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American Primitive

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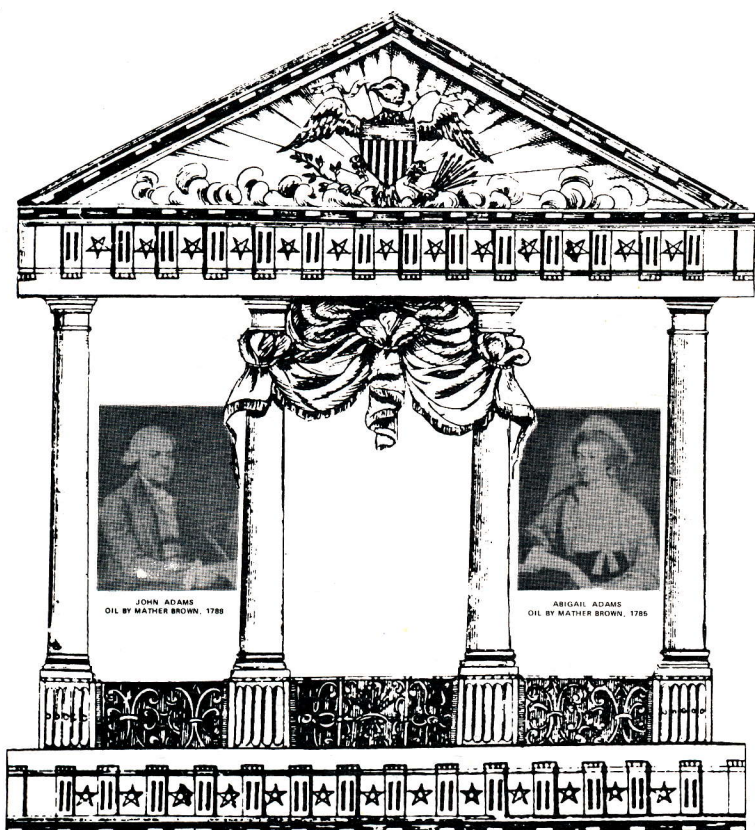
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TAYLOR UNIVERSITY THEATRE PRESENTS

William Gibson's

AMERICAN PRIMITIVE

the words of John and Abigail Adams



LITTLE THEATER

May 1, 2, 3, & 4

8:15 p. m.

SPEECH AND DRAMA DEPARTMENT

JOHN ADAMS, the first vice-president and the second president of the United States of America was born October 30, 1735, in what is now the town of Quincy, Massachusetts. Young Adams graduated from Harvard College in 1755, and for a time taught school at Worcester and studied law in the office of James Putnam.

In 1758 he was admitted to the Boston bar. From an early age he developed the habit of writing descriptions of events and impressions of men. John Adams had none of the qualities of popular leadership which were so marked a characteristic of his second cousin, Samuel Adams; it was rather as a constitutional lawyer that he influenced the course of events. He was impetuous, intense and often vehement, unflinchingly courageous, devoted with his whole soul to the cause he had espoused; but his vanity, his pride of opinion and his inborn contentiousness were serious handicaps to him in his political career.

John Adams was a member of the continental congress from 1774 to 1778. In June 1775, with a view to promoting the union of the colonies, he supported the nomination of Washington as commander in chief of the army. His influence in congress was great, and almost from the beginning he was impatient for a separation of the colonies from Great Britain. On June 7, 1776, he seconded the famous resolution introduced by Richard Henry Lee (q.v.) that "*these colonies are, and of a right ought to be, free and independent states,*" and no man championed these resolutions (adopted on July 2) so eloquently and effectively before the congress. On June 11 he was appointed on a committee with Jefferson, Franklin, Livingstone and Sherman to draft a declaration of independence; and although that document was by the request of the committee written by Thomas Jefferson, it was John Adams who occupied the foremost place in the debate on its adoption.)

In 1796, on the refusal of Washington to accept another election, Adams was chosen president, defeating Thomas Jefferson. In 1800, Adams was again the Federalist candidate for the presidency, but was defeated. He then retired into private life. On July 4, 1826, on the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, he died at Quincy. Jefferson died on the same day.

