

DAVID LETTERMAN – 25 YEARS AND STILL GOING STRONG

"Good evening. Certain NBC executives feel it would be a little unkind to present this show without just a word of friendly warning. We're about to unfold a show featuring David Letterman, a man of science who sought to create a show after his own image, without reckoning upon God... I think it will thrill you. It may shock you. It may even horrify you. So if any of you feel that you don't care to subject your nerves to such a strain, now's your chance just to, well, we warned you."

– Larry "Bud" Melman, Feb. 1, 1982

In early February 1982, Larry "Bud" Melman strode onto a dimly lit studio and told the audience of "Late Night with David Letterman" that they were about to see something they had never seen before. Those words soon rang true as David Letterman hit the stage that night and single-handedly changed the face of late night television forever, and continues to do so 25 years later at CBS on the LATE SHOW with DAVID LETTERMAN.

Below are some of the highlights from David Letterman's 25 years in late night television.

February 1982 - February 2007

1982

- Feb. 1: "Late Night with David Letterman" premieres with guests Bill Murray, musician Warren Zevon, science guy "Mr. Wizard" and Larry "Bud" Melman. Murray does jumping jacks and sings "Let's Get Physical."
- Feb. 4: The first edition of Stupid Pet Tricks is broadcast. It features a bunny on a skateboard and a dog using the telephone.
- April 15: "Late Night" introduces the exciting sport of "Elevator Racing." A woman from Albany, N.Y., wins "The Golden Shaft Award." Comedian Jay Leno makes his first appearance.
- July 9: "Late Night" presents a 90-minute "Christmas in July" special. New York City's Guardian Angels sing Christmas carols, and Larry "Bud" Melman delivers his unforgettable rendition of "A Visit from St. Nicholas."
- July 28: Wrestler Jerry Lawler delivers a blow to comedian Andy Kaufman.
- Sept. 10: NBC sportscaster Marv Albert makes his first appearance.
- Oct. 1: "Late Night" holds a bar mitzvah reception for eighth-grader Barry Weil, featuring an accordion player, candle-lighting ceremony and young Weil's bar mitzvah speech.

1983

- May 23: Late night talk show legend Jack Paar makes a surprise appearance.
- Oct. 3: The first Stupid Human Tricks segment is presented.
- Nov. 15: The Emmy Award-winning "Custom-Made Show" is broadcast, where the studio audience

decides what will be shown on that evening's "Late Night," including the jokes, sound effects, order of guests, Letterman's clothes, theme music and montage.

Nov. 16: Larry "Bud" Melman, wrapped in a red "Welcome" sash, becomes the "Official Greeter" at Manhattan's Port Authority Bus Terminal, welcoming weary arrivals with hot towels.

Dec. 12: In a classic video remote, Letterman visits the store Just Bulbs that sells – just bulbs.

1984

Feb. 1: "Late Night" stages the first dog-sled race on the sixth floor of 30 Rockefeller Plaza.

Feb. 22: "Late Night" presents the first nationally broadcast "reverse image show" -- the entire show was reversed 180 degrees.

Feb. 28: Letterman dons the "suit of Velcro." He runs a few steps, jumps on a small trampoline and hurls himself against a wall of Velcro, to which he sticks.

Sept. 6: Letterman dons the "suit of Alka-Seltzer," along with plastic goggles and an oxygen tank, and is lowered into a 1,000-gallon tank of water, whereupon his suit begins to fizz and vaporize.

1985

Jan. 24: The "Late Night Baby" is featured, the first infant born at either of two Manhattan hospitals (Bob Costas and Vince McMahon stand by at each) during the program.

Feb. 14: Letterman dons the "suit of sponges," is dunked in a 1,000-gallon glass tank of water and tips the scale at 500 pounds.

May 13-16: "Late Night," originating from another city for the first time, is broadcast from the NBC Studios in Burbank, Calif.

Aug. 18: Brandishing a bullhorn from an office window in New York's Rockefeller Plaza, Letterman interrupts a special outdoor taping of NBC News' "Today" by loudly identifying himself as Larry Grossman (then president of NBC News) and adding "and I'm not wearing any pants."

Sept. 18: The very first Top Ten List, "Things That Almost Rhyme with Peas," is presented.

