette Heyer’s *Sylvester: or the Wicked Uncle*, Dylan Thomas’ *A Child’s Christmas in Wales*, and Truman Capote’s *A Christmas Memory*.

Lifeline Theatre is located at 6912 N. Glenwood Ave. To purchase season subscriptions, single tickets or for more information call the Lifeline Theatre Box Office at 773-761-4477, or visit www.lifelinetheatre.com.

MainStage

“Miss Holmes,” September 9–October 30, 2016 (opens 9/19/16, 7:30 p.m.)

“A Wrinkle in Time,” February 17–April 9, 2017 (opens 2/27/17, 7:30 p.m.)

“Her Majesty’s Will,” May 26–July 16, 2017 (opens 6/5/17, 7:30 p.m.)

KidSeries

“Thumbelina,” October 22–November 27, 2016 (opens 10/23/16, 1 p.m.)

“Fable-ous!”, January 14–February 19, 2017 (opens 1/15/17, 1 p.m.)

“Giggle, Giggle, Quack,” March 18–April 23, 2017 (opens 3/19/17, 1 p.m.)

Plus

The 2016-17 Lifeline Concert Reading Series, July 23 and December 10, 2016

The 20th Annual Fillet of Solo Festival, January 13–29, 2017

Season subscriptions offer the three MainStage productions for \$80 (a \$120 value), or the three KidSeries plays for \$30 (a \$45 value). Passes to the Fillet of Solo Festival may be added to any subscription for only \$25 (a \$50 value; allows entry to all performances in the 2017 Festival). Being a Lifeline subscriber allows patrons to save 33% off regular ticket prices; offers discounts on additional tickets and reduced admission to the Concert Reading Series; offers discounts to drama camp registration; gives first choice of seats with unlimited free ticket exchanges; knocks 25% off party room packages for pre- or post-show events; and offers invitations to subscriber events such as Sneak Peeks of the rehearsal process, book discussions, and author events.

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Lifeline continues its popular "Book Club Add-ons," which include paperback copies of three source books for the MainStage season (a collection of Sherlock Holmes novels, *A Wrinkle in Time*, and *Her Majesty's Will*) for \$30, or copies of all three source books (two hardcovers and one paperback) for the KidSeries season (*Thumbelina*; a collection of Aesop's Fables; and *Giggle, Giggle, Quack*) for \$35. Read the books beforehand and then experience Lifeline's adaptation. An additional add-on for KidSeries Subscriptions is admission to a "Stories Come Alive!" hour during each KidSeries production for only \$10 (a \$15 value).

Copies of the source books for the MainStage and KidSeries seasons will be on sale in the lobby, as will cast recordings of selected musical productions.

Lifeline Theatre also offers fun and educational programming for children. Lifeline continues its "**Stories Come Alive!**" series, running Saturdays and Sundays at 12 p.m., between regularly-scheduled KidSeries performances. These hour-long sessions cost only \$5 per child, and feature readings, on-your-feet drama games, and fun to supplement the KidSeries productions. Additionally, Lifeline also offers three "**Stories Come Alive!**" **Library Days** at the Rogers Park Branch of the Chicago Public Library (6907 N. Clark St.). These **FREE** events for children ages 4 and up feature read-alongs from a KidSeries book with interactive drama games.

Ticket prices for the 2016-2017 season are as follows: regular single MainStage tickets are \$40; seniors, active and retired military personnel (with ID), and groups (12 or more) are \$30; previews, students (with ID) and rush tickets (half-hour before show, subject to availability) are \$20. Lifeline's KidSeries single tickets for adults and kids are \$15 each; and groups of 15 or more are \$10 each. "Name Your Price" KidSeries tickets are available a half-hour before show time (subject to availability). Lifeline Theatre also offers a party room for on-site, pre- or post-show events.

Lifeline Theatre is located at 6912 N. Glenwood Ave. in Chicago's Rogers Park neighborhood. Lifeline Theatre has a designated parking lot which may be used for all performances, located at the NE corner of Morse and Ravenswood (one block west of Clark Street). Lifeline Theatre's shuttle van will run between the theatre and the parking lot 45 minutes prior to each performance and make loops back to the lot immediately after each performance. Street parking is also available. The theatre is wheelchair accessible, and is located half a block south of the Morse Red Line El train stop.

