

*CBS Mornings*

07/18/25

7:00:17 a.m. [TEASE]

4 seconds

NATE BURLESON: We have the shocking, late-night shakeup involving CBS's Stephen Colbert.

(....)

7:00:55 a.m. [TEASE]

10 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Colbert Show Canceled]

BURLESON: Stephen Colbert surprises the late-show audience, saying the program will go off the air next spring.

STEPHEN COLBERT [on CBS's *The Late Show*, 07/17/25]: I'm not being replaced. This is all just going away.

(....)

7:01:30 a.m.

54 seconds

COLBERT [on CBS's *The Late Show*, 07/17/25]: [APPLAUSE] We get to do this show for each other, every day, all day. And I've had the pleasure and the responsibility of sharing what we do every day with you in front of this camera the last ten years. And let me tell you, it is a fantastic job. I wish somebody else was getting it and it is a job I'm looking forward to doing with this usual gang of idiots for another ten months.

ANNOUNCER: This morning's Eye-Opener is presented by Progressive. Making it easy to bundle insurance.

GAYLE KING: I know this is not going to be the same late night without Stephen Colbert. A lot – a lot of us waking up to this news going, what? Am I reading this right?

TONY DOKOUPIL: Right.

BURLESON: Sad to see him go.

DOKOUPIL: Shocking. We're going to talk about it in a bit, yeah.

BURLESON: It's happening into the ten months for sure.

KING: We'll go back to the decision to cancel *The Late Show*. We'll take a look back at its history, starting more than 30 years ago, and show you how *The Late Show* changed the media landscape forever.

DOKOUPIL: Lots to say about that.

(....)

7:17:04 a.m. [TEASE]

13 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Coming Up; Late Show Shakeup]

KING: Coming up, the news you've all heard this morning. We're still talking about it. Stephen Colbert announcing the end of *The Late Show* after more than three decades. Wow. What he told the audience last night, and the reaction that's still coming in this morning.

(....)

7:25:56 a.m. [TEASE]

15 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Coming Up; Late Show Shakeup]

DOKOUPIL: Alright, still ahead, speaking of which, CBS is taking Stephen Colbert off the air, and *The Late Show* franchise is going away, as well. He broke the news to the audience last night. Why it's sending shockwaves through the entertainment industry. If you're watching this clip on YouTube.... [CUTS TO LOCAL NEWS]

(....)

7:30:14 a.m.

6 minutes and 5 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: "The late Show" to Go Dark; CBS Abruptly Cancels Stephen Colbert's Show, Set to End in May]

[COLBERT CLIP]

VLADIMIR DUTHIERS: Welcome back to *CBS Mornings*. *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert* often brings the laugh, but he went on to say CBS is ending the number one show in late night. The final episode will air in May. CBS calls it a business decision. Colbert shared the news head-on, adding just a little bit of that trademark sense of humor.

COLBERT [on CBS's *The Late Show*, 07/17/25]: I want let you know something that I found out just last night. Next year will be our last season. The network will be ending *The Late Show*

in May and – [CROWD BOOS] – yeah, I share your feelings. It's not just the end of our show, but it is the end of *The Late Show* on CBS.

DUTHIERS: Thursday night, comedian Stephen Colbert sent shockwaves through the Ed Sullivan Theater and beyond when he announced *The Late Show* is being canceled after three decades on the air.

COLBERT [on CBS's *The Late Show*, 07/17/25]: It is a fantastic job. I wish somebody else was getting it. And it is a job looking forward to doing with this usual gang of idiots for another ten months.

DUTHIERS: It's the end of an era for one of the crown jewels of late night.

DAVID LETTERMAN [on CBS's *The Late Show*, 08/30/93]: Welcome to the show. My name is Dave, and I checked this now with the CBS attorneys and, legally, I can continue to call myself Dave.

DUTHIERS: The show first aired in 1993 with David Letterman behind the desk.

LETTERMAN [on CBS's *The Late Show*, date N/A]: It is beginning to look like I'm not going to get *The Tonight Show*.

PAUL SHAFFER [on CBS's *The Late Show*, date N/A]: I don't think.

DUTHIERS: He hosted for 22 years before handing the reins to Colbert in 2015.

COLBERT [on CBS's *The Late Show*, 09/08/15]: I begin the search for the real Stephen Colbert.

DUTHIERS: Over the next few years, Colbert drew in millions with his biting sarcasm and critical commentary of the Trump administration.

