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FAMOUS ACTRESS “SCOUTS” OUT MURRAY SCHOOLS

MURRAY, KY -- Fifty years ago, Harper Lee wrote the timeless novel, *To Kill A Mockingbird*, captivating readers of all ages. To mark this milestone, The Luther F. Carson Four Rivers Center in Paducah was awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts/The Big Read, to sponsor an array of “Mockingbird” activities in classrooms around the region.

The official launch of *The Big Read* is Saturday, September 26, on the Carson Center lawn, with a visit from Actress Mary Badham, who played Scout in the 1962 film adaptation of the novel.

MSU’s Office of Regional Stewardship and Outreach is sponsoring a visit by Badham to Murray Independent and Calloway County High Schools on Friday, September 25. This office also supported *The Big Read* by purchasing 1,000 copies of the novel that have been distributed to schools throughout the region.

During the day on November 5 at The Carson Center, a special production of the trial scene from the stage adaptation of *To Kill A Mockingbird* will be presented for school groups by Montana Repertory Theatre. That night, a full production will be staged for the public.

For more information about *The Big Read*, log on to the Carson Center’s Website at [www.thecarsoncenter.org](http://www.thecarsoncenter.org). Ticket information is available online. Contact the Center’s -More-
Education Director, Mary E. Katz, for details about other activities planned as part of *The Big Read*. The phone number is 270-443-9932, ext. 250. The Carson Center is located at 100 Kentucky Avenue, Paducah.

*The Big Read* is an initiative of the National Endowment of the Arts, designed to restore reading to the center of America culture. The NEA presents *The Big Read* in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and in cooperation with Arts Midwest. Paducah is one of 269 communities, nationwide, participating in *The Big Read* from September 2009 to June 2010. The McCracken County Public Library is The Carson Center’s partner in *The Big Read*, along with other local groups that are sponsoring additional events. More information about this national literacy initiative is available at [www.neabigread.org](http://www.neabigread.org).

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