

# Jon Stewart

## Taking On the World

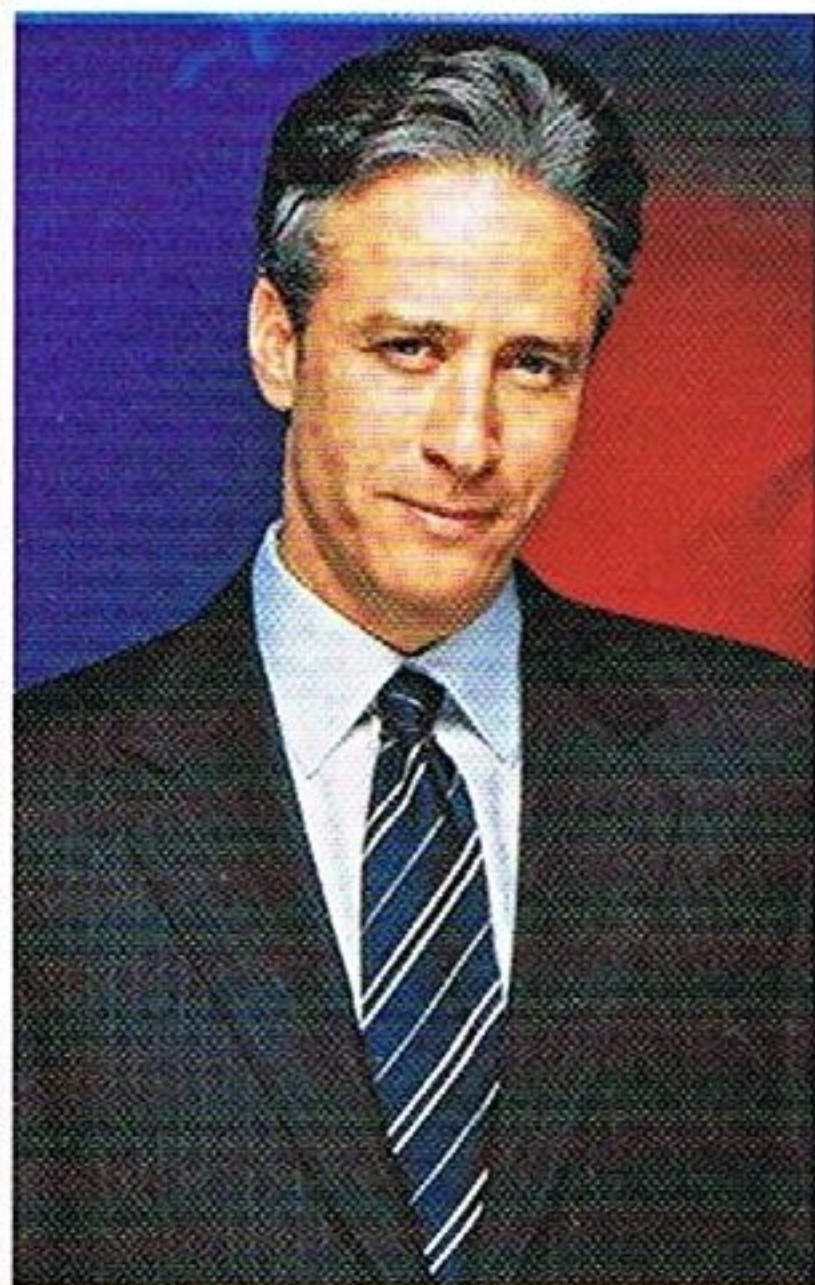
Jon Stewart thinks big. His bestselling 2004 book, *America (the Book): A Citizen's Guide to Democracy Inaction* was a delightfully irreverent look at the entire nation. Now Stewart and the writers of *The Daily Show* gleefully take on the globe in *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart Presents Earth (the Book): A Visitor's Guide to the Human Race* (Grand Central, Sept.).

"Basically, we are explaining who we are and what we were to aliens we assume will colonize the planet hundreds of years from now," Stewart tells *Show Daily*. He adds that what he hopes readers will take away from *Earth* is a true aha moment. "I want them to say, 'Oh, my god! The definitive story of man has been written in 224 pages with pictures. I can't believe I can flip through the entire history of man while in the bathroom!'"

He explains that where *America* was "more of a narrative," *Earth (the Book)* relies heavily on visuals, though he admits that did complicate the process. "I learned that a lot of pictures you'd like to use are actually owned by someone else and you have to pay for them. It costs a lot to put a picture of Mickey Mouse in a book. We might have to draw that one ourselves."

Stewart was named one of the top entertainers of the decade (1999–2009) by *Entertainment Weekly* magazine, while *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart* has garnered 28 Emmy Award nominations, 13 Emmy Awards, and two Peabody Awards. It is said that a large contingent of the under-35 set list the show as their primary television news source. Meanwhile, he has hosted the Grammy Awards and the Oscars ceremonies twice; asked about his "Master of Ceremonies" role at the BEA Author Breakfast this morning, he replies, "It all depends on what they are serving. If it's a continental breakfast, there could be problems. If they have a nice spread, I think this could be okay."

Stewart promises that the tone of *Earth (the Book)* is consistent with *The Daily Show* point of view. "With *America* we were able to put out a great deal of misinformation, and we said, how can we expand on this? We then thought—let's do a very misguided look at all of humanity."



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—Karen Jones