

# THE JUNGLE BOOK

**Director:** Jon Favreau  
**Writers:** Justin Marks, Rudyard Kipling  
**Cast:** Neel Sethi, Bill Murray, Ben Kingsley, Scarlett Johansson, Idris Elba  
**Runtime:** 111 mins  
**Strength:** Good CGI, Great story-telling  
**Weakness:** Lack of songs  
**Rating:** 4/5

**PLOT:** A boy raised by a family of wolves since birth, now must leave the only home he's ever known when a terrifying tiger threatens to kill him. Protected by a loving panther and a free-spirited bear, the young boy meets a slithery python and an eloquent ape among a group of

jungle animals. The boy learns valuable life lessons as his journey leads to an adventure he would not forget.  
**REVIEW:** Based on Rudyard Kipling's classic story, The Jungle Book is a CGI generated movie that does justice to its predecessor from 1967. The whole movie revolves around Mowgli, the boy brought up by a pack of wolves, who races through the jungle in the company of his family and his feline guardian Bagheera, a black panther. Along his journey, Mowgli meets Baloo the Bear, who saves him from the grip of the menacingly enchanting snake Kaa. The tyrant orangutan King Louie

plays a vital role in making Mowgli's journey towards self-discovery harder. But no one compares to the likes of the true antagonist in the movie; the scarred Bengal Tiger Shere Khan who will stop at nothing to kill the boy.

The movie checks every box there is: from the captivating environment made by combining spectacular images of rain forests, crumbling temples, real waterfalls, realistic birds and mammals who do so much more than just talk, joke and sing. The movie goes beyond the general visual attempt to captivate the audience by use of sounds that create a tactile environ-

ment which makes the audience feel like they are witnessing the story right inside an Indian forest. It is almost the same experience a person would have from watching the 1967 animated Disney film, but with better visual narrations.

The film creates its own ecosystem based on Kipling's original story. The movie is a success in every way. This familiar, picturesque story of a young boy raised by animals will surely keep the audience entertained from the very first to the end of the credit scene.

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*Reviewed by Syed Ahnaf Sadeed*



**Director:** Maneesh Sharma  
**Writers:** Habib Faisal  
**Stars:** Shah Rukh Khan, Joelle Koissi, Mariola Jaworska  
**Strength:** Performance, VFX  
**Weakness:** Script  
**Runtime:** 138 minutes  
**Rating:** 3/5

**PLOT:** Gaurav, a diehard fan of movie star Aryan Khanna, heads to Mumbai in order to wish his idol a happy birthday. When things don't go according to plan, Gaurav's obsession with Aryan crosses the line.

**REVIEW:** Gaurav Chandna claims to be a doppelganger of Aryan Khanna, a Bollywood superstar. Not only for the looks, but also because he has personified Khanna at the local competitions and had always been the winner. So on the occasion of the superstar's birthday Gaurav heads to Mumbai for a 'meet-and-greet' with his childhood hero. Amidst the massive wave of fans at Aryan's doorstep,

Gaurav soon feels neglected. In order to grab Aryan's attention, he gets into trouble, but when his first encounter with the superstar turns out unpleasant, Gaurav decides to teach the star a lesson. Soon enough, his devotion turns into obsession and all hell breaks loose.

SRK's acting, especially that of a 'fanatic' was superb. As for the remaining cast, it was a job well done. The first half of the script was stimulating, but the second half tends to weigh heavy on unrealistic approaches and loses its vibe. It is the sheer essence of SRK's acting that kept the film afloat. The exceptional cinematography and cutting edge VFX complimented the film splendidly.

However, casting the 'Baadshah' of Bollywood in a film without romance or songs is a challenge in itself. It's up to the real fans now, on how long they intend to keep the "film rolling" at the box office.

