

**TOM SAWYER** by Mark Twain

Adapted by Paul Stebbings for TNT Theatre

Directed by Gaspard Legendre

Scene 1: The jam (Tom creeps into a room and steals jam from a pot, hears a noise and hides under a bed/in a cupboard).

AUNT: Tom! (pause) Tom! (She takes a broom and pokes the furniture) If I get hold of you I will give you such a smackin'. (Pause) You Tom! (Does she hear something? She strikes out with the brush but only to fool Tom and kicks backward with her foot, striking Tom and forcing him to howl).

Got you! (She drags him out by the ears, his hands covered in jam where he plunged them into the pot). What you doin' here?

TOM: Nuthin'.

AUNT: Nuthin'? Look at your hands, look at your mouth! What's that?

TOM: I don't know? Mud?

AUNT: Red mud?

TOM: OK. Blood? Maybe I cut myself or you did, hackin' at me with that brush?

AUNT: (Swiping finger across his lips and licking the result). My jam, my raspberry jam! I told you forty times if you touch my jam you get the stick! Hand me the whip stick!

TOM: Hey, Aunt, behind you a big - !

AUNT: (Turns) What?!

TOM: Gotcha! (He dodges her and is out the house). Bye Aunt!

AUNT: Why you...(Then she smiles). Old fools is the biggest fools an' he gone and tricked me. Again! (Laughs) That Tom, Tom, Tom Sawyer.

(Blackout).

SCENE 2 The fight

(Tom whistling and laughing, he sees a bird or cat, picks up a stone and throws it at an animal bird who makes a noise as it's hit – maybe we see no animal and it's done with sound? – Then he spies Becky laughing and maybe flirting little with Alfred – good to establish Becky early. There is no dialogue audible between Becky and Alfred, maybe he picks a flower and give it to her. Tom reacts with a “yuck” to that. Becky looks at the flower but tosses it back to Alfred and runs off. Alfred smiles and kicks dust and walks away but is confronted by Tom who leaps out and blocks his path):

"TOM: can smash you!

ALFRED: I'd like to see you try .

TOM: Well, I can do it.

ALF: No you cannot.

TOM: Yes I can.

ALF: No you can't.

TOM: I can.

ALF: You can't.

TOM: Can!

ALF: Can't!

(An uncomfortable pause).

TOM: What's your name, smart ass?

ALF: (Upper class) Tisn't any of your business, ruffian.

TOM: Well Snooty, I'll MAKE it my business.

ALF: If you fool with me I will fix you. Do you know how my family are?

TOM: Smarty! You think you're someone, now, don't you? Oh, what a hat!"

ALF: I dare you to knock it off – Or go suck eggs.

TOM: You're a liar!

ALF: You're another.

TOM: I'll take and bounce a rock off'n your head.

ALF: Well why don't you DO it then? It's because you're afraid.

TOM: I AIN'T afraid.

ALF: You are.

TOM: I ain't.

ALF: You are. (Pause – they do not know what to do).

TOM: Get away from here! This is my territory.

ALF: Beggar boys don't own nuthin'! Go away yourself!

TOM: I won't.

ALF: You're a coward and a pup. I'll tell my big brother on you, and he can thrash you with his little finger, and I'll make him do it, too."

TOM: What do I care for your big brother? I've got a brother that's bigger than he is!

ALF: Mines bigger.

TOM: Mine bigger

ALF's Mine's bigger! Ten feet tall!

TOM: Mine's bigger! Twelve feet tall.

BOTH: Liar!

ALF: Look beggar boy, here's two cents just go home. If you have one. (Holds out money – Tom knocks the money to the ground and throws himself at Alf – they fight and Tom of course wins. Through the fog of battle Tom appeared, seated astride the new boy, and pounding him with his fists).

TOM: Holler 'nuff! Give up?

ALF: Mamma, Mamma.

TOM: Not Mamma, holler: Enuff!

ALF: 'Nuff, enough. (Tom lets Alf up)

TOM: Now that'll learn you. Better look out who you're fooling with next time.

(Tom exits brushing the dust from his clothes, sobbing, snuffling, and occasionally looking back and shaking his head).

ALF: (Leaving) Next time me and my brother will beat you to little pieces.

TOM: Oh yeah! Oh yeah! (Races after him) Come on then – bring on you and your brother! (But bumps into Alf's mother who has rolling pin).

ALF: Momma!

ALF's Mon: Why you bad, vicious, vulgar child, you get away or I gonna call the Sheriff!

TOM: Yikes! (Runs off back home but is just climbing through a window when AUNT grabs him in an ambush).

AUNT: Gotta! Why look at your clothes! Them trousers that I sowed for you is ruined!

TOM: Help, Lord help me!

AUNT: Ain't no Lord gonna help you. After you had your thrashing with the whip-stick I gonna give you chores all day tomorrow so you ain't gonna go fishin' or any such fun but work. Work cleans the soul. Even if it don't mend you trousers. Now you come here and bend over that chair. (Points offstage – they exit - we hear the whip come down with a grunt from Aunt and a cry from Tom – or its done onstage with one swipe of the cane she carries).

(Blackout).

Scene Three THE FENCE

(Tom appears with a paint pot and wide brush. There is a fence – which will need to turn white when “painted” maybe with rotating cloth on poles. Tom touches his painful rear end).

AUNT: See that fence – it's all dirty like your soul. So I want it white by sunset.

TOM: All of it?

AUNT: Every last plank or I gonna whip your ass one more time but real hard! (exits).

TOM: Ow! Yes Aunt. Yes Ma'am. (Sighs and proceeds to paint with bad grace). Thirty yards of fence nine feet high, oh Lord!

(Paints one plank)>

Tom: One done. Only sixty five to go! Sixty five. Oh no. I need a break. (Sits on rock)>.

BOY: (Enters) You gonna come fishin' Tom?

TOM: Nope.

Boy: Ah come on. We can fry catfish on a barbeque and play pirates by the wide Mississippi!

TOM: (Painting grimly ) Nope. (Suddenly having idea) But if you paint a few of these here planks I can show you a marvel?

BOY: What marvel?

TOM: I got a sore toe. It's like swollen and blue.

BOY: yeah? Show me.

TOM: First you paint four planks.

BOY: How do I know your sore toe is so interestin'?

TOM: OK. I show you the toe after two planks.

BOY: One.

TOM: But you gotta promise if I show the marvel to you: Four planks.

(Boy paints one plank).

BOY: My this fence is high.

TOM: (relaxing) You can stand on that box. (Boy does so).

BOY: Now the marvel.

TOM: I got a bandage in my toe. It stinks real bad.

BOY: (Excited) Yeah? (Tom bends and unwraps toe and both boys go “Poo” but as Tom unwinds the bandage he fails to see his aunt has seen what is going on and advances carefully towards Tom and whacks his ass with a slipper and manages to catch the Boy too – who runs away).

AUNT: What you doin? I'll tell you what you doin'. Nuthin'. Now get on with that there fence. Now.

TOM: I was tendin' to my poor toe and getting'

sympathy from a kind Christian boy.

AUNT: Just cos' I'm old you think I am stupid? One hour gone. Two planks painted. That makes thirty odd hours to paint sixty three planks. That's maths. And my maths tells me it's a mighty long time until Tom Sawyer gets his supper!

(Exits)

(Girl enters as he reluctantly takes up the brush – maybe planks are painted one side and plain the other and stretch across the stage?)

GIRL: (With water bucket) hey Tom, what you done wrong?

TOM: Nuthin. I do this for fun. You could paint it too. Such fun.

GIRL: Nah, I gotta go to the pump and fetch water for my Ma.

TOM: I can do that for you.

GIRL: Why that's a real gentleman.

TOM: All you got to do is paint a few of these planks.

GIRL: Fun is it?

TOM: Paintin's like art. You can be an artist.

GIRL: OK Tom. But you get the water for me. There always too much messin' about at the pump.

TOM: Boys and girls splashin and playin' tricks.

GIRL: Yeah, not nice.

TOM: Shoutin', laughin' pushin folk in the water, why must be terrible for a fine girl like you that wants to be an artist.

GIRL: I don't know how to paint.

