

Rich Valdés Delivers Sharp Insights At Talkers 2026 Amid New Network Surpassing 1 Billion Youtube Views

Rich Valdés participated in a panel discussion at Talkers 2026 about the evolution of talk media across streaming platforms.

NEW YORK, NY, UNITED STATES, June 8, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The talk radio industry continues to evolve in an increasingly fragmented media landscape, with streaming platforms now outpacing traditional broadcast and cable television combined while radio maintains its critical role, particularly during emergency situations. Against this backdrop of transformation, broadcaster [Rich Valdés](#) stood out as a featured speaker on The Big Picture Super Panel at the [Talkers 2026](#) conference, held at Hofstra University on Soundstage A in the Lawrence Herbert School of Communication.

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Rich Valdés

Alongside fellow panelists Tavis Smiley, Frank Morano, Chris Oliviero, and Steve Jones, Valdés offered sharp

analysis on the rapid evolution of talk media and strategies for success in a multi-platform world. His featured appearance comes during a period of significant digital acceleration for his brand, highlighted by his distribution partner, Global Media Federation, the parent company of Festiva TV and Oro Solido, recently crossing 1 billion cumulative YouTube views.

During the panel discussion, Valdés stressed that while talk media is evolving rapidly, radio is not disappearing in the way traditional television has shifted. He highlighted iHeart Media's forward-thinking integration of top programming onto Netflix with live broadcasts as a model all radio and talk professionals should emulate. "We must meet our listeners and viewers where they are in this multi-platform industry," Valdés said.

Valdés also addressed how audiences connect primarily with engaging personalities, cultural references, and strong content rather than ethnicity alone, noting that what may seem like ethnic familiarity is often secondary to a relatable on-air persona. Tavis Smiley nodded in strong agreement with this assessment. The broadcaster further outlined a pioneering approach using advanced AI lip-sync voice dubbing to deliver his authentic voice and commentary to new

Spanish-speaking markets, significantly broadening his potential reach into the Caribbean and South America.

Spanish-language Roku content delivered through Festiva TV and its parent company Global Media Federation, in partnership with merengue superstar Raul Acosta of Oro Solido, gives Valdés immediate home-screen visibility across Roku's 100 million-plus streaming households worldwide. The English-language show is available for free on Apple Podcasts and iHeartRadio, with full video via paid membership subscriptions.

Valdés offered warm, personable acknowledgments to his WABC Radio colleagues, where he honed his craft as a live broadcaster in America's number one market, and expressed appreciation for early mentors Curtis Sliwa and Mark Levin. He also extended gratitude to industry executives including Theresa Gage, Kevin Delany, and the Cumulus/Westwood One executive team.

"The future belongs to those who honor radio's traditions while boldly embracing new technologies and platforms," Valdés said. "This is how we connect with audiences wherever they consume content."

Talkers Magazine Publisher Michael Harrison praised Valdés and fellow panelists for their sustained excellence and relentless drive for improvement, noting that "these are the leaders who continue to raise the bar for our entire industry."

About Rich Valdés

Rich Valdés is a nationally recognized talk show host, broadcaster, and commentator known for incisive analysis and innovative multi-platform strategies. In his eighth year in media, Valdés built his platform beginning in 2018 at Talk Radio 77 WABC in New York City, where he served as associate producer and substitute host for "The Mark Levin Show," then advanced to host weekends at WABC and weekdays on WLIR 107.1 FM. He subsequently hosted weekends on WPHT in Philadelphia before achieving national syndication on Westwood One, where he succeeded the late Jim Bohannon in the legendary late-night slot once occupied by Larry King. After departing Cumulus/Westwood One at the end of 2025, Valdés has focused on expanding his presence across streaming television and digital video platforms. His flagship podcast, "Rich Valdés This Is America," is available on iHeartRadio, Apple Podcasts, and Roku's Festiva TV Channel in both English and Spanish. Valdés was born in Brooklyn, raised in Hudson County, New Jersey, and is of Puerto Rican heritage.

To learn more about Rich Valdés please visit – RichValdes.com



Rich Valdés

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