

PLAYS FOR
New Audiences

A Division of Children's Theatre Company

The Jungirl Book

by Anne Negri

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CAST

Girl

Baloo (Bear)

Bagheera (Black Panther)

Shere Khan (Tiger)

Akela (Wolf Leader)

Mother Wolf

Father Wolf

Wolf Pup #1

Wolf Pup #2

Wolf Pup #3

Chil (Kite)

Tabaqui (Jackal)

Sahi (Porcupine) / Kaa #1 (Python)

Mang (Bat) / Kaa #2 (Python)

Hathi (Elephant) / Kaa #3 (Python)

Father / Kaa #4 (Python)

Mother / Kaa #5 (Python)

Brother / Kaa #6 (Python)

Chorus:

Wolf/Monkey #1

Wolf/Monkey #2

Wolf/Monkey #3

Wolf/Monkey #4

Wolf/Monkey #5

Wolf/Monkey #6

Wolf/Monkey #7

Wolf/Monkey #8

Wolf/Monkey #9

Child/Wolf/Monkey #10

Woman/Wolf/Monkey #11

Man/Wolf/Monkey #12

*This play is currently cast for a group of thirty (30) actors. However, some of the parts involve actors playing multiple roles. If you require a larger cast, roles could be divided into several additional, smaller roles (more wolves/monkeys). Conversely, if you should require a smaller cast, additional doubling and tripling is possible to accommodate a smaller ensemble.

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR SMALLER CASTING EXAMPLE

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Mother Wolf
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Wolf Pup #1
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Chil (Kite)
Tabaqui (Jackal)
Sahi (Porcupine) / Brother / Kaa #1 (Python)
Mang (Bat) / Mother / Kaa #2 (Python)
Hathi (Elephant) / Father / Kaa #3 (Python)

Chorus:
Wolf/Monkey #1
Wolf/Monkey #2
Wolf/Monkey #3
Child/Wolf/Monkey #4
Woman/Wolf/Monkey #5
Man/Wolf/Monkey #6

The jungle. It's quiet at dusk. In the moments before the Sun goes down, some animals are heading home to sleep. Some animals are just starting to wake up.

CHIL, the Kite, flies overhead searching for prey.

MOTHER WOLF, and WOLF PUP #1, WOLF PUP #2, and WOLF PUP #3 enter. MOTHER WOLF plops down to rest, but the pups are full of energy, romping and playing around.

AKELA leader of the Free Creatures and the Seeonee Wolf Pack enters. The wolf pack, including FATHER WOLF, gathers around in a circle surrounding AKELA and lay down at her feet.

BALOO, the Bear, and BAGHEERA, the Black Panther, enter. They cross paths nodding in a friendly manner to each other as they pass.

SHERE KHAN, the Tiger, struts on stage. Other animals eye him warily. Skulking around at Shere Khan's heels is TABAQUI, the Jackal.

The sounds of the jungle grow louder as the night grows nearer and the Sun sinks lower.

Suddenly, the snap of a branch is heard! All of the animals freeze in place.

Immediately all of the animals exit! CHIL stays on a nearby perch. SHERE KHAN looks to TABAQUI with a hungry grin as they head off towards the sound of the humans.

A GIRL enters. She is a toddler, learning new words.

GIRL sees CHIL sitting on a perch and points.

GIRL

Birdy!!

FATHER, MOTHER, and BROTHER enter. BROTHER is holding a book under one arm. FATHER has a compass in one hand.

MOTHER

I thought the guide told us to stay in one spot if we got separated for the tour group?

BROTHER

Father, this jungle is so dense!

MOTHER

The guide definitely warned us about moving around. (to BROTHER/SON) Did you see that Danger sign a ways back?

BROTHER

I can barely see a few feet in front of me.

MOTHER

How did we even lose the rest of the group?

FATHER

(consulting his compass) Don't worry dear, I think I have us headed back in the right direction.

BROTHER

Well, Dad and I were trying to spot a jungle bird called a kite. (show the page in the book with a kite) Dad and I were both looking down at the book and then up at the trees and then down at the book and then up at the trees and POOF, the group was gone!

FATHER

This way!

MOTHER

Are you sure?

FATHER spins around in a circle, facing the opposite direction, clearly confused.

FATHER

Yes, I'm sorta positive that I know exactly where we are.

MOTHER

Sorta?

GIRL points at CHIL in the tree.

GIRL

Birdy!

FATHER

(to MOTHER) Keep our girl close.

MOTHER goes to the GIRL.

Come here, my dear.
MOTHER

MOTHER pulls out a bracelet made of strings and gives it to the GIRL to play with.

FATHER
The most important thing is to find our group before dark and avoid any of the wild animals.

BROTHER
What kind of wild animals live here?

FATHER goes to the SON and opens up his book.
MOTHER approaches as they all peer at the book.

Lions!
FATHER

And tigers!
MOTHER

What about bears?!
BROTHER

FATHER
Oh my! (scared laugh) Don't worry, there are many creatures who live out here, but I've always heard that they won't bother us if we don't bother them.

FATHER holds out the compass and MOTHER and SON also look at it.

