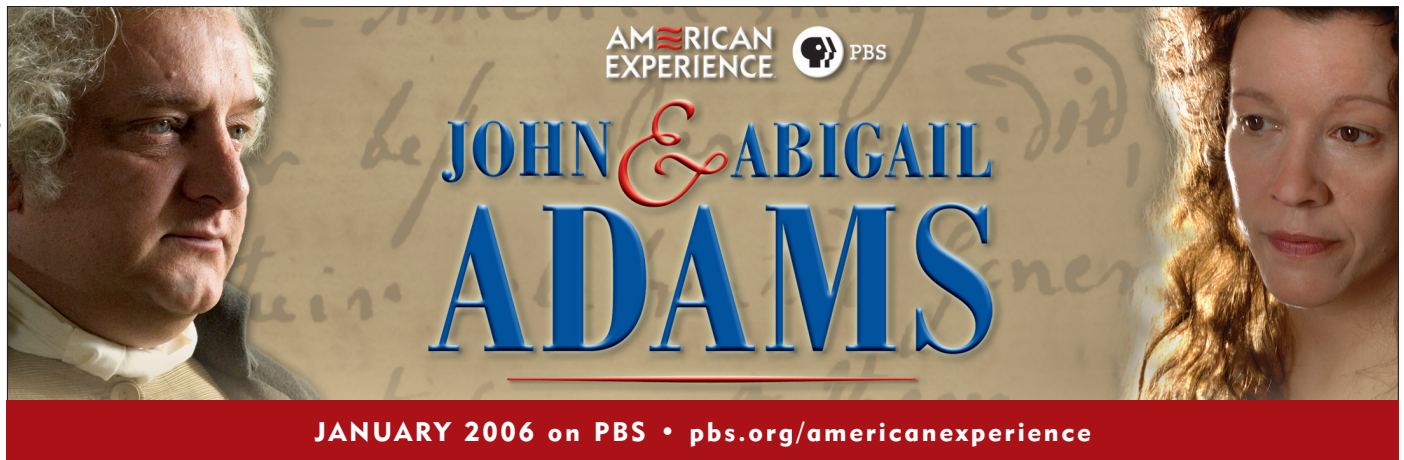




Meet the original power couple.

He was brilliant, argumentative, sometimes irascible. She was a savvy observer of the tumultuous political scene, not afraid to speak her mind in an age when women were excluded from politics. They endured long separations and painful defeats, but John and Abigail Adams formed one of the greatest political partnerships in American history, and forged a marriage that sustained them for the whole of their lives.

In the tradition of its award-winning presidential biographies, AMERICAN EXPERIENCE presents *John & Abigail Adams* from writer-producer Elizabeth Deane (*Reconstruction: The Second Civil War*, *The Kennedys*, *Nixon*) and director Peter Jones (*Bataan Rescue*, *The Great Transatlantic Cable*). A trio of formidable actors—Simon Russell Beale (John Adams), Linda Emond (Abigail Adams), and James Barbour (Thomas Jefferson)—is joined by historians, including David McCullough, author of the bestselling *John Adams* and the recent *1776*, Joanne Freeman, Joseph Ellis and others, who provide insight on the couple and their legacy.

“The Adams story provides a strikingly intimate look inside a marriage of true companions,” says Deane, “for whom life included not just the great events memorialized in textbooks, but also laughter, loneliness, and family tragedy.”

To present the couple’s story in their own words, Deane drew extensively on the more than one thousand Adams letters that survive. Born of their lengthy time apart—John served his country at the Continental Congress in Philadelphia and as a diplomat in Europe—their revealing, often deeply personal correspondence chronicles both an inspiring political marriage and the birth of a nation. Of their separations, Abigail wrote to John, “I consider it a sacrifice to my country, and one of my greatest misfortunes.” She also describes her struggles with loneliness, the pain of bearing a stillborn child, and the fear of losing other children to disease. John writes of being cold-shouldered in the Congress, his feelings of uselessness, and the couple’s contentious relationship with their many-sided friend and sometime enemy, Thomas Jefferson.

