For Immediate Release: June 18, 2010

Media Contacts:
Anne Q. Ulseth  Kathy D. Graves
anne@aquamn.com  kathy@parenteauagraves.com
612.824.1614  612.928.7003

Box Office: 612.822.7063 or www.jungletheater.com

Two actors. Eight characters. Eighty-five costume changes.

THE MYSTERY OF IRMA VEP
Reveals the Jungle Theater’s outrageous side
New production opens Friday, June 18

(Minneapolis) – Associate Artistic Director Joel Sass brings the high-camp classic THE MYSTERY OF IRMA VEP to the Jungle stage (2951 Lyndale Ave. S., Minneapolis), June 18-August 1. The over-the-top farce features acclaimed actors Bradley Greenwald (star of the Jungle’s award-winning I Am My Own Wife) and Steven Epp (former Theatre de la Jeune Lune company member) playing all eight characters.

“To celebrate our 20th Anniversary Season, the Jungle Theater is committed to producing the 20th century’s most influential plays,” says Sass. “That includes outrageous side-splitting comedies like The Mystery of Irma Vep.”

In playwright Charles Ludlam’s (1943-1987) hilarious send-up of Victorian melodrama and gothic romance, a sympathetic werewolf, a vampire and an Egyptian princess (brought to life when her tomb is opened) create an irresistible evening of murder and mayhem. The energetic escapade, winner of 1985 Drama Desk and Obie Awards, was also crowned by the New York Times and Time magazine as one of the best plays of the year.

“The pairing of Bradley and Steven was persuasive enough for me to revisit this enduring comic masterpiece,” says Sass. “I’m really looking forward to seeing audiences react to their inspired silliness, agility and great comedic timing.” During the show, Greenwald and Epp incessantly change costumes, wigs, characters and genders, plunging in and out of disguises and doors with lightning-quick dexterity (aided by a nimble behind-the-scenes team of five).
The Jungle's creative team includes **Greg Brosofske** (composer), **Barry Browning** (lighting), **Sean Healy** (sound), **Matthew Lefebvre** (costumes), **John Novak** (properties and stage management) and **Joel Sass** (set). **Andrew Cutler, Janice Geis, Peter Lincoln Rusk, Eli Schattler** and **Jeffrey Shockley** comprise the behind-the-scenes crew.

**About the Jungle Theater and its 20th Anniversary Season**
The Jungle’s 20th anniversary season celebrates and pays homage to the plays and playwrights that helped shape the Jungle’s first two decades. For the past 20 years, the Jungle has had a substantial impact on the Twin Cities theater scene, establishing a reputation for excellence that stems from a commitment to high artistic standards and the contributions of many respected and celebrated local artists. A flagship example of the transformative power of the performing arts, the Jungle plays a continuing and vital role in the Lyn-Lake neighborhood’s economic, social and cultural development.

**Ticket Information**
*The Mystery of Irma Vep* opens Friday, June 18 and closes August 1 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**
*The Mystery of Irma Vep*
By Charles Ludlam
Directed and designed by Joel Sass

A sympathetic werewolf, a vampire and an Egyptian princess (brought to life when her tomb is opened) make for an outrageous evening of murder and mayhem with this loving, high-camp tribute to Victorian melodrama. Featuring acclaimed actors Bradley Greenwald and Steven Epp. Joel Sass (*Hedwig and the Angry Inch*) directs this comic masterpiece.

**Dates**
**Media Nights**  
Friday June 18  @ 8:00 p.m.  
Saturday June 19  @ 8:00 p.m.

**Audio-Described**  
Thursday July 1  @ 7:30 p.m.

**Closes**  
Sunday August 1  @ 7:30 p.m.

**Artists Bios**
**STEVEN EPP** makes his Jungle debut in *Irma Vep*, having previously spent 25 years with the Tony Award-winning Theatre de la Jeune Lune as an actor, writer, director and co-artistic director. Epp has appeared regionally at Yale Repertory Theatre, The La Jolla Playhouse, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Trinity Repertory Theatre, The Spoleto Festival, American Repertory Theatre, Actors Theatre of Louisville, The Alley Theatre, and The New Victory Theatre, off-Broadway.

**BRADLEY GREENWALD** is well known to Jungle audiences from his acclaimed performances in *Torch Song Trilogy* and the Ivey Award-winning *I Am My Own Wife*. Greenwald, recently seen in Ten Thousand Things’ *My Fair Lady*, also spent many years performing with Theatre de la Jeune Lune in opera and music theater works such as *Don Juan Giovanni*, *The Magic Flute*, and *Mefistofele* among others. A familiar face on the stages of the Guthrie and Children’s Theater, he has also appeared regionally at the Berkeley Repertory Theater, American Repertory Theater and others.