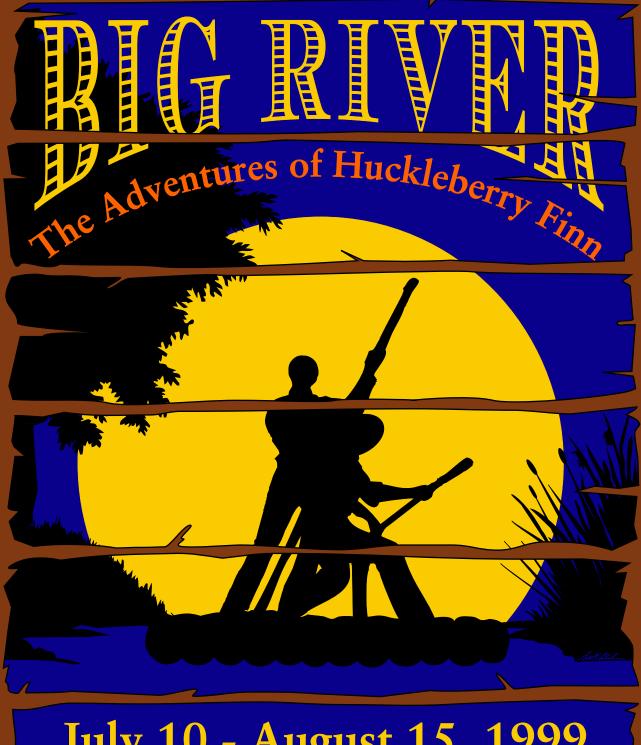
The 41st Annual Zilker Summer Musical



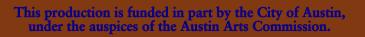
July 10 - August 15, 1999

Music and Lyrics by ROGER MILLER

Book by JAM HAUPTMAN (adapted from the novel by Mark Twain)



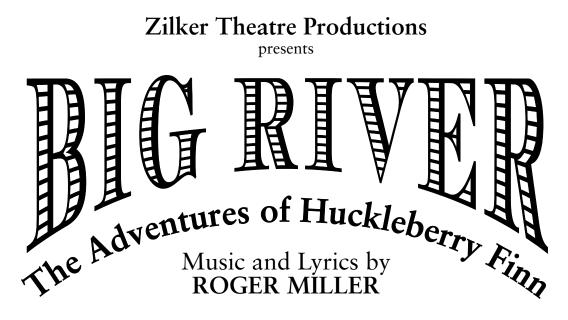
Beverly S. Sheffield Zilker Hillside Theater





BIG RIVER is presented through special arrangement with The Rodgers & Hammerstein Theatre Library, 229 West 28th Street, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10001.





Book by WILLIAM HAUPTMAN

Adapted from the novel by Mark Twain

Mike Bradecich Virdell Williams, Jr.

Christina Dahlberg Huck Huckaby Mark Rosholt with Katie Onken Nicholas Rodriguez

Scott Schroeder Larissa Wolcott

and featured musicians Wallace DePue Kelly McDaniel Bill Passalacqua Clay Towery

Directed by ROD CASPERS

Choreographed by ACIA GRAY and DIERDRE STRAND Musical Direction by LYN KOENNING

Scenic Design by J. RICHARD SMITH Costume Design by SHEILA HARGETT

Lighting Design by ROBERT T. WHYBURN

Sound Design by BILL MESTER

Properties Design by VALERIE SADORRA Hair/Make-Up Design by TERESA MANCUSO

Executive Producer WILLIAM SHEFFIELD

This production is funded in part by the City of Austin, under the auspices of the Austin Arts Commission.

Big River, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn is presented through special arrangement with The Rodgers and Hammerstein Theatre Library, 229 West 28th Street, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10001.

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Randall J. Storm

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Message from Zilker Theatre Productions



Welcome to the 41st Annual Zilker Summer Musical, Big River, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn. Tonight you are witness

to one of Austin's great summer traditions. A total audience of over 50,000 people, ranging in age from infant to grandparent, come to this event each year to enjoy high-quality, pay-what-you-may outdoor theatre. We are honored by your attendance and continued support.

The musical no longer receives City General Revenue funds and is now produced solely with funding raised by Zilker Theatre Productions (ZTP), a non-profit 501(c)(3) community organization. Thus it is only through the generosity of individuals like you and corporations that over \$150,000 is raised and this tradition continues. We are especially grateful to the Junior League of Austin and Austin's Art Commission whose generous financial and volunteer support make the musical possible.

We especially need your financial support as we retire a \$50,000 debt incurred in 1998 and appreciate your 1999 gift which is approximately 25% of the money required to produce the musical. While individual gifts range from a dollar to hundreds, the total amount allows ZTP to continue providing theatre at no-admission charge. Historically, the average donation per person has been less than fifty cents. Please, as you consider your donation tonight, recall what you pay for other forms of entertainment such as movies or video rental. Many agree, live theatre enjoyed by the whole family, is worth at least as much as these - perhaps more. Checks may be made payable to Zilker Theatre Productions.

Zilker Theatre Productions have tremendous dreams for the future and hope to include you. Your support ensures the Zilker Summer Musical will be enjoyed by the people of Austin, the state of Texas and individuals from around the world for years to come. We hope you will return year after year to share the excitement and magic of live theatre under the stars. Now, sit back, relax, and enjoy the Americana sights and sounds of Big River, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn.

FORMER CAST AND FRIENDS MEMORIAL

The arts world has been devastated by many diseases from AIDS to Heart failure. The Zilker Summer Musical is not immune to these diseases. To honor individuals formerly affiliated with the summer musical, a memorial has been established. Former affiliates include:

Phil Allen \infty Jim Barnes 👁 John Bustin 👁 Arturo Castillo Dr. W. H. "Deacon" Crain 🐵 Bettie Dahlberg 🗞 Daniel Moncivias Tucker Parmlee 🐵 Joe Ryan 🐵 Sean Somoskey 🐵 Philip Stansbury

As a tribute to their memory, a tree was planted in the grove near the Beverly S. Sheffield Zilker Hillside Theater that posterity may know and appreciate those who have truly given their all to see this art form continue.

Thank you for honoring their memory.

