

## FORD'S THEATRE

Greeting: *“Welcome to Ford’s Theatre.”*

- *“Did the army or police provide security for President Lincoln?”*  
Lincoln often refused to be escorted by army security guards whenever he went to the theater or to church, and there was no army security detail with him that evening.
- *“Does anyone know why John Wilkes Booth had such easy access to President Lincoln’s theater box?”*  
The one guard who accompanied him, John Parker of the Washington, D.C., Metropolitan Police Force, left his post outside the door of the State Box in order to get a better view of the play.
- *“How far did Booth have to jump to the stage to make his escape?”*  
He jumped about 12 feet.
- *“What did Booth shout after he landed on the stage?”*  
“Sic Semper Tyrannis! I have done it! The South is avenged!”



### Historic Information:

- *“The time is about 10:15 p.m. on April 14, 1865. President Lincoln, his wife, and two guests are enjoying the play ‘Our American Cousin’. They are seated in a specially prepared ‘State Box’ on the right side of the second audience level, about 12 feet above the stage.”*
- *“John Wilkes Booth is standing in a narrow hallway peering into the passage way that leads to Lincoln’s box.”*
- *“Booth times his shot to coincide with laughter from the audience to muffle the sound of his single-shot derringer.”*
- *“Sic Semper Tyrannis” means “Thus Always to Tyrants.”*