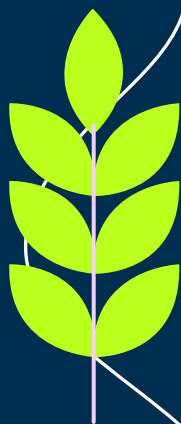


GRAND ONSTAGE
PLAYBILL



JUNGLE BOOK

A KIDOONS AND WYRD
PRODUCTION IN ASSOCIATION
WITH THE 20K COLLECTIVE



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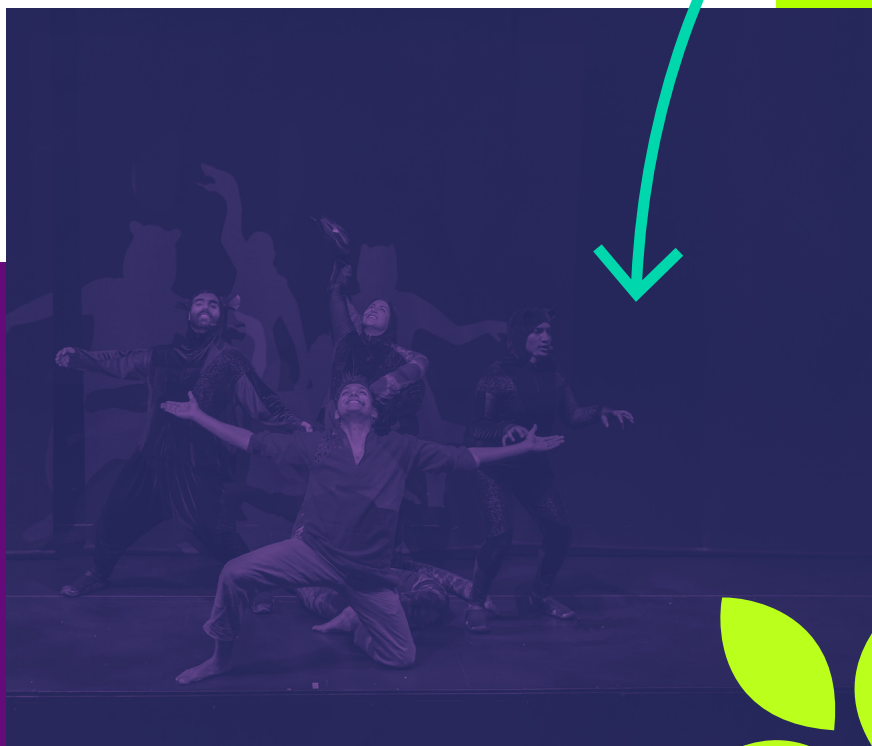
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THANK YOU





Jungle Book

Written and Directed
by Craig Francis and Rick Miller

Adapted from the works of Rudyard Kipling

Jungle Book was developed with assistance from and
originally produced at the AsoloRepertory Theatre in
Sarasota, Florida.

