



NEWS RELEASE

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The Springfield Municipal Opera 2011 Season Opens with “Big River”

Springfield, IL – June 7, 2011 – The Springfield Municipal Opera (The Muni) will open its 2011 season with *Big River* sponsored by Springfield Autobody and Towing. The Muni will present *Big River* June 10-12 and June 15-19, 2011 at its outdoor amphitheater located at 815 East Lake Drive in Springfield.

Big River is adapted from Mark Twain's classic novel which depicts the story of Huckleberry Finn and Jim on their adventure rafting down the mighty Mississippi. Headed down the river, they get sucked into scams involving two "aristocrats," one of which lands Jim in chains once again and Huck and Tom Sawyer join together to free him. With a score rooted in bluegrass and country music styles, the audience is carried along with the current as they encounter the colorful characters. *Big River* is a celebration of pure Americana, deeply rooted in the Midwest.

“We’re excited to get the summer and our 2011 season started with *Big River*,” said Muni President, Dennis O’Brien. “Audiences of all ages love the story and music in this Tony Award winning musical which has been presented on our stage in past seasons. The talent and energy in our current production is something not to be missed.” In addition to *Big River*, the 2011 Muni season will also include *Guys and Dolls*, *Hairspray*, and *The Wizard of Oz*.

About The Muni

The Springfield Municipal Opera (The Muni) is a not-for-profit theatrical organization that has become a Springfield tradition, providing the best of Broadway to enthusiastic audiences for more than 50 years. Entertaining 40,000+ each year at its lakeside, outdoor amphitheater, The Muni is one of the largest all-volunteer community theatre organizations in the nation. For more information on The Muni, please visit www.TheMuni.org.

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