

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

YPT Presents

## JUNGLE BOOK

Written & Directed by Craig Francis & Rick Miller

Adapted from the works of Rudyard Kipling

By Kidoons and WYRD Productions in association with The 20K Collective

**FEBRUARY 13 TO MARCH 21**

**Toronto, Jan. 29, 2020** - YPT is excited to introduce young audiences to a wild, multi-media adaptation of *Jungle Book*, from creators Craig Francis and Rick Miller (*Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*), based on Rudyard Kipling's beloved classic. Inventive and timely, *Jungle Book* will transport you from the urban jungle to Mowgli's childhood in the forests of India for this extended engagement on YPT's Mainstage from February 13 to March 21.

*Jungle Book* comes to YPT as part of its North American tour, after a recent appearance in New York. Seven public performances have been added to its run at YPT including Family Day and March Break.

"A diverse creative team of some of the most accomplished artists in Toronto and Montreal brings this story to life using all the tools of theatre," said co-creator and director Craig Francis. "*Jungle Book* combines immersive multimedia and sound with shadow puppetry and live performances to create an experience that you just have to see live."

Each production in YPT's 2019.20 season explores one of the [Seven Ancestral Teachings](#) of the Anishinaabe (Wisdom, Love, Respect, Bravery, Honesty, Humility and Truth). *Jungle Book* focuses on Respect and explores the consequences of colonialism and the continuing human domination of the animal world.

*Jungle Book* features **Mina James, Matt Lacas, Levin Valayil** and **Tahirih Vejdani**.

Co-Directors: **Craig Francis, Rick Miller**; Production Manager/Technical Director: **James Kendal**; Stage Manager: **Andrew Dollar**; Executive Producer: **Jeff Lord**; Set/Costume/Props Co-Designers: **Astrid Janson, Melanie McNeill**; Multimedia Designer: **Irina Litvinenko**; Lighting Designer: **Rebecca Picherack**; Sound Designer/Composer: **Debashis Sinha**; Original Song Composer: **Suba Sankaran**.

*Jungle Book* was developed with assistance from and originally produced at the Asolo Repertory Theatre, Michael Donald Edwards, Producing Artistic Director, Linda M. DiGabriele, Managing Director.

[Performances:](#)

**Previews:** Feb. 12 & 13 at 1PM

**Media Opening:** Feb. 13 at 7PM

**Weekday Performances:** Feb. 19, 21, 26, 27, 28, Mar. 3, 6, 10, 11 & 12 at 10:15AM | Feb. 20 & 25 at 1PM | Mar. 5 at 10:15AM & 1PM

**Weekend Performances:** Feb. 15 & 23 at 2:30PM | Feb. 16, 22, 29, Mar. 1, 7 & 15 at 11AM & 2:30PM | Mar. 8 at 1PM & 4PM | Mar. 14 at 2:30PM & 7PM

**Family Day:** Feb. 17 at 11AM & 2:30PM

**March Break Performances:** Mar. 17, 18 & 19 at 11AM & 2PM | Mar. 20 at 11AM | Mar. 21 at 2:30PM

**Relaxed Performances:** Feb. 28 at 10:15AM and Mar. 1 at 11AM

**Recommended for ages 5 and up.**

**Tickets:** \$10-\$43 (plus HST & service charges) | **Online:** [youngpeoplestheatre.org](http://youngpeoplestheatre.org)

**Box Office:** 416.862.2222 x2

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#### **JUNGLE BOOK MEDIA OPENING:**

**Thursday, February 13 at 7PM**

**RSVP to Clare Hill:** [chill@youngpeoplestheatre.org](mailto:chill@youngpeoplestheatre.org)

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**Photos:** login **yptmedia** | password **yptphotos**

#### **CRAIG FRANCIS**, Co-Creator/Director/Stage Manager (select performances)

Craig is a writer, illustrator, and multi-disciplinary creator. With The 20K Collective, he co-created with Rick Miller *Jungle Book*, *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under The Sea*, *GAME of CLONES*, and *Princess and the Pea* (Kidoons and WYRD Productions). He is adapting *Frankenstein* (Kidoons/WYRD) with Rick Miller and Paul Van Dyck; and is a producer, dramaturg and Stage Manager for Miller's *BOOM*, *BOOM X*, and *BOOM YZ* (Kidoons/WYRD/Theatre Calgary). Craig performs improv and his theatre credits include *The Refugee Hotel* (Teesri Duniya). He lives in Montreal and has illustrated books, cartoons, and voiced series and video games.

