

BUZZ EXTRA

THE DONMAR WAREHOUSE PRODUCTION

STACY KEACH FROST NIXON

A NEW PLAY BY PETER MORGAN DIRECTED BY MICHAEL GRANDAGE

January 13-25 at PlayhouseSquare

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SPOTLIGHT

History Comes Alive at PlayhouseSquare

In 1977, British Talk Show host David Frost gave Richard Nixon the trial he never had in one of the most riveting television interviews of all time. Watch Nixon apologize to the country as the Key Bank Broadway series at PlayhouseSquare presents the Tony and Drama Desk Award winning play **FROST/NIXON** January 13-25, 2009.

The Washington Post proclaims FROST/NIXON "Celebrity journalist vs. disgraced ex-president in a TV showdown...entertaining, sharp-witted and smartly staged."

"Like all good history, FROST/NIXON illuminates the present while examining the past," declares Charles Spencer of the *Telegraph*.

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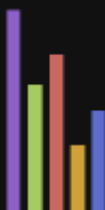


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When asked by David Frost if he had broken the law, Richard Nixon replied, "when the President does it, that means it's not illegal." Do you agree?



Yes

No

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Photo: Stacy Keach as Richard Nixon

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Frost on the Nixon Interviews



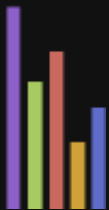
Photo: Alan Cox as David Frost and Roxanna Hope as Caroline Cushing

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"Obviously, there may never be anything quite like the Nixon interviews again," Frost said recently, "because he's the only president who was forced out of office. And he's the only president who's been interviewed for 28 and three-quarter hours. And obviously, he's the only president who came to say what he did."

The Frost/Nixon interviews actually began in 1975 when David Frost received a "tip" from the editor of *New York Magazine* that Richard Nixon wrote a book and Irving "Swifty" Lazar was handling the deal. Frost decided an interview with Richard Nixon was a "rather bold idea."

"The fact that I had not been on the nightly news every night of his Watergate ordeal may have made him think that I would be more independent or open-minded, and he may not have been wholly aware of some of the heavyweight interviews I had conducted in America and the UK."

"In fact, by that time I'd interviewed two or three presidents, two or three prime ministers, Moshe Dayan, the Archbishop of Canterbury, a whole list of people. I had done a hell of a lot by then."

Lawyers for Frost and Nixon negotiated for five and a half hours, creating a 13-page contract.

The interviews would be filmed over 12 days and shown on TV in four 90-minute parts.

Nixon would not know the questions in advance and would have no editorial control.

In order to pay Nixon's \$600,000 interview fee, Frost sold his shares in London Weekend Television.

Frost wanted an "extensive look back over [Nixon's] life, his Presidency...and...a full, no-holds barred confession."

Diane Sawyer served as a liaison between the Frost and Nixon camps.

Why did Nixon do the interviews?

Frost believed he would get a great interview as Nixon had "begun to analyze the past, and is ready to be really reflective or retrospective."

"I think he hoped in this case that 'the tube' would, in some way, exonerate him. I think he was also in a state of some financial insecurity, not knowing for example how many of the people who were serving prison sentences for following his instructions might sue him when they were released."

"I never sympathized with him because, at the time I was doing those interviews, there were about 30 people in prison for doing things he had asked, or ordered, them to do."

"After it was all over we realized we had actually forgotten one question, which was: 'who was Deep Throat?'"

Many commentators wrote that they felt the interviews--and particularly Watergate--were the catharsis that

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Americans needed after the traumatic events of 1973 and 1974.

"I do think we got the truth out of Richard Nixon. And as to what we got, we got more than we could have hoped."

"He was a sad man who wanted to be great. And there was tragedy in that."

All quotations are either directly from the script of FROST/NIXON or from Sir David Frost himself.

[Click Here](#) to Listen to Sir David Frost on Richard Nixon.

[Click Here](#) to Watch Jon Stewart of "The Daily Show" interview Sir David Frost.

