

# Chicago Public Media.

Contact: Beth Silverman/Laura Silverman  
The Silverman Group, Inc.  
312.932.9950  
[beth@silvermangroupchicago.com](mailto:beth@silvermangroupchicago.com)

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## THE NEW YEAR BRINGS NEW ROLES FOR VETERAN WBEZ 91.5FM TALENT:

- **TONY SARABIA** NAMED INTERIM HOST OF *EIGHT FORTY-EIGHT*
  - **ALISON CUDDY** TO FOCUS ON ARTS AND CULTURE
  - **STEVE EDWARDS** RETURNS TO AIRWAVES IN AFTERNOON
  - **JUSTIN KAUFMANN** NAMED MIDDAY EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

## EFFECTIVE MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2012; CHANGES PART OF NEW MIDDAY PROGRAMMING PLAN

(January 5, 2012) The New Year brings exciting new roles for veteran talent at Chicago Public Media's WBEZ 91.5FM, it was announced today by Chicago Public Media CEO Torey Malatia. Effective Monday morning, January 9, award-winning news anchor and producer **Tony Sarabia**, who has served in various positions at the station since 1991, will serve as the new interim host of WBEZ's popular *Eight Forty-Eight* morning show. Its most recent host, **Alison Cuddy**, a self-proclaimed film junkie, will take on a new role at the station, providing arts and cultural coverage for various programs throughout the day –thoughtfully handpicking stories of interest to WBEZ's audience. A national search for the new host of *Eight Forty-Eight* will start in the spring.

As previously announced, also shifting positions in 2012 is current Chicago Public Media Content Development Director **Steve Edwards** (a former *Eight Forty-Eight* host, himself) and WBEZ Senior Content Developer **Justin Kaufmann**. Edwards will return to the WBEZ airwaves in the coming months to anchor a new locally-produced afternoon program as part of the station's major new midday programming initiative, to be overseen by Kaufmann, recently named Midday Executive Producer. Details of the new show– the station's first new local program launch since *Radio M* will be announced shortly.

"After months of strategic planning, and thoughtful discussion in-house and among our listening community, these shifts mark the start of the station's new five-year plan for middays," explained Malatia. "Ultimately, our goal is to increase Chicago-originated programming to seven hours over five years between 9am-4pm on WBEZ-FM. This schedule will give our talented staff the necessary time each day to explore the daily realities of our region, and provide enjoyable and enlightened discourse. Utilizing the airwaves, community events, and our expanded interactive media services – mobile and web-based – WBEZ will fuel some of the most trusted daily community conversations in Chicago media."

"We truly have a deep bench of some of the most accomplished journalistic talent in the country," added Kaufmann. "Our staff includes the very best writers, editors, hosts and producers in the industry. And no group of journalists knows better how to engage, delight and inspire audiences. Alison, Steve, Jerome (McDonnell), Tony and Richard (Steele) are an expert ensemble of on-air talent who, with their producers, will be creating programming that is immediate and relevant to this region."

Currently, Chicago-originating midday programming includes *Eight Forty-Eight*, which delivers a diverse mix of news, views, people and culture – all with a local bent –weekdays from 9-10 a.m., and the long-running global affairs program, *Worldview*, hosted by **Jerome McDonnell**, which airs weekdays from noon – 1p.m.

**Tony Sarabia** will continue to host *Radio M*, the Friday evening world music program he's produced since 2006, when known as *Passport*. In addition, he will continue to produce the weekly Global Notes music segment for *Worldview*. Sarabia joined WBEZ in 1990 as an intern for the former program *Mara Tapp Show*, later becoming associate producer. He has served as a news correspondent, Arts Editor, and local host of *Morning Edition*. Sarabia has received an Edward R. Murrow Award, three Lisagor Awards, a Casey Medal for Meritorious Journalism and also an Associated Press Award for his documentary *Unlocking the Closet: Stories of Coming Out Later in Life*. A native of Chicago, Sarabia resides in Rogers Park.

**Alison Cuddy**, became the solo host of *Eight Forty-Eight* in July 2010, following a three year stint as co-host. Cuddy also hosts and produces the regular segment *Weekender with Alison Cuddy*. In addition, Cuddy has anchored election and other special political coverage for the station, including the live remote broadcast of Mayor Rahm Emanuel's inauguration. Prior to joining *Eight Forty Eight* she was the senior producer of Chicago Matters, the year-long award-winning series examining topics of broad interest to the region. Cuddy joined the staff of WBEZ in August 2001 as part of the original production team that developed *Odyssey* into a national program. In addition to the daily program, she produced *Odyssey's* live syndicated specials, including the two-hour 'Dissent and Democracy' in Chicago and 'Wealth and Politics' from Memphis, Tennessee. Originally from Winnipeg, Manitoba, she currently resides in the Lakeview neighborhood of Chicago.

**Steve Edwards**, as the Content Development Director at Chicago Public Media, oversees new digital content innovations. Previously he served as Acting Program Director of WBEZ. From 1999 until 2007, Edwards served as host of *Eight Forty-Eight*, which was named "Best Public Affairs Show" by Chicago Magazine and "Best Morning Radio Show" by New City. In addition, the weekly edition of the show was voted the best of its kind by public radio stations nationwide. Edwards' reports and interviews have been honored by the Society of Professional Journalists, the RTNDA, the Associated Press, UPI, and the Public Radio News Directors, Inc (PRNDI). Edwards is also the recipient of the Grand Award from the National Headliner Club and a 2007-2008 Knight-Wallace fellowship for mid-career journalists at the University of Michigan. A native of the Kansas City area, Edwards resides in Oak Park with his wife and sons.

**Justin Kaufmann**, as Senior Content Developer for WBEZ, is responsible for the WBEZ web site. He joined the staff of WBEZ in the summer of 1994 as an associate producer for the program, *Talk of the City*, later becoming a producer for the programs *Metropolis* and the *John Dempsey Show*. He was also a founding senior producer for *Eight Forty-Eight* and is the recipient of two James Beard Foundation Awards for his culinary reports with *Eight Forty-Eight* food contributor Steve Dolinsky. He has also earned Peter Lisagor Awards, Illinois Associated Press awards and a Public Radio News Directors, Inc. (PRNDI) Award. Kaufmann is also an ensemble member of the comedy group Schadenfreude, which formerly had a weekly radio program on WBEZ.

**WBEZ 91.5 FM**, one of the country's premiere public radio stations, is operated by Chicago Public Media, an institution that creates award-winning content for people seeking to learn more about the issues and ideas that affect our community, our nation, and our world. In addition to *Eight Forty-Eight*, *Worldview*, and *Radio M*, Chicago Public Media produces programs such as *This American Life*, *Sound Opinions*, and *Wait, Wait...Don't Tell Me!* (a co-production with NPR). In addition to WBEZ, Chicago Public Media operates Vocolo 89.5 FM, a next generation service that seeks to expand the reach of public media. For more information, visit [www.chicagopublicmedia.org](http://www.chicagopublicmedia.org).

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