TOM: You do. I can see the artistry in your eyes. Just stand on the box for the high bits. Here you go...Michelangelo.

GIRL: Who?

TOM: Tell you later – (rushes off with bucket as Girl paints).

(Scene fades. Now a lot of the fence is painted and Tom is back – sitting on a rock – he spies to boys entering and starts to paint but in dabs and bits and shouts out with pleasure as he applies paint).

(Boys enter as if a paddle steamer, whirring sticks like paddle wheels, maybe they sing a Mississippi song).

BOYS: Full steam ahead, we gonna down the mighty river! Down the Mississippi to New Orleans!

Boy 1: (Mocking) Aw look, Tom Sawyer goody boy!

Boy 2: Can't sail the mighty Mississippi has to work like a Missy School girl! Do your chores!

TOM: What you playin' at?

Boys: Mississippi steamers! Ooh ooh!

TOM: Well I'm playin' at fence paintin'. Like you ain't got no steamer, no river, but I gotta a fence. See. My, is this fun!

Boys: Truly?

TOM: Fun fun fun! Look like I dab a but a paint here on my brush – dap dab dab! An' I splash the paint, an I even get to stand on this here box and top it off! Way to go!

(boys drop sticks – one examines the brush the

other the paint).

TOM: You boys wanna try?

BOYS: OK. Yeah.

TOM: Cost yer. Games ain't free. Paint don't drop from the sky.

Boy 1: We ain't got no money.

Boy 2: So how can we play?

TOM: I take marbles, tin soldiers, spoons, bones, what you got?

Boy 1: (reluctantly) Dog collar. No dog.

Boy 2: Blue glass you can look at sun through it.

TOM: Whoah. Not sure...it's such fun this paintin'... (Boys confer).

Boy 1: OK, we given you our brass door knob. Real brass fit on any door.

Boy 2: (Excitedly) But it's best for killin' lizards!

Boys: Smash smash, pow pow, splat splat – dead Lizards!

TOM: OK boys, I'll take the brass knob and the blue glass. You can keep the no dog dog collar.

BOYS: Thanks Tom!

TOM: You know what's really fun is one of you moving' the box and holdin' the paint pot while the other one brushes. Fast and fun!

Boys: Fast and fun!

TOM: You'll get that fence finished in no time!

All: Hooray!

(Blackout – Tom rushes to front of stage and appears in spotlight).

TOM: I done it, Aunt, I done it. One white fence!

AUNT: Tom, don't lie to me!

TOM: Look!

AUNT: My you can work when you put you mind to it. (Hands him a donut). Now run along and play! And mind you are back before the day's out. And don't go getting' into trouble!

Scene four BECKY

(Tom has tied his brass door knob to the end of a stick and marches up and down with his new weapon. Then he stops and looks at the sun thru his blue glass.

TOM: Yes General, with this blue glass I can see the position of the sun. While our enemies are blinded. So we have a great advantage and will surely win the battle. (Other deeper voice) Well done, Captain Sawyer, I promote you to the rank of Colonel. (Tom's voice). Thank you, Sir!

BECKY: (who has been watching, perhaps over a fence). You really a Colonel? (Is she teasing him or not)?

TOM: I got promoted.

BECKY: My Daddy's a judge.

TOM: For real?

BECKY: For real.

TOM: So he would appreciate his daughter getting' engaged to a Colonel in the United States army.

BECKY: My Daddy would be mighty proud if I were to marry a Colonel. But I reckon my Daddy would be mighty angry with me marryin' one dirty raggedy good for nuthin' day dreamin' fool like you. (Runs off laughing).

TOM: You don't have to marry me right now, you could be my sweetheart!

BECKY: (re enters, laughs and throws him a flower which he picks up and smell with glee then she runs off).

TOM: What's your name?

BECKY: (from off) Becky!

TOM: I'm Tom, Tom Sawyer the man you gonna marry!

(Blackout)

SCENE 5 The Church

(A hymn – WE PLOUGH THE FIELDS SCATTER – all sing) – two benches represent the church – maybe a church window gobo - on one pew is Aunt Poly with Tom on the outside. On the other pew the JUDGE with Becky on one side. A PRIEST stands with his back to the audience – or the Priest can be a recording – during the hymn Tom tries to wave at Becky who looks at him then turns away. The sermon starts):

SERMON: Dearly beloved, we are gathered here today in the sight of the Lord to blab la blab la – Hell – bla blab la bla! Fire and burning, blab la bla, the elect will be saved by blab la, bla the seven horsemen of the Apocalypse will bla and bla! And the whore of 'Babylon will bloo and bloo bla! And all will burn in terror and blazi bla blo bla! So, beloved bla de bla de bla de droning on and on and on and on and on...and indeed on and on (etc).

( Aunt and Judge start to nod off to sleep and snore. Meanwhile Tom has taken a peach from his pocket and places it next to Becky on her pew with a note. As she turns to take it he kisses her on the cheek and rushes back to his seat. She scowls at him but reads the note and smiles.).

BECKY: Thomas Sawyer! (This wakes up Judge and Aunt).

JUDGE: er Amen!

AUNT: Amen. Praise the Lord.

PRIEST: ER yes, Amen. And that endeth the sermon.

TOM: Thank the Lord! (All turn to him). For a moving sermon, Aunt.

AUNT: Most moving.

TOM: Moving me outta here! (Rushes out the sneaks up to Becky as the adults chat outside the church door).

Becky: Kiss? What do you kiss me for?

TOM: Why, that, you know, is to—well, they always do that.

BECKY: Everybody?

TOM: Why, yes, everybody that's in love with each other. What did I write on your note, with the peach. Ripe peach just like your pretty cheeks!

BECKY: My Daddy says I am not to think that I am pretty. An' he's a judge.

TOM: Well I'm a judge too.

Becky: How come?

TOM: I'm judgin' you the prettiest girl in all of Mississippi.

BECKY: You ain't bin to all of Mississippi so how come you know I am prettiest?

TOM: Cos I do. Hey I'm gonna whisper something in your ear. Soft. Right? (He takes Beck's silence for Yes and whispers): " I love you " but the audience do not hear it). Now you whisper it back to me. Just the same.

BECKY: You turn your face away so you can't see, and then I will. But you mustn't ever tell anybody—will you, Tom?

TOM: No, indeed, indeed I won't. Now, Becky.

(He turns his face away. She bends timidly around and whispers), BECKY: I—love—you!

(Tom kisses her lips – she smiles but says nothing).

TOM: Now it's all done, Becky. And always after this, you know, you ain't ever to love anybody but me, and you ain't ever to marry anybody but me, ever never and forever. Will you?

BECKY: I don't think so, but I don't know. (Rushes to join Father).

JUDGE: Come Becky, we must to home. (To Aunt) A pleasure to meet you Ma'am. (Exits).

AUNT: Tom, Tom you scarin' the Judge's daughter? I will tan your hide!

TOM: No Aunt. I ain't done nuthin'.

AUNT: Only time you doin' nuthin' is when you are sleepin'!

TOM: Like you and the Judge did through the sermon!

AUNT: I was closin' my eyes to concentrate.

TOM: An' I was flyin' to the Moon.

AUNT: Why you! (Then melts and almost whispers). Preacher can be a little dull but God don't give everyone the gift.

TOM: God gave me a gift today, Aunt.

AUNT: You steal somethin'?

TOM: No, I got given it, cost me a peach, but I got two juicy peaches for the one. (Glowing with happiness and strokes his own cheeks).

BLACKOUT

SCENE 6 HUCK.

HUCKS FATHER VOICE (Offstage or recording or real): Damn your eyes, Huck, get me some whisky!

HUCK: (Raggedy boy flies out as if hit and rubs face) I gotta dime, Pa, whisky don't come for free!

HUCK PA: Sell your shoes.

HUCK: Ain't got no shoes, Pa!

HUCK PA: Lyin devil, you sold your shoes now you stealin' my whisky! Get out Huck! Gedout!

HUCK: I'm already out, Pa. I bin sleepin' in the woodshed this past year. So go hang!

HUCK PA: No son of mine - Aargh! (A crash).

HUCK: Serves him damn well right. Least my Mama's dead and can't bother me no more.

