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Large print playbills available.
Please ask an usher.
Ford’s Theatre explores the legacy of President Abraham Lincoln and celebrates the American experience through theatre and education. A working theatre, historical monument, world-class museum and learning center, Ford’s Theatre is the premier destination in Washington, D.C. to explore and celebrate Lincoln’s ideals and leadership principles.

**Ford’s Theatre History**
In 1861, theatre manager John T. Ford leased out the abandoned First Baptist Church on Tenth Street to create Ford’s Theatre. Over the next few years, the venue became a popular stage for theatrical and musical productions. On April 14, 1865, Abraham Lincoln visited Ford’s for a performance of *Our American Cousin*. At this performance, Lincoln was shot by John Wilkes Booth, a Confederate sympathizer and white supremacist. Lincoln died the next morning in the Petersen House, a boarding house located across the street. Ford’s Theatre remained dark for more than 100 years, officially reopening in 1968 as a national historic site and working theatre. It is operated through a public-private partnership between the National Park Service and Ford’s Theatre Society.

**Ford’s Theatre Today**
Through its inspiring theatrical productions, live historic interpretation and engaging education programs, Ford’s Theatre offers visitors the opportunity to immerse themselves in America’s past while revealing meaningful connections to today.

As a working theatre, Ford’s produces renowned plays, vibrant musicals and newly commissioned works that captivate and entertain while examining political and social issues related to Lincoln’s legacy. With works from the Tony-nominated *Come From Away* and the nationally acclaimed *Big River* to the world premieres of *Grace, 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. With the opening of the Aftermath Exhibits at the Center for Education and Leadership, Ford’s Theatre has become a major center for learning, where people of all ages can examine Lincoln’s multi-faceted legacy through exhibits, workshops and educational programs.

For more information on Ford’s Theatre and Ford’s Theatre Society, please visit [www.fords.org](http://www.fords.org).
Welcome to Ford’s Theatre and our production of Little Shop of Horrors! In my 20 years as Director, very few shows, outside of our annual A Christmas Carol, have been produced on our historic stage more than once. Little Shop of Horrors is one of those exceptions.

This confection of a musical is an exciting blend of sci-fi, horror, comedy and love story, set to rock, doo-wop and Motown-infused tunes. The first hit musical of the genius writing team of Howard Ashman and Alan Menken, this roof-raising show has become a cult favorite in the American musical theatre canon. Full of heart and humor, Little Shop champions the underdog, while simultaneously offering a cautionary reminder to be careful what you wish for. We hope you enjoy our take on this delightful horror comedy.

As a working theatre, museum, historic site and learning center, there is always more to explore at Ford’s Theatre. Spring is a busy time at Ford’s, as we welcome students and visitors from around the world. On April 14, we’ll mark the anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln’s assassination. I encourage you to visit the museum before the show and during intermission or consider returning to see One Destiny or participating in our History on Foot tour Investigation: Detective McDevitt—two programs that explore Lincoln’s assassination.

Thank you for joining us as we honor President Abraham Lincoln’s love of the performing arts! I hope to see you again soon!

Sincerely,

Paul R. Tetreault
Director
Ford’s Theatre Society
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Ford’s Theatre is committed to creating an equitable, diverse, inclusive and accessible environment for all artists, staff, students, educators, scholars, theatregoers, tourists and volunteers working and visiting our campus and engaging virtually. With renewed commitment, we have reexamined our practices, reassessed our vision for the future and have taken forward steps for needed reinvention. We want to share the principles that continue to sustain and guide our institution:

Ford’s Theatre Society condemns all forms of racism, white supremacy, hate speech, police brutality and acts of violence against Black, Indigenous, People of Color and members of the LGBTQ+ community. We wholeheartedly believe that Black lives matter and support the international cry for equity and social justice. Ford’s Theatre Society is fully engaged and committed to dismantling racism, discrimination, exclusion and systemic and social oppression. We are actively working to be an anti-racist, equitable, diverse and inclusive institution.

**Ford’s Theatre Values**

- **Courage:** Following Lincoln’s example, we engage deeply with complex truths, explore new ideas and commit to evolving as an organization.
- **Empathy:** We cultivate the ability to see our shared humanity and act with compassion.
- **Equity:** We foster a community that amplifies underrepresented voices and provides equitable opportunities and access.
- **Inclusion:** We work to be an inclusive community based on respect. We celebrate commonalities and embrace differences.
- **Inspired Creativity:** We seek to inspire imagination and creative thinking as we collaborate with each other and our community.


---

**Land Acknowledgment**

Ford’s Theatre sits on some of the original homelands of the Piscataway and Nacotchtank peoples, who long lived, farmed and worked on this land. Ford’s Theatre Society honors the continued traditions of both peoples, many of whom continue to live in a homeland together.
“The set is inspired by the artwork of Gerd Winner and the 1990 *Dick Tracy* film (particularly the matte paintings by Michael Lloyd) and their graphic, colorful grittiness. We use a very bold yellow, green and red pulp-y color scheme that makes the world feel slightly surreal and heightened.”

-Paige Hathaway, Scenic Designer

---

**Love the show?**

**Share your thoughts on social media.**

Photos can be taken before the show. No photos are allowed during the show or cast bows.

Please credit scenic designer Paige Hathaway by tagging her on Instagram @paigehathawaydesign, tagging @FordsTheatre and using #FordsLittleShop.
Ford’s Theatre Rules of Engagement

We are glad that you are joining us at Ford’s Theatre today. This is an inclusive and interactive community. Whether you are here to visit our historic site or to see a show, we invite you to be your authentic self.

At Ford’s Theatre:

- We are allowed to be human, in all the ways that make us unique.
- We are allowed to be human together. We encourage you to find moments of respectful connection and engagement with other members of the community.
- We are on common ground. We are all here to enjoy a shared experience and though our reactions and responses may vary, we will remain respectful.
- We are creating a live theatrical experience together; audible reactions and responses are welcome. The actors need you to engage with what you see but not to distract them from their performances.
- We also welcome the use of personal communication devices if they help you to better experience the show, but we encourage you to respect the actors’ work and the other audience members around you. Please note that the taking of photographs, video or sound recordings of the performance is not permitted.

