

CBS Mornings

02/09/26

7:01:56 a.m.

40 seconds

GAYLE KING: I'd like to say Bad Bunny did not disappoint.

VLADIMIR DUTHIERS: Yes!

KING: He did not disappoint.

DUTHIERS: Didn't understand the words, but I understood the message —

KING: Yes!

DUTHIERS: — the vibe, the feeling, the electricity.

KING: Understood the feelings big time.

DUTHIERS: That's right!

KING: We're going to begin though, of course, with the Super Bowl. It was a sea of blue and green on the field after the Seahawks, unfortunately, beat the Patriots, If you're part of Patriots Nation, 29-13 in Super Bowl LX. So, a lot of fans were definitely Sleepless in Seattle, taking to the streets to celebrate after the win. Fireworks erupted from the city's most famous building, the Space Needle, of course. We've got all the highlights today, including a spectacular halftime show with Bad Bunny.

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7:04:46 a.m.

47 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE:

NATE BURLESON: With the Seahawks soaring high in Santa Clara —

[BAD BUNNY CLIP]

BURLESON: — nobody brought the house down like Bad Bunny.

[BAD BUNNY CLIP]

BURLESON: In a Super Bowl first, the global superstar sang almost exclusively in Spanish and even featured a real wedding with special appearances by Lady Gaga and Ricky Martin.

[BAD BUNNY CLIP]

BAD BUNNY: God bless America!

BURLESON: He closed the show with a heartfelt message of togetherness and love —

[BAD BUNNY CLIP]

BURLESON: — holding a football emblazoned with “together, we are America.”

(....)

7:30:02 a.m.

6 minutes and 19 seconds

[BAD BUNNY CLIP]

ADRIANA DIAZ: That is Puerto Rican superstar, Bad Bunny turning the Super Bowl Halftime Show into a full blown dance party. We are all still trying to catch our breath after the so-called Benito Bowl, which was a landmark moment for Latino culture, filled with surprise guest appearances, tons of Puerto Rican pride and get this, the singer’s show was the most watched halftime performance of all time, with more than 135 million viewers. Bad Bunny is also the first Latin male artist to headline the halftime show, and boy, he did not disappoint.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Dazzling Halftime Show]

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Bad Bunny Rocks the Super Bowl Stage]

[BAD BUNNY CLIP]

DIAZ: The grass grew into a field of sugar cane as Bad Bunny kicked off his halftime show.

[BAD BUNNY CLIP]

DIAZ: The singer started his set by walking us through a colorful Caribbean landscape filled with a domino’s game, a nail salon and even a shaved ice cart.

[BAD BUNNY CLIP]

DIAZ: He then took us to La Casita, the same pink house from his Puerto Rican residency last year, where Jessica Alba, Cardi B, Karol G, and Pedro Pascal were all VIP.

[BAD BUNNY CLIP]

DIAZ: From there, it morphed into a real life, legally-binding wedding with quite the wedding

singer: Lady Gaga singing a salsa version of *Die With a Smile*. She also showed off her dance moves at the wedding reception. Bad Bunny then took a shot from a Puerto Rican pioneer, Donita who owns a legendary New York Social Club. At one point, cameras found a young boy and his family watching the moment Bad Bunny won his Grammy last week. The singer then passing the dream forward. *La Brega* podcast host, Alana Casanova-Burgess.

ALANA CASANOVA-BURGESS: I think a lot of people, myself included, saw parallels between that little boy and Liam Conejo Ramos. We know that that little boy wasn't Liam Conejo Ramos, but whether it was a younger Bad Bunny or any other Latino kid, I think the parallels were pretty clear.

[BAD BUNNY CLIP]

DIAZ: From there, Bad Bunny brought out fellow Puerto Rican icon, Ricky Martin.

[RICKY MARTIN CLIP]

BAD BUNNY: God bless America!

DIAZ: And then closed out the show, shouting out every country across the America, marching with all their flags in front of a jumbotron that read, "The only thing more powerful than hate is love." An alternative halftime show viewed by more than five million people was headlined by Kid Rock. Bad Bunny's set drew a record breaking 135 million viewers and tens of thousands in person.

SUPER BOWL ATTENDEE: I love the fact that everybody was like bringing culture together, and he was just trying to mend things.

SUPER BOWL ATTENDEE: I think music should be universal, and it was absolutely fantastic.

[BAD BUNNY CLIP]

KING: My favorite song, I wanted to hear more of that.

DIAZ: I know.

DUTHIERS: I know.

KING: That was so great. Nate, I know you're still there, because nobody could say that halftime performance was dry. You were on your feet, wherever you were. What was it like in the room?

