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## Big Stories, Up Close.

PRESS RELEASE  
Chicago, IL, February 12, 2007

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### **Master Sommelier Alpana Singh Hosts Lifeline Benefit on May 6, 2007 At Hotel Allegro Chicago's Walnut Ballroom, 171 West Randolph in Chicago**

- WHAT:** Alpana Singh, Master Sommelier and host of WTTW's "*Check, Please!*" will host Lifeline Theatre's annual benefit. The event will focus on wine tasting, of course, featuring three fascinating whites and three scintillating reds that have the qualities of Lifeline Theatre productions – "dramatic yet affordable"! Singh's husband, published novelist Charles Blackstone, will present an original playlet featuring Lifeline artistic ensemble members. The silent auction will feature wine related items, plus signed copies of Singh's book [Alpana Pours: About Being a Woman, Loving Wine, and Having Great Relationships](#). Media passes, photographs, interviews and additional materials available on request.
- WHEN:** Sunday, May 6, 2007, 5 – 9 PM
- WHERE:** Hotel Allegro Chicago, Walnut Room, 171 West Randolph, Chicago, IL, 60601
- TICKETS:** Publish this number - 773.761.4477, Lifeline Theatre Box Office  
\$100 for one ticket
- BIOS:** **Alpana Singh** became a Master Sommelier in 2003 (the youngest woman ever to do so). She was born in California to Indian parents who moved from the Fiji Islands to Monterey, where they owned an ethnic grocery store. She served as sommelier for Chef J. Joho's Relais Gourmand and Traditions et Qualité restaurant Everest, which *USA Today* credited as having "the country's best selection of Alsatian wine." Wine critic Robert M. Parker Jr. praised Alpana in his publication the *Wine Advocate* as "one of the finest young sommeliers in America today." Her past accolades also include *Best Sommelier in America by Wine and Spirits Magazine*, *Crain's 40 under 40*, *Food and Wine Magazines 35 Under 35*, *Best Sommelier Chicago Magazine 2004*, and a 2002 *James Beard Foundation* Nomination for Wine Service. She has also been featured in numerous publications including *Newsweek*, *USA Today*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Chicago Sun Times* and the *New York Times*. She and her husband reside in the Rogers Park neighborhood of Chicago. **Charles Blackstone** is the author of *The Week You Weren't Here*, a novel, and the co-editor of a forthcoming literary anthology, *The Art of Friction: Where (Non) Fictions Come Together*. Blackstone's short fiction has appeared in the *Chicago Tribune*, *Bridge*, *Identity Theory*, *The Evergreen Review*, and others. He is the winner of a Barker Award for Fiction, occasionally teaches at the University of Chicago, and is a regular contributor to Chicago Public Radio's 848.
- INFO:** General theatre info – 773-761-4477, [www.lifelinetheatre.com](http://www.lifelinetheatre.com)  
Theatre marketing info - Frances Limoncelli, 773-761-1772, [frances@lifelinetheatre.com](mailto:frances@lifelinetheatre.com)  
Lifeline Theatre's programs are partially supported by **The Albert Pick, Jr. Fund; Alphawood Foundation; The Chicago Community Trust; CityArts 3 grant from the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs; Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation; Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation; Illinois Arts Council, a state agency; Illinois Humanities Council; Lloyd A. Fry Foundation; MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture at Prince; Meyer and Morris Kaplan Family Foundation; The Polk Bros. Foundation; S&C Foundation;** and the annual support of **businesses and individuals.**
- MISSION:** Now in its 24<sup>th</sup> season, Lifeline Theatre and its artistic ensemble of writers, directors, designers and performers collaboratively develop literary adaptations and original theater. Lifeline's innovative artistic and education programs for adults, children and families bring engaging and reflective stories to life.

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Lifeline Theatre  
6912 N. Glenwood Ave. Chicago, IL 60626  
773.761.4477, [www.lifelinetheatre.com](http://www.lifelinetheatre.com)