



July 14, 2010

The Biz Blog

media, Hollywood and celebrity

Exclusive: Larry King Weighs In On Potential Replacement Piers Morgan

July 14, 2010 - 5:28 pm



Lacey Rose [Bio](#) | [Email](#)

Lacey Rose is a Los Angeles-based Media and Entertainment Staff Writer for Forbes.

[f](#) Share 8

11 [retweet](#)



At a press event to hype his latest venture as a financial partner and spokesperson for The Original Brooklyn Water Bagel Company, departing CNN host Larry King spoke to Forbes about his rumored replacement Piers Morgan; his favorite for the job, Ryan Seacrest; and his advice for whomever ends up at his desk.

Forbes: Piers Morgan is the name being discussed as your replacement.

King: Yes, I hear that. He's been on my show a couple of times only as a judge from *America's Got Talent*. I've never seen him interview [anyone] but I hear he's quite good. I don't know him.

Any advice for him?

That would be pompous. First, I don't know him; I'd assume I'd like him. I'll tell you this: I'll have him on my show before he starts. I would do an interview and promote him – I'm still with CNN. I don't want him to do badly. There are some people who would ... but I want him to do well.

But he'll be different because he's different – we're all different as humans. I don't know what the show is going to be like or how they're going to do it, but the best advice I could give him, and I would give it to any talent, is be yourself. If you try to be someone else, it never works.

Like you, many U.S. viewers don't know who he is.

Most Americans wouldn't unless you watch *America's Got Talent*. And if you watch that, you only know him as a judge. You don't know him as a host.

Should that concern CNN?

Well, CNN should think about it as to how you promote it. [Another Brit, journalist] David Frost knows as much about American politics as he does anything. I've spent a lot of time with him and I know he knows everything about America. Assuming this guy does too, he'll be accepted quickly. British talent gets pretty much accepted here. It's the mother country. If that's not his cup of tea, then he's going to do more personality interviews – and I think he knows a lot about personalities. But again, other than being a guest on my show, I've never watched *America's Got Talent* and I don't know if I'd recognize him if he was walking down the street.

That's not something Americans could say about [Ryan Seacrest](#), the man you've said you'd like to replace you. What makes Seacrest a good fit?

He's my favorite. It's subjective because he's my friend, but I think he'd be immediately accepted.

What does Seacrest have that perhaps that the others don't?

The camera likes him and he's a great generalist. I don't know if he has a great interest in politics -- I haven't talked to him about that. But if he does, I'd pick him in a minute because an accepted major personality *can* move right in. You can move Anderson Cooper to 9 o'clock. Katie Couric could work. She doesn't have to prove herself. You don't have to say, 'Here's who I am.'

And Ryan Seacrest has what you can't buy: you like him. What we'd all like to do is shake everybody out there and say, 'like me.' Every day that Burt Reynolds was on a movie set, he'd walk over to the camera and whisper to the camera, 'Like me. Like me.' The camera just likes Ryan.

What does Seacrest have that perhaps that the others don't?

The camera likes him and he's a great generalist. I don't know if he has a great interest in politics -- I haven't talked to him about that. But if he does, I'd pick him in a minute because an accepted major personality *can* move right in. You can move Anderson Cooper to 9 o'clock. Katie Couric could work. She doesn't have to prove herself. You don't have to say, 'Here's who I am.'

And Ryan Seacrest has what you can't buy: you like him. What we'd all like to do is shake everybody out there and say, 'like me.' Every day that Burt Reynolds was on a movie set, he'd walk over to the camera and whisper to the camera, 'Like me. Like me.' The camera just likes Ryan.

Unique Monthly Visitors: 955,473

<http://blogs.forbes.com/bizblog/2010/07/14/exclusive-larry-king-weighs-in-on-potential-replacement-piers-morgan/>