

Ryan Seacrest's live wire

ACT



THE CONSTANTLY BUSY AND ENGAGING HOST, PRODUCER AND PHILANTHROPIST RECEIVES THE PRESS CLUB'S LUMINARY AWARD BY REBECCA FORD

If you want to find Ryan Seacrest, you don't have to look far. Often labeled the "busiest man in Hollywood," the 47-year-old TV host, radio personality and producer can be heard on the airwaves daily and seen on television morning and night. His tireless work ethic and charismatic, inquisitive personality have solidified him as one of the most recognizable faces and voices working in Hollywood today.

Currently, he is co-hosting and co-executive producing ABC's morning show "Live with Kelly and Ryan," for which he won an Emmy for outstanding talk show host. Since joining the show in 2017, he tapes live five days a week opposite co-host Kelly Ripa, then hops to another studio to host the KIIS-FM syndicated radio show "On Air With Ryan Seacrest," which he's been MCing since 2004. Once a week, he also hosts the countdown radio show "American Top 40 With Ryan Seacrest."

Seacrest is often delving into deep conversations with movie stars, musicians and politicians, and it's his ability to guide these cultural figures into deep, authentic conversation—often in a short amount of time—that sticks with viewers.

"I try to give my undivided attention to whomever I am talking to. Because when you do, you know what? They respond. They truly deliver genuine emotion or a relatable story," he wrote in *The Hollywood Reporter* in 2012.

Tonight, the Los Angeles Press Club is presenting Seacrest with the Luminary Award, which honors a member of the entertainment community for lifetime achievement and contributions to society.

Growing up in the Atlanta suburb of Dun-



Right: Seacrest has been broadcasting his show "On Air With Ryan Seacrest" from KIIS-FM for almost 20 years. Seacrest has won an Emmy while co-hosting the "Live with Kelly and Ryan" morning show on KABC, shown with Jake Gyllenhaal and co-host Kelly Ripa.



woody, Seacrest became interested in being a radio host at a young age, making cassette tapes of himself pretending to be a radio host and idolizing Rick Dees and Casey Kasem. In high school, he landed an internship at a local radio station. When a DJ called in sick, Seacrest filled in, and secured a weekend overnight shift at WSTR that lasted the rest of his high school days.

"I remember thinking, 'Everything I do from this point on is a step,'" he told *Details* in 2007. "If I'm scrubbing the break room, I'm closer to the studio room. And if I'm in the studio room, I'm closer to the microphone. If I'm closer to the microphone... I really got the psychology of it—that everything is connected."

He attended the University of Georgia to study journalism, but left at 19 to pursue his broadcasting career in Los Angeles. In 2002, he landed the co-hosting gig of a new FOX reality competition called "American Idol." By the second season he was the sole host, and as the show became a record-breaking hit, Seacrest became a household name. He remained the host of the series through its initial run that ended in 2017 and returned for the revival in 2018.

"You can't imagine the show without Ryan,"



Seacrest credits "American Idol" for giving him his big break, spurring his motivation to do more.

Co-hosting "Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve" in 2005 led to his becoming the current executive producer and host of the show. At left they are presenting the 30 Greatest Women in Music.

The Ryan Seacrest Foundation has built Seacrest Studios in 10 pediatric hospitals nationally, enabling them to explore multimedia outlets and create content to broadcast throughout the hospital.

Running the Ryan Seacrest Foundation involves a board and management team that includes his mother Connie Seacrest, sister Meredith Seacrest Leach, and father Gary Seacrest.

Ed Sheeran is presented a ginger-haired gingerbread guitarist at the iHeartRadio Jingle Ball in 2017.



Simon Fuller, creator of “American Idol,” told *Forbes* in 2010. “I’ve always said he is the unsung hero of ‘American Idol.’ He’s the glue.”

Looking back, Seacrest considers “American Idol” to be his big break.

“When it started, we realized it was something significantly special and unique,” he told *GQ* in 2015. “What it did for me was motivate me to do more. I saw it as an opportunity to expand my businesses because I now had access to get the meeting that I didn’t have before the success of that show.”

He began co-hosting “Dick Clark’s New Year’s Rockin’ Eve” in 2005, and continues to ring in the new year with audiences to this day as an executive producer and host of the holiday special. He hosted “E!’s Live from the Red Carpet” at major awards events like the Oscars and the Golden Globes for 14 years. His other hosting gigs have taken him around the world and in front of a variety of audiences. They include: “The Today Show”; an NBC late-night show at the Summer Olympics in Rio; a correspondent for the 2012 London Olympic Games; the Walt Disney World Christmas

Day Parade; the 2007 Primetime Emmy Awards; and game shows ranging from “Million Second Quiz” on NBC to “Knock Knock Live” on Fox.

His work behind the camera is just as varied. His Ryan Seacrest Productions, which he launched in 2006, made the incredibly popular reality series “E!’s Keeping Up With The Kardashians” and its spinoffs, along with Netflix’s “Insatiable,” NBC’s “Shades of Blue” starring Jennifer Lopez, and the Emmy Award-winning series “Jamie Oliver’s Food Revolution” for ABC.

Seacrest also dedicates time to his philanthropic work as the chairman of the Ryan Seacrest Foundation. Working closely with his sister Meredith Seacrest Leach, who serves as Executive Director and COO, the foundation has built 10 broadcast media centers—known as Seacrest Studios—in pediatric hospitals nationwide, with plans for two more to open in 2023.

“The wonderful part about working for so many people for so many years is that I have the means and resources to give back and help out,” he said of his philanthropic work to *Variety* in 2015. “I have a responsibility to do it. It’s part of who we as human beings should be.”

Despite these many off-air endeavors, it’s Seacrest’s abilities in the live space that best show off his skills. “There is a rush and a pace to live broadcasting that is just not there on tape,” Seacrest told *The Hollywood Reporter*. “I think I’m a little bit better live than on tape. I don’t know, maybe I just relax too much.”

Like many of the men Seacrest looks up to—including Dick Clark, Larry King and Merv Griffin—he has the ability to make what he does look effortless, and exudes a warm energy that makes everyone feel like a friend and an equal. As he told *GQ* in 2015, “The legacy that I hope to leave is that people think of me as their friend on the radio, their friend on TV, who made it look pretty easy and was a source or a conduit for escapism.”



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