

PAUL DAVIS “Why I made Mark Twain – Surviving the 21st Century”

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PAUL DAVIS on CAMERA in STUDIO

Hello, I’m Paul Davis – I produce, write the scripts for, and play the late Mark Twain in “Mark Twain - Surviving the 21st Century”. Before we get to Episode One, I’d like to share with you why I am making this series. Put simply, I’m making this series in response to how fair and honest news reporting turned into “Fake News” in 1988 and how that has polarized our economy enabling the top one percent to take America in a direction that is literally eliminating the middle class and destroying fair practices in business, education and health care in every city and township across this once great landscape we call the United States.

To understand what I mean here, let’s start with something you already know about, use, and probably love – YouTube. YouTube was founded on February 14th, 2005, by Chad Hurley, Steve Chen, and Jawed Karim. At that time, these three geniuses worked for PayPal. Their collective vision was to allow all of us to post videos to the world for fun and to help return the fair flow of honest information to media. You see, broadcast stations by 2005 had already been gobbled up by three entertainment companies. How did that happen? Simple. In 1988, Ronald Regan, the father of “Fake News” abolished the Fairness Doctrine. Here is how it all went down and why it matters.

In the first years of television, way back in 1949, the Federal Communications Commission established the Fairness Doctrine which required TV Stations, to present “both sides” opinions *in the rare event they weren’t just reporting straight news.*” Imagine that? TV Stations “only reporting real and honest news”? Before 1988 you could actually trust newscasters. Until 1988, any person or company who owned a TV station could only own one station and could not also own a Newspaper in the same market. In 1988 not a single entertainment company had anything to do with TV Stations or newspapers at all. You see, what happened was this: when a Democrat-controlled Congress passed a bill to re-instate the Fairness Doctrine in 1987, Reagan vetoed that bill, killing that doctrine. Reagan’s Whitehouse team then forced the FCC to remove all fairness and honesty practices in place for all broadcasters and media all across America. You can look this up. I am reporting facts here.

So you see, it was actually Reagan’s veto in 1988 that gave birth to “big brother” from George Orwell’s book “1984”. 1988 is also the year when, in my opinion, the death of both “democracy” and “honor” in American media and politics happened as well. How could this happen you might ask? It happened because Ronald Reagan had such a kind and warm voice that American’s trusted him. // What followed after Reagan’s veto was not good... ..local stations started getting gobbled up by huge corporations. // Immediately FOX News and other top-one-percent owned mega-corporations rose to power. I remember clearly the day in 1988 that Fox news bought KTVU, a locally owned station in Oakland CA where I produced some local programs. I was fired that day as were many of KTVU’s employees as all local independent production at KTVU was completely eliminated by the new owner, FOX News within a year of the purchase. Today, the

once privately owned KTVU facilities where hundreds of people had well paying careers is now just a sweatshop where mostly minimum wage paid independent contractors produce news for many FOX owned stations both in California and Nevada.

Today, all across the nation, three mega-entertainment companies owned by the top-one-percent control all written and broadcast media in the USA. // Even worse, when you search for news on your smart phone, or pad, or computer your search is probably being re-directed or “steered” to the site that pays your local internet provider the most money to steer you to their biased top-one-percent owned site. And yes, the internet today is also owned by three companies across the USA and the present FCC allows these mega-corporations to make deals with each so that at most two (and sometimes zero) internet providers are available to you in your neighborhood. Rich neighborhoods get two providers of fast internet service. Poor neighborhoods sometimes have no decent internet service at all. This resulted from round two of Washington DC’s demolition of the Fairness Doctrine in the form of the deregulation of the internet and the death of net-neutrality in America. Again, not good for the bottom 99 percent.

Getting back to YouTube. Just a year after YouTube was founded, in October of 2006, just a year after it was started, Google purchased YouTube for 1.65 billion dollars. Google then took control of YouTube which is now steered by the top one percent and sadly no longer a voice of the people as the three founders had planned. Same thing is going on at Facebook and Twitter.

So, why am I, Paul Davis, telling you this and why am I here? I have no corporate or government financing and no hidden agenda. I am a retired video producer, IT engineer, actor and vocational teacher with two adult daughters, a granddaughter, and a grandson on the way. With my series “Mark Twain – Surviving the 21st Century” I’m hoping to give all of us bottom 99 percenters some ideas on how to wake up, smell the fake media roses for the saran wrapped poop they really are, and I am here to share some simple ways to start taking back control of our local media, governments and lives. I believe that if the people lead the leaders will follow. It may be a crazy idea, but I’ve got to try. You see I am a little crazy and I got this series idea a short time ago when I woke up from a dream with the idea that maybe if a fictional Late Mark Twain could produce podcasts from heaven, he might have some positive ideas on how we, the bottom-99-percenters of America, might start leading the leaders with a Martin Luther King style gentleness and determination. That crazy night I woke up from a crazy visit with the Late Mark Twain I wrote the outlines for 10 episodes of “Mark Twain - Surviving the 21st Century” and it is now my pet project. So there you have it.

Here now, America, is Episode One of my fictional version of the late Mark Twain sharing the first-three of twelve suggestions on how the group of people – presently called the bottom 99 percent - presently occupying the geographical location we today all agree to call “These United States of America” might work locally and together to bring back a thriving middle class economy for ourselves, our families and our children:

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