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Western Wyoming Community College & The Benjamin Foundation

Presents

First Freedom



A One-Act Version of the full length musical

Script and Lyrics Written by Rob Lauer

Music by Sam Cardon

Directed by Jamie Young

Monday, July 2nd: 12:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m., 7:15 p.m. & 9:00 p.m.

Tuesday, July 3rd: 5:00p.m., 7:00 p.m. & 9:00 p.m.

Wednesday, July 4th: 12:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m. & 4:00 p.m.

A Message from the Producer



You are about to have an extraordinary experience. First Freedom depicts the practically unknown story of a world-changing event. In 1786 James Madison facilitated the passage of Thomas Jefferson's bill for establishing religious freedom in Virginia, the first legislative act in the history of man to do so.

First Freedom is the work of four years. We have the finest playwright, director, and composer we could find. We enlisted a Board of Advisors consisting of theatre artists, authors, musicians, educators and historians. We have consulted the most recognized biographers of both Madison and Jefferson. First Freedom will rank with the best musical productions the nation has produced.

You will be seeing a one act version of a full scale musical show. The show teaches a timely and profound message. We hope you will be moved, exhilarated, and amazed and that you will want to know more. There is no doubt you will leave singing the music. You will want to see the entire show.

In the early nineties, I was privileged to work as an associate tour guide at Monticello, the home of Thomas Jefferson, in Charlottesville, Virginia. In the course of my studies I memorized what Jefferson had inscribed on his tombstone:

"Here was buried Thomas Jefferson
Author of the Declaration of American Independence
Of the Statute of Virginia for Religious Freedom
And Father of the University of Virginia."

Most Americans are familiar with the first accomplishment, and the third accomplishment is self-explanatory. That second achievement, however, intrigued me. I determined to become more familiar with this lesser known accomplishment, of which Jefferson was most pleased. As I studied I came to believe that this bill for establishing religious freedom was his greatest work. The bill, the first of its kind in the history of man, changed our view of the sacredness of the human heart. Written in language startling to our modern ears, it declares boldly the right to freedom of conscience for every man:

"Well aware...that Almighty God hath created the mind free, and manifested his supreme will that free it shall remain...[and] civil as well as ecclesiastical rulers who, being themselves but fallible and uninspired men, have assumed dominion over the faith of others...and have established and maintained false religions over the greatest part of the world, and through all time...

And...that truth is great and will prevail if left to herself...

We the General Assembly do enact that no man shall be compelled to frequent or support any religious worship, place, or ministry...nor shall otherwise suffer on account of his religious opinions or beliefs...and do

Support the Production of First Freedom

We need two million dollars to mount a full scale professional production. You may help First Freedom Productions succeed in four different ways:

- (1) Make a fully **tax-deductible donation** to First Freedom Productions, a 501©3 organization. First Freedom Productions will use your donation to invest in the production, thus becoming not only a designated beneficiary of the profits of the show, but also an investor in the show. All income First Freedom Productions receives from the profits of the show will be used to further the goal of educating and entertaining the widest possible audience about our religious freedom. We plan resident performing companies in entertainment districts and a touring show performing at high schools, colleges, and communities across the nation.
- (2) Invest in First Freedom, the production itself, by providing **seed money** as a Contributing Member of the Limited Liability Company dedicated to producing a Broadway caliber production of the show.
- (3) Invest in First Freedom, the production itself, by providing **capital** as a Contributing Member of the Limited Liability Company dedicated to producing a Broadway caliber production of the show. This investment money will remain in escrow until full capitalization is reached.
- (4) Support First Freedom with a **sponsorship**. You may wish to associate your name or your company's name with our production. This may be accomplished in many creative ways so case-by-case arrangements will be made.

You may receive a pledge card or receive more information about these opportunities by contacting us:

By mail:	First Freedom Productions 2955 Earlysville Road Earlysville, VA 22936
By telephone:	434-973-8407
Via email:	larrysidwell@comcast.net
Website	firstfreedomproductions.com

If you are interested a representative will meet with you to present our business plan.

Larry W. Sidwell, Chairman
First Freedom Productions, Inc.



Director/Producer—Jamie Young Jamie Young is the Director and Associate Professor of Musical Theatre at Western Wyoming College. He has taught and produced theatre at College of The Albemarle in North Carolina, and the University of Idaho. He holds a Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of Idaho and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Weber State University. He also studied musical theatre at Ricks College. Jamie has produced, directed, choreographed, designed, written or performed in more than 90 professional and academic productions. As founder of Better World Entertainment, LLC his goal is to provide wholesome performing arts opportunities to audiences and performers. He especially enjoys working on shows that cause people to think about their lives and make positive changes. Jamie, his wife Kari and their five children reside in Green River, WY.

