

script

THE ADVENTURES OF

TOM SAWYER & HUCKLEBERRY FINN

15

CAST OF CHARACTERS:

Showboat Captain (also plays Percy, Injun Joe, Preacher)

Dolly, Captain's wife (also plays Aunt Polly, Schoolteacher)

Tom Sawyer

Harley, the first mate (plays Jim)

Colin, showboat actor (plays Huck)

Abigail, showboat actress (plays Becky)

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AS THE LIGHTS COME UP WE SEE A SHOWBOAT UPSTAGE.
THE PADDLEWHEEL IS STILL TURNING AND SMOKE STILL FLOWS FROM THE
SMOKESTACK. THE BOAT HAS JUST DOCKED AT A WHARF. THE SHOWBOAT CREW
AND COMPANY ARE ON HE DECK SINGING AND WAVING. AS THEY SING THE
GANGPLANK IS LOWERED AND THEY SET UP THEIR "PLAYING AREA" BOTH ON AND
OFF THE BOAT. ON DECK IS THE CAPTAIN OF THE SHOWBOAT, A MAN OF MIDDLE
YEARS WHO IS PROBABLY MORE OF A SHOWMAN THAN A SEAMAN; THE CAPTAIN'S
WIFE, DOLLY WHO IS ALSO THE LEADING LADY; ABIGAIL, THE INGENUE; HARLEY,
THE FIRST MATE; AND COLIN, THE JUVENILE AND LEADING MAN.

HERE IT COMES, HERE IT COMES!
HEY, LOOK UP THE RIVER, IT'S A SHOWBOAT
HERE IT COMES, HERE IT COMES!
CHUG A LUG! CHUG A LUG! CHUG A LUG! HEY!
HERE IT COMES!

LOOK UP THE RIVER, THERE'S A BOAT A-COMIN
HUSH UP AND LISTEN TO THE MOTOR HUMMIN
IT'S A SHOWBOAT! GREAT LAND O' GOSHEN!
THERE'S A SHOWBOAT PULLIN IN TODAY.

AIN'T NO DOUBTIN THERE'LL BE SONGS FOR SINGIN
GOTTA BE THERE SHOUTIN WHEN THE BELLS START RINGIN
ON THE SHOWBOAT. GREAT LAND O' GOSHEN!
THERE'S A SHOWBOAT PULLIN IN TODAY.

THE BOAT'S FINISHED DOCKIN
AND THE PADDLEWHEEL IS STOPPIN
LISTEN UP AND YOU'LL HEAR THE CAPTAIN SAY...

CAPTAIN
COME ON DOWN! GATHER ROUND!

ALL
FOR TOMORROW WE HAVE TO SAIL AWAY.

GRAB YOUR HAT, YOU KNOW THAT TIME'S A-WASTIN
AND YOU KNOW YOU'VE GOT NO TIME FOR HESITATIN
IT'S A SHOWBOAT
HERE IT COMES, HERE IT COMES
HERE IT COMES, HERE IT COMES
THERE'S A SHOWBOAT HERE TODAY.

CAPTAIN

Hello, hello, hello and hello again. Welcome to the showboat. Welcome to the Magnolia Queen, the sweetest little showboat on the MISSISSIPPI. And we all know that spells...(waits for response) That's right! Now, we sure are glad that all you wonderful folks could make it here today because we have got a special treat for you. yes indeed! Today we are going to perform a dramatic presentation of the works of Mister Mark Twain, known to some of you folks hereabouts as Samuel Clemens. Yep! Today we are presenting the Adventures of Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn.

DOLLY

That's right!

HARLEY

That's right!

COLIN

That's right!

ABIGAIL

That's wrong! Captain, isn't today the day we were going to do the play about Cleopatra, the Queen of the Nile?

CAPTAIN

Well Abigail, that's right, but...

ABIGAIL

And wasn't I supposed to play the title role?

HARLEY

You were going to play the Nile?

ABIGAIL

No, I was going to play Cleopatra. The most beautiful woman in the world.

CAPTAIN

Well, you know as well as I that the Egyptian costumes aren't ready, so we had to change the schedule. But you've got a good role in today's play.

ABIGAIL

But it's not the 'title' role.

COLIN

Cheer up. You can do the title role tomorrow.

ABIGAIL

What play are we doing tomorrow?

COLIN

The Ugly Duckling.

ABIGAIL

Very funny.

CAPTAIN

Now come on. It's showtime. And the Show is Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn. First thing to do is introduce you to our players. First...this is my wife - Dolly. Come say 'hello,' Dolly.

DOLLY

Hello, everybody.

CAPTAIN

Dolly will be playing Aunt Polly. And she'll also be playing the schoolteacher. Anything else, Dolly?

DOLLY

No, Captain. That's all. Don't you think that's enough?

ABIGAIL

(still a bit miffed about Cleopatra) I do.

CAPTAIN

Come here, Abigail. This is Miss Abigail Andrews. Abigail will be playing Becky Thatcher, the sweet young thing that captures the heart of Tom Sawyer and - I am quite certain - many, many others.

ABIGAIL

Why, thankyou, Captain.

CAPTAIN

This gentleman here is Mister Harley Davis. Harley is my first mate and he is also one of the finest character actors on the river.

HARLEY

And today I am proud to present my interpretation of the character of Jim. Friend and advisor to Huck Finn. Protector of Tom Sawyer. Guide to...

CAPTAIN

Yes, yes, Harley. Let's get on with it.

COLIN

Yes, let's do.

CAPTAIN

This gentleman here is Colin Colby.

COLIN

And I get to play Huckleberry Finn. The title role.

ABIGAIL

One of the title roles!

HARLEY

Hey! Abbie has a point. There is another title role. We need somebody to play Tom Sawyer. And there are some other roles that have to be covered.

CAPTAIN

I'll play them all. I'm very versatile.

