Jungle Theater’s season opens with hot Broadway hit, the regional premiere of VENUS IN FUR

“Seriously smart and very funny!”
- The New York Times

“So sexy you could sweat.”
- Philadelphia Inquirer

(Minneapolis; December 21, 2012) — The Jungle Theater opens its 2013 season with VENUS IN FUR, billed as 2011’s “funniest, sexiest, most acclaimed new Broadway play,” starring Anna Sundberg and Peter Christian Hansen – both 2011 Ivey Award winners. Designed and directed by Joel Sass, the regional premiere of the Tony-nominated play dovetails with the recent Fifty Shades of Grey book phenomenon, both exploring the once-taboo erotic subject of sado-masochism. VENUS IN FUR opens February 1 and runs through March 10, 2013, at the Lyn-Lake theater at 2951 Lyndale Avenue S., in Minneapolis.

VENUS IN FUR blends love, lust and literature with the ultimate battle of the sexes. Set in a stark rehearsal studio, this fast-paced 90-minute play is both an intellectual adventure and an often funny encounter between an actor and a playwright/director. Vanda (Anna Sundberg) is determined to land the lead in Thomas’ (Peter Christian Hansen) new play, an adaptation of the classic erotic novel which inspired the term “masochism.” She arrives at the audition—her bag filled with S&M gear and period costumes—and soon Thomas is drawn into reading his own script with this mysterious young woman. Vanda’s emotionally charged audition for the gifted but demanding playwright becomes an electrifying game of cat and mouse that blurs the lines between fantasy and reality, seduction and power, love and sex.

Director Joel Sass said, “The subject matter may sound scandalous, but VENUS IN FUR is going to attract attention because of its brilliant script and sizzling cast. Although audiences get to watch others dabble in the forbidden, they’ll be equally riveted by the suspense and humor. It’s very funny, racy and sexy. It’s like an adult cocktail.”

The creative team also includes 2012 Ivey Award-winning Barry Browning (lighting design), Amelia Cheever (costume design), Annie Enneking (fight choreographer), Sean Healey (sound designer), John Novak (stage manager and props) and John Stillwell (technical director).
Venus In Fur performances are Tuesdays ($20), Wednesdays ($28) and Thursdays ($33) at 7:30 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. ($38); Sundays at 2 p.m. ($33); and Sundays at 7:30 p.m. ($28). 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

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Calendar Information
VENUS IN FUR
By David Ives
Directed by Joel Sass
February 1-March 16, 2013
The Jungle Theater
2951 Lyndale Av. S., Minneapolis
Tickets: $10-$38
Box office: 612-822-7063 or www.jungletheater.com

Dates
Opening Friday February 1 @ 8:00 p.m.
Media Nights Friday February 1 @ 8:00 p.m.
Saturday February 2 @ 8:00 p.m.
Audio-Described Thursday February 14 @ 7:30 p.m.
Closes Sunday March 16 @ 7:30 p.m.

A sizzling comedy, the Tony-nominated Best Play Venus in Fur introduces us to Vanda (Anna Sundberg), an unusually talented young actress determined to land the lead in Thomas’ (Peter Christian Hansen) new play, an adaptation of the classic erotic novel which inspired the term “masochism.” Vanda’s emotionally charged audition for the gifted but demanding playwright/director becomes an electrifying game of cat and mouse that blurs the lines between fantasy and reality, seduction and power, love and sex.

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 founding the Jungle in 1991, Artistic Director Bain Boehlke has won numerous awards for his exquisite design, brilliant casting, and razor-sharp direction. A flagship example of the transformative power of the performing arts, the Jungle Theater plays a vital, continuing role in the economic, social and cultural life of its Minneapolis neighborhood.