

Argelanges

PROLOGUE



HILL CUMORAH PAGEANT 1987

REVISED APRIL 20th, 1987

P R O L O G U E

Narrator:

narrator in suit
on narrators stage
(down center)

GOOD EVENING LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. THIS YEAR'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HILL CUMORAH PAGEANT COINCIDES WITH THE BI-CENTENNIAL OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION OF 1787. THIS CONVENTION GAVE BIRTH TO THE DOCUMENT GLADSTONE CALLED " THE MOST WONDERFUL WORK EVER STRUCK OFF ... BY THE BRAIN AND PURPOSE OF MEN."

music bridge of
patriotic music:

WE CELEBRATE THIS 200TH BIRTHDAY OF THE AMERICAN CONSTITUTION.

warm up stage
where several men are
seated around a large
table representing
the drafting of the
constitution.

JAMES MADISON, REFERRED TO AS THE FATHER OF THE CONSTITUTION, WROTE A FITTING TRIBUTE ABOUT HIS RENOWNED COLLEAGUES:

Madison speaks:

MADISON RISES and
speaks:

"... THERE NEVER WAS AN ASSEMBLY OF MEN, CHARGED WITH A GREAT AND ARDUOUS TRUST, WHO WERE MORE PURE IN THEIR MOTIVES, OR MORE EXCLUSIVELY ... DEVOTED TO THE OBJECT COMMITTED TO THEM, THAN WERE THE MEMBERS OF THE FEDERAL CONVENTION OF 1787."

scene dims but
not out!

Narrator:

LIGHTS UP. ON
NARRATOR:

"WISE MEN WHOM I RAISED UP UNTO THIS VERY PURPOSE" IS THE EXPRESSION THE LORD USED IN DESCRIBING THE PATRIOTS HE CALLED AND THROUGH WHOM HE WORKED TO GIVE THIS NATION BIRTH.

George Washington
rises and moves as
he is being described:

MEN LIKE GEORGE WASHINGTON, EXPERIENCED SOLDIER- LEADER . FATHER OF OUR NATION. HE HELPED HOLD THE AMERICAN COLONIES TO THEIR UNITED PURPOSE. GEORGE WASHINGTON, THE HONEST, CLEAR-SIGHTED INSPIRER OF MEN.

Washington Speaks:

George Washington
speaks to the
assembly and to
the audience.

"LET US UNITE, IN IMPLORING THE SUPREME RULER OF NATIONS TO SPREAD HIS HOLY PROTECTION OVER THESE UNITED STATES: [AND] TO THE CONFIRMING OF OUR CONSTITUTION: TO ENABLE US AT ALL TIMES TO ROOT OUT INTERNAL SEDITION... PUT INVASION TO FLIGHT... TO VERIFY THIS GOVERNMENT [AS] A SAFEGUARD TO HUMAN RIGHTS."

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, ONE OF THE BEST DIPLOMAT OF HIS DAY.

Franklin rises and paces as if speaking to the assembly:

Franklin speaks:

"IF A SPARROW CANNOT FALL TO THE GROUND WITHOUT HIS NOTICE, IS IT PROBABLE THAT AN EMPIRE CAN RISE WITHOUT HIS AID? WE HAVE BEEN ASSURED, SIR, IN THE SACRED WRITINGS, THAT 'EXCEPT THE LORD BUILD THE HOUSE -- THEY LABOR IN VAIN THAT BUILD IT.'-- I BELIEVE WITHOUT HIS CONCURRING AID WE SHALL SUCCEED IN THIS POLITICAL BUILDING NO BETTER THAN THE BUILDERS OF BABEL."

LITS OUT WITH EVERY CLIMBING DAYS OF THE SUN

Narrator:

Jefferson enters scene and talks briefly with Franklin and greets people around table.

THOMAS JEFFERSON, A GIANT IN EVERY SENSE; HIGHLY EDUCATED, A FLUENT WRITER, STATESMEN, AND TRAINED LAWYER.

Adams enters bringings something in and places it on table and sits.

JOHN ADAMS, A GREAT PARLIAMENTARIAN, DIPLOMAT, EXPERIENCED MINISTER TO EUROPEAN NATIONS, TEACHER, FARMER, LAWYER, A PATRIOT THROUGH AND THROUGH...

AND SO WE MIGHT GO ON. EACH MAN A LEADER IN HIS OWN RIGHT HOW COULD GOD HAVE CHOSEN BETTER?

Lits dim down on group as lights up on Webster on stage #2L speaking to a group of people in silhouette below him.

