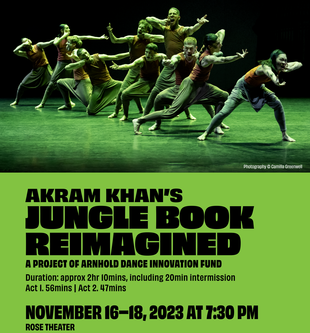
LINCOLN CENTER PRESENTS



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AKRAM KHAN'S JUNGLE BOOK REIMAGINED

A PROJECT OF ARNHOLD DANCE INNOVATION FUND

Duration: approx 2hr 10mins, including 20min intermission
Act I. 56mins | Act 2. 47mins

NOVEMBER 16–18, 2023 AT 7:30 PM
REIMAGINATED

SYNOPSIS

ACT I
Sea levels are rising; waters dominate land; and humans scramble for their survival in search for higher ground. A young child finds herself separated from her family and ends up in a flooded city, deserted by its human inhabitants. Monuments have been uprooted and rearranged, and animals of all shapes and sizes have congregated here and formed an uneasy alliance as they try to live with this new unreliable climate. They have claimed this cityscape as their own – marking their territories in libraries, supermarkets, governmental buildings, and even places of worship.

The child is discovered by the wolf pack led by Raksha and Rama. Raksha wants to keep the child, but Rama insists that humans bring danger, and they must destroy it. Raksha protects Mowgli and presents her to an animal council, led by Akela, a dog, and with the watchful eyes in the sky of Chil, the kite. The animals speak of a mysterious hunter, a human who has been cast out by his own kind. The hunter has returned to these lands and keeps the animals in constant fear. After much deliberation, the child is accepted by the council and the naming process begins: Mowgli. Mowgli is set to work straight away; she must prove her worth and help the animals in their search for food. Maybe human instincts are just what they need.

Mowgli finds herself in the company of Bagheera, a kidnapped albino panther who grew up in a palace, and Baloo, an escaped dancing bear. However, on their quest for food, Mowgli is taken by the Bandar-log; lab monkeys who have had all kinds of experiments done on them. Through cunning, the Bandar-log outwit Baloo and Bagheera and steal Mowgli. Bagheera and Baloo must now find an animal capable of striking fear into the Bandar-log. After all, they are not animals of the tree world. They seek out Kaa, a rock python, who has escaped from captivity but still lives with the traumas of a lifetime stuck behind a glass viewing screen.

ACT II
Mowgli is taken to the Bandar-log's lair, a ransacked governmental building. The Bandar-log are no strangers to humankind; they come from testing laboratories and regurgitate commercial jingles and political rants they heard from their cages. They listened, copied, and aped the humans, but now they want to become them. Mowgli is the missing piece of the puzzle. A human child to teach them how to fully become human.

With the help of Kaa, Baloo and Bagheera rescue Mowgli from the hands of the Bandar-log just at the moment she is about to help them create fire: the most feared possession of mankind. Animals can't control this. Mankind can.

When Mowgli is saved, the trio return to the council where Hathi, the leader of the elephants, tells them of their ancient tale, back to the time when the jungles they once knew were created.
But when the hunter finally breaches their territory, and shoots down Chil, the animals know that this spells the beginning of the end of the peace they have forged together. Mowgli, remembering her mother's words throughout her journey, decides to stand up and fight for her newfound friends and seeks out the hunter and end his savagery.

ABOUT AKRAM KHAN COMPANY

In over 23 years, **Akram Khan Company** is now undisputedly one of the foremost innovative dance companies in the world. The programmes range from kathak and modern solos to artist-to-artist collaborations and ensemble productions. The Company has a major international presence and enjoys busy tours that reach out to many cultures and peoples across the globe. **Akram Khan** has been the recipient of numerous international dance awards, the most notable being an Olivier Award for his solo production *DESH* in 2012.

A milestone in the Company's journey was the creation of a section of the London Olympic Games Opening Ceremony in 2012.

