

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 9, 2020

Jill Evans La Penna  
SHOUT Marketing & Media Relations  
312-226-6727  
jill@shoutchicago.com

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

**LIFELINE THEATRE ANNOUNCES 2020-2021 SEASON OF BIG STORIES, UP CLOSE:**  
**38TH SEASON FEATURES TWO WORLD PREMIERES, A MIDWEST PREMIERE, AND THREE REVIVALS,**  
**PLUS THE 24<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL FILLET OF SOLO FESTIVAL.**

Subscriptions available April 1, 2020

CHICAGO – **Lifeline Theatre** Artistic Director **Hesa Duncan** and the artistic ensemble announce their 2020-21 season of *Big Stories, Up Close*. It's another year of unforgettable stories brought to life, from beloved classics to modern titles.

The 2020-21 MainStage season features the Midwest premiere sequel *Miss Holmes Returns*, followed by a world premiere adaptation of *Chaotic Good*, and concludes with a new take on *Treasure Island*. The KidSeries season opens with our musical adaptation of Doreen Cronin's bestseller *Dooby Dooby Moo*; followed by a revival of *Somebody Loves You, Mr. Hatch*; and concludes with the world premiere of *Extra Yarn*. Additionally, Lifeline Theatre will produce the 24<sup>th</sup> annual **Fillet of Solo Festival**, a three-week, multi-venue solo performance and storytelling festival.

Season subscriptions for the 2020-2021 MainStage and KidSeries seasons go on sale April 1. To purchase season subscriptions or for more information call the Lifeline Theatre Box Office at 773-761-4477, or visit [www.lifelinetheatre.com](http://www.lifelinetheatre.com).

**MainStage Season**

*Miss Holmes Returns*, September 11–November 1, 2020 (opens 9/21/20, 7:30 p.m.)  
*Chaotic Good*, February 19–April 11, 2021 (opens 3/1/21, 7:30 p.m.)  
*Treasure Island*, May 28–July 18, 2021 (opens 6/7/21, 7:30 p.m.)

**KidSeries Season**

*Dooby Dooby Moo*, October 17–November 22, 2020 (opens 10/18/20, 1 p.m.)  
*Somebody Loves You, Mr. Hatch*, January 16–February 21, 2021 (opens 1/17/21, 1 p.m.)  
*Extra Yarn*, March 20–April 25, 2021 (opens 3/21/21, 1 p.m.)

**Plus**

**The 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Fillet of Solo Festival**, January 15–31, 2021

Season subscriptions offer the three MainStage productions for \$100 (a \$135 value), or the three KidSeries plays for \$40 (a \$45/\$60 value). Passes to the Fillet of Solo Festival may be added to any subscription for only \$30 (a \$60 value; allows entry to all performances in the 2021 Festival). Being a Lifeline subscriber allows patrons to save 25% off regular ticket prices; offers discounts on additional tickets; offers discounts to drama camp registration; and gives first choice of seats with unlimited free ticket exchanges.

- more -

## Lifeline Theatre's 2020-21 Season/Page 2

Lifeline continues its popular “Book Club Add-ons,” which include copies of all three source books for the MainStage season for only \$40 (paperback versions of *Sherlock Holmes: The Novels*, *Chaotic Good*, and *Treasure Island*), or copies of all three source books for the KidSeries season for \$30 (paperback versions of *Dooby Dooby Moo* and *Somebody Loves You Mr. Hatch*, and a hardcover version of *Extra Yarn*). Read the books beforehand and then experience Lifeline’s adaptation. Copies of the source books for the MainStage and KidSeries seasons will be on sale in the lobby.

An additional add-on for KidSeries Subscriptions is admission to one “Stories Come Alive!” hour during each KidSeries production for only \$10 (a \$15 value). These hour-long sessions (running Saturdays and Sundays at 12 p.m., between regularly-scheduled KidSeries performances) feature readings, on-your-feet drama games, and fun to supplement the KidSeries productions.

