



Big stories, up close.

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LIFELINE THEATRE ANNOUNCES 2006-2007, 24th ANNIVERSARY SEASON SIX BEST-SELLING BOOKS - FIVE WORLD PREMIERE ADAPTATIONS

CHICAGO, IL, Monday, March 6, 2006 – Artistic Director Dorothy Milne and the company of Lifeline Theatre, which presents “***big stories, up close,***” announce the 2006-2007, 24th anniversary season, featuring “*romance, rhapsody and rebellion*” - the timeless classic romance, ***A ROOM WITH A VIEW*** beginning the season, followed by the rhapsodic ***THE PIANO TUNER***, concluding with a Chicago story of teenage rebellion, ***CROSSING CALIFORNIA***. In their award-winning and audience-acclaimed style, Lifeline explores the heights and depths of love, war and adolescent angst via six best-selling books adapted for the stage. The season features three world premiere MainStage plays, and two world premiere KidSeries shows, all adapted by Lifeline ensemble members. Founded in 1983, 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.

MAINSTAGE

A ROOM WITH A VIEW, October 13 – December 3, 2006
Opening Night: October 23, 2006 @ 7:30 PM
THE PIANO TUNER, February 2 – March 25, 2007
Opening Night: February 12, 2007 @ 7:30 PM
CROSSING CALIFORNIA, May 4 – June 24, 2007
Opening Night: May 14, 2007 @ 7:30 PM

KIDSERIES

THE STINKY CHEESE MAN, September 30 – November 26, 2006
Previews: September 30, 2006 @ 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM
Opening: October 1, 2006 @ 1:00 PM
THE VELVETEEN RABBIT, December 16, 2006 – February 4, 2007
Previews: December 16, 2006 @ 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM
Opening: December 17, 2006 @ 1:00 PM
THE TRUE STORY OF THE THREE LITTLE PIGS, February 24 – April 15, 2007
Previews: February 24, 2007 @ 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM
Opening: February 25, 2007 @ 1:00 PM

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 half hour before shows (subject to availability). KidSeries also offers a full-service birthday party room.

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 Trilogy parking lot, which offers free parking until midnight at the corner of Glenwood and Estes, three blocks directly north of the theatre. Street parking is also available. The theatre is wheelchair accessible, and is located half a block south of the Morse Red Line EL stop.

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Lifeline Theatre
6912 N. Glenwood Ave. Chicago, IL 60626
773.761.4477, www.lifelinetheatre.com

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

MAINSTAGE PRODUCTIONS

A ROOM WITH A VIEW

A world premiere based on the classic romance by E. M. Forster

Adapted by Lifeline ensemble member Christina Calvit

Directed by Lifeline artistic director Dorothy Milne

October 13 – December 3, 2006

Previews: Fridays, 10/13 and 10/20 @ 7:30 PM; Saturdays, 10/14 and 10/21 @ 8 PM; Sundays, 10/15 and 10/22 @ 5:30 PM: \$14

Press Opening: Monday, 10/23 @ 7:30 PM (Press also invited to final preview, 10/22)

Regular Run: 10/27 – 12/3: Fridays @ 7:30 PM; Saturdays @ 4:00 PM; and Sundays @ 5:30 PM: \$24
Saturdays @ 8:00 PM: \$26

This classic love story is a passionate exploration of how we can live and love more truthfully. Calvit and Milne offer the same collaborative magic that brought *Jane Eyre* and *The Talisman Ring* to the Lifeline stage in this highly theatrical and boldly physical production.

Artistic Director Dorothy Milne said, "*Forster wrote a great love story with an assortment of rich and eccentric characters and terrific roles for actors. And the story will be highly theatricalized, creating a visceral experience that only the stage can give.*"

THE PIANO TUNER

A world premiere based on the best-selling novel by Daniel Mason

Adapted by Lifeline ensemble member James E. Grote

Directed by TBA

February 2 – March 25, 2007

Previews: Fridays, 2/2 and 2/9 @ 7:30 PM; Saturdays, 2/3 and 2/10 @ 8:00 PM; Sundays, 2/4 and 2/11 @ 5:30 PM: \$14

Press Opening: Monday, 2/12 @ 7:30 PM (Press also invited to final preview, 2/11)

Regular Run: 2/16 – 3/25: Fridays @ 7:30 PM; Saturdays @ 4:00 PM; and Sundays @ 5:30 PM: \$24
Saturdays @ 8:00 PM: \$26

The British War Office wrenches Edgar Drake from his quiet, Victorian life tuning pianos. He must travel to the wilds of war-torn Burma where he meets a mysterious man who believes music is the only chance for peace. A vivid sojourn in an exotic land, this exploration of war and conquest is especially timely today.

