

Thursday, February 19, 2009, 8pm
 Friday, February 20, 2009, 8pm
 Zellerbach Hall

Wait Wait...Don't Tell Me!



Tony Negelmann

Wait Wait...Don't Tell Me!

WAIT WAIT...DON'T TELL ME! is the oddly informative news quiz show from NPR®. A modern, sometimes raucous twist on the old-time radio quiz show, *Wait Wait* takes a fast-paced, irreverent look at the news of the world—and the weird. The host is Peter Sagal, an award-winning playwright, author and father of three in his spare time. And the show's official judge and scorekeeper is veteran NPR newscaster Carl Kasell.

A rotating trio of witty panelists completes the *Wait Wait* team. The roster of regulars includes author and humorist Roy Blount, Jr., advice columnist Amy Dickinson, writer and performer Adam Felber, author P. J. O'Rourke, comedian Paula Poundstone and humorist Mo Rocca.

Each week, Mr. Sagal quizzes panelists and listeners to determine just how closely they paid attention to the week's news. His questions come in all forms: lightning rounds, tape from NPR news shows, multiple choice, identify the "fake" stories and fill-in-the-blank limericks. Listeners call 888-WAIT-WAIT for a chance to win the show's coveted prize: a custom-recorded greeting by Carl Kasell for their home's answering machine or voicemail.

"Who's Carl This Time?" is one of the most popular segments of the show. Mr. Kasell recites quotes from the week's newsmakers, and the contestants guess who he is impersonating. "This is the only show where you'll get to hear NPR's most senior newscaster impersonate Britney Spears," the *Wait Wait* producers say.

The show's "Not My Job" segment puts famous guests to the test as they are quizzed on subjects about which they know absolutely nothing. *Wait Wait* has (surprisingly) attracted such noble names as Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer, actor Tom Hanks, U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald, comedian Drew Carey and President Barack Obama (...well, he was just Senator Obama at the time).

Wait Wait...Don't Tell Me! is a co-production of NPR and Chicago Public Radio. The program debuted nationally in 1998 and quickly established itself as one of public radio's favorite weekend programs.

Visit the show's website at waitwait.npr.org to take the daily news quiz, download the weekly podcast, find out what newsmaker personality you most resemble or find a local station and broadcast time.

The Oddly Informative News Quiz from NPR

Cal Performances' 2008–2009 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo Bank.

The People

IN ADDITION to their glamorous roles on NPR, the *Wait Wait...Don't Tell Me!* gang count among their ranks popular authors, journalists, actors, magicians, newscasters and even an extra in a Michael Jackson video.

Host **Peter Sagal** has had a varied career, including stints as a stage director, an actor, an extra in a Michael Jackson video, a contestant on *Jeopardy!*, a travel writer, an essayist, a ghost writer and a staff writer for a motorcycle magazine. He is most recently the author of *The Book of Vice: Very Naughty Things (And How to Do Them)*. Mr. Sagal has also written numerous plays that have been performed around the country and abroad.

Carl Kasell is an all-around genius and great guy, which makes him the perfect official judge and scorekeeper for *Wait Wait*. He has also been a newscaster for NPR's daily newsmagazine *Morning Edition* since its inception in 1979. His newscasts can be heard at the top of the hour every weekday morning on public radio stations nationwide. A veteran broadcaster, Mr. Kasell launched his radio career more than 50 years ago. He sometimes moonlights as a magician.

Doug Berman (*Executive Producer*) is the Peabody Award-winning producer of NPR's *Car Talk* and *Wait Wait...Don't Tell Me!* For the last 15 years, he's been on a one-man crusade to get NPR to lighten up. He was a news director at NPR member stations WFCR in Amherst, Massachusetts, and WBUR in Boston before giving up his legitimate career for this stuff.

Mike Danforth (*Senior Producer*) joined *Wait Wait...Don't Tell Me!* in November of 2000, after a distinguished tenure at *Prairie Home Companion* in his home state of Minnesota. His first week was spent weeding through numerous hanging chad jokes to find the best ones. He also tutors the staff in Foley-like vocal sound effects. And does not look like Andy Dick...at all!

We can only assume, when **Emily Ecton** (*Associate Producer*) was standing on the White House lawn, dressed in a six-foot high Arthur (the PBS Aardvark) costume helping Lynne Cheney preside over the Easter Egg Roll, she must have said to herself, "Life can get no better than this." But she was wrong! Soon after, she left the exciting world of PBS Media Relations and moved herself, her strangely squished-looking car and her dog, Binky, out to Chicago to join *Wait Wait*, where she serves as the Official Reality Television Expert. She is also the author of three books for kids, the most recent of which is *Night of the Living Lawn Ornaments*.

