

## 20 FUN FACTS ABOUT THE LEGENDARY PAUL SHAFFER, BANDLEADER OF THE WORLD'S MOST DANGEROUS BAND

While most people know Paul Shaffer as a musical director and David Letterman's sidekick, there is much more to this multi-talented musician...

### Before Letterman

\* Shaffer began playing piano at age six in his hometown of Fort William / Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada.

\* Shaffer got his first big break in 1972 when composer Stephen Schwartz hired him as musical director for the Toronto production of "Godspell." The cast included the then unknown Martin Short, Eugene Levy, Andrea Martin, Victor Garber, and the late great Gilda Radner.

\* In 1975, another Canadian, Lorne Michaels, came to New York and hired Shaffer to play piano in the band and compose special musical material for the original cast of "Saturday Night Live." In SNL's fifth season, Shaffer also became a featured performer.

### Man Behind the Music

\* Shaffer wrote (with Paul Jabara) the 1980s' #1 dance hit "It's Raining Men" performed by the Weather Girls and later by Geri Halliwell for the *Bridget Jones's Diary* soundtrack, topping the British pop charts in 2001.

- \* Shaffer composed the "Late Show" theme song.
- \* In 2002, Shaffer received his first Grammy®, Best Country Instrumental, for the Earl Scruggs and Friends album, *Foggy Mountain Breakdown*.
- \* Shaffer was awarded a star on Canada's Walk of Fame and, in 2008, he received the Order of Canada, Canada's highest civilian honor.
- \* Shaffer's own albums include: *Coast to Coast* (1989), *The World's Most Dangerous Party* (1993), and his latest -- *Paul Shaffer & The World's Most Dangerous Band* (2017), featuring vocalists such as Bill Murray, Darius Rucker, Jenny Lewis, Dion, Shaggy, and the incomparable Valerie Simpson.
- \* Shaffer's best-selling memoir, "We'll Be Here For The Rest of Our Lives," was published by Random House in 2009.

## Paul and Friends

- \* Shaffer has served as musical director and producer for the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame induction ceremony since its inception in 1986.
- \* Shaffer has recorded with such famous artists as Diana Ross, Yoko Ono, Cher, John Mayall, Robert Plant, Barry Manilow, Blues Traveler and Burt Bacharach.
- \* Shaffer led the band for the "We Are the World" finale of Live Aid.

\* Shaffer was musical director for the 1999 Concert of the Century at the White House, featuring Eric Clapton, B. B. King, Gloria Estefan, 'N Sync and others, to benefit public school music programs.

\* Shaffer was musical director for Paul McCartney's 9/11 "Concert for New York" which honored and raised money for the victims.

\* Shaffer appeared with Faith Hill on the "America: A Tribute to Heroes" telethon which honored and raised money for 9/11 victims.

### Working with SNL Friends

\* Shaffer collaborated with the late Gilda Radner on the songs for her Broadway show, "Gilda Radner-Live from New York," in which he also appeared.

\* Shaffer served as musical director and piano player for the Blues Brothers' (John Belushi and Dan Aykroyd) triple-platinum album, *Briefcase Full of Blues*, and national tour.

\* Shaffer recently was musical director for Bill Murray's Netflix special, "A Very Murray Christmas," directed by Sofia Coppola, for which he received his 4th Emmy® nomination.

### TV

\* It's a little-known fact that Shaffer starred in the 1977 CBS sitcom "A Year at the Top," produced by Norman Lear and Don Kirshner. He's guest starred in "Ed," "The Sopranos," "Law & Order: Criminal Intent," and "How I Met Your

Mother.”

## The Big Screen

\* Shaffer played Artie Fufkin in Rob Reiner's cult classic, "This Is Spinal Tap." He's appeared in the Mike Nichols-directed "Gilda Live," the Bill Murray movie "Scrooged," and with John Travolta in "Look Who's Talking, Too." Shaffer is the voice of Hermes in Disney's animated feature "Hercules" and the television series based on the film.

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Jennifer Bristol

Judy Twersky Public Relations

718.263.6633

917.597.5384 cell

[www.judytwerskypr.com](http://www.judytwerskypr.com)