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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 9, 2025

**FORD'S THEATRE SOCIETY  
ANNOUNCES 2025-2026 SEASON**

*The American Five*  
World Premiere  
Chess Jakobs; Directed by Aaron Posner

*A Christmas Carol*  
Craig Wallace as Ebenezer Scrooge  
By Charles Dickens  
Michael Wilson; Directed by Michael Baron

*Theatre Legacy Commissions: A First Look*  
2026, Free Ticketed Event

*1776*  
Choreography by Sherman Edwards;  
Music Direction by Clay Ostwald;  
Choreographed by Luís Salgado

New Ticket Initiative Extended

**Daytime One-Act *One Destiny* Runs March-May 2026**

***History on Foot* Walking Tours Continue March-October 2026**

**WASHINGTON** — Ford's Theatre Director **Paul R. Tetreault** today announced the Ford's Theatre 2025-2026 season, featuring the world premiere of **Chess Jakobs's *The American Five***, from The Ford's Theatre Legacy Commissions, directed by **Aaron Posner**; the beloved holiday musical of ***A Christmas Carol*** with **Craig Wallace** reprising the role of Ebenezer Scrooge; and in commemoration of our nation's 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, the musical ***1776***, directed and choreographed by **Luis Salgado**.

Other season highlights include **The Ford's Theatre Legacy Commissions: A First Look**, heralded by *DC Theater Arts* as "a must-attend event in the D.C. theater scene." The 2026 edition of *A First Look* will feature new work exploring historically significant events and figures that have contributed to the fabric of America over our past 250 years.

Performances of Ford's actor-led ***History on Foot*** walking tours of downtown Washington, D.C. and daytime one-act play performances of ***One Destiny*** will continue in the spring of 2026.

"As we approach the 250th anniversary of America's founding, we are excited to connect the lasting significance of the Declaration of Independence with the ideals that have shaped our nation's history," said Ford's Theatre Director **Paul R. Tetreault**. "President Abraham Lincoln, who saw the Declaration as the cornerstone of American values and human rights, considered it the foundation of his fight against slavery.

From the Declaration to Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, and the Civil Rights Movement led by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to today, we trace the arc of America's ongoing journey toward liberty and equality.

As Ford's Theatre presents its 2025-2026 season, we look forward to being part of this milestone 250th celebration, reflecting on our shared history and the enduring power of freedom. This

commemorative season honors the courage, conviction, and progress that continue to define our nation."

The Ford's Theatre 2025-2026 season is generously sponsored by **Chevron** and **Lockheed Martin Corporation**. **United Airlines** is the Official Airline of Ford's Theatre.

### **Free Preview and Discounts**

Ford's Theatre continues its commitment to offer free and discounted performance tickets to the company's mainstage productions during the 2025-2026 season. All tickets to the first preview performances of *The American Five* and *1776* will be offered free of charge via a TodayTix ticket lottery, and at least 100 free tickets will be made available for a preview performance of *A Christmas Carol*. The Free Preview initiative seeks to remove price barriers and build audiences in a more inclusive way, by inviting those who live and work in the Washington community who might not otherwise consider participation in the arts. Since the program launched in 2016, more than 10,300 tickets have been provided to Washington, D.C. audiences.

Discounts are available for groups, senior citizens and military personnel. Learn more about discounts and Free Previews [here](#). To purchase tickets for a group, contact Group Sales at [groups@fords.org](mailto:groups@fords.org).

### **Student Matinees and Teacher Preview Workshops**

Ford's Theatre is committed to serving local D.C. students and teachers and offers weekday student matinees and tailored lessons to complement educators' curriculum. A limited number of free tickets to select weekday matinee performances are available to D.C. public and public charter schools, Title I schools and schools that have 40 percent or more students eligible for Free and Reduced Meals. Schools located within the Capital Beltway may also qualify for free bus transportation. Ford's Theatre offers a free workshop and free tickets to a preview performance of each of the company's mainstage productions to Washington-area teachers before they bring their students. Since the program launched in 2009, more than 13,500 tickets have been provided to local students. Learn more on our [student matinees webpage](#).

### **Accessibility**

At Ford's Theatre, we are committed to ensuring visitors of all abilities can experience the performances, exhibits, history and programs our site has to offer. We offer sensory-friendly, audio-described, ASL-interpreted and [GalaPro closed captioned](#) performances. Accessible seating and chair rental, assisted listening devices, large print programs and Braille programs are available upon request. [Find all performance dates and learn more about our accessibility offerings](#).

Since 2018, Ford's Theatre has offered relaxed sensory-friendly performances, providing theatrical experiences for people with sensory sensitivities. Sensory-Friendly performances are scheduled for *A Christmas Carol* on **Saturday, November 23, 2025** and for *1776* on **Saturday, April 25, 2026**. These performances are designed for patrons with sensory sensitivities, including individuals with autism or other developmental disabilities. [Learn more here](#).

