

INTERSTITIAL #1 - CONSTITUTION

(Working Draft)

Granville Wyche Burgess

CONCEPT: In this series of interstitials, Mr. History initially wears a mask designed like a stylized flag, to obscure his identity. This enables us to use guest actors or dignitaries to play Mr. History. Children are not included incorporated into this version.

OPENING SEQUENCE:

FADE IN:

A LONG SHOT of a building in Philadelphia. WE HEAR the theme song, as the CAMERA TRACKS SLOWLY towards the building.

“WE THE PEOPLE”(V.O)

WE THE PEOPLE, WE THE PEOPLE,
WE THE PEOPLE,--YEA!

WE SEE the name of the building chiseled outside: NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER.

WE THE PEOPLE, WE THE PEOPLE(V.O)
WE THE PEOPLE, YEA!

CUT TO:

SPIRITED ACTION—THE FEEL OF A CROWD AT A CONCERT

TIGHT

On MR. HISTORY's mask as he sings.

MR. HISTORY
COME ENJOY THE HISTORY OF FOLKS FROM
WAY BACK WHEN!

PULL BACK TO REVEAL

Mr. History from VARIOUS ANGLES, but never distinctly.

MR. HISTORY (con't)
COME EXPLORE THE MYSTERY OF THINGS THAT
MIGHT HAVE BEEN!
WE THE PEOPLE, WE THE PEOPLE,

The CAMERA PULLS IN on Mr. History's mask.

ANNOUNCER(V.O.)

And who is behind the History Mask today?....

The mask peels away to reveal the face of this episode's guest star.

MR. HISTORY/BACK-UP GROUP

WE THE PEOPLE, --YEA!

BODY OF EPISODE

CUT TO:

INT. A WELL-APPOINTED STUDY/PHILADELPHIA, 1787 – NIGHT

TIGHT

On a peg-leg dragging and stumping across the floor.

JAMES MADISON(V.O.)

We, the undersigned delegates of the States of New Hampshire,
Pennsylvania, Massa—

ANGLE

On four me surrounding a table strewn with documents: RUFUS KING, WILLIAM SAMUEL JOHNSON(The Chairman), ALEXANDER HAMILTON, JAMES MADISON—The Committee on Style and Arrangement.

RUFUS KING

Confound it, Mr. Madison, we're not going to list every state,
are we?!

JAMES MADISON

We assembled here in Philadelphia as representatives of the
thirteen states, Mr. King.

WILLIAM SAMUEL JOHNSON

And decided to form a national government. Continue, Mr. Madison.

JAMES MADISON

...Mary-land, Virginia,--

A HAND snatches the document from Madison's fingers.

ANGLE ON MORRIS

GOUVERNEUR MORRIS

If he continues like this, we shall bore the citizens to death!

JAMES MADISON

What would you have us say then, Mr. Morris?

GOUVERNEUR MORRIS

As a preamble to the Constitution?...

Morris studies the document a moment.

GOUVERNEUR MORRIS(Con't)

"We the People."

JAMES MADISON

What?!

ALEXANDER HAMILTON

(Disdainfully)

The "people?!"

RUFUS KING

But you can't do that!

GOUVERNEUR MORRIS

Why not?

RUFUS KING

Because... Because...

WILLIAM SAMUEL JOHNSON

Because it's never been done!

GOUVERNEUR MORRIS

Precisely!

He smiles deliciously, then takes a quill pen, "sharpens" it by scratching it on his wooden leg, and writes.

"WE THE PEOPLE" (sound of quill scratching blends with V.O. and music from opening)

CLOSING SEQUENCE

WE THE PEOPLE, WE THE PEOPLE,
WE THE PEOPLE,-- YEA!

TIGHT

On the letters as they spell: "We the People." Then the letters unscramble, flying in all directions until they reform as the on-screen-words the Announcer now speaks:

ANNOUNCER(V.O)
The National Constitution Center...
Where Freedom Lives.

FADE OUT