

## "Look Away" audition announcement

A drama by Jerome Kilty  
Based on "Mary Todd Lincoln: Her Life and Letters"  
by Justin G. Turner and Linda Levitt Turner

Cast: 2 Females 1 Caucasian, 1 African-American,  
Ages - should look to be mid-50's

Audition Dates: Sept. 19, 20 at 7pm (Call-backs on Sept 21 if needed)

Location: MOVP Theatre, 229 Putnam Sts. (Corner of Third & Putnam)  
Theatre Office - (Front of Building)

Information: David Offenberger, 350-2063 or [ohiodmo@suddenlink.net](mailto:ohiodmo@suddenlink.net)

Production Dates: Jan. 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29, 2011, 2011 at 8pm and Jan. 23 at 3pm

It is June, 1875. Mary Lincoln has lost her first son, Eddie, in Springfield, Ill, shortly before her husband was elected president. Upon arrival in D.C., the Civil War starts and the Lincoln's loose a second son, Willie. In April, 1865, Lee surrenders to Grant, the war is over but celebrating doesn't last long. on April 15, 1865 her husband is assassinated as he sits by her side in Ford's theatre. Each death forces Mary into deep depression which takes longer to recover from with each passing death. She finally decides to travel in Europe with her son, Tad. When he is 18, as they return to the U.S. from on of the tours Tad gets ill and dies leaving Mary with only her eldest son, Robert, who "betrays" her by having her committed to The Bellevue Hospital for Insane Persons, Batavia, Ill.

Elizabeth Keckley was born a slave and lived as a slave for 30 years before gaining her freedom. She was a remarkable woman who could read and write and owned her own seamstress business in D.C., making dresses for the elite of D.C., such as Julia Grant, Mrs. Jefferson Davis (soon to be the first lady of the Confederacy) and, upon the recommendation of these people, meets Mary Lincoln in the White House. For four years Lizzie lived in the white house as Mary's personal dress-maker. It was Lizzie who Mary cried for the evening her husband was shot and it was Lizzie who went with Mary two Ill. at Mary's urging. Loyal to a fault, Lizzie served as Mary's companion, confidante and tried to help Mary make money (as Abraham was the first president assassinated, there was no pension set up for the widow) and see her through the scandals that followed Mary.

"Look Away" takes place on the last night Mary was in the mental institution, the night before the sanity hearing which would ultimately find her "returned to reason". A story of friendship, loyalty, loss and coming to terms with a life of tragedy, you will learn the strength of Mary Lincoln and the dignity of Lizzie Keckley. You'll laugh, smile, understand true friendship and familial betrayal, perhaps shed a tear, and, in the end, hopefully have a greater understanding for the lives of two ladies who not only witnessed, but lived history.

"Look Away" was first present in 1973 at the Playhouse Theatre in NYC. Rip Torn directed, his wife, Geraldine Page, played Mary and Maya Angelou played Elizabeth.

