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**Lifeline Theatre KidSeries Presents *Sparky!*,  
World Premiere Musical Based on Novel by Jenny Ofill  
Opens January 17**

Plus Performance with Open Captioning on January 23, Autism-Friendly Performance on February 7,  
and Performance with Touch Tour and Audio Description on February 13  
And **Stories Come Alive! Hour** Workshops Every Saturday and Sunday During the Run

CHICAGO – Lifeline Theatre’s KidSeries presents *Sparky!*, a world premiere musical adaptation with script by Lifeline Theatre ensemble member **Jessica Wright Buha**, music and lyrics by Laura McKenzie, and directed by Lifeline Theatre ensemble member **Amanda Link**, based on the novel by **Jenny Ofill** and illustrated by **Chris Appelhans**. This production is recommended for children ages five and up (children under two not permitted), and runs approximately one hour with no intermission. *Sparky!* runs Saturday, Jan. 16 – Sunday, Feb. 21 at Lifeline Theatre, 6912 N. Glenwood Ave. **Press opening is Sunday, Jan. 17 at 1 p.m.** Regular performance times are Saturdays and Sundays at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., with an added autism-friendly performance on Sunday, Feb. 7 at 3 p.m. (Previews are Saturday, Jan. 16 at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.; and Sunday, Jan. 17 at 11 a.m.) Tickets 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).

**Accessible Performances:** The Saturday, Jan. 23, 1 p.m. performance will feature open captioning for patrons who are deaf or hard-of-hearing. There will be a relaxed/sensory-friendly performance on Sunday, Feb. 7 at 3 p.m. for patrons with social and/or cognitive disabilities. And the Saturday, Feb. 13, 11 a.m. performance will feature a pre-show touch tour of the set at 10 a.m. and live audio description for patrons who are blind or have low vision. For more information about Lifeline’s accessibility services, please contact Accessibility Coordinator Erica Foster at 773.761.4477 x703 or at [access@lifelinetheatre.com](mailto:access@lifelinetheatre.com).

Libby desperately wants a pet, but her mother says she can only have one that doesn’t need to be walked, bathed, or fed. So she orders a sloth and names him Sparky. It’s love at first sight... even if Sparky doesn’t know how to fetch and always loses at Hide-and-Seek (though he’s very good at playing “statue”). But after know-it-all Mary Potts mocks Sparky as lazy and unimpressive, Libby must throw a backyard talent show to highlight the talents of her misunderstood companion. Roll up for the first-ever “Trained Sloth Extravaganza!” and learn about accepting your friends for who they are, in this world premiere musical based on the delightful 2014 book by Jenny Ofill, illustrated by Chris Appelhans.

**PLUS:** Join Lifeline Theatre every Saturday and Sunday at 12 p.m. during the run of *Sparky!* (following the 11 a.m. show, or before the 1 p.m. show) for our **Stories Come Alive! Hour**. Children will enjoy an interactive storytelling session and on-your-feet theatre games. The cost is only \$5 per child. Reservations are recommended, though not required. Contact Lifeline Theatre at 773-761-4477 for more information.

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Lifeline Theatre, 6912 N. Glenwood Ave. Chicago, IL 60626  
773-761-4477, [www.lifelinetheatre.com](http://www.lifelinetheatre.com)

The complete cast and production team for *Sparky!* includes:

**CAST:** Guest artists **Allison Cain** (Miss Edwin), **Jhenai Mootz** (Mom), **Eunice Woods** (Libby), **Juanita Andersen** (Mary Potts), and **Andres Enriquez** (Sparky). With understudies **Claire Orzel**, **Rachel Page**, and **Brian Tochterman**.

**CREW:** Lifeline Theatre ensemble members **Amanda Link** (Director) and **Jessica Wright Buha** (Adaptor); with guest artists **Jennifer Aparicio** (Stage Manager), **Jana Anderson** (Costume Designer), **Benjamin W. Dawson** (Production Manager), **Jesse Gaffney** (Props Designer), **Joanna Iwanicka** (Set Designer), **Becca Jefford** (Lighting Designer), **Laura McKenzie** (Composer and Music Director), **Mikey Moran** (Sound Designer), **Sam Moryoussef** (Master Electrician) and **Joe Schermoly** (Technical 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 33<sup>rd</sup> 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.

Lifeline Theatre's programs are partially supported by Alphawood Foundation; The Arts Work Fund; Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation; a 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.; The Grover Hermann Foundation; Illinois Arts Council, a state agency; MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture at Prince; Netrix LLC; The Polk Bros. Foundation; S&C Foundation; The Shubert Foundation; and the annual support of businesses and individuals.