


# "LINCOLN AND BOOTH"

BY PAT/SALTY

When JOHN W. BOOTH ASSASSINATED PRESIDENT ABE LINCOLN IN 1865 HE - BOOTH - WAS GIVING WASHINGTON, AMERICA, AND THE WHOLE WORLD THE FINAL PERFORMANCE OF HIS LIFE. IT WAS - IN BOOTH'S MIND - THE UPDATED FOR ALL TIME HISTORICAL PERFORMANCE OF "JULIUS CAESER", ~~STAGED~~ PUT ON STAGE AT FORDS THEATRE, WITH HIM - JOHN W. BOOTH - AS THE DASHING LEADING MAN (OF COURSE) WITH A BIT PART CAMEO ROLE FOR ABE LINCOLN HIMSELF, AS THE TYRANT DICTATOR - JULIUS CAESER CHARACTER. BOOTH WAS A GREAT AND WELL KNOWN ACTOR FROM A GREAT ACTING FAMILY AND HAD IN FACT PLAYED BRUTUS IN THE PLAY "JULIUS CAESER" BEFORE TO OUTSTANDING REVIEWS. THIS IS THE REAL REASON WHY BOOTH CARRIED A DAGGER INTO THE PRESIDENTIAL BOX WITH HIM (ALONG WITH THE SINGLE SHOT PISTOL HE USED TO SHOOT LINCOLN) AND WHY HE JUMPED DOWN ONTO THE STAGE WITH THE DAGGER IN HIS HAND EXCLAIMING LOUDLY "SIC SEMPTOR TYRANIS!" (SO IT GOES, WITH TYRANTS!) EXACTLY AS HIS CHARACTER BRUTUS HAD DONE AND EXCLAIMED ON STAGE IN HIS PAST PERFORMANCES OF THAT PLAY. TO BOOTH, HE WAS PLAYING BRUTUS. AND LINCOLN, THE TYRANT/DICTATOR/CAESER. TALK ABOUT TAKING METHOD ACTING TO ITS LIMITS!



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Booth did that - and FAR, FAR Beyond, LINCOLN - OF COURSE - JUST HAD TO ACT NATURALLY.

OR DIE NATURALLY, AS THE CASE MAY BE. EXTRA REALISM WAS ADDED TO BOOTH'S PERFORMANCE THAT NIGHT BY THE LOUD AND DRAMATIC SCREAMS ~~RE~~ SUPPLIED BY LINCOLN'S WIFE MARY, WHICH COULD BE CLEARLY HEARD THRUOUT FORD'S THEATRE BY THE PACKED HOUSE. BOOTH LOVED THE SCREAMS, AS THEY ADDED EXTRA DRAMATIC EFFECTS TO THE WHOLE PERFORMANCE, AN ADDED BONUS. AND JOHN WILKES BOOTH LOVED DRAMATIC EFFECTS IN HIS PLAYS!

HE WAS FAMOUS AS A DASHINGLY HANDSOME YOUNG ACTOR OF THE ENERGETIC AND VERY PHYSICAL AND AGILE VARIETY.

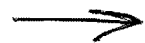
AND HE WOULD ABSOLUTELY OUTDO HIMSELF THAT NIGHT BY LEAPING FROM THE PRESIDENTIAL BOX ALL THE WAY DOWN ONTO THE STAGE BELOW!

EVEN BREAKING HIS LEG IN THE PROCESS. (TALK ABOUT SACRIFICING FOR ONE'S ART.)

BOTH LEFT HIS AUDIENCE - AS USUAL - RIVETED TO THEIR SEATS.

THE ONES WHO COULDN'T UNDERSTAND LATIN COULDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT HE WAS YELLING ON STAGE ("SICK SEMPER WHAT? I THOUGHT THIS PLAY WAS SUPPOSED TO BE IN ENGLISH, DAMN IT")

BUT THEY ALL GOT THEIR MONEYS WORTH!



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AS EVERY AUDIENCE ALWAYS DID WHEN  
JOHNNY B. ~~BOOTH~~ HAD THE STAGE,  
AND TALK ABOUT SURPRISING AN AUDIENCE!

(JOHN BOOTH - AND EVERY OTHER ACTORS -  
ULTIMATE GOAL)

BOOTH OUTDID HIMSELF IN SURPRISING  
THE AUDIENCE ON THAT NIGHT IN  
FORDS THEATOR. BOY, DID HE EVER,

THEY CAME EXPECTING A COMEDY  
("OUR AMERICAN COUSIN")

AND ENDED UP AS AN AUDIENCE TO  
THE GREATEST HISTORICAL DRAMA  
EVER PLAYED OUT IN AN AMERICAN  
THEATOR - OR ANY OTHER THEATOR  
IN THE ~~UNIVERSE~~ WORLD - BEFORE OR SENSE.

