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J*COMPANY YOUTH THEATRE CONTINUES
DISNEY-THEMED 2007-2008 SEASON WITH
THE JUNGLE BOOK KIDS

SAN DIEGO – The award-winning J*Company Youth Theatre, a program of the San Diego Center for Jewish Culture at the Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center, JACOBS FAMILY CAMPUS, is pleased to announce its production of *DISNEY'S THE JUNGLE BOOK Kids*, the classic musical based on stories by Rudyard Kipling. The production runs **December 6-16, 2007**, at the David & Dorothea Garfield Theatre, 4126 Executive Drive, La Jolla.

In *DISNEY'S THE JUNGLE BOOK Kids*, the jungle is jumpin' with jazz. Mowgli, Baloo, King Louie and the gang swing their way through madcap adventures and thwart the ferocious tiger, Shere Khan. Specially adapted from the beloved film, this musical includes many favorite Disney tunes such as "The Bare Necessities" and "I Wan'na Be Like You." With colorful characters and a toe-tapping jungle rhythm, it is a crowd-pleaser for all ages.

Directing *DISNEY'S THE JUNGLE BOOK Kids* is J*Company Artistic Director Joey Landwehr. Landwehr has worked extensively as an actor and director in New York City, both on and off Broadway, as well as in national tours and regional theatre. He has studied under such instructors as Betty Buckley, Marcel Marceau, Francis Sternhagen, F. Murray Abraham, Twyla Tharpe, and has had the privilege of working with great performers such as Phyllis Diller, Sam Harris, Joel Grey, Kaye Ballard, Michael Feinstein and Howard Keel. Landwehr is a member of the Screen Actors Guild (SAG), the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (AFTRA) and Actors' Equity Association (AEA). Landwehr was honored in 2006 by *San Diego Metropolitan Magazine* as one of

the 40 San Diego residents under the age of 40 who are making significant contributions to the community. Landwehr directed *Oliver!*, *Yours*, *Anne*, *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*, and *Hansel and Gretel* for J*Company last season.

Musical director for *DISNEY'S THE JUNGLE BOOK Kids* is **Amy Dalton**. **Louie Vener** is designing the set, **Christian DeAngelis** is the lighting designer, and **Shulamit Nelson** is the costume designer.

“Panthers and Tigers and Bears, Oh, My!” According to Joey Landwehr, “Not only will we see all of our favorite, familiar Disney characters, and hear all the songs we have come to know and love, but we will also learn a little about the life and art of one of the world’s most popular writers, Rudyard Kipling.”

“This production has serendipitously coincided with the release of the two-disc Disney DVD. So after the show the kids can watch the DVD and see the wonderful similarities and differences there are between animated film and live theatre,” said Landwehr.

Landwehr never directs a show without providing an educational component to enhance the cast’s learning experience. Each child will be asked to create a writing project with his or her character as the protagonist. Also, since *DISNEY'S THE JUNGLE BOOK Kids* is set in India, the cast is learning the Hindi pronunciation of many of the lines, with the aim of helping them to come away from the production with some dialect work to add their resumes.

Heading the cast are:

Rudyard Kipling/Mowgli	Joshua Shtein
Young Mowgli	Nathan Miller
Hanley/Tabaqui	Mara Jacobs
Fielding/Shere Khan	Robbie Friedman
Price/Akela	Adam Burnier
Willies/Bagheera	Maddie Houts
Crofts/Baloo	Elliot Rappaport
Raksha	Devyn Krevat
Kaa	Michelle Guefen
Colonel Hathi	Kevin McRee
Stout	Brooke Posnock
King Louie	Ryan Hastings-Echo

Production dates and times:

Thursday, December 6, 7:00 p.m.

Friday, December 7, 10:00 a.m. (school show)

Saturday, December 8, 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 9, 1:00 & 4:00 p.m.
Thursday, December 13, 7:00 p.m.
Friday, December 14, 10:00 a.m. (school show)
Saturday, December 15, 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 16, 1:00 & 4:00 p.m.

Tickets for *DISNEY'S THE JUNGLE BOOK Kids* are \$12.50 for children and \$16.50 for adults and are available online at www.lfjcc.org or by phone at **858-362-1348**. A complete listing of production dates and show times are online at www.lfjcc.org/jcompany.

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About the San Diego Center for Jewish Culture

The San Diego Center for Jewish Culture is the largest Jewish institution in San Diego dedicated solely to presenting high quality, nationally recognized programs which are unique to San Diego County. The mission of the SDCJC is to expand and enrich cultural life in San Diego by presenting the finest in Jewish artistic expression, encouraging the preservation of Jewish culture and heritage, and nurturing new creativity in the arts. A core belief of the SDCJC is to promote respect for diverse cultures and build community tolerance.

The SDCJC offers a wide variety of multi-disciplinary artistic programs that explore cultural identities and perspectives, promote cross cultural understanding, and highlight human themes of family, tolerance, compassion, and hope. These programs, including the San Diego Jewish Film Festival, the San Diego Jewish Book Fair, New Jewish Plays Project, the San Diego Jewish Music Festival, a Holocaust Education Program, and the J*Company Youth Theatre, foster ideas of cultural appreciation and respect. Its facilities feature a 500-seat theatre, a Judaica library, an art gallery, and a community Holocaust Memorial Garden. Approximately 40,000 tickets are sold or provided annually to residents, visitors, and students for San Diego Center for Jewish Culture events.

About the Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center, JACOBS FAMILY CAMPUS

The mission of the Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center, JACOBS FAMILY CAMPUS is to provide social, cultural, educational, and recreational programs to individuals and families of all ages, religions, races, and financial, physical and mental abilities. Likewise, the JCC provides equal opportunity employment to individuals of all religions and backgrounds. The JCC welcomes San Diego's diverse Jewish community and the community at large. The Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center, JACOBS FAMILY CAMPUS is located at 4126 Executive Drive in La Jolla.



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