



Quill

**ENTERTAINMENT
COMPANY**

Teaching America's Heritage
through Story and Song

**History Musicals
for Students, Families and
Communities**

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A WORD FROM QUILL'S FOUNDER

Dear Friend:

America was founded as the most daring and exciting experiment in self-government the world had ever known. But if our citizenry loses sight of the importance of our past—if we stop learning from our history—we cannot continue to be the beacon of freedom and human rights that our forefathers fashioned. Unfortunately, there is evidence that this erosion of our connection with our heritage has already begun.

That's why I founded Quill. Quill's mission is "Teaching America's Heritage Through Story and Song." That word, "teaching," is very important to us. We produce entertaining musicals, but we strive for something more than entertainment. We strive to educate. That is why all our musicals resonate on the sounding board of America's core beliefs. We don't just "do history." We go beyond that to explore the philosophies and ideals that are the foundation of our country. Teachers love our approach because we give them not just a lesson plan, but the opportunity to have students experience what it was like to be the historical characters they would otherwise only read about.

We once wrote a musical about Lewis and Clark, and I've always been struck by the expansiveness of their vision and the incredible courage they exhibited to make it come true. I often feel Quill is on such a journey. We've pushed off, and I calculate we're in Montana somewhere. There are some high mountains to cross and some mighty rivers to navigate, and we'll never make it without adequate supplies. You, our friends, old and new, are those "supplies." With your help we will accomplish great and important things. It is an exciting and tremendously worthwhile journey, and we gratefully invite you to join us.

Sincerely,

*Granville Wyche Burgess
Co-Founder and CEO*



ABOUT QUILL

Founded in 1998, Quill Entertainment Company is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational organization whose mission is *Teaching America's Heritage Through Story and Song*. Quill is dedicated to using entertainment to improve the knowledge of our students and citizens about the important ideals and values found in our past, and to providing teachers and students with exciting new tools to enhance their understanding of American history. Since 1998, we have entertained and educated over 40,000 people.

QUILL'S AWARD WINNING CREATIVE TEAM

GRANVILLE WYCHE BURGESS, CO-FOUNDER AND CEO



Granville Burgess' plays and musicals include: *Battlecry*, *The Freak* (Off-Broadway); *The Death Of Dracula*; *Play It As It Lies*; *Closets*; *Dusky Sally*; *Conrack* (Ford's Theatre); *Cheesecake Proposal*; *Feliz Cumpleanos*; and *A Country Carol*, as well as the History Musicals *Glory Road!*, *Dream...*, *Everybody's Watching*, *Quest for the West*, *Paul Revere Rides Again*, and *The Last Full Measure*. Mr. Burgess was Director of the Walnut Street Theatre School and has taught playwriting, screenwriting, directing, and acting at The Wilma Theatre, Widener University, The Academy of Vocal Arts, Trinity College, The University of Central Oklahoma, The Tower Hill School, Arcadia University, and Westtown School. He is a graduate of the Phillips Exeter Academy (Honors), Princeton University (*magna cum laude* in American History), and The Catholic University of America (MFA in Directing).

www.granvilleburgess.com

STEPHEN LAWRENCE, CO-FOUNDER



Stephen Lawrence has composed over 250 songs and scores for "Sesame Street," resulting in three shared Emmy Awards for "Outstanding Achievement in Music Direction and Composition;" composed the title song and several others for Marlo Thomas' *Free To Be...You And Me* (Emmy and Peabody Award-winning television special); composed the million-selling single, *You Take My Breath Away* (Gold Record); and scored the movies *Bang The Drum Slowly* (starring Robert DeNiro), *Alice, Sweet Alice* (Music Award, Paris Festival of Fantasy and Science Fiction); and *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* (starring Carol Burnett, lyrics by Sheldon Harnick).

www.StephenLawrenceMusic.com

QUILL'S CHALLENGE: ARE AMERICANS LOSING THEIR PAST?

“History education has gone off the rails,” reported the Wall Street Journal in 2008.

“We’re raising a generation of Americans who are historically illiterate.”
David McCullough, Pulitzer Prize-winning historian

Inter-Collegiate Studies Institute, November, 2008, Report statistics* show:

- **40% of college seniors have no idea when the Civil War occurred**
- **Only 44% answered correctly questions about the Revolution**
- **Only 27% of elected officials could identify one freedom or right guaranteed by the First Amendment;**
- **43% of elected officials didn’t know what the electoral college was**
- **Only 37% of American citizens could pass the United States citizenship quiz**
- **Only 35 % of fourth graders know the purpose of the Declaration of Independence**

* As reported by Kathleen Parker in Washington Post



WHY DOES HISTORY MATTER?