( A CHORUS assembles – it could be god if this was made up of t here actors dressed as Mothers. Of course one of these can be the AUNT – they could be looking over a fence so we only have to see their upper bodies and this could make a good image as they spy on HUCK and pop up rather than walk on?).

CHORUS: Look at him Huckleberry Finn, son of a drunk Pappa. Vulgar, idle, lawless. Cast off

clothes, no shoes, trousers draggin' in the dirt. Sleeps where he will and never goes to school, never goes to church. Swears, spits and chews tobacco. Boys and girls of the town, take this down: Never go near this vile and dirty thing: Huckleberry Finn! (Chorus vanish)

TOM: Aunt Polly, why would I ever want to go near that Huck Finn? (Aunt is not there) I mean how could anyone enjoy the fellowship and brotherhood of a boy who don't take no care of his clothes, stays up as long as he wants each night, sleeps and eats where he chooses, never says,"Yes Sir" or Yes Ma'am to no one. Never goes to school but goes wastin' his time fishin' or swimmin' or just lie around doin' damn all. (Covers mouth). I said Damn – wow! Huck can say damn as often as he likes and no one whips him!

TOM: Hey Huck!

HUCK: Well damn me, if it ain't Tom Tom Sawyer. (Makes drumming noise on a the can or barrel he sits on – immediately they are whooping and playing "Indians").

HUCK: Hey Sittin' Bull Sawyer, I kinda like the Injuns.

TOM: How come?

HUCK: Well they live out of town barefoot like me, and I reckon my Pappa's a type of Cowboy an I sure would like to shoot him! (Fires imaginary bow at Tom who responds as if hit).

TOM: (recovering) Injuns smoke too.

HUCK: An' they don't drink no whisky. I never gonna drink ' case I turn into my Pa.

TOM: You don't need to turn into anythin', Huck, you mighty fine just as you are.

HUCK: Well thank you brother. Peace pipe?

TOM: Sure thing Big Chief Finn. (They smoke).

HUCK: Got any plans, like wild ones?

TOM: Crazy schemes and kooky games?

HUCK: Whacky ones and how!

TOM: Sure do.. so we gonna start?

HUCK: I gotta dead cat. S'good start.

TOM: My, he's pretty stiff. Where'd you get him ??

HUCK: Bought him off'n a boy.'

TOM: What did you give?'

HUCK: I give a pig's bladder that I got at the slaughter-house.'

TOM: Say — what is dead cats good for, Huck?'

HUCK: Good for? Cure warts with' em. An sore heads' You got a sore head?

TOM: No.

HUCK: Got a wart?

Tom: No.

HUCK: Well if you had a some headache or a wart I could cure them with this cat. But..

TOM: What but?

HUCK: Only if you bury the cat first in a holy graveyard.

TOM: At night?

HUCK: Of course.

TOM: Tonight, when the moon is up?

HUCK: And witches gather in the graveyard and

recite the Lords Prayer backwards to raise the Devil!

HUCK and TOM: (Pause) Done. (They punch each other's fist).

TOM: I'll skip out my window and meet you at half past eleven. Gimme a whistle.

HUCK: Sure thing. An' you get a lantern. I ain't got so much as a candle.

TOM: But you got a dead cat. Kinda stiff and stinky. But it's for real.

HUCK: Yeah, you bring the lantern an' I bring the cat.

BOTH: Done!

(Blackout).

SCENE 7 THE GRAVEYARD

(Howling of wind, hooting of owls – music as the stage is set with graves whilst Tom and Huck battle "uphill" in the dark lit by a single lantern that Tom holds, whilst Huck sets the dead Cat on his shoulder).

TOM: Hucky, do you believe the dead people like it for us to

be here?'

HUCK: I wisht I knowed. It's awful solemn like, ain't it?'

TOM: I bet it is.(pause) What's the name on this new grave.

HUCK: I can't read no writin'.

TOM: Hoss Williams. Died but yesterday.

HUCK: You reckon he hears us talkin'?

TOM: No.

HUCK: But maybe his spirit hears us?

TOM: His ghost (they are terrifying each other and enjoying it).

HUCK: (Shouts) Mister Williams, can you hear us?

TOM: Hush!

HUCK: For why, I ain't gonna wake Mr Williams or this here cat!

TOM: Them's people over there.

HUCK: Real folk. Not spirits!

TOM: Maybe Devils (he knows they are not and winds up Huck).

HUCK: Jesus save me.

TOM: You'd need to go to Church for that. But Tom can save you if you just stay hush. Them three gotta spade and a lantern. I reckon they are as alive as you or me. So hush.

HUCK: I'm as quiet as my cat.

TOM: (They hide behind a grave) One of them is old Muff Potter.

HUCK: What's old Muff doin' here?

TOM: Drunk as usual. Never known him sober and awake.

HUCK: Bad as my Pa. Good job we are Injuns and don't touch firewater.

TOM: I told you hush, or you gonna be as dead and gone as your cat.

HUCK: I am a trapper Injun, I move silent as a...

BOTH: (Enjoying it now) Ghost.

(The there men gather at the new grave, not

seeing the boys).

Doctor: Here it is. Hoss Williams, rest in peace.

BAD'UN JOE: Well you had a ten hours rest since your funeral Mister Williams. Reckon its time to get up and get cut up!

DR: Have some respect, Man.

JOE: What sort of respect you showin' this corpse, cuttin' it up and pullin' out his organs. (Ghoulish)

DR: I do this for science, man, science that saves the lives of the living.

MUFF: When you two great folk have stopped talkin', do I start diggin'? (Pulls on a bottle).

JOE: An' stop drinkin', you pass out on me we can't get this corpse back to the Doctor's.

DR: Gentlemen, please proceed. (They dig). Hurry the moon may come out at any minute!

(Finally a spade struck upon the coffin and within another minute or two the men had hoisted it out on the ground. They pried off the lid with their shovels, got out the body and dumped it rudely on the ground. The moon drifted from behind the clouds and exposed the pallid face. They wrap the body in a blanket and tie the ends with ropes to ease carrying. Muff takes out a big knife to cut the rope).

HUCK: See that!

TOM: Hush – for your life.

JOE: Now the cussed thing's ready, Doctor Sawbones, another five bucks or the he stays here on the ground.

MUFF: That's the talk, Joe!

DR: Look here, what does this mean?' You required your pay in advance, and I've paid you in full.

JOE: Yes, and you done more than that. Five years ago you drove me away from your father's kitchen one night, when I come to ask for food to eat, and you said I warn't there for any good; and when I swore I'd get even with you, your father had me thrown in jail. Did you think I'd forget? And now I've GOT you, and you got to SETTLE, you know!

(He was threatening the doctor, with his fist in his face, by this time. The doctor struck out suddenly and stretched the ruffian on the ground. Potter dropped his knife, and exclaimed):

MUFF: Here, now, don't you hit my pard!

( And the next moment he had grappled with the doctor and the two were struggling, trampling the grass and tearing the ground with their heels. Joe sprang to his feet, his eyes flaming with passion, snatched up Potter's knife, and went creeping, catlike round and round about the combatants, seeking an opportunity. All at once the doctor flung himself free, seized the heavy headboard of Williams' grave and felled Potter to the earth with it — and in the same instant Joe saw his chance and drove the knife to the hilt in the young man's breast. He reeled and fell partly upon Potter, flooding him with his blood).

TOM: (Loud whisper) Murder! (Huck nods and Joe looks up but Tom hoots like an owl and Joe returns to his business. The moon emerged again, Injun Joe was standing over the two forms, contemplating them. The doctor murmured inarticulately, gave a long gasp and was still ):

JOE: THAT score is settled — damn you Doctor.

(Then he robbed the body. After which he put the fatal knife in Potter's open right hand, and sat down on the dis- mantled coffin. Then Potter began to stir and moan. His hand closed upon the knife; he raised it, glanced at it, and let it fall, with a shudder. Then he sat up, pushing the body from him. His eyes met Joe's).

MUFF: Lord, how is this, Joe?

JOE: It's a dirty business, killin'. What did you do it for?'

MUFF: I - I never done it!'

JOE: S'your knife. That kind of talk won't wash.

(Potter trembled and grew white).

MUFF: I thought I'd got sober. I'd no business to drink to-night.

