



Photo of Jonathan Atkinson and Joe Mallon by Carolina Dulcey. Background photo by Gary Erskine.

Going To See *One Destiny*

Ford's Theatre: Sensory-Friendly Performance

Pre-Visit Story

Ford's Theatre



Photo of Ford's Theatre ©Maxwell MacKenzie.

I am going to Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C. to see a play called *One Destiny* by Richard Helleesen.

One Destiny



Photo of Jonathan Atkinson and Joe Mallon by Carolina Dulcey.

The play, *One Destiny*, tells us the story of the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln.

The two main characters, Harry Hawk and Harry Ford, wonder if there was anything they could have done to save President Lincoln.

One of the actors will walk through the theatre near me. I will not talk to him because he is working. He won't touch me or talk to me when he walks by.

Stage



Photo of Joe Mallon by Carolina Dulcey.

Everything the actors need for this play comes out of one trunk. There are different props and costumes.

This play takes place at Ford's Theatre in 1865. The Presidential Box, where President Lincoln sat in 1865, is part of the stage too.

Music and Sound



Photo of Jonathan Atkinson and Joe Mallon by Carolina Dulcey.

I will hear music and the sounds of a crowd of people.

**Toward the end of the play, I will hear a gunshot. It might surprise me.
But there are no real guns in the play.**

Many Characters



Photo of Jonathan Atkinson and Joe Mallon by Carolina Dulcey.

Harry Hawk and Harry Ford pretend to be many different people in order to tell the story. They play 1860s actors, a doctor, a stagehand and more.

Each time one of them changes characters, they put on or take off a costume piece, change their voice or change their body language.

These changes help identify which character the actor is pretending to be.

Assassination



Photo by © Maxwell MacKenzie

An assassination is when someone kills a famous or important person for political reasons.

President Lincoln was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth at Ford's Theatre, on April 14, 1865. John Wilkes Booth killed the president because he wanted the Confederacy to win the war. It was the first time a president was ever assassinated in the United States.

It was a scary and sad time for many people.

What If?



Photo of Jonathan Atkinson and Joe Mallon by Carolina Dulcey.

Harry Hawk and Harry Ford are sad that President Lincoln was assassinated. They are worried about what will happen to them and to the theatre.

They wonder if they could have done anything to stop the assassination from happening.

They replay the whole day to try to figure out if there was a moment when a different choice could have changed the way things happened.

Destiny



Photo of Jonathan Atkinson and Joe Mallon by Carolina Dulcey.

Destiny is the idea that some things are meant to happen, and that all the choices we make eventually lead to those things.

Harry Hawk and Harry Ford wonder if President Lincoln's assassination was meant to happen because of the war or because of Lincoln's work.

Lincoln wore a coat that had the words "One Country, One Destiny" embroidered in the inside lining. Perhaps Lincoln believed the United States was meant to win the war and that the nation was worth fighting for.

GOING TO SEE *ONE DESTINY* – CREDITS

All stage photos are from the 2023 Ford's Theatre production of *One Destiny*.

The pre-visit materials were developed by: Ford's Theatre Access Committee

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