



Esplanade  
Presents

March On

# Akram Khan Company

# Jungle Book reimaged

## Pre-Event Guide

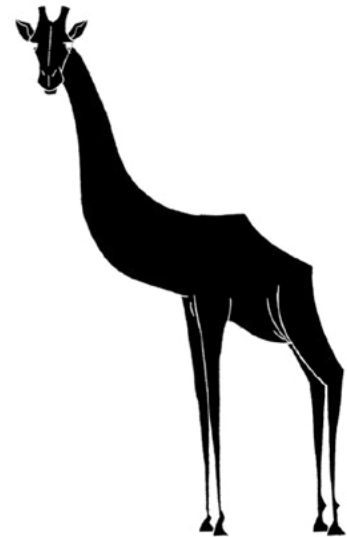


This Pre-Event Guide is for anyone who would like to know more about *Jungle Book* reimaged before the performance.

We will tell you more about what to expect from the show, with an introduction to the characters and story.

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# The Show

Jungle Book reimagined is by Akram Khan Company.

The show is based on a collection of stories called The Jungle Book by English author Rudyard Kipling. It was written in 1894.

Akram Khan has thought about this old story in a new way.

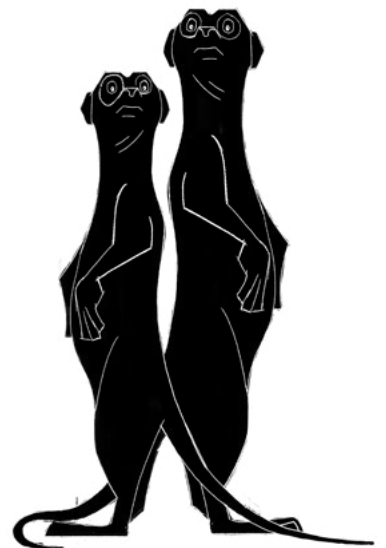
In Akram Khan's version of the story the main character Mowgli is a **refugee** child. A **refugee** is someone who has been forced to leave their home country.

Mowgli has to escape her home because of flooding caused by **climate change**.

**Climate change** is the long-term change to the Earth's temperatures and weather. It can happen naturally. But humans have caused climate change to happen faster.

The show helps us to think about how humans and the natural world have lived together. It reminds us that humans have damaged the world in many different ways. But it helps us to re-imagine how we can live together in a good balance.

The story is told through movement and words. The dancers play lots of different characters. The dancers on stage do not speak, but their character's voices are part of the soundtrack.





# Before the show starts

These are some things to know about the show and your visit to the theatre.

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**The show is around 2 hours long.**

**Act One lasts for 55 minutes.**

There is then an interval, which is a short break for 20 minutes. You can get a drink, go to the toilet, and do what you need to be comfortable.

**Act Two lasts for about 45 minutes.**

**Act One**



**Act Two**



As you come into the theatre it might be noisy with people talking and finding their seats.

You can bring headphones or ear defenders with you if you like.

When the show is about to start the lights in the theatre will go a bit darker. This is meant to happen.



At **Relaxed Environment (RE) performances** you can:

- Make noise if you want to
- Go in and out of the theatre
- You can go to the Calm Space if you want to

# What to expect

Going to the theatre can be really exciting but we also know it can be overwhelming at times.

This show can be loud, bright and fast-paced, some of the effects we use or the themes we explore can be surprising or upsetting.

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## Projections

There is a screen at the back of the stage and a thin see-through screen at the front of the stage.

Images and videos are projected onto these screens.

The projections help to create the scene and show different places.



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## Themes of climate change and the climate emergency

In the show there are scenes with extreme weather such as flooding, storms, rain, lightning.

**Themes of refugees and people having to leave their homes due to extreme weather, war and other disasters.**

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**Themes of animals being mistreated by humans, such as hunting.**

There is discussion and depiction of hunting and guns.

There are scenes where animals get hurt and a scene where an animal dies.

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**Music and sound effects that will be loud at times.**

At the end of this document there is a sonic story which shows the points when the sound levels change.

Sudden and loud noises include:

- Gunshots
  - Explosions
  - Radio broadcasts and static
  - Growling and animal noises
- 

In the section called 'The story in Act One and Act Two' it will tell you more information about these specific moments that might be loud or scary.

# The Characters

The dancers play different characters in the work.

They do not wear animal costumes but they show what character they are with the way they move.



**Mowgli**

A young refugee. She appears on stage and in the projections.



**Bagheera**

A panther who helps take care of Mowgli.



