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Julie Ganey Joins Lifeline Theatre as Education Director

CHICAGO – Lifeline Theatre welcomes **Julie Ganey** as Education Director, starting July 27, 2015. In this position, Ganey will be responsible for the management and administration of all in-school residencies, professional development workshops, on-site classes, and educational special events for Lifeline Theatre, reporting directly to Artistic Director **Dorothy Milne** and Managing Director **Allison Cain**. Lifeline's Education Director since 2009, Lea Pinsky, recently departed the theatre to focus on the visual arts, joining Art Encounter, an Evanston-based arts education organization, as Program Director. Meanwhile, Lifeline Theatre's 2015-16 season opens with the world premiere MainStage production "*Miss Buncler's Book*" (running September 11–November 1) and the world premiere KidSeries musical production "*Mr. Popper's Penguins*" (running October 24–November 29).

Ganey earned her BFA in acting at The Theatre School at DePaul University. She comes to the Education Director position after working as a teaching artist in Lifeline's residency program for the past six years. She served as Director of Education at 2nd Story from 2009–2015, and Outreach Director at Next Theatre from 2007–2011, and she continues to work with students of all ages through Goodman Theatre and at Northside Catholic Academy. In 2007, Ganey created a bullying prevention program, *Stand Up on the Schoolyard*, which has been presented to students and educators within the Chicago Public School system and across the country. In 2015, her work was presented at the National Conference on Bullying in Orlando. Ganey has spent two decades as an artistic associate at Wavelength, an award-winning ensemble that provides professional development for educators nationwide, creating and leading workshops on communication skills, conflict resolution, using improvisation in the classroom, and professional learning communities. As a performer, Ganey has worked with Goodman Theatre, Victory Gardens, Northlight, Chicago Dramatists, Shattered Globe, 16th Street Theatre and Drury Lane Theatre, among others. Her solo shows, *The Half-Life of Magic* and *Love Thy Neighbor...till it hurts*, have been produced by Fillet of Solo at Lifeline, Next Theatre, 16th Street Theatre, and side project theatre. Ganey is a company member at 2nd Story, and her piece "When the Fairies Came" appears in the anthology, *Briefly Knocked Unconscious by a Low-Flying Duck*. Her work has also been featured on WBEZ.

"Because I've had a relationship with Lifeline for years – as a teaching artist in the residency programs, as a performer in Fillet of Solo, and as a longtime resident of Rogers Park – I'm confident in the alignment of our values, and I'm especially honored to step into this leadership position," Ganey said. *"My work is guided by the belief that art heals people in ways that are both visible and invisible, and that participating in the theatre and storytelling can change children's lives by providing the experience of doing things and making choices previously not imagined. I'm thrilled to be a part of that work through Lifeline."*

In addition to Cain and Milne, Lifeline Theatre is led by a group of 27 Artistic Ensemble members, including **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 Powell Wislar.**

Now in its 33rd season, 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 Theatre – Big Stories, Up Close.

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