

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**LIFELINE THEATRE ANNOUNCES 2018-2019 SEASON OF BIG STORIES, UP CLOSE:
36TH SEASON FEATURES FOUR WORLD PREMIERES AND TWO REVIVALS,
PLUS THE 22ND ANNUAL FILLET OF SOLO FESTIVAL
AND THE LIFELINE CONCERT READING SERIES.**

Subscriptions available March 16

CHICAGO – **Lifeline Theatre** Artistic Director **Dorothy Milne** and the artistic ensemble announce their 2018-19 season of *Big Stories, Up Close*. It's another year of unforgettable stories brought to life, from beloved classics to modern titles.

The 2018-19 MainStage season features a world premiere adaptation of the psychological thriller *Frankenstein*, followed by an adaptation of the absurdist satire *The Man Who Was Thursday*, and concludes with a world premiere adaptation of Jane Austen's romantic comedy *Emma*. The KidSeries season opens with the suspense and silliness of *Bunnacula*; followed by the heartwarming tale of friendship and sacrifice, *We Found A Hat*, and concludes with the action and adventure of *The Time Warp Trio*. Additionally, Lifeline Theatre will produce the 22nd annual *Fillet of Solo Festival*, a three-week, multi-venue solo performance and storytelling festival; and the **2018-19 Concert Reading Series** will feature Cindy Hanson and Cheryl Norris's *Cooking With Lard*, Dylan Thomas' *A Child's Christmas in Wales* and Truman Capote's *A Christmas Memory*, and William Shakespeare's *Love's Labours Lost*.

Season subscriptions and single tickets for the 2018-2019 MainStage and KidSeries seasons go on sale March 16. 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 Season

Frankenstein, September 7–October 28, 2018 (opens 9/17/18, 7:30 p.m.)
The Man Who Was Thursday, February 15–April 7, 2019 (opens 2/25/19, 7:30 p.m.)
Emma, May 24–July 14, 2019 (opens 6/3/19, 7:30 p.m.)

KidSeries Season

Bunnacula, October 20–November 25, 2018 (opens 10/21/18, 1 p.m.)
We Found A Hat, January 12–February 17, 2019 (opens 1/13/19, 1 p.m.)
The Time Warp Trio, March 16–April 20, 2019 (opens 3/17/19, 1 p.m.)

Plus

The 2018-19 Lifeline Concert Reading Series, July 18, 2018; December 5, 2018; and March 20, 2019
The 22nd Annual Fillet of Solo Festival, January 18–February 2, 2019

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 2019 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; and gives first choice of seats with unlimited free ticket exchanges.

Lifeline continues its popular "Book Club Add-ons," which include copies of all three source books for the MainStage season for only \$15 (paperback versions of *Frankenstein*, *The Man Who Was Thursday*, and *Emma*), or copies of all three source books for the KidSeries season for \$30 (hardcover versions of *Bunnacula* and *We Found A Hat*, paperback version of *Knights of the Kitchen Table: Time Warp Trio #1*). Read the books beforehand and then experience Lifeline's adaptation. Copies of the source books for the MainStage and KidSeries seasons will be on sale in the lobby.

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An additional add-on for KidSeries Subscriptions is admission to one "Stories Come Alive!" hour during each KidSeries production for only \$10 (a \$15 value). These hour-long sessions (running Saturdays and Sundays at 12 p.m., between regularly-scheduled KidSeries performances) feature readings, on-your-feet drama games, and fun to supplement the KidSeries productions.

Ticket prices for the 2018-2019 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, rush tickets (half-hour before show, subject to availability) are \$20; and students (with ID) are \$15. 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 is located at 6912 N. Glenwood Ave. in Chicago's Rogers Park neighborhood. Lifeline is accessible by CTA (Red Line Morse stop/busses) and free parking is available at Sullivan High School (6631 N Bosworth Ave, lot located on Greenview Ave. just south of North Shore Ave.) with free shuttle service before and after the show. Street parking is also available. Lifeline is accessible to wheelchair users and visitors who need to avoid stairs.

