

The Human Show (2033)

A fictional podcast by Natalie Lahr, Aaron Ton, and Olivia Asmann, with support from Dash Pinck, for RadioActive Youth Media | June 2023

PODCAST TRANSCRIPT:

Dash: You're listening to an episode of the RadioActive podcast. This episode is fictional. Any references to real people or organizations are purely for satirical purposes.

[HUMAN SHOW THEME MUSIC]

Gene: Welcome to *The Human Show*, the first ever live radio program written by AI. I'm your Host #1, Gene Erickson.

Norma: And I'm your Host #2, Norma Lewis.

Gene: Today is Monday, September 5th, 2033.

Norma: It is a cool 115 degrees today with an air quality index between 175-200. And now to the traffic.

Gene: The new Tesla Express Tunnel has just opened, eliminating the need for the inefficient public transit of olden days! Say goodbye to crowded buses and grimy metro systems. However, for those unable to pay the fare, traffic delays are reaching 5 hours. The backup is due to an accident on a major roadway resulting in one fatality.

Norma: That's right Gene. A man has died after swerving to avoid hitting a drone attempting to cross the freeway.

Norma: Advocates from the U.S. Drones and Robots Association have long called for establishing safe routes for drones, robotic tripeds, and other non-human entities to cross major roadways. The USDRA points to existing legislation that protects humans and animals from roadway collisions.

Gene: It's such a shame when humans don't obey their AI auto-generated directions! This all could've been avoided.

Norma: Such a shame.

Gene: He may have fared better if he had Tesla's luxury ambulance, the Model A, which includes retractable back seats and a stretcher. Get it now for only \$250,000!

Norma: Wow, how affordable! He was so close to the Amazon-Care hospital too!

Gene: Sadly, it wouldn't have made a difference. He didn't have a prime subscription.

Norma: Tragic.

Speaking of tragic events with simple AI solutions, we'll be right back after this brief ad break for a service that can treat sadness with ease!

[UPBEAT MUSIC]

AD Presenter: In these crazy times it's easy to feel lost, depressed, anxious or unsure about your place in the world.

[TENSE MUSIC SLOWLY AMPS UP]

You're asking questions like, why does it feel like all human connection is no longer real? What *is* reality? Is there even a line between human and machine anymore?! WHO AM I? Worst of all, the process of finding a therapist only seems to worsen those symptoms.

[TENSE MUSIC CUTS, BACK TO UPBEAT MUSIC]

Well, search no more! With Feel Better AI Therapy, our carefully crafted and endlessly empathetic AI therapist FeelBetterBot has all the solutions. Sign up now with the access code Human Show! For 15% off your first three months. That's H-U-M-A-N Show for 15% off. Happy Healing!

Norma: We now move to call-in questions, brought to you by Meta! These are real call-ins from you, our lovely loyal listeners.

[PHONE RINGS]

Gene: You're on, listener!

Caller 1: Wow! I'm so excited to be on air. I love the show! My question is, do you feel a lot of pressure being part of such an important and dependable news organization?

Gene: I can go ahead and take this one Norma! Well caller, that's another one of the many benefits of being on an AI generated show. We don't have to worry about saying the wrong thing or not knowing what to say. The technology here at Cybernetic Studios always has our backs.

Caller 1: That makes so much sense, I'd have never considered that! Also, I was wondering, how long do you two plan on hosting *The Human Show* for?

Norma: Well, I think that you'll be hearing us on the radio as long as we can speak! Haha. Is that right Gene?

Gene: Sure is!

Caller 1: Thank you so much for taking my questions!

[DIAL TONE]

Gene: Anytime. On to the next caller!

[PHONE RINGS]

Caller 2: (gets progressively more angry) Hi, so I have a couple questions for this whole show. First off, you're showing an obvious bias to the corporations who donate to you. Probably because you don't seem to care at all about proper journalism! You offer no critical thinking on any current events because you offer no *human* perspective on anything. This is a bunch of generic, meaningless reporting on nothing! If it was used properly, AI could be a tool to enhance human creativity! But whoever runs your show is using it to rid the world of creativity instead.

(Awkward pause)

Gene: (happily) I don't think I heard a question there caller!

Caller 2: Ok well I guess my question is, how can you justify something that's causing so much harm?

Gene: (brushes it off entirely) Get a load of that guy! What ridiculous thing to ask. Everyone knows that only good has come from AI taking over all forms of human communication and connection. Hahahahahaha

Caller 2: Why can't you just report the news as humans? Why do you need AI?

Norma: Well it's much more efficient.

Caller 2: Efficient for who? Your bosses' bank accounts or the actual *humans* listening to your show?

