JEOPARDY! SEASON 32 PRESS KIT

Show Description, Talent Bios, & More | Contact: Alison Shapiro
Background:
JEOPARDY!, America’s Favorite Quiz Show® and its host, Alex Trebek, are in their 32nd season in syndication. The top-ranked quiz show, with 25 million viewers each week, JEOPARDY! holds the Guinness World Records® title for the most Emmy® Awards won by a TV game show (32 Emmys), including the 2015 Emmy® for Outstanding Game Show. In 2014, JEOPARDY! won the inaugural Writers Guild of America award for Outstanding Writing for a Quiz and Audience Participation Show; it is also the recipient of a 2011 Peabody Award. JEOPARDY! is produced by Sony Pictures Television, a Sony Pictures Entertainment Company; it is distributed domestically by CBS Television Distribution and internationally by CBS Television International, both units of CBS Corp.

Created by Merv Griffin in 1964 as a daytime show for NBC, JEOPARDY! is a daily half-hour quiz show with a unique answer-and-question format. Johnny Gilbert serves as announcer, and Harry Friedman is executive producer.

Format:
JEOPARDY! provides a test of knowledge across a variety of interesting subjects such as literature, history, science, the arts, and pop culture. Each game consists of three rounds:

- “Single Jeopardy!”: Includes six categories, each with a column of five clues. The “clues” are sorted by varying degrees of difficulty and are matched by increasing dollar values. Three competing contestants are given a “clue” in the form of an answer displayed on the show’s High-Definition game board. Players use a hand-held signaling device and must be the first contestant to ring in and successfully give a response in the form of a question.
- “Double Jeopardy!”: Similar to the first round, Double Jeopardy! features new categories and “clues” with doubled dollar amounts for each “clue.”
- “Final Jeopardy!”: One category is revealed by host Alex Trebek prior to the commercial break. The contestants write down a wager ranging between zero and up to their cash winnings accumulated at that point during the show. Once the final “clue” is revealed, players have 30 seconds to write a response in the traditional form of a question.

Each daily winner returns to the next day’s program as a defending champion. With no limit on appearances, returning champions may continue amassing winnings on JEOPARDY! as long as they remain victorious.

Special Programming:
JEOPARDY! offers an array of special competitions throughout the season. Examples include:
• **Tournament of Champions:** The JEOPARDY! champions who have won the most games during the prior season, plus the winner of the Teachers Tournament, return to the stage to compete against one another for a $250,000 grand prize.

• **Teachers Tournament:** Introduced in 2011, the Teachers Tournament puts a national spotlight on the importance and impact of educators with 15 of the nation’s brightest K-12 teachers.

• **College Championship:** Fifteen of the brightest undergraduate students from colleges and universities across the U.S. vie for a grand prize of $100,000.

• **Teen Tournament:** Fifteen teenagers compete in a two-week tournament for a grand prize of $75,000.

For more information, please visit Jeopardy.com.
Alex Trebek has been the host of JEOPARDY! since America’s Favorite Quiz Show®’s syndicated debut in 1984. He has become one of television’s most enduring and iconic figures, engaging millions of viewers worldwide with his impeccable delivery of “answers and questions.”

He has won five daytime Emmy awards for Outstanding Game Show Host as well as a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Television Academy. He has been honored with a coveted star on both the Hollywood Walk of Fame and the Canadian Walk of Fame. In 2011, Trebek and JEOPARDY! received the Peabody Award for “encouraging, celebrating and rewarding knowledge.”

In 2014, Trebek set a Guinness World Record® for Most Game Show Episodes Hosted by the Same Presenter; he has now hosted more than 7,000 episodes of JEOPARDY!.

Born in Sudbury, Ontario, Trebek moved to Ottawa to attend the University of Ottawa High School when he was 16 years old. He continued on to the University of Ottawa, where he earned a degree in philosophy before embarking on a career in broadcasting, covering national news and special events for radio and television. With the growing popularity of game shows, he eventually segued into the role of JEOPARDY! host and quickly became a pop culture icon.