A visionary and gifted political thinker, Adams moved a reluctant Congress to declare independence from England, and single-handedly secured millions of dollars in loans to keep the American army from collapse during the Revolutionary War. Later, he was named the first US ambassador to England. He penned

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the Massachusetts constitution, which would serve as the basis for the US constitution. He was the nation's first vice president, and its second president. Through it all, Abigail remained his most trusted political advisor and confidante, as well as his dearest friend. "She was a better judge of people than he was," says McCullough in the film. "She was a much more insightful politician, if you will. She adored him and he adored her. It's a great love story. And it's all in their letters."

Despite his accomplishments, John was racked with self-doubt and convinced that he would be forgotten. "Statues and monuments will never be erected to me," he wrote near the end of his life, "nor flattering orations spoken, to transmit me to posterity in brilliant colors."

"To a great extent, John Adams' fears that his contributions would be forgotten were realized," says AMERICAN EXPERIENCE executive producer Mark Samels. "This film will play a role in allowing John and Abigail take their place among the other great leaders of our nation."

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES



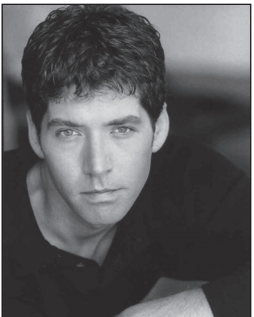
Simon Russell Beale • John Adams

Simon Russell Beale has done extensive work with both the Royal Shakespeare Company and the National Theatre in London. He was awarded the 2003 Laurence Olivier Theatre Award for Best Actor for his performance in *Uncle Vanya*, for which he also received the London Evening Standard Theatre Award for Best Actor and the London Critics Circle Theatre Award for Best Actor. Beale was appointed CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in 2003.



Linda Emond • Abigail Adams

Hailed as "wondrous" by *The New York Times* for her 2004 turn in Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard*, Emond won an Obie for her role in Tony Kushner's *Homebody/Kabul* and earned a Tony nomination for her work in *Life x 3* on Broadway. Emond has previously portrayed Abigail Adams in the Broadway rendition of *1776*. She has appeared in the feature film *Pollock* and in episodes of *Law & Order*, *Third Watch*, and *The Sopranos*.

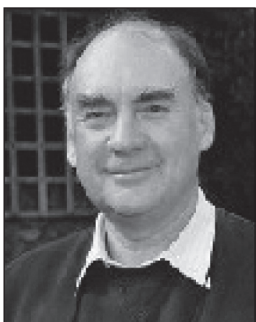


James Barbour • Thomas Jefferson

James Barbour has starred on Broadway in such Tony Award-winning shows as *Beauty and the Beast*, *Carousel*, *Urinetown*, and *Jane Eyre*, for which he won a Drama League Award. His television credits include appearances on *Sex and the City*, *Ed*, *That's Life* and PBS' *Great Performances* in a tribute to Oscar Hammerstein.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES *continued***Elizabeth Deane** • Writer and producer

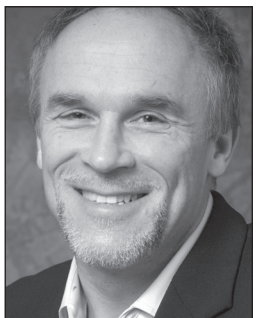
Elizabeth Deane has produced some of AMERICAN EXPERIENCE's most-watched and acclaimed specials, including *Ulysses S. Grant*, *The Rockefellers*, *Nixon*, *Reconstruction: The Second Civil War*, and the Emmy Award-winning *The Kennedys*. Deane was also creator and executive producer of *Rock & Roll*, which was nominated for an Emmy Award and for the BAFTA, Britain's most prestigious television award. She was senior producer for *War and Peace in the Nuclear Age* and a producer for the landmark series *Vietnam: A Television History*.

