

LINDA ELLERBEE

Linda Ellerbee is an outspoken journalist, award-winning television producer, best-selling author, breast cancer survivor, mother, grandmother and one of the most sought-after speakers in America.

Ellerbee began her career at CBS, and then moved to NBC News where, after years covering national politics, she pioneered the late-night news program *NBC News Overnight*, which she wrote and anchored. *Overnight* was cited by the duPont Columbia Awards as "the best written and most intelligent news program ever." In 1986, Ellerbee moved to ABC News to anchor and write *Our World*, a weekly primetime historical series. Her work on *Our World* won her an Emmy.

In 1987, Ellerbee and Rolfe Tessem, her partner, quit network news to start Lucky Duck Productions, first producing documentaries for PBS. In 1991, Lucky Duck began producing *Nick News* for Nickelodeon with Ellerbee writing and hosting. Eighteen years later, *Nick News* is watched by more children than watch all other television news shows put together—and has earned honors traditionally associated with adult programming. Known for the respectful and direct way it speaks to children about the important issues of our time, *Nick News* has collected three Peabody Awards (including one personal Peabody given to Ellerbee for her coverage of the Clinton investigation), a duPont Columbia Award and seven Emmys, including this year's Emmy for Outstanding Children's Programming, given for *Coming Home: When Parents Return From War*.

These days, Ellerbee and her work can be seen all over the television universe. Lucky Duck has and continues to produce primetime specials for ABC, CBS, HBO, PBS, Lifetime, MTV, Logo, A&E, MSNBC, SOAPnet, Trio, Animal Planet and TV Land, among others. Ellerbee was honored with an Emmy for her series, *When I Was a Girl*, which aired on WE: Women's Entertainment network.

Ellerbee's first foray into books for kids, an eight-part fiction series entitled *Get Real*, published in 2000, won her raves among middle school readers. Both of Ellerbee's previous adult books—*And So It Goes*, a humorous look at television news, and *Move On*, stories about being a working single mother, a child of the '60s and a woman trying to find some balance in her life—have been national best sellers. Ellerbee's recent book, also a best seller, *Take Big Bites: Adventures Around the World and Across the Table*, a tribute to her love of travel, talking to (and eating with) strangers, and, according to Ellerbee, "oh, just making trouble in general."

As a breast cancer survivor, Ellerbee travels thousands of miles each year giving inspirational speeches to others. She is as direct with women as she is with kids; *they* understand that *she* understands *their* lives.

Although Ellerbee has won all of television's highest honors, she says it's her two children who've brought her the richest rewards. Ellerbee spends her personal time in New York City and Massachusetts with Rolfe, her partner in work and life and their dogs, Daisy and Dolly.

CONTACT INFORMATION:
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ELLERBEE SPEECH TOPICS

All speeches run approximately 45 minutes. Ellerbee can follow up with 15 minutes of Q&A. Also, Ellerbee can do combinations of some of the speeches below.

How To Be Successful and Hang Onto Your Values: How Ellerbee balanced having kids and building a career...or tried to. Ellerbee delivers her trademark wit and wisdom on everything from leaving the networks to starting her own company, from having a boss to being the boss.

Surviving Breast Cancer to Laugh Another Day: Ellerbee describes her experience with breast cancer – from the heartfelt yet amusing reactions of friends and colleagues, to the determination and spirit that help make her a 17+-year survivor.

How to Survive a Changing World and How to Change Your World: Ellerbee gives her rules for surviving a changing world with the heart intact – from surviving breast cancer, to climbing mountains, from overcoming obstacles to making a noise. In her life and in her career, Ellerbee has learned that *change* is the norm.

How to Raise Media-Savvy Kids: In the future, our kids will either learn to use the media that surround them as tools, or they will be tools of that media. Television. The Internet. iPhones. What's next? And what is media literacy today, and how do we teach it? Ellerbee offers insight and perspective gained from speaking with (and listening to) kids for nearly 20 years on the critically-acclaimed children's television series, "Nick News"....and from raising two media-savvy kids of her own.

Kids, Television, and the News: Ellerbee talks about her journey to producing children's television – how she created *Nick News*, her long-running series on Nickelodeon and “what I've learned about children, television and the real world.”