ABIGAIL ADAMS, wife of John Adams, second United States president, and mother of John Quincy Adams, sixth United States president, was born in Weymouth, Massachusetts on November 22, 1744. Scantly educated but intelligent and broad-minded, she became a terse and vigorous letter writer. In 1764 she was married to John Adams, then practicing law in Boston. She resolutely supported him in his insistence upon the Declaration of Independence and aided him and his cause with loyal zeal. In 1784 she joined her husband in France and in 1785 accompanied him to England, where as the wife of the first minister of the United States to the court of George III, she met with social discourtesies which she long resented. From 1789 to 1801, when her husband was successively vice-president and president, she lived in a simple manner. The publication by C. F. Adams in 1875 of *THE FAMILIAR LETTERS OF JOHN ADAMS AND HIS WIFE* increased interest in her career. She died at Quincy, Massachusetts on October 28, 1818.

During intermission may we invite you to visit the Annual Student Show, works in all media by Taylor University students, now exhibited in the Chronicle-Tribune Art Gallery.

As a courtesy to the actors, please do not use cameras during the performance.

AMERICAN PRIMITIVE

Directed by Allen Goetcheus
Set and lighting design by Harvey Campbell
Costume design by Jessie Rousselow

Presented by the Speech and Drama Department
and Trojan Players

THE CAST

John Adams Bill Rosser
Abigail Adams Marilyn Jones*
Men Dave Chenot
Ray DelaHaye
Wayne Grumbling
Bob Parish*
Kevin Stewart*
Women Sue Elsner*
Nancy Jackson*
Rose Knapp
Donna Landis
Barb Nelson
Children John Goetcheus
Kari Jensen

ACT I: 1774-75

ten minute intermission

ACT II: 1776-77

In and near the cities of Boston and Philadelphia

Musician

Percussion Peter Vogler

Music for this evening's performance
includes works from the following composers:

Josiah Flagg (1738-1794) William Tans'ur (? 1783)
John Antes (1741-1811) Joseph Stephenson (1723-1810)
William Billings (1746-1800) Samuel Holyoke (1762-1820)
Oliver Holden (1765-1844) Abraham Wood (1752-1804)

Punch will be on sale in the lower theatre lobby during the intermission. This project is sponsored by TROJAN PLAYERS.

We wish to express our appreciation to those persons and groups who contributed to this production: Professor David Dickey, Department of Music, The Print Shop and The Prophet Foods Company.

*Denotes Trojan Player Members

PRODUCTION STAFF

Technical DirectorHarvey Campbell*

Stage Manager and
Assistant to the Director Jay Cunningham*

Construction Lisa Barkman*
Sue Fisher*
Brad Moser*
Robert Schobert*

Lights Lisa Barkman*
Don McLaughlin*
Brad Moser*

Properties Bob Parish*
Lynne Fleser
Gail Lane
Gail Moore
Carolyn Savage*

Sound Kathy Showers*

Make-up Bonnie Eastman

Hair Styles Kimbra Dunkelberger

Costumes Mrs. Carolyn Duckwall
Diane Feenstra*
Jan Rutledge*
Gay Schieben

HouseMARILYN JONES*
Sylvia Cameron*
Miriam Gandolfo*
Janalie Irvin
Debi King*
Becky Lane
Janet Lowrie
Agnes Petersen
Dee Porter
Gay Schieben

*Denotes Trojan Players Members

WILLIAM GIBSON was born in New York, New York in 1914. He attended the College of the City of New York and began his career as a novelist. He received the Harriet Monroe Memorial Prize for a group of his poems entitled POETRY published in 1945. THE COBWEB, a best-selling novel published in 1954 was made into the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer film by the same name, starring Richard Widmark and Charles Boyer, in 1957. His first success on the Broadway stage came in 1958 with TWO FOR THE SEESAW. The original television version of his greatest hit, THE MIRACLE WORKER (the story of Anne Sullivan Macy's efforts to overcome Helen Keller's blindness and deafness) was rewritten by Gibson for the stage and opened on Broadway in the fall of 1959; its substantial success led to the motion picture of the same name. Gibson wrote the film script and it was produced in 1962 by United Artists. Anne Bancroft as Miss Macy, and Patty Duke as the young Miss Keller, won Academy Awards for their performances. Gibson won the Sylvania Award for THE MIRACLE WORKER. A CRY OF PLAYERS, the refurbished version of a play Gibson had written twenty years earlier, portrays the troubled life of young Shakespeare with his older wife. Gibson also collaborated on the musical version of Odet's GOLDEN BOY. He wrote his autobiography A MAN FOR THE DEAD in 1968. AMERICAN PRIMITIVE was first presented by the Berkshire Theatre Festival in Stockbridge, Massachusetts (with Anne Bancroft), and then at Ford's Theatre in Washington D. C.