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The Jungle Book

By Briandaniel Oglesby Inspired by Rudyard Kipling's book

With

Kayden Meredith Ian Buchanan Samuel Elliot Harris
Frank Hunter Hannah Thompson Ed Salo
Charlotte Lammers

Directed by Jenny Smith Technical Director

JR Lawrence **Presented By**

Performance Rights for The Jungle Book are handled exclusively by Steele

Spring Stage Rights, www.stagerights.com **Assistant Director &**

Stage Manager Conrad Williams

Costume Design Sametta Parker

Monkey Choreography Ella Scott

Author's Biography

Briandaniel Oglesby writes some plays for All Audiences, some plays for high schoolers, and some plays for adults. He is a three-time National Finalist to the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, winning the Latinidad Award for his play *She Gets Naked in the End*. His play *Halfway, Nebraska* was developed at Playwrights' Week at the Lark, and went on to win the Outstanding Playwriting Award from the New York International Fringe Festival. He has an MFA from the University of Texas at Austin, where he studied with Steven Dietz, Suzan

Zeder, and Kirk Lynn. A native of Sacramento, California, he now resides in Austin, Texas.

www.briandanieloglesby.com

Scenes

Act 1 Prologue Chapter 1 - The

Man's Cub Chapter 2 - How to be a

Wolf Chapter 3 - A City, Lost &

Forbidden

Intermission

Act 2 Chapter 4 - City Life Chapter 5

- Mowgli's Return

Curtain Call

Cast Mowgli.....Kayden Meredith

Baloo.....Ian Buchanan

Bagheera.....Samuel Elliot Harris Shere

Kahn.....Frank Hunter

Raksha.....Hannah Thompson

Akela.....Ed Salo

Kaa.....Charlotte Lammers

Alpha/DeeDee.....Abigail Thompson

Beta.....Zachary Walden

Ralph.....Henleigh McAnally

Duke.....Noah George Monkey

lead.....Gavin Frangenberg Kite

(Vulture).....Catherine Thompson

Ensemble

Kaziya Middleton M.E. Hoffman Chase Hoffman

Isaac Horton Ella Scott Sam Stuart

Maddie Crawley Marcelle Little Rosette Little

Luke Bullington Kasen Erickson Klara Erickson

Kade Vaughn Christopher Hinton Payton Goad

Vinson Walden John Spengler Mason Escue

Annabelle Escue Isabella Mares Lily Catlett

Chloe Harpole Marcela Little

Late arrivals must wait at the back of the house until a scene change.

The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.
Turn your cell phones OFF.

If you need to leave your seat, please wait for a scene change if possible.

In case of an emergency, exits are located in the front and back of the auditorium. Restrooms are located on the mezzanine and in the lobby.

Food and drinks are not allowed in the theater.

If you're not saving this playbill as a keepsake, please place it in the "Recycle Playbills" bin at the front door after the performance.

Thank You

If you'd like to go paperless—The FOA wants to help!

You can find our Playbill on Facebook, foajonesboro.org, or you can scan one of the QR codes in the lobby!

Our Actors Appreciate

Theatre Etiquette

Your Best

Crew

Backstage

Stage ManagerConrad Williams

Assistant Stage

ManagerKilee Erickson

LightboardJohn Erickson

Sound & MusicJR Lawrence

Build Team

Set ConstructionJR Lawrence, Andrew Tolson

PaintCast

CostumesSametta Parker & Ian Buchanan

Special Thanks

Allison Powell Lori Alpe Dixie McAnally

Tamara Meredith Erin Frangenberg Terry Spengler

To the volunteers who helped with costumes and props

Stage Notes

Mowgli, We absolutely love watching you on stage and seeing the happiness on your face when you perform! We are so proud of you and everything you do!

Love you to heaven and back, Mama & Daddy

Dear Mowgli,

Mimi and Grandad are so proud of you and we love watching you do what you love to do.

Congrats Kaziya! We are so proud of you!!! Never stop going after all your dreams. We love you to the moon and back.

Mom, D'Marion, & Kadarius

Mason & Annabelle,

You are a blessing on and off the stage. We can't wait to watch you tell the story of Jungle Book!

Mom and Dad

A Heart for the Arts

When I first came to the FOA, I had been a part of educational theatre, other community theatres, and even dabbled in a professional theatre for a minute. But the opportunity to direct at the FOA changed everything for me. I had directed lots before then, but this community theatre was different. Or maybe I was different. Either way, the community theatre here changed my life. I call it theatre- done-well. Here is how everyone should support good community theatre whether you know someone in the cast or not. (by Wade Bradford on ThoughtCo.)

