



Kevin J. Wood

Portrayals of President Abraham Lincoln

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Lincoln on Slavery, Emancipation, and Equality

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

Mr. Lincoln shares his ever-evolving perspectives on the subjects of slavery, emancipation, and equality, including the relationship between the white and black races during his times. He gives a brief summary of the long history of slavery in North America, focusing especially on the great debates and compromises over slavery at the time of the formation of the United States and during the subsequent 80 years. He discusses his own political views on slavery and emancipation and how these gradually shifted over the years. He talks about his interactions with both free and enslaved blacks, and about the relationship in general between the white and black races in his times. And, of course, he discusses the great events of his presidency as related to these issues, including the significant decisions to issue the Emancipation Proclamation, to allow blacks to join the armed forces, to give up on the idea of colonizing blacks elsewhere, and to advocate for black suffrage.

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 2,200 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.