

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lifeline Theatre KidSeries Presents *Neither,* World Premiere Based on the Book by Airlie Anderson Opens March 15

Plus Performances with Touch Tour and Audio Description on March 29, Open Captioning on March 28, Autism/Sensory-Friendly Performance on April 19, and **Stories Come Alive! Hour** Workshops Every Saturday and Sunday During the Run

CHICAGO – Lifeline Theatre's KidSeries presents *Neither*, a world premiere based on the children's book by Airlie Anderson, co-adapted by Lifeline Theatre ensemble member Bilal Dardai, with guest artists Oly Oxinfry, Emilie Modaff, and Jeff Trainor, music and lyrics by Emilie Modaff, and directed by Oly Oxinfry. In the land of "this and that" there are only two kinds of animals, "these and those." Until one day something different hatches! But it isn't this or that. Is it both, or is it neither? What do you do when you feel you don't belong? Based on the book by Airlie Anderson, explore the things that make us unique in this world premiere musical that teaches that it's our differences that make us special. This production is recommended for children ages five and up and runs approximately one hour with no intermission.

Neither runs Saturday, Mar. 14 – Sunday, Apr. 19 at Lifeline Theatre, 6912 N. Glenwood Ave. **Press Opening is Sunday, Mar. 15 at 1 p.m.** Regular performance times are Saturdays and Sundays at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., with an added autism/sensory-friendly performance on Sunday, Apr. 19 at 3 p.m. (Previews are Saturday, Mar. 14 at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.; and Sunday, Mar. 15 at 11 a.m.) Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for children (2-18), and may be purchased at the Lifeline Theatre Box Office, 773.761.4477, or by visiting <u>www.lifelinetheatre.com</u>.

<u>Accessible Performances</u>: The Sunday, Mar. 29, 11 a.m. performance will feature a pre-show <u>touch tour</u> of the set at 10 a.m. and live <u>audio description</u> for patrons who are blind or have low vision. The Saturday, Mar. 28, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. performances will feature <u>open captioning</u> for patrons who are deaf or hard-of-hearing. And there will be an added <u>autism/sensory-friendly</u> performance on Sunday, Apr. 19 at 3 p.m. for patrons with social and/or cognitive disabilities, or sensory sensitivites. For more information about Lifeline's accessibility services, please contact Accessibility Coordinator Alex Ray at 773.761.4477 x703 or at <u>access@lifelinetheatre.com</u>.

PLUS: Join Lifeline Theatre every Saturday and Sunday at 12 p.m. during the run of *Neither* (following the 11 a.m. show, or before the 1 p.m. show) for our **Stories Come Alive! Hour**. Children will enjoy an interactive storytelling session and on-your-feet theatre games. The cost is only \$5 per child. Reservations are recommended, though not required. Contact Lifeline Theatre at 773-761-4477 for more information.

The complete cast and production team for *Neither* includes:

CAST: Guest artists Amanda de la Guardia (Governor Bunny/Ensemble), Jessie Ellingsen (Neither/Ensemble), Kelsey McGrath (Governor Bird/Ensemble), Alec Phan (Both/Ensemble), & Darian Tene (Either/Butterfly Cat/Ensemble); with understudies: Cohen Kraus, Josh Pennington, Ricki Pettinato, Larry D. Trice II, and Wil Ann Whedbee.

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PRODUCTION TEAM: Lifeline Theatre ensemble members **Bilal Dardai** (Co-adaptor), with guest artists **Rebecca Dose** (Stage Manager), **Jennifer McClendon** (Production Manager), **Emilie Modaff** (Composer/Music Director/Co-adaptor), **Sam Moryoussef** (Master Electrician), **Harrison Ornelas** (Technical Director), **Oly Oxinfr**) (Director/Co-adaptor), **Mike Przygoda** (Sound Designer/Orchestrator), **Therese Ritchie** (Scenic/Props Designer), **Sarah Scanlon** (Movement Designer), **Rachel Sypniewski** (Costume Designer), **Jeff Trainor** (Co-adaptor), and **Megan Turnquist** (Lighting Designer).

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Lifeline Theatre also offers "Name Your Price" tickets one half-hour before the show (subject to availability), group rates and other discounts available upon request. A party room is available for full-service birthday and special event parties. Lifeline Theatre 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 Bosworth Ave. and Albion Ave., with the entrance on Albion) 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.

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Now in its 37th 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 A.R.T League Inc.; The Bayless Family Foundation; Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation; Chicago CityArts, a grant from the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events; The Common Cup; Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation; FGMK 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.