Ticket prices for the 2020-2021 season are as follows: regular single MainStage tickets are \$45; seniors and groups (12 or more) are \$35; previews, and rush tickets (half-hour before show, subject to availability) are \$25; students (with ID) and active and retired military personnel (with ID) are \$20. Lifeline’s KidSeries single tickets for adults are \$20 and kids (ages 2-18) are \$15; and groups of 15 or more are \$13 each. “Name Your Price” KidSeries tickets are available a half-hour before show time (subject to availability).

Lifeline Theatre is located at 6912 N. Glenwood Ave. in Chicago’s Rogers Park neighborhood. Lifeline is accessible by CTA (Red Line Morse stop/busses) and free parking is available at Sullivan High School (6631 N Bosworth Ave, lot located on the corner of Albion and Bosworth) with free shuttle service before and after the show. Street parking is also available. Lifeline is accessible to wheelchair users and visitors who need to avoid stairs.

Founded in 1982, Lifeline is known for staging innovative adaptations of great works of fiction as well as commissioning original work. In 1987, Lifeline added KidSeries plays for children and families, and has been producing full seasons of programming for both adults and children ever since. Over the course of **thirty-seven seasons** and over **two hundred productions**, Lifeline Theatre has made not only an indelible mark on the Chicago theatre scene, but an invaluable contribution to the theatre world at large. Lifeline’s dedicated artistic ensemble has developed **one hundred and forty-six world premiere literary adaptations and original plays**, nearly forty of which have had a life beyond their Lifeline premieres, with over **three hundred subsequent productions** spread across over forty U.S. states, six Canadian provinces, plus productions in England, Ireland, Australia, South Africa, and Guatemala. Additionally, four scripts developed at Lifeline Theatre have gone on to U.S. national tours, and over a dozen have been published. Lifeline Theatre has garnered a total of **fifty-three Jeff Awards** (Equity and Non-Equity), including sixteen for New Adaptation, New Musical, or New Work.

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’s artistic ensemble is led by Artistic Director Ilesa Duncan and includes Aly Renee Amidei, Patrick Blashill, Jessica Wright Buha, Christina Calvit, Heather Currie, Bilal Dardai, Victoria DeLorio, Amanda Delheimer, Alan Donahue, Andrés Enriquez, Diane D. Fairchild, Kevin D. Gawley, Peter Greenberg, James E. Grote, Chris Hainsworth, John Hildreth, Paul S. Holmquist, Elise Kauzlaric, Robert Kauzlaric, Anthony Kayer, Frances Limoncelli, Amanda Link, Martel Manning, Dorothy Milne, Michael McKeogh, Katie McLean Hainsworth, Shole Milos, Sandy Snyder Pietz, Suzanne Plunkett, Maren Robinson, Phil Timberlake, Jenifer Tyler, and Christopher M. Walsh.

- more -

## Lifeline Theatre's 2020-21 Season/Page 3

Lifeline Theatre's programs are partially supported by A.R.T League Inc.; The Bayless Family Foundation; Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation; CityArts, a grant from the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events; The Common Cup; Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation; FG MK LLC; Flex Print, Inc.; Lloyd A. Fry Foundation; Illinois Arts Council Agency; MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture at Prince; The Polk Bros. Foundation; Rogers Park Social; S&C Electric Company Fund; Shaw Chicago; The Shubert Foundation; and the annual support of businesses and individuals.

### MainStage Productions

#### *Miss Holmes Returns*

Inspired by the stories of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Adapted by Lifeline Theatre ensemble member Christopher M. Walsh

Directed by Lifeline Theatre ensemble member Elise Kauzlaric

September 11–November 1, 2020

Regular tickets \$45; preview tickets \$25

Previews: Fridays, 9/11 and 9/18 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 9/12 and 9/19 at 8 p.m.; Sundays, 9/13 and 9/20 at 4 p.m.

Press Opening: Monday, 9/21, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. (press also invited to final preview on 9/20 at 4 p.m.)

Regular Run: 9/24–11/1, 2020: Thursdays and Fridays at 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m.; Sundays at 4 p.m.

