

Rise To The Revolution

An Accompany Publishing Musical Play

CHARACTERS

The CHILDREN OF BOSTON:

Rebecca Lewis, a nursemaid
John Edes
Sally Sessions
Billy Snider
Paul Revere, Jr.
Sarah Revere
John Quincy Adams
Nabby Adams

The SONS OF LIBERTY:

Sam Adams
John Hancock
Benjamin Edes
Paul Revere
John Adams (Mystery Man)
Mercy Otis Warren

Molly Hutchinson, the
Governor's daughter
Virginia Sears, her servant

PARLIAMENT:

King George
Parliament One
Parliament Two

The BRITISH MILITIA:

The Captain
Regular One
Regular Two

The TEA BOAT SAILORS:

Francis Rotch, tea boat
owner
Sailor One
Sailor Two

The Lobster Seller

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SCENES

Scene One: Boston Common, December 1773
Song: "Boston"

Scene Two: The Wharf
Song: "Come Jolly Sons Of Liberty"

Scene Three: England, Parliament
Song: "More Taxes"

Scene Four: Market at the Wharf, Boston

Scene Five: Outside the Meeting House
Song: "Let's Dump Tonight"


Scene Six: England, Parliament

Scene Seven: Boston Common, March 1774
Song: "United We Stand"

SCENE ONE

Boston Common, December 1773. Three British tea ships float in the background.

The British Militia, REGULAR ONE and REGULAR TWO, stand post upstage at the Wharf, trying to keep warm. Near the Wharf sits the Lobster Seller stand.

 [Offstage Sound Effect: horse feet clapping on cobblestone.]

VOICE OFFSTAGE

Boston! Everybody off! Step this way to the Boston Common!

[REBECCA LEWIS, a girl of eleven, enters with a travel bag, obviously scared. She moves to center and then stops, looks around.]

REBECCA LEWIS

Don't cry, Rebecca. I won't cry. I must be strong. Be a big girl, mama said. This is where I'm to live and work and learn. It's a good placement for me, she said. The Warrens will be kind. Don't cry, Rebecca. Whatever you do, don't cry.

[PAUL REVERE, JR., BILLY SNIDER and JOHN EDES run across the stage and exit quickly, shouting behind them as they run.]

PAUL REVERE, JR.

Take that, you Tories!

BILLY SNIDER

For the Sons of Liberty!

[The LOBSTER SELLER runs on after the boys, shouting over to The REGULARS upstage at the Wharf.]

LOBSTER SELLER

Stop them! Regulars, stop them!

[The REGULARS aren't interested in moving.]

REGULAR ONE

Stop who?

LOBSTER SELLER

Paul Revere, Jr. and his no-good friends! They've been buying my lobsters and throwing them at my British customers!

REGULAR TWO

It's too cold to chase anybody.

REGULAR ONE

[Gesturing towards REBECCA LEWIS] There's no one here but this country bumpkin.

REGULAR TWO

[Snickering] Why don't you come back to your lobster stand and have some nice hot tea?

LOBSTER SELLER

If we ever get tea again, I'll be sure to pour a nice hot pot over you. Worse than getting hit by lobsters.

*[The LOBSTER SELLER heads upstage to the stand on the Wharf.
The CAPTAIN enters and the REGULARS snap to attention.]*

THE CAPTAIN

What's all the commotion? Is there a problem?

REGULAR TWO

No, Captain!

THE CAPTAIN

Good. Carry on.

[The CAPTAIN exits and The REGULARS relax.]

REGULAR ONE

No problem at all, except that we're supposed to be soldiers, but instead we're stuck here in Boston.

REGULAR TWO

Boston is cold. And I'm hungry.

[JOHN EDES sneaks back onstage.]

JOHN EDES

If you're hungry, have this!

[JOHN EDES throws a lobster at The REGULARS and hides behind REBECCA. The REGULARS march forward to REBECCA. She immediately puts her hands up.]

REBECCA LEWIS

Please, sir, I'm a loyal subject from Pennsylvania! I've done nothing!

REGULAR ONE

It's just some kids. Forget 'em. Let's find the tavern.

REGULAR TWO

Bunch of Yanks.

[The REGULARS retreat upstage to the Wharf. REBECCA LEWIS still stands frozen with her hands up, JOHN EDES hiding behind her.]

[Slowly, The CHILDREN OF BOSTON emerge from every possible hiding place: SALLY SESSIONS, BILLY SNIDER, PAUL REVERE, JR. and SARAH REVERE. They close in around REBECCA LEWIS and JOHN EDES at center stage.]