Jamie: *Our show has a message about making choices, and about the power and the freedom of being able to choose. Once people are given that choice and once truth is “left to itself,” it “will prevail.” And I believe that is why this show is so important—so that we can protect our right to choose—so that truth will prevail. We are thrilled with the response that our show has received from the actors and from the audiences. We believe we are really on to something here.*



Playwright/Lyricist—Rob. Lauer Rob. Lauer is an award-winning playwright and director. His first play Digger won the 1982 Mayhew Award, was later produced to critical acclaim and published in 1988. In 1990 he became the first playwright to win both the Best Play of the Year Award (for his satire Tom and Penny’s Yard Party) and the Paul T. Nolan Award (for his urban drama The Church Street Fantasy) at the Deep South Writers conference. He was the founder the Olde Theatre Company in Virginia. He served as Artistic Director, directing and designing over 20 productions of classic American plays, musicals and original new works. In 1988, his production of Sunday in the Park with George won three Portfolio Awards—including best show of the year. In 2000, “Portfolio” magazine chose Sunday in the Park as one of the ten best shows produced in southeastern Virginia in over fifteen years. As Artistic Director of Sail Productions in New York City, he wrote, directed and designed three annual national tours of new family-oriented musicals, including the authorized stage version of The Hundred and One

Dalmatians. As Production manager and head writer of MGA Films, Inc. in Colorado, he worked as researcher and head writer of the award-winning film “Terror from Within”—an investigative documentary on the Oklahoma City Bombing. He also wrote and directed the documentary “Fear No Evil”—an exploration of the lives of the survivors of the bombing. He also wrote the treatment for the upcoming film, “The Great Dane Thor.” As Artistic Director of the State of Georgia’s “official folk-life play,” the nationally renowned Swamp Gravy in Colquitt, Georgia, he founded and served as Artistic Director of a professional theatrical company at the Cotton Hall Theatre. Rob directed productions of Smoke on the Mountain, wrote and directed a new version of Huckleberry Finn, and for three years directed his critically acclaimed musical A Southern Christmas Carol.

Rob: *The main debate that we dramatize in First Freedom, which existed between the founding fathers, was on the purpose of government. There were those who believed then as now that it was the purpose of government to see that the people were virtuous and that if people were virtuous, liberty would be maintained. There were others who believed that the purpose of government was to protect the rights and liberty of the individual. They believe that if the laws were rational that in the end people would choose to be virtuous on their own accord. And so the debate was whether to have a state church, state sanctioned religion, state supported religion, or no religion whatsoever. The battle was won over 200 years ago and it was that liberty and rights should be defended by a completely secular government. In that way people would be completely free without government interference to pursue their own religious convictions and beliefs.*



Composer—Sam Cardon Sam Cardon is an Emmy winning composer whose credits include over 30 feature films, 12 IMAX films (including 2 of the top 10 grossing IMAX films of all time) 2 chart topping jazz albums, award winning national advertising campaigns, 3 full scale musicals and music for the 1988 and 2002 Olympic Winter Games. He has worked extensively in multi-cultural musical exchanges traveling to Africa, India, Europe and many regional areas in the United States in collaborations with ethnic, blues, jazz, bluegrass, rhythm and blues and world musicians. He has performed/recorded with the San Francisco Symphony, The National Symphony (Washington, D.C.), The Seattle Symphony, Czech Philharmonic, Utah Symphony and the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. He has worked with Kennedy/Marshall, Columbia-Tri Star, Buena Vista and other Hollywood production companies and has a long relationship with National Geographic, scoring all but one of the latter’s large format films. Cardon counts among the highlights of his career, music for the Closing Ceremonies of the Salt Lake City

Olympic Winter Games. He has produced national campaigns for NBC, CBS, ABC and FOX and has many television themes to his credit. He is equally at home in front of a symphony orchestra, a jazz big band or a group of ethnic musicians.

Sam: *Many of you are familiar with the Michelangelo story. His success couldn’t have happened without the Medici family. Florence, a little tiny town of 100,000 people at the most became the birth place for Michelangelo, Botticelli, Leonardo da Vinci, even Machiavelli. There was just an extraordinary outpouring of creative art that changed the world. It was the result of the passion of these artists, and those patrons who were passionate about the same thing. The patrons enabled those artists to be able pursue their dreams. So we had magical world changing events happen all at the same time in this little tiny place. What is to prevent that from happening now? We need the same combination of passionate artists and passionate patrons who feel strongly about supporting something that literally can change the world. We are dealing with a topic here in First Freedom that has the power to do that. Those who see this play will recognize immediately that there is a resonance of truth to it and there is a power to it that is really important in our day and the issues are as pertinent now as they were in 1776. So I really do hope that we will find those people out there who are passionate to get this message out there. I promise that the artists will work as hard as we possibly can to make this a world class event when it does come out.*

declare that the rights hereby asserted are the natural rights of all mankind...” [Excerpts: A Bill for Establishing Religious Freedom, Thomas Jefferson, 1786]

The passage of this bill was followed by the passage of the First Amendment to the Constitution in 1791, forever insuring that the new United States would not establish a state church nor discriminate against anyone on account of their religious beliefs.

