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The University Theatre
of the
University of Notre Dame

Presents

"Abraham Lincoln"

A Play

by

John Drinkwater

Under the direction of Professor F. W. Kelly



WASHINGTON HALL
Saturday and Sunday, May 28 and 29, 1932
8:15 P. M. Central Standard Time

The Story of "Abraham Lincoln"

(Arnold Bennett's Comment)

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"This play was originally produced by the Birmingham Repertory Theatre . . . and it had a great success in Birmingham. But if its author had not happened to be the artistic director of the Birmingham Repertory Theatre the play might never have been produced there. The rumor of the provincial success reached London, with the usual result—that London managers magnificently ignored it. I have myself spoken with a very well-known London actor-manager who admitted to me that he had refused the play.

"When Nigel Playfair, in conjunction with myself as a sort of Chancellor of the Exchequer, started the Hammersmith Playhouse (for the presentation of the best plays that could be got) we at once began to inquire into the case of *Abraham Lincoln*. Nigel Playfair was absolutely determined to have the play and the Birmingham company to act it. I read the play and greatly admired it. We secured both the play and the company. The first Hammersmith performance was a tremendous success, both for the author of the play and for William J. Rea, the Irish actor who in the role of Lincoln was merely great. The audience cried . . . As I returned home that night . . . I said to myself: 'This play is bound to succeed.' The next moment I said to myself: 'This play cannot possibly succeed. It has no love interest. It is a political play. Its theme is the threatened separation of the Southern States from the Northern States. Nobody ever heard of a play with such an absurd theme reaching permanent success. No author before John Drinkwater ever had the effrontery to impose such a theme on a London public.

"My instinct was right and my reason was wrong. The play did succeed. It is still succeeding, and it will continue to succeed . . .

"*Abraham Lincoln* has pleased everybody, and its triumph is the best justification of those few who held that the public was capable of liking much better plays than were offered to the public. Why has *Abraham Lincoln* succeeded? Here are a few answers to the question: Because the author had a deep, practical knowledge of the stage. Because he disdained all stage tricks. Because he had the wit to select for his hero one of the greatest and finest characters. Because he had the audacity to select a gigantic theme and to handle it with simplicity. Because he had the courage of all his artistic and moral convictions. And of course because he has a genuine dramatic gift. . . ."

"But while I have, I hope, done nothing to traverse history, I have freely telescoped its events, and imposed invention upon its moment, in such ways as I needed to shape the dramatic significance of my subject."
(From John Drinkwater's Preface to the Play.)

Cast of Characters

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Mr. Stone.....	VIGILIUS PHILLIPS
Mr. Cuffney.....	FRANKLIN STROUD
Susan.....	MARGARET ANN BURROUGHS
Mrs. Lincoln.....	F. THERESA CHISHOLM
Abraham Lincoln.....	PROF. A. L. DOYLE
William Tucker.....	FLORENCE J. MCCARTHY
Henry Hind.....	PAUL O'TOOLE
Elias Price.....	FRANK OBERKOETTER
James Macintosh.....	TIGHE WOODS
William Seward.....	JOHN FINNERAN
Johnson White.....	BERNARD MONAGHAN
Caleb Jennings.....	JOHN T. YEISER
John Hay.....	GEORGE B. RYAN
Hawkins.....	PAUL O'TOOLE
Salmon P. Chase.....	THOMAS MCKEVITT
Montgomery Blair.....	EDWARD ACKERMAN
Simon Cameron.....	FRANK MCCANN
Caleb Smith.....	JAMES J. BOYLE
Burnett Hook.....	JOHN RYAN
Gideon Welles.....	JOSEPH MCCABE
Mrs. Goliath Blow.....	VIRGINIA K. BYERS
Mrs. Otherly.....	LOIS M. VURPILLAT
William Custis.....	THOMAS J. STRITCH
Edwin M. Stanton.....	GEORGE A. HIGGINS
General Grant.....	FRANK DENNY
Captain Malins.....	VIGILIUS PHILLIPS
Dennis.....	JOSEPH SMITH
William Scott.....	JOHN F. CRAMER
General Meade.....	JAMES J. BOYLE
Robert E. Lee.....	STURLA CANALE
John Wilkes Booth.....	ROGER BIERNE
Clerks.....	{ DAVID POWERS FLORENCE MCCARTHY
Orderly.....	D. SULLIVAN
Guard.....	FRANKLIN STROUD

Ladies, Officers, and Attendants.

Scenes

I.
The Lincoln home in Springfield, Illinois, early in 1860.

II.
Seward's room at Washington, ten months later.

III.
A small reception room at the Whitehouse two years later.

IV.
A meeting of the Cabinet at Washington about the same date.

V.
a. A farm house near Appomattox in April, 1865.
(Curtain to denote the passing of several hours.)
b. The same.

VI.
A passage-way back of the boxes of Ford's Theatre on the evening of April 14, 1865.

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PROGRAM OF THE UNIVERSITY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Directed by Professor Richard H. Seidel

- Overture: Raymond.....*Thomas*
1. Serenade, Allegro.....*Mozart*
2. Shepherd Dance - Morris Dance.....*German*
3. Allegretto con eleganza.....*Lacome*
Tempo di Marcia
4. Alla Polacca.....*Lacome*
5. Andante grazioso.....*Mozart*
Allegro
Taps.....CAPT. E. A. SCHLEUDER

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THE UNIVERSITY THEATRE

"The University Theatre is under the patronage of the Rev. Charles L. O'Donnell, C. S. C., President of the University. The executive committee is composed of Rev. Raymond M. Murch, C. S. C., chairman; Professor F. W. Kelly, Production Director; Professor Joseph Casasanta, Musical Director; Professors Charles Phillips and Rufus Rauch, Script Directors."

The Committee extends its appreciation to Sister Mary Irma, C. S. C., St. Mary's; Mr. William Richardson, Mr. William Adelsperger, Professor A. L. Doyle, Professor Ronald Cox, Professor Richard Seidel, Capt. E. A. Schleuder, Miss Cecilia Young, Mrs. William Kelly.

Grateful acknowledgement is made of the kindness of Miss F. Theresa Chisholm, Miss Virginia Byers, Miss Margaret Burroughs, Miss Lois Vurpillat, Miss Isabel M. Burroughs, Miss Charlotte Maurer.

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PRODUCTION STAFF

- Stage Supervisor.....FRED EISENMANN
Assistants.....JAMES CARMODY, GEORGE HIGGINS
Make-Ups.....E. LOUISE GUERNSEY