

LIGHT CUE SHEET

PINCHOT

A one man play about America's first Forester

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Light Cue Key:

[Note: "General" lighting should be moderate—bright but not dazzling—so as not to wash out slides. "Dim" lighting should be roughly one third the intensity of "general," suggesting evening or a reflective moment but still allow Pinchot to be easily seen on stage.]

- Cue #1: General light full stage
- Cue #2: Dim light full stage
- Cue #3: Dim light stage left only (stool & coat tree)
- Cue #4: Dim light stage right only (desk & chairs)
- Cue #5: Blackout.

Fade Rate between all light cues, including blackouts: about five seconds (a smooth, non-abrupt cross fade).

The Stage:

At stage right is a wooden table and two chairs. On the table is a turn-of-the-century telephone, an apple, a water glass, an ink well with a pen, some books and several documents.

At stage left is a fishing rod, a coat tree with a Yale shirt, and a small (milking style) stool. A rock and whittling stick are at the base of the coat tree on the floor.

A projection screen sits just beyond stage left, facing the audience.

The Audio:

All music and sound effects are stereo *and properly mixed*. Once set, volume level adjustment during the performance is not necessary.

The Show:

Light Cue: #1 (generals)

(House lights off)

Gary is introduced and gives a brief introduction out of character.

Gary then sits in chair, leans forward and bows head. [dvd/computer starts here]

Light Cue: #4 (stage right_dim—desk and chairs)

[Eerie music begins]

Gary (as Pinchot):

“Good day. My name is Gifford Pinchot, and I was the first Chief of the Forest Service in 1905. Now chances are, unless you're from Pennsylvania, you've probably never heard of me. Well, if you haven't, you should've, and I intend to change all that. So let's get right to the point.”

Light Cue: #1 (generals)

[Pinchot stands and crosses stage]

“My purpose in being here with you today is to briefly tell how forestry and conservation came to America. For history told from documents often does not bear even a distant family resemblance to the essential truth. And that is because a document may represent a fact or it may represent the concealment of a fact. So I shall now give you the frozen truth as I lived it.

[Slide: Cyril Pinchot]

“My grandfather, Cyril Pinchot, a soldier in Napoleon's army, was expelled from France after the emperor's defeat and settled in Milford, Pennsylvania in 1816. He became a leading merchant.

[Slide: James Pinchot]

“His son James--my father--went to New York City at the age of nineteen and began as a clerk in a dry goods store. But he soon formed a partnership that sold fine wall papers and became very wealthy.

[Slide: Mary Pinchot]

“He later married my mother, Mary Jane Eno, also prosperous, and they had four

children together. I was one of them, born in 1865. At the age of forty-four, my father retired and maintained homes both in Milford and New York City.

[Music begins]

[Slide: Hunt & Statue of Liberty]

"Then, in 1886, my father commissioned Richard Morris Hunt--the architect of the base of the Statue of Liberty--to design Grey Towers, my parents' beautiful home on their summer estate just outside Milford.

Light Cue: #5 (blackout)

[Slides: several shots of Grey Towers]

[Music fades to low volume]

Light Cue: #4 (stage right_dim—desk and chairs)

[Pinchot, already sitting at desk, begins to write]

"While it was being built, I wrote to my mother: "I want to tell you how delighted I was with the house and the general appearance of things there. It seems to me the most attractive situation I know anything about. It is with great difficulty that I can talk of anything else."

[Recorded voice of a sophisticated woman]: *"If the walls of Grey Towers could talk they would re-echo the brilliant conversations which took place there -- literature, poetry, music, art, adventures and conversation were among the topics touched upon."*

[Pinchot]: *"So wrote a guest there years later in 1942. It was a place I would return to often."*

Light Cue: #1 (generals)

[Music fades]

[Pinchot stands and crosses stage]

"My father was a man of vision and concerned with the future of America's forests...blah, blah, blah."

[After about 18 minutes ...]

"Outside the Sierra Forest Reserve, we ran into the gigantically wasteful lumbering of the great Sequoias."

[Tree fall sound--loud]

"I resented then, and still resent, the practice of making vine stakes hardly bigger than walking sticks out of these greatest of all living things.

"At one point, I spent an unforgettable day alone with John Muir on the rim of the Grand Canyon, letting it soak in. I remember when we came across a tarantula, he wouldn't let me kill it. He said it had as much right there as we did.

[Cricket sounds begin...]

Light Cue: #2 (full stage_dim)

"We spent the night on beds of cedar boughs in a thick stand that kept the wind away...blah, blah, blah. Muir was a storyteller in a million, and we talked until midnight. It was such an evening as I have never had before or since. I later fell out with Muir. I suppose it was inevitable since both of us were on fire with a sense of mission.

[Slide: Sheep]

[Sheep sounds]

Light Cue: #1 (generals)

"We differed first on sheep grazing. Muir called sheep hoofed locust and he was right...blah, blah, blah."

[After about twenty-five minutes]

[Music begins]

[Sides: Historic U.S. Forest Service shots]

"'I want every man to stay in the Service,' I said (for someone had written it down). 'I do not want any of you to do anything whatever that will let this Service fall, or even droop, from the high standard that we have built up for it together...Never allow yourselves to forget that you are serving a much greater master than the Department of Agriculture or even the Administration. You are serving the people of the United States...Conservation is my lifework, in the Government service or out of it. And this is the most important piece of Conservation work there is. Go ahead with it, exactly as if I were here.' What I said I meant, and no wonder. For this was the very finest group of public servants I have ever known.

"The Conservation movement continued and much to my extreme relief and

delight, Harry Graves was appointed to replace me.

[Music fades]

“After that, I went on to be elected twice Governor of Pennsylvania. And I also married Cornelia Bryce with whom I spent the remaining years of my life.

[Pinchot picks up book, begins crossing to stage left]

“Before I go, I would like to read a few passages from the final chapter in my book ‘Breaking New Ground,’ published in 1947—a year after my death at the ripe age of 81—and now back in print...fortunately.”

[Sits on stool]

Light Cue: #3 (stage left_dim--stool & coat tree)

“The Conservation Policy has three great purposes: First to wisely use and renew the natural resources of the earth. Second, to control natural resources and their products in the common interest... Third, to see to it that the rights of the people shall not be controlled by great monopolies through their power over natural resources....The devices by which Concentrated Wealth controls men and resources are many, complicated and devious....Rule over man by the dollar...must end. It is time for America and the world to move on from a social order in which unregulated profit is the driving force. I hope and believe the new order will be based on cooperation instead of monopoly, on sharing instead of grasping.

[Music begins]

“I believe in free enterprise—freedom for the common man to think and work and rise to the limit of his ability, with due regard to the rights of others. But in what Concentrated Wealth means by free enterprise—freedom to use and abuse the common man—I do not believe.

“The rightful use and purpose of our natural resources is to make all the people strong and well...full of knowledge and initiative, with equal opportunity for all and special privilege for none.”

[Pinchot sets book down]

“And as for me, even though I have been a governor, every now and then...

[Pinchot Puts on hat.]

“I am a forester all the time...have been and always will be. Thank you and

goodbye.”

[Music swells to crescendo]

[Slide: Pinchot sitting]

[Music ends]

Light Cue: #5 (blackout--Immediately as music ends)

[Leave stage in darkness about eight seconds]

Light Cue: #1(generals)

[Bows and thank you]