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Lifeline Theatre Welcomes New Managing Director Vashti Emigh and Christopher Vizurraga to its Artistic Ensemble

CHICAGO – Lifeline Theatre is thrilled to welcome **Vashti Emigh** as Managing Director beginning immediately and reporting to Lifeline's Board of Directors and working directly with Artistic Director **Ilesa Duncan**. Emigh will be responsible for generating, directing and supervising day-to-day administrative duties and overseeing financial and facilities management, development, strategic planning and community relations. "This is an exciting time of change and renewal and I'm excited to partner with Vashti on this new path in Lifeline's journey," said Duncan. Emigh succeeds **Allison Cain**, who has served as Managing Director since 2009.

Since 2018, Emigh has worked with CCS Fundraising as an Associate then Executive Director. She studied Theatre at Williams College and later received her M.B.A. with distinction from the Kellstadt Graduate School of Business at DePaul University with concentrations in Leadership and Change Management and Applied Economics. From 2013-2016, Emigh served as Emerald City Theatre's Education Coordinator and then Education Manager. She said, "I am excited and honored to be joining Lifeline Theatre! I look forward to working with Ilesa, the Board, and the artistic ensemble to create stories that inspire compassion, empathy, and a willingness to change."

In addition to Emigh, Lifeline Theatre adds **Christopher Vizurraga** to its artistic ensemble. Lifeline's ensemble determines the company's artistic programming and provides leadership, support, and counsel in the play development process. Vizurraga made his first appearance on the Lifeline Stage in *Miss Buncle's Book* in 2015. Since then, he has worked with Lifeline on *Lester's Dreadful Sweaters*, *Giggle Giggle Quack* (2018 Tour), *Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile*, and *Click Clack Moo*. Other Chicago credits include: *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *I <3 Juliet* at the Illinois Shakespeare Festival, *Captain Blood* and *Women in Jeopardy* with First Folio Theatre, *A Q Brothers' Christmas Carol* for two seasons at Chicago Shakespeare Theater, *One Man, Two Guv'nors* at Court Theater, *Pirandello's Henry IV* with Remy Bumpo, *Titus Andronicus* with Haven Chicago, and many more. He holds a B.F.A. in Musical Theatre from Shorter College, and was an Emerging Professional Resident with Milwaukee Repertory Theater in 2013/14.

Now its 39th season, Lifeline Theatre continues to explore, interpret, and reimagine books and other literary works to create stories that move us beyond the margins of our own lives. Lifeline Theatre – Big Stories, Up Close. In addition to Vizurraga, Lifeline's artistic ensemble is led by Artistic Director Ilesa Duncan, and consists of 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, Katie McLean Hainsworth, Dorothy Milne, Shole Milos, Sandy Snyder Pietz, Suzanne Plunkett, Maren Robinson, Phil Timberlake, Jenifer Tyler, and Christopher M. Walsh.

(more)

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Lifeline's artistic ensemble has developed more than 126 world premiere literary adaptations and 17 original plays, nearly 40 of which have had a life beyond their Lifeline debuts, with over 300 subsequent productions spread across over forty-eight U.S. states, seven Canadian provinces, Australia, England, Ireland, Guatemala, South Africa, Turkey, and Wales. Additionally, three scripts developed at Lifeline Theatre have gone on to U.S. national tours, and 11 have been published. Lifeline Theatre has garnered a total of 51 Jeff Awards (Equity and Non-Equity).

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