

The English Theatre
Frankfurt



HUCK FINN

A play for young audiences

A play by Sean Aita

Based on Mark Twain's The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

Directed by PJ Escobio

The English Theatre Frankfurt

Ticket Reservation

Gallusanlage 7, 60329 Frankfurt/Main

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E-Mail box-office@english-theatre.de

Online Booking www.english-theatre.de

Also at advance sales agencies.



Box Office Times

Monday – Friday 11.00 am – 6.30 pm

Saturday 3.00 pm – 6.30 pm

Sunday 3.00 pm – 5.00 pm

Location and Public Transport

The theatre is located at Gallusanlage 7, and can easily be reached from the main station (Hauptbahnhof), Taunusanlage or from Willy-Brandt-Platz. A taxi stand is opposite the theatre. You can find convenient parking at Parkhaus am Theater, Hauptbahnhof, Goetheplatz and Kaiserplatz.

Education Department

Tel. (069) 242 316-33

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HUCK FINN

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Play by Sean Aita

Based on Mark Twains **The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn**

Creative Team

Director PJ Escobio

Musical Director James E. Bailey

Assistant Director Laura Nikolich

Set Designer Daniel Schult

Lighting Designer Julian Schwikart

Sound Design Maximilian Borschel

Costume Designer Melanie Schöberl

Props Dirk Conrad

Carpenter Damian Ntuk

Characters in the play

Huck Finn (Huckleberry Finn), an adventurous boy who fakes his death to escape his abusive father and makes a long and frequently interrupted voyage down the Mississippi River on a raft.

Widow Douglas, Huck's guardian who tries to teach him manners.

Tom Sawyer, Huck's civilized best friend who enjoys extravagant stories and schemes.

Jim, a runaway slave who joins Huck in his flight down the Mississippi.

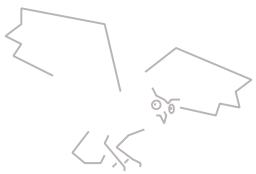
Old Finn, Huck's abusive, drunken father who plots to steal his son's reward money.

Woman, town woman whom Huck visits disguised as a girl.

The King and **The Duke**, two con artists who stage a production of mangled Shakespeare plays and take control of Huck and Jim's raft.

Aunt Sally, Tom Sawyer's aunt, sister of Tom Sawyer's mother.

HUCK FINN



Mark Twain

Mark Twain, born Samuel Clemens (November 30, 1835 – April 21, 1910) was the sixth of seven children born to John Clemens, a lawyer, and his wife Jane. When Samuel was four, the family moved to Hannibal, Missouri a town on the Mississippi River. Samuel loved to watch the riverboats and dreamed of being a riverboat pilot. Many of his stories were inspired by his adventures in Hannibal.

At 17, Samuel left Hannibal and found print work in St Louis, New York, Philadelphia and Cincinnati. Then in 1857, he returned to study for two years to become a river-boat pilot. But 1861 saw the end of Samuel's river days once the Civil War started. He moved west to join the Confederate Army, although he left before fighting began. After working briefly as a miner, he became a reporter for the Territorial Enterprise in Virginia City, Nevada, and began writing short stories under the name Mark Twain.

Mark's first popular story – **The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County** – was published in 1865. It received international acclaim and soon Mark was one of the most famous American celebrities of his day. He was asked to write his first (and best-selling) book **The Innocents Abroad** (1869) about his travels, and other works followed including **Roughing It** (1872), **The Prince and the Pauper** (1882), and **Life on the Mississippi** (1883).

In 1870, Mark married 24-year-old Olivia Langdon, the daughter of a rich coal merchant. They settled in Buffalo, New York, and had three daughters and a son. Their son sadly died in infancy.

Parenthood led to Mark's famous 'river novels' for children. He read each chapter to his family as he wrote them. **The Adventures of Tom Sawyer** (1876) and its sequel **The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn** (1884) tell the adventures of two boys on the Mississippi River. Huckleberry Finn, in particular, has been called 'The Great American Novel' – a tale of a white boy helping a black man to escape slavery in the southern US. Mark Twain's "river books" have been banned in places as some characters in them use offensive, racist language that was common at the time of writing.

