

The National Italian American Foundation

Co-Host

Joe Piscopo

Television, film, theater, night club—they are all arenas in which Joe Piscopo has won the acclaim and affection of millions. For decades, Joe has been one of show business' brightest lights.

After stints as a disc jockey and dinner-theater performer, Joe turned to comedy. He was chosen to join a newly formed ensemble charged with one of the most difficult tasks in TV history—replacing the original cast of *Saturday Night Live (SNL)*. By the time he left the show, Joe had left his mark not only on the program, but the nation. Thanks to his portrayal of hilarious original characters and celebrity impersonations, from The Sports Guy and Doug Whiner to David Letterman and, of course, Frank Sinatra, who endorsed Joe's portrayal of him, referring to Joe as "The Vice-Chairman of the Board."

Joe's work on SNL naturally led to Hollywood and starring roles in such smash hits as *Wise Guys* (with Danny DeVito) and *Johnny Dangerously* (with Michael Keaton). Other film credits include *Dead Heat*, *Sidekicks* (with Chuck Norris), and a dramatic, critically acclaimed performance in Jonathan Parker's *Bartleby*. In 2013, Joe played the lead role of Jack Cosmo in the musical comedy *How Sweet It Is* (with Paul Sorvino).

Live performances have always been an important part of Joe's career. He starred on Broadway as the disc jockey Vince Fontaine in *Grease!* And he been one of America's most popular comedy concert attractions, filling arenas and casino showrooms from coast to coast and in Canada. He tours with his own original Big Band tribute to Frank Sinatra, as well as his multimedia comedy show.

Joe has won acclaim for his dramatic guest-starring roles on the NBC drama *Law and Order*. You might have also seen him as a guest on The FOX News Channel or co-hosting The Columbus Day Parade each year in New York City with Maria Bartiromo, or on *The Late Show with David Letterman*.

Meanwhile, Joe devotes an extraordinary amount of time to non-profit and charitable activities. He is the spokesperson and advocate for Boys & Girls Clubs in New Jersey. For his support of our U.S. Military Forces, he received the Commendation Medal, the highest civilian award from the state of New Jersey. He also received the Volunteer of the Year Award from Big Brothers Big Sisters of Mercer County, N.J., and Community Service Awards from Boys and Girls Clubs in New Jersey and Broward Co., Fla. He was especially proud to be recognized by Boy's Town of Italy in Rome.

Joe founded The Positive Impact Foundation, creating positive media for at-risk youth, and started the syndicated TV show for teens, *Positive Impact TV*.

Honoring his emigrant parents and grandparents, Joe received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor. And "Jersey Joe" was also inducted into the New Jersey Hall of Fame.

But Joe insists his proudest achievement of all is twice being named Father of the Year by the National Father's Day Council, and by the New Jersey Council of Children's Rights. Joe always makes sure he has enough time at his New Jersey home for his children—Joey, Alexandra, Michael, Olivia and Charley-Rae.

Joe is currently the host of *The Joe Piscopo Show* on Salem Media's flagship station AM970 THE ANSWER, live from New York City.