

BRAVE NEW WORKSHOP THEATRE

DATE: 08.23.00
SHOW: Dull Man Running
TITLE: "Delaware"
DRAFT: FINAL

PREMISE:

Washington questions his abilities as a leader while crossing the Delaware. A young soldier reassures him, but reveals a number of the general's faults in the process.

SETTING:

A rowboat crossing the Delaware river towards Trenton, New Jersey. It is before sunrise on December 25th, 1776. It is freezing.

CHARACTERS:

Washington: Our first president. A general who is not sure about whether or not he is ready to lead. Also, a despicable human being in many respects.

Elliot: A sixteen year old who lied about his age so he could enlist in the army. He worships the ground Washington walks on.

Sam: Just some guy rowing a boat for atmosphere.

(We hear "Silent Night" softly playing and the sound of oars cutting through the water. Lights up. WASHINGTON posed in the bow of a boat. ELLIOT and SAM are rowing. WASHINGTON sighs audibly.)

ELLIOT

What's wrong, General Washington?

WASHINGTON

Oooh, it's just that it's Christmas, Elliot. You know how every year during the holidays you look back over your life and evaluate where you are? Well, it's Christmas and here I am crossing the Delaware. If we win this battle, it could be the turning point of the war, and then everybody is going to look to me for leadership. I'm just not sure I'm ready to lead a new country.

ELLIOT

Well, if it's any consolation, sir, I think a toothless, slave owning, hemp farmer who wantonly destroys trees and slaughters sleeping men on Christmas morning is just the type of guy this country needs to get it going in the right direction.

WASHINGTON

(Beat.) You're not just saying that?

ELLIOT

No sir. I mean every word.

WASHINGTON

(Beat.) Merry Christmas, Elliot.

ELLIOT

Merry Christmas, General.

(WASHINGTON turns forward again. Yankee doodle plays solemnly. Lights and SFX fade.)

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