

# FOOD • FUN • ENTERTAINMENT

---

## Sail with L.W. Playhouse on Musical Voyage

By Philip Chase

As I write this, there's prediction of a cold snap running this way. But it shouldn't bother any of us within driving distance of the Lake Worth Playhouse. That venerable institution has just opened its season with a foot-stomping, finger-snapping, soulful musical version of Mark Twain's "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn", appropriately named "Big River".

Foremost kudos must go to director, Jodie Dixon-Mears who has cast the show with the brightest assemblage of young talent I've ever seen on the LWP stage. The youthful (for the most

part) cast has a verve and energy which is guaranteed to warm your heart. Protagonist Huck (played by Conor Walton in an amiable, folksy way) tells the tale of his boyhood reminiscence of that raft journey down the Mississippi with the escaped slave Jim (brilliantly acted by Gregory Johnson) and his chance encounters with various looney and serious characters. If you've read the book (and what high school student hasn't?), The many characters who come immediately to mind are all there in the show. You'll applaud the faux stage presentation of the King and the Dauphin (amiably

enacted by Kevin Kelly and Andy Christler) and be aghast at their plot to cheat Mary Lynn Wilkes (Kaitrin Lynch) and her relatives out of their inheritance. Tom Sawyer (Calvin Bankert, in a perky cameo) helps solve the final dilemma. And the musical presentation, along with the audience, closes on a joyful, warm-and-fuzzy, feel-good note.

I want to make special note of Gidget Friday who has two real show-stopping solos. I beg the indulgence of the other cast members who provide vocal back-up and play numerous different roles as we do have limited print space for this review. I do want to

point out that for "Big River" the LWP has assembled a LIVE group of musicians who are playing from the orchestra pit for the presentation. They're great and I earnestly hope the LWP will continue this practice for all musicals in the future.

This is a terrific play and I hope you'll avail yourself of the opportunity as it's only playing through November 9. "Big River" is a show the entire family can enjoy. Check out that engaging community theater located at 713 Lake Avenue in Lake Worth. Give the box office a call at 561-586-6410 for performance dates, times and ticket info today!

---