Mark's writing earned him a lot of money, but he lost most of it by investing in risky ventures. In 1895, he began a world tour giving lectures to pay off his debts, which he did in 1898. Twain was born shortly after an appearance of Halley's Comet, and he predicted that he would "go out with it" as well; he died the day after the comet returned.

Huck Finn script

Scene 1

FINN: Listen closely friends, because this here is a great story. It's the story of how a boy called Huckleberry Finn, that's me by the way, ran away from home and rode a raft down the great Mississippi river with a runaway slave named Jim. Every single word of this story is true, except for those bits that are lies of course because a story isn't a story unless you stretch it just a little. So come back in time with me to the start of my tale when I was living with a lady called the Widow Douglas, that's her over there. She took me into her home when my father left me, she wanted to civilize me, that means turn me into a good, decent boy, a pretty hard job for a boy like me, who ain't never lived in a house or slept in a bed before.

WIDOW: Huckleberry!

FINN: Yes, ma'am?

WIDOW: Sit down here beside me.

FINN: Yes, ma'am.

WIDOW: Who were you talking to just then?

FINN: Oh, nobody ma'am. Just myself, I guess.

WIDOW: Well, don't Huckleberry, talking to yourself is a bad habit and don't scrunch up like that, sit up straight and don't put your feet up there.

FINN: Yes ma'am, I mean, no, Ma'am.

WIDOW: Stop yawning, Huckleberry and don't stretch. It's bad manners.

FINN: Sorry ma'am.

WIDOW: And stop calling me ma'am. You know you are to call me Widow Douglas.

FINN: Yes ma'am...Widow Douglas.

WIDOW: I don't know what's to become of you, Huckleberry Finn, I really don't. Why can't you try to behave for once in your life? You know what happens to bad children when they die, don't you? They go straight down to the deepest pits of hell.

FINN: Well, I wish I was there, I'll bet it's a whole lot more fun than being right here!

WIDOW: Oooh, you wicked boy! You should have your mouth washed out with soap for saying such a thing like that.



FINN: I'm sorry, but I just want to go somewhere. Anywhere! All I want is a change.

WIDOW: You should be happy that the good Lord has given you a roof over your head and food to eat. Just think about how nice it will be if you are good and go to heaven when you die.

FINN: What do people do in heaven?

WIDOW: Why, they play harps and sing to each other for ever and ever.

FINN: Do you think my best friend, Tom Sawyer, will go to heaven?

WIDOW: No, I do not. I think the devil has got a nice hot fire ready for young Tom Sawyer.

FINN: That's good.

WIDOW: Why is that?

FINN: I want us to be together. (*He sniffs*)

WIDOW: Don't sniff, Huckleberry. Use your handkerchief.

FINN: Sorry, Widow, I forgot. (*He rakes out a handkerchief, blows his nose but then spoils everything by wiping it on his sleeve*). The Widow was a good woman, she didn't mean any harm. She nagged a lot but she meant well. Wait a minute, have I told you about my best friend yet? I haven't? Well my best friend was a boy called ...

Scene 2

TOM: Tom Sawyer. Listen Huck, I'm starting a gang of robbers and anybody who wants to join has to sign this.

HUCK: What is it?

TOM: It's an oath. Anybody who joins a gang of robbers has to sign an oath. It says so in all the books.

HUCK: Well, give me a pen.

TOM: Don't you know anything, Huck Finn? You can't sign an oath with a pen. You've to sign it with blood.

HUCK: Blood?

TOM: Here's the knife, just let me cut your thumb.

HUCK: Just a minute, Tom.

TOM: You're not scared of a little cut are you, you big baby?

HUCK: Of course not. I just wanna to know what it is I'm signing.

TOM: It says that all the boys who join have to become robbers, wear masks and rob people, then kill them.

HUCK: Do we have to kill the people, Tom?

TOM: Oh yes, it's best. Most books say it's best to kill them but some you have to hold to ransom.

HUCK: Ransom? What's that?

TOM: I don't know. But it's what robbers do.

HUCK: But how can we do it if we don't know what it is?

TOM: Stop asking stupid questions.

HUCK: Do we kill the women too?

TOM: Are you crazy? Whoever heard of anybody killing women?
Of course, we don't, we just keep them in our cave until they fall in love with us.