I'm all in a muddle; I can't recall any of it. Tell me, Joe — HONEST, now, did I do it? Joe, I never meant to — 'pon my soul and honor, I never meant to, Joe. Tell me how it was, Joe. Oh, it's terrible— and him so young."

JOE: You done it Muff. He whacked you with the headboard and you lost it and stuck the knife in his chest. You killed the Doctor. For five dollars! (Whistles).

MUFF: I wish I may die this minute if I did. It was all on account of the whiskey and the excitement, I reckon. I never used a weepion in my life before, Joe! Say you won't tell, Joe — that's a good feller. I always liked you, Joe, and stood up for you, too. Don't you remember? You WON'T tell, WILL you, Joe?'

(And the poor creature dropped on his knees).

JOE: No, you've always been fair with me, Muff Potter, and I won't tell on you.

MUFF: Oh, Joe, you're an angel. Bless you! (And Potter began to cry).

JOE: Come, now. This ain't any time for blubbering. You be off yonder way and I'll go this. Move, now, and don't leave any tracks behind you.

(Muff Potter runs off).

JOE: (Quietly) You forgot your knife, Muff Potter. You so done in with rum and fear you forgot that Muff Potter's knife lies beside the body which I call ev-id-ence. (Looks through stolen wallet as he exits nonchalantly). Hey Doctor you got yourself killed for five dollars but I gone and got twenty! I am settled now. (exits).

TOM: Huckleberry, what do you reckon'll come of this?'

HUCK: If Doctor Robinson's dead, I reckon hanging'll come of it.

TOM: Who'll tell? We?'

HUCK: What are you talking about? S'pose something happened

and I Bad'n Joe DIDN'T hang? Why, he'd kill us some time or other, dead sure.

TOM: That's just what I was thinking to myself, Huck.

HUCK: If anybody tells, let Muff Potter do it, if he's fool enough. TOM: Drunk enough.

HUCK: But Muff didn't do it.

TOM: No. He was knocked down and drunk. He didn't harm no one.

HUCK: But he'll be fine. None 'cept you and me knows he was here.

TOM: Hucky, you sure you can keep your mouth shut?

HUCK: We gotta keep our moth shut about this killin' or we gonna be as dead as my cat. Bad'n Joe gonna skin us alive if he knows we know.

TOM: We'd not know. Do we?'

HUCK: No.

TOM: Swear. With blood. (each bite their own hand and hold it together then Tom recites):

Huck Finn and Tom Sawyer swears they will keep silent about This and They wish They may Drop down dead if They ever Tell

Anyone ever.

HUCK: Tom, does this keep us from EVER telling — ALWAYS?

TOM: Forever – BOTH: Silent.

Blackout.

(Note the above scene can take place in graveyard or Tom and Huck can run away as in the book at the point Tom cries "Murder").

### SCENE 8 Disasters of Home and Heart

(Breakfast. Aunt serves Tom a bowl).

TOM: Thanks Aunt.

AUNT: Sleep well, Tom?

TOM: Mighty fine.

AUNT: Sleep all night?

TOM: Yep.

AUNT: So how come your bed was empty at midnight?

TOM: Cos... 'cos... Cos..

AUNT: Why should I feed a liar a good breakfast?

TOM: I'm so sorry, Aunt. (Get up hands her a brush and bends over). You can beat me now. I deserve a whippin'.

AUNT: (cryin') How could you go breakin' my old heart.? Go ruin yourself. Give me grey hair and bring me with sorrow to my grave. For it's no use tryin' any more to be the Mother that I am not or the Father that I could never be. Oh Lord what a foolish old woman am I, I'd be better off dead.

TOM: (crying) Beat me!

AUNT: I got no strength no more.

TOM: Oh Jesus Aunt. I' so sorry. I never meant to do no harm. You are the best woman in the whole wide world, (to himself) Sorry Becky. I know I am wrong but I'm just full of beans and skittles. I get itchy to get out and I don't mean no harm to you, who is the best most best and ... better than my Ma!

AUNT: God rest her soul. Now, Tom (kissing his head). Go to school. I'm goin' to the church house to pray for us both and look for a grave for myself.

TOM: Amen. I'm gonna be the best school student in all of Mississippi!

AUNT: (Suddenly angry) Just get out! Go!

Tom: Shucks! (Runs out to school with bag).

(The school room is assembled Tom rushes in and goes to sit by Becky, but she shifts away and he pursues her in a game of sitting then moving with other boys and girls until):

BECKY: This ain't no game, Thomas Sawyer. I want to get away from you!

TOM: And I want to kiss you!

BECKY: No way!

TOM: For why? We are engaged to be married.

BECKY: I asked the Preacher. No man or boy can be engaged to two girls at the same time. And if you are engaged to one girl it is the first girl that you are engaged to and this girl, the one that is engaged to Tom Sawyer is not Becky Thatcher but one scallywag stinkin' no good girl called Amy Lawrence who you helped carry water! Get out of my life. Two timer! (She storms off).

BOY/Harper : Sorry Tom, I told her you were engaged to Amy. She told me. True ain't it? (Tom says nothing and whacks the Boy hard who falls).

TOM: I am runnin' away. I have had it up to here.

BOY/Harper : I'm sorry Tom. Can I runaway with you too?

TOM: I mean it. I mean getting' Huck and goin' downriver to become Pirates.

BOY/ Harper: like Robin Hood?

TOM: Yep. He was Pirate but a good one. An me and him and the Injuns are all going away downriver today. You wanna be one. You be there. I'll fetch Huck and we three 'll meet at sundown by the water pump.

HARPER : Yes Sir! (Snaps to attention).

TOM: We don't need no girls.

BOTH: Girls, yuck!

BLACKOUT.

### SCENE 9 - The Pirate Raft

(by the water pump Huck is waiting Tom enters with Harper well behind him giving Huck time to talk alone)

HUCK: Tom, Tom I been dreamin' bad dreams, thinkin' dark things. What we gonna do?

TOM: What things Huck?

HUCK: 'Bout Badn' Joe, how he knew we was there when he killed the Doctor and set up poor Muff. How he's gonna come and get us, 'cos we know.

TOM: He can't get us. "Cos we are goin' down the Mississippi and not even your Pa or my Aunt's gonna know where on Gods great earth we gonna be!

HUCK: When are we goin' Tom?

TOM: Pirate Harper – get he men in line!

HARPER: Yes Cap'n. He Tom we only got one man, how do I get him in a line?

TOM: We will all stand in line, Sailor.

HARPER: Pirates in Line! Go.

TOM: Guns at the ready! (All create guns with fingers). Fishin' rods!

HARPER: Two Cap'n.

HUCK: I ain't got no fishin rod.

TOM: Well two fish between three pirates is enough, let's go!

HUCK: Let's go as far away form Bad'n Joe as the wind can take us.

TOM: Now hush, see that there raft. It's ours!

HARPER: That belongs to Mr Marshall.

TOM: No you are wrong there, sailor. (looks at Huck and laughs)

HUCK and TOM: It belongs to us! (They all laugh and jump on the raft and as Huck pushes it off then jumps aboard they set sail down the river).

TOM: I am Tom Sawyer, the Black Avenger of the Spanish Main. Name your names.

HUCK: Huck Finn the Red-Handed.

HARPER : Harper John the Terror of the Seas.

(Tom in command, Huck at the after oar and Joe at the forward. Tom stood amidships, gloomy-browed, and with folded arms, and gave his orders in a low, stern whisper):

TOM: Row steady and bring her to the wind!

HARPER: 'Aye-aye, sir!

TOM: Steady, steady-y-y-y!

HUCK: Steady it is, sir!

(Could this be sung?)

TOM: Look at the stars!

Harper and Huck: The stars in the night sky, high above the mighty Mississippi.

TOM: Look at the lights!

Harper and Huck: The lights of the far town, way down the river.

TOM: Look at the Moon!

Harper and Huck: The Moon in the night sky and the Moon on the dark black mirror of the waters of the –

ALL: Mighty Mississippi.

Tom: Island ahead. Lights?

Huck: No lights, Cap'n.

Harper: No people.

TOM: Then heave ho to the land. I claim this island for the Pirate Avengers of the Spanish Main.