BURLESON: Yes, it was a vibe. I was there with my wife and my two sons, and we were up on our feet, enjoying ourselves. It's funny, because there was a Spanish-speaking couple next to me, and they were fluent and knew every word to every song, and we're having a good time. And there was a White guy in front of me that turned around and talked to his buddy. He said "I didn't

understand a word, but I loved every song.” And that was it. And then on top of the actual vibe and the music and the energy, the symbolism like Adrianna was pointing out, was special, even the dancers climbing the light poles, which I think is a reference to the fragile power grid —

KING: Yes, yes.

BURLESON: — and, of course, the sugar cane. And then the wedding, the wedding is more than just a romantic, officially, legally binding ceremony. I believe it’s also a way to understand what a wedding means as it pertains to this country. It means commitment, sticking together for better or for worse, and understanding even in the bad times, we can still heal up and move forward in a special place together. I just thought it was dope all the way around.

KING: All the way around.

DIAZ: Well said.

DUTHIERS: All the way around.

KING: Thank you, Nate. Thanks. And one of the moment —

DIAZ: Yes.

KING: — the love was clearly the message last night, which is what Bad Bunny was saying all along about his performance.

DUTHIERS: Right.

DIAZ: Exactly. And one of the few things he said in English was “God bless America.”

DUTHIERS: That’s right.

DIAZ: And he listed all the countries in the Americas.

DUTHIERS: Right.

KING: Yes.

DUTHIERS: We’re going to talk about that during “Talk of the Table.” That was awesome. I mean, that’s all I can say. I didn’t understand the words either, but I was like — [DANCING] — right?

KING: That’s what I said when I was when I went there. Keeping him out there anyway. I want to be Puerto Rican! How do I do that?

DUTHIERS: Where Bad Bunny was saying, we are all Americans, right?

DIAZ: Yes.

KING: That is also true. Well, there is at least one person who did not like Bad Bunny's message.

DUTHIERS: I wonder who that is.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Trump Slams Bad Bunny Halftime Show]

KING: That was President Trump, who has made that clear from the very beginning, he was not a fan. He blasted the performance on social media after a weekend of controversy over a racist video that he reposted, so that sparked a lot of bipartisan backlash, but he is still refusing to apologize. Ed O'Keefe has more on all of this. Ed, good morning. But let's start with Bad Bunny's performance. What did the President have to say? We knew going in that he was — he did not want to see this show happen.

ED O'KEEFE: No, he did not, Gayle. Buenos dias. Good to see you. From the sidelines of a Super Bowl party at Mar-a-Lago, the President took to Truth Social and without mentioning Bad Bunny by name, the President decried the halftime show as one of the worst ever and an affront to the greatness of America, adding, "Nobody understands a word this guy is saying, and the dancing is disgusting, especially for young children that are watching." I am going to let the President in on a little secret, even those of us who speak Spanish sometimes don't entirely understand what Bad Bunny is saying, but it's about the music. Bad Bunny, who performs in his native Spanish, is an American citizen who grew up in Puerto Rico and used his Grammy acceptance speech a week ago to criticize his immigration crackdown. Bad Bunny also decided not to book dates on his world tour in the United States, out of concern fans attending his concerts could be targeted by immigration agents[.]

(....)

8:11:01 a.m.

5 minutes and 36 seconds [3 minutes and 36 seconds on Bad Bunny]

[BAD BUNNY PERFORMING NUEVAYoL]

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking Down Bad Bunny's Super Bowl Halftime Show]

GAYLE KING: All right, Benito! That's Grammy winning star, Bad Bunny singing his hit song, *NUEVAYoL* at the Super Bowl Halftime Show last night. The Latin superstar's performance and superstar is the word here — marked the first time a predominantly Spanish-language artist was the sole headliner for the Big Game. So, how did it go? I think it went really good! We're joined now by Jem Aswad. He's the executive editor of music at *Variety*. We're so glad you're here, Jem, you're the perfect person to break this down. Listen to the numbers. The highest rated Super Bowl Show, 135 million people watched. I get a kick out of watching him. He looks so confident, so cool. How did you rate the performance? What did you think?

JEM ASWAD: Spectacular!

KING: Why?

ASWAD: Top three, top five all-time.

KING: Yeah.

ASWAD: On every level — performance, the musical performance, the production, eye candy, spectacle and some sly messaging as well.

KING: Sly messaging like?

ASWAD: There were a lot of little Easter eggs in there, references to things in the Latin world. I mean, I'm not Latino myself —

KING: Uh-huh.

ASWAD: — but there was a reference to a little boy that he gave the Grand Award to.

KING: Yes, loved that!

ASWAD: It looked an awful lot like Liam, the boy who was incarcerated by ICE with his father. And there were a few other little things like that, but it was very sly, and the message was all about unity and togetherness and we are one America.

GAYLE KING: And love. Yes! yes!

