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In Case You Missed It: NBC's Jamie Gangel – “Chris Christie... Being Touted As The Man Who Can Get Things Done...”

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GOVERNOR CHRISTIE TODAY SHOW PROFILE

TRANSCRIPT OF NBC'S PROFILE PIECE ON GOVERNOR CHRIS CHRISTIE AIRED ON OCTOBER 20, 2010

ANN CURRY: Back now at 8:19 with the rising star of the republican party, New Jersey' tough talking Governor Chris Christie. Today's national correspondent Jamie Gangel caught up with him exclusively. Jamie good morning.

JAMIE GANGEL: Good morning Ann. A year ago, most people didn't know who Chris Christie was but these days he's being touted as the man who can get things done because of his approach in New Jersey, and moments like these.

[Start of clip]

GOVERNOR CHRIS CHRISTIE: You're all laughing right.

JAMIE GANGEL: Blunt --

GOVERNOR CHRISTIE: This is all the crap I have to hear.

JAMIE GANGEL: Outspoken --

GOVERNOR CHRISTIE: You punch them, I punch you.

JAMIE GANGEL: Chris Christie is not your typical politician.

GOVERNOR CHRISTIE: Cause if you think that's a confrontational tone --then, I -- you should really see me when I'm pissed.

[End of clip]

JAMIE GANGEL: Just ask his family... You're mom says sometimes she cringes because he uses salty language.

BRIDGET CHRISTIE: What's salty language?

[Laughter]

GOVERNOR CHRISTIE: Bad words.

PATRICK CHRISTIE: Oh yeah, you drop them a lot.

[Laughter]

MARY PAT CHRISTIE: I think he's honest. And as I said, I think it's clarity of thought, his ability to articulate things is just tremendous.

JAMIE GANGEL: You're very outspoken at home?

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GOVERNOR CHRISTIE: There's not a lot of difference between the way I am outside and the way I am here. Although, my kids will remind will remind me, my ten year old in particular reminds me all the time, you are not the governor of the house.

[Start of clip]

GOVERNOR CHRISTIE: Hey New Jersey, we did it.

JAMIE GANGEL: With Christie, what you see is what you get. A 48 year old father of four who loves Bruce Springsteen.

GOVERNOR CHRISTIE: *[Singing Springsteen's Born to Run]*

JAMIE GANGEL: Hates Snooki.

GOVERNOR CHRISTIE: We'll take Snooki and The Situation and you can have them back.

JAMIE GANGEL: And is trying to rescue his troubled state by slashing spending, battling unions and loudly insisting that the status quo is unsustainable.

[End of clip]

GOVERNOR CHRISTIE: I don't have the money. I mean it's just not hard. I don't have the money.

[Start of clip]

JAMIE GANGEL: And despite the tough choices, his approval ratings keep going up.

[End of clip]

JAMIE GANGEL: You're not surprised?

GOVERNOR CHRISTIE: No.

JAMIE GANGEL: Because?

GOVERNOR CHRISTIE: Because I think people want to be treated like adults. I think they're tired of being pandered to. I think they're tired of being told, hey listen, vote for me and I can make it all better and it won't cost you anything and it won't hurt you at all. They know that's baloney. They know it.

[Start of clip]

JAMIE GANGEL: That no-nonsense approach and YouTube moments like this one --

GOVERNOR CHRISTIE: It's people who raise their voices and yell and scream like you that are dividing this country, we're here to bring this country together, not to divide it.

JAMIE GANGEL: Have struck a chord with voters even across party lines.

NEW JERSEY VOTER: I voted for Obama, but I support Chris Christie for Governor of New Jersey.

JAMIE GANGEL: A former prosecutor who never lost a case, Christie was born in Newark to a working class family.

[End of clip]

JAMIE GANGEL: Your mother was Sicilian.

GOVERNOR CHRISTIE: Yes.

JAMIE GANGEL: Your father, Irish.

GOVERNOR CHRISTIE: Right.

JAMIE GANGEL: Your mother was a democrat

GOVERNOR CHRISTIE: Yes.

JAMIE GANGEL: Your father a republican.

GOVERNOR CHRISTIE: Yes.

JAMIE GANGEL: How would you describe your politics?

GOVERNOR CHRISTIE: Well honestly I'm a republican for sure and I say, you know, I'm on the conservative side of things. But I think that I'm also really practical and I want to get things done.

[Start of clip]

JAMIE GANGEL: And it's not just talk. One of his closest political allies is a democrat, Newark Mayor Cory Booker.

[End of clip]

JAMIE GANGEL: You two are being called the political odd couple.

MAYOR CORY BOOKER: Am I Felix?

[Laughter]

[Start of clip]

JAMIE GANGEL: The two recently appeared on Oprah to announce a gift from Facebook's founder.

OPRAH WINFERY: \$100 million dollars!

JAMIE GANGEL: For schools like this one. Booker says, honesty is at that the core of their relationship.

[End of clip]

MAYOR BOOKER: Like it or not, I always know where I stand. He doesn't say yes or no, he says hell yes, or hell no. *[Laughter]* And you really know where you can go. And so I have a partner sitting at the table in a way that I haven't had ever before that is saying we are going to get this done Mayor, whatever it takes.

[Start of clip]

JAMIE GANGEL: At the same time, Christie has become the hottest ticket for republicans. The new star of a GOP ad campaign.

GOVERNOR CHRISTIE: We can change America overnight.

JAMIE GANGEL: A conservative folk hero.

RUSH LIMBAUGH: Ladies and gentlemen, is it wrong to love another man because I love Chris Christie.

GOVERNOR CHRISTIE: And lost but not least, watch out Sarah Palin.

NEWS REPORTER: New Jersey Governor Chris Christie won the first ever Richmond Virginia Tea Party presidential straw poll on Saturday.

JAMIE GANGEL: All of which has led to speculation about governor's political future.

[End of clip]

JAMIE GANGEL: Do you think he'd make a good president.

MARY PAT CHRISTIE: Oh absolutely.

JAMIE GANGEL: But Christie says he's not ready...Everyone in the republican party but you is talking about that you should be on the ticket in 2012 to run for the White House. You say?

GOVERNOR CHRISTIE: No way.

JAMIE GANGEL: Would you consider running for Vice President?

GOVERNOR CHRISTIE: Jamie, can you see me as somebody's Vice President. [Laughter] I mean, who would be that poor guy? You know, I just don't think that my personality is necessarily suited to being number two.

[Start of clip]

JAMIE GANGEL: That said, when pressed, the governor admits he's discussed with his family. But try to find out what he really think, even 7-year-old Bridget is a political pro...Come here I want to ask you a question.

GOVERNOR CHRISTIE: Would you like your daddy to be president of the United States?

BRIDGET CHRISTIE: I don't have an answer for that.

[Laughter]

JAMIE GANGEL: Someone prepared her --

GOVERNOR CHRISTIE: On message!

[End of clip]

JAMIE GANGEL: We may not know what Bridget thinks, Ann, but we do now know what salty language is and I'm here to tell you the speculation about Christie is not going to go away any time soon. Ann.

ANN CURRY: Jamie Gangel, great job as always. Thanks this morning.

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Press Contact
Michael Drewniak
Kevin Roberts
609-777-2600



