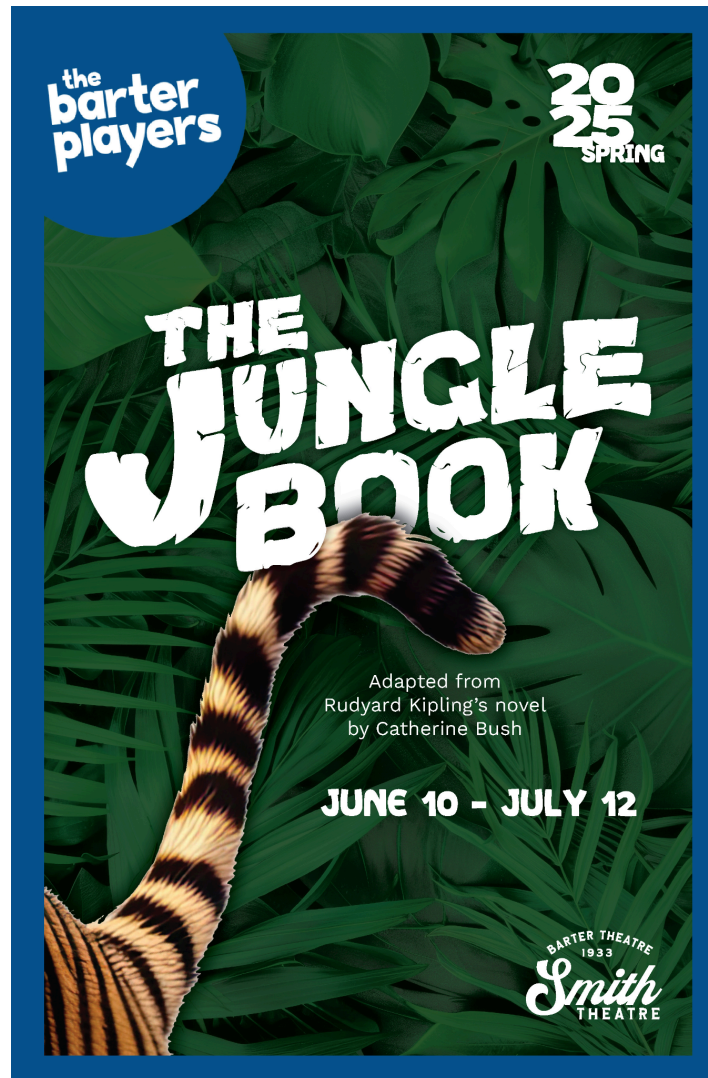


the
barter
players



Social Narrative for

The Jungle Book

Adapted from Rudyard Kipling's novel
by Catherine Bush

Barter's Smith Theatre
Summer 2025



I'm going to see a play called *The Jungle Book* at Barter's Smith Theatre! This play is about a young boy named Mowgli – who was raised by wolves in the Jungle – learning the ways of the Jungle with the help of Baloo the bear, Bagheera the panther, and Kaa the snake.



Seeing a play is like seeing a movie. The play will be performed by people right in front of me on stage. They are called actors, and the people they are playing are called characters.



Once arriving at the theatre, I will go into the lobby where I will get my tickets. If I am early, I can wait in the lobby or lounge. Other people will also be waiting for the show to begin.



Next, I'll enter the theatre and choose a seat for the show. I'll sit in a seat and wait for the show to start. Other people will be doing the same thing. We will all wait together for the performance to begin.



Just before the performance begins, some of the actors will come out to talk about things we use in the play that help us tell the story, like props, costumes, lights, and sound.



If at any point during the show I have a question or want to leave, I will ask for help quietly. There will be ushers who can help me, too. An usher is someone in a white shirt who works at the theatre.



If anything ever gets too loud I can put on my ear protection or cover my ears with my hands.



I'll know the performance is about to begin when the lights dim around me and someone on stage makes an announcement. After the announcement, the lights will change again and I'll know the play is about to start.



Diya is singing to her baby, Chandu, when her husband, Anant, is running from Shere-Khan, the tiger. They are forced to leave behind their baby to run away from the tiger.



Raksha the wolf, along with Akela, leader of the wolf pack, discover the baby alone in the jungle and decide to adopt him as their own, and they name the “man-cub” Mowgli. He has a birthmark on his forehead in the shape of a crescent moon.



Shere Khan the tiger returns for the baby, but Akela and Raksha refuse to give him over and return to the wolf pack at Council Rock with the baby.



The wolves must first approve Mowgli as part of the pack. But they are hungry and don't want to face consequences from Shere Khan.