DANIEL WEBSTER SPOKE OF THESE MEN AND THEIR TIME:

Webster speaks:

'TRULY ... THESE FOUNDERS AND FATHERS OF THE CONSTITUTION WERE GREAT MEN. ... ALL THAT READING AND LEARNING COULD DO; ALL THAT TALENT AND INTELLIGENCE COULD DO; AND WHAT PERHAPS IS STILL MORE, ALL THAT LONG EXPERIENCE IN DIFFICULT AND TROUBLED TIMES ... COULD DO, CONSPIRED TO FIT THEM FOR THE GREAT [WORK]."

Lits out on Hill

Up on narrator:

Narrator:

slow fad up on Joseph

THE FIRST PROPHET LEADER OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS, JOSEPH SMITH, FREQUENTLY SPOKE OF HIS KNOWLEDGE CONCERNING THE DOCUMENT'S DIVINITY:

Lits out on narrator

Lits up full on Joseph in Jail (possibly use a disguised Mary Stage to look like a prison.

Joseph Smith speaks

"THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES IS A GLORIOUS STANDARD; AND IS FOUNDED IN THE WISDOM OF GOD. IT IS A HEAVENLY BANNER. IT IS ... LIKE THE COOLING SHADES AND REFRESHING WATERS OF A GREAT ROCK IN A THIRSTY AND WEARY LAND. IT IS LIKE A GREAT TREE UNDER WHOSE BRANCHES MEN FROM EVERY CLIME CAN BE SHIELDED FROM THE BURNING RAYS OF THE SUN.

Transcription of highlighted text above:
"Lits up full on Joseph in Jail (possibly use a disguised Mary Stage to look like a prison."

[Lits Dim out with Music.

Narrator:

Lits up on Narrator:

SO SPOKE JOSEPH SMITH, ON MARCH 25, 1839. TODAY THE LIVING PROPHET, AND PRESIDENT OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS, PRESIDENT EZRA TAFT BENSON, HAS SAID:

lits dim out on narrator:

President Benson

Use Pres. Benson's own Voice on The Tape if possible.]

During this speech, instead of actor's portraying them we shall unroll a large 10 X 20 foot replica of page one of the constitution on the Grand Staircase left of Stage #2.

(We also, with permission, might be able to use a portion of a recent BYU talk given by Pres. Benson on the constitution rather than have him retape a new statement.)

" I REVERENCE THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES AS A SACRED DOCUMENT. TO ME ITS WORDS ARE AKIN TO THE REVELATIONS OF GOD, FOR GOD HAS PLACED HIS STAMP OF APPROVAL ON THE ONSTITUTION OF THIS LAND."

After Pres. Benson's speech, the lights dim on constitution and warm ip on the assembly on stage #2.

Narrator

lights up full on Narrator.

OUR FOREFATHERS, IN PRAYER AND FERVENT HOPE, FORGED THEIR VISION OF A FREE LAND INTO A BANNER OF FREEDOM FOR US ALL -- OUR CONSTITUTION --- A GOD INSPIRED DOCUMENT. THE DEPTH OF CONVICTION OF THESE GREAT LEADERS IS REFLECTED IN THESE WORDS OF JOHN ADAMS...

John Adams speaks:

Lights up on John Adams on Stage #3 He is standing at the edge looking over the large Constitution which is still visible and also the tableaux of the Men on stage #2. He gives his speech directly to the audience

"SINK OR SWIM, LIVE OR DIE, SURVIVE OR PERISH, I GIVE MY HAND AND MY HEART TO THIS. ... IT IS TRUE INDEED. ... THERE'S A DIVINITY THAT SHAPES OUR ENDS... YOU AND I ... MAY NOT LIVE TO SEE THE TIME WHEN IT SHALL BE MADE GOOD. WE MAY DIE; ... DIE SLAVES, ----DIE IT MAY BE, IGNOMINIOUSLY AND ON THE SCAFFOLD.

BE IT SO. BE IT SO.

THROUGH THE THICK GLOOM OF THE PRESENT, I SEE THE BRIGHTNESS OF THE FUTURE AS THE SUN IN HEAVEN. WE SHALL MAKE THIS A GLORIOUS, AN IMMORTAL DAY. WHEN WE ARE IN OUR GRAVES, OUR CHILDREN WILL HONOR IT.

THEY WILL CELEBRATE IT WITH THANKSGIVING, WITH FESTIVITY, WITH BONFIRES, AND ILLUMINATIONS...

BEFORE GOD, I BELIEVE THE HOUR IS COME.

LITS OUT!

a few fireworks will appear while a drum roll is hear and we unroll a giant 95 foot flag at the top of the Hill and move from the Prologue into the Pageant. with the Singing of the National Anthem.