

JUNGLE

THEATER

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**CHERYL WILLIS BRINGS
SHIRLEY VALENTINE TO LIFE AT THE JUNGLE**
One-woman show, directed by Bain Boehlke, opens February 4

Brilliantly funny....Irresistible. – London Times

Willis sparkles as Shirley Valentine. – Bar Harbor Times

At the age of 42, Shirley Valentine feels that her marriage and life are in a rut. Her world is one of kitchens, cooking and faded dreams. She longs to "drink a glass of wine in the country where grapes are grown," but when a friend invites her on holiday to Greece will Shirley have the courage to swap housework and drudgery for two weeks in the sun?

Bain Boehlke directs Cheryl Willis in **SHIRLEY VALENTINE**, a witty, heartfelt comedy about breaking free, living life and starting over, opening February 4. The award-winning one-woman show runs through March 20 at The Jungle Theater, 2951 Lyndale Ave. S., Minneapolis.

Like Shirley Valentine, Willis hails from Liverpool, England, and just returned from holiday to Greece. She reprises the role of the eponymous character, a part she played in 2007 at her own summer stock theater company, Acadia Repertory Theatre on Mt. Desert Island, Maine. There, the *Bar Harbor Times* critic reported, "[Willis'] presence is so compelling throughout the two hours, I didn't feel the need to go anywhere else or meet anyone else other than the places and people Shirley described to me – first from the confines of her kitchen and second from her getaway spot on a Grecian shore."

Shirley Valentine's creative team includes **Barry Browning** (lighting), **Sean Healey** (sound) **Wu Chen Khoo** (technical), **John Novak** (properties) and **Kalere A. Payton** (costumes).

About the Jungle Theater and its Coming of Age 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

Shirley Valentine opens Friday, February 4, and closes Sunday, March 20, 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

Shirley Valentine

By Willy Russell

Directed by Bain Boehlke

At the age of 42, Shirley Valentine (**Cheryl Willis**) feels that her marriage and life are in a rut. Her world is one of kitchens, cooking and faded dreams. She longs to "drink a glass of wine in the country where grapes are grown," but when a friend invites her on holiday to Greece will Shirley have the courage to swap housework and drudgery for two weeks in the sun? Bain Boehlke directs the singular Cheryl Willis in this witty, heartfelt comedy about breaking free, living life and starting over.

Dates

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|------------------------|----------|------------|-------------|
| Media Nights | Friday | February 4 | @ 8:00 p.m. |
| | Saturday | February 5 | @ 8:00 p.m. |
| Audio-Described | Thursday | | @ 7:30 p.m. |
| Closes | Sunday | March 20 | @ 7:30 p.m. |

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Artists' Bios

CHERYL WILLIS was last seen at The Jungle in *Shining City*, directed by Joel Sass. Other Minneapolis credits include The Children's Theatre, Theatre de la Jeune Lune, The History Theater, Park Square, Frank Theatre, Joking Apart, and Hardcover. Cheryl is the Artistic Director for the Acadia Repertory Theatre on Mount Desert Island, Maine, where she has directed and performed over 50 productions in the past decade (www.acadiarep.com). She is an artist and puppeteer and is co Artistic Director of The Eagle and Rose Theater Company, performing the traditional British puppet show *Punch & Judy*, and *Erotic Valentines* shadow shows, among others. She has designed masks and puppets for a variety of companies both here and in the UK and worked for a period with the Jim Henson Company. TV credits include *Coronation Street*, *Brookside*, *Emmerdale Farm*, and *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*.

BAIN BOEHLKE is the founding Artistic Director of the Jungle Theater, and since the Jungle's inception 21 years ago, has directed, designed and/or appeared in most of the theater's productions. Over his 50+ year theater career, he has also worked in theaters around the country including the Arizona Theatre Company, Louisville Children's Theatre and Honolulu Theatre for Youth. Bain was the Associate Artistic Director and a leading actor at the Children's Theater Company for 13 years. He was the recipient of the 2001 McKnight Fellowship for Theater Arts, and was recently honored as the 2009 Distinguished Artist of the Year by the McKnight Foundation. You may recognize him (or his voice) from his appearance as Mr. Mohra in the Coen brothers' film *Fargo*.