

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**LIFELINE THEATRE ANNOUNCES 2014-2015 SEASON OF BIG STORIES, UP CLOSE:
FOUR WORLD PREMIERES AND THE RETURN OF TWO FAVORITES,
PLUS THE 18TH ANNUAL FILLET OF SOLO FESTIVAL
AND THE LIFELINE CONCERT READING SERIES.**

Subscriptions available now

CHICAGO – **Lifeline Theatre** Artistic Director **Dorothy Milne** and the artistic ensemble announce their 2014-2015 season of *Big Stories, Up Close*. The MainStage season features the classic romance of “**Jane Eyre**,” followed by the world premiere coming-of-age adventure, “**One Came Home**,” and concludes with the world premiere superhero musical, “**Soon I Will Be Invincible**.” The KidSeries season begins with the beloved classic, “**The Velveteen Rabbit**,” followed by “**Lions in Illyria**,” a world premiere twist on one of Shakespeare’s most popular comedies, and ends with a world premiere adaptation of “**The One and Only Ivan**,” based on an inspiring true story. It’s a season with six unforgettable productions – sprawling, classic stories and thrilling contemporary titles – as Lifeline retains its reputation for fresh, imaginative interpretations of beloved favorites and embraces the challenges of new, thought-provoking works.

Additionally, Lifeline Theatre will produce the 18th annual **Fillet of Solo Festival**, a three-week, multi-venue solo performance and storytelling festival; and the **2014-15 Concert Reading Series** will see the return of *Around the World in 80 Days*, *A Room with a View*, and *Pride and Prejudice* to the Lifeline stage.

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

“**Jane Eyre**,” September 5–October 26, 2014 (opens 9/15/14, 7:30 p.m.)
“**One Came Home**,” February 13–April 5, 2015 (opens 2/23/15, 7:30 p.m.)
“**Soon I Will Be Invincible**,” May 29–July 19, 2015 (opens 6/8/15, 7:30 p.m.)

KidSeries

“**The Velveteen Rabbit**,” October 18–November 23, 2014 (opens 10/19/14, 1 p.m.)
“**Lions in Illyria**,” January 10–February 15, 2015 (opens 1/11/15, 1 p.m.)
“**The One and Only Ivan**,” March 21–April 26, 2015 (opens 3/22/15, 1 p.m.)

Plus

The 2014-15 Lifeline Concert Reading Series, October 29, 2014–April 1, 2015
The 18th Annual Fillet of Solo Festival, January 9–25, 2015

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 \$30 (a \$50 value; allows entry to all performances in the 2015 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; gives first choice of seats with unlimited free ticket exchanges; knocks 25% off party room packages for pre- or post-show events; and offers invitations to subscriber events such as Sneak Peeks of the rehearsal process, book discussions, and author events.

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Lifeline continues its popular "Book Club Add-ons," which include paperback copies of all three source books for the MainStage season, or hardcover copies of two of the titles in the KidSeries season (*The Velveteen Rabbit* and *The One and Only Ivan*). Read the books beforehand and then experience Lifeline's adaptation. "Book Club Add-ons" are only \$25 for either series. An additional add-on for KidSeries Subscriptions is admission to a "Stories Come Alive!" Hour during each KidSeries production for only \$10 (a \$15 value).

Copies of the source books for the MainStage and KidSeries seasons will be on sale in the lobby.

Lifeline Theatre also offers fun and educational programming for children. Lifeline continues its "**Stories Come Alive!**" series, running Saturdays and Sundays at 12 p.m., between regularly-scheduled KidSeries performances. These hour-long sessions cost only \$5 per child, and feature readings, on-your-feet drama games, and fun to supplement the KidSeries productions. Additionally, Lifeline also offers three "**Stories Come Alive!**" **Library Days** at the Rogers Park Branch of the Chicago Public Library (6907 N. Clark St.). These **FREE** events for children ages 4 and up feature read-alongs from a KidSeries book with interactive drama games.

Ticket prices for the 2014-2015 season are as follows: regular single MainStage tickets are \$40; seniors and groups (12 or more) are \$30; previews, students (with ID) and rush tickets (half-hour before show, subject to availability) are \$20. 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 also offers a full-service party room for on-site, pre- or post-show events.

Lifeline Theatre is located at 6912 N. Glenwood Ave. in Chicago's Rogers Park neighborhood. Lifeline Theatre has a designated parking lot which may be used for all performances, located at the NE corner of Morse and Ravenswood (one block west of Clark Street). Lifeline Theatre's shuttle van will run between the theatre and the parking lot 45 minutes prior to each performance and make loops back to the lot immediately after each performance. 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.

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-one seasons** and over a **hundred and fifty 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 over **one hundred world premiere literary adaptations** and **thirteen original plays**, two dozen of which have had a life beyond their Lifeline premieres, with more than **one hundred and fifty subsequent productions** spread across nearly forty U.S. states, four Canadian provinces, England, and Ireland. Additionally, two scripts developed at Lifeline Theatre have gone on to U.S. national tours, and nine have been published. Lifeline Theatre has garnered a total of **forty-seven Jeff Awards** (Equity and Non-Equity), including fourteen for New Adaptation or New Work, and **twenty-one After Dark Awards**.