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-five 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 **one hundred and forty-three world premiere literary adaptations and original plays**, nearly forty of which have had a life beyond their Lifeline premieres, with over **three hundred subsequent productions** spread across over forty U.S. states, six Canadian provinces, plus productions in England, Ireland, Australia, South Africa, 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-three Jeff Awards** (Equity and Non-Equity), including sixteen for New Adaptation, New Musical, or New Work.

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 includes Aly Renee Amidei, Patrick Blashill, Jessica Wright Buha, Christina Calvit, Heather Currie, Bilal Dardai, Victoria Delorio, Amanda Delheimer, Alan Donahue, Andrés Enriquez, Diane D. Farichild, Kevin D. Gawley, Peter Greenberg, James E. Grote, Chris Hainsworth, John Hildreth, Paul S. Holmquist, Elise Kauzlaric, Robert Kauzlaric, Anthony Kayer, Frances Limoncelli, Amanda Link, Martel Manning, Michael McKeogh, Katie McLean Hainsworth, Shole Milos, Sandy Snyder Pietz, Suzanne Plunkett, Maren Robinson, Phil Timberlake, Jenifer Tyler, and Christopher M. Walsh.

Lifeline Theatre's programs are partially supported by Alphawood Foundation; A.R.T League Inc.; Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation; Chicago CityArts, a grant from the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events; Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation; FG MK LLC; Lloyd A. Fry Foundation; The Grover Hermann Foundation; The Michael and Mona Heath Fund at The Chicago Community Foundation; Illinois Arts Council Agency; Illinois Humanities Council; Lagunitas Brewing Co. Community Grant Program; MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture at Prince; The PAV Grant Fund; The Polk Bros. Foundation; Poubelle Fund, a Donor Advised Fund of Renaissance Charitable Foundation; Rogers Park Social; The Saints; S&C Electric Company Fund; The Shubert Foundation; and the annual support of businesses and individuals.

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MainStage Productions

Frankenstein

A world premiere based on the novel by Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley

Adapted by Lifeline Theatre ensemble member Robert Kauzlaric

Directed by Lifeline Theatre ensemble member Paul S. Holmquist

September 7–October 28, 2018

Regular tickets \$40; preview tickets \$20

Previews: Fridays, 9/7 and 9/14 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 9/8 and 9/15 at 8 p.m.; Sundays, 9/9 and 9/16 at 4 p.m.

Press Opening: Monday, 9/17, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. (press also invited to final preview on 9/16 at 4 p.m.)

Regular Run: 9/20–10/28, 2018: Thursdays and Fridays at 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m.; Sundays at 4 p.m.

An unexpected death shatters a family and Frankenstein retreats into the darkest recesses of the psyche in search of a way forward. To find meaning in this impossible loss, a terrible creation is brought to life – one whose existence threatens all hopes for the future. Haunted and hunted at every turn, Frankenstein must endure a nightmare journey of the soul in a quest for survival. Grapple with the demons of grief and denial in this world premiere adaptation of the 1818 thriller by Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley.

In celebration of the 200th anniversary of the publication of *Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus*, ensemble members **Robert Kauzlaric** and **Paul S. Holmquist**, creators of 2007's *The Island of Dr. Moreau* (Non-Equity Jeff Award: Best Production–Play), return to the world of dark psychological suspense.

The Man Who Was Thursday

Based on the novel by G. K. Chesterton

Adapted by Lifeline Theatre ensemble member Bilal Dardai

Directed by Jess Hutchinson

February 15–April 7, 2019

Regular tickets \$40; preview tickets \$20

Previews: Fridays, 2/15 and 2/22 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 2/16 and 2/23 at 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2/17 and 2/24 at 4 p.m.