Akram Khan Company enjoys artistic association with Sadler's Wells Theatre in London, Curve in Leicester, and other leading venues and festivals around the world.

PRODUCTION CREDITS

AKRAM KHAN, Director/Choreographer

MAVIN KHOO, Creative Associate/Coach
TARIQ JORDAN, Writer
SHARON CLARK, Dramaturgical Advisor
JOCELYN POOK, Composer
GARETH FRY, Sound Designer
MICHAEL HULLS, Lighting Designer
MIRIAM BUETHER, Visual Stage Designer
ADAM SMITH (YEASTCULTURE), Art Direction and Director of Animation
NICK HILLEL (YEASTCULTURE), Producer/Director of Video Design
NAAMAN AZHARI, NATASZA CETNER, EDSON R BAZZARIN, Rotoscope Artists/Animators

NICKY HENSHALL, Rehearsal Director

Dancers: **MAYA BALAM MEYONG, TOM DAVIS-DUNN, HARRY THEADORA FOSTER, FILIPPO FRANZESE, BIANCA MIKAHIL, MAX REVELL, MATTHEW SANDIFORD, PUI YUNG SHUM, ELPIDA SKOUROU, HOLLY VALLIS, JAN MIKAELA VILLANUEVA,** and **LUKE WATSON**

Assistant Animators: **NISHA ALBERTI, GEO BARNETT, MIGUEL MEALLA BLACK, MICHELLE CRAMER, JACK HALE, ZUZANNA ODOLCZYK, SOFJA UMARIK**

Voice Actors: **TIAN-LAN CHAUDHRY, JOY ELIAS-RILWAN, PUSHKALA GOPAL, DANA HAQJOO, NICKY HENSHALL, SU-MAN HSU, KATHRYN HUNTER, EMMANUEL IMANI, DIVYA KASTURI, JEFFERY KISSOON, MAVIN KHOO, YASMIN PAIGE, MAX REVELL, CHRISTOPHER SIMPSON, PUI YUNG SHUM, HOLLY VALLIS, JAN MIKAELA VILLANUEVA, LUKE WATSON, 3RD YEAR STUDENTS OF RAMBERT SCHOOL**

FAROOQ CHAUDHRY, Producing Director
ISABEL TAMEN, Executive Director
MASHITAH OMAR, Project Manager
ZEYNEP KEPEKLI, Technical Director
MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM, Technical Manager
MAREK POMOCKI, Touring Production Manager and Prop Maker
STEPHANE DEJOURS, Lighting Engineer
PHILIP WOOD, Sound Engineer
MATTHEW ARMSTRONG, Video Technician and Projectionist
SAMUEL COLLIER, Technical Stage Manager

CO-PRODUCED BY Curve Leicester, Atiki Cultural Society – Greece, Birmingham Hippodrome, Edinburgh International Festival, Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay Singapore, Festspielhaus St. Pölten, International Theatre Amsterdam, Joan W. and Irving B. Harris Theater for Music and Dance – Chicago, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts – New York, Maison de la Danse / Pôle européen création – Lyon, National Arts Centre – Canada, New Vision Arts Festival – Hong Kong, Orsolina28, Pfalzbau Bühnen – Theater im Pfalzbau Ludwigshafen,Romaeuropa Festival, Stanford Live / Stanford University, Teatros del Canal – Madrid, Théâtre de Caen, Théâtre de la Ville – Paris.

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MUSIC RECORDED BY
SINGERS Tanja Tzarovska, Melanie Pappenheim, Sushma Soma, Sohini Alam, Vepa Zivkovic
MUSICIANS Jocelyn Pook (piano, viola, voice, keyboards), Mulele Matondo (guitar and sanza), Belinda Sykes (shawm and gralla)

STEVE PARR, Recording and Mixing

"HOW DARE YOU?", GRETA THUNBERG, recording property of United Nations
"BLAH, BLAH, BLAH", speech by **GRETA THUNBERG**

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