



THE
**JUNGLE
BOOK**





THE JUNGLE BOOK REVIEW

BY

ROSA

Going to see **The Jungle Book** was an amazing experience, full of clear story, warmth and a message that will stick with someone for a long time. The message that we all breathe the same air is one with many meanings. Personally my favourite, not matter what you are like you can still be what you want, if you feel like a wolf, like Mowgli, you can still be one because we all breathe the same air and we are all together. No matter what we are like, we can be together, we are still animals, all of us. If we feel like something it doesn't matter what we look like. If we are an ant, if we feel big we can still be big even if we are tiny. If we are a giant elephant or a blue whale, if we feel small we can still be a little ant. If our heart's in one place, our body goes to that place, even if we're different. The

acting was very emotional, and you can really tell the story. They didn't just read their lines, they read them as if they were actually those characters.

I think **Shere Khan** really showed that story line in his voice, he was very scary (almost) even though he was only a man acting, he almost a tigery bit in him, which goes back to the message that even if you're a human you can still be like a tiger. That's what I think the show was a bit like. The message grows into the whole show, even with the performing.



Bagheera also showed that kind of panther side to her in her movement, she didn't just walk along the stage, she panthered across the stage. Also, the name 'Baggy' she originally got annoyed about but



then she let Baloo do it, as if it was a friendship thing. She seemed to almost get angry but then think well, if he wants to call me it and maybe he can and maybe he doesn't mean it badly, maybe just to be funny, or just to be Baloo, as they say.



Baloo really carried character that he has always had in the books and the films, he stayed the funny bear who was kind and took a warm side for Mowgli, he really cared for him. Although they didn't have the Bear Necessities song, he still carried that Bear Necessities funny bear in him, in his voice and action. He still always thought more on the funny side of life than the hard life. Though he still wanted Mowgli to be safe. I suppose sometime you have to be safe as well as funny. He was a bit of a mix in his feelings, but most of all he tried to make life funny, or at least a bit amusing.



The music was very good and it really had a beat even if it wasn't the same songs in the Disney versions. Personally, I preferred these versions as they really were catchy and they stuck with you and usually they had a meaning that showed either a message or maybe a character's strong feeling, for instance when Mowgli felt angry he had a song about his anger, and when he wanted to be free he was kind of mixed up. He knew he wasn't a wolf but he just wanted to persuade himself.

That's why at the end the song that we all breathe the same air brings it back to how Mowgli didn't know what he had to be, he can be whatever he likes as we all breathe the same air.

Mowgli really showed more character than in the Disney film. He showed really kind of personality and the mix of feelings, which happens in real life when someone gets mixed up in emotions. He really loved being part of the wolf pack and he believed in himself and he believed he was like a circus wolf as he could climb trees and had no fur. Though he was acted by an adult woman, you could still believe that he was a little boy who had been brought up in the wild and just wanted to be free and have fun. The actor, Keziah Joseph, took on the fun side of the show. What I mean is, instead of when she



was acting just reading the lines and being a child, I suppose anyone could be a child if they try, she really thought when I was a child what was I like. She really went back to when she was a child. I know this as I could tell, she wasn't just acting like a child, you could feel, you could almost tell that she felt like a child. That's what I think the joy of this show was like, it was like they felt the character they were acting, not just playing the character.



The scenery was very believable even if it was ladders hanging from the ceiling. With the green light shining down on them, the ladders looked like vines. And they had a big climbing frame in the middle of the stage which was on a system so that it could go around on a moving circle. The climbing frame was made out of lots of ladders with ropes around and planks of wood.



It was so tempting to run up stage and jump and climb on them. They really looked like trees and you could almost see the bits of wood and vines and they had to push through them to get there. The only reason I say almost is because you have to use your imagination to get to the next step. Some things in theatre don't come from scenery, some things are done by you, with your imagination you can go anywhere.



With the puppets for baby Mowgli, even though it was just a puppet, you could almost see the person in the puppet, as the actor for Mowgli was directing it by moving it around. She was also making sounds for it. It was almost funny in a way, but not funny as in laughing at it but funny as in laughing with it.

The service at the theatre was great. They had amazing ice creams, and I chose a stem ginger flavour. They were only £2.50 and they were quite big. In my opinion, they were one of the best ice creams I'd ever had. But that's not all, they have friendly staff giving you stickers and checking your bags as you walked in. there was an especially nice woman who'd I'd like to give a special thank you to if she reads this.

This woman smiled to me and waved, and she checked our bags and she gave me extra stickers when I lost one.

She then collected everyone's rubbish in the theatre with her rubbish bag, in the interval, and smiled at me and said 'hello'. Personally, I would say this woman deserves a certificate.



Going back stage was a treat with the Associate Director, Neil Bull. He was kind and greeted us with a friendly smile. He loved to have a laugh and was in a very cheery mood, even after directing a whole show with all that pressure. Wow, it must be hard to keep up spirit. I think he also deserves a certificate. All the hard work he put into it really did pay off though. It was amazing seeing all the props in the backstage and meeting some of the people who worked there, including a special thank you to Jeff, someone who is friends with the shopkeeper of a games shop that my brother, Luka, went into and bought something before the show.

Neil was so kind that he even took us in a secret only cast way down to the outside. We even got to walk on stage, and I got to have a go with the wolves' crutches, which they used as front legs.

Now, there's one more special thank you that I'd like to do. This one goes to a very special person indeed. This person's name is Hanna Slattné. Not only is she a very kind friend to me, my mummy and my family, but she also brought me, my brother Luka and my mummy tickets to see this marvellous show, The Jungle Book. If she is reading this, I think she deserves a medal and a certificate.

This show was a marvellous experience, for anyone who hasn't seen it I think you should

definitely book tickets now. Sadly, it's no longer shown at Chichester Theatre but it will be touring around the U.K. Just search **The Jungle Book to find out if they are coming to you.**

Finally, thank you to all the theatre people who produced this show.

It was amazing.

From Rosa Simanowitz

p.s. my favourite character was Grey, as she was a loyal friend to Mowgli.

