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# Byron Allen's 'Comics Unleashed' Takes Over from Stephen Colbert

## Description

CBS has decided to outsource its late-night programming to media entrepreneur Byron Allen, aiming to cut costs associated with content production. Starting May 22, Allen's shows "Comics Unleashed" and "Funny You Should Ask" will occupy the 11:35 p.m. and 12:35 a.m. slots, respectively, following the conclusion of "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert" on May 21. Colbert's tenure, which lasted 11 years, followed the original host, David Letterman, and marked a significant period in CBS's late-night history.

"Comics Unleashed" centres on Allen, who hosts alongside four comedians sharing material from their stand-up acts. The show has been broadcasting at 12:35 a.m. since June 2022, after "After Midnight With Taylor Tomlinson" ended. "Funny You Should Ask," hosted by Jon Kelley, incorporates comics in a quiz format and has been in syndication since 2017, with Allen appearing as a panelist.

This transition to Allen's shows is expected to yield substantial savings for CBS. Allen compensates CBS for the airtime and manages full production costs for his programs, while retaining most advertising revenue from the broadcasts. In August, Allen described the arrangement as financially advantageous, stating, "It's not cheaper. It's zero."

Byron Allen's shows are less costly to produce compared to the traditional late-night format, which typically includes high-profile hosts, live bands, and extensive writing teams. The economic pressures have affected late-night television broadly, with CBS citing rising costs and dwindling viewership as reasons for cancelling Colbert's show, especially as streaming services have changed viewing habits.

The shift to Allen's programmes is also notable for its lack of political content, a contrast to Colbert's approach, which often targeted figures such as former President Trump. The upcoming programming strategy may therefore cater to a broader audience seeking non-political entertainment.

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## Vocabulary List:

1. **outsource** //ˈaʊt,soʊrs// (verb): have someone else do work for you
2. **entrepreneur** //,ɒntrəprə'nɜː// (noun): a person who starts and runs a business
3. **programming** //ˈprɒʊ,græmɪŋ// (noun): TV shows that a channel plans and broadcasts
4. **tenure** //ˈtɛn.jə// (noun): the time someone held a job or role
5. **syndication** //,sɪndɪˈkeɪʃən// (noun): when a show is sold to many stations
6. **revenue** //ˈrevə,nu// (noun): money a company gets from sales or ads



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## Comprehension Questions

### Multiple Choice

1. Who will host 'Comics Unleashed'?

- Option: David Letterman
- Option: Jon Kelley
- Option: Byron Allen
- Option: Taylor Tomlinson

2. What show will follow 'The Late Show with Stephen Colbert'?

- Option: Comics Unleashed
- Option: Funny You Should Ask
- Option: After Midnight With Taylor Tomlinson
- Option: Late Night with Seth Meyers

3. When did Stephen Colbert's show conclude?

- Option: May 21
- Option: June 2022
- Option: August 2017
- Option: October 2023

4. Which show has been in syndication since 2017?

- Option: The Late Show
- Option: Comics Unleashed
- Option: Funny You Should Ask
- Option: After Midnight With Taylor Tomlinson

5. What time will 'Funny You Should Ask' air?

- Option: 11:35 p.m.
- Option: 12:05 a.m.
- Option: 12:35 a.m.
- Option: 1:00 a.m.

6. How long did Stephen Colbert host his show?

- Option: 5 years



- Option: 8 years
- Option: 11 years
- Option: 14 years

### True-False

- 7. Byron Allen's shows are expected to be more expensive to produce than traditional late-night shows.
- 8. Colbert's show was cancelled due to rising costs and dwindling viewership.
- 9. 'Funny You Should Ask' features comics in a quiz format.
- 10. Allen began hosting 'Comics Unleashed' in August 2023.
- 11. The transition to Allen's shows includes more political content.
- 12. Allen retains most advertising revenue from his broadcasts.

### Gap-Fill

- 13. CBS will outsource its late-night programming to media entrepreneur Byron Allen starting \_\_\_\_\_.
- 14. The show 'Comics Unleashed' has been broadcasting at 12:35 a.m. since \_\_\_\_\_.
- 15. Stephen Colbert's tenure lasted \_\_\_\_\_ years.
- 16. 'Funny You Should Ask' has been in syndication since \_\_\_\_\_.
- 17. Allen described the financial arrangement as \_\_\_\_\_.
- 18. The shift to Allen's programmes is notable for its lack of \_\_\_\_\_ content.

