



Ford's Theatre Society

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Office of Communications

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Media Release

**Ford's Theatre Society and National Park Service
Announce 2023 Lincoln Assassination
Commemoration Activities**

Historic Site Visits Available Daily through August 31, 2023

**Live and Virtual Events Commemorating the 158th Anniversary of the
Lincoln Assassination April 14 and 15, 2023 and throughout the Month of April**

**National Park Service Walking Tour: *Ford's Theatre Neighborhood*
April 15, 2023, at 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.**

**National Park Service Wreath-Laying at the Petersen House
April 15, 2023 at 7:22 a.m.**

Celebrate D.C. Emancipation Day on April 16, 2023

**Free Online Resources, Virtual Field Trips and
Distance-Learning Programs for Students**

Washington, D.C. – Ford's Theatre Society and the National Park Service announce commemoration activities surrounding the week of Abraham Lincoln's assassination on-site at Ford's Theatre, as well as throughout the month of April. Tickets for entries to the full Ford's Theatre campus through August 31 are now available for advance reservation at www.fords.org. A limited number of in-person tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis from the Ford's Theatre box office.

Visits to Ford's Theatre, Ford's Theatre Museum, Petersen House and Aftermath Exhibits are self-guided and open daily 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The historic site will be open all day on April 14 and 15, with two performances of *One Destiny* each day

and no Friday, April 14 matinee of *SHOUT SISTER SHOUT!* Visit www.fords.org for details on entry schedules and availability.

April Programming Commemorating the Lincoln Assassination

Public Virtual Field Trip – *Investigation: Detective McDevitt*

Thursday, April 13 – 1 p.m. ET

Assist Detective James McDevitt as he investigates the assassination of President Lincoln. Revisit sites and reexamine clues from April 14, 1865. In this interactive, theatrical program, participants will interact with historical characters portrayed by an actor, examine primary source images and hear witness statements. This session is 60 minutes long including time for Q&A. It is designed for 5th-12th graders and adult audiences and is appropriate for anyone who wants a theatrical experience, exploring the assassination of President Lincoln and manhunt for John Wilkes Booth. With over 300 learners in attendance at last year's webinar, get your tickets now! We are limiting access to only 100 people. [Register here.](#)

That the Nation Might Live: Lincoln and the Civil War

A Panel Discussion with Speakers from Historic Sites and Museums

Thursday, April 13 – 7-8 p.m.

As a politician, president and Civil War commander in chief, Abraham Lincoln left a complex legacy for museums and historic sites to examine. Museum professionals from Ford's Theatre, the Lincoln Home National Historic Site and President Lincoln's Cottage discuss Lincoln's impact on America — from leading the military effort to reunite the country to his contribution in liberating its enslaved people. Ford's Theatre Education is proud to participate in this panel discussion hosted by the National Museum of the United States Army, as part of their Civil War Symposium. [Register here.](#)

Wreath Laying and Early Morning Tour of Ford's Theatre

Saturday, April 15 – 7:22 a.m.

The mortally wounded Lincoln was brought directly across the street to the Petersen House and died there the next morning. Join National Park Service rangers outside the Petersen House at 7:10 a.m. for a short talk on Lincoln's passing and the importance of the event in American history. A wreath will be placed in front of the house at 7:22 a.m., marking the moment of the President's death 158 years ago.

Ford's Theatre Neighborhood Walking Tour

Saturday, April 15 – 1:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m.

Join a National Park Service ranger for a 35-minute walking tour of the Ford's Theatre neighborhood, including Baptist Alley, through which John Wilkes Booth made his escape, and other sites connected to the Lincoln conspiracy and assassination. Meet the ranger by the large lamp post outside the main theatre entrance doors.

The Ford's Theatre Story

Friday, April 14 – 9:45 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 2:45 p.m., 3:45 p.m.

Saturday, April 15 – 11:45 a.m.

Take a seat for a National Park Service ranger presentation on the story of the theatre and its role in one of the most tragic and momentous events in American history- the assassination of President Lincoln. Learn about the characters who were involved and those swept up in the aftermath, and how the site was transformed into a place of commemoration honoring Lincoln's legacy. Presentations are about 20 minutes long and timed entry tickets are required. Check www.fords.org for advance reservations. Some tickets may be available for walk-up visitors at the Ford's box office. Not all entries include the ranger presentation (look for dates that include "Theatre: Ranger Talk" on the fords.org [calendar](#) reservation site).

