

## AL FRANKEN Biography

Al Franken is probably best known for his work on "Saturday Night Live." A five-time Emmy winner for writing and producing, he also won the 1997 Grammy for Best Comedy Album.

Franken got his first big break in 1975, when Lorne Michaels hired him and his then-partner, Tom Davis, to be part of the original writing staff of the groundbreaking late night show.

Franken also won recognition for his on-camera work, first as half of Franken and Davis, and subsequently for such characterizations as the one-man mobile up-link unit and new-age cable TV host, Stuart Smalley.

Franken's book "I'm Good Enough, I'm Smart Enough, and Doggone It, People Like Me!" provided the basis for a movie that Franken wrote and starred in for Paramount Pictures. The 1995 movie, "Stuart Saves His Family," directed by Harold Ramis, received "Two Thumbs Up" from Gene Siskel and Roger Ebert.

Franken was co-writer (with Ronald Bass) of the 1994 Touchstone Pictures hit movie "When a Man Loves a Woman" starring Andy Garcia and Meg Ryan. Ebert called the drama "a wise and ambitious film about the way alcoholism affects the fabric of a marriage."

Franken is also well known for his work as a political satirist. He provided commentary for CNN at the 1988 Democratic National Convention in Atlanta. In 1992, he anchored Comedy Central's "Indecision '92", winning wide critical acclaim for his coverage of both conventions and election night. In 1996, he teamed with "Strange Bedfellow" Arianna Huffington, again covering the party conventions and election night for "Politically Incorrect," where he continues to be a frequent guest.

His performances at the 1994 and 1996 White House Correspondents Dinners established Franken as one of the nation's top after-dinner speakers.

Franken's second book, "Rush Limbauh is a Big Fat Idiot and Other Observations," was number one on the New York Times bestseller list and sold nearly a million copies. Franken's latest books are "Why Not Me?: The Inside Story of the Making and Unmaking of the Franken Presidency" and "Oh, the Things I Know! A Guide to Success, or, Failing That, Happiness."

Franken's television sitcom, LateLine, ran on NBC in 1998 and '99. "People Magazine" called Lateline "the best new sitcom of the year" and "TV Guide" gave the show a perfect ten.

Franken grew up in Minnesota and is a graduate of Harvard College. He has been married to Franni Franken for 23 years. They live in New York with their daughter, Thomasin, and their son, Joe.