

Act 1

The Time and Place

April 15<sup>th</sup>, Charles River

First Narrator: Paul Revere was a busy man who was known for doing many things. He was the father of over ten children, a silversmith, a bell ringer, engraved portraits, and became a dentist.

Second Narrator: Paul was used to being very busy. So, when the Sons of Liberty asked for his help, Paul was ready to work.

First Narrator: Paul ended up becoming an express rider and a secret agent. His job was to try and find out what the English planned to do with the colonists.

Second Narrator: Paul Revere had quite a few successful missions but he also had quite a few missions that ended poorly. For example, once the English found him in a rowboat snooping around Castle Island in the Boston Harbor. They stopped him, questioned him, and locked him up for two day and three nights.

First Narrator: But of all Paul missions and rides, nothing was bigger than the ride he was destined to do on Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup>.

Paul: (He's working as a silversmith in his shop making teapots) The British Parliament just won't listen to us, Rachel.

Rachel: I know. We keep getting all these new laws and taxes sent our way and we have nobody to represent how we feel. It's just not fair!

Paul: I heard that more British soldiers might be coming down the Charles River tonight.

Rachel: (looking worried) Paul, did you volunteer to check? I hate it when you do this! You're always putting yourself in danger! Why can't it be Sam or John that goes instead? Why must it always be you!(Rachel begins to cry)

Paul: I'm sorry, Rachel. I hate to worry you but I really feel I'm the best person for the job.

#### Act 2

British Soldier 1: Hey, did you hear the news?

British Soldier 2: No, what's going on?

British Soldier 1: Well, (he/she looks around to make sure that no one is listening) I heard that more British soldiers are going to be heading into Charlestown tonight.

British Soldier 2: Really? Well, the situation here is nuts! I think the colonists have started their own army now. I'm starting to think we may end up in a war.

British Soldier 1: Nah, I don't think that will happen. The colonists don't want to fight the strongest army in the world. That would be crazy!

First Narrator: As the two soldiers walk away, they don't notice the stable boy working with the horses.

Stable boy: I have to tell the Sons of Liberty about this!

Act 3

First Narrator: The stable boy reports what he hear to Dr. Joseph Warren, he was the director of all Patriot activities out of Boston. Dr. Warren sends for Paul.

Dr. Warren: Paul, I need you to alarm all the citizens so that they can arm themselves.

Paul: What? Do you actually believe that the fighting is going to begin tonight!?

Dr. Warren: I'm afraid that war is the only logical choice at this point. There's no turning back.

Paul: Is there anyone else I need to share this information with?

Dr. Warren: Yes, you need to let John Hancock and Samuel Adams know that the fighting may begin tonight.

Paul: What's the first signal I need to use?

Dr. Warren: Remember, head to the North Church. If the English are coming by water, hang two lanterns. If the English are coming by land, hang one lantern.

Paul: Okay, I'm off.

Second narrator: So, off Paul headed to the North Church.

Act 4

First Narrator: Paul learned that the British had been seen on the Charles River and that they were to capture Samuel Adams and John Hancock. Any weapons they found were to be taken as well. He urgently raced towards the church hoping that he wouldn't encounter any soldiers along the way.

Second Narrator: As Paul approached the church, a friend met him outside the door.

Friend of Paul: Dr. Warren told me to have the church open for you. What's up?

Paul: It's happening. More soldiers are coming. This time by the water. I need you to put two lanterns up in the church.

Friend of Paul: Oh no! I'll do it right away. Wait, Paul! Where are you going?

Paul: Sorry, I'm off to let others know that they need to be ready to defend themselves!

Friend of Paul: Godspeed, Paul!

#### Act 5

First Narrator: Paul stopped by his house to let his wife know what was happening and that the children should be good to their mother. He was in such a hurry that he left the door wide open and his dog ran out.

Second Narrator: Paul picked up two friends to spy on the British. They rowed softly across the Charles River. The night was pleasant, and the moon was bright.

First Narrator: Too bright. Paul and his friends were worried they might get caught.

Second Narrator: However, they carefully slipped past the English transport with its 64 guns and made it to the other side of the river. A group of men from Charlestown had seen the signal and had a horse ready for Paul to ride.

Man 1: Paul, we saw your signal. The horse we've chosen is the fastest we have.

Man 2: You need to be very cautious as you ride. We've heard some British soldiers will be marching through the route you've chosen.

