

Saturday, December 5, 2009, 8pm
Zellerbach Hall

Ira Glass



Stuart Mulenberg

Radio Stories & Other Stories

Mr. Glass's Strictly Speaking presentation will run approximately 90 minutes without intermission.

Presented in association with the Townsend Center for the Humanities.

Cal Performances' 2009–2010 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

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 1.8 million listeners. Most weeks, the podcast of the program is the most popular podcast in America.

Ira Glass began his career as an intern at National Public Radio's network headquarters in Washington DC 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 several Peabody and DuPont-Columbia 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 2009, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting awarded Mr. Glass the Edward R. Murrow Award for outstanding contributions to public radio.

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, DVDs of live shows and other events, a "radio decoder" toy, temporary tattoos and a paint-by-numbers set.

In March 2007, the television adaptation of *This American Life* premiered on Showtime to great critical acclaim and, in 2008, won two Emmy Awards (Outstanding Nonfiction Series and Outstanding Directing for Nonfiction Programming). In 2009, the show won another Emmy (Best Editing for Nonfiction Programming).