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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**January 13, 2026**

## **Ford's Theatre Announces Cast and Creatives of 1776**

**Music & Lyrics by Sherman Edwards**

**Book by Peter Stone**

**Music Direction by Clay Ostwald**

**Directed and Choreographed by Luis Salgado**

**Performances are March 13-May 16, 2026**

**[Tickets Now on Sale](#)**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**— Ford's Theatre Director Paul R. Tetreault announced today the cast and creative team for *1776*, the Tony Award-winning musical that brings to life the debates surrounding the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The production will be presented on Ford's historic stage during a milestone year as the nation commemorates its 250th birthday.

“There is no more fitting moment to welcome *1776* to our stage,” said Tetreault. “This production is for all Americans. Two hundred and fifty years later, the story of our founding is a reminder that this history belongs to all of us. The musical captures the courage, conflict and conviction at the heart of America’s early history—core themes that align deeply with Ford’s Theatre’s commitment to exploring history through powerful storytelling.”

1776 offers a witty, incisive look at the people behind the nation's founding, exploring the fierce disagreements, fragile alliances and bold ideals that shaped American democracy. With humor and urgency, the musical reminds audiences that independence was not inevitable—it was debated, fought for and ultimately decided by imperfect individuals grappling with extraordinary responsibility.

Thank you to our 2025-2026 Season Sponsors: **Chevron, Intuit and Lockheed Martin Corporation.** 1776 is generously supported by Lead Sponsors: **ConocoPhillips** and **Edward Jones**, as well as the following Sponsors: **Boeing, The Home Depot, KPMG LLP, Meta, Michael R. Hemmerich and Siemens Corporation.** This project is supported in part by the **National Endowment for the Arts.**

### Creative Team

**Luis Salgado** (Director/Choreographer): Broadway: *In The Heights; Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown; ROCKY; On Your Feet!.* National Tour: *On Your Feet! The Musical—The Story of Emilio & Gloria Estefan.* Regional: Stages: *Aida; In The Heights;* GALA Hispanic: *On Your Feet! La historia de Emilio y Gloria Estefan ;EN ESPAÑOL!; In The Heights* (Helen Hayes Award Winner); *Transcendence: Let's Dance.* Film & TV credits: *American Gangster, Dirty Dancing 2: Havana Nights, Enchanted, and Step Up 2: The Streets (Alejandro),* for which he also was assistant choreographer.

**Clay Ostwald** (Music Director): Broadway, USA Tour, London West End: *On Your Feet!* (Asst. MD, MD and Supervisor); *Once Upon a One More Time* (Keyboards). Regional: *Jersey Boys, Hunter S. Thompson Musical, Back to the Future and Little Shop of Horrors.* Producer, keyboardist and musical director for Gloria and Miami Sound Machine. American Music Award recipient and Grammy nominee for Producer of the Year.

### The Cast and Musicians

The cast of 1776 includes **Jonathan Atkinson** as John Adams of Massachusetts; **Peter Boyer** as Joseph Hewes of North Carolina; **Evan Casey** as John Dickinson of Pennsylvania; **Ricky DeVon Hall** as a Leather Apron; **John Floyd** as Charles Thomson, Congressional Secretary; **Jay Frisby** as James Wilson of Pennsylvania; **Steve Lebens** as Caesar Rodney of Delaware; **Jake Loewenthal** as Thomas Jefferson of Virginia; **Joe Mallon** as Edward Rutledge of South Carolina; **Buzz Mauro** as George Read of Delaware; **Jimmy Mavrikes** as Robert Livingston of New York; **Keenan McCarter** as Roger Sherman of Connecticut; **Christopher Mueller** as Lewis Morris of New York; **Justine "Icy" Moral** as Martha Jefferson; **Michael Perrie, Jr.** as Richard Henry Lee of Virginia; **Lawrence Redmond** as Andrew McNair, Congressional Custodian; **Keith Richards** as Dr. Josiah Bartlett of New Hampshire; **Hunter Ringsmith** as the Courier; **Stephen F. Schmidt** as

Stephen Hopkins of Rhode Island; **Thomas Adrian Simpson** as John Hancock, President; **Tom Story** as Dr. Lyman Hall of Georgia; **Derrick D. Truby Jr.** as Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania; **Greg Twomey** as Colonel Thomas McKean of Delaware; **Douglas Ullman Jr.** as Reverend John Witherspoon of New Jersey; **Wood Van Meter** as Samuel Chase of Maryland; and **Kanysha Williams** as Abigail Adams.

