

The Jungle Book

© 2005 Gladu/Levy

Scene Samples

SCENE TWO

Eleven years later. The jungle. Enter Mowgli and Sister Wolf, pushing and teasing each other for fun.

SISTER WOLF

Mowgli eats bird poop! Bird poop! Poop! Poop!

MOWGLI

Sister eats cow dung! Cow dung! Cow dung!

SISTER WOLF

No way! Mowgli's got frog legs, frog legs!

MOWGLI

Frog legs, huh? Why don't you come over and say that to my face?

SISTER WOLF

I would but you're so froggy I might catch your warts!

Smiling, the cubs start to growl at each other. Sister takes the first swing and throughout the following lines they are tumbling, fighting and laughing.

SISTER WOLF

Take that, twiggy paws!

MOWGLI

Eat this, fur face!

SISTER WOLF

You're so dumb you can't catch a rabbit in your teeth!

MOWGLI

You're so dumb you can't climb a tree!

SISTER WOLF

Oh yeah? If I'm so dumb, how come you're the one still in school?

MOWGLI

Growl!

Mowgli grabs Sister by the muzzle and leads her around the stage.

SISTER WOLF

Mowgli!

She breaks free and takes a big bite at his arm.

MOWGLI

Aah!

The fight is interrupted by Bagheera.

BAGHEERA

(roar) Mowgli! Sister! Stop this jackal foolishness.

SISTER WOLF

Sorry Bagheera, maa-fi.

MOWGLI

Maa-fi.

BAGHEERA

By the whiskers of the Great Panther, you have scared away all the good hunting with your crashing and thrashing. I see you haven't been paying attention in your lessons with Baloo the Bear.

MOWGLI

Aw, I'm sick of stupid old lessons. I'm going to go swimming with Sister.

SISTER WOLF

Yeah, he's going to go swi-

BAGHEERA

Growls

SISTER WOLF

Um, I think I hear my mom calling me. Unh, okay Mataji, I'm coming! See ya Mowgli. (*whispers*) Good luck.

MOWGLI

No fair! It's no fair.

BAGHEERA

Mowgli-

MOWGLI

No, all the other wolves my age stopped taking lessons a long time ago. They all say I'm dumb cause I'm still in school. Yesterday they played all day in the tall grasses and today they're gonna go swimming. It's not fair!

BAGHEERA

Stop acting like an unweaned cub.

MOWGLI

Stop treating me like a cub by sending me to cub lessons.

BAGHEERA

Don't be smart.

MOWGLI

Isn't that why you send me to school?

BAGHEERA

Growls. Don't cross into my hunting grounds little frog. I've always been your friend.

MOWGLI

Sorry.

BAGHEERA

Good. You're too smart to act like Bandar Log.

MOWGLI

What's Bandar Log?

BAGHEERA

Monkeys. Bandar is an ancient word for monkey and log means people. The monkeys call themselves the Bandar Log because they like to think they are important. But they really are a nasty, rude and disrespectful bunch. They only open their mouths to lie and their arms to steal.

MOWGLI

Bet they'd call me dumb just like everyone else.

BAGHEERA

Mowgli, you're not dumb, you're different.

MOWGLI

I hate being different.

BAGHEERA

Who helped your sister last moon when her tail was caught in a man trap?

MOWGLI

I did.

BAGHEERA

And why was it you? Why not your mother or Baloo?

MOWGLI

Because I'm the only one with twigs for paws.

BAGHEERA

Exactly. You're paws are different for a reason. You may not know what the reason is today, but as the Great Panther says, "A life full of questions is a life of discovery."

MOWGLI

Baloo says there is no such thing as the Great Panther.

BAGHEERA

That old rug has been stung by too many bees. He just says that to get my yeti.

MOWGLI

But why can't I go play with the other cubs?

BAHGEERA

The other cubs are wolves, wolves only need to know the laws of the pack. You are a man-cub with a powerful enemy.

MOWGLI

overlapping

A powerful enemy. I know, I know.

BAGHEERA

You can't defeat Shere Kahn by yourself. You don't have the sharp claws of a panther, the fast paws of a cheetah or fearsome teeth of a lion. You must learn all the laws and languages of the jungle. You must rely on your brains, your tongue, and your friends. Got it?

MOWGLI

Yeah.

BAGHEERA

I said,

Starts to tickle Mowgli

Got it?

MOWGLI

Laughing

Yeah! I got it, I got it! Quit it! Quit!

BAGHEERA

Good. Now pad along, Baloo is waiting.

