

**For Immediate Release  
MEDIA ADVISORY**



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## **LUNCH WITH BOKARA**

### **“The Monk and the Rabbi”**

**Airs April 10 & 11<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM, PT/ 10 PM, ET**

**(DIRECTV Ch. 375, Dish Network Ch. 9410 and Select PBS Stations Nationwide)**

San Francisco, CA (April 8, 2005)—Consider yourself a privileged guest, or a fly on the wall, as hostess, chef and “seeker of truth”, Bokara Legendre cooks lunch for an engaging mix of philosophers, scientists and spiritual teachers. **LUNCH WITH BOKARA**, a new Link TV series, airing on Sundays, at 7:00 PM PT - 10:00 PM ET is full of humor, wisdom and practical advice for everyday life.

This Sunday Benedictine Brother David Steindl-Rast and Rabbi Lawrence Kushner, join Bokara to explore religious fundamentalism, mystical experience and the power of gratitude and forgiveness. Brother David Steindl-Rast has been a practicing Benedictine monk for over half a century and was one of the first Vatican-sanctioned delegates to participate in Buddhist-Christian dialogue. Rabbi Kushner is widely regarded as one of the most creative religious writers in America. His books include “Invisible Lines of Connection: Sacred Stories of the Ordinary”, and “Jewish Spirituality: A Brief Introduction for Christians”.

*"No one can see God and live happily ever after as if nothing has happened. It is a kind of dying. You see, when we lose ourselves we find ourselves."*

- Brother David Steindl-Rast

*"You can only say 'I saw God', you can never say 'I see God' because there can't be 'I' and 'God' together. I'm reminded of what Gary Cooper says in an old Western movie: 'There ain't room enough in this here world for your ego and me, so you pick.'"*

- Rabbi Lawrence Kushner

*“Gratefulness is a practice you can start now, and before you leave the room you see the effects. Because whenever you’re grateful you’re happier.”*

- Brother David Steindl-Rast.

Bokara Legendre is both in the moment and in her element, as she hosts some of the great teachers of our time, exploring the frontiers of religion and metaphysics, of science and spirituality.

In upcoming episodes, “Be Here Now” author Ram Dass discusses consciousness, aging and the many ways of “being present” for our lives with scholar of world religions and philosopher Huston Smith.

*“Consciousness is upset by change. And that upset is a moment in your life which you hadn’t planned for. And too often we are play acting a life, which was designed by our minds.”* **Ram Dass**

Healing and community are the lunch topics with doctor and author Rachel Remen and African shaman and healer **Sobonfu Somé**.

*"Ritual is to the soul what food is to our physical body,"* says Sobonfu.

While preparing lunch for her guests, Bokara tells us:

*“So often on television we see interviews with wise people. And so rarely do we actually see those celebrated characters in conversation with each other. This program is about bringing interesting people together, individuals whose opinions and wisdom I want to hear, and give my audience the chance to listen to them too. Peter Burger said” The route to civilization is through conversation,” and I think it is It’s also the route to pleasure, amusement and wisdom.”*

#### **About Host Bokara Legendre:**

**BOKARA LEGENDRE** is an artist, writer and performer. Bokara produced "Nine In the Morning," a daily hour long talk show on the CBS station in Washington D.C. In Palm Beach Florida. She hosted a weekly talk show called "Bobo in the Celebrity Room" on which she interviewed stars of theater, screen and politics. In San Francisco she was the art critic for "Newsroom" on KQED, the local PBS station. She had her own radio column on WNYC and has worked as a reporter for a variety of publications including The New York Times, the North American Newspaper Alliance, and the Charleston News and Courier.

Her long time interest in shamanism, native traditions and Eastern spiritual disciplines has led her to investigate the wisdom of many cultures and the science which studies it. She has written and performed four monologues in theaters in New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Martha’s Vineyard and has exhibited her paintings in New York and San Francisco. She is presently writing a humorous memoir about her spiritual search.

#### **About Producer/Director Stephen Olsson:**

**STEPHEN OLSSON**, has produced and directed award-winning documentary films, television series and feature news reports throughout the world for US and European broadcasters such as the BBC, PBS, CNN, National Geographic Television, NBC, CBS, ARTE, Canal+, FR2, NHK & TV Asahi. Stephen Olsson's work has often focused on international issues and character-driven stories. He has been awarded the National Emmy Award for Outstanding Director, the du-Pont Columbia Award for excellence in broadcast journalism, and many others. He currently serves as Head of Original Programming for Link TV. Olsson has produced and supervised the creation of a number of original programs and series, including the award-winning: "Mosaic: World News from the Middle East", and documentaries such as: "Face-to-Face: Young Arabs and Americans", and "Ethics & The World Crisis: A Dialogue with the Dalai Lama" and others. He is currently completing: SOUNDS OF THE SOUL: The Fez Festival of World Sacred Music.

#### **About CEM Productions:**

CEM (Cultural and Educational Media) Productions is a non-profit media organization which brings extensive national and international experience to the design and production of award-winning films, television programs and series for US, European and other international distributors Since 1983, CEM Productions has been using film, video and television technologies to promote new understandings, awareness and tolerance between peoples, cultures, nations and faiths. ([www.CEMproductions.org](http://www.CEMproductions.org))

**About Link TV:**

Link TV is a non-commercial television network available in more than 25 million U.S. homes on DIRECTV channel 375 and Dish Network channel 9410. The 24-hour programming is a mix of documentaries, international news, foreign films and the best of World Music. Select Link TV programs are streamed on the Internet at [www.linktv.org](http://www.linktv.org). Link TV is operated by Link Media, Inc., a California non-profit organization, with production studios in San Francisco, New York and Washington, DC. The network is funded by viewer contributions and grants from more than 25 foundations, including the Ford Foundation, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, Markle Foundation, Open Society Institute, Otto Haas Charitable Trust, Paul Allen Foundation, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Shei'rah Foundation, Surdna Foundation, Tides Foundation, Wallace Global Fund, and William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

For the complete program schedule and Internet streaming, go to [www.linktv.org](http://www.linktv.org). DVD's and videocassettes of each program are available to individuals and institutions through [www.CEMproductions.org](http://www.CEMproductions.org).