Miss Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Dorothy Watson are back on the case! After a string of successes in assisting Scotland Yard, a seemingly clear-cut murder case finds itself at the detective's feet. The powers that be know for certain it was a young woman of immigrant heritage, but Holmes and Watson aren't as sure. Can they find the truth before the authorities catch and convict their suspect? The game is afoot in this provocative Midwest premiere sequel to the hit play *Miss Holmes*, based on familiar characters from the works of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

Ensemble member **Christopher M. Walsh**, adaptor of 2016's *Miss Holmes*, teams up with ensemble member **Elise Kauzlaric** (*Northanger Abbey* [2017 *Non-Equity Jeff Award: New Work-Musical*], *Emma*, *A Wrinkle in Time*) in a return to the Holmes universe with the next iteration of his invigorating update to literature's favorite detectives.

#### *Chaotic Good*

A world premiere based on the novel by Whitney Gardner

Adapted by Lifeline Theatre ensemble member Aly Renee Amidei

Directed by **TBA**

February 19–April 11, 2021

Regular tickets \$45; preview tickets \$25

Previews: Fridays, 2/19 and 2/26 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 2/20 and 2/27 at 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2/21 and 2/28 at 4 p.m.

Press Opening: Monday, 3/1, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. (press also invited to final preview on 2/28 at 4 p.m.)

Regular Run: 3/4–4/11, 2021: Thursdays and Fridays at 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m.; Sundays at 4 p.m.

Cameron's cosplay abilities are top-notch, and sure to get her into the CalTech costume department, but after she wins a major competition it sets off a barrage of angry comments from male fans. Attempting to escape the fray at her local comic shop she is confronted by the macho manager who constantly challenges her knowledge. Her twin brother has an interesting idea to break through the bullies, by using her cosplay ability to make them think she's one of them. To find success she'll have to roll her d20 in this world premiere adaptation of Whitney Gardner's fan-favorite novel about the role-playing game of life.

Ensemble member **Aly Renee Amidei** (*Bunny's Book Club*, *Lester's Dreadful Sweaters*) brings to the stage Whitney Gardner's fan-favorite novel about a young girl staking her claim in the male-dominated world of cosplay and D&D.

- more -

***Treasure Island***

Based on the classic adventure novel by Robert Louis Stevenson

Adapted by Lifeline Theatre ensemble member John Hildreth

Directed by Lifeline Theatre Artistic Director Ilesa Duncan

May 28–July 18, 2021

Regular tickets \$45; preview tickets \$25

Previews: Fridays, 5/28 and 6/4 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 5/29 and 6/5 at 8 p.m.; Sundays, 5/30 and 6/6 at 4 p.m.

Press Opening: Monday, 6/7, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. (press also invited to final preview on 6/6 at 4 p.m.)

Regular Run: 6/10–7/18, 2020: Thursdays and Fridays at 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m.; Sundays at 4 p.m.

A treasure map discovered in a dead pirate's sea-chest leads a teenager on an expedition across the ocean to recover a fortune in plundered gold. Fair winds and favorable seas soon give way to mutiny, greed, and the evil machinations of a one-legged scoundrel. Join them on an unforgettable adventure as they fight for their lives in this legendary tale of piracy and heroism.

Ensemble member **John Hildreth** (*Johnny Tremain* [2006 Non-Equity Jeff Award: New Adaptation], *Around the World in 80 Days* [2003 Non-Equity Jeff Award: New Adaptation]) and Artistic Director **Ilesa Duncan** (*Middle Passage*, *Neverwhere* [2018]) join forces to bring you an updated retelling of the most beloved sea-faring adventure put to paper.

**KidSeries Productions**

***Dooby Dooby Moo***

Based on the popular bestseller by Doreen Cronin, illustrated by Betsy Lewin

Adapted by Lifeline Theatre ensemble member James E. Grote

Music by George Howe

Directed by Lifeline Theatre ensemble member Heather Currie

October 17–November 22, 2020

Adult tickets \$20; Child (ages 2-18) tickets \$15

Previews: Saturday, 10/17 at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.; and Sunday, 10/18 at 11 a.m.

Press Opening: Sunday, 10/18 at 1 p.m.