DUTHIERS: Yes, that was interesting that, you know, that there were some people who tried to portray this as divisive, but if anything, that performance came off as one of the most unifying performances we've ever seen in the Super Bowl.

KING: Yes.

ASWAD: I mean, how much harder could he have hammered it, you know?

DUTHIERS: Yeah.

ASWAD: We are one America. Love is stronger than hate.

KING: Yes.

ASWAD: And that's not the message you're hearing from a lot of other places.

DIAZ: There was also so many flowers given to Latin greats, Ricky Martin was a performer. He

just named so many. He named — Willie Colon, a great salsa pioneer. He played little bits of old school reggaeton songs, Don Omar, Tego Calderon. It was just amazing how much he really packed into those 13 minutes. For you, what stood out in terms of the kind of special performers like Ricky Martin and Lady Gaga?

ASWAD: Well, they were both amazing. I feel like Ricky Martin was there because he also is a Puerto Rican native, and Lady Gaga was there to be a bit more inclusive and familiarizing to people. Because it was a giant sort of invitation, a combo platter of Latin music. There were so many styles, just like on his last album, the one that won the Grammy and like I said, it was very much an invitation, you know, come and join us. “The world will dance” is what he said in the commercial before the show.

KING: Yes, and showed all the different people. What I liked about it so much because, you know, I’d seen him in Puerto Rico, just because I was curious to see what all the fuss was about. Like many, I didn’t understand the language. But what was so cool about it is, even if you don’t speak Spanish, and a lot of people do, you still felt something about this performance. Can you speak to that a little bit? Because there were a lot of tsk, tsk naysayers about why are we having this person perform — this global superstar, by the way, perform at a major football game?

ASWAD: I mean, it was so joyful.

KING: Yeah.

ASWAD: It was so joyful. It was such a celebration. It was so much fun. And it wasn’t just, you know, somebody standing there performing, you know, it wasn’t threatening. It wasn’t menacing. It was an invitation.

DUTHIERS: So Jem, one of my favorite — we haven’t talked about the music that opened up the Super Bowl, one of my favorite bands, Green Day performed, and they were not political, but I thought that the song choices sent a message. Talk to that.

ASWAD: *American Idiot*.

DUTHIERS: There you go.

ASWAD: *Boulevard of Broken Dreams*.

DUTHIERS: There you go.

ASWAD: Both of which are big hits of theirs. But you know, a couple of nights before Billie Joe Armstrong got his — made his point at a show, they played a smaller show that they played in California, and he made an open appeal to ICE officers. How do you really feel about what you’re doing? Come over to our side.

DUTHIERS: Yeah, that was great.

KING: Coco Jones and Brandi Carlile?

ASWAD: Fantastic, both of them. I mean —

KING: Charlie Puth.

JEM ASWAD: — Charlie Puth.

KING: Everybody says the National Anthem is one of the hardest songs to sing, he nailed that, I thought.

ASWAD: He did, and it was a really pretty low key delivery, until the “rockets’ red glare” verse and then he really opened up. Because after Marvin Gaye, what — 40 years ago — how do you reinvent the National Anthem?

DUTHIERS: Yes.

ASWAD: You know, it’s a difficult thing to do. He didn’t try. But he did it respectfully and in a very welcoming and warm way. He’s got a very warm voice.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Jem Aswad on *CBS Mornings*]

DUTHIERS: So, let’s talk about Turning Point USA, the All-American Halftime Show featuring Kid Rock. It looked to me, you can confirm this, but it looked to me like he was lip syncing half the time.

ASWAD: You think?

DUTHIERS: Okay, I just want to be — you know, I just want to be sure that I’m out there.

ASWAD: Unquestionably. Now, the second song he performed, which was a cover, a pretty religious song, actually, that he was definitely singing live or almost definitely. But his hit, *Bawitdaba* — I think that’s how you say it — unquestionably lip-sync, and not really trying.

DUTHIERS: Yeah.

ASWAD: He looked like he was —

DUTHIERS: Yeah, he took it — he looked like he was moving it in.

ASWAD: — yes, yes, very much.

DIAZ: So, I’m sorry, go ahead.

ASWAD: Oh no! I was just going to say — it was, you know, it was very different. It was

certainly counter programming. But it was, you know, it was almost — it was almost more southern rock than country music, a lot of it and again, it's — you know, sort of like red-meat, rock sound of the early aughts and even the 70s. If that's what somebody wanted, they got it.

DIAZ: You mentioned Bad Bunny was top three, top five. Who's your number one pick?

ASWAD: Prince.

DUTHIERS: I mean, it has got to be Prince. I mean, we were like —

DIAZ: We were just talking about it.

KING: I was wondering that, too.

DIAZ: In the rain, oh my gosh!

