

PRESS RELEASE
Chicago, IL, April 22, 2010
Media passes, photographs, videos, interviews and additional materials are available on request.

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Lifeline Theatre Concludes 27th Anniversary Season With Neil Gaiman's Urban Fantasy "Neverwhere" Opening May 10

WHAT: Lifeline Theatre concludes its 27th anniversary MainStage season with the world premiere adaptation of Neil Gaiman's bestselling 1996 urban fantasy novel *Neverwhere*, adapted by Lifeline ensemble member Robert Kauzlaric, directed by Lifeline ensemble member Paul S. Holmquist. When Richard Mayhew stops to care for an injured girl on the street, he is drawn into a nightmare shadow world beneath the city of London. To return to his normal life, Richard must brave countless trials, uncover the truth behind a dark conspiracy, and face the indomitable Great Beast. Journey to London Below with a rogues' gallery of liars, outcasts and assassins, on a treacherous voyage to awaken the hero within. This drama runs approximately two and a half hours with one intermission, and copies of the book will be on sale in the lobby.

Bestselling author Gaiman is a prolific creator of prose, poetry, film, journalism, comic books, lyrics, and drama. His works have received numerous awards, including the Hugo, Nebula, Locus, and the 2009 Newbery Medal. He is best known for *The Sandman* graphic novel series, his novels *Stardust* and *American Gods*, and his children's books *Coraline* and *The Graveyard Book*. Gaiman originally wrote *Neverwhere* as a screenplay for a six-part BBC TV series which aired in 1996, and his novel of the same name was released shortly thereafter.

Lifeline has produced four previous world premiere stage adaptations by Robert Kauzlaric, including 2007's *"The Island of Dr. Moreau,"* also directed by Paul S. Holmquist, which garnered five Non-Equity Joseph Jefferson Awards (including Production-Play, New Adaptation, and the Lighting Design award received by Kevin D. Gawley), and two After Dark Awards (including Outstanding Overall Technical Achievement).

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 on Monday, May 10, 2010, at 7:30 p.m.
(media also invited to final preview on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 9, at 4 p.m.)
Closes on June 20, 2010
Runs Thursdays and Fridays at 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m.; Sundays at 4 p.m. (*please note that Thursdays are added on this production*)
Previews on Fridays, April 30 and May 7, at 7:30 p.m. (no Thursday shows during previews); Saturdays, May 1 and 8, at 8 p.m. (no 4 p.m. Saturday shows during previews); Sundays, May 2 and 9, at 4 p.m.

TICKETS: Publish this number – 773-761-4477; HotTix; <https://www.ovationtix.com/trs/cal/1371>
\$30 for regular single tickets
\$20 for previews
\$25 for seniors (with ID)
\$15 for students (with ID) and rush tickets (half hour before, subject to availability)
\$10 for industry on first preview weekend
Group rates for 12 or more available upon request.
Rogers Park Theatre Flex Pass at www.rogersparkflexpass.com

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**Lifeline Theatre, 6912 N. Glenwood Ave. Chicago, IL 60626
773-761-4477, www.lifelinetheatre.com**

STAFF: Ensemble members **Alan Donahue** (Scenic and Properties Design), **Kevin D. Gawley** (Lighting Design), **Paul S. Holmquist** (Director), **Robert Kauzlaric** (Adaptor), and **Elizabeth Wislar** (Costume Design), with guest artists **Charlie Alves** (Projection Design), **David Bareford** and **Richard Gilbert** (Violence Design), **Eva Breneman** (Dialect/Vocal Coach), **Mikhail Fiksel** (Sound Design, Composer), **Erica Foster** (Stage Manager), **Adam Hubbell** (Assistant Sound Designer), **Cortney Hurley** (Production Manager), **Jordan Kardasz** (Assistant Lighting Designer), **Kimberly G. Morris** (Puppet Design), **Maren Robinson** (Dramaturg), **Jessica Wright** (Assistant Director/Assistant Stage Manager), and **Ian Zywica** (Technical Director).

CAST: Ensemble members **Patrick Blashill** (Old Bailey/The Earl/The Abbot), **Elise Kauzlaric** (Old Woman/Jessica/Anaesthesia/Lamia), **Robert Kauzlaric** (Richard), **Katie McLean** (Door), and **Phil Timberlake** (Gary/Lord Rat-Speaker/Islington), with guest artists **Chris Hainsworth** (Marquis de Carabas/Brother Fuliginous), **Kyra Morris** (Sylvia/Hunter), **Sean Sinitski** (Mr. Croup/Tooley), and **Christopher M. Walsh** (Mr. Vandemar/Portico/Varney/Brother Sable/Hammersmith). With understudies **Sara Gorsky**, **Dan Granata**, **Matt Kahler**, **Mallory Nees**, **Ian Novak** and **Mike Ooi**.

NEXT: KidSeries production of *"The Blue Shadow"* runs March 13–May 2, 2010.

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 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.

Lifeline's 2010-2011, 28th anniversary season subscriptions are on sale now, featuring new *Book Club* and *KidSeries PLUS* packages. The productions are:

MainStage

"Wuthering Heights," September 10–October 31, 2010 (opens 9/20/10, 7:30 p.m.)

"The Moonstone," February 4–March 27, 2011 (opens 2/14/11, 7:30 p.m.)

"Watership Down," April 29–June 19, 2011 (opens 5/9/11, 7:30 p.m.)

KidSeries

"Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type," October 16–December 5, 2010 (opens 10/17/10, 1 p.m.)

"Somebody Loves You, Mr. Hatch," January 8–February 27, 2011 (opens 1/9/11, 1 p.m.)

"Arnie the Doughnut," March 19–May 15, 2011 (opens 3/20/11, 1 p.m.)

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**. A slide show of historical Lifeline productions is at www.youtube.com/watch?v=60u-0eWje9k

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. **# # #**