

Lincoln: 'A review

- **“Lincoln.”** Lincoln is a 2012 American epic historical drama film directed and produced by Steven Spielberg, starring Daniel Day-Lewis as President Abraham Lincoln. However, this play-wright was by Tony Kushner. Who in his book the film on takes in part ten pages of the book (pgs. 685-695). The film also features Sally Field, David Strathairn, Joseph Gordon-Levitt, James Spader, Hal Holbrook, and Tommy Lee Jones in supporting performances.

Reviewed by **Kelsey Hastings**

Technique and Artistry

Beginning with the Civil War, a vicious battle between the “United States of America vs. Confederate States of America. A cause of war was the Southern States fought to keep slavery because of the economic growth and traditions. In opposition, the Northern States didn’t need slaves for the economic growth therefore fought against slavery. An 116th Camp of Kentucky, talking with Abraham Lincoln, explaining to him saying, “once we win this war we would gain our freedom. Is it possible that instead now that we have equal pay as our fellow white soldiers, maybe it would be possible that we can hold higher ranks like captains are sergeant”. Abraham Lincoln replies, in calmness but quiet saying nothing. However, smiling at the soldier as he nods so be it to him. Abraham Lincoln was very passionate about his missions and goals as responsibility of the president. Steven Spielberg paints a picture of a humble president that isn’t necessarily for or against slavery, but rather know that it is the right thing to do and that is what makes this such a very pivotal time and a time for making history.

Abraham Lincoln is re-elected. This re-election was held on Nov. 8, 1864 in which the

country on both sides was war weary. This was a time that if re-elected a peace treaty would need to be sent out to the Confederacy army. Upon defeating his opponent, former General George B. McClellan. Beforehand in Abraham Lincoln office the Emancipation Proclamation was signed Jan. 1. 1863. This meant that the Confederate southern states needed to come back to the Union. What this meant for the slaves, their social status of alike other men and women would become free. Southern states hated this idea and would rebel in regardless to the presidents orders. Now considered in this very tasteful and debate full acts of the movie, "Lincoln by Steven Spielberg". The Civil War lasted for four years. Now the war is in its fourth year. According to Wikipedia and other social sources alike it freed more than 3 1/2 million slaves.

Portraying History

The 4th year of the Civil War. Abraham Lincoln favors the 13th Amendment of the United States Constitution. An Amendment that would abolish slavery once and for all and involuntary servitude. This would be punishable for committing a crime in this manner. It was passed by the Senate, on April 8, 1864 and by the House on Jan. 31, 1865. A lot of sides wasn't in favor of the 13th Amendment. It was very controversial in which Steven Spielberg brought out excellently. He often put the fact out their that it was a measure for peace and to bring the other 11 states that would rebel into the Union. Nevertheless, this was one of the reasons that Abraham Lincoln was for it and why he signed, the Emancipation Proclamation. A quote, "I feel that the South isn't a nation". This controversial amendment would bring about arguments a debatable discussions. In where, Steven Spielberg now leads us up to the, "House debate that begins, Jan. 9th . However, before then we see that something strange is taking place to sort of rally up this debate.

Lincoln's cabinet worked hard to ratify the amendment. So what they did was secretary of State William Seward(played by David Strathairn), hired negotiators to find democrats who would support the abolishing of slavery. Nevertheless, Thaddeus Stevens(played by Tommy Lee Jones), a Republican Representative had to argue not for or against slavery but to rather say all are created equal. This would be very strategic in strategy and debate. A House Debate Begins, Jan. 9th. Words of justice and injustice are flying across the room. One says, "If Lincoln was a tyrant he would have your head on a pole. Another screams back in response, "Well thinking if signing the Emancipation Proclamation was going to with the war, but it blazes on and on"! Steven Spielberg shows us a heated debated on both sides that are very informative in what may or may not take place in history. He also shows us the hidden agenda's of a few that agreed with slavery and others who may have feared for their lives who were against it. Other parties even included that it was costing too much money either way. Issues of peace was the thought and the argument for the 13th Amendment.

Senator R.M.T Hunter-Congress Confederate States of America as well as Judge John A. Campbell-Assistant Secretary of War Confederate States of America. Being escorted by a mix army of whites and blacks the disgusted looks on the faces was rarely recognizable. They all travel to the White House. Escorted by the Union army snarling at the looks of mixed soldiers of whites and blacks. Steven Spielberg is preparing us for the Grand Reception that is to take place on Jan. 15th .

Now on board the River Queen steamship. A negotiation is taking place among men on either side. Ulysses S. Grant is arguing with the Confederates. However, he is also go back and forth with President Alexander Stephens over "two countries" under the

preparation of the Confederates. This is now being messaged back to Lincoln through telegram for him to meet with them himself. Steven Spielberg shows us the frustration of the President and his efforts to go through this amendment goal that was set upon him. Lost in grief and anguish Hay's, however, tries to give him some sense of comfort but it is dismissed by Abe. Later on Thaddeus is being prepared for his debate to take the floor. Furthermore, Fernando Wood is trying to lure at bait Thaddeus into remarks on civil rights and social equality.

