

Degeneres Debuts Daytime Talk Show

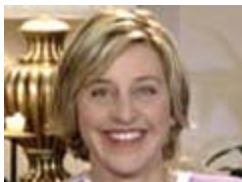
Comedian Says Uniqueness Sets Show Apart

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DALLAS -- Ellen Degeneres made her big talk-show debut on NBC 5 Monday. Degeneres says she has high hopes for the show, which will feature A-list celebrities and ordinary people with extraordinary talent.

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Of course, other big names have tried talk shows before, so why does she think her show will be a success?

According to Degeneres, the show's uniqueness will set it apart from other daytime offerings.

"It's not for a specific age group. It's not for a specific gender," Degeneres said. "It's genderless. It's ageless. It's something that is smart and funny and can elevate."

Her positive approach, she says, might also give her an edge.

"If I'm wrong, then I'm wrong. It's like I have to enter into it in a positive way, or else I just sit at home and play it safe, and that's not fun," Degeneres said.

Perhaps that's why she is fearlessly forging ahead into the unpredictable world of daytime television with The Ellen Degeneres Show.

"When the show is on the air, it's going to speak for itself," Degeneres said. "And I hope they like it. I hope they have fun for an hour every day. I hope they look forward to seeing it every day."

A star-studded lineup couldn't hurt either. On Monday's premiere, Degeneres welcomed actress Jennifer Aniston and singer Macy Gray.

However, it's not all about celebrities. Degeneres says she's just as excited to talk to the everyday person on the street.

"I can't imagine a better job, you know. I love talking to people. I like listening to people, and now I'm going to get paid for it," Degeneres said.

The show is tailored to the kind of humor Degeneres, herself, enjoys.

"What's funny to me is just weird, everyday human interaction, human experiences. And it just happens to be clean and it happens to be positive," Degeneres said.

It's a basic, common approach critics are calling refreshing.

"I think there's a lot of cynicism just because there's a lot of cynicism in the world. And that's one of the reasons why I'd like to make a difference in whatever it is, with my standup or with a talk show," Degeneres said.

During her first week, Ellen is also scheduled to welcome pop sensation Justin Timberlake, comedian Betty White and actor Dennis Quaid.

The Ellen Degeneres Show airs weekday afternoons at 3 p.m. CST on NBC 5.

 **More Info:** [Program Web sites for NBC 5's new daytime lineup](#)

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