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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Chicago Theatres Announce
FRANKENSTEIN: Unearthed**

Special Joint Event Between Court Theatre and Manual Cinema, Lifeline Theatre, Lookingglass Theatre Company and Remy Bumppo Theatre Company Explores Four Unique Productions of *Frankenstein* Coming to Chicago Stages This Season

Chicago, IL—Lookingglass Theatre Company, Court Theatre and Manual Cinema, Lifeline Theatre, and Remy Bumppo Theatre Company announce **FRANKENSTEIN: Unearthed**, a one-time-only event exploring the four productions of this classic tale coming to Chicago stages during the 2018-2019 season. **FRANKENSTEIN: Unearthed** takes place September 30, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. at Lookingglass Theatre Company. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased online at <https://secure.acceptiva.com/?cst=85009b>. Lookingglass is located at 821 N Michigan Avenue at Pearson.

In celebration of the 200th Anniversary of the first publishing of *Frankenstein*, Mary Shelley's monster comes to life in Chicago this season with four distinctive theatrical productions at Court Theatre, Lifeline Theatre, Lookingglass Theatre Company, and Remy Bumppo Theatre Company.

What is Chicago's fascination with this undying tale? How will this story be told? *Four Frankensteins, seriously?* Artists **David Catlin** and **Cordelia Dewdney** (Lookingglass Theatre Company), **Sarah Fornace** (Manual Cinema), **Ian Frank** and **Eliza Stoughton** (Remy Bumppo Theatre Company), and **Robert Kauzlaric** and **Ann Sonnevile** (Lifeline Theatre) will answer these questions and more in a conversation led by *Chicago Tribune* critic **Chris Jones**. Come learn about the vision behind each *Frankenstein* adaptation and get a preview of each show!

"As all the major Chicago productions of *Frankenstein* were announced this past spring, each one of them vastly different in style and substance, we realized the potential for a collaborative, synergistic exploration of this rich and constantly surprising story, and of Mary Shelley, the brilliant mind behind it," comments **Nick Sandys**, Producing Artistic Director of Remy Bumppo. "That a theatrical endeavor of this scale and diversity is happening here speaks not just to the artistic dynamism of Chicago, but to the sophistication and curiosity of its arts patrons. We wanted therefore to spark a city-wide conversation with our colleagues and discuss how we are all tackling the novel's myriad themes and universal questions, which still so clearly speak to us today. This special event will bring all four theaters together for one evening and give our audiences a sneak-peek at this season's unique "*Frankenstein* festival"--and the chance to explore the question: Why so many *Frankensteins*?"

About the Artists

DAVID CATLIN (Writer/Director of *Mary Shelley's Frankenstein* at Lookingglass Theatre Company) is a founding Ensemble Member, actor, writer, director, and former Artistic Director of Lookingglass. David adapted and directed *Moby Dick*, which debuted at Lookingglass in summer 2015, toured nationally, and played again at Lookingglass in summer 2017. Other Lookingglass writing credits include: *Lookingglass Alice*, *Icarus*, *Her Name Was Danger*, and *The Idiot* (Jeff Award for Adaptation). He is currently directing *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, an adaptation of Shakespeare's original, for Alliance Theatre in Atlanta. Additional Lookingglass directing credits include: *The Little Prince*, *Black Diamond* (co-director), *Metamorphosis*, and *West*. Lookingglass acting credits include: *Hard Times*, *The Arabian Nights*, *Our Town*, *Argonautika*, *La Luna Muda*, *The Odyssey*, and *The Jungle*. David is an Artistic Associate with Actors Gymnasium and serves on the acting faculty at Northwestern University.

CORDELIA DEWDNEY (Mary Shelley/Elizabeth in *Mary Shelley's Frankenstein* at Lookingglass Theatre Company) is a graduate of Northwestern University where she studied Theatre and English. Recent credits include: *Hard Times* and *Moby Dick* at Lookingglass Theatre Company and *Women Beware Women* with the Chicago Shakespeare Project She has worked with Alliance Theatre, Arena Stage, and South Coast Repertory for the National tour of *Moby Dick*, and has appeared on *Chicago Med*. She is joyfully represented by Stewart Talent.

SARAH FORNACE (Manual Cinema Co-Artistic Director) has worked as a director, performer, choreographer, narrative designer, and story artist on theatre, immersive theatre, and video. Outside of Manual Cinema, Sarah has worked with The Neo-Futurists, Redmoon Theatre, Lookingglass Theatre Company, Court Theatre, and Blair Thomas and Co. Most recently, Sarah wrote the story mode and character backstories for the video game *Rivals of Aether*. In 2017, she directed and edited the first episode of the web series, *The Doula is IN*. In 2016, she directed and devised an "animotion" (live motion capture) production of Shakespeare's *Hamlet* with Rokoko Studios for HamletScen at Kromborg Castle in Elsinore, Denmark.

