

**REPUBLIC UNDONE**  
**Written By John B. Henry**  
**5/22/18 performance version**

Director: Rick Davis  
Assistant Director: Howard Coon  
Costume Directors: Deverell Pedersen, Dorothy McGhee  
Drama Poo Bah: Richard Squires  
Humorists: Richard Rymland, Travis Brown  
Constitutionalist: Bruce Fein  
Moral Philosopher: Tuck Grinnell  
Props Artist: Joan Danziger  
Photography & Video: Ray Boc  
Social Media: Max Mohr

Hattie Woodrow: Pat Nicklin  
Woodrow Wilson: Hugh Hill  
Tommy Wilson: Maeve Cuiba  
Joseph Wilson: Howard Coon  
Jesse Wilson & Ghost: Deverell Pedersen  
Ellen Axson Wilson: Faith Lewis  
Messenger: Dante DeVito  
Mary Peck: Molly McCartney  
Andrew Carnegie: Bill Nitze  
Alice Paul: Pat Nicklin  
Lucy Burns: Hali Jilani  
William Monroe Trotter: Hermond Palmer  
Joseph Tumulty: Peter Stenner  
William Jennings Bryan: John Lesinski  
Edith Galt Wilson: Gail Kitch  
Colonel House: Bill Nitze  
Lloyd George: Travis Brown, Colin Davies  
Lord Grey: Dante DeVito  
Kaiser: John Schmitz  
Kaiser's Wife Augusta Victoria: Sandy Read  
Ludendorff: Wolfgang Schaefer  
Judge: Peter Stenner  
Jailer: Dante DeVito/Colin Davies  
Suffragettes: Molly McCartney, Gail Kitch, Hali Jilani, Pat Nicklin  
Doctor Cary Grayson: Peter Stenner  
Speaker of the House: Peter Stenner  
Clemenceau: Howard Coon, Bill Walton  
Senator Henry Cabot Lodge: Travis Brown, Bob Randolph  
Alice Roosevelt Longworth: Hali Jilani

MADISON GHOST: MADISON GHOST: (*Smoke*) I'm the ghost of James Madison. I'm narrating "*Republic Undone*", a drama of Thomas Woodrow Wilson, our 28<sup>th</sup> President. I engineered the United States Constitution. It was tested as never before during his Presidency. We both were Virginians, Princeton graduates, and twice President of the United States. He entered the White House after the Spanish-American war had converted the Democratic and Republican parties to the conviction that military force to redeem the world defined national greatness. Five unforgettable women feature in the life of one of history's most paradoxical personalities. We begin with Woodrow's maiden infatuation, Hattie Woodrow, in 1881 at age 24.

#### SCENE I: COURTING FIRST COUSIN

WOODROW: (*Kneeling, ring in hand*) Cousin Hattie, will you marry me? You're the apple of my eye. (*Project **GOD'S COVENANT***) Our love is part of **GOD'S COVENANT**.

HATTIE: **GOD'S COVENANT?**

WOODROW: God wills all things.

HATTIE: You're high maintenance. A mama's boy with all your headaches, insomnia and indigestion.

WOODROW: My greatness will dwarf those shortcomings.

HATTIE: Trophy wives aren't my thing. I must be the center of a man's universe. We're also first cousins.

WOODROW: As they said in colonial Virginia: "Close enough to be sure. Far enough away to be safe."

HATTIE: I'm excited by food, wine, art and sports. You're animated by God, oratory and power.

WOODROW: Opposites attract.

HATTIE: Your intensity is unnerving. Edgy. Restless. Never satisfied. Aloof.

WOODROW: **GOD'S COVENANT** will shipwreck without you at my side.

HARRIET: You're the only one that counts. Others are only good for what they can do for you. You sound better than you are. I can't love you.

WOODROW: (*Stands*) Yes, we can. "No" isn't in **GOD'S COVENANT**.

HATTIE: But it's in mine...Tommy. (*Exits*)

WOODROW: Without a wife to adore me, I'm lost.

## SCENE II: COURTING ELLEN

MADISON GHOST: Sweet are the uses of adversity. The resilient Woodrow Wilson soon courts the heroine who pilots his ascent to the White House.

ELLEN: We have something important in common. Our fathers are Presbyterian ministers.

WOODROW: Ellen, you're the apple of my eye. Our love is part of **GOD'S COVENANT**.

ELLEN: (*Skeptical*) That sounds as rehearsed as the Lord's prayer.

WOODROW: No, it's original. (*Pause*) I really, really mean it! Oh, look at that monarch butterfly.

ELLEN: Does **GOD'S COVENANT** direct you to follow your father's footsteps?

WOODROW: No! Dad shepherds the Presbyterian elect. My flock is all of humanity.

ELLEN: Are you Saint Peter? Will humanity respond to your sermons?

WOODROW: I'll be America's Lord Gladstone by fusing politics and religion. (*Project picture*) I've worshiped him since childhood. I've always had his picture mounted over my bed.

ELLEN: I admire your ambition and oratory but I won't marry you unless we're partners. Two minds are better than one. You must respect my ideas as you do your own.

WOODROW: Ok, but that takes partnership into virgin territory.

ELLEN: I'm curious about Gladstone. He's British, not American. The British celebrate a monarchical form of government earmarked by chronic war: Afghanistan, Crimea, India, Burma, South Africa, Egypt, Sudan, China, ad nauseam. Ask any Irishman about British greatness. Don't you celebrate July 4<sup>th</sup>?

WOODROW: You speak to me like Abigail Adams did to John. The United States must take the Monroe Doctrine global. We can only do that by replacing our separation of powers with British executive supremacy. Checks and balances are anachronistic. To be a world power, the President must dominate Congress and the judiciary.

ELLEN: The center of our universe is liberty and peace – not domination and war.

WOODROW: You sound like James Madison.

ELLEN: He was first in his class at Princeton. His peace Constitution has made America the world's largest economy despite a succession of White House mediocrities. Johnson, Grant, Hayes, Garfield, Arthur and Cleveland.

WOODROW: Every July 4th should be a time for examining our purposes and determining afresh what arrangement of power is most suitable. Madison's Constitution is a straitjacket.

ELLEN: We can *amend* the Constitution any time. We didn't need to wait for July 4<sup>th</sup> for the Bill of Rights. Abolishing slavery. Enfranchising coloreds.

WOODROW: Have you renounced your Presbyterian faith? **GOD'S COVENANT** is higher law.

ELLEN: Madison had America's largest theological library and he separated church and state for liberty and peace. While puritanical Yankees drowned witches, Virginia set the gold standard for religious liberty.

WOODROW: I'm an Old Testament Christian. My universe is the chosen and non-chosen. Just good guys and bad guys. (*Project GOOD GUYS & BAD GUYS*)

ELLEN: But how do you tell them apart?

WOODROW: I know em when I see em.

ELLEN: And those who dispute you?

WOODROW: Bad guys. I have fighting blood and a pure heart.

ELLEN: That's what our favorite Puritan Oliver Cromwell said when he was beheading Charles I.

WOODROW: What's our partnership plan?

ELLEN: I'll follow the spirit of the Protestant French King Henry IV.

WOODROW: Didn't he say "Paris is well worth a mass"?

ELLEN: Becoming First Lady may well be worth accepting your elective monarchy. Ok, I'm a realist! I have no interest in marrying one of those colorless bank clerks.

WOODROW: I'll have no other First Lady.

ELLEN: God gave you eloquence. God gave you brilliance. God gave you industry. But God sent me to give you judgment and wisdom.

WOODROW: If you marry me, will I ever measure up to your daddy?

ELLEN: I have something to tell you about my daddy.

WOODROW: What is it?

ELLEN: He killed himself.

WOODROW: Why?

ELLEN: I don't know...Depression...It has always traumatized me.

WOODROW: I inherited my mama's melancholy. I have rough patches too.

ELLEN: Dear Woodrow, I'm adore you.

WOODROW: (*Kneeling*) I covenant before God to be your faithful husband.