Let’s create something beautiful together.

Become a volunteer usher!

Ford’s Theatre is looking for people like you to help us welcome patrons to our shows!

Learn more about Volunteer Usher benefits and join us this season by visiting fords.org/work-with-us.
By José Carrasquillo, Director of Artistic Programming

In his lifetime, English writer H.G. Wells’ prolific output is unmatched. In the nonfiction arena, he wrote essays on politics, history and science. He was also known for writing biographies, commentaries, over 50 novels and many more short stories. His science fiction novels, including *The War of the Worlds* (written and serialized in magazines from 1895 to 1897), became so popular and esteemed that Wells is often referred to as the father of science fiction. *The War of the Worlds* is one of the earliest examples of fiction exploring conflicts between the inhabitants of planet Earth and extraterrestrial beings. But back in 1894, Wells wrote a curious short story titled *The Flowering of the Strange Orchid*.

On *The Flowering of the Strange Orchid*, from Port of Planets Publishing:

“When an unassuming and amateur botanist stumbles upon a strange and exotic orchid at an auction, his curiosity is piqued. He sees the orchid as a unique treasure to be nurtured and admired. But as the orchid grows and flourishes, its peculiar characteristics become increasingly apparent. Soon, it becomes clear that the orchid is unlike anything the botanist has ever encountered. Its otherworldly beauty masks a hidden danger, and the plant’s true nature gradually reveals itself.”

In 1956, Wells’ story inspired science fiction writer Arthur C. Clarke to write an updated take on the carnivorous plant’s story. This time, the story was titled *The Reluctant Orchid*. While Wells’ story left a great deal to the imagination, Clarke’s story made the intentions of the plant unabashedly clear.

Original *Little Shop of Horrors* screenwriter Charles B. Griffith wrote a script that was influenced by Clarke’s story. But the film’s overall concept and tone was inspired by a 1932 story by John Collier, titled *Green Thoughts*—a variation on the man-eating plant motif, which Griffith imbued with a dose of dark comedy. The resulting script created an original farcical style of humor, not unlike early plays from the Theatre of the Ridiculous.

Enter American actor, filmmaker, producer and film distributor, Roger Corman. In the late 1950s, Corman began producing low-budget horror and sci-fi films, often called B-movies because they were paired with main attraction feature films in drive-ins across the country. Corman produced, directed and shot the film, originally titled *The Passionate People Eater*, in two days and one night, on the set of another B-movie titled *Bucket of Blood*, on a budget of $28,000. It featured an early performance from actor Jack Nicholson. Because Corman didn’t think *The Passionate People Eater* would make any money, he did not bother to copyright it. Consequently, the film entered the public
domain shortly after being released under the title *The Little Shop of Horrors*.

In its initial double feature release, *Little Shop of Horrors* was paired with *Black Sunday*, an Italian gothic horror film, directed by Mario Bava. Although *Black Sunday* became an international hit, the popularity of *Little Shop of Horrors* didn’t kick into full gear until television broadcasts of the film through the 1960s and ’70s. Today, it is considered a gem of the Corman oeuvre, gaining cult classic status.

The film’s stature and notoriety grew even more when it was adapted as a musical for the stage in 1982, with book and lyrics by Howard Ashman and music by Alan Menken. Menken framed the story of Seymour, the nerdy florist shop worker, with rock-and-roll, doo-wop and the performing style of early Motown groups.

The resulting cast album had hits in the Top 100 with “Skid Row (Downtown),” “Somewhere That’s Green” and “Suddenly Seymour.” The musical, directed by Ashman, premiered Off-Off-Broadway at the WPA Theatre before moving to the Orpheum Theatre Off-Broadway, where it ran for five years and 2,209 performances – making it one of the highest-grossing productions in Off-Broadway history.

In writing about the musical, Ashman said that “The show satirizes many things: science fiction, B-movies, musical comedy itself and even the Faust legend.” Theatre historians believe that in addition to the catchy tunes, the popularity and longevity of the original production rested on Ellen Greene’s turn as Audrey in what became a career-defining performance for the actress. The stage musical was adapted for the screen in 1986. The film of the same title was directed by American puppeteer Frank Oz (*The Muppets, Sesame Street, Star Wars*) and cast Rick Moranis and Ellen Greene in the leads.

The popularity of *Little Shop of Horrors* has not abated. In 2015, Ellen Greene and Jake Gyllenhaal received rave reviews in a New York City Center concert staging of the musical. The current Off-Broadway revival in New York has been running for five years. The musical is now a must-revive production in regional theaters across the country and continues to be an all-time favorite for theatre lovers everywhere.

José Carrasquillo is the Director of Artistic Programming at Ford’s Theatre.

Explore more *Little Shop of Horrors* content at [www.fords.org/blog](http://www.fords.org/blog).
Performances of *Little Shop of Horrors* are made possible by generous corporate support from:

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-*Ryan Lance, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer*

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**Altria** believes that supporting vibrant, diverse and relevant cultural experiences reflects our broader commitment to investing in community. We’re proud to support Ford’s Theatre in its mission to create an equitable, diverse, inclusive and accessible environment for all who visit and engage with this historic organization.

-*Billy Gifford, Chief Executive Officer*

Headquartered in Virginia, HII’s workforce is 44,000 strong with the mission to deliver the world’s most powerful ships and all-domain solutions in service of the nation, creating the advantage for our customers to protect peace and freedom around the world. Its Mission Technologies division develops integrated solutions that enable today’s connected, all-domain force. Together, HII’s domain expertise and advanced technologies support mission partners anywhere around the globe.

-*Andy Green, Executive Vice President and President HII Mission Technologies*

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-*Steven G. Barry, National Partner in Charge, Inspections*
Ford’s Theatre Underwriters (cont.)

