For Immediate Release: May 9, 2017

Regional Premiere
FLY BY NIGHT: A NEW ROCK MUSICAL
by Will Connolly, Michael Mitnick and Kim Rosenstock
Directed by Sarah Rasmussen
June 10-July 23, 2017
The Jungle Theater
2951 Lyndale Ave. S., Minneapolis
Tickets: $35-$45
Box office: 612-822-7063 or www.jungletheater.com

MUSICAL COMEDY SHINES LIGHT INTO THE DARKNESS
Fly By Night features Minneapolis music stars Chris Koza and John Munson

“About as magical of an evening as you would ever want to experience in live theater....”
~ Dallas Observer

“...earnest, enthusiastic and possibly requiring a tissue or two by the end.” ~ New York Post

(MINNEAPOLIS; May 9, 2017) – The Jungle Theater is excited to present a comic and touching rock-fable for its summer offering featuring acclaimed singer-songwriter Chris Koza in a starring role and rock/pop legend John Munson (Semisonic, The New Standards) in the house band. FLY BY NIGHT, a 2015 Drama Desk nominee for Outstanding Musical, opens June 10. The new musical, directed by Jungle Artistic Director Sarah Rasmussen, runs through July 23 at the Lyn-Lake neighborhood theater, 2951 Lyndale Ave. S. in Minneapolis.

Set against the backdrop of the 1965 East Coast blackout, Fly By Night is a tale of finding light in a world filled with darkness. In this unconventional journey, the life of a melancholy sandwich maker (Koza) is changed forever by two captivating sisters who’ve relocated to New York from South Dakota (Royer Bockus and Leah Anderson) – one who dreams of stardom; the other content as a diner server.

“Immersed in tradition, but utterly original” (Dallas News), this intergenerational story recalls home, love and loss. Written by Will Connolly, Michael Mitnick (The Giver) and Kim Rosenstock (TV’s New Girl), Fly By Night is at once hilarious and bittersweet exploring the power and potential of human connection.
In addition to the top-flight cast, this “metaphysical musical” (*NY Times*) boasts timeless and beautiful music. The *New York Post* said, “The score is charming and catchy. Its unabashed emotionalism could turn it into more than a hit. It could turn it into a cult phenomenon.” *The New York Times* noted, “The score flirts with early rock ‘n’ roll, as well as recurrent motifs that are guaranteed to take up longtime residence in your ear.” Koza as “Harold” plays his guitar throughout the play. In addition to Munson taking up his bass, noted guitarist Dan Schwartz (nominated for guitarist of the year by Minnesota Music Academy and local Folk/roots album of the year by *Mpls. St Paul Magazine*) is in the “pit” band. Music Director Mark Christine is on keyboards.

Chris Koza, Royer Bockus, Leah Anderson, Joy Dolo (Crabble) and James Detmar (Mr. McClam) are making their Jungle debuts. Jim Lichtscheidl (Narrator), who’s recently returned from a critically-acclaimed performance in Mark Rylance’s *Nice Fish* in London’s West End, and Joshua James Campbell (Joey Storms) return to the Jungle stage. Lichtscheidl previously appeared as DiDi in *Waiting for Godot* and Campbell played Tom Wingfield in *The Glass Menagerie*.

Rasmussen’s creative team for *Fly By Night* includes Ivey Emerging Artist winner Trevor Bowen (costumes), Barry Browning (lighting), Sean Healey (sound), John Novak (properties) and Joseph Stanley (scenic).

The Jungle offers post-show Stay Late discussions with an actor after every performance of *Fly By Night* to give audience members the opportunity to ask questions, talk about the play’s themes and hear ideas from people in the know.

Performances of *Fly By Night* are Tuesdays ($35), Wednesdays ($35), Thursdays ($35), Fridays ($45) and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. ($45), and Sundays at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. ($40). Preview performances on April 7-8 at 7:30 p.m. are $15. Media Night is June 9 at 7:30 p.m. Rush tickets are offered every night of the week, based on availability two hours prior to the performance, and there is special Friday night pricing for students, 55408 neighborhood residents and employees, and those under 30 years of age. Tickets and more information are available at (612) 822-7063 or online at *www.jungletheater.com*.

### About the Jungle Theater
The Jungle Theater (Artistic Director Sarah Rasmussen) is a neighborhood theater with a national impact. As one of the region’s most dynamic theaters, the Jungle is known for its definitive productions, exquisite design, masterful acting and compelling storytelling. Since its founding in 1991, the Jungle has been a flagship example of the transformative power of the performing arts, playing a vital, continuing role in the economic, social and cultural life of its Minneapolis Lyn-Lake neighborhood.

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