

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Heather Oxley, Tisa Poe,  
Tom Tait and Patrick Weeks

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library  
*IHPA Legacy* Oral History project

Interview # HP-V-L-2015-031

Heather Oxley, Tisa Poe, Tom Tait and Patrick Weeks, employees of BRC Imagination Arts who worked on the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum exhibits in the early 2000s, were interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's IHPA Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Aug 20, 2015    Location: Union Theater in Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum

Interview Format: Digital video

Interviewer: Mark R. DePue, Director of Oral History, ALPL

Technical Support (cameraman, etc): ALPLM Tech Department- with Technical Direction by Sam Cooper; Videography by Premier Audio Visual

Transcription by: \_\_\_\_\_

Edited by: \_\_\_\_\_

**Transcript  
being processed**

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_    Total Time: 1:38 / 1.63 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on November 4, 2015.

The interview is archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

© 2015 Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

## Abstract

### Oxley, Poe, Tait & Weeks, *IHPA Legacy*, HP-V-L-2015-031

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Heather Oxley, Tisa Poe, Tom Tait and Patrick Weeks were employed with BRC Imagination Arts in the early 2000s when the company, founded and led by Bob Rogers, developed the exhibits and theater presentations for the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, which opened in early 2005. The four returned for the museum's tenth anniversary, and participated in a moderated panel discussion on the creation of the museum's many exhibits and the two theater productions. Tisa Poe served as the senior project manager for six years, Heather Oxley served as the project manager for the theater productions (*Lincoln's Eyes* and *Ghosts of the Library*), Patrick Weeks managed the fabrication for all of the Journey One and Journey Two exhibits, and Tom Tait dealt with all of the show systems and technical design issues for the exhibits, essentially anything to do with the lighting, audio, and temperature control for the exhibits.

Tisa Poe also discussed the budgetary challenges in the midst of design, construction and installation. Patrick Weeks shared the guidance he received from Illinois State Historian Dr. Tom Schwartz that "close isn't good enough." Heather (Riekels) Oxley discussed getting the feather and pen aspects of the *Ghosts of the Library* to work, and Tom Tait discussed technical subtleties such as warming the stove, dropping the temperature where Mary mourns the death of Willie, and lighting variations. Each of the BRC members fielded questions from Mark DePue, the moderator, as well as from the audience, many of whom were volunteers who had greeted visitors to the museum for years. All four were asked to reflect on a 'panic moment' during their many years working on the project, and their favorite experience or favorite feature of the museum's exhibits.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum; BRC Imagination Arts; Bob Rogers; *Ghosts of the Library* theater production; *Lincoln's Eyes* theater production; Life Formations; Tom Schwartz; Julie Cellini; composer David Kneupper; Bob Coomer; Abraham Lincoln;

**Note to the Reader:** Readers of the oral history memoir should bear in mind that this is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, interviewee and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for the views expressed therein. We leave these for the reader to judge.

## COPYRIGHT

**The following material can be used for educational and other non-commercial purposes without the written permission of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library. "Fair use" criteria of Section 107 of the Copyright Act of 1976 must be followed. These materials are not to be deposited in other repositories, nor used for resale or commercial purposes without the authorization from the Audio-Visual Curator at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, 112 N. 6th Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701. Telephone (217) 785-7955**