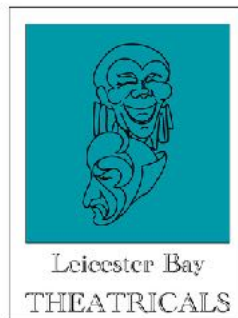


PERUSAL SCRIPT



A new play by
Thomas F. Rogers
and
Donald K. Jarvis

Translated and edited by Donald K. Jarvis
(based on Yurii Ustin's "Labyrinths of Freedom: a Novel")



Newport, Maine

© 2018 by Thomas F. Rogers and Donald K. Jarvis

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

CAUTION:

Professionals and amateurs are hereby warned that

PATRIOT STRANGER

being fully protected under the copyright laws of the United States Of America, the British Empire, including the Dominion Of Canada, and the other countries of the Copyright Union, is subject to royalty. Anyone presenting the play without the express written permission of the Copyright owners and/or their authorized agent will be liable to the penalties provided by law.

Script and music copies must be rented from the Publisher and Royalty must be paid to the publisher for each and every performance before an audience whether or not admission is charged. A performance license must first be obtained from the publisher prior to any performance(s).

Federal Copyright Law -- 17 U.S.C. section 504 -- allows for a recovery of a minimum of \$250 and a maximum of \$50,000 *for each infringement*, plus attorney fees.

The professional and amateur rights to the performance of this play along with the lecturing, recitation, and public reading rights, are administered exclusively through LEICESTER BAY THEATRICALS without whose permission in writing no performance of it may be made. For all other rights, inquiries may be made to the authors through LEICESTER BAY THEATRICALS. Any adaptation or arrangement of this work without the author's written permission is an infringement of copyright. **Unauthorized duplication by any means is also an infringement.**

FOR PUBLIC PERFORMANCE RIGHTS YOU MUST APPLY TO THE PUBLISHER OR YOU ARE BREAKING THE LAW!

The possession of this PERUSAL SCRIPT, does not constitute permission to perform the work herein contained, in public or in private, for gain or charity. Proper prior application must be made, license granted and royalty paid before a performance may be given. Copies of this SCRIPT and all other rehearsal materials may be rented from:

LEICESTER BAY THEATRICALS
P.O. Box 536 Newport, ME 04953-0536
www.leicesterbaytheatricals.com
Printed in the United States Of America

THIS NOTICE MUST APPEAR IN ALL PROGRAMS, ON ALL POSTERS AND PUBLICITY MATERIALS AND INTERNET ADVERTISING/WEBPAGES FOR THE PLAY:

“PATRIOT STRANGER is presented through special arrangement with Leicester Bay Theatricals. All authorized materials are also supplied by LBT, www.leicesterbaytheatricals.com”

NOTE: Your contract with Leicester Bay Theatricals limits you to making copies of this document for persons directly connected with your production. Do not distribute outside of your cast and crew. Following your performance run you must destroy all photocopies, preferably by shredding them. If we sent you the document in printed format, you must return that document to us. If we provided you with an electronic PDF file, simply trash that on your computer so that it cannot be recovered. The electronic document may only be on ONE computer -- it may NOT be duplicated. This is also a part of your contract with Leicester Bay Theatricals.

CAST OF CHARACTERS — 17m 4f

Tadeusz Kosciuszko [pronounced “tah-DAY-oosh kos-CHEW-shko”] in his 30s
Tadeusz Kosciuszko [designated in the script as YOUNG K], in his late teens and 20s
Tomasz [pronounced “TOE-maash”] a Pole in his late teens and 20s
Henry — Lord Germain’s servant, in his late teens and 20s
Gypsy Woman
Ludowika [pronounced “lude-oh-VEE-ka”]
Peggy
Madeleine
Josef Sosnowski [pronounced “sos-NOHF-ski”]
Continental Congressman
Benjamin Franklin
British General Burgoyne
Kazimerz Sapieha [pronounced “kah-ZEE-mersh sa-pee-YAY-hah”]
American General Benedict Arnold
American soldier Sergeant Wayne
Colonial Military Commander General George Washington
Baron Dieter von Ottendorf
American General Gates
British Major John André
British Lord George Germain
Continental Congressman Thomas Jefferson

ROLES can be doubled to 8m 1f

Actor # 1: Tadeusz Kosciuszko, 30s
Actor # 2: Tadeusz Kosciuszko, late teens-20s
Actor # 3: Tomasz, a young Pole in his late teens and twenties & Lord Germain’s servant Henry
Actor # 4: Gypsy Woman, Ludowika, Peggy & Madeleine
Actor # 5: Josef Sosnowski, Continental Congressman Benjamin Franklin & British General Burgoyne
Actor # 6: Kazimerz Sapieha, American General Benedict Arnold & American soldier Sergeant Wayne.
Actor # 7: Colonial Military Commander General George Washington
Actor # 8: Baron Dieter von Ottendorf, American General Gates & British Major John André
Actor # 9: British Lord George Germain & Continental Congressman Thomas Jefferson

The suggested placement and movement of actors, is intended for performances on a conventional proscenium stage. However, the play is also well suited to arena or in-the-round configurations that would require different stage directions. The following proposed multiple assignment of various roles, which limits the play’s performance to just nine actors (eight male and one female), affords a more economical depiction of the play’s episodic narrative and an exciting challenge to the actors.

SCENE NOTES:

(Successive scenes in both ACT TWO and ACT THREE will be delineated by changes in lighting and, where required, a minimum addition of various pieces of furniture. Most scenes can be restricted to only a portion of a proscenium stage.)

PATRIOT STRANGER by Thomas F. Rogers and Donald K. Jarvis (based on Yurii Ustin's "Labyrinths of Freedom: a Novel") Translated and edited by Donald K. Jarvis. 8m 1f double in 17 male and 4 female roles. About 90 minutes. Period Costumes. Simple or elaborate Settings in multiple locations. **The story of Tadeusz Kosciuszko, and his role in America's Revolutionary War.** Tadeusz Kosciuszko is a little-known Polish hero of the American Revolution. The drama is closely based on Kosciuszko's life from his youth through the end of the American War of Independence and his departure for Poland. It contrasts the idealism, expertise, and crucial military service of the penniless foreigner Kosciuszko with the pride and venality of the wealthy businessman Benedict Arnold, who betrayed his country for personal profit. In the end, at a grand general assembly of Congress, George Washington praises Kosciuszko, awards him the rank of brigadier general, and as a mark of personal affection gives him his own ring of the Society of Cincinnati along with a ceremonial sword. **ORDER #3272**

(A Detailed synopsis appears at the end of the playscript.)

