



SNL Stars Share Their Exciting First Big Splurges

Description

While Saturday Night Live is renowned for cultivating comedic talent, it is essential to recognize that the celebrated stars of the show commenced their journeys from humble beginnings within the walls of Studio 8H. In honor of SNL's remarkable 50th anniversary, cast members—both current and former—articulated their experiences to *New York Magazine*, reflecting on their initial splurges following their momentous ascent to fame in the context of this enduring institution.

The range of expenditures varied notably, spanning from footwear to furnishings; however, a recurring theme emerged among the interviewees: novice writers typically receive compensation far less commensurate with public perception. Below, we highlight the insights shared by several SNL luminaries.

Pete Davidson candidly remarked, "Are you aware of our compensation? It amounts to approximately three thousand dollars per episode. My splurge was essentially a dinner."

James Austin Johnson recounted, "We procured the most excruciatingly uncomfortable West Elm couch imaginable—it's practically constructed of bricks."

Julia Louis-Dreyfus reflected, "I indulged in a pair of shoes that exceeded my financial limits—\$75."

Rachel Dratch shared, "Most likely, securing an apartment. It may seem mundane, but it is undeniably real."

Sarah Silverman mentioned, "I treated myself to a cashmere sweater, which set me back around \$300."

Jason Sudeikis stated, "Given the limited financial rewards, New York rent constituted my most significant expenditure after embarking on my inaugural year with SNL."

Sarah Sherman opted for "a commendable mattress," while **Cheri Oteri** humorously noted, "A couch, which I have reupholstered multiple times."

Seth Meyers described acquiring "a substantial couch from Crate & Barrel and a large television from Best Buy."

Bowen Yang reminisced about purchasing a pair of Gucci shoes from Saks, illustrating both a trend and a personal evolution.

This dialogue is not unprecedented; earlier, Davidson and fellow Weekend Update anchor Colin Hanks—both hailing from Staten Island—infamously invested \$280,000 in a decommissioned Staten Island Ferry in 2022, envisioning its transformation into an entertainment venue. Hanks subsequently labeled the venture "the most ill-conceived purchase of my life."

Given these reflections, it becomes evident that even iconic stars navigate the complexities of fiscal responsibility amidst their burgeoning creative careers.



Vocabulary List:

1. **Compensation** /ˌkɒmpən'seɪʃən/ (noun): Payment or reward given for service or loss.
2. **Expenditure** /ɪk'spendɪtʃər/ (noun): The amount of money spent on something.
3. **Candidly** /'kændɪdli/ (adverb): In an honest and straightforward way.
4. **Excruciatingly** /ɪk'skruːʃiɪtɪŋli/ (adverb): In a way that causes great pain or distress.
5. **Navigating** /'nævɪɡeɪtɪŋ/ (verb): Finding a way through a difficult course or situation.
6. **Ill-conceived** /ˌɪl.kən'siːvd/ (adjective): Poorly planned or designed.

Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice

1. What was Julia Louis-Dreyfus' splurge after her rise to fame in SNL?

Option: Pair of shoes
Option: Cashmere sweater
Option: Mattress
Option: Large television

2. What was Jason Sudeikis' significant expenditure after joining SNL?

Option: Cashmere sweater
Option: Pair of shoes
Option: New York rent
Option: Couch

3. What did Sarah Sherman purchase as her splurge?

Option: Pair of shoes
Option: Cashmere sweater
Option: Mattress
Option: Couch

4. What did Seth Meyers acquire after his inaugural year with SNL?

Option: Cashmere sweater
Option: Pair of shoes
Option: Couch and television



Option: Mattress

5. What was Bowen Yang's notable purchase reflecting a trend and personal evolution?

Option: Mattress

Option: Pair of shoes

Option: Cashmere sweater

Option: Couch

6. Who humorously mentioned reupholstering a couch multiple times as a splurge?

Option: Sarah Sherman

Option: Cheri Oteri

Option: James Austin Johnson

Option: Rachel Dratch

True-False

7. Pete Davidson spent his entire compensation per episode on a dinner after joining SNL.

8. Sarah Silverman splurged on a mattress post her rise to fame in SNL.

9. James Austin Johnson acquired a comfortable couch for his splurge after joining SNL.

10. Jason Sudeikis found New York rent to be his most significant expenditure after starting SNL.

11. Sarah Sherman opted for a cashmere sweater as her celebratory purchase post SNL.

12. Cheri Oteri mentioned her fondness for spending on shoes after her SNL success.

Gap-Fill

14. Pete Davidson tongue-in-cheek remarked that his splurge after joining SNL was essentially a

_____.

16. Bowen Yang reminisced about purchasing a pair of Gucci shoes from Saks, illustrating both a trend and a personal _____.

