For Immediate Release: August 5, 2010

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A TALE OF DREAMS AND DESPERATION:
THE JUNGLE THEATER BRINGS BACK THE GLASS MENAGERIE

Tennessee Williams’ timeless classic, starring Wendy Lehr, opens September 10

(Minneapolis) — Artistic Director Bain Boehlke brings back THE GLASS MENAGERIE to the Jungle Theater, staging Tennessee Williams’ first successful play as the playwright intended: with aspiring poet Tom serving as both narrator and character.

THE GLASS MENAGERIE opens September 10 and runs through October 17 at the Jungle Theater, 2951 Lyndale Ave. S., Minneapolis.

Erstwhile Southern belle Amanda Wingfield (Wendy Lehr), her painfully shy daughter Laura (Alayne Hopkins), and son Tom (Joshua James Campbell) form a triangle of quiet desperation in Williams’ timeless classic. Amanda, an overbearing single mother, lives on memories of her flower-scented youth, while her children bear the weight of her unrealistic dreams for their futures. But when a gentleman caller (Michael Booth) offers false hope to the family, their precarious world shatters with haunting results.

Boehlke selected the award-winning opus for its honored place among the 20th century’s greatest plays. “Now that we’re post-2000, we have an array of incredible works from the last millennium that are considered classics. If you imagine the repertoire of important 20th century plays as a banquet table, The Glass Menagerie would be the centerpiece – a bouquet of blue roses,” he says.

(more)
Boehlke contributes a stunning two-story set with the iconic fire escape and other elements to bring a gritty realism to the rundown tenement apartment that the dysfunctional Wingfield family calls home. The Jungle’s creative team also includes Barry Browning (lighting), Sean Healey (sound), Amelia Cheever (costumes), Wu Chen Khoo (technical) and John Novak (properties and stage management).

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 Glass Menagerie opens Friday, September 10 and closes October 17 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 Glass Menagerie
By Tennessee Williams
Directed and designed by Bain Boehlke

In a rundown tenement apartment, erstwhile Southern belle Amanda Wingfield (Wendy Lehr), her painfully shy daughter, Laura (Alayne Hopkins), and her aspiring poet son, Tom (Joshua James Campbell), form a triangle of quiet desperation. Amanda, an overbearing single mother, lives on memories of her flower-scented youth, while her children bear the weight of her unrealistic dreams for their future. But when a gentleman caller (Michael Booth) offers false hope to the family, their precarious world shatters with haunting results.

Dates
Media Nights
Friday September 10 @ 8:00 p.m.
Saturday September 11 @ 8:00 p.m.
Audio-Described
Thursday September 23 @ 7:30 p.m.
Closes
Sunday October 3 @ 7:30 p.m.
Artists Bios

WENDY LEHR (Amanda) is a beloved figure on the Jungle stage, who last appeared as Madame Arcati in *Blithe Spirit*, and alongside Bain Boehlke in *The Gin Game*. Wendy has acted on many stages locally—The Jungle Theater (*A Delicate Balance, Bone Dry, House of Blue Leaves*), The Guthrie Theater (*A Christmas Carol*), Theatre de la Jeune Lune (*Lulu, Lettice and Lovage*), Park Square Theatre (*Mary Stuart, Noises Off!*), The Great American History Theater and Chanhassen Dinner Theaters.


ALAYNE HOPKINS (Laura) made her Jungle debut last season in *Mary’s Wedding*. Other production credits include an acclaimed performance as Sabina in *The Skin of Our Teeth* for Girl Friday, and several shows with Park Square Theatre: Agnes in *Agnes of God*, Princess Leonide in *The Triumph of Love*, Poppy in *Noises Off!*, Laura in *The Glass Menagerie*, Poopay in *Communicating Doors*, and Lala Levy in *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*. She has also performed with Ten Thousand Things in *Red Noses*, Sandbox Theater in *Koogoomanooki*, Frank Theater in *The Adventures of Herculina*, and many others.

MICHAEL BOOTH (Jim) last appeared at the Jungle in *Blithe Spirit* as Charles Condomine and in *SHIPWRECKED!* as Louis de Rougemont. He has also appeared in numerous roles at the Guthrie, Park Square, St. Louis Rep, Cleveland Playhouse, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Berkshire Playhouse, MN Shakespeare Project, and MN Fringe Festival, and in the films *Wooly Boys, This Car Up*, and *A Simple Plan*. 