Thomas F. Rogers — A former director of the BYU Honors Program, Thomas F. Rogers is professor emeritus of Russian language and literature at Brigham Young University and the author of more than a score of plays, many on Mormon subjects. Four of these have been published in *God's Fools* (Signature Books, 1983), which also received the Association of Mormon Letters Drama Prize that same year: **HUEBENER** (the first literary treatment of its subject), **FIRE IN THE BONES** (again, the first literary treatment of its subject, the 1857 Mountain Meadows Massacre), **GOD'S FOOLS** (or **JOURNEY TO GOLGOTHA**) and **REUNION**. Other titles include: **The SECOND PRIEST**, **The ANOINTED** (an Old Testament narrative with music by C. Michael Perry) and **The SEAGULL** (translated and adapted from the Chekov play). In 1992, **GENTLE BARBARIAN**, **FRERE LAWRENCE** and **CHARADES** were published in a second anthology entitled *'Huebener' and Other Plays by Thomas F. Rogers*. Rogers has also penned stage adaptations of Dostoevsky's novels **CRIME AND PUNISHMENT** and **THE IDIOT**, an opera libretto based on Hawthorne's **THE SCARLET LETTER**, a translation of Georg Buechner's **WOYCZEK** (produced at BYU), and scripts based on novels by local authors, Phillip Flammer and Ben Parkinson. The first of these received a BYU production, directed by Tad Danielewski, in which Rogers played the role of Marmeladov.

In 1995–1996 **GOD'S FOOLS** was produced (in translation) by a professional repertory theatre in St. Petersburg, Russia, where Rogers was then serving as an LDS mission president. He also played the role of the American double spy Cooper in that production. During that mission he directed LDS Church members in a stage adaptation of Dostoevsky's *The Brothers Karamazov* and a Russian language version of **HUEBENER**. The play has also since been produced in Finland in the Finnish language, while a German translation still awaits forthcoming performances in that language.

At BYU and in Provo, Utah, Rogers directed the premiere productions of Robert Vincek's *For the Lions to Win*, Thom Duncan's *Matters of the Heart* and Eric Samuselsen's *Accommodations* and in Bountiful, Utah, a production of **HUEBENER**. Besides numerous productions in both Russian and German for the BYU Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages, he has directed Chekhov's *The Three Sisters* (in German) for Deutsches Teater Salt Lake City, where he also performed as an actor, and Synge's *Playboy of the Western World*, Pirandello's *It Is So If You Think So* and Pinter's *The Caretaker* for the BYU Department of Theatre.

Cited by Eugene England as "undoubtedly the father of modern Mormon drama," Rogers received the Mormon Arts Festival's Distinguished Achievement Award in 1998 and in 2002 a Lifetime Service Award from the Association of Mormon Letters. His published stories have appeared in volume 2, no. 2 of *Sunstone*, the Summer 1991 and Winter 2001 issues of *Dialogue* (receiving an annual *Dialogue* fiction award) and in the collections *Christmas for the World* (SLC: Aspen Books, 1991) and *The Gifts of Christmas* (SLC: Deseret Book Co., 1999). Rogers has served as editor of *Encyclia*, journal of the Utah Academy, and authored two critical monographs: *'Superfluous Men' and the Post-Stalin'thaw'* (The Hague: Mouton, 1972) and *Myth and Symbol in Soviet Fiction* (San Francisco & New York: The Edwin Mellen Research University Press, 1992).

Rogers studied at the Yale School of Drama and holds degrees from the University of Utah, Yale, and Georgetown. He has also studied theatre in Poland and Russian at Moscow State University and taught at Howard University in Washington, D.C., and the University of Utah. He has intensively studied some ten languages and had

extensive residences in Russia, Eastern Europe, Germany, Austria, Sweden, the Baltic states, Armenia, Ukraine, Bulgaria, India, China and the Middle East. He and his wife Merriam are the parents of seven children, thirty-eight grandchildren and, so far, three great grandchildren. They reside in Bountiful, Utah.

Donald K. Jarvis – translated and edited the first half of *Labyrinths of Freedom*, the Russian-language book by Belarusian author Yurii Ustin on which “Patriot Stranger” is based. In 2020, Jarvis published his translated version of Ustin’s book as *George Washington’s Secret Weapon: The Polish Military Genius Tadeusz Kosciuszko*. It is available as an Amazon paperback and as a Kindle digital book.

Jarvis had no prior experience in play-writing but was a colleague of Thomas F. Rogers at Brigham Young University and greatly admired his plays. In 2019 Jarvis asked Rogers to write a play based on the incredible life of Tadeusz Kosciuszko as envisioned by Ustin. Rogers agreed, and after writing each act, would send it for comments and suggestions to Jarvis, who contributed what he could. Rogers generously listed him as co-author.

Jarvis is Professor Emeritus of Russian at Brigham Young University, where he chaired one of the largest university Slavic language programs in North America. At BYU he also directed the General Education program, the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning, and the Foreign Language Residence Program. He is co-author of the first-year Russian language materials entitled *Nachalo* and other publications dealing with language teaching and university faculty development. Until retiring in 2004, he was active in Slavic professional organizations and consulted for universities, professional organizations, and government agencies.

From 1996 to 1999, Jarvis lived in Moscow and in Yekaterinburg, Russia. From 2005 to 2007 he did humanitarian work in Belarus, where he met Ustin, who later asked Jarvis to translate his historical novel about Kosciuszko.

Jarvis lives in Provo, Utah, U.S.A. and is active in several environmental organizations and in various civic activities, including Rotary International.

West Point Military Academy’s foreign language department invited Jarvis in April of 2004 to give three lectures to its faculty and students and to consult on their Russian language program. It was there that Jarvis first heard of Kosciuszko, saw his monument, and became acquainted with a few of the Academy’s remarkable cadets and teachers. Jarvis noted that some of Kosciuszko’s dedication to America’s best values and to understanding other cultures appears to live on at the West Point fortress that Kosciuszko designed and built.

PATRIOT STRANGER

ACT ONE

SCENE 1 — 1776. *The older KOSCIUSZKO and BARON von Ottendorf stand, mid-stage center, on the deck of a sailing ship heading for the American colonies. Both wear differing military garb with open collars. While conversing in thick Polish and German accents respectively, they stare at the ocean in the direction of the audience. A thin railing adorns the front edge of the stage, down center. Sitting apart from them near the stage's wings on a packing crate, TOMASZ watches the older men. All are holding tin cups.*

BARON: Enjoy da tea while we shtill haff some.

KOSCIUSZKO: You mean?

BARON: Haff you not heard of da Boston Tea Party?

KOSCIUSZKO: I have no.

