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IT'S A JUNGLE OUT THERE

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Synopsis

In the heart of Chanda, an Indian jungle, all of the animals have an important role to play. All except for the frogs. King Raja has deemed the frogs to be insignificant outcasts and they get pushed around and disrespected by the other animals.

When an unlikely friendship forms between a frog and a lion (Jai and Frankie), the other animals are not quite sure what to make of it. Frankie hopes that if he can help Jai be more like the other animals, the frogs might find a way to fit in. Maybe they could learn to sing like the birds, be tough like the lions, wise like the owls or funny like the monkeys?

But alas, Jai fails in his pursuits. And to make matters worse, when King Raja hears of the new friendship, he threatens to exile the frogs and any animal found to be associating with them.

Will the other animals ever learn to appreciate the frogs? Will Jai learn to stand up for himself? Or will the evil King Raja continue to rule Chanda through fear and intimidation? Find out in the powerful and entertaining comedy drama:

It's a Jungle Out There

Moral: Don't be afraid to go against what is popular, in order to stand up for what is right. *It's A Jungle Out There* is an uplifting musical that embraces diversity and has a strong anti-bullying message.

Characters

An asterisk (*) indicates that this character also has a vocal solo. A double asterisk (**) indicates that a vocal solo is optional. All roles are gender flexible.

Characters	Number of Lines
 Jai* - Frog Frankie* - Lion King Raja* - Tiger (easily changed to Queen) Shubha - Bug (Narrator) Kama - Lizard (Wanna-be Narrator) 	79 69 45 18 (inc. long monologues) 8
The Lions 6. Reggie* 7. Danny * 8. Vicky **	28 19 17
The Monkeys 9. Hook* 10. Line* 11. Sinker*	20 18 20
The Birds 12. Prim* 13. Posh* 14. Pouty*	21 16 16
The Owls 15. Veda* 16. Muni ** 17. Manish **	12 7 6
The Frogs 18. Swampy ** 19. Swami ** 20. Sulabha **	10 10 8
The Snakes (King Raja's Servants) 21. Saanp 22. Saachi	16 13

Character Descriptions

Jai (Frog) - Lead character. Strong acting and singing skills required. Timid at first but finds his/her voice and becomes the hero of the story.

Frankie (Lion) - Lead character. Strong acting skills required. Friendly, courageous and willing to stand up for what is right.

King Raja (Tiger) - Strong acting and singing skills required. Ruthless, powerful and imposing.

Shubha (Bug) - Narrator. Long monologues, strong acting skills required. Cute, confident and eventual love-interest of rival narrator Kama.

Kama - (Lizard) - Wanna-be narrator. Secretly has a crush on Shubha.

The Lions

Reggie - Comedic role. Tough, mob boss. Vocal solo.

Danny - Comedic role. Right hand man/woman.

Vicky - Comedic role. Always eating.

The Monkeys

Hook - Comedic role. Jokester. Larrikin. Vocal solo (mainly rap)

Line - As above.

Sinker - As above.

The Birds

Prim - As their name suggests. Pompous, proud, beaks in the air. Vocal skills required.

Posh - As above.

Pouty - As above. Child of Prim.

The Owls

Veda - Wise. Strong vocal skills.

Muni - Minor role. Optional vocal solo.

Manish - Minor role. Optional vocal solo.

The Frogs

Swampy - Timid, eager to please, down on their luck. Optional vocal solo.

Swami - As above.

Sulabha - As above.

The Snakes (King Raja's Servants)

Saanp - Minor role. Slippery, slimy, spying and always elongating 'ssss'.

Saachi - As above.

Musical Numbers

All music and lyrics by Elisa Polimeni-Das

ACTI

- 1. It's A Jungle Out There
- 2. Without Me
- 3. Who Do They Think They Are
- 4. Who Do They Think They Are (Reprise)
- 5. The Family
- 6. The Bird's Song
- 7. Believe in Yourself
- 8. Good Time
- 9. Without Me (Reprise)

ACT II

- 10. For You
- 11. Now or Never
- 12. Believe in Yourself (Reprise)
- 13. It's A Jungle Out There (Finale)
- 14. Curtain Call: Believe in Yourself (suggestion)

It's A Jungle Out There

By Elisa Polimeni-Das and Renata Pantelios

ACT I

SCENE 1

Jungle setting

Track 1: Jungle Sounds

Shubha enters and makes her way to the centre of the stage in a bug-like fashion.

