FOR RELEASE: Embargoed until Monday, May 14, 2018

JUNGLE THEATER ANNOUNCES 2018-19 SEASON:
AN EXPANDED LINE-UP WITH THREE WORLD PREMIERES AND FOUR HIT SHOWS NEW TO THE TWIN CITIES

(MINNEAPOLIS; May 14, 2018) – The Jungle Theater announced today its 2018-19 Season – a heady mix with two world premieres commissioned by the Jungle (Little Women, The Wickhams), another world premiere (Stinkers) and four huge hits out of New York and London (The Children, School Girls; Or, the African Mean Girls Play, Small Mouth Sounds and one to be announced). In addition to aligning its schedule with the more standard theater season (September-August), the Jungle is expanding its season and for the first time, producing seven plays in one season. Season tickets are on sale now and single tickets will go on sale in August.

Jungle Theater Artistic Director Sarah Rasmussen says, “I am beyond excited to announce our 28th season, which features plays that are smart, surprising and inventive. Best of all, they are truly Jungle shows – timely, big-hearted stories with richly drawn characters, ideally suited for our unique, intimate space.”

On stage September 15-October 21, the Jungle is opens its season with its first-ever commission: Rasmussen will direct the world premiere of Kate Hamill’s adaptation of Louisa May Alcott’s Little Women. Twin Cities favorites Christina Baldwin and Wendy Lehr will star in this beloved classic set during the Civil War. Known for her lively, bold takes on classics, Hamill’s plays have been praised as “delightfully volatile” (NY Times) and “ingenious” (Wall Street Journal). Hamill and Rasmussen previously collaborated on her Sense and Sensibility at the Guthrie and Dallas Theater Center.

The holidays bring The Wickhams, a follow-up to 2017’s wildly popular Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley by Margo Melcon and Lauren Gunderson, the most produced living playwright, who was hailed by New York Magazine as “a rare theatrical talent.” Directed by Christina
Baldwin, this co-world premiere and co-commission (with Chicago’s Northlight Theater and the Bay Area’s Marin Theatre Company) runs December 1-30. Starring Angela Timberman as the adored housekeeper, The Wickhams takes a look “downstairs” at Pemberley as the house becomes a-twitter with the bustle of servants and the arrival of the Bennet clan. Sun Mee Chomet, Kelsey Didion and James Rodriguez return in this highly-anticipated sequel. In another first, The Wickhams is a package addition for Jungle season subscribers.

Casey Stangl returns to direct The Children, which was recently nominated for the Tony Award for Best Play. The New York Times called it a “thought-provoking and haunting drama” (NY Times) from award-winning British playwright Lucy Kirkwood. The Children, a near-future drama about the aftermath of a nuclear power station disaster, makes its regional premiere at the Jungle January 12-February 10 after sold out runs in New York and London.

Next up is the just-announced 2018 Lortel Awards Outstanding Play co-winner, School Girls; Or, the African Mean Girls Play, another regional premiere from March 16-April 14. Shá Cage directs Jocelyn Bioh’s buoyant and biting comedy that explores the universal similarities (and glaring differences) facing teenage girls across the globe. Ghanaian-Minnesotan fashion designer Jacquine Amissah-Addison will design costumes and McKnight Distinguished Artist Seitu Jones will design the sets.

The spring will bring another award-winning regional premiere, Small Mouth Sounds, on stage May 18-June 16 with Jim Lichtscheidl, Christina Baldwin and Eric Sharp. After a sold-out national tour, this 2016 New York Times Critics’ Pick will take on new life with director Lauren Keating making her Jungle debut. Filled with awkward and insightful humor, Drama Desk Award-winner Bess Wohl’s Small Mouth Sounds is a fresh and compassionate new play that asks if it’s possible to address life’s biggest questions without saying a word?

The season closer reunites the familiar writer/director team from the Jungle’s 2017 hit Lone Star Spirits, Josh Tobiessen and Sarah Rasmussen. In Stinkers, on stage July 20-August 18, local favorite Sally Wingert returns to the Jungle after almost 15 years, who along with the exceptional creative team, will brilliantly capture the humanity of parenting and the complexity of life’s balances.
And in another first, the Jungle breaks out of the confines of its own theater space with a special “pop-up” show, with title, dates and venue to be announced at a later date.

