



Big Stories, Up Close.

PRESS RELEASE

Chicago, IL, February 12, 2007

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World Premiere Play “CROSSING CALIFORNIA” **Adapted from Chicago Author Adam Langer’s Book**

WHAT: Lifeline Theatre concludes its 24th anniversary season with the world premiere MainStage production “**Crossing California**,” adapted by Lifeline ensemble member Alan Donahue, based on Chicago author Adam Langer’s Crossing California, directed by Lifeline ensemble member John Hildreth. ***This play is recommended for mature audiences.***

It’s 1979. The hostages are in Iran, Ronald Reagan is on his way to the White House, and in Chicago’s West Rogers Park neighborhood, Temple K.I.N.S. is rocking out to “Ain’t God a Trip?” “**Crossing California**” is a raw and hilarious look at three adolescents growing up in a diverse and divided Chicago neighborhood; following their awkward, sometimes painful journey to find their own identities.

Meet Muley. He’s 14, he’s an artist, he’s African-American and he lives on the *wrong* side of California Avenue. He’s in love with Jill. She’s Jewish, she’s a communist and she is about to move to the *right* side of California.

The show runs approximately two hours with one intermission. Media passes, photographs, videos, interviews and additional materials are available on request.

SPECIAL AUTHOR EVENT: There will be a pre-show book signing from 4-5 p.m. (books on sale in the lobby), and a post-show discussion with Adam Langer (about 8 p.m.) on **Sunday, May 27**. These FREE pre- and post-show events are sponsored by the **Illinois Humanities Council**.

WHERE: Lifeline Theatre, 6912 N. Glenwood Ave., Chicago, IL 60626
Parking available (street and lot – see below); CTA accessible (Red Line Morse stop/buses)
Free lot parking until midnight three blocks north of the theatre in the Trilogy lot (Estes & Glenwood)
Handicapped accessible

WHEN: Press opening on Monday, May 14, 2007, at 7:30 p.m. (media also invited to final preview on Sunday, May 13, 2007, at 5:30 p.m.)
Closes on June 24, 2007
Runs Fridays at 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m.; and Sundays at 5:30 p.m.
Previews on Fridays May 4 and May 11, 2007, at 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays May 5 and May 12, 2007, at 8 p.m. (no 4 p.m. shows during previews); Sundays May 6 and May 13, 2007, at 5:30 p.m.

TICKETS: Publish this number – 773-761-4477; HotTix; TicketWeb
\$26 for Saturday 8 p.m. shows
\$24 for Fridays, Saturday 4 p.m. matinees, and Sundays
\$20 for seniors
\$14 for students (with valid ID)
\$14 for previews
\$14 for rush tickets (half hour before the show, subject to availability)
\$10 for industry on first preview weekend, May 4, May 5 and May 6, 2007
Group rates for 12 and over available upon request.

- more -

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

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- BIO:** **Adam Langer** was born in 1967 and grew up on Mozart Street in Chicago's West Rogers Park neighborhood, once home to Burghard's Egg Factory, Roband's Drugstore, and the Starsky & Fudge ice cream parlor. He visited Nortown Public Library, attended Boone Elementary, and went to Lunt Avenue Beach. He worked for a little over a decade as an editor, playwright, theater director, and writer for a number of periodicals, including the Chicago Reader. In 2000, he won a fellowship to Columbia University's National Arts Journalism Program and he wrote fiction in New York while serving as senior editor of Book Magazine until 2003. His first novel Crossing California was published by Riverhead Books in 2004, and The Washington Story was published in August 2005. He has a weekly column for The Book Standard, and divides his time between Bloomington, Indiana, and New York City.
- STAFF:** Ensemble members **John Hildreth** (Director), **Alan Donahue** (Adaptor), and **Kevin D. Gawley** (Lighting Design). With guest artists **Grant Sabin** (Scenic Design), **Cybele Moon** (Costume Design), **Adam Kozlowski** (Sound Design), **Paul Gilvary** (Composer), **Mary O'Dowd** (Properties Design), **Jay Skelton** (Movement), **Angi Adams** (Stage Manager), **Cathleen Bentley** (Assistant Director), **Cortney Hurley** (Production Manager), **Charlie Olson** (Technical Director) and **Mike Smallwood** (Master Electrician).
- CAST:** Ensemble member **Katie McLean** (Michelle), with guest artists **Alison Cain** (Gail), **Bryson Engelen** (Mel), **Amanda Monique Gregg** (Myra), **Stephen Loch** (Gareth), **Dylan Lower** (Larry), **Darren Myers** (Muley), **Kate Nawrocki** (Jill), **Hanlon Smith-Dorsey** (Charlie), **Jaclyn Williams** (Dierdre) and **Jana Anderson** (understudy).
- NEXT:** **Alpana Singh**, Master Sommelier and host of WTTW's "*Check, Please!*" will host Lifeline Theatre's annual benefit on **Sunday, May 6, 2007, 5 – 9 p.m.**, at the Hotel Allegro Chicago, Walnut Ballroom, 171 West Randolph, Chicago, IL, 60601, single tickets \$100, tickets and information at 773-761-4477 and www.lifelinetheatre.com
- INFO:** General theatre info, 773-761-4477, www.lifelinetheatre.com
Marketing info, Frances Limoncelli, 773-761-1772, frances@lifelinetheatre.com
Lifeline Theatre's programs are partially supported by **The Albert Pick, Jr. Fund; Alphawood Foundation; The Chicago Community Trust; CityArts 3 grant from the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs; Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation; Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation; Illinois Arts Council, a state agency; Illinois Humanities Council; Lloyd A. Fry Foundation; MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture at Prince; Meyer and Morris Kaplan Family Foundation; The Polk Bros. Foundation; S&C Foundation;** and the annual support of **businesses and individuals.**
- MISSION:** Now in its 24th season, Lifeline Theatre and its artistic ensemble of writers, directors, designers and performers collaboratively develop literary adaptations and original theater. Lifeline's innovative artistic and education programs for adults, children and families bring engaging and reflective stories to life.

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