

Contact: Beth Silverman/Laura Silverman
The Silverman Group, Inc.
312.932.9950
beth@silvermangroupchicago.com

For Immediate Release

SIX NEW EPISODES OF AWARD-WINNING **LOVE+RADIO** PODCAST ONLINE MAY 23, FUNDED BY WBEZ 91.5 FM

(May 17, 2012) From a former pimp turned preacher to an outsider artist from Missouri fighting a self-described 'war' with his city and neighbors, long-form intimate profiles of "people on the outliers of human experience" will be the subject of six new episodes of **Nick van der Kolk's** award-winning **Love + Radio** podcast, the first launching Wednesday, May 23, at www.wbez.org/podcasts.

Launched in its current format in 2010, **Love + Radio** features in-depth, otherworldly-produced interviews with an eclectic range of subjects, from the seedy to the sublime. This past year, **Love + Radio** won the Gold Award for Best Documentary from the Third Coast International Audio Festival/Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Competition, which honors the best new stories produced around the world for radio and the Internet. **Love + Radio** is the first podcast to win the Third Coast Festival's top prize in the history of the 11-year-old competition. *Radiolab* and *This American Life* received second and third place, respectively. Other in-the-know fans of the groundbreaking podcast include Peter Sagal, host, *Wait Wait Don't Tell Me* (WBEZ & NPR); Roman Mars, host/producer, *99% Invisible* (PRX) and Sean Cole, producer, *Radiolab*.

The six new podcast episodes, part of **Love + Radio's** third season, will be funded and promoted by Chicago's **WBEZ 91.5FM**, one of the country's premiere public radio stations. Van der Kolk, a Chicago native, produces the podcast at WBEZ studios – and is a frequent on-air contributor to its sister station, *Vocalo 89.5FM* – but this marks the first time the podcast is receiving the support of the station.

"**Love + Radio** introduces audiences to voices they would almost never hear anywhere else, oftentimes dealing with sensationalized subjects in a non-sensationalized way," said van der Kolk. "For instance, this season includes interviews with an investigative journalist who escaped from drug addiction and ties to the mafia in order to help expose corporate malfeasance at Enron, and a blues musician who may or may not be the uncredited writer of 'Bad to the Bone' (and maybe also discovered Whitney Houston... maybe)."

Brendan Baker, a radio producer and musician who has worked extensively with *The Onion News Network*, *WNYC's Studio 360*, *Curtis Fox Productions*, *Antenna Audio*, and *El Taller Latino Americano* this season joins **Love + Radio** as the podcast's resident sound designer.

"Brendan brings a level of musicianship to the show that you won't hear on any other public radio programming," added van der Kolk.

WBEZ 91.5FM is operated by Chicago Public Media, an institution that creates award-winning content for people seeking to learn more about the issues and ideas that affect our community, our nation, and our world. Chicago Public Media produces programs such as *This American Life*, *Sound Opinions*, *Wait*,

Wait...Don't Tell Me!, Eight Forty-Eight, The Afternoon Shift, Worldview, and Radio M. In addition to WBEZ 91.5 FM, Chicago Public Media operates Vocalo 89.5 FM, a next generation service that seeks to expand the reach of public media. For more information, visit www.chicagopublicmedia.org.

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