



Friday | January 31, 2025 | 8pm
Sanders Theatre

Jad Abumrad: *How to Talk to a Human*

There will be no intermission in this evening's program,
which includes a 60-minute talk followed by Q&A

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Jad Abumrad is the creator and former host of *Radiolab*, a public radio program broadcast on nearly 600 stations across the nation and downloaded more than 12 million times a month as a podcast.

Abumrad employs his dual backgrounds as composer and journalist to create what's been called "a new aesthetic" in broadcast journalism. He orchestrates dialogue, music, interviews, and sounds into compelling documentaries that draw listeners into investigations of otherwise intimidating topics, such as the nature of numbers, the evolution of altruism, or the legal foundation for the war on terror.

He's won three George Foster Peabody Awards, and in 2011 Abumrad was honored as a MacArthur Fellow (also known as the Genius Grant). The MacArthur Foundation website says: "Abumrad is inspiring boundless curiosity within a new generation of listeners and experimenting with sound to find ever more effective and entertaining ways to explain ideas and tell a story."

Abumrad also created and hosted three seasons of *More Perfect*, a series about untold stories of the Supreme Court, which the New York Times called "...possibly the most mesmerizing podcast." And in 2019, Jad Abumrad created *Dolly Parton's America* (along with OSM Audio's Shima Oliabee), a Peabody Award-winning nine-part series that explores a divided America through the life and music of one its greatest icons.

In April 2022, Abumrad began a joint appointment at Vanderbilt University as a Distinguished Research Professor of Cinema and Media Arts and of Communication of Science and Technology at the College of Arts and Science, and he will have an advisory role with Vanderbilt's Communications and Marketing team.

From the Celebrity Series of Boston archives...

Jad Abumrad was presented by Celebrity Series of Boston for the first time in May 2015. He appears for the second time today.



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