

Program Requirement
Is He Dead? by Mark Twain, adapted by David Ives

The following bios must be included in all programs
for all productions of *Is He Dead?*:

Mark Twain Foundation. Mark Twain died in 1910, leaving his estate to his sole surviving child, Clara. When Clara Clemens Samossoud died in 1962, and further beneficiaries passed away in 1979, the Clemens assets, including various literary rights, passed to the Mark Twain Foundation, a perpetual charitable trust whose purpose is to enable mankind to enjoy the works of Mark Twain forever. The present trustees of the Foundation are JPMorgan Chase Bank and attorney Richard A. Watson.

Shelley Fisher Fishkin was determined to bring Twain's *Is He Dead?* to the stage from the moment she read the manuscript. A professor of English and director of American Studies at Stanford University, she is the award-winning author or editor of more than 30 books, including *The Oxford Mark Twain; Was Huck Black? Mark Twain and African American Voices; Lighting Out for the Territory: Reflections on Mark Twain and American Culture;* and *From Fact to Fiction: Journalism and Imaginative Writing in America*. She is past president of the American Studies Association and the Mark Twain Circle of America.

David Ives is probably best known for his evenings of one-acts, collected as *All in the Timing* (Vintage Books) and *Time Flies* (Grove Press). His full-length work to date has been collected in *Polish Joke and Other Plays* (Grove). He is also the author of two young-adult novels, *Monsieur Eek* and *Scrib*. He lives in New York City with his wife, Martha.

Mark Twain, born Samuel Langhorne Clemens (1835-1910), published more than 30 books, hundreds of short stories and essays and gave lecture tours around the world. Often regarded as the "father of American literature" for his keen wit and incisive satire, Twain's works include *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, *Life on the Mississippi*, *The Prince and the Pauper*, *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*, and *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.