Also check out the following DVD and Books:

The Original Watergate Interviews (on DVD) by David Frost

Frost/Nixon: Behind the Scenes of the Nixon Interviews by David Frost

"I gave them a sword": Behind the scenes of the Nixon interviews by David Frost

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Talking with Stacy Keach



Photo: Stacy Keach as Richard Nixon

Stacy Keach, called the "finest American classical actor since John Barrymore" by the *New York Times* is appearing as Richard Nixon in the national tour of **FROST/NIXON**.

Equally comfortable on stage, screen and TV, Keach has been nominated for Emmy and Tony awards and won the Golden Globe, three Obies, the Helen Hayes Award, three Vernon Rice Awards and the Prestigious Millennium Recognition Award for his outstanding contribution to the classical theater.

BUZZ EXTRA spoke with Stacy Keach.

EXTRA: Did you ever meet either Frost or Nixon?

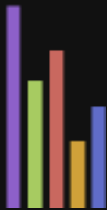
KEACH: David Frost was the very first public interview I ever did as a young

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actor. I was interviewed with Barbara Eden (star of TV show *I Dream of Jeannie*) and I embarrassed myself terribly. Frost asked me if I'd like to do a play with Barbara Eden and I said "yes, but only if I can expose my navel." So David said, "Oh, do show us your navel!" And I exposed my navel to the world! My mother called me later to say, "don't EVER do that again!"

EXTRA: Did you ever meet Nixon?

KEACH: No, but there are other characters in the play that I knew, such as Irving Lazar. And a number of people who are mentioned in the play I've spoken to, such as Frank Gavin.

EXTRA: How did you feel about **Watergate** at the time?

KEACH: I was part of the liberal America that cheered when they were exposed. One of the things that this play has done is give me a new insight into the humanity of Nixon. I honestly believe that he knew nothing about Watergate at the time of the break-in. As time went on, he did cover it up for political containment and to protect certain people whom he was intimately familiar with. He calls them "mistakes of the heart."

EXTRA: What is Nixon's legacy?

KEACH: It is two-fold. You can't deny the fact that he opened the door to China. He established a relationship with Russia that later caused the Cold War to thaw. International relations were his strong point. I also think that his name will always be synonymous with corruption in government, unfortunately. He is a tragic American hero. Like many of Shakespeare's heroes, he suffers from the sin of pride. He had feelings of entitlement, as many leaders do. He felt he was above the law as President.

EXTRA: How much did the events as described in the play contribute to the media's influence in politics that we see today?

KEACH: That's one of the dominant themes of this piece. Television and the media are very important elements in this production. How television manipulates the sensibilities and causes us to have biases in one direction or another. As Nixon said, you needn't go into politics unless you have a cool head of hair, you don't perspire and you don't shave twice a day and trim your eyebrows.

EXTRA: How much research did you do for FROST/NIXON?

KEACH: Quite a bit. I love to do research. The first thing I did was go back and look at the actual interviews themselves, and I also read a few books. The interviews were my primary resource. To me, that's one of the best parts about being an actor is the research into a character's history and also the period from which they came. You have certain obligations when you're playing someone like Nixon, of course.

EXTRA: One last question. Do you prefer Italian slip-on shoes or tie shoes.

KEACH: (Laughs). I prefer slip-ons...as did Nixon, of course.

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For more information on Stacy Keach go to: <http://www.stacykeach.com>

For information on the National Tour of [FROST/NIXON](#) go to: <http://www.frostrnixonontour.com>

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BROADWAY BUZZ EVENTS

Want to find out even more about the show? Come get "buzzed" with host Joe Garry at the Broadway Buzz Pre-Show Talk! Join us one hour before the curtain of **FROST/NIXON** in the Idea Center at PlayhouseSquare.



Listen to the FROST/NIXON Buzz Bite, a preview of the Pre-Show Talk!



The **Idea Center** is located just two doors west of the Allen Theatre at 1375 Euclid Avenue. You can enter the Idea Center quickly from the PlayhouseSquare parking garage by taking the elevator or stairs to Level 1. Exit through the red doors and cross at the crosswalk which will lead you directly into the rear entrance of the building. You also may enter the Idea Center from Euclid Avenue.