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-Michael K. Wirth, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

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-James D. Taiclet, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer

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-Scott Kirby, Chief Executive Officer

Additional Support

Costumes funded in part by support from SHEIN.

SHEIN
We honor the life of Douglas Wilson, Director of Finance and Administration, who passed away on January 24, 2024. Joining Ford’s Theatre in 2010, Doug’s tenure at Ford’s positively impacted every corner of the organization as both a trusted advisor and colleague. Over the years, Doug developed a business acumen that left him a quiet but giant figure in the arts nonprofit field in the D.C. region. Doug’s record of financial stewardship and executive administration demonstrated his leadership through some of the organization’s most challenging times, most notably when the theatre and museum had to be closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He was also a tremendous champion of the employees at Ford’s and worked tirelessly to create an inclusive workplace. In recent years, he played an instrumental role in securing the new building currently under construction as part of the Ford’s Theatre campus expansion.

Those who knew Doug appreciated his candor, empathy and directness that found its way into moments that were both memorable and accompanied by his sense of humor. His love for travel and entertainment created lifelong memories with friends. We will miss Doug and will ensure his memory lives on as we continue building on the many great contributions he made to Ford’s Theatre.
Ford's Theatre Society
under the direction of Paul R. Tetreault
presents

![Little Shop of Horrors](image)

*Book and Lyrics By*  
Howard Ashman

*Music By*  
Alan Menken

*Based on the Film By* Roger Corman, *Screenplay By* Charles Griffith

with

- Scott Ward Abernethy  
  Joe Mallon  
  Nia Savoy-Dock
- Jay Frisby  
  Christopher Mueller  
  Ryan Sellers  
  Kanysha Williams
- Tori Gomez  
  Lawrence Redmond  
  Derrick D. Truby Jr.  
  Tobias A. Young
- Kaiyla Gross  
  Theodore Sapp  
  Chani Wereley

*Scenic Designer*  
Paige Hathaway

*Costume Designer*  
Alejo Vietti

*Lighting Designer*  
Max Doolittle

*Sound Designer*  
David Budries

*Hair and Make-up Designer*  
Danna Rosedahl

*Dialects and Voice Director*  
Rachel Hirshorn-Johnston

*Vocal Arrangements*  
Robert Billig

*Orchestrations*  
Robert Merkin

*Production Stage Manager*  
Craig A. Horness

*Assistant Stage Manager*  
Taryn Friend

*Deputy Director and Director of Programming*  
Kristin Fox-Siegmund

*Music Director*  
William Yanesh

*Choreographer*  
Ashleigh King

*Director*  
Kevin S. McAllister

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Originally produced by the WPA Theatre (Kyle Renick, Producing Director). Originally produced at the Orpheum Theatre, New York City by the WPA Theatre, David Geffen, Cameron Mackintosh and the Shubert Organization.

*Little Shop of Horrors* is presented through special arrangement with and all authorized performance materials are supplied by Music Theatre International, 421 West 54th Street, New York, NY 10019. Tel: (212) 541-4684. Fax (212) 397-4684. www.MTIShows.com
Cast (in order of appearance)

Ronnette.......................................................................................................................................................................Kaiyla Gross
Chiffon....................................................................................................................................................................Nia Savoy-Dock
Crystal.................................................................................................................................................................Kanysha Williams
Audrey......................................................................................................................................................................Chani Wereley
Mr. Mushnik....................................................................................................................................................Lawrence Redmond
Seymour.......................................................................................................................................................... Derrick D. Truby Jr.
Orin/Bernstein/Snip/Luce/Everyone Else ...........................................................................................................Joe Mallon
Audrey II (Voice)................................................................................................................................................Tobias A. Young
Audrey II (Manipulation)/Derelict...................................................................................................Jay Frisby, Ryan Sellers
Dance Captain.................................................................................................................................................................Jay Frisby
Fight Captain ..............................................................................................................................................................Ryan Sellers

Understudies


Understudies never substitute for listed players unless a specific announcement is made at the time of performance.

Musicians

Keys I/Conductor..................................................................................................................................................William Yanesh
Keys II..............................................................................................................................................................Nathan Beary Blustein
Guitar..............................................................................................................................................................DeAnte Haggerty-Willis
Bass.................................................................................................................................................................................. Eliot Seppa
Drums and Percussion..............................................................................................................................................Carroll “CV” Dashiell III

This performance of Little Shop of Horrors will be performed with one 15-minute intermission.

WARNING: The photographing, videotaping and sound-recording of any performance is prohibited by law and union regulations. Please turn off all wireless phones, pagers and chiming watches prior to the beginning of the performance.

The actors and stage managers in this production are members of Actors’ Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers.

Ford’s Theatre is a member of the League of Resident Theatres, The Dramatists Guild and National Alliance for Musical Theatre.
ACT I

Prologue: Little Shop of Horrors ................................................................. Chiffon, Crystal, Ronnette
Downtown (Skid Row) ................................................................................................. Company
Da-Doo ......................................................................................................................... Seymour, Chiffon, Crystal, Ronnette
Grow for Me ................................................................................................................ Seymour
Ya Never Know ..................................................................................................... Mushnik, Seymour, Chiffon, Crystal, Ronnette
Somewhere That’s Green ........................................................................................ Audrey
Closed for Renovation ........................................................................................ Mushnik, Seymour, Audrey
Dentist! ....................................................................................................................... Orin, Chiffon, Crystal, Ronnette
Mushnik and Son ........................................................................................................ Mushnik, Seymour
Sudden Changes ........................................................................................................ Seymour
Feed Me (Git It) ..................................................................................................... Seymour, Audrey II, Chiffon, Crystal, Ronnette
Now (It’s Just the Gas) .......................................................................................... Orin, Seymour

ACT II

Call Back in the Morning .................................................................................. Audrey, Seymour
Suddenly Seymour ........................................................................................ Audrey, Seymour, Chiffon, Crystal, Ronnette
Suppertime .............................................................................................................. Audrey II, Chiffon, Crystal, Ronnette
The Meek Shall Inherit .................................................................................... Seymour, Chiffon, Crystal, Ronnette, Bernstein, Luce, Snip
Sominex/Suppertime (Reprise) .............................................................................. Audrey, Audrey II
Somewhere That’s Green (Reprise) ......................................................................... Audrey
Finale: Don’t Feed the Plants ............................................................................... Company
Ford’s at Your Fingertips

Experience behind-the-scenes digital access to *Little Shop of Horrors*. Visit www.fords.org/watch-and-listen

Check out our *Little Shop* Instagram Filters and don’t forget to tag us!