DOLLY

You're also very old. Too old to play Tom Sawyer. You can do everything else, but not Tom Sawyer.

COLIN

So, what do we do about a Tom Sawyer?

CAPTAIN

We get one!

HARLEY

Where?

CAPTAIN

Out there! (he points to the audience)

ALL

HEY, THERE, YOU IN THE SECOND ROW
OR YOU, THERE ON THE AISLE
OR YOU, UP IN ROW SEVENTEEN
OR HOW ABOUT THAT FELLOW WITH THE SMILE?

HEY THERE, YOU WITH THE CURLY HAIR
OR YOU, THERE ON ROW THREE
WONDER WHO IT WILL BE?

TOM

(standing up in the audience) Hey there! How about me? (He runs towards the stage) Look! Here! I'm the perfect choice. (he goes onstage)

COLIN

Maybe this wasn't such a good idea after all. Look at him.

ABIGAIL

I like the way he looks.

HARLEY

He seems very enthusiastic.

COLIN

He doesn't have freckles, does he?

ABIGAIL

What?

COLIN

Only Huck Finn can have freckles.

TOM

Wel, how about it?

CAPTAIN

Dolly, do we have a costume to fit this young man?

DOLLY

I'll check. (she goes to a costume trunk)

CAPTAIN

What's your name?

TOM

Tom.

CAPTAIN

No. I mean your real name.

TOM

That is my real name.

ABIGAIL

Oh? And I suppose your last name is 'Sawyer?' (to Colin) Ha, ha!

TOM

Well, not "Sawyer Ha Ha. Just "Sawyer."

ABIGAIL

You're kidding.

TOM

Well, kind of. My first name really is 'Tom.' But my last name isn't really 'Sawyer.' I took it on - as kind of a stage name. I've always wanted to be an actor.

DOLLY

Here. Try this. (Helps Tom into a jacket and hat.) It fits.

HARLEY

Now you look like a 'Tom Sawyer.'

CAPTAIN

Then I guess this means we can get this play started.

COLIN

Wait a minute. Doesn't anybody else get a costume?

ABIGAIL

Of course, we do. Silly. Everybody gets a costume.

(MUSIC IN. THE LIGHTS BEGIN TO STROBE. THEY ALL BEGIN TO CHANGE INTO THE COSTUMES THEY WILL WEAR IN THE FIRST SCENE OF THE "PLAY." THRU THE STROBE WE SEE THE NAME OF THE MAGNOLIA QUEEN SPELLED OUT IN LIGHTS ON THE SIDE OF THE BOAT. WHEN THE STROBE STOPS WE SEE EVERYONE STANDING IN FORMATION IN THEIR NEW COSTUMES.)

ALL

GRAB YOUR HAT, WE'VE GOT NO TIME FOR WAITIN
GOT NO TIME FOR DAWDLIN OR FOR HESITATIN
ON THE SHOWBOAT
HERE IT COMES, HERE IT COMES, HERE IT COMES, HERE IT COMES
THERE'S A SHOWBOAT HERE TODAY. HEY!

CAPTAIN

(stepping forward with a banjo) Adventure number one!

(THE CAPTAIN PLAYS THE BANJO WHILE THE OTHERS SET THE STAGE FOR THE WHITEWASH SCENE. THE FENCE AND OTHER SET PIECES FOR THE "PLAY" ARE ACTUALLY PARTS OF THE SHOWBOAT THAT ARE REMOVED AND REPLACED AS NEEDED.)

CAPTAIN

(When music ends) It was Saturday afternoon and it was Springtime. (TOM ENTERS) And Tom Sawyer had something on his mind.

TOM

Where in tarnation is my fishing pole?

CAPTAIN

Yep! He wanted to go fishin'. But his Aunt Polly had other ideas.

POLLY(Dolly)

(off) Tom Sawyer! (entering) Where are you?

TOM

I'm right here, Aunt Polly. Aunt Polly, have you seen my fishin rod?

POLLY

Yep. Sure have. I hid it.

TOM

What?

POLLY

If you'd wash inside those ears a little more regular you'd be able to hear what a body says the first time.

TOM

I thought you said you hid it.

Polly

That's what I said.

Tom

But why?

Polly

Why did I say it or why did I hide it?

Tom

Why did you hide it?

Polly

Because, Tom Sawyer, you are going to whitewash that fence for me this afternoon or I'm going to know the reason why.

Tom

Aww, Aunt Polly...

Polly

Don't you "aw" me, Tom Sawyer. (He starts to speak again) Save it! Now you take this bucket of whitewash and these brushes and you get to it. And I don't want to see any shilly-shallying either, not if you ever want to see that fishing pole again. Understand?

Tom

Yes'm. (Polly exits) Who wants to whitewash some old fence.

Jim(Harley)

(entering) How ya doin Tom?

Tom

Hi, Jim. How you do...Hey, Jim. How about givin me a hand with this?

Jim

Well, Tom, I'll tell you like it is. Your Aunt Polly said if she catches me helpin you to whitewash that fence, she'd skin me alive. Now I've grown powerful fond of my skin, Tom, and I sure wouldn't like to lose it. So, I'll see you later.

Tom

Oh all right, Jim. But...but....it sure is a shame.

Jim

What's a shame?

Tom

Oh...nothin, Jim. It's just a shame that...that you can't have any fun.

Jim

Fun? What kind of fun?

Tom

Why, whitewashing, of course.

Jim

Oh? Whitewashing is fun?

Tom

Course it is. Why else would I ask you to help?

Jim

Tom, you've been out in the sun too long. You've gone loco.

Tom

No, Jim. It's shore 'nuff fun. Try it. You'll see.

Jim

Tom, I don't know...

Tom

Come on, Jim. Just try it.

Jim

Well...(He takes a brush and takes a couple of swipes at the fence.)

Tom

What did I tell you? Aint that fun?

Jim

Well, I guess so.