Regular Run: 10/24–11/22, 2020: Saturdays and Sundays at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

The County Fair is coming, and the grand prize in the talent competition is a trampoline. Duck wants that prize, but with Farmer Brown watching around every corner, how will he hold singing and dancing rehearsals for Cow, Pig and Ewe? Hop aboard Farmer Brown's truck and travel to the fair with this hit musical about sharing your talents and reaching for your dreams. From the team that brought you *Giggle, Giggle Quack* and *Duck for President*.

Ensemble member **James E. Grote** (*Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type*, *Giggle, Giggle, Quack*) and **George Howe** (*Arnie the Doughnut*, *Mr. Popper's Penguins*) join ensemble member **Heather Currie** (*So You Think it's Easy Being the Tooth Fairy?*, *Fableous!*) to bring the beloved barnyard gang back to the Lifeline stage!

***Somebody Loves You, Mr. Hatch***

Based on the literary work by Eileen Spinelli, illustrated by Paul Yalowitz

Adapted by Lifeline Theatre ensemble member Frances Limoncelli

Director: Lifeline Theatre ensemble member Anthony Kayer

©1991 by Eileen Spinelli, Simon & Schuster, Inc.

January 16–February 21, 2021

Adult tickets \$20; Child (ages 2-18) tickets \$15

Previews: Saturday, 1/16 at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.; and Sunday, 1/17 at 11 a.m.

Press Opening: Sunday, 1/17 at 1 p.m.

Regular Run: 1/23–2/21, 2021: Saturdays and Sundays at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

- more -

## Lifeline Theatre's 2020-21 Season/Page 5

Dull and predictable Mr. Hatch has always lived an isolated life until one Valentine's Day, when an unexpected delivery transforms the town's most unsociable hermit into everyone's favorite friend. Share in a heartwarming tale of companionship and acceptance, as Mr. Hatch's neighbors get to know the mysterious man next door in this beloved musical from the adaptor and composer of *Arnie the Doughnut* and *The Emperor's New Threads*.

Ensemble member **Frances Limoncelli** (*Arnie the Doughnut*, *The Emperor's New Threads*) teams up with ensemble member **Anthony Kayer** (*Bunnacula [2018]*, *Bunny's Book Club*) in a return to the neighborhood by way of Eileen Spinelli and Paul Yalowitz's heartwarming story.

### ***Extra Yarn***

A world premiere musical based on the book by Marc Barnet, illustrated by Jon Klassen

Adapted by Jess Wright Buha & John Szymanski

Music by John Szymanski

Director: **TBA**

March 20–April 25, 2021

Adult tickets \$20; Child (ages 2-18) tickets \$15

Previews: Saturday, 3/20 at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.; and Sunday, 3/21 at 11 a.m.

Press Opening: Sunday, 3/21 at 1 p.m.

Regular Run: 3/27–4/25, 2021: Saturdays and Sundays at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. (No performances on Sunday, April 4)

While her parents work tirelessly at the local factory, Annabelle discovers a small wooden box in the snow filled with yarn that seemingly never ends. Armed with her love of friends and family, and her grandmother's knitting needles, she effortlessly knits sweaters for the whole town! But the Archduke isn't too pleased and will stop at nothing to get that never-ending yarn for himself. Bundle up with the meaning of friendship, family, and fighting for what's right in this world premiere musical by the team that brought you *We Found a Hat*.

Ensemble member **Jessica Wright Buha** (*Lyle Finds His Mother*) and **John Szymanski**, the team that brought you *We Found A Hat*, join forces once again to bring you a world premiere musical that explores the meaning of family and fighting for what's right.

### **The 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Fillet of Solo Festival**

January 15 – 31, 2021

Tickets: \$10 per performance; Festival Pass: \$60

Celebrating the breadth of Chicago's enduring storytelling and Live Lit scene, Lifeline brings together numerous solo performers and storytelling collectives for a three-week, multi-venue selection of powerful personal stories.

Participants, locations, scheduling, and full details for the 2021 Fillet of Solo Festival will be announced Fall 2020.

Season subscriptions and single tickets for the 2019-2020 MainStage and KidSeries seasons go on sale April 1. To purchase season subscriptions, single tickets or for more information call the Lifeline Theatre Box Office at 773-761-4477, or visit [www.lifelinetheatre.com](http://www.lifelinetheatre.com).

###