

THE
**THEATRE
SCHOOL**
AT DePaul University

presents

JANE OF THE JUNGLE

book and lyrics by Karen Zacarías
music by Deborah Wicks La Puma

Director — Michelle Lopez-Rios
Musical Director — Mark Elliott
Choreographer — Katie DeSalvo
Scenic Designer — Tara Huffman
Costume Designer — Kiera Pitts
Lighting Designer — Natalia Janusz
Sound Designer — Agata Pacia
Technical Director — Ethan Gill
Dramaturg — Jordan Scott Hardesty
Production Stage Manager — Maggie Hoffecker

April 18 – May 25, 2019

The Theatre School at DePaul University
Chicago Playworks for Families and Young Audiences
DePaul's Merle Reskin Theatre | 60 E. Balbo Drive, Chicago, IL 60605
Email: theatreboxoffice@depaul.edu | (773) 325-7900

Presenting Level Sponsor

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CAST (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

Jane	Sydney Silver
Kayla.....	Courtney Tucker
Milo.....	Eamon Hurd
Mom/Samantha.....	Bridget Painter
Steve/Ensemble	Brandon Brooks
Kayla's Dad/RG.....	Ryan Kirby
Nicolette/Ensemble.....	Sarah Collins
Kelly/Beth	Elle Rojas
Britany/Pat	Lauren Zinser
Mackenzie/Chris	Virginia Rose
Nicolette's Mom/Joanne	Julie Gester
TR/Ensemble	Jeremy Deshaun Willis
MJ/Ensemble	Kamari Saxon

Suburbs and the Jungle

The play will be performed without an intermission.

Produced by special arrangement with
THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY of Woodstock, Illinois

PRODUCTION STAFF

Assistant Director	Riley Coduto
Stage Manager	Amanda Blanco
Assistant Stage Manager	Kate Petralia, Ellen Sypolt
Assistant Scenic Designer.....	Kat Healy
Assistant Technical Director.....	Max Wilhelms
Master Carpenter.....	Willow Rakoncay
Assistant Properties Master	Ashley Wang
Assistant Costume Designer	Maegan Fahy, Isabelle Laursen
Draper/Cutter	Allison Millar
Craftsperson.....	Jessie Glionna
Stitcher	Jessica Donaldson, Tess Hershenson, Chloe Levy, Emily Sanner
Head Makeup Assistant.....	Brett Rose
Assistant Lighting Designer.....	Alexis Handler
Master Electrician.....	Kyle Bajor
Associate Sound Designer	Averi Paulsen
Production Photos	Michael Brosilow
Audio Describer	Rob Lamont
Sign Language Interpreter Coordinator.....	Sheila Kettering
Scenery and Property Crew	Alyea Caldwell, Ethan Craig, Paul Danowski, Joeferry Wenderlich, Nour Zuaiter
Costume Crew	Sophie DiCenso, Emily Rose Miller, Athena Nickole, Fiona Warburton, Brian Wright
Make-up Crew	Kaitlyn Piotroski, Lucia Rodriguez-Nelson
Lighting Crew	Ashli Funches, Claire Hayes, Adam LeCompte, Aria Morris, Olemich Tugas
Sound Crew	Emily Hayman, Felix Schauz

PRODUCTION STAFF [cont.]

Publicity and House Crew	Saskia Bakker, Dan Haller, Emily Hanson, Bryant Hindsman, Kenz Mangan, Casey Whisler
Swing Crew	Nathan Hile, Maeve Mollaghan, Ally Sheehan

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Jane Guadalupe Gibbons is navigating a whole new world. Emotions are big, choices are hard, and friendships are being put to the test. As Jane, her BFF Kayla, and Jane's little brother Milo make their way to the Too-Cool-Almost-Middle-School-All-Girl-Party they go on quite an adventure. Jane reminds us that growing up is a journey full of surprises, disappointments and courageous decisions. In *Jane of the Jungle* those moments of overwhelming emotion turn into delightful song and dance. Jane says goodbye to some friends and welcomes new ones into her life. It is something that we all go through. For some it is an easy time and for others it is a constant struggle. It is an awkward, thrilling and wonderful ride that reminds us that no matter what, we must stay true to ourselves.

