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Lifestyle

Coronavirus Florida: Former TV host streams talk show with famous friends from Palm Beach condo

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Former television host Bill Boggs entertains viewers with exclusive interviews from his Palm Beach condo during the coronavirus pandemic.

For television host Bill Boggs, laughter is the best medicine. During the coronavirus quarantine, Boggs has been hosting his celebrity friends from his Palm Beach condo via Zoom to spread some cheer during these trying times, and he's inviting others to tune in.

Since April, Boggs has been airing "Trapped Live!" a live YouTube series where , his guests from around the nation share details of their lives during the coronavirus pandemic.

"My son said to come up with something really funny," Boggs said about the show's origin. "Something to entertain you, lighten your load and put comedy on the air."

With the help of director and announcer Jeff Leibowitz, Boggs has featured guests like Lucie Arnaz, Lisa Lampanelli, Jackie "The Joke Man" Martling and Ann Hampton Callaway, as well as surprise appearances by girlfriend Jane Rothchild, who goes by Lady Jane.



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“Jane has a great sense of humor. She’s a natural,” Boggs said. Like Boggs, Rothchild has a background in television. She began her career on “The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson” and was a “Pyramid” game show producer.

“I was always a behind-the-scenes kind of girl,” Rothchild said. “He’s brought out my on-camera personality.”

Boggs spent decades interviewing celebrities like Miles Davis, Whoopi Goldberg and Hugh Hefner. He was a weekend anchor on WNBC’s “Weekend Today in New York” and hosted “TV Diners” and “Corner Table” on the Food Network. His last gig was as a contributor to the long-running PBS series, “My Generation.” Over the years, his interviewees have become friends.

“Why should I be booking people that are hard to get when I have people’s phone numbers,” he said. “They’re people I’m comfortable with.”

His [YouTube channel BillBoggsTV](#), which has nearly 10,000 subscribers, also features home videos with Rothchild and hundreds of interviews from his archives including one with Frank Sinatra.

“I was told by Sinatra, ‘If you’re going to spend your life interviewing people like this you should find out what makes them this way,’” Boggs said.

Sinatra’s words inspired him to write “Got What it Takes? Successful People Reveal How They Made it to the Top,” released in 2008, where he provides wisdom from his celebrity friends. He’s also written “At First Sight” and his latest project “The Adventures of Spike the Wonder Dog,” a comic novel based on his deceased dog and Boggs’ rise to fame as a talk show host told through the pup’s eyes, will be released May 19.

Meanwhile, Boggs continues to put on a live show at 5 p.m. every Friday on his YouTube channel and [Facebook page](#). His next guests are comedian Mike Marino and Dean Martin’s daughter, actress and singer Deana Martin.

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