



# THE JUNGLE BOOK





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# THE THEATER PLAY : THE JUNGLE BOOK

## THE STORY

In the heart of the Indian Jungle, Mowgli, a small man raised by a pack of wolves, grew up under the benevolent gaze of his friends, Baloo the singer bear and Bagheera, the mysterious black panther. But lawless monkeys and the ruthless Shere Khan threaten the tranquility of the jungle and its inhabitants. In this jungle whose laws are righteous but without mercy, Mowgli will have to surpass himself to become a man and the master of the jungle.

Adapted from the story of Kipling, you will come out growing from this thrilling and enjoyable show in the colors of India.

<b>AUTHOR :</b>	Rudyard Kipling
<b>ADAPTATION :</b>	Compagnie Acte II
<b>STAGE DIRECTOR :</b>	Lorelei Daize
<b>COSTUMIE DESIGNER :</b>	Sébastien Passot
<b>STAGE DESIGNER :</b>	Louie Talents
<b>COMPOSER :</b>	Guillaume Renaud
<b>ACTORS :</b>	Matthieu Brugot Vincent Favre Mélodie Maréchal où Marina Monmirel ( <i>en alternance</i> ) Lydie Misiek où Camille Vallin ( <i>en alternance</i> ) Morgane Quiguer Hugo Richet
<b>SHOW DURATION</b>	1 hour 5 minutes
<b>FAMILY SHOW</b>	FROM 6 YEARS OLD ONWARDS.

**A FAMILY SHOW ENDORSE BY THE ACADEMY OF PARIS.**







## THE AUTHOR : RUDYARD KIPLING 1865 – 1936

Joseph Rudyard Kipling was a British writer.

His books for children met with great success from the outset and that has never wavered, including *The Jungle Book* (1894), *The Second Jungle Book* (1895), *Just So Stories* (1902), and *Puck of Pook's hill* (1906). He is also the author of the novel *Kim* (1901), poems ( *Mandalay* (1890), *Gunga Din* (1890) and *Si* (1910) are among the most famous ) and short story, including *The Man Who Would Be King* (1888) and the collection *Plain Tales from the Hills* (1888). He was considered an "innovator in the art of short story," a forerunner of science fiction, and one of the greatest writers of children's literature. His work demonstrates a talent for narration which is expressed in various forms.

From the late nineteenth century to the mid twentieth century, Kipling has remained one of the most popular writers of the English language. The writer Henry James wrote about him: "Kipling strikes me personally, as the most complete man of genius that i have ever know."

In 1907, he was the first English-language author to win the Nobel Prize for Literature, and the youngest to have received it. Thereafter, he refused to be knighted.

However, Kipling was often considered as a "prophet of British imperialism", in the words of George Orwell. Controversy over prejudice and militarism that would be present in his work crossed the entire twentieth century. According to the literary critic Douglas Kerr:

"He is still an author who can inspire passionate disagreement and his place in literary and cultural history is far from settled. But as the age of the European empires recedes, he is recognised as an incomparable, if controversial, interpreter of how empire was experienced. That, and an increasing recognition of his extraordinary narrative gifts, make him a force to be reckoned with."

## KEY ASPECTS OF THE JUNGLE BOOK

*The Jungle Book* written by Kipling in 1894 is far from the sweetened tale presented to us by Walt Disney. Through the adventures of Mowgli the wolf child, we discover a cruel world where to survive all must obey the harsh law of the jungle.

Kipling's novels are not specifically for children, it is expressed in analogy and complex turn of phrases. His Literary style is deep and it resonates like the laws of the jungle describe to us through stories.

This theater show, inspired by Kipling, is an invitation for the young audience to dive completely into this terrifying but very exciting world.

### 1 – Becoming a Man

*The Jungle Book* is the story of a child who becomes the master of the jungle. For Mowgli and for the Cubs, they go through education with Baloo the Bear, who teaches them the Law of the Jungle and how to relate with other animals. Through this learning they will be able to survive any situation in their future life, hence the importance of being attentive to the lessons of Baloo is relevant.

However, before becoming a man Mowgli as a child finds it more interesting to fight with his sister wolf than listen to Baloo. But do not pass judgement too quickly as the two little ones will grow in their full potential through play. In playing, Mowgli and Sister Grey confront each other, mark their territory, install their power and thus make their place in the society.

As years go by, Mowgli becomes the master of the jungle and faces responsibilities and commitments. He must defend his people and his position as a leader. Growing up is also making choices and assuming them.

It's not easy to grow up and become a man in a world where you feel different no matter what. Mowgli will always be the only human in the jungle. It's hard for him to know who he really is and to be completely happy.





