

Chickasaw Civic Theatre Audition Packet

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Thank you for your interest in auditioning for 1776. This show seems the perfect way to celebrate 250 years of American independence.

This packet provides you with materials you need to be prepared for a strong audition. In the attached pages you will find a synopsis and a character breakdown. The more educated you are regarding this production, the more capable you will be in making good choices in your audition.

Throughout the audition process we will be looking for actors who are hard-working, positive, focused and ready to work on a team. Do your best, take risks and have FUN!

If you have ANY questions prior to or during the auditions, please do not hesitate to ask. Just email me at nedrabloom@comcast.net

Nedra Bloom

Can't make it to the scheduled auditions?
Please contact me to see if we can schedule a different time.

250 Cheers for the USA!

1776

~The Musical~

BY PETER STONE

Director: Nedra Bloom
Music Director: Greg Wiggins
Choreographer: Jacqueline B. Stepan

AUDITION DATE:
Saturday, Oct. 25 @ 2:00 pm

AUDITION LOCATION:
Chickasaw Civic Theatre
801 Iroquois Street, Chickasaw, Alabama

AUDITION INFORMATION

Auditions are open call. The cast requires 25 men, one of whom is 15 to 20. Others range in age to elder statesmen. There are only two women and both are major roles.

Each cast member portrays a specific historic figure and every character has lines.

DATES:

Saturday, Oct. 25 @ 2:00 pm

Please arrive at the time noted. All auditionees will begin the audition process at that time.

LOCATION:

Chickasaw Civic Theatre

801 Iroquois Street, Chickasaw, Alabama

WHAT TO EXPECT

1. Auditionees should be prepared to sing a 32-bar cut of a song in the style of the show. An accompanist will be available; please bring your sheet music.

2. Auditionees may be asked to read from the script.

3 Be prepared to learn a brief dance combination.

4. Please print and bring your audition form (included in this packet) with you to auditions (copies will be available at auditions). If you have a resume and headshot, you may bring them as well.

For more information, please contact:

Nedra Bloom — nedrabloom@comcast.net.

SHOW DATES:

January 15 - 18 and January 22 - 25
Thursday, Friday & Saturday @ 7:30pm
Sunday Matinee @ 2:30pm

REHEARSALS:

- Rehearsals will begin in early November.
- Rehearsals will be Monday, Tuesday, Thursday evenings and will include some Saturday and Sunday afternoons, with advance notice.
- Rehearsals will break for Thanksgiving and for Christmas.
- **PLEASE NOTE** that tech week begins on Sunday, January 11.

SYNOPSIS - 1776

It's hot and steamy in Philadelphia in May 1776 as the Continental Congress meets to consider declaring independence.

John Adams is the leading advocate of independence. The members of Congress are split almost exactly in half. While John frets about Congressional inaction, members of Congress urge him to be quiet in the opening number, "Sit Down, John." Still aggravated, John declares that the Congress does nothing but "Piddle, Twiddle and Resolve." Throughout the show, whenever he becomes truly frustrated by Congressional inaction, he talks things over — in his mind — with Abigail. They first talk in the duet "Till Then."

The pro-independence group is stymied by a demand that the resolution come from someplace besides New England. Richard Henry Lee of Virginia says he can get such a resolution, because he is one of "The Lees of Old Virginia." And off he rides...

He returns — successful-LEE — and Congress must find someone to write the Declaration. Adams himself, Franklin and their other committee members, Robert Livingston and Roger Sherman, all decline the offer — "But Mr. Adams."

And the job goes to Thomas Jefferson.

Jefferson is distressed because he misses his wife, so she is summoned — leaving John even more lonely to sing "Yours, Yours, Yours" with Abigail. And Martha Jefferson arrives, explaining that Tom won her love because "He Plays the Violin."

When Adams leaves town briefly, Pennsylvanian John Dickenson — vehemently opposed to independence or anything else that would upset his rather comfortable life — leads the conservatives in their "Cool, Cool Considerate Men." Meanwhile, the courier who has brought repeated dispatches from General Washington, tells the secretary to Congress about his experience at Bunker Hill in the haunting "Momma, Look Sharp."

When Congress meets again, a proposed declaration in hand, Franklin, Adams and Jefferson fret over the changes — some major issues, some nitpicky critiques of word choice — they ponder "The Egg" that's about to hatch a new nation.

