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Christine Sturdivant Receives Certificate of Deaconess

Deaconess Christine Sturdivant of Divine Unity House of Restoration Ministries received her Certificate as Deaconess of Divine Unity Church from Overseer Sylvia McLendon, Pastor, on Sunday, August 5.



Ansonia Theatre Opens Big River this Friday, August 17. Professional Actor to Play Jim.

The Ansonia Theatre in Wadesboro is gearing up for the opening of the 1985 Broadway Hit Musical *Big River: The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, based on Mark Twain's beloved classic, starting this Friday, August 17 and running two weekends through August 26. The story centers around Huck, played by Tyler Baucom, and a runaway slave named Jim, played by Indiana native Anachebe Asomugha, as they travel down the mighty Mississippi River in a search for freedom.

Huckleberry Finn is a wild child in 1840's Missouri. He roams freely in his small town of St. Petersburg, even under the watchful eyes of the Widow Douglas and Miss Watson, played by Gina Clarke and Emily Litaker Privette. Trouble arises, however, when his alcoholic and violent father Pap, played by Donald Pekins, suddenly demands custody of the boy in order to get at his trust fund. Fearing for his life, Huck takes off on a raft down the Mississippi River. Along the way he meets up with Jim, who is trying to find his wife and children up North. Soon Huck and Jim gain two new compatriots, the Duke and the King (who are really escaped convicts) played by Matthew Thompson and Steven Chipper Long. After a series of adventures and a brief reunion with his best friend Tom Sawyer, played by Paige Mercer, Huck discovers that although he and Jim are worlds apart in many ways, they are actually very much alike.

The Ansonia Theatre is proud to welcome professional actor/singer Anachebe Asomugha who is originally from Evansville, Indiana. He earned his BA in Theatre Arts from University of Southern Indiana. He now lives in Orlando where he studied and performed at the prestigious Orlando Shakespeare Company. There he was seen in *A Night in New Orleans*, *Nicholas Nickleby*, *It's a Wonderful Life* and *Taming of the Shrew*.

Big River features a score from country music legend Roger Miller and is certain to become a fan favorite! The show is directed by Tommy Wooten, with musical direction by Gail Litaker and choreography by Gina Clarke. The Ansonia is able

to host professional actor Anachebe Asomugha with the help of a generous NC Arts Council Grassroots Grant. Other talented cast members from five different counties include Teri Brown, Kianna Ellerbe, Robert Graves, Caden Clarke, Persia Harrison, Isaac Clarke, Greyson Helms, Tyson Leavitt, Nancy Lowery, Maggie Gibson, Glenn Caulder, Mark Traywick, Anna Rape, Lela Chaney, Scout Perkins, John Polk, Ayla Perkins and Cali Green. Tickets are \$16 and can be purchased at 704-694-4950 or online at ansoniatheatre.com.

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