

Shine Brighter Première

FlashFile 12 Nixon on screen

Vidéo p.108 – Vidéo de *Absolute History*, 2024.

Recordings: “The President is going to go on National Television, he regrets doing it because of his great personal affection for you, but he’s going to have to say this./Scare the [__] out of him now I want you do that because it.../ No I don’t mind doing it at all.

Professor David Reynolds: He was one of America’s most successful presidents on the international stage. Lauded as a world statesman who thawed the Cold War. He was re-elected in one of the biggest landslides in American history capturing 49 out of 50 states. Yet Richard Nixon was also the only President to resign from office, forced out of the White House in abject disgrace.

Nixon: People have got to know whether or not their President’s a crook. Well I’m not a crook.

David Reynolds: Who was the real Nixon? The visionary statesman or the sordid crook? I believe that’s a false distinction. Nixon was both Jekyll and Hyde, a bizarre mixture of near greatness and incorrigible pettiness that left an enduring mark on history and makes him such an intriguing figure. This is the story of a man who remained a perpetual outsider even though he rose to the very peak of power as President of the United States.

Why Was President Nixon So Paranoid?, *Absolute History*, 2024.

Vidéo p. 109 – Extrait de *Movie Emporium*, 2021.

Presenter: Have you ever watched a movie that is so prescient with what is going on at least in the last four years, that it's almost scary to think that the idea of, you know, greediness and the idea of corrupt governments and the idea of just corrupt senators and so on and so forth, money laundering and whatnot, is not only still prescient but when a movie comes out in 1976 that's based off something that happened in 1971 to 1974, and it really feels down to your bones and kind of scares you a little bit, you know you made a very well-made thriller or very well-made political statement in your movie. And so, this movie *All the President's Men*, which, like I said, is based off the Woodward and Bernstein book, is the story of the Watergate scandal and how the *Washington Post*, through the help of Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, basically broke the whole idea of the Watergate scandal open, the idea of the slush fund, the idea of all these individuals that were working under Nixon, and basically exposed this whole corrupt, greedy society that eventually led to Nixon's resignation, where he now left the presidency. And with that said, it's very much a movie that really is not only very prescient with everything that's going on, but is a real kind of interesting kind of look into what happens when people have power and what they are willing to do with that power.

All the President's Men (45th Anniversary), *Movie Emporium*, 2021.

Audio p. 173 – Extrait de *NPR*, 2022.

Linda Holmes, Host: This summer marks the 50th anniversary of the break-in at the Watergate Hotel that eventually led to the resignation of President Richard Nixon. Watergate not only had profound impacts on how Americans see the government and the press, but it has influenced decades of movies, TV and books. The break-in at the national headquarters of the Democratic National Committee on June 17, 1972, was part of an operation to bug those offices. The burglars were caught. And over a long period of time, reporting from journalists – including Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein at *The Washington Post* – uncovered connections between the burglary and the White House. There was also evidence of other operations to sabotage and interfere with political enemies. Congressional hearings followed. And during those hearings, it came out that Nixon was in the habit of secretly recording conversations in his own offices. Those tapes were eventually made public. And when Nixon's knowledge of efforts to cover up the whole thing came to light, he resigned in August of 1974, and a number of his associates and staffers faced criminal convictions. Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein wrote a blockbuster book called *All the President's Men*, and then there was a film of the same name in 1976. It was directed by Alan J. Pakula and starred Robert Redford and Dustin Hoffman as Woodward and Bernstein. Other projects about Watergate have continued to come out, right up to *Gaslit*, a Starz series from this year starring Julia Roberts as Martha Mitchell, the powerful wife of Nixon's Attorney General, John Mitchell, who's played by Sean Penn.

Linda Holmes: All right. Roxana, are you a Watergate-head?

Roxana Hadadi: I think I'm more of a pop culture Watergate-head. Like, I think I'm more interested in the legacy of the film and sort of the impact that a story about shadowy government operatives and the havoc they wreaked upon the American people.

Linda Holmes: Yeah.

Roxana Hadadi: I think that's sort of what I gravitate toward.

Linda Holmes: Yeah.

Roxana Hadadi: And it has had such a long legacy on just how we tell these stories, narratively and visually.

Linda Holmes: Yeah.

Roxana Hadadi: So, I think that's what I'm always looking for. I'm always looking for the parking lot meet up moment, like what evokes that same sense of mystery and a little bit of subterfuge.

50 years of Watergate in pop culture, *NPR*, 2022.