

JERRY SPRINGER Biography

Challenging the rules and thriving on extremes — He's a unique combination of New York City street smarts, political savvy, adoring father, concerned humanitarian and a real nice guy. Jerry's multifaceted personality speaks to people of all ages, men and women alike.

Jerry was born in London, England in 1944 in the midst of his family fleeing from the Holocaust. At age five, Jerry immigrated to New York with his parents. He can still recall the sense of awe and anticipation he felt as he first saw the Statue of Liberty and crossed the gates of freedom on Ellis Island.

Having to adapt to a new country left an indelible mark on Springer. Being the outsider taught him acceptance, tact and compassion – the same qualities he currently draws upon as a talk show host.

After earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Tulane University in 1965, he went on to earn a degree in law from Northwestern University in 1968. His first job after college was working as one of Senator Robert F. Kennedy's presidential campaign aides.

After Kennedy's death, Jerry joined a law firm in Cincinnati, Ohio and moved into the political arena himself. He was elected Mayor of Cincinnati with the largest plurality in the city's history. At the age of 33, he was one of the country's youngest mayors.

In 1982, Jerry launched his career in broadcasting as a political reporter and commentator on Cincinnati's WLWT-TV. Two years later Jerry became anchor and managing editor and was Cincinnati's number one news anchor until he relinquished the post in January of 1993.

Springer received seven Emmy Awards for his nightly commentaries, the forerunner to his now famous "Final Thought," and was voted television's "Best Anchor" for five consecutive years by readers of Cincinnati Magazine.

Of his professional achievements, Springer is the most proud of his involvement with Cincinnati Reaches Out contribution on-site reporting from Ethiopia and Sudan where he documented local Cincinnati efforts to provide assistance to famine-stricken Africans.

Always ready to accept new challenges, Jerry became a professional talk show host when he was tapped by Multimedia Entertainment to add yet another category to his professional repertoire. "The Jerry Springer Show" is now entering its fifth season and is seen in over 150 markets with ratings and popularity increasing daily.

"This is a great opportunity," said Jerry. "Being a talk show host gives me a chance to meet all kinds of people from all walks of life, hear about the problems that affect each of us and learn to develop an insight and sensitivity into issues that we may not have had before. I want my viewers to feel that they've been touched by and learned something about life that they may not have known before watching our show."

On the personal side, Jerry is most proud of his role as father. Jerry became a father in 1976 to a beautiful baby girl. Katie was born physically challenged, legally blind, deaf in one ear and born without nasal passages. Within hours of birth, Katie had to undergo major surgery to create nasal passages. Now an intelligent and confident college freshman, Katie is Jerry's top priority.

Touched by what may be the most heart-wrenching experience for any parent, Katie's illness created in Jerry the qualities of patience and sensitivity – traits that have made him one of the most popular television personalities today.

Jerry's open heart is not only reserved for his own child. He is sensitive to the needs of children around the world. For several years he has been on the Advisory Board of the Audrey Hepburn Hollywood for Children Fund (AHHCF), an umbrella foundation to continue Audrey Hepburn's formidable work for

needy children around the world. A devotee of children in need, Jerry has personally participated in fundraising events to benefit children suffering with AIDS by putting on a pair of ice skates for “Dishes on Ice.” Donning an apron, he again helped children with AIDS when he participated in a celebrity evening called “Cooks For Kids II.”

In addition to using his notoriety to benefit children, Jerry uses his fame to support as many causes as possible. Jerry has donated his time to public service announcements for flood victims, AIDS and drunk driving education, and battered women, to just name a few. He has also taken a strong stand for Breast Cancer education, writing a definitive article for “Women’s Day” and participating in events to raise awareness of the threat of Breast Cancer.

Jerry’s audience, evident by his increasing popularity and ratings success, has recognized just how unique Springer is. He loves to have a good time on the show and ensures that his audience does also. His determination to succeed and his natural ability to take what life dishes out and turn it into a positive have contributed to his wide ranging appeal.

Consider that this one-time mayor has impersonated Elvis and Lyle Lovett, sung country-western at Chicago’s Whiskey River and rock-and-roll at Johnny Depp’s Viper Room, sat astride a Harley Davidson in a leather jacket and suited up to play goalie for the International Hockey League’s Milwaukee Admirals. Balance that Jerry Springer with the Jerry Springer who dissects serious subjects on “Larry King Live” and “Nightline,” holds the hands of AIDS stricken children, interviews such notables as George Bush and Jesse Jackson, is concerned humanitarian helping to raise millions of dollars for charity. Be it lawyer, and politician anchorman, father, talk show host, New York savvy with mid-western warmth-they’re all Jerry Springer.

NO Wonder Everybody’ s Talkin’ JERRY!