Trebek has maintained strong ties to his alma mater: he has created scholarships, sponsored a Lecture Series, and supported the construction of Alumni Hall, which, in May 2015, was named in his honor. He was conferred an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Ottawa and he received the Meritas Tabaret Award for Alumni Achievement, the top award bestowed on University of Ottawa alumni.

In addition to his career as a host, Trebek has shown an ongoing commitment to several charities and educational organizations. In 2013, the National Geographic Society awarded him the Alexander Graham Bell Medal for his 25 years as host of the National Geographic Bee. In 2010, Alex received an award from World Vision in recognition of his 25 years of service to that organization.

Trebek lives in Los Angeles with his wife, Jean, and has two adult children: Matthew and Emily.
HARRY FRIEDMAN  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Overview

Harry Friedman is one of television’s most prolific producers, having produced over 9,300 game show episodes, including more than 8,000 episodes of the two most enduring and successful syndicated programs of all time, Wheel of Fortune and JEOPARDY!. Friedman’s success is marked by his ability to maintain the tradition of the long-running shows, while tweaking each just enough to keep them current and on the cutting edge.

Friedman’s work on Wheel of Fortune and JEOPARDY! has earned him two Guinness World Records® titles: He is the Guinness World Record holder for both most Emmy® Award nominations for a game show producer with 41 and most Emmy® Award wins by a game show producer with 13. In 2011, Wheel of Fortune and JEOPARDY! tied for the Outstanding Game Show award, and Friedman became the first producer ever to win two Emmys in the same category in a tie with himself.

In 2007, Friedman was honored by the National Association of Television Program Executives with the prestigious Brandon Tartikoff Legacy Award. Later that year, he was inducted into the Broadcasting & Cable Hall of Fame.

Named a 2012 Daily Variety Daytime TV Impact Honoree, Friedman is known for staying ahead of the curve with innovative game elements and incorporating the latest technology. In September 2006, JEOPARDY! and Wheel of Fortune made television history when they became the first syndicated programs to broadcast in High Definition. Friedman has also championed the development of Wheel of Fortune and JEOPARDY! extensions for mobile devices, along with versions for Facebook, Nintendo’s Wii, and Playstation.

A member of the Writers Guild of America-West and the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, Friedman lives in Los Angeles with his wife, Judy.

Together, they are champions of philanthropy. The pair support Omaha’s Children’s Hospital and Medical Center, the National Disaster Search Dog Foundation and multiple scholarship funds for deserving college students. Friedman is also a co-founder and Board member of the Marlene F. Landy Cancer Foundation. The foundation provides support to cancer patients while undergoing treatment. To date, over 250 families have received assistance.
In addition, Harry and Judy Friedman have established The Harry and Judy Friedman Family Foundation. The private foundation supports programs that aim to assist children by reducing hunger and increasing educational opportunities. The foundation also supports veterans of the U.S. armed services and programs dedicated to the rescue and humane treatment of animals.

**Career**

A native of Omaha, Neb., Friedman developed an early fascination with television programming and personalities, including a young, local celebrity named Johnny Carson. Long before the concept of student internships was created, Friedman began hanging around Omaha’s first television stations, learning by watching and doing whatever management permitted.

While attending the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, Friedman also worked as a reporter and feature writer for the Lincoln Star newspaper.

In 1971, Friedman arrived in Los Angeles and, without contacts, gave himself six months to find a job in the business. With less than 24 hours remaining on his self-imposed deadline, he talked his way into a part-time question-writer spot on “Hollywood Squares,” marking the beginning of his long, valued relationship with Heatter-Quigley Productions. Over the following 11 years, Friedman wrote and produced thousands of episodes of the popular series and was also actively involved in the development of several other game shows, including “Gambit” and “High Rollers.” He first joined Wheel of Fortune as a producer in 1995, adding producer duties for JEOPARDY! in 1997.