ELLEN: I covenant before God to be your faithful wife.

WOODROW: God blessed you with social graces.

ELLEN: That complements your God-given genius for stirring the multitudes. Why don't you become a college professor? Where you'll constantly be speaking on your feet.

WOODROW: A dress rehearsal for politics.

ELLEN: Then you could write a book about modernizing the Constitution. Who needs the amendment process? You'll get rave reviews and endless speaking engagements.

WOODROW: You're just like mother. So intelligent. So supportive. So, what else?

ELLEN: Do me a favor: Don't talk about the Civil War around Yankees. And abandon your southern accent. Let's aim for a college presidency. Why not Princeton? If we get that far, the sky's the limit.

WOODROW: I'm frightened by the intensity of my love.

ELLEN: You should be.

### SCENE III. MAMA'S BOY

MADISON GHOST: Woodrow and Ellen pause on a scene from Woodrow's childhood.

JOSEPH: My son, you're disgracing our family. For the 10<sup>th</sup> time, pronounce the words correctly.

TOMMY: Maun lower.

JOSEPH: NO! NO! It's lawn mower.

TOMMY: I'm sorry Dad. I love you. I'm trying my best.

JOSEPH: It's lawn mower. Say it correctly!

TOMMY: Maun lower.

JOSEPH: (*Explodes in anger*) You're a failure! (*Tommy runs away crying*)

JESSE: (*Enters*) Where's my beautiful child?

JOSEPH: Learning to read.

JESSE: I heard Tommy crying.

JOSEPH: He's 11. He still can't read.

JESSE: He's a child. You're making him feel inadequate and worthless.

JOSEPH: He must be made of sterner stuff. Just like tempered steel. The more he's beaten the harder he'll become.

JESSE: Tommy's traumatized when he disappoints you. He's too terrified to learn.

JOSEPH: Don't turn Tommy into a mama's boy. He needs to grow up to be a Man. Not Mommy's Tommy!

JESSE: (*Tommy enters, crying*) Sit on your mother's lap. Why the tears?

TOMMY: (*Clings to her*) I'm the only fifth grader who can't read. I keep angering Dad. I'm a loser.

JESSE: Don't say that! Everything will work out. You can do anything you put your mind to.

TOMMY: I've got constant headaches.

JESSE: (*Gives jar*) Here's a jar of pills. Just for you. Take a pill whenever you feel one coming on. (*Gives bowl*) Here's some of my soup. It's good for your digestion. (*Both exit*)

ELLEN: Your father gave you ambition. Your mother gave you confidence. I'll do both.  
(*Woodrow & Ellen watch flashback scene*)

#### SCENE IV. HOME SEMINARY

MADISON GHOST: Learning to read marked an inflection point for Tommy.

JOSEPH: It's time to learn **GOD'S COVENANT**.

TOMMY: What's that?

JOSEPH: The chosen people war against the unchosen. (*Both kneeling in front of chair with Bible in seat*) God told Samuel to kill the Amalekites: **"Utterly destroy all they have and spare them not: slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass." 1 Samuel 15.** (*Both stand up*) Moses didn't shed a tear over killing 500,000 first born Egyptian children. God has chosen Americans to rid the world of evil. Praise be to God, Tommy, your reading fills me with pride. Now, I'll make you a master orator who eclipses not only me but Demosthenes. When he spoke, Athens marched.

TOMMY: I'm lucky you're my father.

JOSEPH: Practice makes perfect! Make 10,000 speeches.

TOMMY: Demosthenes will my muse.

JOSEPH: Great orators excite emotions. Humans are hormonal, not cerebral.

#### SCENE V: COURTING CARNEGIE

MADISON GHOST: Woodrow's lectures attract students in droves. He becomes Princeton's calling card. Ellen tactfully arranges luncheons for faculty wives. Woodrow's

elected university president. Princeton is leagued with Harvard and Yale within a decade. Woodrow shines on the speaker's circuit. His political horizons brighten.

WOODROW: I'm honored by your presence, Mr. Carnegie.

CARNEGIE: I'm the richest man in America!

WOODROW: Your riches can make Princeton the greatest university on earth.

CARNEGIE: Every college president courts me!

WOODROW: My blueprint is the Oxford and Cambridge Quad Plan. (*Project QUAD PLAN*)

CARNEGIE: Elite colleges are breeding grounds for mandarins administering far-flung empires.

WOODROW: President Roosevelt and I are promoting (pause) football! What about a stadium grander than Harvard and Yale? We'll call it Carnegie Colosseum!

CARNEGIE: Teddy's Rough Riders will perform at every half time. I hate football! Worse than Roman gladiators! Only savages exult in brain damage! You championed the Spanish-American war. Cuba was just an excuse to conquer the Philippines, Puerto Rico and Guam. You accepted waterboarding, torture and denied self-determination.

WOODROW: It's the white man's burden. Rudyard Kipling poems are close to my heart. (*Pulls from chest pocket*)

CARNEGIE: (*Pulls from chest pocket and gives Woodrow*) True Americans should reserve that sacred space for the U.S. Constitution and John Quincy Adams's address against going abroad in search of monsters to destroy.

WOODROW: We live in a new age!

CARNEGIE: How could a minister's son forget there's nothing new under the sun? I'm building public libraries and peace institutes. America's future is the march of the mind.

Not the march of the foot soldier. Without constitutional literacy, our Republic is doomed.

WOODROW: America can't be humanity's salvation without a military industrial complex.

CARNEGIE: I left Scotland to get rich in a land that celebrates peace. I didn't build the steel industry to underwrite wars which impoverish nations. Peace has made us rich beyond the wildest dreams of the founding fathers.

WOODROW: We're in a clash of civilizations.

CARNEGIE: I can see you don't like disagreement. If you stop pestering me, I'll build you a lake for crew. Unlike football, rowing is harmless.

WOODROW: We'll call it "Lake Carnegie".

#### SCENE VI: MARY PECK

ELLEN: With Jesse, Margaret and Eleanor leaving the nest, I feel worthless.

WOODROW: (*Looks up from typewriter*) You've raised 3 lovely daughters. You should beam.

ELLEN: I'm just a tiny planet revolving around you.

WOODROW: The solar system has only one sun.

ELLEN: Maybe *it is* good for you to get away. We both need a breath of fresh air.

WOODROW: A temporary separation will strengthen our marriage.

ELLEN: Here's your ocean liner ticket. Here's a hat to keep you warm. And God bless you. (*Both exit*)

(*Scene in Bermuda*) (*Woodrow & Mary enter*)

WOODROW: Mary, I love Bermuda in the winter. Your dinner parties are intoxicating. Mark Twain makes me laugh but you're a better listener.

MARY PECK: I keep reading about your pioneering Quad Plan. I understand the crushing demands on Princeton's President.

WOODROW: I'm in the fight of my life to make Princeton #1!

MARY PECK: Come down and see me sometime. Any time.

WOODROW: I'll do just that. Every chance I get. Ellen and I decided separate vacations are best.

MARY PECK: Let's put Ellen's picture on the mantelpiece. You have it in your pocket, don't you?

WOODROW: Yes, I do. Thank you. That does make me feel better.

MARY PECK: I love talking about Lord Gladstone. (*Project picture*) You're really onto something with your soaring ideas about limitless presidential power.

WOODROW: I want to give you a present. My favorite Gladstone biography.

MARY PECK: I never met anyone so critical of the Constitution's framers as you. On our beach walks, I love to hear you recite Shakespeare. Please do our favorite -- Henry V's Agincourt oration.

WOODROW: (*Looks in eye*) "If it be a sin to covet honor, I am the most offending soul alive. We few, we happy few, we band of brothers. For he today that sheds his blood with me shall be my brother. And gentlemen in England shall think themselves accursed they were not here, and hold their manhood's cheap whiles any speaks that fought with us upon Saint Crispin's day."

MARY PECK: You're absolutely wonderful, my darling! Humanity demands you bestride the political stage.

