

# BIG RIVER

THE ADVENTURES OF HUCKLEBERRY FINN

SEPT 19-OCT 11



THE HISTORIC IDEAL PLAYHOUSE



Heber Valley Entertainment presents

# BIG RIVER

THE ADVENTURES OF HUCKLEBERRY FINN

Adapted from the novel  
by Mark Twain

Music and Lyrics  
by Roger Miller

Revised Book by  
William Hauptman

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Director  
*Steve Anderson*

Tech Director  
*Dave Bates*

Music Director  
*Karyn Anderson*

Choreographer  
*Jessica Beardall*

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Huckleberry Finn  
*Stockton Palmer*

Jim  
*Yahosh Bonner*

Mary Jane Wilkes  
*Morgan Palmer*

The King  
*Nathaniel Gay*

The Duke  
*Tim Jafek*

Widow Douglas  
*Becca Gee*

Judge Thatcher  
*Dave Bates*

Alice  
*Rosemay Webster*  
*Rebecca Meats*  
*(10/2 & 10/9)*

Strange Fellow  
*Steve Anderson*

Big River: Theatre for Young Audiences Edition is presented through special arrangement with Concord Theatricals

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# BIG RIVER

## THE ADVENTURES OF HUCKLEBERRY FINN

### Cast & Crew



**Yahosh Bonner**

*Jim*

Yahosh Bonner was born the fifth of eight children in Las Vegas, NV and comes from an accomplished musical heritage. Currently member of the professional singing group "The Bonner Family." Yahosh and his wife Vanessa have 3 boys and a girl. Malachi 15, Samaiah 11, Nehemiah 9, and Kuregiy 3. He has been a cohost on BYUtv's Family Rules, and is a motivational speaker, actor, and recording performing artist. Yahosh starred in the award-winning film "His Name is Green Flake," and was featured in Utah Valleys Business Q's 40 under 40 edition. Received his Bachelor's Degree in Communication Studies from The University of Northern Colorado and Masters from Southern Utah University in Professional Communication. Currently the Athletic Director at faith based private school, American Heritage School. Yahosh also enjoys emceeing and public speaking and he wishes to live up to the quote, "I am my ancestors wildest dreams." Looking for every opportunity to bring the Spirit into every situation as Christ is the center of all of their family decisions.



**Stockton Palmer**

*Huck*

Growing up, there weren't many cds that got played more in Stockton's Family's car than the Big River soundtrack. He is thrilled to get the chance to perform his dream role here at the Ideal Theater! He's especially happy for the chance to be on stage with his wife Morgan. Stockton has previously played Bert in Mary Poppins, Prez in the Pajama Game, and Sebastian in The Little Mermaid.



**Morgan Palmer**

*Mary Jane Wilkes*

Morgan Palmer is so excited to join the Heber Valley Entertainment Family! Past roles include Mary Poppins (Mary Poppins), Little Red (Into the Woods), and Constance (The Forgotten Carols). She is so excited to be in her husband's dream show alongside him!





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**Rosemay Jolicoeur-Webster**

*Alice - 9/19, 9/20, 9/25, 9/26, 10/10, 10/11*

Rosemay Jolicoeur-Webster is thrilled to be joining this production! She previously appeared in the musical Ragtime, where she fell in love with the power of storytelling through song. A classically trained violinist, she has performed in a wide range of ensembles and continues to bring her deep musicianship to the stage. In addition to her theatre work, she has been trained to sing with gospel choirs, including the world-renowned Gladys Knight's Saints Unified Voices and Debra Bonner Unity Gospel Choir, experiences that have enriched her vocal versatility and passion for performance. When not on stage, she works as a psychologist, dedicating her career to supporting individuals and families in building resilience and healing.



**Rebecca Meats**

*Alice - 10/2, 10/9*

Rebecca has appeared in productions such as Annie, Oklahoma!, Newsies, and Hairspray, among others. Rebecca is a current member of the Debra Bonner Unity Gospel Choir, where she has loved sharing the power of music in uplifting settings. While choir singing has been a joy, Rebecca is thrilled to be returning to the stage and diving back into the world of theatre.



**Tim Jafek**

*Duke*

Tim is excited to be sharing his time with the community at The Ideal Playhouse! Last year was his after-high-school debut, and he has made many great connections and had a lot of fun performing in the valley for the past 2 years. He was recently seen as the Cowardly Lion in High Valley Arts production of The Wizard of Oz. Tim is graduating from BYU in math education this coming spring, and he enjoys being active in the many communities he's a part of.





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**Nathaniel Gay**

*King*

Nathaniel Gay is excited to be a part of this amazing cast. Nathaniel is a musician, composer, singer, and actor that has been performing in some way or another since the age of 5. It is his life and his passion and he is always the most happy when he is performing or doing anything that involves entertainment and the arts. Mr Nicely Nicely Johnson at The Ideal is his favorite musical theater role thus far; some of his other favorite roles include Ruben in Joseph and the Technicolor Dream Coat and Mr Macafee in Bye Bye Birdie. He has also been a musical director, assistant director, singer, and musician for several other stage shows and large productions, has done lights/sound for several concerts and dance productions, built sets for a variety of productions, and has been seen in local commercials. Nathan would love to thank all of those who have supported him in this passion and their sacrifices that have made it all possible. He would also like to thank his Heavenly Father for the talents he has given him that have given him so many opportunities, experiences, memories, and blessings!



