

Friday, April 28, 2006, 8pm
Zellerbach Hall

Michael Feldman's Whad'Ya Know?

CAST

Michael Feldman *Host/Executive Producer*
Jim Packard *Announcer*
John Thulin *Piano*
Jeff Hamann *Bass*
Clyde Stubblefield *Drums*

CREW

Lyle Anderson *Production Assistant*
Sarah Carroll *Show Manager*
Stephen Colón *Technical Director*
Diana Cook *Researcher*
Judith Heise Kovalic *Marketing Director*
Emily Horne *Production Assistant*
Rick Kirkpatrick *Broadcast Mix Engineer*
Kelley Osborne *Researcher*
Curt Sorensen *PA Engineer*
Todd Witter *Producer*

Michael Feldman's *Whad'Ya Know?* is produced by Wisconsin Public Radio and broadcast each week by more than 300 Public Radio International affiliates with a weekly audience of 1.4 million listeners.

Find more information on the web at www.notmuch.com.

Whad'Ya Know? National Program Sponsor: Boca Foods

Support for Michael Feldman's *Whad'Ya Know?* is provided by the Boca Foods Company, makers of meatless products with soy protein. Boca Burgers, along with Boca Meatless Chik'n patties & nuggets, Chili and ground burger are available in the frozen section of your grocery store. Recipes and more are on the web at Bocafoods.com. Boca—Chow Proudly!

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Michael Feldman, the star of the topical radio call-in quiz show, *Michael Feldman's Whad'Ya Know?*, is an American original. A 30-year overnight sensation, his program is carried by 300 Public Radio International affiliates and has a measured weekly audience of 1.4 million loyal fans.

Most of what Michael Feldman has to say he expresses in a laconic monologue or short comic asides and dizzingly fast repartée with guests and show colleagues. The youngest of four brothers (two are physicians and one is an attorney), Michael credits his family with fine-tuning his sense of the world and his ability to express it briefly. He says his dad "always gave me the kind of insightful fatherly advice that took him years of experience and wisdom to learn, but often only a few seconds to tell me."

Feldman made his radio debut in 1965, when his winning entry in an essay contest earned him an appearance on a radio program in Milwaukee. During the show he dedicated the song, "What Kind of Fool Am I?" to the owners of the Milwaukee Braves, who were in the process of forsaking Milwaukee for Atlanta. The only thing he remembers from the experience is that "the host told me that I talked too much."

With a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Wisconsin and "realizing that I was not qualified for anything," he went back to school in 1970 for teacher's certification. Of

the eight years he spent teaching, Michael recalls only that "it was an English class, and we spoke it." But he did use the classroom to perfect a free-flow, off-the-cuff style of communication that would later inspire *The Wall Street Journal* to dub him "The King of Small-Talk Radio."

Tired of correcting student papers, he abandoned teaching. He drove a cab and became a volunteer DJ on Madison's WORT-FM, hosting *Thanks for Calling*, a program which he describes as "a call-in for the bedridden, the elderly and the undatable." Feldman's ability to put his audience in a feel-good, relaxed mood led WORT-FM to give him his own show, *The Breakfast Special*, which was broadcast live from a greasy spoon called Dolly's Fine Foods five mornings a week.

Feldman moved to Wisconsin Public Radio in 1985 and began *Whad'Ya Know?*. The show immediately attracted both critical acclaim and a loyal coast-to-coast audience. Subsequently, he wrote "highly praised and widely ignored" books: the autobiographical *Whad'Ya Know?*, published in 1991; *Whad'Ya Knowledge?* published in 1993; and in 1995 *Thanks for the Memos*, a compilation of actual memos sent in by his listeners. Feldman's book *Wisconsin Curiosities* was released in Fall 2000. The book, written with *Whad'Ya Know?* Researcher Diana Cook and released by Globe Pequot Press, covers all the quirky characters, roadside oddities and other offbeat stuff you'll find in Wisconsin. In the early 1990s, Feldman released a CD series with Nimbus Records entitled *Whad'Ya Know? About the Classics*. In 1999, Feldman released a best-of compilation, *Why Not: The Best of Whad'Ya Know?*; in 2001, he released a best-of compilation titled *Road Kill*, featuring selected material from the more than 80 shows *Whad'Ya Know?* has produced "on the road." In 2003, Feldman released a music CD with long-time collaborator John Sieger. *Her Country: The Songs of Michael Feldman* comprise Feldman's lyrics and Sieger's music as performed by Sieger and The Skeletons. Feldman's latest project, a book titled *Something I Said? Innuendo and Out the Other*, was released in 2004 on University of Wisconsin Press.

Other major Michael Feldman productions, in partnership with his wife Sandy, include what he believes to be his finest work: two daughters: Ellie, born in 1991, and Nora, born in 1993.