SCENE VII: NO PEERS

MADISON GHOST: Visions of Mary Peck dance in Woodrow's head. He returns to Princeton refreshed for battle with war paint. The Quad Plan exposes his dark side. (*Project QUAD PLAN*) He abandons his bosom friend, Jack Hibben.

WOODROW: I loved Jack Hibben more than any man.

ELLEN: You two have been inseparable for years.

WOODROW: But he betrayed me over my Quad Plan.

ELLEN: Madison didn't need our Quad Plan to become a walking library. You're blowing a flea into an elephant.

WOODROW: Jack defected to my enemies on the Princeton faculty. I'll never speak to him again.

ELLEN: Can't you agree to disagree? He's your treasured friend.

WOODROW: You're either for me or you're against me!

ELLEN: Even John Adams and Thomas Jefferson reconciled.

WOODROW: When I make my mind up, discussion is adjourned.

ELLEN: Dazzling brilliance doesn't make you right.

WOODROW: I'd rather be crucified than doubt **GOD'S COVENANT**.

ELLEN: What if you mistake **GOD'S COVENANT**? Only He's infallible.

WOODROW: God loaned me his infallibility.

ELLEN: You deify yourself like Alexander the Great. And he overran his supply lines.

WOODROW: **GOD'S COVENANT** makes it hard to be humble.

ELLEN: Woodrow, good guys and bad guys exist only in your mind. People read the same Bible, pray to the same God, and invoke His aid against the other. Come, sit by me. Your father would expel you for dissent. Don't be a chip off the old block. Go get cleaned up. You're scheduled to speak at the Princeton alumni dinner in an hour. Remember, punctuality is the courtesy of kings. (*Woodrow exits*) Woodrow divides Princeton by excommunicating the opposition. Drawing enemies like iron filings to a magnet. Resistance causes dark blood to spread over his pupils and shuts light out. I treat his periodic depressions with quarantines. I tell the girls: Don't disturb your father. He's writing and thinking. Without me, he'd be a Captain Ahab. (*Pours glass of water*) (*Woodrow storms in*) Now what explains your fury?

WOODROW: The Board just rejected my Quad Plan. (*Project QUAD PLAN*) Quad damn it!

ELLEN: Let's look for greener pastures. You've already elevated Princeton to the level of Harvard and Yale.

(*Messenger enters with telegram*)

WOODROW: New Jersey's Democratic bosses are offering me the Governorship.

ELLEN: God comes through again like Babe Ruth in the ninth inning. Let's go for it. Onward and upward.

#### SCENE VIII: COURTING BRYAN

MADISON GHOST: In 1910, Woodrow was elected Governor -- the stepping stone for Woodrow and Ellen to capture the White House. With the genius of Toscanini, Ellen orchestrates his campaign advisors, Joseph Tumulty and Colonel Edward House.

ELLEN: I appreciate your labors for Woodrow.

TUMULTY: His first campaign speech was unforgettable.

HOUSE: His acceptance speech made him the 1912 Democratic presidential nominee.

ELLEN: (*Facing Tumulty*) Thank you for masterminding Woodrow's progressive landmark legislation.

TUMULTY: Public utility regulation is even more popular than his eugenics law to sterilize feeble-minded criminals.

HOUSE: Now New Jersey's the model state.

TUMULTY: Presidential credentials for sure.

ELLEN: William Jennings Bryan lost 3 presidential campaigns. But he can veto any Democratic candidate. I want his endorsement. He's in Princeton. So I invited him for dinner. *(Tumulty & House exit) (Ellen lights candles)*

BRYAN: *(Enters)* Mrs. Wilson, your charms draw more eyes than rainbows. Every successful man has a smarter and stronger woman underneath him. That's the reason for my political success. Ah, the aroma of your Southern fried chicken is more arresting than the scent of red roses.

ELLEN: I admire everything you've done.

BRYAN: Woodrow's the best student in your seminary of politics.

ELLEN: My husband's the best bet for the 1912 presidential election. Your endorsement means so much to us. I can deliver any cabinet position.

BRYAN: Not to put too fine a point on it. Secretary of State is just fine. *(Ellen extends her hand)*

#### SCENE IX: THE PECK AFFAIR

WOODROW: I just love your new 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue penthouse. LOCATION! LOCATION! LOCATION! Princeton's only a heartbeat away.

MARY PECK: You gave me the courage to divorce my husband. I can never thank you enough.

WOODROW: Mary, you're the apple of my eye. Our love is part of **GOD'S COVENANT**.

MARY PECK: You deliver those words like a poetic refrain.

WOODROW: My happiness depends on you.

MARY PECK: You're my knight in shining armor.

WOODROW: I can't resist you. You're my beautiful, wild child of nature. My perfect playmate. You make me drunk with happiness. If it's a sin to covet your love, I'm the greatest sinner alive. *(Both exit)*

*(Princeton home, Woodrow enters)*

WOODROW: Ellen, I'm home. There you are.

ELLEN: I found your love letter to Mrs. Peck in your favorite Gladstone biography.

WOODROW: Give it to me.

ELLEN: *(Shaking letter in his face)* I can't believe you. You say the same things to her you say to me.

"You're the apple of my eye." Guilty! "Our love is part of **GOD'S COVENANT.**" Guilty again! *(Faces audience)* You see women as interchangeable.

WOODROW: *(Lovingly grabs her)* It doesn't mean what it says.

ELLEN: *(Pulls away)* The context alone is incriminating. Things will never be the same. You're a man of high ideals and NO principles. I mean NO principles.

WOODROW: *(Moves toward her)* I'm ashamed.

ELLEN: *(Pulls away)* Are you planning on leadership with a scarlet letter?

WOODROW: *(Moves toward her)* It was folly.

ELLEN: *(Pulls away)* You broke your marriage vows to God as well as me. Mary Peck isn't part of **GOD'S COVENANT.** *(Cries)*

WOODROW: (*Moves toward her*) It depends on the meaning of the word “of”.

ELLEN: (*Pulls away*) First you insult my honor. Then you steal our intimacy.

WOODROW: (*Moves toward her*) Dearest Ellen, I’m speechless.

ELLEN: (*Pulls away*) Proof of guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

WOODROW: (*Moves toward her*) I lack your judgment and wisdom.

ELLEN: (*Pulls away*) I’d be as famous as John Singer Sargent if I had poured the same energy into my painting that I squandered on you.

WOODROW: (*Moves toward her*) I’m grateful for everything you’ve done.

ELLEN: (*Pulls away*) Adultery is a peculiar gratitude.

WOODROW: (*Moves toward her*) I listened to the serpent like Eve.

ELLEN: Now the White House is within our reach. And what do you do? You risk everything! I’m sick and tired of being the only adult in this marriage.

#### SCENE X: ALICE PAUL

MADISON GHOST: In 1912, Teddy Roosevelt split the Republican Party. Woodrow and Ellen sail into the White House. Woodrow skillfully tacks between progressive and unreconstructed Democrats. Alice Paul and Lucy Burns, the drum majors among the suffragettes, infuriate Woodrow. They plant the National Women’s Party headquarters on the edge of Lafayette Park within shouting distance of the White House. The day before Woodrow’s inauguration, Alice and Lucy lead thousands of women in a protest march. It wins a meeting with the President.

(*White House scene*) (*American flags & President’s desk with typewriter*)

ALICE: (*Standing*) Mr. President, suffrage is the litmus test of a true progressive.

WOODROW: (*Typing at desk*) Politics kills feminine charms.

ALICE: Feminine charms shine brightest in the 9 states where women vote.

WOODROW: Voting destroys the family.

LUCY: Family values flourish out West.

WOODROW: Currency reform is my priority – not recasting womanhood!

ALICE: The Federal Reserve is good only for enriching too-big-to-fail banks and financing gratuitous wars.

LUCY: We don't need a Bank of England in the United States.

ALICE: We aren't bound by any laws in which we have no representation.

WOODROW: Oh my dears: You're revolutionaries!

