

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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*****“The Van Gogh Cafe” Returns Combining Theatre and Culinary Arts*****

*****Culinary Theatrics in FILAMENT THEATRE / FANNIE’S CAFE Collaboration*****

CHICAGO – Filament Theatre announces the remount of their world premiere production of **THE VAN GOGH CAFE**, an immersive culinary theatrical experience, based on Newberry Medalist Cynthia Rylant’s 1995 book adapted by Chicago playwright Andrew J. Lampl. The remount will take place on Saturdays & Sundays @ 5pm from March 11 - March 26, 2017 at Fannie’s Cafe, featuring an all new menu developed by Fannie’s Cafe owner and chef Stephanie Rybandt. Tickets and additional information are available at www.FilamentTheatre.org.

Filament’s world premiere production of **THE VAN GOGH CAFE** garnered audience and critical praise. The Chicago Reader called the production “magical.” The Chicago Theatre Review observed that “You feel welcome, well fed in body and soul, and a part

of a bright and shining world that is nothing short of magical.” Edge Media Network wrote: “Wish upon a “The Starry Night” that the café will have a magical revival.”

The story centers around ten-year-old Clara who knows that *anything* can happen at the Van Gogh Cafe, a small roadside diner owned by her father Marc. At the Van Gogh Cafe, it’s not a question of *if* magic will happen — but *when*. Filament’s immersive production puts the audience right in the middle of the magic cafe complete with a full multi-course meal served by the characters to enhance the storytelling.

The cast includes Aissa Guerra (Clara), Les Rorick (Marc), Rejinal Simon, Kristina Loy, Alex Ireys and Filament Resident Artist Lindsey Dorcus. In addition to Lampl, Rybandt and Ritchey, the design team includes Noel Huntzinger (costume design), Eleanor Kahn (scenic design), and Michael Huey (sound design).

Performances run March 11th thru march 26th at Fannie’s Cafe - 5044 W Montrose Ave, Chicago, IL 60641. Tickets are now on sale. For more information about THE VAN GOGH CAFE, please visit Filament’s website at www.filamenttheatre.org/vangogh2017.

CRITICAL RESPONSE FROM FILAMENT’S 2016 PRODUCTION OF THE VAN GOGH CAFE:

“READER RECOMMENDED. [Filament Theatre] set a high bar with this five-course “culinary immersion experience” delivered together with a 90-minute adaptation of Cynthia Rylant’s book about miracles cropping up in a midwestern diner... Magical!” - **Chicago Reader** (Dan Jakes)

<http://www.chicagoreader.com/chicago/the-van-gogh-cafe/Event?oid=23663001>

“HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. Director Julie Ritchey, using Andrew J. Lampl’s concise and clever adaptation, cooks up magic in the Community and wonder in us... To transform a restaurant into a theater (in a story about a theater that has become a restaurant), Ritchey cultivates a playfulness, sweeping us along as benevolent possums dangle from the light fixtures and wayward seagulls snatch up our pita bread, as the cast creates epic spectacles though the simplest of devices... You feel welcome, well fed in body and soul, and a part of a bright and shining world that is nothing short of magical.” - **Chicago Theatre Review** (Ben Kemper)

<http://www.chicagothatreview.com/2016/10/community/>

“With entertaining and fortifying theater like this, wish upon a "The Starry Night" that the café will have a magical revival.” - **Edge Media Network** (Diane Bushemi)
http://www.edgemedianetwork.com/entertainment/theatre///202809/the_van_gogh_cafe

PRESS INVITE:

Press are invited to attend Sunday, March 12th @ 5pm. Please contact christian@filamenttheatre.org if you would like to attend.

QUICK FACTS:

NAME: The Van Gogh Cafe

DATE: Saturdays & Sundays @ 5pm; March 11 - March 26.

LOCATION: Fannie's Cafe, 5044 W Montrose Ave, Chicago, IL 60641

PRICE: \$30-\$45 (plus ticket fees & gratuity)

TICKETS: Tickets are now available via www.filamenttheatre.org/vangogh2017

CONTACT: boxoffice@filamenttheatre.org; (773) 270-1660

RUN TIME: 90 Minutes

AGE APPROPRIATENESS: All ages 8+

DIRECTIONS:

Fannie's Cafe is located at 5044 W Montrose Ave, Chicago. Fannie's has a small parking lot behind the cafe. Metered Street parking is also available. Fannie's is also accessible via the Milwaukee Bus #56, Blue Line(Montrose) & CTA Bus #78(Montrose).

CONTACT:

If you would like to set up an interview with any of the artists taking part in this production, please contact Christian Libonati at Christian@FilamentTheatre.org or (773) 270-1660

PHOTOS/PR:

Press release and images are located here:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0Bx9SiBb2RM0VbFdBcVdWaVVnckU?usp=sharing>