

NBC's *Today*

07/22/25

7:01:22 a.m. [TEASE]

12 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Show of Support]

SAVANNAH GUTHRIE: Show of support. Stars and fellow late-night hosts make a surprise appearance on Stephen Colbert's show in the wake of his cancellation by CBS.

LOUIS CATO [on CBS's *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, 07/21/25]: Wow! Those guys get to waltz in on camera.

GUTHRIE: Straight ahead, how they came ahead to rally behind Colbert.

(...)

7:19:14 a.m. [TEASE]

10 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: 7:30AM; Show of Support]

GUTHRIE: Coming up, the late-night world rallying around host Stephen Colbert. Inside their audience takeover to show support in the wake of *The Late Show*'s cancellation.

(....)

7:30:44 a.m.

3 minutes and 42 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Late-Night Hosts Rally Around Colbert]

WILLIE GEIST: ...starting with a late-night rally for Stephen Colbert.

GUTHRIE: Yeah. Some of the industry's biggest names coming together in the wake of the news that *The Late Show* is being canceled. NBC's Joe Fryer is here with the story on that. Hey there, Joe.

JOE FRYER: Good morning. So, Monday's episode of *The Late Show* was the first since host Stephen Colbert revealed the show was being canceled by CBS. He got a quick visit from his fellow late-night hosts. The tone was light, but they were there delivering a serious message of support. Overnight, a star-filled show of unity as Stephen Colbert reflected on last week's stunning cancellation of *The Late Show*.

STEPHEN COLBERT [on CBS's *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, 07/21/25]: I'm gonna go

ahead and say it. Cancel culture has gone too far.

FRYER: He was joined by a team of talk show rivals showing Colbert their support in a string of cameos appearances in last night's show. The group took part in a parody of the recent Coldplay concert kiss cam incident.

COLBERT [TO YANKOVIC, on CBS's *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, 07/21/25]: You got a funny parody, Al?

WEIRD AL YANKOVIC [on CBS's *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, 07/21/25]: No, I — I can't think of anything funnier than Coldplay.

FRYER: Colbert introduced Lin-Manuel Miranda and Weird Al Yankovic to play some music to cheer up disappointed fans.

LIN-MANUEL MIRANDA [on CBS's *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, 07/21/25]: This isn't about us. This is about the audience.

FRYER: The camera scanning the crowd, landing on several famous spectators, including NBC's Jimmy Fallon and Seth Meyers, Adam Sandler, and John Oliver John Stewart, two of Colbert's fellow alumni from *The Daily Show* who have also been speaking out about the cancellation of the show. On his show Monday, Stewart bashed the decision, saying it's politically motivated after Colbert criticized the Trump administration.

JON STEWART [on Comedy Central's *The Daily Show*, 07/21/25]: You are afraid and you protect your bottom line. I have but one thing to say. Just one little thing. Go [EXPLETIVE] Yourself!

FRYER: CBS executives released a statement last week calling the cancellation "purely a financial decision." Oliver is also mourning the cancellation, speaking to NBC News over the weekend.

JOHN OLIVER: There were many of us working on late night now that were raised on that show, the David Letterman. There will be many future comedy writers that were raised on what Stephen has done with it now. So, the fact that that's going to be taken away is kind of heartbreaking.

FRYER: While Letterman shared a 20-minute video of himself speaking against CBS and its actions back when he was the original host of *The Late Show* —

DAVID LETTERMAN [on CBS's *The Late Show*, date N/A]: Our relationship was pretty solid with the network up until last night.

FRYER: — on Monday, Colbert acknowledged the support.

COLBERT [on CBS's *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, 07/21/25]: I just want to take a minute to, again, thank everybody.

FRYER: And the stars rallying around him for some laughs.

COLBERT [on CBS's *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, 07/21/25]: I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I just got this note from corporate.

MIRANDA [on CBS's *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, 07/21/25]: What's going on?

COLBERT [on CBS's *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, 07/21/25]: I — hold on — give me a second. Your song has been canceled.

MIRANDA [on CBS's *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, 07/21/25]: What? Why?

YANKOVIC [on CBS's *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, 07/21/25]: Why?

COLBERT [on CBS's *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, 07/21/25]: I don't know. Hold on. It says — it says here, this is a purely financial decision. [SCREEN WIPE] I want to thank you so much for being here, you know, on my last show.

YANKOVIC [on CBS's *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, 07/21/25]: Stephen, you're here for ten more months.

COLBERT [on CBS's *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, 07/21/25]: Oh, right.

GUTHRIE: Well, as mentioned, CBS does say this was a financial decision, not a political one. How did Colbert respond to that?

FRYER: He certainly did reference it. He called it confusing, asking how could it be financial if his show is number one in the ratings? Of course, much of this anger we're seeing centers on CBS's parent company Paramount paying that \$16 million settlement with President Trump over a *60 Minutes* interview. Colbert called it a big, fat bribe because Paramount needs FCC approval for that multibillion-dollar merger with Skydance Media. CBS has said the cancellation is not related to the show's performance or its content.

GUTHRIE: All right. Joe, thank you very much.

GEIST: Thank you, Joe.