ALICE: My ancestors won freedom from Britain. I'll win freedom for American women from you.

LUCY: You, sir, are a counterrevolutionary. You would replace the American Republic with a British Empire.

WOODROW: I never tell a woman she's wrong. But suffrage is a state issue.

ALICE: Words! Words! Words! I'm so sick of words.

LUCY: American women demand action.

WOODROW: I didn't run on suffrage. I represent only my party.

ALICE: You're a tough sell.

LUCY: A page out of the Old Testament.

WOODROW: Your 10 minutes are up. Our meeting's over.

ALICE: Democrats control both houses. You must pass our amendment.

WOODROW: You'd have been the first one drowned at the Salem witch trials. I mean that respectfully, of course.

ALICE: We will oppose every Democrat until you see the light.

WOODROW: Women vote just like men. You won't change anything.

LUCY: That's a wonderful argument for disenfranchising men. Let's switch places.

ALICE: Can we count on your support? (*Woodrow resumes typing*) (*Alice & Lucy exit and join suffragists in LaFayette Square*)

Pat leads Suffragists in First Song <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PqPiFXux1Ig&sns=em>

**Pat Sings:**

Hark the sound of myriad voices rising in their might  
Tis the daughters of Columbia pleading for their right  
Raise the flag and plant the standard, wave the signal still  
Brothers we must share your freedom

**All Suffragists together:**

Think it not an idle murmur  
You who hear the cry  
Tis a plea for human freedom  
Hallowed liberty  
Raise the flag and plant the standard, wave the signal still  
Brothers we must share your freedom  
Help us and we will

Oh our country glorious nation, greatest of them all  
Give unto they daughters justice or thy pride will fall  
Raise the flag and plant the standard  
Waive the signal still  
Brothers we must share your freedom  
Help us and we will

SCENE XI: WILLIAM MONROE TROTTER

MADISON GHOST: Woodrow endorsed the white supremacy of his era. He excluded coloreds at Princeton. He campaigned as a second Lincoln to attract colored support, but he governed with the racism of South Carolina Senator "Pitchfork Ben" Tillman to

placate southern bigots. He re-segregated the federal workforce, fired colored officials in the South, and turned a deaf ear to lynchings. William Monroe Trotter, Harvard's first colored Phi Beta Kappa, confronts Woodrow in the White House.

WOODROW: Three guys go into a bar. A kike, a Jap and a nigar. The bartender says  
*(interrupted by Trotter)*

TUMULTY: Welcome, Mr. Trotter.

WOODROW: Segregation is good for everybody. The Supreme Court blesses separate-but-equal.

TROTTER: They enforce the separate but ignore the equal. We're the untouchables. White co-workers the Brahmans.

WOODROW: I'm all for progress. It's just change I can't stand. You must be patient. After all, it took us more than two centuries to abolish slavery.

TROTTER: The time is over for taking the tranquilizing drug of gradualism. The time has come to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice.

WOODROW: Even Jesus accepted slavery. He was no Spartacus.

TROTTER: Our leadership celebrated you as a second Abraham Lincoln. Now our followers denounce us as traitors.

WOODROW: That's blackmail. You've lost your moral standing. Race has no place in politics.

TROTTER: Except when you want our votes.

WOODROW: Segregation must be approached factually, not emotionally.

TROTTER: You're flouting the 15th Amendment. Wholesale disfranchisement! Literacy tests! Klan lynching! Our Constitution must be color-blind. All citizens should be equal before the law. The humblest should be the peer of the most powerful. Civil rights are sacred.

WOODROW: I won't tolerate your impertinence! Get out!

TROTTER: Mr. President: Do you work for the Klan's Imperial Wizard? We came to lay wrongs before you. We need justice and receive injustice. We need the rule of law and receive mob violence. You should tremble before God. He's just and his justice will not slumber forever. (*Exits*)

TUMULTY: Woodrow, get hold of yourself.

WOODROW: The volcanos inside me are uncontrollable.

TUMULTY: To win re-election, you must court, not alienate, colored voters.

WOODROW: D.W. Griffith's film "BIRTH OF A NATION" writes history with lightning.

TUMULTY: Your hosting the premiere at the White House was a blunder. The racist movie heroizes the Ku Klux Klan.

## SCENE XII: ELLEN DIES

MADISON GHOST: Ellen's death at the outbreak of the Great War uncabins Woodrow's demons.

WOODROW: (*Holds hand in her bed*) I've been blessed by 29 wonderful years with you. Dearest, please don't leave me. Not now!

ELLEN: You left me long ago for Mary Peck.

WOODROW: I ended the affair.

ELLEN: You tore a hole in my heart. I rolled a stone over the wound and tried to pretend it wasn't there. How else could I go on?

WOODROW: Please Ellen, I haven't slept with Mary in years.

ELLEN: My heart never healed. It bleeds a little every day.

WOODROW: I can't bear to hear you talk this way.

ELLEN: My love subsists on life support. Half dead. Half alive. I'm dying from your ingratitude.

WOODROW: I thank God every day for you—my Nectar and Ambrosia to do His work on a large stage.

ELLEN: Why do you write Mary Peck every week?

WOODROW: My letters are naked of romance. I write about current affairs. So historians will know my thinking.

ELLEN: Why don't you keep a diary like John Quincy Adams? Your letters are adultery by other means.

WOODROW: My laurels and fame I owe to you. Marriage to Mary would be political suicide.

ELLEN: The main thing is: Don't let the war be your serpent. Intervention will squander money that belongs to schools, hospitals, roads, bridges, the poor, the elderly and the disabled.

WOODROW: God hasn't revealed His war plan to me yet.

ELLEN: Men have made a mess of things. How can you lead mankind when you treat coloreds and

women as second-class citizens? You can't treat the Germans the way the Yankees treated us. Promise me you'll keep us out of war.

WOODROW: I can't promise to break **GOD'S COVENANT**.

ELLEN: You already did with Mary Peck.

WOODROW: You've convinced me.

ELLEN: How can I believe you? You have a credibility gap. (*Doctor enters*) Doctor Grayson, follow my instructions. Minister to Woodrow's eating disorders, migraines, insomnia, twitching, coughing, strokes and depressions. Have I forgotten anything? (*Dies*)

WOODROW: (*Grabs head with both hands & shouts*) Dr. Grayson, my worst migraine ever!

MADISON GHOST: Ellen presciently foresaw the Great War would beget European hecatombs and a spike in civilian deaths. Her spirit animates the women's peace movement featuring parades in Boston, New York and Philadelphia. With the vote, women might have silenced the trumpets of war. The song, "**I Didn't Raise My Boy To Be A Soldier**" reverberates from sea to shining sea.

(*Pat & chorus sing*) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o9qi9LbvD3Q&sns=em>

Ten million soldiers to the war have gone,  
Who may never return again.  
Ten million mothers' hearts must break  
For the ones who died in vain.  
Head bowed down in sorrow  
In her lonely years,  
I heard a mother murmur thru' her tears:  
I didn't raise my boy to be a soldier,  
I brought him up to be my pride and joy.  
Who dares to place a musket on his shoulder,  
To shoot some other mother's darling boy?  
Let nations arbitrate their future troubles,  
It's time to lay the sword and gun away.  
There'd be no war today,  
If mothers all would say,  
"I didn't raise my boy to be a soldier."

### SCENE XIII: COLONEL HOUSE

MADISON GHOST: Ellen's death puts Woodrow in a stupor. The executive branch is paralyzed until fulsome flattery beguiles Woodrow from a loss so overwhelming.

WOODROW: Without Ellen, I'm like driftwood on the ocean.

HOUSE: God elected you for immortal work.

WOODROW: Heavens! I thought God talked only to me.

HOUSE: God sent me to replace Ellen as your other self.

WOODROW: Will you be as selfless?

HOUSE: I can't do enough.

WOODROW: You're the only one to whom I can open my mind.

HOUSE: You're the bravest, wisest leader. The gentlest and most gallant gentleman.