17. Earlier, Davidson and Colin Jost invested \$280,000 in a decommissioned Staten Island Ferry, envisioning



its transformation into an entertainment _____ .

18. Even iconic stars navigate the complexities of fiscal responsibility amidst their burgeoning creative

_____ .

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Pair of shoes 2. New York rent 3. Mattress 4. Couch and television 6. Cheri Oteri

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

Gap-Fill: 14. dinner 16. evolution 17. venue 18. careers

Vocabulary quizzes

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

1. What is the term used to describe the payment received for work or services?

Option: Expenditure

Option: Compensation

Option: Cultural

Option: Acerbic

2. What term refers to the act of acquiring something?

Option: Articulate

Option: Discrimination

Option: Provocative

Option: Acquisition

3. What term is used to describe a special anniversary or celebration?

Option: Candidly

Option: Jubilee

Option: Manipulative

Option: Dominate

4. Which term describes something intended to provoke or arouse strong reactions?

Option: Luminaries

Option: Provocative

Option: Poignant

Option: Prevalent



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5. Which term refers to something that evokes a keen sense of sadness or regret?
- Option: Epitomizes
 - Option: Ill-conceived
 - Option: Poignant
 - Option: Tumultuous
6. What term is used to describe individuals who are inspirational or famous in a particular field?
- Option: Esteemed
 - Option: Captivates
 - Option: Luminaries
 - Option: Inaugural
7. Which term means to have power and influence over others?
- Option: Condensing
 - Option: Discrimination
 - Option: Dominate
 - Option: Allege
8. What is the term used when someone claims something without providing proof?
- Option: Virality
 - Option: Epitomizes
 - Option: Allege
 - Option: Defamation
9. Which term relates to the arts beliefs and customs of a particular society?
- Option: Cultural
 - Option: Articulate
 - Option: Phenomenon
 - Option: Rhetoric
10. What term describes something that attracts and holds attention or interest?
- Option: Tumultuous
 - Option: Captivates
 - Option: Condensing
 - Option: Excruciatingly

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

11. _____ based on race gender or age is illegal in many countries.
12. The professor is held in _____ regard by his peers for his groundbreaking research.



13. The video quickly went viral due to its _____ on social media platforms.
14. The singer hit an _____ high note during the performance.
15. Obesity is _____ in many developed countries due to poor diet and lack of exercise.
16. She was known for her _____ speeches that could persuade even the toughest audiences.
17. His dedication to his work truly _____ the company's values of excellence and creativity.
18. The couple went through a _____ period in their relationship before deciding to break up.
19. The textbook was filled with complex information but the professor did an excellent job of _____ it for the students.
20. The celebrity sued the magazine for _____ after they published false information about his personal life.

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

21. The author shared her experiences in her autobiography not shying away from the difficult parts.
22. The grand opening of the museum marked its exhibition featuring works by local artists.
23. The con artist's tactics were finally exposed by the authorities.
24. Legal action was taken against the company for its acts of _____ in the hiring process.
25. The comedian was known for his sense of humor that often left audiences in stitches.
26. The politician was accused of spreading _____ about his opponent to gain an advantage in the election.
27. The meme's on social media platforms led to millions of shares and likes within hours.



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| 28. The artist's unique style audiences and art enthusiasts from around the world. |
| 29. The sudden appearance of the rare bird in the city park became an overnight . |
| 30. The conference was attended by scientific who shared groundbreaking research and discoveries. |

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Compensation 2. Acquisition 3. Jubilee 4. Provocative 5. Poignant 6. Luminaries 7. Dominate 8. Allege 9. Cultural 10. Captivates

Gap-Fill: 11. Discrimination 12. esteemed 13. virality 14. excruciatingly 15. prevalent 16. articulate 17. epitomizes 18. tumultuous 19. condensing 20. defamation

Matching sentence: 1. candidly 2. inaugural 3. manipulative 4. discrimination 5. acerbic 6. defamation 7. virality 8. captivates 9. phenomenon 10. luminaries

CATEGORY

1. Entertainment - LEVEL6

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