

Booth, John Wilkes. b. at Bel Air, Md., 1838; shot near Bowling Green, Va., April 26, 1865. American actor; son of Junius Brutus Booth (1796-1852), and brother Edwin Booth. He is remembered as the assassin of Abraham Lincoln at Ford's Theater, Washington (April 14, 1865), although he had been a popular actor. Having made his stage debut at the age of 17, he became a star in 1860, specializing in Shakespearian roles; his acting was acclaimed both by audiences and by other actors. In 1863 he retired from the stage because of a bronchial condition, making only occasional appearances thereafter. His final appearance was in *The Apostate*, on March 1, 1865, at Ford's Theater. Less than a month later, he successfully carried out his plan for the assassination of the president. Having learned that Lincoln was to attend a performance of *Our American Cousin* on the night of April 14, he arranged the plot in the course of that same