Founded in 1982, Lifeline is known for staging innovative adaptations of great works of fiction as well as commissioning original work. In 1987, Lifeline added KidSeries plays for children and families, and has been producing full seasons of programming for both adults and children ever since. Over the course of **thirty-three seasons** and nearly **two hundred productions**, Lifeline Theatre has made not only an indelible mark on the Chicago theatre scene, but an invaluable contribution to the theatre world at large. Lifeline's dedicated artistic ensemble has developed over **one hundred world premiere literary adaptations** and **thirteen original plays**, more than thirty of which have had a life beyond their Lifeline premieres, with more than **two hundred subsequent productions** spread across nearly forty U.S. states, six Canadian provinces, plus productions in England, Ireland, Australia, and Guatemala. Additionally, three scripts developed at Lifeline Theatre have gone on to U.S. national tours, and over a dozen have been published. Lifeline Theatre has garnered a total of **fifty Jeff Awards** (Equity and Non-Equity), including fourteen for New Adaptation or New Work, and **twenty-one After Dark Awards**.

Lifeline Theatre is driven by a passion for story. Our ensemble process supports writers in the development of literary adaptations and new work, and our theatrical and educational programs foster a lifelong engagement with literature and the arts. A cultural anchor of Rogers Park, we are committed to deepening our connection to an ever-growing family of artists and audiences, both near and far.

Lifeline's artistic ensemble is led by Artistic Director Dorothy Milne, and consists of Aly Renee Amidei, Patrick Blashill, Jessica Wright Buha, Christina Calvit, Heather Currie, Victoria Delorio, Amanda Delheimer Dimond, Alan Donahue, Kevin D. Gawley, Peter Greenberg, James E. Grote, Chris Hainsworth, John Hildreth, Paul S. Holmquist, Elise Kauzlaric, Robert Kauzlaric, Frances Limoncelli, Amanda Link, Katie McLean Hainsworth, Shole Milos, Sandy Snyder Pietz, Suzanne Plunkett, Maren Robinson, Phil Timberlake, Jenifer Tyler, Christopher M. Walsh, and Elizabeth Wislar.

Lifeline Theatre's programs are partially supported by Alphawood Foundation; Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation; The Chicago Community Trust; The Common Cup; Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation; FGMK LLC; Flex Print, Inc.; The Lloyd A. Fry Foundation; The Grover Hermann Foundation; Illinois Arts Council, a state agency; MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture at Prince; Netrix LLC; The Polk Bros. Foundation; S&C Foundation; The Shubert Foundation; and the annual support of businesses and individuals.

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MainStage Productions

"Miss Holmes"

A new play inspired by the works of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

By Lifeline Theatre ensemble member Christopher M. Walsh

Directed by Lifeline Theatre ensemble member Paul S. Holmquist

September 9–October 30, 2016

Regular tickets \$40; preview tickets \$20

Previews: Fridays, 9/9 and 9/16 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 9/10 and 9/17 at 8 p.m.; Sundays, 9/11 and 9/18 at 4 p.m.

Press Opening: Monday, 9/19, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. (press also invited to final preview on 9/18 at 4 p.m.)

Regular Run: 9/22–10/30, 2016: Thursdays and Fridays at 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m.; Sundays at 4 p.m.

Miss Sherlock Holmes, possessor of one of the greatest deductive minds of her generation, finds herself regularly incarcerated for behaviors deemed abnormal in a "respectable" lady. Miss Dorothy Watson returns to London with a hard-won medical degree, but no one will hire a female doctor. These unconventional women, trapped in an era that refuses to accept them, must forge a bond of trust and work together to uncover the deadly secrets surrounding a corrupt police investigator whose wives have a habit of turning up dead. A thrilling murder mystery that re-introduces familiar characters from the works of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle under a brand new light, in a world premiere production.