Baloo the Bear advocates for the “man cub” Mowgli. Bagheera the Panther also offers the other wolves food in exchange for them to accept Mowgli. The wolves now accept him as part of the pack!



Baloo and Bagheera promise to teach Mowgli the Laws of the Jungle as he grows older. Bagheera also has experience with “The Ways of Man” and says Mowgli will help Akela one day.



Ten years pass, and Diya is still sad from losing her baby, Anant tries to comfort her. She continues to sing the lullaby, “Hush, hush, baby of mine. Mama is here, everything’s fine. I’ll never ever leave you behind. Hush, hush, baby of mine.”



Meanwhile, Mowgli is older and has grown ten seasons. He has learned how to hunt and caught a fish. Akela, Raksha, Bagheera and Baloo decide it is time for him to learn the laws of the Jungle.



Baloo takes Mowgli to the river for him to learn how to swim. Bagheera tells Baloo that Akela tripped on the hunt and is beginning to show his age. They are worried the other wolves will challenge Akela for leadership of the pack. They must teach Mowgli quickly so he can help Akela.



Baloo continues to teach Mowgli the Laws of the Jungle, including the Master Words—the words of respect—to communicate with other animals. Baloo also warns Mowgli that Man is dangerous, and to be careful on the path that goes to the village.



Mowgli uses the Master Words on Kaa the snake, to help him out of a trap. Kaa almost kills Mowgli, but didn't because Mowgli saved his life. They become friends.



After Mowgli and Kaa become friends, Bagheera warns Baloo that Akela tripped again and Shere Khan saw him, and will likely challenge him to a fight. They are out of time and tell Mowgli that he is a Man and must teach him the ways of man quickly so that he can help Akela.



Bagheera teaches Mowgli about the different ways Man hunts, including the most dangerous weapon, the Man Claw (a knife), and the Red Flower (fire). Bagheera says that Man can make the red flower and can burn down their lands and homes in the Jungle.



Bagheera was once an animal in captivity, until one day a boy set him free. Now he must repay his debt by returning Mowgli to the village.



Shere Khan calls a meeting with the wolf pack and tells them how he saw Akela trip on the hunt. And that they must challenge him to a fight to the death for leadership of the wolf pack and to get rid of Mowgli.



Bagheera tells Mowgli that time is running out to help Akela. He sends Mowgli to the village to get the red flower because if Mowgli has the red flower then Shere Khan wouldn't dare oppose them.



Mowgli is scared, but Bagheera tells him that bravery is only found when overcoming fear. Mowgli goes into the village, and it feels familiar to him, but he must first return to the Jungle and save Akela from Shere Khan. He also takes the knife with him.



Shere Khan challenges Akela, and says that the Man Cub (Mowgli) is next. The fight begins, and Akela is at first able to defend himself, but he gets injured by Shere Khan. Even though the combat may seem scary, remember that it is all practiced and everyone is safe.



Just as Shere Khan is about to strike the final blow, Mowgli runs in carrying the red flower, warning him to stay back. The other wolves leave in fear, but Shere Khan is still ready to challenge Mowgli.



Shere Khan and Mowgli fight. There is a lot of action as Mowgli kicks and rolls away from Shere Khan, who is trying to scratch him. Mowgli gets the advantage and strikes Shere Khan's leg with the Man Claw. Shere Khan runs away in fear. Mowgli now claims himself as a Man.



Mowgli has claimed himself as a Man, it is now time for him to return to the village and take his rightful place.



It is difficult for Mowgli to say goodbye to his family and friends, but remembers when he was in the village he heard Diya singing the lullaby. Raksha says he must go find his mother.



Mowgli returns to the village and finds Diya and Anant. He is very afraid but Diya sees the birthmark on his forehead and knows it's her baby.



Raksha protects Mowgli at first, but recognizes Diya's scent as Mowgli's and realizes she is his real mother.



Mowgli says goodbye to his friends, Baloo, Bagheera, Kaa, and his wolf Mom and Dad, Raksha and Akela. At the end of the play, Mowgli is reunited with his mother, Diya, and father, Anant.



The play is about 45 minutes long. If at any point during the show I think something is funny I can laugh. If I ever think the actors did a good job I can clap. I'll know the play is over because people around me will start clapping their hands, and I can clap too if I want. Then the lights will come all the way back up, and I can leave the theatre.

CHARACTERS IN *The Jungle Book*

Here are the names and photos of the characters you'll see in *The Jungle Book*!

MOWGLI



DIYA



SHERE KHAN



RAKSHA



AKELA



BALOO



BAGHEERA



KAA



SAMBAR



BOY



TRAPPERS



RIVER



BEE / BEEHIVE

