

Movie Review; Opening Today; To Franken Fan or Foe, Film Is Fair

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There are few political celebrities on the national scene as divisive as author, actor, radio host and possible Senate candidate Al Franken. Yet the revealing documentary "Al Franken: God Spoke" offers a portrait of this complex man that is - dare we say it? - fair and balanced.

Neither a demolition job nor an artificially sweetened campaign biography, it should command the respect of fan and foe alike. You can leave the movie praising Franken's intelligence and pit-bull tenacity or shaking your head over his ego and vulgarity.

The film follows Franken on a USO tour to Iraq, through the 2004 presidential campaign, into the enemy camp at the Republican National Convention, and in verbal duels with conservative nemeses Bill O'Reilly, Sean Hannity and Ann Coulter. The filmmakers don't shape the material to flatter Franken, but he clearly emerges as a man who "couldn't take it anymore," and decided to stop just telling jokes about politics and do something about it.

AL FRANKEN:

GOD SPOKE

Three out of four stars

Where: Uptown. Franken will appear after the 7 p.m. show today for a question-and-answer session and will introduce the 9:30 screening.