BARON: Vell, der was recently big trouble in Boston Harbor. To protest da heavy British tax on imported tea, vandals took boxes of tea from English ships und dump them into da sea... You still haff much to learn about where we going. Not to mention English language.

KOSCIUSZKO: Yess, I agree.

BARON: But you not ein Frenchman like da other young officers on board, are you? Allow me introduce meinsel—Baron von Ottendorf, former officer in da Prussian Army, but not like dose mercenary Hessians da British have hired to fight for them... So tell about you.

KOSCIUSZKO: Former captain in Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth Army Tadeusz Bonaventura Kosciuszko.

(They shake hands.)

BARON: And who is dat lonely young man staring at us over der?

KOSCIUSZKO: He my aide, Tomasz. He was servant of my older brother. He kindly allow Tomasz to go with me.

BARON: So why are you mit dese French officers?

KOSCIUSZKO: I join battalion of Marquise de Lafayette.

BARON: And vat qualify you to join dem?

KOSCIUSZKO: After my father dies, Polish vice-chancellor Jozef Sosnowski arrange and pay for my military training at Knights School in Warsaw. After graduate, I study military engineering in Paris, with help of Sosnowski and Polish King Stanislaw August Poniatowski.

BARON: Military engineering, you say? So you will be assisting da revolutionary army. I doubt that any of da American colonists fighting this war we go to now have such training. You vill make ein valuable

contribution.

KOSCIUSZKO: What about you, Baron? I also speak German.

BARON: *Sehr gut...* I'm originally from Saxony. Und that's why I'm not marching across Poland in da army of Frederick da Great. Like you, I now sailing into da unknown to help George Vashington make what I tink will become one of da best armies in da world.

KOSCIUSZKO: So do you like democracy?

BARON: Let me say dis: democratic ideals feel right, but I a military man and politics not interest me.

KOSCIUSZKO: I still not understand why you here if you not care for what or for who you fight.

BARON: In Europe are many officers like me. Our kings throw us into combat as cannon fodder for da sake of imperial idiocy. Officers' only choice before each battle is pray that a shtupid bullet or piece of shrapnel not wound them but kill them at vonce so they not be tortured for life as invalid.

KOSCIUSZKO: Do you think it be different in America?

BARON: Ja, somewhat different.

KOSCIUSZKO: Why?

BARON: Because no Frederick da Greats are der, and so far few professional soldiers have joined da army der to fight da British. Their leaders however fight for da democratic ideals of Milton, Voltaire and Montesquieu.

KOSCIUSZKO: And I too. Not to forget Rousseau.

BARON: Ah, yes. Your years in France.

KOSCIUSZKO: And before too.

BARON: But you are Polish nobility?

KOSCIUSZKO: Lower class noble. My dead father--Sosnowski's boyhood friend and later, he hunt with him.

(As if in reverie, KOSCIUSZKO deliberately moves to the railing at the front edge of the stage, to re-live a particular memory. The stage lights darken, and then a spotlight shines on another part of the stage where the younger KOSCIUSZKO stands, facing a GYPSY woman.)

GYPSY: Please, young *pan*, kind sir, show me your hand. Allow me to predict your future.

YOUNG K: But I have no money to pay you.

GYPSY: I don't require your money. Your kind father has on numerous occasions provided me with produce from his farm. I want to return the favor.

(YOUNG K extends his hand, palm upright.)

GYPSY: *(reading it)* Aha! This confirms the fortune I predicted many years ago when I read your father's hand.

YOUNG K: What fortune?

GYPSY: When I told him—I remember the exact words—“I see, sir, that you don’t have an easy life even though you have a home and serfs and a family. But most important, a guest is soon expected in your home. This guest will be an important man. Great people will be proud to know him and want to cultivate his friendship. He will be respected and honored in this world.”

YOUNG K: But my father never mentioned such a guest. How old was I then?

GYPSY: It was just a day or two before you were born, *pan*.

(The spotlight dims, YOUNG K and the GYPSY Woman disappear, and lights again illuminate the stage. KOSCIUSZKO still stands at the rail at the front of the stage, staring at the ocean, then, recovering from his reverie, turns again to the BARON.)

BARON: Just remember, Captain: *Former* captains not exist. Dat is, uf course, iff you real captain.

KOSCIUSZKO: I got commission as captain in army of Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, but I got in big trouble with authorities. However, my love for French ideals—equality and justice—start, I tink, at early age. At Knights School, for example. One day rich upper-class student shove me as he pass me, but I not let it go. It end in duel.

BARON: Sehr interessant!

(Again the stage darkens. A spotlight now beams on YOUNG K, in black tights and a long-sleeved white shirt, holding a fencing foil and poised opposite another similarly accoutered young man his same approximate age, Kazimerz SAPIEHA.)

SAPIEHA: So you’ve challenged me and demand an apology just for the little bump I gave you?

YOUNG K: It was clearly deliberate—as was your remark about my low station.

SAPIEHA: I will not satisfy you with an apology. So...alright then. Are those two men back there your seconds?

YOUNG K: They are.

SAPIEHA: Mine are also standing by. So that none of us is expelled and arrested, remember the rules.

YOUNG K: Whoever draws blood first must instantly stop fighting, and also his opponent.

SAPIEHA: Alright then. Voice: Let the duel begin!

(For several minutes the two duelists fiercely parry and thrust at each other. At one point YOUNG K slips, loses his balance and falls. Still holding his foil in his right hand, he breaks his fall with his left. SAPIEHA waits chivalrously until YOUNG K rises and is ready to continue the duel.)

YOUNG K: Thanks.

(They resume fencing until unexpectedly YOUNG K’s foil slightly grazes, then slides down SAPIEHA’s arm, leaving a trail of blood on the latter’s sleeve.)

VOICE: Immediately halt!!

(The duelists lay down their foils. YOUNG K rushes to SAPIEHA.)

YOUNG K: How badly did I hurt you?

SAPIEHA: (*examining his arm*) It's only superficial. Nothing to bother with. But the rules require us to stop.

YOUNG K: Alright.

SAPIEHA: Each of us must now return to the school separately to avoid being detected by the officials or any other cadets.

(He gestures to his seconds in the wings to depart.)

You wave yours off too

(YOUNG K does so.)

I now have something highly personal to put to you.

YOUNG K: What would that be?

SAPIEHA: You've passed the test.

YOUNG K: Test?

SAPIEHA: Before I say more, give me your word as a gentleman that everything you hear now will stay between us.

YOUNG K: Upon my honor as a gentleman.

SAPIEHA: Have you heard of the secret society of 'Freemasons?'

YOUNG K: Very little.