The Zilker Summer Musicals

1959	Seventeen	1
1960	Girl Crazy	1
1961	Anything Goes	
1962	Wildcat	1
1963	Finian's Rainbow	
1964	Brigadoon	
1965	Oklahoma!	1
1966	The King and I	1
1967	Once Upon	1
	A Mattress	1
1968	A Funny Thing	
	Happened on the	1
	Way to the Forum	1
1969	The Music Man	1
1970	Oliver	1
1971	Peter Pan	1
1972	Hello Dolly	1
1973	You're a Good Man	1
	Charlie Brown	1
1974	Paint Your Wagon	
1975	1776	
1976	Lil Abner	
1977	Fiddler on	1
	the Roof	
1978	Pippin	1
1979	Man of La Mancha	1
1980	Jesus Christ	1
	Superstar	

981 Fiorello! 982 The Most Happy Fella 983 How to Succeed in **Business Without Really Trying** 984 Good News! 985 Guys & Dolls 986 Miss Liberty 987 The Unsinkable Molly Brown Camelot 988 989 Carnival 990 Annie Into the Woods 991 992 West Side Story 993 Oklahoma! 994 Little Me 995 Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat 996 Once Upon A Mattress Guys & Dolls 997 998 South Pacific 999 **Big River**

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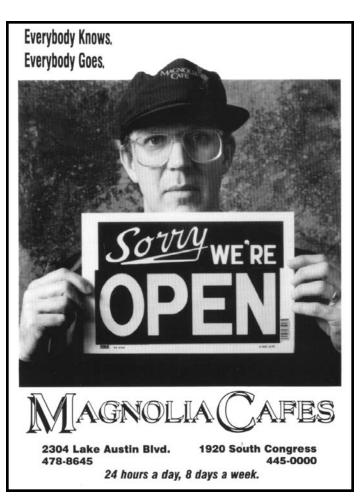
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Life is an adventure! Enjoy the experience, don't toil over the chores.

We know that work, school and other commitments can keep you and your family from enjoying special events like the Zilker Summer Musical. THE MAIDS® understand your need to get away, so let us help with the housework. That way, you'll have more time to enjoy life's adventures, both big and small. Call us today for a free estimate, and ask about our exclusive Healthy Touch cleaning system.



Because You Have Better Things To Do."



Persons attempting to find a motive in this narrative will be prosecuted;

Persons attempting to find a moral in it will be banished;

Persons attempting to find a plot in it will be shot.

By order of the author MARK TWAIN



Mark Twain paid E.W. Kemble, an inexperienced young illustrator, \$1200 to visualize Huckleberry Finn for the first publication. (Several of E.W. Kemble's illustrations are scattered throughout this

CAST LIST

Male Roles

Huckleberry Finn Tom Sawyer Slave Jim Pap Finn The King The Duke Iudge Thatcher Doctor Sheriff Bell Harvey Wilkes Counselor Robinson Silas Phelps Ben Rogers Jo Harper Simon Dick Hank Andv Lafe Young Fool Male Ensemble:

Mike Bradecich Nicholas Rodriguez Virdell Williams, Jr. Mark Rosholt Scott Schroeder Huck Huckaby Kellv McDaniel **Robert Muraida Ronald Macklin Clay Towery Brett McHargue Bill Passalacqua** Grant McCollor Jason Yau **Doug Thompson Kyle Walker** Mark Passarella Jeremv Ellis Jeff Ferry John Hashop Chad Deveaux, AJ Lewis, Fritz Johnson, John Steven Rodriguez Nathan Joiner, John Minnich, **David Chapa**

Female Roles

Miss Watson Widow Douglas Strange Woman Sally Phelps Alice Alice's Daughter Mary Jane Wilkes Joanna Wilkes Susan Wilkes Female Ensemble: Christina C. Dahlberg Katie Onken Ann Richards-McKelvey Sue Blankenburg Gaye H. Fisher Marissa Joy Fisher Larissa Wolcott Jeanette Steiniger Lindsay Kaye Wells Jean Grace, Esperanza Biehle, Della Coleman, Melissa Joiner, Angie Ray, Haley Smith

Onstage Musicians

Wallace DePue, Kelly McDaniel, Bill Passalacqua, Clay Towery

Understudies

Huckleberry Finn - Grant McCollor, Tom Sawyer - John Hashop, Pap Finn - Clay Towery, Sally Phelps - Jean Grace



SCENE SYNOPSIS

<u>Setting</u>

The entire production takes place on and around communities along the Mississippi River during the time of slavery in America.

ACT I

Scene 1 - St. Petersburg, Missouri
Muddy Water The Company
Do Ya Wanna Go to Heaven The Company
Scene 2 - Injun Joe's Cave
The BoysTom and the Boys
Waitin' for the Light to ShineHuck
Scene 3 - Huck's Bedroom and Judge Thatcher's Court
Scene 4 - Pap Finn's Cabin
Guv'MentPap
Hand for the Hog Tom and The Company
Scene 5 - Jackson's Island
I, Huckleberry, MeHuck
Scene 6 - Illinois Shore
Muddy WaterJim, Huck and The Company
Scene 7 - On the River, south of St. Louis
The CrossingFeatured Soloists, Slaves
River in the RainHuck and Jim
Scene 8 - On the River, somewhere in Kentucky
When the Sun Goes Down in the SouthDuke, King, Huck and Jim

Audience Sing-a-long:

I am waitin' for the light to shine I am waitin' for the light to shine I have lived in the darkness for so long I'm waitin' for the light to shine



On the Raft

ACT I

Orchestra				
Piano/Conductor				
Lyn Koenning				
Violin Wallace DePue				
Bass George Fahlund				
Reeds Jeremy Justeson				
Guitar Pablo Champion, Bill Passalacqua				
Trumpet David Cross, Mike Thomas				
Trombone Jon Biondell				
Harmonica Clay Towery, Kelly McDaniel				
Percussion Andy Bedoin				

	Scene 1 - Tennessee Shore
	Scene 2 - In Bricktown, Arkansas
Duke and The Company	The Royal Nonesuch
	Scene 3 - Tennessee Shore
Jim and Huck	Worlds Apart
	Scene 4 - Hillsboro, Arkansas
Young Fool	Arkansas
	How Blest We Are
	Scene 5 - Wilkes Home in Hillsboro
Mary Jane, Susan and Joanna	You Oughta Be Here With Me
	Reprise: How Blest We Are
	Scene 5 - Wilkes Home in Hillsboro
Huck, Mary Jane and Jim	Leavin's Not the Only Way to Go
	Scene 6 - Wilkes Home in Hillsboro
	Scene 7 - Arkansas Shore
hineHuck	Reprise: Waitin' for the Light to S
	Scene 8 - On a Farm near Hillsboro
Jim and Slaves	Free at Last
	Scene 9 - Phelps Farm near Hillsboro
	Scene 10 - Phelps Farm near Hillsboro
Huck and Jim	Reprise: River in the Rain
The Company	

"Against the assault of laughter nothing can stand." - Mark Twain

CAST BIOGRAPHIE



Esperanza Beihle



Sue Blankenburg



Mike Bradecich



Della Coleman



Chad Deveaux

"Where prejudice exists it always discolors our thoughts."