—Michelle Lopez-Rios

DRAMATURGY NOTE

With the start of sixth grade approaching, the almost-middle schoolers in *Jane of the Jungle* wake up one day to find that their comfortable suburban world is now a jungle, and they have transformed into animals overnight. Where there once was the familiar suburban landscape, there are now vines and trees, their friends are unrecognizable, and their neighborhood is anomalous. For some, this is a playground of new possibilities; however, for Jane, the jungle is distressing. She has become a cheetah, which will surely complicate her chance to shine at the Too-Cool-Almost-Middle-School-All-Girl-Party. Chronicling Jane's journey deeper into the jungle of adulthood, Karen Zacarias and Deborah Wicks La Puma's play depicts the uncomfortable and beautiful moments of growing up.

When I was Jane's age, I was more in touch with the uncomfortable moments than the beautiful. I walked with a bounce, my voice cracked, and I desperately wanted to fit in with the cool kids. Social frustration was the staple of my adolescence. This was the time of short-lived relationships, social and bodily unrest, and cliques. I can only appreciate the beauty of that time in hindsight. Looking back at my middle school years, I laugh at how my friends and I started at least three a cappella groups (often with the same members), traded "silly bandz," and jammed out to Owl City's *Fireflies* unironically.

Now as an adult, I live vicariously through Jane when she feels both anticipation and fear about the contents of a mysterious purple letter that just might change her life. I reminisce in the slang of years past every time Kayla and Jane describe something as TC, or Totally Cool. Adolescence is often remembered for its ugliness; however, the play highlights several moments of the intimate and alluring aspects of growing up.

In *Jane of the Jungle*, it's Jane's mom who best understands the changes that Jane is going through. She says to her daughter: "You are Jane. That's your name. Jane the brave, you will face the Sun and Rain. Jane the strong, you'll feel joy and pain. Whatever the jungle may contain, you'll remain."

—Jordan Scott Hardesty

BIOGRAPHIES

Brandon Brooks (*Steve/Ensemble*) BFA3/Acting. Brandon is a Minneapolis-based actor, musician, and baseball writer. Selected credits include Theater Latte Da, the History Theatre, and over 10 productions at the Tony Award-winning Children's Theatre Company. Theatre School credits include *Twelfth Night*.

Sarah Collins (*Nicolette/Ensemble*) BFA3/Acting. Sarah is from Houston, Texas. Her previous credits at The Theatre School include *Fray the Tethers*, *Kodachrome*, *Other Desert Cities*, *Otherside*, and *The Wolves*.

Julie Gester (*Joanne/Nicolette's Mom*) BFA3/Acting. Prior to The Theatre School, Julie produced and starred in the one-woman-show *The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe*. Her Theatre School credits include *Stains: True Stories of, KodaChrome* (the Photographer), *Under Milk Wood* (Mrs. Beynon, Mrs. Dai Bread II, Mrs. Willy Nilly et. all), *Otherside*, and *Oedipus* (Tiresias).

Eamon Hurd (*Milo*) BFA3/Acting. Eamon is from Park Ridge, IL. Theatre School credits include *The Wong Kids in the Secret of the Space Chupacabra*, *Go!* and *A Dybbuk or Between Two Worlds*.

Ryan Kirby (*Kayla's Dad/RG*) BFA3/Acting. Ryan hails from Wheaton, Illinois. Theatre School credits include: *Godspell* (Jesus), *Like It* (Jack), *Other Desert Cities* (Trip), *Significant Other* (Jordan), and *A Dybbuk or Between Two Worlds* (Sender).

Bridget Painter (*Mom/Samantha*) BFA3/Acting. Bridget is from Ridgewood, New Jersey. Theatre School credits include: *Other Desert Cities* (Brooke), *One Flea Spare* (Darcy) and *Dry Land* (Amy).

Elle Rojas (*Kelly/Beth*) BFA3/Acting. Elle is from Long Island, New York. This is her 2nd show at The Theatre School and a return to musicals. Her most recent credit was Shepard in *Oedipus Rex*.

Virginia Rose (*Mackenzie/Chris*) BFA3/Acting. Credits include #00 in *The Wolves*,

Kaylee in *Good Samaritans*, and Olivia in *Like It*.

Sydney Silver (*Jane*) BFA3/Acting. Sydney was born and raised in Jersey City, New Jersey. Theatre School credits include *A Dybbuk or Between Two Worlds*, *Fray the Tethers*, and *A Doll's House*. Other performances include *A Chorus Line* (Edinburgh Fringe Festival) and *Legally Blonde* (Jay Todd Black Box Theatre). When Sydney is not acting, she enjoys teaching children's dance and theatre classes.

Courtney Tucker (*Kayla*) MFA2/Acting. Courtney previously earned her BA in Theatre & Speech from The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. Past Theatre School credits include: *The Wolves* (#25) and *Twelfth Night* (Maria).

