

## Duncan Strauss

### Radio host

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Published 05.02.2007

<http://tampa.creativeloafing.com/gyrobase/Content?oid=238136>

What happens when you blend animal activism, journalism and music into one half-hour radio program? The jam-packed *Talking Animals*, show on WMNF 88.5. On the second Wednesday of each month, host Duncan Strauss fuses animal-themed music, news and pop quizzes around an extensive interview with one of today's foremost animal experts, from biologists to veterinarians to animal rights advocates.

Strauss, 49, worked as a *Los Angeles Times* reporter for 10 years, covering the comedy and music beats. He began *Talking Animals* in 2003 while living in Northern California, moved to Florida in 2005 and immediately petitioned WMNF for a time slot.

Strauss has landed such well-known guests as Jean-Michel Cousteau (son of ocean explorer Jacques Cousteau), Peter Singer (ethicist and author of *Animal Liberation*), Bob Barker, Janeane Garofalo and Triumph the Insult Comic Dog. "I don't pass myself off as an animal expert," he says. "The guest is the expert."

Although a dedicated animal rights advocate and vegetarian, Strauss doesn't browbeat his audience with long-winded rants. "The show is not shrill and it's not preachy," he explains. "I think you get better results that way."

As a talent manager, Strauss represented several comedians and comedy writers, most notably Bill Hicks. He also co-owns the Cap City Comedy Club in Austin, Texas.

Strauss and his family run the Donald A. Strauss Foundation, which gives public service scholarship to college students, including a handful of Rhodes Scholars.

For his May 9 show, Strauss interviews People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals vice president Dan Mathews, who created some of PETA's most provocative campaigns. For archived shows, visit [talkinganimals.net](http://talkinganimals.net).