

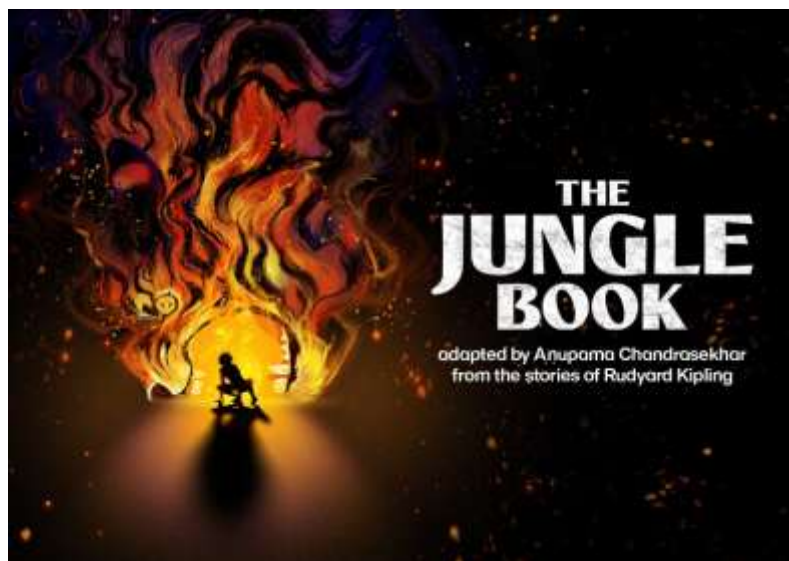
National Theatre

Monday 14 September 2026

FULL CASTING ANNOUNCED FOR THE NATIONAL THEATRE'S NEW ADAPTATION OF THE JUNGLE BOOK

INDHU RUBASINGHAM DIRECTS ANUPAMA CHANDRASEKHAR'S REIMAGINING
OF RUDYARD KIPLING'S TIMELESS FAMILY TALE WITH INNOVATIVE PUPPETRY
BY LUME: NICK BARNES AND FINN CALDWELL

OLIVIER WINNER HIRAN ABEYSEKERA AS MOWGLI



TICKETS ON SALE NOW

IMAGES CAN BE DOWNLOADED [HERE](#)

The **National Theatre** today announces full casting for **Anupama Chandrasekhar's** (*The Father and the Assassin*) new play, an adaptation of **Rudyard Kipling's** beloved family tale ***The Jungle Book***. This world premiere is directed by **Indhu Rubasingham**, with Olivier winning actor **Hiran Abeysekera** as Mowgli and innovative puppetry by **Lume: Nick Barnes** and **Finn Caldwell**. This thrilling new adaptation will bring the jungle roaring to life on the Olivier stage

from **Friday 13 November 2026** to **Saturday 6 February 2027**, with a press performance on **Monday 30 November** at 7pm.

The full cast alongside Hiran Abeysekera is: **Parkey Abeyratne** (Raksha Head), **Azan Ahmed** and **Sebastian Charles** (rotating the roles of Baloo & Baloo Head), **Sarah Amankwah** and **Laura Cubbit** (rotating the roles of Bagheera & Bagheera Hind), **Kazeem Tosin Amore** (Shere Khan Head), **Antony Antunes** (Onstage Swing), **Ankur Bahl** (Kaa & Bijoy), **Eryck Brahmania** (Devan Head), **Darcy Braimoh** (Shere Khan Hind), **Lucca Chadwick-Patel** (A & Chottu), **Fred Davis** and **Ali Goldsmith** (rotating the roles of Moti Head & Wild Pig), **Ayesha Dharker** (Raksha & Messua), **Valentine Hanson** (Mahout), **Romina Hytten** (Onstage Swing & Puppetry Captain), **Sasha Jagsi** (Neela), **Tony Jayawardena** (Moti), **Rebecca Killick** and **Sarah Mardel** (rotating the roles of Bagheera Heart & Wild Fowl), **Avye Leventis** (B & Tabaqui), **Michael Jean-Marain** (Onstage Swing), **Kel Matsena** (Shere Khan), **Sifiso Mazibuko** (Akela), **Jordan Metcalfe** (Cat), **Shaun Yusuf McKee** (Devan), **Sharita Oomeer** (Stork), **Mahesh Parmar** (C & Sonu) and **Gavin L Vincent** (Akela Head).

Speaking about the world premiere of *The Jungle Book*, Director Indhu Rubasingham, said:

'The Jungle Book is the first film I have a memory of going to see in the cinema, I remember being petrified when Shere Khan appeared on screen and hiding under the cinema seat. Anupama's new version for the stage will enchant a new generation, whilst surprising those who feel that they know it well. This truly feels like a global endeavour - we're drawing on the rich storytelling culture inherent in India, a large cast of 30 extraordinary performers, a cinematic orchestral score by one of Spain's leading composers and the best of this country's puppetry teams bringing these beloved characters to life.'