WOODROW: (*fist prop*) I fume every time I think about that little group of willful men who thwarted my Quad Plan. Princeton would have leapfrogged Harvard and Yale.

HOUSE: But you still put Princeton in a tie.

WOODROW: I could've compromised. But that isn't leadership. He who puts his hand to the plough and looks back isn't fit for the kingdom of God.

HOUSE: Every day I give thanks for the privilege of serving you.

WOODROW: (*Hugs*) I've set the Lincoln bedroom aside just for you. Don't worry, I won't ask you for a campaign contribution!

HOUSE: The Great War is the biggest upheaval since Jesus Christ. God has chosen you to bring peace to mankind. And surpass Jesus as the greatest man in history.

WOODROW: **GOD'S COVENANT** gives me the noble part. A step up from the Prince of Peace.

HOUSE: I'm your counsel for a dollar a year. European shuttle diplomacy is my signature.

WOODROW: Keep your mission secret. Otherwise, my Secretary of State will resign and challenge me for re-election.

HOUSE: Better to have Bryan inside the tent pissing out than outside pissing in.

WOODROW: You're my alter ego. You don't need instructions. (*Exits*)

HOUSE: I've mastered the mysteries of Woodrow's personality. Everything's personal. He insists on his own facts. He trusts only the worshipful. So I constantly put him on a pedestal and never contradict him. He has an insatiable craving for reassurance. He's an inveterate hater who exalts in making enemies. I'm a captive audience for his temper tantrums. Self-reflection unimaginable.

#### XIV: CO-BELLIGERENCY

MADISON GHOST: As President in 1812 during the Napoleonic Wars, I asked Congress to declare a state of war against Britain for impressing thousands of our seamen and violating our neutrality. No other president opposed British imperialism with war. President Wilson did the opposite. He indulges British violations of neutral rights while protesting Germany's countermeasures as war provocations. (*Project BRITAIN VIOLATES AMERICAN NEUTRALITY*) The British declare civilian goods contraband. Southern cotton, mid-Western meat and western copper are blockaded from neutral European ports. Our trade with the Allied powers flourishes. With Germany, it withers and dies.

BRYAN: (*Woodrow typing*) The British have hearts of stone. They starved the Boers into submission.

Now they're doing the same thing to the Germans with this illegal blockade. It's just murder by other means. (*Gives paper*) Dispatch this note to Downing Street. Demand freedom of the seas and respect for American neutrality.

WOODROW: Suppose the British persist.

BRYAN: Retaliate like President Madison. Embargo food, oil and ammunition.

WOODROW: J P Morgan is one of my largest campaign contributors. He complains you're interdicting private loans to the Allies.

BRYAN: Neutrals having “Allies” is like baseball umpires owning teams.

WOODROW: Money isn’t a weapon.

BRYAN: It’s the most nimble of weapons. Money supplies any military need.

WOODROW: The Allies have no credit ceiling with us.

BRYAN: There you go again. Calling the British and French “Allies”. You’re sinning against your own sermon: “We must be impartial in thought as well as action”. Stand up like David to Goliath. Downing Street will lift the blockade.

WOODROW: Let me study your diplomatic note. (*Bryan exits*)

MADISON GHOST: (*Project CO-BELLIGERENCY*) Before we go any further, let’s pause on co-belligerency. It’s a fancy word for a simple idea. If two countries are at war, and we support the military capabilities of one side but not the other – like supplying machine guns – we’re a co-belligerent under the U.S. Constitution and international law. Co-belligerents can be attacked just like belligerents. Article I, Section 8, Clause 11, the Constitution’s Declare War Clause, requires a congressional declaration of war for co-belligerency just as for boots on the ground. If we aren’t neutral, we’re a co-belligerent. My wife Dolly scolds my didactic nature, but I’m a stickler for constitutional literacy. Some may kneel to an elective monarchy and watch theater for amusement. But you can’t be a citizen of our endangered Republic without understanding America’s entry into the Great War.

WOODROW: (*Typing at desk*) (*House enters*) Irish-American and German-American voters may abandon me for supporting Britain.

HOUSE: We must disguise our co-belligerency.

WOODROW: My British-born mother, bless her dear soul, will curse me if I let Germany win.

HOUSE: I’ve been an Anglophile ever since my British-born father eagerly dispatched me to boarding school in Yorkshire.

WOODROW: There's nothing I'd rather do than hike the Lake District. Whenever I have a nervous breakdown, that's where I recuperate.

HOUSE: (*Salutes Gladstone picture*) We both salute Britain's veneration of executive power over Madison's self-doubting checks and balances. You must weaken Congress to make America great.

WOODROW: To maintain our neutrality, Bryan insists we must either trade with both or trade with neither.

HOUSE: Neutrality means whatever we choose—neither more nor less. George Washington's Farewell Address is old hat. He believed human nature was changeless unaffected by technological innovations like railroads, airplanes, or cinema. We know better.

WOODROW: (*Gives paper*) Here's Bryan's note to London.

HOUSE: I'll run it by the British Ambassador.

WOODROW: I want strict alignment with British foreign policy.

MADISON GHOST: Please excuse another interjection. Woodrow and the Colonel are unconstitutionally surrendering American foreign policy to British officials with no allegiance to the United States.

WOODROW: Bryan says we're a co-belligerent if we trade with Britain while accepting its continental blockade.

HOUSE: Deny! Deny! Deny! The low-information voter is easy to fool.

WOODROW: The British are the good guys. The Huns the bad guys. (*Project GOOD GUYS & BAD GUYS*)

HOUSE: You tower above all previous occupants of the Oval Office. McKinley and Teddy Roosevelt got us into the empire business. But they lacked the political genius to create a moral narrative that Americans will embrace. Every night I dream I'm in heaven knowing you're my President. (*Exits*)

*(Pat sings snippet from "Heaven ... I'm in Heaven")*

BRYAN: *(Enters)* Did you approve my Downing Street cable?

WOODROW: No!

BRYAN: I'll unhorse you for the 1916 nomination!

WOODROW: Relax.

BRYAN: We have a royal flush. Without our food, the British starve. Without our weapons, they can't win.

WOODROW: We can't risk our special relationship.

BRYAN: Where's that in the Constitution?

WOODROW: My standing as a peace-maker would diminish if I embargo Britain.

BRYAN: Your oath is to defend the Constitution. Not Britain. Not humanity.

WOODROW: You don't define American interests. I do. What's good for me is good for America.

BRYAN: The Constitution defines American interests. Not you. And what's bad for the Constitution is bad for America.

#### SCENE XV: BRITISH COLLUSION

MADISON GHOST: Washington's Farewell Address is timeless -- avoid foreign entanglements. *(Project NEUTRALITY=NO CO-BELLIGERENCY)* American interests rarely align with foreign nations. The British and French pursue empire. Our Constitution pursues justice by celebrating the march of the mind and deprecating the march of the foot soldier except in self-defense.

LLOYD GEORGE: Lord Gray!

LORD GRAY: Lloyd George.

LLOYD GEORGE: Britain's war propaganda is more powerful than the British Navy.

LORD GRAY: Crucified Allied soldiers. (*Points at projected poster*)

LLOYD GEORGE: Raped nuns with breasts sliced off. (*Points at projected poster*)

LORD GRAY: Cutting Germany's international cables lets us censor Americans news about the war.

LLOYD GEORGE: We facilitate Woodrow's maneuvers to convince Americans to support war.

LORD GRAY: Look: We have a pamphlet titled: "The War That Will End War." (*Project*)

LLOYD GEORGE: (*Laughs*) The mother of all lies.

LORD GRAY: The only war that ends war is the one that destroys every living person on earth.

LLOYD GEORGE: Colonel House is working the slogan into Woodrow's speeches. (*House enters*) Welcome, Colonel.

LORD GRAY: We're just praising your great service.

LLOYD GEORGE: We love your beneficent neutrality.

LORD GRAY: Sharing your diplomatic dispatches.

