

Press Release
1 November 2021

COMPLETE CAST ANNOUNCED FOR *BEST OF ENEMIES*

Bold new play from James Graham, in a co-production with Headlong
Charles Edwards and David Harewood play Gore Vidal and William F. Buckley Jr.
Tickets for live and broadcast performances on sale today

A Young Vic / Headlong co-production
Best of Enemies
A new play by James Graham
Directed by Jeremy Herrin
Inspired by the documentary by Morgan Neville and Robert Gordon
Main House
From 2 December 2021 – 22 January 2022
Press Night 9 December, 7pm

"A man should never turn down two things. Sex, and appearing on television."

The Young Vic today announce the complete cast and creative team for **James Graham's** bold new play *Best of Enemies*, directed by **Jeremy Herrin**, in a co-production with **Headlong**.

1968 – a year of protest that divided America. As two men fight to become the next President, all eyes are on the battle between two others: the cunningly conservative William F Buckley Jr., and the iconoclastic liberal Gore Vidal. Beliefs are challenged and slurs slung as these political idols feud nightly in a new television format, debating the moral landscape of a shattered nation. Little do they know they're about to open up a new frontier in American politics, and transform television news forever...

Charles Edwards plays Gore Vidal and **David Harewood** plays William F. Buckley Jr. The complete cast also includes **Margo Cargill**, **Emilio Doorgasingh**, **Clare Foster**, **Tom Godwin**, **John Hodgkinson**, **Justina Kehinde**, **Syrus Lowe**, **Kevin McMonagle** and **Sam Otto**.

Best of Enemies is Written by **James Graham** and Directed by **Jeremy Herrin**, with Set and Costume Design by **Bunny Christie**, Lighting Design by **Paule Constable**, Sound Design by **Tom Gibbons**, Video Design by **Luke Halls**, Composition by **Benjamin Kwasi Burrell**, Movement Direction by **Shelley Maxwell**, Associate Movement Direction by **Sarita Piotrowski**, Casting by **Charlotte Sutton CDG**, Voice and Dialect by **Hazel Holder**, **Gurkiran Kaur** and **Salvatore Sorce**, with Jerwood Assistant Director **Annie Kershaw**, Jerwood Assistant Designer **Amy Finch** and Boris Karloff Trainee Assistant Director **Sabrina Richmond**.

Best of Enemies will be broadcast live for four performances 20 – 22 January as part of [Best Seat in Your House](#), the Young Vic's immersive multi-camera player that allows audience members to pick their preferred camera angle during the live show. The broadcast experience is designed uniquely for the production, with multiple cameras positioned to offer unique perspectives of the show. The broadcast will be available worldwide. Captions, audio description and BSL-interpretation will be available for every stream.

Live Broadcast performances: 20, 21, 22 January, 7.30pm and 22 January 2.30pm GMT
Socially Distanced performances: 17 December 7.30pm, 5, 6, 7, 8, 13 January, 7.30pm and 5, 8 January 2.30pm
Audio Described performance: 17 December, 7.30pm
Captioned performance: 6 January, 7.30pm
Relaxed performance: 13 January, 7.30pm

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

ENDS

For images, [click here](#).

For more information, please contact:

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About The Charlotte Aitken Trust

The Charlotte Aitken Trust is funded by the estate of the late Gillon Aitken (1938-2016), literary agent, publisher and translator, in memory of his daughter Charlotte, who died at the age of 27 in 2011. The trust aims to continue Gillon's work of encouraging literary talent in memory of his beloved daughter by promoting the creative arts for the public benefit, especially literature — whether fiction, non-fiction, drama or poetry. For more information, visit charlotteaitkentrust.org.uk

**THE CHARLOTTE
AITKEN TRUST**

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. Last year 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 and Things*, *Junkyard*, *The Nether*, *Pygmalion*, *This House*, *Richard III* and *Labour of Love*. . For more information, visit headlong.co.uk

About the Young Vic

For over 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. Based in London's Waterloo, we forge deep connections in our neighbourhood through our [Taking Part](#) programme, where we engage with over 15,000 people every year via a wide range of projects, from skills-based workshops to on-stage performances. We give 10% of our tickets free to schools and neighbours, irrespective of box office demand, and we are committed to keeping all ticket prices low.

Our [Directors Program](#), the only scheme of its kind, has been running for nearly twenty years and offers young directors a unique opportunity 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 us 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. We catalyse debate and channel our work into the digital world, to reach new audiences and continue conversations outside of our four walls. We 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

Public Support



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**ARTS COUNCIL
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Season Support

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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.