All: Hurrah! (They jump to the shore).

Harper: Shall I pull the raft onto the shore, Cap'n.

TOM: No idiot. Our enemies will spy us when the sun rises. Cast the raft loose!

HUCK: Marooned , Cap'n – we'll have no escape.

TOM: We have escaped, Red Hand Huck. We will live here free, eat fish and laugh the laughs of Pirates!

ALL: Ha ha! Hurrah!

HARPER: Cap'n, do you think back home folk are missin' us?

TOM: Sure thing.

HUCK: Ain't no one missin' me.

TOM: But your Ma and Pa are missin' you Harper.

HARPER: An' your aunt will be cryin', sobbin' for the loss of her little boy.

TOM: Not jus' my Aunt. Whole village.

HUCK: Cryin', howlin' like what could be worse than their dear boys all gone and...

HARPER and TOM: Drowned in the Mississippi.

(All look at each other and suddenly laugh).

ALL: Yeah!

BLACKOUT

### SCENE 10 GRIEF

(AUNT is sitting in her house sobbing. A knock. Becky enters).

AUNT: Oh, Tom Tom dear Tom. (pause) Come in. You got news?

BECKY: Sorry Ma'am. I came to you to see if you had any news of the boys.

AUNT: Well child I...

BECKY: I thought maybe they've gone off in the missin' boat and had some jolly adventure like they always do and will come back all full of themselves and laugh at us. The little boat has gone, right?

AUNT: (sniffs and then draws herself up as if to protect herself with formality) Oh dear Becky, I have to tell you the boat has been found. lodged against the Missouri shore some five below the village — and so hope perishes; they must be drowned, else hunger would have driven them home last night. It is believed that the search for the bodies had been a fruitless because the drowning must have been in mid channel, since the boys, being good swimmers, would otherwise have escaped to shore. This was Wednesday night. If the bodies continue missing until Sunday, all hope will be given up, and the funerals will be preached that mornin'.

(Becky rushes and hugs AUNT) God will take care of him, he was such a comfort to me although he almost tormented my old heart out of me.

BECKY: I wish I had said somethin' kinder to him that mornin'. I wish I kept something of him. All I got is this brass door knob. He made it like a spear and marched up and down. Now he don't march no more.

AUNT: Oh, Tom Sawyer marches into heaven with Harper and Huck behind. The Angels had best watch out or he'll have the feathers from their wings. (laughs through her tears).

BLACKOUT.

### SCENE 10 – THE STORM

(The boys are sleeping on the island – the noise of birds and the lapping on the lazy river. Tom wakes and stretches and looks around in wonder, using sheets perhaps for the river he throws off his shirt and jumps in and swims, the emerges singing which wakes Harper).

HARPER: Hey Tom, ain't this just amazin'?

TOM: It's just the life for me. You don't have to get up, mornings, and you don't have to go to school, and wash, and all that blame foolishness. You see a pirate don't have to do anything, Harper.

HARPER: They just lie around in the sun, like you and me?

TOM: Well, they have just a bully time—take ships and burn them, and get the money and bury it in awful places in their island where there's ghosts and things to watch it, and kill everybody in the ships—make 'em walk a plank.

HARPER: And they carry the women to the island, they don't kill the women.

TOM: No, Pirates do not kill the women—they're too noble. And the women's always pretty too.

HARPER: Like my Mamma. I miss her Tom, she gonna be mighty sad that I gone and drowned in

the Mississippi.

HUCK: (Waking) What for breakfast?

TOM: Fish.

HUCK and HARPER: Fish again? yuck!

TOM: (Sarcastic) Oh Red Hand Huck just go to the store an buy me a side of pork will yer?

HUCK: Is there a store on the island?

TOM: Jeesus. Why does a Captain have to be the only smart one on a ship?

HARPER: This ain't a ship. It's a tragedy.

TOM: There are boys back home in school who would die to be here on our island -and look at you two!

HUCK: Well Tom, you look at the sky.

TOM: I see it everywhere.

HUCK: Well behind you then. That sky.

HARPER: Oh Lord, that's a storm cloud!

HUCK: Black as Hell.

HARPER: We ain't got no shelter, Tom!

TOM: We got a tree. (Pause) Run!

(The run to upstage and shelter but it's you late the storm is upon them, it lashes and crashes. Huddles together they are soaked. The light fade then rise again for the passing of time).

HUCK: (Kicks over log) Fire's gone out. Nothin' gonna light withal this damp and water (gestures).

HARPER: Oh, boys, let's give it up. I want to go home. It's so lone- some.

TOM: Oh no Harper, you'll feel better by and by. Just think of the fishin.

HARPER: I don't care for fish. I want to go home.

TOM: I bet there's been pirates on this island before, boys.

We'll explore it. They've hid treasures here somewhere. How'd you feel to light on a rotten chest full of gold and silver — hey?'

HARPER: Oh, boys, let's give it up. I want to go home. It's so lone- some.'

TOM: Oh, shucks! Baby! You want to see your mother, I reckon.

HARPER: Yes, I DO want to see my mother — and you would, too, if you had one.

TOM: Well, we'll let the cry-baby go home to his mother. You like it here, don't you, Huck? We'll stay, won't we?'

HUCK: (Miserable) Ye—es

TOM: Huck and me ain't cry babies. We are Pirates!

HUCK: I want to go, too, Tom. It was getting so lonesome any- way, and now we got no fire. Let's us go, too, Tom.

TOM: I won't! You can all go, if you want to. I mean to stay.

HUCK: Tom, I better go.'

TOM: Well, go 'long — who's stoppin' you.'

HUCK: Tom, I wisht you'd come, too. Now you think it over.

We'll wait for you when we get to shore.'

TOM: Well, you'll wait a damn long time;

HARPER: Bye Captain.

(Huck and Harper start sorrowfully away, and Tom stood looking after him, with a strong desire tugging at his heart to yield his pride and go along too. He hoped the boys would stop, but they still waded slowly on. It suddenly dawned on Tom that it was become very lonely and still. He made one final struggle with his pride, and then darted after his comrades, yelling:

TOM: Wait! Wait! I want to tell you something!

(They turn without energy).

HUCK: You comin'?

TOM: Now I am goin'. We all are.

HARPER: Yeah we're goin' home. We can swim to the bank and walk.

TOM: Now we are goin' to church.

HUCK: Church, I don't go to no church!

TOM: What's today?

HARPER: Er..(counts) Sunday.

TOM: Yeah, so what happens on Sundays?

HUCK: Church ..yuck.

TOM: Yes, Huck, but funerals happen on Sunday and the one time Huckleberry Finn, Joe Harper and Tom Sawyer needs be on time in church is for our own funeral.

HUCK and Harper: (Enthused and shocked) Wow!

BLACKOUT.

#### SCENE 11 The Funeral

(Church — a hymn is sung - perhaps "What a friend we have in Jesus" as it is melancholy. Perhaps the congregation sit with backs to the audience and apart from the Aunt the other congregation are two dimensional heads on poles placed by the other actors as if sitting on pews. The Preacher again can be recorded. OR The PREACHER is an actor and Aunt sits in the audience on a stool that has been set if front row not available. This last option probably best/simplest and church created with gobo).

PREACHER: Dearly Beloved we are gathered here today in the sight of the Lord to mourn the passing of three young boys whose brilliant light rose like the sun upon our small town and bathed us in the precocious energy of youth. Thomas Sawyer, Joseph Harper and yes even Huckleberry Finn were our future, the future of this small town in Mississippi and the loss of that future is as painful as the passing of time itself.

AUNT: Oh my poor boy, Oh Tom, Tommy.

PREACHER: But at the last trumpet they will rise again and dance beside us we approach the Risen Lord Jesus.

AUNT: Amen, Amen to that. (Turns to audience member) Now don't cry Dear. We shall all meet in Heaven.

TOM: Or right here!

AUNT: Tom, Tommy!

PREACHER: Young Harper! Alive.

BOYS: All alive!

TOM: But no one to welcome poor Huck home.

AUNT: You are always welcome in our home, Huckleberry Finn.

HUCK: Aw, thank you Miss Polly. But I gotta stay near my Pa. Even if he treats me like a dog

he don't want.

