

INTERSTITIAL #1 - CONSTITUTION

Alternate version with children

(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 included in 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:

INT. NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER - DAY

MR. HISTORY, in his History Mask, is handing out props and costume pieces to the KIDS as he sings, ending with a peg-leg for himself.

MR. HISTORY
COME ENJOY THE HISTORY OF FOLKS FROM
WAY BACK WHEN!
COME EXPLORE THE MYSTERY OF THINGS THAT
MIGHT HAVE BEEN!

(Music continues under. To the KIDS)

OPENING SEQUENCE:

Ready for some time travellin'?

SARAH

Where we going today, Mr. History?

MR. HISTORY

Back to the days of the Constitution, Philadelphia, 1787, when...

(As he names each kid, he sweeps his hand
down over his/her face, magically covering the kid
in an appropriate History Mask.)

William Samuel Johnson... Rufus King..., Alexander Hamilton..., James Madison..., the
page..., and

(Sweeping his hand over his own face)

Gouverneur Morris met as the Committee on Style and Arrangement.

CARLOS

What kind of style?

MR. HISTORY

Written!

Mr. History waves his hand and they all begin the WHIRLING WARP, spinning through
time, as we

CUT TO:

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

TIGHT

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

CHARLIE-AS-MADISON(V.O.)

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

ANGLE

On CARLOS-AS-KING, SARAH-AS-JOHNSON(The Chairman), ALEX-AS-
HAMILTON, and CHARLIE-AS-MADISON around a table. COLLEEN-AS-PAGE
waits nearby with a tray upon which are quill pens and ink pots.

CARLOS-AS-KING

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

CHARLIE-AS-MADISON

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

SARAH-AS-JOHNSON

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

CHARLIE-AS-MADISON

...Mary-land, Virginia,--

A HAND snatches the document from Madison's fingers.

ANGLE ON MORRIS

MR. HISTORY-AS-MORRIS

If he continues like this, we shall put the citizens to sleep!

CHARLIE-AS-MADISON

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

MR. HISTORY-AS-MORRIS

As a preamble to the Constitution?...

Morris studies the document a moment.

MR. HISTORY-AS-MORRIS

"We the People."

CHARLIE-AS-MADISON

What?!

ALEX-AS-HAMILTON

(Disdainfully)

The "people?!"

CARLOS-AS-KING

But you cain't do that!

MR. HISTORY-AS-MORRIS

Why not?

CARLOS-AS-KING

Because... Because...

SARAH-AS-JOHNSON

Because it's never been done!

MR. HISTORY-AS-MORRIS

Precisely! Ink!

COLLEEN-AS-PAGE brings over the tray. MR. HISTORY-AS-MORRIS carefully chooses a pen, "sharpens" it by scratching it on his wooden leg, and writes. The song begins on the soundtrack.

"WE THE PEOPLE"(V.O)

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