



NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT:
Kathy Funke, Director
News & Information Services
812/465-7005
FAX 812/465-1956

OUTDOOR MUSICAL AUDITIONS SLATED

For Immediate Release
January 13, 1993

The University of Southern Indiana will host open auditions for Indiana's two outdoor musical dramas, *Young Abe Lincoln* and *Big River*, at scattered sites in the Midwest and Southeast this spring, branching out to give more young people an opportunity to try out for the productions at Lincoln Amphitheatre in Lincoln City, Indiana, according to Elliot Wasserman, director.

Auditions are open to anyone between the ages of 7 and 70, but filling a half dozen roles for pre-and early-teenage youth will be a priority at Lincoln City March 19 and in Louisville February 28. Auditioners are asked to be at the Abraham Lincoln Hall at Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on March 19. Details for the Louisville auditions will be announced later, but are to be held in conjunction with a *Stephen Foster Story* program. Actors may have roles in both *Young Abe Lincoln* and *Big River*. Auditions also are being held in Indianapolis, St. Louis, and Arlington, Virginia, in conjunction with regular summer theatre tryouts.

Young Abe Lincoln is Billy Edd Wheeler's musical version of the 16th President's life in southern Indiana from age 7 to 21. It opens in June for its seventh year on stage at the Lincoln Amphitheatre. *Big River*, William Hauptman's adaptation of Mark Twain's classic *Adventures of Huck Finn*, opens in July, reliving Huck's escapades with Jim, the runaway slave, as they travel by raft down the Mississippi River, one fleeing civilization and the other slavery.

The two musicals are presented nightly, except Mondays, on an alternating schedule allowing each to be featured every other weekend until the productions close in late August. The Lincoln Amphitheatre outdoor dramas are produced by the University of Southern Indiana for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. For drama tickets or more information on auditions, call the new 800 number -- 1/800/264-4ABE -- or 812/465-1668.

Families are invited to see both musicals and spend time exploring southern Indiana, which is dotted with historical and recreational opportunities -- the old territorial capitol of Vincennes, the first Hoosier state capitol at Corydon, two 19th century communal living experiments in Historic New Harmony, the Holiday World amusement park at Santa Claus, the nearby Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial, outdoor recreation facilities, and other forms of family entertainment.