Oprah celebrates her show’s 20th anniversary…Ted Koppel retires from Nightline…
Conan O’Brien prepares to take over The Tonight Show…

All featured in the new book…

**TV’s Greatest Talk Shows!**

Over 150 of the greatest talk series are in the new book *TV’s Greatest Talk Shows*, the first book to give a detailed history of all the greatest shows! It includes the controversial ranking of the five greatest talk show hosts of all time and reveals the worst talk shows in TV history.

Some of the facts that the book uncovers include:
- Regis Philbin’s career started as an usher on what some consider the talk show that started it all—The Tonight Show with Steve Allen.
- The majority of successful talk show hosts have come from an Irish-Catholic background, while many of the hosts of the “trashy” talk shows are from a Jewish background.
- Oprah Winfrey doesn’t win all the awards—one year she was beaten by Joan Rivers for the Emmy for Best Talk Host and by Sally Jessy Raphael for Best Talk Show!
- Some talk show hosts have backgrounds that include tragedies that are worse than anything featured on their shows: Jenny Jones had multiple arrests, Oprah lost a baby at age 14 and Jerry Springer’s parent escaped the Holocaust. Many suffered the loss of a parent before the child became a star (Rosie O’Donnell, Sally Jessy, David Letterman, Larry King, Carson Daly) or were abandoned by parents (Oprah, Wayne Brady, Steve Allen).
- Dr. Phil’s legal woes include a reprimand in 1989 by the Texas Board of Examiners for having an inappropriate relationship with a patient and a recent lawsuit for “fraudulent claims” about a diet product he endorsed.

*TV’s Greatest Talk Shows* is the first comprehensive look at the top television talk shows from the past fifty years and covers every style of the talk show format. Chapters include TV pioneers (like Johnny Carson), daytime trash TV (Ricki Lake), morning news shows, prime time newsmagazines, confrontational cable shows (Bill O’Reilly) and late night programs (from Letterman to The Daily Show). It also includes a section on public TV, sports talk shows and religious programs.

Behind-the-scenes stories include the author’s personal appearances on Nightline, Good Morning America, Live with Regis and Kathie Lee and visits to shows like Ricki Lake, David Letterman, Geraldo Rivera and 60 Minutes. He also shares his personal experiences involving Sally Jessy Raphael, Tom Brokaw and Larry King.

Members of the media can get a review copy of *TV's Greatest Sitcoms* by e-mailing support@publishamerica.com or fax request to 301-631-9073.

**About author STEPHEN WINZENBURG**

Stephen Winzenburg has spent 25 years studying television, including the 2004 book *TV’s Greatest Sitcoms*. He has appeared in the *New York Times, Washington Post, Newsweek, USA Today* and as an expert on dozens of television programs, including *The CBS Evening News, A & E Biography*, and *CNN’s TalkBack Live*. He is a communication professor at Grand View College in Des Moines, where students from his course on TV talk shows have visited Oprah Winfrey, Montel Williams, Conan O’Brien, Maury Povich, *The View* and *The Daily Show*.

Call 515-263-2997 to schedule an interview with Winzenburg.

**TV TALK SHOW TRIVIA**

1. When Johnny Carson auditioned to take over the *Tonight Show*, who was the other talk host who was a finalist for the job?
2. Who was the first female talk show host to win a national Emmy Award?
3. Which talk show host at age 14 gave birth a baby the lived only a few days?
4. Which daytime talk host was born in England to Jewish parents who escaped Germany during the Holocaust?
5. Which of the following talk show hosts won Emmys for their news work?
   - Geraldo Rivera; Bill O’Reilly; Connie Chung; Jerry Springer
6. Who is the highest-paid host of a news/talk program?
7. Which late night talk show host dropped out of first place in the ratings after hosting the Academy Awards?
8. Who is the only talk show host to ever beat Oprah in the national daytime ratings?
9. Which late night host has a degree from Harvard in Literature?
10. Who was fired 18 times during her radio talk show career before hitting it big in TV?

**ANSWERS:**

1. Merv Griffin
2. Dinah Shore
3. Oprah Winfrey
4. Jerry Springer
5. All of them won Emmys (Springer for local Ohio newscast)
6. Katie Couric
7. David Letterman
8. Jerry Springer
9. Conan O’Brien
10. Sally Jessy Raphael
TALK SHOW HOST RANKINGS
Abridged from TV’s Greatest Talk Shows
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RANK BASED ON: Entertainment Value, Longevity, Being in Control Informative, and Audience Interest

The A List— Johnny Carson
Regis Philbin
Ted Koppel
Oprah Winfrey
David Letterman

The B List— Katie Couric
Phil Donahue
Barbara Walters
Steve Allen
Conan O’Brien
Dr. Phil
Bill O’Reilly
Jon Stewart
Bill Maher
Charlie Rose

The C List— Diane Sawyer
Sean Hannity
Maury Povich
John McLaughlin
Montel Williams
Rosie O’Donnell
Jay Leno
Geraldo Rivera
Ellen DeGeneres
Arsenio Hall
Sally Jessy Raphael
Larry King
Ricki Lake

The D List— Dennis Miller
Craig Kilborn
Carson Daly
Bryant Gumbel
Jimmy Kimmel
Joan Rivers
Jerry Springer

The Failures— Pat Sajak
Jenny Jones
Connie Chung
Morton Downey
John McEnroe
Magic Johnson
Chevy Chase