AUNT: You are the best of boys and folk here think you are the worst. What an upside down world. Come round tonight and I will make you a hot supper. Chitlins and friend chicken!

BOYS: Oh yeah! (Huck runs off and Aunt exits).

(Becky catches Tom as he exits).

BECKY: One minute young man.

TOM: Oh. Miss Thatcher.

BECKY: How could you do this to us?

TOM: Do what?

BECKY: Break our hearts with grief that you had drowned in the wide Mississippi.

TOM: Well we did not drown.

BECKY: An is that a clever thing to NOT do something?

TOM: Well I think it was clever. Not many folk been to their own funeral.

BECKY: If I were your aunt I would whip you. Look at the sufferin' you brought on us all.

TOM: Did I make you suffer? (Becky puts nose in air so as not to reply). Did I? (Pause) I did!

BECKY: First you lie about bein' engaged to Amy then you lie about bein' dead and drowned. Liar, Tom Sawyer is liar! Fair broke my little heart. (Marches off).

TOM: I'm sorry, I'm sorry...Hey Huck. Huck.

HUCK: (Appearing with jam sandwich which he is eating messily) Hey your Aunt makes Jam fit for angels. What is it Tom.

TOM: (Happy) I did it. And you know we were so smart we did not even know how smart we were.

HUCK: How come?

TOM: 'Cos we broke Aunt Polly's heart and now you got a home. And I broke Becky Thatcher's heart and now I got a fiancée'.

HUCK: A fiancée, that's a type of French cake?

TOM: No, stoopid, it's the girl you gonna marry.

HUCK: You can't marry Becky Thatcher, her Pa's the county Judge.

TOM: And I am the King of the Pirates!

HUCK: (Sarcastic) Sure. (Tom sinks in his hands).

(Harper enters, dressed smartly now).

HARPER: Hey Tom, Huck you missed the news whilst we been away.

HUCK: What news?

HARPER: They caught the man that killed the Doctor in the Graveyard. Caught him with his own knife that stabbed the doctor! They gonna try him tomorrow. We can all go. Maybe they gonna hang the man too. Right outside the courthouse!

TOM: (Serious) Who they caught?

HARPER: Muff Potter. Reckon he'll swing for it. (Enacts grisly hanging)

VOICE: Harper! Your Daddy's waiting.

HARPER: Right away, Ma. (To boys) I'm a good boy now. Got me a silver dollar just for not drownin'! (shows it and exits).

TOM: (Suddenly very frightened and serious) Huck, have you ever told anybody about —

that?'

HUCK: Bout what?'

TOM: You know what.'

HUCK: Oh — 'course I haven't.

TOM: Never a word?'

HUCK Never a solitary word, so help me. What makes you ask?

TOM: Well, I was afeard. If Bad'n Joe knows we know...

HUCK: Why, Tom Sawyer, we wouldn't be alive two days if that got found out. YOU know that.

Blackout.

## SCENE 12 The Trial

AUNT: Now Tom, if you are to go to the trial you must be on your best behavior. One squeal or joke an' I shall send you home. You hear?

TOM: Yes Aunt. Huck, you comin', if you do you keep quiet to.

HUCK: Yes Aunt Polly. But I think I'll just watch through a crack in the fence. I know my place.

AUNT: Well that's a good boy. (Tom sticks his tongue out at Huck).

TOM: What you think will happen to poor old Muff. He was always kind to me.

AUNT: Kind! Why that man is a the very Devil. Lucky he did not slit your throat with that knife of his, lucky you got nothin' he wanted like the poor Doctor with his wallet stuffed with dollar bills. That Muff Potter is a wicked man, an' I heard tell that if he were to get off today at the court there's a gang of menfolk who will track him down and lynch him from the first tree that'll take the murderer's weight. An' in my opinion, Christian or no, that would be the right thing to do. That Doctor he was so young an' that Muff, he drinks and that is the road to Hell. Huh!

TOM: Muff were always kind to me and Huck.

AUNT: Hush now. Here Comes the Judge.

TOM: An his daughter.

AUNT: Becky is a good girl. Judge is one lucky Pa.

TOM: (Dodging away from Aunt) Hey Becky I got to talk to you.

BECKY: This here's not the day for kissin' games, young Sawyer.

TOM: This ain't nuthin' to do with kissin', Becky. It's serious. You gotta let me whisper in your ear.

BECKY: If you try and kiss me I will never, I repeat never, talk to you again.

TOM: Becky, listen to me. (She cautiously bends over, hand on her mouth – he whispers to her).

BECKY: Oh Lord!

AUNT: Tom. Stop foolin' with the girls and git down here to your seat or it's home for you. An' I mean it!

TOM: Yes Aunt. (Becky rushes off).

(judge takes to stage and sits down on chair).

JUDGE: Muff Potter you are accused of murder in the first degree. Do you have anything to say in your defense?

NOTE: The doubling here is complex, once again the Judge can be a recording or character change quickly since only Tom, Joe and Muff must be on

and audience can be used as court too.

MUFF: Your honour, gentlemen of the Jury, I don't remember nuthin'. If I done this terrible thing then judge me for it. But I got no recollection of anythin' save goin' to the Graveyard with bad'n, I mean Joe t here and t he Doctor. It were wrong to want to take t he body from the grave. I know that. But I needed the money and the Doctor needed the body to help you folk get well by knowin' thing. That's all I can say so help me God.

JUDGE: Call Joseph Crocker to the witness stand.

(Joe enters, dressed in an ill fitting suit and tie).

JOE: (raising bible) I swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth so help me God.

JUDGE: Did you go with the defendant and the victim to the graveyard on the night of the crime?

JOE: I did, your honour.

JUDGE: And what took place there, Joseph?

JOE: I did not know that the Doctor wanted to dig up a corpse, I thought he wanted to check names and dates of death which is why I held a lantern. I was shocked when he and Muff began to dig up a corpse and even more when Muff Potter there and the Doctor took to arguin' over how much money he was to get for his dirty work.

JUDGE: What happened next?

JOE: They fell to fightin', your honour, and Muff here took out this knife and stuck it deep in the Doctor's chest. I tried to stop him but he was so drunk he took no note of me.

AUNT: Shame, shame. Oh the poor Doctor!

VOICE: ((recorded) Hang the man. Hang Muff, Hang Muff Hang Muff!)

JUDGE: Silence in court or I will clear the courtroom! (Murmurs and grumbles). Now, since other witnesses have described the knife as belonging to Muff Potter and that he was seen cleaning the knife at the water pump that same day, cleaning it indeed of blood, we are faced with the fact that this awful crime appears to be the action of the prisoner in the dock.

JOE: Yes your honour. This man is guilty, I only wish I could have stopped him.

VOICES: Good man. Bless you Joe.

JUDGE: Silence in court. Does the prosecution have any further witnesses?

VOICE: NO, Sir.

JUDGE: Joseph Crocker. Go to the back of the court and stand by the Sheriff.

JOE: But I have given my testimony, your honour.

JUDGE: Sherriff stand by this man.

VOICE: Yes your honor. (Joe moves out from the witness box and casts suspicious glances around the court. But dare not do anything else).

JUDGE: Call Thomas Sawyer.

AUNT: Tom?! (Tom takes the stand).

TOM: I swear to tell the truth so help me God.

JUDGE: Speak child.

TOM: I was there. Playin'. I saw it all. Muff Potter did nothin' he was hit in a fight over

money then that man there, that man Joe he took Muff's knife and stuck it deep in the Doctor and took his wallet. Then he put the knife in Muff's hand. He fooled you al, even Muff.

JOE: Lies!

JUDGE: Silence: Go on.

TOM: Huck saw it all too. Muff don't remember no kilin' cos he done no killin'.

JOE: I'll kill you, you young liar! (Joe rushes at Tom, who ducks, screams in the court, a shot perhaps but Joe punches the sheriff and maybe the Judge to and leaps over the witness box and runs out through the theatre). I'll find you Tom Sawyer!

Voices; Stop him! Stop him! Murder! Murder!

JUDGE: Send the Sherriff after Bad'n Joe and I must thank you Tom Sawyer. You are a fine lad. Muff Potter this boy just saved you from the hangman's rope. And I should thank my daughter too, for she gave me your message in the nick of time.

