

**Peacock North**

The Second Generation

**FALL, 2015**



Volume 13 Edition 4

## Peacock Profile: Gabe Pressman



### 2016 Spring Luncheon Save the Date!

Sunday, April 24th, Noon to 3:00 pm  
Sardi's  
234 West 44th Street

Details and reservation form will be mailed to all members.

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## Marilyn's Page



This issue comes on the heels of an incredibly memorable week: the Pope was in town! This was in the planning for at least a year and the broadcasts were mesmerizing, at least to this viewer/retired broadcaster. Many of our colleagues were in Cuba, Washington DC, New York, on planes and in Philadelphia bringing us beautiful and comprehensive coverage. The planning and execution of all of *Il Papa's* venues along with UN Week and Global Poverty as well as Breaking News (John Boehner) was an exercise in monumental coordination. My hat's off to everyone involved in this challenging coverage.

A special shout out to Chris Matthews who did Tim Russert proud with his robust and lively reportage. His insights and commentary on Catholicism, along with those of his fellow correspondents and experts, allowed us a deeper understanding of the events.

And now the Fiat is going to be the car of choice! You have to love a world leader who rides around in a small car with a small flag. How does that impact the expression "size matters"? I await your comments.

I also want to mention that the new fall lineup is in swing and hopefully will be great news for NBC as a whole. In my quest to spotlight a member of our NBC community in each edition I have Inara Deleon to thank for this edition's Peacock Profile of the iconic Gabe Pressman. What an honor and a treat. Thank you Inara, and loads of thanks to Mr. Pressman for his lifelong contribution of journalistic excellence! Bravo!

And now for the good stuff.....the rest of the magazine.

### IMPORTANT NOTE FOR PRE-65 PEOPLE PLANNING TO RETIRE EARLY!

Bill Freeda advises any Peacock North members who are long-term NBCU employees and are going to retire before age 65:

Please note that you should be offered the **GE Pre-65 Medical Insurance**, in addition to **COBRA** and **the two Comcast plans**

You should call the **GE Benefit Inquiry Center** at 1-800-432-3450, use the health insurance prompt, and ask if you are eligible.

### Support Our Troops, Our Crews and Our Correspondents In Harm's Way

#### Current E-mail Addresses

REMINDER—When you change your e-mail address, please remember to notify us at [peacocknorth@yahoo.com](mailto:peacocknorth@yahoo.com).

This is a great way for us to help members keep in touch with each other.



*What's Now!***Johnny Carson Returns!**

Just when it seemed the late-night landscape couldn't get more competitive, here comes Johnny Carson. Tribune Media's Antenna TV, the multicast digital channel devoted to vintage television shows, will run full-length episodes of "The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson" nightly at 11 p.m. ET/8 p.m. PT starting Jan. 1, 2016. Antenna TV has struck a multi-year deal with Carson Entertainment Group to license hundreds of hours of the NBC late-night institution. Antenna will run episodes that aired from 1972 through the end of Carson's 30-year reign in 1992. Because NBC owns the rights to "The Tonight Show" moniker, Antenna TV's episodes will be billed simply as "Johnny Carson."



"This is not a clip show. This is full episodes of Johnny Carson, the man that everyone in late-night agrees was the greatest host of all time, airing in real time as he did back in the da," Sean Compton, Tribune's president of strategic programming and acquisitions, told *Variety*. Antenna's showcase will mark the first time Carson-era "Tonight Show" episodes have aired on a nightly basis since the host signed off in May 1992. "The Tonight Show" ran in a 90-minute format from the start of Carson's run in 1962 until 1980, when it was trimmed to an hour. Antenna will air hour-long episodes on weeknights and 90-minute installments on Saturday and Sunday at 10 p.m. ET/7 p.m. PT.

The scheduling of episodes will be carefully curated to run as themed weeks or months, as well as episodes that coincide with notable anniversaries, holidays and other milestones. With all the hubbub over changes in late-night TV during the past two years, Compton had the idea to revive Carson's "Tonight Show" in a big way. Carson Entertainment Group, headed by Jeff Sotzing, Carson's nephew, was immediately receptive. "I think there's a demographic out there that is really going to eat this up," Sotzing told *Variety*. The deal involved nearly six months of negotiations with Hollywood's talent guilds and the American Federation of Musicians. There's not much precedent for residual fees for full-length reruns of a vintage variety show re-airing on a digital broadcast channel.

Sadly, the first 10 years of Carson's "Tonight Show" are lost to history, with only a handful of episodes that survive. When the "Tonight Show" made its historic move from New York to Burbank in 1972, Carson realized that NBC had no archive of his older episodes. From then on, Carson Entertainment invested in state-of-the-art archival technology to preserve his legacy — a focus that continues today. The 1972-1992 episodes have been digitized and meticulously transcribed and catalogued. The master tapes are buried 600 feet below the earth in a salt mine in Hutchinson, Kan. There are multiple digital copies housed in safe locations as well, according to Sotzing. "We continue to spend money to protect the library and make sure it's a working library," he said. With digital technology, "it's amazing how we have gone from 50-pound two-inch videotapes to having hundreds of shows on a single (computer) drive."

—By Cynthia Littleton, Managing Editor: Television, © *Variety*, August 12, 2015



*What's Now!*

**Father and Son Emmy® Awards: It Doesn't Get Sweeter than**



**Marilyn Altman writes:**

The 67<sup>th</sup> Primetime Emmy® Awards were announced in late September. The award for *Outstanding Technical Direction, Camera Work & Video Control for a Series* was won by SNL, and our own Steven Cimino and his son, Michael Cimino, were part of that elite group. There is a bit of making history since both father and son won for the same show. Steven, who has accumulated numerous Emmys over the years, always hoped to see his son, Michael, win an Emmy. His dream came true but it could not have been anticipated with such joy. For the record, Steven is entering his 26<sup>th</sup> year as Technical Director of SNL and his 45<sup>th</sup> year with the company. Having his son win his first-ever Emmy under his tutelage was, as Steven said, “the sweetest win ever.” Some things only get better with age; Steven Cimino is one of them. He started out as a hard working young man and has become a staple at NBC’s Studio/Field Operations; his son is following suit. Steven’s good nature, support and talent make him deserving of this honor and we at PN could not be prouder and happier for him and his family.