Nov. 20: Teri Garr takes a shower on "Late Night."

Nov. 21: Letterman dons the "suit of chips" and immerses himself in a glass tank filled with 1,000 gallons of yogurt dip.

1986

Feb. 1: "Late Night" celebrates its fourth anniversary as the first entertainment show to be broadcast in-flight aboard a 747 jetliner en route to Miami. The broadcast is honored with an Emmy Award for outstanding writing, "Late Night's" third Emmy in this category.

Feb. 17: The "over dub" show is presented, in which the voices of Letterman, Paul Shaffer, Chris

Elliott, Raquel Welch and Sandra Bernhard were perfectly replaced by British dubbing experts.

- Feb. 25: "Late Night" holds "Parents' Night" with the parents of the show's staffers. Letterman's mother, Dorothy, acts as hostess.
- March 19: Zippy the chimp introduces the infamous "monkey cam," a point-of-view camera strapped to its body, and upstages sex therapist Dr. Ruth Westheimer.
- April 8: Dave and a "Late Night" film crew visit the GE offices in New York City to deliver a basket of fruit to NBC's new bosses. They are confronted by security personnel who refuse the basket and Letterman's extended hand, which will forever be known as the classic "GE handshake."
- May 7: Cybill Shepherd appears on "Late Night" wearing only a towel.
- May 22: Cher makes her "Late Night" debut and calls Letterman an "ass****."
- Aug. 7: In a classic remote, Letterman responds in person to a Viewer Mail letter from viewer Colleen Boyle and makes a surprise visit to her home. During a tour of her bedroom with an oversized cameraman, Letterman shows all her collection of shoes.
- Sept. 10: Zippy, the "monkey-cam" chimp, returns wearing roller skates and bites guest Sandra Bernhard.
- Nov. 25: Letterman dons the "suit of magnets" and attaches himself to the door of an oversized GE refrigerator.
- Dec. 9: "Late Night" presents the "360-degree rotation show," in which the camera makes a complete clockwise rotation in one hour. Halfway through the program, Letterman and Peter Ustinov appear upside down.

1987

- May 18-21: "Late Night" broadcasts from the Bally's Ziegfeld Hotel in Las Vegas. Featured guests include Sammy Davis, Jr., Robert Goulet, Lola Falana, Paul Anka and Pat Cooper.
- June 28: Guest Crispin Glover, clearly no martial arts expert, nearly hits Dave with a kick to the head.
- Nov. 13: Sonny and Cher perform together for the first time in 10 years. They sing their classic song, "I Got You Babe."
- Nov. 20: Dave "snaps, crackles and pops" when he dons the "suit of Rice Krispies" and is lowered into a tub of milk.
- Dec. 25: "Dave Letterman's Old -Fashioned Christmas" is presented, featuring narrator Connie Chung, Teri Garr, race car driver Bobby Rahal and Ted Nugent, who sings a Yuletide duet with Letterman.

1988

- Feb. 4: "Late Night" celebrates its sixth anniversary with a 90-minute primetime extravaganza at Radio City Music Hall.
- Feb. 28: Letterman, a former weatherman, brushes up on his meteorological skills when he reports the local weather – uninvited – on "Live at Five" with WNBC-TV weatherman Al Roker.
- March 1: Director Hal Gurnee has his hands full when 13 cameras (nine more than usual) shoot Dave and the show from every conceivable angle in the studio.
- July 7: Madonna makes a surprise walk-on appearance with guest Sandra Bernhard.
- Oct. 4: Actress Shirley MacLaine makes her first and only appearance on the program.
- Nov. 11: Larry "Bud" Melman embarks on a mission of peace to South America, called "Calvert DeForest's Pan American Goodwill Tour."
- Nov. 30: "Late Night" stages dog races with small terriers (please, no wagering).

1989

- March 1: The entire population of Bolan, Iowa (16 residents), making its first visit to New York, appears on "Late Night."
- May 2-5: "Late Night" presents a week of broadcasts from the Windy City's Chicago Theatre. Highlights include visits from Oprah Winfrey, NBA star Michael Jordan, Jay Leno and singer John Mellencamp.
- May 17: Letterman fires a confetti cannon at the security guards barring him from WNBC-TV's "Live at Five" set across the hall from "Late Night's" studio.
- Oct. 20: Letterman becomes the first comedian to take his television cameras backstage at the United States Capitol, where he roams the corridors of power.

