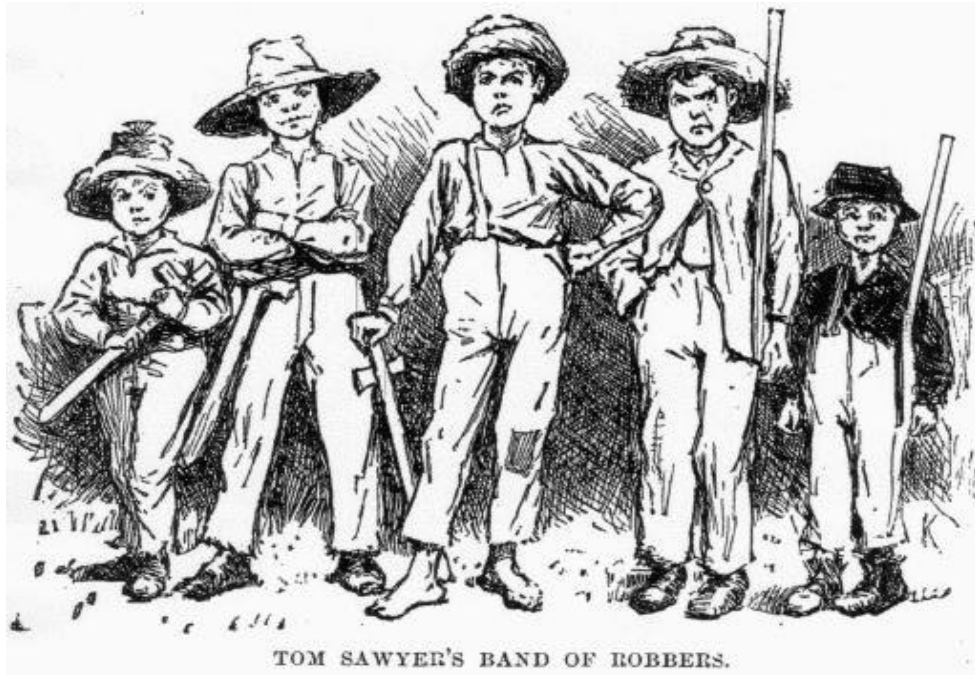


Tom And Huck



~A FAMILY MUSICAL~

Music & Lyrics by
MICHAEL LANCY

Book by
MICHAEL LANCY & CHUCK LAKIN

CENTERSTAGE PRESS, INC.
Phoenix Arizona

TOM AND HUCK
Copyright 1983 by Michael Lancy & Chuck Lakin

Printed in U.S.A.

ISBN: 1-890298-06-9

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Professionals and amateurs are hereby warned that TOM AND HUCK is subject to royalty. It is fully protected under the copyright laws of the United States of America, the British Empire, including the Dominion of Canada, and all other countries of the Copyright Union. All rights, including professional, amateur, motion pictures, recitation, lecturing, public reading, radio broadcasting, television and the rights of translation into foreign languages are strictly reserved.

Copying from this script, in whole or in part, by any means is strictly forbidden by law and the right of performance is not transferable. Particular emphasis is laid on the question of amateur or professional readings, permission and terms for which must be secured in written form from CENTERSTAGE PRESS, INC.

Whenever this play is produced the following notice must appear on all programs, printing, and advertising for the play: "Produced by special arrangement with CENTERSTAGE PRESS, INC. PHOENIX." Due authorship credit must be given on all programs, printing and advertising for the play. NO CHANGES SHALL BE MADE IN THE PLAY FOR THE PURPOSE OF YOUR PRODUCTION UNLESS AUTHORIZED IN WRITING.

For all rights apply to:

CENTERSTAGE PRESS, 23425 N. 39th Dr. #104-216, Glendale, AZ 85310, (602) 242-1123.

