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Dramatic Publishing

JANE OF THE JUNGLE

Small-Cast Version

Book and lyrics by Karen Zacarías.

Music by Deborah Wicks La Puma.



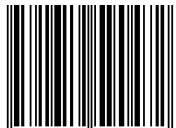


JANE OF THE JUNGLE

Small-Cast Musical. Book and lyrics by Karen Zacarias. Music by Deborah Wicks La Puma. Cast: 2 to 3m., 4 to 8w. Jane is an ordinary girl, complete with a bratty little brother, Milo. But she and her best friend, Kayla, are on the verge of big changes. Middle school is looming, and what could be better than getting an invitation to popular Nicolette Miller's party? Yet nothing compares to the jolt Jane gets when she wakes up to discover she has acquired furry ears and a tail, and Kayla is turning into a bird! Not only that, but her neighborhood seems to be a jungle! As Jane, Kayla and Milo navigate the jungle to the party, they run into "packs" of friends not invited. At every turn, Jane is confronted with difficult choices, but none as hard as when Kayla urges her to ditch Milo. How can she tame all these conflicting wild feelings inside of her? This inventive musical takes a wild approach to everything kids must go through before they're truly "grown up." *Area staging. Approximate running time: 60 minutes. Code: J73.*

Cover photos: South Coast Repertory, Costa Mesa, Calif., featuring (l-r) (back) Eymard Cabling, Renée Brna, Derek Manson and Elia Saldana and (front) Eymard Cabling, Jamey Hood, Renée Brna and Erika Whalen. Photo: Henry DiRocco/South Coast Repertory. Cover design: Molly Germanotta.

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Jane of the Jungle

(Small-Cast Version)

Book and lyrics by
KAREN ZACARÍAS

Music by
DEBORAH WICKS LA PUMA



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Book and lyrics by KAREN ZACARÍAS
Music by DEBORAH WICKS LA PUMA

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Jane of the Jungle (Small-Cast Version) was commissioned and premiered at South Coast Repertory Theatre, Costa Mesa, Calif., on May 25, 2012.

Cast:

Jane RENÉE BRNA
Kayla ELIA SALDANA
Milo EYMARD CABLING
Mom/Joanne/Samantha JAMEY HOOD
Steve Collins/Kayla's Dad DEREK MANSON
Pat/Kelly/Nicolette Miller ERIKA WHALEN

Crew:

Director/Choreographer Juliette Carrillo
Music Director Deborha Wicks La Puma
Set Design Sara Ryung Clement
Costume Design Garry Lennon
Lighting Design Lonnie Rafael Alcaraz
Sound Design Sam Lerner
Choreographer Sheetal Gandhi
Dramaturg Kimberly Colburn
Production Manager Jackie S. Hill
Stage Manager Jennifer Ellen Butler

Jane of the Jungle

(Small-Cast Version)

CHARACTERS

JANE: A girl about to start middle school.

MILO: JANE's younger brother.

KAYLA: JANE's best friend.

MOM: JANE's mother. Also plays JOANNE and SAMANTHA.

PAT: JANE's friend. Also plays KELLY and NICOLETTE

MILLER, the most popular girl.

STEVE COLLINS: The cute boy. Also plays KAYLA'S DAD.

SETTING

Outside and inside a house in the suburbs.

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Jane of the Jungle

(Small-Cast Version)

(JANE in a spotlight, maybe on a swing in her yard, holding an envelope. She sings out to audience.)

(#1: “The Envelope Opening”)

JANE.

I AM JANE
THAT’S MY NAME
JANE IS WRITTEN SO
BRIGHT AND CLEAR
ON THIS ENVELOPE
I HAVE HERE
WHAT COULD BE IN IT
JUST FOR ME?

(KAYLA enters.)

KAYLA. Hi, Jane!

JANE. Hey, Kayla!

KAYLA. What’s that?

JANE. I’m not sure ...

KAYLA *(taking the envelope)*. Let me see.

JANE. Hey!

KAYLA.

WHAT WE’VE GOT HERE
IS A MYSTERY
IT’S PAPER FILLED WITH

KAYLA (*cont'd*).

POSSIBILITY
THAT'S LIGHT AS AIR
AND SMELLS LIKE STRAWBERRY

JANE. I know! I love strawberries!

KAYLA.

IT LOOKS SO NORMAL
JUST LIKE YOU AND ME
BUT WHO KNOWS WHAT
IS HIDING INSIDE, SEE?
IT'S POWERFUL
I CAN GUARANTEE

JANE. Kayla, it's just a letter ...

KAYLA.

