

Treasure Island

Location: Dakota Stage Ltd.

Performance Dates: June 18 - 21

Director: Mandy Wardner

From the novel by Robert Louis Stevenson

Adapted by Joseph George Caruso

When this rousing adventure story premiered Off-Broadway, it received unanimous critical acclaim. *Parents Magazine* considered it, "First rate all the way, a delightful experience," and the *New York Times* called it an "inventive classic." *Treasure Island* is certainly one of the most durable adventure stories of all time, with the villainous Long John Silver following young Jim across the ocean to search out a buried fortune on Treasure Island. This delightful adaptation includes numerous excellent roles for young women in a modern re-telling.

The Big Bad Musical

Location: High Prairie Arts & Science Complex

Performance Dates: June 25 - 28

Director: Amanda Irvine Perry & Maria Schlecht

By Alec Strum

Music and Lyrics by Bill Francoeur

A courtroom has never been more lively and fun than in *The Big Bad Musical*! This smart and wickedly funny musical is great for young actors and audiences of any age. The jury—your audience—must decide the outcome of the biggest trial ever in the fairy-tale world! The notorious Big Bad Wolf is being slapped with a class-action lawsuit by storybooks of quirky characters who want to get even: Little Red Riding Hood, her Grandmother, the Three Little Pigs and the Shepherd in charge of the Boy Who Cried Wolf. With Sydney Grimm as the commentator on live court TV, the two greatest legal minds in the Enchanted Forest—the Evil Stepmother and the Fairy Godmother—clash in a trial that will be remembered forever after. As our wronged fairy tale characters testify, the wolf seems deserving of all that's coming. Yet, even though the infamous Evil Stepmother resents doing pro-bono work on such an obviously futile defense, Mr. Wolf makes a good case for himself. Was he born a criminal, or made one?

Seven Supermans

Location: Dakota Stage Ltd.

Performance Dates: July 16 - 19

Director: Cory Wardner

By Rinne Groff

In a far-away mythical land, the Farmers are in trouble! Evil Bandits are looting their land, taking their food, and wrecking their lives. Fed up with bowing meekly in the face of this oppression, the Farmers go to the Big City in search of Supermans, a dying breed of men and women in blue tights and red capes who really know how to save the day. The Farmers find the Seven Supermans they are looking for, but it's not what they expected. This is a story of courage, service, and finding the hidden Superman within.

Wipeout! (A Musical)

Location: High Prairie Arts & Science Complex

Performance Dates: July 23 - 26

Directors: Michelle & Joey Bohlen

Music and Lyrics by Bill Francoeur

Wax up your surfboards, get out your beach blankets and catch the wave of this swell surf musical! It's just another sunny day at Avalon Beach until Mom and Pop announce they're selling their beloved surf shop and teen hangout. The snobbish developers from the nearby ritzy Cove want Avalon's stretch of sand... for a parking lot! But Mom and Pop's daughter Midge and all the loyal Avalon kids are determined—they're not going to let that happen! Riptide, the local kahuna, enters the big surf contest to vie for the grand prize money that will keep The Shack's doors open, but the crowd from the Cove will do anything to put the kibosh on Rip winning the prize money, including sabotage! This surf musical—complete with hysterical onstage surfing—takes us back to a simpler time when life was keener, the music was cooler and the world was about to change. Gnarly, dudes!

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer

Based on the Mark Twain classic

Location: Dakota Stage Ltd

Performance Dates: July 30 – August 2

Director: Jerry Solomon

Adapted by Dave Barton and Matt Bond

Enjoy the humor, action and excitement of life in Missouri in the late 1840s. All of Tom Sawyer's famous adventures are included, climaxing with the life-or-death battle with Injun Joe in the cave. Join Tom and his friend, Huck Finn, as they outwit the adults in this children's classic. It's easy to see why Twain's "Life on the Mississippi" will forever be an American favorite.

Romeo & Juliet or the Old "You-Know-I-Really-Love-You-But-My-Father-Really-Hates-You" Blues

(Traveling Troupe, ages 12 -18 only)

Location: High Prairie Arts & Science Complex

Performance Dates: July 29 – August 8 (Actual Performances TBA)

Director: Amanda Irvine Perry

By Kathy Linehan Charles, adapted from Shakespeare

Teenagers. What are ya gonna do. They fall in love at the drop of a hat always with the very person Mom and Dad can't stand. And in the case of Romeo Montague and Juliette Capulet, their families have hated each other for as long as anyone can remember. *Except...*no one actually remembers why. Grownups act that way sometimes, huh. This fast-paced adaptation of Shakespeare's play tracks the star-crossed lovers and their cross-purposed families through the tumbling courtship to its tragic conclusion storytellers firing off comments about premature marriages and the folly of old men at war. A perfect landscape for boisterous swordfights and gender-bending casting. Girls play boys with pointed reminders to the audience of all-male casting in Elizabethan times. Payback, say the storytellers. The audience is prodded to stop the tragedy at several points, but alas, too late. The conclusion? Violence is a stupid choice so mend your fences before you hit the parking lot.

Looking Glass Land

Location: Dakota Stage Ltd.

Performance Dates: August 13 - 16

Director: LaurAnn Rysavy

Adapted by James DeVita

This award-winning stage adaptation by renowned playwright James DeVita takes Lewis Carroll's original *Through the Looking Glass* and literally runs with it. This wild adaptation highlights and improvises on the pure, unadulterated fun of the story. The play still retains some of Carroll's deeper meanings, but it possesses a huge helping of unabashed silliness! This delightful romp through Alice's looking glass land retains all of the familiar characters then introduces dozens of new ones: a baseball team, a gospel group called The Responsibilities, a train conductor, a peanut salesman, detectives, a Miss America pageant, star-struck tourists, plastic light saber wielding knights and much more! *The Children's Book and Play Review* declares, "This is an excellent script... delightful, amusing and believable in a land that's not."

The Fantastic Mr. Fox

Location: High Prairie Arts & Science Complex

Performance Dates: August 20 - 23

Directors: Seth Eberle & RaeAnne Carlson

Based on the book by Roald Dahl. Dramitized by Sally Reid

This enchanting Roald Dahl tale concerns the extraordinary adventures of three nasty farmers, two curious creatures, a family of foxes, and our hero, a most fantastic fellow! Your audience will be fascinated as they watch Boggis, the (enormously fat!) chicken farmer; Bunce, the (pot-bellied dwarf) duck-and-duck farmer; and Bean the (thin) turkey-and-apple farmer, attempt to foil the efforts of Mr. Fox and his friends, the Badgers, the Moles, the Rabbits and the Weasels. Chase scenes and wily adventures abound as the forest animals try to outwit the half-wit farmers! This production will be enacted with live actors along with puppets. You won't want to miss Shade Tree's first ever show incorporating puppet theatre!