BILLY SNIDER

Who does she think she is?

SALLY SESSIONS

"A loyal subject of the crown," she said.

SARAH REVERE

She didn't say "crown", she said "Pennsylvania."

SALLY SESSIONS

Same thing.

JOHN EDES

Watch what you say! Ben Franklin's from Pennsylvania.

PAUL REVERE, JR.

Maybe she's a spy.

BILLY SNIDER

A spy!

JOHN EDES

No one would suspect her.

SALLY SESSIONS

She doesn't look smart enough.

SARAH REVERE

[Mocking] She's a "country bumpkin."

PAUL REVERE, JR.

I say she's a spy!

BILLY SNIDER

There's only one way to find out.

[The CHILDREN have closed into a tight group around REBECCA LEWIS, who does not move.]

SALLY SESSIONS

Well? *[To REBECCA]* Say something!

[REBECCA puts her hands down and bursts into tears.]

REBECCA LEWIS

I want to go home!

PAUL REVERE, JR.

She's definitely NOT a spy.

SALLY SESSIONS

You should talk, Paul Revere, Jr.! You cry over losing at tops!

PAUL REVERE, JR.

I do not!

BILLY SNIDER

I'm sorry, Paul, Jr., but I've seen you cry. It's not pretty.

JOHN EDES

Would you hush? *[To REBECCA]* Come on now, stop crying. We won't hurt you, I promise.

SALLY SESSIONS

Maybe her parents died.

REBECCA LEWIS

[Still sniffing] Just my father.

JOHN EDES

First things first. *[Holds out a hand to shake]* I'm John Edes, apprentice printer from Boston. Pleased to meet you.

[REBECCA has stopped crying, shakes JOHN EDES' hand.]

REBECCA LEWIS

Rebecca Lewis. From Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, now to reside in Boston.

BILLY SNIDER

You came all the way from Pennsylvania by yourself?

REBECCA LEWIS

Fourteen days ride. I don't know anyone here. Well, except John Edes.

BILLY SNIDER

[Shaking Rebecca's hand] And Billy Snider, son of a Son of Liberty.

SALLY SESSIONS

Sally Sessions, apprentice seamstress and Patriot.

PAUL REVERE, JR.

Paul Revere, Jr., apprentice silversmith, erstwhile dentist, and the fastest rider in all New England.

JOHN EDES

After his father, he means.

PAUL REVERE, JR.

And this is my little sister, Sarah Revere.

[They all shake hands with REBECCA.]

JOHN EDES

You must have some reason for coming to Boston, Rebecca.

REBECCA LEWIS

My father died from the fever last winter. My mother and I couldn't tend the farm alone. I've been bound to a family here, as a nursemaid.

SALLY SESSIONS

Which family?

REBECCA LEWIS

Dr. and Mrs. Warren.

SARAH REVERE

You're working for the Warrens?

REBECCA LEWIS

Are they awful? I bet they're awful.

SALLY SESSIONS

The Warrens are one of the best families in Boston.

REBECCA LEWIS

But are they...kind?

[Cue music: "Boston".]

JOHN EDES

Of course they're kind. The Warrens are Patriots. They also believe in freedom, Rebecca. Freedom for everyone in America.

REBECCA LEWIS

They don't talk about Patriots or freedom nearly so much on the Pennsylvania farms.

SARAH REVERE

All of America will be talking about it soon. And they'll say it started here. In Boston.

 **SONG: "BOSTON"**

Into this new world
We built a colony strong
People who traveled
To find a place to belong
Beside my neighbors
Finding opportunities
No longer strangers
The bonds of new families

Boston
Where the sun's always shining
Boston
Looking over the sea
So here's where I'm living
Far from the Throne
It takes a revolution
To make a home

Living in Boston
Seventeen Seventy Three
The time is coming
To take on new liberty
Someone said freedom
We're only halfway there
A revolution
Go tell the world to prepare

Boston
Where the sun's always shining

Boston
Looking over the sea
So here's where I'm living
Far from the Throne
It takes a revolution
To make a home

[Musical break: more Colonists fill the stage, going about their daily business. The city of Boston comes to life!]

[JOHN QUINCY ADAMS and NABBY ADAMS run on selling newspapers. MERCY OTIS WARREN and The TEA BOAT SAILORS enter from opposite sides, heading to market.]

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS

Paper! Get your paper! Governor Hutchinson sets deadline for tea to be removed from ships!

SAILOR ONE

[To SAILOR TWO] I wish we could just unload the tea.

SAILOR TWO

Then we could start sailing again.

SAILOR ONE

Instead of anchored in the dock for weeks.