COLBERT [on CBS's *The Late Show*, 06/16/25]: This weekend was Father's Day and Daddy got just what he wanted. No one came to Trump's big, stupid birthday parade. [CHEERS AND APPLAUSE]

DUTHIERS: The show is now the highest rated in its time slot and has earned 33 Emmy nominations and a Peabody award. It comes days after Colbert made headlines for criticizing leadership of Paramount, the parent company of CBS, for paying \$16 million to settle a lawsuit with president Donald Trump.

COLBERT [on CBS's *The Late Show*, 07/14/25]: I am offended, and I don't know if anything will ever repair my trust in this company. But just taking a stab at it, I'd say \$16 million would help. [LAUGHTER]

DUTHIERS: Trump's lawsuit alleged CBS News deceptively edited an interview with Democratic nominee Kamala Harris before last year's presidential election, an accusation Paramount has always said was completely without merit. Democratic Representative [sic] Adam Schiff, a guest on Colbert's show last night, tweeted, "If Paramount and CBS ended [*T*]he Late Show for political reasons, the public deserves to know. And deserves better." In a statement, Paramount said: "This is purely a financial decision against a challenging backdrop in late night. It is not related in any way to the show's performance, content or other matters happening at Paramount."

MATT BELLONI: This is a total shock to Hollywood.

DUTHIERS: Matt Belloni, founder of Puck, says late-night shows on every major network are seeing ratings decline as viewers turn to digital media instead.

BELLONI: Late-night television, as we know it, is a dying breed. In five years, it is very doubtful that there will be any of these shows left. The economics simply does not make sense anymore because people are not watching linear television late at night. They are watching the clips from these shows on digital platforms, but the monetization of that content is not the same.

DUTHIERS: CBS canceled *The Late, Late Show* two years ago after James Corden announced his departure. It was replaced with *After Midnight*, a show hosted by Taylor Tomlinson, which was cancelled in March after she announced her decision to leave.

BELLONI: Streaming is replacing television. And late-night shows, at least so far, have not been successful on streaming.

COLBERT [on CBS's *The Late Show*, 07/17/25]: Okay. That's all I wanted to say.

DUTHIERS: I think we're all sad about this. We've got ten months to talk about this –

KING: Very sad, yeah.

DUTHIERS: – the legacy of *The Late Show*. But I will just say, Stephen Colbert, just so people understand, is one of the nicest human beings in television.

KING: Yes.

BURLESON: Truly is.

DUTHIERS: Such a sweet guy, such a genuine guy, an immensely talented guy. Whatever he does next is going to be successful, I'm sure.

KING: Very good at what he does.

DUTHIERS: So good at what he does.

KING: When you get the news, though, it does feel like a little bit of a kick in the stomach.

DUTHIERS: For sure.

KING: It's very difficult to hear that this morning.

DOKOUPIL: You have to explain to people, number one network show in late-night, but that slot has been shrinking.

DUTHIERS: As Matt explains in our piece.

BURLESON: The late-night slot.

DUTHIERS: That late-night slot because people aren't watching linear television.

DOKOUPIL: And people are watching comedy of a right-wing variety on cable. That's still growing. And, so, you got to put it into larger context. You've got hosts like Trevor Noah walking away.

KING: [INAUDIBLE]

DOKOUPIL: You have James Corden's show.

DUTHIERS: Yeah.

DOKOUPIL: Other shows have been canceled, like Samantha Bee, not replaced. And revenue is apparently down 50 percent in the last six, seven years in the late-night category.

DUTHIERS: Yeah. I'll just say: many years ago, when I was at this Paramount and CBS party, all these famous people around, and I'm sitting wallflower against the wall, I don't know anybody, I'm sort of holding my drink, and Stephen comes over to me and goes, "Vlad, good to see Ya. How you doing? Merry Christmas." And I was like, "Stephen, you don't have to talk to me."

DOKOUPIL: Exactly.

DUTHIERS: Kevin Bacon is over there.

DOKOUPIL: I get nervous around him. He is such a genuine star.

DUTHIERS: He really is.

DOKOUPIL: I love the man and I wish the show was still going to be with us.

BURLESON: No doubt it's a tough pill to swallow.

KING: He may be done at CBS in ten months, but I don't think he's done.

DUTHIERS: Boom. I agree.

DOKOUPIL: I agree, Gayle. He'll be fine.

DUTHIERS: I agree.

BURLESON: And I'll be watching whatever he does.

KING: Me too.