

**Sybil Ludington Podcast Transcript & Sound Credits**  
*1761 To 1839 - United States revolutionary war - Better than Paul Revere*  
*By Brigitte Paulus - For Lincoln Drama Club Spring 2020*

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The Lincoln Middle School Drama Club, in Portland Maine, was just a few weeks into rehearsals for the spring play when the Covid-19 pandemic forced schools to shut down.

So, we decided to make a podcast.

The 2nd of 4 plays is Sybil Ludington - Better than Paul Revere. Based on a real person from the US Revolutionary War. First Sybil Ludington outwitted a British commander with an old trick. Then she rode 40 miles through New England woods to gather a Patriot army, fighting off skinkers (the bandits of the day) and gathering enough forces to rout the British. By contrast, Paul Revere's ride was 12 miles.

**SCENE 1 - (SL 1 fake army)**

*Scene opens with Sybil and her siblings in the living room talking.*

**Sibling 1:** What are we going to do?

**Sibling 2:** We're trapped! There are so many of them out there.

**Sybil:** Oooh. That Ichabod, he thinks he's going to take dad prisoner.

**Sibling 2:** There's no way we can let that happen.

**Sibling 1:** But what can we do?

**Sybil:** I'm thinking, I'm thinking.

**Sibling 2:** Maybe we could sneak out the back.

**Sybil:** No there's at least 50 out there. They'll have the place surrounded.

**Sibling 2:** It's too bad we didn't have an army inside our house.

**Sibling 1:** Then that stupid Ichabod go away.

**Sybil:** That's it! That's brilliant!

**Sibling 2:** What?

**Sybil:** We need an army inside our house.

**Sibling 2:** How are we supposed to do that?

**Sybil:** I have an idea. You get the candles from the pantry. You go get the hunting rifles from dad's study.

**Sibling 1:** I don't understand.

**Sybil:** Just do it!

*Kids go get things come back*

**Sybil:** Ok. Now put the candles all around, near the windows. Then we're going to march back and forth with the guns. The soldiers outside will think that there's an army in our house. They'll go away because Ichabod is really a coward. He wouldn't dare attack the house if he thought they were people who could fight back.

*Scene changes to Ichabod and his soldiers*

**Ichabod:** What have you got to report private?

**Soldier:** There are at least 20 armed men that I can see inside the house, sir.

**Ichabod:** Do you know if there are more?

**Soldier:** The stables are closed up and I can't see how many horses there are, sir.

**Ichabod:** It would be foolish to attack the house at this stage. We'll leave and come back another time.

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**SCENE 2 - (SL 2 messenger)**

*Inside house. Messenger enters, exhausted.*

**Father:** What news? Why are you here?

**Messenger:** I've just come from Danville, sir, the British have taken it.

**Father:** Well, we will organize the patriot army and then we'll take it back. But you are in no condition to take a message around to the nearby patriots.

**Sybil:** I can do it dad.

**Father:** It won't be easy. There's a lot of woods. And bandits.

**Sybil:** Don't you worry. Me and Star can make the ride. Besides, no one else knows this area around here as well as I do. And even if this messenger could do it, they're bound to get taken by a skinner.

**Father:** (sigh) I don't doubt you're right. Just please be careful. I love you.

*(Sybil goes to get her horse and rides off)*

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### SCENE 3 - (SL 3 skimmers)

*Sybil "rides" through woods to tell patriots*

**Sybil:** *(from far away)* Wake up! Wake up! The British took Danville. We're going to take it back. Muster up at the Ludington Farm.

**Skinner 1:** Here comes one. A little girl by the looks of her.

**Skinner 2:** *(grunts)*

*They fight - Sybil wins quickly*

**Sybil:** I don't have time to stop. You should join the army and stop trying to skin honest folks. See you later. Wake up! Wake up! The British took Danville. We're going to take it back. Muster up at the Ludington Farm.

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### SCENE 4 - (SL 4 Smiths)

*Outside Mrs. Smith's house*

**Sybil:** Wake up! Wake up! The British took Danville. We're going to take it back. Muster up at the Ludington Farm.

**Sarah:** Sybil, What are you doing so far from home? It must be 40 miles.

**Sybil:** The British took Danville. We need to get the patriot army to my house. Dad's going to lead them to take it back.