Lauren Zinser (*Britany/Pat*) BFA3/Acting. Lauren is from Lake Wylie, South Carolina. Her recent work includes *One Flea Spare* and *Kodachrome* at The Theatre School.

Michelle Lopez-Rios (*Director*) is an Associate Professor of Voice & Speech at The Theatre School at DePaul. Directing credits include *Chapatti* (Milwaukee Chamber Theatre); *The Mole Hill Stories* (First Stage); *Precious Lives* (371 Productions); *Enfrascada* (Renaissance Theaterworks); and *One Hot Texican Summer* (or *the Summer I Found out I was Mexican*) (Royal Mexican Players). She will direct *Luchadora!* next fall.

Mark Elliott (*Musical Director*) has taught Musical Theatre Performance at The Theatre School, DePaul University in Chicago for over thirty years. Recent productions at The Theatre School include *Into the Woods*, *In the Heights*, *Spring Awakening*, *Cabaret*, *Urinetown*, *The Last Five Years*, *A New Brain*, and *Assassins*. He has provided musical direction for over one hundred fifty productions for theatres throughout the country. He has composed original scores and incidental music for nearly eighty productions, including the Off-Broadway productions of *Sophie*, *Totie and Belle* and *Fair City*, commissioned by Roosevelt

University. He is a published composer and lyricist.

Riley Coduto (*Assistant Director*) BFA3/Theatre Arts/TYA. Riley assistant directed *Junie B. Jones is Not a Crook* at The Theatre School last winter. She has interned at the Chicago Children's Theatre as well as the Children's Theatre Company in Minneapolis (CTC). This summer, Riley will be working as a teaching assistant at CTC in their Theatre Arts Training program.

Katie DeSalvo (*Choreographer*) is a fellow DePaul alumnae. She has choreographed extensively with St. Patrick's High School since 2009, from *Wizard of Oz* to *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolored Dreamcoat*. She traveled across Europe touring with the On Broadway Dancers, performs contemporary repertoire with her company Reveries in Motion, and socially dances tango with the 312 Movement in Chicago.

Kiera Pitts (*Costume Designer*) BFA4/Costume Design. Kiera is from Longmont, Colorado. *Jane of the Jungle* is her fifth production as lead costume designer at The Theatre School. Previous design credits include *Water by the Spoonful* (2019), *Satyagraha: Gandhi/King* (2018), *Into the Woods* (2017) and the elevated studio production of *Trouble in Mind* (2016).

Maegan Fahy (*Assistant Costume Designer*) BFA2/Costume Design. Her past credits for the 2018-2019 year include Assistant Design work on *King Oedipus* by Sophocles and on *Falling* by Deanna Jent.

Natalia Janusz (*Lighting Designer*) BFA4/Lighting Design. Natalia Janusz recently returned from the Costa Rican jungle after a job at a music festival. She is a Chicago native but is often traveling, managing and creating art installations for different events. Natalia's Theatre School design credits include *A Dybbuk or Between Two Worlds* and *Satyagraha: Gandhi/King*. She owns her own company, Dark Moon Designs.

BIOGRAPHIES [cont.]

Alexis Handler (*Assistant Lighting Designer*) BFA3/Lighting Design. Alexis' lighting design credits at The Theatre School include: *Falling*, *Desert Stories for Lost Girls*, *Big Love* (co-designer Sim Carpenter), and *Still*. Assistant Lighting Design credits: *Water by the Spoonful* and *Mansfield Park* (Northlight Theatre). Master Electrician credits at The Theatre School include *Mr. Burns, a Post-Electric Play* and *Augusta and Noble*. Alexis volunteers in production at Willow Creek Community Church.

Averi Paulsen (*Associate Sound Designer*) BFA2/Sound Design. Recently, Averi was the Sound Designer for The Theatre School's production of *King Oedipus*. Their other credits at The Theatre School include work on *Augusta and Noble*, *Growing Up Blue*, and *She Kills Monsters*. Averi will be designing *Luchadora!* on the Merle Reskin stage in the fall.

Jordan Scott Hardesty (*Dramaturg*) BFA3/Dramaturgy and Dramatic Criticism. Jordan Scott Hardesty is an opera and theater dramaturg originally from Charlotte, North Carolina. Upcoming Theatre School credits include *Mud* and *The Rover*. In addition to dramaturgy, Jordan is the Co-Editor-in-Chief of *The Grappler*, an online magazine connected to the BFA Dramaturgy/Criticism program. He is a proud member of the Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas.