In 1998, he helped launch Rock & Roll JEOPARDY!, which aired on the VH1 network. Friedman’s other writing and producing credits range from network primetime specials, such as “American Yearbook” for CBS, to documentaries and home video. He also has worked with such companies as FOX, Dick Clark Productions, Stephen J. Cannell Productions, Buena Vista Television/ABC, Orion Television, The Playboy Channel, Laurel Entertainment, Vin Di Bona Productions, A&E Network, Krofft Productions, Rosner Television and Four Star Productions.

**JEOPARDY!**

Under Friedman’s direction, the hit series JEOPARDY! has become the most honored syndicated game show in television history. In 2011, Friedman guided JEOPARDY! to win its first-ever Peabody Award. The awards panel credited the show for its role in “encouraging, celebrating and rewarding knowledge.” JEOPARDY! has won a total of 32 Emmy Awards, including the 2015 Emmy for Outstanding Game Show.

Friedman has continued to broaden the show’s scope with an expanded list of challenging categories and clues that reflect popular culture and a variety of special tournaments. In 2003, he lifted JEOPARDY!’s five-day limit rule for contestants, allowing returning champions to continue amassing winnings as long as they remain victorious. This rule change led the way for the memorable 74-consecutive-day run of Utah software engineer Ken Jennings, during which he won a record $2.5 million. Series viewership increased an impressive 30 percent during the streak, at times outperforming primetime programs while making it one of the most talked-about shows in the country.

In 2011, Friedman oversaw “JEOPARDY! The IBM Challenge,” a historic exhibition that pitted two of the show’s most successful and celebrated contestants – Jennings and Brad Rutter – against an IBM computer named Watson. Thanks to this unique partnership, JEOPARDY! served as a vital testing ground for the next generation of artificial intelligence. The three-day exhibition matches scored the series’ highest ratings in five years, making Watson a pop culture icon and a part of the American lexicon.
Friedman was instrumental in the creation of the JEOPARDY! Clue Crew, a team of roving correspondents who travel the world delivering visual clues for the millions of viewers back home. Additionally, Friedman plays a very active role in JEOPARDY!’s digital and social initiatives, including, Facebook, Twitter, and a brand-new Jeopardy.com.

Friedman also is the driving force behind streaming network Crackle’s new quiz show Sports Jeopardy!, which launched in 2014, and for which he serves as executive producer.

**WHEEL OF FORTUNE**

At Wheel of Fortune, Friedman has kept the show fresh and exciting while offering contestants more chances to win. New elements Friedman has implemented through the years include: The “Express Wedge,” “1/2 Car Tag,” “Free Play,” “Toss Up” puzzles, brand integration opportunities, the “Mystery Round,” the “Wild Card” and the “Million Dollar Bonus Wedge.” He also oversaw the introduction of a new, highly sophisticated set, which incorporates state-of-the-art lighting, as well as a modernized puzzleboard with LCD screens and the ability for letters to appear with only a touch of Vanna White’s hand.

In addition, Friedman is responsible for giving fans of the show more of what they want: more ways to play, interact with the show and win. To help fans play more, he oversaw the development and launch of games for various mobile devices and game consoles. Also, he has implemented an interactive “tweetstakes,” where a partially revealed puzzle appears during the contestant interviews and fans are invited to tweet the correct solution to be eligible for a prize.

WheelofFortune.com was recently re-designed to give viewers a destination to interact with the show and win more prizes. The site allows visitors to check in to see if they won that night’s “$5K Every Day Sweepstakes,” enter to win luxury vacations from show partners and learn more about what happens behind the scenes.

The Wheel Watchers Club, the first-ever, long-term, online viewer loyalty program in television history, and its extension, the SPIN ID program, were both developed by Friedman. The club’s membership has now reached more than 10 million members.

Additionally, he conceptualized the Wheelmobile, a mobile tour conducting contestant search events across the country providing fans the chance to audition for the show.
Whether he’s exploring the ancient ruins of Machu Picchu or throwing passes with the Pittsburgh Steelers, Jimmy McGuire brings a natural enthusiasm and innate curiosity when delivering JEOPARDY! clues from some of the world’s most fascinating destinations. Currently in his 15th season with the Clue Crew, Jimmy still loves being a part of JEOPARDY!.