Numerous leaders, authors and educators have offered compelling expressions of the vital importance of a knowledge of history.

“Our society, our very existence as a free people, rests on our success in ensuring that all Americans understand our history, rights, and responsibilities, and pass this knowledge on to rising generations.”

Bruce Cole, CEO of the American Revolution Center
Former Chairman of National Endowment for the Humanities

“History is a guide to navigation in perilous times. History is who we are and why we are the way we are.”

David C. McCullough, Pulitzer Prize-Winning Historian

“We are not makers of history. We are made by history.”

Martin Luther King, Jr., Civil Rights Leader

“That men do not learn very much from the lessons of history is the most important of all the lessons that history has to teach.”

Aldous Huxley, Author

“A generation which ignores history has no past and no future.”

Robert Heinlein, American Science-Fiction Writer

QUILL BRINGS HISTORY TO LIFE

Quill's Goal is to ignite a passion for America's heritage and history by creating an educational and entertaining experience that reconnects Americans with their past. In this increasingly globalized world, it is crucial that we understand who we are and where we've come from, as we connect with others. Former Librarian of Congress Daniel Boorstin once said, **“Trying to plan for the future without a sense of the past is like trying to plant cut flowers.”**

At Quill, we hope to plant the seeds that tomorrow will blossom into the continued strength and freedom of our nation.

“If history were taught in the form of stories, it would never be forgotten.”

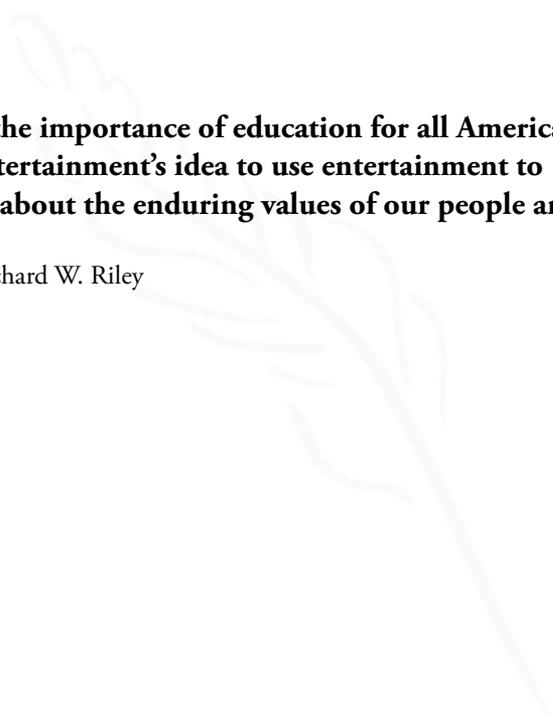
Rudyard Kipling, English Novelist and Nobel Prize Winner

“It is important to make every effort to interest children in history at an early age so we don't ‘lose’ them by making history boring...Your productions promise to serve as factual, fun-filled introductions— just the kind of approach that is needed.”

Professor James McPherson, Princeton University, Pulitzer Prize winner

“As a life-long advocate of the importance of education for all Americans, I heartily endorse Quill Entertainment's idea to use entertainment to engage and educate people about the enduring values of our people and our nation.”

Former Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley



QUILL'S HISTORY MUSICALS

Quill has written and produced six 50-minute musicals designed to be performed in connection with school history curricula. Each History Musical begins with five students bored with their current history homework assignment. Mr. History magically appears with his History Trunk. He convinces the students to time-travel with him into the past and become the characters they are studying. How? With the costume pieces and props in his Trunk. Put on Paul Revere's hat and you "become" Paul Revere. Pick up James Madison's quill pen and you "become" the Founder of the Constitution. When the students are finished experiencing the drama and excitement of history "first-hand", as it were, they come back to the present fired up with the feeling that history is fun.

Our musicals need no lighting, no elaborate sets, and no video, so they are easy to travel. What they do need is the audience's imagination and participation: each of our shows involves the audience in the plot; we use the "live-ness" of theatre to bring history to life.