Huck(Colin)

(entering) Hey, Tom. Hi, Jim. Say, Jim, whatcha doin?

Jim

Having fun.

Huck
Having what?

Tom
Fun, Huck. He's having fun.

Huck
Funny. Looks to me like he's whitewashing.

Tom
That's what he's doin, and that's just about the best kind of fun there is.

Huck
You sick or somethin?

Tom
I know you've never done any whitewashing, Huck, so I don't expect you to know how much fun it really is.

Huck
And I aint sticking around to find out.

Tom
Well, even if you were I couldn't let you.

Huck
Why not?

Tom
Well, my Aunt Polly is mighty partcular about this fence and she don't let just "anybody" work on it.

Huck
What do you mean "just anybody?" why I could be the best whitewasher in the county - if I wanted.

Tom
Oh, Huck, you do like to brag.

Huck
Brag? I'll show you.

Tom
Oh, no, Huck.

Huck
No? What's the matter with you?

Tom
Well, I'd like to give you a chance, but....Oh, I just can't.

Huck
Come on. I'll give you my dried frog's leg.

Tom
What's it good for?

Huck
Curin warts.

Tom
Possum grease is better.

Huck
Taint.

Tom
Tis.

Huck
Taint.

Tom
Tis.

Huck
All right. I'll throw in a piece of chewing gum.

Tom
One piece?

Huck
Well, I aint even chewed it yet.

Tom
Okay. Grab a brush.

Huck
(grabs a brush) Move over, Jim.

Tom
I wish there was another brush, so I could have some fun too. You fellas are doin a real fine job.

Polly
(off) Tom. Tom Sawyer. Are you working on that fence?

Tom
Oh, my gosh. Aunt Polly. Gimme those brushes.

Jim
I'm not finished yet.

Tom
Deals off.
Huck
You chewed my gum yet? (Tom raises his hand to his mouth)
Deals on!

(TOM STRUGGLES WITH THEM FOR THE
BRUSHES. POLLY ENTERS.)

Polly
What's this? (JIM AND HUCK LET GO OF THE BRUSHES AND TOM
FALLS) So! Wangled yourself some help anyway! Jim, I
thought I told you to let Tom do this fence.

Jim
Miss Polly, I...

Polly
And Huck Finn, the Widow Douglas been looking for you all
morning.

Huck
Oh, then I guess I better be goin...

Polly
Stay put! Since you all like whitewashing so much, suppose
you finish up this fence, and then you get started on the
back fence. (they start to object) Save it! And see that
you do a good job. Or you just might have to do it all over
again - tomorrow. (exits)

Huck
Tom Sawyer, I'm gonna ring your neck.

Jim
And guess who's gonna help him?

Tom
Aw fellas, can't you take a little joke? And if one fence
was fun, just think what two fences will be.

Huck
I'll show you fun. I'm gonna whitewash you.

Jim
Good idea.
(HUCK GRABS A BRUSH AND GOES AFTER TOM.
JIM PICKS UP THE BUCKET AND FOLLOWS. THEY CHASE TOM UNTIL
HUCK GETS HIM CORNERED.)

Huck
We've got you now.

Tom
Fellas, this is no way to treat a fishin buddy.

Huck
Some buddy, Tom, some buddy. This white stripe I'm gonna paint down your back will show everybody what a skunk you are.

Jim
Wait a minute, Huck. He's right. We're fishin buddies. We've got to stick together. Through thick and thin.

Tom
Yeh. Thick and thin. And whitewashin too.

Huck
But he already chewed my gum, Jim.

Jim
You gotta be big about it, Huck. Cause that's what buddies do.

Tom
Yeh. Tom, Jim and Huck. Buddies. Forever. Tom!

Jim
Jim!

Huck
Huckleberry Finn!

All
Buddies!

(they sing)

TOM, JIM, HUCKLEBERRY FINN
IF YOU DIDN'T HEAR IT THEN, WE WILL TELL YOU ONCE AGAIN
TOM, JIM, HUCKLEBERRY FINN
A HAPPY GO LUCKY THREE

WE'RE BIRDS OF A FEATHER AND WE'RE GONNA FLOCK TOGETHER
WAY DOWN BY THE RIVER WHERE THE FISH WE'LL DELIVER
WE SEEM KINDA CRAZY AND TO SOME WE'RE KINDA LAZY
CAUSE WE DON'T RUSH AND SCURRY IF WE AINT IN A HURRY.

TOM, JIM, HUCKLEBERRY FINN
IF YOU DIDN'T HEAR IT THEN WE WILL TELL YOU ONCE AGAIN

TOM, JIM, HUCKLEBERRY FINN
A HAPPY GO LUCKY THREE.

(THEY DO A SHORT DANCE THEN...)

TOM, JIM, HUCKLEBERRY FINN
IF YOU DIDN'T HEAR IT THEN WE WILL TELL YOU ONCE AGAIN

I'M TOM

TOM

I'M JIM

JIM

I'M HUCKLEBERRY FINN

HUCK

ALL
A HAPPY GO LUCKY THREE
WE'RE HAPPY GO LUCKY
HAPPY GO LUCKY
HAPPY GO LUCKY
HAPPY GO LUCKY
HAPPY GO LUCKY THREE.

(THEY FREEZE IN THEIR FINAL POSE AND A LIGHT PIKS
UP THE CAPTAIN ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE STAGE.)

CAPTAIN

Now wasn't that somethin'? That Tom Sawyer can be a sly one when he wants to. But you haven't seen anything yet. He gets into the worse predicaments! Like that time outside the schoolhouse when the schoolteacher...Miss Allen is her name...well, I wont tell you. I'll just let you see for yourself. Oh, remember...my wife Dolly is gonna play the schoolteacher. She didn't want you to forget. Okay, adventure number two!

