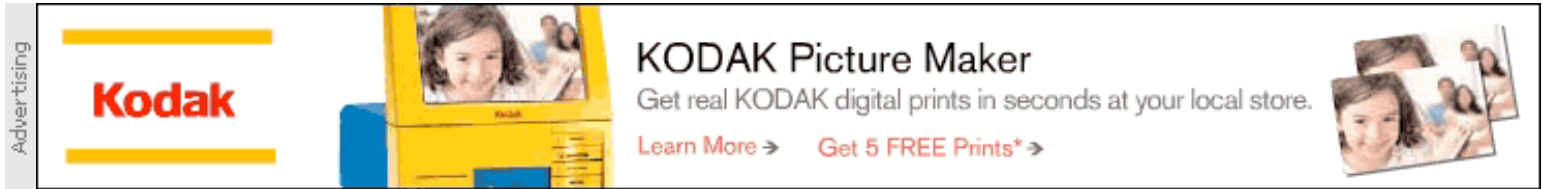


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Anchor for the night

Former 'ET' co-host Tesh now offers a radio blend of music and advice

08:35 PM CDT on Monday, June 27, 2005

By ANN PINSON / The Dallas Morning News

The response John Tesh gets from the public has changed since the former *Entertainment Tonight* co-host started his own radio show.

"I did a show for so many years that had no impact," he says. "God bless *Entertainment Tonight*, but the most e-mails and phone calls I got from anybody was when somebody wanted LeAnn Rimes' autograph or something. When I left *Entertainment Tonight*, I was like, 'This is it, I'm going where my heart is: music.'"

"This is such a great fit for that because you can actually have an impact on people's lives."

The John Tesh Radio Show, which last week made its local debut on "Sunny 97.1" KEGL-FM (97.1), airs on more than 200 stations. The five-hour program includes advice drawn from a variety of publications, sprinkled between adult contemporary music.

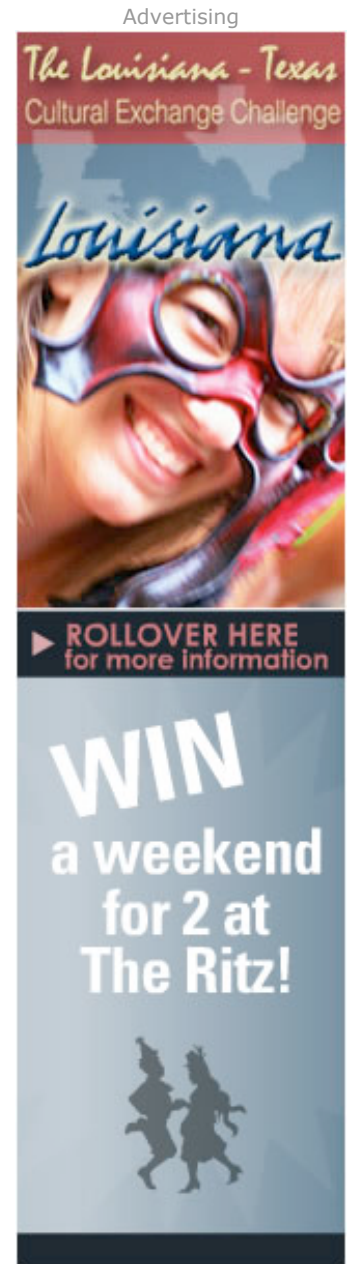
"I actually love doing the show because I come up with so many random facts," says Mr. Tesh, who lives in Los Angeles with his wife, actress Connie Sellecca, and daughter and stepson. "I drive my family crazy. It's everything from what's the germiest thing in a hotel room to what you can say to your wife today to melt her heart."

The inspiration for the show came from Ms. Sellecca, who subscribes to numerous publications about fitness, parenting and wellness. But, he says, she never has time to read them. So he decided to put together information people might like to use to improve their lives but might not have time to find.

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"It's sort of a show for our times," he says. "We've filled our lives with so much stuff that the only time we have any quiet time or alone time is often in the car or at work when everybody has left."

"It's like I'm standing in front of this giant newsstand and somebody picked all the magazines I need for my life and now they're just giving it to me."

Actually, seven full-time researchers comb books, magazines and newsletters for information. Relationships, parenting, goal-setting and ways to live a longer life are popular topics.

Between advice segments, Mr. Tesh plays music from the likes of Celine Dion, Boyz II Men and Christina Aguilera. The content is family-friendly, and that's a conscious choice.

"We definitely believe in family values," he says. "If a 9-year-old can't listen to it, you won't hear it on this show."

"What really did surprise me was how many kids listen to the show. We get a lot of 9-, 10-, 12-, 15-year-old kids who will look for homework ideas by going to our archives."

So does he follow his own advice? He says he tries to, although he admits "there are times that I wrestle with a pint of ice cream." Besides, he's actually been in a lot of the situations that he talks about.

"I've been married for 13 years and I have a stepson who's 23 and a daughter who's 10," he says. "I've had maybe two or three different wacky careers. I'm able to relate to a lot of this stuff."

His careers have brought him three gold albums, six Emmys, two Grammy nominations, three PBS specials and two tours as an announcer and composer for the Olympic Games.

He's still touring as a musician, and his schedule includes a free concert Aug. 14 at Prestonwood Baptist Church in Plano. He limits his tour schedule to about 30 concerts a year, to allow time for the radio show and his family.

Along the way, the responses he gets from the show continue to surprise him.

"We, wonderfully enough, have some real die-hard fans who will e-mail us and call us and tell us how the show has impacted their life," he says.

"We have truck drivers tell us that they won't drive out of the listening area. They'll pull over on the freeway, so they won't miss three ways to be a better spouse."

E-mail apinson@dallasnews.com

The John Tesh Radio Show

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Sundays through Fridays from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. on "Sunny 97.1" KEGF-FM (97.1). www.tesh.com.

MEMORY TRICKS

Now that Mr. Tesh dispenses advice on his radio show, people he meets sometimes ask him for more.

"They think that I know all this stuff and I've memorized everything," he says.

But that's nothing new.

"People used to walk up to me when I was on *Entertainment Tonight* and ask me for Phil Collins' birthday," he says. "I'm like, 'You know, I did not memorize all the birthdays while I was there.'"

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