HUCK: Fall in love with us?

TOM: Don't you ever read any books? The women always fall in love with the robbers.
Now, give me your hand.

HUCK: OK, but you cut yours first.

TOM: (*looks at knife*) Maybe a knife is a bit too much. Have you got a pin?

HUCK: Here. (*They both prick their thumbs with the pin and press them on the paper*.)

TOM: There, that's all done.

HUCK: When do we start robbing and killing?

TOM: Tomorrow.

HUCK: Oh, I promised the widow I'd cut the grass. Can we start on Sunday?

TOM: No, we can't start on Sunday.

HUCK: Why not?

TOM: Because robbing and killing people on Sunday would be wicked.

(*Jim, a tall black man wearing dungarees enters and sits on the front of the stage*.)

JIM: (*sings*)

JIM: Huck!





HUCK: Howdy, Jim!

HUCK: Now there's something important you've got to understand. In Missouri, the state Tom and I were living in when we were kids, black folks could be slaves. That means you could buy and sell them and treat them anyway you wanted to. A black man or woman could be set free by their master, but if they were slaves they had no rights at all. Ain't that right, Jim?

JIM: That's right, Mr Huck. (*sings*)

HUCK: What's the matter Jim?

JIM: It's Miss Watson, the Widow's sister. I heard her talking to the Widow and she said she might sell me to the slave traders. She says I'm worth eight hundred dollars and she needs money more than she needs me.

HUCK: Eight hundred dollars! That's a lot of money.

JIM: It is. I don't want to be sold, Huck. I don't want to go to New Orleans to work.

HUCK: Well I guess you'll have to.

JIM: But what about my wife and kids? I won't ever see them again.

HUCK: Maybe she won't sell you.

JIM: Yeah, maybe.

HUCK: (*to audience*) You know that was the first time I ever saw Jim cry, I remember I was surprised, because at that time I didn't think that black folks had feelings just like everybody else. Anyway, a couple of months went by and I forgot all about Jim and his troubles. I was busy at school learning how to read and spell and write a little. I even learned my 'times tables?'. One time seven times seven is seven, two times seven is fourteen, three times seven is three... (*Huck is pulled around by his father.*)

Scene 3

OLD FINN: Well now, look at you. Look how clean and smart you are. A real gentleman.

HUCK: Pap! You've come back.

OLD FINN: That's right, your dear old father. You didn't expect to see me again did you?

HUCK: I thought...

OLD FINN: You thought I was dead, didn't you? Well I'm not, not yet, and I want some money.

HUCK: I...



OLD FINN: Don't pretend you haven't got any. I heard how you and Tom Sawyer found a pile of gold in a cave.

HUCK: It's true, Pap, but I ain't got the money, Judge Thatcher is looking after it for me.

OLD FINN: Well, you get the money from him and you give it to me. Now boy, you can read and write, I hear?

HUCK: That's right, Pap.

OLD FINN: You think you're better than me now, don't you, boy?

HUCK: No, Pap.

OLD FINN: Don't lie to me, boy! You think you're better than your own father. Well I'll show you.

Old Finn removes his belt and begins to beat Huck.

HUCK: Stop it, Pa, please don't. (*He is beaten back into a corner where he lies, curled up*)

OLD FINN: (*to audience*) Ha! What are you all looking at? Huckleberry thought he was the only one who was going to tell this story. Well he ain't! I'm here, too. Right, let's start by having a look at you (*he walks through the audience and stops once or twice to insult people.*) Just as, I thought, you're all good for nothing. I don't want to talk to idiots. Get up on your feet, Huckleberry. Stand up like a man! Don't lie on the floor there like a dog. (*Huck gets up*) Now, you're coming with me up to my cabin in the woods. We'll do some fishing and hunting and you will get me the money from Judge Thatcher, because if you don't... (*he shows Huck his belt again.*)

Huck and Old Finn exit. Jim enters, he works while he talks.

Scene 4

JIM: (*to audience*) Hey y'all! Poor old Huck had to go with his Pap to a cabin in the woods, on the other side of the Mississippi river, Widow Douglas was worried sick about him, but she couldn't do nothing about it. Old Finn was his pap, even if he did hit him.

Widow Douglas enters.

WIDOW: Who are you talking to, Jim?

