



Michael McElroy (left) and Tyrone Giordano perform "Muddy Water" from the first national tour of The Deaf West Theatre Production of "Big River, the Adventures of Huckleberry Finn."

# Big River Adventure

## Hearing impaired cast wins top reviews

The Portland engagement of the American Sign Language adaptation of "Big River, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn," opens at the Keller Auditorium, Thursday, May 26 at 7:30 p.m.

Sign language has been uniquely added to the music and lyrics of Roger Miller and the book by William Hauptman. The works are adapted from the novel by Mark Twain.

"Big River" won rave reviews during its extended run on Broadway in 2003 following its critically acclaimed engagement at the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles.

Tyrone Giordano returns to play Huck, a role, which he originated in the Broadway production.

The Deaf West Theatre Production includes deaf, hard-of-hearing and hearing actors performing each role in a synchronized ballet of speaking, signing, gesture, and song and dance. Spoken English and American Sign Language are interwoven with music, dance, and storytelling techniques from both hearing and deaf cultures into a "third language" creating a unique and groundbreaking theatrical experience.

The show is based on one of the greatest creations in American Fiction, Mark Twain's classic "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn." This tale of adventure and self-discovery begins on a raft on the Mississippi River in the 1840's,

where Huck, escaping from his drunken father, meets up with Jim, a runaway slave. The story of their journey downstream is an American classic that captures the rhythms, sounds and spirits of life on the big river.

The musical numbers include, "Do You Want To Go To Heaven," "Waiting for the Light to Shine," "Muddy Water," "When the Sun Goes Down in the South" and "Worlds Apart."

The show begins on May 24 and ends on May 29 with Saturday and Sunday matinees and weekday evening performances. Tickets range from \$24-66 and can be purchased from any Ticketmaster seller.

## Berry Gowns Serve Charity

(AP)—Oscar-winning actress Halle Berry has literally given the clothes off her back to her former high school. The Cleveland-area native donated two of her designer gowns to the school to be auctioned during its annual prom fashion show. The money raised will send Bedford High School students on a field trip to the Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati.

"She always said that if I need anything to let her know," said Yvonne Sims, a guidance counselor and Berry's fifth-grade teacher.



Actress Halle Berry arrives for Academy Awards last February in Los Angeles. The Cleveland-area native donated two of her designer gowns to her former high school to be auctioned during its annual prom fashion show. (AP photo)

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