“JEOPARDY! debuted during my senior year of high school and I never in my wildest dreams could have imagined that I would actually one day be part of this American institution,” says Jimmy.

International travel remains one of his favorite parts of the job; recently he has shot clues in Switzerland, Singapore, Vietnam, and Cambodia. In addition to delivering clues, Jimmy enjoys demonstrating and donating “Classroom Jeopardy!” units to deserving schools across the United States and abroad.

“There is no greater joy than seeing the reactions of the recipients,” says the Pittsburgh native, who, prior to JEOPARDY!, worked as a segment producer and reporter for a local television newsmagazine after graduating from Ohio University.

Over his years with the Clue Crew, Jimmy has delivered clues from Israel on the top of Masada, from 500 feet in the air on top of the Robert C. Byrd Green Bank Telescope in West Virginia (the largest fully steerable telescope on Earth), and from the stage at Broadway’s Cinderella. He has also shot inside Biosphere 2 in Tucson, from the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, and aboard the America’s Cup racing team’s catamaran in the San Francisco Bay. He also has had the honor of scouting with the Boy Scouts of America and working with the world famous Budweiser Clydesdales.

After traveling the country and the globe for years, the Clue Crew celebrated a major milestone in 2014 when they recorded clues from South Dakota’s famous Mt. Rushmore Monument – it was the 50th and final state they’ve visited with JEOPARDY!.

“What a thrill it was to see this iconic American monument up close and in person, and to have my Clue Crew partners Sarah and Kelly beside me was the cherry on top!” Jimmy said of the experience.

When not filming clues for JEOPARDY!, Jimmy enjoys life with his wife Kim and “bonus” daughter Madison, as well as playing golf, CrossFit exercise, and taking drum lessons.
“More than a decade ago, I could hardly believe I had landed my dream job. Today, I still have to pinch myself, as I celebrate my 11th season with JEOPARDY! I must be the luckiest girl in the world,” says the Clue Crew’s Kelly Miyahara.

In the past ten years as part of the Clue Crew, Kelly has traveled the world with Alex Trebek, and had the honor of participating in his two most recent USO Tours to Japan and Europe.

“Growing up, my mom's favorite TV show was JEOPARDY!, but I never dreamed that one day I’d join Alex Trebek to be a part of it.”

After graduating from the School of Business at the University of Washington, Kelly sought adventure overseas. She’s backpacked on a budget, worked as an English teacher, a French waitress, and an au pair, while discovering her love for world culture, language and travel.

A “regular day’s work” for Kelly might involve carefully climbing onto the hood of a South African safari vehicle to film with a pride of lions, speaking from behind the United Nations General Assembly podium, or “flying a hull” with America’s Cup Champions Team Oracle USA, and she finds all of it exhilarating.

“One of the most wonderful trips with the Clue Crew was to the Galápagos islands, for our 25th Anniversary. Talk about pure magic!” Kelly says. “I'm so grateful to do what I love and love what I do.”

Aside from JEOPARDY!, Kelly is thrilled to bring her love for sports into the mix, as she heads into her second season as the on-camera announcer on Crackle's “Sports Jeopardy!” She is an IRONMAN triathlete who loves sweating out a new physical challenge as much as she enjoys beach bummying somewhere tropical. Kelly is a passionate advocate for charitable causes, a family girl who loves spending time with loved ones and considers “food” one of her favorite hobbies. Most recently, Kelly’s instinctive connection with the “aloha spirit” has inspired her to take up playing the ukulele!
Sarah began exploring exciting clue locations in 2001 as an original member of the JEOPARDY! Clue Crew. Since then, Sarah’s JEOPARDY! travels have taken her to 32 countries and all seven continents.

“It’s always interesting to hear from fans about which clues have been their favorite,” says Sarah. “The best part is finding out that a clue one of us delivered from a specific destination made someone decide to travel there!”

