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Author(s) Kevin Thomas

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USA, 1984, 90 minutes

7:15 p.m. at the Four Star

A rambling, raving Richard M. Nixon (Philip Baker Hall, in a remarkably sustained performance) turns on his internal. tape machine once again and puts himself on trial, seeking to vindicate himself to an imaginary jury of the American people. Dramatists Donald Freed and Arnold M. Stone's purpose is not simply another trashing of Nixon, who achieves truly tragic stature, but to suggest powerfully how the highest office in the land is firmly in the possession of big business. With this harrowing work, film director Robert Altman continues his fruitful exploration of the way in which plays may be most effectively filmed. -K.T.

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