**Baloo**

A bear. Humans used to make him perform as a Dancing Bear.



**Kaa**

A snake who used to live in a zoo. Dancers use cardboard boxes to make the body.





### **The Bandar-log**

A group of monkeys who were experimented on by humans. Scientists did tests on them.



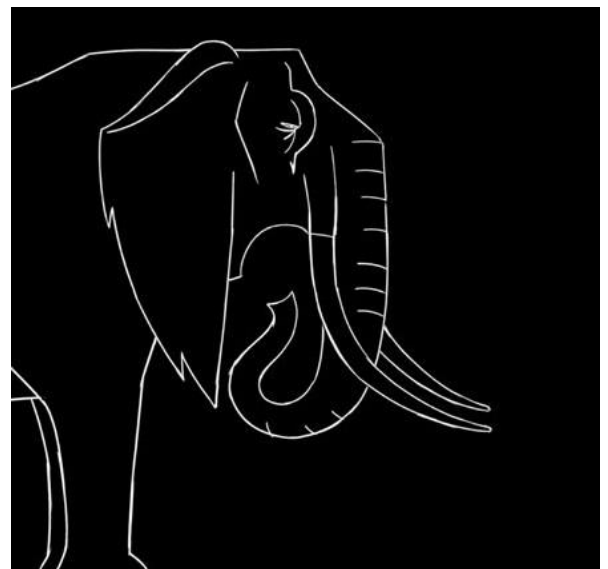
### **Specimen 1**

One of the Bandar-log. They like to listen to an old radio that plays speeches from humans.



### **Chil**

Chil is a type of bird called a Kite. Chil is only in the projections.



### **Kathi**

The leader of the Elephants. Kathi is only in the projections.

Other characters include Mowgli's Mother who we see in the projections.

There are also lots of different animals. There is a wolf pack. There is an animal council, which is a group of animals who make decisions.



# The Plot

This section includes details about the plot. You can skip over this section if you do not want to know what happens.

Things that might be surprising or scary are outlined in a box.

## Act One

### Opening

Radio and news stories explain that climate change has led to sea levels rising.

Humans have been made to leave their homes to escape the floods.

Sounds of radio static and police sirens.

Some news stories talk about extinction and death.

There is a sudden blackout at the end of this scene.



### Storm

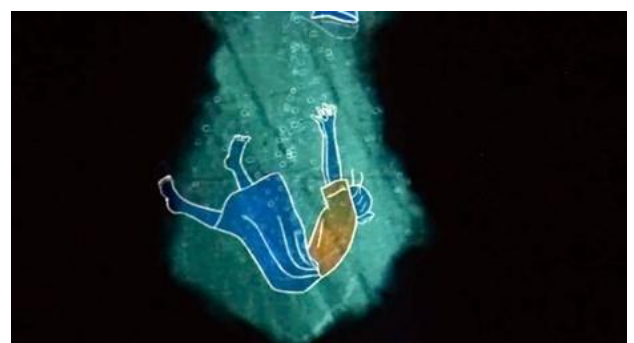
In the projection - a rainstorm begins and the world starts to flood.

Families try to escape the water on rafts and boats.

A bird struggles onto a raft and a child tries to save it. The child falls from the raft but is saved by whales.

The child starts to drown but she isn't hurt.

Lightning flashes in the storm.



## Wolf Pack

The child ends up in a flooded city. With humans gone the animals have taken over.

The child is found by a wolf pack. **Raksha** the wolf wants to protect and keep the child. Another wolf **Rama** thinks humans bring danger and they shouldn't keep the child.

The wolves take the child to the animal council to decide what to do.

The wolves growl and speak in loud voices.



## The Animal Council

The animal council are unsure of what to do with the child.

They worry she is dangerous and it could mean humans are returning. They talk about a mysterious hunter who is a human.

**Bagheera** the panther, gets told to look after the child. The council names the child **Mowgli**.

After the animals talk about the hunter, Mowgli remembers a time she was scared of humans with guns. There is a gunshot.



## Searching for food

Mowgli searches for food with Bagheera and **Baloo**. They discover Mowgli is useful because she can open cans.

Mowgli remembers hunting animals with her mother. In her memory she argues they should not hunt and eat animals. Her mother tells her that all animals should be treated with respect and humans must live in balance with nature.

In her memory Mowgli aims a bow and arrow at a deer but she does not shoot it.



## The Bandar-log

A group of monkeys called the **Bandar-log** take Mowgli from Bagheera and Baloo.

