

REVIEW: Lifeline Theatre's A Wrinkle in Time Now Playing Through October 18, 2026

Chi, IL Live Shows on our Radar:

A Stellar Celebration of The Neurodivergent

Lifeline Theatre Presents

A WRINKLE IN TIME

based on the novel by Madeleine L’Engle

Recommended for ages 7+



Pictured: Sam Hook, Rohan Link-Francisco, Manali Sunkara, Victoria Cruz, Amanda Link, Jordan Gleaves, Cami Stuckert

REVIEW

By Bonnie Kenaz-Mara

Sometimes cosmic things happen in small spaces. Last night we entered Lifeline Theatre's space to see a stark stage with a shimmering curtain, a large half arch, and a raised platform with overlapping circles. In the row in front of us a little girl with a huge grin bounced in her seat next to a bouquet of flowers, her excitement palpable. I asked if she knew someone in the cast and she replied "My mom and my brother!" The child happily told us she got to voice a puppet in the 2nd act, too! She had every reason to be proud. Amanda Link and Rohan Link-Francisco put on an incredible performance, as did the entire cast. Rohan, who plays Charles Wallace, was a particular standout.

Manali Sunkara (Meg), Sam Hook (Calvin) also put on a stellar performance. We adored Amanda Link (Whatsit), Cami Stuckert (Who), Jordan Gleaves (Which), who beautifully embodied Madeleine L’Engle's benevolent aliens.

This adaptation is delightfully nerdy and a stellar celebration of the neurodivergent. It's full of harrowing, off world sci-fi adventures, and seamless quotes from Earth's best and brightest. It's also a great reminder that our differences make us better, and that creativity, kindness, intelligence should be celebrated.

It's a lovely example of bravery in the face of bullying and evil. We live in a time when mass surveillance, ICE agents, AI, and attacks on DEI, education, and science itself bring us ever closer to becoming like the dark planet Camazotz, with conformity violently enforced by an evil overlord "IT". A Wrinkle in Time was written in 1962, won the 1963 Newbery Medal, and is a frequently challenged book that still faces book bans in various schools and libraries. The intervening decades have just increased the need for L’Engle's message. We loved Lifeline Theatre's all too timely adaptation. Don't miss this!

ChiIL Live Shows on our radar: Highly recommended. ★★★★★ Four out of four stars.

A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L’Engle was a top favorite of mine as a child and the concept of shortcut time travel from point A to B, like bending a string, was a mind-blowing delight. I eagerly devoured the whole series! Lifeline's adaptation is an excellent representation of the book. They use body language and simple lighting techniques like strobe lights and blackouts to suggest time travel, and keep the focus on excellent storytelling, rather than special effects.

Why Is This Book Banned?: Some have made false accusations of anti-Christianity or encouraging witchcraft for the use of crystal balls, and "New Age" themes in the world building. Jesus is also mentioned in conjunction with historical figures like Gandhi, Buddha, and Einstein as fighters against darkness, which some find objectionable as he's not elevated over the others.

Why Lifeline's Age 7+ Recommendation? Thematic Elements: The story deals with high stakes, a missing father, and a dark, menacing cosmic force ("IT"), which may feel a bit intense or scary for very young children. Staging: The production features imaginative space-age lighting, special effects, and stylized puppetry designed to bring the multidimensional journey to life safely and engagingly for elementary school-aged kids and older.