*The show is approximately 65 minutes, with no
intermission.*

OFFICIAL SITE: junglebook.ca
SOCIAL: @kidoons



THE COMPANY

SHAHARAH GAZNABBI*: Shere Khan / Kaa / Maya / Others

MATT LACAS*: Akela / Baloo / Buldeo / Others

NAVTEJ SANDHU*: Raksha / Bagheera / Messua / Others

ARUN VARMA*: Mowgli

CRAIG FRANCIS*: Co-creator / Director / Stage Manager

RICK MILLER*: Co-creator / Director / Production Manager

PRODUCTION TEAM

JEFF LORD: Executive Producer

ASTRID JANSON: Set/Costume/Props Co-designer

MELANIE McNEILL: Set/Costume/Props Co-designer

IRINA LITVINENKO: Multimedia Designer

REBECCA PICHERACK: Lighting Designer

DEBASHIS SINHA: Sound Designer/Composer

SUBA SANKARAN: Original Song Composer

RUDYARD KIPLING, RICK MILLER, CRAIG FRANCIS: Song Lyrics

FRANK MESCHKULEIT: Puppetry Consultant

ERIC WOOLFE: Shadow Puppetry Consultant

SIOBHAN RICHARDSON: Fight Consultant

CELINE ROSENTHAL: Line Producer, Asolo Rep

PAUL JENS ADOLPHSEN: Dramaturgy, Asolo Rep

KRIS KARCHER: Dramaturgy & Casting Apprentice, Asolo Rep

ALLEN MCKINNIS, STEPHEN COLELLA: Dramaturgy,

YPTRICHARD CLARKIN: Directing Consultant

LOGOGRAPH: Graphic Design and Marketing

*Kidoons and WYRD Productions engage, under the terms of the Independent Theatre Agreement, professional Artists who are members of Canadian Actors' Equity Association. Jungle Book is presented under the Reciprocal Agreement Between Actors' Equity Association of the United States and Canadian Actors' Equity Association.



THE COMPANY

CRAIG FRANCIS:

***Co-author / Co-director /
Stage Manager***



Craig Francis (he/him) is a writer, director, illustrator, and multidisciplinary creator. His shows have toured Canada and the US, including Off-Broadway in 2016 and 2019. A founding member of The 20K Collective, Craig co-created *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under The Sea*, *Game of Clones*, *Jungle Book*, and *HANS: My Life In Fairy Tales* with Rick Miller; and *FRANKENSTEIN: A Living Comic Book* with Miller and Paul Van Dyck. He's a producer, dramaturg, and stage manager for Miller's solo trilogy (*BOOM*, *BOOM X*, and *BOOM YZ*) in Canada, the US, France, and Taiwan. Craig co-directed a workshop of the musical *Blocked* (TheaterWorksUSA), and is a mentor of emerging artists, including co-authoring *Redwood Avenue* with Andrea Friesen. New projects include *CYNIC*, and *The Time Machine*. Craig is a speaker on LGBTQA2S+ issues. He performed improv comedy with *Just For Laughs*, *CBC*, *CTV* and *Showtime*. His videos with *Kidoons* and not-for-profits are installed in museums in six provinces. Craig lives in Montréal, has illustrated several books, and voiced animated series.

THE COMPANY



RICK MILLER

***Co-author / Co-director
/ Production Manager***

Rick Miller (he/him) is a Dora and Gemini award-winning 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 and toured solo shows such as the BOOM Trilogy (BOOM, BOOM X, and BOOM YZ), Mac Homer, Bigger Than Jesus and HARDSELL; and family shows with Craig Francis and Kidoons, such as Twenty Thousand Leagues Under The Sea, Jungle Book, and FRANKENSTEIN: A Living Comic Book. With Robert Lepage, he has collaborated on Geometry of Miracles, Zulu Time, Lipsynch, and on the film Possible Worlds. Current projects in development include MONEY, HANS: My Life in Fairy Tales, and The Time Machine. Rick hosts an intergenerational podcast called Xing The Gap, and sometimes teaches an interdisciplinary class at the University of Toronto called The Architecture of Creativity. He lives in Toronto with his partner Stephanie Baptist.

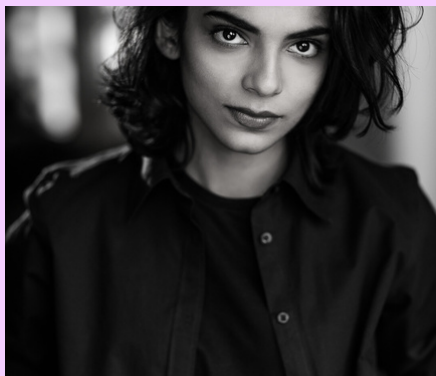
www.rickmiller.ca

THE COMPANY



SHAHARAH GAZNABBI:

*Shere Khan / Kaa /
Maya / Other*



Shaharah Gaznabbi (They/Them) is an Indo-Guyanese-Canadian ACTRA actor, writer, & comedian. They are currently pursuing a BFA in Playwriting & Devised Theatre in York University's Theatre program. Shaharah is part of this year's cohort for Nightwood Theatre's Innovators Program, as well as Tarragon Theatre's Young Playwrights Unit. They've also graduated from Second City Training Centre's Conservatory Program. Shaharah performs Stand-up and Sketch comedy around Toronto, performing with Asian-Infused Sketchgroup "Crunchy Tigers Comedy". Shaharah recently finished a full run of their solo-show "What Can Indian Look Like? Can It Look Caribbean?" at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, and received The Neurodiverse Review's Birds of Paradise Theatre Emerging Artist Award. They have also made their television debut playing the character of Noor in season 3 of CBC's Run the Burbs!

If you wish to connect with Shaharah or find more of their work, you can check them out on Instagram
@huckkingfilarious

... ROAAAAAAR!!!

THE COMPANY

MATT LACAS

***Akela / Baloo /
Buldeo / Others***



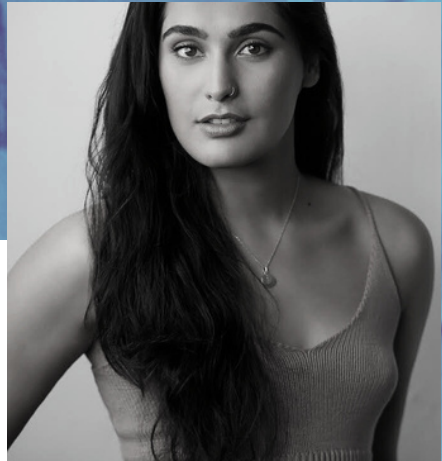
Matt is so excited to jumping back into the jungle! Matt is an Indo-Canadian actor and director hailing from Tiohtià:ke/Montreal currently working and living in Tkaronto/Toronto. Matt is a graduate of both Dawson College in Montreal and Randolph College for the Performing Arts in Toronto. Selected Credits: Twelfth Night, Alice In Wonderland (Shakespeare By The Sea), New Canadian Curling Club, Robin Hood: The Great Escape, Brimful of Asha, Ben Hur (Festival Antigonish), Fabulous Lipitones (Miracle Theatre), Les Moutons (Corpus), Hydrofoil Mystery(Theatre Baddeck). Matt has had the pleasure of being with the JB team since it's inception in 2018, playing houses like Cleveland Playhouse, Asolo Rep., Pasadena Playhouse, Symphony Space and so many more.

@IS_That_MattLacas

THE COMPANY

NAVTEJ SANDHU

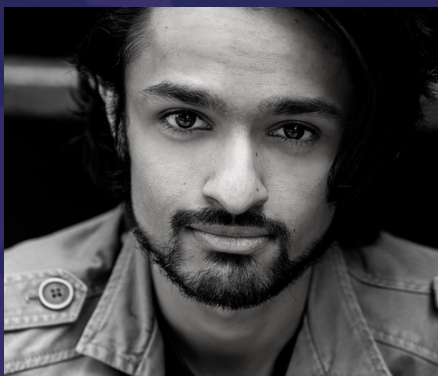
***Raksha / Bagheera /
Messua / Others***



Navtej Sandhu is a Toronto-based actor, born in the United States; she is also an emerging screenwriter and singer. Her most recent acting credits include Karna/Satyavati in Mahabharata directed by Ravi Jain at the Barbican Centre in London England, after a successful run at the Shaw Festival earlier in 2023. Navtej is also an intermediate actor combatant and is now in the process of getting her advanced actor combatant at Rapier Wit. She hopes to be able to tell her story and amplify the voices of communities that have had their voices constantly stifled. Navtej's goal is to continue to create and be a part of projects that she believes in, and that speak to those communities.

