

August 3, 2022



Stitcher Announces Vibe Check, a New Podcast Hosted by Sam Sanders, Saeed Jones, and Zach Stafford

Beginning August 17, the three culture experts and friends dissect news, entertainment, and culture through a Black, queer lens

Listen to a trailer [HERE](#)



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NEW YORK - August 3, 2022 – **Stitcher**, the Triton-ranked #1 podcast network and SiriusXM subsidiary, today announced ***Vibe Check***, a new weekly podcast series hosted by journalist and podcaster **Sam Sanders**, poet and writer **Saeed Jones**, and journalist and Tony Award-winning producer **Zach Stafford**. Beginning August 17, the three culture experts and friends bring their group chat to life as they dissect news, entertainment, and everything in between through a Black, queer lens.

A trailer is available [by clicking here](#). Listen to *Vibe Check* on [Stitcher](#), the SXM App, and all major podcast listening platforms.

Black, queer culture is the foundation of everything – from Madonna’s “Vogue” to the reign of Lil Nas X – but rarely are those voices at the foreground of cultural commentary and critique. Now *Vibe Check* has entered the chat, a weekly kiki with three of the world’s most prominent Black, queer creatives, each of whom has spent their careers reporting the news, pushing

the culture, and checking the vibes. Listeners will hear Saeed, Sam and Zach discuss everything, from Beyonce's latest single to the battle over LGBTQ+ rights.

In a joint statement, Sam, Saeed, and Zach said: "We couldn't be more excited to invite people into our funny, thoughtful, and supportive sister circle on *Vibe Check*. This show is the culmination of years of friendship, and we look forward to helping you keep your vibe right!"

SXM Media, the combined advertising sales group from Sirius XM Holdings Inc., has exclusive global ad sales rights for *Vibe Check*. SXM Media is the gateway for marketers to the #1 U.S. podcast advertising network in reaching weekly podcast listeners, per Edison Research.

Vibe Check is created and hosted by **Saeed Jones**, **Zach Stafford**, and **Sam Sanders**. The show is produced by **Shantel Holder**. Stitcher's **Nora Ritchie** and **Brandon Sharp** of Agenda Management & Production serve as executive producers. Engineering is by **Brendan Byrnes** and **Jared O'Connell**. The show's music and sound design is by **Marcus Hahn**.

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About Saeed Jones

Saeed Jones is the author of the memoir *HOW WE FIGHT FOR OUR LIVES*, winner of the 2019 Kirkus Prize for Nonfiction and the poetry collection *PRELUDE TO BRUISE*, winner for the 2015 PEN/Joyce Osterweil Award for Poetry. His work has appeared in the *New Yorker*, *New York Times*, and *GQ*. His next poetry collection *ALIVE AT THE END OF THE WORLD* will be published by Coffee House Press this September.

About Zach Stafford

Zach Stafford is an award-winning journalist, editor, and Tony award-winning producer of the Broadway musical *A STRANGE LOOP*. Stafford was the first Black editor-in-chief of *THE ADVOCATE*, served as the chief content officer of *GRINDR*, and was a journalist at *THE GUARDIAN*. He is the author of two books entitled *BOYS* and *WHEN DOGS HEAL*, and currently serves on the board of directors of the American LGBTQ+ Museum. In 2019, he was included in the *Forbes*' 30 Under 30 list and named as one of the 100 most influential Black people living today by *The Root*.

About Sam Sanders

Sam Sanders is the host of *Into It*, the flagship culture podcast from Vulture which each week breaks down the culture and entertainment stories we can't stop thinking about. Sanders is also a co-host of *Vibe Check*, a weekly podcast from Stitcher.

Sanders joined Vulture from NPR, where he was a correspondent and the host of the award-winning radio program and podcast, *It's Been a Minute with Sam Sanders*. Prior to *It's Been a Minute*, Sanders was a member of NPR's election unit, where he covered the intersection of culture, pop culture, and politics in the 2016 election, and embedded with the Bernie Sanders campaign for several months. He was also one of the original co-hosts of NPR's *Politics Podcast*, which launched in 2015. Sanders joined NPR in 2009 as a Kroc Fellow and

held many roles within the organization including as a field producer and breaking news reporter.

In 2022, Sanders was named “Best Podcast Host” by The Ambies, and received the NLGJA Excellence in Journalism Award for “Excellence in Radio,” the iHeart Award for “Best Overall Host (male),” and the Los Angeles Press Club National A&E Journalism award for “Best Anchor / Host” in the radio and podcasts category. Sanders was part of a team of journalists who won an NABJ Salute to Excellence Award for their reporting on children living below the poverty line. Sanders is a contributor to the WHYY program *Fresh Air*, and has written for outlets including the *Washington Post*, *Columbia Journalism Review*, and *Politico Magazine*.

About SiriusXM

Sirius XM Holdings Inc. (NASDAQ: SIRI) is the leading audio entertainment company in North America, and the premier programmer and platform for subscription and digital advertising-supported audio products. SiriusXM’s platforms collectively reach approximately 150 million listeners, the largest digital audio audience across paid and free tiers in North America, and deliver music, talk, news, comedy, entertainment and podcasts. SiriusXM offers the most extensive lineup of professional and college sports in audio. Pandora, a subsidiary of SiriusXM, is the largest ad-supported audio entertainment streaming service in the U.S. SiriusXM’s subsidiaries Stitcher, Simplecast and AdsWizz make it a leader in podcast hosting, production, distribution, analytics and monetization. The Company’s advertising sales arm, SXM Media, leverages its scale, cross-platform sales organization, and ad tech capabilities to deliver results for audio creators and advertisers. SiriusXM, through Sirius XM Canada Holdings, Inc., also offers satellite radio and audio entertainment in Canada. In addition to its audio entertainment businesses, SiriusXM offers connected vehicle services to automakers. For more about SiriusXM, please go to: www.siriusxm.com.

Source: SiriusXM

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