Mark Twain

Esperanza Beihle (Ensemble)

This is Esperanza's third summer musical following Guys & Dolls and South Pacific. Also, you may have seen her in Austin Musical Theatre's Gyspy or most recently Fiddler on the Roof. Some of her other favorite productions are Grease and The Steadfast Tin Soldier. Esperanza was a finalist in the National Search for the Walt Disney World Dancers.

Sue Blankenburg (Sally Phelps, Ensemble)

This is Sue's tenth appearance in the Zilker Summer Musical. She was a Featured Dancer, Cinderella's Wicked Step Sister, Lady Sagramore and a Hot Box Girl. Sue has been honored twice as Outstanding Female Ensemble Member both during Carnival and Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. Ms. Blankenburg's favorite role was Bonnie in Anything Goes at Live Oak Theater. She has been part of touring variety shows, industrial shows, show choirs and performs daily as a professional trainer and facilitator for the City of Austin.

Mike Bradecich (Huckleberry Finn)

Mike moved to Austin in November 1998 and is excited to be debuting in Big River. Since graduating from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale two years ago, he has worked at various theatres in Illinois and Tennessee and toured the Midwest with Bridgework Children's Theatre. He spent last summer teaching theatre at a summer camp in Maine. His most recent role was as Petruchio in Taming of the Shrew at the Sam Bass Theater in Round Rock. If you are in kindergarten through fourth grade in the greater Austin area, that was him with Dowser Dan's Side Show Circus. Mike thanks his father for all his love and support.

David Chapa (Ensemble)

David is pleased to be re-joining Zilker Theatre Productions again this summer after performing in last year production of South Pacific. This award winning solo vocalist is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin. David has performed in numerous musicals in the Rio Grande Valley and was last seen in The State Theater production of My Fair Lady. Mr. Chapa is currently employed with the UT Austin.

Della Coleman (Ensemble)

Della is a Little Rock, Arkansas native where she spent most of her life. Ms. Coleman teaches kindergarten during the week for the Pflugerville School District and is Principal of the Children's Sunday School Department for David Chapel Missionary Baptist Church. Big River, is Della's Zilker Summer Musical debut although she has performed and produced shows for school and church. She also produces and directs student performances for Black History month. In her spare time, Della is a Girl Scout troop leader. She is a devoted wife and mother.

Christina Dahlberg (Miss Watson)

Christina is no stranger to Zilker Park audiences having performed in 14 previous Zilker productions including How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying, Camelot, Carnival, The Unsinkable Molly Brown, Annie, Miss Liberty Good News! and Oklahoma!. She truly believes the summer musical audiences are the greatest audiences in the world. Her favorite roles in other venues include City Her in Broadway Austin's production of Gifts of the Magi and the China Doll in Second Youth's Steadfast Tin Soldier.

Chad Deveaux (Featured Soloist, Ensemble)

Originally from Washington D.C., Chad majors in Mass Communications with a minor in Music at Huston-Tillotson College and is debuting in *Big River*. He has won numerous music awards, including first place at the Omega Psi Phi Classical Voice Competition at Mississippi State. Mr. Deveaux helped start the Austin band 'Something in Mind' and performs with the 'Trent Durham Group.' Chad thanks God for allowing him to share his gift of song, his vocal coach and his parents for their continuing support.



Christina Dahlberg



Jeremy Ellis (Andy, Ensemble)

Zilker Theatre welcomes Jeremy to *Big River* in his Austin debut. Mr. Ellis is not new to theatre, however. His past roles include Paul in *Moon Over Buffalo*, Salieri in *Amadeus*, Henry Higgins in *My Fair Lady*, Man in *Laughing Wild* and Lloyd Dallas in *Noises Off*. He is a native of Lubbock, Texas, and proud to currently call Austin home.

Jeff Ferry (Lafe, Ensemble)

Jeff is making his second Zilker Summer Musical appearance. Mr. Ferry was last seen as Stewpot in *South Pacific*. Jeff is a member of the inaugural graduating class from John B. Connally High School in Pflugerville. His three (3) years of theatre experience include roles as Pantalone in *Turandot*, Quasimodo in *Hunchback of Notre Dame*, Cyrano in *Cyrano Debergerac*; all at Connally High School. During his high school years, Jeff was involved with both drama and varsity choir.

Gaye H. Fisher (Alice, Ensemble)

Gaye is a music teacher in the Pflugerville School District. She holds a Bachelor and a Master's degree in Music Education and Performance. She had the opportunity to perform as a back-up singer with musicians like Charlie Daniels, Larry Gatlin, Al Green and Shirley Caesar. As a music teacher, she has produced and directed productions of *Bye, Bye Birdie, My Fair Lady, Applause* and *Annie Get Your Gun*. This is Gaye's first summer musical. She is very active in her church and devotes her time to her husband and children.

Marissa Fisher (Alice's Daughter, Ensemble)

Marissa Fisher is a member of the Austin Children's Choir. She has been in numerous church and school choirs since she was 5 years old. She played the Cleaning Woman's Daughter in last year's Xperience Youth at Zilker Youth Production of **Working**. She also played Chelsea in her school play this year called *Reach for the Stars*. Marissa has studied ballet and tap and is beginning piano lessons this summer. Miss Fisher will be a 5th grader at Gullett Elementary School this year.

Jean M. Grace (Ensemble)

This musical theater and operatic stage veteran is delighted to add **Big River**, her first Zilker production, to her list of performance credits. Ms. Grace has performed in many shows including *Pippin*, *Into the Woods, A Christmas Carol, Anything Goes, You're A Good Man Charlie Brown* and *L'il Abner*. A native of Boston, Jean has sung with the renowned Tanglewood Festival Chorus, the Boston Bel Canto opera company, the Arcadia Players and the Richard Crittenden Opera Workshop. Jean moved to Austin in 1995 to attend the University of Texas, where she earned a Master's Degree in Voice. She enjoys solo work, a regular performance position (at First United Methodist Church) and teaching private voice.

John Hashop (Young Fool, Ensemble)

John Hashop recently graduated from Southwestern University with a B.F.A. in Theatre. Favorite roles at Southwestern include Zangler in *Crazy for You*, The Padre in *Man of La Mancha* and Father Jack in *Dancing at Lughnasa*. He has also performed two seasons with Southwestern Summer Stage. Mr. Hashop is debuting on the Zilker stage with *Big River* and is extremely happy to finally not be playing a priest or an older gentleman.

