

Scenes 12, 13

Clerk 2 - Cesar

James Madison - Lou

Alexander Hamilton - Svenja Ling

Big State - Charlotte Born.

Little State - Shelly

Students 1-5 - Eva, Daisy, Bianca, Ivy, Zohe

Betsy Ross - Nora

John Jay - Hakeem

Clerk: Hear ye, Hear ye. On this day, July 16, 1776, the Constitutional Convention is now in session. The Honorable George Washington presiding.

(James Madison enters)

Clerk: Good afternoon, Mr. Madison.

Madison: Good afternoon.

(Alexander Hamilton enters in a hurry)

Clerk: Good afternoon, Mr. Hamilton.

Hamilton: (distracted) Oh yes, good afternoon.

James, we have some important decisions to make.

Madison: Yes, we do, Alexander. (pretends to see someone offstage) Hey, you'd better look out ~ it's Aaron Burr!

Hamilton: (screams and runs behind Madison) AAAAAAACH!

Madison: Ha ha! I was just joking! I LOVE doing that.

Hamilton: That's not funny.

Madison: Alexander, lighten up a little. We're making good progress. We've agreed to have three branches of government ~ the legislative, executive and judiciary, that will balance and check each other.

Hamilton: Yes, a wonderful plan. But there are even more important matters weighing heavily on my mind. I need your advice.

Madison: This sounds serious. What's on your mind, Alexander?

Hamilton: You know I favor a strong central bank.... and now I am faced with a huge decision.

Madison: What is it?

Hamilton: Which do you think is more impressive, my left profile or my right?

Madison: What?

Hamilton: When we start printing money, I'm just dying to get my picture on one of the bills. George Washington has already called the one dollar so I'm shooting for the ten. Personally, I think my left side makes me look taller. What do you think?

Madison: This is not exactly what I meant by lightening up, Alexander. We have some real issues here.

Look, the Big states and the small states still can't agree on how they should be represented in congress.

Big state: We BIG STATES have more people ~ we are not going to share equally with you little states.

Small state: Yeah, well, we're not going to settle for proportional representation in BOTH houses of congress. We're just as important as you.

Big state: Oh yeah?

Small state: Yeah!

Big state: (putting up fists) Oh yeah?

Small state: (putting up fists in retaliation) Yeah!

(Hamilton and Madison move to break up fight. They exit. Students, Jay and Betsy enter)

Student 1: So that's why we have one legislative body, the House that has proportional representation ~ bigger states have more congressmen.

Student 2: And the other house, the Senate, gives the same number of representatives to every state no matter how many people live there.

Jay: That's right. Like so much else in our constitution, it was a compromise.

Betsy: Like deciding to count a slave as three-fifths of a person???

Jay: We weren't perfect, Betsy, I know it. But we DID stop the slave trade twenty years later.

Betsy: Yes, dear. Altogether, it was a beautifully stitched document.

Student 3: Did everyone like the Constitution?

Jay: Oh no. Some people thought it gave the central government too much power. Others thought the states had too much authority. I wrote some of the *Federalist Papers* to help convince people to vote for it.

Student 3: Did it work?

Jay: Well, it took a while. We had to promise a Bill of Rights would be added. The Constitution was officially adopted June 21, 1788.

Student 4: Wow, that first election must have been something.

Jay: It was. The members of the House of Representatives were elected directly by citizens in each state. The senators were elected by the legislatures of each state. George Washington was unanimously elected President by the electoral college. He was sworn in as President of the United States in the temporary capital of New York on April 30, 1789.

Student 5: Wow! What a great story!

Jay: As my friend, Ben Franklin, said at the time, “Our constitution is in actual operation; everything appears to promise that it will last; but in this world nothing is certain but death and taxes.”

Betsy: I have a Franklin stove, you know. It doesn't look a bit like him.
(finishing her work and handing John the dog sweater)

Ah, here you go, John. This should work.

Jay: It's perfect. I knew you could fix it. Thank you, Betsy. I've got to go show Lafayette!

Student 4: The French general who fought for the Colonies?

Jay: No. My dachshund.
(Jay exits)

Student 1: Betsy, could you tell us the story again?

Betsy: But we just finished, my dears.

Students: PUUUUUHHLLLLLEEEEEEEZE?

Betsy: Well, John's a good man, but he did leave out some of the more important parts. Like when I wove a ship for the Navy out of nothing but pine needles. Or how I sewed together all the pants of the British army so they couldn't run up Bunker Hill. And the time....

Song #9: Tell Us, Betsy Reprise