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'Honest Abe' to appear at Linton Public Library Feb. 10

By Patti Danner
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Danny Russell, a professional actor with a love of history, educational outreach and, of course, acting, will return to the Linton Public Library Feb. 10 from 6-7 p.m. to portray our 16th president, Abraham Lincoln.

This will be Russell's third visit to Linton in the last two years.

Last April, Russell appeared

as Hoosier poet James Whitcomb Riley and, in March 2018, he appeared to a good-sized crowd as Daniel Boone.

"Lincoln is my favorite character for obvious reasons," Russell said. "Log cabin to White House, grinding poverty to America's greatest leader, less than 300 days of formal education but a writer of imperishable prose and a speaker with razor-sharp oratorical skills, the only president to hold a patent, the

first to host people of color at the Executive Mansion, establishing Thanksgiving as a national holiday in 1863, ending slavery permanently and being the savior of our Union. I'm always honored to share Lincoln's hilarity, heartbreak, humanity, and brilliant speeches."

Russell said Lincoln is his most popular character as well, for many reasons.

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Courtesy photo

See Danny Russell as our 16th president, Abraham Lincoln, Monday Feb. 10 from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Linton Public Library.

Lincoln

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"Yes, he's easily the most popular," he said. "He lost his mother and sister, taught himself to read, learned the value of hard work, and understood that 'all men are created equal.' He's my most popular character, and why not? He saved the Union, ended slavery, wrote and spoke brilliantly and rose from the poverty of a log cabin to splendor in the White House. I don the overcoat and stovepipe hat, then ruminate on his burdens of leading the country through its darkest days with the Civil War, claiming thousands and thousands of lives. It's an artist's responsibility to portray Mr. Lincoln accurately. I don't take it lightly."

After, and sometimes during, Rus-

sell's performances as historical figures, he answers questions from his audience while in character.

"A frequent question arises from both kids and adults: 'Did he really store papers in his hat?'," Russell said. "Yes, it began when he was Springfield's postmaster. It served as his briefcase for carrying letters. Another is 'Did he really compose the Gettysburg Address on the train?' And I answer, 'No, can you imagine writing cursive on a 19th century locomotive? It would be illegible. Actually, he'd already penned a dozen drafts before finishing it up at David Wills' house the night before he spoke.'"

For more information about Danny Russell and the characters he plays, visit www.famoushoosiers.com. For more information about the Linton Public Library, visit www.lintonpl.lib.in.us/ or call 812-847-7802.