



Longtime specialty show host is also on TV and now hosting festivals, too

## 'Eddie Trunk Rocks' Is 25

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**E**ddie Trunk and I have something in common. We both got our first shots in radio right out of high school. And in the interest of full disclosure, I ended up as his PD at rock WDHA/Morristown, N.J., in the mid-'80s, a couple of years after my predecessor—and current CBS Radio sports WFAN/New York VP of programming—Mark Chernoff first hired him to host a weekly hard rock/metal show dubbed “Metalmania.”

Chernoff and the station's GM at the time, the late Bob Linder, were curious about how a show like that would do, especially given the bucket-loads of Def Leppard's “Pyromania” and Quiet Riot's “Metal Health” albums that were flying off store shelves at the time.

Now, 25 years later, Trunk, who is often referred to as the Larry King or Howard Stern of rock interviewers—mainly because of his connections to the artists and how comfortable he makes them feel—lays claim to a syndicated hard rock/metal show and a similarly formatted weekly satellite radio program. He's also had years of face time on national TV hosting rock specials and conducting interviews, among other things.

### 'Eddie Trunk Rocks'

On a national syndication level, his radio show is now called “Eddie Trunk Rocks.” The host admits, “I was never a fan of the name; it wasn't my idea.”

But that hasn't stopped the weekly three-hour program from gaining steam at a dozen or so stations, including home base Clear Channel classic rock WAXQ (Q104.3)/New York and Entercom's active rock WAAF/Boston. It is available through Radio KG, which is run by Westwood One veteran Larry Kahn. “I do the show live from Q104.3, where it's called ‘Friday Night Rock’ and airs from 11 p.m. to 2 a.m.,” Trunk says. “The live version is taped for affiliates

### Trunk's Coolest Moments

A little more than a year ago and out of the blue, Axl Rose walked into Eddie Trunk's Friday night show on Clear Channel classic rock WAXQ (Q104.3)/New York, and for two hours the pair just talked on the air.

“He hadn't talked to anyone in the media like that in over a decade,” Trunk recalls. “It made news all over the world. He called into the show at the beginning. He was at SIR Studios in Manhattan rehearsing. We talked a little bit on the phone—I wasn't even really sure it was Rose—and half an hour later, he walked into the Q104.3 studios.”

However, what Trunk is most proud of hap-

pened in November 2001.

“I was able to assemble a charity event as a 9-11 benefit for the police and firefighters of New York. We called it New York Steel. I reunited Twisted Sister for the first time in 13 years and they've been back together ever since. Ace Frehley, Anthrax, Overkill and Sebastian Bach from Skid Row played for us at Hammerstein Ballroom.” Former New York Mets catcher and Trunk's good friend Mike Piazza acted as host for the event. “It was a sold-out show and we ended up raising over \$100,000. Putting this together from the base of a once-a-week hard rock/metal show meant a lot to me.” —MB

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Trunk

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for the following week and is delivered digitally or on CD.”

The show, which previous to Q104.3 aired for several years on the late WNEW-FM/New York when it was rock and then continued on Friday and Saturday nights after it flipped to talk, features a blend of hard rock and heavy metal from such acts as Black Sabbath, Metallica and Judas Priest, plus artist interviews. “It's a hang for people who are really into hard rock and metal music,” Trunk says. “Some weeks it's totally music-intensive, and there are just as many weeks that the show is just about interviews, calls, discussion and opinion.”

On a local level, Trunk credits Q104.3 PD Bob Buchmann for giving him all the support he needs.

“I always say to people, ‘What's the sense of doing a specialty show if it's going to fill the exact same programming you're doing anyway?’ But something I've often heard from programmers that I've never understood is when they say, ‘We'd never have that artist into the station or play their music; why would we run the show?’ Well, that's precisely why you would, because they're still rock artists and there's still a segment of the audience that wants to hear them. So, what do you accomplish if you put a show on that sounds like your station does all the time? That's what Bob Buchmann gets.”

### Other 'Part-Time Jobs'

As for Trunk's XM show, “Eddie Trunk Live” airs 6 p.m.–10 p.m. Monday nights on the Boneyard (channel 41). “The great thing about this show is that I have complete creative control,” Trunk says. “The people I work for there are 100% supportive of what I do.”

For the last five years, Trunk has also been a host for VH1 Classics. However, he doesn't know what the future holds there.

“I haven't worked there in a few months,” Trunk says. “My contract expired in June. Some of my stuff still runs on the channel from time to time. It's no secret that a few months ago corporate let everyone go that worked on the channel and new management is now in place and assessing what they want to do. I am in the dark regarding whether I will return, but I certainly would love to. I'm supposed to be getting an update from them soon.”

In the meantime, Trunk has added a new TV gig in the New York/New Jersey/Connecticut area with Madison Square Garden's MSG Network, which reaches 12 million homes. He's the company's music interviewer/correspondent.

And on weekends when he's free, concert promoters around the country call on him to fly in to host their big shows and festivals, and rub elbows with the crowds. He recently hosted an '80s rock festival in Oklahoma and another in Wisconsin.

To learn more about Eddie Trunk, visit [eddietrunk.com](http://eddietrunk.com).

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