"A Wrinkle in Time"

Based on the novel by Madeleine L'Engle

Adapted by Lifeline Theatre emeritus ensemble member James Sie

Directed by Lifeline Theatre ensemble member Frances Limoncelli

February 17–April 9, 2017

Regular tickets \$40; preview tickets \$20

Previews: Fridays, 2/17 and 2/24 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 2/18 and 2/25 at 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2/19 and 2/26 at 4 p.m.

Press Opening: Monday, 2/27, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. (press also invited to final preview on 2/26 at 4 p.m.)

Regular Run: 3/2–4/9, 2017: Thursdays and Fridays at 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m.; Sundays at 4 p.m.

Ever since her father vanished under mysterious circumstances, Meg Murray's life has been spiraling out of control. But one dark and stormy night, Mrs. Whatsit, Mrs. Who, and Mrs. Which appear and promise to help rescue him from the monstrous darkness that threatens the universe. Join Meg, her extraordinary brother Charles Wallace, their pal Calvin, and a host of extraterrestrial friends and foes as they journey into the heart of a terrible evil in the hope of reuniting a fragmented family. A heartwarming adventure across the stars, in a newly-revised adaptation of the beloved 1963 favorite by Madeleine L'Engle, not seen on the Lifeline stage since 1999.

"Her Majesty's Will"

A world premiere based on the novel by David Blixt

Adapted by Lifeline Theatre ensemble member Robert Kauzlaric

Directed by Lifeline Theatre ensemble member Chris Hainsworth

May 26–July 16, 2017

Regular tickets \$40; preview tickets \$20

Previews: Fridays, 5/26 and 6/2 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 5/27 and 6/3 at 8 p.m.; Sundays, 5/28 and 6/4 at 4 p.m.

Press Opening: Monday, 6/5, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. (press also invited to final preview on 6/4 at 4 p.m.)

Regular Run: 6/8–7/16, 2017: Thursdays and Fridays at 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m.; Sundays at 4 p.m.

Young William Shakespeare is hiding from the law in rural Lancashire, languishing as a simple school master. Christopher Marlowe is living the high life as a spy for the Crown. When a dastardly plot to assassinate the Queen draws these two unforgettable wits together, Will is swept up in a world of intrigue, treachery, and mayhem in an adventure that will define the rest of his life, if he can only manage to save Her Majesty. An irreverent comedy that imagines Shakespeare's "lost years" as a rousing romp through the streets and across the stages of Elizabethan London, in a world premiere based on the 2013 novel by Chicago author David Blixt.

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KidSeries Productions

"Thumbelina"

A world premiere based on the story by Hans Christian Andersen
Adapted and directed by Lifeline Theatre ensemble member Amanda Delheimer Dimond
In collaboration with Mariana Green, Brandi Lee, Liz Rice, and others
October 22–November 27, 2016
All tickets \$15
Previews: Saturday, 10/22 at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.; and Sunday, 10/23 at 11 a.m.
Press Opening: Sunday, 10/23 at 1 p.m.
Regular Run: 10/29–11/27, 2016: Saturdays and Sundays at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Born from a flower and stolen away by a greedy toad, tiny Thumbelina never knew a family of her own. Pursued by all manner of woodland creatures eager to possess her, she must make her way through the great big world with nothing but her wits and will to protect her. A series of whimsical and magical adventures unfold as she sets out to find a community to call her own. Let your imagination soar with Thumbelina as she travels over streams, through forests, and on the wings of majestic birds in a powerful, dance-inspired tale about growing up and finding your own path, based on the story by Hans Christian Andersen.

"Fable-ous!"

A new play inspired by Aesop's fables
By Lifeline Theatre ensemble member Chris Hainsworth
Directed by Lavina Jadhvani
January 14–February 19, 2017
All tickets \$15
Previews: Saturday, 1/14 at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.; and Sunday, 1/15 at 11 a.m.
Press Opening: Sunday, 1/15 at 1 p.m.
Regular Run: 1/21–2/19, 2017: Saturdays and Sundays at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Harrington T. Jordan was the fastest (and most famous) Hare that ever lived – so how did he end up losing his race against the Tortoise? The true story starts with a wager with a devious Mouse and ends in a madcap dash through the wilds of Lion Country with a fortune in endorsements and merchandizing on the line. But the fix is in, and a simple footrace soon becomes something much more complicated (and silly) as traps and predators lie in wait around every corner. Forget what you think you know about the Tortoise and the Hare and take the time to make some new friends in a world premiere comedy that turns the world of Aesop's fables on its ear.

