JUNGLE THEATER PREMIERES DELIGHTFULLY IRREVERENT NEW COMEDY ABOUT PARENTING

“Stinkers” by Josh Tobiessen plays July 17–August 18

(Minneapolis; June 14, 2019) – The Jungle reunites the writer/director team from the theater’s 2017 hit Lone Star Spirits—Josh Tobiessen and Sarah Rasmussen—for a heartfelt new play about the humor, humility and complexity of parenting. Stinkers features Sally Wingert, who returns to the Jungle after almost 15 years.

Stinkers is on stage July 17-August 18 at the Jungle, located in the Lyn-Lake neighborhood of Minneapolis at 2951 Lyndale Ave. S.

In this world premiere production, stay-at-home dad Brad (John Catron, Lone Star Spirits, The Heiress) agrees to let his newly released-from-prison mother Joyce (Wingert) visit him and his two high-energy toddlers – portrayed by puppets operated by Megan Burns (Little Women, The Wolves) and Reed Sigmund (Jungle debut) – while his wife is away on business. Things heat up when Brad starts taking advice from his ex-con mom, his nice but annoying neighbor (Nate Cheeseman, Lone Star Spirits, The Wickhams) and Joyce’s friend from prison (George Keller, Two Gentlemen from Verona).

“It was important for me to write a play about parenting where the children were characters on stage – and using puppets allowed me to do that,” said Tobiessen. “I didn’t want to see grown-up characters talking and complaining about or adoring their off-stage children; I wanted to see
that relationship play out onstage. I wanted to write a comedy about parenting where no one talks about being a parent.”

Sarah Bahr (costumes), Marcus Dilliard (lighting), Sean Healey (sound), John Novak (properties) and Chelsea M. Warren (scenic and puppet design) comprise Rasmussen’s talented creative team. A grant from Venturous Theater Fund provided the support to incorporate the puppets into show.

“This is a play about how the same people who push us to the brink of insanity can be the ones who reel us back in,” said Tobiessen. “It’s for anyone who’s ever traded someone all the ice cream they can eat for five minutes of silence, received career advice from a three-year-old, or, after singing ‘Baa Baa Black Sheep’ for 27 minutes, used a toy helicopter to open a beer.”

The Jungle offers Stay Late discussions with cast and audience members after every show (with the exception of opening night). Performances are Tuesdays ($40), Wednesdays ($40), Thursdays ($40), Fridays ($50) and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. ($50), and Sundays at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. ($45). Preview performances ($15) are July 17–18 at 7:30 p.m. Rush tickets are offered every night of the week, based on availability two hours prior to the performance, and there is special Friday night pricing for students, 55408 neighborhood residents and employees, and those under 30 years of age. Tickets and more information are available at (612) 822-7063 or www.jungletheater.org.

About the Jungle Theater
The Jungle Theater creates courageous, resonant theater that challenges, entertains and sparks expansive conversation. As a neighborhood theater with national impact, the Jungle focuses on telling stories that matter, with deep care and attention to detail. Artistic Director Sarah Rasmussen, now in her fourth season, was named “Artist of the Year” in 2018 by the Star Tribune, noted for bringing new voices and gender parity to the stage.

DATES
Previews: Wednesday-Thursday, July 17–18 @ 7:30 p.m.
Media Night: Friday, July 19 @ 7:30 p.m.
Opening Night: Saturday, July 20 @ 7:30 p.m.
Audio-Described: Thursday, August 1 @ 7:30 p.m.
Closes: Sunday, August 18 @ 7:30 p.m.

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Promotional photos available at jungletheater.org/press in the press room files.