CHARACTERS

in order of appearance

MARK TWAIN: He serves as the host for the play. Mr. Twain should appear as he did shortly before his death; any time after would be considered in poor taste. He can also play Captain Hornbeck.

WILLIE: A man recently arrived from St. Louis on the riverboat with his wife, Emma.

EMMA: A portly woman.

JUDGE THATCHER: A man of strict principles but a gentle demeanor.

SARAH: Willie and Emma's kid.

AUNT POLLY: Tom Sawyer's aunt, a good natured woman with a great deal of patience. That is, under normal circumstances, which Tom isn't.

BECKY: Judge Thatcher's daughter, a little girl with very strong opinions of her own. She is very much a leader.

TOM SAWYER: A young boy who wants only to have a good time being a boy, Tom has a mild streak of "devil" in him.

CAPTAIN HORNBECK: Twain's image of the perfect riverboat captain.

MARY: Tom's cousin, she is likable and kind, a sort of miniature Aunt Polly.

COUSIN SID: This is Tom's other cousin and he is, without a doubt, one of the major brats in American literature.

WIDOW DOUGLAS: The stern, middle aged woman who decides to take Huck Finn into her home to civilize him.

MISS WATSON: A friend of the Widow Douglas, sharing her own very conservative opinions of the world around them.

HUCK FINN: He's like Tom in many ways but Huck has a bit more of the "devil" in him. He's also very sensitive to the Widow's feelings even if he doesn't agree with her methods of "civilizin"

MR. TURNER: The world's worst actor and he doesn't know it. Turner fancies himself an intellect...No way!

MR. PACKARD: Turner's friend and a mental midget. He's big and he's clumsy.

MRS. (MOM) THATCHER: Very kind and sympathetic to Becky's dilemma of wanting to be in Tom's gang.

TOM & HUCK'S GANG: BEN ROGERS, JOE HARPER, BILLY FISHER, JOHNNY MILLER, and TOMMY BARNES

BECKY'S GANG: AMY, SALLY, MARTHA, DORIS, ALICE, JUNE, and the Smallest Girl

GHOSTS

THE PEOPLE OF HANNIBAL MISSOURI:

Lady 1	Man 1	Searcher 1
Lady 2	Man 2	Cheekie
Lady 3	Man 3	Deacon Winn
Lady 4	Man 4	Follower
Lady 5	Man 5	Last Follower
Bearded Men (2)	Man 6	Dock Porter

~ Production Note ~

TOM & HUCK was originally produced and toured with a cast of over forty young people. Because of the large number of roles, there is no problem with doubling the cast parts beyond simply having Mr. Twain portray Captain Hornbeck. The original set was two large units of platforms with decorations as the scene required. Tombstones were styrofoam cut-outs and ghosts were made up of cast members not needed in the following scene, etc. Sets, costumes and decorations are limited only by imagination and, of course, budget.

SCENES & SONGS

PROLOGUE	LIMBO
SCENE I	THE RIVERBOAT LANDING AT HANNIBAL "Riverboat Comin' Round The Bend" ... The Towns People "Lots And Lots Of Money" Tom, Huck, "Lots And Lots Of Money" Turner, Packard
SCENE II	SPLIT-STAGE: TOM'S HOUSE & HUCK'S HOUSE "Respectable" Aunt Polly, Widow Douglas
SCENE III	THE GRAVEYARD "Ain't Nothin' Scary 'Bout a Graveyard" Huck, The Boys & Ghosts
SCENE IV	THE THATCHER HOUSE "We're Just As Good As They Are" Becky, Girls, and Ladies
SCENE V	THE PARK AND INTO THE TOWN SQUARE "A Little Bit Of Capital"... .. Judge and The Town People
CROSSOVER	(IN FRONT OF MAIN CURTAIN)
SCENE VI	THE GRAVEYARD
EPILOGUE	LIMBO "Riverboat Comin', Round The Bend" (<i>Reprise</i>) Everybody

Tom And Huck

PROLOGUE

THERE IS OPENING MUSIC AND THE CURTAINS PART, REVEALING THE SILHOUETTED FIGURE OF MARK TWAIN. THERE IS A RED GLOW FROM HIS CIGAR AS HE TAKES A PUFF AND THE FRONT LIGHTS SLOWLY COME UP. TWAIN APPEARS TO BE STUDYING THE AUDIENCE AND DOESN'T SPEAK FOR SEVERAL BEATS... TAKING ANOTHER PUFF FROM THE CIGAR, HE STEPS FORWARD A FEW PACES AND QUIPS...