Catch our Post-Show Chats with the Cast following Thursday evening performances (Jan. 15th and 22nd).

Cast members from FROST/NIXON will lead an acting master class with local professional actors and college theater majors on Wednesday, January 14 from 3-4:30 p.m.

There is no charge for admission to Broadway Buzz events.

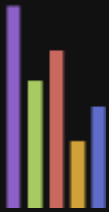
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Love Is In The Air



I LOVE YOU BECAUSE by Joshua Salzman and Ryan Cunningham is a musical retelling of the Jane Austen classic *Pride and Prejudice* with a surprise reversal. A man plays the character of Lizzie and a woman plays the character of Mr. Darcy. The surprise...the genders are reversed throughout the play!

I LOVE YOU BECAUSE was Salzman and Cunningham's thesis for the NYU Tisch Graduate Musical Theatre Writing Program. Produced Off-Broadway, it earned a Drama Desk nomination and has been produced in the U.K., Germany, Korea, Pennsylvania, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, California, Colorado, Massachusetts, Florida, Washington and now Ohio at PlayhouseSquare as part of the Key Bank Broadway Series January 21 – May 17, 2009.

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SYNOPSIS

Austin Bennett, dumped by his girlfriend, hits the singles scene in New York City. While seeking the perfect mate, he learns that opposites attract and how to love in spite of differences...or maybe *because* of them.

BUZZ EXTRA spoke with Victoria Bussert, the director of the Cleveland production and head of the Music Theatre program at [Baldwin- Wallace College Conservatory of Music](#).

EXTRA: What attracted you to I LOVE YOU BECAUSE (ILYB)?

BUSSERT: I am a member of the [National Alliance for Musical Theatre](#) in New York, which produces a showcase every year of the top eight new musicals produced in the country. ILYB was one of the winners three or four years ago. It was a smart person's musical. I found the material fresh and the lyric writing very fun. It's a wonderfully entertaining show; it's very adult, about adult relationships.

EXTRA: The show is very "New York." How will that play in Cleveland?

BUSSERT: It will be just great. As soon as you walk into the 14th Street Theatre, you are transported out of Cleveland and right into a classy, contemporary New York bar. Anybody who likes *Sex in the City* or that exciting New York singles scene will love this show. The sophistication and the heartbreak. The duel of the sexes. The joy of finding a partner.

EXTRA: What is the music like?

BUSSERT: Very contemporary and accessible with a pop style.

EXTRA: Will the Jane Austen fans approve of this adaptation?

BUSSERT: Oh yes. One of the cast members is a Jane Austen fan that has analyzed ILYB in great detail. But remember, it's not a duplication of all the characters and plot; it's more *inspired by* the book. Audiences will have great fun with it.

EXTRA: What does the show say about men and women?

BUSSERT: Well, I think it's the idea that what we *think* we're looking for is not necessarily the best choice. You can't force relationships, nor can you intellectually pick your partner. We don't have to have somebody who is identical to ourselves. You have to keep yourself open to possibilities. I think what I love about the title is that it captures what the characters go through. I love you *because* of who you are. Not trying to change the person.

EXTRA: Are any of your students from the Baldwin Wallace Conservatory cast in ILYB?

BUSSERT: Yes. Three graduates, all of whom are having terrific careers, will be in the show. Jody Dominic, who just got an amazing review in *The Wall Street Journal*, is in it. I also have one current student in the cast as well as two actors that I've never worked with before. It's a great group.

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EXTRA: OK, my last question is, when you're depressed, like the characters in ILYB, do you reach for [Ben and Jerry's Chubby Hubby](#) ice cream, wine or popcorn?

BUSSERT: (Laughs) Probably a combination of red wine and *Ben & Jerry's*.

For more information on ILYB go to: www.iloveyoubecausethemusical.com.

For tickets, [click here](#).

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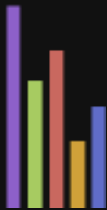
Photo: Alan Cox as Robert Frost and Stacy Keach as Richard Nixon

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Ben Brantley of *The New York Times* stated "when David faced a wounded Goliath" it became a "prize fight between two starkly ambitious men in professional crisis, FROST/NIXON makes it clear that the competitor who controls the camera reaps the spoils."