DUTHIERS: Bad Bunny, Prince, Bad Bunny, Prince. I know.

DIAZ: Jem Aswad, thank you so much!

ASWAD: Thank you.

(....)

8:31:32 a.m.

3 minutes and 58 seconds [3 minutes and 13 seconds on Bad Bunny]

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Talk of the Table; A Celebration of Culture]

DUTHIERS: My Talk of the Table is a little bit more of Bad Bunny's halftime performance that had us dancing. More specifically, I wanted to focus in on some of the messaging beyond the movement. The performance featured dancers you'll recall suspended from power poles, a visual that some say signifies Puerto Rico's fragile power grid, a problem that was, of course, laid bare after Hurricane Maria ravaged the island back in 2017. In a subtle nod to families who love a good party and bring their children to adult parties, anybody who is from the Americas or the Caribbean will know what I'm talking about, Bad Bunny wakes up a child, sleeping on chairs. You know, you'll be sleeping on chairs, under the table, on the couches in the bedroom.

DIAZ: On the coats on the bed.

DUTHIERS: On the coats in the bedroom, exactly, eating your food under the table. Everybody gets that! And lastly, of course, Bad Bunny celebrated America, all of America, hoisting dozens of flags, shouting out the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador. Joseph Zambrano, who works at *Oprah Daily*, showed video on his Instagram, which shows all of his family members jumping for joy

just when he mentioned Ecuador —

KING: Yeah, I know.

DUTHIERS: — just seeing and hearing the name of your country represented was enough to bring people to their seats. That was very cool.

KING: Yes, Joseph was very, very excited about this.

DUTHIERS: He is very excited. And Kevin Frazier, you asked a question about how he felt afterwards. Kevin Frazier shot video of Bad Bunny coming off the stage. Do we have that video to show? How he is in the zone.

DIAZ: Wow!

DUTHIERS: Look at this! Look at him!

DIAZ: Oh my gosh! Look at him.

KING: Oh, he was so ready. He felt good because he knows he nailed it. I'm going to keep going with Bad Bunny for my Talk of the Table too, Vlad. I can't get enough of the story. Specifically, this moment from his halftime show we saw, what a nice idea, you think, having a couple pretend — with finger quotes — to get married. Only it turns out, they were not pretending at all. This is a legally binding ceremony with a guest list of oh, 135 million people, 135 million people.

DUTHIERS: Oh, wow.

DIAZ: That's their first dance, oh my gosh! Oh!

KING: There's a bit of a backstory of their first dance. I love — I love this. The couple, as it turns out, invited Bad Bunny to their actual wedding, but he had a better idea. He said, hey, why don't you guys come and get married at my show during the Super Bowl Halftime Show. I think they said, let us think about it. Hell yes! Oh yes! And they performed to the song, help me — *INoLVIDABLE*.

DIAZ: *BAILE INoLVIDABLE*, yes!

DUTHIERS: There you go, Gayle!

KING: Adriana has been helping me, which means unforgettable dance in Spanish. And the thing I like about the performance, we keep saying it over and over and over. Look at the wedding cake, that this was all about a celebration of love on so many different levels.

DIAZ: Yes, love. Did they know him that they invited him? Or he just got, like a DM from fans

say — we don't know.

KING: Don't you get invited to people's weddings you don't know?

DIAZ: No.

KING: I do. I get invited, and I go, okay!

DIAZ: Gayle, I invited you to my wedding.

KING: I would go. I would go. I don't get the impression that they knew him.

DIAZ: That's a — but everybody knew they were —

KING: Which makes it even more exciting.

DIAZ: — don't you think everybody knew there were a real couple watching? Because you're like, something about that felt very real.

DUTHIERS: It felt very real! Yes!

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Talk of the Table; Married Olympian Couple Heats Up the Ice]

DIAZ: Okay, do we have time for mine? I'm going for it. Who else was watching pairs dancing at the Olympics? She said, well, I was watching pairs dancing and guys, Madison Chock and Evan Bates, boy, they just took your breath away with how fierce they were.

KING: Wow!

DIAZ: You can just see it in the photos. They were hypnotizing and they helped Team USA clinch gold, and they started skating together as teens. And you might have noticed they had a little bit of chemistry. Well, listen to this, when they were just 16 years old, when Madison was, they went on their very first date. It was a summer fling. They decided to be friends. Fast forward nearly 10 years, it turns out, Evan declared his love for Madison one day by whispering, "I love you" in her ear. Their moms let that slip in an interview, which I love, the moms are friends. So, it was just amazing. Their performance was unbelievable.

DUTHIERS: We're all about the love this morning!

DIAZ: We are!

DUTHIERS: We're all about the love.

KING: I love a good love story.

DUTHIERS: Love of country, love of America and good old-fashioned love stories. Love it!