

Mädchenblog-Interview mit Neel Sethi

How was playing a character that a lot of people around the world know so well for you?

I think it's amazing. Because when we did the first Screenings we saw how big the Jungle Book still is in India and all the other countries and how everybody seems to love it.

Do you remember the first time you saw the Cartoon Version of the film?

Yes, it was actually when I first heard about the audition. That's when I was like "Oh, I should watch this!". And my sister was actually helping me a lot. When I was learning the lines for the audition right before the audition she was like "We can watch the movie so you can remember the lines better." And I was completely hooked and really liked the movie and that helped a lot with the lines.

What was your first thought about the idea of making a remake of the Jungle Book, after you watched the Cartoon?

I thought it was going to be cool. Because I knew that with all that new technology it would turn out to be amazing. So I was very excited and wanted to be a part of it.

How was it for you to be the only actor in the movie, did that put a lot of pressure on you?

Not really, because there were so many people on set and on the crew supporting me. And Jon would let me interact with puppets of the animals sometimes and he talked a lot to me and explained how he imagined things to look and that made it a lot easier.

Have you spent any time in the jungle or was the whole movie shot in a studio?

It was all shot in a studio in LA.

How was that for you? How did you imagine being in the jungle?

I mean, if you think about it, if it was filmed in the real jungle, that would have been so much harder than it was this way.

What is your favorite character or your favorite animal from the movie?

Probably Shir Khan, because no one wants to mess with him. When he gets to peace rock for example everybody is like "Ok, everybody keep an eye out for Shir Khan." He's very dangerous, you know.

Do you think, that the characters like Shir Khan, which look so dangerous in the movie, will scare children in the theatres?

I don't think so. I feel like if you can watch the trailer and feel like it's not that scary, than you can definitely watch the film.

Is acting a career that you would like to persue?

Oh yes, definitely! It's so much fun. But I also want to be a dentist like my parents, and I also want to be a professional football player and baseball player.

What was the most fun part about acting and being in such a big movie?

That I got to make so many amazing memories on set. And that I made so many friends. Every time we go to LA now we meet with so many people of the crew and that is so amazing.

How long did the whole process of filming take?

It was a total of nine months. Three months of motion captures and six months live action.

And you spent the whole time in LA?

Yes, I was there the whole time.

Were you away from your family or did they come with you?

My parents switched of, so that one of them was in New York with my sister, she goes to high school, and one of them was in LA with me. And every two or three weeks they switched off, so me and my sister got the best of both of them.

When you saw the finished movie for the first time, was it like you imagined it to be while acting?

It was crazy to see myself with all these real looking animals, because when we shot the movie, I was acting with puppets which looked kind of like the animals but nothing like the animals in the finished movie.

What do you think about the music in the film, do you think it is well done and it captures the ideas of the original movie?

Yeah definitely, I think it's amazing! This music is so well done, because the film is not a musical like the original but there is still music in it that transports a message.

What do you think is the key message of the film? What can we learn from the movie?

I think it is just to listen to people. Because Mowgli didn't do that and he risked his life doing that so I feel if people see that, they can learn, that it is very important to listen what other people have to say.

In which way is the Mowgli you are playing different from the Mowgli from the original Disney movie?

I think my version is different because I live in a big city, in New York, and the Mowgli from the old movie lived in the jungle his whole entire life. So the animated Mowgli feels normal with it and I definitely didn't feel normal with it but I had to act like I was.