**Steven provides the technical details surrounding the award:**

Taraji P. Henson was the host and Mumford and Sons were the musical guests.

We had a complicated sketch called **Connectatron** which required a sixth camera and six Ultimattes. Michael, who regularly is a camera operator on The Tonight Show, was hired to work utility that Saturday on SNL. When the subject came up for the sixth camera on Friday for the one sketch I suggested Michael, since he normally does camera and could come to 8H on Friday after The Tonight Show to block and rehearse. [Director] Don [King] went for it and so here we are. When the decision was made as to what show to submit, the Taraji show was the only one that met all the requirements for *Best Technical Direction, Camera, Video for a series*. It had hand held camera work, effects, iPhone look, internet look, Ultimattes, B&W, 70's look, big dramatic crane shot with a full choir in the monologue, and beautifully shot music.



*What's Now!*

### SNL Audio Crew Wins Emmys!



**L-R: Production Mixers Ezra Matychak and Devin Emke, Music Mixer Josiah Gluck, Senior Audio Mixer Bob Palladino, Sound Effects Mixer Bill Taylor. Other team members not in photo are Bob Selitto, Bob Clearmountain, Marty Brumbach and Chris Costello**

### SNL Camera Crew Saluted On Line



The excellent website [www.eyesofageneration.com](http://www.eyesofageneration.com) published this shout out to the crew...

Our friends at SNL continued to collect their just rewards...shown l-r are Michael Cimino, John Pinto, Technical Director Steve Cimino, Len Wechsler, and Paul Cangialosi.

Not shown:  
Eric Eisenstein, Carl Eckett,  
Frank Grisanti and Susan Noll,

Well Done all! - Bobby Ellerbee

*What's Now!*

## Producer-Director Mike Gargiulo Wins Lifetime Achievement Emmy®



At the Daytime Creative Arts Emmy® Awards on April 24, 2015, a Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to producer-director, Michael Gargiulo, whose career spans more than 50 years.

"Michael Gargiulo is a behind the camera pioneer who goes back to his days with television legends Bob Stewart and Mark Goodson," said David Michaels, NATAS Senior Vice President, Daytime. "Michael Gargiulo has produced and directed just about everything in a career that includes game shows, variety specials and news. We're delighted to be honoring him with this well-deserved lifetime achievement award."

Michael Gargiulo was born and raised in Coney Island and lived above his father's restaurant, where bands and variety talent appeared regularly.

Down the block, was a strip joint and a side show. It seemed only fitting that a career in showbiz was in his making!

In 1954, Gargiulo was hired by WNBC as a staff director and did most all of the local shows in New York until 1959 when NBC selected him to join the State Department project to build a television studio in Moscow and introduce color television to the Russian people during a cultural exchange. It was in this studio that Nikita Khrushchev and Richard Nixon had their famous "kitchen debate", which Mike recorded and rushed back to NBC, which shared them with CBS and ABC within hours...the start, perhaps, of the modern-day, televised political debates.

Back in New York, he did a takeoff of an American staple, renamed, "The Ruble is Right," which was his friend Bob Stewart's show. It received a very positive review in The New York Times. Mark Goodson read about it and it was the start of Mike's game show career. He did a pilot for "Password" and went on to produce and direct the show for many years to come. At Goodson-Todman, he also directed "Match Game," "I've Got a Secret," "To Tell the Truth," and "The Price is Right." In 1969, Mike joined Bob Stewart Productions to direct "Jackpot" on NBC, and later, the "\$10,000 Pyramid."

During this career, Michael Gargiulo also had a flair for variety shows, which became the vogue in the early 1960's. Victor Borge hired him to direct his music and comedy special featuring the jazz version of "Peter and the Wolf." He also returned to Russia for "The Leningrad Ice Show," and later to Las Vegas for a second NBC special featuring the Igor Moiseyev contemporary dance company, hosted by Orson Welles. Gargiulo has also become legendary in his producing and directing of the Tournament of Roses and Thanksgiving Day Parades plus variety specials for CBS, including the New Year's Eve celebration for more than 30 years.