TWAIN: So this is [city] ... It's a nice place. (DIRECTLY TO THE AUDIENCE) You comfortable out there? (RESPONSES) Yeah, but the price was right. (BEAT, CLEARS HIS THROAT) My name is Samuel Langhorne Clemens... Sometimes I think my parents must have thought I was goin' to be someone important. "Samuel Langhorne Clemens..." Senator? Congressman? You probably know me by the name Mark Twain. I hope you've at least heard of me. I also hope you've heard of Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn, else-wise this whole afternoon's [evening's] gonna be wasted. (CROSSES SLOWLY DOWNSTAGE) I wrote a book a piece about those two boys, Tom and Huck, and I woulda wrote down this story you're gonna see this afternoon [evening] 'cept something happened I didn't plan on. I died. (THINKS) Yep, there's a part of the story of those two boys I didn't tell. It's what happens in the time between the two books that we're gonna tell ya about this afternoon [evening] (LOUDLY) For those of you who 're listenin'!... (NORMAL) We're gonna start where the book TOM SAWYER leaves off. Remember? Tom and Huck had found the money that the robbers had hid in the cave and all of a sudden they were rich. Six thousand dollars apiece. All gold. And no taxes. They were the talk of the whole county. I figure there wasn't a man or beast 50 miles up and down the Mississippi that hadn't heard the story at least once. Anyway: Tom's Aunt Polly took him and Becky Thatcher to St. Louie on the riverboat. Meanwhile, the Widow Douglas adopted Huck Finn and commenced to civilize him...or at least try to. And that's where our story starts. Tom and Aunt Polly and Becky are headin' home to Hannibal aboard the Walter Scott and the whole town is showin' up to meet 'em. Not just 'cause Tom's a celebrity, which he is, but because in Hannibal people went down to see the riverboat just to see it. (LOOKS AT HIS WATCH AND THEN SHOUTS OFF STAGE) Are you folks about ready to start?

OFFSTAGE VOICES: Yeah! . . Come on!...Let's go! . .Get off!...(ETC)

TWAIN: (TAKES A BEAT) Alright then... I'm just gonna have a seat out there with you folks. (CROSSES TO EXIT) I'm kinda anxious to see this myself. (GLANCES AT THE IMAGINARY PIANIST) Mr. Music...

TWAIN EXITS, PRESUMABLY TO TAKE A SEAT IN THE AUDIENCE AS--

SCENE I

THE PEOPLE OF HANNIBAL EXCITEDLY ENTER FROM ALL SIDES OF THE STAGE, PREPARING FOR THE ARRIVAL OF THE RIVERBOAT.

SONG: "RIVERBOAT COMIN' ROUND THE BEND"

SOLO 1: Can you hear that whistlin' down the river? (WHISTLE BLAST)
SOLO 2: It's a steamboat chuggin' this away.
SOLO 3: Bright and glistenin' on the muddy water.
SOLO 4: It's a Hannibal, Missouri holiday!
ALL: Hooray! It's here today!

Gather up the kids and meet us at the landin',
bring all the money that you can spare to spend.
You will see some sights that are quite outstandin'
There's a riverboat comin' round the bend!
There's a riverboat comin' round the bend!

Listen to the music or see the latest fashion,
try your luck at cards, there's just no end.
Soon we're gonna see the water splashin';
There's a riverboat comin round the bend!
There's a riverboat comin' round the bend!

