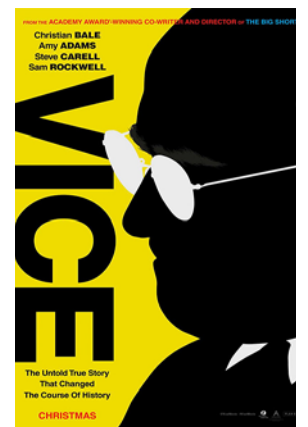


Movies & Languages 2019-2020

Vice

About the movie (subtitled version)

DIRECTOR	Adam McKay
YEAR/COUNTRY	2018 / USA
GENRE	Biography, drama
ACTORS	C. Bale, A. Adams, S. Carell, S. Rockwell, T. Perry, A. Pill, L. Rabe, J. Plemons



PLOT

Vice is a 2018 American biographical drama film written and directed by Adam McKay. The film basically follows Dick Cheney on his path to becoming the most powerful Vice President in American history. It is the second theatrical film to depict the presidency of George W. Bush, following Oliver Stone's **W** (2008).

From being a Yale University dropout doing odd jobs in early 1960s Wyoming, Dick Cheney decides to take back control of his life, after his sweetheart and future wife Lynne gives him an urgent ultimatum. As an intern during Richard Nixon's administration, Cheney grabs the opportunity to join the staff of his mentor, Donald Rumsfeld, who takes him under his wing, paving his way to rise in the ranks of the White House.

The political life of Dick Cheney, culminating with his Vice-Presidency in the George W. Bush administration, was shared and supported by his equally ambitious wife, Lynne Cheney. Their political ambitions were generally hindered by his lack of charismatic demeanor. Cheney's politics soon drifted to the right side of the American political spectrum.

Cheney worked as Secretary of Defense for President George Bush Sr., during the 1st Gulf War against Iraq and then retired from politics to pursue a career in the private sector. He had thoughts of running for President himself, but those thoughts were soon squashed because of his need to protect his daughter, who had just declared herself a lesbian, from the media and the strong conservative base of the Republican Party.

While working as CEO of Halliburton, Cheney's political fortunes changed when he was asked by an inexperienced George W. Bush Jr. to be his running mate. In this process, and thanks, probably, to the events and aftermath of 9/11, Cheney began a manipulation of the political system to his benefit. In his position as Vice President he was able to be a more powerful politician working quietly and secretly behind the scenes than if he were the actual president in the continual spotlight.

The film received numerous awards and eight nominations at the 91st Academy awards, including Best Picture. Despite the awards, the film divided critics and had a polarized reception, but there was universal praise for the performances of the actors, particularly those of Bale and Adams.

LANGUAGE

Standard American English.

This film is called **Vice**, which is intentionally ambiguous: it can mean a moral fault or failing, or instead someone who substitutes someone when they are absent.

VOCABULARY

Demeanor: behavior, attitude	Squashed: destroyed, abandoned
Mentor: teacher, instructor	NORAD: North American Air Defense Command
FAA: Federal Aviation Administration	Like a ghost: not visible
UNODIR: UNless Otherwise DIRected, a military acronym for carrying out an objective on your own initiative without getting the permission of your superiors	D.U.I.: driving a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol or drugs
To scat/scatter: to leave a place quickly	Big shot: powerful, important person
RNC: Republican National Convention	Think tank: an organization which carries out scientific research in various fields in order to inform policy decisions
Very green: very inexperienced	Running mate: the person who is on the ballot with you during a political election
Sloppy: not well organized	Pulls your pud: something that gets you excited and satisfied
Unitary executive theory: a theory based on the second article of the U.S. Constitution stating that all executive power resides in the U.S. President	Cruddy job: an unpleasant, usually unimportant job or task
Estate tax: tax on the transfer of the estate of a deceased person	Halliburton: a huge multinational U.S. oil field service and construction company