Audition Prep Instructions

Camdenlightopera 1776

Music and Lyrics by Sherman Edwards
Book by Peter Stone

Directed by Shannon Elliott
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Audition dates times location

Monday, June 15 at 6:00 PM
Wednesday, June 17 at 6:00 PM
John St Methodist Church
98 John St, Camden, ME 04843.
Sanctuary

Before auditions

We strongly encourage all auditioners to watch the film version of 1776 before attending auditions. Links to reference materials, audition music, and audition sides are provided below.

Please bring

- Completed audition form
- A calendar containing all known conflicts
- Optional acting résumé and headshot

Rehearsal & performance information

Rehearsals will begin Monday, June 29 at 6:00 PM @ The John St. Methodist Church in Camden.

Tentatively, Regular rehearsals will be held:

Mondays	Wednesdays
6:00 PM – 9:00 PM	6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

- A detailed rehearsal schedule will be distributed following casting and the first read-through.
- Additional rehearsals may occasionally be scheduled due to production needs, cancellations, or unforeseen circumstances.
- Principal performers may be called for Sunday afternoon rehearsals when necessary.
- Every scheduling effort will be made to accommodate those driving distances, and those with extenuating circumstances.
- Not all performers will be required at every rehearsal.
- Community theatre is a team effort. By accepting a role, performers agree to make rehearsals and performances a priority throughout the production process.
- If you know you will miss more than three rehearsals, a significant portion of technical week, or a scheduled performance, we respectfully ask that you reconsider auditioning for this production.

Performance dates

September 25, 26, 27 October 2, 3, 4 Dress September 24

Tentative rehearsal schedule

DATES	SCENES SCHEDULE	CAST NEEDED
M,W June 15, 17	Auditions	
M June 22	Callbacks and specials	
M June 29	Production Orient/Table read	FULL CAST
W July 1	Music Orient / Company Sing Through	FULL CAST
M, W JULY -SEPT	tbd	tbd
TECH WEEK		
T 9/22	Load in / Evening rehearsal	FULL CAST
W 9/23	Evening rehearsal	FULL CAST
TH 9/24	Dress rehearsal	FULL CAST
FSS 9/25-27 10/2-4	Shows	FULL CAST
TH Oct 1	Brush-up and Potluck	FULL CAST

What to prepare

Everything needed for auditions can be found through the info provided at the end of this packet.

Singing roles

Most characters sing as part of the ensemble. Several characters also have featured solos.

All auditioners will sing "Sit Down, John" together as a group.

Auditioners for singing roles should additionally prepare ONE selection from the following list:

- Cool Considerate Men (Dickinson)
- The Lees of Old Virginia (Lee)
- Momma, Look Sharp (Courier)
- Yours, Yours, Yours (Abigail)
- He Plays the Violin (Martha)
- Piddle,Twiddle (Adams)
- Molasses to Rum (Rutledge)
- Is Anybody There? (Adams)
- But, Mr. Adams (Sherman, Jefferson, Livingston, Franklin)

Auditioners will sing with accompaniment tracks.

All roles

Please select two or three characters that interest you and prepare the audition sides listed for those characters.

Memorization is not required, but preparation is encouraged.

Auditioners may also be asked to participate in cold readings from the script.

MONOLOGUES (Choose one option for your audition)

OPTION #1

Dickinson: Is that all England means to you, sir? Is that all the pride and affection you can muster for the nation that bore you? For the noblest, most civilized nation on the face of this planet? Well, would you have us forsake Hastings and Magna Carta, Strongbow and Lionheart, Drake and Marlborough, Tudors, Stuarts and Plantagenets? For what, sir? Well, tell me. For what? For you? Some men are patriots, like General Washington, and some are anarchists, like Mr. Paine. Some even are internationalists, like Dr. Franklin. But you, sir... You are merely an agitator, disturbing the peace, creating disorder, endangering the public welfare. And for what? Your petty little personal complaints. Your taxes are too high. Well, sir, so are mine. Come, come, Mr. Adams. If you have grievances, and I'm sure you have, our present system must provide a gentler means of redressing them short of revolution. Yes, that's what he wants. Nothing less will satisfy him. Violence, rebellion, treason. Now, Mr. Adams, are these the acts of Englishmen? (Dickinson, Scene 3)

OPTION #2

I have come to the conclusion that one useless man is called a disgrace, that two are called a law firm, and that three or more become a congress. And by God, I have had this Congress! For ten years King George and his Parliament have gulled, cullied, and diddled these Colonies with their illegal taxes — Stamp Acts, Townshend Acts, Sugar Acts, Tea Acts — and when we dared stand up like men they stopped our trade, seized our ships, blockaded our ports, burned our towns, and spilled our blood — and still this Congress won't grant any of my proposals on this Independence even so much as the courtesy of open debate! Good God, what in hell are they waiting for? (Adams, Scene 1)

OPTION #3

Rutledge: Just a moment, Mr. President.... I wonder if we might prevail upon Mr. Thomson to read again a small portion of Mr. Jefferson's declaration. The one beginning "He has waged cruel war." ...That will suffice, Mr. Thomson. I thank you, sir. Mr. Jefferson, I can't quite make out what it is you're talking about….Oh, yes. You're referring to us as slaves of the king. ...Why didn't you say so, sir? Were you trying to hide your meaning?... Just another literary license, then. ... I don't like at all, Mr. Jefferson. To us, in South Carolina, black slavery is our peculiar institution, and a cherished way of life. ... I am not concerned with the book of fate right now, Mr. Jefferson. I'm more concerned with what is written in that little paper there...Oh, really? Mr. Adams is now calling our black slaves "Americans." Are they, now?...They are here, yes, but they are not people, sir. They are property….Then see to your own wounds, Mr. Jefferson, for you are a practitioner! Are you not?...Then I'm sorry, for you've also resolved the ruination of your personal economy….

Is it really, Mr. Hopkins? Then what is that I smell floating down from the North? Could that be the aroma of hypocrisy? For who holds the other end of that filthy purse string, Mr. Adams? Our Northern brethren feeling a bit tender toward our slaves. They don't keep slaves. Oh, no. But they're willing to be considerable carriers of slaves to others. They're willing. For the shilling. Or haven't you heard, Mr. Adams? Clink, clink.(Rutledge, Scene 7)

OPTION #4

Thomson: "From the Commander, army of the United Colonies in New York, dispatch number 1, 157, to the Honorable Congress, John Hancock, president. Dear sir, it is with the utmost despair that I must report to you the disorder and confusion that reign in every department."

(McNair: Oh, sweet Jesus!)

Thomson: "The Continental soldier is as nothing ever seen in this or any other century. He is a misfit, ignorant of hygiene, destructive, disorderly and totally disrespectful of rank. Only this last is understandable, as there is an incredible reek of stupidity amongst the officers. The situation is most desperate at the New Jersey training ground in New Brunswick where every able-bodied whore in the...Whore? "In the colonies has assembled. There are constant reports of drunkenness, desertion, foul language, naked bathing in the Raritan River, and an epidemic of the French disease. I have placed this town off-limits to all military personnel with the exception of officers. I beseech the Congress to dispatch the War Committee to this place in the hope of restoring some of the order and discipline we need to survive. Your obedient, G. Washington."