Maggie Hoffecker (*Production Stage Manager*) BFA4/Stage Management. Theatre School credits include *Native Son*, *Richard III*, *Growing Up Blue*, *Wig Out!*, *The Kid Who Ran for President*, and *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*. Maggie recently returned from London, England after spending the autumn studying at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama where she deputy stage managed *The American Clock*.

Amanda Blanco (*Stage Manager*) BFA3/Stage Management. Previous Theatre School credits include: *Dry Land*; *Water by the Spoonful*; *Desert Stories for Lost Girls*;



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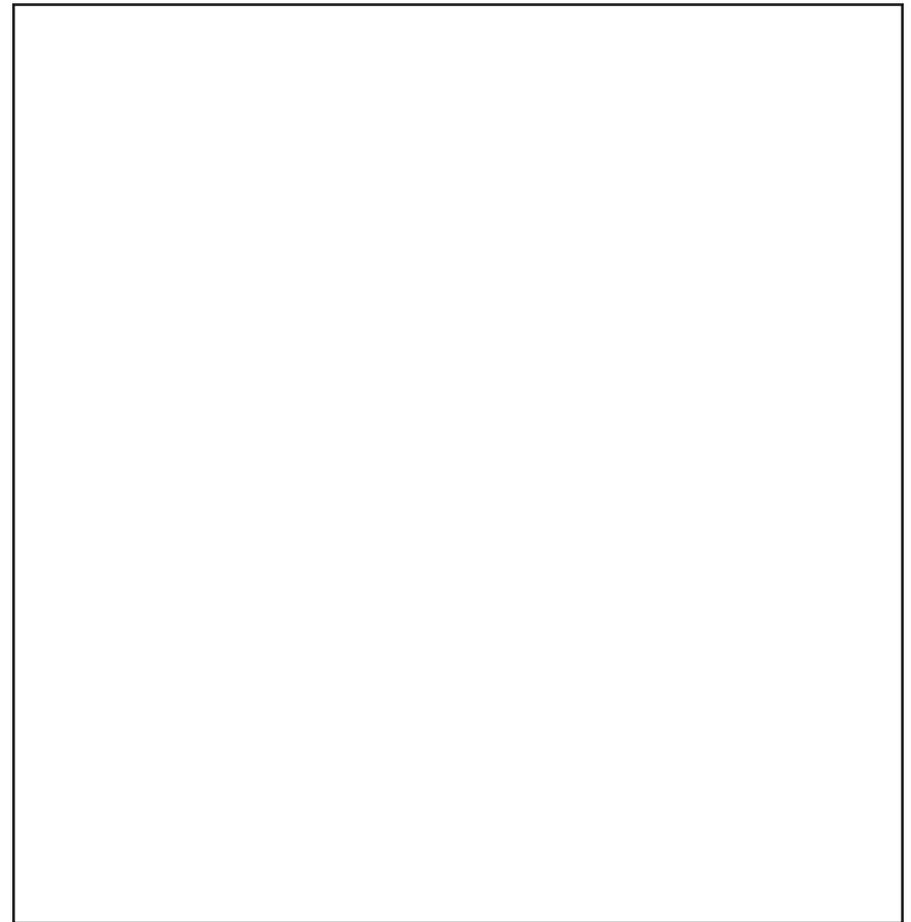
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CHICAGO PLAYWORKS DRAWING CONTEST

Draw yourself as an animal and be entered to win 20 tickets to the first production of our 2019–2020 season: *Luchadora!* Only people aged 5–18 are eligible.

Entries must be received by Wednesday, June 5, 2019.



Give your completed drawing to an usher at the theatre or send it to:
Chicago Playworks Contest, The Theatre School, 2350 N. Racine, Chicago, IL 60614.

Name _____

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BIOGRAPHIES [cont.]

Mr. Burns, a Post-Electric Play; Augusta and Noble; Cinderella: The Remix; Richard III; and Romeo and Juliet. Amanda is also a Spanish Double Major and a Latin American/Latino Studies minor.

Ellen Sypolt (*Assistant Stage Manager*) BFA2/Stage Management. Ellen grew up in Bangkok, Thailand, where she primarily stage managed dance and special events. Previous credits at DePaul include *I and You* (stage manager), DePaul Dance Company (stage manager), *She Kills Monsters* (assistant stage manager), and *Water by the Spoonful* (assistant stage manager). She will be the stage manager for *Polaroid Stories* this fall in the Healy Theatre.

Kate Petralia (*Assistant Stage Manager*) BFA1/Stage Management. Kate is originally from Portland, Oregon where she worked on many shows in both high school and professional settings. Here at The Theatre School, she has worked on *She Kills Monsters* and *A Dybbuk or Between Two Worlds*.

