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**The Jungle Theater presents
A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM
Stephen Sondheim's bawdy musical comedy opens June 10**

"A glorious, old-fashioned farce...almost as timeless as comedy itself!" – NY Times

(Minneapolis) — In its first staging of a book musical, the Jungle takes humor back to its roots, combining the time-tested 2,000-year-old comedies of Roman playwright Plautus with the infectious energy of classic vaudeville for an all-new production of *A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM*. The result is a non-stop laugh-fest in which a crafty slave struggles to win the hand of a beautiful but slow-witted courtesan for his young master—in exchange for freedom. Director **John Command** helms this toe-tapping, zany romp through ancient Rome, Jungle-style.

***A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum** opens June 10 and runs through July 24* at the Jungle Theater, 2951 Lyndale Ave. So., Minneapolis. The 1962 Broadway show, with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim and book by Burt Shevelove and Larry Gelbart, won several Tony Awards, including Best Musical and Best Book.

Christopher Teipner leads as Pseudolus, the slave attempting to win his freedom. Real-life married duo **Richard Ooms** and **Claudia Wilkins** star as hen-pecked husband Senex and shrewish wife Domina, the parents of Hero (**Eric Heimsoth**, in his Jungle debut), who has enlisted Pseudolus' help to woo Philia (**Amanda Schnabel**, also in her Jungle debut). **Bradley Greenwald** (Miles Gloriosus) and **Jon Whittier** (Hysterium) join the cast of 20 on the Jungle's intimate stage, along with well-known Twin Cities music director **Jimmy Martin** and his combo.

Jungle Artistic Director **Bain Boehlke** also serves as scenic director for ***A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*** and will transform the Jungle stage into a brilliantly vivid cartoony pop-up card. The creative team includes **Barry Browning** (lighting designer), **Christine Fournier** (assistant director), **Sean Healey** (sound designer), **Wu Chen Khoo** (technical director), **Kathy Kohl** (costume designer) and **John Novak** (properties/stage manager.)

Boehlke said that he selected this classic musical comedy for the Jungle's 21st season because it's "absurd and outrageous and just plain old fun."

(more)

Ticket Information

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum opens Friday, June 10, and closes Sunday, June 24, at the Jungle Theater, 2951 Lyndale Ave. So., Minneapolis. Performances are Tuesdays (\$20) and Wednesdays (\$25) at 7:30 p.m.; Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. (\$30); Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. (\$35); Sundays at 2 p.m. (\$30); and Sundays at 7:30 p.m. (\$25). Senior, student and group discounts are also available, and half-price rush tickets are available every night of the week 30 minutes prior to the performance for \$10 off the regular price. Tickets are available at (612) 822-7063 or online at www.jungletheater.com

Calendar Information

A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM

Music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

Book by Burt Shevelove and Larry Gelbart

Directed by John Command

June 10-July 24, 2011

The Jungle Theater

2951 Lyndale Av. S., Minneapolis

Tickets: \$10-\$35

Box office: 612-822-7063 or www.jungletheater.com

The Jungle takes comedy back to its roots, combining the time-tested 2,000-year-old comedies of Roman playwright Plautus with the infectious energy of classic vaudeville. The result is a non-stop laugh-fest in which a crafty slave (Pseudolus) struggles to win the hand of a beautiful but slow-witted courtesan (Philia) for his young master (Hero), in exchange for freedom. Director John Command helms this toe-tapping, zany musical romp through ancient Rome, Jungle-style!

Dates

Opening	Friday	June 10	@ 8:00 p.m.
Media Nights	Friday	June 10	@ 8:00 p.m.
	Saturday	June 11	@ 8:00 p.m.
Audio-Described	Thursday	June 23	@ 7:30 p.m.
Closes	Sunday	July 24	@ 7:30 p.m.

About the Director

John Command makes his directorial debut at the Jungle with this summer production. He did his first show at St Paul Civic Opera in 1961. He went on to do a raft of shows at Bloomington Civic Theater, Chanhassen Dinner Theaters (including playing "Hero" in its 1969 ***A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum***), Chimera and the Guthrie. John taught a theater dance class at Minnesota Dance Theater for 30 straight years. He is in Michael Jackson's music video, "Thriller," and makes a fast appearance in the film of *Hello Dolly*. His last on-stage experience was opposite Sally Struthers in *Love Letters*. John recently directed *Kiss Me Kate* at Bloomington Civic Theater, where he has directed more than 45 full-length musicals since 1997.

About the Jungle Theater and the 2011 Season

The Jungle Theater comes of age in 2011 and celebrates its 21st anniversary with a lively season of plays, including Artistic Director Bain Boehlke's modern version of Shakespeare's HAMLET and Bradley Greenwald starring in a reprise of the award-winning I AM MY OWN WIFE. One of the region's most dynamic theaters, the Jungle is known for its definitive production of plays drawn from a rich theatrical heritage as well as from a body of contemporary work. A flagship example of the transformative power of the performing arts, the Jungle Theater plays a vital role in the economic, social and cultural life of the Minneapolis neighborhood in which it resides.