

## Kosciuszko: A Man Before His Time

Written & Directed By Alex Storzynski

Narrated By Blair Underwood

Based on the book, *The Peasant Prince: Thaddeus Kosciuszko and the Age of Revolution* by Alex Storzynski, the film portrays Kosciuszko's quest for liberty with his allies George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson and the French Revolutionaries against the tyranny of Britain's King George, Russia's Catherine the Great and Napoleon Bonaparte.

There are more statues of Kosciuszko in America than any other historical figure except for George Washington, and millions of New Yorkers hear of daily traffic jams on the Kosciuszko Bridge, yet few know the real story of this Revolutionary War hero and champion of human rights.

Kosciuszko gave his salary from the American Revolution to Jefferson with instructions to buy slaves – and free them. A military strategist, Kosciuszko's plan won the Battle of Saratoga – the turning point of the war. He also built Fortress West Point, which Benedict Arnold tried to sell to the British in the most infamous act of treason in American history.

In 1791, when Poland passed the first democratic Constitution in Europe, Russia, Austria and Prussia sent armies to crush this democracy. Kosciuszko led an army against these invaders. Thomas Jefferson said it best when he called Kosciuszko “as pure a son of liberty as I have ever known.”



Thomas Jefferson with Thaddeus Kosciuszko