ALL: Three cheers for Tom Sawyer, Huzzah! Huzzah! Huzzah!

Becky: Tom, you can kiss me now.

JUDGE: Becky! (Tom runs off with a wink).

BECKY: Yes Father.

JUDGE: Tom Sawyer is a brave young man who deserves our thanks.

BECKY: I know Father.

JUDGE: But he does not deserve my daughter. The boy has neither education, financial security nor a Father. You are to avoid his company. Is that clear?

BECKY: I...I...I understand.

BLACKOUT.

## SCENE 13 Fishing.

(Tom and Huck are fishing over the front of the stage. Huck has fallen asleep or falls asleep during song – it's a hot afternoon. Maybe Tom is singing:

"Lazy Bones, sleepin' in the sun, how you get your day's work done? You'll never earn a dime that way, never hear a word that I say, and when you go fishin' I bet you keep wishin' the fish don't bite at your line".

Rather later music reference but culturally correct –opportunity for a big music number in correct place after drama of court etc?).

HUCK: (Suddenly breaks mood having slept he has nightmare: NO, no the dog is Joe! Bad'n Joe, bitin' my neck – get off Joe, get your teeth out of my neck, I can't breathe. He got me Joe got me! NO! (Tom at first terrified then takes water with fish in bucket and throws it over Huck – then Tom dive son the fish to stop it escaping – the water can be mimed maybe butt he fish "real"?).

TOM: My catfish, my lunch! (Grabs fish).

HUCK: (Holding neck) Oh shucks,I woke. Thank the Lord. I'm alive!

TOM: What you screamin' about Bad'n Joe be in' a dog for? You nuts?

HUCK: We are both nuts. Crazy no good do gooders. You could have kept your mouth shut.Now Bad'n Joe's got one thing on his mind:

TOM: (grudging) What?

HUCK: Revenge. We're as dead as that catfish, just a matter of time.

TOM: We need to get out of here.

HUCK: Oh yeah?

H, like take a raft to some island in the Mississippi and hide for three days until we get rained on then we run home to get killed by Joe.

TOM: We ran away like kids, now we gotta run away like men. An' we got to take Becky with us this time not no whinin' Harper.

HUCK: Yeah and pigs fly. Look there's one! (Points upwards – Tom whacks him they half heartedly fight for a while, then sit up).

TOM: We need money. Real men got money. We can go and be cowboys out West.

HUCK: Oh sorry Billy the Kid, but I clean forgot we had a big stash of dollars under your bed so we can head West.

TOM: Well we might just have a whole load of treasure to head West away from bad'n Joe. And enough to get Becky a fine white horse to ride with us.

HUCK: (Suddenly changing) For real?

TOM: For real real. You know that haunted house?

HUCK: I ain't goin' there it's full of Ghosts.

TOM: That's why it's haunted, dummy. That's why I heard folk say that robbers stashed their stolen dollars there. Knowin' that scaredy cats like Huck Finn would never go and search for it on account of the ..Ghosts.

HUCK: I ain't scared of Ghosts.

TOM: Then you can be in my Gang, Partner. Meet me by the Ghost house at midnight and bring a shovel, a pick axe and a whole heap of courage.

HUCK: Yes pardner. (To goes to exit). An' hey, Tom, you got a preddy girl.

TOM: We gonna marry you know.

HUCK: I gonna be at your weddin' with a fist full of dollars.

BLACKOUT.

#### SCENE 14 The Haunted House.

TOM: (With lantern as HUCK carries spade and axe) No one lived In this house for twenty years.

HUCK: No one gone near this house fro nineteen years I reckon. Whoops ! (Puts foot through floor and falls)

TOM: Watch them floorboards, its rotten.

HUCK: It's rats!

TOM: Eatin dead men's flash that cane here to find treasure!

HUCK: But slipped and broke their leg and then starved to death as no one heard them cryin' out for help.

TOM: Just the rats that came to eat their flesh.

HUCK: An' now their ghost with half eaten faces haunt here.

TOM: Ghosts got no voices but the squeakin' of the rats that ate their faces.

HUCK I wanna go home

TOM: You ain't got no home.

HUCK: I still want to go there.

TOM: You can go there when you got dollars flowin' – (hears something) Hush. Oh Jeesus.

HUCK: Voices. No squeaks.

TOM: Them is real. Hush. (He gestures to Huck and he blows out the lantern and they creep up to where they can see BAD'N JOE and his side kick the "Spaniard" with two big sacks of loot , the Spaniard is digging).

SPANIARD: Eh, Senor this sack ees too 'eavy. Muchos dolares is very good but how we get eet out of this 'ouse? Eh?

JOE: Keep diggin' We hole up here for a few more days then make a beak for it. Come back and get the gold when the town has forgot about Bad'n Joe and one dead Doctor.

SPANIARD: I thought you say you want to kill these boys, how can you keell and hole up – what is hole up?

JOE: I ain't teachin' you no English. Just dig Senor or run back to Spain. Don't you worry. I will get my revenge and you'll get your gold. Oh revenge ,I love you like a lady.

SPANIARD: Oh these 'ole so beeg. It break my back.

JOE: Well a big load of dollars needs a beeg 'ole.

SPANIARD: I need a copa de Vino. 'Ees hot. Calor. (Stops working, Joe gestures to him and goes towards where Tom and Huck are they hush and in panic crawl away – he just misses them in the dark but discovers the lantern, axe and spade).

Spaniard: Madre de Dios! Joe, mira! (Shows spade and lantern to Joe).

JOE: Gods teeth! Someone knows. Someone is lookin' for our sliver dollars. They got a lantern so they been here at night, they got a warm lantern so they are right here now. (Takes out revolver).. An' this is where they gonna stay, dead. Down that beeg 'ole.

Spaniard: Si. (takes out bowie knife – they gesture to each other and split up).

(A movement and music section where Joe and the Spaniard fail to catch Huck and Tom who cleverly hide in the large sacks that lies by the diggings. The sacks of dollars are the last place that the criminals think to check. So when they give up they sit down and dragon the bottle of wine of the Spaniard).

JOE: I reckon they gone and run as soon as they saw us. But this shoe they left is a boy's shoe. There's only one boy in this damn town smart enough and mean enough to follow Joe and dig for his dollars. I gotta get him and I got to get someone else. So listen up, Senor.

Spaniard: Si.

JOE: You go into town hire me a mule and tomorrow night we get this stash out of here to the place by the double cross. Ok?

Spaniard: Si senor.

JOE: Then you go and get the old one and I will git the young one.

Spaniard: Then the dollars is mine?

JOE: Oh yeah, At the carved double cross. Now you drop these bags into the beeg ole and get out of here.

Spaniard: (Lifting sacks with boys into the "hole" which is over lip of stage in reality) Thees

dollars so 'eavy!

JOE: You wish they were lighter? We split.

SPANIARD: Adios amigo.

JOE: See you at the double cross with blood on your knife.

SPANIARD: Man's blood! (Exits)

JOE: (Alone) And there at the double cross I will double cross you, Senor! Then I get the boy. (exits).

(Tom and Huck appear out of the sacks and pull themselves, panting with terror onto the stage).

BOYS: Run! (They flee and as the lights of dawn gradually rise they sit on a bank. Huck takes out a pipe and smokes, Tom tries it and coughs).

HUCK: What we gonna do, Tom? Tell the Sherriff?

TOM: Then we'll never get the treasure. Never get West. Never marry Becky.

HUCK: What to do then?

TOM: There's only one place a Spaniard can buy a mule in this one horse town. You go to the store and follow the Spaniard, we gotta know who the man is they gonna kill.

HUCK: What you gonna do?

TOM: I'm gonna be Tom Sawyer.

HUCK: But you are Tom Sawyer.

TOM: No I'm gonna look like a dumb stupid boy called Tom but I gonna lure that here foolish Joe like rabbit into my trap. Cos we know he's out to get me. So he's gotta go where I go. He thinks he's huntin' me but I gonna hunt him.

HUCK: Then what?

TOM: We come back for the treasure.

Blackout.

#### SCENE 15 A picnic and the mule.

(Judge's house – he sits reading a paper).