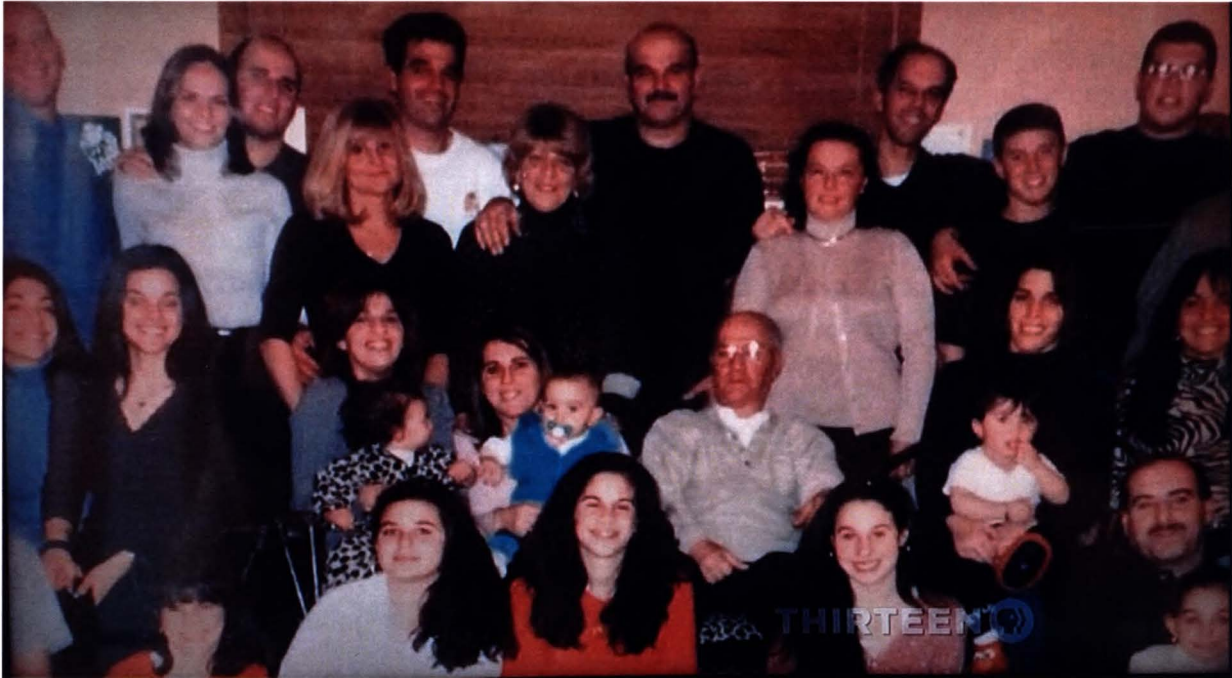
He recently directed "An American Portrait", a series of one minute spots, honoring people who contributed to the fabric of our society. For two years, every weekday evening, one American was honored, for one minute, coast to coast. Gargiulo has accrued 31 nominations and 9 Emmy Awards in his storied career. He notes that none of this would be possible without the support of his wife of over half a century, Dorothy and his children: daughter Susan at Nickelodeon, and son Michael, an anchor at WNBC in New York.



*What's Now!*

**Phillip Alongi on PBS**

Phillip Alongi is the son of former NBC News Producer and Production Manager Phil Alongi. He is a successful operatic tenor and was recently seen on PBS as one of the participants in the documentary “Italian Americans of New York and New Jersey.” The show profiled the lives, achievements and diverse culture Italian Americans have brought to the metro area. Phillip reminisced about experiencing his father’s great love for opera while they listened to recordings and radio broadcasts. Here are a few screen shots from his segments.



Above, the extended Alongi family.  
In the top row, Phil Sr is 3rd from right and Phil Jr is far right.  
Below, Phil in two performances.



*Peacock Profile*

**Gabe Pressman: Take 1**  
**By Inara de Leon**



Though he melts into a sentimental puddle when he talks about his cats, Gabe Pressman really seems most akin to the canine family --- bulldog or firehouse dog come to mind. But, he'll tell you never, ever a lapdog. To say he is persistent is to evoke laughter from even his most casual acquaintances. It's a trait that has been a source of irritation, but mostly admiration, to news management at WNBC and WNEW for his 64 years as a reporter. He always pushes to be on the frontlines of whatever news story is shaping up, whether it is getting on a plane that flew over the wreck of the Andria Doria, emerging from bomb shelters in Israel to report on the SCUD war in 1991, staying outside the Convention Hall in 1968 in Chicago to report on the head bashing going on there, reporting on the assault of Abner Louima by New York City police, or rushing to the site of the two World Trade Center attacks --- the first one in 1993 just days after he underwent debilitating surgery for a life-threatening condition --- something he concealed from his bosses worried they would bar him from breaking news assignments. Oh yes, and don't forget Woodstock and Attica and the historic visit of Fidel Castro to the United Nations in 1959.

These days at age 91, he worries that his aging knees and ankles will sideline him. He did head to the streets recently to cover the St. Patrick's Day parade managing with the help of an intern's shoulder and the talented cameraman he works with now most frequently, Keith Feldman, to get around in the crowds. He mentioned the other day he is pushing for a role in the coverage of the visit of Pope Francis. "I can definitely do it if I just have a mic and someone to give me a shoulder to lean on. Susan Sullivan (WNBC's News Director) worries too much about me. I'm fine!"

It's not only news management who has had to deal with Gabe's famous stubbornness. In countless press conferences, Mayoral "availabilities," parades and other public events, politicians and officials know Gabe will never be satisfied with just one question, the one to elicit the official response. "Follow-up" questions, Gabe contends, are where the unscripted information, the story behind the story, will emerge. During one period, Mayor Bloomberg even barred follow-up questions, parceling out the opportunity to address him like so many dog treats. That reporters allow themselves to be penned in at events like the Columbus Day or St. Patrick's Day parades infuriates Gabe still. He disparagingly refers to "rope line journalism" and can't believe that reporters arriving on a crowded scene will immediately ask "Where's the pen?" With dramatic effect, he slams his fist on the table. "This is absolutely outrageous and for people to accept that is a denigration, it's a violation of the very principles that John Peter Zenger fought for in New York."



*Peacock Profile*

Even more scathing, his view of reporters who report from behind their desks depending solely on information they have been handed in a press release, researched online or on the phone. "That's not real reporting. The quality that's missing is confronting the person, looking him or her in the eyes and asking the follow-up question. That's reporting. That's real reporting."

If persistence is his tool, access is his goal. Gabe thinks of himself as a kind of inquiring everyman, who asks for and finds out the information each person who lacks his access wants and needs to know.

