



**Media Contact:**  
Lauren Beyea  
Associate Director of Communications and Marketing  
(202) 434-9543 [lbeyea@fords.org](mailto:lbeyea@fords.org)

Ford's Theatre  
511 Tenth Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20004  
[www.fords.org](http://www.fords.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Ford's Theatre Presents**  
Radio Play of  
***Necessary Sacrifices***  
By Richard Helleesen  
Directed by Psalmayene 24  
Featuring Craig Wallace as Frederick Douglass and  
Paul Morella as Abraham Lincoln

**Audio available to Ford's Theatre Members April 6, 2021**  
**Audio available to the Public April 12-May 30, 2021**  
**WPFW 89.3FM to Broadcast Play**  
**April 15 at 5:00 p.m. and April 21 at 3:00 p.m.**

**2021 Productions**  
***My Lord, What a Night* and *The Mountaintop* Postponed**

**Virtual Programming Continues with *One Destiny* On Demand, *Cabinet Conversations*, Play Readings, Educational Distance-Learning Initiatives and the Online Abraham Lincoln Institute Symposium**

Washington, D.C.— Ford's Theatre has announced an audio drama adaptation of Richard Helleesen's *Necessary Sacrifices*, featuring acclaimed Washington actors Craig Wallace as Frederick Douglass and Paul Morella as Abraham Lincoln. Psalmayene 24 makes his Ford's directorial debut. The radio play will be made **available to Ford's Theatre Members on April 6 and to the public on April 12-May 30** via the Ford's Theatre website, [www.fords.org](http://www.fords.org). **WPFW 89.3FM, Pacifica radio in the nation's capital, is Broadcast and Media Partner** for *Necessary Sacrifices*, and will air the play April 15 at 5:00 p.m. and April 21 at 3:00 p.m. WPFW also will make the broadcast available to other Pacifica radio stations nationwide during April and May 2021.

In connection with the WPFW broadcast, the station will host related on-air discussions on April 15 and 17, including members of the *Necessary Sacrifices* production team. The April

15 discussion centers on the Movement for Black Lives within the context of the work of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. The discussion on April 21 examines women of the abolitionist movement—Sojourner Truth and Harriet Tubman—in relationship to the work of Douglass and Lincoln. Full speaker lineup to be announced by WPFW.

Commissioned by Ford's Theatre, Richard Helleesen's *Necessary Sacrifices* explores the two documented encounters between Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln during a period of national crisis. During the summers of 1863 and 1864, Douglass challenges Lincoln to use his power as president to bring truth to America's founding ideal that "all men are created equal."

*Necessary Sacrifices* includes **Original Music, Sound Design and Audio Production by John Gromada.**

"Although we are unable to be back in the theatre this spring, we are thrilled to provide the audio drama of *Necessary Sacrifices* to a national audience," said **Ford's Theatre Director Paul R. Tetreault.** "Frederick Douglass respected Abraham Lincoln but was highly critical of Lincoln's slowness on taking key actions toward equality and emancipation. Lincoln, though morally opposed to slavery, was unsure how to legally end it and what to do once it was ended. The play shows how these two men came together and debated, disagreed and ultimately found common ground. As our nation confronts deep political divisions, and we rise to answer calls for equity and justice for Black Americans, I hope this play inspires audiences to listen as Lincoln did and to agitate for change like Douglass."

"Audio is the perfect medium for the story of two remarkable leaders whose significant use of language and discourse shaped America at a tumultuous time. This play deals with hefty themes of war, slavery, politics, justice, and freedom—but undergirding these themes is the relationship between two men who are confronted with their perceptions of who the other man is and the truth of who they really are. It is about their friendship, and the transformational leadership that laid the groundwork to move America toward a new birth of freedom," said director **Psalmayene 24.**

*Necessary Sacrifices* is made possible with support from **Lead Sponsors: ConocoPhillips and Lockheed Martin Corporation,** and **Sponsors: The Home Depot, KPMG LLP, Raytheon Technologies and Siemens Corporation.** The Ford's Theatre 2021-2022 season is sponsored by **Chevron.**

Playwright Richard Helleesen's previous works for Ford's Theatre include *Freedom's Song: Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War*, *One Destiny*, *Investigation: Detective McDevitt* and

*The Road from Appomattox*, four gripping and insightful explorations of critical moments in Civil War history.

### 2021 Season Updates

Tetreault also announced that the previously announced D.C.-premiere of ***My Lord, What a Night*** by Deborah Brevoort and directed by Sheldon Epps, and Katori Hall's ***The Mountaintop*** and directed by Nicole A. Watson are postponed, with dates to be announced at a later time.

“In September, we announced a series of plays centered on Civil Rights icons who have fought in the ongoing struggle for racial justice and equity,” **Tetreault said**. “We remain committed to bringing the stories to the stage, but we must be realistic about when we can return to full site visitation and on-stage performances. To ensure the safety and health of our artists, staff and audiences, we are moving these two productions to our 2021-2022 season, which we hope will begin this fall.”

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, artist and staff as we plan for resuming productions and tours.

### Ongoing Ford's Theatre Programming

As the theatre remains closed, the following virtual programming continues:

- ***One Destiny On Demand***: Register to receive 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. The 40-min production is ideal for students ages eight and older and adult history fans. Stream is available until June 13, 2021:  
<https://www.fords.org/visit/one-destiny/>
- **Virtual Play Readings**: regular live streamed readings of plays exploring history and the American experience. Upcoming events are posted online at  
<https://www.fords.org/performances/current-and-upcoming/virtual-play-reading-series.>
- ***Cabinet Conversations***: bi-weekly live streamed discussions featuring historians, artists and leaders. A catalogue of past programs and planned upcoming events is available

online at <https://www.fords.org/visit/virtual-events-and-special-tours/cabinet-conversations>. **Abraham Lincoln Institute Online Symposium:** From March 22-May 3, the Abraham Lincoln Institute and Ford's Theatre Society present an online speaker symposium focused on the life, career and legacy of President Abraham Lincoln. Scholars and authors will join us live on select Mondays at 4 p.m. EDT. A speaker schedule is posted at <http://www.fords.org/visit/virtual-events-and-special-tours/abraham-lincoln-institute-symposium>.

- **Our Words, Our Power Workshops:** *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. ET on select Mondays. On April 19, commemorate National Poetry Month with study of an original poem by poet, musician and Ford's Teaching Artist W. Ellington Felton. On May 17, examine Malala Yousafzai's speech to the United Nations Youth Assembly, and explore LGBT Pride Month on June 21.
- **Distance-Learning Programs:** through live videoconferencing, students learn the story of President Abraham Lincoln's assassination and the world of Civil War Washington <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 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](http://www.fords.org).