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So 'round the world
the tomato went –
Never was a plant
more heaven sent.

Red, ripe and round,
and delicious, too
A hardy plant
and versatile food!

Fruit or vegetable,
we can't agree,
But oh what a glor'ous
history!

RED, RIPE, AND ROUND

THE GLORIOUS AND UNLIKELY HISTORY OF THE TOMATO IN STORY AND SONG

CHILDREN'S COMEDY WITH SONG. This play is a fun way for children to learn more about American history through the unlikely history of one of our favorite foods: the tomato. The story traces the humble beginnings of the tomato from its "discovery" by Spanish conquistadors in the New World to its arrival in Spain, North America, and even the moon! Kids will love rapping along with the Tomato Revue and learning fun tomato facts. Thomas Jefferson and the Queen of Spain make special appearances, and the finale features the answer to the timeless question: Is the tomato a fruit or a vegetable? Well, you'll just have to wait and see...

Performance Time: Approximately 45-50 minutes.

CHARACTERS

(6 m, 5 f, 20 flexible, extras)
(With doubling 4 m, 4 f)

TV ANNOUNCER: Voice.

BETTER BOY: Variety show co-host.

EARLY GIRL: Variety show co-host.

THOMAS JEFFERSON: Tends to miss his cues.

CONQUISTADOR: Brought the tomato from the New World to Spain.

SPANISH SOLDIER: Conquistador's sidekick.

TOMATO REVUE 1, 2, 3: Present tomato trivia.

HERALD

QUEEN OF SPAIN: Would rather have gold and riches than a tomato.

MRS. OWENS' DAUGHTER: Grows tomatoes in her mother's garden.

ROBERT GIBBON JOHNSON: New Jersey tomato farmer.

HECKLER 1, 2

TOWNSPERSON 1, 2, 3

STAGEHAND

BRIDE: Wears a veil.

GROOM

HUCKSTER 1, 2: Sells tomato pills that will cure almost any illness.

ANNOUNCER: Wears 19th-century clothing.

REPORTER: Wears 19th-century clothing.

JOHN NIX: Tomato importer who doesn't want to pay taxes.

MRS. NIX: Mr. Nix's wife.

JUDGE

LAWYER 1, 2

JUSTICE HORACE GRAY: Determines that the tomato is a...?

EXTRAS: As Salem townspeople.

Setting

Stage of a television variety show.

PROPS

Tomatoes	Powdered wig, for Jefferson
Sign that reads, "Applause"	Salt shaker
Easel	Bridal veil
3 Berets	3 Dictionaries
Map	Gavel
Tomato plant	History books
Basket	Bench
Cobs of corn	Desk
Trumpet	Chairs
Potatoes	2 Stands
Bottle of water	Pill bottles
Stick horse	Letter

SOUND EFFECTS

Musical fanfare for TV
variety show

French music

Mexican music

Spanish music

Pop music

Sports music

Carnival music

Newscast intro

Country music

Court music

Space theme music

Artsy/Bohemian music

English music

Folk music

"Let's Call the Whole Thing

Off"

Wedding March

RED, RIPE, AND ROUND

THE GLORIOUS AND UNLIKELY HISTORY
OF THE TOMATO
IN STORY AND SONG

(AT RISE: Show opens with the curtain closed. A musical fanfare sounds, similar to the theme for a television variety show.)

VOICE: Ladies and gentlemen, "Red, Ripe and Round."

(The musical fanfare stops. Curtain up. Stage looks like that of a television variety show. The cast enters from the back of the theatre, clapping and singing. They split into two groups and move down opposite sides. The following verses are sung like a rap song.)

ALL: *(Sing.)* Hey now people, let's all sing along!
We're gonna sing the tomato song
Fruit or vegetable, we can't agree
But oh what a glor'ous history!

BOY: Up in the Andes, a new plant evolved –

GIRL: Red, ripe and round – oh! problem solved.