Swings include **Quadry Brown, Ian Charles** and **Brendon Schaefer**.

**Clay Ostwald** will conduct a band that includes **Manny Arciniega, Ben Bokor, Carroll “CV” Dashiell III, Jacob Kidder, Kyung LeBlanc, Kenny Rittenhouse** and **Eliot Seppa**.

### **The Designers**

The creative team includes Scenic Designer **Milagros Ponce de León** (Ford's: *Into the Woods, Ragtime*), Costume Designer **Ivania Stack** (Ford's: *Sister Act, Silent Sky*), Lighting Designer **Venus Gulbranson** (Ford's debut), Sound Designer **David Budries** (Ford's: *Sister Act, Little Shop of Horrors*) Projection Designer **Clint Allen** (Ford's: *My Lord, What a Night, Into the Woods*), Wig and Make-up Designer **Kelley Jordan** (Ford's: *Sister Act*), Orchestrator **Daniel Gutierrez** (Ford's debut) and Dialects and Voice Director **Rachel Hirshorn-Johnston** (Ford's: *A Christmas Carol, Sister Act*).

**Craig A. Horness** is the production stage manager, with **Taryn Friend, Julia Singer** and **Jessica Hagy** serving as assistant stage managers.

### **Accessibility and Special Performances**

At Ford's Theatre, we are committed to ensuring visitors of all abilities can experience the performances, exhibits, history and programs our site has to offer. **Audio-described performances** of *1776* are scheduled for **April 9 at 7 p.m. and May 2 at 1 p.m.** **ASL sign-interpreted performances** are scheduled for **April 16 at 7 p.m. and May 9 at 1 p.m.** A **sensory-friendly performance** is scheduled for **April 25 at 1 p.m.** Our sensory-friendly experiences are intended for those who might benefit from a relaxed theatrical environment, including individuals with autism or other social, learning or cognitive disabilities.

Beginning **March 13**, all performances will be captioned via the GalaPro Free Closed Captioning Mobile App. GalaPro is available from the App Store or Google Play and allows patrons to access captioning on demand through their phone or tablet device. Patrons can set their phones to airplane mode and connect to the local GalaPro WiFi network before the performance begins. More information at [fords.org/visit-us/plan-yourvisit/accessibility/galapro-captioning](http://fords.org/visit-us/plan-yourvisit/accessibility/galapro-captioning).

**Free First Preview:**

**March 13, 2026, at 7:30 p.m.**

Ford's Theatre partners with TodayTix to give out free tickets for the first performance of each mainstage production in our theatrical season. Tickets are available via the TodayTix app, beginning **10 a.m. ET on Monday, March 2** until **Friday, March 6** for the **March 13, 7:30 p.m.** performance of 1776.

## **Ford's Education Events**

### **New Classroom Resources to Teach America @250**

Ford's Theatre Education is excited to share brand-new classroom activities and lessons in celebration of America's 250th! These activities invite students to learn about the Declaration of Independence and the Gettysburg Address to explore the meaning of freedom, America's birthday and how leaders like Lincoln and Douglass talked about the Fourth of July.

Individually tailored for elementary, middle and high school classrooms, these materials come in a customizable Google Slides format that teachers can share directly with students or integrate into your preferred learning platform.

The new lesson plans will go live on our [Education Resources page](#) on **January 22, 2026**.

### **Student Matinee and Teacher Preview Workshop**

The Teacher Preview Workshop for 1776 will be on **March 13 at 5 p.m.** [Learn more and register here.](#)

Anchored on the theme **Collaboration, Ensemble and Democracy**, during the workshop, classrooms will discover how the ensemble dynamics in 1776 serve as artistic representations of democratic collaboration. What if students didn't just learn history—but were its architects? In this interactive workshop, teachers will experience a lesson that gets students looking closely, thinking critically, and writing with intention. With primary sources as their inspiration, students will work together to craft a new work that lends their unique voice to interpreting history.

Ford's Theatre also offers weekday student matinees paired with educator lesson plans that deepen students' understanding of theatre arts and the American experience. Our productions connect directly to classroom learning and invite students to see the world—and themselves—through a new lens.

