

TNT theatre Britain present:

## **TOM SAWYER**

Adapted from Mark Twain's novel

by Paul Stebbings

Directed by Gaspard Legendre.

Original score by John Kenny.

Tom Sawyer is one of the best known novels written in the United States. It traces the fortunes of the roguish boy Tom, his adventures, hopes, fantasies, romances and his harsh collision with a very adult world of greed and murder. The book is a thriller and a comedy, an exploration of youth and a rich picture of rural life in nineteenth century Mississippi. The novel is ideal material for a stage adaptation as it is full of action and every scene is centred around one character: Tom Sawyer, perhaps the most engaging youth in American literature.

TNT approach this story with the verve and dynamism that has made their work so popular across the globe. This is fast and furious physical theatre, where comedy switches to gripping thriller and back again to romance. Tom Sawyer is not the only extraordinary character in this tale: there is the outcast lad Huckleberry Finn, the ever perplexed Aunt Polly – half mother half teacher, the murder Bad'n Joe (rescued from the casual racism of the time in this version) and there is Becky: a girl wise beyond her years who falls for Tom while keeping her balance.

The creative team of Gaspard Legendre and Paul Stebbings have a long experience of working together on productions such as NOTRE DAME and LE PETIT PRINCE, and the play will include a powerful and lyrical musical score by composer John Kenny. The production follows on from TNT's long association with the American repertoire with such productions as GRAPES OF WRATH, THE LIFE AND DEATH OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, MOON PALACE and DEATH OF A SALESMAN. Mark Twain was one of the great story tellers in the English language, a writer who knew how to balance the comic with the serious and bring a smile to his audience even as he drew them towards deeper truths. This dramatisation of what may be his finest work will offer the audience a thrilling performance that explores the essence of modern America.

"TNT – highly effective and charismatic theatre." Village Voice New York

"One of the most interesting developments on the current theatrical scene"  
The Guardian, Britain.

"If young people need to be persuaded to go to the theatre TNT are the company to see." Südkurier Germany