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LIFELINE THEATRE ANNOUNCES 25th ANNIVERSARY SEASON
SIX WORLD PREMIERE ADAPTATIONS FOR ADULTS & KIDS IN 2007-2008
TO RECEIVE SPECIAL JEFF CITATION ON JUNE 11
FOR DEDICATION TO COMMUNITY AND NEW WORK

CHICAGO, IL, Tuesday, May 15, 2007— Artistic Director Dorothy Milne and the artistic ensemble of Lifeline Theatre announce their 2007-2008 season, a quarter century of presenting “*Big Stories, Up Close.*” To celebrate their 25th anniversary, all MainStage tickets will be \$25 this season. The Joseph Jefferson Awards Committee will present a Special Citations award to Lifeline Theatre at the Jeff Awards Citations Ceremony on June 11, 2007, for their contribution to theatre over the years, as “*a mainstay of Chicago’s non-union theatre community and dedication to presenting new material. Lifeline Theatre specializes in original literary adaptations, using imaginative, unconventional staging to portray sprawling stories in an intimate space. The theatre aspires to be a creative nest for new work that reflects and engages our community.*”

In its award-winning and audience-acclaimed style, Lifeline’s 2007-2008 season will explore the heights and depths of love, horror and heroism via six best-selling books onstage in world premiere adaptations by Lifeline ensemble members. Both MainStage and KidSeries will feature two expansive, classic tales and one intriguing, contemporary title, as Lifeline retains its reputation for fresh, imaginative interpretations of well-loved stories and embraces the challenge and excitement of new, thought-provoking works. The MainStage season will begin with science gone too far in **THE ISLAND OF DR. MOREAU**, followed by the contemporary love story **TALKING IT OVER**, and concluding with a new look at the legendary tale, **THE MARK OF ZORRO**. Founded in 1982, Lifeline is known for staging innovative adaptations of great and popular 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. The KidSeries season offerings will begin with the popular classic **HALF MAGIC**, followed by the beloved tale **LYLE, LYLE, CROCODILE** and concluding with the new discovery **THE DIRTY COWBOY**.

This 25th anniversary year will feature Lifeline’s ensemble members in new ways on the MainStage. Award-winning actor and adaptor of last year’s KidSeries hit, **THE TRUE STORY OF THE 3 LITTLE PIGS!**, ensemble member Robert Kauzlaric leaps to the challenge of adapting for the MainStage with **THE ISLAND OF DR. MOREAU**, directed by ensemble member Paul S. Holmquist in his MainStage directorial debut, and featuring ensemble member Phil Timberlake as the terrorized Edward Prendick. Award-winning actor and ensemble member Peter Greenberg will debut as adaptor with **TALKING IT OVER** featuring ensemble member Elise Kauzlaric onstage as the apex of a painful love triangle. A familiar face on the Lifeline stage and critically-acclaimed director of **JOHNNY TREMAIN**, ensemble member Katie McLean puts on the adapting hat for the first time with **THE MARK OF ZORRO**.

MAINSTAGE

THE ISLAND OF DR. MOREAU, October 12 – December 2, 2007 (opens 10/22/07 at 7:30 p.m.)
TALKING IT OVER, February 1 – March 23, 2008 (opens 2/11/08 at 7:30 p.m.)
THE MARK OF ZORRO, May 2 – June 22, 2008 (opens 5/12/08 at 7:30 p.m.)

KIDSERIES

HALF MAGIC, September 29 – November 25, 2007 (opens 9/30/07 at 1 p.m.)
LYLE, LYLE, CROCODILE, December 15, 2007 – February 3, 2008 (opens 12/16/07 at 1 p.m.)
THE DIRTY COWBOY, February 23 – April 13, 2008 (opens 2/24/08 at 1 p.m.)

