

CAST LIST

FORGED BY FIRE

Dolley Madison, The White House, and the War of 1812



Guidelines for Completing the *Forged by Fire* Cast List

- Start by assigning one student to each line. The traditional cast list contains 21 speaking roles for this play but can be adapted for 18-27 speaking parts.
- Students who do not feel comfortable performing a speaking role can play a non-speaking part (see end of cast list) or be a crew member helping behind the scenes.
- With the 21 speaking roles, some students are assigned to “double characters,” meaning that they play more than one role. The assignments were determined using the following criteria:
 - The characters are not in the same scene (or scenes that are close together).
 - If you chose to use costumes, no costume change is required to play both characters.
- *If you have more students than parts*, feel free to split up the “double characters” (i.e., one student can play Richard Rush, another student can play John Calhoun). This will add up to 6 additional speaking parts.
- *If you do not have enough students to complete the cast list*, you double up a few roles to get the speaking parts down to 18 and not have any overlap in scenes.
 - Captain Isaac Hull/any other character except Dolley Madison
 - James Smith/any Congressman (Randolph, Clay, or Quincy)
 - John Sioussat/any Congressman (Randolph, Clay, or Quincy)

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Narrator:

1. Paul Jennings, an enslaved manservant in the Madison household. He is eventually freed and later writes the first White House memoir.

Main Characters:

2. Dolley Madison
Note: The student assigned to this role should be outgoing, and able to read well. *Dolley Madison has more lines than any other character.*

3. President James Madison

Cabinet Members

4. James Monroe
5. Richard Rush/John Calhoun
6. John Armstrong/Jacob Barker
7. William Jones/Samuel Taggart
8. George Campbell/Edward Coles

Congressmen

9. John Randolph
10. Henry Clay
11. Josiah Quincy

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Members of Washington Society, the Military, and White House Workers

- 12. Anna Cutts/Sukey _____
- 13. Margaret Bayard Smith _____
- 14. Maria Mayo _____
- 15. Marcia Burns Van Ness _____
Note: Wife of John Van Ness
- 16. John Peter Van Ness _____
Note: Husband of Marcia Van Ness
- 17. Sarah Seaton _____
Note: Wife of William Seaton
- 18. William Seaton/Charles Carroll _____
Note: Husband of Sarah Seaton
- 19. Captain Isaac Hull _____
- 20. James Smith _____
Free black messenger for James Madison
- 21. John Sioussat _____
White House Doorkeeper

Non-Speaking Roles

These students can appear on-stage in the background of scenes but do not need to perform lines.

Extra Congressmen: _____

Extra Ladies: _____