

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Kelly Leonard

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Celebrities and Entertainers Oral History project

Interview # CE-A-L-2024-001 _____

Kelly Leonard, Executive Vice President of The Second City, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Celebrities and Entertainers* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location: The Second City, Chicago, Illinois.

Date: October 24, 2024

Interview Format: Digital audio/Digital video

Interviewer: Scot Loyd

Technical Support (cameraman, etc):

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

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Session 1:

Session 2:

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The interview(s) is/are archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

Interview being
processed

Abstract

Kelly Leonard, *Celebrities & Entertainers*, CE-A-L-2024-001

Name of interviewee

Name of Project

Interview #

Biographical Information Overview of Interview:

Kelly Leonard began his journey with Second City in 1988, rising to the role of producer in 1992 and serving as Executive Vice President until 2015. He is currently serving as the Vice President of creativity, innovation, and business strategy at The Second City. During his tenure, he produced hundreds of original revues, showcasing the talents of comedy icons such as Stephen Colbert, Tina Fey, Keegan-Michael Key, Seth Meyers, and Amy Poehler. Leonard is the author of *Yes, And*, a book praised by *Vanity Fair* and *The Washington Post*. He now co-leads a groundbreaking collaboration with the University of Chicago's Booth School, exploring behavioral science through the lens of improvisation. A sought-after speaker, Leonard has appeared at events including the Aspen Ideas Festival, Chicago Ideas Week, and TEDxBroadway. He also hosts the popular podcast *Getting to Yes, And*, produced by Second City Works and WGN.

Note to the Reader: Readers of the oral history memoir should bear in mind that this is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, interviewee and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for the views expressed therein. We leave these for the reader to judge.

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