December 15, 1937

Mr A B Pease, Mgr
Ford Motor Company
Somerville Mass

Dear Mr Pease:

In the Boston Sunday Post, April 11, 1915, was a story about the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. Will you please have this photostated and sent on to us?

We are also trying to find the times during the period between 1858 and 1865 that John Wilkes Booth was in Boston. He played once or twice at the Howard Athenaeum. There is a dramatic section of the Harvard College Library in which there are a great many playbills. The librarian there may be able to give us the information we wish. If you find bills showing where he was in other towns, we would appreciate having you give us the places and dates.

Very truly yours,

F L BLACK

FLB:ECH

December 22, 1937

Mr A B Pease, Mgr
Ford Motor Company
Somerville Mass

Dear Mr Pease:

With reference to my letter of December 15th, in A book on Booth by Francis Wilson, the actor, there is a statement that Booth's first appearance a Boston stage was May 12th to 23rd, 1862. The Boston Transcript for May 13 of that year is the authority. Will you have someone check this?

Mr Wilson also reproduces two playbills which are in the Harvard Theater collection. The first was of Booth starting his third week at the Boston Museum on Monday, February 2nd, 1863. The second bill was Booth at the Boston Museum for a two weeks' engagement beginning May 1, 1864. These dates, of course, might have been extended, and I wonder if you can have someone look through the Boston Transcript to find what dates the newspaper actually reports Booth in Boston. He may have played his 1862 engagement under the name of John Wilkes, but the '63 and '64 engagements are under his full name.

Mr Wilson claims that it was at the Boston Museum rather than the Athenaeum that Booth appeared.

Very truly yours,

F L BLACK

FLB:EGH

Ford Motor Company

SOMERVILLE, MASS.

FACTORY AND GENERAL OFFICES
DEARBORN, MICH.

Edison Institute
Dearborn
Michigan

Dec 23 1937

-Attention of Mr. F. L. Black-

Gentlemen:

We are in receipt of your letter of December 15th and are enclosing a photostatic copy of the story about the assassination of Abraham Lincoln in the Boston Sunday Post, April 11, 1915.

We find that John Wilkes Booth played in Boston between 1858 and 1865 on the dates listed below:

At the Boston Museum:
May 12 - May 24, 1862, Sundays excluded.
January 19 - February 14, 1863, Sundays excluded.

At the Howard Athenaeum:
September 28 - October 10, 1863, Sundays excluded.

At the Boston Museum:
April 25 - May 28, 1864, Sundays excluded.

The information regarding the engagements of J. Wilkes Booth was obtained from the newspaper advertisements in the Boston Post and verified by the play bills of the above-named theatres of respective dates, both newspapers and play bills being on file at the Boston Public Library.

Yours very truly,

FORD MOTOR COMPANY

C. B. Lease

BRANCH MANAGER

ABP/T
Enc.

Ford Motor Company

SOMERVILLE, MASS.

FACTORY AND GENERAL OFFICES
DEARBORN, MICH.

Edison Institute
Dearborn
Michigan

December 29 1937

-Attention of Mr. F. L. Black-

Gentlemen:

Replying to your letter of December ~~22nd~~ 23d, addressed to Mr. A. B. Pease, regarding the dates Mr. J. Wilkes Booth played in Boston, we believe this matter was covered by our letter of December 23d, whichwe mailed you together with a photostatic copy of the story about the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. We are, however, showing below a transcript regarding the first appearance of J. Wilkes Booth, in Boston, taken from the Boston Daily Evening Transcript of Tuesday, May 13, 1862, page 2, at the top of the second column, which reads, as follows:

> "J. WILKES BOOTH AT THE MUSEUM. Last evening J. Wilkes Booth made his first appearance in Boston in the difficult character of Richard the Third. The house was crowded to its utmost capacity by an intelligent, brilliant and sympathetic audience, and he was called twice before the curtain to receive the reward of his exertions in hearty plaudits. His personation was in many respects original, and showed a close study and vivid conception of the individuality of the character. The physical and moral deformity of Richard and the connection between the two, were closely represented, and the basis of all his wit and intellect in scorn and malignity, was clearly indicated. Richard's jests are more terrible than other men's imprecations, and the essential wickedness which penetrates his whole character and speech was never lost sight of by Booth for the purpose of making points.
>
> Wilkes Booth reminds us of his father in many respects, though he does not imitate him. There are strong indications of genius in his acting, and he is perhaps the most promising young actor on the American stage. Tonight he performs Romeo, a part in which his youth, beauty and impassioned earnestness particularly fit him to excel."

The Boston Daily Evening Transcript is on file at the Boston Public Library.

We are attaching also an article about J. Wilkes Booth taken from the Boston Globe of Tuesday, December 28, 1937, which may be of interest to you.

Clipping file

For your further information, we learn from the "Annals of the New York Stage", volume 7 (1857-1865), pages 415-417, by George C. D. O'Dell, that J. Wilkes Booth made his New York debut on March 17, 1862, at Mary Provost's theatre.

Very truly yours,

FORD MOTOR COMPANY

A. B. Cameron

Chief Clerk

ABC/T

P.S. Mr Case is away on vacation,