## **Ford's Theatre Society**

One of the most visited sites in the nation's capital, Ford's Theatre reopened its doors in 1968, more than a hundred years after the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln. Operated through a partnership between Ford's Theatre Society and the National Park Service, Ford's Theatre is the premier destination in the nation's capital to explore and celebrate Abraham Lincoln's life and legacy.

Ford's Theatre Society was founded under the guidance of executive producer **Frankie Hewitt**, who, during her 35-year tenure, established Ford's as a living, working theatre producing performances that highlighted the diversity of the American experience. Since the arrival of **Paul R. Tetreault** as Director, critics and the theatre-going public have recognized Ford's for the superior quality of its artistic programming. With works from the Tony-nominated *Come From Away* and the nationally acclaimed *Big River*, to the world premieres of *Meet John Doe*, *The Heavens Are Hung In Black*, *Liberty Smith*, *Necessary Sacrifices*, *The Widow Lincoln*, *The Guard*, *Grace* and *The American Five*, Ford's Theatre is making its mark on the American theatre landscape. Under the current leadership of Board of Trustees Chairman **Phebe N. Novakovic** and through the lens of Lincoln's leadership and legacy, Ford's today endeavors to advance Lincoln's "unfinished work" with programs and performances that cultivate empathy, encourage dialogue and bridge divides in American life.

For more information on Ford's Theatre and the Ford's Theatre Society, please visit [www.fords.org](http://www.fords.org).

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**#Fords1776**

**Ford's Theatre on Instagram: @fordstheatre**

**Ford's Theatre on Facebook: @fordstheatre**

**Ford's Theatre on TikTok: @fordstheatredc**

**Ford's Education on Twitter: @fordsedu**

**Website: [www.fords.org](http://www.fords.org)**

**FACT SHEET:**

1776

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**Dates:** March 13-May 16, 2026

**Press Night:** March 19, 2026 at 7 p.m.

**Location:** Ford's Theatre is located at 511 10th Street NW, Washington, DC 20004, between E and F Streets.

**Times:** Mondays-Thursdays at 7 p.m.; Fridays-Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.; Fridays-Saturdays at 12 p.m. or 1 p.m.  
[See full show schedule here.](#)

**Tickets:** Tickets start at \$41 and are available to the public now. [Reserve tickets here.](#)

**Group Sales:** Tickets for groups of 10 or more range from \$34-\$77 and are available by reaching out to Ford's Theatre Group Sales at (800) 899-2367 or [groupsales@fords.org](mailto:groupsales@fords.org). [Reserve group tickets here.](#)

**Accessibility:** Ford's Theatre is accessible to persons with disabilities, offering wheelchair accessible seating and restrooms, audio enhancement and Braille and large print playbills. Accessible seating is available towards the rear of the orchestra and balcony.

**Audio-described performances** of 1776 are scheduled for **April 9 at 7 p.m.** and **May 2 at 1 p.m.** **ASL sign-interpreted performances** are scheduled for **April 16 at 7 p.m.** and **May 9 at 1 p.m.** A **sensory-friendly performance** is scheduled for **April 25 at 1 p.m.** This sensory-friendly performance will be open to the general public, and we welcome anyone who may benefit from an adjusted theatrical environment.

**Free First Preview:**

**March 13, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.**

Ford's Theatre partners with TodayTix to give out free tickets for the first performance of each mainstage production in our theatrical season. Tickets are available via the TodayTix app, beginning **10 a.m. ET on Monday, March 2 until Friday, March 6** for the **March 13, 7:30 p.m.** performance of 1776.

**Parking:** Paid parking is available at several independent neighborhood garages: the 24-hour QuickPark at the Grand Hyatt (entrance on 10th Street between G and H Streets NW), the Central Parking Garage (entrance on 11th Street between E and F Streets NW), and the Joyce Parking garage below Ford's Theatre (at 511 10th Street, NW).

**Metro:** The Metro Center station (Red, Blue, Orange and Silver Lines) is two- and one-half blocks north of the theatre from the Eleventh Street exit. The Gallery Place-Chinatown station (Red, Yellow and Green Lines) is two- and one-half blocks north of the theatre from the G Street exit. For further information, call Metro at (202) 637-7000.

**Get Tickets at [www.fords.org](http://www.fords.org) – #Fords1776**

**Information: (202) 347-4833 – Toll Free: (888) 616-0270 – Groups: (202) 638-2367**

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