

DEBATE: BALDWIN VS BUCKLEY
the american vicarious
TECHNICAL ADDENDUM
As of 12.01.25

The following technical requirements for the american vicarious' production of DEBATE: BALDWIN VS BUCKLEY hereinafter referred to as the "COMPANY" are an integral part of the engagement agreement and as such should be read carefully, signed and returned with the engagement contract in order to have a fully executed agreement. No item may be waived or changed, nor any additions or deletions made without the express written consent of the COMPANY.

EVENT DESCRIPTION

"Is the American Dream at the expense of the American Negro?"

This was the topic on February 18, 1965, when an overflow crowd packed the Cambridge Union in England to bear witness to a televised debate between Baldwin, the leading literary voice of the civil rights movement, and Buckley, a fierce critic of civil rights and America's most influential conservative intellectual.

The stage was set for an epic confrontation that pitted Baldwin's call for a moral revolution in race relations against Buckley's unabashed elitism and implicit commitment to white supremacy. This historic clash reveals the deep roots and lasting legacy of racial conflict that continues to haunt America.

The objective of the american vicarious in re-staging this historic debate was not to inhabit such monumental figures as James Baldwin or William F. Buckley Jr., their shoes are too large to fill. Rather, our desire was to spark conversation by simply placing their words, which still resonate 57 years later, within the voice of contemporary artists for a diverse in-person contemporary audience.

BASIC SHOW OUTLINE

DEBATE: BALDWIN VS BUCKLEY runs 60-minutes. There is no intermission. Following the performance, there is a conversation between the company and the audience that lasts between 20-30 minutes*. DEBATE has a flexible footprint and was conceived to ideally play in non-traditional spaces. The show has been performed in lobbies, grand dining rooms, sitting rooms, soundstages, as well as in traditional proscenium theatres. We encourage Presenters to think beyond the proscenium and are happy to discuss options that might be available.

**Note that in traditional proscenium seating arrangements, post-show discussions may not be possible, to be discussed with COMPANY.*

The ideal seating capacity is between 40/80, with the chairs arranged in a single or double row U-shape around the performance space.

The total traveling company is comprised of up to six (6) people including four (4) performers, the director, and one technician/stage manager. The production requires accommodations of six (6) single rooms in a quality hotel.

NOTE: The traveling company number can be reduced by two (2) providing that qualified performers are identified and approved by the COMPANY within the venue's city at least 4 (four) weeks in advance of the engagement.

The show is planned to be set up from scratch in under 4 hours with the first performance in the afternoon or evening of that same day.

PRODUCTION ELEMENTS

The production elements include:

- Projector & screen OR monitor (provided by PRESENTER)
- Computer and necessary cabling for playback
- Costumes

All production elements (excluding the projector and screen) including playback for video and sound can travel with the COMPANY. Depending on the needs of the venue, additional sound elements (mics, speakers, etc) and/or video set up may be discussed and would be provided by the PRESENTER. If in a proscenium setting, the PRESENTER would be required to provide an appropriate projector and projection screen.

LIGHTING

The production requires no specific stage or theatrical lighting. Once the venue and playing space is determined, COMPANY will discuss with PRESENTER any lighting needs, anticipated to be minimal.

VIDEO

Projector and screen of appropriate lumens and size to be provided. Exact set up to be discussed with COMPANY prior to arrival. A large monitor may also be used, depending on the seating arrangement.

STAGE REQUIREMENTS

PRESENTER shall provide all reasonable and standard security for COMPANY equipment and personal belongings from load-in to load-out, including but not limited to lockable dressing rooms for exclusive use of the company with restricted keys, backstage security with non-essential and non-authorized personnel forbidden entry, and complete locking of theater when not in use.

FACILITY REQUIREMENTS

1. COMPANY requires dressing rooms for four (4) male performers. All dressing rooms must be equipped with tables and chairs, mirrors, mirror lights, hot and cold running water and toilets. These rooms must be separate and private from any bathroom used by the public.
2. COMPANY requests a list of relevant local vendors such as hardware stores, nearby restaurants, office supply stores, medical facilities, pharmacy, etc.

STAGEHAND REQUIREMENTS

Generally, DEBATE requires no running crew or stagehand set up, all is done by the traveling COMPANY. Depending on the venue, assistance with the seating set up may be required.

For longer runs, COMPANY may require a stage manager, to be discussed with PRESENTER.

WARDROBE

DEBATE does not generally travel with or require wardrobe, however access to basic laundry along with certain supplies (ie vodka spray, steamer) is necessary.

For runs of over a week, wardrobe is required. This would consist of daily steaming of costumes (3 tuxedos and 1 suit). Once a week, costumes will require dry cleaning.

LOAD-IN

The physical load in should take no more than two (2) hours.

- **Seating Set up**
May require one (1) person
- **Scenic Element Set Up and Playback Check**
COMPANY would appreciate the presence of a venue technical staff member to assist with power, and answer any questions.
- **Rehearsal (1 Hour)**
No requirements.

SHOW CALL

Show call is one (1) hour prior to curtain.

LOAD OUT

Load out should take less than one (1) hour and will take place immediately following the performance. If the only strike option is the next day the COMPANY should be informed immediately.

TRANSPORTATION & PARKING

PRESENTER agrees to provide all local transportation for activities related to the engagement, including but not limited to the following: Transportation to and from the airport and between hotel (if not within reasonable walking distance), theatre, and any engagement-related activities (press conferences, receptions, etc.). PRESENTER will likewise provide secure parking for any COMPANY vehicles throughout the engagement.

HOSPITALITY

PRESENTER will provide bottled drinking water, soft drinks (Coke and Diet Coke), fruit juice, fresh milk, coffee, a selection of teas (both herbal and caffeinated), fresh fruit, and a selection of snacks in sufficient quantities to provide for COMPANY for the entire duration of the engagement, available starting the first day of Load-In.

PRODUCTION CONTACT INFORMATION

All communication and data transmission will be through the COMPANY:

the american vicarious

Christopher McElroen | Artistic Director | cmcelroen@theamericanvicarious.org

Erica Laird | Producing Director | elaird@theamericanvicarious.org

200 6th Street #3A

Brooklyn, NY 11215

718-701-6648

PRESENTER TECHNICAL CONTACT

Name: _____

Title: _____

Email: _____

Office tel: _____

Mobile tel: _____

Website of theater specs (if available online): _____

AGREED TO AND ACCEPTED

Signed By: _____ Date: _____
(Presenter)

Print Name: _____

Print Title: _____

Organization: _____