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Lifeline Theatre

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

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For more information, or to purchase tickets and subscriptions, call the Lifeline Box Office at 773-761-4477, or visit www.lifelinetheatre.com. Lifeline's MainStage offers discounts for groups, students and seniors. Reduced-price rush tickets are available a half-hour before show time (subject to availability). Lifeline's KidSeries offers discounts for groups and also offers a full-service birthday party room. Pay-what-you-can-at-the-door tickets available a half-hour before show time (subject to availability).

Lifeline Theatre is located at 6912 N. Glenwood Ave. in Chicago's Rogers Park neighborhood. For evening shows, there is a free shuttle service to and from the St. Jerome's parking lot which offers free parking until 2 a.m., two-and-a-half blocks west of Lifeline at 1640 W. Morse Avenue, south side of the street, entrance on Morse Avenue. 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.

Lifeline Theatre's programs are partially supported by **The Albert Pick, Jr. Fund; Alphawood Foundation; The Chicago Community Trust; CityArts 3 grant from the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs; Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation; Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation; The Grover Hermann Foundation; Illinois Arts Council, a state agency; Illinois Humanities Council; Lloyd A. Fry Foundation; MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture at Prince; Meyer and Morris Kaplan Family Foundation; Polk Bros. Foundation; S&C Foundation;** and the annual support of **businesses and individuals.**

MAINSTAGE PRODUCTIONS

THE ISLAND OF DR. MOREAU

A world premiere based on the classic horror story by H. G. Wells

Adapted by Lifeline ensemble member Robert Kauzlaric

Directed by Lifeline ensemble member Paul S. Holmquist

October 12—December 2, 2007

Regular tickets \$25; preview tickets \$15

Previews: Fridays, 10/12 and 10/19 @ 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 10/13 and 10/20 @ 8 p.m.; Sundays, 10/14 and 10/21 @ 4:00 p.m.

Press Opening: Monday, 10/22 @ 7:30 p.m. (press also invited to final preview on 10/21)

Regular Run: 10/26 – 12/2: Fridays @ 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays @ 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. and Sundays @ 4 p.m.

A shipwreck, a rescue and the shock of being marooned on a terrifying island – that is just the beginning for Edward Prendick. Now, he is trapped in an impossibly brutal world by a twisted man of science, out to transform nature into warped mirrors of himself. And in the face of the ultimate horror, can Edward (or any of us) escape with humanity and reason intact? A thrilling and immersive tale sure to unsettle the steeliest of nerves in a fluid and dynamic production. Artistic Director Dorothy Milne said, *"A spectacular, physically daring kick-off to our 25th season. And doesn't everyone want to see half-human, half-animal monsters?!"*

TALKING IT OVER

A world premiere based on the novel by Julian Barnes

Adapted by Lifeline ensemble member Peter Greenberg

Directed by Lifeline artistic director Dorothy Milne

February 1—March 23, 2008

Regular tickets \$25; preview tickets \$15

Previews: Fridays, 2/1 and 2/8 @ 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 2/2 and 2/9 @ 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2/3 and 2/10 @ 4 p.m.

Press Opening: Monday, 2/11 @ 7:30 p.m. (press also invited to final preview, 2/10)

Regular Run: 2/15 – 3/23: Fridays @ 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays @ 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. and Sundays @ 4 p.m.

Two great friends. Since grammar school. Sure, sometimes they can't stand each other, but they've always been two great friends. Enter one more (a female one), and everything changes. And changes. This contemporary look at friendship, loyalty and love is at once funny and brutal, as characters make their case to the audience and try to justify their actions in a scenario where everyone - and no one - bears the blame. Milne said, *"A tour de force for the smallest cast to ever play on Lifeline's MainStage, this examination of love and betrayal is both painful and flat-out hilarious."*

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THE MARK OF ZORRO

A world premiere based on the novel by Johnston McCulley

Adapted by Lifeline ensemble member Katie McLean

Directed by Lifeline artistic director Dorothy Milne

May 2—June 22, 2008

Regular tickets \$25; preview tickets \$15

Previews: Fridays, 5/2 and 5/9 @ 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 5/3 and 5/10 @ 8 p.m.; Sundays, 5/4 and 5/11 @ 4 p.m.

