



NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT:
Kathy Funke, Director
News & Information Services
812/465-7005
FAX 812/465-1956

National Conference on Outdoor Drama
toured Lincoln Amphitheatre last week

For Immediate Release
October 25, 1993

Over 90 participants at the National Conference on Outdoor Drama, which was hosted by the University of Southern Indiana and held in New Harmony, Indiana, toured Lincoln Amphitheatre on Thursday, October 21. *Young Abe Lincoln*, which is presented June through August in Lincoln Amphitheatre at Lincoln State Park, was featured in Thursday's program.

Jim Blevins, producer of *Young Abe Lincoln* and dean of the USI School of Liberal Arts, moderated the session. Presentations were made by Lincoln Amphitheatre's architect Jim Smith; Ralph Kennedy, president of the Lincoln Boyhood Drama Association; and Billy Edd Wheeler, the playwright of the musical drama about Abraham Lincoln's youth. Food was catered by Holiday World.

The four-day national conference, which began October 20 and concluded on Saturday, October 23, was sponsored by The Institute of Outdoor Drama at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and covered information on all aspects of outdoor drama, including a review of the '93 season, state-of-the-art box office techniques, exceptional marketing approaches, and an in-depth look at trends that will affect outdoor drama over the next five years. There are up to 27 dramas produced annually across the United States, including three in North Carolina.

USI produces Lincoln Amphitheatre's two rotating outdoor musical dramas -- *Young Abe Lincoln*, the story of the 16th President's life from age 7 to 21, while growing up in southern Indiana, and *Big River*, the award winning Broadway production about Huck Finn and the runaway slave, Jim -- in conjunction with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. *Young Abe Lincoln* will mark its eighth season and *Big River*, its third, at Lincoln Amphitheatre in 1994.