One Destiny

Friday, April 14 – 10:45 a.m., 11:45 a.m.

Saturday, April 15 – 9:45 a.m., 10:45 a.m.

Learn about President Lincoln's assassination from two men who were there. Actor Harry Hawk and Ford's Theatre co-owner Harry Ford revisit the events of April 14, 1865. As they reconstruct the sequence of events, they grapple with the question: Could John Wilkes Booth have been stopped? This [40-minute performance](#) explores the key facts of the assassination while capturing the emotions of that fateful night. The new 2023 cast features Ford's Theatre favorites Joe Mallon and Jonathan Atkinson. [An On Demand recording](#) of *One Destiny* is also available through the end of 2023.

Pop-up exhibits on "Mourning Lincoln" and Laura Keene

Friday, April 14 and Saturday, April 15 – 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Two temporary exhibits highlight lesser-known aspects of the assassination. "Mourning Lincoln" in the Aftermath exhibits recounts the many ways that Americans responded to Lincoln's loss. In the Ford's Theatre Museum, an exhibit on Laura Keene, the theatre entrepreneur and lead actress in the play, asks visitors to sort through the evidence and vote on the most likely version of her actions in the minutes following the assassination.

Become a Ford's Theatre Junior Ranger

Friday, April 14 and Saturday, April 15 – 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Visitors of all ages can pick up a Junior Ranger booklet and explore on-site activities highlighting the site and its stories. Complete the activities, check in with a ranger and receive a Ford's Theatre Junior Ranger badge.

Ford's Theatre online resources are available at any time for history fans and learners of all ages. A full list is available at www.fords.org/teaching-and-learning/education-resources/ and www.fords.org/lincolns-assassination/.

[Online Resources](#)

Lincoln's Assassination

Online resource: <https://www.fords.org/lincolns-assassination>

A popular 26-year-old actor, Confederate sympathizer and white supremacist named John Wilkes Booth had plotted for months to abduct President Abraham Lincoln and give the Confederacy another chance. Three days before the assassination, hearing the president talk of his plans to bring the nation together—in particular, Lincoln’s plans to grant some African American men the right to vote—Booth’s plans turned murderous.

Lincoln’s Death

Online resource: <https://www.fords.org/lincolns-assassination/lincolns-death>

After John Wilkes Booth shot President Abraham Lincoln at Ford’s Theatre, soldiers carried Lincoln across Tenth Street, so that he could pass his last moments peacefully, surrounded by those who knew him best. He died in the Petersen family’s boarding house at 7:22 a.m. on April 15, 1865.

Investigating the Assassination

Online resource: <https://www.fords.org/lincolns-assassination/investigating-the-assassination>

Why did John Wilkes Booth assassinate President Abraham Lincoln? How did investigators learn what happened and why? Join Detective McDevitt as he conducts his investigation.

The Vigil on Tenth Street

View online: <http://www.fords.org/lincolns-assassination/lincolns-death/night-on-10th-street>

After soldiers carried President Abraham Lincoln into the Petersens’ boardinghouse, a crowd gathered outside on 10th Street to await word. What would happen to their beloved leader? What would happen to the country? Explore the only first-person representation of the scene, and see what eyewitnesses had to say.

Impact on a Nation

View online: <https://www.fords.org/lincolns-assassination/impact-on-a-nation>

News of Abraham Lincoln’s assassination spread quickly across the United States and beyond in 1865. Many grieved, but others celebrated the death of a man they considered a tyrant. Reactions to Lincoln’s assassination varied and did so in ways that might surprise us. Use this page to investigate how people around the United States and world reacted. What do their feelings about Lincoln’s assassination tell us about how they saw the larger questions facing the United States as its Civil War drew to a close?

Lincoln’s Funeral Train

View online: <https://www.fords.org/lincolns-assassination/impact-on-a-nation/lincoln-s-funeral>

An estimated seven million people turned out in 11 cities to mourn the slain Lincoln as his funeral train carried his body back to Springfield, Illinois. See where his funeral train traveled.

Ford's Theatre History

View online: <https://www.fords.org/lincolns-assassination/fords-theatre-history/>

What should happen to a site where a violent event like Lincoln's assassination takes place? Since 1865, people have answered that question in many different ways. Explore how Ford's Theatre and the Petersen House have changed since the 1830s.