(MUSIC IN AND TOM, JIM AND HUCK BREAK THEIR
FREEZE AND REPLACE THE FENCE. A SIGN IS PLACED ON A DOORFRAME THAT SAYS
"SCHOOLHOUSE " AND THE SCENE IS SET FOR THE SCHOOLYARD.)

SCHOOLTEACHER(Dolly)

I'll see you in the morning, Becky.

BECKY

Then why were you walking with her?

TOM

I wasn't walkin with her. She was walkin with me!

BECKY

I fail to see the difference!

(MISS ALLEN RETURNS AND STANDS, LISTENING)

TOM

Becky, don't be that way. After all, we're engaged.

BECKY

Not anymore Tom Sawyer.

HUCK

(entering) Come on, Tom. We've got to divvy up these fish.

TOM

Wait a minute, Huck.

TEACHER

Yes, by all means...wait a minute.

TOM

Yipes!

TEACHER

Tom Sawyer, why weren't you in school today?

TOM

Oh, I can explain, Miss Allen. Can't I Huck?

HUCK

Sure he can. (to Tom) Can you?

TEACHER

Well, I'm waiting.

TOM

Well, you see...my...my cousin. Yes, my cousin ...Tomasina...

TEACHER

Yes? Your cousin...Tomasina?

TOM

My cousin, Tomasina, from the next county...she came to visit and I had to stay home to...to entertain her. Seein as she came all that way...and such.

TEACHER

Oh, I see. And who is entertaining your cousin now?

TOM

Huh?

TEACHER

Where is your cousin now?

TOM

At home. My home. With my Aunt Polly.

TEACHER

Well, I would just love to meet her. I'll go right over.

Tom

No!

TEACHER

No? Would you rather bring her here?

TOM

Yes.

BECKY AND HUCK

Yes?

TOM

I mean...no.

TEACHER

No?

TOM

I mean... yes.

TEACHER

Good! You get her and I'll wait right here.

TOM

Get her?

TEACHER

Get her!

TOM

Yes, ma'am. (He slinks off)

HUCK

Uh-oh. This aint good.

TEACHER

Huck Finn. The Widow Douglas has been looking for you. Goodness knows why she was looking here. She must know you never come to school. The poor Widow has taken you on as her cross to bear, and a heavy cross it is. Since your father does not see it as his duty to see that you come here for your proper schooling, I think it best that you not come around here at all. You are a bad influence.

HUCK

Hey,, no need for name calling. I aint no bad..bad..in..

BECKY

Bad influence. It means...

HUCK

Don't matter what it means. I aint it. What I am is a bad boy.

TEACHER

You're that too.

HUCK

Yeh, and it's fun.

IT'S SUCH FUN BEIN A BAD BOY.
DON'T YOU WISH YOU COULD
HAVE THE FUN OF BEIN A BAD BOY?
WHY WOULD ANYONE EVER WANT TO BE GOOD?

LOOK AT ME, FREE AS THE WIND
I'VE GOT NO CARES OR WOES.
EARTH AND SKY - THESE ARE MY FRIENDS,
DON'T WANT NOBODY TO TELL ME WHERE I SHOULD GO.

TEACHER
HUCKLEBERRY CAN'T YOU SEE THAT'S NO WAY TO BE

BECKY
YOU'LL GROW UP TO BE A FOOL

HUCK
THAT'S BETTER THAN A DAY IN SCHOOL

TEACHER
HAVE TO LEARN TO READ AND WRITE

HUCK
TEACHER YOU AINT WRAPPED TOO TIGHT

BECKY
ONE DAY WHEN YOU'RE OLD AND GRAY

HUCK
(aside) Like Her?

BECKY
YOU'LL LOOK BACK AND YOU WILL SAY

TEACHER AND BECKY
IT'S NO FUN BEIN A BAD BOY
DON'T YOU WISH YOU COULD
HAVE THE FUN OF BEIN A NICE BOY
IT'S MUCH BETTER FOR YOU TO TRY TO BE GOOD.

TEACHER
YOU SOULD LEARN TO READ
YOU SHOULD LEARN TO SPELL
INSTEAD YOU FOOL AROUND

HUCK
BUT FOOLIN'S MIGHTY SWELL
I TELL YA
IT'S SUCH FUN BEIN A BAD BOY
EVERYBODY SHOULD TRY IT
FOR IT'S GREATLY MISUNDERSTOOD.
WHY WOULD ANYONE EVER WANT TO BE
ANY OTHER WAY THAN LIKE ME?
WHY WOULD ANYONE EVER WANT TO BE GOOD?

TEACHER AND BECKY
NO FUN BEIN A BAD BOY

HUCK
WHAT FUN BEIN A BAD BOY

HUCK
SUCH FUN
NEVER WANT TO BE GOOD.

BECKY AND TEACHER
NO FUN
YOU SHOULD TRY TO BE GOOD.

(TOM ENTERS DRESSED AS "TOMASINA." HE MAKES A
VALIANT BUT NOT VERY SUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT AT A FALSETTO.)

TOM
Excuse me. I say...pardon me.

BECKY
Tom Sawyer? Is that you under there?

TOM
Shush, Becky. You'll give me away.

TEACHER
Oh, lookie here. You must be Tomasina.

TOM
Yes, Ma'am.

BECKY
I don't believe this.

HUCK
Jumpin Jehosaphat!

TEACHER
Such a strong family resemblance. Why you look enough like Tom to be his twin sister.

HUCK
Sure does.

TEACHER
By the way, where is Tom?

TOM
Oh...he had to run an errand for my Aunt Polly.

TEACHER

Oh, of course. He's such a sweet boy.

TOM

Yes'm. My favorite cousin.

TEACHER

I'm sure he is. And you're such a sweet thing too, Tomasina. Would you like a piece of peppermint candy? Sweets for the sweet!

TOM

Thankyou. I'd love a piece.

TEACHER

Have two pieces. You can save one for later on.

TOM

Thankyou. (He reaches down and raises his skirt to put the candy into his pocket...sees everyone staring...realizes what he's doing and quickly drops the skirt and smooths it down.

