

lifeline



T H E A T R E

Big Stories, Up Close

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jill Evans La Penna  
SHOUT Marketing & Media Relations  
312-226-6727  
jill@shoutchicago.com

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**WORLD PREMIERE CHILDREN'S PLAY *NAKED MOLE RAT GETS DRESSED*,  
ADAPTATION OF POPULAR MO WILLEMS BOOK,  
OPENS SUNDAY, MARCH 18, 2012 AT 1 P.M. AT LIFELINE THEATRE**  
Preview Performances: Saturday March 17 at 1 p.m. and Sunday, March 18 at 11 a.m.  
New *Stories Come Alive! Hour* Workshops Every Sunday During the Run

CHICAGO - Lifeline Theatre's **KidSeries** presents a world premiere musical adaptation of ***Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed***, based on the book by New York Times bestselling author Mo Willems (*Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Tale*, *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!*). The production is adapted by Lifeline Theatre ensemble member Robert Kauzlaric (two-time Non-Equity Jeff Award-winning adaptor), with music by Paul Gilvary, and directed by Lifeline Theatre ensemble member Paul S. Homquist (Non-Equity Jeff Award nominated director). Unlike other naked mole rats, young Wilbur loves to wear clothes. By daring to defy social tradition, Wilbur makes life miserable for himself and his best friend. When the teasing and bullying at school get out of control, the pups take their case before Grand-pah: the greatest, wisest, and most naked naked mole rat ever. Will Grand-pah crush Wilbur's self-expression, or open the door of acceptance to a misunderstood outsider? A heartwarming lesson on tolerance, in a world premiere musical adaptation for the whole family. This production is appropriate for children ages five and up, and runs approximately one hour with no intermission. The book will be on sale in the lobby.

*Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed* runs Saturday, March 17 – Sunday, May 6, 2012 at Lifeline Theatre, 6912 N. Glenwood Ave. Press opening is Sunday, March 18 at 1 p.m. Regular performance times are Saturdays at 1 p.m. and Sundays at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. (Previews are Saturday, March 17 at 1 p.m. and Sunday, March 18 at 11 a.m.) Ticket prices are \$15 and may be purchased at the Lifeline Theatre Box Office, 773.761.4477, or by visiting [www.lifelinetheatre.com](http://www.lifelinetheatre.com).

**PLUS:** Join Lifeline Theatre every Sunday at 12 p.m. during the run of *Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed* (following the 11 a.m. show, or before the 1 p.m. show) for our new **Stories Come Alive! Hour**. Children of all ages will get up close and personal with the book that inspired the play in an interactive storytelling session, followed by theatre games exploring the characters, plot, and themes of the play. The cost is only \$10 per child. Parents are welcome, though not required. Contact the Lifeline Theatre Box Office at 773-761-4477 for more information.

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The complete cast and production team for *Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed* includes:

**CAST:** Guest artists **Morgan Maher** (Beauregard), **Nathaniel Niemi** (Wilbur), **Mike Ooi** (Mr. Cleary, Grand-pah), **Ellie Reed** (Esther), and **Julia Stemper** (Rhonda). With understudies **Victoria Abram-Copenhaver**, **Timothy Cahill**, and **Christopher Leck**.

**CREW:** Lifeline Theatre ensemble members **Paul S. Holmquist** (Director) and **Robert Kauzlaric** (Adaptor); with guest artists **Michael Brooks** (Sound Designer), **Kristina Fluty** (Choreographer), **Jeri Frederickson** (Stage Manager), **Paul Gilvary** (Composer), **Joanna Iwanicka** (Scenic & Properties Design), **Jordan Kardasz** (Lighting Designer), **Kimberly G. Morris** (Costume Designer), and **Manny Tamayo** (Assistant Director).

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Lifeline Theatre also offers “Name Your Price” tickets a half-hour before the show (subject to availability), group rates and other discounts available upon request. A party room is available for full-service birthday and special event parties. Free parking is available at the designated lot west of the theatre (NE corner of Morse and Ravenswood) with free shuttle service before and after the show. Street parking is also available and Lifeline Theatre is handicapped and CTA accessible (Red Line Morse stop/busses).

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Now in its 29<sup>th</sup> season, Lifeline Theatre specializes 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.

Lifeline Theatre's programs are partially supported by Alphawood Foundation; Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation; CityArts grant from the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events; Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation; The Richard H. Driehaus Charitable Lead Trust; The Grover Hermann Foundation; Illinois Arts Council, a state agency; MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture at Prince; The Pauls Foundation; The Polk Bros. Foundation; The Rhoades Foundation; S&C Foundation; The Saints; The Service Club of Chicago; and the annual support of businesses and individuals.