- What Character Are You?
- Leave a 10-Second Review!

Connect With Ford’s Theatre

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PLACES, EVERYONE.
United is proud to sponsor the Ford's Theatre Society.
Scott Ward Abernethy

Jay Frisby

Tori Gomez
Kaiyla Gross

Joe Mallon

Christopher Mueller

Lawrence Redmond

Theodore Sapp

Nia Savoy-Dock
Ford’s: SHOUT SISTER SHOUT! Regional: Signature: The Color Purple. D.C.-Area: Olney: Fela!; Theater Alliance: Day of
Absence; Constellation: Aida, Mysticism and Music; Toby’s: Grease, Mamma Mia! Other: Ocala Civic Theatre: Crowns; StageCenter: Ragtime. Awards: 1st- American Pops NextGen: Finding the Voices of Tomorrow, The Great American Songbook Academy Inspiration Award. Training: BFA Musical Theatre, Howard University. Socials: @nsavoydock

**Ryan Sellers**

**Derrick D. Truby Jr.**

**Chani Wereley**
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**Dogfight.** Training: Catholic University of America. Socials: @chaniwhirly

**Kanysha Williams**

**Tobias A. Young**
Ford’s: *Ragtime* (Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Ensemble), *The Wiz*. Off-Broadway: *Fabulous! The Queen of New Musical Comedies*. Regional: Signature: *Ragtime, Passing Strange, The Color Purple*. D.C.-Area: Olney: *Guys and Dolls, In The Heights* (Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Musical); Adventure: *James and The Giant Peach* (Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Ensemble); Toby’s: *Dreamgirls, The Wiz, In The Heights* (Helen Hayes Award nom. for Outstanding Supporting Actor), *Les Misérables, The Color Purple, Memphis, Sister Act, Ain’t Misbehavin’*. Socials: Instagram: @SimplyTobiasYoung; TikTok: @SimplyFoodByTy; YouTube: @TobiasYoung.

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President Abraham Lincoln’s legacy as a great American has never been more important, or more relevant.

Lincoln’s Legacy, Our Legacy: Ford’s Theatre’s Campaign for the Future is rooted in President Lincoln’s ideals and Ford’s Theatre Society’s core values of courage, empathy, equity, inclusion and inspired creativity. The success of this campaign ensures that Ford’s Theatre flourishes as a dynamic, visible and accessible destination that explores new ways to bring Lincoln’s legacy to life for current and future generations.

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Kevin S. McAllister  
**Director**  
McAllister is a director, actor, singer, former professor and Artistic Director/Co-Founder of ArtsCentric. He has directed over 50 productions for ArtsCentric. Outside of the DMV, he serves as the Assistant Director Fellow for the national tour and recently closed Broadway production of Come From Away. He won two Helen Hayes Awards for acting (including Ford’s Ragtime) and was nominated for eight. He can be heard on the recent Broadway revival cast recording of Caroline, or Change, where he portrayed The Dryer and The Bus. When not on stage, he works regularly with young minds around the country as a clinician.

Ashleigh King  
**Choreographer**  
Ford’s: Grace (Assistant Choreographer). Regional: Northern Stage: ‘Bov Water; Spring Awakening; Spamalot. Signature: Hair (upcoming); Ragtime; Which Way to the Stage (Helen Hayes nom.). Studio: Fun Home. D.C.-Area: Kennedy Center: Finn (upcoming); Fovea. Woolly Mammoth: Fairview; Teenage Dick; The Sensational Sea Mink-ettes. Keegan: Seussical; Legally Blonde (Helen Hayes Award). Imagination: Nate the Great; A Year with Frog and Toad. Adventure: Alexander and the Terrible…;

Big River; Make Way for Ducklings; You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown; Junie B. Jones. Virginia Rep: Mamma Mia (RTCC Award).

William Yanesh  
**Music Director**  

Paige Hathaway  
**Scenic Designer**  

Alejo Vietti  
**Costume Designer**  
Ford’s: SHOUT SISTER SHOUT!, A Christmas Carol, Meet John Doe. Broadway: Allegiance (Drama Desk nom.), Beautiful: The Carole King Musical (also West End - Olivier nom., National Tour, Australia, Japan), Holiday Inn. New York: Titanique (Lucille Lortel
Award), Radio City Rockettes, Manhattan Theatre Club, Roundabout, New York City Center Encores, Atlantic Theatre, New York City Opera, among others. Regional: Arena, Shakespeare, Signature. D.C.-Area: Kennedy Center. Touring: Disney’s *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (Japan, Germany, Austria), *West Side Story* world tour. Awards: Recipient of two Helen Hayes Awards. Socials: @alejo_vietti_costume_design

**Max Doolittle**
*Lighting Designer*

**David Budries**
*Sound Designer*
Ford’s (Associate Artist): *Grace; Guys and Dolls; Into the Woods; The Wiz; Ragtime; 110 in the Shade; Freedom’s Song; The Widow Lincoln; Spelling Bee; Violet; Hello, Dolly!; Our Town; 1776; Parade; Liberty Smith; Little Shop of Horrors* (2010); *The Civil War; Meet John Doe; Shenandoah*. 
The Abraham Lincoln Institute and Ford’s Theatre Society present a free symposium focused on the life, career and legacy of President Abraham Lincoln at Ford’s Theatre. The symposium will feature:

9:15 a.m. Callie Hawkins, “Reflections on Grief and Child Loss,” exhibit at President Lincoln’s Cottage, Washington, D.C.
10:25 a.m. Steve Inskeep, Differ We Must: How Lincoln Succeeded in Divided America
11:35 a.m. Gordon Leidner, Abraham Lincoln and the Bible: A Complete Compendium
1:45 p.m. Announcement of Hay-Nicolay Dissertation Prize
1:55 p.m. George Rable, Conflict of Command: George McClellan, Abraham Lincoln, and the Politics of War
3:05 p.m. Michael Zuckert, A Nation So Conceived: Abraham Lincoln and the Paradox of Democratic Sovereignty
3:55 p.m. Presentation of the Abraham Lincoln Institute Book Award
4:05 p.m. Presentation of the Legacy Award
4:10 p.m. Speakers Panel

Saturday, March 23

A limited number of tickets will be available on the day of the event on a first-come, first-served basis.

www.fords.org

Schedule and speakers subject to change.
New York: 11 productions on and Off-Broadway. Regional: Hartford Stage, Baltimore Center Stage, Dallas Theatre Center, La Jolla Playhouse, South Coast Rep, Yale Rep. Mr. Budries is Professor Emeritus of Design at the David Geffen School of Drama at Yale.

Danna Rosedahl
Hair and Make-up Designer

Rachel Hirshorn-Johnston
Dialects and Voice Director
Hirshorn-Johnston is the Assoc. Professor of Voice and Speech and Head of Acting and Directing at Texas Tech and Assoc. Teacher of Fitzmaurice Voicework®. Rachel coaches regionally in professional theatre, with private clients (corporate, government) on presentation skills and dialect modification, performs regularly around the country and internationally and is an active member of VASTA, PAVA and AEA. Training: MFA Acting and Directing, UMKC; BFA Acting, UMBC.

Craig A. Horness
Production Stage Manager
Ford’s: Grace; Into the Woods; The Wiz; Ragtime; 110 In The Shade; Freedom’s Song; Hello, Dolly!; 1776; Liberty Smith; Little Shop of Horrors (2010); A Christmas Carol (2004-2019, 2021-2023); The Civil War; One Destiny; Meet John Doe; Leading Ladies; State of the Union; Big River; The Member of the Wedding. Other: Broadway Sacramento/Music Circus, Center Stage, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Dallas Opera, New York City Opera, North Shore Music Theatre, Opera Omaha, Portland Opera, Theatre Under the Stars.

Taryn Friend
Assistant Stage Manager
Ford’s: SHOUT SISTER SHOUT!; Grace; Guys and Dolls; Into the Woods; The Wiz; Ragtime; 110 In The Shade; Freedom’s Song; Spelling Bee; Hello, Dolly!; 1776; Liberty Smith; Little Shop of Horrors (2010); One Destiny; A Christmas Carol; Meet John Doe; Shenandoah. Arena: Oklahoma! Signature: Ragtime, The Bridges of Madison County; The Color Purple; Broadway in the Park; Assassins; Passion; A Little Night Music; Jelly’s Last Jam; Sunday in the Park with George; Miss Saigon; Spin; Hairspray; The Visit; Kiss of the Spider Woman; The Witches of Eastwick. Kennedy Center: 50th Anniversary Concert; Barrio Grrrl!; Unleashed!; Oliverio; Bud, Not Buddy.

Kristin Fox-Siegmund
Deputy Director and Director of Programming
Since joining Ford’s in 2006, Fox-Siegmund has overseen the creation of the Center for Education and Leadership and the renovation of the historic theatre and museum, as well as the world premiere productions of The Guard, The Widow Lincoln, Necessary Sacrifices, Liberty Smith, Meet John Doe and The Heavens Are Hung In Black. Prior to Ford’s, she spent 11 years at the Alley Theatre in Houston, Texas. Her tenure as Production Manager
Production Bios (cont.)

included premieres of Horton Foote's *The Carpetbagger's Children*, Ken Ludwig's *Be My Baby* and *Leading Ladies* and Edward Albee's *The Play About the Baby* and *The Goat, or Who Is Sylvia?*, as well as Michael Wilson's production of *A Christmas Carol*. She oversaw the design and relocation of the theatre's new production facilities in 2002 and the renovation of its Neuhaus Stage after the destruction of Tropical Storm Allison in 2001. Other work includes Santa Fe Opera and Houston Grand Opera.

**Paul R. Tetreault**  
**Director**  
Since joining Ford's in 2004, Tetreault has enhanced the quality of the institution's artistic programming and expanded its mission to include a stronger focus on education. He led a $50+ million capital campaign, the most extensive renovation to the theatre and museum since the building reopened to the public in 1968, and the creation of the Center for Education and Leadership, which seeks to further explore Lincoln's legacy. Tetreault served as Managing Director of the Alley Theatre for 10 years, producing more than 100 productions and working with artists such as Edward Albee, Tony Kushner, Trevor Nunn, Nicky Silver, Frank Wildhorn and August Wilson, among others. He has held senior management positions with Crossroads Theatre Company, New Jersey; Berkeley Repertory Theatre, California; and Circle Repertory Company, New York City. He served as Director of Finance at Madison Square Garden and as a vice president with C.W. Shaver and Company, Inc., a New York management and...
The actors and stage managers employed in this production are members of Actors’ Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States.

United Scenic Artists represents the designers and scenic painters for the American Theatre.

The technicians at Ford’s Theatre are represented by Locals 22, 772 and 798, IATSE, AFL-CIO, the professional union of theatrical technicians.

The director and choreographer are members of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, an independent national labor union.

The musicians of the orchestra are represented by the D.C. Federation of Musicians, Local 161-710.

The Ford’s Theatre Associate Artists are composed of highly skilled theatre artists, across all disciplines, who possess a profound commitment to promoting the values and ideals of Abraham Lincoln. They serve as ambassadors of Ford’s Theatre by using their artistic craft to support the Ford’s mission of celebrating the legacy of Abraham Lincoln and exploring the American experience through theatre and education.