Huck Huckaby (The Duke)

Honestly, that's his name! This is the third Zilker Musical for Huck, having previously appeared in *Oklahoma*! and *Little Me*. Locally, he has worked with The State Theater Company (Formerly Live Oak Theater), Capital City Playhouse and Second Youth Repertory Family Theatre. Other appearances include *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas, A Little Night Music, She Loves Me, Evita* and *Steadfast Tin Soldier*. When not on stage, Huck is the resident stage manager for Tapestry Dance Company.





Jeremy Ellis

Jeff Ferry



Gaye H. Fisher



Marissa Fisher



Jean M. Grace



John Hashop



Huck Huckaby

"Let us endeavor so to live that when we come to die even the undertaker will be sorry."

– Mark Twain



Fritz W. Johnson III



Melissa K. Joiner



Nathan Joiner



A. J. Lewis

Grant C. McCollor



Ronnie Macklin



Kelly McDaniel

"In our country, we have those three unspeakably precious things: freedom of speech, freedom of conscience, and the prudence never to practice either of them." – Mark Twain



Fritz is making his Zilker Summer Musical debut with *Big River*. Mr. Johnson has performed in numerous dance and talent shows. Since age nine, he has performed with church and community choirs. He toured with a Rock-n-Roll-Pop Band in California and Kansas. Fritz is grateful for his involvement in *Big River, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and the opportunity to perform with such a talented cast.

Melissa K. Joiner (Ensemble)

Big River marks Melissa's her first appearance with Zilker Theatre Productions. She has previously performed in *Gypsy* and *Annie* with Austin Musical Theatre and *A Christmas Carol* at both Live Oak and Zachary Scott Theatres. Her TV appearances include Texas Graces, The People Next Door, A Mother's Gift and Real Stories of the Highway Patrol. Melissa enjoys singing and dancing at local events such as Aquafest and Pecan Street Festival. She is attending sixth grade at Lake Travis Middle School and loves piano, voice, dance and acting lessons.

Nathan Joiner (Ensemble)

Nathan is making his second appearance with Zilker Theatre Productions, having last performed in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Other performance credits include *Fiddler on the Roof, A Christmas Carol, The Sound of Music* and *Peter Pan*. His film and TV credits include Café Boh, Blank Check, The People Next Door and Real Stories of the Highway Patrol. He is a 16-year old honor student at Lake Travis High School, where he was a letterman on the varsity soccer team and enjoys playing violin in the school orchestra.

A. J. Lewis (Ensemble)

Mr. Lewis is making his Zilker Summer Musical debut with *Big River*. A.J. is a recent graduate from Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos. While new to the Zilker stage, he is no stranger to performing. A.J. has performed across Central Texas in productions of *Sweeney Todd, West Side Story, Fiddler on the Roof, Working, Jeffrey, Of Mice and Men, The Boys Next Door*, and *Blues for Mr. Charlie.*

Ronnie Macklin (Sheriff Bell, Ensemble)

Ronnie is a theatre major from Southwest Texas State University, making his third appearance on the Zilker Stage, following *Guys & Dolls* and *South Pacific*. Mr. Macklin has been active in theatre for ten years with credits including: Quincy in *Dracula*, *A Musical Nightmare*, Argon in *The Imaginary Invalid*, Jimmy Perry in *The Gingerbread Lady* and Lazar Wolfe in *Fiddler on the Roof*.

Grant C. McCollor (Ben Rogers, Ensemble)

Grant is new to Austin and making his debut appearance with Zilker Theatre Productions. Grant attended Webster University's Musical Theatre Conservatory where roles included Narrator in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, Charles in *Dracula*, Mr. Sowerberry in *Oliver, Murder on the Nile* and *Oklahoma!* He has toured the country in numerous choirs, with both madrigal and variety shows. Mr. McCollor will attend the University of Texas at Austin this fall to complete his BA degree in Theatre and Dance.

Kelly McDaniel (Judge Thatcher, Ensemble)

Kelly is a veteran Austin performer in his first appearance with Zilker Theatre Productions. He performed here in Austin Shakespeare Festival's *The Winter's Tale*, and *Much Ado About Nothing*. Recent roles include Judge Omar Gaffney in *Harvey*, and Otto Van Daan in the Austin Theatre for Youth production of *The Diary of Anne Frank*. Kelly's credits include several movies, commercial productions for Dell Computers, and print ads in the New York Times, and Time Magazine. He created the character voices for the CD game "Agents of Justice", and recently recorded a companion CD for high school biology course textbooks. Watch for Kelly next in State Theater production of *The Taming of the Shrew*.

Brett McHargue (Counselor Robinson, Ensemble)

Brett is currently a senior programmer/analyst with Computer Science Corporation and was recently seen on stage in The State Theater Company's *My Fair Lady*. He is making his second summer musical appearance with his previous experience as a brother in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Mr. McHargue sings with the Capital City Men's Chorus and serves on its Board of Directors as President and Treasurer.

Ann Richards-McKelvey (Strange Woman, Ensemble)

Ann is making her fourth summer musical appearance including Once Upon a Mattress, Guys & Dolls and South Pacific. She was recently seen in My Fair Lady. Other credits include Man of La Mancha, Sweeney Todd, A Christmas Carol, Dracula, A Musical Nightmare, Seven Brides for Seven Brothers, the 1998 Gilbert & Sullivan Gala and Some Enchanted Evening. Ann has been a finalist for several vocal contests including the Riata Talent Search and has performed for the Austin Ice Bats. She currently works as a special education teacher.

John David Minnich (Ensemble)

Big River, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn is John's first Zilker Summer Musical. At 11 years old, he just finished fifth grade at Brentwood Elementary School. John enjoys performing with the All-City Honor Choir. Theatre is not John's only interest; his other hobbies include soccer and baseball, which he has been playing since the age of five.

Robert Muraida (Doctor, Ensemble)

Robert is pleased to be participating in his fourth Zilker Summer Musical, having been in *Once Upon a Mattress, Guys & Dolls* and *South Pacific*. He has appeared in several musicals in and around Austin, including productions of *Evita, Jesus Christ Superstar, The Rocky Horror Show, Assassins* and *Camelot*. Robert was a member of River City Pops and is currently rehearsing the part of Pilate in the Meltin Moon Theatre production of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, which opens in Spring 2000.

