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GERTRUDE STEIN AND A COMPANION
By Win Wells
Designed and directed by Bain Boehlke
January 23-March 8, 2015
The Jungle Theater
2951 Lyndale Av. S., Minneapolis
Tickets: $25-43
Box office: 612-822-7063 or www.jungletheater.com

Jungle opens 25th Anniversary Season with GERTRUDE STEIN AND A COMPANION, the most popular production in its repertoire

Starring the inimitable Claudia Wilkens as Gertrude Stein and the extraordinary Barbara Kingsley as Alice B. Toklas

(MINNEAPOLIS; December 18, 2014) – To celebrate 25 years of great theater, the Jungle remounts GERTRUDE STEIN AND A COMPANION, starring two of the Twin Cities most extraordinary actors, Claudia Wilkens and Barbara Kingsley. Directed by Bain Boehlke, this will be the Jungle’s eighth production of the imaginative play by Win Wells, opening the season on January 23. This rich and popular production will be on stage at the Jungle, 2951 Lyndale Av. S. in Minneapolis, through March 8, 2015.

In Gertrude Stein and a Companion, Playwright Win Wells captures not only the veritable essence of this famous relationship, but also the magic years when a host of famous people including Pablo Picasso, Ernest Hemingway and Henri Matisse graced the writer's salon.

The compelling drama, spanning the decades between the early 1900s to the 1960s, poignantly portrays the genesis and development of Stein and Toklas’ 40-year bond. Using text from Stein's writings, letters and interviews, Wells is able to gradually reveal the inner workings of their relationship.

The Jungle first staged Gertrude Stein and a Companion in 1992 at the “old” Lyndale Avenue theater. That production also starred Wilkens and Kingsley, who have been in all subsequent shows. A second staging was part of the Jungle’s 1994-95 season. The production went on to be presented at the Ordway’s McKnight Theater, at the Minneapolis Theater Garage and on
tour in the Midwest and West Coast. It was last presented in 2001 at the current Jungle space.

“This production is a perfect example of the Jungle’s repertory initiative. Many of the theater’s most celebrated productions – I Am My Own Wife, The Syringa Tree, Shirley Valentine, A Life in the Theater, The Gin Game – can be reprised time and again since the actors and designers all live in the Twin Cities,” says Boehlke. “I love it that a young woman in her 20s who saw the play in the early 90s can now see it again with her 20-year-old daughter. It’s like sharing living memories.”

The creative team features Artistic Director Boehlke (director and set designer), Barry Browning (lighting designer), Amelia Cheever (costume designer), Bill Healey (lighting designer), Sean Healey (sound designer), John Novak (properties designer) and John Stillwell (technical director).

Performances of Gertrude Stein and a Companion are Tuesdays ($25), Wednesdays ($33) and Thursdays ($38) at 7:30 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. ($43); Sundays at 2 p.m. ($38); and Sundays at 7:30 p.m. ($33). Senior, student and group discounts are also available, and 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

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Dates
Opening Night Friday January 23 @ 8:00 p.m.
Media Night Friday January 23 @ 8:00 p.m.
Audio-Described Thursday February 5 @ 7:30 p.m.
Closes Sunday March 8 @ 7:30 p.m.

About the Jungle Theater
The Jungle Theater is one of the region’s most dynamic theaters, renowned for its definitive productions of plays drawn from our rich theatrical heritage as well as from the body of work written in our own time. 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.