IT'S THE END OF SUMMER
AND SCHOOL'S WAITING TO START
WHEN FROM NOWHERE AN ENVELOPE
HAS SET YOU APART
FUN AND SCARY
THAT'S FOR SURES
SO BE CAREFUL
HERE—IT'S YOURS

(KAYLA hands it back to JANE. They stare at it. MILO bursts in, followed by MOM, who is overburdened with groceries, bags and a ball.)

MILO. Hello!!

MOM. Jane, we're home. Hi Kayla. Milo made a goal today!

MILO. Me and Mr. Monkey both did. *(To the girls.)* Mr. Monkey says, "Hi."

MOM. Jane, I bought you a new backpack. It's very middle school, don't you think?

MILO. What are you guys looking at?

MOM. Jane?

(MILO grabs the envelope from JANE.)

JANE. Milo!

MILO.

HMM, A LETTER, YES IT LOOKS OFFICIAL
SMELLY, PURPLE, BLAH IT'S NOTHING SPECIAL
(To JANE.)
HERE'S YOUR NAME

JANE. Yes, it's for me, give it back.

MILO.

I KNOW, LET'S PLAY A GAME

MOM *(taking the letter from MILO)*. Milo, stop that. *(Looking at the envelope.)*

INTERESTING—ON THIS SIDE IT STICKS
IT SAYS HELLO JANE WELCOME TO GRADE SIX
THERE'S NO ADDRESS
TO RETURN I GUESS

MILO *(taking the letter from MOM)*.

SO IT'S SMELLY AND SNEAKY?

JANE *(taking the letter from MILO)*.

NO IT'S SPARKLY AND NICE

KAYLA *(taking the letter from JANE)*.

BUT WHICHEVER IT IS
JANE, MAYBE YOU SHOULD THINK TWICE
IS IT BAD NEWS?
IS IT GOOD?

JANE (*taking the letter from KAYLA*).

CAN I JUST OPEN IT?

MILO & MOM.

YOU SHOULD!

(JANE goes to tear it open)

KAYLA. No, WAIT! Jane, you need to figure out who it's from first!

JANE. Ouch!

KAYLA. What happened?

JANE. A paper cut.

KAYLA. I told you that is a powerful envelope. Beware.

JANE. Kayla, you crack me up.

MOM. Maybe it's a letter from your friends Joanne or Pat. They're in camp, aren't they?

KAYLA. I don't think it's from Joanne or Pat.

JANE. Yeah, this is definitely not from Camp Winnarainbow.

MOM. I'll get you a bandaid, green bean. *(Exits.)*

MILO. Maybe it's from Steve!

KAYLA & JANE. Steve?

(STEVE scoots in on his scooter.)

STEVE. Did someone call me?

MILO, KAYLA & JANE. Steve!

STEVE. Hey guys! What's up? What are you looking at?

(MILO takes the envelope and hands it to STEVE.)

MILO. Here!

JANE. Milo! (*To STEVE.*)
OH IT'S NOTHING—

KAYLA.
—A MYST'RY!
AND IT CALLS HER BY NAME

MILO & KAYLA.
JANE KEEPS STARING AT IT, BUT SHE WILL NOT
EXPLAIN

KAYLA.
WHY IT'S SCARY

MILO.
WHY IT'S FUN

JANE.
WELL I DON'T KNOW WHO ITS FROM

Steve, did you write this letter to me?

STEVE. It's purple. Why would I write you a purple letter
when I can just scoot over from across the street?

JANE. Right!

STEVE (*handing her back the letter*). So anyway, how about
tomorrow we all go to the park? I can teach you tricks on
my ride. Scooting is not hard.

MILO. It's so great!

JANE. Um, OK.

KAYLA. I'll try.

STEVE. Promise?

JANE, KAYLA & MILO. Promise.

STEVE. Awesome. I'll come by tomorrow. Just bring your
helmet. Safety is very important.

JANE. Sure.

MOM (*entering*). Jane, here's a Hello Kitty band-aid. Oh, hello, Steve. I think you have something on your lip.

STEVE. Oh, thanks. Mrs. G. Had a glass of chocolate milk before I came over. Bye! See you tomorrow.

(STEVE rides away.)

MILO. I love Steve. And his scooter.

MOM. He's such a nice neighbor.

JANE & KAYLA. He's a boy.

MILO. Hey!

(MILO steals the envelope away, and the three begin running around, playing keep away.)

MOM. Milo! Jane—

MILO.

I'VE GOT YOUR LETTER

JANE.

THE ONE WITH MY NAME!

MOM.

NOW CAREFUL CHILDREN

KAYLA.

LISTEN TO ME JANE
YOU MUST BEWARE!

MOM.

PLEASE TAKE CARE!

MILO.

MAKE HER SHARE!

JANE.

HEY! THIS IS NOT A GAME!

MOM. Milo, please give Jane her letter.

(JANE chases MILO, KAYLA chases JANE, and MOM chases all three.)