BOY: Grows fast in the heat, doesn't need much rain,

GIRL: But it sure tastes great with mayonnaise!

(Spoken.)

REVUE 1: Or baked!

REVUE 2: Boiled!

REVUE 3: Stewed!

REVUE 1: Sliced!

REVUE 2: Or made into soup on a cold winter's day!

(Rap song resumes.)

ALL: Well...

CONQUISTADOR: Some said they're oh so lethal to touch,

Red, Ripe and Round
9

SOLDIER: Others said, "Well, just don't eat too much."

JEFFERSON: Some said they make a nice midnight snack,

REVUE 2: And it comes in its own carrying sack!

(Revue 3 holds a tomato much like a baseball. The following lines are spoken.)

REVUE 3: You know, it is kind of a handy size. I wonder how far I could throw it?

(Revue 3 prepares to take aim at something. Revue 2 intervenes.)

REVUE 2: Not now!

(Rap song resumes.)

ALL: Well...

BOY: *(Rapping.)* So 'round the world the tomato went—

CONQUISTADOR: Never was a plant more heaven sent.

SOLDIER: Red, ripe and round, and delicious, too—

GIRL: A hardy plant and versatile food!

(Spoken.)

REVUE 1: Ketchup!

REVUE 3: Salsa!

REVUE 2: Pizza sauce!

JEFFERSON: The "T" in BLT!

BOY: One more time!

(Song resumes.)

ALL: Hey now, people, let's all sing along!

We're gonna sing the tomato song.

Fruit or vegetable, we can't agree,

But oh what a glor'ous history!

(All exit, except the Stagehand and the hosts, Better Boy and Early Girl. Better Boy and Early Girl take CS in front of the curtains. They acknowledge the applause.)

BOY: Thank you. Thank you.

GIRL: Thank you.

BOY: Good evening, and welcome to "Red, Ripe and Round: The Glorious and Unlikely History of the Tomato in Story and Song." I'm your host Better Boy.

GIRL: And I'm Early Girl.

BOY: And we've got— Wait a minute, if you're Early Girl, how come you were late?

GIRL: I wasn't late.

BOY: I didn't see you in the green room backstage.

GIRL: That's because I was in the greenhouse.

(Stagehand holds up the "Applause" sign.)

BOY: All right, it's going to be one of those nights, I can tell. So, let's get right down to it. We've got with us tonight some exciting guests that I know you'll—

(Thomas Jefferson enters.)

JEFFERSON: Am I on yet? Is this my scene?

BOY: Thomas Jefferson!

GIRL: Actually, Mr. Jefferson, you come on a little later.

BOY: You can just go backstage for now. We'll let you know when it's time for you to come on.

JEFFERSON: But are you sure you're not ready for me right now?

BOY: Quite sure. Now, if you'll excuse us, we're still doing the opening—

JEFFERSON: Because I've got quite a lot to talk about. The Declaration of Independence. The Louisiana Purchase. Lewis and Clark—

GIRL: Yes, yes, we'll get to all that. Now if you'll just wait backstage—

JEFFERSON: The University of Virginia. How about those Wahoos, huh?

BOY: That's very good, but now's not really a good time, you see—

GIRL: (*To Thomas Jefferson.*) You can just wait right over there. Someone will let you know when it's time to come on.

JEFFERSON: I don't want to miss my cue—

GIRL: Yes, sir. We won't let you miss your cue.

(*Jefferson exits.*)

BOY: So, as I was saying, we've got quite a show lined up for you tonight. Through story and song, we'll be—

GIRL: There's singing?

BOY: Umm, songs usually involve singing.

GIRL: We didn't rehearse any songs.

BOY: What about the song we did when we came on?

GIRL: You call that singing?

BOY: Well, you've got a point there. (*To audience.*) Anyway, tonight, through story and song— (*To Girl.*) That's what the script says, okay? Story and song. Just roll with it.

