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Playbill and Promotion 1776 (1976)

Winter 2-17-1976

1776 Playbill

Mary Maguire
Providence College

Patricia White
Providence College

Dan Foster
Providence College

Michael Thomas
Providence College

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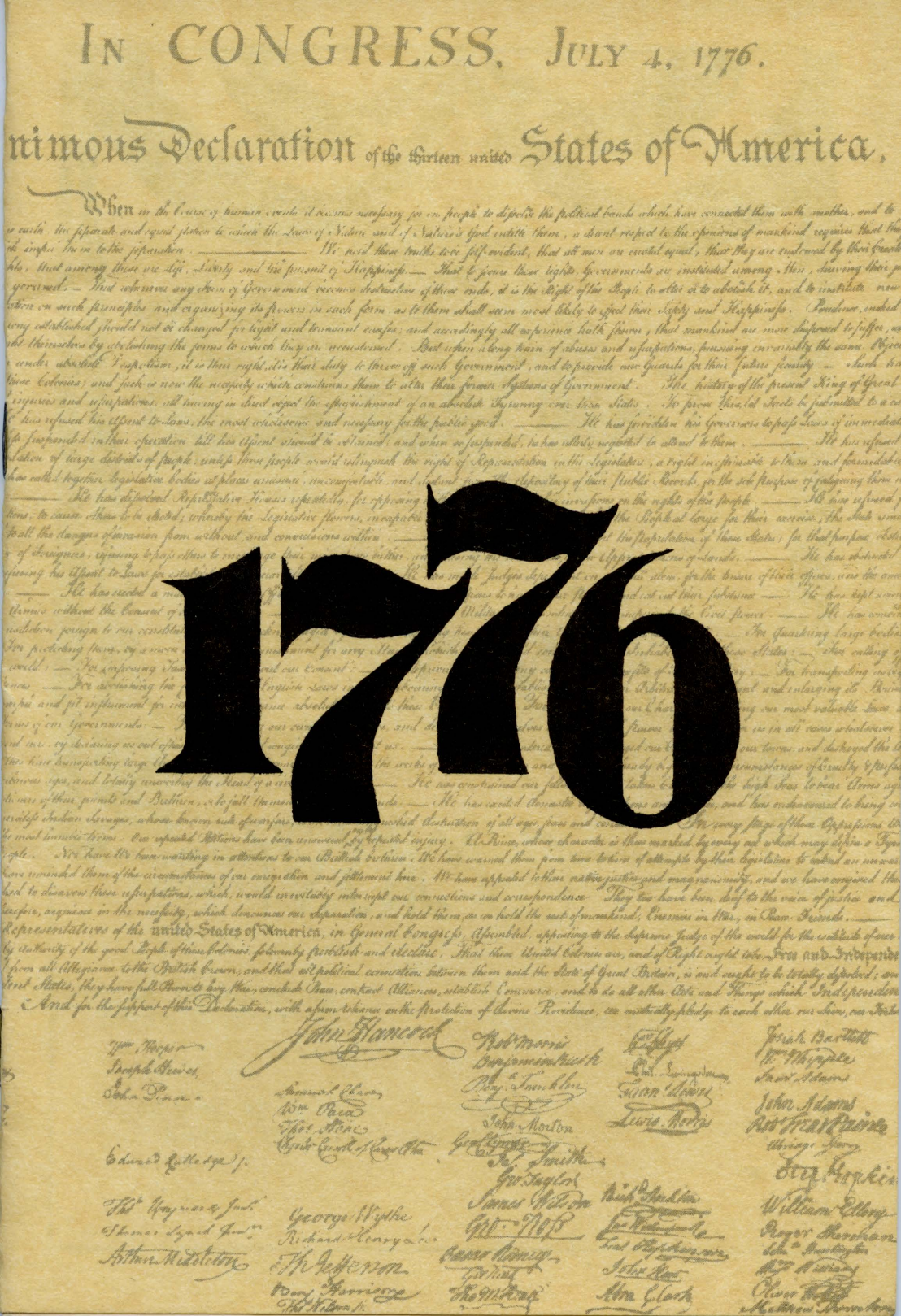
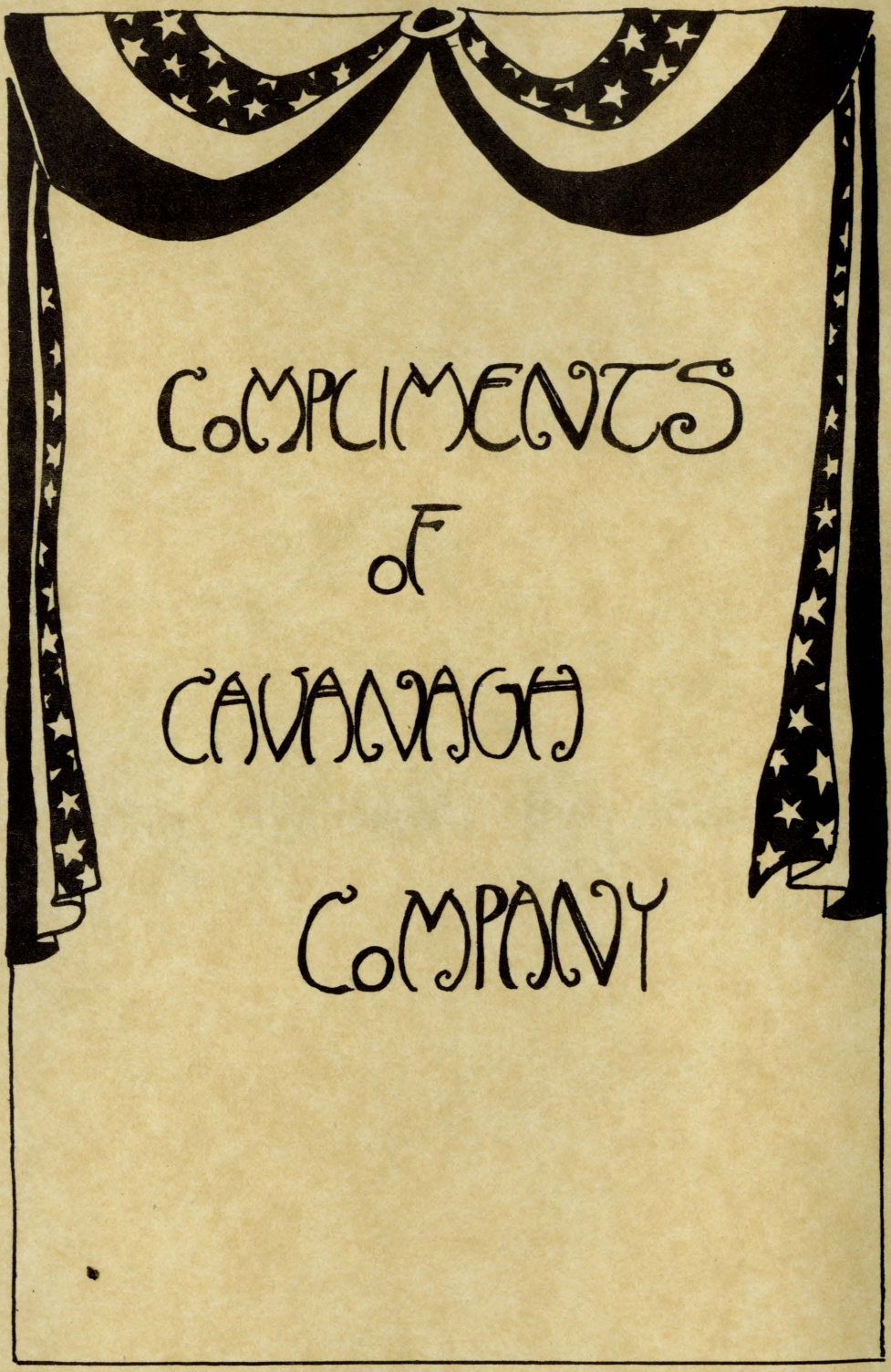
IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

nimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America,

When in the Course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to
e earth the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they
ld impel them to the separation. ——— We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator
ths, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their p
governed. — That whenever any form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new
ation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed
ency established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, w
ed themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object
evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. — Such
these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great
injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this let Facts be submitted to a c
has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good. ——— He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate
to be suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them. ——— He has refused
dation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable
them, called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them
——— He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people. ——— He has refused for
tions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative Powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining
of all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within. ——— He has endeavored to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing
of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migration hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands. ——— He has obstructed
ministering Justice, refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary Powers. ——— He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount
——— He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance. ——— He has kept among us, in times of peace, standing
armies without the Consent of our legislatures. ——— He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power. ——— He has combined with others
jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation: ——— For quartering large bodies of Armed Troops among us: ——— For protecting them, by a mock trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States: ——— For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world: ——— For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent: ——— For depriving us of the benefits of Trial by Jury: ——— For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences: ——— For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute Rule into these Colonies: ——— For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments: ——— For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever. ——— He has abdicated Government here, withdrawing his Governors, declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us. ——— He has plundered our Seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people. ——— He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation. ——— He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands. ——— He has excited domestic insurrections among us, and has endeavored to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions. ——— In every stage of these Oppressions We have petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people. ——— Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends. ———

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our
by authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be, Free and Independent
from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and
ent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent
And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortu




COMPLIMENTS
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PROVIDENCE COLLEGE

THEATRE ARTS & MUSIC PROGRAMS

PRESENT

1776

Music and Lyrics by
Sherman Edwards

Book by
Peter Stone

Directed by
John Garrity

Vocal Direction by
James Ascoli

Choreographed by
Ann Carr

Music Conducted by
John Swoboda

Lighting Designed by
Brian Trainor

Set Designed by
John Garrity

Produced by Special Arrangement with
Music Theatre International

CAST

Benjamin Franklin.....Fr. Cunningham
John Adams.....William Dennis
John Dickinson.....Peter Thomson
Thomas Jefferson.....John O'Hurley
Edward Rutledge.....Nicholas Walker
Abigail Adams.....Angela Dias
Martha Jefferson.....Patricia White
John Hancock.....Arthur DeCaprio
Stephen Hopkins.....David Wilson
Richard Henry Lee.....Joseph Coughlin
Charles Thomson.....Robert Perry
Roger Sherman.....Joseph Capetta
James Wilson.....Andy Bourgeois
Col. Thomas McKean.....Thom Joaquin
Joseph Hewes.....Jerome McGovern
Leather Apron.....Jeff Doran
Courier.....Dan Foster
Rev. Jonathan Witherspoon.....Tom Duncavage
George Read.....Dom Diglio
Samuel Chase.....Arthur Costigan
Dr. Lyman Hall.....James Ascoli
Andrew McNair.....Al Belieu
Dr. Josiah Bartlett.....Mike Lyons
Lewis Morris.....Joe Menino
Robert Livingston.....Tim Donovan
Caesar Rodney.....Fr. Prest

ORCHESTRA

Trumpets.....Raymond Mountain
Michael Prevost

Bass Guitar & String Bass....Greg Coughlin

Cordovox.....Gerald Grimo

Trombones.....Dan Sullivan
Tim Kononan

French Horn.....Lynn Johnson

Oboe.....Nancy Boissoneau

Flute & Piccolo.....Dawn Sprague

Clarinet.....Barry Lial

Violins.....Mary Kielbash
Marianne Jones
Mike Koshgarian

Harp.....Joanna Roth

Drums.....David Gzwiazdowski

Piano.....Ron Fournier

Assistant Conductor.....Fr. Prest

Voice Coach.....Lucien Oliver

MUSICAL NUMBERS

Scene 1:

"FOR GOD'S SAKE, JOHN, SIT DOWN".....Adams & The Congress

"PIDDLE, TWIDDLE".....Adams

"TILL THEN".....Adams & Abigail

Scene 2:

"THE LEES OF OLD VIRGINIA".....Lee, Franklin, & Adams

Scene 3:

"BUT, MR. ADAMS--".....Adams, Franklin, Jefferson, Sherman & Livingston

Scene 4:

"YOURS, YOURS, YOURS".....Adams & Abigail

"HE PLAYS THE VIOLIN"..Martha, Franklin & Adams

Scene 5:

"COOL, COOL CONSIDERATE MEN".....Dickinson & The Conservatives

"MOMMA LOOK SHARP".....Courier

Scene 6:

"THE EGG".....Franklin, Adams & Jefferson

Scene 7:

"MOLASSES TO RUM".....Rutledge

"COMPLIMENTS".....Abigail

"IS ANYBODY THERE?".....Adams, Franklin Jefferson & Thompson

PRODUCTION STAFF

Stage Manager.....Ross Malley
Assistant Stage Manager.....Lisa Callahan
Publicity Director.....Regina Lawlor

SET CONSTRUCTION

David Barbour
William Dennis
Peter Lecuyer
Arthur DeCaprio
John O'Hurley
Robert Perry
Peter Thomson

WARDROBE

Debbie Keenan
Colleen Dillon
Sharon McCarthy
Fran Freer
Kathy Barry

MAKE-UP

Eileen Rausch
Tracy Quirk
Linda Staley

PROPERTIES

Mary Lou Mayce
Lisa Paradis

LIGHTING

Peter Lecuyer
Mary Beth White
Joseph Coughlin
Debbie Colozzi

PUBLICITY

Mary Maguire
Patricia White
Dan Foster
Michael Thomas

HOUSE

Deborah Iacono
Denise Levesque
Maureen Gilbride
Lynn Rhude
Rosemary DePetro
Christine Lynch
Patricia McDonald
David Barbour
Sue Gibeault

NOTE ON THE PLAY

"1776" is a completely original landmark which is bound to influence the American musical for years to come. What authors Sherman Edwards and Peter Stone have done is to take a familiar moment in history and turn it into an intensely moving, wonderfully human drama--and they've done it by using the same historical facts which most of us skipped over hurridly on our way through U.S. history.