JANE.	MILO.	KAYLA.	MOM.
I'LL GET IT	SMELLY	IT'S	MILO
GOOD OR BAD		PAPER	STOP
AND IT'S ALL	PURPLE	FILLED	THAT!
MINE		WITH	
SO NO MORE	NOTHING	POSSIBILITY	
SWIPING		IT'S	KAYLA
PLEASE, I'VE		PAPER	GET
DRAWN	SPECIAL	FILLED WITH	THAT!
THE LINE, I'LL	SO	NO DON'T	
OPEN IT!	OPEN IT!	OPEN IT!	

(MOM finally gets the envelope and hands it to JANE.)

MOM.

EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE

JANE. Thanks, Mom. *(She hesitates, holding the envelope.)*

THE NEXT STEP IS EASY
 WHAT SHOULD HAPPEN IS CLEAR
 I JUST OPEN THE ENVELOPE
 WITH NOTHING TO FEAR
 IT'S JUST PAPER
 IT'S JUST ME

KAYLA, MOM & MILO.

TIME TO OPEN IT AND—

(JANE opens the envelope and SCREAMS! End of song.)

JANE. A party!! A party!!! A Too-Cool-Almost-Middle-School-All-Girls-Party! There will be popcorn and pizza and beanbags and we're doing our nails. We will be watching *Vampires in Love Part II* ...

MILO. You can't. It's PG-13!

MOM. Who is inviting you?

JANE . Nicolette Miller!

MOM & MILO. Who is Nicolette Miller?

KAYLA. Nicolette Miller is TC! TOTALLY COOL!

MOM. I've never heard the expression TC before. Who is Nicolette Miller?

JANE. Nicolette Miller, Mom! I pointed her out at the pool!

MOM. Oh! The redhead on the high dive?

KAYLA. Nicolette Miller is the funnest, prettiest, most-popular girl. Her red hair is so awesome.

JANE. This is amazing. It's the biggest thing ever to happen to me.

KAYLA. Do you think there's a purple letter like this waiting for me at my house?

JANE. Oh. *(Looks at KAYLA.)* I really hope so.

KAYLA. I want to get an invitation to that party. But I'm here. Not there! Oh no! If I had a cellphone, I could be reachable anywhere. I need a cellphone!

MOM. Kayla, sweetie, you don't need a cell. Use my phone to call home.

KAYLA. Oh. Thanks, Mrs. G.

(Beat. The girls look at her.)

MOM. What's the matter, girls?

(The girls look at each other. KAYLA whispers in JANE's ear.)

JANE. Oh! OK. Mom, can Kayla have some privacy for her call?

MOM. Oh. Oh! OK. Sure. I'll be inside. Out of earshot. Sorting groceries. Shelling peas.

(MOM exits.)

JANE. Milo? Kayla needs Privacy.

MILO. Privacy?

KAYLA. Hi, Dad. Has an amazing girl with really, really red hair named Nicolette Miller sent me a big purple letter? Any color letter? No? Has she called for me? No? Nothing. OK. Bye.

(KAYLA hangs up and hands the phone to JANE. Beat.)

JANE. Maybe the mail is late. Maybe she'll call a little later.

KAYLA. Maybe.

(Pause.)

MILO *(beat)*. Whoa Kayla. You look so sad.

(KAYLA squeaks a sad little sigh.)

JANE. That invite doesn't change anything, Kayla. You are my best friend. No matter what.

KAYLA *(about to cry)*. Thanks ...

MILO. Do you need Mr. Monkey?

JANE. Kayla, why don't I call Nicolette—

KAYLA. And?

JANE. And ask if YOU can come!!!!

MILO. Yeah!

KAYLA. Yeah! No! Wait Jane. You can't do that!

JANE. Why not?

KAYLA. Nicolette could get mad. You shouldn't do it.

JANE. It's TC, Kayla; you are my best friend.

KAYLA. But asking to be invited ... is NTC.

JANE. Not totally cool.

(MILO looks at KAYLA.)

KAYLA. It just came to me.

JANE. Kayla, It's just a phone call. If she says no ... well ...

(JANE looks at the number on the invitation and begins to dial.)

KAYLA. Jane ...

(NICOLETTE MILLER appears in a spotlight, answering the phone.)

NICOLETTE. Hello Jello, Nicolette Miller speaking!

JANE. Nicolette? Hey, it's Jane!

NICOLETTE. Hey, Jane! Are you accepting my awesome invite to the Too-Cool-Almost-Middle-School-All-Girl-Party?

JANE. I sure am! Hey, I was just wondering if I could bring—

KAYLA. Don't do it!

JANE. Chips ... or something.

(KAYLA is writhing on the floor in agony.)

NICOLETTE. Got that covered! Just bring yourself. See you tomorrow.