SAPIEHA: What have you heard about its members?

YOUNG K: That the organization was founded by people who have influence in business and government.

SAPIEHA: And what else?

YOUNG K: I've heard that the Masons' goal is to unify their members' efforts to help the needy and to create a new, democratic society of persons who do charitable work. That's about all I can tell you. Why are you asking me about them?

SAPIEHA: Tadeusz Bonaventura Kosciuszko, I, Kazimerz Nestor Sapieha, am authorized in the name of brethren of the Freemasons to invite you to join us. What do you say?

YOUNG K: But I'm still young and not the son of a famous family.

SAPIEHA: Tadeusz, I have been a member now for almost a year. Believe me, these are good people whose hearts are in the right place and who do a lot to improve life in our Fatherland. And our brethren are not only Polish-Lithuanian. They live in many countries, not only in Europe.

YOUNG K: But why me? Why have your brethren taken notice of me, a young cadet of humble descent of the lower nobility? Unlike you, I cannot boast of my ancient and powerful clan. I'm not wealthy and have nothing besides my own body and soul.

SAPIEHA: You are bright, Tadeusz. You understand a gentleman's honor, and with your diligence as a student you have shown that you want to achieve much more in life than ordinary gentry. The brethren

say that you stand out from most of the others. And by your own merits, not your genealogy. So is it clear why we have made you this offer?

YOUNG K: I think so.

(The LIGHTS dim, and both YOUNG K and SAPIEHA disappear. When the LIGHTS brighten, KOSCIUSZKO stands once more across from and facing the BARON.)

BARON: So you accept his offer and become Mason, I see.

KOSCIUSZKO: How can you tell?

BARON: I notice your ring.

(pointing to his own finger)

It like mine

KOSCIUSZKO: But that before I go to Paris and later return to Poland to help defend it. Something else happen then—something more serious and personal...

BARON: That also explain why you here... But I be discreet and not ask more. In fact, I now excuse self und go below deck. It suddenly got very chilly.

KOSCIUSZKO: *Danke schön*, Herr Baron.

(The BARON moves offstage.)

You needn't stay on deck either, Tomasz. I'll join you later.

(KOSCIUSZKO nods and also leaves the stage, while KOSCIUSZKO walks to the rail at its edge, staring intently toward the audience. After several beats, the lights again dim. KOSCIUSZKO disappears, and a spotlight illuminates another area of the stage, where SOSNOWSKI sits behind a desk in a large overstuffed chair, YOUNG K standing before him.)

SOSNOWSKI: *(stern, suppressing pent up anger)* I asked you here, *pan* Tadeusz, because of something one of my servants witnessed and also overheard yesterday in my garden. You were observed kneeling before my daughter Ludowika and proposing marriage to her.

YOUNG K: Yes, *pan* Sosnowski. In fact, Sir, I intended to come see you later today and ask your permission for her hand. She is the light of my life, and we are both very much in love.

SOSNOWSKI: As the close friend of your late father and your personal benefactor for many years now, I must tell you that before anything more develops and as of this very moment, that cannot be. You are not to see each other ever again.

YOUNG K: But why, Sir? You've always been so kind and generous to us—first my father and then me. You've always treated us as your equals.

SOSNOWSKI: Yes, to a point, and gladly. But this time you've gone too far...much too far. You ask why? Because—well, let me put it this way and never forget what I now say, young man: Doves are not for sparrows and nobles' daughters are not for commoners. Do you understand...? Now pack up your belongs, leave this place and never return. Nor ever forget that doves are not for sparrows.

YOUNG K: I...understand.

(The LIGHT dims.)

SCENE 2 — *The same spotlight. SOSNOWSKI again sits behind his desk in the same overstuffed chair as before. He looks beyond his desk and converses with an unseen visitor.)*

VOICE: I want to know, *pan* Sosnowski, if our agreement is still in force—if your lovely daughter is still free to marry into our Lubomirski family and become a princess.

SOSNOWSKI: Yes, Prince Lubomirski. She is still available.

VOICE: In that case, my son will rejoice. And we will proceed with the marriage to join our two famous families.

SCENE 3—*In the dark of night, YOUNG K and LUDOWIKA emerge into the courtyard of the SOSNOWSKI mansion, carrying suitcases, preparing to elope. LUDOWIKA wears beautiful traveling clothes.*

YOUNG K: Are you sure, my darling? Are you ready?

LUDOWIKA: Ready, my love, to go wherever you go...to be always with you.

(They kiss and embrace. Suddenly SOSNOWSKI, appearing with a torch and two SERVANTS, whose backs are to the audience.)

SOSNOWSKI: *(to SERVANTS)* Grab that dog and throw him to the ground!

(The SERVANTS wrestle YOUNG K to the ground.)

LUDOWIKA: *(screaming and sobbing uncontrollably)* Papa! What are you doing? That is the man I love!

SOSNOWSKI: He is not for you, Ludowika. You will marry a prince, not this rootless soldier.

(to YOUNG K, on the ground)

So, *pan* Tadeusz, you thought you could kidnap my daughter? It is fortunate that your father was my friend, or I would make sure you would either hang or are beheaded for such a capital offense.

(to his servants)

Pick him up.

(to YOUNG K wrathfully)

Leave Poland before I change my mind and have you charged as a kidnapper; Go back to Europe or even farther. And God forbid that we should ever meet again while I am still alive! Do you understand?

(YOUNG K angrily but silently nods his head. To his servants)

Remove him from our presence.

(The servants lead YOUNG K off stage while SOSNOWSKI tries to lead away and comfort his daughter, who weeps uncontrollably and helplessly looks back at YOUNG K.)

It would never have worked, my dear. Doves don't marry sparrows.

LUDOWIKA: He's not trying to kidnap me, Father. We want to elope, and he has my full consent. I even encouraged it. The king will take my word over yours, and that will end any future ambitions you may have together with your still young life.

ACT TWO

SCENE 1: *Philadelphia. In full military dress, Commander of the Continental Army George WASHINGTON stands at an upstage corner of the stage and addresses the newly arrived French officers, unseen, at the stage's opposite downstage corner—with the exception of KOSCIUSZKO, who stands at attention and faces WASHINGTON in a full officer's uniform of the Polish Army, and of TOMASZ, also now in uniform, who stands by his side.*

WASHINGTON: We welcome France's noble assistance. We hope you arrived here without any serious difficulty and did not encounter any pirates or English vessels on the Atlantic's neutral waters.

VOICE: No, *Monsieur*. Or we would have shown them who we are.

(Cheers.)

WASHINGTON: I have no doubt. On behalf of the Colonies, recently renamed the United States of America, I sincerely thank our ally France and all the French people who sympathize with our struggle and provide us with assistance.

