

VISUAL STORY FOR OUR PRODUCTION OF
THE JUNGLE BOOK



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This visual story guide is an insight into our production of The Jungle Book. It is intended to help prepare any visitors for a new experience and to help them to become familiar with the surroundings and situation.

Getting to the Octagon Theatre Bolton

The Octagon Theatre is situated in the middle of Bolton town centre, within easy reach of all the main train, bus and road routes, and just 5-minute walk from the train and bus stations.

By Car

From Manchester and the south: Exit the M61 onto the A666 (Bolton). Take the 'Bolton South and Bury' exit and at the top of the slip road turn left towards Bolton. At the traffic lights, opposite B&M Bargains, turn right and go straight through the next set of lights. At the traffic lights by the Balmoral Pub turn left onto Great Moor Street. Follow the signs for the Octagon NCP car park.

From Preston and the north: Follow the M61 south and exit at junction 5. Leaving the motorway turn left and follow the road to Bolton until you reach the junction opposite Mecca Bingo. At this junction, follow the road to the left and turn right at the next set of lights. At the first 'T' junction turn right. The Octagon NCP car park is the next turning on your left.

Disabled Parking

There is limited on street parking and disabled bays by the theatre on Le Mans crescent, and the possibility to drop passengers off directly outside the theatre if needed.

By Public Transport

Bolton is easily accessible by train, with only a 20-minute train ride from Manchester (all stations) and 25 minutes from Preston.

Buses also run regularly from Manchester and the surrounding areas. The Octagon is a five-minute walk from Bolton's rail and bus stations.

For Rail enquiries call: 08457 484950 For Bus enquiries call: 0161 228 7811

About the Octagon Theatre Bolton

Welcome to the Octagon Theatre Bolton! We are an inclusive and welcoming theatre. We hope that everyone who comes to visit will feel like they are at home.

There is a flat entrance to the Octagon Theatre, you will see a large orange sign with 'HEY BOLTON COME ON IN' above the entrance. The Octagon has an electric door at the entrance that automatically open as you get closer to it. If it doesn't open, there is a button which says 'PUSH TO OPEN' press that and the door will open.



Octagon volunteers and Customer Experience Assistants work in the main foyer to help with building information. Customer Experience Assistants are the people responsible for providing information, helping any visitors who need assistance, selling programmes, sweets and drinks, and generally making sure that everyone is ok.

All of the Octagon Customer Experience Assistants and Volunteers wear green t-shirts with a white Octagon logo on them.



They also have little radios so they can talk to each other – if it looks like they are talking to themselves don't worry! They are just chatting to other Customer Experience Assistants using their radios.



When you enter the building you will see the Box Office in front of you, this is where our friendly Box Office Assistants will be located.

To the left of the Box Office through a doorway you will find one of our Kitchen & Bar areas.

The Kitchen & Bar is open Tuesday – Saturday from 11am – 3pm, and later on performance days.



The Kitchen & Bar serves a selection of hot and cold drinks, sandwiches, pizzas, soups, cakes, snacks and other meals. You can see a full menu on the Octagon website here: <https://octagonbolton.co.uk/kitchen>

Our friendly Kitchen & Bar staff will be able to take your orders and will bring over any food to your table.

It might be quite noisy when you arrive at the theatre as lots of people will be coming to see the show. There might also be a few people in the doorway if they have just arrived as well.

The pictures below show the theatre entrance foyer when it is quiet.



There will be signs that tell you about the different areas in the building and how to get to them – you'll see these on walls and front of the Box Office when you walk in the front doors and throughout the building.



If you need to collect your tickets then just go to the Box Office. You can see a picture of our Box Office below.



Everyone is very friendly and will help you to get your tickets for the show – all you have to do is tell them your name.

There is lift access available, walk through the Kitchen & Bar and turn left just before the stairs.

One of our Customer Experience staff members may also be stood in the entrance foyer to then scan your tickets and direct you where to go.

Toilets

There are two accessible toilets on the ground floor; the first is located to the right of the Box Office and the second is found in the Kitchen & Bar area. There is also a Changing Places toilet facility on the first floor. If you require the Changing Places toilet, please ask one of the Octagon staff to show you where it is. There are separate toilets for male and females with individual cubicles in both toilet

areas and urinals in the male toilets on all floors.



Male toilet



Female toilet



Accessible toilet



There is also a 'toilet for all' on the ground floor which is a gender-neutral toilet and any gender can use this toilet facility.

Just look for the signs or ask a member of staff for directions.

Relaxed Performances – Quiet Space

During our Relaxed Performances for the production there will be a quiet space and chill out area available. If you need to leave the theatre for any reason at any point during the show, you can visit this quiet space which is located in our first floor Kitchen & Bar area.

