

Frost /



/ Nixon

by Peter Morgan

"I'm saying, when the President does it, it's not illegal."
- Richard Nixon, The Nixon Interviews

A Playgoer's Companion

Watergate



The Watergate Scandal was one of the first major public embarrassments of a president that the American public could follow on the daily news. The scandal was a result of a break-in at the Democratic National Committee headquarters at the Watergate Hotel, in Washington, D.C. In July of 1972, five men were arrested for breaking and entering into the Watergate complex. Ultimately, an FBI investigation linked the men to the "Committee to Re-elect the President," with the aid of illegitimately collected money, or a "slush fund." The connection between the Watergate break-in and the President's re-election campaign dramatically raised the political stakes. Instead of ending with the trial and conviction of the five men, the investigation broadened, famously involving Washington Post reports Woodward and Bernstein (*All the President's Men*) and a Senate Committee was established to examine Watergate, subpoenaing members of Nixon's own staff. The investigation suggested that President Nixon was involved in trying to cover up the burglary. The result of the Watergate Scandal was the eventual resignation of Nixon.



Peter Morgan was born on 10th April 1963, in Wimbledon, London, UK. His family fled Germany during the Second World War, his father was a German Jew and his mother was Polish. Morgan lost his father at the age of 9 and was sent to a Roman Catholic boarding school. He studied English and Fine Arts at Leeds University and began writing scripts for plays that were performed at the Edinburgh Fringe festival. Morgan began writing for a number of television series including *The Deal* and *The Jury*. For his work on the film *The Queen* he was awarded a Golden Globe from the Hollywood

Foreign Press in 2006. He has worked on a number of films in recent years, including: *The Last King of Scotland*, *The Other Boleyn Girl*, and *Hereafter*. In 2007, Morgan received the Kanbar Award for Excellence in Screenwriting, from the San Francisco International Film Festival. Peter now lives in Vienna where he continues to write for television and film. *Frost/Nixon* was Morgan's first play. Staged at the Donmar Warehouse Theatre in London, also in 2006, it starred Michael Sheen as David Frost and Frank Langella as Richard Nixon, was directed by Michael Grandage and opened to enthusiastic reviews. Two years later it was filmed by Ron Howard, with the same principals, and was nominated for a number of Oscars.

Sir David Paradine Frost was born April 7th, 1939 and is a British comedian, writer, and media personality. Known primarily as one of the fathers of political satire on television, he had been on television since the early 1960's, hosting a long list of television programmes, most famously the innovative BBC satirical show *That Was the Week That Was*. His *The Frost Programme* was the first current affairs programme to use a participating audience. Since 2006, Sir David has presented weekly current affairs programme *Frost All Over The World* on the Al Jazeera English Channel. Recent interviewees have included Prime Minister Gordon Brown and former US Republican presidential candidate John McCain. He has written a number of books, produced eight films and has received many major TV awards, in the UK and internationally.



"He wasn't quite a tragic man, because there wasn't quite that nobility about it all, but you felt he was a sad man at the end. But at the same time . . . one was particularly aware that there were people in prison because of his actions. And so that took away a little of the sympathy."

-- David Frost on Richard Nixon

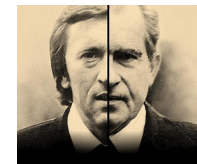


Richard Milhous Nixon was born January 9th, 1913 and died April 22nd, 1994. Nixon was the 37th President of the United States, and the only President to resign from the position. He graduated from the Duke University School of Law, served in the United States Navy, and was first elected to

Congress in 1950. Some of his major achievements include: negotiating a ceasefire with North Vietnam, opening diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China, and working to create the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty with the Soviet Union.

"I let the American people down. And I have to carry that burden with me for the rest of my life. My political life is over. I will never yet, and never again, have an opportunity to serve in any official position. Maybe I can give a little advice from time to time."

-- Richard Nixon, The Nixon Interviews



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