JIM: Er, nobody Miss Douglas...

WIDOW: My sister wants to talk to you, Jim. You are to be sold at the Slave auction, tomorrow.

JIM: Oh no, Miss Douglas.



WIDOW: I'm afraid so, Jim. I tried to talk her out of it, but she wants the money. I'll make sure the children are well cared for, don't you worry about that.

JIM: Thank you, Miss Douglas, but...

WIDOW: *(exits)* I'm sorry, Jim.

JIM: Right that minute I decided to run away. I knew if I was sold down South I would never be free. If I could get to one of the free states in the North, then one day I could earn enough, money to buy my whole family. But before I could go, there was some bad news. Huck Finn was dead. Widow Douglas, Tom Sawyer, and Old Finn enter and stand as if at a funeral.

OLD FINN: *(to Widow)* I left him alone while I went hunting and when I came back, the cabin had been robbed and there was blood all over the floor.

WIDOW: But no body?

OLD FINN: There was a trail of blood leading to the river.

WIDOW: Poor Huckleberry, poor, poor Huckleberry.

OLD FINN: Never mind about that. Now how am I going to get that money?

Scene 5

JIM: That night when it was dark, I crawled into the bushes behind the house and then ran down to the river. I held on to a piece of wood and jumped in the water. It was cold. I wanted to swim over to the Illinois side of the river but the river was powerful strong, so, I floated until I came to Jackson's island. I had some berries and then I heard something. Footsteps! There was somebody else on the island with me.

Huck enters.

HUCK: Jim!

JIM: Aaagh! Don't come near me! Don't come near me! Stay where you are! Please don't hurt me, I've never done any harm to a ghost, I've always liked dead people.

HUCK: Ghost? I'm not a ghost. Look I'm real. Touch me.

Jim does.

JIM: Huck Finn? You're alive?

HUCK: Of course, I'm alive.

JIM: Are you sure?

HUCK: I'm sure.

JIM: Well why didn't you say so? What happened to you?

HUCK: Well, Pap locked me in the cabin nearly every day while he went hunting. I dug a hole so that I could get out. Then I killed a pig and left the blood all over the floor, ade a trail to the river and then I jumped onto my raft and came here.

JIM: Raft?

HUCK: That's right. I found a raft. Now what about you, what are you doing here, Jim?

JIM: I...I...run off.

HUCK: Run off?

JIM: I know it's a bad thing to do Huck, but I had to. You won't tell on me or send me back will you? Please?

HUCK: No. I won't tell.

JIM: Oh, thank you, thank you.

HUCK: What are you gonna to do?

JIM: Well, if I can get to the city of Cairo, Illinois I'll be safe.

HUCK: Cairo? Hmm. We could be there in a couple of days.

JIM: We?

HUCK: Of course. We'll start tomorrow night. *(to audience)* And we did. We got onto my raft and set off down the deep, dark river.

JIM: It's funny to think that everybody thinks you're dead, Huck.

HUCK: That's right, Jim. *(sings)*

They laugh together.

HUCK: We floated down the river for the next two days, hiding the raft and sleeping when the sun came up and travelling at night. Jim was good company and we told each other all kinds of stories. But we both knew that if Jim got caught, he would be in bad trouble. A runaway slave could be hanged.

JIM: Look Huck! What's that?

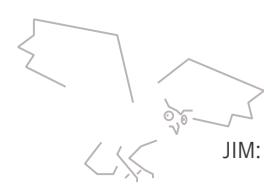
HUCK: It looks like part of a wooden cabin, floating in the river.

JIM: It must have been washed away by a flood, I'll try to get on it.

Jim climbs onto it.

JIM: Look at this Huck, there's all sorts of things in here. Oh ...

HUCK: What is it?



JIM: It's...

HUCK: What?

JIM: A body...a dead body.

HUCK: Let me look.

JIM: No! No, Huck. I'm coming back.

HUCK: Jim was very upset at seeing a body. He said it was bad luck. The next night a thick fog came down over the river and it was hard to see anything. About midnight, Jim thought he saw some lights that looked like a big town.

JIM: Huck, is that Cairo over there?

HUCK: I can't see. It's too misty.

JIM: I can see lights.

