



Ford's Theatre – Washington, DC (March 23-May 21, 2011)

CRITIC REVIEWS

“Very Disney! Embroidered by optimistic ballads with such titles as “A Better Tomorrow” and “Dare but to Dream,” and dividing history into adorable good guys (Benjamin Franklin) and Captain Hook-like nasties (Benedict Arnold). Visitors to the working house of history that is Ford’s will no doubt feel a synergy between the landmark theater and the themes of this musical, which follows the adventures of an 18th-century Zelig, played by the honey-throated Geoff Packard. Good-natured and filled with wisecracking anachronisms. *Liberty Smith* is sunny and well-sung!”

- *The Washington Post*

“A very enjoyable spectacle of song, dance, and American history! Geoff Packard ... is perfect as the strong-willed Liberty Smith. Kelly Karbacz plays the plucky Emily Andrews, a modern-minded woman in a pre-woman’s suffrage world. The end product is a fresh new musical that is bound to be a hit. The opening night of *Liberty Smith* received a rousing standing ovation, a sight I believe the show will see many times in the foreseeable future.”

-*We Love DC*

“*Liberty Smith* is entertaining...But that's not as important as *Liberty Smith's* family entertainment cred, for which it surpasses qualifications: Educational, entertaining, and flashy, with jokes that both kids and parents can appreciate.”

-*@TDB Arts*

“Everyone will have his or her own favorite moments and performances in this show, one of the largest and most expensive that Ford's has yet mounted...By all means, if you simply want to be entertained and revel in gloriously anthemic music – with 23 musical numbers! – and a Broadway-caliber cast and set design, *Liberty Smith* is your ticket to ride. The whole production team deserves praise for their work, from Court Watson's

evocative set designs to Wade Laboissonniere's inspired costumes to Denis Jones's playful choreography. You can't help but think the team behind *Liberty Smith* is angling for more to come from the show than just a two-month run at Ford's, or even a national tour of the production. With Disney such a major force on Broadway these days, surely the producers will push in that direction. If nothing else, no one would be surprised if the show pops up in another medium, be it film or television or, heck, a Disney World ride.”

★★★★ and a half

-MetroWeekly

“Light and frothy. Well, maybe that's what we need these days. And if that's what you're looking for, Ford's Theatre is offering a great dose of light and frothy fare in "Liberty Smith," a musical spin through history in which some of the most famous American Founding Fathers sing their hearts out. "Liberty Smith" is based on the premise that the American Revolution didn't happen just because Washington, Jefferson, Franklin and Revere existed, but because there were many people, as in "We the People," who were responsible for accomplishing the Revolution. It's a clever historical tribute to everyman.”

-Washington Examiner

“If you don't yet have tickets for *Liberty Smith*, why not? You should. Ford's latest production is a wholesome family musical, appropriate for theatregoers of all ages. That said, it is neither sedate nor anodyne. Instead, the rollicking show offers romance, danger, and comedy....It is hard to think up enough complimentary terms to praise *Liberty Smith*. Totally unpretentious, the creative team – book writers Marc Madnick and Eric R. Cohen in addition to librettist-lyricist Abraham and composer Weiner – achieve precisely what they set out to do: to deliver an enjoyable, entertaining romp into America's revolutionary past. *Liberty Smith* is a delightful throwback to the sort of Broadway revue one might have seen in the 1950s. This is not an Adam Guettel-style cerebral challenge. As a matter of fact, too much thinking might detract from the overall enjoyable experience: just sit back and let flow its life, “Liberty,” and the pursuit of happiness.”

-Metro Herald

"I highly recommend this show!! The talent is top notch, the costumes are gorgeous, the set is splendid, I loved the choreography and the humor is very clever. This is a family show that is very Disney like, but does have some adult references, but overall children would enjoy this as well. The story is one of hope, going for one's dreams and living a life of passion. It mixes facts and fiction with tons of laughs and modern references."

-Capital Sophisticate

"Would I recommend the show for a good-feelings night out that helps us remember why we love America? You betcha!"

- DC Theatre Scene

PUBLIC REVIEWS

TICKETMASTER.COM (Average Rating: 4 ½ out of 5 stars)



5 / 5

Liberty Smith is the Man

Wonderful and entertaining story presented by very talented actors. Don't miss the opportunity to get our Nation's early history presented with a twist.



5 / 5

Great show - better than expected. Humor - clever lyrics - excellent performances by cast. All in all... a wonderful evening. Have already recommended it to all our DC friends.



5 / 5

Liberty is Amazing!

Great book and music. The show is based on an amazing premise. As a historian and teacher I was prepared to not be amazed. However, I was won over in the first five minutes. The music is great. I wish there was a cast album so that I could take Liberty home.



4 / 5

Liberty Smith was down right funny!

Went with my two boys and wife while visiting DC. My sons were not looking forward to it but ended up laughing all the way through. I found it to be better than expected and my wife loved the modern day reference thrown in throughout. If you like to laugh, see Liberty Smith.



5 / 5

Liberty Smith was Fast and Fun

The whole evening was incredible. We didn't wait at all for the "will-call" tickets and the museum in the basement was a great way to spend a few minutes until the show started. We sat in the balcony and it was convenient to have the elevator available, we didn't wait long for it either. The show itself was amazing, funny and fantastic. The night was over so fast, which is always a sign that it was great. I thoroughly enjoyed the production from start to finish and it was a great way to end the "DC leg" of our vacation.



5 / 5

The whole family really enjoyed it, no kids fell asleep like they usually do!



5 / 5

Who Couldn't Like Liberty?