Director **Indhu Rubasingham** is joined in the artistic team by set and costume designer **Rajha Shakiry**, puppetry by **Lume: Nick Barnes** and **Finn Caldwell**, movement director **Finn Caldwell**, composer **Fernando Velázquez**, lighting designer **Oliver Fenwick**, video designer **Ash J Woodward**, sound designer **Benjamin Grant**, casting directors **Bryony Jarvis-Taylor CDG** and **Martin Poile CDG**, dialect coach **Shereen Ibrahim**, voice coach **Cathleen McCarron**, associate

director **John Young**, associate set designer **Ruth Hall**, associate costume designer **Jasmine Araujo**, associate puppetry and movement director **Scarlet Wilderink**, associate puppet designer **Caroline Bowman**, associate sound designer **Jonas Roebuck**.

In the mangroves of the Sundarbans, wolves howl, birds soar and tigers' roar. At the heart of this wild and vibrant kingdom, an unlikely child is growing up... Mowgli.

Danger stalks the shadows, and threats lie hidden beneath every rock. To protect his family, his friends and the only home he has ever known, this young hero must first discover who he really is and where he truly belongs.

Anupama Chandrasekhar is part of a new studio programme supported by CHANEL Culture Fund that champions creativity and global storytelling. The International Artist Residencies based at the National Theatre Studio offer long-term placements, providing the time, space and resources needed to develop ambitious, innovative work that shapes and engages with culture worldwide.

This production is supported by the Bagri Foundation. Dr Alka Bagri, Trustee of the Foundation said today:

'From the moment we began supporting Indhu Rubasingham's exciting new chapter of leadership at the National Theatre, we have been looking forward to this bold new adaptation of The Jungle Book by Anupama Chandrasekhar. It speaks directly to the Bagri Foundation's commitment to championing stories from Asia that are reimagined through fresh, non-Western perspectives. With Chandrasekhar's distinctive voice, extraordinary puppetry by Lume and a stellar cast, this promises to be a production that not only brings a much-loved story vividly to life but allows us to see it anew. We believe its imagination and humanity will resonate far beyond the walls of the National Theatre.'

This production is also supported by Kusuma Trust. Soma Pujari, Co-Founder and Executive Trustee of the Trust said:

'We are delighted to support this vibrant reimagining of The Jungle Book, which beautifully celebrates the richness and complexity of Indian storytelling on a global stage.'

The Jungle Book will play in the Olivier theatre **Friday 13 November 2026 to Saturday 6 February 2027**, with a press performance on **Monday 30 November 2026, 7pm**.

Recommended for ages 7+.

Tickets are on sale now, nationaltheatre.org.uk.

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For images, click [here](#).

Production	Theatre	Dates	Press Night	Publicist
<i>The Jungle Book</i>	Olivier theatre	Fri 13 Nov 2026 – Sat 6 Feb 2027	Monday 30 November 2026, 7pm	James Lever & Anoushka Chakrapani

National Theatre Listings and Booking Information

The Jungle Book

Adapted by **Anupama Chandrasekhar**

from the stories of **Rudyard Kipling**

Dates: 13 November 2026 – 6 February 2027

Venue: Olivier theatre, National Theatre Upper Ground, South Bank, London SE1 9PX

Box Office:

To book online visit www.nationaltheatre.org.uk

To book tickets by phone, call **020 3989 5455** from 9.30am to 6pm Monday to Friday and 10am–6pm on Saturdays.

Group Bookings

To book tickets for a group of 10 or more, call 020 7452 3010 from 11am–6pm, Monday to Saturday.

Access ticket booking

To book Disabled concession tickets and for any additional support you may require, please call our Access line 020 7452 3961 from 11am–6pm, Monday to Saturday. Our [Access page](#) have more detailed information for users with specific access requirements.

Assisted performances of *The Jungle Book* at the National Theatre:

Captioned Performances: Tuesday 15 December 2026 -7pm, Wednesday 20 January 2027 - 7pm

BSL Interpreted: Saturday 23 January 2027 - 1.30pm

Audio Described (with touch tours taking place 90 minutes before the show): Saturday 19 December 2026 - 1.30pm, Friday 8 January 2027 at 7pm, Saturday 30 January 2027 - 1.30pm

Relaxed performance: Saturday 16 January 2027 - 1.30pm

With thanks:

This production is supported by Bagri Foundation, Kusuma Trust, Cockayne Grants for the Arts, a Donor Advised Fund, held at The Prism Charitable Trust and Raymond James.

About the National Theatre

The National Theatre offers the widest access to high-quality theatre in the world. This year, we are producing 14 plays across our three South Bank auditoriums, having staged more than a thousand shows that have shaped British theatre since 1963.

Our shows transfer to the West End and travel to Broadway and beyond, winning awards on both sides of the Atlantic. We champion bold storytelling that inspires, challenges and entertains, bringing the world to the National and taking the best of British theatre to the world. Through NT at Home and NT Live, we reach people digitally in almost every country worldwide: 184 out of 195 and counting.

We are a registered charity with a deep social purpose and a nationwide footprint. We partner with regional theatres to tour our work; more than 90% of state secondaries are signed up to our schools' platform, NT Collection; and our Skills Centre trains 5,000 individuals each year.

Our dedicated New Work Studio champions new writing, and we are central London's 'biggest factory' with workshops that power every aspect of our productions. We host the world's most extensive theatre archive, and our Green Store houses more than 150,000 reusable props and costumes as part of our sustainability commitments.

For more information, please visit nationaltheatre.org.uk

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