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*Reviewed by Minam Haque*

## CLASSIC REVIEW

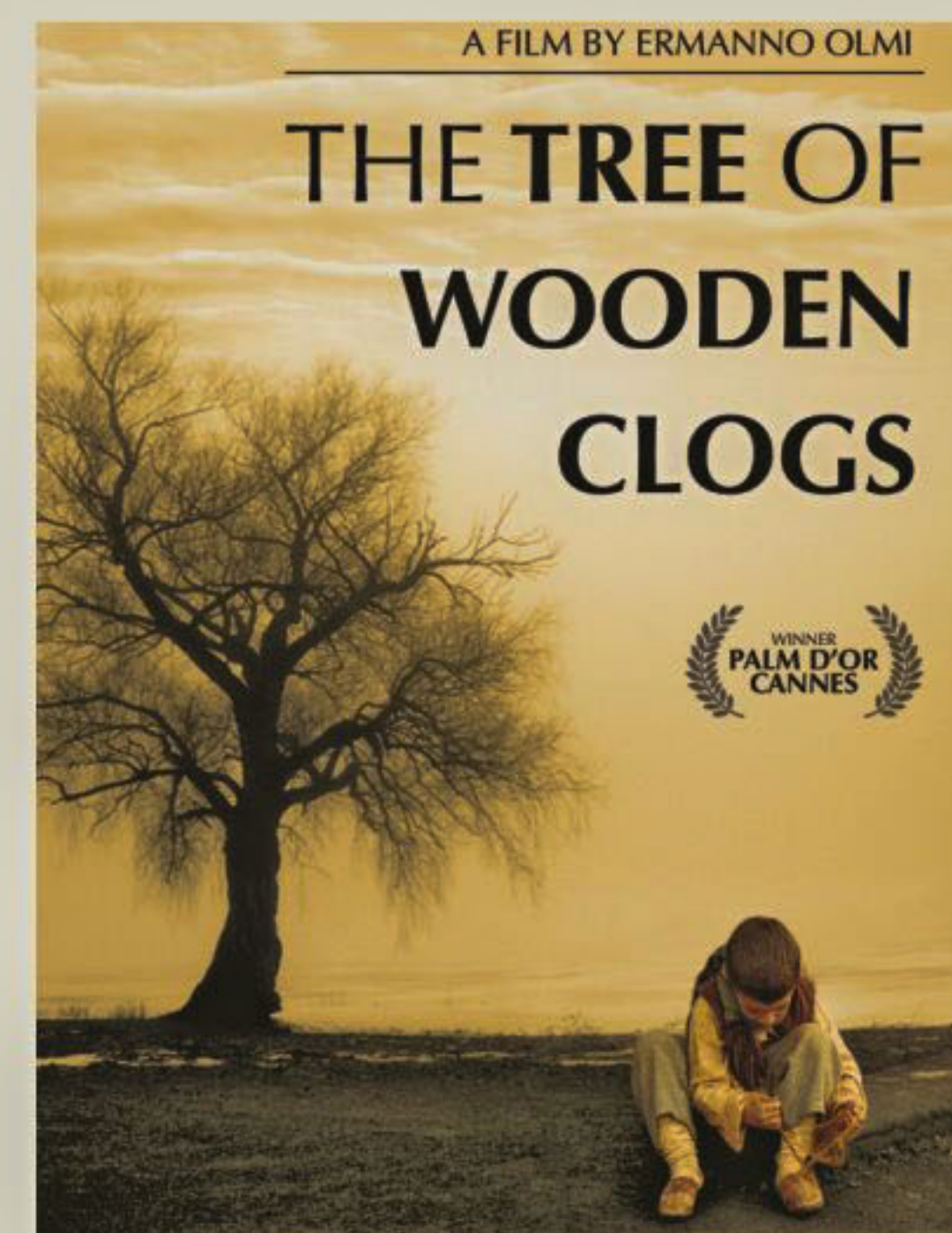
### THE TREE OF WOODEN CLOGS (1978)

**Director:** Ermanno Olmi  
**Writers:** Ermanno Olmi  
**Stars:** Luigi Ornaghi, Francesca Moriggi, Omar Brignoli  
**Runtime:** 186 minutes

**PLOT:** The life inside a farm in Italy at the beginning of the century.

**REVIEW:** The film covers approximately a year and focuses on the members of three peasant families who live a communal existence on a large estate owned by a landlord who, though a resident, could not seem more absentee if he lived in Southern California.

Mr. Olmi, who is his own cameraman as well as writer, director and editor, moves through these lives in the manner of someone remembering a long-gone past. The quality of the performances of the huge cast is staggeringly good. The faces are beautiful without being pretty. You may be particularly taken by some of the children, all of whom look a bit underfed and undersized, and by the relationship of an especially tiny little girl and her ancient grandfather, who grows tomatoes by his own secret



formula. Near the end there's a sequence that more or less exemplifies Mr. Olmi's method. It's a day-long trip by river boat to Milan where a young farm couple, on their honeymoon, witness a series of violent street demonstrations and never once question the reasons for the unrest. Politics are beyond them, though not Mr. Olmi.

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*Reviewed by Mohaiminul Islam*