

It's A Jungle Out There

A musical by EPmusic

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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...

It's a Jungle Out There

Moral: Don't be afraid to go against the group in order to stand up for what is right.

Characters

An asterisk (*) indicates that this character also has a vocal solo. A double asterisk (**) indicates that a vocal solo is optional.

<i>Characters</i>	<i>Number of Lines</i>
1. Jai* - Frog	79
2. Frankie* - Lion	68
3. King Raja* - Tiger	45
4. Shubha - Bug (Narrator)	18 (long monologues)
5. Kama - Lizard (Wanna-be Narrator)	8
<i>The Lions (Accent: Italian)</i>	
6. Carmelo* (The Don)	28
7. Domenico *	19
8. Vito **	17
<i>The Monkeys (Accent: Cockney)</i>	
9. Hook*	20
10. Line*	17
11. Sinker*	20
<i>The Birds (Accent: The Queen's English)</i>	
12. Prim*	21
13. Posh*	16
14. Pouty*	16
<i>The Owls</i>	
15. Veda*	12
16. Muni **	7
17. Manish **	6
<i>The Frogs</i>	
18. Swampy **	10
19. Swami **	10
20. Sulabha **	8
<i>The Snakes (King Raja's Servants)</i>	
21. Saanp	16
22. Saachi	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. Evil, 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 (Accent: Italian)

Carmelo (The Don) - comedic role. Tough, mafia boss. Vocal solo.

Domenico - comedic role. The Don's right hand man.

Vito - comedic role. Wears a fat suit. Doesn't stop eating cannoli.

The Monkeys (Accent: Cockney)

Hook - comedic role. Constantly making jokes and laughing at them. Vocal solo (mainly rap)

Line - as above.

Sinker - as above.

The Birds (Accent: The Queen's English)

Prim - as their names suggest. Pompous, proud, beaks in the air. Vocal skills required.

Posh - as above.

Pouty - as above

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

ACT I

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. Bollywood Song (optional)
10. Without Me (Reprise)

ACT II

11. For You
12. Now or Never
13. Believe in Yourself (Reprise)
14. It's A Jungle Out There (Finale)
15. Bollywood Song (bows)

Script

It's A Jungle Out There

By EPmusic

ACT I

Scene 1

Jungle setting

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. We've got animals from Italy, Australia, England and India to name just a few. 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!

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

Song 1: It's A Jungle Out There

Frogs attempt to join in with their own verse of the song but it doesn't work.

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 tha' umbrella I were afta?

Swampy: Yes, I have it right here for you Hook. (*Hands Hook an umbrella covered with jungle leaves*).

Line: Looks like a right piece of roobbish tha' does.

Sinker: Yeah the rain'll go righ' through tha'.

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

Sinker: What do you fink, Veda? You're an owl – 'sposed to be wise aint ya?

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 anoother. Hey, hey, hey listen. Wha' goes oop when the rain comes down?

Animals look at each other and shrug.

Hook: An umbrella!

Line: I got one, I got one! Wha' is the Mexican weather report? (*pause*) Chili today and hot tamale!

Sinker: My turn! Why does Snoop dog need an umbrella? (pause) Fo' Drizzle!

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

Carmelo: Ey, why aren't you laughing?

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

Swami: Yes, they are very funny.

Vito: Well it would be impolite not to laugh.

Sulabha: Oh hahahaha (*forced laughter*)... 'Fo' Drizzle!' 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.

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

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

Raja: What is going on here?

Saanp: It ssssseems to be sssssilliness.

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?

Carmelo: (*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 rooning Chanda.

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

Song 2: Without Me