SCENE THREE

Eleven years after Mowgli's mother burned him with fire, Shere Kahn returns for revenge. In this scene Shere Kahn has just overheard Mowgli and Bagheera's conversation and is now trying to form an alliance with the Bandars (monkeys).

SHERE KAHN

A tiger may not have lots of friends, but I do have sharp claws, fast paws and fearsome teeth. And these claws, paws and teeth have been aching for revenge for eleven years. Yes puny man cub, Shere Kahn the tiger is back. Bandar King! Bandar King!

Bandar King enters holding a banana as if it is a telephone.

BANDAR KING

Did someone call for me, the Bandar King? Hello, hello? Is anyone there?

SHERE KAHN

Yes, I called you, you foolish monkey, stop-

BANDAR KING

Aww, you're so sweet. Yes I am the most tail slappingly funny Bandar this side of the trees.

SHERE KAHN

Call yourself whatever you like MONKEY, just get over here right –

BANDAR KING

Acts like he is swatting bugs.

Buzz, buzz buzz. I'm sorry, our connection's gone bad. I...ant...ear..ou.

SHERE KAHN

What are you-

BANDAR KING

Here, you try it.

He hands his banana to an audience member then pulls another banana out of his pocket and puts the new one to his ear.

Can you hear me now? Good. Hey, what do you call a monkey at the North Pole? Cold!

Depending on response of the audience member he can either stay with this person or take the banana and move on to a new person.

What did the banana say to the elephant? Nothing, bananas can't talk!

SHERE KAHN

Pay attention!

Bandar One enters from a different part of the audience with a banana.

BANDAR ONE

I've got one! I've got one!

BANDAR KING

Swing it Bhopla!

BANDAR ONE

Why are bananas never lonely? Because they hang out in bunches!

SHERE KAHN

I have import-

Bandar Two enters from a different part of the audience with a banana.

BANDAR TWO

Me too! Me too!

BANDAR KING

Lets hear it Bainghan.

BANDAR TWO

What do you do with a blue monkey? Cheer him up!
All Bandars laugh like crazy at each other's jokes.

SHERE KAHN

Why does this always happen to me?

BANDAR KING

What did the banana say to the ice cream? Wanna split?

Share Kahn grabs one of their bananas and yells into it.

SHERE KAHN

Ring, Ring.

This is a funny ring tone of actor's choice. It was a bird call in the original production. The Bandars are so excited by the ringing that they run all over the stage and in to the audience asking people where the phone is. This "ringing" bit should continue until Bandar King finds the ringing banana. Then all the Bandars gather around it and listen in.

BANDAR KING

Hello?

SHERE KAHN

Why did the tiger eat the monkey?

ALL BANDARS

Why?

SHERE KAHN

Because he can!

BANDAR KING

Oh.

BANDAR TWO

Oh, I get it! *(Starts laughing)* I like that one! Oh Yeah! *(Fits of laughter and rolling around on the ground)* Because he can-

He keeps laughing until he finally understands that no one else is laughing. Stops and clears throat.

Oh.

SHERE KAHN

Now listen here, monkey brains, I've got a mission for you and your monkey gang.

BANDAR KING

Oooooooooo, a mission. Does that mean we will have to cross a road? Because I've got a great joke about that.

SHERE KAHN

Stop with the monkey jokes for one minute.

BANDAR KING

All right, all right. No more monkey jokes, Bandar promise. Hey, what side of a tiger has more hair?

BANDAR TWO

I don't know. What side of a tiger does have more hair?

BANDAR ONE

The outside!

SHERE KAHN

Starts to growl

BANDAR TWO

What did the tiger say when he lost his tail?

BANDAR KING

Where's my tail?

SHERE KAHN

Roars Enough! I called for you to tell you that if the monkeys –

ALL BANDARS

Hmm? *(reacting to being called Monkeys)*

SHERE KAHN

Excuse me, I mean Bandars, ever want to be the funniest animals in the jungle, you have to get rid of the man cub.

BANDAR KING

The man cub?

BANDAR ONE & TWO

Mowgli?

SHERE KAHN

Yes.

BANDAR ONE

I don't know about funny ha ha, but he sure is funny looking.

BANDAR TWO

Yeah, I've never heard him tell a funny joke.

SHERE KAHN

Oh but he has, why everyone says that the man cub is the funniest creature in the jungle. They love to listen to his jokes.

BANDAR KING

What what what? Everyone in the jungle knows that the Bandar-log are the funniest creatures in the jungle and that the Bandar King is the funniest of them all.

BANDAR ONE

That's right.

