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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WHO: Tellin' Tales Theatre

WHAT: Six Stories Up in a Snowstorm

WHEN: Fridays, December 9 & 16 at 7:30 pm
Saturdays, December 10 & 17 at 7:30 pm
Sundays, December 11 & 18 at 2 pm

Sign language interpreted and audio described show December 11

WHERE: Athenaeum Theatre
2936 N. Southport Ave., Chicago

TICKETS: \$22 Adults / \$17 Students
(Ticket prices include \$2 Athenaeum Restoration Fee)
Group rate available
Call: 1-773-935-6875
Go online: athenaeumtheatre.org

**MIDDLE SCHOOL KIDS ATTEMPT TO SOLVE A WINTER WHODUNIT
IN TELLIN' TALES THEATRE'S *SIX STORIES UP IN A SNOWSTORM*—
OPENING DECEMBER 9 AT THE ATHENAEUM THEATRE.**

CHICAGO, October 27, 2016—Can stories melt a snow beast's heart? Find out in Tellin' Tales Theatre's winter mystery written and performed by middle school students and their adult mentors with and without disabilities. *Six Stories Up in a Snowstorm* finds kids on an adaptive ski trip in the mountains of Utah haunted by an abominable snow beast. They must figure out how to melt his heart in order to solve the mystery that has darkened the chalet for ten years.

The result is a hilarious and often moving musical whodunit peppered with personal stories of overcoming difference told by students and adults with cerebral palsy, blindness, dwarfism and autism, as well as their non-disabled peers. *Six Stories Up in a Snowstorm* is geared toward adults and children age six and up. The show runs approximately 90 minutes with one intermission.

The Athenaeum Theatre is ADA accessible and sign language interpretation and audio description will be provided at our December 11 show.

About the Mentoring Program

Six Stories Up is an annual mentoring program developed by Tellin' Tales Theatre where middle school children and their mentors write and star in a full-length play with the theme changing every year. This year's *Six Stories Up in a Snowstorm* is the final production of Tellin' Tales Theatre's 20th anniversary season. In August, storytellers were paired with middle school students with and without disabilities. Each team was given the mission to explore overcoming difference in their lives. In early September, mentors and their apprentices came together to link the six vignettes and draft a final script. All participants will perform *Six Stories up in a Snowstorm* under the direction of Artistic Director Tekki Lomnicki, assisted by Sue Nunamaker and Kayden Byard.

About the Cast and Crew

The cast and production team of *Six Stories in a Snowstorm* is an exciting mix of ethnicity and ability. Mentors include Bill Drudge, Matthew Kopp, Tekki Lomnicki, Rosemary Postula, Tammy Rozofsky and Ben Saylor. Apprentices include Emily Buell, Armando Carlo IV, Serenity Deida, Paidraig Lally, Josafat Oviedo, Oliver Reich and Aihua Sprecher. Carl Ulaszek spearheads set design; Matthew Wycislak and Celia Buell design masks and props; and composer Chris Errera creates the original score.

About Tellin' Tales Theatre

The mission of Tellin' Tales Theatre is to shatter barriers between the disabled and non-disabled worlds through the transformative power of personal story. We bring together children and adults from both communities to share their stories in theatrically innovative productions and programs to promote awareness, understanding and acceptance. Artistic Director Tekki Lomnicki has led storytelling programs for Gallery 37 and After School Matters for over a decade. The idea for the initial *Six Stories Up* came from her work with these programs, which included students with and without disabilities. Lomnicki, herself a person with a disability, took the process a step further to include adult mentors with disabilities. *Six Stories Up in a Snowstorm* is a result of this mix, and strives to remove all barriers between artists, including race, ethnicity, gender, age and ability.

Tellin' Tales Theatre's 2016 Season

Letting Go—Adult solo performance

Lifeline Theatre's Fillet of Solo, January 2016

DiverCity—Solo works by adult performers with disabilities

Prop Thtr, April 2016

Classroom Drama—Adult solo performance

Prop Thtr, July 2016

Teacher I Love You—A reading by Tellin' Tales Theatre's young adult writers

Prop Thtr, July 2016

FREEDOM out of order—Lyric Opera Community Voices Project

Harris Theater, September 2016

Six Stories Up in a Snowstorm—Mentoring program and show

Athenaeum Theatre, December 2016

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