Come take a look, like a picture in a book, it's a spectacle to behold.
Bright and clean, it's a sight to be seen, by young and old!
Save up your dough and maybe you can go on a trip someday;
On the Mississip someday 'board a riverboat--

GROUP A: What kind of boat?
GROUP B: A riverboat!
GROUP A: Will it float?
GROUP B: You ain't never seen a boat
that can float like a riverboat!

DANCE BREAK.

CHURCH GROUP: We're expectin' Bibles for our class

BARBERS: A brand new barber pole and a lookin' glass.

SOLO 1: A barrel of glue.

SOLO 2: My sweetie from St. Lou.

SOLO 3: A gingham dress.

SOLO 4: A printing press.

ALL: And things that were one time remote
are comin' to us on the riverboat!

Gather up the kids and meet us at the landin',
bring all the money that you can spare to spend.
You will see some sights that are quite outstandin'
There's a riverboat comin' round the bend.
There's a riverboat comin' round the bend.

THE RIVERBOAT IS JUST ABOUT TO DOCK.

ALL: See that steamy cloud?

ECHO: See that steamy cloud?

ALL: Hear that whistle proud!

(THE WHISTLE BLASTS OUT)

Holler good and loud!

(HOLLERS, YELLS AND WHISTLES AND WAVES)

That riverboat is comin', comin' , comin', comin'
Comin'! Round the bend.
Riverboat comin' round the bend! Yeah!

THE BOAT ARRIVES. A GANGPLANK IS LOWERED FROM OFFSTAGE RIGHT AND THE PASSENGERS BEGIN TO DISEMBARK. THERE IS A BUSTLE OF ACTIVITY AS RELATIVES GREET EACH OTHER. JUDGE THATCHER ENTERS FROM RIGHT AS A MAN, HIS DAUGHTER AND WIFE COME DOWN THE PLANK. THIS IS WILLIE AND HIS RATHER PLUMP WIFE, EMMA. THEY GREET THE JUDGE.

WILLIE: Mornin' Judge Thatcher.

JUDGE: Mornin' Willie. How was the trip up from St. Louie, Emma?

EMMA: Well Judge, the children liked it, but I'm afraid my constitution doesn't agree with this here riverboating.

WILLIE: Emma always had a sensitive stomach, Judge.

JUDGE: (OBSERVING EMMA'S BELLY) Yes, I can see that. Say, you haven't seen m'daughter Becky have ya? She was suppose to be comin' back on today's boat.

SARAH: I saw her, Judge. She and Tom Sawyer was havin' a big argument 'bout somethin'.

JUDGE: (SIGHS) My goodness. I hope they didn't get into too much trouble.

EMMA: Nah... Miss Polly, now she knows how ta handle young'uns.

POLLY: (FROM OFF RIGHT) If you two don't stop that I'm gonna drown ya both!!!

JUDGE: (CLEARING HIS THROAT) Ahem...

WILLIE: (TIPS HIS HAT) Well, good day to ya, Judge Thatcher.

WILLIE AND HIS FAMILY QUICKLY LEAVE THE DOCK AND EXIT.

JUDGE: (POLITELY) Good day Willie... Emma, Sarah.

AT THAT MOMENT, BECKY ENTERS, STORMING DOWN THE GANGPLANK.

BECKY: (FURIOUS) But he called me stupid!

TOM: (ENTERING RIGHT BEHIND HER) Well, you're a girl ain't ya?

BECKY: What does that have to do with it!?!

TOM: (SMUG) It's a proven fact... All girls are stupid.

POLLY: (ENTERING) Children, I'm warning you for the last time... (SEES JUDGE THATCHER) Oh, Judge Thatcher. Thank goodness you're here.

BECKY: (SEES HIM, THEN RUNS TO HIM) Daddy!

JUDGE: (HUGGING HER) Hello, Sweetheart.

