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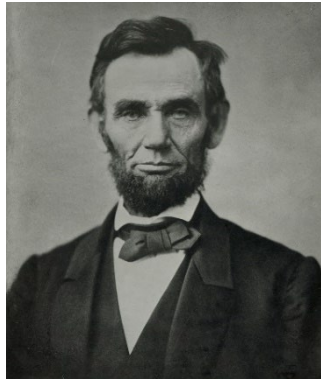
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 13, 2024

The Institute for Politics Policy and History and Ford's Theatre Society Present *Lincoln: A Providential President*



*L: President Abraham Lincoln. R: Hon. Sharon Pratt and Michael Steele.
Photos courtesy of the Institute for Politics Policy and History.*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – On Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at 7-9 p.m., Ford's Theatre Society and the Institute for Politics Policy and History will host IPPH Founding Director, former Mayor **Hon. Sharon Pratt**, and *MSNBC* Co-Host, *The Weekend* and IPPH Board Co-Chair **Michael Steele** on the historic Ford's Theatre stage, as they lead an illuminating panel discussion with respected historians, accompanied by a dramatic reflection of President Abraham Lincoln's journey.

Panelists include **Christopher Bonner, Ph.D**, Associate Professor, History at the University of Maryland, College Park, and **Michael Burlingame, Ph.D**, Chancellor Naomi B. Lynn Distinguished Chair in Lincoln Studies at the University of Illinois, Springfield.

Through partnerships such as this, Ford's Theatre continues to expand public programming as a historic site and active theatre, enlivening our campus by combining historians' conversations with theatrical experiences that keep Lincoln's legacy alive, by bringing his words to life.

This event is free to the public and will be livestreamed. It is sponsored in part by the **W.K. Kellogg Foundation** and the **Greater Washington Community Foundation**. For more information and to reserve tickets, visit www.IPPH.org and bit.ly/3UsV6Ne.

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About the *Defining Fathers Legacy Series*: Unpacking the Complex Truth Behind the Legacy

This program is part of the *Defining Fathers Legacy Series*, which provides a compelling mix of vodcasts, premium video series, in-person and livestreamed programs. The programming offered through varied platforms reveals the depth of the lives, motivations and contradictions of President Abraham Lincoln, President Ulysses S. Grant and freedom advocate Frederick Douglass. These leaders played pivotal roles in transforming the nation's capital into a meaningful metropolis due to their collective effort to preserve the Union, abolish slavery and reconstruct a bitterly divided, now emancipated America. The *Defining Fathers Legacy Series* follows the lauded *2023 Founding Fathers Series* that examined the lives of Presidents George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and James Madison.

About the Institute for Politics Policy and History

IPPH chronicles the epochal evolution of the nation's capital as it rediscovers Washington, D.C.'s history and the touchstone issues that impacted it. The Institute celebrates all of its history, a history rich with contradictions. The venue along the banks of the Potomac was chosen because of its significant slave trading presence. Yet, the city's architectural character emerges as a magnificent design inspired by the "all men are created equal" Declaration of Independence. By offering fulsome reflections regarding personalities pivotal to the narrative of the nation's capital and pivotal to the narrative of the nation, *IPPH* believes we are enriched as we continue our journey to attaining "that perfect union."

About 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.

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Ford's Theatre Society

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