



**News Release**  
**Virginia Repertory Theatre**

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**January 9, 2019**

**Virginia Repertory Theatre Presents**  
***Huck and Tom and the Mighty Mississippi***  
**Music and Lyrics by Ron Barnett**  
**Adapted from Mark Twain by Peter Howard**  
**Developed by Virginia Repertory Theatre**

**Richmond, VA --** Virginia Repertory Theatre announces the company of the second production of the 2018/19 Children's Season, ***Huck and Tom and the Mighty Mississippi***, opening Friday, January 25, 2019, at the Children's Theatre at Willow Lawn. Based on the classic adventure novels by Mark Twain, follow our young heroes, Huckleberry Finn and Tom Sawyer, in a footstompin' musical adventure down the Mississippi River.

Huck and Tom spring to life, along with other familiar residents and rascallions of Hannibal, MO (including Jim, Becky Thatcher, and Aunt Polly), as they explore the majestic river that defined their lives, tested their souls, and carried their spirits into the heart of America.

The show will be the second show in the newly renovated space at Willow Lawn. Virginia Rep has added lights, new bathrooms, and fresh paint to make the theater even more family-friendly. ***Huck and Tom and the Mighty Mississippi*** will be onstage through March 3, 2019 at the Children's Theatre at Willow Lawn, 1601 Willow Lawn Drive, Richmond, Virginia 23230.

Virginia Rep Associate Artistic Director **Kikau Alvaro** will be directing this classic children's adventure story. Originally from San Jose, California, Alvaro joined Virginia Rep as Associate Artistic Director in September of 2017. He also serves as Assistant Professor of Musical Theatre at Virginia Commonwealth University. Previous Virginia Rep/Cadence Theatre credits include Associate Director of *In The Heights* and Choreographer of *Fun Home*.

**Jason Marks** will join the team as Music Director, after most recently musical directing Virginia Rep's holiday production of *Mr. Popper's Penguins* and summer production of *Knuffle Bunny*. Other Virginia Rep musical directing credits include *The Little Engine That Could*, a musical commissioned by Virginia Rep that he co-wrote with Scott Wichmann, Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* and *Croaker the Musical*, for which he also wrote the music.

A cast of six Virginia Rep newcomers has been assembled to portray the residents and rascallions of Hannibal, MO. **Joel White** and **James Hendley** join the cast as Huckleberry Finn and Tom Sawyer. **Alvan Bolling II** will be portraying Jim, and **Rachel Jones, Caitlin Sneed** and **Cooper Sved** round out the ensemble.

Set Design is by **David Tousley** in his Virginia Rep debut, Costume Design is by Virginia Rep's Assistant Director of Costumes **Sarah Grady**, who recently designed costumes for Virginia Rep's holiday production of *Sister Act* and summer production of *West Side Story* (RTCC Winner for Best Costume Design). Lighting Design is by **Skyler Broughman** (*Songs from the Soul, The Little Engine That Could*) and Sound Design is by Virginia Rep A/V Apprentice **Corbin White**.

The full company is listed below.

#### **Direction & Design**

Direction	<b>Kikau Alvaro</b>
Music Direction	<b>Jason Marks</b>
Associate Direction	<b>Cooper Sved</b>
Set Design	<b>David Tousley</b>
Lighting Design	<b>Skyler Broughman</b>
Costume Design	<b>Sarah Grady</b>
Sound Design	<b>Corbin White</b>
Stage Management	<b>Justin Janke</b>

#### **Cast List**

Huck	<b>Joel White</b>
Tom	<b>James Hendley</b>
Jim	<b>Alvan Bolling II</b>
Becky	<b>Rachel Jones</b>
Aunt Polly	<b>Caitlin Sneed</b>
Swing	<b>Cooper Sved</b>

#### **Sensory Friendly Performances**

A Sensory Friendly family performance will be offered on Saturday, February 16 at 10:30 a.m. Please see the website for more details: [http://va-rep.org/sensory\\_friendly.html](http://va-rep.org/sensory_friendly.html)

### **Audio Described Performances**

In collaboration with Virginia Voice, Virginia Rep is pleased to offer Audio Described performances, in which actions, expressions and gestures are described during gaps between dialogue throughout the performance for patrons with low vision or blindness. In addition to live audio description during performances, patrons are also invited to participate in a tactile tour before the performance. An Audio Described performance will be offered on Sunday, February 3, 2019 at 2 p.m. Please see the website for more details:

[https://va-rep.org/access\\_for\\_the\\_blind.html](https://va-rep.org/access_for_the_blind.html)

### **Community Tickets Grant**

Virginia Rep is thrilled to offer a **free** Community Tickets Grant for nonprofit organizations. We encourage all organizations who have a demonstrated need for complimentary tickets to fill out a short application on our website: [bit.ly/CommunityTix](http://bit.ly/CommunityTix)

### **Ticket Information**

Box Office: 804-282-2620

[www.virginiarep.org](http://www.virginiarep.org)

Full Price Tickets: \$21

Discounted Group Rates available.

### **Performance Schedule**

Evening performances at 7:00 p.m. on select Fridays

Matinee performances at 2:00 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday

Matinee performances at 10:30 a.m. on select Saturdays

Press Kits will be available at <http://va-rep.org/press.html>

Passcode accessible Hi-Res photos will be available to media on January 25

username = press

password = HiRes121

### **About Virginia Repertory Theatre**

Virginia Repertory Theatre is the regional professional theatre in Richmond, Virginia. With an operating budget of \$5.5 million, four distinct venues, an educational touring arm, and an annual audience approximately 530,000, Virginia Rep is one of the largest performing arts organizations in Central Virginia. Virginia Rep stages four seasons annually: the Signature Season at the Sara Belle and Neil November Theatre, Theatre Gym Season in partnership with Cadence Theatre Company, Virginia Rep's Children's Season at Willow Lawn, and the Hanover Tavern Season.

### **Sponsors**

Virginia Rep's Children's Theatre is grateful to our Premier Sponsors: Federal Realty Investment Trust and the Shops at Willow Lawn, as well as the Shubert Foundation, The Virginia

Commission for the Arts, The National Endowment for the Arts, and *Richmond Family Magazine*.