"Giggle, Giggle, Quack"

A musical based on the popular bestseller by Doreen Cronin, illustrated by Betsy Lewin
Adapted by Lifeline Theatre ensemble member James E. Grote
Music & Lyrics by George Howe
Directed by Lifeline Theatre ensemble member Shole Milos
March 18–April 23, 2017
All tickets \$15
Previews: Saturday, 3/18 at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.; and Sunday, 3/19 at 11 a.m.
Press Opening: Sunday, 3/19 at 1 p.m.
Regular Run: 3/25–4/23, 2017: Saturdays and Sundays at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.
(No performances Easter Sunday, April 16, 2017)

Running a farm is hard work, especially with cows that type, hens on strike, and a duck who's always causing trouble. So Farmer Brown takes off for a well-deserved vacation, leaving his brother Bob, an accountant from the city, in charge. Soon it's no work and all play (and cake, pizza, movies, and bubble baths...) as the animals run wild, taking advantage of Bob's lack of experience. Will the animals come clean about their devious tricks, or is there more to Brother Bob than meets the eye? Take a break from the grind with the gang from Farmer Brown's farm with our hit musical adaptation of the 2002 *New York Times* bestselling book by Doreen Cronin and Betsy Lewin.

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The 2016-17 Lifeline Concert Reading Series

"*Sylvester: or the Wicked Uncle*" on Saturday, July 23, 2016

"*A Child's Christmas In Wales*" and **"*A Christmas Memory*"** on Saturday, December 10, 2016

Tickets: \$75; \$50 for Lifeline subscribers

Lifeline continues one of its most beloved new traditions with a fifth season of concert readings, this year featuring all new adaptations. In July, 2016, we'll feature ensemble member **Christina Calvit's** world premiere adaptation of ***Sylvester: or the Wicked Uncle***, by **Georgette Heyer** (Based on the novel *Sylvester: or the Wicked Uncle*, Copyright © Georgette Heyer 1957. This performance licensed by arrangement with Heron Enterprises Ltd.). And in time for the holiday's we'll present an evening combining ensemble member **Jessica Wright Buha's** new adaptation of ***A Child's Christmas in Wales*** by **Dylan Thomas** and a reading of ***A Christmas Memory*** by **Truman Capote** (Read with permission of The Truman Capote Literary Trust.) Both readings will be directed by Lifeline ensemble members and will feature numerous Lifeline ensemble actors.

Each evening begins at 6 p.m. with a light supper plus wine and beer (plus conversation with the cast and Lifeline ensemble). At 7 p.m., the performances start. (Script times vary, but are approximately two to two-and-a-half hours in length.) Conversation with the ensemble will follow, and coffee and dessert will be served afterwards.

Only 108 tickets will be sold for each performance. Tickets can only be ordered by calling the Lifeline Box Office at 773-761-4477.

The 20th Annual Fillet of Solo Festival

January 13–29, 2017

Tickets: \$10 per performance; Festival Pass: \$50

Celebrating the breadth of Chicago's enduring storytelling and live lit scene, Lifeline brings more than a dozen storytelling collectives and numerous solo performers together for a three-week, multi-venue selection of powerful personal stories.

Participants, locations, scheduling, and full details for the 2017 Fillet of Solo Festival will be announced Fall 2016.

Season subscriptions and single tickets for the 2016-2017 MainStage and KidSeries seasons are on sale now. Lifeline Theatre is located at 6912 N. Glenwood Ave. To purchase season subscriptions, single tickets or for more information call the Lifeline Theatre Box Office at 773-761-4477, or visit www.lifelinetheatre.com.

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