Katie Onken (Widow Douglas)

Big River is Katie's musical theatre debut in Austin. She has worked with Frontera, project interact with Zachary Scott Theatre, the Fabulous and Riduculous Theatre, The Colonial Shakespeare Company, and is a founding member of 4th Wall Theatre. Katie moved to Texas from Chicago where she received a BSS from Northwestern University and worked in Chicago theatre for five years. She enjoys riding fast on her road bike, wrestling with her blue heeler "Loot", and playing various musical instruments while singing loudly.

Bill Passalacqua (On Stage Musician, Silas, Ensemble)

Bill is an Illinois native who has lived in Austin for five years. He is making his debut performance with Zilker Theatre Productions with *Big River, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. Bill is a professional singer, songwriter and traveling troubadour. Mr. Passalacqua is excited to have has his first CD coming out this summer.

Mark Passarella (Hank, Ensemble)

Mark is a native Austinite and a Zilker Summer Musical veteran having performed in *Camelot*, *Carnival*, *Annie*, *Once Upon a Mattress*, *Guys & Dolls* and last summer's *South Pacific*. His other credits include Zachary Scott Theatre's *The King and I*, *Carousel*, two productions of *A Christmas Carol* and Second Youth's *Snow Queen*. Mark has also performed in UT's Summer Pizzazz productions of *What I Did Last Summer*, *Green Grow the Lilacs*, *All the Way Home* and *Nice People Dancing to Good Country Music*. He was also seen in University Presbyterian Church's production of Celebration. Mr. Passarella is a former member of River City Pops.

Angie Ray (Ensemble)

Angie is a graduate of KD Studio Actors Conservatory in Dallas. She has performed in various theatre's in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. Most recently playing Joanne in the Granbury Opera House's production of *Godspell*. Her credits also include singing country music and performing in Branson, Missouri. *Big River* is her first musical production since moving to Austin where she is a backup singer for local favorite 'Trent Durham' at Speak Easy.





Brett McHargue

elvey





John David Minnich

ch Robert Muraida





Katie Onken







Mark Passarella

Angie Ray

"Always do right. That will gratify some of the people, and astonish the rest."



John Steven Rodriguez

Nicholas Rodri-

guez

Scott Schroeder

Jeanette Steiniger



Mark Rosholt



Haley Smith



Doug Thompson

"All you need is ignorance and confidence; then success is sure."

Mark Twain

John Steven Rodriguez (Schoolmaster, Ensemble)

This is John's third appearance with Zilker Theatre Productions. Previous Zilker Hillside appearances have been *Guys & Dolls* and *South Pacific*. This Vortex Repertory Company member has appeared most recently in the second installment of ethos X and Y Trilogy of cybernetic operas, *Panoptikon* and has been assistant director to productions such as Aaron Brown's *Norm L*. and Kirk Smith's adaptation of Charles Dickens *Tale of Two Cities*. John currently studies voice with Norma L Faison Mayer.

Nicholas Rodriguez (Tom Sawyer)

Although this is Nick's first production on the Zilker Hillside, he is no stranger to the stage. Nicholas performed in *Putting It Together, Susannah, The Steadfast Tin Soldier*, and a concert version of Sondheim's *Passion*. He has also been seen in *She Loves Me, Grease* and *Little Shop of Horrors*. This Masters student in Voice at the University of Texas, has appeared in UT Opera Theatre's productions of *The Fantasticks, The Mikado, The Coronnation of Poppea* and *The Roar of the Greasepaint, the Smell of the Crowd*. His recordings include the World Premiere of Linda Twine's gospel cantata Changed My Name, and various recordings for Disney.

Mark Rosholt (Pap Finn)

Mark is appearing in his third Zilker Summer Musical, having performed in *South Pacific* and *Guys & Dolls* during the last two summers. His other performance credits include Austin Musical Theatre's productions of *Fiddler on the Roof* and *West Side Story*, Rare Creations production of *Assassins*, as well as *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Gypsy* and *Pirates of Penzance* which are among his favorites. Mark lives in Austin with his rehearsal tolerant wife Kathy Bolstorff.

Scott Schroeder (The King)

Big River marks Scott's sixteenth year working with Zilker Theatre Productions. His last Hillside performance was as King Sextimus in **Once Upon a Mattress**. Other Zilker shows include **Little Me**, **Into the Woods**, **Camelot**, **The Unsinkable Molly Brown** and **Good News!** Scott recently received the Austin Critics Award for Featured Actor in a Musical for last year's **The Who's Tommy** (Uncle Ernie) and **Schoolhouse Rock – Live!** (Conjunction Junction/I'm Just a Bill) at Zachary Scott Theater. Some of his favorite roles include **Cabaret** (Emcee) for which he won both the Austin Critics and B. Iden Payne Awards as well as **Man of La Mancha** (Sancho/Padre), **Passion** (Colonel Ricci), **The Miser** (Master Jacque) and **Peter Pan** (Smee). As Artistic Director of Broadway Austin, Scott has produced successful runs of **Nunsense**, **Little Shop of Horrors** and **Gifts of the Magi** which he also directed.

Haley Smith (Ensemble)

Haley is returning for her second year with the Zilker Summer Musical after appearing in *South Pacific* last year. She is a senior at Bowie High School where she is involved in many activities such as choir, National Honor Society, the Bowie drill team - Silver Stars and Starlight Theater where she appeared in the musical *Guys & Dolls* this past year.

Jeanette Steiniger (Joanna Wilkes)

Big River marks Jeanette's debut performance on the Zilker stage. Previous musical performances include *Here's Love, The Wiz, Broadway Celebration*, Cinderella in *Cinderella* and Hope Harcourt in *Anything Goes*. Jeanette currently teaches dance with Dance Associates and music at Children's Network. She graduated from Pflugerville High School in 1997 where she played flute in the band, sang with the choir and was captain of the dance team. Miss Steiniger spent one year at The American Musical and Dramatic Academy in New York City.

Doug Thompson (Simon, Ensemble)

Mr. Thompson performed in such productions as *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas, Dangerous Liaisons* and *Romeo and Juliet* on the Southwest Texas State University stage. Doug is a 1999 graduate, receiving his BFA in Theatre Arts with a concentration in acting. This is Doug's first production with Zilker Theatre Productions. Doug is excited about appearing with "a great group of people" in *Big River, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, one of his favorite shows.

Clay Towery (Harvey Wilkes, On Stage Musician)

Big River marks Clay's third summer musical. He played Ike Skidmore in Oklahoma! and various roles in Little Me. Clay last appeared on the hillside with Austin Shakespeare Festival as Polixanes in The Winters Tale. He earned a degree in theater from St. Edwards University and is working on a Master of Fine Arts, at the University of Idaho. Favorite roles include: Iago in Othello, J.J. Peachum in A Three Penny Opera, Sir Toby Belch in Twelfth Night and Owen Musser in The Foreigner. Clay works as Special Events Coordinator for Austin Parks and Recreation Department.

