Le Switch brings its charm to the Jungle stage following critically acclaimed world premiere in Chicago

“Philip Dawkins has a knack for depicting contemporary LGBT life with warmth and wisecracks.”

– Chicago Reader

(MINNEAPOLIS; May 19, 2016) – This summer, the Jungle Theater presents a witty, affectionate and timely comedy about what it means to be committed, alive and in love in the era of marriage equality. LE SWITCH, by “the richly talented Chicago writer” Philip Dawkins (Chicago Tribune), is on stage June 17–July 31 at the Lyn-Lake neighborhood theater, 2951 Lyndale Ave. S. in Minneapolis. The Playwrights’ Center Artistic Director Jeremy B. Cohen makes his directorial debut at the Jungle with this production.

Kasey Mahaffy, whose credits include a recurring role on television’s Modern Family, stars as commitment-shy David. Nervous in the face of the nation’s new “wedding fever,” he retreats to his home full of unopened books and a grieving activist roommate. When his best friend’s bachelor party takes him to Montreal, he’s unexpectedly swept off his feet by a beautiful, young florist, played by Michael Hanna. In the months that follow, David and his non-traditional family must decide what it really means to be committed, what it means to be married and what it means to be queer.

The show also features Patrick Bailey, Emily Gunyou Halaa and Michael Wieser, supported by the creative team of Barry Browning (lighting design), Moria Sine Clinton (costume...
design), Sean Healey (sound design), John Novak (properties/stage manager) and Kate Sutton-Johnson (scenic design).

Producer Doug Nevin commissioned Le Switch, and the play received early developmental support as part of the 2014 Playwrights Centers' PlayLabs, where it was one of the hits of the new plays festival. The Jungle is sharing world premiere credit for the play with About Face Theatre in Chicago, which produced the show earlier this year to critical and audience acclaim. The Chicago Tribune called Le Switch a "significant new play from one of the Chicago’s theater's brightest talents, a compassionate and observant writer who has written a play of the moment that reminds us how little legislation from courts or politicians changes how we think of ourselves."

Jungle Artistic Director Sarah Rasmussen said, "It's an honor to share a world premiere with About Face, where Philip is an Artistic Associate. His engaging play is told with such humor, heart and loving insight that audiences are going to have a wonderful time at the Jungle this summer."

Director Cohen added, "I'm excited to bring this new work to the stage, which, like the other plays in my great friend Sarah Rasmussen's first season, represents a gorgeous intersection of humanity."

Ticket information
Performances of Le Switch are Tuesdays ($35), Wednesdays ($35) and Thursdays ($40) at 7:30 p.m.; Fridays ($45) and Saturdays at 8 p.m. ($48); Sundays at 2 p.m. ($40) and 7:30 p.m. ($35). Preview performances on June 15 & 16 at 7:30 p.m. are $15. Rush tickets are offered every night of the week, based on availability, at 30 minutes prior to the performance, and there is special Friday night pricing for students, 55408 Neighborhood Residents and those under 30 years of age. Tickets and more information are available at (612) 822-7063 or online at www.jungletheater.com.

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LE SWITCH
By Philip Dawkins
Directed by Jeremy B. Cohen
June 17-July 31, 2016
The Jungle Theater
2951 Lyndale Ave. S., Minneapolis
Tickets: $35-$48
Box office: 612-822-7063 or www.jungletheater.com

Dates
Previews Wed.-Thurs. June 15-16 @ 7:30 p.m.
Opening Night Friday June 17 @ 8:00 p.m.
Media Night Friday June 17 @ 8:00 p.m.
Audio-Described Thursday June 30 @ 7:30 p.m.
Closes Sunday July 31 @ 7:30 p.m.

About the Jungle Theater
The Jungle Theater, headed by 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.

About the Playwright
Philip Dawkins is a Chicago playwright whose plays have been produced throughout the country and the world. His works include the world premiere of Miss Marx: Or the Involuntary Effect of Living (Strawdog Theatre), which won the Joseph Jefferson Award for Best New Work, as well as recent critically acclaimed plays The Homosexuals and Failure: A Love Story, which both also received Joseph Jefferson Nominations for New Work after their world premieres with About Face Theatre (2011) and Victory Gardens Theater (2012), respectively. Mr. Dawkins’ play Charm received its world premiere in fall 2015 at Northlight Theatre and played at Mixed Blood Theatre in Minneapolis this spring. He also has adapted the Dr. Seuss book The Sneetches and Other Stories, which will have its premiere at Children’s Theatre Company in 2017.

Dawkins is an Artistic Associate of About Face Theatre and an Ensemble Playwright at Victory Gardens. He teaches playwriting at Northwestern University, his alma mater, Loyola University Chicago, and through the Victory Gardens ACCESS Program for writers with disabilities. Most of his plays, including his scripts for young performers, are available through Playscripts, Inc. and Dramatic Publishing.