HUCK: Let's go and take a look. (*They paddle the raft to the shore*). You stay on the raft. I'll try to find someone to ask.

JIM: Be careful, Huck.

HUCK: I will.

JIM: Just a minute.

HUCK: What?

JIM: What if you see someone you know?

HUCK: You're right. What can I do?

JIM: Here. Wear this sheet like a dress. Pretend to be a girl.

HUCK: A girl?!

JIM: Go on, Huck.

HUCK: (*putting on sheet*) But how do I pretend?

JIM: Talk in a high voice and walk like a girl.

HUCK: (*he does so*) You mean like this?

JIM: Almost. Keep trying.

HUCK: (*in a girl's voice*) Good evening. Beautiful weather this evening. (*In his own voice*). This is ridiculous.

JIM: No it's not. That's good, Huck, really good.

HUCK: Alright. I'll be back in an hour.

JIM: I'll be here.

HUCK: (*to audience*) I thought it was a pretty silly idea to dress up as a girl. But we had to ask where we were, so I walked towards the town and knocked on the door of the first house I saw.

WOMAN: Come in.

HUCK: Thank you, Ma'am.

WOMAN: Sit down. What is your name, child?

HUCK: Sarah Williams.

WOMAN: Here, you can help me with this sewing. (*She hands Huck a needle and cotton*). And where do you live, Sarah?

HUCK: Hookerville Ma'am just up the river. I'm on my way to Cairo.

WOMAN: Well, you've gone too far, Cairo is back the other way.

HUCK: Upstream?

WOMAN: That's right.

HUCK: Oh, no.

WOMAN: Well, never mind. You can stay here for tonight. Are you hungry?

HUCK: No, ma'am.

WOMAN: My husband will be home soon. He's out with some men from the town at the moment, hunting for a runaway slave.

HUCK: Runaway slave?

WOMAN: That's right. This slave ran away the very night a young boy called HuckleberryFinn was murdered. He killed the poor child and then ran off.

HUCK: No!

WOMAN: Oh yes. There's a four hundred dollar reward. What did you say your name was again?

HUCK: Uh, Mary...Mary Williams.

WOMAN: You said Sarah when you came in.

HUCK: Sarah Mary Williams.

WOMAN: What's your real name. Bill or Tom or Bob?

HUCK: Please don't make fun of a poor girl like me...



WOMAN: Girl? Look at your sewing. You're not a girl. You're a boy, aren't you?

HUCK: Yes ma'am.

WOMAN: I thought so. Now tell me your real name.

HUCK: *(to audience)* Well, I told her a few more lies and she went into the kitchen to make some food, I ran out of the door and back to the river. Jim! Jim!

JIM: I'm here.

HUCK: Quickly, Jim. We've got to get going! We pushed the raft out into the river and jumped on board as fast as we could. When we were a few miles away Jim asked me what had happened.

JIM: So we have gone past Cairo?

Huck: That's right.

JIM: But how?

HUCK: We must have missed it in the fog.

JIM: How are we going to get back? We can't row against the stream on a raft.

HUCK: I don't know Jim. I just don't know. *(to audience)* Things were pretty bad. The further South we went, the more dangerous it was for Jim.

JIM: *(song)*

Scene 6

HUCK: Early next morning, we were just hiding the raft when two men came running out of the bushes.

MAN 1: Quick boy, help us. Get this raft going as fast as you can.

MAN 2: Hurry, they're right behind us!

HUCK: I could hear voices shouting and the sound of dogs barking quite close by, so Jim and I pushed the raft away from the river bank. Then we floated out into midstream.

MAN 1: Thank you, boy, thank you.

HUCK: Why were those people chasing you?

MAN 1: No reason. No reason at all.

MAN 2: He was selling toothpaste.

HUCK: Toothpaste? What's wrong with selling toothpaste?

MAN 2: His made your teeth fall out.

HUCK: *(to Man 2)* They were chasing you too. What did you do?

MAN 2: I don't know.

MAN 1: I do. He was reading the Bible at church meetings and collecting money for missionary work.

HUCK: But that's a good thing to do.

MAN 1: Not if you spend toe money on getting drunk!

MAN 2: Tell me, is your friend here a runaway slave?