The Bandar-Log are lab monkeys. Humans used to experiment on them.

There are sounds of drumming and lab sounds like buzzers and heart monitors.

It gets dark and light flickers out.



## Finding Kaa

Bagheera and Baloo need to rescue Mowgli.

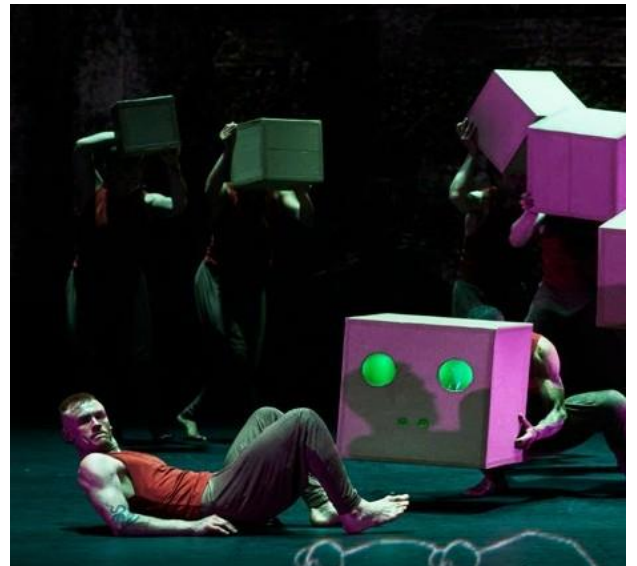
They think of a plan to find an animal that scares the Bandar-log.

They find **Kaa**, the python.

Kaa can hypnotise people. Hypnotise means putting someone in a trance, like being asleep.

She hypnotises Bagheera who dreams of her homeland. Baloo wakes Bagheera from it and mentions Mowgli is a human.

Kaa is interested because she wants to eat her. But she agrees to help them find Mowgli.



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## This is the end of Act One.

There will be a short break of 20 minutes.



# Act Two

## The Bandar-log's Den

Mowgli is taken to the Bandar-log's den. They live in an old government building.

Before humans left, when the Bandar-log were trapped in cages, they listened and copied the humans.

They want Mowgli to teach them more about being human.

Most importantly they want Mowgli to show them how to make fire.



## Making Fire

Just as Mowgli is about to show the Bandar-log how to make fire, Baloo and Bagheera find her.

They know animals can't control fire so they stop her.

In the projections there is smoke and fire, then fireworks. There are also sounds of explosions.



## Escaping

They escape with the help of Kaa who distracts the Bandar-log.

Mowgli remembers her family, she gets upset.

Baloo tells her off, but Bagheera says to go easy on Mowgli.





## Kathi's Story

They return to the animal council. The animals decide Mowgli can stay as she helped to find food.

**Kathi**, the leader of the elephants, tells a very old story about the creation of the jungles and nature.

Kathi talks about how humans have changed. The animals used to live peacefully with humans, but now they don't.

As Kathi tells the story the dancers look like they are fighting.

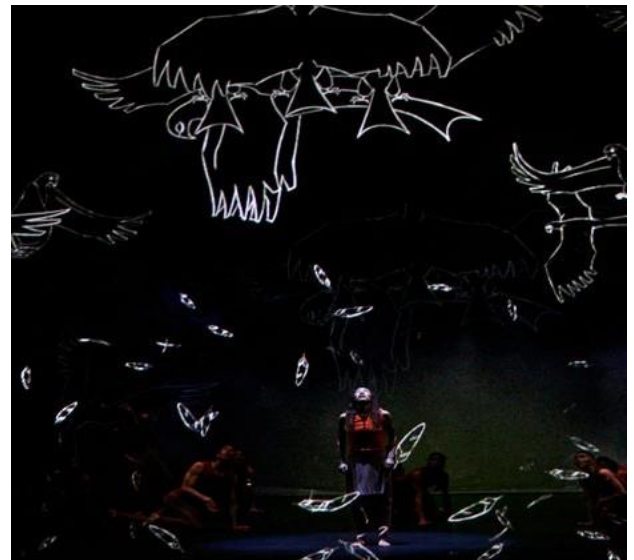


## Chil is shot

**Chil** is shot out of the sky by the hunter.

The animals and Mowgli watch as other birds take his body and carry it away peacefully.

The animals know they are no longer safe and need to search for a new home.



## Finding the hunter

Mowgli wants to protect her new friends so decides to find the hunter. The hunter, like many humans, is violent towards the animals.