Gabe also believes reporting should bring to light what is wrong in the world and hold those responsible accountable. An important topic to him, the plight of homeless people: "I should be the champion of all these folks, freezing and starving, who are more or less ignored by the powers that be. I remember once Mario Cuomo looked at me and said, 'you really believe this stuff, don't you?' Not in a negative way but saying it like 'this guy Pressman, he's really interesting.' I'm frustrated that not more has happened, but I think my reporting and the reporting of other people has had an impact. The problem is not solved but it's better than it was in its raw state when I started." Gabe's timing is impeccable. The beginning of his broadcast career also marked the laying of the groundwork for TV journalism altogether. New technology, albeit primitive by today's standard, had the potential to free a reporter to go out in the field and gather material or "actualities" that could be processed in time to air on live newscasts throughout the day -- at first on radio, but then quite soon on television.

The idea of a roving reporter was the brainchild of WRCA's Program Director Dick Pack, who one way or another left or was fired before he could implement it. Pack's replacement, Bill Berns, was ordered to keep the idea alive and approached Gabe, who was then working as a City Hall reporter for the World Telegram and freelancing on the popular *Tex and Jinx* variety radio program among others, to be the station's first "roving reporter." One colleague quickly noted Gabe already qualified as a "raving reporter." Right from the get-go Berns informed Gabe his assignment was "just a gimmick." Indeed, the announcement of this new feature was sent out on a mock New York City press card and a press agent suggested Gabe sport a pork pie hat and checked jacket. Gabe ignored the wardrobe advice but avidly embraced the prospect of finding and reporting on his own stories. "There were no rules nor any limits to our imagination." Traffic jams, lumberyard fires, or a guy swimming down the Hudson to New York City from Albany were all fair game to be recorded and sent back to Radio Central. Gabe recalls more than once listeners calling in to say something along the lines of "You're the reporter who never sleeps. I hear you in the morning and I hear you at night. How do you do it?" Gabe recalls: "I decided this business was great fun and I loved the attention these reports were getting. It was good for my ego, but it was also good for the business. It became my cause. I wanted on the spot, shoe leather reporting to be the wave of the future."



With President Truman



*Peacock Profile*

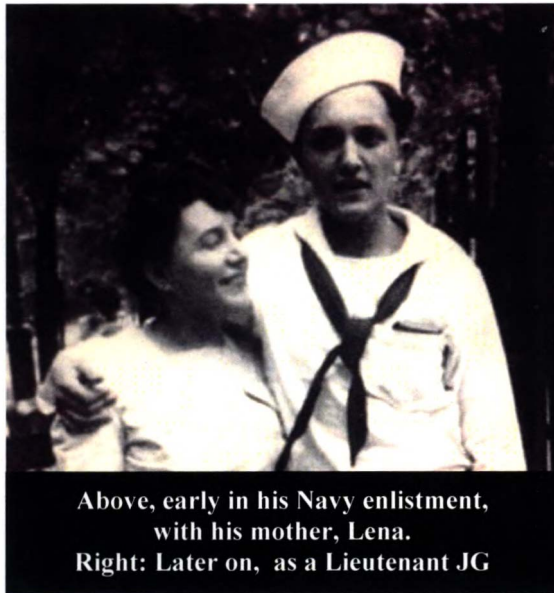


For awhile on television and radio his was the only game in town. But Gabe's prediction came true and within a few years competitors like WABC and WCBS also started to hire a stable of street reporters. Nevertheless, Gabe's natural doggedness got him front row seats to the major events of the time: not only the sinking of the Andria Doria, but also the mid-air plane collision in Park



Slope that killed more people than had ever before perished in an aviation accident, the first reports of the assassination of Joe Colombo, the arrival of the Beatles from England -- and interviews with Marilyn, Elvis, Fidel and Malcolm, Harry Truman and Bobby Kennedy.

During the time Bobby Kennedy was a U.S. Senator and then a candidate for President, Gabe would simply call him up to chew the fat whenever Kennedy was in town. "He'd meet me at the Carlyle, where he usually stayed, that magical hotel, and I remember him taking off his shirt as he was undressing, I guess to go to bed or sometimes we'd meet for a drink downstairs and he would say 'How's (John) Lindsay doing?' And that was a giveaway that he was really sizing him up as a possible (Presidential) opponent. Both young, both good looking, both considered liberal in their respective parties." During one campaign swing Gabe was on Kennedy's press plane and one of the other reporters praised Lyndon Johnson as a champion of the poor. "And Bobby looks over in my direction, and he's got this cigar and he blows a smoke ring and he mouths the word 'prick.'"



Above, early in his Navy enlistment, with his mother, Lena.  
Right: Later on, as a Lieutenant JG

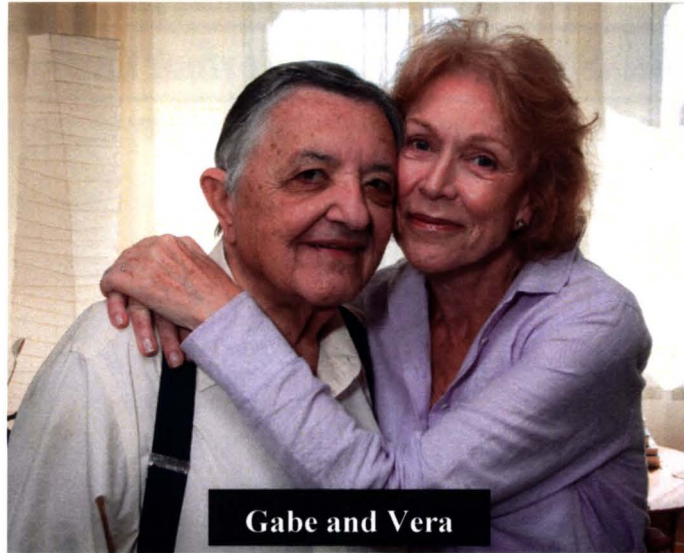
Gabe's combative style and sometimes oddball questions were quickly earning him local fame, but there was one group that gave as good as it got on the topic of hair. Gabe's first question at the Beatles first press conference in the United States in 1964 didn't really go anywhere. Gabe to McCartney "Do you feel like Samson, if you lost your hair, you'd lose what you have?" Mumbled answer from Lennon: "don't know, don't know..." The 2<sup>nd</sup> comment though earned a zinger. Gabe: "There was a report you were at the Museum of Natural History this morning. There are some long-haired mammoths there that look a little like you. McCartney: "I don't like your tie." And Gabe's final question was prescient: "What place do you think this story of the Beatles is gonna have in the history of Western culture." McCartney: "You must be kidding with that question; culture, it's not culture." Gabe: "What is it?"