In their notes accompanying the script, the authors assure us that the "1776" story is true; that the events and characters, and even many of the lines, are drawn from journals and diaries, the letters and newspaper accounts of the day. Thomas Jefferson did give the weather report each day (and spoke very little during the sessions) and he did play the violin. Adams did describe himself as "obnoxious and disliked", and he did foresee the celebration of July 4th marked by fireworks, parades and speeches ("Is Anybody There?"). Abigail did ask him to write "with sentimental effusion" as she remained in Massachusetts to raise the children, tend to the farm--and make saltpetre. Dickinson did lead the fight against independence, and Rutledge did argue for states' rights.

Of course, some of the characters and events were left out, and a few events (such as the signing itself) were altered for the sake of dramatic effect. But "1776" is our history, our common heritage. The Providence College Theatre Arts Program is proud to share this joyful experience with you.

THE PLACE

A single setting representing the Chamber and an Anteroom of the Continental Congress, a Mall, High Street, and Thomas Jefferson's Room, in Philadelphia; and certain reaches of John Adams' mind.

THE TIME

May, June, and July, 1776

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There will be one ten-minute intermission.

Smoking and the taking of pictures are not permitted in the theatre.

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Mrs. Martha Valois

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Miss Janet E. Thomas

Mr. Edward Joseph '67

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1776-1976

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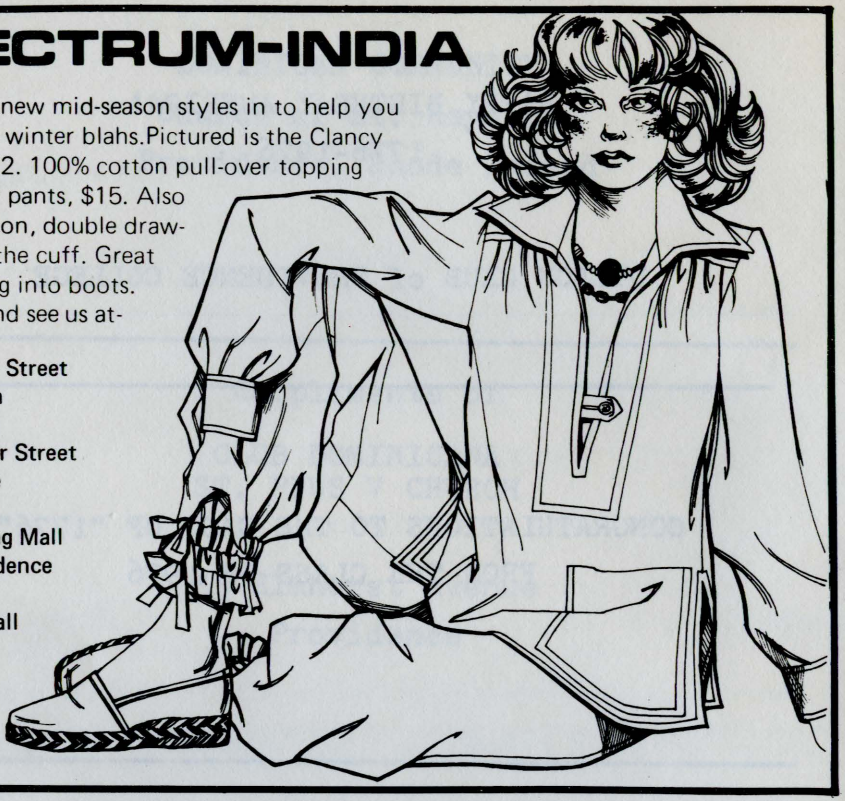

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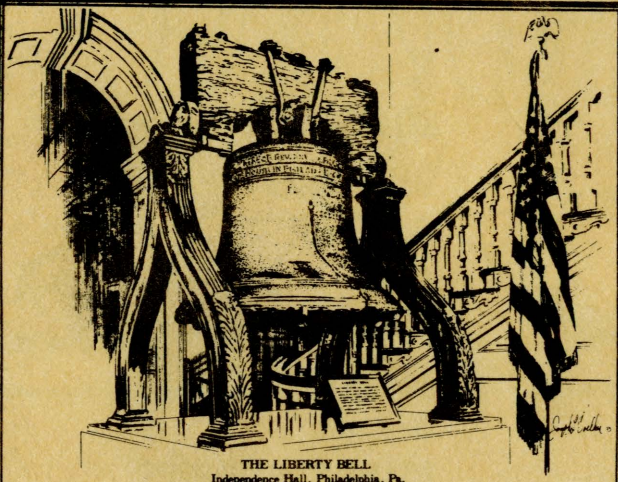
We are proud to assist the Theatre Arts Department in bringing you their bicentennial production of "1776".



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Independence Hall, Philadelphia, Pa.

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Leviticus 25:10