Excellent acting, staging and overall production.



5 / 5

Great Show

Amazing talent.... great storyline.... we loved it!!!!



5 / 5

Outstanding performance!

Our Girl Scout troop totally enjoyed this outstanding performance during a recent trip to Washington DC. I had no idea what to expect, but knew the play was "kid-friendly". Wow, was I happily shocked at the Broadway quality of the set, singing, dancing, acting. I highly recommend this fun musical for all ages.



5 / 5

Great time with Liberty Smith

Liberty Smith was a fun ride through history and I think everyone should see it at least once!



5 / 5

My wife and I thoroughly enjoy Liberty Smith, it was an exceptional theatrical performance!



4 / 5

Liberty Smith a Musical Romp with Punch!

A delightful musical experience with a "real" orchestra, fabulous costumes, dance numbers, great staging and a satirical tour of the history surrounding the founding of the USA. Fun for children as well as adults. This is a show worth seeing if light

musicals are for you. A very able cast with strong performers earned a standing ovation on opening night. I highly recommend it.



5 / 5

Fabulous

This was a great show. We had 3 generations in our party and everyone enjoyed it! The singing and storytelling was top notch. The costumes were amazing too. Great fun was had by all.



5 / 5

If you are in DC while Liberty Smith is at Ford's Theatre don't miss it. Great entertainment.



5 / 5

Do not miss it!!!

This was our first "family" live musical. My husband and I took our 7 and 13 yr. olds while on vacation. It was absolutely amazing! Our boys enjoyed it and understood the story line and most of the comedy. My husband, who is not the artsy type, was very pleasantly impressed and couldn't stop talking about it. This original musical is an inspiring masterpiece! Worth every dollar. Not a bad seat in the house. Check out the available discounts and arrive early if you've never been to the theater so you can check out the museum..

Favorite moment: Hard to choose. "The Art of Wit" in Act 1 was memorable.



4 / 5

New American Musical that's worth seeing

This is an ambitious project on the part of Ford's theatre to develop and premier a new American Broadway-Style musical. The program states that this play has been in development for over six years with lyrics by Adam Abraham and music by Michael Weiner. While the play has a few slow parts at the outset, it is very engaging and worth the price of a ticket. The music is above average and Adam Abraham's lyrics are thoughtful and engaging. The book works at several levels with a story line that will appeal to younger members of the family along with political humor that will be appreciated by adults interested in current day politics. I especially appreciated the creator's head-on approach to acknowledging some of the short comings of colonial life that are frequently ignored by those who idealize this period of American history -- for example the lack of education and subservient role of women, child mortality, racial and class distinctions. The entire cast is first

rate with voices that clearly articulate and powerfully bring the lyrics to life and acting that makes both the factual and the fanciful aspects of the story believable. Favorite moment: The entire Act 2 is especially fast paced with great songs and music.



5 / 5

Fun and a Must See for All!

This is a fun and must see for all. The story is educational and delightfully told through beautiful songs and fun dancing. It is a show for all ages. If you live in the area or are coming to DC this is a must see to put on your list. Bravo!



4 / 5

Liberty Smith

The play was fun and kept us laughing throughout the evening.



5 / 5

Fantastic!!!

An exciting musical romp through the founding of America. Washington, Franklin, Jefferson and Revere are all brought to life. The music is better than anything on Broadway. This is a must for the whole family. Favorite moment: Too many to choose one.



5 / 5

Liberty Smith was beyond all expectations!

I expected Liberty Smith to be entertaining based on the review on the website, however I did not expect it to be hilarious! I positively loved all of the one liners and the subtle references to today's pop culture. I hung on every word so as not to miss any of the subtleties. I have never enjoyed a jaunt down history lane this much! The people with whom I attended and myself have been quoting lines from the play all weekend.

Favorite moment: Too many to mention, but one favorite line: "you shot me in the ass", "it was friendly fire."

QUOTES ON THE LIBERTY SMITH FACEBOOK PAGE

“Just saw the show tonight and my wife and I LOVED it! It was so great! You all did a great job and I wish the show a long and happy success. Thank you!!”

“What a fantastic show last night! I really enjoyed it.”

“Saw the show last night - fabulous, and super fun!”

“Watched it in DC!! It was awesome!!”

“Great job tonight! We really enjoyed it! Boy can you all sing!”

“I was there tonight and it was amazing!! Kept me on my feet all night!! It was great for my first play/musical at Ford Theatre!! Keep up the GREAT WORK!!”

“Please bring this show to Seattle.”

“Bring the show to Philly!”

“We saw Liberty Smith last night and just loved every minute of it. The production was wonderful from the amazing costumes, the great set, the witty and moving lyrics, the fabulous music and the funny yet inspiring story. I urge everyone who can get to DC to see this play. You won't be disappointed. I plan to see it again with my family!!!!”

“Two buses full of E.C.Glass High School theatre students and their directors agree - FUNNY SHOW, AWESOME PERFORMANCES, TECHNICALLY STUNNING, FUN MUSIC! We saw it yesterday afternoon and had a blast! Just what we needed to cheer us up since we were cold and wet! Bravo!”

“Saw it last night. What a hoot! Fantastic. I have one of the songs running through my head.”

“Best play ever! Best actors ever! I love you all.”

“Saw it April 7th!!! loved it!!!”

“I wish Liberty smith had a soundtrack. I saw the musical friday and the songs have been running through my head.”

“Just wanted to commend the cast of Liberty Smith for their performance. It was fantastic!”

“I saw ‘Liberty Smith’ at the Ford's Theatre. Hilarious! I had a blast listening and watching this musical.”