

Anti-‘Fake News’ Organization Marks 25th Anniversary with Live Science Variety Show, ‘How Can We Know What’s True?’

New York, NY (September, 2017): Dr. Michael Shermer, founder of the *Skeptics Society* and *Skeptic* magazine, will this month mark 25 years of combating ‘fake news’ with ‘HOW CAN WE KNOW WHAT’S TRUE?’, a live variety science show, in partnership with YouTube Space NY.

Celebrity creators and public intellectuals are slated to debate Dr. Shermer on a range of issues such as climate change, vaccinations, the reemergence of the ‘Alt-Right’ movement, religion and life beyond earth. Live debate segments will include *ASAPScience* hosts **Mitchell Moffit** and **Greg Brown**, world renowned philosopher **Deepak Chopra**, and award-winning author **Aspen Matis**. The event will also feature Grammy-nominated recording artist **Mike Posner**, host of his newly released philosophy podcast ‘What Does It All Mean?’. Broadcast on **The Young Turks Network**, the event will focus on the role of skepticism in today’s political climate - where evidence and facts are increasingly dismissed.

Climate change, government engagement in science legislation, the relationship between science and faith, the dangers behind radical social ideologies — the Skeptics Society has for more than two decades, explored these issues that affect us all. Pairing some of the most influential minds in science, philosophy, journalism and popular culture, the commemorative science variety show addresses these ongoing issues as they relate to the digital age, fact-checking fake journalism, and as a result, coming to know the truth.

Happy 25th Anniversary messages will be broadcast from *Skeptic* fans around the world, including ‘Crazy Ex-Girlfriend’ co-creator and star **Rachel Bloom**, bestselling author and biologist **Richard Dawkins**, and celebrity illusionist **Derren Brown**. A pre-show magic act by the longest running magician in the history of New York City, **Prakash Puru**, will demonstrate how easily we are fooled, and science rapper **Baba Brinkman** will debut a skeptic-themed track.

Dr. Shermer says there is no better time than now to learn how to be a better skeptic. “Skepticism is the most important right we have, because talking and listening to others is the only way to find out if we’re wrong, if we’ve gone off the rails. I think we need to continue to move towards this method of examination in the next quarter century, particularly in crucial areas like climate change and terrorism, which pose potential threats to our existence.”

“Over the next 25 years, who knows what crazy ideas people will hold, so we have to equip society with a cognitive toolkit that is general enough to be applied to any and all claims, including those we can’t think of now. We don’t know what we don’t know. Science and skepticism are the best methods ever devised to understand the true nature of the world,” said Shermer.

With celebrity guests from all areas of science and entertainment, 'HOW CAN WE KNOW WHAT'S TRUE?' offers a unique perspective on how each of us can be our very own best skeptic.

As part of the anniversary engagements, Dr. Shermer will also be in New York City prior to the Google event, as a guest on **Neil deGrasse Tyson's** *Star Talk Radio* on September 18th. Dr. Shermer will star onstage alongside **Whoopi Goldberg** at Kings Theater in Brooklyn, New York, to represent the Skeptics in bridging the pop culture and science.

About the Skeptics Society:

Once a fringe movement, today's skeptical community now deals with the biggest and most important issues of our time: terrorism, religion, gun violence, climate change, alternative medicine, and science education. The Skeptics Society was the first to investigate the Holocaust deniers, the first to debunk the 9/11 Truthers, and pioneered the method of letting the proponents of a belief speak for themselves. Fighting for scientific fact in the face of fallacy has become a worldwide movement; the Skeptic Society now hosts chapters all over the globe including England, Germany, France, the Netherlands, Italy, Australia, New Zealand, and Canada.

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