As a former news anchor and reporter, Sarah is always eager to put her journalism skills to use, seeking out intriguing locations for the Clue Crew to visit. She has proven over the years that she is willing to journey to the ends of the earth for her job: Sarah has flown over Hawaii’s erupting Kilauea volcano, been catapulted off a Navy aircraft carrier in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, gone scuba diving with sharks, ridden aboard the famous Orient Express, hiked through ancient Moai statues on Easter Island, and has snowboarded, skydived and parasailed—all in the name of the Clue Crew.

Two of her favorite trips with the Clue Crew were to the Arctic and Antarctica, where she recorded clues about global warming and its impact on wildlife in the polar regions. Determined not to miss out on a once-in-a-lifetime experience, Sarah decided to jump (quickly) into the water at both destinations.

“I love being able to feature clues that provide a unique look into the world around us,” she says. “How many people can say they’ve done a polar plunge near both the North and South Poles? Despite the cold, I knew I had to do it!”

When she’s not busy exploring the globe for JEOPARDY!, Sarah enjoys traveling with her family. Her daughter, Taylor, who just turned two, has already visited ten states and flown on 50 different airplanes. Sarah and her husband, Chris, also love cheering on their college alma mater, the University of Southern California.
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TV Guide ranked JEOPARDY! #1 in its 2013 list of the 60 Greatest Game Shows of all time.

The highest cumulative amount won by a single JEOPARDY! player is $4,455,102 in cash, won by Brad Rutter of Lancaster, Penn. The total amount is a combination of his original appearances in 2002, the “Million Dollar Masters Tournament” in 2002, the “Ultimate Tournament of Champions” in 2005, the “Jeopardy! IBM Challenge” in February 2011, and the “Battle of the Decades Tournament” in May 2014.

The most consecutive games won by a single contestant is 74. Ken Jennings set the record during the 2004-2005 season, resulting in winnings of more than $2.5 million.

In 2014, Julia Collins won 20 consecutive games, placing her 2nd on the all-time consecutive win list. During her run, she amassed $428,100 in prize money.

In 2010, Roger Craig set the record for most money won in a single day: $77,000. The previous record was $75,000, set in 2004 by Ken Jennings.

In 2012, Colby Burnett became the first player to win the Teachers Tournament and the Tournament of Champions in the same year.

The JEOPARDY! Clue Crew has traveled to all 50 United States and approximately 50 countries around the world to record clues for the show.
• Prominent personalities who have presented special clues, categories, or greetings for JEOPARDY! have included President Barack Obama, Vice President Joe Biden, First Lady Michelle Obama, Bill Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Oprah Winfrey, former White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs, Dr. Jane Goodall, Dr. Oz, Katie Couric, Glenn Close, Chevy Chase, Kyra Sedgwick, Hannah Storm, Al Franken, Danica Patrick, Cesar Millan and a host of Nobel laureates.

• Celebrities who have demonstrated their smarts as contestants on “Celebrity JEOPARDY!” and the Washington “Power Players Tournament” include Aaron Rodgers, Anderson Cooper, Chris Wallace, Jodie Foster, Ashton Kutcher, Nathan Lane, Chris Matthews, Harry Connick, Jr., Neil Patrick Harris, Andy Richter, David Duchovny, Wayne Brady, Star Jones, Jane Seymour, Jason Alexander, Tom Bergeron, Regis Philbin, Mike Piazza, Larry King, Captain Mark Kelly, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Tom Clancy, Kirsten Dunst, Naomi Judd, Kelsey Grammer, Debra Messing, Stephen King and Carol Burnett. Since the celebrity tournaments debuted in 1992, more than $7 million has been donated to over 200 stars’ charities.

• The JEOPARDY! production staff has six researchers and eight writers whose jobs are to create and assemble categories and questions for the series.

• JEOPARDY! has been granted trademark status as “America’s Favorite Quiz Show®” by the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office.

• Almost 400 game shows have come and gone since JEOPARDY! premiered in syndication in 1984.

• Approximately 1 million people have taken the online contestant test since JEOPARDY! began offering it in 2006. The online test has expanded JEOPARDY!’s contestant pool to include more women, minorities, and students. The online test is offered to adults, teachers, kids, teens, and college students at various times of the year on the show’s website at www.jeopardy.com.