HOUSE: Arming, feeding and funding you.

LLOYD GEORGE: Doesn't Woodrow know co-belligerency isn't his ticket to the peace table?

LORD GRAY: Millions of American soldiers are our admission price.

LLOYD GEORGE: By the way, we've rearranged the Ottoman Empire with the French. The British empire increases 862,549 square miles. And the French empire increases 238,000 square miles. More or less. Mostly, less.

LORD GRAY: 4 to 1.

HOUSE: Sykes and Picot are the best. The Middle East is yours.

LLOYD GEORGE: Will Woodrow stop talking about self-determination? The Irish take it rather seriously.

HOUSE: Well, don't look at what he says. Look at what he does.

LORD GRAY: We're recommending you for knighthood.

HOUSE: Thank you, my Lord.

#### SCENE XVI: KAISER WALKS THE LINE

MADISON GHOST: Germany's nightmare was American soldiers on the Continent. For two and a half years, the Kaiser endured Woodrow's co-belligerency. The Kaiser, his wife Augusta Victoria and the military commander Erich Friedrich Wilhelm Ludendorff debate their dilemma.

KAISER: Ach mein Gott! I'm heart-broken.

AUGUSTA VICTORIA: (*Enters holding dead child*) I found her lying beside her parents and twin sister.

Only a few days before she was nursing at the bosom of her loving mutti. Starved to death by the cruel British blockade. Presided over by unser Cousin Georg.

KAISER: Oh, Georg. What ingratitude! We gifted them 8 generations of German monarchs. Only one of them was verrucht and lost America.

LUDENDORFF: While Wilson moralizes about our U-boote, a million German civilians starve to death. The British blockade's a war crime.

AUGUSTA VICTORIA: Every neutral, except Wilson, protests the blockade's illegality.  
KAISER: International law allows us to blockade Britain as proportionate retaliation.

AUGUSTA VICTORIA: Tit for tat, *unrestricted*, naval warfare.

LUDENDORFF: Until the British armed their merchant ships, our U-boote spared their crews.

KAISER: Now Wilson allows British ships to fly American flags.

LUDENDORFF: Eure Majestät, this false flag deception kills our U-boote.

KAISER: Wilson decrees international law his own State Department can't stomach.

AUGUSTA VICTORIA: Wilson refused to send soldaten to protect Americans in Mexico. But he threatens to do that against Deutschland to protect Americans travelling on British armed merchant ships.

LUDENDORFF: I can beat Britain and France before American troops land. Eure Majestät, lift all submarine restrictions.

AUGUSTA VICTORIA: (Recites Lord's Prayer in German low voice)

LUDENDORFF: Our Father, from the height of Heaven, lead Thy German Reich to glorious victories.

Lord, thy will be done! Smite each day our foes with death and tenfold woes. In thy merciful patience, forgive each bullet and each blow that misses its mark. Lead us not into the temptation of letting our wrath be too gentle in carrying out thy divine judgment. Deliver us from the Evil One.

Thine is the kingdom, Deutschland.

AUGUSTA VICTORIA: Amen (*German*)

KAISER: Herr General. The military always overpromises. For now, discretion is the better part of valor.

SCENE XVII: EDITH WILSON

MADISON GHOST: Woodrow marries another southern belle, the widowed Edith Galt -- Ellen's converse. His personal physician, Doctor Cary Grayson, was the matchmaker. Doctor Grayson became family and lived in the White House.

WOODROW: Edith, you're the apple of my eye. Our love is part of **GOD'S COVENANT**.

EDITH: How effortlessly you speak those words! As if you had practiced them.

WOODROW: You inspire my immortal work.

EDITH: Marriage to power is a woman's greatest aphrodisiac.

WOODROW: I can't take my eyes off you. Pardon me, but I'm late to a cabinet meeting. I'll share everything with you later. (*Exits*)

DOCTOR GRAYSON: (*Enters*) Your husband's chronic depressions concern me.

EDITH: How do we treat them?

DOCTOR GRAYSON: You're better than any doctor's prescription.

EDITH: He needs you at his beck and call.

DOCTOR GRAYSON: He's a 600 horse-power motor in a frail chassis.

EDITH: I wish you had been his Princeton physician. You might have prevented the stroke that paralyzed his right hand.

DOCTOR GRAYSON: I marvel at how quickly he learned to write with his left.

EDITH: I'm so happy playing golf every day with Woodrow as you prescribed.

DOCTOR GRAYSON: He's over stressed. It gets him out of the office.

EDITH: I must confess. I love to dominate him on the golf course.

DOCTOR GRAYSON: Easily done. Since another stroke left him virtually blind in his left eye.

EDITH: With his 40 handicap, I'm coasting to victory after the third hole.

WOODROW: There you are. I've been looking all over the White House for you.

DOCTOR GRAYSON: In 15 minutes, your afternoon motor ride and golf begin. (*Exits*)

WOODROW: (*Enters*) What happiness you give me. When you rest your hand in mine, I feel like standing up and shouting for the strength and joy that's in me.

EDITH: It's so sweet you need me.

WOODROW: It's bliss to be in your arms. I share my heart only with you. We're inseparable Virginians running the world.

EDITH: (*Woodrow sits at typewriter*) I wish Bryan would die from an overdose of peace or grape juice. Fire him. And while you're at it, fire Tumulty too.

WOODROW: What did Tumulty do?

EDITH: He lacks breeding. He's a crypto-hyphenated American craving Irish independence.

WOODROW: He's deft at handling my diverse visitors because he wasn't raised like us.

EDITH: Colonel House has outlived his usefulness.

WOODROW: There's no more self-effacing man. He lives to serve me.

EDITH: His flattery disguises his vaulting ambition. Our intimacy forecloses all others.

WOODROW: You make my heart sing at heaven's gate.

#### SCENE XVIII: BRYAN RESIGNS

MADISON GHOST: President Polk spoke falsehoods to justify the Mexican-American War. President McKinley preached untruths to justify the Spanish-American War. Woodrow follows their instruction to justify co-belligerency with the Allied Powers against Germany.

EDITH: Over a hundred Americans drowned. A German submarine sank the Lusitania.

BRYAN: They were fools for traveling on that luxurious British cruise liner. The German Government posted a warning in 50 American newspapers: (*Reads*) "NOTICE! Travelers please be warned that vessels flying the British flag are liable to destruction in waters adjacent to the British Isles." The 1%ers have put our peace at risk. Just for their ostentatious bathrooms.

EDITH: Your mother was right. The Germans will destroy Western civilization. Britain's fight is our fight. Time for you to be Gladstone. Go to war!

WOODROW: (*Typing at desk, facing Bryan*) Are you expecting me to turn the other cheek?

BRYAN: Just honor the Sermon on the Mount. Take war off the table. Support the congressional bill banning belligerent ship travel. It won't affect the 99%.

WOODROW: Submarine warfare is barbarous.

BRYAN: For every One percenter drowned, the British blockade starves a 100 German children.

WOODROW: You sound like an unpatriotic hyphenated-American.

BRYAN: The Lusitania was a British -- not an American -- ship. Sunk in a war zone -- not on the high seas. Carrying contraband -- not neutral goods. The torpedo hit the hull where British munitions were stored. That's why it sunk so fast.

WOODROW: I prefer alternative facts.

BRYAN: International law authorized the attack. You're magnifying a flea into an elephant. Submarines are a mild response to the illegal British blockade.

WOODROW: I'm the Commander-in-Chief! International law is whatever I say it is.

BRYAN: The Constitution entrusts international law to Congress. You have no alternative authority. The Founders repudiated British monarchy. Prohibited presidential wars. Citizens elected you to keep us out of war.

EDITH: God made you the most powerful man in the most powerful nation on earth.

WOODROW: I've been called to go to war to end the scourge of war.

BRYAN: Americans are NOT a chosen people. (*Pointing*) And I'm a Presbyterian, and you, sir, are NOT the elect. (*Takes from Wilson and reads*) Let me see your diplomatic note to Berlin.

