



Thursday, December 5, 2019, 8pm  
Zellerbach Hall

**Dan Pfeiffer**  
with Lauren Schiller

*Cal Performances' 2019–20 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.*

**Dan Pfeiffer** is a former White House communications director, noted political and digital strategist, *Pod Save America* co-host, CNN contributor, and best-selling author. His *New York Times* No. 1 best-seller, *Yes We (Still) Can: Politics in the Age of Obama, Twitter and Trump* is a colorful account of how politics, the media, and the internet changed during the Obama presidency alongside the evolution of social media. Along with fellow White House veterans Jon Favreau, Jon Lovett, and Tommy Vietor, he is co-host of the popular progressive podcast *Pod Save America*, a self-described “no-bull\*\*\*\* conversation about politics” with more than 300 million downloads. *Pod Save America* also became a series of popular live HBO specials that provided coverage of the 2018 midterm elections.

One of President Barack Obama’s longest serving advisors, Pfeiffer joined his presidential campaign at the outset, serving first as traveling press secretary and, eventually, as the campaign’s communications director. He entered the White House as Deputy Communications Director and, by the end of 2009, had risen to Communications Director. Pfeiffer held that post until his appointment as Senior Advisor in early 2013. In this role, he focused on communications, political, and digital strategy. Pfeiffer is credited with breaking new ground utilizing social media like Twitter, Facebook, Medium, and Instagram, helping to transition the communications apparatus into the digital age. From interviews by YouTube stars to the famous “Between Two Ferns” video with Zach Galifianakis, Pfeiffer was a key force in expanding the range of nontraditional venues that the President used to communicate with

the public. In addition to his campaign and White House experience, Pfeiffer is a former vice president of communications and policy at GoFundMe. He is a graduate of Georgetown University.

Combining wit, humor, inspiration, spot-on political instincts, and formidable storytelling abilities, Pfeiffer takes audiences inside Washington politics, the experience of working in the White House, and the adrenaline rush of high-stakes political campaigns. A self-described “process truster,” Pfeiffer infuses all of his talks with his energizing optimism for America’s political system and the importance of getting involved. As Pfeiffer’s *Pod Save America* co-hosts have said, “Dan is one of the most brilliant observers of politics and media in America, and he has never lost faith in the idea that activism and public service are noble, worthwhile pursuits—especially for young people who want to make a difference.”



**Lauren Schiller** is the creator and host of *In-flection Point*, a nationally syndicated public radio show and podcast from KALW and PRX about how women rise up, social change, and the quest for equality.

She hosts in-depth conversations with her guests that include stories, inspiration, and actions you can apply to your own life. Schiller can also be seen moderating live events at INFORUM, the Commonwealth Club, the Uncharted Berkeley Festival of Ideas, the Bay Area Book Festival, the JCCSF, and Zellerbach Hall.