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**LIFELINE THEATRE PRESENTS THE 22ND ANNUAL
FILLET OF SOLO FESTIVAL, JANUARY 18–FEBRUARY 2, 2019**

Lifeline Partners with 12 Chicago Storytelling Collectives

Free Kick-Off Event With Discounted Festival Passes on January 16 at 7 p.m.

CHICAGO – Lifeline Theatre Artistic Director **Dorothy Milne** and former Live Bait Theater Artistic Director **Sharon Evans** are pleased to announce the 22nd Annual **Fillet of Solo Festival**, running January 18–February 2, 2019. Celebrating the breadth of Chicago’s enduring storytelling and live lit scene, Lifeline brings 12 storytelling collectives and seven solo performers together for a three-week, multi-venue selection of powerful personal stories.

The 2019 Fillet of Solo festival will perform January 18-February 2, 2019, in Chicago’s Rogers Park neighborhood at Lifeline Theatre (6912 N. Glenwood Ave.) and the Heartland Event Space (Formerly Red Line Tap, 7006 N. Glenwood Ave. – **new location this year**). Free parking and shuttle available. Performance times are Fridays at 7 and 8:30 p.m. at both venues; Saturdays at 4, 5:30, 7, and 8:30 p.m. at both venues; and Sundays at 4 p.m. at Lifeline Theatre. Ticket prices are \$10 for regular single tickets, and \$50 for a Festival Pass (allows admission to any performance). Tickets may be purchased at the Lifeline Box Office, 773.761.4477, or by visiting www.lifelinetheatre.com.

FREE KICK-OFF NIGHT

The 22nd Annual Fillet of Solo Festival offers easy access to 12 Live Lit groups and numerous solo performers that perform regularly throughout Chicago. On **Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2019 at 7 p.m.**, at the **Heartland Event Space**, (formerly Red Line Tap), 7006 N. Glenwood Ave. **Dorothy Milne** of Lifeline Theatre will lead a conversation with numerous local storytellers and share a taste of things to come in the festival.

Discounted Passes: Fillet of Solo Festival Passes will be offered at a special discounted rate of \$25 at the free kick-off event (regularly \$50).

The Kick-Off Night is free, no reservations required. Contact the Lifeline Theatre Box Office, 773.761.4477, for more information.

FEATURED PERFORMERS

The 22nd Annual Fillet of Solo Festival will feature solo performances by:

- **Laura Biagi:** “Self-Love”
- **Archy Jamjun:** “A Boy and a Diva”
- **Kristina Lebedeva:** “Of Magical Thinking: The Hinges of the World”
- **Earliana McLaurin:** “The Malt Liquor Diaries”
- **Roberta Miles:** “I Want a Banana and Other Desperate Love Stories”
- **Janki Mody:** “The MTHFR Gene: Evidence of a Uterus in Crisis”
- **Anne Purky:** “My Michelin Guide to Psych Wards”

Plus the work of the following storytelling collectives:

- **80 Minutes Around the World: Immigration Stories** – Curated and produced by Nestor Gomez. Celebrated storyteller and 20-time Moth Slam winner Nestor Gomez has assembled a group of local performers to help illuminate the voices of immigrants in our city.
- **GeNarrations** (www.goodmantheatre.org/Engage-Learn/For-Community/GeNarrations/): A personal narrative performance workshop hosted at the Goodman Theatre and in senior centers around Chicago.

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Featured performers, continued:

- **the kates** (www.thekates.org): An all-female comedy showcase that provides an intimate night of comedy dedicated to showcasing talented and hilarious female-identified performers by creating inclusive and positive environments. Artists are encouraged to express their comic point of view in unique and non-apologetic ways - proving that women are equal in the eyes of comedy.
- **The Lifeline Storytelling Project** (www.lifelinestorytellingproject.com): The Lifeline Storytelling Project produces live music & storytelling events designed to develop and showcase artists affiliated with Lifeline Theatre.
- **Loose Chicks** (loosechicks.robertamiles.com): Before #MeToo began empowering women, there was Loose Chicks. Loose Chicks is a collection of courageous women who share experiences that most women keep to themselves. Each show features six exceptional writers and performers who allow themselves to be vulnerable as they share with uncommon honesty.
- **OUTspoken!** (www.outspokenchicago.com): OUTspoken! is comprised of storytellers who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, or queer recalling true personal events. It features a mix of seasoned performers and first-time tellers and always strives for diversity. Stories are often funny, heartfelt, and sometimes historically significant. The audience will get a window into the lives of a variety of human experiences that will connect on an emotional level regardless of sexual identity.
- **Serving the Sentence** (www.facebook.com/servingthesentencechicago): Serving the Sentence is a live lit show in which different storytellers take the same first sentence -- each in their own direction. At the end of the show, a new sentence is drawn that the next show's storytellers will embark from!
- **Stir-Friday Night!** (www.stirfridaynight.org): A 23-year-old Asian-American comedy group, based in Chicago and performing at Second City, iO, Annoyance, Steppenwolf's 1700 Theatre, and at festivals all over the country. Stir-Friday Night! alumni include Danny Pudi from *Community*, and Steven Yeun from *The Walking Dead*. Stir-Friday Night! is a nonprofit theater company, specializing in sketch comedy and improvisation, and offers touring shows and workshops for schools, companies, and organizations
- **Sullivan High School:** Stories of life in Rogers Park, written and performed (and musically underscored) by students from Sullivan High School. With the support of Rogers Park Builders Group, Lifeline Theatre has been teaching drama and storytelling at our closest neighborhood high school for the past two years.
- **The Stoop** (www.facebook.com/StoopStyleStories): The Stoop is hosted by Moth GrandSLAM champion Lily Be. Featured storytellers are given a theme and each share a short story related to that theme. The Stoop is a platform to bring Chicagoans to a better understanding of each other and to inspire change. Performing regularly at Rosa's Lounge in Humboldt Park, it is as much about community and survival as it is about entertainment.
- **Sweat Girls** (www.sweatgirls.org): With 24 years of shared history, the Sweat Girls represent the greying edge of Chicago's Live Lit community. Known for their "contagious gusto" the Sweat Girls have been called "the undisputed tribal elders" of the solo performance scene (*Chicago Reader*, 2014).
- **Tellin' Tales Theatre**, featuring **Tekki Lomnicki** (tellintales.org): Tellin' Tales Theatre shatters the barriers between the disabled and non-disabled worlds through personal story — adult solo performances as well as "Six Stories Up," a mentoring program and show featuring kids and adults, with and without disabilities. **Tekki Lomnicki** is a solo performer, playwright, director and educator.

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

WEEK ONE (January 18-20):

Friday, January 18

Lifeline Theatre

7:00 p.m. the kates
8:30 p.m. Archy Jamjun

Heartland Event Space

7:00 p.m. Stir-Friday Night!
8:30 p.m. Serving The Sentence

Saturday, January 19

Lifeline Theatre

4:00 p.m. Lifeline Storytelling Project
5:30 p.m. Tellin' Tales Theatre/Tekki Lomnicki
7:00 p.m. Sweat Girls
8:30 p.m. Earliana McLaurin

Heartland Event Space

4:00 p.m. GeNarrations
5:30 p.m. Laura Biagi & Anne Purky
7:00 p.m. Janki Mody
8:30 p.m. Roberta Miles

Sunday, January 20

Lifeline Theatre

4:00 p.m. Kristina Lebedeva

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Performance schedule, continued:

WEEK TWO (January 25-27):

Friday, January 25

Lifeline Theatre

7:00 p.m. 80 Minutes Around the World
8:30 p.m. Archy Jamjun

Heartland Event Space

7:00 p.m. Stir-Friday Night!
8:30 p.m. Janki Mody

Saturday, January 26

Lifeline Theatre

4:00 p.m. Sweat Girls
5:30 p.m. Tellin' Tales Theatre/Tekki Lomnicki
7:00 p.m. Earliana McLaurin
8:30 p.m. Lifeline Storytelling Project

Heartland Event Space

4:00 p.m. GeNarrations
5:30 p.m. Loose Chicks
7:00 p.m. The Stoop
8:30 p.m. OUTSpoken!

Sunday, January 27

Lifeline Theatre

4:00 p.m. Kristina Lebedeva

WEEK THREE (February 1-2):

Friday, February 1

Lifeline Theatre

7:00 p.m. 80 Minutes Around the World
8:30 p.m. the kates

Heartland Event Space

7:00 p.m. OUTSpoken!
8:30 p.m. Serving The Sentence

Saturday, February 2

Lifeline Theatre

4:00 p.m. Sullivan High School
5:30 p.m. Tellin' Tales Theatre/Tekki Lomnicki
7:00 p.m. Sweat Girls
8:30 p.m. Lifeline Storytelling Project

Heartland Event Space

4:00 p.m. GeNarrations
5:30 p.m. Laura Biagi & Anne Purky
7:00 p.m. Janki Mody
8:30 p.m. The Stoop

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Now in its 36th 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.; Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Illinois; Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation; Chicago CityArts, a grant from the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events; CIG Management; CNA Foundation; Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation; FGMK LLC; FlexPrint Inc.; Lloyd A. Fry Foundation; The Michael and Mona Heath Fund at The Chicago Community Trust Foundation; Illinois Arts Council Agency; Illinois Humanities Council; MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture at Prince; The National Endowment for the Arts; The PAV Grant Fund; The Polk Bros. Foundation; Rogers Park Social; The Saints; S&C Electric Company Fund; The Shubert Foundation; The Steele Foundation; Th Manufacturing; and the annual support of businesses and individuals.