"Any form of art is a form of power; it has impact, it can affect change—it can not only move us, it makes us move."-Ossie Davis

THE COMPANY



ARUN VARMA

Mowgli

Arun's love of acting goes way back to when he would perform William Wallace narration pieces from Age of Empires II to amuse his family at parties. It took two decades and a detour into studying neuroscience at the University of Toronto before those little spores of performance mania truly took hold, but he now counts himself firmly in the clutches of the dramatic arts. He has had the enormous privilege of performing on historic Toronto stages like Theatre Passe Muraille and Alumnae Theatre, the gateway of indie Montreal theatre at the Mainline, the Conservatory, the Segal Centre, and most recently the Centaur Theatre. Over the past five years, he has diversified his performance media, gaining the opportunity to be a part of three TV shows (Future Man, The Bold Type, About Sex). Most recently, he has dived deep into the exciting world of voice performance in animation and video games, and he hopes that in the next five years he might have the opportunity to wade deeper into this rich and exciting field. Arun is very excited to be a part of this wildly original production of "Jungle Book". Thank you for letting in the jungle!

CREATIVE TEAM



ASTRID JANSON

***Set/costume/
props Co-designer***



Astrid Janson's production design work has been seen on stages across Canada, from the Arts and Culture Centre in St. John's, to the Pacific Opera in Victoria, BC. Canadian theatres include 12 seasons at the Stratford Festival, 9 seasons for Soul pepper Theatre, The Canadian Opera Co., The Shaw Festival, Canadian Stage, Citadel Theatre, National Ballet, National Arts Centre, Manitoba Theatre Centre, and most theatres in Toronto. She designed the costumes for 13 of Michael Hollingsworth's Village of the Small Huts play cycle for Video Cabaret, most recently Confederation: Part 1 and 2. Other recent credits include set and costume design for For Colored Girls....and set design for Vimy for Soul pepper Theatre. Her TV career includes award winning films, specials and series. Civic projects include Expo '86 and a Discovery Gallery for the ROM. Internationally, Astrid has designed in Germany, Amsterdam, Paris, Sweden, Philadelphia, Houston and New York. She has been recognized with numerous awards for her design work, including 18 Dora Mavor Moore Awards, a Gemini Award, and the Silver Ticket Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Theatre. In June 2016, Astrid received an Honorary Doctor of Letters from Wilfred Laurier University.

CREATIVE TEAM

MELANIE MCNEILL

***Set/costume/props/
puppets Co-designer***



Melanie is a Toronto-based set, costume, and puppet designer who has worked extensively with Eldritch Theatre, Video cabaret, and Théâtre français de Toronto. Other companies include Second City, Soul pepper Theatre, Theatre Gargantua, YPT, Obsidian Theatre, Mirvish Productions, Theatre 20, Pro Arte Danza, Driftwood Theatre, and many more. She also works in TV, mostly in French, including Production Designer for *Échappe-toi si tu peux*. Melanie has received two Dora Awards, three other Dora nominations, a Prix Rideau, and a nomination for the 2015 Prix d'Excellence artistique (Arrière-Scène). Melanie is a graduate of Ryerson Theatre School, and a member of ADC.