Kyle Bajor (*Master Electrician*) BFA2/Lighting Design. This is Kyle's second show this year as a master electrician. Other credits include lighting designer of *King Oedipus, The Wolves, and I'm Such a Water Activist*, and master electrician for *She Kills Monsters*.

THEATRE SCHOOL FACULTY/STAFF

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Theatre School at DePaul University educates, trains, and inspires students of theatre in a conservatory setting that is rigorous, disciplined, culturally diverse and that strives for the highest level of professional skill and artistry.

A commitment to diversity and equality in education is central to our mission. As an integral part of the training, The Theatre School produces public programs and performances from a wide repertoire of classic, contemporary, and original plays that challenge, entertain, and stimulate the imagination. We seek to enhance the intellectual and cultural life of our university community, our city, and the profession. For admissions information, telephone (773) 325-7999 or 1-800-4-DEPAUL.

CHICAGO PLAYWORKS FOR FAMILIES AND YOUNG AUDIENCES

Chicago Playworks offers a live theatre experience to students, teachers and parents in the Chicago metropolitan area. It is our mission to provide theatre for children that reflects their experiences in a contemporary, multi-ethnic, urban environment.

Founded as the Goodman Children's Theatre in 1925, Chicago Playworks is the city's oldest continuously operating children's theatre. It has been the first theatre experience for audiences of Chicago's young people for more than seven decades and was one of the first major theatres for children in the United States. In 1997 and again in 2003, Chicago Playworks was honored by the Illinois Theatre Association with the Children's Theatre Division Award, for its outstanding long-term contribution to children's theatre. In 1980, Chicago Playworks was awarded the prestigious Sara Spencer Award by the Children's Theatre Association of America (now the American Alliance for Theatre and Education).

Chicago Playworks is a vital aspect of the training at The Theatre School at DePaul University. Students gain pre-professional experience in an extended run before a most demanding and appreciative audience. Chicago Playworks presents three unique productions to more than 35,000 young people each season and has entertained more than 1 million school children and families since 1925.

HISTORY

The Theatre School at DePaul University was founded as the Goodman School of Drama in 1925, made possible by a gift of \$250,000 from William and Erna Goodman to the Art Institute of Chicago. The gift was in memory of their son, Kenneth Sawyer Goodman, a playwright. Kenneth dreamed about opening a theatre that combined a repertory company with a dramatic arts school, where classes would be taught by professional artists and actors.

In 1975 the trustees of the Art Institute of Chicago voted to phase out the Goodman School of Drama over a three-year period. Luckily, DePaul University stepped in and embraced the Goodman School of Drama to keep alive a tradition of dramatic programming. DePaul's first theatre, The College Theatre, opened on the Lincoln Park Campus in 1907.

Throughout the years, The Theatre School at DePaul University has grown in reputation and stature. Our home at Fullerton and Racine opened in September 2013 and was designed by the internationally renowned architect César Pelli and his firm Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects.

To learn more about our history, please visit theatre.depaul.edu

To donate to The Theatre School, please visit: alumni.depaul.edu/givetotheatre

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OUR 2019–2020 SEASON

CHICAGO PLAYWORKS FOR FAMILIES AND YOUNG AUDIENCES

Luchadora!

by Alvaro Saar Rios

directed by Michelle Lopez-Rios

October 3–November 9, 2019

Brooklyn Bridge

by Melissa James Gibson

directed by Coya Paz

January 16–February 22, 2020

A Wrinkle in Time

by Madeleine L'Engle, adapted by Tracy Young

directed by Jeff Mills

April 16–May 23, 2020



IN THE WATTS THEATRE

Our Lady of Kibeho

by Katori Hall

directed by Phyllis E. Griffin

November 1–10, 2019

(previews 10/30 & 10/31)

The Rover

by Aphra Behn

directed by Melanie Queponds

February 14–23, 2020

(previews 2/12 & 2/13)

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time

based on the novel by Mark Haddon,

adapted by Simon Stephens

directed by Ben Raanan

May 8–17, 2020

(previews 5/6 & 5/7)

IN THE HEALY THEATRE

Polaroid Stories

by Naomi Iizuka

directed by Stephanie LeBolt

October 18–27, 2019

(previews 10/16 & 10/17)

Neighborhood 3: Requisition of Doom

by Jennifer Haley

directed by Mallory Metoxen

January 31–February 9, 2020

(previews 1/29 & 1/30)

New Playwrights Series

title, playwright, and director TBA

May 22–31, 2020

(previews 5/20 & 5/21)





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