TEACHER

What were you going to do with the candy, Tomasina?

TOM

Oh...I sometimes carry my pocketbook under there.

TEACHER

Oh, really? How unusual. Let me see.

TOM

Huh?

(MISS ALLEN YANKS THE SKIRT DOWN AROUND TOM'S ANKLES. AS TOM REACHES TO PULL UP THE SKIRT, MISS ALLEN PULLS OFF HIS WIG. TOM GRABS WIG AND THEY REPEAT THE BUSINESS.)

TOM

Miss Allen, I can explain.

TEACHER

Don't even try it, Tom Sawyer. Playin hooky and then thinkin you could fool me in this tacky halloween costume.. Well, we'll just see what your Aunt Polly has to say about your 'cousin Tomasina.' (starts off) I'll see you tomorrow, Becky. Out of my way, Huck Finn. (turning back) What a licking you are going to get. (she leaves.)

(Huck and Becky are laughing and pointing at Tom)

TOM

What's so funny?

HUCK

You are.

BECKY

You look mighty funny standing there with your hair in your hand.

TOM

Aw, Becky, Quit it.

HUCK

Miss Thatcher. May I introduce you to Miss Sawyer.

TOM

Cut it out Huck.

HUCK

(sings)

THERE SHE GOES - TOMASINA SAWYER
DRESSED IN GINGHAM BLUE
THERE SHE GOES - TOMASINA SAWYER
DEAR TOMASINA I'LL ALWAYS BE TRUE TO YOU.

BECKY

LOVE YOUR HAIR, TOMASINA SAWYER
MY WHAT LOVELY CURLS
STANDING THERE IN THE TEACHER'S FOYER
YOU MAKE A FETCHING AND OH, SO BEWITCHING GIRL.

HUCK AND BECKY

HAVE YOU SEEN HER? THE NEW GIRL IN TOWN?
LOVELY AS SHE CAN BE
HAVE YOU SEEN HER SASHAY AROUND?
LET'S HAVE HER IN FOR TEA.

THERE SHE GOES - TOMASINA SAWYER
WONDER WHAT SHE'LL DO?
THERE SHE GOES - TOMASINA SAWYER, TOMASINA SAWYER
BETTER KNOWN AS THOMAS TO YOU.

HUCK

SUCH A FETCHING BIT OF FEMININITY
TOMASINA, YOU'RE A DREAM

BECKY

BET YOU'RE GONNA TAKE THE BOYS AWAY FROM ME
TOMMY, DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S MEAN?

HUCK AND BECKY

ONCE A FRIEND AND A PAL
NOW, HE'S ONE OF THE GALS.

THERE SHE GOES - TOMASINA SAWYER
ONE GIRL IN A FEW
THERE SHE GOES, TOMASINA SAWYER, TOMASINA SAWYER
BETTER KNOWN AS THOMAS TO YOU.

(THEY LAUGH AND RUN OFF WITH TOM CHASING AS THE
CAPTAIN MOVES INTO HIS LIGHT. AS THE CAPTAIN SPEAKS HE PUTS ON HIS PERCY
PERKINS VEST TO COMPLETE HIS COSTUME FOR THE SQUARE DANCE.)

CAPTAIN

like I said...Tom Sawyer had a real talent for stirrin up a mess. Oh, speaking of stirrin up...that reminds me of that church picnic where Percy Perkins was stirring the punch and found a pickle in it. That's right...a pickle in the punch. And you know who had something to do with it getting there. Uh-huh! Adventure number three.

(THE MUSIC FOR THE SQUARE DANCE BEGINS AND
EVERYONE RUNS ON FOR THE DANCE. AS THEY DANCE THEY ARE ALSO SETTING UP
THE SCENE - A PICNIC TABLE WITH A PUNCH BOWL AND VARIOUS ITEMS OF FOOD,
A PICKLE BARREL, AND SEVERAL PICNIC CLOTHS SPREAD ABOUT THE GROUND. THE
DANCE ENDS AND...)

POLLY

Percy Perkins, I don't think I've ever see you having such a good time at one of these picnics.

PERCY

I am having a good time, Miss Polly.

POLLY

Tom Sawyer! Get your hands out of that pickle barrel. (Turns her attention back to Percy)

HUCK

I'll get a pickle, Tom.

BECKY

Better not. You'll get caught.

HUCK

(Mimicing Becky) Better not, you'll get caught. Why don't you go look for Tom's cousin Sid? You two ought to get along just fine.

TOM

Let her be, Huck.

(HUCK REACHES FOR A PICKLE AS JIM COMES IN)

POLLY

Jim, did the Widow Douglas bring one of her rhubarb pies?

JIM

Don't know. Ask Huckleberry.

(HUCK TOSSES PICKLE TO TOM AS POLLY TURNS TO HIM)

POLLY

Huckleberry, did the Widow Douglas bring over...

HUCK

Sure did.

POLLY

How did you know what I was gonna ask about?

HUCK

Don't matter. Whatever it is, it's gotta be here. The Widow had me carrying everything but the outhouse over here this mornin'. Tired me out somethin' terrible.

(WHEN POLLY TURNS BACK TO PERCY TOM TOSSES THE PICKLE BACK TO HUCK WHO LOOKS FOR A PLACE TO HIDE IT. HE DROPS IT IN THE PUNCHBOWL)

POLLY

That boy! Percy, I declare, I've danced so much today my heart is beating faster than a turkey's wings on Thanksgiving morning. And this Saturday afternoon sun is making me so warm.

PERCY

What you need is some of my special lemonade.

POLLY

Special? What makes it special?

PERCY

Oh, I can't tell you that. Secret recipes aren't a secret anymore when everybody knows about 'em.

JIM

Percy does make good lemonade, Miss Polly. I had some earlier. It's nice and tart.

POLLY

Well, you just better dip me out a cup, Percy.