Kyle Walker (Dick, Ensemble)

As a senior at Hays High School, Kyle participates in both speech and band. He plays several instruments: the trumpet during marching season and the euphonium during concert season. Big River, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn marks Kyle's debut with Zilker Theatre Productions. Mr. Walker's favorite (previous) role is Will Parker in Oklahoma!

Lindsay Kaye Wells (Susan Wilkes, Ensemble)

Lindsay is making her Zilker Summer Musical debut with Big River but is no stranger to performing. Frequently, she sings the National Anthem at the opening of Austin Ice Bats and Texas Terminators games. She has made guest appearances as Featured Austin Talent on K-Eye 42 and entertained for Miss Austin USA and Miss Austin Teen USA pageants. Ms. Wells performed in A Christmas Carol at Zachary Scott Theatre, Waiting for Godot at Austin Theatre for Youth and The Steadfast Tin Soldier at Second Youth Repertory Family Theatre.

Virdell Williams, Jr. (Jim)

Mr. Williams is a native of Lubbock, Texas and has performed with a number of musical theatre, concert and opera groups in California and abroad. Some of his roles include: Yamado in Puccini's Madama Butterfly, Wagner in Gounod's Faust, Silvio in Leoncavallo's Pagliacci, Umberto in Pergolesi's La serva padrano, Aeneas in Purcells' Dido and Aeneas, the title role in Verdi's *Rigoletto* and Scarpia in *Tosca* with Bayerische Opera in Munich, Germany. He has performed Jim in Big River with Peninsula Center Stage and would enjoy establishing an international performing career.

Larissa Wolcott (Mary Jane Wilkes)

This is Larissa's second year on the Zilker Stage after last year's production of South Pacific. She currently teaches children's acting at the Acting Studio and plans to return to school to complete her degree in Musical Theatre. Past credits include: Cheryl in The Taffetas at Zachary Scott Theatre, Lucy in Dracula: A Musical Nightmare with Violet Crown Players, Agnes in Gypsy for Austin Musical Theatre, Winky/Jack in Trouble in Santa's Workshop, Three in The Dragon King and My Fair Lady.

Jason Yau (Jo Harper, Ensemble)

Jason is making his Zilker Summer Musical debut with Big River, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn. He is a sophomore voice major with a minor in business at the University of Texas at Austin. Mr. Yau has a wide range of favorite roles including Nathan Detroit in Guys & Dolls and Chip in Beauty and the Beast. His most recent show was Bandanna, a production by UT's Graduate Opera Theater.





Clay Towery

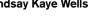
Kyle Walker





Lindsay Kaye Wells









Larissa Wolcott

Jason Yau

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Mark Twain



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Music Director/ConductorLyn Koenning
Scenic Designer
Costume Designer
6
Costume Design Assistant
Lighting Designer
Sound Designer
Property DesignerValerie Sadorra
Wigs/Hair Design Theresa Mancuso
Production Stage Manager Susan Threadgill
Stage Manager Michael McKelvey
Asst. Stage Manager Aubrey Lindquist*, T. Michael Word*
Zilker Park Stage ManagerBill Wise
PARD Special Events ManagerClay Towery
Technical DirectorDwight Markus
Master Carpenter
Master Electrician
Costume Shop Manager(s) Sheila Hargett, Elspeth Mason
Wigs/Hair Assistant
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STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

Rod Caspers (Director)

Rod graduated from Illinois State University and earned an MFA from The University of Texas at Austin. He has taught and directed at the University of Northern Iowa, the University of Wisconsin and the University of Texas. He is Program Coordinator for UT's Office of University Relations, creating and producing official university events. Rod conducts directing workshops throughout the nation and serves as a guest artist/instructor for the Facing History and Ourselves Program in Zurich Switzerland and Boston. While in New York, Rod served as Associate Director for GreenPlays, creating and directing several new musicals and cabarets. He has directed over 70 productions including Das Barbecue, Working, Merrily We Roll Along, Lies and Legends, Pippin, Close Ties, Shirley Valentine, Once on This Island, In the Heart of America, Tintypes and 'night Mother. Recently he directed The Good Times Are Killing Me, The Diary of Anne Frank and Ordinary People for Austin Theatre for Youth. Rod is Artistic Director of Grinnell Productions. This winter he will again manage the Rockettes' Radio City Christmas Spectacular with his colleague Chan Chandler.

Douglas W. Bolin (Assistant Director) Doug has performed in musical theater and operatic productions for the past 15 years. His leading roles include Sam in Street Scene, Don Ottavio in Don Giovanni, and Rinuccio in Gianni Schicchi. He was associate producer for the Ohio State University's productions of South Pacific, The Turn of the Screw, Street Scene, Don Giovanni, Side by Side and others. He has been a part of the production team for the Austin Lyric Opera and the Glimmerglass Opera and done consultant work for Opera Columbus. He has been a member of the voice faculty at Baylor University for the past two years and currently is a member of the production staff for the Office of University Relations at The University of Texas at Austin.

Lyn Koenning (Music Director) Lyn returns as Music Director from last

years production of South Pacific. She has over 20 years teaching, conducting and performing experience and has been nominated by the Austin Critics' Table as Best Musical Director for Five Guys Named Moe (1994), The Beggar's Opera (1995) and A Day in Hollywood/A Night in the Ukraine (1999). She has served as musical director or piano/conductor for five shows named Best Musical in Austin including Beehive, Rockin' Christmas Party, and Dreamgirls. She will next be musical director for the upcoming production of Camelot this fall at the Mary Moody Northen Theatre. Lyn holds a Master of Music degree from UT Austin and teaches private piano to children of all ages. Visit her on the web at musicworksstudios.com!

Acia Gray (Co-Choreographer)

Ms. Gray has shared the stage with such tap greats as Gregory Hines, Savion Glover, Brenda Bufalino, Sarah Petronio and many others in productions such as The Great Tap Reunion, Tap Do/Wop, Just Friends and Chicago on Tap. Acia is producing artistic director of Tapestry Dance Company after nine years dancing as a founding member of Austin On Tap. She has served on the steering committee of the International Tap Association. Additionally, Acia works with numerous dance organizations including Dance Masters and the Texas Association Teachers of Dance. She has worked with Live Oak Theatre on productions of Nunsense, She Loves Me, Cabaret and Man of La Mancha as well as collaborations with Ballet Austin. Ms. Gray teaches an accredited tap program at Austin Community College and Tapestry Dance Company Academy. She is also Artistic Director/Tap for Dance Arts Institute of America and has choreographed and taught for numerous organizations across America and abroad as well as published the critically acclaimed book, "The Souls of Your Feet".