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, aspiring to create art that is relevant to its culturally diverse, increasingly youthful neighborhood.

Lifeline's artistic ensemble is led by Artistic Director Dorothy Milne, and consists of Aly Renee Amidei, Patrick Blashill, Christina Calvit, Heather Currie, Victoria Delorio, Amanda Delheimer Dimond, Alan Donahue, Kevin D. Gawley, Peter Greenberg, James E. Grote, Chris Hainsworth, John Hildreth, Paul S. Holmquist, Elise Kauzlaric, Robert Kauzlaric, Frances Limoncelli, Amanda Link, Katie McLean Hainsworth, Shole Milos, Sandy Snyder Pietz, Suzanne Plunkett, Maren Robinson, Phil Timberlake, Jenifer Tyler, Christopher M. Walsh, and Elizabeth Wislar.

Lifeline Theatre's programs are partially supported by Alphawood Foundation; The Allstate Foundation; A.R.T. League; The Arts Work Fund; Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation; CityArts grant from the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events; The Common Cup; Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation; FGMK LLC; Flex Print, Inc.; Lloyd A. Fry Foundation; The Grover Hermann Foundation; Illinois Arts Council, a state agency; MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture at Prince; Netrix LLC; The Pauls Foundation; The Polk Bros. Foundation; The Shubert Foundation; and the annual support of businesses and individuals.

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MainStage Productions

“Jane Eyre,” based on the classic romance by Charlotte Brontë

Adapted by Lifeline Theatre ensemble member Christina Calvit

Directed by Lifeline Theatre Artistic Director Dorothy Milne

Produced by special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc. (www.playscripts.com)

September 5–October 26, 2014

Regular tickets \$40; preview tickets \$20

Previews: Fridays, 9/5 and 9/12 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 9/6 and 9/13 at 8 p.m.; Sundays, 9/7 and 9/14 at 4 p.m.

Press Opening: Monday, 9/15, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. (press also invited to final preview on 9/14 at 4 p.m.)

Regular Run: 9/18–10/26, 2014: Thursdays and Fridays at 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m.; Sundays at 4 p.m.

After a troubled childhood, Jane Eyre searches for new purpose as a governess at Thornfield Hall. But a fragile peace gives way to turbulent passion when she meets Mr. Rochester, a man concealing a dark secret. Their unconventional relationship leads to a terrible revelation, and Jane must forge a new future from the ashes of her ravaged dreams. As she struggles to free herself from the ghosts of her past, Jane realizes that her only hope is to find love on her own terms. A highly theatrical exploration of one woman's independent spirit in a beloved adaptation based on the classic 1847 novel by Charlotte Brontë.

“One Came Home,” a world premiere based on the historical adventure by Amy Timberlake

Adapted by Jessica Wright Buha

Directed by Lifeline Theatre ensemble member Elise Kauzlaric

February 13–April 5, 2015

Regular tickets \$40; preview tickets \$20

Previews: Fridays, 2/13 and 2/20 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 2/14 and 2/21 at 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2/15 and 2/22 at 4 p.m.

Press Opening: Monday, 2/23, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. (press also invited to final preview on 2/22 at 4 p.m.)

Regular Run: 2/26–4/5, 2015: Thursdays and Fridays at 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m.; Sundays at 4 p.m.

During the great passenger pigeon migration of 1871, throngs of strangers descend upon Placid, Wisconsin, bringing prosperity in their wake. But as the skies clear, tragedy strikes and Georgie Burkhardt's sister goes missing. When a body is found and the town goes into mourning, Georgie sets out on her own to uncover the truth behind Agatha's disappearance. The journey that follows, both humorous and heartbreaking, will test the limits of her courage and the strength of her character. A powerful coming-of-age tale combines live music with historical events, in a world premiere adaptation based on the 2013 novel by Chicago-based author Amy Timberlake, a Newbery Honor Book and Edgar Award finalist.

“Soon I Will Be Invincible,” a world premiere musical based on the contemporary superhero story by Austin Grossman

Adapted by Lifeline Theatre ensemble member Christopher M. Walsh

Music and Lyrics by Christopher Kriz

Directed by Lifeline Theatre ensemble member Paul S. Holmquist

May 29–July 19, 2015

Regular tickets \$40; preview tickets \$20

Previews: Fridays, 5/29 and 6/5 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 5/30 and 6/6 at 8 p.m.; Sundays, 5/31 and 6/7 at 4 p.m.

Press Opening: Monday, 6/8, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. (press also invited to final preview on 6/7 at 4 p.m.)

Regular Run: 6/11–7/19, 2015: Thursdays and Fridays at 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m.; Sundays at 4 p.m.

