

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

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For Immediate Release

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Tulare County Office of Education Announces:

Theatre Company to perform *Big River* this month

Seven performances July 20-21 and 26-28 • L.J. Williams Theater, 1001 W. Main St., Visalia

The Tulare County Office of Education's Theatre Company will present seven performances of the Tony Award-winning musical *Big River: The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* at the L.J. Williams Theater in Visalia beginning next week. The musical is the Theatre Company's 15th annual summer production. Five evening shows will be held at 7:30 p.m. on July 20, 21, 26, 27 and 28. Two matinee shows will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 21 and 28.

The musical is an adaptation of Mark Twain's much-loved 1884 novel, featuring music and lyrics by American songwriter and Grammy Award winner Roger Miller. The year that the production debuted on Broadway, it won seven Tony's, including best musical and best score for composer Miller.

In the musical, as in the book, Huck Finn runs away from his abusive father to live in the wilderness along the Mississippi River. There, he encounters a slave named Jim, who has also run away. Jim is trying to make his way to Ohio, a free state, so he can buy his family's freedom.

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PRINCIPLE CHARACTERS

ACTOR/SCHOOL

Mark Twain

Alex Galvan, Tulare Union High School

Huckleberry Finn

Tristan Peck, El Diamante High School (Visalia)

Jim

Harrison Mills (adult)

Tom Sawyer

Samuel Quinzon, Mt. Whitney High School (Visalia)

Mary Jane Wilkes

Savannah Walters, El Diamante High School (Visalia)

The King

Jack O'Leary, Redwood High School (Visalia)

The Duke

Steven Braswell, Redwood High School (Visalia) 2012 graduate

General admission tickets are \$12 per person and VIP seating is \$20 per person. Tickets can be purchased at either of the Tulare County Office of Education's Visalia facilities: 2637 W. Burrel Avenue (near the Tulare County Courthouse), or 7000 Doe Avenue, Suite A, (north of Goshen and Shirk intersection), Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Tickets will also be available at the L.J. Williams Theater box office one-half hour before each performance. All ticket sales are final. No refunds or exchanges will be offered.

“We are looking forward to another first-class production from our Theatre Company,” says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. “Year after year, students give spectacular performances, rivaling any adult productions in the region! It’s a joy to watch their work and appreciate the teaching of director Brian Roberts, choreographer Nicole Zweifel and vocal coach Charlotte Garcia.”

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For information about the Theatre Company and the summer musical production, *Big River*, call (559) 651-1482.

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