Deirdre Strand (Co-Choreographer)

Ms. Strand started he professional career with the Fort Worth Ballet and continued with James Clouser's Space/Dance/Theatre and Austin on Tap touring company. She received her B.F.A. in Dance from the University of Houston in addition to studying with Manolo Agullo, Fernando Schaffenberg, Edward Villella, Arthur Mitchell and Melissa Hayden. Highlights of her ballet roles include James Clouser's **Rasputin** and Don Quixote staged by Miguel Terekov. Her unique and holistic teaching techniques are in demand locally, nationally and abroad, ranging from Ballet Austin to The International Summer School, Cyprus and the Dance Department of TA-SIS/London. Deirdre is Academy Director and co-Artistic Director of Tapestry Dance Company, heads the Dance Department of St. Stephen's Episcopal School, Austin and Artistic Director of Jazz for Dance Arts Institute of America.

J. Richard Smith (Scenic Design)

J. Richard Smith returns to the Zilker Summer Musical having designed Guys & Dolls two years ago. A designer by profession, his works have been seen regionally and locally at almost all the major theatre companies in Austin. Some of his representative designs include: Carousel, The Boys Next Door, A Shayna Maidel, Damn Yankees, Once On This Island, Man of La Mancha, The Prima Donna's Mother is a Drag, The Paramount 75th Gala, A Winter's Tale, The Steadfast Tin Soldier and many others. Richard is also proud to helm one of Texas' finest family theatre companies, serving as Producing Artistic Director for Second Youth Repertory Family Theatre.

Sheila Hargett (Costume Design)

Sheila is currently Professor and Head of Costume Design and Technology in the Theatre Department at Southwest Texas State University where she has taught and designed for over twenty-eight years. Ms. Hargett began her career as an actress and still performs from time to time. She holds a M.A. from LSU and a M.F.A. from SMU where she studied with Broadway designers Bill and Jean Eckart. She has designed for The Shakespeare Festival of Dallas, SMU Theatre, Eastfield College, Texas Playwright's Company Theatre, Live Oak Theatre, Austin Shakespeare Festival, Texas Education Foundation, Texas Wax Museum and Aquarena Springs Theme Park. Ms. Hargett has designed and/or supervised student designs for over 200 productions. Those among her own designs include The Tempest, A Christmas Carol, A Long Day's Journey Into Night, West Side Story, Hair, Romeo & Juliet, The Glass Menagerie, Twelfth Night, The Government Inspector, The Miracle Worker, The Runner Stumbles, A Man For All Seasons and A Doll's House to mention a few.

Robert T. Whyburn (Lighting Design) Mr. Whyburn has been working as a lighting designer over 10 years. Big River marks Robert's 10th summer musical since Annie in 1990. He regularly designs for Austin Shakespeare Festival and Zach Scott. Recent theatre credits include Creative Opportunity orchestra at Laguna Gloria and Beehive at Zachary Scott. His future projects include Austin Shakespeare Festival's Othello, As You Like It and his annual contribution of Christmas lights on 37th street. Robert is a graduate of the University of Texas with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theatre. Throughout his career, Robert has received numerous theatrical awards including the B. Iden Payne Award and Critics Table Award. Mr. Whyburn is Technical Director at St. Stephen's school.

Bill Mester (Sound Design)

This is Bill's third season with Zilker Theatre Productions after working on **Guys & Dolls** and **South Pacific**. He studied audio and recording technology in 1989 at Houston Community College with a scholarship for academic achievement. Mr. Mester worked several years in the corporate audio-visual field for such clients as PBS and IBM. He currently works with touring productions at the University of Texas Performing Arts Center and is sound designer for Austin Lyric Opera and sound engineer for Ballet Austin.

Theresa Mancuso

(Wig/Make-Up Design)

Theresa Mancuso is pursuing her Master of Arts degree in Costume Design at Southwest Texas State University. She has lived in the Austin area for many years designing costumes and makeup for Vortex Theatre, Different Stages and Kids Acting. Ms. Mancuso has been nominated for two B. Iden Payne Awards for her work. She has been guest artist at McNeese State University where she designed costumes and makeup for Into the Woods. Theresa won an award from the American College Theatre Festival for Outstanding Life Size Puppet Design, and a cash award from the Texas Educational Theatre Association's DESIGNFEST for The Wizard of Oz. She has designed and built costumes for Mardi Gras in Louisiana since 1984. This is her debut with Zilker Summer Musicals as designer for hair and makeup.

Susan Threadgill

(Production Stage Manager)

Susan has worked in Austin arts and theatre for the past 17 years. Former production stage manager for The University of Texas Performing Arts Center and current production manager for Austin Lyric Opera, she has been on staff for the Zilker Summer Musical since **West Side Story** in 1992. Ms. Threadgill serves on the Board of Trustees for the Austin Shakespeare Festival and will produce **Othello** and **As You Like It** at the Beverly S. Sheffield Zilker Hillside Theater following **Big River**.

Michael McKelvey (Stage Manager) Michael is a doctoral student at the University of Texas in vocal performance. He recently produced Patience for Austin's Gilbert & Sullivan Society, directed Dracula: A Musical Nightmare for Violet Crown, appeared in My Fair Lady (State Theater) and Passion (ACoT), music directed You're a Goodman, Charlie Brown (JCC), and assistant stage managed Tosca, Salome, and Otello for Austin Lyric Opera. He teaches voice and drama for St. Stephen's School, Zachary Scott Theatre, Austin Musical Theatre and Tapestry Dance. This marks the third time he has worked with Rod Caspers (Branson or Bust and Das Barbecu) and his fourth time stage managing for Zilker Theatre Productions (Once Upon A Mattress, Guys & Dolls, South Pacific).

William Sheffield (Executive Producer) Mr. Sheffield is repeating his work with Zilker Theatre Productions as Executive Producer. He was co-producer of the Austin Shakespeare Festival, also known as "Shakespeare in the Park" for the past three years. This year Bill is directing Othello for Austin Shakespeare Festival which opens in September. Bill has served as production manager for the Paramount Theatre and worked with many groups as stage/production manager or lighting designer; groups including Austin Musical Theatre, Zach, Austin Lyric Opera, Ballet Austin, Austin Symphony Orchestra, Austin Contemporary Ballet, Austin Dance Ensemble, Texas Youth Ballet and Slavin-Nadal Dance. Mr. Sheffield received his BFA in acting at UT after appearing in over 12 productions. Bill currently owns a multi-media company catering to Las Vegas casinos and other entertainmentrelated companies.