While their backs are turned, SHERE KHAN, the tiger, and TABAQUI, the jackal, quietly enter. The BROTHER and the GIRL see them approaching.

Kitty cat!
GIRL

DaaaaaaaaaaaD!
BROTHER

The FATHER and MOTHER turn around to see SHERE KHAN and TABAQUI.

BROTHER grabs a nearby branch. SHERE KHAN licks his lips and takes a step towards the GIRL. BROTHER nervously swings it at SHERE KHAN.

BROTHER (CONT'D)

GET, AWAY, FROM MY SISTER!

BROTHER tries to jab at SHERE KHAN with the stick. SHERE KHAN easily bats it out of BROTHER's hand with his paw.

SHERE KHAN let out a laugh that turns into a snarl. BROTHER whimpers and runs towards his parents.

SHERE KHAN

Tabaqui!!

TABAQUI

Yes, Shere Khan!

SHERE KHAN

(licks his lips) I've found my dinner! (looks toward the GIRL) you keep an eye on my little dessert until I get back.

TABAQUI

Yes, Shere Khan!

SHERE KHAN

Don't touch a single hair on her head until I get back.

TABAQUI

Yes, Shere Khan!

SHERE KHAN

You can have my leftovers.

TABAQUI

Of course, Shere Khan.

SHERE KHAN

If there are any!

TABAQUI

Thank you, Shere Khan!

FATHER turns to MOTHER and BROTHER.

FATHER

We have to run!

But what about our girl?!!

MOTHER

BROTHER grabs MOTHER's hands.

BROTHER

I'll come back and get her, Mom! I promise.

FATHER

We'll come back!

FATHER and BROTHER pull at MOTHER.

MOTHER

No! No! My girl!

FATHER (CONT'D)

We'll lead the tiger away from her and we'll return for her.

FATHER and BROTHER pull MOTHER offstage as
SHERE KHAN stalks towards them hungrily.

The GIRL is left onstage with TABAQUI.

GIRL

Doggie?!

TABAQUI

I'm not a doggie! (beat) Well...maybe I technically belong to the dog family, but I'm not a...(mimics GIRL) doggie.

GIRL

Little doggie?

TABAQUI

Little?! I may be small, but I'm a rough, tough, beast and I eat little humans like you for breakfast. Watch this!

TABAQUI puffs himself up and makes a mean face and growls at the GIRL, but she just laughs and giggles, copying his face.

TABAQUI (CONT'D)

That doesn't scare you?! Fine! Then I'll eat you up right now. (TABAQUI licks his lips and gets ready to pounce, but he hears Shere Khan's snarl offstage) I-I-I could eat you right up now. If I wanted to.

The GIRL giggles again, stands up and begins to toddle offstage.

TABAQUI (CONT'D)

Where are you going?! (growls at GIRL, she ignores him) Sit! Stay! Get back here! Grrrr! I'm not allowed to touch a hair on your head, so just...STOP!

GIRL exits.

TABAQUI

Fine. Fine. I guess I'll follow you. (beat, grumbles) You'd better be a tasty dessert!

TABAQUI exits and follows. CHIL is left alone, after watching the whole scene. CHIL spreads his wings and flies out with the news.

CHIL

(calls out) SHERE KHAN! SHERE KHAN! SHERE KHAN attacks HUMANS! SHERE KHAN attacks HUMANS! SHERE KHAN attacks HUMANS!

In another part of the jungle, near a rocky outcropping, a small den with MOTHER WOLF, WOLF PUP #1, WOLF PUP #2, and WOLF PUP #3. The wolf pups are wrestling and playing. MOTHER WOLF peeks out of the den.

MOTHER WOLF

He's almost here. Get ready!

The three WOLF PUPS suddenly stop wrestling and they sit together in a row, doing their best to stay still, but can barely hold back wiggling and wagging their tails.

FATHER WOLF enters, exhausted.

WOLF PUP #1, #2, #3

(overlapping each other) Daddy's home! Daddy's home! Yip! Yip! Yip! He's home! He's home! He's home!

MOTHER WOLF

Good evening. Good hunting?

FATHER WOLF

Yes. Very good. Plenty of food for the whole pack.

WOLF PUP #1

(runs to FATHER WOLF) Tell us Father! Tell us all about the hunt!

WOLF PUP #2

What was it like?!

WOLF PUP #3

Was it the most glorious hunt of all time?!

FATHER WOLF

Of all time? My, my, you have quite the imagination.

WOLF PUP #1

What did you do?

WOLF PUP #2

What did Akela do?

WOLF PUP #3

Why do all of the wolves follow Akela?

MOTHER WOLF

We're Free Creatures, but we trust Akela to lead us.

FATHER WOLF

Especially in the hunt.

The Wolf Family freezes when they hear a growling sound from outside the cave.

TABAQUI

(grrr) STOP! Stop right there. No! No! Do you hear me? Don't go in there!

The GIRL enters the wolf den, smiling at the wolves. She toddles in and sits in the middle of the cave. The WOLF PUPS run forward and start sniffing the GIRL.