GIRL: I'm rolling.

BOY: Good.

GIRL: But tomatoes don't roll very well. They're kind of wobbly and wiggly.

BOY: It's just an expression.

GIRL: They throw really well, though. You ever noticed that?

BOY: Well, not really—

GIRL: I thought I saw someone out in the audience bring in a whole bucketful.

BOY: Now, as I was saying—

GIRL: Just thought you might to like to know...just in case.

BOY: Just in case of what?

GIRL: Just in case he doesn't think your jokes are funny. You know, if you wanted to duck or something.

BOY: I'll be fine.

GIRL: Splat, right up side the head! I bet that would hurt.

BOY: Enough already. Don't give people ideas.

GIRL: Oh, I think he's already got the idea! He's got the tomatoes, too. I'd look out for the fastball, if I were you.

BOY: *(To audience.)* So, anyway, tonight we'll be tracing the glorious and unlikely history of America's most popular vegetable—

GIRL: Fruit.

BOY: No, the tomato is considered a vegetable.

GIRL: Technically, botanically, the tomato is a fruit.

BOY: Ah, but legally, it's a vegetable. The Supreme Court said so. You can look it up.

GIRL: The Supreme Court ruled on whether tomatoes are a fruit or a vegetable?

BOY: Nix versus Hedden, 1893.

GIRL: That's nuts!

BOY: Well, technically, nuts are a type of seed, so they're neither vegetable nor fruit, I suppose.

GIRL: Sometimes you worry me.

BOY: Well, however it's classified, the tomato has a long and colorful history. Through the years, it's been regarded as an exotic delicacy.

GIRL: A deadly poison.

BOY: A miracle drug.

GIRL: An ornamental shrub.

BOY: A love potion.

GIRL: A love potion?

BOY: A love potion.

GIRL: I think I'd rather have roses.

BOY: Today, the tomato is the staple of diets around the world. To help us tell the grand and glorious history of the tomato, we've got with us tonight...Spanish conquistadors!

GIRL: Not to be confused, I suppose, with Canadian conquistadors.

(A Spanish Conquistador and Spanish Soldier enter.)

CONQUISTADOR: Ta-da!

SOLDIER: En garde! No, wait, that's French.

GIRL: *(To Soldier and Conquistador.)* No, no, you're on later.

CONQUISTADOR: Oh, sorry.

SOLDIER: Excusez moi.

(Conquistador and Soldier exit.)

BOY: We've got Thomas Jefferson!

GIRL: Does he do any singing?

BOY: No, I don't think he does any singing.

(Thomas Jefferson enters.)

JEFFERSON: Is that my cue? Is this where I talk about my agricultural experiments? Because I did quite a few, you know.

BOY: Uh, no. That's later.

JEFFERSON: Sorry.

(Thomas Jefferson exits.)

BOY: And last, but not certainly not least, we've got the New Tomato Revue!

GIRL: All right, ladies and gentlemen, please welcome, the New Tomato Revue!

(Artsy/Bohemian music. Better Boy and Early Girl exit. Revue 1, 2 and 3 enter. They are dressed like French Bohemian artists, with berets, and are carrying an easel, a canvas, etc.)

REVUE 1: The tomato in art.

REVUE 2: The most famous painting that deals with tomatoes is probably "Still Life with Mackerels, Lemons and Tomatoes," by Vincent Van Gogh.

REVUE 1: He painted this oil on canvas in 1886, the year he moved to Paris.

REVUE 2: That was two years before he cut his ear off.

REVUE 3: *(Sadly.)* If only he'd used that knife on a tomato instead.

(Tomato Revue 1, 2, 3 exit. Spanish Conquistador and a Spanish Soldier enter dramatically. Conquistador carries a map and the Soldier carries a tomato plant and puts it on the ground. Conquistador studies a map. The Soldier bends over to inspect the tomato plant.)