There is a fight. The hunter shoots Bagheera but she survives. Mowgli gets the hunters gun.

Mowgli fires the gun into the air twice. It is not a real gun but there are gun shot sounds.



## The waters return

A storm begins. The hunter is washed away in the waves. The waters are rising. The animals are not safe and need to find a new home.

There is lightning during the storm.



## Mowgli's decision

The animals ask Mowgli if she wants to stay with them or find her family. She chooses to leave.

The animals are sad but they hope that Mowgli will teach the other humans to listen to the planet, to look after the world and the animals.

Mowgli gets on a raft and waves goodbye.



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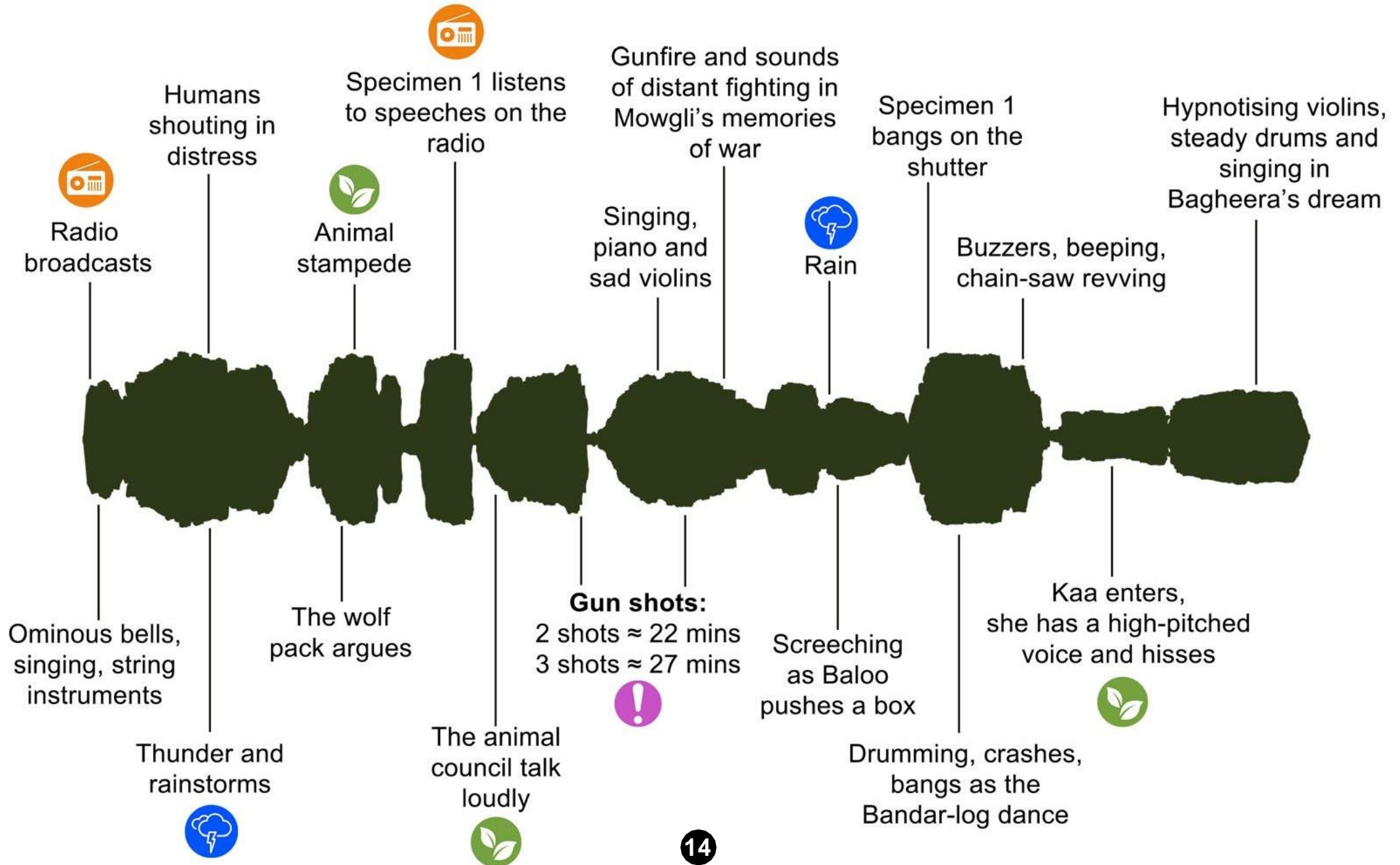
## This is the end of Act Two.

