

Book yourself in for jungle rhythms with WA premiere of kids' favourite

Laughing Horse Productions Saturday, June 19th, 2021

THE jungle is jumping with a jazzy beat this July as the collected stories of Rudyard Kipling come together in Laughing Horse Productions' *Jungle Book The Musical*.

Written by Marcus Weber and Michael Summ, the rock, pop and funky adaptation has been performed thousands of times across Europe.

Krispin Maesalu has taken on the challenge of both director and musical director for this WA premiere at the Don Russell Performing Arts Centre.

The story follows a small boy who crawls into the jungle and is raised by a mother wolf and her family while being taught the laws of the jungle by the other animals.

"*Jungle Book The Musical* has many messages for audiences, both young and young at heart," he said.

"The show teaches us to face our fears and reminds us to try and lead a fun and happy life."

The main challenge, according to Krispin, is the show's eclectic music.

"There are some grungy rock numbers, a beautiful lullaby, kooky vaudeville songs and some cheeky salsas," he said.

"The cast have learnt their harmonies well and our newcomers are excited to sing in their first lead roles.

"This is not the beloved Sherman Brothers Disney soundtrack but it is full of character and fun."

After studying all facets of the performing arts, Krispin's versatility as a singer, actor, musician and composer has seen him work extensively across the country.

He has a wealth of experience directing and performing in numerous musical productions and on television over the past 15 years with credits including *Be More Chill*, *Side by Side*, *Honk!*, *Gumshoe*, *Clue the Musical*, *Seussical* and *Peter Pan*, among many others.

"Laughing Horse Productions always seem to present delightful musicals, from operettas to the golden age and beyond," he said.

"Working on a new and modern setting of a well-loved story was an exciting opportunity.

"I also play the role of Colonel Hathi, who is a bit past his prime but a well-meaning if not slightly preposterous pachyderm."

Jungle Book The Musical plays at 7.30pm July 2, 3, 9 and 10 with 2pm matinees July 3 and 10. Tickets are \$30, \$22 concession and \$15 children – book at tinyurl.com/junglebook2021.

The Don Russell Performing Arts Centre is at Lot 13, Murdoch Road, Thornlie.

Contact Profile

Laughing Horse Productions

Laughing Horse Productions Inc is an independent, not-for-profit community theatre company. Our aim is to provide creative opportunities for people around Western Australia: our core aims are to encourage the growth of local community theatre, to provide opportunities to people from all backgrounds and experiences a chance to be involved in a local event and providing an event to help engage the local community and we aim to help train and develop skills in the performing arts sector.

Laughing Horse Productions Inc (LHP) launched in 2013 with its inaugural production in July and since then has produced a handful of full length shows around Western Australia including Koorliny Arts Centre, Roleystone Theatre and Phoenix Theatre. Throughout the years LHP have also produced a variety of one act productions for various drama festivals both within Perth and the South West. As a club we strive to uphold family values and a strong sense of community spirit. We are an inclusive club welcoming everyone to come down and join in from being on-stage or off, building sets and props or making costumes, we have something for everyone and provide support and guidance for all skill levels and interest.

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CAPTIONS

jungle-A: *Jungle Book The Musical* features Krispin Maesalu, left, as Colonel Hathi, Mishka Miller as Baloo, Michaela Logan as Mowgli, Beau van der Beeke as King Louie, Sarah Thillagaratnam as Bagheera and, at front, Tara Talbot as Kaa.

jungle-B: Mowgli (Michaela Logan, left) and King Louie (Beau van der Beeke) in *Jungle Book The Musical*.

jungle-C: Tiger Shere Khaan (Aaron O'Neil, at back) preys on Mowgli (Michaela Logan).

jungle-aaron1: Aaron O'Neil is the tiger Shere Khaan in *Jungle Book The Musical*.

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