

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

CONTACT: Christian Libonati, Managing Director  
(773) 270-1660

Christian@filamenttheatre.org

Media passes, photographs, and additional materials are available on request.

## **Filament Theatre Presents the World Premiere of The Uncorker of Ocean Bottles, Opens April 28, 2018**

Sensory-friendly performance on Sunday, May 20th

Filament Theatre presents the world premiere of ***The Uncorker of Ocean Bottles***, adapted from the national bestselling picture book by **Michelle Cuevas and illustrated by Erin E. Stead**. In 2016, *The Uncorker of Ocean Bottles* was named best book of the year by Time, People, The Boston Globe, and School Library Journal. Filament's production is adapted by playwrights **Melissa Pfeiffer-Lampl and Andrew J. Lampl** with direction by Filament's artistic director **Julie Ritchey**. Previously at Filament Theatre, Andrew J. Lampl and Julie Ritchey collaborated on the critically acclaimed adaptation of Cynthia Rylant's *The Van Gogh Cafe*. Families are encouraged to arrive early and stay after the show to participate in thematic activities. The book will be available for purchase at the theatre.

***The Uncorker of Ocean Bottles*** runs April 21st - June 3, 2018 at Filament Theatre, 4041 N Milwaukee Ave, Chicago (Free parking available; see below). **Press opening is Sunday, April 28 @ 2:30pm**. (Previews are Saturday, April 21 @ 10am & 2:30pm; Sunday, April 22 @ 2:30pm; and, Saturday, April 28 @ 10am)

Regular performance times (April 29 - June 3) are Saturday @ 11am and 2:30pm, and Sundays at 2:30pm. Ticket prices are \$14 for children, \$17.50 for adults, and \$16 for seniors. All preview tickets are \$12. A group rate for 10 or more is available on request. Weekday school field trips are also available on request. Tickets may be purchased by calling 773.270.1660 or online at [www.filamenttheatre.org/uncorker](http://www.filamenttheatre.org/uncorker).

Free parking is available at the Sears located at the corner of Cicero Ave & Irving Park Rd. Metered street parking is available in front of the theatre (free on Sundays). Filament Theatre is accessible via the Irving Park & Milwaukee Bus lines.

### **The Story:**

The Uncorker of Ocean Bottles has a job of the utmost importance: to open any bottles found at sea and make sure that the messages are delivered. One day the lonely Uncorker opens a party invitation, but there's no name attached. Filament's production puts the audience at the center of this heartwarming mystery leading us all to a celebration of friendship and community.

-more-

The complete cast and production team for *The Uncorker of Ocean Bottles* includes:

**Cast:**

**Christopher Acevedo** (The Uncorker), **Molly Bunder** (The Soprano/ensemble), **Nico Fernandez** (One-Man-Band/ensemble), **Olivia Jackson** (The Baker/ensemble), **La Shone T. Kelly** (The Girl in Green/ensemble), **Michele Stine** (Little Mew). With understudies **Tia Pinson** and **Daniella Rukin**.

**Production team:**

**Michelle Cuevas** (Book Author), **Erin E. Stead** (Book Illustrator), **Melissa Pfeiffer-Lampl & Andrew J. Lampl** (Adaptors), **Julie Ritchey** (Director), **Tim McNulty** (Composer / Music Director), **Emily Waecker** (Costume Designer), **Amy Gilman** (Set/Props Designer) **Carley Walker** (Lighting Designer), **Andrew Marchetti** (Puppet Designer), **Caroline Foulk** (Stage Manager), **Hannah Holmes-Robbins** (Technical Director), **Lydia Parker** (Assistant Costume Designer / Stitcher), **Marika Mashburn** (Casting Consultant).

**Accessible Performances:**

Filament will hold a **sensory-friendly performance** of *The Uncorker of Ocean Bottles* on Sunday, May 20 @ 11am. Filament is partnering with Josi's Frozen Yogurt to create a "No Apologies Day" for special needs families. After the show, families are encouraged to head across the street to Josi's Frozen Yogurt (4032 N. Milwaukee Ave.) where the shop will be open specifically for families with special needs. To learn more about "No Apologies" at Josi's, visit <http://josisfrozenyogurt.com/josis-corner/no-apologies-at-josis/>.

**Other Events:**

**Book Signing:** On Saturday, May 12th **Michelle Cuevas**, the bestselling author of *The Uncorker of Ocean Bottles*, will hold a book signing at Filament Theatre between shows. For details about the book signing please contact Filament management: 773.270.1660 / [christian@filamenttheatre.org](mailto:christian@filamenttheatre.org).

**Uncorker Theatre Class:** Filament Theatre offers a spring theatre class where children ages 6-11 develop their own show inspired by *The Uncorker of Ocean Bottles*. Students will create their own script and perform it on the set of *The Uncorker of Ocean Bottles*. The class will run on Mondays from April 23 – May 21 at 4:45pm-6pm.

**Images Available Here:**

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1zEI3yRi-rsCZasuZGDqAHmQVzlcEw\\_rW](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1zEI3yRi-rsCZasuZGDqAHmQVzlcEw_rW)

**Praise for the Book:**

"Cuevas's prose is laden with gems . . . gorgeous sentences as precious as the messages themselves. Beauty shines through a fog of sadness..." —The New York Times Book Review; "Readers will find both consolation and encouragement on every visit to this emotionally resonant, evocative story." —Kirkus, starred review;

-more-

“Stead’s characters exude an endearing vulnerability and quirky charm. . . . A perfect pairing of text and art. Share this quiet story with your wishers and dreamers.” —School Library Journal, starred review; “The underlying message about learning to see the worth of every person is a treasure.” —Publishers Weekly, starred review

**About the Author:**

Michelle Cuevas graduated from Williams College and holds a master of fine arts degree in creative writing from the University of Virginia. She is the author of acclaimed picture book and national bestseller *The Uncorker of Ocean Bottles* (illustrated by Erin E. Stead), *Smoot A Rebellious shadow* (illustrated by Sydney Smith), *The Town of Turtle* (illustrated by Catia Chien), and several children’s novels including *The Care and Feeding of a Pet Black Hole*, and *Confessions of an Imaginary Friend*. She lives in Western Massachusetts. Read more about Michelle at [MichelleCuevas.com](http://MichelleCuevas.com).

# # #

Filament Theatre creates immersive and site-specific theatre that inspires, empowers, and activates young people and their communities. Filament envisions a future in which the leaders of tomorrow approach others with radical empathy, serving as ambassadors for their communities and stewards of the Earth.

Filament Theatre’s programs are sponsored in part by the Alphawood Foundation, the Chicago Community Trust, the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs & Special Events, the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, the MacArthur Foundation, the Saints, Redfin, and Wintrust Community Banks.