

**BROADWAY TO DIM ITS LIGHTS
FRIDAY NIGHT AT 8 PM**

**IN MEMORY OF PROLIFIC
PLAYWRIGHT, AUTHOR AND COMMENTATOR
GORE VIDAL**

(New York, NY) August 1, 2012 -- The Broadway community mourns the loss of celebrated writer **Gore Vidal**, who passed away yesterday at age 86. The marquees of Broadway theatres in New York will be dimmed in his memory on Friday, August 3rd, at exactly 8:00 p.m. for one minute.

Charlotte St. Martin, Executive Director of The Broadway League, said, "For over six decades, Gore Vidal never stopped writing novels, memoirs, plays, essays and screenplays, and was a ubiquitous cultural commentator. His plays were timely and timeless, as evidenced by the current production of *The Best Man* now playing on Broadway. Our thoughts go out to his friends, family, and fans."

Mr. Vidal was an American writer who wrote plays, television dramas and screenplays; and published some 25 novels, two memoirs and several volumes of essays. He was known for such best-selling novels as *Burr* and *Myra Breckenridge*, the play *The Best Man*, and for essays on subjects from politics and literature to sex and religion.

His best known Broadway plays were *Visit to a Small Planet* in 1957 and *The Best Man* in 1960. In *The Best Man*, about two contenders for the presidential nomination, Mr. Vidal exercised his lifelong fascination with politics. (He ran unsuccessfully for Congress in 1960.) It has proved among his most enduring works. It ran for 520 performances on Broadway before becoming a successful film, in 1964, with a cast headed by Henry Fonda and a screenplay by Mr. Vidal. It was revived on Broadway in 2000 and is now being revived again at the Gerald Schoenfeld Theatre as *Gore Vidal's The Best Man*. It was nominated for a 1960 Tony Award® for Best Play and nominated for a 2012 Tony Award® for Best Revival of a Play.

Other plays include *Romulus* (1962), based on one of his books, *Weekend* (1968) and the politically charged *An Evening With Richard Nixon and...* (1972).

He wrote for most of the television programs that presented hour-long original dramas in the 1950s, including "Studio One," "Philco Television Playhouse" and "Goodyear Playhouse." He was a contract writer for MGM, and also wrote the screenplay for the movie adaptation of his friend Tennessee Williams's play *Suddenly, Last Summer*.

Mr. Vidal was an occasional actor, appearing in animated form on "The Simpsons" and "Family Guy," in the movie version of his own play *The Best Man*, and in the Tim Robbins movie *Bob Roberts*, in which he played a version of himself. He was a more than occasional guest on TV talk shows.

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The Broadway League, founded in 1930, is the national trade association for the Broadway industry. The League's 700-plus members include theatre owners and operators, producers, presenters, and general managers in over 240 North American cities, as well as suppliers of goods and services to the theatre industry. Each year, League members bring Broadway to nearly 30 million people in New York and on tour across the U.S. and Canada. For more information, visit www.BroadwayLeague.com, or follow The Broadway League on Twitter [@TheBwayLeague](https://twitter.com/TheBwayLeague) or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/BroadwayLeague. Download the free [ILoveNYTheater app](#) and free [IBDB app](#) for iPhone, iPad, and iTouch on iTunes.

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