Clint Allen
Michael Bobbitt
David Budries
Michael Bunce
Ashley D. Buster
Jeff Calhoun

Felicia Curry
Peter Flynn
Richard Hellesen
Wade Laboissonniere
Gregory Maheu
Tracy Lynn Olivera

Milagros Ponce de León
Mark Ramont
Stephen Rayne
Rui Rita
Kim Scharnberg
Stephen F. Schmidt

Kimberly Schraf
Holly Twyford
Craig Wallace

Scenery built by F&D Scene Changes Ltd.
Props built by Kate Ahern, Beth Baldwin, Dan Covey, Shari L. Lewis, Jonathan Dahm Robertson
Puppets provided by Monkey Boys Productions
Weapons provided by Robb Hunter
Motorcycle provided by Cycles of Silver Spring, LLC

Little Shop of Horrors was originally Directed by Howard Ashman
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From the Screen to the Stage

With only two filming days and a micro-budget by today’s movie standards, Little Shop of Horrors debuted as a comedy horror film in 1960. The film was adapted into a musical that debuted Off-Off-Broadway in 1982, with book and lyrics by Howard Ashman and music by Alan Menken. Fast forward to our 2024 production. We will explore the themes of this cult classic turned Off-Broadway mainstay making its way to the Ford’s stage.

Who’s Who on Skid Row

Welcome to Skid Row, the location of a romantic dark comedy and Mushnik’s Flower Shop. Mr. Mushnik is the shop owner and a father figure to Seymour, a mild-mannered florist clerk with a green thumb and eyes for Audrey. Audrey, a fellow employee at the flower shop, is in an abusive relationship with Orin, a dentist who delights in making his patients feel pain. The cast is rounded out by Crystal, Ronnette and Chiffon, who are named after 1960s doo-wop girl groups and function as a Greek chorus. They comment and describe what is going on in the play, often singing directly to the audience. Love, ambition and knowing when to do the right thing are strong themes in the play.

As you watch the play, think about the following questions:

- What do the characters lose in order to gain what they want?
- Is what they want worth the sacrifice and is there another way in which they could have achieved their goals?
- When do you know if enough is enough? What is the cost of ambition?

Audrey II (or Twoey)

But who or what is Audrey II, and how does it come to life on stage?

The character description in the script describes Audrey II as “An anthropomorphic cross between a Venus Flytrap and an avocado. It has a huge nasty looking pod, which gains a shark-like aspect when open and snapping at food.” The plant has mysterious origins, which explains its out-of-this-world abilities and extraordinary cravings.

Four different puppets of varying sizes represent Audrey II at various stages of development. The puppets were created by a company called Monkey Boys Productions.
Little Shop of Horrors has been a part of the Monkey Boys Productions story since day one. The puppets are built using the same basic format as the original Off-Broadway production, designed by Martin P. Robinson. The puppets you are seeing in this production are loosely based on the shapes of the puppets in the current Off-Broadway production of Little Shop. However, the Monkey Boys team has taken the design in a new direction with the addition of shark-style teeth and an all-new paint scheme. Puppetry is a multimedia artform, and this means that we use everything from steel and wood to carbon fiber and foam to fabric and paint in order to bring these incredible puppets to life. Puppeteering these two massive plants is a full-body workout. For Pod 3, the puppeteer is seat belted into a chair inside the pot and uses their arms to manipulate the jaws of the plant. This allows them to imbue Audrey II with lots of life and movement.

–Betsy Falk, Monkey Boys Productions

Audrey II is most closely associated with the Venus Flytrap (Dionaea muscipula), a carnivorous plant. Test your Venus Flytrap knowledge by taking our short quiz.

1. **What type of water is best for your Venus Flytrap?**
   - A. Tap Water
   - B. Bottled Water
   - C. Rainwater

2. **How long does it take for a Venus Flytrap to digest an insect?**
   - A. Several Days
   - B. Two to Three Hours
   - C. One Day

3. **Venus Flytraps are native to which states?**
   - A. North and South Dakota
   - B. North and South Carolina
   - C. Georgia

**Answers:**

1. C. Rainwater
2. B. Several Days
3. B. North and South Carolina
Listen to the Next Generation of Leaders!

Stand Up, Be Heard

Join us on Monday, May 20 at 7 p.m. as students from classrooms across the Washington, D.C.-metro area take to the Ford's Theatre stage to share original speeches. The Stand Up, Be Heard program is a transformative initiative that empowers young people to confidently express themselves through civic engagement, research, historical thinking and public speaking. By fostering critical thinking and self-expression, the program encourages students to engage in meaningful dialogue about individual and collective agency, culminating in the crafting of powerful speeches.

Visit the Public Programs page on www.fords.org for more information.

Education Resources at On Demand and at Your Fingertips

Ford’s Theatre education offers a myriad of ways in which to engage with the history of our site and learn about the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln. Each pathway offers a unique exploration and varies in its form and content. Choose a format or mix and match, from One Destiny: On Demand, to a live Virtual Investigation: Detective McDevitt, to navigating our Lincoln Assassination pages at your own pace.

One Destiny: On Demand

Ford’s Theatre presents One Destiny: On Demand, available to stream from your home or your classroom. The 40-minute play explores the fateful night of Abraham Lincoln’s assassination told from the perspectives of Ford’s Theatre owner Harry Ford and actor Harry Hawk. As they reconstruct the sequence of events, they grapple with the question: Could John Wilkes Booth have been stopped?
The recorded performance features performers Michael Bunce and Stephen F. Schmidt and is a wonderful complement to a historic site visit or classroom curriculum. A lesson plan and educational resources are available for download on our website.

Information about *One Destiny*: On Demand can be found on the Visit Us page of Ford’s website: [www.fords.org](http://www.fords.org).

**Virtual Investigation: Detective McDevitt**

Register your class for a live Virtual Field Trip and interact with Detective McDevitt as he investigates the assassination of President Lincoln. Revisit sites and reexamine clues from April 14, 1865. In this 60-minute interactive, theatrical program, participants will interact with historical characters portrayed by an actor, examine primary source images and hear witness statements. Visit the Teaching and Learning pages on our website for more information on pricing and how to schedule a session for your classroom.