CREATIVE TEAM



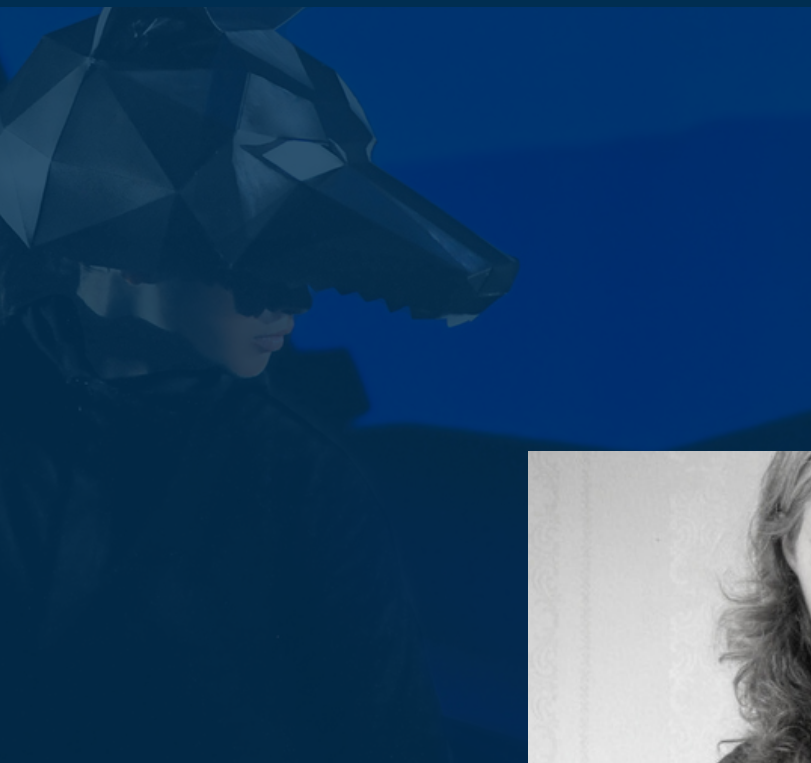
IRINA LITVINENKO

Multimedia Designer



Irina Litvinenko is a creative artist, graphic designer for print and web, and video production artist. She has worked on multimedia campaigns for Performing Arts Centers across Canada and the U.S. and for shows from BOWFIRE to Carol Burnett; and managed event marketing campaigns internationally. Irina has been a longstanding multimedia collaborator with Rick Miller and Craig Francis, including assisting on onscreen media and DVD production for MacHomer, its educational Multimedia Outreach Modules Animated Shakespeare, design for the brands of BOOM and onscreen, and video sequences and design elements for Twenty Thousand Leagues Under The Sea and multimedia design for BOOM X, BOOM YZ and Frankenstein. As a web and video production artist, Irina is the designer and production editor of the Kidoons Network animated series.

CREATIVE TEAM



REBECCA PICHERACK

Lighting Designer



Rebecca is a Toronto based lighting designer. Theatres and Dance companies include: Adelheid (Heidi Strauss), The Blyth Theatre, Buddies in Bad Times, Canadian Rep, Factory Theatre, GCTC, Tarragon Theatre, RMTC, National Arts Centre, Mammalian Diving Reflex, Volcano, Theatre Passe Muraille, Mirvish, HUM (Susanna Hood), Zata Omm (William Yong), Nightwood, night swimming. She has received 3 Dora awards and many nominations for outstanding lighting design.



CREATIVE TEAM



DEBASHIS SINHA

Sound Designer/Composer

A stalwart and consistent presence in the Canadian sound world, Debashis Sinha has realized projects in radiophonic art, sound art, theatre, dance, and music across Canada and internationally. A winner of 2 Dora Awards for Best Original Sound Design, his credits include productions with: The Stratford Festival, Soulpepper Theatre, The Shaw Festival, Why Not Theatre, Peggy Baker Dance Projects, The Theatre Centre, Nightwood Theatre, Young People's Theatre, Theatre Passe Muraille, Tribal Crackling Wind, Project Humanity, Volcano Theatre and Necessary Angel, among others. His live sound practice on the concert stage has led to appearances at MUTEK, the Guelph Jazz Festival, the Banff Centre, The Sound Symposium, ISEA, Madrid Abierto, and other venues. Sinha releases The White Dogon Berlin record label Establishment in early June, 2018.