Press Opening: Monday, 2/25, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. (press also invited to final preview on 2/24 at 4 p.m.)

Regular Run: 2/28–4/7, 2019: Thursdays and Fridays at 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m.; Sundays at 4 p.m.

A cabal of anarchists has risen in London and Scotland Yard is determined to bring them down. When Gabriel Syme joins the undercover detail tasked with infiltrating the anarchists' operations, he soon finds himself sitting on their Supreme Council with the code name "Thursday." But as Gabriel unearths the Council's true nature, it becomes clear that no one in this battle between law and chaos is as they seem, and that Scotland Yard may have created the very problem they're trying to solve. Challenge all assumptions and uncover the truth in this absorbing adaptation of the 1908 satire by G. K. Chesterton.

Ensemble member **Bilal Dardai** and former New Leaf Theatre Artistic Director **Jess Hutchinson** return to a project they first mounted at New Leaf Theatre in 2009 (Non-Equity Jeff nomination: New Adaptation), re-exploring this absurdist tale of identity and intrigue for a new decade.

Emma

A world premiere based on the novel by Jane Austen

Adapted by Lifeline Theatre ensemble member Phil Timberlake

Directed by Lifeline Theatre ensemble member Elise Kauzlaric

May 24–July 14, 2019

Regular tickets \$40; preview tickets \$20

Previews: Fridays, 5/24 and 5/31 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 5/25 and 6/1 at 8 p.m.; Sundays, 5/26 and 6/2 at 4 p.m.

Press Opening: Monday, 6/3, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. (press also invited to final preview on 6/2 at 4 p.m.)

Regular Run: 6/6–7/14, 2019: Thursdays and Fridays at 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m.; Sundays at 4 p.m.

After a successful experiment in matchmaking, Emma Woodhouse is convinced she can do no wrong. So the high-spirited socialite inserts herself in the love lives of everyone around her, meddling despite their wishes, and leaves a tangle of heartbreak in her wake. To restore happiness to her fractured world, Emma must swallow her pride and learn to value the needs of others over her own desires. Navigate the blunders of the heart in this world premiere adaptation of the 1815 romantic comedy by Jane Austen.

Making his Lifeline playwriting debut, ensemble member **Phil Timberlake** joins ensemble member **Elise Kauzlaric**, director of 2012's *Pride and Prejudice* and 2016's *Northanger Abbey* (Non-Equity Jeff nomination: Best Production–Musical), for a fresh, intimate look at this beloved Austen romp.

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KidSeries Productions

Bunnacula

Adaptation and lyrics by Lifeline Theatre emeritus ensemble member James Sie

Music by Doug Wood

Directed by Lifeline Theatre ensemble member Anthony Kayer

Based on the book by Deborah and James Howe

Print book originally published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers

October 20–November 25, 2018

All tickets \$15

Previews: Saturday, 10/20 at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.; and Sunday, 10/21 at 11 a.m.

Press Opening: Sunday, 10/21 at 1 p.m.

Regular Run: 10/27–11/25, 2018: Saturdays and Sundays at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

At a showing of *Dracula* one dark and stormy night, the Monroe family discovers an abandoned rabbit. When they bring him home, resident know-it-all Chester the cat suspects the worst after spying gleaming fangs in the bunny's mouth. And as vegetables start turning up mysteriously drained of their juices, even easygoing Harold the dog wonders if they have a supernatural menace on their hands. Brave the night and dare to embrace our differences in this musical adaptation of the 1979 book by Deborah and James Howe.

Ensemble member **Anthony Kayer** makes his Lifeline directorial debut with this revival of our hit adaptation of the family favorite by emeritus ensemble member **James Sie** (*A Wrinkle in Time*, *Island of the Blue Dolphins*) and **Doug Wood**.