**Sarah:** I'll wake Henry and the boys. They'll get to your dads. Now come in and rest.

**Sybil:** I can't Mrs. Smith. I have to keep spreading the word. I'll rest when I get home.

**Sarah:** Godspeed child.

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**SCENE 5 - (SI 5 return)**

*Sybil's house*

**Sibling 1:** You're back! We were worried. You've been gone all night.

**Sibling 2:** And you missed breakfast.

**Sibling 1:** Are you alright? Did you see how many people you got? You must have gone as far as the Smiths.

**Sibling 2:** That's 40 miles away!

**Sybil:** I did. And I am tired and hungry, but I can go out again. I need a different horse though. Are there enough troops?

**Sibling 1:** Yeah. There are lots of them. Dad said he's got a whole army!

**Father:** Thanks to you my daughter. We've got enough to take back Danville and push the Brits back a ways beyond. They'll think twice before they come this way again. I'm very proud of you. You'll be remembered in history for this.

**Sybil:** Probably not dad. But I'd do it again anyway.

I hope you had fun listening. If you know any of the students involved - be sure to tell them how much you liked it. And be sure to listen to the next one - the Story of Jang-Geum

The stories were inspired by the times in which we live, and Jason Porath's book *Rejected Princesses*. The scripts were written by and sound files were edited together by the drama club advisor, Brigitte Paulus. Not all the students were able to send in recordings, so when needed, some Lincoln Drama alums\* stepped up to fill in.

Sybil Ludington is voiced by  
Norah Deluty - Sybil  
Charlie Hartman and Linda Nicholson as Sybil's siblings  
Laura Callaghan - Col. Ichabod  
Emma Walsh - a British Soldier  
Demetrius Paulus\* - Sybil's father  
Jilli Fehrs\* - The Messenger and a Skinner  
Roxie Van Oostern - Mrs. Sarah Smith

Music: Yankee Doodle - US Air Force Heritage Of America Band

Many thanks to freesound.org and soundjay.com for providing free downloadable sound effects. Check out the list of effects creators on the Lincoln Middle School website.

I'm grateful to everyone who helped these students still have their spring play.

Thanks to Suellyn Santiago, the principal of Lincoln Middle School for being supportive of the Drama Club in all of its iterations. She's been a great help and was all in when we thought to do a podcast this spring.

Thanks for listening!

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## Sound Credits

[Free Sound Effects | SoundJay.com](#)

door-3-open.wav

Door-3-close.wav

Footsteps Sound Effect 5

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<https://freesound.org/>

JoeDoe22 - sword sheath - unsheath <https://freesound.org/people/JoeDoe22/sounds/462579/>

Freefire66 - sword battle 2 <https://freesound.org/people/freefire66/sounds/175951/>

Indigoimac - men fighting noises <https://freesound.org/people/indigoimac/sounds/137830/>

Volonda - Female battle cry <https://freesound.org/people/Volonda/sounds/439515/>

Craigsmith - men running away <https://freesound.org/people/craigsmith/sounds/480450/>

Craigsmith - horse galloping by <https://freesound.org/people/craigsmith/sounds/479760/>

Tambascot - country highway new hampshire (road noise)  
<https://freesound.org/people/tambascot/sounds/203027/>

FST180081 - curtains 01 <https://freesound.org/people/FST180081/sounds/441793/>

Lydmakeren - horse neighing <https://freesound.org/people/Lydmakeren/sounds/510903/>

Klankbeeld - horse in woodes (with rider and saddle) <https://freesound.org/people/klankbeeld/sounds/178878/>

Mario1298 - warriors fighting with swords shields (thumping sword fight)  
<https://freesound.org/people/mario1298/sounds/177084/>

Andune - Bandini (horse calling) <https://freesound.org/people/Andune/sounds/86282/>

Tedluberg - horse running <https://freesound.org/people/tedluberg/sounds/463962/>

JayHu - forest sounds (no road noise) <https://freesound.org/people/JayHu/sounds/506103/>

InspectorJ - Ambience night (crickets) <https://freesound.org/people/InspectorJ/sounds/352514/>

Soundlikewillem - snorting horse <https://freesound.org/people/soundlikewillem/sounds/418427/>

InspectorJ - horse whinny, close <https://freesound.org/people/InspectorJ/sounds/419231/>

Nemark - Night forest, owls <https://freesound.org/people/nemark/sounds/384591/>

Leafs67 - walking in long grass <https://freesound.org/people/Leafs67/sounds/155589/>

Cauby43 - 2 people walking in redwood forest <https://freesound.org/people/cauby43/sounds/473903/>

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