BANDAR TWO

Everyone knows that.

BANDAR ONE

I heard it through the ape vine.

SHERE KAHN

You, up the tree, NOW! (*Shere Khan chases Bandars One and Two up the tree and then turns back to Bandar King*) Everyone? Are you sure about that? The foxes, the snakes, the fish, everyone? I've heard that the man-cub can speak and tell jokes in all of the languages of the jungle. Can you?

BANDAR TWO

Hey, hey, I can speak monkey and monkey!

BANDAR ONE

That's because you are a monkey!

BANDAR TWO

Oh yeah. Hot bananas!

BANDAR KING

What are you suggesting?

SHERE KAHN

That we play a little joke on the man cub.

BANDAR KING

Jokes are good.

BANDAR TWO

Did you hear the one about the parrot, the volcano and the golden-

SHERE KAHN

Shh. Go find the man cub and take him for a little swing through the trees. I'll be busy setting our joke in motion but I need you to buy me a little time.

BANDAR KING

Time flies like an arrow but fruit flies like a banana.

BANDAR ONE & TWO

Oooo.

SHERE KAHN

Whatever!

He grabs Bandar King by the collar and bends him backwards

Just get the cub away from his friends, TODAY, and then we will see who has the last laugh.

BANDAR KING

Gives a forced laugh

Your idea has a lot of -

ALL MONKEYS

Appeal!

SHERE KAHN

Growls.

BANDAR KING

We'll do it. We'll do it!

Shere Kahn releases Bandar King and exits.

Come on Bandars, lets make like bananas and – say it with me everyone-

ALL BANDARS PLUS AUDIENCE

Split!

BANDAR KING

I didn't hear you. Lets try it again. Come on Bandars, lets make like bananas and–

ALL BANDARS PLUS AUDIENCE

SPLIT!

SCENE SEVEN

The Villagers burst on the scene and transform the set to it's village look. At first two dancers perform a traditional Diwali stick dance then they all sing and dance the Diwali song from the top of the show. During the song Mowgli enters and is completely delighted by what he sees.

VILLAGERS

OM JAIYA JAGADEESHA HARAY
SWAMY JAIYA JAGADEESH HARAY
BHAKTHA JANON KAY SUNCUTAH
DAASA JANON KAY SUNCUTAH
KSHANA MAY DHOOR KARAY
OM JAIYA JAGADEESHA HARAY

Mowgli starts to dance with the villagers.

MAHTA PEETAH THUMMAYRAY
SHARANA GHANU MAY KISIKEY
THUMA BEENA OWPPN NADHOOJA
PRABHU BEENA OWRR NADHOOJA
AHSA KHAROOMAY JISIKEY
OM JAIYA JAGADEESHA HARAY

The dance ends sporadically as different villagers notice Mowgli and stop dancing.

THUMA POORANA PARRUM ATHMA-

What kind of animal-? VILLAGER FOUR

A wild boy! VILLAGER ONE

Wolf child! VILLAGER SIX

Lakashmi-mata protect us! VILLAGER THREE

MESSUA

Shh.

Mowgli is frightened by the sudden attention. He crouches down, whining and whimpering. Messua starts to approach Mowgli.

Music: spirit voice in the background.

VILLAGER TWO

Careful Messua.

VILLAGER FIVE

No!

VILLAGER FOUR

Stay back!

MESSUA

Quiet.

Mowgli stops and stares at her.

Husha, husha little Nathoo.

She kneels down and opens her arms. Mowgli approaches her slowly, his memory is being stirred.

Mataji is here, husha husha. Oh, I see my ancestors in your eyes.

Mowgli is now sniffing her. He reaches out and touches her hair and then touches his own.

Yes, yes, we have the same hair. Hair, it is called hair.

He touches her hands.

Hands, those are my hands. We have the same hands.

He touches her face.

Face.

He touches her eyes.

Tears, those are the last tears I will ever shed. Lakashmi-mata, thank you for answering my prayers. I never gave up hope. Oh my Nathoo, .

She wants desperately to hug him but she knows it will startle him. Instead, she puts her hands in prayer position and inclines her head.

Namaskar.

All the villagers repeat the gesture and bow

Mowgli stands upright on shaky legs and copies them.

MOWGLI

Namaskar.

As Messua leads Mowgli to her hut, the villager women smile and sing to Mowgli.

VILLAGE WOMEN

AUM BHOOR BHUWAH SWAHA
TAT SAVITUR VARENYAM
BHARGO DEVASAYA DHEEMAHI
DHIYO YO NAHA PRACHODAYAT