

# HEARTWOOD AUDITIONS 18-19

September 8 - in person

September 16 - Video submissions **DEADLINE**

<u>Titles</u>	<u>Performance Period</u>
<i>Merry Christmas, George Bailey</i>	<i>Dec. (staged reading)</i>
<i>Medea</i>	<i>May</i>
<i>Life is a Dream</i>	<i>June</i>
<i>Big River</i>	<i>June/July</i>

[NOTE: December 3 audition for THE SNOW MAIDEN only.](#)

## FAQ about our casting process

**Q: Do I need to audition, if I have performed with Heartwood in the past?**

**A: We need to hear from you by the audition deadline, in any case. At our discretion, we may invite past performers to take roles. Email Griff Braley to express your interest or discuss roles.**

**Q: Do you precast roles?**

**A: Some actors are returning for Merry Christmas, George Bailey. Other than that, no offers have been made as of August 23. We start our audition process with all roles open.**

**Q: Do you only hire professionals? Will I get paid?**

**A: Different shows have different demands. Productions require various levels of skill or specific training. Last year we filled 17 roles in the season with visiting artists, and about 35 with local performers. Not including technical, musicians, etc. Some artists are paid as professionals, as they make their living on the stage. Others are gaining stage experience, still in training, offered roles outside their normal casting range, happy to donate their time, etc. There are many variables. In the end, we work to be fair and build the best ensembles we can afford for every show.**

**PLEASE READ ALL INFO CAREFULLY BEFORE CONTACTING US!**

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Heartwood Regional Theater Company

18 Biscay Road

Damariscotta, Maine

207-563-1373

info@heartwoodtheater.org

www.heartwoodtheater.org

ACTORS, PLEASE CONTACT:

Griff Braley, Artistic Director

braley@lincolnacademy.org

## CASTING NOTICE

Posted on: August 23, 2018

### Production Title: **Big River: The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn** by Miller/Hauptman

**Production Start:** First called rehearsal: June 20, 2019

**Performance Dates:** July 12 through July 20, 2019

**Union / Non-Union:** Non-union Professionals Only considered for all roles.

**Project Length:** Full length musical. Daily double rehearsals.

**Production Company / Type:** Heartwood Regional Theater Company has a fifteen-year production history and is known for engaging dramatic work, original staging, and strong spectacle. Actors should expect clear direction from an artistic director/designer. Heartwood draws a dependable core audience from Portland to Belfast, Maine and beyond.

**Production/Audition Location:** Poe Theater at Lincoln Academy, Newcastle, Maine

**Compensation:** Maine based ensemble members are provided a local travel stipend. Stipends for actors with professional credits and visiting artists will be negotiated. Visiting artists are provided on campus housing. Transportation and other expenses are the responsibility of the actor.

**Audition Dates:** OPEN AUDITIONS: POE THEATER SEPT. 8, 2018 2:00 – 4:00

**VIDEO SUBMISSIONS are due via EMAIL by Sept. 16, 2018.**

**Roles to be filled as actors are contracted. ALL actors are to begin rehearsals fully memorized on music and lines. Actors should be physically fit to move objects and perform medium lifting tasks in the show. The ensemble will include both professional and non-professional actors.**

**TO AUDITION:** Prepare a 1 – 2 minute sung excerpt from *Big River*. Bring a digital (ipad, computer, ipod, smartphone) device cued to a karaoke track of your song. No acapella, please.

**VIDEO SUBMISSIONS:** 1- 2 minute sung excerpt from *Big River*. Please frame the video in a full shot (head to feet). Additional video submissions that indicate your abilities are welcome, but *Big River* tunes are required. Please include resume with acting/training history. Call backs, if necessary, will be scheduled in early 2019.

*Big River* will be performed in a 150 seat theater. We seek actors with proven acting, singing, and movement abilities. Facility with the unique requirements of Broadway music is a must. Actors should expect to be a vital contributor in an ensemble. We live in a diva free zone.

**PLEASE SEE CASTING & CONTENT INFO NEXT PAGE**

## ABOUT CASTING BIG RIVER

The actors playing Huck and Jim will not double.

The remaining ensemble will cover a lengthy list of key characters (see below), as well as a long list of mourners, townspeople, slaves, a posse, hired hands, patients and tarts. We will cast for the key roles, taking into consideration various instrumental abilities, dance ability, etc. We plan to cast very similarly to the original Broadway production. Probably 9 females and 12 males. If you play an instrument of the period, please let us know.

### Key Characters

King	Jo Harper
Duke	Widow Douglass
Tom	Miss Watson
Pap Finn	Gospel: Female Lead
Judge Thatcher	Strange Woman
Mark Twain	Mary Jane, Alice, Susan and Joanna Wilkes
Dick	Sally Phelps
Simon	
Lafe	
Andy	
Robinson	
Sheriff Bell	
Silas Phelps	

### A NOTE ON CONTENT

Actors unfamiliar with either Mark Twain's original novel or *Big River* might be surprised by some of the language in the play. Particularly the use of what are considered derogatory, racist terms in the modern vernacular. If you know our company, it should be obvious that we take this conversation seriously. Our intention is to lessen but not remove this language, per author William Hauptman's more recent suggestions around replacements of many (but not all) of these terms. The "n-word" and "injun" are terms that remain in the script and will remain in our production. A quick google search will provide ample discussion of this subject, some dating back to the publication of the novel. There are good points on both side. In the end, we believe in the obligation to accurately present the literature, and that our production can maintain Twain and Hauptman's intentions as writers. Actors should be prepared to voice and hear these terms during the process of our production.

### HAUPTMAN'S SUGGESTED UPDATES:

[http://rodgersandhammersteincom.s3.amazonaws.com/modules/show\\_downloads/11/BIGRIVERUpdate03012010.pdf](http://rodgersandhammersteincom.s3.amazonaws.com/modules/show_downloads/11/BIGRIVERUpdate03012010.pdf)