www.debsinha.com



CREATIVE TEAM

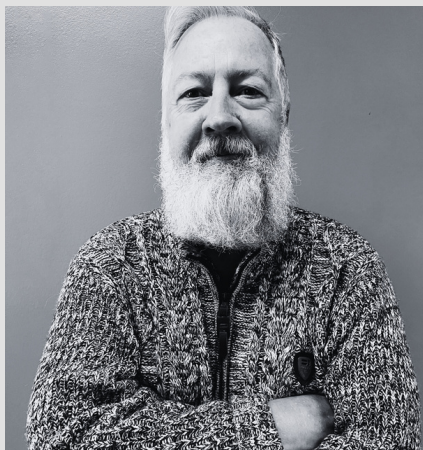


SUBA SANKARAN

Original Song Composer

DORA award-winning, JUNO-nominated world/fusion vocalist Suba Sankaran has effortlessly combined musical worlds, performing in over 20 countries across 6 continents with Autorickshaw, master drummer Trichy Sankaran, Free Play (a cappella/live-looping) and Retrocity (80s a cappella revue). Performance highlights include performing for Peter Gabriel, Nelson Mandela and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and performing with Jane Siberry, Lorraine Segato, Bobby McFerrin and The Swingles. Suba is in demand as a vocalist, choral director, arranger, educator, composer and sound designer. She has composed and produced music for theatre, film, radio and dance. Highlights include collaborations with Deepa Mehta, the CBC and working for two seasons at the Stratford Festival. Theatre composer/sound design credits include Stratford Festival, (Komagata Maru Incident; The Aeneid), Souleppper (For Coloured Girls...; Tiger Bamboo Festival), Cahoots Theatre (The Enchanted Loom), Tarragon Theatre (Much Ado About Nothing); Nightswimming Theatre (Same Same, But Different); Nightwood Theatre (The Penelopiad), Nightswimming/Cahoots Theatres (Bombay Black).

CREATIVE TEAM



JEFF LORD

Executive Producer

Jeff has a lifelong passion and vision for combining art and technology to develop original works. His projects are inspired by a love of storytelling and innovation. Through Kidoons theatrical productions, WYRD theatrical productions, and digital works on the Kidoons Network, Jeff's artist collaborators help organizations to tell their stories onstage and online. He works with Not-for-Profits and corporate clients across Canada and the United States with a vision to inspire and empower all generations.

Jeff dedicates this show to his mother, Evelyn Lord.

THANK YOU

Jungle Book was developed in association with The 20K Collective; Kidoons commissioned and produced it, with development assistance from Asolo Repertory Theatre and a gift from Edie Winston. Workshops took place in 2017 and 2018 at Dancemakers Studios and Glendon Theatre in Toronto, and Asolo Rep in Sarasota. The world premiere was at Asolo Repertory Theatre in June 2018.

We thank the following for helping us to let in the jungle!

Jeff Lord.

Michael Donald Edwards, Linda M. DiGabriele, and Celine Rosenthal at Asolo Rep.

Allen McKinnis, Craig Morash, and Stephen Colella at Young People's Theatre (YPT).

Edie Winston.

Architectural renderings generously provided courtesy of KPMB Architects.

The Joy McCann Culverhouse Charitable Remainder Trust.
The Francis, Miller, and Baptist families.

Our Jungle Book family: Levin Valayil, Miriam Fernandes, Anita Majumdar, Tahirih Vejdani, Mina James, Natalia Gracious, Andrew Dollar, Natasha Strilchuk, Suchiththa Wickremesooriya.

THANK YOU

Script developed with support from Factory Theatre via an OAC Creators' Reserve Grant.

Concept developed with our brilliant workshop and development artists: Guifré Bantjes-Ràfols, Beryl Bain, Michael Dufays, André Du Toit, Séan Baker, Miriam Fernandes, Anita Majumdar.

Andrew Mestern at the Stratford Festival for the brass cutouts.


Greg Wilkie at Solotech.

The Toronto connections: the team at Young People's Theatre (YPT), Duncan Appleton and the team at Glendon College Theatre, Deb Doncaster and Earth Day Canada, RaviJain, SandraLaronde, Jason Knight.

Produced with the support of the City of Toronto through the Toronto Arts Council.

Thanks to our Kidoons videos partner organizations across Canada and the US.

We would like to acknowledge funding support from the Ontario Arts Council, an agency of the Government of Ontario.



Presented by Grand OnStage and the City of Kingston Arts & Culture Services Department.

Learn more about Grand OnStage at
KingstonGrand.ca.

This project has been made possible thanks to funding
from the Government of Canada.



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The City of Kingston acknowledges that we are on the traditional
homeland of the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee and the Huron-
Wendat, and thanks these nations for their care and stewardship
over this shared land.