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**Lifeline Theatre Presents *Midnight Cowboy*,  
A World Premiere Adaptation Of The Book by James Leo Herlihy  
Opens February 29, 2016**

Performance with Open Captioning on March 5  
Performance with Touch Tour and Audio Description on March 19

CHICAGO – **Lifeline Theatre** presents a world premiere adaptation of James Leo Herlihy's 1965 novel, *Midnight Cowboy*, adapted by Lifeline Theatre ensemble member Chris Hainsworth (2015 Non-Equity Jeff nomination: New Adaptation – *Monstrous Regiment*), and directed by Lifeline ensemble member Christopher M. Walsh. Joe Buck escapes his dead-end life in Texas and heads to New York City with dreams of making his fortune as a hustler for wealthy socialites. But his rugged cowboy persona masks the gullibility of a child, and Joe falls victim to all manner of con artists and predators. At the end of his rope, he partners with street-savvy Rico "Ratso" Rizzo in an alliance that could either save or destroy them both. A meditation on loneliness and the need to form real connections amidst the crushing isolation of 20th-century life. The production runs approximately two hours with one intermission. The book will be on sale in the lobby.

*Midnight Cowboy* runs February 19 – April 10, 2016 at Lifeline Theatre, 6912 N. Glenwood Ave. (free parking and shuttle; see below). Press opening is Sunday, February 28 at 4 p.m. Opening night is Monday, February 29 at 7:30 p.m. (Previews are Fridays, February 19 and 26 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays, February 20 and 27 at 8 p.m.; and Sunday, February 21 at 4 p.m.)

Regular performance times (March 3 – April 10) are Thursdays and Fridays at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays at 4 and 8 p.m., and Sundays at 4 p.m. Ticket prices are \$40 for regular single tickets, \$30 for active and retired military personnel (with ID), \$30 for seniors, \$20 for students (with ID), \$20 for rush tickets (available half hour before show time, subject to availability), and \$20 for previews. Group rate for 12 or more is available upon request. Tickets 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, March 5, 4 p.m. performance will feature open captioning for patrons who are deaf or hard-of-hearing. The Saturday, March 19, 4 p.m. performance will feature a pre-show touch tour of the set at 2:30 p.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).

The complete cast and production team for *Midnight Cowboy* includes:

**CAST:** Lifeline Theatre ensemble member **Patrick Blashill** (Woodsy/Towny); with guest artists **Megan DeLay** (Cass), **Micah Kronlokken** (Bobby), **Anne Marie Lewis** (Sally), **Zach Livingston** (Joe), **Gregory Madden** (O'Daniel), **Adam Marcantoni** (Ratso), **Jack Miggins** (Perry), and **Heather Smith** (Anastasia). With understudies **Aislinn Eng**, **Jay Donley**, **Shawn Hansen**, and **Nellie Kay Ognacevic**.

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**PRODUCTION TEAM:** Lifeline Theatre ensemble members **Chris Hainsworth** (Adaptor), **Elise Kauzlaric** (Dialect Coach), and **Christopher M. Walsh** (Director); with guest artists **Benjamin W. Dawson** (Production Manager), **Matt Engle** (Fight Director), **Sarah Espinoza** (Sound Designer), **Lavina Jadhvani** (Casting Director), **Theresa Kelly** (Assistant Lighting Designer), **Ryan McCain** (Properties Designer), **Lindsey Miller** (Stage Manager), **Sam Moryoussef** (Master Electrician), **Patrick Runfeldt** (Dramaturg), **Joe Schermoly** (Scenic Designer, Technical Director), **Rachel Sypniewski** (Costume Designer), and **Brandon Wardell** (Lighting Designer).

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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.