



Our American Cousin

Fact: Our American Cousin is a comedy that premiered in New York City on October 15, 1858.

Our American Cousin was the play being performed at Ford's Theatre the night Abraham Lincoln was shot. At the end of Act 3, Scene 2, as John Wilkes Booth fired the fatal shot, the sound was masked by uproarious laughter. Not until Major Henry Rathbone, accompanying the Lincolns in the presidential box, shouted "Stop that man!" did anyone realize something was wrong.