



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lifeline Theatre KidSeries Presents *Montauciel Takes Flight*, World Premiere Family Musical Opens January 14, 2018

Plus Performance with Touch Tour and Audio Description on January 27, Performances with Open Captioning on January 28, Autism/Sensory-Friendly Performance on February 4, and **Stories Come Alive! Hour** Workshops Every Saturday and Sunday During the Run

CHICAGO –Lifeline Theatre’s KidSeries presents *Montauciel Takes Flight*, a world premiere family musical with book by Lifeline Theatre ensemble member **James E. Grote**, music and lyrics by **Russell Coutinho**, and directed by **Aileen McGroddy**. Montauciel’s name may mean “climb-to-the-sky,” but for all her life the young ewe has been stuck on the ground. Then one day, her adventurous spirit carries her to the town of Annonay, where she teams up with the legendary Montgolfier brothers. Bringing her ingenuity and love of science to bear, Montauciel helps the two scientists invent the hot air balloon, and she soon finds herself captaining the first “manned” test flight, with a duck and a rooster as trusty co-pilots. Take a leap into the unknown and realize your full potential with this world premiere musical inspired by the story of the first living creatures to take to the skies in a human-made flying machine. This production is recommended for children ages five and up (children under two not permitted), and runs approximately one hour with no intermission.

Montauciel Takes Flight runs Saturday, Jan. 13 – Sunday, Feb. 18 at Lifeline Theatre, 6912 N. Glenwood Ave. **Press opening is Sunday, Jan. 14 at 1 p.m.** Regular performance times are Saturdays and Sundays at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. (Previews are Saturday, Jan. 13 at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.; and Sunday, Jan. 14 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.

Accessible Performances: The Saturday, Jan. 27, 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. The Sunday, Jan. 28, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. performances will feature open captioning for patrons who are deaf or hard-of-hearing. And there will be an added autism/sensory-friendly performance on Sunday, Feb. 4 at 3 p.m. for patrons with social and/or cognitive disabilities. For more information about Lifeline’s accessibility services, please contact Accessibility Coordinator Erica Foster at 773.761.4477 x703 or at access@lifelinetheatre.com.

PLUS: Join Lifeline Theatre every Saturday and Sunday at 12 p.m. during the run of *Montauciel Takes Flight* (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.

The complete cast and production team for *Montauciel Takes Flight* includes:

CAST: Guest artists **Jordan Arredondo** (Joseph), **Carisa Gonzalez** (Bessie), **Scott Ray Merchant** (Etienne), **Kirra Silver** (Montauciel), and **Jennifer Vance** (Rooster). With understudies **Whitney Dottery**, **Chris Khoshaba**, and **Suzanna Ziko**.

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Lifeline Theatre, 6912 N. Glenwood Ave. Chicago, IL 60626
773-761-4477, www.lifelinetheatre.com

PRODUCTION TEAM: Lifeline Theatre ensemble member **James E. Grote** (Adaptor); with guest artists **Alex Benjamin** (Music Director), **Russell Coutinho** (Composer/Lyricist), **Collin Helou** (Master Electrician/AV Supervisor), **Amanda Herrmann** (Properties Designer), **Lavina Jadhvani** (Casting Director), **Eleanor Kahn** (Scenic Designer), **Jeffrey Levin** (Sound Designer), **Jacqueline Marschke** (Stage Manager), **Jennifer McClendon** (Production Manager), **Aileen McGroddy** (Director), **Joe Schermoly** (Technical Director), **Emily Swanson** (Costume Designer), and **Eric Watkins** (Lighting Designer).

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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. Lifeline Theatre is accessible by CTA (Red Line Morse stop/busses) and free parking is available at Sullivan High School (6631 N Bosworth Ave, lot located on Greenview Ave. just south of North Shore Ave.) with free shuttle service before and after the show. Street parking is also available. Lifeline is accessible to wheelchair users and visitors who need to avoid stairs.

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Now in its 35th 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; A.R.T League Inc.; Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation; Chicago CityArts, a grant from the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events; The Common Cup; Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation; FGMK LLC; Lloyd A. Fry Foundation; The Grover Hermann Foundation; Illinois Arts Council Agency; Illinois Humanities Council; Lagunitas Brewing Co. Community Grant Program; MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture at Prince; The PAV Grant Fund; The Polk Bros. Foundation; Poubelle Fund, a Donor Advised Fund of Renaissance Charitable Foundation; Rogers Park Social; The Saints; S&C Electric Company Fund; The Shubert Foundation; and the annual support of businesses and individuals.