### Answer

**Multiple Choice:** 1. Byron Allen 2. Comics Unleashed 3. May 21 4. Funny You Should Ask 5. 12:35 a.m. 6. 11 years

**True-False:** 7. False 8. True 9. True 10. False 11. False 12. True

**Gap-Fill:** 13. May 22



14. June 2022 15. 11 16. 2017 17. zero 18. political

## Vocabulary quizzes

### Multiple Choice ( Select the Correct answer for each question. )

1. What does the term 'demise' commonly refer to?  
Option: Growth  
Option: Death  
Option: Change  
Option: Victory
2. Which of the following best defines 'transparency'?  
Option: Openness and clarity  
Option: Secrecy  
Option: Confusion  
Option: Ambiguity
3. Surveillance systems are primarily used for what purpose?  
Option: Monitoring  
Option: Decoration  
Option: Entertainment  
Option: Advertising
4. What is an entrepreneur known for?  
Option: Being an employee  
Option: Starting and managing businesses  
Option: Following orders  
Option: Working in a factory
5. What type of emotion does something that is 'poignant' usually evoke?  
Option: Happy  
Option: Nostalgic  
Option: Indifferent  
Option: Joyful
6. What are 'allegations' typically associated with?



- Option: Truth or verified facts
- Option: Accusations without proof
- Option: Official statements
- Option: Praise

7. A 'revival' often refers to:

- Option: A decline in interest
- Option: Renewal or resurgence
- Option: Complete failure
- Option: Restoration of old systems

8. What does 'programming' generally involve?

- Option: Cooking
- Option: Writing computer code
- Option: Gardening
- Option: Painting

9. What is 'tenure' often associated with?

- Option: Short-term contracts
- Option: Duration of a position held
- Option: Temporary jobs
- Option: Uncertainty

10. In media, 'syndication' often refers to what?

- Option: Distribution of content
- Option: Collection of taxes
- Option: Grouping of people
- Option: Building maintenance

**Gap-Fill ( Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list. )**

- 11. The TV show went on a long \_\_\_\_\_ before returning for its next season.
- 12. Many companies are \_\_\_\_\_ their customer service to reduce costs.
- 13. The art exhibit featured works by various \_\_\_\_\_ artists.
- 14. Her \_\_\_\_\_ to her partner was announced during a family gathering.
- 15. The detective conducted an \_\_\_\_\_ into the mysterious disappearance.



16. The company received several \_\_\_\_\_ about their new product line.
17. He was \_\_\_\_\_ of fraud after a lengthy trial.
18. The journey \_\_\_\_\_ in an epic showdown between the heroes and villains.
19. She decided to \_\_\_\_\_ the classic story with a modern twist.
20. The region is \_\_\_\_\_ by its diverse culture and breathtaking landscapes.

**Matching Sentences ( Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list. )**

21. Looking at old photographs often evokes a feeling of nostalgia.
22. In urban areas, surveillance cameras are placed to enhance security.
23. The young entrepreneur opened his own tech startup after years of planning.
24. The revival of the old theater brought back a sense of community pride.
25. The company's commitment to transparency helped build customer trust.
26. Her tenure at the university was marked by several innovative research projects.
27. The gap between the rich and the poor is a growing concern in society.
28. The allegations against the politician sparked widespread public outrage.
29. She enjoys learning programming languages in her free time.
30. Outsourcing customer support services has become a common business strategy.

**Answer**

**Multiple Choice:** 1. Death 2. Openness and clarity 3. Monitoring 4. Starting and managing businesses  
5. Nostalgic 6. Accusations without proof 7. Renewal or resurgence 8. Writing computer code 9. Duration of a position held 10. Distribution of content

**Gap-Fill:** 11. hiatus 12. outsourcing 13. contemporary 14. engagement 15. investigation 16. inquiries  
17. convicted 18. culminates 19. reinterpret 20. characterised

**Matching sentence:** 1. nostalgia 2. surveillance 3. entrepreneur 4. revival 5. transparency 6. tenure 7. gap  
8. allegations 9. programming 10. outsourcing



## **CATEGORY**

1. Entertainment - LEVEL6

## **POST TAG**

1. byron allen
2. comics unleashed
3. ESL learning
4. esl news
5. Level 6
6. Stephen Colbert

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