PERCY

No sooner said than done. (He dips a ladle into the bowl and hits the pickle.) What's this? Something is in here. (he pulls out the pickle) What in the world!

POLLY

Mercy, Percy. You make your lemonade with pickles? Well, that is special. But you know, I'm not as thirsty as I thought I was.

PERCY

Who put this pickle in my lemonade?

POLLY

You mean, you didn't?

PERCY

No, I didn't.

(POLLY

Then who...? (Shoots a glance over at Tom) Tom Sawyer!

TOM

Now, Aunt Polly, don't go jumpin to any conclusions...

PERCY

(Heading towards Huck shaking the pickle) Huck Finn, why do you smell like pickle juice?

HUCK

(Grabs pickle) Here, Tom. Catch

(HUCK THROWS PICKLE TO TOM BUT HE THROWS IT TOO HARD AND TOM HAS TO REACH UP TO CATCH IT. WHEN HE DOES HE FALLS AGAINST POLLY WHO PUSHES HIM AWAY. TOM FALLS AGAINST PERCY WHO FALLS AGAINST HUCK WHO FALLS AGAINST JIM, KNOCKING JIM TO THE GROUND. JIM WINDS UP SITTING ON A PIE.)

JIM

Uh-oh! Miss Polly, I think I found that pie you were lookin for.

PERCY

Why are you young scamps always messing about? Can't you find anything constructive to do with your time? Is there some....?

(HUCK HAS GONE TO THE PICNIC TABLE, PICKED UP SOME FOOD (BANANA? MUFFIN?) AND STUFFED IT INTO PERCY'S MOUTH. PERCY TRIES TALKING WITH FOOD IN MOUTH, THEN PULLS IT OUT AND SCREAMS...)

GET EM OUT! GET EM OUT! GET EM OUT! GET EM OUT!

POLLY

TOM SAWYER, HOW MANY TIMES...?

TOM

BUT, I DIDN'T AUNT POLLY

BECKY

HUCK, YOU SMELL

HUCK

WHO CARES?

JIM

IT'S RHUBARB PIE!

PERCY

WHAT'S GOIN ON HERE?
GET EM OUT! GET EM OUT! GET EM OUT! GET EM OUT!

POLLY

TORE MY APRON

JIM

(WITH PIE) SQUASHED IT SO

POLLY

MERCY, PERCY

JIM

IT'S PIE NO MO

I'M ALL RIGHT PERCY

TASTY THOUGH JIM

HUCK, YOU SMELL. BECKY

WHO CARES? HUCK

I GOT LEMONADE ON MY TIE PERCY

I GOT A TASTE OF RHUBARD PIE JIM

I GOT PICKLE JUICE IN MY EYE POLLY

WHY!
WHO CAN WE BLAME FOR THE MESS WE'RE IN ALL(Except Tom and Huck)

TOM SAWYER! POLLY

HUCKLEBERRY FINN! PERCY

STICKIN IT OUT THRU THICK AND THIN TOM AND HUCK

WHAT CAN YOU DO?
SKIP TO M'LOU
SKIP TO M'LOU MY DARLIN'. ALL

BLACKOUT

(IN THE BLACK THE PICNIC IS STRUCK AND JOE'S CABIN IS SET UP. A LIGHT PICKS UP THE CAPTAIN)

CAPTAIN

Let me catch my breath. All of this carryin on is enough to wear out a body good and proper. (Takes a deep breath) All right. Adventure number four. (We hear the sound of Tom Toms beating) Tom and Huck were never ones to leave well enough alone. When Muff Potter was put in jail for something he didn't do, it was Tom that proved that Muff Potter was innocent and that it was Injun Joe that was guilty. But, Joe got away, and instead of keeping their distance Tom and Huck went snooping around Joe's cabin. What happened? Like I said. Adventure number four!

(TOM AND HUCK ENTER THE CABIN AS THE CAPTAIN

LEAVES.)

TOM

Huck, maybe it wasn't such a good idea to come up here.

HUCK

It was your idea. As long as we're here, we might as well take a look around.

TOM

Joe sure has a lot of junk in here.

HUCK

It aint al junk. I'll bet some of it is valuable stuff. (Picks up a sack)

TOM

What's in there?

HUCK

Just some tomatoes. They smell pretty ripe.

TOM

(Takes sack and sniffs) They aint ripe. They're rotten!

HUCK

(Picking up a small tin) Look here. It's Joe's lizard dust.

TOM

Lizard dust? Looks like a pepper tin to me.

HUCK

Taint. It's lizard dust

TOM

Horse pucky! Let me see.

(TOM GRABS THE TIN. WHATEVER IS IN THE TIN FLIES OUT IN HIS FACE AND HE DROPS THE TOMATOES AND SNEEZES. HUCK TAKES THE TIN AND STEPS ON THE TOMATOES)

Huck

What did you do that for?

Tom

I told you it was pepper. (he is still sneezing)

Huck

You made me step on Joe's tomatoes. They're squashed all over the floor. Give me your handkerchief so I can clean it up.

(THERE IS A NOISE OUTSIDE)

Tom

Somebody's here.

Huck

What do you mean somebody? It must be Joe. We've got to hide. Will you stop that sneezing!

Tom

I'm trying!

Huck

Come here. Get down on the floor. (Tom does as he is told and Huck covers him over with a blanket.) And pinch your nose or somethin. (Huck takes a last wipe at the floor and hides under the table.)

(JOE ENTERS. HE IS CARRYING SOME POTS AND PANS TIED TOGETHER. THIS IS THE NOISE WE HEARD. HE PUTS THEM ON THE TABLE AND STARTS TO UNTIE THEM. TOM SNEEZES.)

Joe

What's that? I heard noise. (looking around) Someone here? (pulls out his hatchet) Someone in my cabin? (notices stain on floor) What's this? (he walks around the table. Tom sneezes again and Joe turns towards the blanket) The blanket sneezed! Something very funny going on here.