HUCK: Runaway slave? No, of course not. Jim is... is my servant. We are going to visit my uncle in New Orleans, aren't we, Jim?

JIM: That's right, Master Huck.

MAN 1: Where's your father, boy?

JIM: He was with us, but a steamboat ran over the front of the raft and he was drowned. We travel at night because people always think Jim is a runaway and they try to take him away from me.

MAN 2: That's a sad story. *(he sighs)* Nearly as sad as my own.

HUCK: What is it?

MAN 2: Well, I don't know how to tell you this. *(he starts to cry)*

HUCK: What?

MAN 2: The secret of my birth.

HUCK: What do you mean?

MAN 2: I am really a Duke.

HUCK & JIM: A Duke?

MAN 2: That's right. I was stolen as a baby and brought up by poor people, but I am the true Duke of Bridgewater.

HUCK: Wow!

MAN 2: You should bow when you speak to me and call me "Your Grace".

HUCK: Is this really true?

MAN 2: I give you my word.

HUCK: *(bowing)* Well if it's really true, can I get you anything, Your Grace?





DUKE: Just something to eat.

Man 1 begins to cry loudly.

HUCK: What is it?

MAN I: I can't stop myself from crying to think of my own sad story.

HUCK: What is it?

MAN 1: I have also got a secret. I know you won't believe me, but I am really a King.

DUKE: A King!!!

MAN I: That's what I said, a King. My father was King of France. He came to Kentucky on holiday with me, his baby son. But he died of a fever and his wicked brother took the throne. My nurse brought me up as her own child and told me the story when I grew up.

HUCK: That's terrible.

KING: I know. You see really you should lie on the floor and kiss my feet and call me "Your Majesty".

HUCK: Are you really sure you're a King?

KING: You see this ring? This is the royal crest of France.

HUCK: *(bowing and kissing his feet)* Your Majesty. *(to audience)* I didn't really think that they were a Duke and a King, I was just pretending. I knew that it wasn't going to be easy to get rid of them both, so I decided to keep them happy while I thought of a plan.

JIM: *(whispering)* How are we going to get away from those two?

HUCK: I'm not sure. I reckon if we go ashore tomorrow morning we'll be able to lose them. *(to audience)* The next day, we stopped near a small town, but the Duke and the King were too clever to go into town on their own.

KING: Come on, Huckleberry. You come along with me. We have got work to do.

KING: Yes, my boy, we have a show to perform.

HUCK: A show?

DUKE: Acting in plays is a good way to make money.

We will perform a Shakespeare play.

HUCK: Shakespeare?

KING: King Richard the Third, by William Shakespeare. The best tragedy in the world. You will collect the money.

HUCK: *(to Jim, whispering)* I'll find a way to get back to the raft tonight. Wait here for me and keep out of sight.

JIM: I'll be waiting.

HUCK: I went into town with the King and put up lots of posters for their show. Then the Duke came and got a big crowd of people together. They made me go around collecting money for the tickets. They told the people that they were famous actors, all the way from London, England. They didn't let me out of their sights, all day long. The Duke hired a big hall and then he and the King put on their costumes. At seven o'clock, a huge crowd was sitting in the theatre. They were ready to perform.

The Duke and King enter. They are wearing tights and armour and carrying swords. The costumes look as though they have been made out of cardboard.

DUKE: My lords, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to our theatre.

Tonight, for one night only we present to you Shakespeare's King Richard the Third.

KING: To be or not to be that is the question.

DUKE: Get thee to a nunnery go!

KING: *(draws his sword)* Once more into the breach dear friends, once more!

They fight. The King kills the Duke by stabbing him under the arm.

DUKE: Thus die I. Now I am dead, now am I fled. My soul is in the sky.
So, die, die, die, die, die.

KING: Oh, I am fortune's fool. *(stabs himself and dies)*

HUCK: *(to audience)* It was the shortest show I'd ever seen and I couldn't understand a word of it. Anyway, I ran back to the raft while the Duke and the King tried to stop the crowd from taking their money back. *(shouts)* Jim! Jim! Hurry, let's go! *(silence)* I called for Jim for half an hour but I couldn't find him anywhere.

The King and Duke run in.

KING: Let's get going, quick!

HUCK: Where's Jim?

KING: Forget about him, let's get going.

