

## Theatre at Ford's Theatre

Broadening our theatrical offerings and deepening the ways we use art as a catalyst for connection and learning.

Ford's Theatre was excited to bring back live in-person performances for our 2021-2022 artistic season.



Photo of the company of *Come From Away: In Concert at the Lincoln Memorial* by Scott Suchman.

### FALL 2021

*Come From Away: In Concert at the Lincoln Memorial*  
Book, Music and Lyrics by Irene Sankoff and David Hein;  
Directed by Christopher Ashley

Ford's Theatre presented a one-night-only concert of the Broadway production of *Come From Away* on September 10, 2021. This concert, FREE to the public, in honor of the 20th anniversary of 9/11, marked the return of live performance for Ford's Theatre for the first time since March 2020.



Photo of Felicia Curry and Christopher Bloch by Scott Suchman.

### FALL 2021

*My Lord, What a Night*  
By Deborah Brevoort; Directed by Sheldon Epps

Based on true events, *My Lord, What a Night* took us into physicist Albert Einstein's home and imagined the conversations and circumstances that led to acclaimed singer Marian Anderson's historic concert on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. Sheldon Epps directed Christopher Bloch as Albert Einstein and Felicia Curry as Marian Anderson in this remarkable new play about courage, justice, our shared humanity and coming together to solve complex moral dilemmas.

### 2021-2022 Season at Ford's Theatre

**56,772**  
Audience Members

**142**  
On-stage Performances

**709**  
Tickets Distributed through our  
Free First Preview initiative

**\$22,109.83**  
Donated to Theatre Washington's  
Taking Care Fund through  
*A Christmas Carol* Company's  
annual holiday collection

**95%**  
of our actors were local to the D.C. area

**43**  
Local Artists Hired

**11,742**  
Viewers of a Virtual Theatre Performance



Photo of Craig Wallace and Rayanne Gonzales by Carol Rosegay.

### HOLIDAY 2021

*A Christmas Carol*  
By Charles Dickens; Adapted by Michael Wilson; Directed by  
José Carrasquillo

The spirits of Christmas Past, Present and Future led the miserly Ebenezer Scrooge on a journey of transformation and redemption. Acclaimed actor Craig Wallace returned for the fifth year to play Ebenezer Scrooge in our annual tradition.



Photo of Nova Y. Payton by André Chung.

### SPRING 2022

*Grace*  
Music and Lyrics by Nolan Williams, Jr.; Book by  
Nolan Williams, Jr. and Nikkole Salter; Directed and  
Choreographed by Robert Barry Fleming

The world premiere of the new musical, *Grace*, portrayed a milestone day in the lives of the Mintons, a Philadelphia-based family with a long connection with African American culinary traditions, especially through their century-old restaurant. The story unfolded through song, ranging in styles from traditional musical theatre and R&B to jazz and neo-classical.

## Critical Acclaim

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With the renowned visage of Abraham Lincoln gazing on from his memorial, the cast ... sang for what had to be one of the largest audiences ever for theater in the nation's capital ... The emotional and historic connectivity of presenting *Come From Away* on the eve of the 20th anniversary of 9/11 on this breathtaking platform, before an audience of great size, made for a profound experience.

-Washington Post review for *Come From Away: In Concert at the Lincoln Memorial*

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View from the backstage of *Come From Away: In Concert at the Lincoln Memorial*, September 10, 2021, in Washington, D.C. Photo by Scott Suchman.

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Sitting in the Ford's Theatre, an auditorium perfectly suited in time and place, gazing up at the box where Abraham Lincoln was assassinated, as a curtained graphic projection with the looming image of the Lincoln Memorial descends, is almost emotionally overwhelming. Marian Anderson steps forward in that famous full-length mink coat and with the fervor and the dignity of a living legend sings the first stanza of 'My Country 'Tis of Thee.' This is the very moment when *My Lord, What a Night* becomes a truly thrilling production. Bravo.

-DC Theatre Arts review for *My Lord, What a Night*

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## Sensory-Friendly Performances

Ford's Theatre has long been committed to creating an inclusive visitor experience on our historic campus, and we are continually working to expand the scope of our accessibility offerings. We were very excited this past year to be able to bring back our in-person, live Sensory-Friendly programming and hosted two Sensory-Friendly performances during our productions of *A Christmas Carol* and *Grace*. These special performances are designed to create a welcoming theatre experience for individuals on the autism spectrum or those with other sensory sensitivities. As Ford's expands and refines the scope of our accessibility offerings, we will continue to evaluate and learn how we can better serve our audiences and visitors in the years to come.



Photo of Craig Wallace and Justine "Icy" Moral by Carol Rosegay.

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What a wonderful experience this was for both my daughter and me! When you told the audience to just be their authentic selves, I started crying. When the cast walked out on stage and waved at the audience members, the tears flowed harder! I've been taking my daughter to the theater for many years and she loves to see shows and is generally a very good audience member, but not **NEEDING** to be on very best behavior at all times ... just dropped the stress levels so much for both of us ... My deep thanks to you, the staff, the cast and the crew for a wonderful and memorable afternoon with my special daughter.

-Sensory-Friendly Performance Audience Member

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## World Premiere of *Grace*



Photo of Raquel Jennings and Arica Jackson by André Chung.

Ford's Theatre Society is committed to telling new stories that expand our understanding of our community and history while allowing for dialogue and engagement. This spring, we presented the world premiere of the new musical, *Grace*. This production was full of energy, hope and vibrant musical numbers.

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*Grace* is a mouth-watering dish of family and community served up with super-charged music and vocals. This ambitious musical shows the promise and potential of exploding talent and points the way to the future of the musical. It should be seen by diverse audiences in ever-expanding venues.

-Broadway World review for *Grace*

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## Veteran Tickets Foundation's Tickets for Troops

This year, Ford's once again participated in the Veteran Tickets Foundation's Tickets for Troops (VetTix) program. This program partners with organizations and venues to provide free tickets to those currently serving and veterans of all branches of the U.S. military. Through this program we donated 445 tickets to this season's mainstage productions to veterans, active military and their friends and families.