SYNOPSIS

In the summer of 1977, the former President of the United States, Richard Nixon sits down for an exclusive interview with a man who had "no political convictions." Indeed, someone who had "never voted in his life." While Nixon's goal was to "put the record straight and remind people the Nixon years weren't *all* bad," British playboy and TV personality David Frost intended to elicit "a full no-holds-barred confession" from the only U.S. President forced to resign for obstruction of justice.

DID YOU KNOW...

Today, because of the Watergate scandal, Richard Nixon's name "continues to be synonymous with corruption and disgrace, and his most lasting legacy is that any political wrongdoing (or scandal) is immediately given the suffix 'gate'."

Examples of "Gate" scandals:

Troopergate: Allegations that Alaska Governor Sarah Palin unethically fired the state's public safety commissioner for not dismissing her former brother-in-law, a state trooper, upon her request.

Spygate: New England Patriots' videotaping of the New York Jets defensive signals during an NFL game.

Tiregate: Allegations by NASCAR team owner Jack Roush that racer Jeff Gordon's team was soaking their tires illegally in order to win a NASCAR race.

Monicagate: The inappropriate relationship between Monica Lewinsky and President Bill Clinton.

Katrinagate: The people's disapproving response to the government's handling of Hurricane Katrina.

Nannygate: Hiring live-in nannies without paying taxes.

Rathergate: Dan Rather of *60 Minutes* breaking a story using forged faxed memos claiming President Bush neglected his duty in the National Guard.

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Jerseygate: A Boston Red Sox fan buried a jersey under a concrete slab in the New Yankee Stadium in an attempt to put a curse on the Yankees.

Coingate: Republican fundraisers mishandling Ohio government funds leading to charges of cover-ups, cronyism and ethical lapses.

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Do You Know If Nixon...

Answer True or False

1. Tended to perspire?
2. Felt a personal sense of kinship with each and every American?
3. Had an enormous head?
4. Was Raised a Quaker?
5. Won a scholarship to Harvard but didn't attend because it didn't include living expenses?

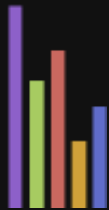


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6. Usually wore a dark blue suit?
7. Believed the moisture on his upper lip and the shadow of his beard cost him the presidency in 1960?
8. Addressed Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong on the radio during the first ever moon landing in 1969?
9. Got the nickname "Tricky Dick" from Congresswoman Helen Gahagan Douglas when he beat her in the election to the Senate?
10. Established the Environmental Protection Agency in 1970?
11. Wrote the Clean Air Act of 1970?
12. Established the Drug Enforcement Administration in 1973?
13. Gave a daily message to the media, a practice that has been adopted by all succeeding presidents?
14. Required government forced desegregation of schools?
15. Withdrew American troops from Vietnam while extending the war into Cambodia and Laos?
16. Brought Affirmative Action to the construction industry?
17. Formed a Presidential Task Force on Women's Rights?
18. Created the Department of Natural Resources?
19. Introduced a health insurance program to provide insurance for poor families and paid coverage for mental illness, drug abuse and alcoholism?
20. Supported a Family Assistance Plan guaranteeing a minimum income for poor families in 1969?
21. Was the first U.S. president to visit Communist China beginning a new relationship between the United States and the People's Republic in 1972?
22. Signed, with premier Leonid Brezhnev of the Soviet Union, the first agreements on nuclear weapons control in 1972?
23. Told members of his staff (known as the "Plumbers") to investigate "leaks" of classified information?
24. Ordered a cover-up of the Plumbers' illegal break-in to the Democratic National Committee headquarters at the Watergate building complex in Washington, D.C. leading to charges of violation of public trust, bribery, contempt of

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Congress and attempted obstruction of justice?

20. Was the first president ever to resign from office?

21. Claimed President Johnson set up the taping system in the White House to avoid having a secretary in every meeting and to ensure a record of every verbal agreement?

22. Was declared, by his doctor, unfit to give testimony in the Watergate trial?

23. Had 400,000,000 people watch his resignation speech?

24. Believed he let down our system of government and the dreams of all those young people that ought to get into government but now think it's too corrupt?