1990

- Feb. 1: The "Late Night with David Letterman 8th Anniversary Special" is broadcast in prime time from the Universal Amphitheater in Los Angeles.
- April 6: In a classic video remote, Letterman works the drive-thru window at a McDonald's for the first time.
- June 13: Warren Beatty makes an exclusive late night talk-show appearance and reads the night's Top Ten List – "Dick Tracy's Top Ten Pet Peeves."
- July 1: Bill Murray mans a "Late Night" camera throughout the show.
- Nov. 7: In a video remote, talk-show host Regis Philbin helps promote the *Late Night with David Letterman Book of Top Ten Lists* by hosting a book-signing event for "Late Night."

1991

- Jan. 18: Danny Thomas makes a surprise walk-on appearance and does a spit-take act with guest Macaulay Culkin.
- March 13: With disarming skill, "Late Night" staffer Mary Connelly beats New York Giants quarterback Phil Simms in the "Mary Connelly Quarterback Challenge."
- May 23: Johnny Carson makes a surprise walk-on appearance on "Late Night" just hours after his stunning announcement that he will be stepping down as host of "The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson" on May 23, 1992.
- June 5: Harry Reasoner makes one of his last on-air appearances. His 60 MINUTES colleague, Mike Wallace, makes a surprise on-air appearance and gives Reasoner a kiss.
- July 31: The show is seen on the Sony Jumbotron in New York's Times Square.
- July 18: New York Mets Pitcher Dwight Gooden tries to break the "Late Night" remote camera by hurling baseballs at it in Shea Stadium.
- Dec. 19: Hockey players Mark Messier and Brian Leetch of the New York Rangers take slapshots at the "Late Night" camera and attempt to knock it out.

1992

- Feb. 6: "Late Night" presents a 90-minute primetime extravaganza, "Late Night with David Letterman's 10th Anniversary Special," taped at New York's famed Radio City Music Hall. Guests include Bill Murray, Bob Dylan, the Rockettes and an all-star band featuring Roseanne Cash, Emmylou Harris, Carole King, Michelle Shocked, Doc Severinsen and Edgar Winter, among many others.
- May 14: During the taping of the program, Letterman sends Chris Brown, an NBC page who works on "Late Night," to an all-expense-paid spur-of-the-moment cruise trip to Bermuda. Brown immediately leaves for his trip with just the clothes on his back -- his polyester page uniform.
- July 23: During the program, Letterman calls Democratic presidential candidate Bill Clinton to give him the show's choice of a possible campaign slogan -- "We don't have a clue, but we don't have a Quayle!"
- Aug. 18: Following his successful coverage at the Democratic National Convention, "Late Night's" national correspondent, Larry "Bud" Melman, reports live from the Republican National Convention in Houston.

1993

- Jan. 14: CBS announces Letterman will bring his acclaimed show to the Network.
- Jan. 20: Baseball legend Ted Williams makes a rare television appearance.
- Feb. 22: Howard Stringer, then President, CBS/Broadcast Group, announces Letterman will remain in New York City and broadcast his show from the historic Ed Sullivan Theater on Broadway.
- June 25: Letterman presents his last "Late Night" program. Guests include Tom Hanks and Bruce

Springsteen.

