

THE JUNGLE STORY

(SAMPLE)

CAST LIST

AKELA, LEADER OF THE WOLF PACK

MONKEY 1

BALOO THE BEAR

TABAQUI THE JACKAL

SHERE KHAN THE TIGER

MOTHER WOLF

MONKEY 2

MONKEY 3

MONKEY 4

MONKEYS (*any number*)

WOLF CUBS (3)

BAGHEERA THE PANTHER

GREY BROTHER THE WOLF

BLACK TAIL THE WOLF

WHITE TOOTH THE WOLF

WOLVES (*any number*)

MOWGLI

RAWAL

DULIA

MESSUA

OTHER JUNGLE ANIMALS AND BIRDS (*non-speaking – optional*)

17 speaking parts, unlimited chorus.

THE JUNGLE STORY

SCENE 1

The animals are gathered in a jungle clearing for a Council meeting, to accept new cubs into the Wolf Pack. Akela, Leader of the Wolf Pack is sitting on a big rock or tree stump. The other animals come from all directions and gather round in a big circle. Raksha, the Mother Wolf is holding a baby, wrapped in linen.

AKELA

Gather around everyone! Gather around for the Council meeting!

MONKEY 1

We're all here, Akela. All the monkeys are here.

BALOO

I am here, Akela.

AKELA

Baloo the bear. Are there any of your brother bears here?

BALOO

No Akela. They are away in the hills. I am their representative.

AKELA

Where is Shere Khan, the Tiger and Bagheera, the panther ?

TABAQUI

They are coming, Akela.

(Shere Khan limps on stage and Bagheera comes in from the other direction. They do not like each other.)

AKELA

Now we are all here. The business at hand is to accept new cubs into the Wolf pack, according to the Law of the Jungle.

Step forward, White-tooth's cub!

(A wolf cub steps forward into the circle)

Step forward Lahini's cub!

(Another wolf cub steps forward)

Step forward Black-Tail's cub!

(A third wolf cub steps forward)

Is it your wish that these cubs be accepted?

EVERYONE

Yes, Akela.

AKELA

Cubs! Go back to your mothers. You are now wolves of the pack.

Hunters under the moon.

MOTHER WOLF

I have another cub here. Akela.

AKELA

Yes, Mother Wolf, I know. Brothers and sisters of the jungle. You have a difficult decision to make now. Mother Wolf, place your cub in the circle.

(Mother Wolf lays the baby down in the centre of the circle and all the other animals make disapproving noises.)

AKELA

This is a man-cub, fostered by Mother Wolf, Raksha.

MONKEY 2

What is this creature doing here, Akela?

TABAQUI

It will not stay very long. It belongs to my master, Shere Khan, the lame tiger. He tracked it to Mother Wolf's cave a month ago, but it was thin and poor, so he gave it to Mother Wolf with orders to feed it until it grew fat. He intends to kill it tonight. He has promised me some of the kill.

BALOO

That is a lie, you greedy jackal. Here is what really happened Akela. Mother Wolf found the man-cub. It's parents were dead and she took it back to her cave. Shere Khan followed the trail to Mother Wolf's lair but she would not let him have the man-cub.

BAGHEERA

No, she would not. She told Shere Khan to come inside and fight for the kill, if he dared. But he was afraid. He went away growling. Shere Khan is a coward!

(All the monkeys start laughing.)

SHERE KHAN

Be silent! The man-cub is mine! I killed and ate his father and mother. The man-cub is mine!

AKELA

What does the wolf pack say?

GREY BROTHER

I have no feelings one way or the other. If Mother Wolf wants to keep him, then let her. She is the one who will have to look after him.

BLACK TAIL

The man-cub could be a nuisance. We run free and wild at night. How can he follow the pack?

WHITE TOOTH

I agree. What use is a man-cub? It can't run yet, like our cubs. It can't speak or howl at the moon.

AKELA

What does brother Baloo say? Baloo, who is old and wise and teaches our cubs the Jungle Law. Baloo, what do you say?

BALOO

I see no harm in the man-cub. I will help Mother Wolf look after him. Let him run with the pack and, when he is old enough, I will teach him the Jungle Law, like the other cubs.