IT WAS - AS BOOTH INTENDED IT TO BE -  
HIS FINAL AND BIGGEST PERFORMANCE;  
A PERFORMANCE FOR THE AGES.

AN HISTORICAL PERFORMANCE THAT WOULD  
LIVE ON FOR ALL TIME.

OSCAR WORTHY, EVEN - IF THEY HAD  
OSCARS BACK THEN.

WHICH THEY DIDN'T.

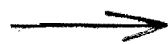
AND IF ASSASSINS WERE ELIGABLE FOR OSCARS,  
WHICH THEY AREN'T.

AND IF ONE OF THE CHARACTERS IN BOOTH'S  
CAREFULLY PLANNED PERFORMANCE HADN'T  
ACTUALLY DIED.

WHICH HE DID.

WHICH LINCOLN DID.

BUT HEY, AS FAR AS BOOTH KNEW, LINCOLN  
HAD TO DIE - DIDN'T JULIUS CAESER ALWAYS  
DIE IN THE END?



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AND THIS IS MY WHOLE POINT IN ALL THIS;  
BOOTH ACTUALLY SAW AND PERCEIVED  
LINCOLN NO DIFFERENTLY THEN HE SAW  
AND PERCEIVED THE DICTATOR CAESER,  
AS AN HISTORICAL TYRANT.

THAT - AS BRUTUS AND COMPANY HAD DONE -  
THAT HAD TO BE DISPATCHED.

GOTTEN RID OF.

ASSASSINATED.

EXACTLY AS CAESER HIMSELF HAD ONCE BEEN.  
THIS WAS BOOTH'S REALITY.

THIS IS HOW HE ACTUALLY PERCEIVED REALITY;  
THAT LINCOLN WAS A DANGEROUS AND  
OUT OF CONTROL TYRANT;

AN AMERICAN DICTATOR BACKED BY  
MILITARY MIGHT;

A MAN WHO HAD ACTUALLY WENT SO FAR  
AS TO SUSPEND THE U.S. CONSTITUTION  
ITSELF (WHEN LINCOLN SUSPENDED THE LAWS  
OF HABEAS CORPUS IN SUPPRESSING THE REBELLION)

A MAN - LINCOLN - WHOSE ORDERS AND  
POLICYS HAD - AS BOOTH (AND OTHERS) AT THAT  
TIME BELIEVED - RAVISHED THE SOUTHERN  
UNITED STATES.

AND CAUSED DRAFT RIOTS IN NEW YORK CITY  
AND THE NORTH.

BY KILLING LINCOLN, JOHN WILKES BOOTH  
BELIEVED - ACTUALLY 100% BELIEVED -  
THAT HE WAS SAVING NOT JUST THE  
SOUTH BUT THE NORTH, ALSO, FROM  
AN UNCONSTITUTIONAL AND UNAMERICAN  
DICTATORSHIP.

AND TO REALLY UNDERSTAND HISTORY  
- REAL HISTORY - ONE MUST →

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be able to STUDY HISTORY AND HISTORICAL EVENTS FROM THE INSIDE OUT - FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THOSE WHO LIVED IT AND MADE IT, AND THAT INCLUDES THE JOHN WILKES BOOTH'S OF HISTORY, TOO - IT INCLUDES THOSE WHO "INTERFECTED THEMSELVES INTO" HISTORY - AS MUCH AS IT INCLUDES THE ABRAHAM LINCOLNS OF HISTORY, THE WHOLE "GOOD GUYS AND BAD GUYS" KIND OF HISTORY IS SIMPLISTIC TO THE POINT OF CHILDISH; ITS LIKE A SIMPLISIC "GOOD GUYS VERSUS BAD GUYS" CARTOON THAT MAY BE QUICK + EASY TO UNDERSTAND - SURE - BUT IT TOTALLY FAILS ~~AND DOES NOT~~ TO CAPTURE THE REAL TRUTH, THE ACTUAL HUMAN TRUTH, THAT MOTIVATES AND PROPELS HISTORY ALONG; BOTH THE HISTORY BEING MADE RIGHT NOW TODAY AND THE REAL PEOPLE THAT MADE HISTORY IN THE PAST, AND THE REAL HISTORICAL TRUTH IS EXACTLY THIS; HISTORY WAS NOT AND IS NOT MADE UP OF CARTOONISH "GOOD GUYS AND BAD GUYS" BUT IS MADE UP ONLY OF PEOPLE; OF HUMAN BEINGS WHO ALL BELIEVE THAT THEY ARE RIGHT AND IN THE RIGHT AND ARE DOING THE RIGHT THING; THOSE WHO CAN NOT EXCEPT OR UNDERSTAND THIS BASIC HUMAN TRUTH MIGHT AS WELL BE BLIND, DEFF, AND DUMB IN SO FAR AS THEIR ABILITY TO UNDERSTAND REAL HISTORY IS CONCERNED - WHETHER PAST, PRESENT, OR ~~OR~~ FUTURE.

(THE X END)