WOODROW: Unless Germany pays reparations, I'm breaking diplomatic relations.

BRYAN: That's it! I won't be crucified on your British cross. Here, sir, is my resignation letter! (*Hands*)

WOODROW: The Kaiser will blink when we go eye-ball to eye-ball.

BRYAN: You're creating a pretext for war. More Americans will die in the first day of combat than have died from years of German submarine attacks.

#### SCENE XIX: DECLARATION OF WAR

MADISON GHOST: Woodrow wins re-election in 1916 under the banner: "HE KEPT US OUT OF WAR." Germany resumes unrestricted submarine warfare. On April 2, 1917, Woodrow asks Congress to declare a state of war.

WOODROW: (*Kneeling*) Oh, my sweet Edith, you're my heart and lungs. Looking in your eyes gives me strength.

EDITH: (*Kneeling*) **Deuteronomy 32:** God says: "I kill..."

WOODROW: "I wound..."

EDITH: "I will make mine arrows drunk with blood"

WOODROW: "and my sword shall devour flesh." For 3 long years, my offer to mediate was scorned.

EDITH: I'm part of **GOD'S COVENANT**. I'm thrilled. My darling, you're brilliant! You're our greatest war President. The world's greatest man. More famous. More admired. More worshiped.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE: I give you the President of the United States.

WOODROW: "It is a fearful thing to lead this great peaceful people into war. But the right is more precious than peace. To such a task we can dedicate our lives and our fortunes, everything that we are and everything that we have, with the pride of those who know that the day has come when America is privileged to spend her blood and her might for the principles that gave her birth."

*(Outside Capitol citizens gather)*

"Over There" <https://youtu.be/Y2ktNsYMaag>

**JAMES CAGNEY/MALE :**

Johnny, get your gun, get your gun, get your gun.

**FRANCES LANGFORD/PAT SINGS IN HATTIE/CITIZEN OUTFIT:**

Take it on the run, on the run, on the run.

Hear them calling you and me,

Every Son of Liberty.

**JAMES CAGNEY:** Hurry right away, no delay, go today.

**PAT sings:**

Make your Daddy glad to have had such a lad.

Tell your sweetheart not to pine,

To be proud her boy's in line. Over there, over there,

Send the word, send the word over there  
That the Yanks are coming, the Yanks are coming  
The drums rum-tumming everywhere.  
So prepare, say a prayer,  
Send the word, send the word to beware -  
We'll be over, we're coming over,  
And we won't come back till it's over, over there.

**JAMES CAGNEY: EVERYBODY SING!**

**WHOLE CHORUS/COMPANY: (SING TWICE)**

Over there, over there,  
Send the word, send the word over there  
That the Yanks are coming, the Yanks are coming  
The drums rum-rumming everywhere.  
So prepare, say a prayer,  
Send the word, send the word to beware -  
We'll be over, we're coming over,  
And we won't come back till it's over, over there.

**SCENE XX: LET FREEDOM DIE**

**MADISON GHOST:** In a Republic, the government doesn't censure the people -- the people censure the government. But during the Great War, Woodrow's Espionage and Sedition Acts criminalized dissent. Peaceful critics of Woodrow's unconstitutional war against the Bolshevik Revolution like Eugene Debs landed in prison or were deported.

**WOODROW:** When I see my war critics, I see my Princeton detractors.

**EDITH:** But now you have a bully club. Smash anyone who refuses to buy Liberty Bonds.

**WOODROW:** Hyphenated Americans pour the poison of disloyalty into our national arteries. They carry daggers to murder our government.

**EDITH:** Shoot them.

**WOODROW:** The Not-Yet-Guilty are most to be feared. John Adams' Sedition Act is my North Star.

EDITH: Publishers were jailed for fake news.

WOODROW: My Espionage and Sedition Acts go much further.

EDITH: 100% Americanism. 2,700 anti-war protestors are rotting in jail.

WOODROW: Alice Paul makes me ill.

EDITH: Breaking her picket lines spoils our motorcar excursions and golf outings.

WOODROW: Here's her latest banner. *(Both raise, he reads)* "KAISER WILSON: Have You Forgotten Your Sympathy With The Poor Germans Because They Aren't Self-governed? 20,000,000 American Women Aren't Self-governed."

EDITH: LOCK HER UP!

WOODROW: We're the first Administration to jail suffragettes.

EDITH: LOCK HER UP! *(Edith & Woodrow look out window at suffragists holding signs and singing)*

### **Alice Paul and Suffragists Singing**

***("Woman's Battle Song": Tune: Onward Christian Soldiers)***

Forward Sister Women!

Onward ever more

Bondage is behind you

Freedom is before.

Raise the standard boldly

In the morning sun

Gainst a great injustice

See the fight begun!

Forward, forward sisters!

Onward ever more!

Bondage is behind you

Freedom is before.

*(Alice holds banner: "Mr. President, what will you do for woman suffrage?" Men rush, tear down banners leaving Alice with bare staff. Police arrive)*

POLICEMAN: Alice Paul, you're under arrest for obstructing traffic!

Alice Paul: You got to be kidding. That's a trumped up charge. (*Handcuff*)

SCENE XXI: ALICE TORTURED IN JAIL

MADISON GHOST: The courts sustained Woodrow's unconstitutional assault on the right to petition for redress of grievances. Alice Paul and Lucy Burns, hunger strikers in Britain supporting British suffragettes, use the same tactic against Woodrow.

(*In courthouse*)

JUDGE: You've heard the charges. How do you plead?

ALICE: Not guilty! (*Suffragettes cheer*)

JUDGE: And ruining the President's golf game?

ALICE: Not guilty! (*Suffragettes cheer*)

JUDGE: Women should be seen. Not heard!

LUCY: Not guilty. Our vigils are silent. Our banners are written. (*Suffragettes cheer*)

JUDGE: Order!

ALICE & LUCY: We're political prisoners! (*Suffragettes echo*)

JUDGE: Stop! You're risking contempt.

LUCY: Petitioning's no crime. (*Suffragettes cheer*)

JUDGE: Order!

LUCY: You're punishing free speech.

ALICE: Wilson's a hypocrite. (*Suffragettes cheer*)

LUCY: He suppresses democracy at home.

ALICE: While celebrating it abroad.

JUDGE: 7 months in jail! (*Exits*) (*Alice & Lucy dragged off!*) (*Alice & Suffragettes sing "RISE UP WOMEN" Tune: John Brown's body*)

Rise up, women, for the fight is hard and long.

Rise up in thousands singing loud a battle song.

Right is might, and in strength we shall be strong

And the cause goes marching on.

Glory, glory, hallelujah! Glory, glory, hallelujah!

Glory, glory, hallelujah! The cause goes marching on.

JAILER: (*Enters*) You're going to have constant light in your face, woman. (*Flashlight on face*)

ALICE: If you say so! (*Suffragettes echo*)

JAILER: Sleep deprivation! Our best enhanced interrogation technique.

LUCY: Only habeas corpus will end our hunger strike.

ALICE: We won't eat until women get the vote! (*Suffragettes echo*)

JAILER: We'll make sure you eat, woman.

ALICE & LUCY: (*Jailer and attendant strap down, resistance, force tube down throats, scream, suffragettes echo*)

## SCENE XXII: THE FALL

MADISON GHOST: Alice and Lucy were to women's suffrage what the Minute Men were to the American Revolution. Meanwhile, two million American doughboys break the European stalemate. On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918, the French and British dictate an Armistice of unconditional surrender. It mocks Woodrow's promise of peace without victory. Days earlier, American voters repudiate Woodrow in the mid-term elections delivering control of both legislative chambers to Republicans. But travels to Paris as a Messiah.

