

# Al Franken

Thursday, October 23, 8 pm, 2003  
Zellerbach Hall

Tonight's talk by Al Franken will last one hour  
and be followed by a 15-minute question-and-answer session.  
There will be no intermission.

*Following tonight's Strictly Speaking talk,  
Al Franken will be signing copies of his books on the Mezzanine lobby level.*

*Cal Performances' presentation of Al Franken is sponsored by Wells Fargo.*

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and the California Arts Council, a state agency.*

**Al Franken** is an Emmy Award-winning television writer and producer, *New York Times* bestselling author, and Grammy Award-winning comedian.

In 1975, Franken was part of the original writing staff that created the groundbreaking late night show *Saturday Night Live*. Franken remained with the original show until 1980 and then returned in 1985. He stayed for another 10 years, leaving after the 1994-95 season. Franken received four Emmy Awards for his writing on *SNL* and a fifth for producing. He also won recognition for his on-camera work, first as half of the comedy team of 'Franken and Davis,' and then for his 'Al Franken Decade' persona. He also was recognized for such characterizations as the one-man mobile uplink unit and Stuart Smalley, the New Age cable television host.

Smalley was the subject of Franken's first book, *I'm Good Enough, I'm Smart Enough and Doggone It, People Like Me*, which was published in 1992. It provided the basis for a movie that Franken wrote and starred in for Paramount Pictures. The 1995 movie, *Stuart Saves His Family*, was directed by Harold Ramis and received 'two thumbs up' from Gene Siskel and Roger Ebert.

Franken was co-writer of the Touchstone Pictures 1994 movie *When a Man Loves a Woman* starring Andy Garcia and Meg Ryan.

In 1992, he anchored Comedy Central's *Indecision '92*, winning wide critical acclaim for his coverage of both conventions and election night. In 1996, he teamed with *Strange Bedfellow* Arianna Huffington, again covering the party conventions and election night for *Politically Incorrect*.

His performances at the 1994 and 1996 White House Correspondents Dinner demonstrated why he is one of the nation's most sought-after speakers.

Franken's second book, *Rush Limbaugh is a Big Fat Idiot and Other Observations* spent over eight months on *The New York Times* bestseller list and was number one for five weeks (there are now over a million copies in print). Franken's recording of the book won the 1997 Grammy for Best Comedy Album. His third book, *Why Not Me: The Making and Unmaking of the Franken Presidency*, chronicles the rise and fall of Al Franken, 43rd President of the United States, and was also a *New York Times* bestseller. His fourth book, *Oh, the Things I Know!: A Guide to Success, or Failing That, Happiness*, was on the *New York Times* bestseller list for five weeks.

Franken's latest book, *Lies and the Lying Liars Who Tell Them: A Fair and Balanced Look at the Right*, is a number one bestseller, and has ranked highly on *The New York Times* bestseller list since its publication in August.

Franken grew up in Minnesota and is a graduate of Harvard College. He has been married to Franni Franken for 27 years. They live in New York City and have two children: Joe, 18, who attends Princeton University, and their daughter Thomasin, 22, who recently graduated from Harvard.

Franken has been a guest on *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno*, *The Late Show with David Letterman*, *Nightline*, *The Today Show*, *Good Morning America*, *CBS This Morning*, *Charlie Rose*, *Late Night with Conan O'Brien*, *The O'Reilly Factor*, *Politically Incorrect*, *Inside Politics*, *The View*, and *Larry King Live*.