## 2 – Accepting one's difference

The novels of Kipling and this theatrical adaptation speaks of difference and tolerance. Here, the one who is different is Mowgli. Abandoned as a baby, the jungle decides to adopt him. Despite he is human, Mother Wolf loves him as much as his own children. It is the same for Bagheera and Baloo who will risk their lives for this child. In the same way, Sister Grey likes to lovingly quarrel with his brother and would follow him anywhere if necessary. *The Jungle Book* is above all a beautiful love story between beings.

However, Kipling does not hide the reality. Mowgli is different and the other wolves in the pack make him feel it. They do not want him and allowed themselves to be allured by Sher-Khan the tiger, who wants his death.

On the other hand, in the season of love, Mowgli sees all his animal friends leaving with their partners. He alone remains isolated. Without understanding what's really going on, Mowgli understands that he has to go back to the men even though he's the master of the jungle. How to accept difference and how to live and grow with it? That's what Mowgli will learn from his adventures.



## 3 – Living Together

Mowgli is different because he is human but in this jungle, panthers, bears, wolves, snakes, monkeys, tigers, elephants ... must live together despite their differences.

Kipling describes the social life of animals and dictates the laws of the jungle to which everyone must obey: "Hunt then for food, but not for pleasure.", " It is death to kill at the drinking-places when once the Water Truce has been declared. " etc.

All these laws allow animals to live together with respect for each other.

Each of our actions has a consequence on the other. Wolves are the best representation of it. The pack of wolves make no decisions without talking to the board any decision making. It is so for the acceptance of Mowgli within the clan as an example.

Sher-Khan is the only one who does not respect these rules. He kills for fun and above all he kills humans which endangers the entire jungle because humans have the capacity to destroy the jungle to avenge one of their own. Without a law the jungle would be in the hands of animals like Sher-Khan and chaos would reign.





## 4 – Man and Nature

Sher-Khan is one of the greatest danger for the jungle dwellers, but there is another one even more terrifying: Humans. Like Sher-Khan, Humans can be unpredictable because oftentimes they are not conscious and therefore does not respect the laws of the jungle. It is through the law of the jungle that everyone can live in harmony.

The setting of the story is in the jungle of India and is surrounded by the culture and traditions of this country . Here man is not a superior being who controls all the elements. Nature and animals are more powerful. Once the humans are in the jungle it is the animals who dictates the law.

The only animals that admire humans and want to be like them are the Bandar-Log.

These monkeys are the only animals to whom the jungle pays no attention. They are described as stupid animals, without a leaders and without laws.

The animals of the jungle are not at war with the humans. From the moment humans respect nature and its inhabitants, the jungle will do the same and protect it. Everything is a question of balance.

## To Go Further

**1** - Unlike Peter Pan who does not want to grow up, Mowgli wants to grow and be stronger, but that means being responsible and sometimes separate himself from his family to make his way alone. In class, it can be asked to children if they want to grow up? What does it mean to be an adult for them?

**2** - *The Jungle Book* asks the question of how to live together? In class we can ask children what it is for them to live together? What could be done to live better together in the classroom for example?

**3** - Mowgli is different, it's difficult for him to find his place in the jungle. In reality we are all different. You may ask the children how they feel different? Is this a problem for them? How could they turn this difference into strength?

**4** - The creative aspect of the show is based on Indian tradition like their songs, costumes and stage design. It would be interesting to look at the Indian culture, its traditions, its inhabitants, its nature, the animals that can be found there.

**5** - *The Jungle Book* is an ode to nature. Ask the children to research the different forests of the planet Earth and what man does with it. Why is it important to take care of our nature?



## BIBLIOGRAPHY TO GO DEEPER IN THE REFLECTION

### IN ENGLISH :

- *The Jungle Book* – novels of Rudyard Kipling – 1894
- *The Second Jungle Book* – novels of Rudyard Kipling – 1894
- *Hope for the Kayaks* – by Luc-Olivier Lafeuille – Free book, EU publications - 2010

### IN FRENCH :

- *Le Livre de la Jungle* – by Company Acte II ( the texte of the play in french ) in L'Harmattan Edition – 2016
- *Vivre ensemble n°4: Les différences* – by Laura Jaffé in Bayard Jeunesse Editions – 1999
- *L'Asie racontée aux enfants – L'Inde – Tome 2, Sanesh visite son pays* – by Pierre Landais and Annie Decarpes in Broché edition – 2003
- *Bakoumba (un petit lion différent)* – by Agnès Patron in Jacob edition - Duvernet – 2008
- *Les animaux de la jungle* – by Emilie Beaumont, Raphaëlle Chauvelot et Franco Tempesta in Broché edition -