HUCK: I'm not going without him.

KING: Don't be an idiot.

HUCK: Where is he?

DUKE: Sold.



HUCK: You sold Jim?

DUKE: Don't get so angry! He was only a runaway slave.

We didn't believe your stupid story. You can always get another.

KING: We got eight dollars, you can have your share. Now, come on!

HUCK: Where is he?

DUKE: A farm over that way. The farmer is going to advertise up river. When he finds out who he belongs to he'll claim the reward. Come on, get this raft going.

There are people coming after us.

HUCK: You can do it yourself.

DUKE: We can't sail this thing.

Scene 7

HUCK: You'll have to. *(to audience)* I jumped off the raft and I ran and ran as fast as I could. I had to rescue Jim. I got to the farm where Jim was, but I didn't know what to say. I knocked on the door and a woman opened it.

WOMAN: *(kisses him)* Come in! Come in! You're here at last, thank goodness for that. I was worried you'd got lost.

HUCK: Huh?

WOMAN: Come and sit down by the fire and tell me everything. Tell me all about your mother and the whole family. How are they all?

HUCK: Er ...

WOMAN: You poor thing! You must be hungry. Let me get you something nice to eat. Everyone will be so pleased to see their dear Cousin Tom. Why are you so late? Did you have any trouble on the boat?

HUCK: Yes, Ma'am.

WOMAN: You don't have to call me ma'am. It's Aunt Sally to you. I'm so glad you're here, my dear little Tom Sawyer.

HUCK: Tom Sawyer?

WOMAN: That is who you are, isn't it?

HUCK: Of course it is. The family are all fine; Uncle Silas, Aunt May, everybody.

AUNT SALLY: Good, good. Now, let's get you some food.

HUCK: *(to audience)* I could hardly believe my luck. She thought I was Tom Sawyer, and that meant that Tom was on his way. He would know how to rescue Jim. I waited by the road the next day and at three in the afternoon I saw my old friend walking along the road. *(to Tom)* Tom!

TOM: Aaaaagh!

HUCK: It's me, Huckleberry Finn.

TOM: Keep away! Keep away from me!

HUCK: It's all right, Tom. I'm real.

TOM: Huck?

HUCK: Look, I'm real, I'm alive.

TOM: Are you sure?

HUCK: Of course I'm sure.

TOM: But how did you...?

HUCK: I'll tell you later. First we have to rescue Jim.

TOM: Jim the slave?

HUCK: Your Aunt Sally got him locked in a shed on her farm. I know it's wrong Tom, but I'm gonna help him to get free.

TOM: Fine.

HUCK: You don't think it's a bad thing to do?

TOM: No.

HUCK: Tom told his Aunt Sally that he was his brother Sid Sawyer.

That night we climbed out of our bedroom window and went to find Jim in the shed, at the end of the garden.

JIM: Huck Finn!

HUCK: Hi, Jim. How are you?

JIM: Not too bad, Huck.

TOM: Are there any rats in here?

JIM: No.

TOM: We'd better get you some. Prisoners always have to have rats.

JIM: But I hate rats.



TOM: And spiders.

JIM: Spiders?

TOM: Don't you ever read anything? We'll have to bring you a file, baked in cake, so that you can file your chains down.

JIM: But I ain't got no chains, just this here rope, around my hands.

TOM: No chains? What sort of prison is this? This is all going to be too easy.

JIM: I want it to be easy! I wanna get out of here.

TOM: No, no, no. A prison has to be impossible to escape from. Where are the guards?

JIM: There ain't any.

TOM: No guards?

JIM: No.

TOM: Right. We will have to write a letter to your Aunt, Huck.

HUCK: A letter?

TOM: Warning her that dangerous criminals will try to set Jim free tomorrow night.

HUCK: But then people will be waiting for us. People with guns.

TOM: That's right. We'll be famous and Jim will be free.

HUCK: Couldn't we just cut his ropes now and let him go tonight?

TOM: Of course not.

HUCK: But why not?

TOM: It just wouldn't be right. Good night Jim. We'll be back tomorrow night.

Come on Huck.

HUCK: Tom and I wrote to Aunt Sally. Then we got everything ready to rescue Jim.

AUNT SALLY: Tom! Tom!

HUCK: Yes, Aunt Sally.

