

APPENDIX 4 SCENES for PLAYBILL, BRIEF SYNOPSIS

ACT I In January, 1787, Daniel Shays and Jason Parmenter lead over-taxed farmers to collect weapons in a tragic rebellion. In response to such uprisings and quarreling among states, James Madison and other representatives prepare for meeting in Philadelphia to revise – or replace – the inadequate Articles of Confederation. Delegates convene, prepared to protect their individual nation-states' needs, and argue vehemently about urgent and compelling issues amidst some manipulative shenanigans. The rancor is suspended temporarily when George Washington – revered by all – accepts the chair. Several proposals and issues arise before the “future” Hamiltons, Madisons, and Washington take a look at what will happen someday.

Prologue

Shays Rebellion – Arsenal, Springfield, MA, January, 1787 . . . Shays, Pitcher, Parmenter, other farmer-citizens
 Water from the Well Molly Pitcher
 Will You Attend? – Massachusetts courtroom, various states, late winter, 1787 Parmenter, delegates
 We Met Last Summer Mason, Randolph, Dickinson, Madison, Hamilton
 Books – Madison's study, Hamiltons' home, contemporary Philadelphia of Dolley Payne, March, 1787
 Madison, Henry, Hamiltons, Payne
 Younger Lions and Older Patriots – Philadelphia street, May, 1787 arriving delegates
 The Soldiers Came to Congress, Younger Lions and Older Patriots Washington, delegates
 A Politician Randolph
 We the People, We the States – Independence Hall assembled delegates
 Washington's Processional, Committee on Rules, May 25, 1787. assembled delegates
 Resolves: Government by the People – next day assembled delegates
 Paterson Objects – next day assembled delegates
 Grumbletonians Mason, Gerry, Paterson, Lansing, Yates, Bedford, Dickinson, Martin
 More Like the British – another day Hamilton
 America, the Miracle Pinckney, with delegates
 Big States, Small States – July 3 assembled delegates
 At the Indian Queen – tavern, that evening delegates and others
 Who Are We?/Someday – Ruminations on the future Hamiltons, D Madison, J Madison, Washington, Company

ACT II Frustrated with the Convention, Alexander Hamilton has departed to visit his wife in New York. Meanwhile, delegates continue to debate at Independence Hall, and though compromises among delegates address most of the issues, many delegates are left with limited satisfaction. Among those issues, the Southern states hold onto slavery in a hotly contested compromise. John Langdon arrives to represent New Hampshire, which prompts an upbeat recounting of all that has transpired. Hamilton returns to the Convention amid continued progress. As the summer ends, some delegates re-visit their individual frustrations and refuse to sign, but when it seems that their efforts have failed, Franklin offers a solution. Representatives present the Constitution to their states and report progress toward ratification, building toward the finale, a patriotic celebration for Americans then and now.

Entr'acte

Mister Roger Sherman – Independence Hall, following the holiday delegates
 Report of the Grand Committee – later. delegates
 He's Gone Lansing, Yates
 Peculiar Institution, Three-Fifths of a Man – later Rutledge, Jackson, the Slave
 Have I Missed Anything? July 23, 1787. Langdon and other delegates
 In Philadelphia/They Need Me – Hamilton's home, NY, early September, 1787 . . . Alexander and Eliza Hamilton
 What Shall Our Presidency Be? – Independence Hall, later. delegates
 We Will Be a Country assembled delegates and Sec Jackson
 In Committee delegates
 I Have Failed, Dawning of the Day – September 16 Madison, Franklin
 Final Vote, The Soldiers Have Come to Congress – September 17 delegates
 Do We Have a Country? Franklin, Pitcher
 Ratification – Various states, during the following year delegates, Parmenter
 Finale: Americans Are We – the future Company

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