CONQUISTADOR: Now, let's see...El Dorado should be this way... *(Points.)* ...so that would put the Fountain of Youth over here. *(Points. Confused.)* Or is it the other way around? El Dorado that way and the Fountain of Youth over there? *(Points.)*

SOLDIER: Señor! Qué es esto?

CONQUISTADOR: *(To Soldier, stage whisper.)* You can speak English. We're just pretending to be Spanish conquistadors. They'll figure it out from our costumes.

SOLDIER: Oh, okay.

CONQUISTADOR: Let's do that again. From the top.

SOLDIER: I need the cue.

CONQUISTADOR: The cue. Right. Let's see...El Dorado, Fountain of Youth, blah blah blah, El Dorado, that way, Fountain of Youth, this way.

SOLDIER: Señor! What's this?

CONQUISTADOR: Dios mios!

SOLDIER: Huh?

CONQUISTADOR: My gosh! Now you've even got me doing it.

SOLDIER: Shall we do it again?

CONQUISTADOR: Sure. Cue.

SOLDIER: Sir, what's this? *(Points to tomato on plant.)*

CONQUISTADOR: My gosh! Gold!

SOLDIER: Actually, it looks more reddish to me.

CONQUISTADOR: We must be nearing El Dorado for sure! Even the plants bear a golden fruit!

SOLDIER: Do you think it's safe to eat? It looks poisonous to me. *(He smells it.)* Yuck! Smells bad, too.

(Thomas Jefferson enters.)

JEFFERSON: *(Melodramatic.)* "When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another..." *(Stops abruptly, looks around confused.)*

CONQUISTADOR: What do you think you're doing?

JEFFERSON: You mean, right now?

CONQUISTADOR: Sí! I mean, yes! Right now! When else would I be talking about?

JEFFERSON: Well, right now, I'm reciting the Declaration of Independence. But in a few minutes, I'll be proving that tomatoes aren't poisonous...my other great accomplishment.

SOLDIER: *(To Conquistador.)* Who's the dude in the powdered wig?

JEFFERSON: Here, I'll take that—

(Jefferson reaches out to take the tomato.)

CONQUISTADOR: *(To Better Boy and Early Girl offstage. Whiny.)* But this is my scene! I thought this was my scene!

(Better Boy and Early Girl enter.)

BOY: Whoa! Whoa! Whoa! We've got a problem here.

SOLDIER: We sure do. *(Indicates Jefferson.)* That fool is about to poison himself by eating that – that thing!

BOY: This still isn't your scene yet, Mr. Jefferson. If you don't mind waiting right over there until we call you –

JEFFERSON: But what about the tomato?

GIRL: We'll get to the tomato soon enough.

JEFFERSON: There sure is a lot of waiting around. It's worse than being vice president.

BOY: Yes, sir, right over there, sir.

(Better Boy escorts Thomas Jefferson offstage.)

GIRL: Ladies and gentleman, the New Tomato Revue!

(Better Boy, Early Girl, Jefferson, Conquistador and Soldier exit. Mexican music plays. Revue 1, 2, 3 enter.)

REVUE 1: The tomato in linguistics.

REVUE 3: The wild tomato plant evolved in the Andes, where it migrated north through the various indigenous cultures of Central America until it reached Mexico. There, the Aztecs called it "xitomatl" [*zee-tow-mah-tle*] and neighboring peoples called it "tomati" [*tow-mah-tee*]. The Spanish conquistadors who took it back to Europe named it "tomate" [*Tow-mah-tay*].

REVUE 1: Today, Mexicans call it "el jitomte" [*He-tom-tay*]. The English say "to-mah-to." Most Americans say "to-may-to."

REVUE 2: Except in the South, where we say, "mater."

(Revue 1, 2, 3 exit. Spanish music. The Spanish Conquistador and Soldier enter. The Soldier holds a tomato in his hand.)

SOLDIER: So what do you think, señor?