Lorna White (*Technical Director*) began working at NPR in 1984. She engineered most of the NPR network programs, including *All Things Considered*, *Performance Today* and *Morning Edition*, where she became the first technical director to yell at Rod Abid (former Executive Producer of *Wait Wait*). Being hopelessly Midwestern, she moved from Washington to NPR's bureau in Chicago in 1996. When not working on *Wait Wait...Don't Tell Me!*, Ms. White's day job includes managing audio production at the NPR bureau.

Robert Neuhaus (*Technical Director*), after many years spent as an award-winning theatrical sound designer and audio theater producer, went in search of even larger egos than the theater can contain and found them at *Wait Wait...Don't Tell Me!* Mr. Neuhaus has served as a recording engineer based in NPR's Chicago bureau since 1988, but he still moonlights from time to time creating storms and battles for Chicago Shakespeare Theater.

Roy Blount, Jr. (*Panelist*) is the author of 20 books, most recently *Long Time Leaving: Dispatches from Up South*, and including *Robert E. Lee, If Only You Knew How Much I Smell You*, *Roy Blount's Book of Southern Humor* and *Be Sweet: A Conditional Love Story*. Modesty aside, Mr. Blount has done more different things than any other humorist-novelist-journalist-dramatist-lyricist-lecturer-reviewer-screenwriter-anthologist-columnist-philologist of sorts he can think of.

Tom Bodett (*Panelist*) is an author and radio anomaly. He left a promising career building houses to become a writer and subsequently a commentator on *All Things Considered*. Mr. Bodett lived in Alaska for 25 years, is the author of seven books and has written for *The New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *Redbook* and, lately, the *Dummerston Views* in Windham County, Vermont. His voice has been heard on *Saturday Night Live*, *National Geographic Explorer* and Steven Spielberg's *Animaniacs*, and can still be heard in some people's faulty dental work, saying "We'll leave the light on for you" about 110 times a day.

Amy Dickinson (*Panelist*) writes the syndicated advice column "Ask Amy" for *The Chicago Tribune*, following in the footsteps of the legendary Ann Landers. She has also written for *Time*, *Esquire* and *O*. She has contributed radio stories to NPR programs for the past 10 years, and was an original "cast member" for the pilot of *Wait Wait...Don't Tell Me!* in 1998; ultimately she was offered a job as Roxanne Roberts's radio stunt double.

Adam Felber (*Panelist*) writes and performs for screens of all sizes and resolutions, and he spends almost every night on some stage or another. He comprises one half of the Irwin Smalls Trio, a sketch comedy group. His writing credits include PBS's *Arthur* and *Wishbone* as well as AMC's *The Wrong Coast*. He also writes for *The Smoking Gun* TV show. His first screenplay, *Women Are From*, is currently in development at Paramount/MTV Films. Mr. Felber has been improvising comedy all over the world for the past 15 years, but he can quit any time he wants to. In addition to his many talents, he is also an accomplished blogger.

P. J. O'Rourke (*Panelist*) is a correspondent for *The Atlantic*. He has been a journalist for 32 years and has covered news events in more than 40 countries. Mr. O'Rourke is also a regular contributor to *The Weekly Standard* and *Automobile*. He is the author of 10 books, including *Parliament of Whores*, *All the Trouble in the World*, *Eat the Rich* and, most recently, *The CEO of the Sofa*. He was editor-in-chief of *National Lampoon* from 1978 to 1981, and international affairs correspondent for *Rolling Stone* from 1985 to 2001.

Paula Poundstone (*Panelist*) is one of the country's foremost topical humorists and stand-up comedians. She has provided humor and commentary for the Emmy and Oscar Awards shows, and served as "official correspondent" for *The Tonight Show* during the 1992 Presidential race. Poundstone has earned two Cable ACE Awards, an Emmy and the American Comedy Awards' Best Female Stand-Up award. Her writing credits include *Mother Jones*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *Entertainment Weekly* and *Glamour*.

Roxanne Roberts (*Panelist*) is a writer of *The Washington Post's* daily "Reliable Source" gossip column and was prominently noted on *The Washingtonian's* "In" list for the year 2000.

Mo Rocca (*Panelist*) is a humorist who appears frequently on NPR's *All Things Considered*, VH1, MSNBC, Fox News, *Larry King Live*, *Sunday Morning with Charles Osgood* and *The Tonight Show*. He was a former correspondent for *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*, contributed to NBC's *Today Show* and hosted Bravo's *Things I Hate About You*. Recently, Mr. Rocca wowed audiences in a small but pivotal role in Telemundo's hit telenovela, *Amor Descarado*. His book, *All The Presidents' Pets*, blows the lid off the White House's deepest, darkest secrets. At newsbloggers.aol.com, Mr. Rocca writes about the news with his blog "Mo Rocca 180°: Only half as tedious as the regular news."