McCartney: "It's a laugh." Gabe: "Are you laughing at your audiences or with them?" McCartney: "We're laughing at ourselves, which is amazing, isn't it?" Yup, looking back, all in all pretty amazing.



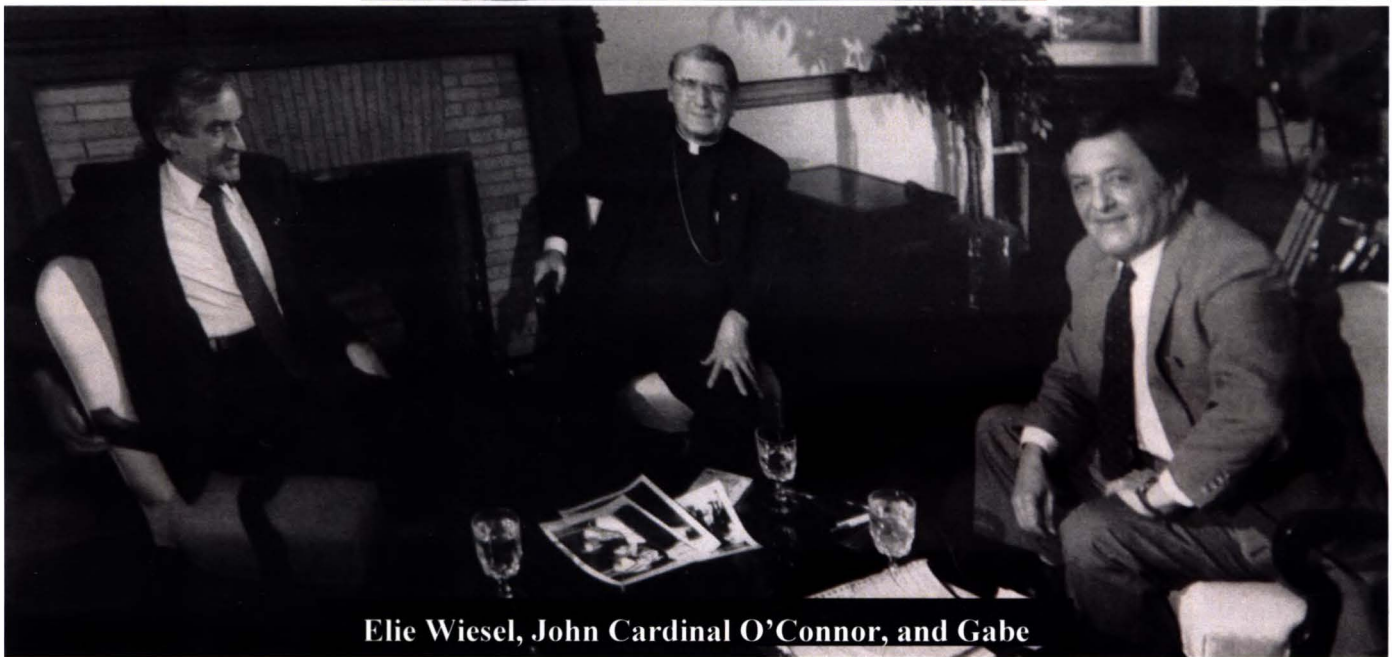


*Peacock Profile*



**Gabe and Vera**

Color photos on this page  
by Lenny Stucker  
For Peacock North



**Elie Wiesel, John Cardinal O'Connor, and Gabe**

**About the Author**

Inara de Leon was Producer of Politics for WNBC TV 1993 to 2007. She produced the weekly newsmaker interview program NEWSFORUM with Gabe Pressman, and long-format specials (Return to Auschwitz, the Battle of Leyte Gulf, etc.) as well as producing newscasts for WNBC. Her work also included producing primary and convention coverage, election coverage in Israel, producing debates at all levels of city and state government as well as developing unique and compelling stories to air in all newscasts. As a Network Field Producer from 1985 to 1991 she also produced features for Nightly News and Weekend Nightly News, and supervised tape operations for Nightly News and Weekend Nightly News. Since leaving NBC in 2007 she has had a variety of media consultant positions at Westchester Jewish Community Services, Columbia University, the Museum of Jewish Heritage, and Consumer Reports Television, where she produces, writes, and edits consumer reports television stories.





*What's Now!*

## Grand Stair and Mezzanine Reopen



In 2013, NBCUniversal began planning for The Tonight Show's return to 30 Rockefeller Plaza. The Operations and Technical Services team, led by John Wallace, poured through old photos and building documents to better understand how Johnny Carson's New York studio operated. In the process, they uncovered archival photos and the original 30 Rock architectural designs, including renderings of a grand lobby and mezzanine. With the original designs in mind, the team poked holes in the wall behind the visitors' reception area and found the archeological remains of the 1930s era Grand Stair.

This revelation inspired a significant year-long renovation and restoration of one of the most iconic buildings in entertainment history. The goal of the project was to restore the original 1930s art deco design of the 30 Rock lobby and mezzanine, initially designed to host audiences waiting to take a studio tour or attend radio programs. Now, the new space will provide a vibrant waiting area for guests coming to see The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon, Saturday Night Live, Late Night with Seth Meyers and The Meredith Vieira Show.