WOODROW: God defeated Germany to enthrone the conscience of the world. The savagery of self-interest surrenders to the dignity of righteousness. History's supreme moment is here. Drawing the sword for peace, American boys co-mingled their blood in French soil as a timeless reminder of their privileged act of selfless devotion. Shoulder to shoulder they lifted the burden of mankind. Their sacrifice points like a great rugged finger to heaven. Sin resides – not in the human heart – but in the society we are called to redeem. Like the ancient Hebrews, Americans are God's chosen people. Old Glory flies as the flag of humanity. War's a thing of the past. The League of Nations culminates America's long journey of providential service. (*Exit*)

MADISON GHOST: The Versailles Treaty is an earthquake like no other international agreement. The war to end war degenerates into a peace that ends peace. British Prime Minister Lloyd George and French Prime Minister Georges Clemenceau foil Woodrow's hopes not only for peace in our time but peace forever.

LLOYD GEORGE: War is great!

CLEMENCEAU: Great for expanding our empires.

LLOYD GEORGE: Great for expanding our executive power.

CLEMENCEAU: That's why we call it the Great War! (*High five*)

LLOYD GEORGE: Woodrow threw away his trump card. He had four million soldiers. All the money. He could have marched to Berlin. Dictated the peace. His influence ended at the Armistice.

CLEMENCEAU: We control the League of Nations which defends every unjust border we dictate.

LLOYD GEORGE: Woodrow will soon be jeered rather than cheered.

CLEMENCEAU: How are we going to repay \$10 billion of American war loans?

LLOYD GEORGE: We mask our bankruptcy with voodoo economics. We'll default on any debt not paid from German reparations.

CLEMENCEAU: We'll justify them by making the Germans sign a war-guilt clause.

LLOYD GEORGE: Let's squeeze the Germans until their pips squeak.

CLEMENCEAU: I'm not called the Tiger for nothing.

LLOYD GEORGE: Is that why you always wear gloves?

CLEMENCEAU: To hide my claws. (*Woodrow & Ellen enter*) Let's get down to business. (*Pointing to chart*) 1.3 million French lay dead.

LLOYD GEORGE: (*Pointing*) Almost a million from the British Empire.

CLEMENCEAU: (*Pointing*) You only lost 116,000.

LLOYD GEORGE: Adjusted for population, our losses are 30 times yours.

CLEMENCEAU: We need Lebensraum. Let's dismember Germany.

LLOYD GEORGE: 10% of their population!

CLEMENCEAU: And 13% of their territory! (*Ripping map*) Alsace-Lorraine. (*Ripping*) Let's also give western Germany to Belgium.

LLOYD GEORGE: (*Ripping*) Let's amputate eastern Germany and create Czechoslovakia.

WOODROW: That's 3 million Germans!

EDITH: Don't they get self-determination?

CLEMENCEAU: The same self-determination you gave your Redskins.

LLOYD GEORGE: Let's leave the League of Nations out of the treaty.

WOODROW: You can't do that.

LLOYD GEORGE: (*Ripping*) Let's amputate northern Germany and put 2 million Germans in Poland.

CLEMENCEAU: (*Ripping*) Don't forget Denmark. (*Ripping*) And Italy. They need Germans too.

LLOYD GEORGE: Let's exclude Germany from the League. Just like we excluded those bastards from our negotiations.

WOODROW: The League remedies everything. Humanity demands nothing less. That's why the crowds roar for me rather than you.

### SCENE XXIII: SAVING THE DECLARE WAR CLAUSE

MADISON GHOST: The Declare War Clause is the Constitution's crown jewel. In 228 years, Congress has never voted even once to initiate war—the most important fact in human history. Woodrow's

Versailles Treaty jettisoned that sacred key to peace. Senate Majority Leader Henry Cabot Lodge and Alice Roosevelt lead the Republican charge against Woodrow. (*White House*)

SENATOR LODGE: Mr. President, may I help you carry the Treaty? (*Reaches for book Woodrow carrying*)

WOODROW: Not on your life!

SENATOR LODGE: The treaty's unconstitutional. The League can't take us to war.

WOODROW: The League's war power is only a moral obligation.

SENATOR LODGE: Then you should accept my reservation: Which reads: "The United States assumes no obligation to preserve the territorial integrity or political independence of any other country. The Congress, under the Constitution, has the sole power to declare war and employ U.S. military forces."

WOODROW: 116,000 American boys gave their lives for my League of Nations.

EDITH: No other nation has fought for humanity. (*Holds League*) The heart of the world beats in this great and sincere document.

ALICE ROOSEVELT: (*Holds Constitution*) But the heart of America beats in our Constitution.

SENATOR LODGE: The League Covenant is riddled with weasel words. It might get an A at Princeton but an F at Harvard.

ALICE ROOSEVELT: The League was made by men who want to float to heaven on a sea of mush.

WOODROW: It leads us into green pastures and quiet waters.

ALICE ROOSEVELT: Soap bubbles of oratory and soufflés of phrases. I feel as if I've wandered into the Mad Hatter's tea party.

WOODROW: I'm curing the defect in the Sermon on the Mount. My League implements Jesus.

ALICE ROOSEVELT: You're not Christ. You're the anti-Christ.

SENATOR LODGE: Mr. President, the League with my reservation. Or no League.

WOODROW: Over my dead body. I'll take my case directly to the American people.

#### SCENE XXIV: CONFESSION & APOLOGY

MADISON GHOST: Flouting his physician, Woodrow whistle-stopped his pro-League message across the continent. A stroke permanently incapacitated him. Without Ellen's calming influence, Woodrow scorns the compromise necessary for treaty ratification. To defend the Declare War Clause, the Senate defeats his handiwork. Our play now comes to a close with the Ghost of Ellen bearing witness to Woodrow's deathbed conversions.

WOODROW: When you died, I lost God's most precious gift.

ELLEN GHOST: Your rise to power was driven by your bottomless hunger for self-esteem. Always center stage. Our marriage. Princeton. Mary Peck. Governor. President. After I died, your hunger knew no bounds. President of the World. Savior of Humanity. You broke your promise to maintain peace.

WOODROW: I mistook the devil's work for God's work. (*Kneeling*) God forgive me.

ELLEN GHOST: What about those you hurt?

WOODROW: Yes. I must apologize. (*Trotter enters*) Mr. Trotter, I was wrong to bless white supremacy and spurn your right to petition. (*Paul enters*) Ms. Alice Paul, I was wrong to oppose your franchise amendment and endorse your torture. (*Bryan enters*) Mr. Bryan, I should have honored neutrality. Opposed the British blockade, the provocation of unrestricted submarine warfare. Refrained from arming, trading and funding the Allies. And protested Britain cutting our cables. (*Addresses Ellen*) Ellen, I was wrong to break my peace promise to you. Spending more on war than the entire government spent in 128 previous years of the Republic. I should have honored my promises to Germany and opposed unconditional surrender. Believing the League of Nations would undo the Versailles Treaty's injustices was a dangerous delusion. I facilitated the stab-in-the-back narrative that fueled Hitler's rise to power. (*Lodge & Alice Roosevelt enter*) Senator Lodge and Alice Roosevelt, I should have honored Congress' war power. I apologize to the 2,700 Americans I detained for exercising free speech. (*Addresses everyone*) I was Janus-faced in proclaiming democracy abroad while undoing our Republic at home.

ELLEN GHOST: You knew not what you did. (*Woodrow dies*)

MADISON GHOST: Woodrow's constitutional vandalisms endure. A good-guys-bad-guys foreign policy. Perpetual presidential wars. Uncaged executive power. National bankruptcy. A Republic Undone. Seduced by the voice of the serpent, Americans have eaten from the tree of empire for more than a century. But the world will never forget what we, the Founding Fathers, did in Philadelphia more than two centuries ago. It is for you, the living, to insure our magnificent labors shall not have been in vain: that a nation that exalts liberty over domination, wisdom over ignorance, and checks and balances over limitless executive power shall be restored and sparkle again as the pinnacle of civilization; and, that you pledge your sacred honor, your lives, your fortunes, everything you are and everything you have, to give a new birth to our constitutional Republic. Who shall live up to the challenge? Who dares fail to try?