## **The Ford's Theatre 2025-2026 Season**

### **Member Pre-Sale:**

**April 21, 2025:** *The American Five*, *A Christmas Carol* and *1776*

### **Public On-Sale:**

**April 28, 2025:** *The American Five*, *A Christmas Carol* and *1776*

### ***The American Five***

**By Chess Jakobs**  
**Directed by Aaron Posner**  
**September 19–October 12, 2025**

### **Five Giants of the Civil Rights Movement**

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his inner circle imagined a pluralistic society in which equality and justice is guaranteed for all. In the face of surveillance, intimidation, arrests and life threats, five giants form a powerful coalition to advance civil rights and shape a defining moment in American history. Together, Dr. King, Coretta Scott King, Bayard Rustin, Stanley Levison and Clarence B. Jones plan the March on Washington and craft the speech that would galvanize the nation and inspire generations to advance America's efforts to turn a dream into reality.

***A Christmas Carol***  
**By Charles Dickens**  
**Adapted by Michael Wilson**  
**Directed by Michael Baron**  
**Featuring Craig Wallace as Ebenezer Scrooge**  
**November 20–December 31, 2025**

### **A Must-See Holiday Tradition!**

Join the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future as they lead the miserly Ebenezer Scrooge on a journey of transformation and redemption. Originally conceived by **Michael Baron**, this music-infused production captures the magic and joy of Dickens's Yuletide classic, with familiar characters, ghosts and a children's ensemble in the spirit of the holidays. Acclaimed actor **Craig Wallace** returns to play Ebenezer Scrooge in Ford's annual tradition heralded as a "rich visual and vocal treat" (*TheaterMania*) and "infectiously jolly" (*The Washington Post*).

*A Christmas Carol* is generously supported by Lead Sponsor: **HII Mission Technologies**.

**The Ford's Theatre Legacy Commissions: A First Look**  
**Free Ticketed Event; Registration Dates and Titles to Be Announced**  
**January 2026**

### **Witness the Power of The Ford's Theatre Legacy Commissions**

Featuring new plays that explore historically significant events and figures that have contributed to the fabric of America over our past 250 years. The 2026 edition of *A First Look* will workshop new commissions and culminate in free public readings and post-reading discussions with the playwrights.

The Ford's Theatre Legacy Commissions initiative is led by Senior Artistic Advisor **Sheldon Epps**, Director of Artistic Programming **José Carrasquillo** and The Ford's Theatre Legacy Commissions Advisor **Sydné Mahone**. [Learn more about the initiative](#).

***The Ford's Theatre Legacy Commissions* are generously supported by Lead Sponsor: **Boeing**.**

**1776**  
**Music and Lyrics by Sherman Edwards**  
**Book by Peter Stone**  
**Music Direction by Clay Ostwald**  
**Directed and Choreographed by Luís Salgado**  
**March 13–May 16, 2026**

## **The Argument for Independence**

This popular American musical is an insightful, vibrant and humorous take on our founding fathers' determination to do the right thing for their fledgling nation. As members of the Second Continental Congress struggle to reach consensus, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson argue for independence from the British monarchy. The ensuing debates defined our country. As we explore this historical moment through the evolving identity of America today, this robust, award-winning musical boldly brings our country's beginnings to blazing life.

### ***One Destiny***

**By Richard Helleesen**

**Directed by Mark Ramont**

**March–May 2026**

Learn about Lincoln's assassination from two men who were there. This 35-minute stage play at Ford's Theatre explores the key facts of the assassination while capturing the emotions of that fateful night in 1865, as told through the eyewitness accounts of actor Harry Hawk and Ford's Theatre co-owner Harry Ford, among others. As they reconstruct the sequence of events, they grapple with the question: Could John Wilkes Booth have been stopped? *One Destiny* was honored with *The Washington Post* Award for Innovative Leadership in the Theatre Community in 2011. Performance times for spring 2026 to be announced. [Learn more about \*One Destiny\*.](#)

Our [One Destiny: On Demand](#) streamed performance, featuring original actors **Michael Bunce** and **Stephen F. Schmidt**, continues to be on sale.

*One Destiny* is generously supported by **Southwest Airlines**.

### ***History on Foot Walking Tours:***

***Investigation: Detective McDevitt***

**By Richard Helleesen**

**Directed by Mark Ramont**

**March–October 2026**

Join Detective McDevitt as he re-visits and re-examines the sites and clues surrounding the assassination of our nation's 16th president. Performance dates and times for 2026 to be announced. [Learn more about \*History on Foot\*.](#)

## **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 Washington, D.C. 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*, *The Guard*, *Grace*, and *Something Moving*, Ford's Theatre is making its mark on the American theatre landscape. Under the current leadership of Board of Trustees Chairman **Phebe N. Novakovic** and through the lens of Lincoln's leadership and legacy, Ford's Theatre

endeavors today 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](http://www.fords.org).

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