

# Abraham and Mary LINCOLN

## *A House Divided*

JANUARY 5, 6, AND 7, 2004 FROM 9PM TO 11PM

(CHECK LOCAL LISTINGS)

[PBS.ORG/AMEX/LINCOLNS](http://PBS.ORG/AMEX/LINCOLNS)

*"As an eloquent, intimate, candidly reformed compendium of the Lincolns, and what drove and tore at them, David Grubin's documentary stands head and stovepipe hat above the crowd."* — LOS ANGELES TIMES

He was a dirt farmer's son; she was the daughter of wealthy Southern aristocrats. Together they ascended to the pinnacle of power at the most difficult time in the nation's history.

On January 5, 6, and 7, 2004, PBS's AMERICAN EXPERIENCE encores *Abraham and Mary Lincoln: A House Divided*, the first film to focus on the marriage of Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd. More has been written about Lincoln than any other American, and yet the wife who helped him rise to power and complicated his life once he got there remains little known. Hailed by the *Hollywood Reporter* as "consistently sophisticated, smartly detailed and intelligent piece of non-fiction," the three-part film follows the couple from their strikingly different childhoods to their years in the White House. It uncovers their public ambitions and their private fears, and paints a vivid picture of a troubled marriage, of a couple who loved each other passionately, who quarreled intensely, and who frequently mourned. Finally, it describes the impact of Lincoln's brutal assassination on the nation and on the sanity of his wife.

*Abraham and Mary Lincoln: A House Divided* also reflects on how the Lincolns' personal lives paralleled that of a nation at war. Elected to the Oval Office only to see the nation split in two, Abraham led a confused and frightened people through the most terrible conflict in their history. At the same time, his own household mirrored the fissures that rent the nation: the Great Emancipator was married to the daughter of a slave owner from Kentucky. Mary lost three half-brothers to Lincoln's armies and was frequently accused of being a Confederate sympathizer.

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**AMERICAN  
EXPERIENCE**

A PRODUCTION  
OF WGBH BOSTON

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[www.pbs.org/amex](http://www.pbs.org/amex)

Mark Samels,  
Executive Producer

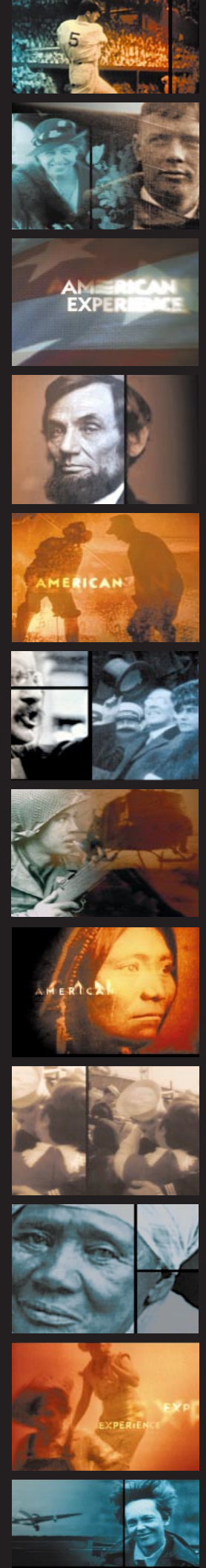
Major funding provided  
by the Alfred P. Sloan  
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National corporate funding  
provided by Liberty Mutual  
and The Scotts Company



Additional funding from the  
Corporation for Public Broadcasting  
and public television viewers



After her husband's death, Mary moved from town to town and was briefly institutionalized. At the age of sixty-four, Mary Todd Lincoln died. She was a distant memory in the minds of most Americans and would largely be forgotten by history, while her husband attained the mythic status of martyr.

Produced and directed by award-winning filmmaker David Grubin (*Napoleon, Truman, TR: The Story of Theodore Roosevelt, FDR, LBJ*) and written by Grubin and Geoffrey C. Ward, *Abraham and Mary Lincoln: A House Divided* weaves evocative original cinematography of battle scenes and White House dinners, cabinet meetings and shopping sprees with archival daguerreotypes and photographs to create a vibrant sense of America in the mid-nineteenth century. The six-hour AMERICAN EXPERIENCE film, narrated by David McCullough, also incorporates interviews with scholars and readings by actors David Morse (Abraham) and Holly Hunter (Mary).

The program's companion Web site, "The Time of the Lincolns" ([pbs.org/amex/lincolns](http://pbs.org/amex/lincolns)) brings the events of the Lincolns' time to life through primary source documents, interactive maps, QuickTime VRs of historically significant sites, photo galleries, and video clips. Visitors can take a guided tour of the Battle of Fredericksburg, meet key participants in the antebellum women's rights movement, and watch exclusive interviews with David Grubin and cinematographer James Callanan. This site was a Yahoo! Pick of the Day and was also featured on AOL's Research and Learn Channel.

The companion DVD features the complete six-hour film, exclusive interviews with the film's creative team, and original narratives drawn from letters and diaries of Civil War soldiers, nineteenth-century African Americans, and women. It is fully accessible—featuring closed captioning, audio description, and audio navigation—and was a recipient of the DVD At Its Best Gold Ring Award. It is available from PBS Video: 1 800 SHOP PBS.

#### **CREDITS**

A David Grubin Productions, Inc. film for AMERICAN EXPERIENCE in association with PBS.

Produced and directed by David Grubin

Written by David Grubin and Geoffrey C. Ward

Senior producer: Allyson Luchak

Editors: Tom Haneke, Deborah Peretz, Seth Bomse

Narrator: David McCullough

Music: Michael Bacon

Archival music supervisor: Rena C. Kosersky

Production executive: Lesley Norman

Cinematographer: James Callanan

Voice of Abraham Lincoln: David Morse

Voice of Mary Lincoln: Holly Hunter

Funding for this program provided in part by Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs, Bureau of Tourism.

Major funding for AMERICAN EXPERIENCE is provided by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. National corporate funding is provided by Liberty Mutual and The Scotts Company. Additional funding is provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, a private corporation funded by the American people, and by public television viewers.

AMERICAN EXPERIENCE is a production of WGBH Boston. Executive producer: Mark Samels

#### **ACCESSIBILITY**

AMERICAN EXPERIENCE is closed captioned for deaf and hard-of-hearing viewers, and described for people who are blind or visually impaired by the Media Access Group at WGBH. The descriptive narration is available on the SAP channel of stereo TVs and VCRs.

#### **ABOUT AMERICAN EXPERIENCE**

AMERICAN EXPERIENCE, television's most-watched history series, is a leading producer of historical documentaries, related web sites, and DVDs. The pioneer of quality historical programming for public television audiences, AMERICAN EXPERIENCE has won every prestigious broadcast award and enjoys consistent widespread support from television critics and viewers alike.

For more information about AMERICAN EXPERIENCE and *Abraham and Mary Lincoln: A House Divided*, visit the World Wide Web: [www.pbs.org/amex](http://www.pbs.org/amex).

#### **ABOUT WGBH BOSTON**

WGBH Boston is America's preeminent public broadcasting producer. More than one-third of PBS's prime-time lineup and companion Web content as well as many public radio favorites are produced by WGBH. The station also is a pioneer in educational multimedia and in access technologies for people with disabilities. For more information visit [www.wgbh.org](http://www.wgbh.org).

Download press materials and images for  
*Abraham and Mary Lincoln: A House Divided*  
and other AMERICAN EXPERIENCE programs at  
[pbs.org/pressroom](http://pbs.org/pressroom) and [pressroom.wgbh.org](http://pressroom.wgbh.org).

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