

**Discussion Questions**  
*Good Night, and Good Luck*  
May 5, 2006



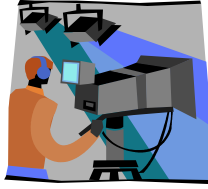
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1. What does the black and white filming add?
  2. Why does the film bother to develop the marriage between Shirley Wershba (Patricia Clarkson) and Joe Wershba (Robert Downey Jr)? What does their secret marriage add to the movie? What ideas are developed?
  3. How are Edward R. Murrow and Senator McCarthy similar? How do they differ?
  4. Why is the news show canceled? What does the show's cancellation say about who controls the news?
  5. Is it a good thing in a democracy to have a variety of sources for information delivered from various points of view? Would it be better to have information delivered from only one or two sources with the same perspective of events?
  6. What are the major events in our lives today? What are your sources of information? Do these sources share the same perspective or do they differ? How do you know?



**For  
Further  
Viewing**

If you enjoyed this film, here are some suggestions for further viewing:

*All the President's Men* (1976)  
*The Insider* (1999)  
*Network* (1976)  
*The Cradle Will Rock* (1999)  
*Quiz Show* (1994)  
*Control Room* (2004)  
*The Front* (1976)



# Film Extras

## Trivia from real life -

- **Edward R. "Ed" Murrow** first came to prominence with a series of radio news broadcasts during World War II. Mainstream historians consider him among journalism's greatest figures and he was noted for honesty and integrity in delivering the news.
- The film's title borrows one of Murrow's signature catch phrases "Good night, and good luck." Another of Murrow's famous catch phrases occurred during his reports of the London Blitz. He began each report with his signature opening, "This is London." (Murrow delivered it with his vocal emphasis on the word *this*, followed by the hint of a pause before the rest of the phrase.)
- Murrow's last major TV milestone was reporting and narrating the *CBS Reports* installment "Harvest of Shame," a report on the plight of migrant farm workers in the U.S. It ran in November 1960, and is still considered one of TV's finest single programs.
- Murrow died of lung cancer in 1965 just two days after his 57th birthday.
- **Fred W. Friendly** was born Ferdinand Friendly Wachenheimer to a Jewish family in New York City. In 1966 he resigned from CBS when the network ran an *I Love Lucy* re-run instead of the U.S. Senate hearings questioning American involvement in Vietnam.
- **Shirley Wershba** helped develop one of the first radio shows devoted to women's issues "Dimensions of a Women's World." In 1965 she returned to TV and contributed to the "ABC Evening News with Peter Jennings." Later, she was one of the producers for the "MacNeil/Lehrer Report" and also "60 Minutes." In 1983 she was nominated for an Emmy for producing Diane Sawyer's "Morning News" interview with Richard Nixon.

## Trivia from the film -

- David Strathairn (a non-smoker) smoked over 50 cigarettes during the filming. They used pipe tobacco because the smoke showed up better on film. <cough, cough>
- Director/star George Clooney had said they opted to use archive footage of Joseph McCarthy instead of using an actor to portray the senator. Clooney had said that when the movie had undergone test screenings, audience members felt that the McCarthy character was overacting a bit, not realizing that it was the actual McCarthy through archive footage.
- The band playing throughout the movie is actually Rosemary Clooney's band and the arrangements of the songs in the movie are hers. Rosemary Clooney is George Clooney's aunt.
- The entire budget for this 2006 Best Picture Nominee: \$7 million.
- The film was shot on color film on a grayscale set, then color-corrected in post.
- During the actual footage of John L. McClellan questioning Joseph McCarthy, a very young Robert F. Kennedy can be seen when the camera pans to the right.
- This is the first completely black-and-white film to be nominated for Best Picture since *The Elephant Man* (1980).