

Getting to Know...

From vision to reality:

In 1977, the Lincoln Boyhood Drama Association (LBDA) embarked on a mission to tell the childhood story of Abraham Lincoln in an outdoor setting at Lincoln State Park. Eight years and \$3.2 million in state resources later, work began on the 1,500-seat amphitheatre.

Act I: Young Abe Lincoln:

From 1987-2005, patrons saw this dramatized, upbeat musical of the president's early life in Indiana. The venue was then forced to go dark for four years when state funding was cut to \$1.

Back on track:

Late LBDA President Will Koch (of Holiday World) worked closely with state Rep. Russ Stilwell to secure significant state funding again. Current business model: equal parts fundraising, government allocation and ticket sales.

Act II: LINCOLN – Indiana's American Story:

Debuting in 2009, this Ken Jones play is based on actual events and covers from the time Lincoln was shot through the nine hours he lay dying. Theater-goers see reflections on his entire life – from boyhood to presidency. The spirit of Lincoln is represented by a multi-media projection that speaks out to the audience.

Facts and figures:

For seven weeks each summer, the play runs nightly except on Mondays. There were 18,000 visitors in 2009, with top markets being Evansville, Indianapolis and Louisville.

The entire Lincoln Experience:

Pre-show activities include scenic walking trails that young Abe experienced as a boy, children's pioneer games, Amish family-style meals, artisan pioneer demonstrations and a Lincoln exhibit.



Lincoln Amphitheatre:

Presidential history center stage in Spencer County

“We want to expand (the season), but now it’s us getting back on our feet again. We are testing the waters with a concert in the park that we’ve added this year. It’s a half-hour musical tribute that runs after the show. It’s gotten a lot of people excited.”

– Brandi Weyer, communications director, www.lincolnamphitheatre.com