IAN FRANK (Director of *Frankenstein* at Remy Bumppo) is the Artistic Assistant and the director of *Frankenstein* at Remy Bumppo Theatre Company. He is the Producer of Remy Bumppo's SPARK Reading Series (directing both *Inheritors* and *Conversations in Tusculum*) and assistant directed *Pygmalion*. In Chicago, Ian directed *Incident at Vichy* (Jeff nomination for Best Ensemble), *Another Bone* and *Shipwrecked!* (Redtwist) and *Bob: A Life in Five Acts* (LiveWire) and assisted *Sunday in the Park with George* and *Cyrano* at Chicago Shakespeare Theater. He recently workshopped his own adaptation of *The Call of the Wild* at Milwaukee Rep. Ian holds an MFA in Directing from The Theatre School at DePaul University and has a long relationship with Actors Theatre of Louisville where he has directed several shows at the Humana Festival of New American Plays.

ELIZA STOUGHTON (Elizabeth in *Frankenstein* at Remy Bumppo) has worked in Chicago at Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Court Theatre, Writers Theatre, Raven Theatre, TimeLine Theatre, The Gift Theatre, Lifeline Theatre, 16th Street Theatre, and Oak Park Festival Theatre. Regionally, she has worked at American Players Theatre, Cardinal Stage (Bloomington, IN), Illinois Shakespeare Festival, Riverside Theatre in Iowa, and toured many wonderful years with Montana Shakespeare in the Parks and Montana Shakespeare in the Schools. Eliza is a proud graduate of Loyola University of Chicago and a Core Ensemble member with Remy Bumppo Theatre Company.
elizastoughton.com

ROBERT KAUZLARIC (Adaptor of *Frankenstein* at Lifeline Theatre) is a Chicago-based playwright, director, and actor. He has written more than a dozen theatrical adaptations, which have been performed in over 40 states across the U.S., as well as in England, Ireland, Wales, Canada, and Australia. Previous Lifeline adaptations include *Neverwhere* (Non-Equity Jeff Award: New Adaptation) and *Northanger Abbey* (with George Howe; Non-Equity Jeff Award: New Musical).

ANN SONNEVILLE (Victoria in *Frankenstein* at Lifeline Theatre) is an Ensemble Member with Trap Door Theatre, where she has appeared in numerous productions, and Red Tape Theatre, where she recently appeared in *Round Heads and Pointed Heads*. Other credits: Actors Theatre of Louisville, The Steppenwolf Garage, Lookingglass Theatre Company, Lifeline Theatre, Griffin Theatre, Strange Tree, Oracle Productions, the side project, The Chicago Mammals, and numerous original productions with Bruised Orange Theatre Company. Film/TV credits: *Miriam Is Going To Mars* (BMA Award - Best Actress), *Dig Two Graves*, *Chicago P.D.*, *Hunting God*, and numerous shorts. She is a professional voiceover artist and instructor at the Vagabond School.

CHRIS JONES (Moderator) has been the chief theater critic and Sunday culture columnist of the *Chicago Tribune* since 2002 and he is author of *Bigger, Brighter, Louder: 150 Years of Chicago Theater* (2013), and the upcoming book *Rise Up!: Broadway and American Society from 'Angels in America' to 'Hamilton'* (November 2018). His work has appeared often in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *American Theater*, and many other publications. In 2014, he became the director of the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center's National Critics Institute in Waterford, CT. In 2001, Chris was named by *American Theater* magazine as one of the most influential theater critics in America. In 2015, he was the winner of Cornell University's George W. Nathan Award, the most prestigious honor for drama critics in the United States.

About the Productions

Lifeline Theatre presents:

A world premiere adaptation of the novel by Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley

FRANKENSTEIN

Adapted by Robert Kauzlaric

Directed by Paul S. Holmquist

September 7 – October 28, 2018

Lifeline Theatre (6912 N Glenwood Ave)

Tickets: lifelinetheatre.com | 773.761.4477

When an unexpected death shatters her family, Victoria retreats into the darkest recesses of her psyche in search of a way forward. To find meaning in this impossible loss, she brings a terrible creation to life – one whose existence threatens all hopes for the future. Haunted and hunted at every turn, Victoria must endure a nightmare journey of the soul in a quest

for survival. Grapple with the demons of grief and denial in this world premiere adaptation of the 1818 thriller by Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley.

About Lifeline

Lifeline Theatre is driven by a passion for story. Lifeline's ensemble process supports writers in the development of literary adaptations and new work, and its theatrical and educational programs foster a lifelong engagement with literature and the arts. A cultural anchor of Rogers Park, Lifeline is committed to deepening its connection to an ever-growing family of artists and audiences, both near and far.