(JOE STALKS THE BLANKET EVENTUALLY UNCOVERING TOM. HUCK COMES OUT OF HIDING TO HELP TOM AND A CHASE ENSUES ENDING WITH HUCK HITTING JOE WITH A BREAKAWAY BOTTLE AND KNOCKING HIM OUT.)

HUCK

We better get out of here before he wakes up.

TOM

Yeh. Let's go.

(JOE WAKES UP AND CHECKS AROUND CABIN. HE GATHERS UP HIS POTS AND PANS AND GOES OFF TO NURSE HIS HEAD WOUND. WE HEAR VOICES WHISPERING "THIS WAY?" "YES." ETC. THEN POLLY AND JIM COME INTO VIEW.)

POLLY

Careful, Jim.

JIM

Maybe you should wait outside, Miss Polly.

POLLY

I've come all this way, I might as well see this thru. Besides, I don't want to stay out here alone.

JIM

Well, come on, then. Let's do it.

(THEY GO INSIDE THE CABIN)

POLLY

Are you sure Tom and Huck were coming up here?

JIM

I'm sure. I heard them talkin just as clear as day.

POLLY

Well, if they were here, it doesn't look like they're here now.

JIM

(Looking at floor) What's this?

POLLY

What's what?

JIM

This red stuff.

POLLY

Red stuff?

JIM

Yeh. (Reaches down to touch floor)

POLLY

Stop! Don't touch that.

JIM

Why not?

POLLY

That's blood. (pointing under table) What's that?

JIM

(picking up handkerchief) Oh, no!

POLLY

What is it, Jim?

JIM

Oh, Miss Polly. Brace yourself. This is Tom's Handkerchief. And....it's covered with...blood.

POLLY

Blood? Blood? Red blood?

JIM

Well, yes'm. Aint that the only kind there is?

POLLY

Wait a minute? How do you know that's Tom's hankerchief? I always put Tom's initials on his clothes. His initials would be embroidered in the corner if that were Tom's handkerchief. So unless it says T. S. right there...

(DURING HER SPEECH JIM HAS COME TO HER HOLDING THE HANDKERCHIEF OPEN TO POINT OUT THE INITIALS.)

JIM

Right here?

POLLY

Yes, right there. (She breaks into tears.) Oh, Jim, what are we going to do? Tom is gone. We'll never find him. He's probably been chopped up and thrown in the river. To destroy the evidence.

JIM

Now, calm down, Miss Polly. (He too is sniffing)

TOM

Uh-uh, Huck. That aint us.

PREACHER

The boys are no longer with us.

HUCK

That's what he thinks.

PREACHER

Due to unfortunate circumstances, not even their remains are with us. But, hopefully, wherever they are, they can hear us today.

HUCK

Oh, loud and clear, Preacher. Loud and clear.

PREACHER

So, it is only fitting that we say a few words in praise of these boys. Speak what is in our hearts. Speak as the spirit moves you.

(HUCK HAS PULLED OUT A PEA SHOOTER AND SHOOTS
A BEAN AT JIM TO GET HIS ATTENTION)

JIM

(Clutching the appropriate spot) Ow! I think I feel the spirit moving me right now!!

PREACHER

Glory!

JIM

Well, what can I say? I remember those boys so well. We were buddies. Tom. Jim. Huckleberry Finn. And there are so many things to say about them. And some of those things must be good. But...for the life of me I can't think of one right now.

POLLY

Well, as Tom's aunt, I've got more cause to grieve than anybody. Now that he's gone, I mean. I know...he was shiftless. And lazy. And ornery. And cagey. But...he was a good boy!

TOM

Huck, I think I'm gonna cry.

HUCK

Yeh. It really is touching, aint it?

POLLY

Oh, how many times did I tan his hide! And he would hold his head and cry. But, he aint gonna cry no more.

PREACHER

THEY AINT GONNA CRY NO MORE
THEY AINT GONNA CRY NO MORE
THEY LEFT THEIR STRIFE FOR A BETTER LIFE
AND THEY AINT GONNA CRY NO MORE

(THEY HUM UNDER AS BECKY SPEAKS)

BECKY

Oh, why did I have to break our engagement? I even gave him back his genuine imitation solid brass doorknob. It was an engagement present. So, now I don;t even have that to remember him by.

ALL

THEY AINT GONNA CRY NO MORE.

JIM

SOMETIMES YOU'LL FEEL LONELY
SOMETIMES YOU'LL FEEL BLUE
JUST REMEMBER THAT THEY'RE RIGHT ABOVE US NOW
AND THEY'RE LOOKIN DOWN ON YOU.

ALL

AND THEY AINT GONNA CRY NO MORE
THEY AINT GONNA CRY NO MORE
THEY LEFT THEIR STRIFE FOR A BETTER LIFE
AND THEY AINT GONNA CRY NO MORE.

JIM

DON'T LET SORROW HOLD YOU
JUST WIPE YOUR TEARS AWAY
CAUSE TOM AND HUCK AINT REALLY GONE
THEY'VE JUST PASSED AWAY.

ALL

THEY AINT GONNA CRY NO MORE
THEY AINT GONNA CRY NO MORE
THEY LEFT THEIR STRIFE FOR A BETTER LIFE
AND THEY AINT GONNA CRY NO MORE.

(THE MUSIC AND SINGING RISE TO A FEVERISH PITCH
AND TOM AND HUCK - CARRIED AWAY WITH THE SPIRIT OF THE MOMENT - JOIN IN
THE CLAPPING AND SINGING. ONE BY ONE THE MOURNERS NOTICE THE BOYS AND
STOP SINGING UNTIL THEY ARE SINGING ALONE. BECKY SCREAMS AND
EVERYTHING COMES TO A HALT.)

BECKY

Tom! Huck! What are you doing down here? You're supposed to be up there! (she points towards the heavens.)