**Becca Gee**

*Widow Douglas/Aunt Sally*

Becca Gee is thrilled to debut with Ideal Playhouse in Big River. Raised on the stage, she grew up listening to and watching the show with her dad and is so excited to help bring this impactful story to life. Some favorite stage credits include Jane Fairfax in Emma at USU, Sister in Pirates of Penzance at the Maldon Festival in Essex, UK, and singing Stille Nacht with a full symphony in the famous Romanian Athenaeum in Bucharest, Romania. She is so grateful for the support of her family, her beloved David, her daughter Ari, and her mentor Barbara Jenkins, in helping her share her joy and love for storytelling.

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**Steve Anderson**  
*Director/Strange Fellow*

Steve Anderson is an award-winning television producer, theater director, and theme park ride designer. Some of his favorite past projects include producing a tv event with Britney Spears, directing "Bugsy Malone" (Greasepaint), and theming the Van Helsing rollercoaster at Movie Park Germany. Steve is also our creative director at the Ideal Playhouse and is excited to see live shows back on the stage at this wonderfully historic and magical 110-year-old theater.



**Dave Bates**  
*Technical Director/Judge Thatcher/Silas*

Dave is a pioneer in projection mapping and has been winning awards for his projections for the past 25 years! He has a well-known Halloween house (Bates Haunt) that was featured on Good Morning America as one of the country's best and has thousands of visitors each year. Dave has done projection for theaters and events all over the country. By day, he works as a website designer. He lives in Taylorsville with his wife and 5 kids.



**Karyn Anderson**  
*Music Director/Costumes*

Karyn has been involved in music since she can remember. Her family sang together at events around the Salt Lake Valley for over 30 years. She was a member of Salt Lake Harmony Singers and spent several years directing local choirs. Karyn is also a special education teacher and attorney (and suddenly a digital marketer, graphic designer, and costumer) and she has 7 kids. She is so excited to help bring this old theater back to life. She wants to especially thank this incredible cast!



**Jessica Beardall**  
*Choreographer*

Jessica Beardall is 27 and lives in South Jordan, Utah. She received her BFA in Acting from BYU and participated in many productions and dance companies there. Some of her favorite shows include Singin' in the Rain (Kathy), The Last Five Years (Cathy), Finding Nemo (Nemo), and her BYU capstone performance of 12 Angry Jurors (Juror 5). When not performing, she loves being a wife and a mom to her 1 year old twin girls, Emilia and Hazel!



# BIG RIVER

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## *A message from Jim . . .*

Stepping into the role of Jim in Big River is one of the most deeply personal and powerful experiences of my life. As an African American and a descendant of those who were enslaved, this opportunity carries a weight and a responsibility that I do not take lightly. Recently, I had the chance to visit the very plantation where my ancestors were enslaved. That visit stirred a flood of emotions—grief, anger, pride, and resilience. I walked the same ground they once walked, felt the heaviness of their labor and the legacy of their endurance. It was a moment that reconnected me with my roots and reminded me why stories like “Big River” Jim’s must continue to be told with honesty and heart. All though fiction the journey is extremely relatable to past real people’s stories.

Big River is more than just a musical—it is a reflection of a journey toward freedom, the power of moral courage, and the transformative beauty of friendship. Jim is a character with dignity, wisdom, and heart—Huck, Jim’s best friend. A white youth, guided by his moral compass in the face of unthinkable adversity. This story will touch your heart. It will challenge you. It will remind you that loyalty and love can bloom even in the most divided of times. If you haven’t read The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, seen the musical, or engaged with this story before, I encourage you to do so. It’s a journey that will leave you changed. It invites us to build bridges, to listen deeply, and to love beyond boundaries. In a time when unity feels more essential than ever, Big River offers a timely and timeless message.

*Yahosh Bonner*





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## Ronstadt Revival

September 23

Ronstadt Revival featuring Shannon Rae is the premier tribute to Linda Ronstadt. A full 7 piece band, including fiddle and pedal steel, to bring you the true authentic sound of the Ronstadt catalog.



## Tribute to The Who

October 18

"Who Are You," boasts a complete repertoire of Who favorites ranging from the early classics like "I Can't Explain" and "Magic Bus," to songs from their more mature years like "Baba O'Riley" and, of course, "Who Are You." Featuring Carl Dixon of The Guess Who.



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## The Traveling Wilburys Revue November 7

The Traveling Wilburys Revue plays the music of the super-group that happened when GEORGE HARRISON invited TOM PETTY, ROY ORBISON, BOB DYLAN, and JEFF LYNNE to "get together and write some songs." Featuring Here Comes The Sun, Pretty Woman, and many more!

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