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The annual rehearse-a-thon is held during the month of June as a fundraiser for Zilker Theatre Productions. The cast, crew and volunteers rehearse for 12 hours during the second or third Saturday of the month, and bring in approximately \$5,000 annually. We hope you will become involved as a volunteer or contributor of next year's rehearse-a-thon. We appreciate the contributions from the donors below and hope you will honor them with your business and mention the summer musical.

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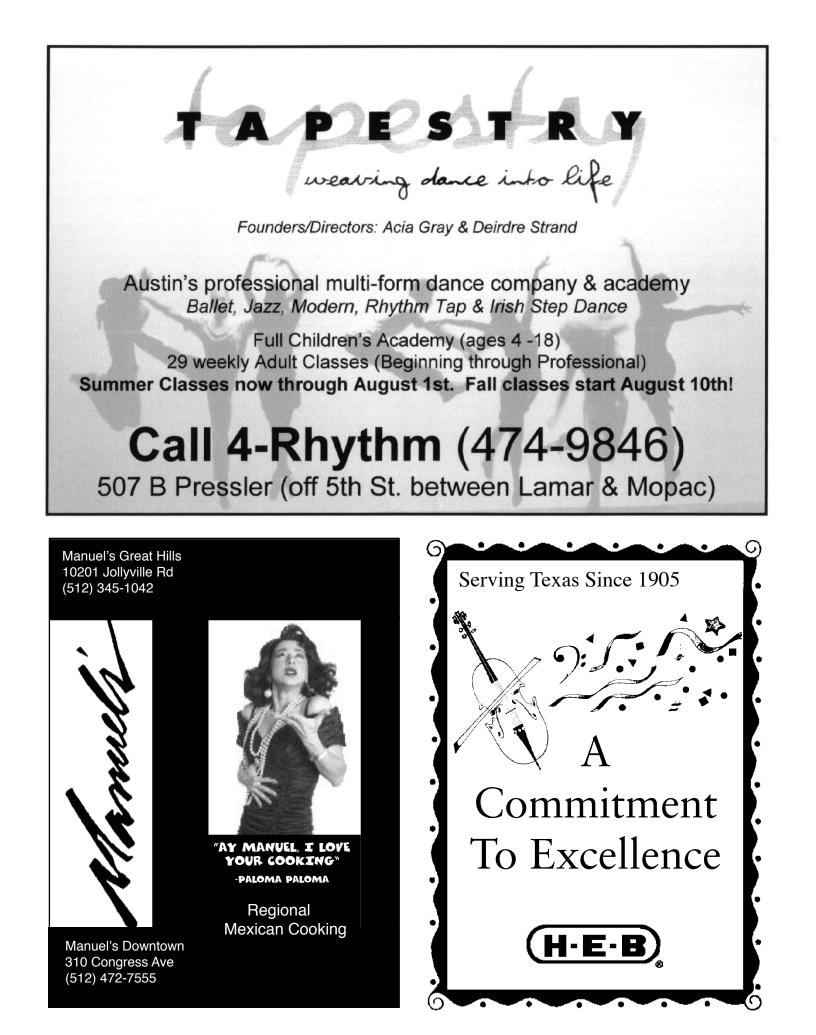
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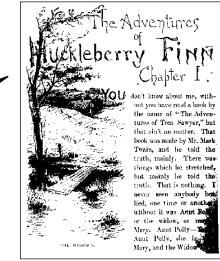
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THE STORY OF MARK TWAIN (Samuel Clemens, 1835-1910)

A onetime printer and Mississippi River boat pilot, Mark Twain became one of America's greatest authors. Tom Sawyer, Huckleberry Finn and Life on the Mississippi rank high on any list of great American books.

Mark Twain was born Samuel Langhorne Clemens on November 30, 1835, in the small town of Florida, Missouri. He was the fourth of five children. His father was a hard worker but a poor provider. The family moved to Hannibal, Mo., on the Mississippi, when young Clemens was 4 years old. It was in this river town that he grew up, and from it he gathered the material for his most famous stories. Hannibal was a frontier town of less than 500 inhabitants. Small as it was, the town offered much valuable material for a budding writer. The inhabitants, a large share of whom Samuel came to know well, ranged on the social scale from poor whites and slaves to the group Huck Finn called "quality folks." It was a market town, visited periodically by farmers from the surrounding countryside. It was also a river town, invaded by all sorts of travelers moving upstream and downstream—steam boat men, revivalists, circus performers, minstrel companies, showboat actors. It was not strange, therefore, that Hannibal and the people encountered there were destined to figure in many of Clemens' books. The character of Judge Thatcher is somewhat like his father; Aunt Polly, his mother; Sid Sawyer, his brother Henry; Huck Finn, a town boy named Tom Blankenship; and Tom Sawyer, a combination of several boys - including himself.



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His father died when he was 12, and the boy was apprenticed to a printer. An apprentice works for someone in order to learn a trade. This was the first step toward his career as a writer. In 1857 he apprenticed himself to a riverboat pilot. He became a licensed pilot and spent two and a half years at his new trade. The Civil War ended his career as a pilot. Clemens went west to Nevada and soon became a reporter on the Virginia City newspaper. Here he began using the pen name Mark Twain. It is an old river term meaning two fathoms, or 12 feet (4 meters) of water depth.

Twain was more than a humorist. Behind his mask of humor lay a serious view of life. The controversial Huckleberry Finn, which is periodically banned in schools or libraries because of alleged racial overtones. It has elements of heartbreak and wisdom that can be appreciated best by adults.

Twain's chief works are: The Celebrated Jumping

Frog of Calaveras County (1867), The Innocents Abroad (1869), Roughing It (1872), The Gilded Age (1873), The Adventures of Tom Sawyer (1876), A Tramp Abroad (1880), The Prince and the Pauper (1882), Life on the Mississippi (1883), The Ad-ventures of Huckleberry Finn (1884), A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court (1889), The Tragedy of Pudd'nhead Wilson (1894), Personal Recollection of Joan of Arc (1896).



Big River, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn is winner of 7 Tony Awards in 1985 including Best Musical, Best Book of a Musical and Best Musical Score and 7 Drama Desk Awards - including Best Music, Best Lyrics and Best Orchestrations.

Huck and Jim on the raft

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