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of Religion nor prohibiting the free exercise thereof...” [1st Amendment, Constitution of the United States 1791]

The other new states, over a period of about 40 years, disestablished their state churches.

And the result? In American over 2300 independent religious sects, congregations, or churches worship together in peace, while throughout the world, religious wars still rage.

I believe that the audiences who see “First Freedom” will leave the theatre with a sense of the precious gift our forefathers gave us, an expanded understanding of what is meant by religious freedom, and a new awareness of how important it is to protect and defend this first of all freedoms.

First Freedom has not followed the traditional route of most Broadway plays. It has been conceived and produced by those who are passionate about its message. We need help to finish the job. This play is ready to be produced professionally. We believe it will be warmly received. We are tentatively scheduled to return to the new Provo Art Center Theatre for a full month’s performance of our full-length version of the show with a full size cast. Elsewhere in this playbill you will find the opportunity help us in our quest to raise the funds to accomplish these goals.

We are indeed grateful to The Benjamin Foundation and Western Wyoming College for their contributions that have made our participation in the Colonial Days events here at the Freedom Festival.

Enjoy the show!

*Larry Sidwell
Chairman, First Freedom Productions
A 501©3 non-profit corporation*

Cast of Characters

James Madison.....Jonathan David Hansen
of South Jordan, UT
Patrick Henry & Constable.....Sheldon Baxter
of Bassona, Alberta, Canada
Thomas Jefferson & Reverend Leland.....Samuel West
of Green River, WY
Reverend Wallace, Patriot & Presiding Officer.....Travis Wright
of American Fork, UT
Dr. DeWitt & Mr. Nicholas.....Jon Thomas
of Riverton, UT
Jenny.....Ami R. Abram
of Orem, UT
Nelly Madison & Lady Liberty.....Anna V. Lloyd
of Draper, UT

Many of the cast members will also play the parts of towns-
people, delegates, and patriots.

Production Team

Business Manager

Jared Sidwell

Lighting Design

Jamie Young

Scenic Design

Amy Critchfield

Sound Engineer

Brent Harvey

Pro Theater Systems LLC

Costume Design

Rob Lauer

Music Direction/Vocal

Arrangements

Rick Rea

Special Thanks to the following for their tremendous help with this production:
Kathy Pilling, Sherril Hart, Sandra Banks, Elaine Hymas, Jessica Heeder, Joey West,
Kara Kelsey, Jarom Young, Karissa Young, Bethannie Nielsen, WWCC Print Shop,
Brent Innes, USU Theatre Department, Hutch's Home Furnishings of 50 E. Main
Street, Lehi, Ryan Haderlie, James Gardner, SCERA Theatre, Jak Lundquist, Rex
Lowell, and Shantel Fuja.

Scene Synopsis

Scene 1 – Various Locations throughout Virginia

“I’ve Something to Tell the World”.....Ensemble

“Good News”.....Leland

“Marry Me Today”.....Jenny

Scene 2 – A Street in Williamsburg, VA & Patrick Henry’s Study

“Resolved”.....Ensemble

“Sons of Thunder”.....Henry & Madison

Scene 3 – Various Locations throughout Virginia

“What’s Next?”.....Ensemble

Scene 4 – The Capital Building in Williamsburg, VA

“It Does No Harm to Me”.....Jefferson, Madison, Henry

Scene 5 – The Capital Building & a Quiet Place Close By

“Unbowed”.....Jenny

Scene 6 – The Capital Building & the Battle Field

“Unbowed Reprise”.....Ensemble

Scene 7 – A Street in Williamsburg, VA

“If the Lady is to Stay”.....Jefferson, Henry, & Ensemble

Scene 8 – A Street in Williamsburg, VA

“Saving Souls Isn’t Easy”.....DeWitt & Wallace

Scene 9 – Patrick Henry’s Study

“Saving Souls Isn’t Easy Reprise”...Dewitt, Wallace, Henry

Scene 10 – Thomas Jefferson’s Study

Scene 11 – A Tavern in Williamsburg

“Faith Led Me Home”.....Patriot

Scene 12 – James Madison’s Home

“Resolved Reprise”.....Nelly

Scene 13 – Various Locations throughout Virginia

“Intrigue”.....Ensemble

Scene 14 – The Capital Building in Williamsburg, VA

Scene 15 – In Front of the Capital in Williamsburg, VA

“Stay True to the Light”.....Madison, Nelly, Jenny, Leland

“Unbowed Finale”.....Henry, Madison, & Ensemble