Remy Bumppo Theatre Company presents:

FRANKENSTEIN

By Mary Shelley, Adapted by Nick Dear

Directed by Ian Frank

October 11 – November 11, 2018

Performing at Theater Wit (1229 W Belmont Ave)

Tickets: RemyBumppo.org | 773.975.8150

Mary Shelley's revolutionary horror classic is shocked to life in Nick Dear's adaptation. Retold from the abandoned creature's point of view, this taut, muscular version raises urgent questions about scientific responsibility, parental neglect, and the nature of good and evil. *MATURE CONTENT

About Remy Bumppo Theatre Company:

Remy Bumppo Theatre Company produces theatre that thrills the ear, stirs the heart, feeds the mind, and sparks a conversation. As an ensemble-based producer of intellectually and emotionally inspiring plays that reveal the power and pleasure of language, we explore timeless ideas in timely productions that celebrate our common humanity; and we invite audiences to converse directly with the art and the artists.

Remy Bumppo challenges our audiences with the intersection of expansive ideas and rich language, often presenting texts that have been sidelined because they may seem too intellectually complex, demanding active intelligence as well as great passion from artist and patron alike. We produce such art in order to advance deeper understanding of the human condition, test commonly perceived notions, and elevate cultural discourse. We then invite audiences to converse directly with the art and the artists, engaging them in one-on-one conversation about the work itself through innovative supplementary programming.

Court Theatre presents:

FRANKENSTEIN

by Manual Cinema

adapted from the novel by Mary Shelley

concept by Drew Dir

devised by Drew Dir, Sarah Fornace, and Julia Miller

original music by Kyle Vegter and Ben Kauffman

November 1 - December 2, 2018

Court Theatre (5535 S Ellis Ave)

Tickets: 773.753.4472 | CourtTheatre.org

In a special world premiere presentation at Court Theatre, internationally-renowned multimedia company Manual Cinema stitches together the classic story of *Frankenstein* with Mary Shelley's own biography to create an unexpected story about the beauty and horror of creation. Using an ingenious "laboratory" of cameras, overhead projectors, actors, and puppets—and accompanied live by a chamber ensemble performing Kyle Vegter and Ben Kauffman's haunting original score—Manual Cinema's *Frankenstein* assembles music, theater, and silent film to create a *Frankenstein* like you've never seen before.

About Court Theatre

Court Theatre is the professional theatre of the University of Chicago, dedicated to innovation, inquiry, intellectual engagement, and community service. Court endeavors to make a lasting contribution to classic American theatre by expanding the canon of translations, adaptations, and classic texts. Court revives lost masterpieces, illuminates familiar texts, explores the African American theatrical canon, and discovers fresh, modern classics.

About Manual Cinema

Manual Cinema is a performance collective, design studio, and film/ video production company founded in 2010 by Drew Dir, Sarah Fornace, Ben Kauffman, Julia Miller, and Kyle Vegter. Manual Cinema combines handmade shadow puppetry,

cinematic techniques, and innovative sound and music to create immersive visual stories for stage and screen. Using vintage overhead projectors, multiple screens, puppets, actors, live feed cameras, multi-channel sound design, and a live music ensemble, Manual Cinema transforms the experience of attending the cinema and imbues it with liveness, ingenuity, and theatricality.

Lookingglass Theatre Company presents:

Mary Shelley's Frankenstein

Written and Directed by Ensemble Member David Catlin

From the Book by Mary Shelley

May 8–August 4, 2019

Lookingglass Theatre Company (821 N Michigan Ave)

Tickets: lookingglasstheatre.org | 312.337.0665

Within every man there is a monster; within every monster, a man. But which is which? An eerie evening of ghost stories crackles to life as Mary Shelley unspools her tale of Victor Frankenstein and his unholy experiment. This gothic tale of love, horror, and the power to create life—and destroy it—awakens in this visceral, original retelling of **Frankenstein**. Fresh from the brain of Ensemble Member David Catlin, creator of **Moby Dick** and **Lookingglass Alice**, comes a galvanic adaptation of this undying story. See for yourself this latest invention come to shocking life!

About Lookingglass Theatre Company

Inventive. Collaborative. Transformative. Lookingglass Theatre Company, recipient of the 2011 Regional Theatre Tony Award, was founded in 1988 by eight Northwestern University students. Entering its 31st Season, Lookingglass is home to a multi-disciplined ensemble of artists who create story-centered theatrical work that is physical, aurally rich and visually metaphoric. The Company has staged 66 world premieres, received 144 Joseph Jefferson Awards and nominations, and work premiered at Lookingglass has been produced in New York City, Los Angeles, Seattle, Berkeley, Philadelphia, Princeton, Hartford, Kansas City, Washington D.C., Atlanta, Louisville and St. Louis. In 2016, Lookingglass received the MacArthur Award for Creative and Effective Institutions.

Lookingglass Theatre in Chicago's landmark Water Tower Water Works opened in June 2003. In addition to developing and presenting Ensemble work, Lookingglass Education and Community programs encourage creativity, teamwork and confidence with thousands of community members each year. For more information, visit lookingglasstheatre.org.

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