

own relationship with each other as older men. Booth sees his older brother almost as a father figure, begging him to teach him the three-card monte and to team up. Lincoln finds himself in a cyclical motion of work, eat, drink, and repeat. The only alteration comes in the form of a particular customer who he never actually sees, whispering into his ear before 'shooting' him. The stranger asks 'Does thuh show stop when no one's watching or does thuh show go on?'<sup>12</sup> This appears to be an existential question put to Lincoln as to how he deals with his work, asking if he perhaps takes his work home with him, highlighting that Lincoln never truly separates himself from his character. Abraham Lincoln abolished slavery in its most brutal form through the Civil War, but racial subordination is still alive in America today, which somewhat debases Lincoln as an historical figure. This is revised through the play in Lincoln acting as a fake Abraham Lincoln and applying it to modern game theory through the fairground arcade game. A sense of irony is also generated when Lincoln steals \$20 from a boy on the bus, referring to himself as 'Honest Abe'. The stranger's questions put to Lincoln are also repeated and revised. In another incident, he states 'Yr only yr self when no ones watching.'<sup>13</sup> This is the same idea as the previous question, a question of alienated identity and authenticity.

To conclude, the interactions of Booth and Lincoln demonstrate a repetition and revision of contemporary game theory. Lori-Parks uses the 'rep and rev' technique as a means of deconstructing neoliberal game theory and highlighting its flaws and how it is destined to fail. Each interaction is a demonstration of the characters negotiating to benefit their own welfare, be it symbolic or tangible capital. Familial interaction, the card con and the arcade can all be viewed as multiplayer games in which welfare is affected. The use of irony within the play is a common

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<sup>12</sup> Lori-Parks, p. 38

<sup>13</sup> Lori-Parks, p. 39