AUNT SALLY: Look at this.

HUCK: What is it?

AUNT SALLY: It's a letter. "Dear Lady, we are going to free your runaway slave tonight."

HUCK: Who is it from?



HUCK: What are you going to do?

AUNT SALLY: I have called on every man in the town. They are all coming here tonight with their guns to wait for this gang in the orchard. Don't go outside tonight, Tom or you and Sid could be shot, by accident.

HUCK: Yes, Aunt Sally.

Scene 8

(to audience) That night, Tom and I crept out of our beds and down to the shed. We had dug a hole under the wall at the back. We crawled in and pulled Jim out with us. But, as we ran towards the river, I tripped tripping on a log and made a loud noise.

VOICES: What was that? There they are. Shoot them!

There is the sound of loud gunfire

TOM: Aggh. Huck, Jim, help me!

HUCK: Tom had been shot in the leg. By the time we got to the raft it was bleeding badly. The King and the Duke had gone but Tom was too badly injured to move, so we lay him on the river bank.

HUCK: What are we going to do?

JIM: I'll get the bullet out, you get a doctor.

HUCK: But Jim, if you wait here you'll be caught again.

JIM: Just do as I tell you or Tom will die. Go on!

HUCK: Well, I ran for a doctor and Jim looked after Tom.

The doctor said Jim saved Tom's life, but Jim was caught and locked up again.

This time they did put chains on him. Tom was out cold for a couple of days and Aunt Sally sat by his bed the whole time. Early on Sunday, Tom opened his eyes.

TOM: Aunt Sally.

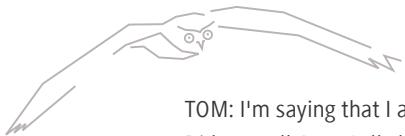
AUNT SALLY: Sid.

TOM: It's Tom.

AUNT SALLY: Shh! You're just confused, Tom is over there.

TOM: That's Huck. Huckleberry Finn.

AUNT SALLY: What are you saying?



TOM: I'm saying that I am Tom Sawyer and that is my friend, Huck Finn.
Did you tell Aunt Sally how we set Jim free?

AUNT SALLY: Jim?

TOM: The runaway slave. Did he tell you how we wrote that letter from the gang of criminals and how we dug a tunnel to get Jim out?

AUNT SALLY: No, he did not. Now, get some rest. (*to Huck*)
You have got a lot of explaining to do, young man.

TOM: It doesn't really matter. Anyway, at least Jim is free.

AUNT SALLY: He is not. He's locked up in the shed.

TOM: (*to Huck*) But why didn't Jim get away?

HUCK: He stayed to look after you.

AUNT SALLY: He saved your life. I feel bad that he's locked up again, but a slave is a slave. He belongs to someone else. There's nothing I can do about that.

TOM: But he can't be locked up. He's free.

AUNT SALLY: Free? What do you mean?

TOM: Jim is free. Miss Watson, Jim's owner, felt guilty for trying to sell him down South, so she set him free in her will. She died last week, so Jim IS FREE.

AUNT SALLY: Well, my goodness me!

HUCK: Why didn't you tell me?

TOM: And lose the chance to rescue him from prison?

HUCK: Jim was free from the shed and Tom got much better. Soon, it was time for us all to go back up the river. Tom gave Jim 400 dollars for being such a good prisoner and for letting us rescue him from prison when he was already free.

JIM: Well Huck. I guess you know what I'm going to do with this 400 dollars.

HUCK: Yes, Jim, I guess I do. Buy the freedom of your wife and kids.

JIM: That's right. Thanks, Huck.

HUCK: Thank you, Jim.

JIM: What for?

HUCK: For waiting with Tom, and for being my friend.

HUCK: I guess I'll have to go back to my father, now.

JIM: No you won't, Huck.

HUCK: What do you mean?

JIM: You remember that house we saw floating in the river?
The one with a dead body in it?

HUCK: Yeah.

JIM: The body was your father. He's dead, Huck.

HUCK: It was a bit of a shock to bear he was dead, but I wasn't really sorry.
Tom, Jim and I caught the steam boat together and went back up the river to Hannibal.
My adventure was over but my life had only just begun.

SONG: Great Day.

THE END



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