VOICE OF BARON VON OTTENDORF: Und we pledge ourselves to help der Continental Amy win future victories over das British.

WASHINGTON: Thank you. Allow me now to brief you on our present circumstances. We have a fairly difficult challenge. Just outside Boston I recently admitted an army of 14,000 men without arms or ammunition. That army largely consists of militiamen who understand neither military tactic nor army discipline. Are there any questions?

BARON'S VOICE: How kann you to handle so many peoples?

WASHINGTON: We are trying to cope with the situation. We have managed to establish some order and discipline in this army, but we have to limit ourselves just to defense, not offense.

BARON'S VOICE: Could you permit us to learn uf your next battle plans?

WASHINGTON: According to my information, the British have received reinforcements, which means that our army may have to retreat and abandon New York. That will save a combat-ready part of our army from destruction, and at our winter quarters we hope to add to its ranks by recruiting new soldiers and more volunteers like you... Now today, as you leave to join your units, you will be issued firearms and first allotment of powder and ammunition. Use it carefully, because our supplies are terribly limited. You are now dismissed.

(WASHINGTON exits.)

KOSCIUSZKO: *(turning to TOMASZ)* We are equals now, Tomasz. We will fight in the same ranks for the independence of a new country with no aristocracy.

(TOMASZ looks at KOSCIUSZKO in bewilderment.)

Well, how about it? Or have you changed your mind about becoming a soldier?

TOMASZ: No, *pan*, I have not. I already decided that question back in France. I could have stayed there or returned to our homeland. Wherever you go, so will I.

KOSCIUSZKO: I'm very glad, Tomasz. You are the only remaining thread that connects me to our fatherland. Do you trust me?

(TOMASZ vigorously nods.)

Then I will make a good soldier out of you.

(He embraces TOMASZ.)

Let us now go meet the volunteers you and I will train with.

(They exit.)

SCENE 2: *In the same area of the stage where in ACT I YOUNG K stood before Sosnowski, KOSCIUSZKO now stands before Benjamin FRANKLIN, who is seated in a large overstuffed chair. An additional chair faces Franklin.*

KOSCIUSZKO: *(standing)* One officer in Colonial Army advise me to go see you, Sir, after I say I want to serve your revolution as military officer and engineer. They say you are head of Philadelphia defense and are best known citizen.

FRANKLIN: I am very glad you are here. Do sit down. And are you originally from Poland?

KOSCIUSZKO: Yes, Sir, from Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.

FRANKLIN: And you trained in France, you say, as a military engineer?

KOSCIUSZKO: I did, Sir

FRANKLIN: That's an important specialty. Besides you no one else has it in our army. I notice you have learned some English. That's good. You will need it to command other men.

KOSCIUSZKO: I work at it, Sir. Very hard. Every day it get better.

FRANKLIN: What's that ring you're wearing?

KOSCIUSZKO: Good luck ring.

FRANKLIN: That's an artful answer, soldier, but as a fellow Mason I recognize its symbols. That already tells me you are no ordinary volunteer, young man and that you embrace the great Masonic ideals of equality and service. What did they teach you at the Military Academy in Paris?

KOSCIUSZKO: I study military tactics, architecture and construction of earthen defenses. Later, in Holland, construction of locks, canals and bridges.

FRANKLIN: What was your rank as an officer in Poland?

KOSCIUSZKO: I was captain.

FRANKLIN: But why are you here with French volunteers? Does the Polish Army have too many engineers like you?

KOSCIUSZKO: In Poland I must to buy officer's rank, but I had not the money. So, my fate send me to **France** where I sign as volunteer to help America win independence from England. .

FRANKLIN: The United States will not forget and will properly value your noble act...

(rising and pacing behind his chair)

Believe me, young man, you will have more than enough trials, but they will be worth it because we are fighting to establish a whole new, more just order for the ages. I believe that God approves of what we are trying to do. In any case, you will be a most valuable officer in the Continental Army. We desperately need someone with your engineering skills to select and fortify our battle sites. I presume you intend to fight along with us to the victorious end?

KOSCIUSZKO: I do, Sir. Every king say God made him king, but I do not believe that. Like you, I want this new kind of government and hope my knowledge will help get freedom and democracy for this country. If we do that here, maybe other countries someday follow.

FRANKLIN: I hope that in your service with our army you will show us what you can do. If Washington hears of your work, he will not ignore you.

(smiling)

If you are actually what you claim, then we are incredibly fortunate. I will write a letter to the Military Department of the Continental Congress today, recommending that you be commissioned as an officer and put to work building defenses on the Delaware River to protect Philadelphia

(They shake hands)

SCENE 3: *Facing toward the audience, General WASHINGTON now sits behind a table, upstage center. Addressing unseen advisors and staff officers, he rises and agitatedly paces both behind and in front of the table.*

WASHINGTON: Thank you, gentlemen, for your presence at this late hour.

(He raises a large map from the table and points to it as he speaks)

Everything began well enough, but during the last six months, more and more territory has been occupied by the English forces. That is not surprising because Great Britain is the greatest military power in the world. Allow me to review with you the main events: As you know, in 1775 our minutemen forced British regulars to retreat from Lexington and Concord in Massachusetts. Then our volunteers surrounding Boston were defeated at Bunker Hill by the redcoats, who, however, suffered terrible casualties and then had to abandon Boston completely. Last year we briefly took Montreal.

But more recently this year after our defeat at the battle of Brooklyn, we narrowly escaped total annihilation. Although we were surrounded by twice our number and expected to surrender, the Massachusetts Regiment's fishermen and expert boatmen ferried our surviving troops in a successful nighttime retreat across the East River to Staten Island, where we avoided capture without a single loss of life. And this July Fourth we announced Jefferson's "Declaration of Independence" and declared ourselves the United States of America. Since then, unfortunately, General Howe and his German mercenaries have taken not only New York but also Newport in Rhode Island and various forts on the

Hudson River

VOICE: General, could you tell us the size of our available forces.?

WASHINGTON: At present, we only have about 5,000 soldiers, and well over two-thirds might return to their families after Christmas. Now many of our fighting men who so eagerly went on the warpath to achieve the noble goals of liberty and democracy too easily give up when they see that we cannot win the war quickly. Our volunteer farmers and tradesmen understandably long for their wives, children, fields, farms and workshops. We are short of uniforms, ammunition and food. Most are now leaving the Continental Army on perfectly legal grounds because their one-year contracts are expiring. But others have simply deserted. (again displaying the map and pointing to a particular spot on it) Now we've been forced to abandon New York and during the coming winter must base our shrinking army here on the west side of the Delaware River in Pennsylvania.