Speilberg's Vision of Attitude of Abraham Lincoln

Moving forward we can only imagine what did Abraham Lincoln ideas and talks do to his family. How did it influence his eldest son? Well Steven Spielberg brings this out. Robert Lincoln, in fact was behind his father (The President) and was for fighting with the Union. This being Lincoln eldest son and beloved of his mother it didn't want to see his son being taken by this war as so many were killed in it. As Mrs. Lincoln dresser son was killed, a black soldier fighting in the union. Coincidentally Abraham was against, nevertheless, being of noble character he knew it was all in honor of his father's idea and was set to make history as well with his father. So with the permission of the President in which he was, he allowed his son to join the army. So during a play Mrs. Lincoln wants the President, her husband to assure that the 13th amendment is set in place and in effect. This way it assures that her son wouldn't be killed as others peoples sons were killed. Freedom and righteousness must go forth in regards to the 13th amendment. Lincoln had visited Seward's office to have a discussion with him. This discussion was in regards to the 13th amendment. Lincoln wanted to in hopes to persuade Seward's vote to favor the amendment. However, it didn't end very well. In which, they show no regards. As well he

visits Democratic Congressman Hutton, who had a brother who died in the union to convince him. During that night, something takes place in the White House office. Congressman Ashley is there, Secretary Seward, Montgomery Blair and Preston attend. Lincoln is in deep discussion with them as they battle back and forth he becomes furious of this war and peoples actions over the blood of people lives who died for this. He is quoted and outraged as says to them in other words make it happen by saying, "I am the President of the United States, clothed in immense power!" This would lead up to the engagement of the vote.

January 31, 1865 the morning of the vote. Thaddeus Stevens arrives as well as all aides and sides arrive to discuss and take the vote. Nevertheless, they felt rudely interrupts by the Confederate peace envoys in the city. In which was false and there were no peace Confederate envoys. So a message was take back to to the President House only for a message to be sent back to further on there is no Confederate envoy. Democrats didn't believe it and others want to be dismissive. Nevertheless, they begin to vote. Anxious crowds are waiting everywhere is how Stephen Spielberg shows us. They are at the Capitol and even in City Point at Grants headquarters. There is also black lobbyist there on the top level and greeted for the first time in history as they watch the vote take place.

It has been announced the vote is in favor for the 13th amendment. Thaddeus Stevens takes the final action of the vote back to his home to show his slave and lover the results. She is happily greeted with it as she reads and helps him with his things as he enters in the home. He politely gives her the paper to read she is happy. They both lay down and

she greets him with a kiss in the bed as a sign of happiness and freedom. Afterwards, it do go this well for the Confederates upon hearing the final result they were furious and sort of stunned it went this way. Secretary Seward is shown on board of the River Queen going back and forth with Lincoln. Still showing his defiance for the change. However, Lincoln is not to taking of this attitude and show resentment to his actions of talk.

Now for what we would of seen during this time of the results of the War at Peterburg, Va. No one could describe the horror and terror and men faces as the fight and cross over to the other side. Abraham Lincoln saw these faces of the men as they lie dead in the field, litter full of bodies. During this action the Confederates discuss surrender to Ulysses S. Grant. They done this surrendering at Appomatox. While shown Robert Lincoln of an noble character in Grant's staff of army. How Lincoln, must of been a proud father to see his son by his side and on the right side and accomplishing his promise to his wife. Even though a sad day, but yet a glorious one for the work and efforts.

Rest and Travel for the President. Finally a president can rest and didn't know what to do after all these things have passed. His wife sits with him in a carriage ride and travel. She says, "so do I suspect a president wants to travel". He responds, "yes, maybe to the far west or even the Holy Land. Jerusalem in which our father spoke of the promise land". As the seen goes on he is being helped and prepared for his night on to the play by his servant, William Slade. Congressman Ashley joins him as well as House Speaker Schuyler Colfax are with him speaking of voting rights for the negro. As he walks out to the play the negro servants look at him walking out for the last time never to return. Our

past president name Abraham Lincoln was sadly assassinated.

Argumentatively a Great Movie of Lincoln

In conclusion, I must say that this movie best describes the person and individual of Abraham Lincoln, as a father, husband, politician, and finally president. I can only imagine how can you play both sides knowing that you can only choose one and the is to be the side of “right”. Steven Spielberg puts this out plain in the movie. Abraham Lincoln by far I must say had to be one of the greatest presidents ever known to man to live in a time of great war, social injustice, conserving of nations, and to makes it decisions according to law and morality. I can only take my hat off to this president and concur to his decisions of what is now past but present to the future.