#### **RICK MILLER**, Co-creator/Director/Production Manager

Rick is a writer/director/actor/musician/educator who has performed in five languages on five continents, and who Entertainment Weekly called "one of the 100 most creative people alive today". He has created shows such as *BOOM* and *MacHomer*; (with Daniel Brooks) *Bigger Than Jesus* and *HARDELL*; (with Robert Lepage) *Geometry of Miracles*, *Zulu Time*, *Lipsynch*, and *Possible Worlds*; (with Craig Francis & Kidoons) *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under The Sea*, *GAME of CLONES*, *Frankenstein* and *Princess and the Pea*. Rick is from Montreal and lives in Toronto with his partner Stephanie Baptist and their two daughters.

## CAST

### **MINA JAMES**, Raksha/Bagheera/Messua/Others

Stage credits: *Sultans of the Street* (YPT); 'Puppeteer' in *1991* (Theatre Center/RISER Festival); 'Ensemble' in the *2018 Diversity Fellowship Showcase* (Second City); 'Helena' in *All's Well That Ends Well* (Canadian Stage/Shakespeare in High Park); 'Kristyna' in Paul Dunn's *Outside* (Roseneath Theatre); 'Ensemble' in *Blood Wedding* (Aluna Theatre/Modern Times Stage Company); 'Ensemble' in *Antigonick* (SummerWorks Festival).

Film credits: *Auroras* (Dir. Atom Egoyan).

### **MATT LACAS**, Akela/Baloo/Buldeo/Others

Stage credits: 'Ravi Jain' in *A Brimful of Asha* (FAST, NS); 'Baba Mati Singh' in *The Fabulous Lipitones* (Miracle Theatre, B.C); 'Baloo' in *Jungle Book* (Kidoons, Asolo Rep. FL); 'Bill' in *Mamma Mia!* (Regent Theatre, ONT); 'Ram' in *Les Moutons* (Corpus Dance Projects, Japan Tour).

Founder of We Are Here Productions, a not-for-profit theatre company that aims to turn art into tangible aid for those in need worldwide.

### **LEVIN VALAYIL**, Mowgli

Stage credits: 'Gobind' in *Bhangin' It* (La Jolla Playhouse); 'Dharun Ravi' in *Poster Boy* (Public Theater, Williamstown Theater Festival); 'Lottery' in *Monsoon Wedding* (Berkeley Repertory Theater); 'Man 1/Monty' in *Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder* (Florida Studio Theater); 'Bob' in *The Fabulous Lipitones* (New Theatre, Virginia Repertory Theater, The Florida Studio Theater).

Film credits: short film *Thoughtless*.

### **TAHIRIH VEJDANI**, Shere Khan / Kaa / Maya / Others

Stage credits: *HMS Pinafore*, *Treasure Island*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Elektra* (Stratford Shakespeare Festival); *Portia's Julius Caesar* (Shakespeare in the Ruff); *The Men in White* (Factory Theatre); *Taming of the Shrew* (Driftwood Theatre); *Much Ado About Nothing* (Tarragon Theatre); *The Hobbit*, *Shrek The Musical*, *Honk! A Musical Tale of the Ugly Duckling* (Globe Theatre); *Paradise Lost* (Summerworks Festival); *Shakespeare Meets Hip Hop* (Shakespeare in Action).

Film/TV credits: *Kim's Convenience*, *Let it Snow*, *InSecurity*.