Jim Post's Mark Twain and the Laughing River

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Presents

JIM POST'S

MARK TWAIN
AND THE
LAUGHING RIVER

FEBRUARY 6, 1999

Governors State University
University Park, Illinois
The Center for Performing Arts
joyfully presents

MARK TWAIN AND THE LAUGHING RIVER
by
JIM POST

"My childhood was the wellspring of my clearest inspiration"...Mark Twain. Jim Post took Mark Twain at his word and dug deeply into every nook and cranny of Mark Twain's childhood. Did you know that Mark Twain sang with a beautiful tenor voice and played banjo, piano, and guitar, loving to show off at parties? Jim Post has composed twelve songs, created around true-life stories of Twain's childhood.

In February, 1997, the C.D. of Mark Twain and the Laughing River was the recipient of The American Library Association Award for Notable Recordings. This C.D. will be recommended to every library and school in America.

After attending the performance of Mark Twain and the Laughing River you will know who the real people are behind Mark Twain's literary characters. You will know how the Mississippi River fired up Twain's "boiler" and put the devil in his temperament. You will know how Hannibal, with its buckskin spirit of adventure, was a boy's paradise--fertile ground for Twain's writer's imagination. Come swim in the Mississippi with the rascallion boy, Mark Twain.

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Jim Post requires nothing but a match to light his cigar to look the part in his delightful Mark Twain and the Laughing River"...Pioneer Press
JIM POST

Jim Post is perhaps the only Mark Twain impersonator who is also featured in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame for his international hit, Reach Out in the Darkness.” Jim has also produced over twenty albums of folk music.

In 1986, Jim wrote a musical about his very historical hometown, Galena, Illinois in the hope that the play would enable him to stay home. The play, Galena Rose: How Whiskey Won the West, ironically had the opposite effect. Among the many places Jim traveled to perform Galena Rose, Chicago kept him away from home for an amazing three-year-run.

Five years ago, Jim wrote the dialogue and music for Mark Twain and the Laughing River. Both his physical resemblance and emotional affinity to Mark Twain sparked Jim’s interest in capturing the boy-man Twain in song and word. The play’s success has, once again, kept Jim traveling. The play premiered in Evanston, Illinois and ran for several months in Chicago. The music from the show won the national Library Association Award for Literary Accomplishment. The lyrics from the opening song, “Mighty Big River,” is featured Holt, Rinehart, and Winston’s new textbook, Tom Sawyer. The play was featured at the Smithsonian Institute and will travel to Vienna in May.

Janet Smith Post

Janet Smith Post is a writer and musician. She has published both short stories and poetry and has been employed as an editor and writing consultant. She authored the rewrite of The Heart of Christmas, performed by Jim Post.

Janet has taught music both privately and publicly. She played cello in the Colorado Springs Community Orchestra and currently plays cello and keyboard for the productions of Mark Twain and the Laughing River and The Heart of Christmas.

Janet makes her home with Jim in Galena, Illinois where she divides her time between writing and performing.
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