We Found A Hat

Adapted by Lifeline Theatre ensemble member Jessica Wright Buha

Directed by Aileen McGroddy

Based on the book by Jon Klassen

Print book originally published by Candlewick

January 12–February 17, 2019

All tickets \$15

Previews: Saturday, 1/12 at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.; and Sunday, 1/13 at 11 a.m.

Press Opening: Sunday, 1/13 at 1 p.m.

Regular Run: 1/19–2/17, 2019: Saturdays and Sundays at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Deep in the desert, two tortoises find each other and become the best of friends. Together, they tackle all the obstacles the landscape can throw their way... until one day they find a hat. They both look great in the hat. But they can't both have the hat. A fledgling friendship is put to the test as the tortoises must find a way through their thorniest challenge yet. Explore the question of what we give up to support the ones we love in this adaptation of the 2016 book by Jon Klassen.

Ensemble member **Jessica Wright Buha** (*Lyle Finds His Mother*, *Sparky!*) joins frequent collaborator **Aileen McGroddy** (director of 2018's *Montauciel Takes Flight*) for a heartwarming tale of teamwork and sacrifice, performed with live music.

The Time Warp Trio

Adapted by Lifeline Theatre ensemble member Frances Limoncelli

Directed by Lifeline Theatre ensemble member Heather Currie

Based on the book series by Jon Scieszka, illustrated by Lane Smith

Print books originally published by Puffin Books

March 16–April 20, 2019

All tickets \$15

Previews: Saturday, 3/16 at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.; and Sunday, 3/17 at 11 a.m.

Press Opening: Sunday, 3/17 at 1 p.m.

Regular Run: 3/23–4/20, 2019: Saturdays and Sundays at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

When Joe receives a magical book for his birthday, he and his pals are unexpectedly hurled across time and space. They first arrive in Camelot, a land menaced by an evil knight, a terrible giant, and a fire-breathing dragon. With quick thinking and a dash of courage the newly formed "Time Warp Trio" manages to survive, but the mysterious Book thrusts them into further adventures – each more challenging than the last! Save the day with wit and bravery in this adaptation of stories from Jon Scieszka and Lane Smith's *Time Warp Trio* series.

Ensemble member **Frances Limoncelli** (multiple Non-Equity Jeff Award-winning adaptor) and ensemble member **Heather Currie** (*You Think It's Easy Being The Tooth Fairy?*, *Fable-ous!*) partner for the first time to bring this lively tale of action and adventure to life.

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The 2018-19 Lifeline Concert Reading Series – All performances at Lifeline Theatre, 6912 N. Glenwood Ave.

Cooking With Lard on Wednesday, July 18, 2018

A Child's Christmas In Wales and ***A Christmas Memory*** on Wednesday, December 5, 2018

Love's Labours Lost on Wednesday, March 20, 2019

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

Lifeline continues one of its favorite traditions with another season of concert readings. This year's roster features:

The Southern Gothic comedy ***Cooking With Lard*** by **Cindy Hanson** and **Cheryl Norris** on July 18, directed by ensemble member **Frances Limoncelli** and featuring four actresses (including Lifeline Artistic Director **Dorothy Milne**) playing 15 characters.

A holiday pairing of ensemble member **Jessica Wright Buha's** 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) on December 5, directed by ensemble member **Elise Kauzlaric**.

William Shakespeare's romantic comedy ***Love's Labours Lost*** on March 20, 2019, directed by ensemble member **Robert Kauzlaric** and featuring several ensemble members playing opposite their real-life spouses (including **Jenifer Tyler** and **Peter Greenberg**, **Katie McLean Hainsworth** and **Chris Hainsworth**, and others).

All readings will feature numerous Lifeline ensemble actors and returning favorites.

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 22nd Annual Fillet of Solo Festival

January 18–February 2, 2019

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

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

Participants, locations, scheduling, and full details for the 2019 Fillet of Solo Festival will be announced Fall 2018.

Season subscriptions and single tickets for the 2018-2019 MainStage and KidSeries seasons go on sale March 16. 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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