VOICE: Sir, what is your future strategy?

WASHINGTON: Henceforth, we will have to limit our actions to sudden attacks when the foe least expects it. This coming Christmas holiday might present an opportunity to surprise the Hessian forces camped across the Delaware at Trenton.

VOICE: Sir, are there any interesting new recruits among the volunteers from France?

WASHINGTON: That reminds me, gentlemen, of this letter I just received from the President of Congress John Hancock, which mentions that a certain Polish volunteer with the odd name Tadeusz Kosciuszko
(*mispronounces it*)

or something like that—

(*chuckling*)

I think I have finally almost learned how to pronounce his name—has just been recommended as an officer with the rank of colonel. We will need his rare training in building fortifications as we erect the new Fort Billingsport on the Delaware River and others in the future. If there are no objections, I will this very evening reply to Hancock, authorizing Kosciuszko's appointment and also requesting that Congressman Alexander Hamilton join me as my personal secretary. I will also once again implore Congress to allocate more funds to keep our remaining soldiers supplied, armed, and fed during the coming winter. As Benjamin Franklin reminded us at the signing of the Declaration of Independence, "We must, indeed, all hang together, or most assuredly we shall all hang separately."

(*smiling*)

Enjoy the holidays, Gentlemen!

SCENE 4: 1777. A London Suburb. Master bedroom in the castle of Lord George GERMAINE, British Secretary of State for America. GERMAINE stands in stylish hunting garb before a long mirror, admiring his figure. A small table stands nearby, adorned by a large jewel box. HENRY, a young servant observes him.

GERMAINE: Since you're new to my household, Henry, you should know that today's foxhunt is an annual affair. For ten years now I've invited our most important fellow citizens. But such endeavors are

no indulgence. They are very important and confirm one's station in society... Does my jacket fit well, Henry?

HENRY: Very well, Sir.

GERMAINE: Today we must also convey a certain document approved by the King and signed by the Prime Minister that presents a promising plan to sever New England from the rest of the rebel colonies, taking the Hudson River and forcing them once more to submit to His Majesty's power and laws, thus quickly terminating this vexing war. Both our armies—General Burgoyne's at the north end of the Hudson

(holding his left hand high with finger pointing down)

and General Howe's farther south—

(holding his right hand low with finger pointing up)

are at the moment ideally positioned to bring that off —

(He brings his hands close to each other)

but for who knows how much longer? A courier will arrive at any moment now to receive the battle plan and immediately deliver it to Admiral Richard Howe, whose ship will then sail to the New World. He will bring it to the admiral's brother, General Howe (using the same gestures again) instructing him to move north up the Hudson while Burgoyne moves south and cuts the rebels in two. It's a brilliant plan. This is a momentous day, Henry...But hasten now to the adjoining chamber. Open its window and see if our guests, their horses and hounds haven't already gathered below awaiting me.

HENRY: *(quickly exiting)* Sir!

(GERMAINE dons gloves, approaches the table, opens the jewel box and retrieves a blue ribboned parchment.)

GERMAINE: Ah, yes. There you still are. Our secret weapon.

(He holds the document away from him and admiringly views it from several angles, then gently replaces it in the jewelry box.)

HENRY: *(returning)* Sir, they already await you.

GERMAINE: Then I must join them.

HENRY: There's something more, Sir.

GERMAINE: What's that?

HENRY: The stable boy called up to me to say that your stallion is limping and cannot join the hunt.

GERMAINE: *(alarmed)* That cannot be! Come with me to the stable. There may be another available stallion. But fast now...

(They quickly exit. The lights briefly dim, then rise again. HENRY stands where he did previously. GERMAINE enters.)

A well-spent three hours. And another success. The fox hunt went well...

(pointing to the jewelry box)

Oh, no!

HENRY: Sir?

GERMAINE: Did he come already?

HENRY: Who, Sir?

GERMAINE: The courier for the battle plan, of course!

HENRY: He did, Sir.

GERMAINE: Then all is well... .You gave him the document, of course?

HENRY: The document?

GERMAINE: The very important document I described to you, instructing General Howe to move north up the Hudson River to assist General Burgoyne who is heading south..

HENRY: He asked for it, Sir. But I didn't know where you had put it...

(GERMAINE rushes to the box, opens it and once more retrieves the beribboned document.)

GERMAINE: *(after several beats, facing the audience and falling to his knees, arms outspread but still clutching the document)* Howe will not know that he is supposed to move north to help Burgoyne. All is lost!!!

SCENE 5: Bemis Heights, on a ridge above the Hudson River and the only road between Saratoga and Albany. Upstage center, a large military tent, its front flaps widely extended, reveals a work table and stools inside. Outdoors and to either side of the tent's entrance, seated on folding canvas chairs in front of it, KOSCIUSZKO and General GATES face each other.

GATES: Here on Bemis Heights is by far the best location for meeting Burgoyne when he and his soldiers will appear below. I am most grateful that you convinced me to fortify these heights rather than on the meadow below. We can place cannon on the ridge here overlooking the narrow pathway he must take—just like he did to us above Fort Ticonderoga.

KOSCIUSZKO: Thank you Sir. As I said before we lost Ticonderoga, whoever commands the heights can comfortably defeat those below. It was an easy victory for General Burgoyne, and now that should give us the advantage, although you told me he is heading here with nearly eight thousand men.

GATES: Indeed, as his army makes its way ever closer the threat becomes increasingly dire each day. It is a good thing that after we lost Fort Ticonderoga, you and your men effectively slowed down Burgoyne's forces by felling trees across roads, destroying bridges after crossing them and rolling boulders into streams to block them. Fortunately, General Washington has sent us Benedict Arnold and Benjamin Lincoln with their forces. We must stop Burgoyne before he reaches Albany. So tell me, Colonel, what else have we learned from the loss of Ticonderoga?

KOSCIUSZKO: We still have one important advantage over the British.

GATES: And what is that?

KOSCIUSZKO: They persist in marching into battle in linear formations.

GATES: Which in Europe is the classic military tradition.

KOSCIUSZKO: However, our mostly untrained but expert riflemen take shelter behind trees and various natural objects the way they've always hunted game.

GATES: That's right, Colonel. And how fortunately for us. So that, although their men are better trained and equipped, we can outmaneuver them. What's more, before he reaches us, (pointing) Burgoyne must pass through that narrow bottleneck below us with the Hudson River on one side and forested hills on the other. By commanding these heights, as you suggested, we can overcome all odds.

KOSCIUSZKO: But that will require us to quickly finish the trenches and fortifications we've been working on and also to place obstructions of brush and logs in front of them to slow our attackers' progress.