Artistic Director Milne said, "*Mason's story is a mesmerizing tale of internal and external discovery in a strange and exotic setting. We'll create a sea voyage, dense jungle and a raging river in an enormous storm. We are also excited about the challenge of the sound design; most sound effects will be created by the piano so central to the story.*"

CROSSING CALIFORNIA

A world premiere based on the popular book by Chicago author Adam Langer

Adapted by Lifeline ensemble member Alan Donahue

Directed by Lifeline ensemble member John Hildreth

May 4 – June 24, 2007

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CROSSING CALIFORNIA (con't)

Previews: Fridays, 5/4 and 5/11 @ 7:30 PM; Saturdays, 5/5 and 5/12 @ 8:00 PM; Sundays, 5/6 and 5/13 @ 5:30 PM: \$14

Press Opening: Monday, 5/14 @ 7:30 PM (Press also invited to final preview, 5/13)

Regular Run: 5/18 – 6/24: Fridays @ 7:30 PM; Saturdays @ 4:00 PM; and Sundays @ 5:30 PM: \$24
Saturdays @ 8:00 PM: \$26

It's 1979. The hostages are in Iran, Ronald Reagan wins the White House, and in Chicago's West Rogers Park neighborhood, Temple K.I.N.S. is rocking out to "AIN'T GOD A TRIP?" A raw and hilarious look at three adolescents in their awkward and sometimes painful journey to find their own identities.

Artistic Director Milne said, "*We are thrilled to produce this hilarious and moving book set in our very own neighborhood of Rogers Park by a Rogers Park native, set just blocks from where the inspiration took place. This will be a risky project for us because to remain true to the book we will need to fully retain the colorful language of these junior high and high school students – as well as the sex, drugs and rock and roll.*"

KIDSERIES PRODUCTIONS

THE STINKY CHEESE MAN AND OTHER FAIRLY STUPID TALES

Based on the irreverent book by Jon Scieszka and Lane Smith

Adapted by William Massolia

Directed by Richard Barletta

September 30 – November 26, 2006

Previews: 9/30 @ 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM

Opening: 10/1 @ 1:00 PM

Regular Run: Saturdays @ 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM; Sundays @ 1:00 PM: \$10

Poor Jack. He just wants to chop down his beanstalk in peace, but the little red hen, the princess, the wolf and a host of familiar fairytale characters keep getting in the way – and then there's that annoying Stinky Cheese Man! This subversive anti-fairytale is a hilarious reinvention of the successful Griffin Theatre production by its creators, Massolia and Barletta.

THE VELVETEEN RABBIT

A world premiere based on the heart-warming tale by Margery Williams

Adapted by Lifeline ensemble member Elise Kauzlaric

Directed by Lifeline ensemble member Jenifer Tyler

December 16, 2006 – February 4, 2007

Previews: 12/16 @ 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM

Opening: 12/17 @ 1:00 PM

Regular Run: 12/18 – 12/31: Every day @ 1:00 PM (except Christmas Day)

1/6 – 2/4: Saturdays @ 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM; Sundays @ 1:00 PM: \$10

A classic tale of a boy and his toy bunny and the transforming power of love. This beloved masterpiece is told in a brand new adaptation that focuses on the power of hope and what can happen if you truly believe.

THE TRUE STORY OF THE THREE LITTLE PIGS

A world premiere based on the hilarious story by Jon Scieszka and Lane Smith

Adapted by Lifeline ensemble member Robert Kauzlaric, Music by Paul Gilvary

Directed by Lifeline ensemble member Victoria Delorio

February 24 – April 15, 2007

Previews: 2/24 @ 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM

Opening: 2/25 @ 1:00 PM

Regular Run: Saturdays @ 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM; Sundays @ 1:00 PM: \$10

There are two sides to every story. Now the long-suppressed account of the Wolf is finally brought to light – featuring a rockabilly score by Paul Gilvary. Parents and children will both delight in this inside-out, musical version of the famous fairytale that asks who is really to blame.

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