

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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A Revolutionary Spin on History Takes Center Stage with *1776* at Starlight Theatre



1776 will play July 25-30 as part of the 2023 AdventHealth Broadway Series.

Photo by Evan Zimmerman for MurphyMade.

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Prepare to party like it’s *1776* with a witty retelling of our founding fathers stories and how our great nation came to be! This production was developed and premiered by the American Repertory Theater at Harvard University before playing on Broadway with Roundabout Theatre Company at the American Airlines Theatre. The national tour of *1776* will make limited engagement stops at major cities across North America including its premiere in Kansas City at Starlight Theatre July 25-30.

“*1776* is a perfect example of the creativity and originality that is so abundant in the arts community,” Lindsey Rood-Clifford, Starlight’s President + C.E.O. said. “This show puts a spin on history we are all familiar with, and provides an element of entertainment and ingenuity these stories have never seen before!”

About This Production

The Tony Award-winning Best Musical *1776* has catapulted to blazing new life in a thrillingly new production, and *New York Magazine/Vulture* says, “it’s an absolute blast!” Suddenly, the songs, humor, and passion of this musical masterpiece soar as never before. A glorious multiracial cast of female, transgender, and nonbinary actors portrays the fiery founders of this country, putting history in the hands of the humans who were left out the first time around—and the result is an epic show of passion, debate, and roof-raising musical fireworks. Experience “a *1776* worth celebrating!” (*Variety*) “It pulsates with energy and snaps with attitude.”

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About The Cast

The 1776 company includes **Shelby Acosta** (she/her) as ‘Sec. Charles Thomson,’ **Gisela Adisa** (she/her) as ‘John Adams,’ **Nancy Anderson** (she/her) as ‘Thomas Jefferson,’ **Tiffani Barbour** (she/her) as ‘Andrew McNair,’ **Dawn Cantwell** (she/her) as ‘Col. Thomas McKean,’ **Julie Cardia** (she/her) as ‘Stephen Hopkins,’ **Amanda Dayhoff** (she/her) as a Standby, **Sara Gallo** (she/her) as a Standby, **Joanna Glushak** (she/her) as ‘John Dickinson,’ **Anissa Marie Griego** (she/her) as ‘Roger Sherman,’ **Kassandra Haddock** (she/her) as ‘Edward Rutledge,’ **Shawna Hamic** (she/her) as ‘Richard Henry Lee,’ **Lisa Karlin** (she/her) as a Standby, **Connor Lyon** (she/her) as ‘Martha Jefferson/Dr. Lyman Hall,’ **Liz Mikel** (she/her) as ‘Benjamin Franklin,’ **Nykila Norman** (she/her) as a Standby, **Oneika Phillips** (she/her) as ‘John Hancock,’ **Lulu Picart** (she/her) as ‘Samuel Chase,’ **Kayla Saunders** (she/her) as a Standby, **Ariella Serur** (they/she) as ‘Judge James Wilson,’ **Brooke Simpson** (she/her) as ‘the Courier,’ **Sav Souza** (they/them) as ‘Dr. Josiah Bartlett,’ **Lillie Eliza Thomas** (she/her) as a Standby, **Tieisha Thomas** (she/her) as ‘Abigail Adams/Rev. Jonathan Witherspoon,’ **Jill Marie Vallery** (she/her) as ‘Caesar Rodney,’ **Gwynne Wood** (she/they) as ‘George Read,’ and **Candice Marie Woods** (they/them) as ‘Joseph Hewes.’

About The Creative Team

1776 features music and lyrics by Sherman Edwards and a book by Peter Stone. It is based on a concept by Sherman Edwards. Tony Award-winning director Diane Paulus (*Jagged Little Pill*, *Waitress*, *Pippin*) and MTV Music Video Award-winning choreographer Jeffrey L. Page (Beyoncé’s “Run the World (Girls)” video, *Memphis* in Tokyo; *Violet* starring Sutton Foster at Roundabout Theatre Company) direct the production.

The 1776 design team includes Tony Award-winning Scenic Designer Scott Pask (*Waitress*, *Finding Neverland*, *Pippin*); Tony Award-nominated Costume Designer Emilio Sosa (*The Gershwins’ Porgy and Bess*); Lighting Designer Jennifer Schriever (*In the Body of the World* at A.R.T./New York City Center; *Fingersmith* at A.R.T.); Tony Award-nominated Sound Designer Jonathan Deans (*Jagged Little Pill*, *Waitress*, *Finding Neverland* at A.R.T./Broadway; *Pippin* on Broadway) and Drama Desk Award-nominated Projection Designer David Bengali (*We Live in Cairo* at A.R.T., Associate Designer of *Witness Uganda* at A.R.T./*Invisible Thread* at Second Stage).

The 1776 music team is comprised of Music Supervisor/Music Director Ryan Cantwell (*Pippin*); Original Music Supervisor David Chase (*Finding Neverland*); Tony Award-nominated Orchestrator John Clancy (*Fun Home*; *Mean Girls*); Vocal Designer AnnMarie Milazzo (*Finding Neverland*). Casting is by Stewart/Whitley. The Associate Director is Brisa Arelis Muñoz and the Associate Choreographer is Courtney Paige Ross.

The 1776 tour stage management team is led by Production Stage Manager Genevieve Kersh with Stage Manager Chris Zaccardi and Assistant Stage Manager Sage Lumsden. The company management team is led by Company Manager Jeff Mensch with Safety Assistant Company Manager Ryan Buchholz.

This show proudly uses a non-traditional casting model called conceptual casting (or conscious casting)—when a non-white actor, female actor, or actor with a disability is cast in a role to give the play greater resonance.

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This is the second revival of *1776* from Roundabout Theatre Company. The 1997 production ran on Broadway for more than 300 performances. In 1969, *1776* even won the Tony for Best Musical! In addition to the music coming to Starlight's stage, the American Repertory Theatre commissioned a mural for this production from Artists for Humanity. The mural is entitled "We Are the People" and is currently displayed at the Plaza Branch of the Kansas City Public Library through July 30.

www.1776musical.com

Facebook, Instagram & TikTok: @1776Musical

Twitter: @Musical1776

How to Purchase Tickets:

Tickets to *1776* are on sale now and available online at kcstarlight.com, by calling (816) 363-7827, or by visiting the ticket office at 4600 Starlight Road, Kansas City, Mo., 64132. All Broadway performances begin at 8 p.m. For more information, including show content considerations, please visit kcstarlight.com.

Discount prices for groups of 10 or more are available by contacting Starlight's group sales department at 816-997-1137 or groups@kcstarlight.com. Please note that kcstarlight.com is the only official ticket source for all shows in the 2023 Broadway Series. If you purchase tickets from another website or ticket broker, we cannot guarantee those tickets are legitimate.

About Starlight

Opened as a theatre in 1950 and a nonprofit organization in 1951, Starlight is the largest and oldest performing arts organization in Kansas City, Missouri, and connects our community through live arts experiences that entertain, inspire, and engage audiences of all ages. Offering diverse programming year-round, Starlight presents Broadway musicals, concert events, and extensive community engagement programming, including classes, scholarships, and one of the largest high school musical theatre award programs in the nation. Located on 16 acres in Swope Park, the historic, city-owned venue is the second largest outdoor producing theatre in the country with almost 8,000 seats.

Follow Starlight on social media @[@kcstarlight](https://www.instagram.com/kcstarlight) and visit kcstarlight.com for more information.

Starlight is supported in part by the City of Kansas City, Missouri Neighborhood Tourist Development Fund.

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