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# Tiffany Haddish-Hosted 'Kids Say the Darndest Things' Premieres Sunday evening on ABC

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A reboot of "Kids Say the Darndest Things," highlighting the comedic perspectives of a diverse group of children hosted by actress and comedian Tiffany Haddish, premieres at 8 p.m. Sunday evening on ABC.

"Kids Say the Darndest Things" originated in 1945 as a segment of the Art Linkletter-hosted CBS daytime radio variety program, "House Party" and continued on Linkletter's CBS afternoon television series, which ran from 1952-69. A version hosted by Bill Cosby aired in prime time on CBS from 1998-2000.

Segments in the premiere include a panel of girls questioning Haddish's claim she is friends with Taylor Swift, with Haddish responding by calling Swift on her cellphone; two 6-year-olds discussing all the weird things grown-ups do; and Haddish persuading children to film a commercial for her fake product, She Ready Dessert Ketchup.

Segments on future episodes will include "Kids Rule," in which children explain to Haddish the rules for everything from sportsmanship to dating; "Love Talk," where Haddish seeks advice on her love life; and "Granny Tiff," when Haddish dresses up as an older woman and receives technology advice from children.

Haddish described "Kids Say the Darndest Things," as "like a late-night talk show but with kids," including her delivering an opening monologue.

Eric Schotz, one of the series' three executive producers along with Haddish and Jack Martin, said Haddish, like Linkletter, "listens to what the kids have to say and doesn't try to be the joke."

"They're the sort of affirmation of the joke, but it's kids saying the darndest things and then Tiffany reacting to it in that way is not off-putting," Schotz said

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"It's very gracious as a comic, because she's not always trying to get a laugh. She's trying to watch what happens, and she listens, which is an amazing skill."

The series is taped at the Nate Holden Performing Arts Center in the Mid-City area of Los Angeles, or as Haddish described it to a group of critics and reporters from throughout the U.S. and Canada, "between the 'hood and Hollywood."

"Kids Say the Darndest Things" is airing as part of a three-hour Sunday block of alternative programs opposite "Sunday Night Football" on NBC, following "America's Funniest Home Videos" and preceding "Shark Tank."

Martin said casting sessions were held around the nation, with "thousands and thousands of kids" auditioning and some meeting with producers before appearing on the show.

"We talk about their interests, and we try to do our best job as producers to find out what they're going to say or what their beat's going to be," said Martin, who was an executive producer of the 2013-17 Comedy Central late-night internet-themed panel game show, "@midnight" and a co-executive producer of the NBC game show, "Deal or No Deal."

"It's about 50/50 whether they walk out and we say, 'Oh, you love baseball' (and the kid says) 'No.' And then that's where having someone as talented as Tiffany, who can go, 'All right. Well, I guess we're not talking about baseball. That's what we were prepped on. What are we talking about today?' So we have an idea of what we want to talk about. Half the time, we just throw it right out the window."

Schotz said "None of the kids are told what to say."

"That comes from them," said Schotz, who was a producer on the Cosby-hosted version of "Kids Say the Darndest Things." "But more importantly, they're not told what not to say. They're themselves."

TIFFANY HADDISH-HOSTED 'KIDS SAY THE DARNDEST THINGS' PREMIERES SUNDAY EVENING ON ABC was last modified: October 6th, 2019 by Contributing Editor

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