

# Starlight

## BROADWAY

### PRESS TALKING POINTS



### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

What will it take to get two dozen powerfully passionate, exceedingly complicated, and all-too-human individuals to settle their differences, while they hold the very future of a nation in their hands? American Repertory Theater at Harvard University/Roundabout Theatre Company’s new production of the Tony Award-winning Best Musical, **1776**, catapults to blazing new life in a thrillingly new production from directors Jeffrey L. Page (*Violet*) and Diane Paulus (*Waitress*). *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 cast that reflects multiple representations of race, gender, and ethnicity 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.” You may never think about our country—who we are and why—the same way again.

### ABOUT THE STORY

- *1776* tells the familiar story of our nation’s founding in an unfamiliar but revolutionary way, taking the audience through the inner workings of the Second Continental Congress, writing of the Declaration of Independence, and other landmark events that made our country what it is today.
- In the chaos of the Congressional delegates attempting to agree upon terms for the document, the audience is given insight into the relationships of key figures like Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, and John Adams.
- The stories depicted onstage highlight the differences between these individuals while also displaying their common threads that unite them all together.

*MORE*

## ABOUT THIS PRODUCTION

- *1776* incorporates characters from the time whose voices were never seen or heard, bringing them onstage and putting their words to paper in this groundbreaking production.
  - A line from Abigail Adams’s “Remember the Ladies” letter has been added to the script, and Robert Hemings, Thomas Jefferson’s enslaved “body servant” and the brother of Sally Hemings, appears in this production as a non-speaking character.
- *1776* 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.
- *1776* won the Tony for Best Musical in 1969!
- This is the second revival of *1776* from Roundabout Theater Company. The 1997 production ran on Broadway for more than 300 performances.
- The American Repertory Theatre commissioned a mural for this production from Artists for Humanity, an organization that collaborates with teens on client jobs, that travels from city to city during the tour.
  - This mural is entitled “We Are the People” and is currently displayed at the Kansas City Plaza Library.



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