

## HuffPost Live Host Biographies

*As of the streaming network's launch on August 13, 2012, HuffPost Live hosts including the following ten talented individuals. They are based out of studios in New York, NY and Los Angeles, CA, with a Washington, D.C. bureau.*

### **Abby Huntsman**

Abby is a political commentator who has formerly worked with ABC News in Washington, D.C., and *Good Morning America* in New York City. She held a position at the international public relations firm, Burson-Marsteller. Abby most recently worked on Jon Huntsman's Campaign as a media advisor and surrogate. She grew up out West in Utah but has spent many of her years living in Asia, most recently Beijing, after marrying her college sweetheart. Abby graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 2008, where she studied Political Science and Communications.

### **Ahmed Shihab-Eldin**

Ahmed helped create and was the former co-host and producer of Al Jazeera English's "The Stream." Since the Arab uprisings began in 2011, Ahmed has been invited to speak at media and technology conferences focusing on the democratization of media and the Arab world, including the United Nations and Google Zeitgeist. Born in California to Palestinian parents, Ahmed Shihab-Eldin spent his formative years in Kuwait, Austria and Egypt. Ahmed is an adjunct professor at Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism where he teaches digital media. He also advises master's project students and served as consultant on News21, a collaboration of 12 journalism schools under the Carnegie-Knight initiative on the Future of Journalism Education. In 2008, his master's thesis earned him a Webby Award for "Defining Middle Ground: The Next Generation of Muslim New Yorkers."

### **Alicia Menendez**

Alicia formerly co-hosted "Power Play" on SiriusXM's Cristina Radio, and served as a contributor to NBCLatino.com. From Rock the Vote and Democracia USA, organizations dedicated to engaging emerging electorates, to NDN and the New Policy Institute, a leading think tank in Washington, DC, Alicia's work has focused on empowering Millennials, women and Latinos. She is also a co-founder of Define American, a non-profit project dedicated to elevating the national conversation around immigration. Alicia is a sought after speaker, and frequent commentator on leading cable news networks, including MSNBC and CNN. She is a graduate of Harvard College, and is originally from Union City, NJ.

### **Alyona Minkovski**

Alyona most recently hosted "The Alyona Show" which premiered in October 2009 on the international news network RT (formerly *Russia Today*). In 2011, Alyona was named one of the Forbes Top 30 Under 30 media personalities and was interviewed by Brian Lamb for CSPAN's Q&A. Alyona was one of the first journalists to interview Wikileaks founder Julian Assange after the release of the Collateral Murder video in April of 2010. Alyona speaks English and Russian fluently. Born in Moscow, Alyona was raised in California. She earned her Bachelors degree in Political Science and minored in Film and Digital Media at the University of California.

### **Jacob Soboroff**

Jacob has created and hosted programming for some of the most well known networks in the United States. Jacob is also a contributor to MTV's 2012 presidential election coverage and hosts "Civics In A Minute" for Participant Media. As a former AMC News correspondent, Jacob interviewed actors and filmmakers at the world's most prestigious film festivals for the critically acclaimed network. Also for

AMC, Jacob narrated the documentary "Committed," which he produced with Oscar and Emmy nominee Morgan Spurlock. Jacob also formerly co-hosted NBC's proactive school makeover-show School Pride. In college, Jacob was an aide to New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg.

### **Janet Varney**

Janet is an actress and improvisational artist, who currently hosts the innovative podcast, the jv club and is the voice of the title character on Nickelodeon's wildly popular animated Avatar series. Varney is perhaps best known for her wildly successful and long-running stint as co-host of TBS' Dinner and a Movie and her recurring role as the smart, sexy TV executive Amy Miller on HBO's Entourage. And for the past 12 years, Janet has co-produced the San Francisco Comedy Festival, which she co-created.

### **Josh Zepps**

Josh is a satirist, broadcaster and television host. In his native Australia he hosted *Idol Backstage*, the behind-the-scenes component of the country's most popular show, *Australian Idol*. His work has included writing and performing an award-winning franchise of satirical sketches for radio, as well as performing at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival and on the Las Vegas Strip. He is a moderator at the annual World Science Festival in New York and regularly emcees live events such as the Golden Pencil Awards at MOMA. Josh's hosting work has aired on the forty-foot tall video billboards above Times Square and on Bloomberg TV, Nick at Night, Discovery Channel, Style Network, and the Peabody-winning Channel One News. He was the host and creative producer of Science Channel's *Brink*, which took an irreverent weekly look at breakthroughs on the brink of changing the world. Josh is a science nerd and a political geek. He is a graduate of the University of Technology, Sydney, and the Upright Citizens Brigade Theatre.

### **Mike Sacks**

Mike Sacks is a Host/Producer with HuffPost Live. Prior to joining Huffington Post in 2011 as Supreme Court Correspondent, Mike blogged about the Supreme Court at First One @ One First. His work was featured in countless prestigious national news outlets, including the New York Times and NPR. Mike has also contributed reporting about law and politics to the Christian Science Monitor and the ABA Journal. Mike is a graduate of Georgetown Law and Duke University.

### **Marc Lamont Hill**

Marc is one of the leading hip-hop generation intellectuals in the country. Marc is the author of two books: *Beats, Rhymes, and Classroom Life: Hip-Hop Pedagogy* and *the Politics of Identity and The Classroom and the Cell: Conversations on Black life in America*. Since 2009, Marc has been on the faculty of Columbia University as Associate Professor of Education at Teachers College. He also holds an affiliated faculty appointment in African American Studies at the Institute for Research in African American Studies at Columbia University. In 2005, Ebony Magazine named him one of America's top 30 Black leaders under 30 years old. In 2011, Ebony named him one of America's 100 most influential Black leaders. Marc holds a Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania.

### **Nancy Redd**

Nancy Redd is a *New York Times* bestselling author of BODY DRAMA and DIET DRAMA who is frequently called to speak on empowerment, body image, and other women's issues. Two weeks after graduating from Harvard with a honors degree in Women's Studies, Nancy, a proud and loud feminist, won the title of Miss Virginia, going on to become swimsuit winner and top 10 at Miss America. Not only did she wax her forehead and drop 60 pounds to win the title, she also joined the 2004 March for Choice

while wearing her crown and put "The Vagina Monologues" on her autograph picture bio even though most thought it was a typo and was supposed to be "The Virginia Monologues." Formerly the spokeswoman for UbyKotex, Nancy lives in LA with her husband, actor Rupak Ginn and their baby boy August.

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