Remembering Lincoln: A Digital Collection of Responses to the Lincoln Assassination

In 1865, as people around the nation and around the world learned of the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln, they recorded their reactions in many forms—from written materials like diaries and letters to decorative items like ribbons and flags. Discover personal items and remembrances from the Americans whose lives were touched by the president's death and its national and international aftermath. This website includes more than 850 primary sources drawn from more than 40 libraries, archives, museums and private collections. The website also includes educational resources to make the collection useful to teachers and students. The collection is viewable online at <https://rememberinglincoln.fords.org>.

Civil War Washington Through the Eyes of Mary Henry (Video)

Explore the city of Washington, D.C. during the Civil War through the eyes of Mary Henry, a young woman who lived in the Smithsonian castle. Recommended for 8th-12th grade students studying the Civil War and Washington D.C. History, this video includes primary source texts and images. An accompanying student activity is available. Video: <https://youtu.be/EETFPrfWepk>

Explore the History of Ford's Theatre on Google Arts and Culture:

<https://artsandculture.google.com/partner/fords-theatre>

Listen to Ford's Education Programs Manager Alex Wood on Lincoln's Cottage's podcast, "Q&Abe," for an episode about John Wilkes Booth and the Lincoln assassination: <https://www.lincolncottage.org/learn/podcast/>
[Apple Podcasts](#), [Spotify](#), [Stitcher](#) and [Google Podcasts](#)

Ford's Theatre Society

One of the most visited sites in the nation's capital, Ford's Theatre reopened its doors in 1968, more than a hundred years after the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln. Operated through a partnership between Ford's Theatre Society and the National Park Service, Ford's Theatre is the premier destination in the nation's capital to explore and celebrate Abraham Lincoln's life and legacy.

Ford's Theatre Society was founded under the guidance of executive producer **Frankie Hewitt**, who, during her 35-year tenure, established Ford's as a living, working theatre producing performances that highlighted the diversity of the American experience. Since the arrival of **Paul R. Tetreault** as Director, critics and the theatre-going public have

recognized Ford's for the superior quality of its artistic programming. With works from the Tony-nominated *Come From Away* and the nationally acclaimed *Big River*, to the world premieres of *Meet John Doe*, *The Heavens Are Hung In Black*, *Liberty Smith*, *Necessary Sacrifices*, *The Widow Lincoln* and *The Guard*, Ford's Theatre is making its mark on the American theatre landscape. In the past decade, the mission of Ford's Theatre Society expanded to include education as a central pillar. This expansion led to the creation and construction of the Center for Education and Leadership, which opened in February 2012. Under the current leadership of Board of Trustees Chairman **Phebe N. Novakovic** and through the lens of Lincoln's leadership and legacy, Ford's today endeavors to advance Lincoln's "unfinished work" with programs and performances that cultivate empathy, encourage dialogue and bridge divides in American life.

For more information on Ford's Theatre and the Ford's Theatre Society, please visit www.fords.org.

National Mall and Memorial Parks

The National Park Service's National Mall and Memorial Parks preserves, protects, and interprets the symbolic and monumental civic spaces, commemorative works and historic sites in the center of the Nation's Capital that honor American ideals and values, distinguished public figures, and military and civilian sacrifices and contributions. On the National Mall these sites include Ford's Theatre National Historic Site, the Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, Thomas Jefferson Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Korean War Veterans Memorial, Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, World War II Memorial and Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial. National Mall and Memorial Parks also serves as a public park and open space for active civic and cultural engagement, recreation and public enjoyment.

For more information about the National Park Service and Ford's Theatre National Historic Site, please visit www.nps.gov/foth.

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#RememberLincoln #LincolnMatters

Ford's Theatre:

Instagram: [@fordstheatre](https://www.instagram.com/fordstheatre)

Facebook: [@fordstheatre](https://www.facebook.com/fordstheatre)

TikTok: [@fordstheatredc](https://www.tiktok.com/@fordstheatredc)

Ford's Education on Twitter: [@fordsedu](https://twitter.com/fordsedu)

Website: www.fords.org

National Park Service:

Twitter: [@FordsTheatreNPS](https://twitter.com/FordsTheatreNPS)

Facebook: [@FordsTheatreNPS](https://www.facebook.com/FordsTheatreNPS)

Website: www.nps.gov/foth