



For Immediate Release
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"The Jungle Book" opens at
Valley Youth Theatre April 21

The jungle is a dangerous place and when young Mowgli is orphaned and wanders into the wild, a pack of wolves raise him as one of their cubs. Rudyard Kipling's classic tale of a young boy who learns to live by the laws of the jungle in order to survive, *The Jungle Book* comes alive on stage when Valley Youth Theatre performs live on stage April 21- May 7. With the help of Baloo the bear, Bagheera the panther and Kaa the python friends, slowly, Mowgli learns the language and ways of the jungle animals and his childhood seems quite idyllic. Some of their adventures are gripping and some are hysterical. But hunted by his mortal enemy the cunning and sinister Shere Khan, Mowgli must use all his strength and courage to survive.

Youth appearing in *The Jungle Book* hail from all over the Valley. The parts of Mowgli and Shere Khan are played by **Michael Martinez** and **Cashawna Evans** of Avondale. Ten youth ranging in age from 5th grade through high school come from the Phoenix Arcadia area and Mesa, Scottsdale, Glendale and Ahwatukee are also represented.

Interviews are available by calling Carolyn McBurney 602-253-8188 x 301.

The Jungle Book is directed by Valley Youth Theatre Artistic and Educational Associate Katie Rex.

The Jungle Book opens to the public, Friday, April 21 and runs through May 7, 2006 at the **Valley Youth Theatre** mainstage, 525 N. First Street, Phoenix. Fridays at 7:00pm, and Saturdays and Sundays at 12:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. Tickets are \$15 per person, adults and children two and up, and can be ordered through **Valley Youth Theatre's** box office at 602-253-8188, ext. 2. For more information about Valley Youth Theatre and *The Jungle Book* visit www.vyt.com.

Valley Youth Theatre is a non-profit organization that targets young people age 7 – 19 for participation in and attendance at quality live theatre productions. Its positive impact on youth provides them with lifelong lessons through a wide range of performing arts opportunities. VYT is an award-winning theatre company most recently winning 31 ariZoni Awards for theatrical excellence in the 2004-2005 season.

"The Jungle Book" is sponsored in part by The Phoenix Suns. Valley Youth Theatre is supported in part by the Arizona Commission on the Arts with funding from the State of Arizona and the National Endowment for the Arts. Partial funding also is provided by the Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture through appropriations from the Phoenix City Council.

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