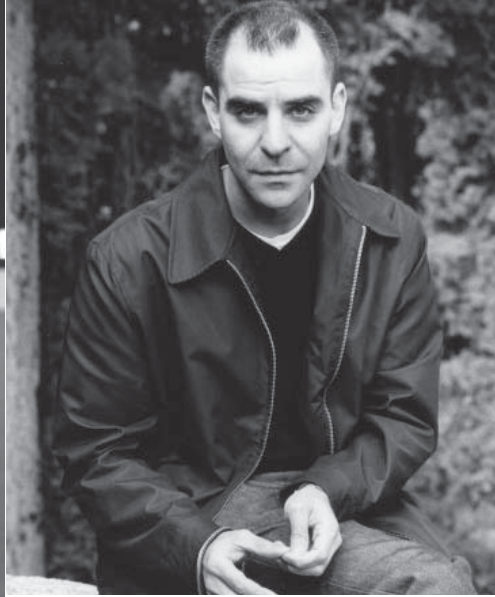


Saturday, February 23, 2008, 8pm
Zellerbach Hall

Ira Glass & David Rakoff



Glass photo (l) by Nancy Franklin; Rakoff photo (r) by David Denton

Ira Glass is the host and producer of the public radio program *This American Life*. The show had its premiere on Chicago's public radio station WBEZ in late 1995 and is now heard on more than 500 public radio stations each week by over 1.7 million listeners. Most weeks, the podcast of the program is the most popular podcast in America.

Mr. Glass began his career as an intern at National Public Radio's network headquarters in Washington, D.C., in 1978, when he was 19 years old. Over the years, he worked on nearly every NPR network news program and held virtually every production job in NPR's Washington headquarters. He has been a tape cutter, newscast writer, desk assistant, editor and producer. He has filled in as host of *Talk of the Nation* and *Weekend All Things Considered*.

Under Mr. Glass's editorial direction, *This American Life* has won the highest honors for broadcasting and journalistic excellence, including the Peabody and DuPont-Columbia awards, as well as the Edward R. Murrow and the Overseas Press Club awards. *The American Journalism Review* declared that the show is "at the vanguard of a journalistic revolution." It has won critical acclaim and attracted continuous national media attention over the years. In 2001, *Time* magazine named Mr. Glass "Best Radio Host in America."

In 2007, Riverhead Books published *The New Kings of Non-Fiction*, a collection of narrative non-fiction essays chosen by Mr. Glass. A feature film, *Unaccompanied Minors*, based on a story from the radio show was released by Warner Brothers in December 2006. The show has put out its own comic book, three greatest-hits compilations, a paint-by-numbers set, a "radio decoder" toy and a DVD, which was created with cartoonist Chris Ware.

In March 2007, the television adaptation of *This American Life* premiered on Showtime to great critical acclaim and was nominated for three Emmy Awards. While producing the series for the cable network, Mr. Glass and his staff continue to create original radio shows.

The wry and the heartfelt join in **David Rakoff's** prose to resurrect that most-neglected of literary virtues: wit. "Looking like a pug and sounding like the love child of Dorothy Parker, Oscar Wilde and *All About Eve's* Addison DeWitt" (*Atlanta Journal-Constitution*), Mr. Rakoff has established himself, via his *New York Times* bestsellers, *Fraud* and *Don't Get Too Comfortable*, as one of today's funniest, most insightful writers. "Rakoff knows the incantatory power of a story well told, the art of keeping words aloft like the bubbles in a champagne flute. He possesses the crackling wit of a 1930s screwball comedy ingenue, a vocabulary that is a treasure chest of *mots justes*, impressive but most times not too showy for everyday wear" (*Los Angeles Times*).

A two-time recipient of the Lambda Book Award for Humor, Mr. Rakoff is a regular contributor to Public Radio International's *This American Life* and *The New York Times Magazine*; he is also a correspondent for *Outside* and Writer-at-Large for *GQ*. His writing has appeared in *Vogue*, *Salon*, *Seed*, *Condé Nast Traveler*, *The New York Observer* and *Wired*, among others.

Mr. Rakoff has worked in theater with David and Amy Sedaris on their plays *Stitches*, *The Little Freida Mysteries*, *The Book of Liz* and the OBIE Award-winning *One Woman Shoe*. He has portrayed Lance Loud and poet Vladimir Mayakovsky, and can be seen in the films *Capote* (fleetingly) and *Strangers with Candy* (fleetingly, mutely).

Says Ira Glass, "Like a whore with a heart of gold, David Rakoff says all the nasty things we want to hear and then reveals that, actually, it's all about love."

Cal Performances' 2007–2008 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo Bank.