



Stage Left Theatre presents

THE DISTRIKT OF LAKE MICHIGUN

STAGE LEFT THEATRE REIMAGINES
THE STOREFRONT MODEL WITH
WORLD PREMIERE OF
THE DISTRIKT OF LAKE MICHIGUN

Chicago, Illinois — March 2025

Stage Left Theatre is making a comeback by putting a 21st-century spin on what it means to be a storefront theatre in the city where that model of theatrical production was invented. Founded in 1982 by a group of graduates from the Goodman School of Drama, Stage Left is the second-oldest storefront ensemble company in Chicago, behind Steppenwolf. But the past decade has proven particularly difficult for the 43-year-old group. Financial difficulties, administrative turnover, and the Covid-19 pandemic nearly made for the end for Stage Left. Now, the company is returning to its storefront roots, reinvigorating its mission for Chicago-based theatre which presents stories of societal forces at work in our world. Making Stage Left's upcoming production, *The Distrikt of Lake Michigan*, the perfect opportunity to redefine Chicago's storefront theatre model while also tackling the history of one of the city's most iconic neighborhoods: Streeerville. *The Distrikt of Lake Michigan* was written by ensemble member Stephanie Murphy and is directed by fellow ensemble member, Seth Wilson.

Under this new form of Storefront Theatre, Stage Left is presenting *The Distrikt of Lake Michigan* in a former retail space at Water Tower Place, locating the play about George Streeeter in the neighborhood named for him. The piece is a memorial to his antics, which brought large numbers of people to that part of Chicago. The company's choice to stage a show in a former retail space perfectly frames the exploitation underlying the creation and construction of many places within American urban environments. But the space is also — perhaps, surprisingly — well-suited to theatrical performance. It's an intimate setting with only 60 seats, yet it still facilitates a theatre-like experience with backstage, wing space, and all the necessary accoutrements of a major production. In short, *The Distrikt of Lake Michigan* is perfectly suited for the new storefront theatre model Stage Left is hoping to promote with this play.

Preview performances begin March 14 – 23, with pre-show Vaudeville entertainment beginning on Friday and Saturday at 7:00 and on Sundays at 2:30. Regular performances run from March 28 – April 27. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.stagelefttheatre.com.

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