

Local celebrity brings fellow stars to Gallup

Written by By Molly Ann Howell
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Colt Balok hosting ‘A Night with the Stars’ on Feb. 24

Local celebrity Colt Balok, who has hosted his talk show *The Colt Balok Show* for five years, is returning to his hometown of Gallup to kick off his new *A Night with the Stars* segment on Feb. 24.

With 1.3 million followers on Facebook, *The Colt Balok Show* is now the fastest growing talk show on the platform on an international level.

Balok started the show in Albuquerque but chose to set the show’s new live event premiere in Gallup.

“This is a way to honor where I came from and look to the future,” Balok said.

Unlike his pre-taped show, *A Night with the Stars* will allow Balok to take a more Graham-Norton-like approach by bringing all three of his celebrity guests on stage at once.

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One of his guests is from Farmington: Chevel Shepard, who previously won *The Voice* in 2018 when she was 16.

Another guest, Jeremiah Bitsui, has New Mexico ties because of the roles he's played. He starred as Victor in AMC's *Breaking Bad* and *Better Call Saul*.

The final guest for the night is Drew Seely, who provided the singing voice for Zac Efron's character Troy Bolton in *High School Musical*. He's also starred in other Disney Channel and Hallmark movies.

As for what the show will actually look like, Balok said he plans on asking deep, personal questions.

"I don't like superficial conversations, I love to get people to the core, so I am genuinely going to ask very deep personal questions with these guests," Balok said. "When I do interviews with people you can tell that I ask questions they don't usually get or think about. ... I'm not afraid to ask those challenging questions."

Balok plans to ask the three guests about any current projects they have going on. The second part of the show is where he'll go a bit deeper; asking them questions that really get to the core of who they are, such as what some misconceptions people are may have about them, or if they're at a crossroads in their career.

"I want to know their heart. I want to show the audience, anyone watching, the heart of each of these people who are coming on," Balok said.

At the end of the night, Balok and the guests will do a meet and greet afterparty where people will have the chance to meet and talk with the stars.

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The event will be held at the El Morro Theatre. Doors open at 5:30 pm. Tickets are \$7 each and will be available at coltbalok.com. Cocktail attire is required.

Balok and his team want to see how this event goes before they plan anymore *A Night with the Stars* events across the state. Each event would have a different panel of stars, so interested guests are advised to follow Balok's website for updates.

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