JIM

Ghosts! I knew it. Since we didn't have their remains to bury, we are going to be haunted by their ghosts. Don't y'all worry none. I know exactly what to do. (He throws a few hex signs at the boys.) Begone ghosts! Begone! I said ...get out of here! (He pokes at Tom's ribcage. Realizing he's hit solid flesh, he pokes again.) Wait a minute. He aint no ghost.

PREACHER

Glory!

POLLY

Tom? Is it really you?

TOM

Now, Aunt Polly I can explain...

HUCK

Quiet, Tom. I think they're glad to see us. Don't explain anything. Leave well enough alone.

POLLY

You're safe. Oh, Tom. My dear, sweet Tom.

PREACHER

It's a miracle.

(THE HEAVENS SUDDENLY BLAZE WITH AN ETHEREAL

LIGHT)

ALL

HALLELUJAH! HALLELUJAH!
WE AINT GONNA CRY NO MORE.

POLLY

This calls for a celebration. Right now! Today! Cause Tom and Huck have been returned to us, and that's a! C. at matters. I don't care about anything else.

I DON'T CARE IF THE SUN DON'T SHINE TOMORROW
I DON'T CARE IF THE MOON DON'T SHINE TONIGHT
IF I'M BROKE THEN I'LL BEG OR STEAL OR BORROW
AND WHATEVER IS WRONG I'LL SET IT RIGHT

ALL

WE DON'T KNOW IF THE WORLD IS HARD OR HOLLOW
WHEN WE GO IT CAN BE MOST ANYWHERE
WE DON'T KNOW IF THE MOUNTAIN TOPS ARE COLD AS SNOW OR FIERY HOT
AND REALLY, WE DON'T CARE.

TOM/HUCK/BECKY

MY IT'S NICE TO BE TOGETHER
AND TO HAVE SUCH LOVELY WEATHER
KIND OF MAKES YOU WANT TO DO A DO-SI-DO

CAPTAIN

THE RIVER AIR IS CLEAN AND FRESH

POLLY

WE SHOULD GET DRESSED UP IN OUR BEST

ALL

AND FIND OURSELVES A FANCY PLACE TO GO

WE DON'T CARE IF THE SUN DON'T SHINE TOMORROW
WE DON'T CARE IF THE MOON DON'T SHINE TONIGHT
IF WE'RE BROKE THEN WE'LL BEG OR STEAL OR BORROW
AND WHATEVER IS WRONG WE'LL SET IT RIGHT
WE DON'T KNOW IF THE WORLD IS HARD OR HOLLOW
WHEN WE GO IT CAN BE MOST ANYWHERE
WE DON'T KNOW IF THE MOUNTAIN TOP IS COLD AS SNOW OR FIERY HOT
AND REALLY WE DON'T CARE.

CAPTAIN

Everybody has to join in this celebration. (Points to audience) That means you. So, tell you what we're gonna do. We're gonna sing a song that needs your help. It's real simple. All you have to do is to do what we tell you to do when we tell you to do it. So, listen carefully. You don't want to do the wrong thing

EVERYBODY GATHER ROUND, I'LL TELL YOU WHAT TO DO
EVERYBODY GATHER ROUND AND CLAP YOUR HANDS (X X X)
MY THAT'S GOOD OF YOU.

POLLY

EVERYBODY GATHER ROUND, I'LL TELL YOU WHAT TO DO
EVERYBODY GATHER ROUND AND STOMP YOUR FEET (X X X)

CAPTAIN

NOW CLAP YOUR HANDS (X X X)

ALL

MY THAT'S GOOD OF YOU.

JIM

EVERYBODY GATHER ROUND, I'LL TELL YOU WHAT TO DO
EVERYBODY GATHER ROUND AND WAVE YOUR ARMS...

POLLY

NOW STOMP YOUR FEET...

CAPTAIN
AND CLAP YOUR HANDS...

ALL
MY THAT'S GOOD OF YOU.

TOM,HUCK,BECKY
EVERYBODY GATHER ROUND, WE'LL TELL YOU WHAT TO DO
EVERYBODY GATHER ROUND AND STAND UP TALL...
NOW SIT DOWN ALL...

JIM
NOW WAVE YOUR ARMS

POLLY
AND STOMP YOUR FEET

CAPTAIN
AND CLAP YOUR HANDS

ALL
MY THAT'S GOOD OF YOU.

DOLLY
Maybe you haven't noticed, Captain, but it's time to end this show. We've got to sail down the river to the next town.

CAPTAIN
You're right - as usual.

BECKY
(to Tom) I guess you'll be going home?

TOM
No. Why can't I go with you?

JIM
What?

TOM
I told you...I want to be an actor. And you're not going to find a better Tom Sawyer.

BECKY
He's got a point there.

CAPTAIN
Well, if that's what you want...you're hired. Now let's wind things up here.

ALL
EVERYBODY GATHER ROUND, WE'LL TELL YOU WHAT TO DO
EVERYBODY GATHER ROUND AND SHOUT "SO LONG!"

(Spoken) We can't hear you. (response) We still can't hear you. (response) That's better!

(WE HEAR THE STEAM WHISTLE BLOWING)

CAPTAIN

All right. Pack it up or this boat will pull out without you.

(THEY BEGIN TO REMOVE COSTUME PIECES AND RESTORE THE BOAT TO ITS TOP OF SHOW APPEARANCE. THEY ALL RETURN TO THE SHOWBOAT AND THE GANGPLANK IS RAISED.)

ALL

DOWN THE RIVER WE WILL SOON BE GOIN
GET THAT PADDLE PADDLIN AND THAT WHISTLE BLOWIN
ON THE SHOWBOAT
HERE WE GO, HERE WE GO, HERE WE GO, HERE WE GO
THERE'S A SHOWBOAT PULLIN OUT TODAY.
HEY!

BLACKOUT.