CONQUISTADOR: About what?

SOLDIER: That weird plant we found.

CONQUISTADOR: Oh, that. You're right. It's probably
poisonous.

SOLDIER: I thought it might be.

CONQUISTADOR: Either that, or a love potion.

(Conquistador and Soldier exit. English music. Revue 1, 2, 3 enter. One carries a flip chart with pictures of famous writers and/or a stack of books.)

REVUE 1: The tomato in literature.

REVUE 3: *(Confused.)* Charles Dickens made no mention of
tomatoes.

REVUE 2: Tolkien?

REVUE 1: There are no tomatoes in Middle Earth.

REVUE 2: Shakespeare?

(Revue 3 takes a tomato and uses it for a skull, ala Hamlet.)

REVUE 3: "To be or not to be! Alas, poor Yorick, I knew him
well."

REVUE 1: Shakespeare made no mention of tomatoes.

(Disappointed, Revue 1, 2, 3 exit. Spanish music. The court of Spain. A Herald with a trumpet sounds the arrival of the Queen.)

HERALD: Announcing, her royal highness, the Queen of
Spain.

(Queen of Spain enters.)

QUEEN OF SPAIN: Who's on the agenda today?

HERALD: Some conquistador from the New World eager to
show off the treasures he's found, no doubt.

QUEEN OF SPAIN: Very well. Send him in.

HERALD: *(Calls offstage to Conquistador.)* You may approach the Queen.

(Conquistador enters, bearing a basket containing corn, potatoes and tomatoes. He falls to his knees before the Queen and kisses her hand.)

CONQUISTADOR: Your highness, your majesty, your grace, your—

QUEEN OF SPAIN: Yes, yes, hurry it up. Get to the good stuff. What did you bring me?

CONQUISTADOR: The fruits of conquest, your highness. *(Presents basket.)*

HERALD: They look more like the vegetables of conquest to me.

(Conquistador holds up a cob of corn.)

CONQUISTADOR: Here we have corn...“maize,” the natives call it. You can boil it, roast it, pound it into meal, or pop it. Tastes great with butter and salt. Mmmm. But wait, that's not all. *(Holds up a potato.)* Here we have potatoes. You can bake 'em, boil 'em, mash 'em, fry 'em. Quite a versatile root, if you ask me. And this... *(Holds up a tomato.)* ...this wonderful discovery...is called the tomato.

QUEEN OF SPAIN: You brought me groceries?!

HERALD: *(Aside.)* Oh, here it comes!

CONQUISTADOR: Not groceries, your highness, but dietary staples that can revolutionize the world's cuisine.

QUEEN OF SPAIN: Where's my city of gold?

CONQUISTADOR: Oh, yes, El Dorado. That. Well, you see, we thought we had found our way there, but then we came to this fork in the road, and I think we took a wrong turn and...well, um, to be honest, we're not sure it exists anyway.

QUEEN OF SPAIN: And my Fountain of Youth? I can't hold out for Botox, you know. I need some help now!

(Conquistador pulls out a bottle of water.)

CONQUISTADOR: Perhaps you'd care for some *[insert name of brand of water]* instead?

QUEEN OF SPAIN: I give you a fleet of ships! I give you armies of soldiers! I send you halfway across the world to bring me gold, silver, jewels, and what do I get? A recipe for stew!

CONQUISTADOR: Wait, wait, I can explain.

QUEEN OF SPAIN: Oh, you've just made a real hash of things!

CONQUISTADOR: A hash! Yes, a hash! You can chop up these potatoes, brown them on the stove, throw in some tomatoes, like this, and you can have a wonderful hash.

QUEEN OF SPAIN: Do I look like a cook to you?

CONQUISTADOR: Umm, well, um, no. I suppose you've got people to do that for you. But I was, um, just demonstrating—

QUEEN OF SPAIN: Put him in irons. Off with his head!

HERALD: Yes, your majesty.

