



Center for Communication Presents:

Gossip Media: Did You Hear...?

Tuesday, April 22
6:30 to 8:00 pm

The foibles and follies of celebs can be fun and entertaining, but social media and the Internet have changed the game, and a growing number of the famous (and infamous) are disturbed about stories that can stay "out there" forever. Hear from our panel of New York's best-known and most respected gossip-hounds on what it takes to be successful in the field today. Learn firsthand from those who taught a generation of reporters that despite the temptations and stereotypes, you CAN write a gossip column with integrity! (Book signing of *Scandal: A Manual* follows the conversation.)

Jo Piazza, Executive News Director, *In Touch* and *Life & Style*; author, *Celebrity Inc.*
Richard Johnson, Columnist, *NY Post*
George Rush, co-author, *Scandal, a Manual: The Inside Story from America's Infamous Gossip Columnists*
Moderator: Michael Riedel, Theatre Columnist, *N.Y. Post* and Co-Host, *Theatre Talk*, PBS

Presented with The School of Media Studies at The New School for Public Engagement

The New School, Theresa Lang Center, 2nd Floor
55 West 13th Street (5th & 6th Aves.)



Michael Riedel



Jo Piazza



Richard Johnson



George Rush

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JO PIAZZA

EXECUTIVE NEWS DIRECTOR OF *IN TOUCH, LIFE & STYLE* AND *CLOSER WEEKLY*

Jo Piazza got her start in celebrity journalism at the vaunted Rush & Molloy gossip column at the New York Daily News. She is currently the Executive News Director of *In Touch, Life & Style and Closer Weekly*. Her journalism has appeared in the *Wall Street Journal*, the *New York Times*, *Glamour*, *New York Magazine*, and *The Huffington Post*. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and the Columbia School of Journalism, Piazza is also the author of the novel *Love Rehab* and *Celebrity, Inc.: How Famous People Make Money*. She has appeared as a commentator on CNN, Fox News, MSNBC, and NPR. She lives in Manhattan with her giant dog.

RICHARD JOHNSON

COLUMNIST, *NEW YORK POST*

Richard Johnson is a columnist for the *New York Post* covering a mix of gossip, society news, business and politics. He returned to the Post after serving as The Daily's Los Angeles Bureau Chief (2010-2012). Prior to that, Johnson was editor of Page Six, the New York Post's signature gossip page, for nearly 25 years. As one of Page Six's most influential editors, he chronicled the lives of "It Girls," broke news stories and scandals, launched careers and uncovered secrets in politics.

Johnson arrived at the Post in 1978 as a general assignment reporter and took over Page Six in 1985, with a three-year sabbatical to work in TV, at The New York Observer and as a gossip columnist for the New York Daily News. A native New Yorker and prep school product, he is a self-made man, having worked as a carpenter, contractor and New York City cab driver before cutting his teeth in journalism as an unpaid intern at the Chelsea Clinton News, a neighborhood weekly in Manhattan.

GEORGE RUSH

AUTHOR, *SCANDAL: A MANUAL*

George Rush grew up on the North Shore of Chicago and, as editor of his high school paper, knew early on he wanted to be a journalist. After graduating from Brown University, George moved to New York and attended the Columbia School of Journalism, and soon was hired by the *New York Post*, where he met his future wife and co-writer, Joanna Molloy, when both were assigned to write for "Page Six." George and Joanna later moved on to *The Daily News* where, several days a week, their column, "Rush & Molloy," took up two full pages and covered film, politics, finance, media, fashion and sports. "Rush & Molloy" was internationally syndicated for 15 years, and had an audience of 12.5 million readers. When it was revealed they were a married couple, the media became intrigued and both the E! Channel and *Entertainment Tonight* did profiles on them. This led to their making regular appearances on shows like *Inside Edition*, *Hard Copy*, *Extra*, and *A Current Affair*. George has also written for *Vanity Fair*, *Rolling Stone*, *Esquire* and *Conde Nast Traveler*. Currently, he's at Lorne Michaels company, Broadway Video.

MODERATOR: MICHAEL RIEDEL

THEATER COLUMNIST, *NEW YORK POST*; TV CO-HOST, *THEATER TALK*

Michael Riedel is the theater columnist for *The New York Post* and the co-host of *Theater Talk*, a weekly television program about the New York theater world that airs on Channel Thirteen/WNET. Before joining the *New York Post*, Riedel was the theater columnist for *The New York Daily News*. He was also the managing editor of *TheaterWeek* magazine. He has a B.A. in history from Columbia University.