

Lincoln Film Highlights

Lincoln has been a frequently appearing character in television and movies. He offers many opportunities for the entertainment industry to explore his actions, personality, and leadership qualities. How Lincoln was portrayed often reflected the times.

Here are some of the highlights from TV and movies, both high-brow and low-brow. The imdb.com database offers many of the synopses below. Many of the titles below can be found on Netflix and other video services.

Coming in 2011- **“Lincoln”** starring Liam Neeson, directed by Steven Spielberg

Lincoln has not been portrayed in a full-length feature film for many decades. Lincoln fans are looking forward to Spielberg’s adaptation!

“Abraham and Mary Lincoln: A House Divided” (2001)

American Experience, documentary for PBS

“From award-winning film-maker David Grubin, this miniseries weaves together the troubled lives of a dirt-farmer's son and a wealthy Southern slave-owner's daughter. Together, Abraham and Mary Lincoln ascended to the pinnacle of power at the most difficult time in the nation's history, the Civil War. Abraham Lincoln's legacy as the Great Emancipator reshaped the nation while his tragic death left Mary reclusive and forgotten.”

<http://www.shoppbs.org/sm-pbs-american-experience-the-abraham-and-mary-lincoln-a-house-divided--pi-1402891.html#Details>

“Bill & Ted’s Excellent Adventure” (1989)

Starring Keanu Reeves and Alex Winter

Two seemingly dumb teens struggle to prepare a historical presentation with the help of a time machine. Features an “excellent” cameo appearance from our sixteenth President.

From <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0096928/>

“Lincoln” (1988 made-for-TV film)

Based on the novel by Gore Vidal. Stars Sam Waterston as Lincoln and Mary Tyler Moore as Mary Todd Lincoln. Lincoln is portrayed as a heroic figure who made many political considerations in his decision-making that might be recognized in today’s political life.

From <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0095242/>

“Young Mr. Lincoln” (1939)

Starring Henry Fonda

“Ten years in the life of Abraham Lincoln, before he became known to his nation and the world. He moves from a Kentucky cabin to Springfield, Illinois, to begin his law practice. He defends two men accused of murder in a political brawl, suffers the death of his girlfriend Ann, courts his future wife Mary Todd, and agrees to go into politics.”

From <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0032155/>



“Abraham Lincoln” (1930)

D.W. Griffith's famous Lincoln biopic, starring Walter Huston as Abraham Lincoln

“Brief vignettes about Lincoln's early life include his birth, early jobs, (unsubstantiated) affair with Ann Rutledge, courtship of Mary Todd, and the Lincoln-Douglas debates; his presidency and the Civil War are followed in somewhat more detail, though without actual battle scenes; film concludes with the assassination.”

From <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0020620/>

TV Highlights

On Hallmark Hall of Fame:

“Hallmark Hall of Fame” is an anthology program that has been presenting television dramatizations of famous plays and books, as well as original programs especially written for the series, since 1951. President Lincoln has been featured in several famous episodes:

“**The Rivalry**” (1975) deals with Lincoln and his debates and relevant rivalry with Stephen Douglas.

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0073628/>

In “**Abe Lincoln in Illinois**” (1964) the life of Abraham Lincoln is traced from the 1830s when he was a struggling backwoods lawyer to winning the Presidency in 1860.

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0595260/>

On You Are There:

“You Are There” was a television series hosted by Walter Cronkite that reenacted famous historical events and included interviews with historical characters. Abraham Lincoln was the subject in two features that presented diverse viewpoints of the time.

The Emancipation Proclamation (January 1, 1863) (1955)

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0751928/>

The Gettysburg Address (1953)

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0812978/>