The biggest issue, of course, is slavery. Jefferson is determined to ban it. Congress thinks it's just too much. And as they all point fingers, South Carolinian Edward Rutledge reminds them that all parts of the country are to blame because of the Triangle Trade, in the powerful "Molasses to Rum."

Almost beyond hope, John goes back to the empty chamber and envisions a free America in "Is Anybody There?"

In a sudden turnaround, all members of Congress agree — and as they rise to sign the Declaration of Independence, the Liberty Bell begins to toll.

CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

John Adams

Delegate from Massachusetts. John is a dutiful husband. Opinionated, passionate, and a bit boisterous, he wears his age with pride. Starving for independence from England.

Gender: Male Age: 41 Vocal range top: F#4 Vocal range bottom: C3

Stephen Hopkins

Delegate from Rhode Island. Hopkins' drinking has led to an appearance befitting of the second oldest in the Continental Congress. He has a dirty old man playfulness about him.

Gender: Male Age: 70 Vocal range top: Eb4 Vocal range bottom: C3

Roger Sherman

Delegate from Connecticut. A coffee drinker with a penchant for hyperactivity, Sherman is a simple and balding cobbler.

Gender: Male Age: 55 Vocal range top: Bb4 Vocal range bottom: C3

Robert Livingston

Delegate from New York. Recently a father, Livingston's disposition has become one of humility and graciousness. He has changed considerably over the years.

Gender: Male Age: 30 Vocal range top: F4 Vocal range bottom: Bb2

Benjamin Franklin

Delegate from Pennsylvania. Franklin is intelligent, well-traveled, and pleasantly cunning. A jolly and admirable fellow with whom one would desire to have a friendship.

Gender: Male Age: 60 to 70 Vocal range top: Eb4 Vocal range bottom: Ab2

John Dickinson

Delegate from Pennsylvania. A thin, hawkish gentleman. He is sharp-tongued and a touch detestable.

Gender: Male Age: 44 Vocal range top: E4 Vocal range bottom: A2

Col. Thomas McKean

Delegate from Delaware. McKean is florid and likable with a charming, yet commanding, Scottish Brogue.

Gender: Male Age: 42 Vocal range top: Eb4 Vocal range bottom: C3

Richard Henry Lee

Delegate from Virginia, Lee is a willowy aristocrat. His flamboyancy is intoxicating and borderline infuriating.

Gender: Male Age: 45 Vocal range top: G4 Vocal range bottom: C3

Thomas Jefferson

Delegate from Virginia. Though noticeably tall, Jefferson is mild-mannered and sweet. Along with being a well-read man, he is very much in love with his wife.

Gender: Male Age: 33 Vocal range top: G4 Vocal range bottom: C3

Edward Rutledge

Delegate from South Carolina. Despite his good looks, Rutledge is haunting and somewhat ominous as the youngest member of the Continental Congress. There is a serpent-like quality to him.

Gender: Male Age: 26 Vocal range top: A4 Vocal range bottom: C3

Abigail Adams

Loving wife to John Adams. Intelligent, quick-witted, and talented with a pen, Abigail is a radiant and shapely beauty. Every bit as bright as her husband.

Gender: Female Age: 32 Vocal range top: F5 Vocal range bottom: Db4

Martha Jefferson

Thomas Jefferson's very-much-in-love wife. Her looks are striking, her dancing delightful, and her humor appealing. She doesn't shy away from a good time. Joy radiates from her.

Gender: Female Age: 27 Vocal range top: D5 Vocal range bottom: Bb3

Courier

The message runner between General Washington's army and the Continental Congress. He has witnessed the hardships of war firsthand, although his innocent disposition and appearance may imply otherwise.

Gender: Male Age: 15 to 20 Vocal range top: Db4 Vocal range bottom: C3

Plus ensemble:

John Hancock, President of Continental Congress

Dr. Josiah Bartlett, New Hampshire

Lewis Morris, New York

Rev. John Witherspoon, New Jersey

James Wilson, Pennsylvania

Caesar Rodney, Delaware

George Read, Delaware

Samuel Chase, Maryland

Joseph Hewes, North Carolina

Dr. Lyman Hall, Georgia

Charles Thomson, Secretary of the Congress

Andrew McNair, Custodian and bell-ringer

A Leather Apron

A Painter