The complete 2018-19 schedule and show descriptions, along with ticket information, follow:

**Jungle Commission**

**World Premiere**  
**September 15-October 21, 2018 (Media Night: September 14)**  
**LITTLE WOMEN**  
By Louisa May Alcott, adapted by Kate Hamill  
Directed by Sarah Rasmussen

In the midst of the Civil War, the four March sisters are set on a journey from adolescence to adulthood. Adapted from a beloved classic, a new costume drama is saturated with a contemporary air. The cast includes Christina Baldwin, Megan Burns, Katherine Fried, Michael Hanna, Wendy Lehr, Christine Menge, James Rodriguez and Christine Webber.

**Jungle Co-Commission**  
**Co-World Premiere**  
**December 1-30, 2018 (Media Night: November 30)**  
**THE WICKHAMS**  
By Lauren Gunderson and Margot Melcon  
Directed by Christina Baldwin

Downstairs at Pemberley, the house a-twitter with the bustle of servants and the arrival of the Bennet clan as seen in last season’s hit, *Miss Bennet*. From the most produced living playwright, hailed by *New York Magazine* as “a rare theatrical talent,” comes a twinkling new tale of family, honor, and love. Featuring Angela Timberman with Sun Mee Chomet, Kelsey Didion and James Rodriguez.

**Regional Premiere**  
**January 12-February 10, 2019 (Media Night: January 11)**  
**THE CHILDREN**  
By Lucy Kirkwood  
Directed by Casey Stangl

On the lonely British coast, two retired nuclear scientists reside in a quiet cabin while the outside world erupts in utter chaos. An old friend arrives with the revelation of a frightening plan. Winner of Best Play by The U.K. Writers’ Guild Awards, *The Children* is a “thought-provoking and haunting drama” (*The New York Times*). Playwright Lucy Kirkwood challenges ideas on morality and generational obligation in a critically acclaimed work just ending its successful Broadway run.

**Regional Premiere**  
**March 16-April 14, 2019 (Media Night: March 15)**  
**SCHOOL GIRLS; OR, THE AFRICAN MEAN GIRLS PLAY**  
By Jocelyn Bioh  
Directed by Shá Cage
The reigning queen bee at Ghana’s most exclusive boarding school has her sights set on the Miss Universe pageant. But a new student captures the attention of the pageant recruiter - and the queen bee’s hive-minded friends. Award-winning playwright Jocelyn Bioh’s buoyant and biting comedy explores the universal similarities (and glaring differences) facing teenage girls across the globe.

**Regional Premiere**
May 18-June 16, 2019 (Media Night: May 17)

*SMALL MOUTH SOUNDS*
By Bess Wohl
Directed by Lauren Keating

In the overwhelming quiet of the woods, six wildly disparate urbanites embark on a silent retreat. As these strangers confront internal demons both profound and absurd, their vows of silence collide with the achingly human need to connect. The Huffington Post calls it, “a play unlike any other,” Variety claims it’s “flawless.” Filled with awkward and insightful humor, Drama Desk Award-winner Bess Wohl’s *Small Mouth Sounds* asks how to address life’s biggest questions without saying a word. After a sold-out national tour, this 2016 New York Times Critics’ Pick will make its regional premiere at the Jungle with Featuring Christina Baldwin, Jim Lichtscheidl and Eric Sharp.

**World Premiere**
July 20-August 18, 2019 (Media Night: July 19)

*STINKERS*
By Josh Tobiessen
Directed by Sarah Rasmussen

Two adorable kids? Check. One stay-at-home dad? Check. One felonious Meemaw? Check. This season reunites husband-and-wife Josh Tobiessen and Sarah Rasmussen following the 2017 Jungle hit *Lone Star Spirits*. Joining them is local favorite Sally Wingert, returning to the Jungle after almost 15 years. Together, they will brilliantly capture the humanity of parenting and the complexity of life’s balances.

All performances are at the Jungle Theater, 2951 Lyndale Av. S., Minneapolis. Season subscriptions are currently on sale ($148-$188) and single tickets will be on sale in August ($40-$50). For tickets or more information, call (612) 822-7063 or go online to [www.jungletheater.com](http://www.jungletheater.com).