

### JOHNJAY AND RICH

**BIOGRAPHY**

As a child, Johnjay Van Es always dreamed of being on the radio. He applied for an internship at 91X in San Diego in 1990 and eventually started working in sales for a number of radio stations, but he never let go of his lifelong dream to be on the air.  It wasn’t until 1996, after training with the LA-based improv troupe The Groundlings that he would get his first on-air job hosting a morning show on WKRQ in Cincinnati. After just three months on the air, he won the “Best of Cincinnati” award.  After years of dominating the market in Cincinnati, Johnjay moved on to Houston, Texas and made his mark in the Country format.

A St. Louis native, Rich Berra was captivated by radio at 14 during an afternoon bike ride. After stumbling upon a YMCA-owned radio station, KYMC, he’d found his calling in the studio and jumped on board as a part-time employee. By the time he was 17, Rich was running the entire station, while also working a part-time gig that kicked off his career in morning radio. WKBQ recruited Rich to produce morning shows for Big Ron O’Brien and Steve and DC.  In 1991, Rich caught the attention of Dave Shelly and Chainsaw at KGB in San Diego and, like his run St. Louis, took the show from #10 to #1 in less than a year. After a successful stint in San Diego, the Texas-based Kidd Kraddick Show asked him to join their on-air team. Rich’s stretch on KISS in Dallas produced the highest ratings the station has ever had in mornings. Cross-town rival rocker, The Eagle, snatched up Rich next, where he brought #1 ratings in mornings at the station for the first time.

A chance meeting in New Orleans found Rich teaming up with Johnjay.  The beginning of The Johnjay and Rich era began in 2001 with their first show airing on KRQQ in Tucson. In 2006, the program moved to KISS-FM in Phoenix, Ariz., and was syndicated in select markets nationwide.

In 2014, the program joined Premiere Networks lineup of nationally syndicated programs. Airing Monday through Friday from 5 to 10 a.m. MT, *The Johnjay & Rich Show* is a non-stop blend of pop culture, news and events, welcoming a wide range of music artists, news makers and celebrities.  Joined on-air by Kyle, the show is a special brand of “reality radio,” in which listeners become an engaged and integral part of the program by interacting with the crew via all forms of social media, including Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter, Facebook and TikTok. *The Johnjay & Rich Show* is also available on iHeartRadio and [www.johnjayandrich.com](http://www.johnjayandrich.com).

In addition to hosting their daily radio program, Johnjay and Rich remain steadfastly connected to the community. They created the #LoveUp Foundation, a non-profit organization that strives to improve the quality of life for the most vulnerable children in our communities, with a primary focus on children living in the foster care system. The foundation’s annual *Christmas Wish* program provides thousands of dollars’ worth of gifts to deserving families in need during the holiday season. Johnjay and Rich also raised funds for #LoveUp’s sister foundation, #LovePup, by hosting adoption and fundraising events. To date, thousands of rescue dogs have found forever homes through #LovePup’s ongoing efforts. In addition to serving children and pets, the radio hosts raise thousands of dollars for other worthy causes including disaster relief efforts nationwide. For more information, please visit [www.JohnjayandRich.com](http://www.JohnjayandRich.com).

# # #

**Contact: Rachel Nelson**

 **Premiere Networks**

 **rnelson@premierenetworks.com**