Becky: Daddy?

JUDGE: Becky dear?

BECKY: The maid packed me this picnic. Can I go and meet my school friend Mary and we eat it down by the river?

JUDGE: Mary Whittle?

BECKY: Preacher's daughter. Sweet as pie.

JUDGE: Very well but be back home well before the sun sets.

BECKY: Yes, Daddy (kisses him on cheek – he smiles and tunes the paper page maybe he has a cigar too. She exits gaily with her package – as scene changes and she is whistling outside Tom's window – maybe a ladder in wings allows Tom to be high up).

Tom, Tom!

TOM: Becky! What you doin' here?

BECKY: I told you we could go on a picnic today. Just you and me. I got the picnic. Fried chicken just the way you like it and a lemon cake too. French style.

TOM: But I...I was plannin'...

BECKY: Oh Tom! (Pained)

TOM: I was plannin' to smartin' myself up for such a wonderful thing as goin' on a picnic with the most bee-utiful girl this side of the Mississippi.



BECKY: But Tom what of you go the other side of the Mississippi?

TOM: I never would unless you were at my side. Wanna go West, Becky?

BECKY: I wanna go on a picnic. I got all I want right here. (They meet and kiss rather sweetly). Where shall we go. I told my Daddy we were goin' to the river but that's kind of public.

TOM: You wanna see a cave?

BECKY: A cave ain't public but it's kind dark and creepy.

TOM: Nah, this cave is like a tunnel, like maze like a crazy kooky game .

BECKY: Let's go. (they skip off and JOE pops up, having spied on them and follows).

JOE: That's the last game Tom Sawyer will ever play.

Blackout.

(the store – store owner is selling a Mule – maybe just a head is seen or a the back end and a tail?).

Spaniard: EEs a good Mule.

Storeman: Look at the teeth. Strong and white. He kicks mind you but that's because he has..

SPANIARD: Cajones! Like a Spaniard.

OWNER: Like a Mule. He's like a Mule 'cos he is a Mule.

SPANIARD: OK, Good teeth. Ow much.

OWNER: Five dollars.

SPANIARD: You cheatin' me. This Mule has painted teeth – look! Shows white from Mule mouth).

OWNER: Dirty Dago out of my store.

SPANIARD: (Spaniard whacks the Owner in the mouth and he spits out teeth). He then throws two dollars on his prostrate body). Hey Spanish were in Mississippi before you Yankie. Take two dollars and next time you call me names I no knock your teeth. I knock your brain. Comprendre?

OWNER: My jaw bone.

(Spaniard on Mule jogs off. Huck pops out and follows, first sneaking a dollar off the floor by the Owner as he helps him up. Spaniard rides through the town and bumps into Aunt Polly).

SPANIARD: Buenas dias, Madam.

AUNT: Why Buenas dias, Senior?

SPANIARD: You speak Spanish, lady?

AUNT: You fellas were in Mississippi before us so I think we owe you a courtesy or two.

SPANIARD: Bless you, Seniorita.

AUNT: You made me blush, my oh my Seniorita. (Fans herself).

SPANIARD: Seniorita, I lookin' for casa of the Judge Thatcher. I 'ave importante message for 'im.

AUNT: Might you be knowin' where that Bad'n Joe got to? Judge needs to get Sherriff to hunt that man down.

SPANIARD: "Ees secret, but I tellin' you Seniorita that I got some in my 'ead that the whole town wants. Judge need to know.

AUNT: Well, Judge Thatcher lives at the top of yonder hill. Fine house painted pink. Turn left by the chapel, Senior. Buenas suerte.

SPANIARD: Seniorita, what is your good name?

AUNT: Polly.

Spaniard: Seniorita Polly, gracias y adios!

HUCK: (Appears) Mis Polly, Miss Polly. Where is that man goin'?

AUNT: Why what's that to you, young Huck?

HUCK: ' I need to know.

AUNT: That man said he got a secret. It's not my business to spill his beans.

HUCK: Aunt Polly, can I call I you Aunt?

AUNT: Well not quite the same as bein' a Seniorita but go ahead.

HUCK: That there man is a bosom buddy of Bad'n Joe. He's on a mission. An' that mission is murder . An that murder is in the house where you just gave him the route to.

AUNT: Lord. Am I to believe you?

HUCK: If I had a bible I'd swear. But as I don't you better believe me on Tom's life.

AUNT: Oh me and my stoopid self. He turned my head and I turned him towards Judge Thatcher's house.

HUCK: It's Joe's revenge on the Judge.

AUNT: What shall we do? What shall we do!

HUCK: The Sheriff, the Sheriff! Come on!

(Blackout)

#### SCENE 16 the Cave and the Judge

(The cave maybe made by sheets manipulated by the other two actors?)

TOM: This is the cave, well the start of the cave. It's like veins under the skin. Once you go down here there's twenty more caves all runnin' off from one .

BECKY: What if we get lost, Tom and never come out cos we don't know which way to turn?

TOM: Me and Huck spent hours down these caves, we know 'em or most of 'em. Yeah. It's a bit dangerous....

BECKY: If you ask me it's a but thrillin'!

TOM: That's why I gonna marry you, gal. Let's go.

BECKY: Down and deep!

(They go "in", Joe who has been behind a rock which Tom has guessed or even seen stands and speaks).

JOE: An' you never come in' out alive. (Follows them).

(All enter the cave, Joe following the other two at a distance).

TOM: I know the perfect place to picnic. Just across this chasm is underground lake, they got blind fish. We can catch one. An drink the sweet water too. Then barbeque the fish on a fire we light with the flame of this here lantern.

BECKY: You're cookin', my Tom is cookin'!

TOM: So you ready to jump.

BECKY: That's crazy, I can't see!

TOM: You don't want to see. This here hole goes a mile down. Listen. He throws a stone which falls for a long time before they hear a noise of it landing).

BECKY: That is deep.

TOM: Deep as my love, Becky

BECKY: Oh Tom, good it's dark an you can't see me blushin'.

TOM: Now I'm gonna jump first. To show you it ain't so hard as longa s you don't think about how deep it is down there. Count me down, gal! Ow!

BECKY: What?

TOM: It's low here so bend before you jump. Now count me down.

BECKY: One, two, three and jump!

TOM: Woah! (He does).

BECKY: You fine?

TOM: Mighty fine.

BECKY: Tom. I think I hear a sound behind me. I think I hear breathin', steps.

TOM: Oh..It's just drippin' water and maybe a bat.

BECKY: Bats are creepy.

TOM: Well it ain't a fish breathin'!

BECKY: I hear it again.

JOE: Got you two, Tom you are a dead'un! An Becky you are all mine!

(Becky screams).

TOM: Go! (She jumps – Tom takes a stick that Becky has had in her hand and puts the lantern on the stick over the chasm). Coe and get me if you dare. Chicken Joe. (Makes chicken noise).

JOE: Why I'll strangle you and chop you into little pieces you – Ow. My head. There you are – ah ah aha ha. (he falls to his death).

Blackout.

(the Judges house – he sitting in his chair his face covered by the paper he is reading. The Spaniard bursts in and rushes at the Judge).

SPANIARD: I keel you, keel Judge!

( But a pistol fires. The Spaniard is hit and the paper falls to reveal the judge – he goes to stab again but a second shot rings out ad the Sherriff emerges. The Spaniard is dead. HUCK comes and stares at the body.

JUDGE: We all judged you wrong Huckleberry Finn. You saved my life. I want to adopt you Huck, if I can call you Huck. I want you to live the life that you deserve.

BECKY: (Rushes in) Daddy, Daddy you won't believe it! Bad'n Joe is dead and Tom saved my life, Tom, oh Tom Sawyer saved my life!

TOM: Enters) Huck, you an me gone and done it.

(Becky throw her arms around Tom but Tom peeps out to speak to Huck)

HUCK: You got it all, now Tom.

JUDGE: And you deserve it Mr Sawyer!

TOM: Thank you, Sir. M'am. (Steps back) I just want a word with my partner. Man to man.

(Judge and Becky smile and nod heads).

TOM: (Whisper/aside): Huck, meet me at the Ghost House at midnight. We go to dig up the Gold!

BLACKOUT

THE END

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