The restored Grand Stair, Rotunda and new Peacock Lounge is a tribute to our past and celebration of our future. Here are some key highlights:

- \*The original 1930s Rotunda was home to the world's largest photomural, created by the photojournalist Margaret Bourke-White. We've recreated that very mural — featuring some of her original work — on the LED screens in the rotunda.

- \*A new feature of the restored space is the Peacock Lounge, which will serve as a large waiting area for audiences coming to see daytime and late night shows.

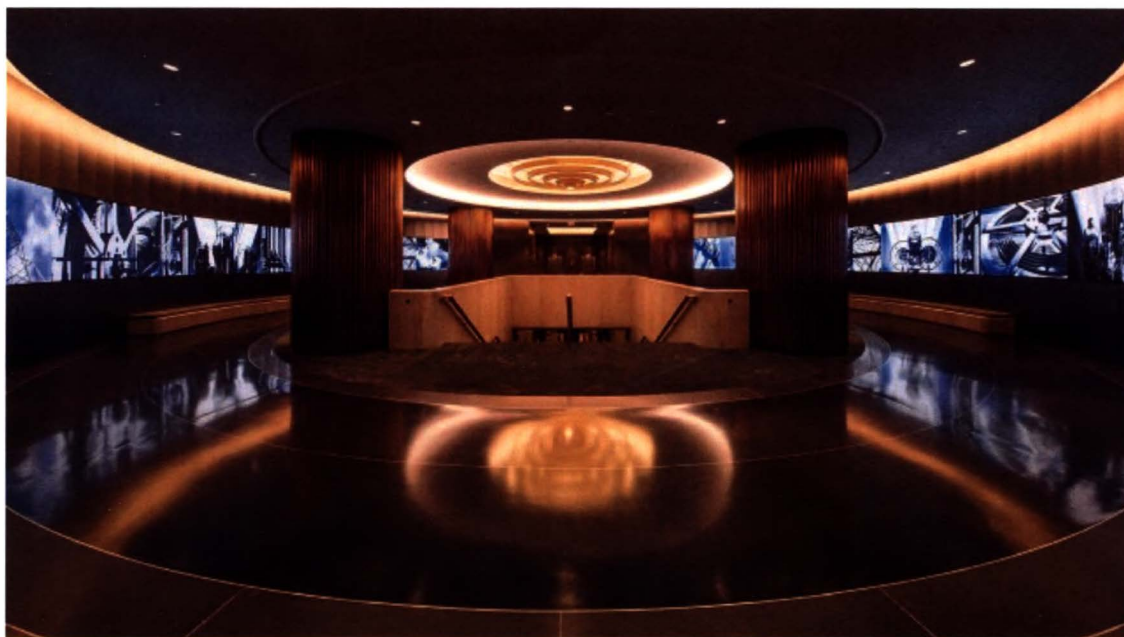
- \*The mezzanine will be an entryway for the NBC Studio Tours when they resume this fall.

The restoration is an affirmation of our belief that the true golden age of the iconic 30 Rockefeller Plaza broadcast facility lies not only in the past, but in the present and the future. Millions of guests will now be able to experience the rich history of NBCUniversal for years to come.



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*What's Now!*

## **“Hooting” for Golf By Howard Strawbridge**



On August 24<sup>th</sup> around 100 folks gathered at the Lake Isle Country Club in Eastchester, NY for a day of golf and general camaraderie. It is organized by me, retired NBC Today Show Lighting Director Howie Strawbridge. Starting in the 1970s, Frank Gaeta and Irv Messing each hosted golf outings on Long Island and New Jersey, respectively, but these were just for fun – not fundraisers. Back in 2009 I thought maybe we could set up a Today Show golf outing and BBQ. Why the BBQ? That way the non-golfers on the show staff could also participate by being with friends and joking around.

The 2009 through 2012 events were very well attended, not just by the show folks but friends, family and other company people who could get a day off. The event is now aptly named the *Howie Hoot Invitational* after my horrible laugh (thanks affectionately to Joe Michaels, Bob Jaeger and Al Roker). Although

not originally intended as a fundraiser, I decided to try to collect some bucks for the American Diabetes Association. A friend who was associated with them arranged to have volunteers to help out at registration, and we sold 50-50 tickets, cigars, raffles, auctioned off a house in St Martin, etc.

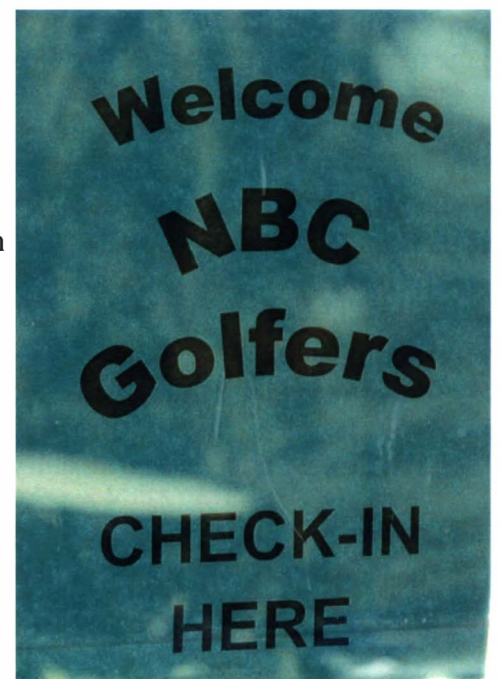
We have been able to run a very nice tourney now for 7 years for about \$150 per head including golf, carts, beverages, shirts or jackets, balls, gloves, tees, towels, brushes, etc. Even after my retirement I still have a contingent that responds graciously. In recent years the event has benefitted the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. I lost a sister to that horrible disease when I was 10 and she was 7 years old and I feel it is the least I can do in her memory.

