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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 5/7/21**

### **Ford's Theatre Society and the National Park Service Announce Phased Reopening of Ford's Theatre Site**

**Reopening for Museum and Theatre on  
May 12, 2021**

**Advance Ticket Reservations Required  
Tickets for May 12-16 available online beginning  
May 7 at 10 a.m.**

**Petersen House and Aftermath Exhibits Remain Closed**

**Digital Resources, Online Programs and Virtual Events Continue**

**NOTE TO EDITORS: Media Interviews and B-Roll Opportunity  
May 12, 2021, at 9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. (details below)**

Washington, D.C. – Ford's Theatre Society and the National Park Service announce Ford's Theatre and the Ford's Theatre Museum will reopen to the public for visitation on Wednesday, May 12, 2021, with advance tickets required. Tickets for May 12-16 will be available online beginning May 7, 2021, at 10 a.m.

Visits to Ford's Theatre are self-guided. Ford's Theatre and Museum will operate with a **modified schedule for daytime visitation on Wednesdays through Sundays with required advance tickets**. Tickets will be available each Friday for the following Wednesday-Sunday. Timed entry to Ford's Theatre and Museum will be available on the hour from 10 a.m. to noon, and from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. The site will be closed during the 1 p.m. hour for cleaning. A

maximum number of 25 visitors per hour are permitted in the building during this stage of reopening.

Entry times include walk-through visits to the Ford's Theatre balcony level and Presidential Box. National Park Service rangers will be on hand to answer questions and explain the events surrounding Lincoln's assassination, though no formal ranger talks will be scheduled during this reopening phase. The Petersen House (The House where Lincoln Died) and the Aftermath Exhibits at the Center for Education and Leadership remain closed. The orchestra-level of the theatre will be closed until early June for restoration work.

**The following procedures and policies are in place to mitigate risk of COVID-19:**

- Face coverings are required on site.
- Physical distancing protocols are in place.
- Advance tickets are required.
- Visitors may be subject to a no-contact temperature check upon arrival at the discretion of Ford's Theatre Society staff.
- Minimal contact check-in is in place.
- A low-touch experience is provided.
- One-way visitor paths are in place.
- We have implemented increased cleaning.
- **A full list of policies is available at [www.fords.org/welcome-back](http://www.fords.org/welcome-back).**

Ford's Theatre COVID-19 guidance is being developed in collaboration with the George Washington University Medical Faculty Associates (GW MFA). As one of the largest physician groups in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, GW MFA is recognized for excellence in clinical care, research and training of future care providers. The advice and expertise of the medical staff at the GW MFA, which is based on data and guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, has helped Ford's strengthen safety procedures to better serve and protect patrons, artists and staff as we plan for resuming productions and tours.

"For the last several months, Ford's Theatre Society has worked closely with George Washington University Medical Faculty Associates to build on the protocols we first put in place in October and November 2020," said **Ford's Theatre Society Director Paul R. Tetreault**. "We've also worked in partnership with our colleagues at the National Park Service's Office of Public Health to ensure our patrons have a safe experience when joining us on campus. We're excited to welcome back visitors to learn about Lincoln's legacy and his ongoing impact on our

nation. And for those not ready to return just yet, we continue to offer a variety of live virtual programming, bringing Ford's and our history directly to you."

"We are excited to welcome visitors back to Ford's Theatre and once again share the powerful story of Abraham Lincoln's assassination and its far-reaching consequences with our visitors," said **Jeff Reinbold, superintendent of National Mall and Memorial Parks**. "We appreciate the work of our partners at Ford's Theatre Society and the National Park Service's Office of Public Health to ensure the health and safety of our visitors, employees and partners as we reopen."

### **Tickets**

Tickets for May 12-16, 2021, may be reserved beginning at 10 a.m. on May 7, 2021, on [www.fords.org](http://www.fords.org). Patrons are limited to six tickets per order. Large groups are not allowed. Beginning May 7, tickets will be available each Friday for the following Wednesday-Sunday.

### **Media Availability**

**Media are invited on May 12, 2021, at 9:30 a.m.** for physically distanced photo and b-roll capture, as well as interviews regarding new procedures on site. Media interested in attending the morning of May 12 should contact [press@fords.org](mailto:press@fords.org).

### **Ford's Theatre Virtual Resources and Events**

In addition to offering limited, in-person entry to the Theatre and Museum, Ford's Theatre Society continues to produce virtual events, resources and programs that at-home visitors can enjoy.

#### ***One Destiny On Demand***

Register to receive free access to a filmed performance of the one-act play *One Destiny* about the events and people at Ford's Theatre affected by Abraham Lincoln's assassination. Typically on stage in the spring and summer, this 40-min production is ideal for students ages eight and older and adult history fans. Stream is available online until June 13, 2021, at <https://www.fords.org/visit/one-destiny>.

#### ***Necessary Sacrifices: A Radio Play***

Register to receive free access to a radio play adaptation of Richard Helleesen's *Necessary Sacrifices*. The play dramatically explores the two White House meetings of abolitionist Frederick Douglass and President Abraham Lincoln during a period of national crisis. Stream is available until May 30, 2021. Full details available online at <https://www.fords.org/sacrifices-radio-play>.

#### ***Cabinet Conversations: Creativity, History and Leadership***

Join us for monthly live discussions with artists, historians and thought leaders. Learn more at <https://www.fords.org/visit/virtual-events-and-special-tours/cabinet-conversations>.

### **Our Words, Our Power Workshops**

Explore how ordinary citizens and public figures use their words to inspire change and shape our world. The hour-long workshops are open to the public and livestreamed via Zoom at 7:00 p.m. EDT on select Mondays. On May 17, examine Malala Yousafzai's speech to the United Nations Youth Assembly, and explore LGBT Pride Month on June 21. More details at [https://www.fords.org/for-teachers/programs/#jump\\_link\\_1](https://www.fords.org/for-teachers/programs/#jump_link_1)

### **Virtual Play Readings**

Launched in July 2020, the Ford's Theatre virtual play reading series has included Donja R. Love's *Fireflies*, *Silent Sky* by Lauren Gunderson, *Necessary Sacrifices* by Richard Hellesten, *Intimate Apparel* by Lynn Nottage and Robert Harling's *Steel Magnolias*. Readings are streamed on the Ford's Theatre website, Facebook Live, YouTube and Twitter. Upcoming dates and readings to be announced. Upcoming events are posted online at <https://www.fords.org/performances/current-and-upcoming/virtual-play-reading-series>.

### **Distance-Learning Programs**

The Ford's Theatre education team continues to offer **structured public webinars and interactive events on Zoom that are appropriate for history fans of all ages, including students in grades 3+**. These programs explore Abraham Lincoln in Civil War Washington, Lincoln's assassination, the investigation into the assassination conspiracy, the history of Ford's Theatre and the Petersen House, and much more. They are offered regularly on Tuesdays and Thursdays as well as by appointment. A full schedule is listed at <https://www.fords.org/for-teachers/programs/distance-learning>.

### **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 theatregoing 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 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 our American life. Since 2018, the Society has had a Platinum rating in GuideStar and a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator.

For more information on Ford's Theatre and the Ford's Theatre Society, please visit [www.fords.org](http://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 Ford's Theatre National Historic Site, please visit [www.nps.gov/foth](http://www.nps.gov/foth).

#### **Ford's Theatre Society:**

**Twitter and Instagram:** @fordstheatre  
**Facebook:** Facebook.com/fordstheatre

#### **National Park Service:**

**Twitter:** @FordsTheatreNPS  
**Facebook:** Facebook.com/FordsTheatreNPS

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