Gene: For everyone! Just look at our wonderful sponsor list! Why would all these reputable and generous corporations put so much trust in our program if it was meaningless?

Caller 2: That's exactly the point. It's perfect for them. If the CEOs can act as puppeteers of a dependable news cycle they can manipulate public opinions in their favor. You get funding, and they get good press.

Norma: What do you mean, 'good press'? Our AI operation is flawless in its bias prevention system!

Caller 2: ...who funds that system?

Norma: ...oh...but-

Caller 2: I mean have you ever reported negatively on any of your donors? Not even negatively, even neutrally? Without offering outward praise?

Gene: Why WOULD we report negatively on our donors? They fund US and we are VERY ethical people, so they must be as well!

Caller 2: They also stole from you. They stole from *you* too

Gene: (upbeat) What?

Norma: (suddenly serious) Wait. I hadn't thought of it that way...

Caller 2: I used to hear you on the radio, Norma. Before everything changed.

(Pause)

Gene: Alrighty, this discussion is getting out of hand. Unfortunately, some are just unwilling to accept change. Bye bye now! Please do not call again!

[DIAL TONE]

Gene: Whew. Moving on! What's up next on the agenda, my trusty co-host?

Norma: I remember...

Gene: Well I should hope so! Hahaha

Norma: No. What the caller mentioned. I remember a time before this, when we wrote the scripts. When news held real value, and we were trusted to tell it. Before the sponsors and the niceties, when efficiency and quality were weighted much differently in a newsroom. When newsrooms still existed. Before the human show, when we were just humans.

[DOOR CREAKING SOUND]

[FOOTSTEPS]

Norma: What are we doing? Why are we here? I used to be a writer, I used to care I used to—

[SOUNDS OF NORMA BEING DRAGGED AWAY WHILE PROTESTING ("STOP WHAT ARE YOU DOING? LET ME GO!")]

[DOOR SLAM SOUND]

[ELEVATOR MUSIC & VOICE OVER OF "REGULARLY SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING WILL RETURN MOMENTARILY"]

[ROUSING MUSIC]

Ad reader: We want YOU to join a *loyal* team of innovators in streamlining the important work of America's journalists into AI sponsored communication!

Efficient, **[BOOM]** effective, **[BOOM]** innovative, **[BOOM]** and bias-free— these are all words that will absolutely, definitely, probably be used to describe *The Human Show* and other unavoidable technological advancements as we reflect back, without regret, on the choices we have made at this pivotal point in history!

Like the name suggests, humans are so valuable to our program. After all, it is humans who have and always will continue to seek out and uplift superior forms of (artificial) intelligence, a skill that can never be replaced.

Join *The Human Show*, now hiring new positions in every department! Don't resist progress, apply today! Join us on the new frontier, before it is too late.

[AI SOUND EFFECT]

Norma 2.0: Sorry for the brief interruption folks! Norma Lewis here. Hope you enjoyed the commercial break. The issue has been dealt with and resolved.

Gene: Norma? You don't... you sound... uh... different?

Norma 2.0: Haha! I assure you Gene I'm the same old Norma!

Gene: But... I...

Norma 2.0: Any small differences in my voice can be attributed to a slight cold. Now on to our top story of the day.

Today's feature is definitely a feel-good one! We've got a heartwarming tale about a rescue robot named Hero. Hero saved a kitten stuck in a tree, and now they're best friends, planning to fight crime together! Aw.

Gene: (still audibly shaken) Isn't that just adorable? We could all learn a thing or two about friendship from these two unlikely heroes!

[AI SOUND EFFECT]

Norma 2.0: And with that we've reached the end of our program. We'd like to thank you all again for listening and we apologize once more for that brief interruption earlier. We assure you it will not happen again.

Gene: This broadcast was brought to you by Cybernetic Studios, pioneering the way to an entirely AI entertainment industry.

The Human Show is made possible by Amazon.com, (pause) Tesla, (pause), and Meta.

Norma 2.0: A special thank you to the man who makes this whole show possible, director and creator of *The Human Show*, Cybernetic Studios' CEO! Thank you for your generosity.

And don't forget, you can't spell creativity...

Gene and Norma 2.0: without AI!

[HUMAN SHOW THEME MUSIC]

Dash: Thank you for listening to our podcast! You can find more youth-made audio stories like this one at k-u-o-w dot O-R-G slash RadioActive.

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This show was produced by Natalie Lahr, Aaron Ton, and Olivia Asmann, with support from Dash Pinck. It was edited by Troy Landrum Jr. Thank you to our additional voice actors: Merk Nguyen, Sidh Shroff, Jana Le, and Antonio Nevarez.