Nurture New Artists: Many successful actors, directors, writers, and choreographers have launched their careers in humble, small town playhouses. Just by attending and applauding, audiences give up-and-coming stars the positive feedback they need to continue their artistic pursuits. Also, many community theaters offer classes. The stage develops confidence and responsibility within young performers. In my experience, I have seen the shyest of children improve her communication skills. When I directed children's shows for a local civic light opera, I met a seven year old girl named Megan who only spoke in whispers; she didn't have any friends at the beginning of rehearsals. However, the choreographer noticed that she moved very gracefully. We gave her a special dance solo. It boosted her self-esteem. Soon, she was an outgoing, talkative, and friendly part of the cast.

Share Valuable Skills: Community theaters need more than just cast members. Anyone that can sew a costume, paint a backdrop, build a staircase, or edit a sound effect is a desirable addition to the company. Novices of a particular skill, such as construction or lighting, can increase their ability by working alongside veteran craftsmen. Likewise, experts can enjoy sharing their knowledge and passing their craftsmanship to the next generation.

Advertise Locally: Small business owners should financially support playhouses, and not just for altruistic reasons. A good thirty minutes before a show, most audience members spend their time thumbing through the program, inspecting the actor bios. It's the perfect opportunity to advertise. Theatergoers are essentially a captive audience while they scan through the program. Small business can use this time to reach hundreds of potential customers. Ad space is relatively inexpensive and will help the performing arts thrive.

Socialize with New People:

Whether you work as an assistant director, a chorus member, the star of the show or a stagehand, one thing is certain: you will meet new friends. There is something exhilarating about putting on a show. It brings people close together; it tests their skills, and it enlightens audiences. Many lifelong friendships and relationships have been formed while practicing sword fighting, stage-kissing, or falling through a trap door. There is a strong bond with all who band together to put on a play. We become friends because we work as one to tell a story.

Be Part of the Storytelling Process: Plays are an ancient form of storytelling. It's a creative ritual still very much alive despite the age of Youtube. Most community theaters produce time-tested classics like [A Street-car Named Desire](#), and some are light hearted; some are deep and profound. All offer a message to the audience. Classic and contemporary plays speak to us because they explore what it means to be human. Those who participate in the storytelling process can feel proud knowing they are spreading a positive message to their community. So go audition. Offer up your skills. Advertise in the program. Contribute your time and energy. And by all means, go see a show! You'll become a part of the vibrant, long-cherished tradition of the theatrical storytelling. "The powerful Play goes on, and you may contribute a verse." -- Walt Whitman

Directors Note All the people like us are we, and everyone else is they.— Rudyard Kipling

I remember as a kid always wanting to fit in. Don't a lot of kids at a certain age want that? Mowgli in our story wants that, too. But as time goes on we, and Mowgli, learn it's not that simple. We must learn to adapt, to move between different worlds and different types of people, in order to find our way. We may never fit in. And, in some cases, we may not WANT to fit in. Some people are irresponsible or lawless or ignorant or just plain evil. So how do

we find our place in this world? We have to learn to create our own and in the process pick and choose those people and/or places that bring us joy. Out in the real world is where we must practice tolerance, kindness, patience and acceptance. Baloo teaches the wolf cubs the Master Words of the jungle. “We be of one blood, you and I.” That does not mean that we are all the same, that means that we celebrate our differences. Our beliefs, our way of life, even the color of our skin (or type of fur we have), define us to a certain point, but underneath it all, we all bleed red. Be kind. Love your neighbor. Enjoy the show!

-Jenny Smith

To purchase tickets for any performance, visit or call the Box Office during normal business hours or purchase tickets online at foajonesboro.org!

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Support The Foundation of Arts because we...

- Believe that engaging in the arts grows people and unites community
- Help people, and each other, learn discipline, teamwork, creativity, and focus *through arts experiences - which arms them for success in any field*
- Provide disciplined creative arts study and experiences trying our best to enable everyone to learn, regardless of their ability to pay
- Are a place for children and adults to participate in goal-oriented arts-study, in a non-competitive and technique-based environment
- Serve at least 500 families per week through arts education, theatre, and outreach activities
- Offer community theatre with ten different productions per year including *The Nutcracker Ballet*, musical theatre, and children's theatre
- Stand alone as an arts organization in Northeast Arkansas that provides live theatre at relatively low ticket prices for thousands of patrons each year—and a Pay What You Can performance for each show so that everyone can grow from live theatre
- Work with adults and children with disabilities through the arts, allowing them the opportunity to perform annually on stage
- Bring an annual count of 55,000 trips into downtown Jonesboro for our community
- Need your support—ticket sales and class tuition support only about half of what it takes to serve Northeast Arkansas and the more than 20,000 people we positively affect annually
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love. **Rated PG**

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