SHUBHA: Oh, hi there. My name's Shubha. Don't mind me — I'm just a bug. I'm not really even part of the story. But I am going to tell it to you. Being a bug, you see, I get to know pretty much everything that goes on around here. Welcome to Chanda — an Indian jungle. The animals come from all over the place. It's a pretty great place to live. As long as you can avoid King Raja. Ooh gosh speak of the devil! There he is now!

Track 2: Scary Raja Motif

Raja slinks onto stage and starts sniffing around. He is followed by Saanp and Saachi.

SHUBHA: (whispering) Don't move a muscle, don't even breathe. It's not worth it

Raja, Saanp and Saachi exit.

SHUBHA: Oh thank goodness he's gone. He scares the beetle juice out of me that one. Him and his slithery, slimy friends Saanp and Saachi the snakes who never seem to leave his side. Anyway, where was I? Oh yes – Chanda. It's a great place to live. But not for all of us. Not if you're a frog. Frogs are outcasts here you see. They get bossed around, picked on and generally made fun of. I'm not sure why – maybe something to do with their funny green colour. Oh and that they live in the swamp – ewwww! But personally, I have no beef with the frogs. I mean, they're pretty friendly, they make a cool 'Riddip' sound and they blink a lot –

Kama enters and clears his throat

KAMA: Hey Shubha, do you think you could get on with the story? I mean, it's (insert day). Unlike you, some of these people have to go to work tomorrow. *Alternative line: I'm sure these people are keen to get on with their weekend.*

SHUBHA: Alright, alright. Keep your tail on, Kama, I was getting there.

KAMA: Well *I* could have got there sooner and faster and in a more entertaining way.

SHUBHA: Sooner and faster essentially mean the same thing. *Now* who's wasting everyone's time?

KAMA: I don't know how you ended up with this gig in the first place!

Kama exits in a huff.

SHUBHA: Lizards. They just don't understand the art of story-telling. Ok, so our story begins in the heart of the jungle on a day not unlike any other...

SCENE 2

Track 3/Song 1: IT'S A JUNGLE OUT THERE

VERSE 1

MONKEYS HEY, HEY, WE'RE THE MONKEYS

WE'RE AT THE TOP OF THE PACK IF YOU STICK WITH OUR GANG YOU'LL BE ON THE RIGHT TRACK

WE'RE ENTERTAINING

WE'LL HAVE YOU HOOK, LINE AND SINKER

POPULARITY IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOU WOULD THINK-ER

CHORUS

ALL IT'S A JUNGLE OUT THERE

IT'S A JUNGLE OUT THERE YEAH

IT'S A JUNGLE OUT THERE

IT'S A JUNGLE OUT THERE YEAH

VERSE 2

BIRDS WE ARE THE BIRDS

AND I'M SURE YOU'LL AGREE

WE ARE THE MOST SOPHISTICATED

OF THE CREATURES YOU SEE

WE KEEP ORDER

AND HELP YOU STRUCTURE YOUR DAY IT IS THE EARLY BIRD WHO CATCHES

THE WORM, I SAY!

ALL CHORUS

VERSE 3

LIONS WE'RE THE LIONS

NOBODY MESSES WITH US

WE'RE TOUGH, WE'VE GOT CONNECTIONS

AND A FAMILY WE TRUST

THIS IS REGGIE

HE'S THE ONE YOU SHOULD SEE

IF YOU NEED A FAVOUR BUT THERE'S ALWAYS A FEE

ALL CHORUS

VERSE 4

OWLS WE ARE THE OWLS

AND AT THIS TIME OF DAY WE'D RATHER BE ASLEEP SO WE HAVEN'T MUCH TO SAY

BUT IF YOU COME BACK

IN THE WEE HOURS OF NIGHT

THE ADVICE THAT WE'LL GIVE YOU

YOU KNOW IT WILL BE RIGHT

ALL CHORUS

FINAL CHORUS

IT'S A JUNGLE OUT THERE YEAH

IT'S A JUNGLE OUT THERE IT'S A JUNGLE... OUT THERE!

Frogs attempt to join in with their own verse of the song but it doesn't work. "We're the frogs, we're... green... and we...um...er" ect.

PRIM: Oh look, it's the frogs.

POSH: What are *they* doing here?

PRIM: The song is over, frogs.

POUTY: Yes, and I don't believe you were invited, were you?

HOOK: Oi, Swampy! Did you make me that umbrella I was after?

SWAMPY: Yes, I have it right here for you Hook.

Swampy hands Hook an umbrella covered with jungle leaves.