GATES: Which is why I've ordered so many soldiers to help you with these fortifications. Can you with, say, a thousand men complete them in just a few more days?

KOSCIUSZKO: We *must*, Sir. I'll make sure of it. Even without enough shovels, we must also construct more trenches, earthworks and brush barricades. And we will...

GATES: How, by the way, are you getting along—you and your men?

KOSCIUSZKO: (*musings*) At first they laughed at my accent and my unpronounceable name.

GATES: In turn, your English has now much improved.

KOSCIUSZKO: They are also unaccustomed to polite address. But they've gotten used to me by now, I suppose

GATES: Reports are that you are always calm and never angry. Never shout at them and never curse like the rest of us.

KOSCIUSZKO: (*smiling*) Maybe that's because I never knew your curse words until very recently.

GATES: They admire you, Colonel, for your hard-working example, your iron will and your intelligent leadership—your thorough, life-saving knowledge. I thought we should tell you that.

KOSCIUSZKO: Thank you, Sir.

GATES: (*rising from his chair*) I'll leave you now. Let's meet again later today in my tent with other officers to discuss tactics for the coming battle. .

KOSCIUSZKO: (*standing and saluting*) Sir!

(*GATES salutes in return and exits. KOSCIUSZKO, turning to his tent and noticing TOMASZ and a young woman carrying a large basket, both of whom now stand at the tent's entrance.*)

What's this?... Can it be? Ludowika?

MADELEINE: Good morning, Sir. My name is Madeleine...

KOSCIUSZKO: Forgive me. For a moment I thought you were...someone else. You look just like her. What are you doing here?

TOMASZ: The commandant ordered that everyone working on the fortifications receive good rations. So I found Madeleine preparing food with the company cooks and asked her to prepare a modest meal for us

today.

MADELEINE: *(smiling)* Sir, I hope you enjoy your meal. You are doing important work.

(She hands her basket to KOSCIUSZKO.)

KOSCIUSZKO: Why are you smiling like a Parisian rug-merchant, Tomasz? We are starving and you just stand there smirking.

(inspecting MADELEINE's basket.)

Do you call this just a 'modest' dinner?

TOMASZ: *(eagerly)* May I set the table, *pan*?

KOSCIUSZKO: By all means.

(TOMASZ and KOSCIUSZKO enter the tent. TOMASZ arranges the basket's contents on the table)

Please join us, Madeleine, and share your hearty meal with us. Do take a seat.

MADELEINE: *(retrieving her basket)* No thank you, Sir. I need to take something similar to the other officers. The local settlers support your revolution and have amply supplied your army with fresh provisions.

KOSCIUSZKO: We hear that, unlike us, the British are very short on rations.

MADELEINE: We hope this makes a difference... But I must go.

KOSCIUSZKO: Please come again, Madeleine. I'd like to see you another time.

MADELEINE: And I,...you, Sir.

(They fixedly stare at each other. MADELEINE then turns, leaves KOSCIUSZKO's tent and exits the stage. KOSCIUSZKO steps out of the tent and for several beats stares in her direction, then rejoins TOMASZ at the table. They ravenously attack the meal, waving and then voraciously chewing on chicken legs, etc. . . Suddenly both lift their heads and stare out of the tent in the direction of the audience.)

KOSCIUSZKO: Who's there?

VOICE: General Gates' messenger, Sir. He asks that you join him now in his tent.

KOSCIUSZKO: Of course. You look hungry, soldier, judging by the way you are staring at our table. Come join my aide for lunch while I go see the General.

VOICE: *(eagerly)* Yes, Sir. Thank you, Sir.

SCENE 6: *The next day. Bemis Heights south of Saratoga. Command Headquarters tent. Facing the audience, General GATES sits behind a table in a wooden camp armchair in the same rear corner of the stage where earlier Washington addressed newly arrived French officers. Two more figures appear onstage: Benedict ARNOLD at one downstage corner, directly in Gates' line of sight, and KOSCIUSZKO at the opposite downstage corner.*

GATES: I've called this council of war to help determine our strategy for engaging General Burgoyne's army. The Brits have repeatedly tried to destroy Washington's forces.. But we have also repeatedly slipped away from them, using tactics of evasion and attrition. They have not yet managed to counter our guerrilla attacks, and our speedy retreats have become a nightmare for the English soldiers. General Howe now threatens Philadelphia, and Washington's troops are planning to spend the winter at Valley Forge, where hunger, cold and sickness will continue to reduce their already insufficient numbers. Although here near Saratoga we finally have more volunteers and Washington has sent us reinforcements, Burgoyne still threatens. At this point, his only options are either to attack us head on or retreat back up the Hudson. That means...

ARNOLD: That we're going to attack him first and teach him a lesson!

GATES: General Arnold, your opinion as a famous war hero is worth considering.

KOSCIUSZKO: I respectfully disagree...

GATES: As is that of another officer who has so valuably served our cause recently. We are also deeply indebted for his wise counsel and technical expertise.

ARNOLD: Do I correctly understand that the "valiant" Colonel Kosciuszko does not approve of my recommendation that we attack the enemy?

KOSCIUSZKO: Unless absolutely necessary I would not recommend attacking British regulars even with superior forces. We can't approach them without being noticed, and losing the advantage of surprise. The British will quickly confront our soldiers with massive rifle and artillery fire. Many of our men will die.

ARNOLD: There are no wars without casualties. Whirlwind attack and our soldiers' bravery is our way to victory... !

GATES: *(after a long silence)* My decision is that we will wait for the English to attack us. They've got nowhere else to go, and they still do not take us seriously.

(displaying a map from the table and indicating a specific location)

Now here they will dig in opposite our fortifications, which will then give us an opportunity to maneuver. And then, General...

(gesturing toward ARNOLD)

...if they try to outflank us, you can demonstrate your courage. At the right moment your cavalry and Morgan's sharpshooters will counter-attack the enemy on their right flank. Now everyone return to your units and wait for my orders.

(GATES rises and exits. ARNOLD approaches KOSCIUSZKO.)

ARNOLD: So, Colonel, you're an advocate of a defensive approach to battle?

KOSCIUSZKO: I'm an advocate of common sense and of fighting with as few casualties as possible. Attacking English ships with a small flotilla, the way you did on Lake Champlain, dooming them to destruction from the very beginning, is an example of senseless bravado.

ARNOLD: Our ship didn't take down the American flag even when it was sinking.

KOSCIUSZKO: (*stepping closer*) And what about the soldiers and sailors? Who will comfort their mothers and widows now?