(Herald grabs the Conquistador and begins to escort him offstage. The Conquistador protests. Queen follows.)

QUEEN OF SPAIN: I suppose you might want to take him out of the irons when you get ready to chop off his head.

HERALD: Yes, your majesty.

QUEEN OF SPAIN: Otherwise, that would be a perfectly good waste of irons.

HERALD: Yes, your majesty.

(They exit. Folk music. Better Boy enters.)

BOY: The Blue Ridge foothills of Virginia in the summer of 1819. Former President Thomas Jefferson passes the garden

of... *(Looks around and realizes Jefferson hasn't entered. Louder.)* ...former President Thomas Jefferson!

(Jefferson enters, confused and holding a stick horse.)

JEFFERSON: Am I on? Is that my cue? Am I on now?

BOY: You're on.

JEFFERSON: "When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands—"

BOY: We're way past that.

JEFFERSON: "Go west, young man!" Actually, that wasn't my line, but you get the idea... *(Pause.)* ...the whole Lewis and Clark thing.

BOY: We're way past that, too.

JEFFERSON: Well, where are we?

BOY: 1819. Your summer place near Lynchburg.

JEFFERSON: Oh, right. The tomato thing.

BOY: Right. *(Moves Jefferson into position.)* Now you just stand right here, and we'll get on with the scene.

JEFFERSON: Right here?

BOY: That's good. Now, as I was saying...the summer of 1819, former President Thomas Jefferson passes the garden of Mrs. Jane Owens in Lynchburg, Virginia—

JEFFERSON: Who's Mrs. Owens? *(Mrs. Owens' Daughter enters, carrying a tomato plant. She puts it on the floor.)* Is this Mrs. Owens?

BOY: Actually it's Mrs. Owens' daughter.

JEFFERSON: Pleased to meet you, ma'am.

BOY: So, as I was saying...1819, the tomato has arrived in North America, courtesy of traders in the Caribbean. But the vegetable—

GIRL: *(Offstage.)* Fruit!

BOY: Vegetable!

GIRL: *(Offstage.)* Fruit!

BOY: Well, whatever. The plant remains a culinary curiosity and a subject of some suspicion. Many still consider it...well, you'll see.

JEFFERSON: Now?

BOY: Yes.

(Boy exits. Thomas Jefferson clears his throat and imitates riding past Mrs. Owen's garden on horseback using a stick horse. Mrs. Owens' Daughter is in the garden, while Jefferson "rides" by.)

DAUGHTER: Hello, Mr. Jefferson.

JEFFERSON: Hello there. That's a lovely garden you have there.

DAUGHTER: Thank you. My mother says it's the best garden in all of Lynchburg. We've got beans, and corn, and squash, and—

JEFFERSON: Ah, and I see you even have a tomato plant.

DAUGHTER: Oh, that. Well, that's just for looks.

JEFFERSON: Just for looks?

DAUGHTER: Well, they're quite poisonous.

JEFFERSON: Nonsense. Bring one to me.

DAUGHTER: Oh, no. I'm afraid to touch it.

JEFFERSON: Ridiculous. Come on. It won't bite.

DAUGHTER: Oh, but I've heard they'll kill you straight away.

JEFFERSON: Preposterous. Here, I'll show you. Come on, you can trust me. I'm a former president.

DAUGHTER: Well, if you say so. *(She gingerly fetches the tomato and hands it to Thomas Jefferson.)* Here you go.

JEFFERSON: *(Admiring the tomato.)* Ah, very good. This is very nice, and, uh, firm, and, uh, anyway.

(He gets ready to chomp into the tomato.)

DAUGHTER: *(Horried.)* What are you doing?

JEFFERSON: I'm going to prove to you the tomato isn't poisonous.

(He gets ready to eat it; Early Girl enters.)

GIRL: Whoa, whoa, whoa! Wait a minute! Stop!

