

Lindsay Graham is Bringing His Wildly Popular History Podcast to the Stage, Starting in Dallas

Graham is deploying musicians, local actors, and narrative storytelling to highlight six pivotal days in American history. Then, he's taking it on the road.

By **Austin Zook** · March 5, 2026

Photo: Jordan Fraker

Podcaster Lindsay Graham has built his career bringing history to smooth-talking life. On Friday, March 6, fans can come to the Granada Theater and watch as he takes on an entirely new challenge: bringing the audio-first experience to the stage.

The show, Lindsay Graham Live: The Days That Made America, combines elements of Graham's three podcasts, American History Tellers, American Scandal, and History Daily. Combined, Graham's shows pull in more than 4 million listeners each month.

Billed as a "live theatrical event," Graham intends to utilize every tool at his disposal to take the Dallas audience on a journey through six pivotal days in American history, backed by a full band. Then, he'll take his show on the road.

"It is a lot more work than I thought it'd be," says Graham. "I don't know why I'm still surprised when this happens. Every new project I do is like, 'Well, that was three times as much work as I imagined.'"

Graham is just the latest to experience the podcaster-to-live-performer pipeline. His own show was inspired by a fellow history podcaster, Greg Jackson, who has toured with his show History That Doesn't Suck. The combination of seeing the fun and success Jackson has had performing for live audiences and the current state of podcasting—which could generously be described as "in flux" thanks to the rise of video in the medium—got Graham thinking seriously about how to translate his own shows to the stage.

The first hurdle he had to jump through was deciding how to brand and structure the show. Graham controls History Daily, but American History Tellers and American Scandal are both owned by Audible, meaning he could not use those two brands to headline his tour. He went back to an old idea from a conversation he had with a book publisher, which focused on "days that made America." He settled on six, picking dates he sees as pivotal to the country's

evolution, but not necessarily ones people would think of in those terms. In building out the show, he incorporated elements from each of his podcasts.

After Graham settled on the general concept of the show, he went to work turning it into a live production. One thing he knew he wanted to avoid was just standing up in front of the audience and running through six History Daily segments in quick succession. As much value as he places on educating through his work, Graham also sees himself as an entertainer.

And like any good entertainer, he plays guitar.

”That’s really where all of this started,” he says. “My love of audio... So I thought, ‘Well, what if I had a band?’”

James Henderson of MOTORCADE was enlisted to assist with the musical segments of the show. Musicians Jeff Ryan, Tony Hormillosa, and John Dufilho are set to take part as well, with Graham jumping in on guitar between story segments.

Even with the inclusion of music, Graham felt like the show wasn’t quite where he needed it to be. He wanted to bring in something extra, something that would keep the audience from feeling like they were just ping-ponging from story to musical number and back again.

“One thing that I’m known for are two little audio dramas, 1865 being probably the most famous, and that was chock full of Dallas theater and voice actor talent,” he explains. So, he decided, why not bring some of that talent to bear for the Days That Made America tour? Graham decided that one of the days could be presented as a dramatization, with him acting out the script across from a local actor, to mix things up a bit.

A lot of people would call that good enough and simply focus on fine-tuning the script and transitions between segments at that point. But Graham can’t help himself; he wants to make sure audiences get as much bang for their buck as possible and flex his storytelling chops, but he also wants to be true to the moments being covered. As a result, he’s still tweaking his presentation and identifying the right way to share each story with the audience.

One of the days Graham will be speaking about, he says, makes for a challenging topic. He won’t spoil what it is, but says it has been difficult to find the right tone to strike to tell the story. He doesn’t want to sensationalize the event or dramatize it just for the sake of dramatizing it.

”I don’t want to dress it up and attacking it in its naked horror is actually really difficult, and just a really big story, too, so I’m having to choose... That will be more of a direct discussion, you know, a lecture, if you will, to the audience.”

With the changing landscape of his industry, Graham hopes this live show can help him chart a path into the future.

”There’s this rise of video, or a pivot to video, or whatever you might want to call it, that... doesn’t endanger, but certainly threatens the purity of a narrative audio-first experience. And this is my career, right? So I’m sensitive to the way [the] audience and industry is shifting.”

Even as he navigates the uncertainty, doing his best to meet the industry where it is without sacrificing the integrity of his work, Graham says the response from his audience is what makes it all worthwhile. Listeners regularly reach out to tell him that they wish history class had been presented as more story-forward and character-driven like his podcasts.

“We’re filling some sort of need. You know, they’re interested in history. They didn’t know it. They’re fascinated by the past. They didn’t know it. So we’ve discovered some way of making this journey palatable, or...enjoyable.”

After Graham has the live shows under his belt, he’ll have made it theatrical as well.

Austin Zook is a freelance journalist based in Dallas, TX. He is a graduate of Texas A&M University with a passion for writing about the arts and culture in Dallas, especially as it relates to film. You can find him in an aisle seat at your local theater.

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