

# Joan Rivers: Five Ways Larry King's Tribute Got It Right

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The ripple effects of [Joan Rivers'](#) death on Sept. 4 will surely be felt for quite some time. The comedy legend who rose to fame with her insanely sharp wit, managed to weather both personal and professional storms during her 81 years and many decades in show business. Now, as the outpouring of support and tributes to Rivers continues, one man seemed to get it right—[Larry King](#).

The former CNN champion—a broadcast legend in his own right—interviewed Rivers countless times over the decades so it's no surprise that he, like so many others in the entertainment world, produced a tribute show on his own [Larry King Now](#) on Ora TV. But unlike other tributes, King's offered a more twist with its surprisingly genuine vibe.

Here are five reasons the episode stands out.

[Margaret Cho](#): The famous Korean comedian is a riot on stage, but she had also been a close friend of Rivers' for some time. To hear Cho dish about Rivers' funeral and the comment radio personality Howard Stern made at Rivers' highly publicized red carpet funeral in New York City is one for the books. But notice how real and genuine Cho actually is in the episode.

**Don Rickles:** You can hear it in his voice—the grief, the shock. But listen on, and there's some dark humor there from Rickles, too. And some Johnny Carson fodder, too.

**Lily Tomlin:** Let's face it—we could watch and listen to this celebrated force of nature for hours. But here, with a heart wide open, Tomlin's spirit shines even brighter when reflecting on the woman who inspired her greatly.

**Jane Lynch:** It's a nice move on King's and his producers' part to offer audiences incredible female forces in this episode, Lynch among them. After all, Rivers was revolutionary and paved the way for many women in show business, especially females comics.

**The Soft Side of Rivers:** As has already been reported, Rivers had a big heart—huge. She offered tremendous support to [God's Love We Deliver](#), a prominent nonprofit that cooks 4,600 meals each weekday and delivers them to individuals living with life-altering illnesses. King's guests—Cho, Philbin, Lynch et al—illuminate just how giving Rivers was. But a few things revealed here may surprise you.

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## **Greg Archer**

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