In this space there will be a variety of activities to enjoy including: soft play, sensory lights and colouring sheets, or where you can simply relax. There will be a television screen that links back into the theatre so you can still watch the performance while you're out of the theatre, so you won't miss a thing. You are then welcome to re-join the performance at any time.

The Relaxed Performance is taking place on Fri 3 January at 2.15pm.

The Auditorium

The auditorium has a stage in the middle with lots of seats which go all the way around. This is a big room where you will watch the play. You will have a ticket that tells you which is your seat to sit in and there will be Customer Experience Assistants to help you to your seat. They can answer your questions and will be there during the performance, and if you feel the need to leave the performance space they will show you the way out.

During the show the actors will be moving around the auditorium. They will be coming in and out of doors, running on and off stage. They will also enter and exit the stage by going up and down the stairs in the auditorium, so you might meet them on your way in or out of the auditorium if you are also moving around. They will be very careful not to bump into you if you are out of your seat; they are used to being in the auditorium space and are really lovely people!

When you enter the auditorium, you will see the set in the middle of the stage. This is where a lot of the performance takes place. The set will change throughout the performance and various parts of the set move; at some points two large rocks will be wheeled on to the stage, and rope swings will safely be flown in from the side of the stage and other items may be brought on to the stage to represent different pieces of set. There are also big leaves and vines hanging from the ceiling, these are there to create the illusion that you are in the jungle. There is also a slide on the one side of the auditorium which the actors will use during the performance. You will also see confetti fall from the ceiling at the end of the performance, some of the confetti may come into the audience, don't worry about it! One of our Customer Experience Assistants will clean it up at the end of the show.

Below is a picture of the stage and the seats.



The Story

This is a new musical adaptation based on the well-known story of *The Jungle Book* by Rudyard Kipling and is full of adventure, animals (not real ones, just our actors pretending to be animals), music and dancing.

The story is about a young baby who gets separated from his parents in the Indian jungle. He is found by a group of animals in the jungle as is raised by a wolf pack. The play begins with the entrance of the wolf pack who all ask their mother, Akeela, to tell them a story, the story of Mowgli.

A baby appears in a Moses basket floating along the river and is discovered by Baloo the bear, Akeela the wolf and Bagheera the panther. Shere Khan the tigress comes along and demands that they hand over the baby to her, but it is decided that the baby will be raised in the wolf pack with Akeela as his mother and Baloo and Bagheera his guides – much to the dismay of Shere Khan, who is wary of man's ability to harness the red flower (fire). Akeela names the baby Mowgli, which means little frog.

You then see Mowgli grow up in the jungle with various puppets showing him grow from a baby, an infant, young child and then played by Kiara Nicole Pillai who plays Mowgli for the rest of the performance.

Mowgli is very excitable and eager to explore with Baloo and Bagheera, but Akeela tells him to go to bed with the rest of the pack, as Kaa the snake and Shere Khan the tigress are lurking in the jungle and it is not safe. Mowgli ignores his mother and goes to hunt for Guava fruit.

Mowgli tries to catch Guava with his hand-made fruit catcher and catapult, but is interrupted by Kaa the snake who tries to hypnotise Mowgli. He is saved by Baloo the bear, but he then also gets hypnotised by Kaa and Mowgli saves him by firing a rock up to the ceiling and Guava fruits then land on Kaa and Baloo.

Mowgli then meets the Bangalog, a pack of mischievous monkeys who end up saving him from an encounter with Shere Khan by throwing him a rope and pulling him up the slide.

Mowgli is taken to the Bangalog pack where he tries to teach them things including how to tie a knot in rope with very funny results. When Mowgli tries to leave the Bangalog pack to go home they end up tying him up and leave him there.

Shere Khan then finds Mowgli, but he is rescued by Baloo, Bagheera and Akeela when a fight ensues which is choreographed in slow motion and Akeela is unfortunately killed.

After fleeing from Shere Khan, Mowgli encounters a human who is lighting candles. She tries to communicate and talk to Mowgli in Punjabi, but Mowgli doesn't understand her and he scares her away.

Baloo and Bagheera then find Mowgli and Bagheera informs Mowgli that the human was in fact Mowgli's human mother. A lady's cry is heard off stage and they realise that Shere Khan now has Mowgli's mother. Mowgli hatches a plan and takes one of the candles the lady had been lighting.

When Shere Khan sees that Mowgli has the red flower (the candle) he releases Mowgli's mother and runs off stage – but Mowgli then sets a light a bomb and throws it in Shre Kahn's direction and defeats the tigress.

Mowgli, Baloo and Bagheera then greet Mowgli's human mother and Mowgli leaves with her for his next adventure as he rejoins his human family saying goodbye to his animal friends and the jungle.