Press Opening: Monday, 5/12 @ 7:30 p.m. (press also invited to final preview, 5/11)

Regular Run: 5/16 – 6/22: Fridays @ 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays @ 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. and Sundays @ 4 p.m.

Zorro can best any swordsman, outride any horseman, but if he is to save the young daughter of a noble family from ruin, he must also inspire the privileged young caballeros to join him in his fight against corruption. Filled with Latino music, dance and sword-fighting thrills, this adventurous romp mines the integrity of the original like no other version before. Milne said, "A complete re-discovery of this legendary tale that keeps the fighting, dancing and romancing, but also explores the cultural context of the story and the true humanity of its hero."

KIDSERIES PRODUCTIONS

HALF MAGIC

Based on the popular book by Edgar Eager, illustrated by N. M. Bodecker

Adapted by Lifeline ensemble member Elise Kauzlaric

Directed by Lifeline ensemble member Frances Limoncelli

September 29 – November 25, 2007

All tickets \$10

Previews: September 29, 2007 @ 1 p.m. and September 30, 2007 @ 11 a.m.

Opening: September 30, 2007 @ 1 p.m.

Regular Run: Saturdays @ 1 p.m.; Sundays @ 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Magic never happens, not really. That's what Jane, Mark and Martha believe until Jane finds a mysterious coin that grants them *half* of everything they wish. But sometimes wishing for twice as much brings twice as much trouble, and how do you wish for twice your heart's desire if you're not sure what you want? This magical story has been a favorite for over 50 years, and comes to the Lifeline stage from the adaptor of last year's classic, *THE VELVETEEN RABBIT*.

LYLE, LYLE, CROCODILE

A world premiere musical based on the best-selling book written and illustrated by Bernard Waber

Adapted by Lifeline ensemble member Christina Calvit

Music and lyrics by George Howe

Directed by Lifeline ensemble member Shole Milos

December 15, 2007 – February 3, 2008

All tickets \$10

Previews: December 15, 2007 @ 1 p.m. and December 16, 2007 @ 11 a.m.

Opening: December 16, 2007 @ 1 p.m.

Regular Run: Saturdays @ 1 p.m., Sundays @ 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Special Added Holiday Weekday Shows: 12/24, 12/26, 12/27, 12/28, 12/31/07, 1/1, 1/2, 1/3, 1/4/08 @ 1 p.m.

The Primm family is busily moving into their new house on East 88th Street, when suddenly they hear *SWISH, SWASH, SPLASH, SWOOSH*. A search reveals a crocodile in their bathtub! His name is Lyle, he only eats Turkish caviar, and he quickly becomes a treasured member of the family. Unfortunately, Mr. Grumps, their next door neighbor, is not so enthusiastic about having a crocodile on 88th Street. This story has been read by loyal fans since 1962, and is now a hilarious musical by the composer of Lifeline's *CLICK, CLACK, MOO* and the adaptor of *RIKKI, TIKKI, TAVI*.

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THE DIRTY COWBOY

A world premiere based on the hilarious story by Chicago author Amy Timberlake

Illustrated by Adam Rex

Adapted by Lifeline ensemble member James E. Grote

Music by Lifeline ensemble member Victoria Delorio

Directed by Lifeline ensemble member Shole Milos

February 23 – April 13, 2008

All tickets \$10

Previews: February 23, 2008 @ 1 p.m. and February 24, 2008 @ 11 a.m.

Opening: February 24, 2008 @ 1 p.m.

Regular Run: Saturdays @ 1 p.m., Sundays @ 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

That ol' cowboy really needs a bath! But once he is squeaky clean, will anyone recognize him? Even the loyal dog that stands guard over his clothes? A side-splitting tale of mistaken identity ensues, as cowboy and canine engage in a musical battle where the cowboy ends up stripped of more than just his dignity! This story by Chicago's Amy Timberlake is a fantastic new discovery, irreverently illustrated by Adam Rex and gleefully brought to life as a brand new musical by three veterans of the KidSeries stage.

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