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**Lifeline Theatre Continues 29th Anniversary Season with *Hunger*,
World Premiere Adaptation of Powerful World War II Novel by Elise Blackwell
Opens February 13, 2012**

Author of *Hunger*, Elise Blackwell, will be at Lifeline Theatre
for a Talkback and Book Signing Event on March 3 at 4 p.m.

CHICAGO - **Lifeline Theatre** presents a world premiere adaptation of Elise Blackwell's *Hunger*, by Lifeline Theatre ensemble member Chris Hainsworth, and directed by Lifeline Theatre ensemble member Robert Kauzlaric. During the 900-day Nazi siege of Leningrad, Russian botanist Ilya is charged with protecting a cache of valuable seeds for future generations. As the weeks turn to months and food grows scarce, Ilya and his co-workers are torn between their lives' work, the dictates of a brutal regime, and the harsh realities of survival in a time of war. Consumed by innumerable hungers and haunted by memories of happier days, Ilya must choose whether to preserve his life or protect his ideals. A powerful drama of deprivation and loss, in a world premiere adaptation based on the 2003 debut novel by American author and journalist Elise Blackwell (*The Unnatural History of Cypress Parish, An Unfinished Score*). ***Hunger*** runs February 3 – March 25, 2012 at Lifeline Theatre, 6912 N. Glenwood Ave. (free parking and shuttle; see below). Press opening is Sunday, February 12 at 4 p.m. Opening night is Monday, February 13 at 7:30 p.m. (Previews are Fridays, February 3 and 10 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays, February 4 and 11 at 8 p.m.; and Sunday, February 5 at 4 p.m.)

Regular performance times (February 16 – March 25) are Thursdays and Fridays at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sundays at 4 p.m. Ticket prices are \$35 for regular single tickets on Saturdays and Sundays, \$32 for regular single tickets on Thursdays and Fridays, \$27 for seniors, \$20 for students (with I.D.), \$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. This production runs approximately two and a half hours with one intermission. The book will be on sale in the lobby.

Lifeline Theatre will also be hosting Elise Blackwell, *Hunger's* author, for a talkback and book signing event on Saturday, March 3 at 4 p.m. (immediately following the performance). This is a free event and copies of the *Hunger* book will be on sale.

The complete cast and production team for ***Hunger*** includes:

CAST: Lifeline Theatre ensemble members **Peter Greenberg** (Vitalli/Lysenko), **Katie McLean Hainsworth** (Efrosinia/Klavdiya), **Jenifer Tyler** (Lidia), and **Christopher M. Walsh** (The Director/Ivan); with guest artists **Dan Granata** (Sergei/Pyotr), **John Henry Roberts** (Ilya), and **Kendra Thulin** (Alena). With understudies **Tosha Fowler**, **Simone Roos**, and **Joseph Stearns**.

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CREW: Lifeline Theatre ensemble members **Kevin D. Gawley** (Lighting Designer), **Chris Hainsworth** (Adaptor), and **Robert Kauzlaric** (Director); with guest artists **Katie Adams** (Stage Manager), **Matt Engle** (Fight Designer), **Jesse Gaffney** (Properties Designer), **Andrew Hansen** (Original Music & Sound Designer), **Cortney Hurley** (Production Manager), **Jordan Kardasz** (Assistant Lighting Designer), **Jessica Kuehnau** (Scenic Designer), **Joanna Melville** (Costume Designer), **Maren Robinson** (Dramaturg), and **Joe Schermoly** (Technical Director).

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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 29th season, Lifeline Theatre specializes in original literary adaptations. Its ensemble of artists uses imaginative, unconventional staging to portray sprawling stories in an intimate space. Lifeline is committed to promoting the arts in its Rogers Park neighborhood and is an anchor of the Glenwood Avenue Arts District. We aspire to create art that is relevant to our culturally diverse, increasingly youthful neighborhood. 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; Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation; The Richard H. Driehaus Charitable Lead Trust; Lloyd A. Fry Foundation; The Grover Hermann Foundation; Illinois Arts Council, a state agency; MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture at Prince; The Pauls Foundation; The Polk Bros. Foundation; The Rhoades Foundation; The Polk Bros. Foundation; S&C Foundation; The Saints; The Service Club of Chicago; and the annual support of businesses and individuals.