Scheduling the outing is a challenge each year, trying to select a date in September or October that was not a school day or holiday and hoping to be in the good graces of the weather.

Many friends of mine have hosted the dinner and auction which accompany the golfing, and it has indeed been a fun time for all because we don't harp on the giving. Some of our hosts have been Todd Pettengill and Race Taylor from WPLJ Radio, WABC TV weathercaster Bill Evans, and comedian Lewis Black. Our golfers have included Matt Lauer, Ann Curry, Meredith Viera, Natalie Morales, former Today Show EP Jim Bell, Bill Evans and Race Taylor.

Some of our sponsors have been local and some from the City and we are eternally grateful to all of them. NABET has also been a sponsor every year. We have taken in an average of \$5,000 and as much as \$15,000.

The entire purpose of this event is to bring friends, family and co-workers together for a fun day with a few beverages.



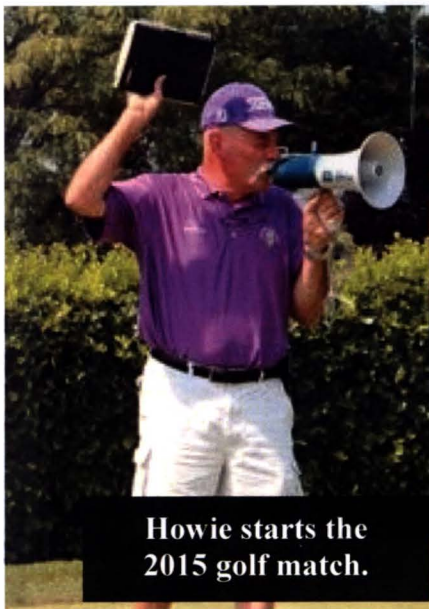


*What's Now!*



Dr. Leo

Today Weather Forecaster Dylan Dwyer (center) surrounded by office staff of our golf shirt sponsor Dr. Rosanna Leo [2015 event]



Howie starts the 2015 golf match.



Photos from past years: Above, Joe Leible, Jeff Fitzgerald, Bob Brown, Geoff Amoral. Below Left, Matt Lauer and Bob Jaeger. Below Right, Race Taylor and Bill Evans





*What's Now!*

## Bob Dotson's Second Edition



Bob tells us: “My how-to ‘Make it Memorable’ book hit Number 1 on both Amazon's Hot New Journalism and Cinematography book lists. That's from pre-publication sales. The book was released on October 15th. All the cutting edge technology I learned in college—typewriters, film splicers, glue—is now in a museum; the one thing that hasn't changed is how to tell a visual story.”

*Make It Memorable* provides a distinctly different, hands-on introduction to the craft of visual storytelling. Many texts have been written to help people master the changing technology of journalism; here, Bob Dotson teaches readers how best to tell a story once they do.

This second edition of Dotson's classic book offers dozens of new tips for the digital age and a step-by-step explanation of how to find and create all kinds of visual stories under tight deadlines. In addition to new scripts annotated with behind-the-scenes insights and structural comments, the book includes links to online videos of all the story examples.

There is no other text quite like it.

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Published by Rowman & Littlefield, 156 pages, available in hardback, paperback and electronic editions.

### About the Author

NBC News National Correspondent and New York Times “Best Selling Author” Bob Dotson has been in more motel rooms than the Gideon Bible, crisscrossing this country, four million miles, practically non-stop, for forty years, searching for people who are practically invisible, the ones who change our lives, but don't take time to Twitter and tell us about it.

Dotson's long running series, "The American Story with Bob Dotson," is a regular feature on “Today,” and his third book *American Story, a Lifetime Search for Ordinary People Doing Extraordinary Things* became a New York Times Best Seller. His literary works have won the Christopher Award for outstanding non-fiction in 2014 and the George Washington Honor Medal for excellence. He has also received more than 100 awards for his work in broadcast journalism, including eight National Emmys and eleven nominations.



The Radio Television Digital News Association has honored Dotson with a record five Edward R. Murrow Awards – for “Best Network News Writing” and more than a dozen other awards for his reporting. The Society of Professional Journalists cited him three times for “Best Network Television News Series.” Dotson's work has won top journalism awards from the National Press Photographers, Dupont-Columbia and Robert F. Kennedy and William Allen White Foundations.

His stories have taken him to every state, many times, and around the world. Dotson is an internationally acclaimed documentary producer. His film, *El Capitan's Courageous Climbers* (NBC Productions,) was the winner of seven International Film and Video Festivals and was awarded documentary's highest honor, the CINE Grand Prize. He was also the writer and host of “Bob Dotson's America,” a series of half-hour programs on the Travel Channel.

*Tributes to Silent Microphones*

**Melvin Bernhardt**

Melvin Bernhardt, who directed two Pulitzer Prize-winning dramas and won a Tony himself for Hugh Leonard's Tony-winning play "Da," died on Saturday in Manhattan. He was 84. His husband, Jeff Woodman, said that Mr. Bernhardt had been in declining health and had stopped taking nourishment after breaking his arm in a recent fall.

In addition to his stage work, Mr. Bernhardt worked in television, most notably on the daytime soap operas "Another World" and "One Life to Live." He directed a 1984 television movie adaptation of the Thomas Heggen novel "Mister Roberts" (which also inspired a stage play and a Hollywood film), about life on a Navy ship during World War II, with Charles Durning, Kevin Bacon and Robert Hays.