JEFFERSON: What's the matter? Did I do something wrong?

GIRL: The tomato!

JEFFERSON: Oh, well, you see, that's all part of the act... See, it's not really poisonous. That's the point, you see...

GIRL: No, not that. I mean, there's no evidence Thomas Jefferson actually ate the first tomato. On the contrary, while tomatoes may have been considered, well, strange, the first report of tomatoes being cultivated in America for food actually dates back to 1710, somewhere in the Carolinas.

JEFFERSON: Oh.

GIRL: So you see, it's all just a colorful legend.

JEFFERSON: But it seems like something I would do, doesn't it? In the name of science?

GIRL: Well, I don't know about that, but we need to move on here—

(Early Girl hustles Thomas Jefferson off the stage.)

JEFFERSON: So is my scene over? I thought I'd get to give a speech—

GIRL: You can bring the tomato with you if you like.

(Jefferson and Early Girl exit. Movie music. Revue 1, 2, 3 enter.)

REVUE 1: The tomato in film.

REVUE 2: The most successful portrayal of tomatoes in film may have been "Fried Green Tomatoes," the 1991 movie based on the book by Fannie Flagg.

REVUE 3: Fried? And green? Oooh, yuck! Another reason not to eat your vegetables.

GIRL: (*Offstage.*) Fruit!

REVUE 2: Tomatoes were also featured in the 1937 romantic comedy "Shall We Dance?" starring Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers.

REVUE 1: Oh, I like to dance. I took ballet, and tap, and modern jazz and –

REVUE 3: Ssssh!

REVUE 2: The highlight of the film is the song by Ira and George Gershwin, "Let's Call the Whole Thing Off," which includes the famous line...

REVUE 1: (*Dancing while singing.*) "You like potato and I like potahto, you like tomato and I like tomahto; potato, potahto, tomato, tomahto, let's call the whole thing off!"

REVUE 3: (*Reacting to the dance.*) Wow.

REVUE 2: But the most direct reference to tomatoes on the big screen was, of course, the B-movie classic, "Attack of the Killer Tomatoes." In the 1978 cult thriller, a secret government experiment has developed man-eating tomatoes six feet tall. Naturally, the mutants escape and go on a rampage.

REVUE 3: (*Sadly.*) No tomato-related movie has ever won an Academy Award.

(*Revue 1, 2, 3 exit sadly. Girl and Boy enter.*)

BOY: It's hard to believe now, but in the early 1800s, the tomato was a hard sell for many Americans. It was so, well, foreign. So bulbous. So –

GIRL: So red.

BOY: The next big development in the history of the tomato came in New Jersey –

(*Jefferson enters.*)

JEFFERSON: So that's it? I'm done?

GIRL: That's it, I'm afraid.

JEFFERSON: Well, thank goodness. It's getting hot under this wig.

(Jefferson takes off his wig.)

BOY: Excuse me, I'm trying to do a scene here.

JEFFERSON: Well, you go right ahead. So is there a seat somewhere? *(Looks out into audience.)* I wouldn't mind watching the rest of the show.

GIRL: I think there's one right out there. *(Points to empty seat.)*

JEFFERSON: Thanks. I don't need a ticket, do I?

GIRL: No, no ticket.

JEFFERSON: Well, I'll be right out here then. *(Ventures into audience.)*

GIRL: Very good. Thanks.

(Jefferson takes a seat in the audience; he banters with an audience member as he takes his seat.)

BOY: *(To Jefferson.)* Are you done now?

JEFFERSON: I think so.

BOY: Good. Well, as I was saying...Salem, New Jersey, 1820.

People have come from miles away— *(Looks around and realizes Salem Townspeople have missed their cue. Shouts.)*
Come on, come on, people! We don't have all day!

(Salem Townspeople rush onstage.)

JEFFERSON: *(Shouts from his seat in the audience.)* Am I okay out here? You don't need me do you?

[End of Freeview]