



**For Immediate Release**

**Date: August 31, 2016**

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**Virginia Repertory Theatre Opens the Signature Season with**  
***1776, the Musical***

**Starring Scott Wichmann as John Adams**

**Richmond, VA** -- Virginia Repertory Theatre announces the opening of *1776, The Musical*, at the Sara Belle and Neil November Theatre, 114 West Broad Street on Friday, September 30, 2016 with two previews on September 28 and 29. The show runs through October 23, 2016. Often referred to as "America's Musical," *1776* is a lively, funny, and momentous story of the second Continental Congress and the writing of the Declaration of Independence. Peter Stone and Sherman Edwards wrote the musical in the years leading up to America's bicentennial. It debuted on Broadway in 1969 and won the Tony Award for Best Musical.

Virginia Rep will partner with the Virginia Historical Society to provide related talkbacks and discussions throughout the run of the show. Visit [http://va-rep.org/\\_1776-november-theatre-richmond.html](http://va-rep.org/_1776-november-theatre-richmond.html) for details.

Director **Debra Clinton** is thrilled to work with such an outstanding cast. "I see *1776* as an opportunity for people to revisit the history of our country and to reflect on what brings us together as Americans. It is a very uplifting story even in the context of hard compromise." Clinton's recent credits for Virginia Rep include *The Whipping Man* and the family smash-hit *Croaker: The Frog Prince Musical*, which she co-wrote with Jason Marks. **Sandy Dacus** will serve as music director. Other music directing credits for

Virginia Rep include *The Sound of Music*, *Spring Awakening*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, and *Shrek, the Musical*.

The design team includes Virginia Rep costume director, Sue Griffin (*The Color Purple*, *Mame*, *Gypsy*) BJ Wilkinson (*Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Summer and Smoke*) on set, and set designer, Rich Mason (*Summer and Smoke* and *A Lie of the Mind* in partnership with Cadence Theatre Company).

**Scott Wichmann** is fulfilling a lifelong dream of playing John Adams in *1776*. "I have been waiting all my life for this role. Doing *1776* is like playing for the Red Sox." Wichmann, well-known for his skillful embodiment of a wide range of roles, most recently tackled the one-man show *This Wonderful Life* for the second time at Hanover Tavern. Other recent credits include Black Stache in last fall's *Peter and The Starcatcher*, *Last of the Red Hot Lovers*, *Say Goodnight Gracie*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, and *The Producers*. Wichmann also played John Adams in the recent TV series, *Legends and Lies*.

Other leads include **Jason Marks** (*The Producers* and *Shrek* for Virginia Rep) as Benjamin Franklin and **Landon Nagel** (*They're Playing Our Song* and *Treasure Island* for Virginia Rep) as Thomas Jefferson. Other key roles include **Alexander Sapp** (*Summer and Smoke*, *Croaker*) as Edward Rutledge, **Jody Ashworth** (*Mame*, *The Producers*) as John Dickinson, **Matthew Costello** (*Saturday*, *Sunday*, *Monday* and *Nightblooms*) as Stephen Hopkins, **Michael Hawke** (*The Producers* and *Sound of Music*) as John Hancock, **Christie Jackson** (*Gypsy*, *Croaker*) as Martha Jefferson, **Sarah Kate Walston** as Abigail Adams, and **Bryant Pugh** in his Virginia Rep debut as Richard Henry Lee. The full cast list is below.

### **Ticket Information**

Box Office 804-282-2620

[www.virginiarep.org](http://www.virginiarep.org)

Full Price Tickets: \$48 - \$60.

Discounted Group Rates and Rush tickets available.

U-Tix for college and high school students \$15. Available by phone or in person day of show only. Student ID required.

### **New Free Ticket Programming**

Virginia Rep is launching two new free ticket programs this fall. The Free-view Lottery will provide 50 free tickets through a lottery system on the first Wednesday Preview of all Signature shows. The Community Tickets Grant Program creates a process for

nonprofit organizations to apply for up to 50 free tickets for the groups they serve who may not otherwise have the ability to attend a show. More information at [www.virginiarep.org](http://www.virginiarep.org).

The Sara Belle and Neil November Theatre is equipped with a state-of-the-art induction loop hearing system that is compatible with all telecoil-equipped hearing aids and cochlear implants. A handheld receiver and headphone system is also available free of charge for anyone who is hearing impaired.

Valet parking is available for \$8 at all performances and free self-park is available for patrons within blocks of the theatre.

Press Kits Available at <http://va-rep.org/press.html>

Pass code accessible Hi Res photos available to media.

username = press password = HiRes121

Evening performances at 8:00 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and 7:00 p.m. on Thursdays and select Wednesdays

Matinee performances at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday and select Wednesdays and Saturdays

### **Direction & Design**

Director **Debra Clinton**

Music Director **Sandy Dacus**

Scenic Designer **Rich Mason**

Lighting Designer **BJ Wilkinson**

Costume Designer **Sue Griffin**

Stage Manager **Laura Hicks**

### **Cast List**

John Adams **Scott Wichmann\***

Benjamin Franklin **Jason Marks\***

Thomas Jefferson **Landon Nagel\***

Edward Rutledge **Alexander Sapp\***

John Dickinson **Jody Ashworth\***

Richard Henry Lee **Bryant Pugh**

John Hancock **Michael Hawke**

Courier **Keaton Hillman**

Stephen Hopkins **Matthew Costello\***

Robert Livingston **Richard Travis**

Dr. Josiah Bartlett **Joshua Bromfield**

Thomas McKean **Andrew Boothby**  
Charles Thomson **Ford Flannagan**  
Roger Sherman **Ian Page**  
Rev. John Witherspoon **Steve Travers**  
James Wilson **Eddie Webster**  
Joseph Hewes **Craig Smith**  
Dr. Lyman Hall **Trevor Worden**  
Lewis Morris **Joshua Daniels**  
Samuel Chase **Patrick Coleburn**  
Andrew McNair **Lucas Hall**  
George Read **John Winn**  
Caesar Rodney **Neil Sonenklar**  
Leather Apron **Cameron Leipold**  
Abigail Adams **Sarah Walston**  
Martha Jefferson **Christie Jackson**

\* Member of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the U.S.A.

Full bios can be found at [www.virginiarep.org](http://www.virginiarep.org).

### **About Virginia Repertory Theatre**

Virginia Repertory Theatre is the regional professional theatre in Richmond, Virginia. With a budget of \$5 million, four distinct venues, an educational touring arm, and an annual audience over 530,000, Virginia Rep is one of the largest performing arts organizations in Central Virginia. Virginia Rep stages four seasons annually: the Signature Season at the Sara Belle and Neil November Theatre, Theatre Gym Season in partnership with Cadence Theatre Company, Virginia Rep's Children's Season at Willow Lawn, and the Hanover Tavern Season.

### **Corporate Sponsors**

Virginia Rep is grateful for the following support from Altria, The E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation, The Shubert Foundation, The Virginia Commission for the Arts, the Nationals Endowment for the Arts, and the Richmond Times-Dispatch.