



Kevin J. Wood
Portrayals of President Abraham Lincoln
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Lincoln on Literature and the Theatre

Program for General Audiences (Libraries, Senior Residences, Community Groups, Etc.)

Mr. Lincoln discusses his enjoyment of literature and the dramatic arts, and how these influenced him throughout his life. He talks about his love of reading as a child growing up on the frontier, where books were scarce, and precious. He discusses some of his favorites books and authors, including *The Bible*, *Aesop's Fables*, Shakespeare, Byron, Burns, Poe, Whitman, and Longfellow, Holmes, and the other "Fireside Poets". He even shares some of his own attempts at writing poetry, some humorous and others serious. He also discusses his love of the theatre, including opera, especially as President when he first had the opportunity to see plays on a regular basis at Washington's three theatres. And he talks about some of the actors whom he befriended, and others he saw perform, such as the great Edwin Booth, as well as his brother, a certain ... John Wilkes Booth.

This program is most appropriate for adults and for older youth/teenagers (recommended for 12 years old on up); younger children are still welcome, but may not find the material particularly interesting. It runs one hour and is followed by an additional time of Q&A, photos, and informal interaction. It is also available virtually, whether live via video conferencing (Zoom) or live-streaming (Facebook Live or YouTube Live) or as a pre-recorded video. Unlike many of Mr. Lincoln's programs, this one is not currently available in Spanish.

Mr. Lincoln is portrayed by Kevin Wood, a professional Lincoln presenter who bears a remarkable resemblance to "the Great Emancipator" and who is extremely knowledgeable about his life and times. Mr. Wood has been portraying Mr. Lincoln since the year 2000, and on a professional basis since 2015. He has made over 2,300 appearances in 33 states plus Washington DC and two foreign countries: Canada and Spain. Mr. Wood also writes an occasional blog – "*Loath to Close... Still!*" – which encourages others to reflect upon and learn from President Lincoln's life and legacy. For more information, visit www.mrlincoln.com.