BEST OF ENEMIES

JAMES GRAHAM
Best of Enemies

Commissioned by Headlong and the Young Vic, first performed at the Young Vic

A new play by James Graham

Inspired by the documentary by Morgan Neville and Robert Gordon.
**BEST OF ENEMIES**

By **James Graham**

*Best of Enemies* had its world premiere at the Young Vic on 4 December 2021.

**CAST**

- William F. Buckley Jr  
  David Harewood  
  Charles Edwards  
  John Hodgkinson  
  Tom Godwin  
  Emilio Doorgasingh  
  Syrus Lowe  
  Clare Foster  
  Justina Kehinde  
  Kevin McMonagle  
  Sam Otto  

**CREATIVE TEAM**

- Director: Jeremy Herrin  
  Set and Costume Designer: Bunny Christie  
  Lighting Designer: Paule Constable  
  Sound Designer: Tom Gibbons  
  Video Designer: Luke Halls  
  Composer: Benjamin Kwasi Burrell  
  Movement Director: Shelley Maxwell  
  Associate Movement Director: Sarita Piotrowski  
  Casting Director: Charlotte Sutton CDG  
  Voice and Dialect: Hazel Holder, Gurkiran Kaur and Salvatore Sorce  
  Jerwood Assistant Director: Annie Kershaw  
  Jerwood Assistant Designer: Amy Finch  
  Boris Karloff Trainee Assistant Director: Sabrina Richmond

Annie Kershaw and Amy Finch are part of the Jerwood Assistant Director and Designer Program supported by Jerwood Arts.

Sabrina Richmond is part of the Boris Karloff Trainee Assistant Director Program supported by the Boris Karloff Charitable Foundation.

*Best of Enemies* is generously supported by The Charlotte Aitken Trust.

About the Young Vic

For fifty years, the Young Vic has produced new plays, classics, musicals, adaptations of books, short films, digital projects and game-changing forms of theatre, attracting large audiences from many different backgrounds.

They forge deep connections in their neighbourhood through their ambitious Taking Part programme, where they engage with over 15,000 people every year via a wide range of projects, helping their community to develop their creative skills, build meaningful relationships, and tell compelling stories about the world we live in. The Young Vic give 10% of their tickets free to those who experience the biggest barriers accessing the arts, irrespective of box office demand, and they are committed to keeping their ticket prices low.

The Young Vic Directors Program, the only scheme of its kind, has been running for nearly twenty years and offers theatre makers unique opportunities to develop their craft through skills workshops, peer-led projects, paid assistant directing roles through the Genesis Fellow, the Jerwood Assistant Director Program and the Boris Karloff Trainee Assistant Director Program, as well as access to the Genesis Directors Network. Twice a year, the recipient of the Genesis Future Directors Award directs a show in The Clare theatre at the Young Vic with full support from the Young Vic's creative, administrative and production teams, enabling the theatre to support and nurture an emerging director as a part of the Young Vic programme.

For many years, the Young Vic has been synonymous with inclusivity, accessibility and creativity. They catalyse debate and channel their work into the digital world, to reach new audiences and continue conversations outside of their four walls. The Young Vic foster emerging talent and collaborate with some of the world’s finest directors, performers and creatives; creating award-winning productions which engage with the world we live in.

Artistic Director: Kwame Kwei-Armah

Executive Director: Despina Tsatsas

youngvic.org
The Young Vic’s Supporters

Public Support

Season Support

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Garfield Weston Foundation

The Young Vic’s 2021–22 season is also supported by the Genesis Foundation and IHS Markit.

We gratefully acknowledge Ian Burford and Alec Cannell for generously supporting the Young Vic’s mission.
About Headlong

Headlong is one of the most ambitious and exciting theatre companies in the UK, creating exhilarating contemporary theatre: a provocative mix of innovative new writing, reimagined classics and influential 20th century plays that illuminate our world. Headlong make bold, ground-breaking productions with some of the UK’s finest artists. They take these industry-leading, award-winning shows around the country and beyond, in theatres and online, attracting new audiences of all ages and backgrounds. They engage as deeply as they can with these communities, and this helps them become better at what they do. In 2021 during an unparalleled period of global uncertainty, Headlong partnered with Century Films and BBC Arts to present Unprecedented, a series of critically acclaimed digital plays responding to the radical way that the world changed when the first lockdown was announced on the 23 March 2020. Previous Headlong productions include After Life, People, Places & Things, Junkyard, The Nether, Pygmalion, This House, Richard III and Labour of Love. For more information, visit headlong.co.uk

Artistic Director: Holly Race Roughan

Executive Director: Alan Stacey

Headlong’s co-commission of Best of Enemies is generously supported by Cockayne – Grants for the Arts, The London Community Foundation and The John Ellerman Foundation.
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Gore Vidal  
William F. Buckley Jr

An ensemble of actors play the following roles.

Howard K. Smith, ABC news anchor  
James Baldwin, writer, Gore’s friend  
Patricia Buckley, William’s wife  
Matt, Gore’s researcher  
Elmer Lower, ABC news president  
William Sheehan, ABC news producer  
George Merlis, ABC marketing man  
Chet Huntley, NBC anchor  
David Brinkley, NBC anchor  
Walter Cronkite, CBS anchor  
Andy Warhol, Artist, friend  
Mayor Daley, Mayor of Chicago  
Frank Meyer, William’s publisher  
Howard Austen, Gore’s partner  
Bill McAndrew, NBC new president  
Brooke Gladstone, academic  
Cambridge President  
Party Guest  
ABC Reporter  
Production Manager  
Press  
Interviewers  
Partygoers

And the same ensemble, either through lip-syncing or literal performance, give bursts from pop culture & political figures including –

Harry Belafonte  
Aretha Franklin  
Tariq Ali  
Enoch Powell  
Martin Luther King
Arthur Miller
Petula Clark
Paul Newman
Norman St John Stevas
Senator Ribicoff