25. Received \$2,300,000 for his memoirs?

26. Was offered, by CBS, \$300,000 for an interview with Mike Wallace?

27. Received \$600,000 for his interview with David Frost?

28. Gerald Ford, Ronald Reagan, George H. W. Bush, George W. Bush, Dick Cheney, Colin Powell, and Donald Rumsfeld entered political service during Nixon's tenure as President?

The answer to all of the questions is TRUE!

For more information on President Richard Nixon go to:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/history/presidents/rn37.html>

<http://www.watergate.info/nixon>

<http://www.nixonlibraryfoundation.org>

<http://nixon.archives.gov>

http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/presidents/37_nixon/index.ht

Photo: Stephen Rowe as Swifty Lazar, Stacy Keach as Richard Nixon and Noel Velez as Manolo Sanchez

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Nixon's Enemy List



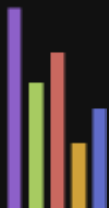
Photo: Cast of Frost/Nixon

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When asked by David Frost if he had broken the law, Richard Nixon replied, "when the President does it, that means it's not illegal." Do you agree?



Yes

No

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To start his 1972 campaign, a group of Nixon's most trusted aides created an "**enemies list**" of political opponents to the Nixon administration. The IRS and FBI investigated the people on the list as posing a threat to national security.

On June 27, 1973, John Dean told the Watergate committee about the enemies list. It consisted of hundreds of potential political opponents, the media, businessmen, intellectuals, actors, organizations and others who Nixon felt were "out to get him."

ENEMIES ON THE LIST INCLUDED:

Senators:

- Edward M. Kennedy
- George McGovern
- Walter Mondale

Members of the House:

- Bella Abzug
- Father Robert Frederick Drinan
- Wright Patman

Black Congressmen and Congresswomen:

- Shirley Chisholm
- Louis Stokes
- Ronald Dellums

Politicians:

- John V. Lindsay, mayor, New York City
- Eugene McCarthy, former U.S. senator
- George Wallace, governor, Alabama

Organizations:

- Black Panthers
- National Education Association
- Southern Christian Leadership

Labor:

- Harold J. Gibbons, international vice president, Teamsters
- Lane Kirkland, secretary-treasurer, AFL-CIO
- Leonard Woodcock, president, United Auto Workers, Detroit

Media:

- James Reston, *New York Times*
- Jack Anderson, columnist, "Washington Merry-Go-Round"
- Katharine Graham, editor/publisher, *The Washington Post*

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- Marvin Kalb, CBS
- Lem Tucker, NBC
- Hunter S. Thompson

Celebrities:

- Bill Cosby, actor
- Gregory Peck, actor
- Paul Newman, actor

Business:

- Ralph Weller, president, Otis Elevator Company
- Hugh Calkins, Cleveland lawyer
- George Weissman, president, Philip Morris Corp.

Business, former Politicians:

- Ramsey Clark, partner, Weiss, Goldberg, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison; former attorney general
- Robert McNamara, president, World Bank; former Secretary of Defense
- Clifford Alexander, Jr., member, Equal Opportunity Commission; LBJ's special assistant

Entertainment:

- Ray Stark, Broadway producer
- Jack Valenti, president, Motion Picture Association
- Frederick O'Neal, president, Actors and Artists America

Academics:

- J. Kenneth Galbraith, professor of economics, Harvard
- McGeorge Bundy, president, Ford Foundation
- Daniel Ellsberg, professor, MIT

For a master list of Nixon's political opponents go to:

<http://www.nationmaster.com/encyclopedia/Master-list-of-Nixon-political-opponents>



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- [The 25th annual Putnam County Spelling Bee \(May 6 - May 18, 2008\)](#)
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- [Wicked \(Feb. 6 - March 9, 2008\)](#)
- [Avenue Q \(January 15 - 27, 2008\)](#)
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- [Dirty Rotten Scoundrels](#)
[\(June 12-24, 2007\)](#)
- [All Shook Up \(April 10-22, 2007\)](#)
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