Man 1: We'll be praying for your safe return.

First Narrator: And, so, off Paul Revere rode on his Big Ride. He kept his horse steady until he saw two men on horseback under a tree. They were English officers.

British Soldier 1: You, stop right there!

British Soldier 2: Don't worry; I'm sure that I can get in front of him. My horse is extremely quick.

Second Narrator: But, Paul wasn't an ordinary rider. He turned his horse quickly and galloped across the fields, past a muddy pond, and toward another road to Lexington.

British Soldier 2: I've got you now – Ahhh!

First Narrator: He galloped straight into the mud and was stuck. The first soldier was going to keep the chase going but his companion asked him for help.

Second Narrator: So, on Paul continued to warn citizens towards Lexington.

#### Act 6

First Narrator: At each town he passed, he would beat on the doors and shout out that the British were coming. When he reached Lexington, he woke up John Hancock and Samuel Adams.

Paul: (Beating on the door) John! John! Wake up, John!

John Hancock: (Groggily) Yes, wait, Paul what are you doing here? Has it started?! Are more soldiers coming?

Paul: Yes, we need to go wake up Sam.

John: Let me get my coat. How are they traveling?

Paul: By water. We must hurry. I'm sure that many of them are on land by now.

Second Narrator: So, the two Patriots head to Samuel Adams house. As they walk, they continue to wake others up on the way.

Paul: Hurry, wake up! The Redcoats are coming!

John: (Beating on the door of Samuel Adam's house) Sam! Sam, you need to wake up NOW!

Sam: I know. I heard you shouting on your way to my house. I'm ready. What should we do?

Paul: You need to leave town and let others know what's happening here.

John: But, I want to help here.

Paul: No, you have bigger things to do and I can handle this on my own. I heard soldiers mention that they're looking for you. Go let the other Patriots know what's happening!

Act 7

First Narrator: So, Paul continues his ride. This time he heads to Concord, warning farmers along the way.

Second Narrator: All was going well until six English soldiers appeared from the shadows.

English Solider 3: Stop! If you go an inch farther, you'll be a dead man.

Paul: I'm not stopping for you!

First Narrator: Paul tries to ride through the group, but he's soon surrounded and ordered into a pasture at one side of the road.

English Solider 4: Where are you coming from?

Paul: Boston

English Solider 4: What time?

Paul: Ten

English Solider 5: What's your name?

Paul: Revere

English Solider 3: What? You mean Paul Revere?

Paul: Yes

Second Narrator: The soldiers started cheering because they knew that Paul was a Patriot. As they rode off with their new prisoners, they heard a volley of gunfire.

English Solider 6: Get down!

English Solider 7: Is that the colonists firing at us? What do we do?

English Solider 3: Wait. I'm sure it's just another British patrol.

Paul: Nope. That's the signal to alarm the countryside that fighting is about to begin.

First Narrator: When the soldiers heard that, they decided to get back to their own squad instead of messing around with their prisoner, Paul. After they took away his horse, the British patrol was on their way.

#### Act 8

Second Narrator: Paul decided to head back to Lexington to see if John and Samuel were still there. He walked across tobacco fields, over stonewalls, through a graveyard, and eventually he was back in Lexington.

First Narrator: He made it just in time. John and Samuel Adams were just about to leave in John Hancock's carriage when Paul walked up.

John Hancock: Paul! What are you doing here?

Sam: Where's your horse? Did something happen?

Paul: Yes, a British patrol captured me but they released me when they heard a volley of gunfire.

Sam: You were lucky.

Paul: Yes, but I need a horse. Is there another one available?

John: Let's head to the tavern and see if someone can help.

Second Narrator: While the three Patriots headed to the tavern, little did they realize that farmers were gathering all over the Lexington Green. Over 50 men were prepared to take a stand against the oncoming British army. John Parker, the leader of the minutemen, shouted, "Don't Fire unless fired upon, but if they mean to have war, let it begin here!"

First Narrator: From inside the tavern, the three Patriots were alarmed when they heard gunshots.

Second Narrator: No one knows which side fired first, but the shots rang out.

First Narrator: Eight minutemen were killed and several others were wounded. As the British troops returned to Boston, the

Minutemen fired at them from nearby woods and fields, killing 73 soldiers in the process.

Second Narrator: Thus, the beginning of the American Revolution.