

TAPROOT THEATRE

C O M P A N Y

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Rockwell's *Huck Finn Folio* on display, up for auction at Taproot Theatre

SEATTLE – June 17, 2008 – Art collectors and aficionados have an opportunity to view Norman Rockwell's *Huck Finn Folio*, comprised of eight full-color lithographs signed by the artist, during a gallery showing taking place at Taproot Theatre this summer during the run of the Tony Award-winning musical *Big River: The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. An online auction will take place during the run of the show.

"This collection is a good representation of Norman Rockwell's work depicting one of America's finest story tellers—Mark Twain," said Taproot board chair Dennis McCurley, who—along with his wife, Marlene—donated the prints to Taproot to display and offer up for auction. "Both men—Rockwell and Twain—were great story tellers—one with a pen and the other with a brush. Unlike other Rockwell pieces, this Huck Finn Portfolio not only elicits images of Americana, but reminds the viewer of a great Americana literary work of Mark Twain."

Money raised by the online auction will be used to support Taproot Theatre Company's multi-faceted production program, which includes Mainstage, Acting Studio and Road Company.

"We hope that this donation can help raise funding to further the critical mission of Taproot to the Greater Seattle community," McCurley said.

"Norman Rockwell's art has brought joy to us for many years and we hope other collectors will enjoy this collection for years to come."

The prints will be on display in Taproot Theatre's upper lobby from July 9 through August 9. For more information on the online auction, visit <http://www.taproottheatre.org/rockwell.html> or contact Anne Kennedy at 206.529.3672 or anne@taproottheatre.org.

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About *Big River: The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

This summer, get swept away by the exuberance and joy of the Tony Award-winning musical *Big River: The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, playing at Taproot Theatre Company this July and August. People of all ages will love this classic story of two friends, a raft and their quest for freedom on the mighty Mississippi, with music and lyrics by Roger Miller, book by William Hauptman, and adapted from the novel by Mark Twain. A journey into America's spirit is at its heart.

Big River: The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, directed by Karen Lund, with musical direction by Edd Key, runs from July 11 through August 9 with low-price previews on July 9 & 10, plus a Pay-What-You-Can performance on July 16.

Big River: The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn is sponsored in part by media sponsors KUOW and ParentMap, and opening night sponsor Puget Sound Energy. Seasonal support is generously provided by 4Culture; ArtsFund; The Boeing Company; The Charles Simonyi Fund for Arts and Sciences; Ellis, Li & McKinstry PLLC; Hagen, Kurth, Perman & Co., CPA's; Microsoft; PONCHO; The Seattle Foundation; Viking Bank; and Washington State Arts Commission.

About Taproot Theatre

Taproot Theatre Company is a professional, non-profit theatre company with a multi-faceted production program. Founded in 1976, Taproot Theatre serves the Pacific Northwest with Mainstage Productions, Touring Productions and Acting Studio. Taproot exists to create theatre that explores the beauty and questions of life while bringing hope to our search for meaning. Taproot Theatre Company is a member of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), Theatre Puget Sound (TPS), and the Greenwood-Phinney Chamber of Commerce.

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