



# The Columnist: A Play

*David Auburn*

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**The Columnist: A Play** David Auburn

**A new play from the Pulitzer- and Tony Award–winning author of *Proof*, coming to Broadway this April**

In midcentury America, newspaper columnists are kings—and Joseph Alsop wears the biggest crown. Joe sits at the nexus of Washington life: beloved, feared, and courted in equal measure by the very people whose careers and futures he determines. But as the sixties dawn and America undergoes dizzying change, the intense political dramas Joe has been throwing his weight around in—supporting the war in Vietnam and Soviet containment, criticizing student activism—come to bear a profound personal cost.

Based on the real-life story of Joe Alsop, whose columns at the time of his 1974 retirement were running three times a week in more than three hundred newspapers, David Auburn's *The Columnist* is a deft blend of history and storytelling. A hilarious, searing portrait of the glorious rewards and devastating losses that accompany ego, ambition, and the pursuit of power, *The Columnist* pens a vital letter from a radically changing decade to our own turbulent era.

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