



Linda Ellerbee

Linda Ellerbee is an outspoken journalist, award-winning television producer, best-selling author, breast cancer survivor, mother, grandmother and one of the most sought-after speakers in America.

Ellerbee began her career at CBS, and then moved to NBC News where, after years covering national politics, she pioneered the late-night news program *NBC News Overnight*, which she wrote and anchored. *Overnight* was cited by the duPont Columbia Awards as "the best written and most intelligent news program ever." In 1986, Ellerbee moved to ABC News to anchor and write *Our World*, a weekly primetime historical series. Her work on *Our World* won her an Emmy.

In 1987, Ellerbee and Rolfe Tessem, her partner, quit network news to start Lucky Duck Productions, first producing documentaries for PBS. In 1991, Lucky Duck began producing *Nick News* for Nickelodeon with Ellerbee writing and hosting. Twenty years later, *Nick News* is watched by more children than watch all other television news shows put together—and has earned honors traditionally associated with adult programming. Known for the respectful and direct way it speaks to children about the important issues of our time, *Nick News* has collected three Peabody Awards (including one personal Peabody given to Ellerbee for her coverage of the Clinton investigation), a duPont Columbia Award and eight Emmys.

These days, Ellerbee and her work can be seen all over the television universe. Lucky Duck has and continues to produce primetime specials for ABC, CBS, HBO, PBS, Lifetime, MTV, Logo, A&E, MSNBC, SOAPnet, Trio, Animal Planet and TV Land, among others. Ellerbee was honored with an Emmy for her series, *When I Was a Girl*, which aired on WE: Women's Entertainment network.

Ellerbee's first foray into books for kids, an eight-part fiction series entitled *Get Real*, published in 2000, won her raves among middle school readers. Both of Ellerbee's previous adult books—*And So It Goes*, a humorous look at television news, and *Move On*, stories about being a working single mother, a child of the '60s and a woman trying to find some balance in her life—have been national best sellers. Ellerbee's recent book, also a best seller, *Take Big Bites: Adventures Around the World and Across the Table*, a tribute to her love of travel, talking to (and eating with) strangers, and, according to Ellerbee, "oh, just making trouble in general."

As a breast cancer survivor, Ellerbee travels thousands of miles each year giving inspirational speeches to others. She is as direct with women as she is with kids; *they* understand that *she* understands *their* lives.



Although Ellerbee has won all of television's highest honors, she says it's her two children who've brought her the richest rewards. Ellerbee spends her personal time in New York City and Massachusetts with Rolfe, her partner in work and life and their dogs, Daisy and Dolly.