TOM ROLLS HIS EYES.

BECKY: Daddy, Tom Sawyer said some horrible things to me.

JUDGE: Oh? Now what's the trouble here? When you two left, you were the best of

friends.

TOM: (SINCERELY) That was a month ago, Judge. I was blinded to her faults then.

POLLY: Thomas Sawyer, you mind your manners!(TO THATCHER) I'm sorry, Judge Thatcher; I don't know what's come over him lately.

BECKY: I'll tell you what's come over him. A big fat head, that's what. Now that he's got all that money, he thinks he's Mr. Know-It-All.

TOM: That's not true!

JUDGE: Now Becky, that wasn't a nice thing to say.

BECKY: The truth isn't always pretty.

CAPTAIN HORNBECK ENTERS FROM THE GANGPLANK.

HORNBECK: Judge Thatcher? Can I see you for a moment?

JUDGE: (TO AUNT POLLY) Excuse me.

BECKY AND TOM CONTINUE THEIR LITTLE "DISCUSSION" AS THE JUDGE APPROACHES THE CAPTAIN.

JUDGE: What can I do for you, Captain Hornbeck?

HORNBECK: Well sir, I just wanted to let you know that Hannibal might be getting a couple of unwanted visitors.

JUDGE: Really?

HORNBECK: Yessir. I had some trouble on board ship with a couple of dim-witted card sharps.

JUDGE: (PONDERING) Dim-witted...?

HORNBECK: Yep. One of them tried to win a hand by claiming he had five aces.

JUDGE: Oh? What did you do?

HORNBECK: I booted them off somewhere's downriver, around Hookerville. They might be workin' their way here, providin' they could swim.

JUDGE: (TAKES OUT A NOTEBOOK AND PENCIL) I see... And what were their names?

HORNBECK: Well, the dumber of the two is named Jake Packard. His partner is Jim Turner. Now Turner fancies himself an intellect but truth is, neither one of them could find their (SHIP'S WHISTLE BLASTS)...with both hands. (TOUCHES THE BRIM OF HIS HAT) Well, I gotta make a few calls in town.

JUDGE: Thank you for the warning, Captain Hornbeck. We'll keep an eye out for those two.

HORNBECK: Good day, Judge. (HE TURNS TO GO, TIPS HIS HAT TO AUNT POLLY AND THE OTHERS) Mornin' to you Miss Polly... (STOPS AND GIVES TOM A STERN LOOK) Oh, and Tom Sawyer.. . I want you to know I'm not mad about you spillin' ink on the ship's log; or aggravated none too much when you broke the whistle cord... But I would much appreciate you tellin' me, when you remember, where it was you laid the ship's compass. (TURNS AND EXITS ON) Good day to ya all!

AS HORNBECK EXITS, SID AND MARY COME ON STAGE DOWN THE PLANK, CARRYING A FEW SMALL BITS OF LUGGAGE. THEY ARE FOLLOWED BY A PORTER, WHO IS TRYING TO HANDLE THE REST OF IT.

MARY: Momma..

POLLY: Yes Mary?

MARY: We got all the baggage found.

SID: (WHINES) I wanna go home, Momma ..

POLLY: Now Sid, don't whine. Tom, help your cousin Sid with the bags

SID: I don't want no help from Tom Sawyer for nothin'!

TOM: Fine with me.

POLLY: (EXASPERATED) Now is that a way to carry on!

SID: Ev'ry time Tom Sawyer helps me do anything, I end up gettin' hurt!

BECKY: It's not his fault you're prone to hurtin' yourself.

SID: (WHINES) Momma...

POLLY: You and Mary go wait in the carriage, we'll be along shortly (AS THEY START

TO EXIT, WITH THE PORTER BRINGING UP THE REAR) ... I just wanna have a few words with Judge Thatcher.