At the end of the show the dancers will line up and take a bow.

People will clap. Some people might even 'whoop' and make other noises to show they enjoyed it.

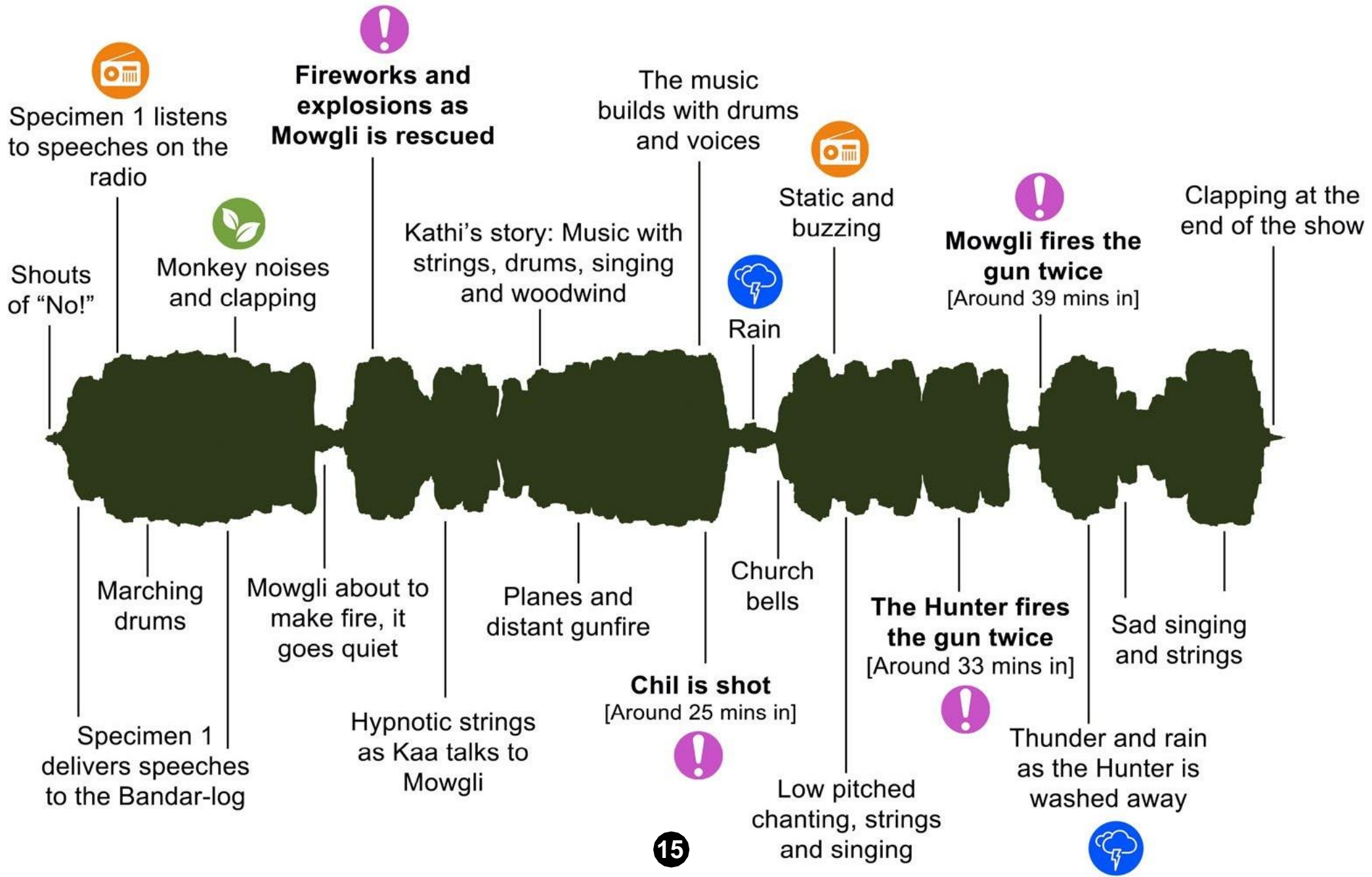
You can join in if you want to but you don't have to.

# Sonic Story: Act One





# Sonic Story: Act Two





# Find out more

If you would like to find out more about Jungle Book reimagined, there are videos and interviews on our website:



[www.akramkhancompany.net/productions/jungle-book-reimagined/](http://www.akramkhancompany.net/productions/jungle-book-reimagined/)

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