PLEASE NOTE: THIS SPEECH MAY BE TAILORED FOR EDUCATION GROUPS. Ellerbee talks about how teachers can use television as a teaching tool and turn television from the enemy into the teacher's friend.

Adventures in Journalism: From newspapers to networks, she's gone from covering fires and parades to presidential debates and international terrorism, and collected some of the most prestigious awards along the way. Ellerbee talks about her experience as a veteran journalist.

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HERE'S WHAT THE PRESS SAYS...

"To put it plainly, Linda Ellerbee blew them away...news reporter, writer, producer -- and as the room soon learned -- a captivating storyteller who took charge and gave the group power..."

The Hartford Courant
Hartford, CT

"The first thing you should know about Linda Ellerbee is her rapid-fire, you-must-understand-this, get-with-the-program style of speech, so recognizable on television and in her writings, couldn't possibly be an affected mannerism. It's the way she talks about everything – whether it's her current book, politics, or production details of her long-running program on Nickelodeon, Nick News. And Ms. Ellerbee has plenty to talk about."

The Dallas Morning News
Dallas, TX

"Ellerbee kept the crowd laughing with tales of her colorful career in journalism... it is the cancer survivors who bonded most with the newscaster, sharing a connection that Ellerbee said can be understood 'by those who have been down the same road.'"

Chicago Daily Herald
Chicago, IL

"It was keynote speaker Linda Ellerbee, a feminist journalist and cancer survivor, who rocked the crowd with her humorous irreverence..."

Contra Costa Times
Contra Costa, CA

"Ellerbee peppered her words of personal reality with her own sense of humor...her powerful and dramatic manner of speech emphasized her emotional statements...when she spoke, her candid comments created an invisible attachment with the audience."

Pensacola News Journal
Pensacola, FL

"With her raspy voice and frank, no-nonsense demeanor, Ellerbee describes her experience with both humor and pathos. Her story can anger, inspire, move and amuse, all at the same time..."

Connecticut Post
Bridgeport, CT

*"Like a stand-up comedian, Linda Ellerbee had her timing down.
Like a preacher, she had the words to inspire.
Like a survivor, she had a story."*

Plain Dealer
Cleveland, OH

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HERE'S WHAT SPONSORS SAY...

"Linda was amazing in every sense and I've received such rave reviews from our patients and others who attended. She was funny...she pulled at your heartstrings...some stories she told made you mad, then sad. She connected so much with the patients and that is probably the best part. She was the best guest we've ever had..."

Cancer Institute of New Jersey
New Brunswick, NJ

"We have heard so many wonderful and positive comments about Linda. She was absolutely wonderful – her speech was dynamic, heartwarming and real. I was able to meet her and had an immediate feeling of warmth and kindness. She is truly an inspiration for all and I am so glad she was able to share her story with us in Houston..."

Nancy Owens Memorial Foundation
Houston, TX

"Your visit to us was so special! My phone has rung so many times with men and women conveying their appreciation for you. Your wit and zest for living charmed and inspired all of us. You are indeed a generous woman with a big, loving heart..."

The Center For Cancer Care
Huntsville, AL

"You beautifully and eloquently surpassed all of our expectations...your heartfelt message touched all of us. One of your many gifts is to somehow single out each and everyone as though – perhaps for just a moment – you were speaking only to them. Your patience with the press and with everyone who spoke to you – so many of them! -- was wonderful to see..."

Cancer Research & Treatment Fund
New York, NY

"You generated raves and from all we hear, they will continue for some time. Your masterly balance of emotional heft and wise humor left the audience feeling exhilarated...We Texans appreciate women who tell it like it is. And you did. Our audience was shedding tears one minute and rolling in the aisles the next. Frankly, we are having trouble finding a keynote speaker for next year who can live up to your example."

Breast Cancer Resource Center of Austin
Austin, TX

"Linda was a big hit, vivacious and refreshingly honest. The audience gave her a standing ovation and leaped to form a queue to meet her after her presentation..."

Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation
Cincinnati, OH

"Linda was so well-received...what a story teller! She had our audience crying, laughing and cheering. It was great. I've always been a fan, but now I tell everyone they have to hear what she has to say..."

Memorial Healthcare System
Hollywood, FL

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