AS SID AND MARY EXIT OFF LEFT, WIDOW DOUGLAS, MISS WATSON AND AN OVERLY DRESSED HUCK FINN ENTER. HUCK, MORE THAN A LITTLE EMBARRASSED BY BEING DRESSED IN "SISSY BOY" CLOTHES, HANGS BACK ALMOST HIDING BEHIND THE WOMEN.

POLLY: (SEEING THEM) Why Eunice Douglas, what brings you out here? (NODS IN GREETING) Miss Watson...

JUDGE: Ladies.

WIDOW: Good morning We are here because Huckleberry expressed his desire to meet Tom Sawyer as he came home. My sister and I have found that it works to our advantage not to let him out of our sight.

WATSON: Indeed. Huckleberry finds the temptations of the flesh too great an allure.

TOM: (EXCITED) Huck's comin'!?! Where is he!?! (POINTS TO HUCK) Who's the new girl?

HUCK: (STEPPING FORWARD, ANGRY) You watch that mouth of yours Tom Sawyer, or I'll bounce a rock of yer head!

WATSON: (CATCHES HER BREATH) The sin of wrath!!

TOM: (CROSSING TO HUCK) I'm right sorry, Huck. But I didn't know who ya was. I mean, all dressed up like ya are you look so... so ...

BECKY: Prissy!

HUCK: (POINTS TO BECKY) Girl or no girl, I'm right tempted to bounce a rock off'n yer head, too!

WATSON: Huckleberry Finn!!!

TOM: (CONCERNED) Well Huck, what happened to your real clothes?

HUCK: (OUTRAGED) They hid 'em! All a part of sayin' I should be more civilized on account of us bein' wealthy--

WIDOW: (TO ADULTS) That's correct. We feel we must teach him the values of social responsibility, now that they are young men of substance.

WATSON: Amen.

JUDGE THATCHER STEPS FORWARD.

JUDGE: (VERY PROFESSIONALLY) And as administrator of the trust which holds their windfall, I concur with their decision.

TOM: (IN DISBELIEF) They hid your clothes?

HUCK: (AND GREATLY WOUNDED, TOO) And broke my pipe...

POLLY: I certainly agree with what you're saying Eunice. We must make plans for their welfare. One day they will both be men of culture.

HUCK: Ah road apples!

JUDGE: (PAUSES, THEN) Uh, yes, I believe we should discuss this as soon as possible.

WATSON: Before it's too late.

JUDGE: A meeting in my office would be a good start.

HE INDICATES THAT THEY SHOULD ALL LEAVE RIGHT THEN FOR A MEETING OF MINDS.

WATSON: (TURNS) No time like the present!

WIDOW: Right. (TURNS TO) Huckleberry?

HUCK: (MUMBLES) I'm comin'...

JUDGE: Come along now, Becky.

THE ADULTS START TO LEAVE FOR TOWN, EXITING OFF LEFT.

BECKY: Yes, Daddy.

TOM: (IMITATES) "Yes Daddy" ..

BECKY, THE LAST OF THE EXITING GROUP, TURNS AND GIVES TOM A LOOK THAT COULD KILL BEFORE SHE EXITS. THE MOMENT EVERYONE IS GONE, HUCK BECOMES VERY EXCITED AND EQUALLY SECRETIVE.

HUCK: (JUST ABOVE A WHISPER) I been in touch with the gang, Tom. And we figure it's time for an emergency meeting. Tom?

TOM: (DISTANT) Huh?

HUCK: Where's yer mind, boy?

TOM: (AMAZED) I still can't believe it, Huck. I mean, don't you understand... We're rich men!

HUCK: (SMILES DREAMILY) Yeah... Rich.

TOM: We can do anything we want!

HUCK: Yeah, anything.

TOM: (STRUTS A BIT) There ain't nothin' we can't do.

HUCK: (ABOUT TO AGREE, THEN SUDDENLY) Then how come I can't find my clothes?

TOM: (EXCITED) Buy new clothes!