ARNOLD: Are you trying to make rank, Polack? Are you dreaming of a general's stars?

KOSCIUSZKO: It is better to remain a colonel for an entire career than wear a general's stars and senselessly sacrifice thousands of lives...

ARNOLD: Maybe you should return to your Poland and preach bloodless war there.

(ARNOLD abruptly turns his back to KOSCIUSZKO and exits. TOMASZ reappears from the wings.)

TOMASZ: What makes you so sullen, *pan* Tadeusz?

KOSCIUSZKO: (*looking in ARNOLD's direction*) One officer here is anxiously campaigning to for a promotion.

TOMASZ: I hear he's had some troubles—using army funds to pamper his beautiful young wife.

KOSCIUSZKO: Who told you that?

(TOMASZ shrugs his shoulders.)

Maybe that is why he's so desperate for a promotion and for a hero's glory at any price. Oh, well. Congress will surely investigate the matter...

SCENE 7: *October 7, 1777. Plain below Bemis Heights. The sounds of cannon and artillery fire.*

ARNOLD: (*shouting and rushing onstage, waving a sword*) The redcoats are trying to outflank us. Tell my men to attach their bayonets and attack to stop them. We will seize the moment and win eternal glory. Where's my steed?

1st VOICE: There, Sir...

ARNOLD: (*rushing offstage*) Follow me, lads...! On to death or glory!

(offstage)

Charge!!!!

(After several more beats, a crashing thud.)

1st VOICE: What happened?

2nd VOICE: A cannonball just hit Colonel Arnold's horse. It fell and pinned him.

1st VOICE: Is he alive?

2nd VOICE: They say the horse's fall only broke Arnold's leg. Bearers are now carrying him off the field...

1st VOICE: Some glory!

2nd VOICE: In any case, our men stopped the enemies' attempt to outflank the sturdy defenses that Kosciusko had built on Bemis Heights. The Brits know that to attack them would be suicide. And they can't retreat because some of our boys have got behind them. I think Burgoyne and his army are done

for—they have no place to go.

SCENE 8: *October 17, 1777. Drum rolls. General GATES and General BURGOYNE stand facing each other, center stage. The latter props himself with a tall staff from which hangs a white flag. Both men salute each other.*

BURGOYNE: Allow me, to express my appreciation, General.

GATES: What for, Sir?

BURGOYNE: That you agreed to our proposal to accept our surrender and save the lives of many soldiers on both sides and the honor of our officers. We shall not be hailed as heroes when we return home. Nor cursed for the meaningless deaths of loved ones.

GATES: May I ask, General, if there are possibly among your ranks—including yourself—any who we might persuade to join our endeavor and become our fellow citizens...

BURGOYNE: I believe not, Sir... If I correctly remember, weren't you an officer in our British army yourself before you emigrated to the Colonies?

GATES: That I was, General.

BURGOYNE: What strange and unforeseen fates intrude in the course of a lifetime.

GATES: They do indeed, Sir.

BURGOYNE: One more thought.

GATES: Of course.

BURGOYNE: Although my army was formidable, you must still contend with other and larger British armies on this territory.

GATES: Yes, I know.

BURGOYNE: But where did your untrained army of farmers, hunters, and shopkeepers learn to select and fortify a battle site with such skill? It doomed my army to defeat

GATES: We have a Polish engineer named Kosciuszko. We owe him the victory.

BURGOYNE: Interesting. Well, thank you again for your civility and generous terms.

GATES: We both made wise decisions. General, I wish you well.

17 more pages to go to the end

PATRIOT STRANGER

Detailed Synopsis by Act

Act 1: KOSCIUSZKO'S YOUTH

On a ship carrying him to join the American Revolution, Kosciuszko tells a Prussian volunteer that he is a Polish military engineer, committed to democratic ideals. Flashbacks reveal his childhood, a duel at his military high school, initiation to Masonry, unsuccessful attempt to elope with a powerful nobleman's daughter, and his subsequent exile from Poland.

Act 2: KOSCIUSZKO FIGHTS FOR AMERICA

General Washington welcomes foreign recruits and reviews the daunting challenges facing the Continental Army. Kosciuszko is later interviewed by Benjamin Franklin, who recommends that the struggling Continental Army, which badly needs engineers to build fortifications, commission him as an officer.

As a huge British army under General Burgoyne advances down the Hudson River toward Saratoga, Col. Kosciuszko convinces his superior officer, General Gates, that Bemis Heights is the best place to meet and trap the redcoats. Gates commissions Kosciuszko to fortify the heights. After Gates leaves, a beautiful young army cook named Madeleine arrives with dinner, and Kosciuszko is smitten.

At an officers' council before the Battle of Saratoga, Gen. Benedict Arnold advocates boldly attacking the redcoats, but Kosciuszko argues for waiting behind his strong fortifications for the British to charge. He insists that will ensure victory with fewer American losses. During the battle, Arnold leads an attack and is injured, but the British are defeated. Gen. Gates accepts the surrender of British General Burgoyne and credits Kosciuszko, whom Gen. Washington soon orders to construct major fortifications at West Point. Unfortunately, Arnold is given command of Philadelphia and West Point, which greatly upsets Kosciuszko.

Arnold's vain wife Peggy convinces him to leave the American army and join the British for financial gain. He agrees and eventually hands Kosciuszko's plans for West Point to British officer John André, Peggy's former suitor, explaining his treason as just another business deal. However, André is stopped by American soldiers, who discover the plans for West Point in his boot. Learning that André has been arrested, Arnold flees to a waiting British ship. Washington laments Arnold's treachery but recommends Kosciuszko for promotion and transfer to the crucial Southern army.

Act 3: LOVE LOST, PLANS, AND HONORS

Kosciuszko invites Madeleine to dinner. They get acquainted, are strongly attracted to each other, but Kosciuszko is soon ordered to Philadelphia by Gen. Washington, who introduces him to Thomas Jefferson. He and Kosciuszko discuss the war, their ideals and hopes for the future. Despite Kosciuszko's denunciation of Jefferson's slaveholding, they become friends.

Madeleine feels that her lack of education and social standing impede her future with Kosciuszko, so she writes a farewell note and leaves the area. Kosciuszko is devastated and decides to return to Poland. Kosciuszko explains his decision to Jefferson and laments that his status was too low for his first romance, but his present higher status has destroyed his second one. He announces his desire to help duplicate in Poland what the revolution accomplished for America. He requests that Jefferson use his back army pay to build a school for freed slaves.

At a grand general assembly of Congress, Washington praises Kosciuszko, awards him the rank of brigadier general, and as a mark of personal affection gives him his own ring of the Society of Cincinnati and a ceremonial sword.