

# "THE JUNGLE BOOK-KIDS" PRODUCTION HITS THE STAGE THIS WEEKEND

By Ron Barry



They may not quite be ready to take home any Oscars or Tonys when they're finished, but if you want to see a gaggle of local PreK-Third graders give it their all in a musical, the Arts Council of Crockett County has just the production for you this weekend.

An adaptation of the Disney classic "The Jungle Book" - "Kids" edition - will be the featured attraction at Crockett County High School's Little Theater, with shows at 7:00 p.m. Friday (Jan.31) and Saturday (Feb. 1) and at 2:00 p.m. Sunday (Feb. 2), offering the opportunity for 55 local youngsters to get their feet wet in the arts.

Directed by Betsy Boals and produced by Lauren Goolsby, the show is the story of the "man cub" Mowgli (Oakleigh Marbury), determined to live in the jungle despite its many dangers. Protected by her panther friend Bagheera (James Sukpat), and later by Baloo (Gunner Byrd) the bear, Mowgli must deal with a cunning snake, elephants, monkeys, vultures, and especially a ferocious tiger named Shere Kahn (Joe Spraggins). Eventually befriended by Shanti (Annie Matlock), a girl who offers to take her to the "village" - after she's been in the jungle all during Mowgli's adventure, disguised as a coconut tree - Mowgli has to make a decision.

The show features a number of songs, notably "The Bear Necessities," an iconic Disney staple from the original animated movie.

The cast performed two shows at CCHS Tuesday for their school friends from Crockett County, and are ready now to go prime-time Friday night. Tickets are \$12 and are available from the Arts Council of Crockett County through its Facebook page or by contacting a cast member.

Some scenes from the Tuesday school shows... (Photos by Ron Barry)