HUCK: I like old clothes.

TOM: You can buy new old clothes!

HUCK: (GRINS) Yeah!

SONG: "LOTS 'N LOTS OF MONEY"

BOTH: We're sittin' in the lap of luxury,
 laffin' in the face of poverty;
 Speakin' of ourselves, financially...
 We don't need luck!
 'Cause we got twelve thousand bucks!

TOM: We can take a trip to Rome;
 Or buy ourselves a brand new home in Goshen.

HUCK: Take a trip across the ocean.

BOTH: We have found the magic potion.

HUCK: We're as rich as Jacob Astor!

TOM: (REACHES IN HIS POCKET AND PRODUCES...)
 Bought myself an alabaster bunny.

BOTH: Come ta think, it's kinda funny,
That we got lots 'n lots of money!

Layin' off by the fishin' hole, fishin' with a brand new fishin' pole--
we ordered straight from Monkey Wards.
Listenin' to the gramophone, gnawin' on a chicken bone;
We'd be just like Spanish Lords!

Candy apples and lick'rish sticks,
our private cook would have ta learn ta fix these fancy.
We'd have every elegancy.
We'd be quite extravagancy.

TOM: (SPOKEN) Is that a word?

HUCK: (SPOKEN) Prolaby. [SIC]

BOTH: With our stash of cash
our darkest times would in a flash be turned to sunny;
Life will be as sweet as honey,
'cause we got lots 'n lots of money.

Greenbacks, rubles, pounds and sheckles,
we've got funds up to our freckles...
We've got lots 'n lots of money!
We've got dough!

(DURING THE SONG, TWO STRANGERS HAVE APPEARED UPSTAGE WITH THEIR BACKS TO US. AS THE SONG PROGRESSES, THEY SLOWLY EDGE DOWNSTAGE AND TURN, REACTING WITH GREAT INTEREST IN WHAT'S BEING SAID BETWEEN THE TWO BOYS. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE SONG, MISS WATSON APPEARS JUST LONG ENOUGH TO CAUSE HUCK SOME IRRITATION)

WATSON: (ENTERING) Huckleberry Finn! You get along home right now!

SHE SWIVELS ABOUT AND EXITS.

HUCK: Comin'! (TO TOM) ...Tom the gang is meeting tonight ...at midnight. The old graveyard. Don't forget

TOM: Right, the graveyard.

HUCK EXITS. TOM, SMILING, SAUNTERS OFF LEFT WHILE GLANCING AT HIS ALABASTER BUNNY. THE STRANGERS ARE NOW VERY VISIBLE, ONE OF THEM, A FRAYED DANDY, WATCHES TOM EXIT WITH HIS MIND CLICKING ON SOME

DEVIOUS SCHEME. THE OTHER STRANGER HANGS BACK A LITTLE. HE IS OBVIOUSLY DUMB. AFTER A MOMENT...

TURNER: (THE DANDY, SNAPS HIS FINGERS) Mr. Packard!

PACKARD: Yes, Mr. Turner?

TURNER: (GRINS) I tell you, Mr. Packard, once again destiny has smiled upon us.

PACKARD: (DUMB, JUST PLAIN DUMB) Huh?

TURNER: Was it not fair destiny that brought us out of St.Louie at this most opportune time?

PACKARD: (PONDERES) I thought it was a lynch mob,.

TURNER: (NOT LISTENING) Was it not fair destiny that took us aboard the Walter Scott? (LOOKS AT HIS PARTNER) Destiny saved us from a watery grave when the Captain tossed us overboard, right?

PACKARD: It did?

TURNER: (NODS) Yes, it was destiny that had the Captain looking towards the bow as we climbed back aboard the stern!

PACKARD: (AFTER CAREFUL THOUGHT) ...Oh.

TURNER: (EAGER) And now this good fortune has landed right in our laps. You observed the two young lads who just departed? I perceive that these boys are the same of whom we recently read of in St. Louie,

PACKARD: (SMILES, NODS, THEN FROWNS) Who?