MERCY OTIS WARREN

Johnny! John Quincy Adams! Has the coach been through yet? We're expecting a young girl today.

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS

Come and gone, Mrs. Warren. The driver bought a whole stack of Gazettes to take with him.

NABBY ADAMS

Governor says "Unload the tea — or else"! Read all about it!

[The music kicks back in for the final Chorus. Everyone is singing, even the LOBSTER SELLER and REGULARS from their upstage position at the Wharf.]

 **CHORUS**

Boston

Where the sun's always shining

Boston

Looking over the sea

So here's where I'm living

Far from the Throne

It takes a revolution

To make a home

Boston

Boston

Boston

To make our home

[After the song ends, the Bostonians disperse. The TEA BOAT SAILORS move upstage to the Wharf area.]

JOHN EDES

[To REBECCA LEWIS] Look! There's Mrs. Warren!

[JOHN EDES leads REBECCA across the stage to meet MERCY OTIS WARREN.]

MERCY OTIS WARREN

Are you Rebecca Lewis?

REBECCA LEWIS

Yes, ma'am.

MERCY OTIS WARREN

I'm so glad you're here. I'm Mercy Otis Warren. Welcome to Boston.

[REBECCA exits with MERCY OTIS WARREN.]

[As they exit, SAM ADAMS, JOHN HANCOCK and BENJAMIN EDES enter. SAM ADAMS looks disheveled while JOHN HANCOCK is well dressed.]

SARAH REVERE

It's Mr. Edes! And he's with Sam Adams and John Hancock!

[JOHN QUINCY ADAMS and NABBY ADAMS run towards BENJAMIN EDES with their newspapers. The other CHILDREN follow.]

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS

Mr. Edes!

NABBY ADAMS

Mr. Edes, the Gazette's almost sold out!

BENJAMIN EDES

Good job, children.

JOHN HANCOCK

[To SAM ADAMS] Proof again, Sam, that there's at least one branch of the Adams family that's good at business. Even if it's not yours!

SAM ADAMS

Not all of us can talk revolution and still find time to make millions, John.

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS

No one can believe the deadline, Cousin Sam.

NABBY ADAMS

What are the Sons of Liberty going to do?

SAM ADAMS

Governor Hutchinson hasn't given us much time to plan.

SALLY SESSIONS

But we're not going to unload the tea, right?

SAM ADAMS

No one is unloading that tea.

JOHN HANCOCK

The Sons of Liberty will make sure of it. We're guarding the ships now.

NABBY ADAMS

But what happens when the deadline comes and the tea is still there?

BILLY SNIDER

We'll fight 'em, Mr. Edes. *[Does some shadow boxing]* I could take on some Redcoats.

SAM ADAMS

The time may come for fighting, young Billy. But not yet.

BENJAMIN EDES

I wish we knew how the boycott was going in the other colonies. Has any one seen Paul?

[PAUL REVERE cruises in on a scooter.]

PAUL REVERE

Did someone call Paul Revere?

PAUL REVERE, JR.

Father!

SARAH REVERE

Father!

SAM ADAMS

Paul Revere! What's the news?

PAUL REVERE

The tea agents in New York have resigned!

[EVERYONE celebrates this good news: "yea!", "wow!", "that's amazing!", etc.]

PAUL REVERE

The ships went back to England without unloading their tea. The boycott worked!

BENJAMIN EDES

If it can happen in New York, then it can happen in Boston.

NABBY ADAMS

Governor Hutchinson has to change his mind now.

SAM ADAMS

Not necessarily, young Nabby. We need to plan our next move very carefully.

JOHN EDES

What is the next move, Mr. Adams?

SAM ADAMS

The Committee of Correspondence has an important letter to deliver.

JOHN HANCOCK

What letter?

SAM ADAMS

The one we're going to compose right now! A letter to bring all Patriots to Boston.

JOHN HANCOCK

Sons of Liberty, let's get to the Green Dragon and write that letter.

BENJAMIN EDES

Paul Revere, you're going to need a fresh horse to deliver the letter.

PAUL REVERE, JR.

I can ride, Father! Let me go!

PAUL REVERE

This is a job for grownups, Paul, Jr.

PAUL REVERE, JR.

But what about us? Isn't there something we can do?

SAM ADAMS

You kids spread the news: tea meeting at the Liberty Tree at five o'clock tonight!

JOHN HANCOCK

Better tell people five-thirty. That way, Sam Adams will be on time!

[The SONS OF LIBERTY walk off. The CHILDREN all huddle excitedly — except PAUL REVERE, JR., who sulks.]

[End of Scene.]