**Brian Keith with Mel Bernhardt**

Mr. Bernhardt, who was known for his astute casting and skillful work with actors, directed many leading stage performers on Broadway, including Ron Leibman and Linda Lavin in "Cop-Out" (1969), an early satirical one-act by John Guare involving a police officer, a femme fatale, a murdered cat, a vasectomy and a dead body in the aisle of the theater forcing exiting theatergoers to step over it; Julie Harris and Estelle Parsons as sisters living with the emotional wreckage left by a domineering mother in Paul Zindel's "And Miss Reardon Drinks a Little" (1971); and Elizabeth Ashley in "Hide and Seek" (1980), a haunted-house thriller.

Off Broadway and in regional theater, his productions starred the likes of Swoosie Kurtz, Nancy Marchand, Ralph Waite, Sam Waterston, Olympia Dukakis, Paul Giamatti and George Grizzard.

In 1970, Mr. Bernhardt directed Sada Thompson as a harshly embittered single mother of two young girls in Mr. Zindel's critically praised melodrama "The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds," an Off Broadway production that earned Mr. Zindel a Pulitzer Prize.

His 1978 production of "Da," about a young Irishman who is visited by memories of his family, most notably his father, on the occasion of his father's burial, won four Tony Awards. In 1980, Mr. Bernhardt directed "Crimes of the Heart," the first full-length play by a young Mississippi writer, Beth Henley, at the Manhattan Theater Club Off Broadway. The play won the Pulitzer Prize in the spring and opened in the fall of 1981 on Broadway, where it ran for more than 500 performances. Both the play and Mr. Bernhardt were nominated for Tonys.

Melvin Bernhardt — he added the t to his surname when he entered the theater, as a homage to Sarah — was born in Buffalo on Feb. 26, 1931. He was the son of Max Bernhard, who, with his brothers, owned a large grocery, and the former Katie Benatovich. He may well have had a middle name, but he never used it, and, his husband said, in 25 years of their partnership he refused to disclose it. "He had one, but he loathed it," Mr. Woodman said. Mr. Bernhardt's family was expecting him to become a lawyer, but he rebelled during his college years at what is now the University at Buffalo — "I was a mouse; it was the first time I spoke up," he told Mr. Woodman — and he eventually graduated from Yale's drama school.

He began his career in the theater as a stage manager. His first play as a director, staged in 1965 at the Cherry Lane Theater in Greenwich Village, was "Conerico Was Here to Stay," a vaguely absurdist urban nightmare by Frank Gagliano about an amnesiac in a New York City subway station who loses his hat.

Mr. Bernhardt survived a 1987 automobile accident that killed his previous partner, Steve Durham. He married Mr. Woodman in 2011. They lived in Manhattan and Cragmoor, N.Y. Mr. Bernhardt is also survived by a brother, Richard Bernhard.

By Bruce Weber, © The New York Times, September 16, 2015



*Tributes to Silent Microphones***Pier Mapes**

Pierson Godwin Mapes passed away on October 15th, 2015 at age 78. The son of H. Pierson and Priscilla Godwin Mapes, Pier Mapes grew up in Sterlington, NY. He graduated from Suffern High School and Norwich University. After graduation he spent the next four years in the U.S. Army where he became a captain in the Signal Corps.

Pier worked twice for NBC. For five years beginning in 1963, he held sales services and affiliate relations positions. He then went to Blair Television for seven years, holding a variety of sales and management positions. He returned to NBC in 1978 as vice president of network planning. The NBC Pier returned to had a number of challenges. His charge was to improve the clearances and affiliate relations, and increase television network revenue. By 1985, NBC was #1 in the ratings, and Pier had been president of its television network for three years. In 1986, GE bought NBC, and the network continued to thrive.

Pier retired from the network in 1994. When he wasn't sitting on his porch by his beloved Cranberry Lake in the Ramapo Mountains, he was golfing or traveling with his wife, Pat. Pier was a loyal supporter of Norwich University and Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center. He was on the board of both institutions and was instrumental in their recent successful fundraising campaigns. A true sports enthusiast, Pier was an avid fan of the New York Yankees and Washington Redskins, and he greatly enjoyed horse racing. Pier dearly loved his family, his Labradors, and his country. He was a true patriot.

His wife Patricia Carlson Mapes, his sister Priscilla Mapes Maresi, and five nieces survive him. His funeral service will be private. An informal celebration of his life was held at his home, 9 Sterlington Road, Sloatsburg, NY, on Saturday, October 24, at 4:00pm.



In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to  
Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center  
255 Lafayette Avenue  
Suffern, NY 10901

Condolences may be sent to the family at  
9 Sterlington Road  
Sloatsburg, NY 10974-2644



*The Wrap*

I spent one day with the crew doing pickups to enhance two completed episodes of GO, an NBC series for teens in the 1970s. GO was the first on-location video-taped "first-person POV" series and won many awards. The regular crew was already on vacation. We needed a battery power supply for a Vega RF mic receiver, so TM Howie Eitelbach taught me how to build same.

After meeting at 30 Rock at 4:00 a.m., we drove up to Westchester for a sunrise shot at a hot-air balloon festival. Al Camoin and video engineer Arnie Margolis climbed into a balloon with the PCP 90 "portable" and VR3000 "portable" VTR.

Then we drove down to Coney Island so that Al, Arnie and electronic maintenance engineer Mano Khazen could ride the roller coaster three times with the camera in the front car. Rift Fournier, the series' wheelchair-bound producer-director, called out "Why should you guys have all the fun?" and insisted on taking a ride, too.

The day concluded with three of us holding Al by his belt as he leaned over the edge of the parachute drop with the camera to get a "down shot"!

What a day – from pre-dawn to 8 pm.

By Joel Spector.

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## *Spring Luncheon News*

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**2016 Spring Luncheon**

**Save the Date!**

Sunday, April 24th, Noon to 3:00 pm

Sardi's

234 West 44th Street

Details and reservation form  
will be mailed to all members