TURNER: (PLOTTING) The two who will shortly be meeting their peers tonight in the local graveyard, (THINKS, THEN PAUSES, THEN SUDDENLY ANNOUNCES WITH INSANE GLEE) Aha!!!

PACKARD: (FRIGHTENED) Ah-what!?!

TURNER TAKES HIM ASIDE DOWNSTAGE WITH CONSPIRACY LITERALLY DRIPPING OFF OF HIM...

TURNER: Remember? Prod that minuscule brain of yours and you'll recall me telling you of two lads from this region who came upon twelve thousand dollars in gold coin?

Do you know what that makes these lads who 've stumbled upon all this?

PACKARD: (THINKS) Clumsy'

TURNER: (SMACKS HIM) No!!! (SHOUTS) Sitting ducks!!!!

LAUGHS VERY LOUD WITH INSANE DELIGHT AND PACKARD, FOR NO REASON HE IS CERTAIN OF, STARTS TO LAUGH, TOO, TURNER CLAMPS HIS HAND OVER PACKARD'S MOUTH.

TURNER: Shh! (TURNS) Now we must, with stealth of mind and cunning of spirit, determine the process by which we turn their good fortune into ours...

PACKARD: Huh?

TURNER: (FLATLY) How ' re we gonna steal the brats t money.

PACKARD: Oh.

TURNER: (THINKS) How...How..?

PACKARD: (SIMPLY) Kill 'em.

TURNER: (SHRUGS) Yes, of course. But how to do it creatively, that's the challenge. I mean, we are not common criminals. (SUDDENLY) I know! (CHUCKLES) I'm so brilliant I sometimes stagger my own imagination.

PACKARD: How?

TURNER: Legally, my slope-headed friend. They are going to will all their money to us.

PACKARD: Will? You mean like when somebody dies and leaves ya something, like that?

TURNER: Exactly, (REALIZES) Actually, it would be a service to mankind. Indeed, what would a couple of yahoos from Hannibal, Missouri do with twelve thousand in gold? Waste it!

PACKARD: (SUSPICIOUSLY) But not you?

TURNER: (PROUDLY) Not I,..(PACES WHILE FLAMBOYANTLY GESTURING) No frivolities 'for *moi* I would use the money to advance the arts, I would invest it in the greatest gift the American Theatre has to offer. Me!!!

PACKARD: (SNICKERS) You?

TURNER: (SMACKS HIM) *Ya vohl!* (HIS VOICE AND EYES GLITTERING WITH MORE THAN JUST A TOUCH OF INSANITY) My long awaited comeback to the stage at last. So you see, Mr. Packard, it's only fitting, right and just that we have all that money...

SONG: "LOTS 'N LOTS OF MONEY" REPRISE

TURNER: (WITH EVIL INTENT)

I could be the king of the theatre,
guzzle champaign by the liter, see me?
Under lights so bright and gleamy...
Edwin Booth would want to be me!

PACKARD: With my share of all the lolly,
I could by a mom to call me "sonny"!

TURNER: You know you're really sorta funny.

BOTH: Let's get our hands on all that money!

TURNER: The plan's as simple as night and day,
we're gonna steal them both away, tonight--

BOTH: In the cemetery.

PACKARD: What'll I do?

TURNER: Just follow me.

PACKARD: What'll you do?

TURNER: Just wait and see!

BOTH: This scheme will make us legendary!

We'll be rich as old King Midas,
and the law can't even fight us, no sir!

TURNER: I can feel it gettin' closer...
And not a bit of tax to owe sir!

BOTH: All we're gonna take is money.

PACKARD: Let 'em keep their 'baster bunny!

BOTH: We'll get lots 'n lots of money!

THEY EXIT IN THE DIRECTION OF THE TOWN AND

BLACKOUT!

<End of excerpt>