

lifeline



T H E A T R E

Big Stories, Up Close

PRESS RELEASE

Chicago, IL, **UPDATED** November 9, 2009

Media passes, photographs, videos, interviews and additional materials are available on request.

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World Premiere Children's Musical "The Last of the Dragons"

Adaptation of Classic Edith Nesbit Story Opens January 3 at Lifeline

- Fight Choreographers David Gregory and Richard Gilbert Offer Combat Demos at Opening -

WHAT:

Lifeline Theatre KidSeries presents the world premiere musical adaptation "***The Last of the Dragons***," based on the classic fantasy story by Edith Nesbit; adapted by David Bareford; music by Mikhail Fiksel; lyrics by Mikhail Fiksel, Kyle Hamman and Alex Balestrieri; and directed by Lifeline Artistic Director Dorothy Milne. In the land of Astoria, tradition demands that every princess be given to a fire-breathing dragon so she can be saved by a handsome prince. But Andromeda, the swashbuckling daughter of the current king, doesn't want to be rescued by a boy. And Prince Stanley of Tuscany is more interested in science than feats of derring-do. Join this unlikely couple on a journey to the heart of the dragon's lair, as they challenge tradition and learn the true meaning of bravery, in this rousing musical fantasy for the whole family. The production, appropriate for children ages five to ten, features a giant dragon puppet, operated by multiple actors, that participates in stage combat, and runs about one hour with no intermission.

Fight choreographers David Gregory and Richard Gilbert will be at the January 3, 2010, opening from 12 noon – 1 p.m., for a meet-and-greet and sword-fighting demonstration (this pre-show event is free). The book and cast recording CDs will be on sale in the lobby.

Also list: ***Stories Come Alive! "The Last of the Dragons"*** will be presented for free on Saturday, December 19, 2009, 3-4 p.m., at Rogers Park Library, 6907 N. Clark St., in Chicago. Lifeline actors will read "***The Last of the Dragons***" and play drama games with children ages 5-8 (parents welcome too). Further information at 773-761-4477.

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 designated parking lot west of the theatre at the NE corner of Morse and Ravenswood with free shuttle service before and after the show

Handicapped accessible

WHEN:

Press opening Sunday, January 3, 2010, at 1 p.m.

Closes February 21, 2010

Runs Saturdays at 1 p.m., and Sundays at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Previews on January 2 at 1 p.m., and January 3 at 11 a.m.

TICKETS:

Publish this number – 773-761-4477; <https://www.ovationtix.com/trs/cal/1371>

\$12 for both children and adults for all shows

Pay-what-you-can tickets (half-hour before the show – *subject to availability*)

Group rates and other discounts also available on request

Party room available for full-service birthday and special event parties

Rogers Park Theatre Flex Pass at www.rogersparkflexpass.com

STAFF:

Lifeline ensemble member **Dorothy Milne** (Director), with guest artists **Jennifer Aparicio**

(Stage Manager), **Alex Balestrieri** (Lyricist), **David Bareford** (Adaptor), **Mikhail Fiksel**

(Composer, Lyricist, Sound Design), **Richard Gilbert** (Fight Choreography), **David Gregory**

(Fight Choreography), **Kyle Hamman** (Lyricist), **Joanna Iwanicka** (Puppet Design), **Sarah**

Hughey (Lighting Design), **Joanna Melville** (Costume Design), and **Ian Zywica** (Scenic and

Props Design).

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773-761-4477, www.lifelinetheatre.com

"The Last of the Dragons" UPDATED/Page 2

CAST: Guest artists **David Fink** (Dragon), **Scott Allen Luke** (Stanley), **Mike Ooi** (King), **Mallory Nees** (Queen), and **Anne Sears** (Princess). With understudies **Sara Gorsky** and **Andy Junk**.

NEXT: Lifeline MainStage productions of *"Mrs. Caliban,"* February 5–March 28, 2010 (opens 2/15/10); and *"Neverwhere,"* April 30–June 20, 2010 (opens 5/10/10).

Lifeline KidSeries production of *"The Blue Shadow,"* March 13–May 2, 2010 (opens 3/14/10).

Lifeline's 2nd Annual Winter Drama Camp will run December 28-30, 2009, where the theatre's professional artists teach drama skills to ages 7-12 that emphasize building creativity, artistry and teamwork in an atmosphere of mutual encouragement and respect. For information and to register, call 773-761-4477.

In a Martin Luther King, Jr. Day workshop on January 18, 2010 (9 a.m.-12 noon) for ages 7 to 12, members of Alternatives, Inc.'s break dance troupe Connect Force teach a three-hour workshop on break dancing basics at Lifeline Theatre - \$30 tickets available at 773-761-4477 (advance registration recommended).

In a Presidents' Day workshop on February 15, 2010 (9 a.m.-12 noon) for ages 9 to 12, noted Chicago fight choreographers David Gregory and Richard Gilbert teach a three-hour workshop on basic stage combat techniques at Lifeline Theatre - \$30 tickets available at 773-761-4477 (advance registration recommended).

INFO: General theatre info, 773-761-4477, www.lifelinetheatre.com
Robert Kauzlaric, Marketing Director, 773-761-4477 x704, rob@lifelinetheatre.com
Lifeline Theatre's programs are partially supported by **Alphawood Foundation; The Arts Work Fund; Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation; The Chicago Community Trust; CityArts 3 grant from the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs; Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation; The Richard H. Driehaus Charitable Lead Trust; Lloyd A. Fry Foundation; Illinois Arts Council, a state agency; MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture at Prince; The Albert Pick, Jr. Fund; The Rhoades Foundation; The Polk Bros. Foundation; S&C Foundation; Taproot Foundation;** and the annual support of **businesses and individuals.**

MISSION: Now in its 27th season, Lifeline Theatre is known for specializing 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.

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