Swing into the jungle this festive season and join Mowgli and friends as Mowgli learns the law of the jungle in this funny, exciting and wildly entertaining musical adaptation filled with catchy songs that will leave you howling with laughter and will captivate the whole family.

During the play you might feel happy, a little bit scared, or sad. It is ok to laugh or feel sad if you want to. And if you feel scared, don't worry – there is a happy ending!

The Actors

All of the actors play different characters; we've included all of the names of the characters next to the actor who plays them in a list here. To change character, they sometimes put on a different costume and sometimes change the sound of their voice.



Kiara Nicole Pillai plays Mowgli and a wolf.



Ashley D Gayle plays Bagheera, a wolf, a monkey, Mowgli puppeteer and Kaa tail



Charlie Ryan plays Baloo, a wolf, a monkey and Mowgli puppeteer.



Harveen Mann-Neary plays Akeela, Kaa, Mowgli's birth mother and a monkey.



Rachel Marwood plays Shere Khan, Kaa's tail and a wolf



Daniella Barratt plays the On-stage Swing



Imogen Khan plays the Off-stage Swing (covers for any of the actors if they are unable to perform)

The Characters



Mowgli is the man-cub at the centre of our story. Mowgli wears a tattered and dirty neutral coloured top, red shorts and sandals.



Baloo is a funny and cheeky bear always making jokes. He wears baggy brown trousers, a long sleeve top and a brown waistcoat with rags of loose fabric around the chest to look like fur. He wears fingerless gloves and a headband with bear ears.



Akeela is a loving and protective Wolf and Mowgli's adoptive mother. Akeela and the wolf pack all wear long baggy grey trousers, a long sleeve grey top and a short sleeve grey hooded jumper – the hood has faux fur and ears attached to them.



Bagheera is a loyal and brave panther. He wears a short sleeve black top with a band of animal print along the collar a black belt around the waist band of the top. Long black baggy trousers and black fingerless gloves.



Shere Khan is a fierce tigress and is the antagonist in the story. She wears a black top which has white stripes and an orange trim, a short orange jacket which has a white panel on the front and black stripes and shoulder pads. Grey and black animal print leggings, there are pull on attachments at the bottom of the leggings with tiger print. She also has black gloves with claws attached to the fingers.



Kaa is a sneaky snake who tries to hypnotise Mowgli. Kaa wears a dress with different shades of green. The top of the dress has a snake skin print pattern and the dress has a frill trim. Across the chest of the dress is a gold serpentine breast plate. This is replicated in her gold head dress. She has snake skin print leggings and a long green fabric train. The end of the train has a rattle.



The Bangalogs are a pack of mischievous monkeys. They wear long baggy trousers, a long sleeve black top and an orange and white tie-dye t-shirt over the top. They also have orange and black baseball caps and orange and black bumbags.



Mowgli's mother wears traditional punjabi clothing including a faded red kurti and a deep red patterned headscarf.



Young Mowgli (puppet) also wears a tattered and dirty neutral coloured top, red shorts – the same as older Mowgli.

The Show

When the performance is ready to start the lights will fade and the show will begin. (For our Relaxed Performance lights fade but stay on throughout the show and it will never go completely dark.) The lights in the auditorium will change a lot throughout the show.

The actors will come out onto the stage and the play will start. The actors will be on stage most of the time, but sometimes they walk down the stairs and between the seats where the audience are sitting. There are a few different entrances and exits on to the stage.

At the end of the performance confetti will drop from the ceiling, some of the confetti may come into the audience, don't worry about it! One of our Customer Experience Assistants will clean it up at the end of the show. Parts of the set may fall from the ceiling like Guava fruit, and rope swings will also swing in from the sides at various points throughout the show.

People in the audience might talk a little bit, make noise or get up and move around, but this is ok. You can do the same if you need to. If you need to go to the toilet or leave the auditorium during the performance, then that's fine.

There will be music and noises in the performances that will come out of the speakers all around the auditorium.

We don't mind if you want to make noises during the show – it's great to let us know how you feel!

There will be a twenty-minute break when the actors leave the stage and the lights will turn back on full. This is called the interval. People might get up to go to the toilet, walk around or get a drink. When the interval has finished the actors will come back on stage and the show will carry on.

At the end of the show everyone will clap their hands to show the actors that they enjoyed the play. You can join in if you want to.



When the clapping has ended, the lights will get brighter. This means the performance has come to an end and you can leave the theatre or visit our Kitchen & Bar for a post-show drink.

If you need to know anything else call our Box Office team on 01204 520661 or email boxoffice@octagonbolton.co.uk

We hope you enjoy the show!