The devious Doctor Impossible has escaped from prison and legendary superhero CoreFire has vanished without a trace. With the fate of the world in their hands, the New Champions have mere hours to recover their fallen comrade and stop their arch-nemesis before his doomsday device is complete. Joined by Fatale, a cyborg with an arsenal of deadly hardware and a host of self-esteem issues, the mighty super-team must face their darkest hour – and the truths buried in their deeply troubled pasts. A thrilling new musical about power and identity set in a vibrant world of heroes and villains, in a world premiere adaptation based on the 2007 novel by Austin Grossman.

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KidSeries Productions

"The Velveteen Rabbit," based on the beloved classic by Margery Williams

Adapted by Lifeline Theatre ensemble member Elise Kauzlaric

Directed by Lifeline Theatre ensemble member Amanda Link

Produced by special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc. (www.playscripts.com)

October 18–November 23, 2014

All tickets \$15

Previews: Saturday, 10/18 at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.; and Sunday, 10/19 at 11 a.m.

Press Opening: Sunday, 10/19 at 1 p.m.

Regular Run: 10/25–11/23, 2014: Saturdays and Sundays at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

One Christmas morning, a shy stuffed bunny enters the world of a young boy's nursery. Initially ignored in favor of more modern toys, she waits patiently to be noticed, wondering if she will ever be loved like the others. When the wise old Skin Horse reveals the majesty and mystery of what it means to become Real, the Velveteen Rabbit begins an odyssey of the heart to make a lasting connection with her boy that will endure for always. Return to a simpler time with this heartwarming story about the transformative power of love. Based on the classic 1922 book by Margery Williams.

"Lions in Illyria," a world premiere based on William Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*

Adapted by Lifeline Theatre ensemble member Robert Kauzlaric

Directed by Lifeline Theatre ensemble member Amanda Delheimer Dimond

January 10–February 15, 2015

All tickets \$15

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

Press Opening: Sunday, 1/11 at 1 p.m.

Regular Run: 1/17–2/15, 2015: Saturdays and Sundays at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Separated from her brother by a storm at sea, the young lioness Violet must brave an unknown country all alone. Disguised as a boy, she joins up with a preposterous peacock on a quest to claim the attentions of the most graceful gazelle in town. But soon Violet is torn between multiple masters and her adventure takes a turn for the absurd when she becomes entangled in the clownish antics of a wacky warthog and his featherbrained dodo sidekick. Travel to the weird and wonderful land of Illyria in a magical comedy loaded with music, monkeys, and mayhem. Based on the rollicking comedy *Twelfth Night*, by William Shakespeare.

"The One and Only Ivan," a world premiere based on the powerful bestseller by Katherine Applegate, illustrated by Patricia Castelao

Adapted by Lifeline Theatre ensemble member James E. Grote

Directed by Lifeline Theatre Artistic Director Dorothy Milne

March 21–April 26, 2015

All tickets \$15

Previews: Saturday, 3/21 at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.; and Sunday, 3/22 at 11 a.m.

Press Opening: Sunday, 3/22 at 1 p.m.

Regular Run: 3/28–4/26, 2015: Saturdays and Sundays at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

(No performances Easter Sunday, April 5, 2015)

For 27 years, the world of Ivan the gorilla was a dull cage in a roadside shopping mall. But when he meets Ruby, a baby elephant captured in the wild, Ivan's ambitions and imagination must grow to meet the challenge of rescuing his endangered new companion. Aided by Bob the scrappy dog and a young human ally, Ivan sets out to become the great silverback and protector he was always meant to be. Enter the mind of a remarkable hero in this unforgettable story of enduring friendship, drawn from true events. Based on the 2012 book by Katherine Applegate, a #1 *New York Times* bestseller and winner of the Newbery Medal.

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The 2014-15 Lifeline Concert Reading Series

"Around the World in 80 Days," October 29, 2014

"A Room with a View," February 25, 2015

"Pride and Prejudice," April 1, 2015

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

Following the runaway success of the 2012-13 Dorothy L. Sayers Series and 2013-14 Georgette Heyer Series, Lifeline continues the tradition with concert readings of three beloved hits from its past: *Around the World in 80 Days*, adapted by ensemble member **John Hildreth** (originally produced in 2002, winner of 6 Non-Equity Jeff Awards, including New Adaptation); *A Room with a View*, adapted by ensemble member **Christina Calvit** (originally produced in 2006); and *Pride and Prejudice*, also adapted by Calvit (originally produced in 1986, remounted in 1992 and 2012). All three readings will feature numerous Lifeline ensemble actors and returning original cast members.

Each evening begins at 6 p.m. with hors d'oeuvres, a light supper, and wine (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 18th Annual Fillet of Solo Festival

January 9–25, 2015

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

Participants, locations, scheduling, and full details for the 2015 Fillet of Solo Festival will be announced Fall 2014.

Season subscriptions and single tickets for the 2014-2015 MainStage and KidSeries seasons are on sale now. Lifeline Theatre is located at 6912 N. Glenwood Ave. 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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