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Joshua Sapan

By KATE MURPHY

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Joshua Sapan is president and chief executive of [AMC Networks](http://www.amcnetworks.com/), best known for its hit shows “Breaking Bad,” “Mad Men” and “The Walking Dead.”

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Robert Caplin for The New York Times

**READING** [“Aimless Love,”](http://www.randomhouse.com/book/213126/aimless-love-by-billy-collins) a new book of poems by Billy Collins. I’ve read him for years. He actually was the evening’s entertainment at a management conference we had. He totally killed. I’m also enjoying[“One Last Thing Before I Go”](http://www.us.penguingroup.com/static/rguides/us/one_last_thing_before_i_go.html) by Jonathan Tropper, a very funny novel about middle-aged malaise. It just rings painfully true. And following along with my 12th-grader’s reading curriculum, I’m reading [“Tevye the Dairyman”](http://knopfdoubleday.com/book/1812/tevye-the-dairyman-and-the-railroad-stories/)by Sholem Aleichem, a treat as both my mother and aunt performed in Yiddish theater and I remember them in plays by him.

**LISTENING** I often give Woody Allen’s “Stand Up Comic” CD from the 1960s as a gift. This is a recording of him live in Greenwich Village before he started directing any movies. They are not jokes, they are stories. One called [“I Shot a Moose”](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xmnLRVWgnXU) is spectacular. I can give my rendition of “I Shot a Moose” if you have time. So I was upstate and I shot a moose ...

**WATCHING** As many Off Broadway plays as I can. Sometimes I go with friends or my wife but I often go by myself. I recently saw [“Breakfast With Mugabe”](http://www.breakfastwithmugabe.com/) about Mugabe in decline but still powerful; [“Buyer & Cellar,”](http://www.buyerandcellar.com/) a hysterical one-man show about an imagined job working in Barbra Streisand’s house in Malibu; and [“Mr. Burns, A Post-Electric Play,”](http://www.playwrightshorizons.org/shows/plays/mr-burns-post-electric-play/) a post-apocalyptic — “The Walking Dead” gone wild — comedy in which “The Simpsons” is all-important to life and society.

**FOLLOWING**[Retronaut](http://www.retronaut.com/), a very cool website that has weird, wonderful photos.

**COLLECTING** I’ve been collecting group panoramics for 35 years. Group panoramics are, you know, those pictures of big groups of people lined up frequently in college sports or stuff like that. A book I did, [“The Big Picture,”](http://www.papress.com/html/book.details.page.tpl?isbn=9781616891657) has 100 of them. They tell a sort of anecdotal story of America. They are also just very interesting photography because they are very staged so people don’t seem like they are revealed, but they end up being quite revealed if you look at the faces.

And I think I have the world’s largest collection of antique lightning rods — I haven’t documented that, but as far as I know. I have over a hundred. Have you ever seen the old ones? They have these beautiful glass colored globes. Early on they also served as weather vanes so they are quite decorative.

**WEARING** Shirts made by [Beckenstein: The Fabric Czar](http://www.fabricczar.com/). It’s fourth-generation ownership that feels like New York City 50 years ago. I couldn’t resist the name — “Fabric Czar.” The location in the garment center is six blocks from my office and you go down in the basement and there’s the tailor. They don’t ship things off to be made. It’s a good price for a shirt that’s long enough to stay tucked into my pants. I don’t like it when shirts come out of your pants.

*Kate Murphy is a journalist in Houston who writes frequently for The New York Times.*