LINE: Looks like rubbish that does!

SINKER: Yeah the rain'll go right through that.

SWAMPY: Oh well I tested it back at the swamp and it seems to work pretty well.

SINKER: What do you think, Veda? You're an owl – supposed to be wise aren't you?

Owls wake up.

VEDA: Criticism, like rain, should be gentle enough to nourish one's growth without destroying his roots.

MUNI: Without the rain, there wouldn't be rainbows.

MANISH: Hooooo. Hooooo. Rain...

Owls fall back to sleep.

PRIM: Oh, do leave the owls alone. They didn't get a wink of sleep last night.

HOOK: Well, it'll have to do until Swampy makes me another. Hey, hey, hey listen. What goes up when the rain comes down?

Animals look at each other and shrug.

HOOK: An umbrella!

Track 4: Badum Tish Sound Effect

LINE: I got one, I got one! What is the Mexican weather report? (pause) Chilli today and hot tamale!

Track 4: Badum Tish Sound Effect

SINKER: My turn! Knock, knock.

ALL: Who's there?

SINKER: Emma.

ALL: Emma who?

SINKER: Emma bit cold out here. Let me in!

Track 4: Badum Tish Sound Effect

Animals all laugh except for the frogs who just look at each other.

REGGIE: Ey, why aren't you laughing?

DANNY: Yeah, you don't think the monkeys are funny?

SWAMI: Yes, they are very funny.

VICKY: Well, it would be impolite not to laugh.

SULABHA: Oh hahahaha (forced laughter)... 'Emma!' I just got it...

JAI: I don't get it.

HOOK: Of course *you* don't get it. It's over your head little frog.

LINE: Hahaha everything goes over this one's head. You're so short you can see your feet in your driver's license.

Track 4: Badum Tish Sound Effect

SINKER: Hahaha hey Sulabha, Gandalf was looking for you, he said something about a ring...

Track 4: Badum Tish Sound Effect

Animals are all laughing when King Raja enters followed by Saanp and Saachi

Track 2: Scary Raja Motif

RAJA: What is going on here?

SAANP: It sssssseems to be sssssssilliness.

RAJA: Sillyness indeed! And what did I tell you about associating with the frogs? (Looks over at the frogs cowering in a corner). Lowly, slimey, useless things they are...

PRIM: Sorry sir, we were just taking a short break and we are now ready to return to our duties.

RAJA: (*imitating Prim*) Oh you are ready are you? How wonderful to hear that the animals are *ready* to get back to work.

SAANP and SAACHI: (snicker) Ssssssssss.

RAJA: Do you have any idea what it takes to run a jungle?!

Animals look at each other and roll their eyes.

RAJA: Well?! Do you?

REGGIE: (sounding bored and rehearsed) No sir, we couldn't possibly understand what it takes to run a jungle.

HOOK: No sir, we don't know the first thing about running Chanda.

RAJA: Of course, you don't! Sometimes I wonder what on earth you'd do without me.

Track 5/Song 2: WITHOUT ME

VERSE 1
DO YOU THINK IT'S EASY

RAJA

RUNNING A JUNGLE?

DO YOU THINK IT'S SIMPLE

TO BE KING?

DO YOU THINK YOU'D MANAGE

IF I WAS NOT HERE? DO YOU THINK AT ALL? WELL LET ME BE CLEAR

CHORUS

RAJA WITHOUT ME, YOU SIMPLY WOULD NOT SURVIVE

THE JUNGLE WOULD CRUMBLE TO DUST

WITHOUT ME, THERE WOULD BE NO POINT TO LIFE

SO OBEY ME, YOU ALL MUST

ANIMALS IN KING RAJA WE TRUST

VERSE 2

RAJA THE ROLE OF A KING

IS TO BE FAIR AND STRONG

THE THING ABOUT ME IS

I'M NEVER WRONG

I RUN CHANDA

LIKE NO ONE ELSE WOULD

I RUN CHANDA

LIKE NO ONE ELSE COULD

HERE IN THE JUNGLE

IT'S FIGHT OR FLEE

YOU THINK YOUR LIVES ARE TOUGH NOW?

THEY'D BE WORSE WITHOUT ME

CHORUS

CHORUS

ANIMALS WITHOUT YOU, WE SIMPLY WOULD NOT SURVIVE

THE JUNGLE WOULD CRUMBLE TO DUST

WITHOUT YOU, THERE WOULD BE NO POINT TO LIFE

SO, OBEY YOU, WE ALL MUST

IN KING RAJA WE TRUST