Quill's history musicals dramatize core themes of American History that are universal and relevant today, such as:

- Freedom and democracy
- Exploration, expansion and discovery
- Civility, cooperation and compromise
- Leadership and perseverance
- Equality, diversity and human rights
- Personal sacrifice in times of war and peace

Nothing educates about history and inspires like entertainment:

- Songs are remembered
- Characters, experiences, values and emotions are brought to life, enabling students to identify with them
- Audiences are re-connected to the past
- The interplay of history, imagination and emotion keeps students entertained while learning

HISTORY MUSICALS FOR GRADES 3 THROUGH 8

GLORY ROAD! HARRIET TUBMAN AND THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

In the exciting chase sequence, the audience helps deceive the slave catcher so that Harriet can lead her runaways to safety. The title anthem sets the hopes and dreams of slaves to stirring music.

DREAM... MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., ROSA PARKS, AND THE MONTGOMERY BUS BOYCOTT

Follow Dr. King as he works to master his own anger, discovering his nonviolent philosophy in the process. This philosophy is sorely tested during the boycott. From the Montgomery jail to the KKK, the audience experiences the hatred of those violent days and the love and courage it took to overcome it. The show closes with stirring renditions of Dr. King's most powerful language.

EVERYBODY'S WATCHING THE MAKING OF THE CONSTITUTION

This musical dramatizes the compromises necessary to launch our nation, along with the light-hearted fun of the witty Benjamin Franklin and the burning passion of James Madison. When the crucial votes are cast, the audience votes, too!

QUEST FOR THE WEST THE LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION

Several boxes are arranged and re-arranged to become boats, campfires, and mountains as we follow this exciting journey into the unknown. Thanks to the generosity and courage of Sacajawea and other Native Americans, the triumph belongs not just to the white men, but to all of us.

PAUL REVERE RIDES AGAIN THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS RIDE

This musical captures the drama of Revere's discovering the British plans and then riding to disrupt them. It features a vaudeville song-and-dance by the two ends of Revere's horse, who complains that he does all the work and Revere gets all the credit.

THE LAST FULL MEASURE THE BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG AND THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

Love, honor and peace are put to rest as Robert E. Lee tries to turn the tide of the Civil War. African-American runaways, a Union corporal and his fiancé, Rebel soldiers bent on destruction - who will answer the call to freedom and union?

ABOUT QUILL'S HISTORY MUSICALS

FROM STUDENTS

"The show taught me many more things but I would never finish this letter if I said them all."

"I wish I could go back in time. That would be so cool... Don't you wish that?"

"I never liked history. Then you guys made it fun. It was a fun way to learn."

"You dressed a lot like they did back then and it helped me understand more. You used a lot of good props and light effects."

FROM TEACHERS

"... Your production was great... interactive, informative, and relevant... a truly painless history."

"My students really learned from this production. They also loved the music. I would certainly bring my students to theatre productions of other historical issues."

"What a wonderful performance! We really enjoyed the show. In fact, I have never seen the students so excited about a play, especially one about history, and I have seen many plays over the years with them. Usually they are bored, or confused about halfway through and they lose interest, but they were totally engaged. I have copied my principals on the e-mail, because I know that you have a couple of additional performances and I hope they will encourage other grades to see the show. It is a wonderful way to celebrate Black History Month."

"Absolutely beautiful and moving! Every American should see this!"

FROM PARENTS

"The children were attentive to the show, singing the songs when we arrived back home and recounting the story line. I hope that there will be future productions depicting other historical events..."

"I wasn't sure [my teenage daughters] were impressed because they wanted to leave so quick after the play. Later that night, they told me they had been outside dancing and singing their 'heritage...' This is the way to do history!!"

"Thank you so much for a great show about something IMPORTANT. I hope you will write more shows about great moments in our history."

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Teaching America's Heritage
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James McPherson, Professor Emeritus at Princeton University and Pulitzer Prize-Winning author of *Battlecry of Freedom*. Received the Lincoln Prize (twice), the Pritzker Military Library Literature Award, among many honors. Author of some fifteen books and editor of ten more.

Harold Holzer, winner of the National Humanities Medal, Chairman of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Foundation and author, co-author, or editor of 36 books and 450 articles on Lincoln and the Civil War.

Matthew Warshauer, Associate Professor of History at Central Connecticut State University, editor of *Connecticut History*, and author of *Connecticut in the Civil War: Slavery, Sacrifice and Survival*.

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