

# PERSONALITY PROFILE

Carson Daly poses with the band NEXT on the set of "Total Request Live."

## Carson Daly

"You have to be careful what you ask for, because you might get it. I got it and I appreciate it."

He's the young and attractive host of MTV's "Total Request Live." The show's format and Daly's personality have caused the media to compare him to Dick Clark. "TRL" is one of MTV's top-rated shows, reaching over 1 million viewers as it counts down the day's hottest videos as selected by viewers. Daly is the epicenter of a tornado of teens who crowd Times Square, phone lines and the Internet to get their 15 minutes of fame.

Daly is a former radio personality who spent less than three years in the business before being snatched off the airwaves by MTV. Some media watchers say that he's partially responsible for the network's rise out of an early '90s ratings slump. He's affable with his guests, never gets star struck and comes across as a regular guy who happens to be on TV—one writer says he "doesn't quite seem to know what to do with his hands" when on the air. "I have an honest relationship with the audience, and I think they appreciate that," he told an interviewer this summer.

Now he's broadening his scope on "TRL" and in other entertainment venues. Recently he signed a contract making him executive producer of "TRL" through August of 2001. He'll also have his own production company, where he'll develop shows for both MTV and CBS. He hosted the Miss USA pageant earlier this year and is working on the music production for a movie to be released in late 2001. And he still makes his appearance on "TRL," every day.

"My life has gone from being a six or seven appointment day to pretty much out of control. It's nuts," he said.

**Birth date:** June 22, 1973

**Hometown:** Santa Monica, CA

**Sibling:** Sister, Quinn, 29, is a PR director for a computer company.

**Education:** Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles. Was going to be a theology major. Left school in 1993.

**Marital status:** Single, was linked to Jennifer Love Hewitt and is currently dating actress Tara Reid (*American Pie*).

**High school experience:** Daly was kind of shy, and skipped out on the prom. He watched "60 Minutes" with his dad instead.

**First job:** Intern at a Palm Springs radio station.

**Alternate careers:** Daly is an excellent golfer and left college to go pro, but went into radio instead. For a while he also wanted to become a priest—but his mom talked him out of it.

**Golfing buddy:** Golfed with Tiger Woods in the American Junior Golf Association.

**Broadcasting history:** Worked at four stations in two years, including KOME in San Jose, Live 105 in San Francisco, and KROQ in Los Angeles (where MTV recruited him).

**On church and spirituality:** "I go to church every Sunday and give thanks. You know why? Because all these amazing things are happening in my life, and I need to give thanks." •

For more about Carson Daly, go to [steamtunnels.net](http://steamtunnels.net) and search for keyword "Carson Daly."