**Lincoln Assassination on Ford’s Website**

Dive deeper into the story of Lincoln’s murder at the hands of John Wilkes Booth. Take a closer look at artifacts from the tell-tale night in this richly curated online exhibit filled with high resolution photographs and insightful information to prompt classroom discussions. Each page on the site offers new information, including a timeline of the day’s events, first-person eyewitness accounts from the theatre and evidence used in the trial of the conspirators. Ask and answer questions about the impact of Lincoln’s death on America and the legacy that continues to live on today.

Check out the Teaching and Learning pages at [www.fords.org](http://www.fords.org) for more information on our Virtual Field Trips and education resources.
Oscar Wilde’s Classic As You’ve Never Seen It Before

The Importance of Being Earnest

BY
OSCAR WILDE

ADAPTED AND DIRECTED BY
JENNY KOONS

MAY 9 - MAY 26
CENTERSTAGE.ORG

WORLD PREMIERE ADAPTATION
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PITTSBURGH PUBLIC THEATER
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Abraham Lincoln National Council

The Abraham Lincoln National Council raises awareness locally, nationally and internationally about the historic, artistic and cultural importance of Ford’s Theatre.

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The Board of Governors explores the legacy of President Abraham Lincoln and supports the celebration of the American experience through theatre and education. The Board of Governors comprises corporations and associations who advance the mission of Ford’s Theatre through a variety of activities, including production underwriting, education program underwriting and general operating support.

**EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN’S CIRCLE ($250,000+)**

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<td>Karen Knutson</td>
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<td>Michael Flannigan</td>
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### ADDITIONAL IN-KIND SUPPORT

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<th>Company/Institution</th>
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<td>United Airlines</td>
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Guests can expect the unexpected from Chopped Champion, Chef Anthony Jones’ innovative, seasonal menu. Inspired by the freshest products along with cutting-edge execution.

From our expertly curated hand-crafted cocktail menu to our prohibition style menu — there is something here that will satiate your thirst.
Ford’s Theatre Society is pleased to recognize all individuals making cumulative annual contributions of $250 or more. The list below includes gifts received February 1, 2023-January 31, 2024. To request additional information, please contact us at donate@fords.org or call (202) 434-9545.

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Ford’s Theatre is grateful for the support of these organizations that allows us to pursue our mission and provide a high-quality cultural experience. Ford’s Theatre gratefully acknowledges these foundations and government entities for their generous support. The list below includes gifts received from February 1, 2023 – January 31, 2024.

**$50,000 and Above**

D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities
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Institute of Museum and Library Services
National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs Program/U.S. Commission of Fine Arts
National Park Service
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The Shubert Foundation, Inc.

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Chef Charles Kreiser

1226 36th Street NW in Georgetown
202.965.1789 | 1789Restaurant.com
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The Ford’s Theatre Advisory Council is composed of nationally recognized historians, writers and professionals who share a love of President Abraham Lincoln and the values he exemplified in his life and presidency. These accomplished individuals provide insight, expertise and invaluable suggestions to the leadership of Ford’s Theatre as we continually seek to improve the excellence of our programming.

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Dr. Jonathan W. White

‡ Deceased

Upcoming Events

One Destiny
By Richard Hellesen; Directed by Mark Ramont
March-June 2024

History on Foot: Investigation: Detective McDevitt
March-October 2024

Little Shop of Horrors Generation Abe Night
For Patrons Ages 21-40. Use code UNDER4024 for discounted tickets.
Thursday, May 2, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.

Little Shop of Horrors Sensory-Friendly Performance
Call (202) 347-4833 for tickets.
Saturday, May 4, 2024 at 2 p.m.

Ford’s@5 Tours
Tours run on April 21, May 5 and May 12 at 5 p.m.

Get tickets and learn more at www.fords.org.
The Lincoln Medal is an award given by Ford’s Theatre Society to an individual who, through their body of work, accomplishments or personal attributes, exemplifies the lasting legacy and mettle of character embodied by the most beloved president in our nation’s history, President Abraham Lincoln.

### LINCOLN MEDAL RECIPIENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Recipients</th>
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<tr>
<td>2023</td>
<td>Marlene A. Malek, Rita Moreno</td>
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<td>2022</td>
<td>The Honorable James E. Clyburn, Clive J. Davis</td>
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<td>2019</td>
<td>General Colin L. Powell (Ret.) and Alma J. Powell, Mark Russell</td>
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<td>2018</td>
<td>Sheila C. Johnson, Jack Nicklaus</td>
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<td>2017</td>
<td>Peyton W. Manning, Ronald O. Perelman</td>
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<td>2015</td>
<td>Diane Nash</td>
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<td>2014</td>
<td>The Honorable John D. Dingell, James Earl Jones</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>Condoleezza Rice, Bill Russell</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>Morgan Freeman, Elie Wiesel, Wayne R. Reynolds, Hon. Rex W. Tillerson</td>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>Lee Kuan Yew, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Julie Andrews</td>
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<td>2010</td>
<td>Justice Albie Sachs, Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, Dr. John R. Sellers</td>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>Aretha Franklin, George Lucas, Sir Sidney Poitier</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>Dr. Maya Angelou, Ruby Dee, Dr. Benjamin Carson, Jr. The Honorable Sandra Day O’Connor</td>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>The Honorable John Lewis, Dr. James M. McPherson</td>
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<td>2006</td>
<td>Dr. David Herbert Donald, Doris Kearns Goodwin, Zoe Dell Lantis Nutter, Nicholas D. Chabraja</td>
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<td>2005</td>
<td>Robert A. Iger, Carl Lindner</td>
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<td>Laura Bush</td>
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<td>2003</td>
<td>Donald J. Carty</td>
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<td>2002</td>
<td>The Honorable Walter J. Hickel, The Honorable Ronald H. Walker</td>
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<td>The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton</td>
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<td>Mrs. Fritz Hollings, Mrs. Alan Simpson</td>
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<td>Lady Bird Johnson, Joseph Cates</td>
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<td>The Honorable William F. McSweeney</td>
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<td>1990</td>
<td>The Honorable Sidney Yates</td>
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<td>1989</td>
<td>Frankie Hewitt, Tommy Berra</td>
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<td>The Honorable Stewart Udall</td>
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<td>1987</td>
<td>Nancy Reagan</td>
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<td>Gerald Freed</td>
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<td>1985</td>
<td>Joy Dinken Baker</td>
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<td>1984</td>
<td>Mrs. Thomas P. O’Neill, Jr.</td>
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<td>1983</td>
<td>Clyde Wheeler</td>
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<td>1982</td>
<td>The Honorable C. William Verity, Jr.</td>
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<td>1981</td>
<td>The Honorable Milton Young</td>
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Historic Site Visits
A visit to Ford’s Theatre traces the story of Abraham Lincoln’s presidency, assassination and legacy. Whether for a brief visit or for the full experience, Ford’s will deepen your appreciation and understanding of America’s 16th president. Admission is free; advance tickets have a convenience fee. The Ford’s Theatre campus traditionally includes:

- **Museum:** Learn about Lincoln’s presidency from his inauguration to his arrival at Ford’s Theatre the night of April 14, 1865. See artifacts related to his presidency and assassination.
- **Theatre:** See the recreated historic theatre and learn the key facts of the assassination from National Park Service Rangers.
- **Petersen House:** Explore Lincoln’s final moments in the house where Lincoln died.
- **Center for Education and Leadership:** See the Aftermath Exhibits exploring what happened following Lincoln’s assassination, the hunt for John Wilkes Booth and the lasting impact of Lincoln’s legacy.

Our visitation schedule varies. Parts of the campus may not be available at the time of your visit.

Box Office Hours
- When there is an evening performance: 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- When there is no evening performance: 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- When there is a *History on Foot* walking tour: 8:30 a.m. until the tour begins.

Groups
Groups (10 or more people) save on mainstage performance tickets, have priority access to the best seats in the house and have flexible payment options. Contact groups@fords.org or (202) 638-2367.

Accessibility
- Accessible seating is offered in both the rear orchestra and the balcony sections.
- GalaPro closed captioning will be available for all performances starting March 15. Search for GalaPro on the Google Play or Apple Store and download the app.
- An audio-enhancement system is available for all performances. Devices are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Please check with an usher.
- Audio-described performances of *Little Shop of Horrors* are scheduled for April 9 at 7:30 p.m. and April 27 at 2 p.m.
- An ASL sign-interpreted performance of *Little Shop of Horrors* is scheduled for April 11 at 7:30 p.m.
- *Little Shop of Horrors* will have a sensory-friendly performance on Saturday, May 4 at 2 p.m. Learn more about accessible performances at bit.ly/fords-accessibility. Ford’s Theatre accessibility programs are supported by the Liberty Mutual Foundation.
Staff

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Digital Content Manager ....................................................................Andrew Buchsbaum
Marketing and Social Media Manager ................................................Taylor Malone
Communications Manager ....................................................................Daniella Ignacio
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Patron Services, Visitation and Exhibitions Manager ..............................Daiya Malone
Patron Services, Theatre and Access Manager ...................................Jeron Amoroso
Assistant Ticket Services Managers ..................................................Carolyn Lyles, Morgan Vaughn
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Production Supervisor .........................................................................Carey Lawless
Head Carpenter ..................................................................................Andrew Fox
Head Flyman .........................................................................................Mark Size
Props Head ............................................................................................C. Marlow Seyffert
Costume Manager/Design Assistant ....................................................Veronica Stevens
Costume Design Assistant ...................................................................Idara Ikpe
Wardrobe Supervisor ...........................................................................Constance Harris
Hair and Make-Up Supervisor ...............................................................Danna Rosedahl
Head Electrician ...................................................................................C. C. Gould
Sound Engineer ...................................................................................Brian Keating
Assistant Stagehands ...........................................................................Dre Jones, Lawrence Rascop, Autumn Smith
Resident Production Stage Manager ....................................................Brandon Prendergast
Production Assistants ...........................................................................Kyla S. Mermejo-Varga, Safiya Muthallif

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WE PROUDLY SUPPORT FORD’S THEATRE

and its commitment to carrying forward the legacy of President Abraham Lincoln through education and the arts.

GENERAL DYNAMICS
Mister Lincoln
Sept. 20-Oct. 13, 2024
By Herbert Mitgang
Directed by José Curaquillo
Abraham Lincoln: Advocate and Liberator.
A witty and revelatory one-man show about the greatest president in our nation's history.

A Christmas Carol
Nov. 21-Dec. 31, 2024
By Charles Dickens
Adapted by Michael Wilson
Directed by Michael Borun
A must-see holiday tradition!
Ebenezer Scrooge meets the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future in a celebratory journey of redemption.

A First Look
January 2025
Featuring new work by one second cohort of HPSC playwrights in The Ford's Theatre Legacy Commissions initiative
Free Ticketed Event!
Witness the power of The Ford's Theatre Legacy Commissions.

Sister Act
March 14-May 17, 2025
Music by Alan Menken; Lyrics by Glenn Slater; Book by Cheri Steinkeller and Bill Steinkeller; Additional Book Material by Douglas Carter Beane; Music Directed by William Yeend; Directed and Choreographed by Jeff Calhoun
An exuberant musical comedy inspired by the hit film!
To escape the mob, a nightclub singer hides in a convent. While there, she helps her new sisters to discover their powerful voices while she finds her own.

www.fords.org
Member Pre-Sale and Public On-Sale Dates to Be Announced

Season Sponsors: Chevron and Lockheed Martin Corporation

The Interior of the Presidential Box at Ford's Theatre. Photo by Carol M. Highsmith.