WOLF PUP #1

What is it?

WOLF PUP #2

Is it nice?

WOLF PUP #3

Can we eat it?

TABAQUI

(tries to lunge at the WOLF PUPS) No! Get back! She's mine!

FATHER WOLF

(growls to ward TABAQUI off) Yours? Crazy Tabaqui! You don't hunt anything yourself! You're a scavenger, all you do is feed off the leftover scraps Shere Khan leaves behind.

MOTHER WOLF approaches the GIRL and gently sniffs her.

MOTHER WOLF

It's human! A girl.

FATHER WOLF

(to TABAQUI) Where did you get her?

TABAQUI

I don't have to answer any of your questions. When Shere Khan gets here, you'd better send her out. She's ours...well, Shere Khan's dessert.

CHIL flies in and the wolves listen.

CHIL

(calls out) SHERE KHAN! SHERE KHAN! SHERE KHAN attacks HUMANS! SHERE KHAN attacks HUMANS! SHERE KHAN attacks HUMANS!

MOTHER WOLF

Poor things! Shere Khan has plenty to eat in the jungle. Why would he attack humans?

TABAQUI

Shere Khan can do whatever he wants!

FATHER WOLF

Shere Khan puts us all in danger by attacking humans. More humans will come and they will hurt many of us in search of Shere Khan.

MOTHER WOLF

He cares nothing for the rules of the jungle.

A sudden snarl outside the cave. SHERE KHAN enters.

SHERE KHAN

The stupid rules weren't made for me! They were made for followers like you, Free Creature.

TABAQUI

I'm sorry she got away from me Shere Khan. I-I-I tried, but she just wouldn't stay.

SHERE KHAN

I should throw you into the deep pit!

TABAQUI

No...please, Shere Khan! (whimpers) I'll do whatever you want. Please don't throw me in there!!!

SHERE KHAN

(to TABAQUI) Quit your groveling! (sneers) I'll fix it. (to the WOLVES) She's still mine. GIVE THE GIRL TO ME NOW!

FATHER WOLF looks at MOTHER WOLF.

SHERE KHAN (CONT'D)

She's just a helpless, weak, little girl. Why would you keep her? Even if I didn't eat here, she wouldn't last a week in this place. What an awful waste.

MOTHER WOLF

No!

FATHER WOLF and MOTHER WOLF block SHERE KHAN and TABAQUI from the GIRL. The WOLF PUPS make a circle around her. The whole family growls.

SHERE KHAN

(laughs) How sweet! You think you can protect her?

FATHER WOLF

We will take the girl to the Council Rock tonight. The Free Creatures will decide what to do with her.

SHERE KHAN

Don't worry. I'll be there, to claim what is rightfully mine! (beat) Come Tabaqui!

SHERE KHAN strides offstage. TABAQUI pauses.

TABAQUI

So...no dessert?!

GIRL

(waves) Bye, bye little doggie!

TABAQUI growls and scampers after SHERE KHAN.

WOLF PUP #1

Do we have a Sister?!

WOLF PUP #2

Can she live with us forever?

WOLF PUP #3

I guess this means we can't eat her, right?

WOLF FATHER

(to MOTHER WOLF) What do you think they will say at the Council? (beat) You know a human could mean trouble for the Free Creatures.

WOLF MOTHER

I don't know what they will say. And I don't care. The girl belongs with us now.

The GIRL and WOLF PUP #1, #2, #3 begin to romp, play, and wrestle together. The lights dim. The GIRL and WOLF FAMILY exit.

The dim light of the moon shines down onto a rock. AKELA enters and sits proudly on top of the Council Rock center stage. AKELA looks up at the moon and howls a long, loud howl.

The wolf pack, WOLF #1-WOLF #6 enter two by two, howling as a response to AKELA. As they enter they form a half circle, bowing down around AKELA.

AKELA

Look well, Free Creatures!

WOLF #1-WOLF #6

Look well, Akela!

BALOO, the bear, lumbers on stage.

BALOO

Look well, Akela!

AKELA

Look well, Baloo. (beat) I see you there, in the shadows. Join us Bagheera.

BAGHEERA, the panther, steps out of the shadows onto the stage.

BAGHEERA

Look well, Akela!

AKELA

I welcome you all to the Council Rock. What news is there from the jungle today?

CHIL flies near the council.

CHIL

(calls out) SHERE KHAN! SHERE KHAN! SHERE KHAN attacks HUMANS!
SHERE KHAN attacks HUMANS! SHERE KHAN attacks HUMANS!

WOLF #1

Shere Khan is trouble!

WOLF #2

Trouble!

WOLF #3

Trouble!

WOLF #4

Now the humans will come to the jungle and bring trouble!

WOLF #5

Trouble!

WOLF #6

Trouble!

WOLF #7

The humans will come with their guns....

WOLF #8

And knives...

WOLF #9

And traps...

WOLF #10

And ropes...

WOLF #11

And the red flower...

WOLF #12

THE RED FLOWER!

AKELA

And they might catch their tiger, but they could catch a Free Creature instead.

PURCHASE PERUSAL FOR FULL SCRIPT