



NEWS

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VETERAN MTA BUS OPERATOR STEALS THE SHOW IN PBS SERIES DEALING WITH THE WORKPLACE

A star may be born shortly when a one-time truck driver turned MTA bus operator, Robert Lujan of Division 10 in Los Angeles, appears in an upcoming episode of "Livelyhood," a second year PBS series hosted by humorist Will Durst about the challenges and complexities of the modern day workplace.

The episode, "Carpool to Nirvana," which airs next Sunday, October 17 at 6 p.m., will also focus on the best ways of commuting to the ideal workplace — from bikes to buses.

According to one of the show's associate producers, the loquacious Lujan, with the MTA since 1982, makes the episode come alive.

"Robert's segment is everyone's favorite," said Kelly Whalen, a producer with the Oakland-based Working Group, an independent production company, who interviewed Lujan while he drove his bus to such locations as East Los Angeles and Westwood. "It's a very warm piece, it's very, very good. He's really a great spokesperson for the bus system."

Lujan, 47, was quietly going about his business of providing his typical first class service to passengers this past summer when the phone rang: the production company had selected him over a field of 10 MTA bus operators.

"This is a great opportunity for the MTA to put its best foot forward," said the Monterey Park resident. "The Authority's best assets are the people doing the job. I consider this opportunity to appear on the show as an honor."

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Never at a loss for words, the ever positive Lujan, who exudes a cool Tony Bennett-like demeanor, talked about the struggles of the transit dependent and many other subjects during the interview.

"I actually enjoy interacting with the public and never tire of seeing who's coming through the front door of the bus," Lujan, whose heart remains with MTA.

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