



Ford's Theatre Society

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Ford's Theatre Society and National Park Service Announce 2024 Lincoln Assassination Commemoration Activities

**Live and Virtual Events Commemorating the 159th Anniversary of the
Lincoln Assassination April 14 and 15, 2024 and Throughout April**

**National Park Service Wreath Laying at the Petersen House
April 15, 2024, at 7:22 a.m.**

Celebrate D.C. Emancipation Day on April 16, 2024

**Free Online Resources, History Talks, Virtual Field Trips and
Distance-Learning Programs for Students and Lifelong Learners**

Tickets For Historic Site Visits Available Now Through August 31, 2024

WASHINGTON – Ford's Theatre Society and the National Park Service announce commemoration activities for the week of President Abraham Lincoln's assassination on-site at Ford's Theatre, and throughout April. This year's public programming includes expanded activities around D.C. Emancipation Day and opportunities for engagement in the museum and online. Tickets for entries to the full Ford's Theatre campus through August 31 are 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 and the Petersen House 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 *One Destiny* performances on April 15. Visit www.fords.org for details on entry schedule and availability.

On April 14, 1865, President Abraham Lincoln and his wife, Mary, attended a performance of *Our American Cousin* at Ford's Theatre. During the performance he was shot and mortally wounded by noted actor and Confederate sympathizer John Wilkes Booth. The president was carried across Tenth Street to the boarding house of William Petersen, where he died at 7:22 a.m. the following morning.

Commemoration Activities
Pop-Up Exhibits and D.C. Emancipation Day

-more-

The Ford's Theatre Museum will launch the debut of a new pop-up exhibit on D.C. Emancipation, co-created by the National Park Service and Ford's Theatre Society.

History Talks: *D.C. Emancipation Day*

Thursday, April 11 – 7-8 p.m. ET

Before he issued the Emancipation Proclamation, Lincoln supported Compensated Emancipation. Enacted in Washington, D.C., on April 16, 1862, this policy was an important foundational step toward the abolition of slavery in the nation. Dig into D.C. history and uncover the voices behind D.C. Emancipation Day. [Register here.](#)

History Talks is a new webinar series that explores facets of President Abraham Lincoln's complex legacy and its relevance to today, launched in spring 2024. These engaging talks, designed for history enthusiasts of all ages, feature compelling visuals with content experts delving into Lincoln's legacy and the world of Civil War Washington.

Mr. Lincoln and the Theatre

Friday, April 12 – 2 p.m.

Approximately 45 minutes

To be or not to be, that is the question... Lincoln attended no less than 54 total theatrical performances in Washington, D.C. while he was president! Join a Park Ranger for a walking tour of 1860s theaters and explore what Lincoln saw, heard and wrote through exploring a handful of performances!

God Judge Me, Not Man: The Motives of John Wilkes Booth

Saturday, April 13 – 2 p.m.

Approximately 45 minutes

John Wilkes Booth is a complicated criminal. His motivations for committing one of the most atrocious crimes of American history is well documented. Join a Park Ranger for a walking tour, uncovering the words of John Wilkes Booth and the story of Lincoln's assassination.

Medical Treatment of Abraham Lincoln

Sunday, April 14 – 2 p.m.

Approximately 45 minutes

Through the help of over 14 doctors, Lincoln survived nine hours before passing away on the morning of April 15, 1865. What treatments did the doctors try? What equipment was used? Join a Park Ranger on a walking tour to discover the medical history of the Lincoln assassination.

Congressional Cemetery Speaker Series

In collaboration with Congressional Cemetery

Sunday, April 14 – 1 p.m.

The story of our 16th president's assassination is a well-known one. Hundreds of books, thousands of articles and dozens of special exhibits are just some of the ways this story has been told. But have you ever seen the story told using the graves of those involved with the assassination? Part-speaking engagement and part-docent-led tour, the Cemetery Speaker Series features keynote remarks on the Lincoln assassination from Ford's Theatre's Museum Interpretive Resources Specialist Blake Lindsey, followed by a complementary docent-led tour of the gravesites of individuals related to the assassination, including David Herold, Charles Forbes and others. Tickets are \$5 and all proceeds go to benefit our non-profit mission of historical preservation and education. Space is limited. [Register here.](#)

Wreath Laying at Ford's Theatre

Monday, 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 159 years ago.

One Destiny

Monday, April 15 – 10:45 a.m., 11:45 a.m.

Learn about 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 2024 cast features Ford's Theatre favorites Joe Mallon and Jonathan Atkinson. [An On Demand recording](#) of *One Destiny* is also available.

History on Foot: Investigation: Detective McDevitt

Sunday, April 14 – 10:15 a.m.

Monday, April 15 – 6:15 p.m.

On the night of April 14, 1865, Detective James McDevitt was on duty at the Washington Metropolitan Police headquarters, a half-block from Ford's Theatre. Just before 10:30 p.m., frantic witnesses rushed in with horrifying news: President Lincoln had been shot at the theatre. Join Detective McDevitt as he revisits the sites and reexamines the clues from the investigation into the Lincoln Assassination Conspiracy. Part of *History on Foot*. [Get tickets here.](#)

Become a Ford's Theatre Junior Ranger

Sunday, April 14 and Monday, 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.

History Talks and Public Virtual Field Trip: *Ford's Theatre and the Lincoln Assassination*

Public Virtual Field Trip program: Monday, April 15 – 1-2 p.m. ET

History Talks program: Monday, April 15 – 7-8 p.m. ET

Explore the story of Lincoln's assassination at Ford's Theatre, the events leading up to it, and consider its lasting legacies. In this interactive program, participants will look closely at historical and contemporary images including maps, photographs and illustrations.

The History Talks program is designed for adults and lifelong learners. [Register here.](#)

The Public Virtual Field Trip is designed for students grades 5 and up. [Register here.](#)

Ford's in Photographs

Tuesday, April 16 – 2 p.m.

Approximately 45 minutes

Ford's Theatre has a long and storied history, before and after that fateful day in April 1865. Join a Park Ranger to explore historic images of Ford's Theatre and the history of a building beyond what it is usually known for.

Public Virtual Field Trip: *Investigation: Detective McDevitt*

Monday, April 22 – 1 p.m. ET

Assist Detective James McDevitt as he investigates the assassination of 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 Public Virtual Field Trip is designed for students grades 5 and up.** [Register here.](#)

Online Resources

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: 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: 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: 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: 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: 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: 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: 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/EETFPfWepk>

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 *BBC Sounds'* "Lady Killers" podcast, hosted by Lucy Worsley.

She spoke with Howard University Professor of History Dr. Nikki Taylor for an episode about Mary Surratt's role in the Lincoln assassination plot that also featured the Mary Surratt House. The podcast is available [here](#).

Explore [educational resources from CSPAN Bell Ringer](#) inspired by our February 2 elevated book talk, *Written Then, Spoken Now: African American Letters to Lincoln*. It features Dr. Edna Greene Medford, Dr. Jonathan W. White and Denise J. Hart. Lesson plans and expanded activities explore previously unheard African American voices in Lincoln's history. **View a [recording](#) of the event.**

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

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