**Peter Jones** • Director

Peter Jones has produced films for the BBC, Channel 4, and the PBS series AMERICAN EXPERIENCE, NOVA, and NATURE. His other credits for AMERICAN EXPERIENCE include *Bataan Rescue* and *The Great Transatlantic Cable*. In 1990, his series *The Trials of Life* won a BAFTA award, and in 1991 Jones was honored at the Telluride Film Festival with a tribute to his work. In 2002, he directed *Escape from Berlin* for Nova and the Emmy Award-winning *Galileo's Daughter* for Channel Four. His other credits include the six-part series *Triumph of Life*; *In Search of Human Origins*; *Mystery of the Senses*; and *Einstein Revealed*.

**Sharon Grimberg** • Series producer, AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

As series producer, Sharon Grimberg plays a key role in the origination, development, and acquisition of films on American history. She co-produced *Secrets of a Master Builder* for AMERICAN EXPERIENCE which aired in October 2000 and produced *Miss India Georgia* which aired on PBS in 1997. From 1992 to 1995 Grimberg worked as a writer and associate producer for CNN Headline News. Her work has also been broadcast on the Discovery Channel and NPR.

**Mark Samels** • Executive producer, AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

Mark Samels has been instrumental in bringing the AMERICAN EXPERIENCE recognition as a leading presenter of world-class documentaries to a wide audience through broadcast on PBS. Under Samels' leadership, AMERICAN EXPERIENCE productions have been honored with nearly every industry award, including the Peabody Award, Primetime Emmys, the duPont-Columbia Journalism Award, Writers Guild Awards, Oscar nominations, Audience and Grand Jury Awards at the Sundance Film Festival, and the Eric Barnouw Award from the Organization of American Historians.

In 2004, Samels launched WGBH's History Unit, supervising its first production, *They Made America*. Samels also directed and co-wrote AMERICAN EXPERIENCE's *A Brilliant Madness*, a biography of the Nobel Prize-winning mathematician and schizophrenic John Nash. Samels is a founding member of the International Documentary Association and serves on the advisory council of the World Congress of History Producers. An independent documentary filmmaker and television producer since 1979, he is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin.

CREDITS

Simon Russell Beale as John Adams
 Linda Emond as Abigail Adams
 James Barbour as Thomas Jefferson
 Written and produced by Elizabeth Deane
 Directed by Peter Jones
 Edited by David Espar
 Field producer: Cathleen O'Connell
 Original concept developed by Paul Taylor
 Director of photography for dramatic sequences:
 Brian McDairmant
 Original music by Steve Porcaro
 Narrator: David Ogden Stiers

Major funding for this program provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Additional funding provided by the Arthur Vining Davis Foundations and American Playhouse.

Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Major funding for AMERICAN EXPERIENCE is provided by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. National corporate funding is provided by Liberty Mutual and The Scotts Company. Additional funding is provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and by public television viewers.

AMERICAN EXPERIENCE is a production of WGBH Boston.
 Sharon Grimberg, series producer
 Mark Samels, executive producer

ACCESSIBILITY

AMERICAN EXPERIENCE is closed captioned for deaf and hard-of-hearing viewers, and described for people who are blind or visually impaired by the Media Access Group at WGBH. The descriptive narration is available on the SAP channel of stereo TVs and VCRs.

ABOUT AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

AMERICAN EXPERIENCE, television's most-watched history series, is a leading producer of historical documentaries, related Web sites, and DVDs. The pioneer of quality historical programming for public television audiences, AMERICAN EXPERIENCE has won every prestigious broadcast award and enjoys consistent widespread support from television critics and viewers alike.

For more information about AMERICAN EXPERIENCE and *John & Abigail Adams*, visit the World Wide Web: pbs.org/americanexperience.

ABOUT WGBH BOSTON

WGBH Boston is America's preeminent public broadcasting producer. More than one-third of PBS's prime-time lineup and companion Web content as well as many public radio favorites are produced by WGBH. The station also is a pioneer in educational multimedia and in access technologies for people with disabilities. For more information visit wgbh.org.

Download press materials and images for *John & Abigail Adams* and other AMERICAN EXPERIENCE programs at pbs.org/pressroom and pressroom.wgbh.org.

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