- Aug. 30: More than 23 million viewers tune into the premiere of LATE SHOW with DAVID LETTERMAN on CBS. Guests include Bill Murray, who spray paints “Dave” on Letterman’s desk, and singer Billy Joel. News anchor Tom Brokaw and legendary actor Paul Newman (“Where the hell are the singing cats?”) make surprise appearances on the program.
- Sept. 3: In a rare television appearance, actress Debra Winger stuns Letterman and the audience by ripping off her clothes at the conclusion of her interview and racing out of the studio wearing her old “Wonder Girl” costume. Also, Casey Kasem delivers the night’s Top Ten list -- “The Top Ten Numbers from One to Ten.”
- Sept. 8: Vice President Al Gore scores big laughs as he effectively mixes comedy and politics by reading off his own Top Ten List of “The Best Things About Being Vice President.” Later, he dons eye goggles and smashes ashtrays with a hammer in a demonstration of burdening government safety testing rules.
- Sept. 13: In a “Let’s Meet the Neighbors” segment, Letterman makes his first visit with Mujibur and Sirajul and asks the amiable duo to pose for passport photos in their store.
- Oct. 11: Letterman watches incredulously as Kathie Lee Gifford talks about her engorged breasts and speeds up the holidays by singing “Winter Wonderland.”
- Oct. 15: Before crowds of spectators gathered outside the Ed Sullivan Theater, Letterman lights the fuse that blasts Jon Weiss, the “Human Cannonball” from Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, out of a cannon and 53 feet through the air.
- Oct. 25: Sean Connery, in a rare television appearance, dispels unfounded worldwide rumors of a serious illness by making an unforgettable and daring flying arrival onstage strapped in a smoking James Bond-like jetpack.
- Nov. 11: After lamenting that the show has “officially run out of ideas,” Letterman phones Johnny Carson to ask his permission to use his old routine, “Stump the Band.” Carson humorously remarks that he had turned down Chevy Chase’s request to use the routine and it “probably would have saved his ass!”
- Nov. 26: In a three-part video remote, Letterman works the drive-thru window at McDonald’s and convinces one customer to deliver a 10-pound bag of onions to him because the restaurant “ran out.”

1994

- Jan. 5: In the first of several experiments, the LATE SHOW exhibits how New Yorkers have come to embrace bizarre behavior in everyday life by playing, “Can a guy in a bear suit get into a strip club?” That experiment led to, “Can a guy in a bear suit hail a cab?,” “Can a guy in a bear suit get a hug from a stranger?” and “Can a guy in a bear suit get into the Hard Rock Cafe?,” among others.
- Feb. 8: CBS and the LATE SHOW announce that Dave’s mother, Dorothy, will travel from her home in Indiana to the village of Lillehammer, Norway, as the LATE SHOW’s special Olympic correspondent at the XVII Olympic Winter Games.

- Feb. 9: On the 30th anniversary of the Beatles' performance on "The Ed Sullivan Show," Calvert DeForest bellows the classic tune "All My Lovin'."
- Feb. 14: During her first assignment as the LATE SHOW's Olympic correspondent, Dave's mom, Dorothy, interviews Hillary Rodham Clinton during an ice hockey game. Citing her son's speeding tickets, Dorothy asks the First Lady if she can do anything about the speed limit in Connecticut.
- Feb. 24: Dorothy interviews skater Nancy Kerrigan, who repeatedly refuses the older woman's offer of hot cocoa.
- March 31: Madonna makes her infamous appearance on LATE SHOW.
- April 5: LATE SHOW guest Ted Koppel and Letterman go rollerblading on 53rd Street.
- May 9-13: The LATE SHOW broadcasts from Television City in Los Angeles, its first program presented away from the Ed Sullivan Theater. In a taped segment, Johnny Carson, in his first appearance on the LATE SHOW, drives by and waves to a stranded Letterman and Shaffer as they try to change a flat tire on the Los Angeles Freeway. Also, Billy Crystal and a golden retriever take a swim in the pool behind Dave's desk onstage.
- May 13: On the last night of broadcasts from Los Angeles, Johnny Carson makes his first and only live talk show appearance since his retirement in 1992, delivering that evening's Top Ten List to Letterman. Also, Bette Midler performs her classic "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy," and the music group Traffic reunites for their first public performance in 20 years.
- June 13: Mujibur and Sirajul kick-off their "Coast to Coast Tour," a 12-city tour throughout America as LATE SHOW's goodwill ambassadors. The tour begins in Niagara Falls.
- June 28: Barbra Streisand makes a rare television appearance by surprising Letterman with a pair of tickets for her upcoming, sold-out New York concert.
- July 1: On the street outside the new "Today Show" set, Letterman holds up a sign that says, "I love you, Bryant." Gumbel, in turn, holds up his own sign reading, "Bite me."
- July 26: One night after Letterman complains of a dangerously large pothole on 53rd Street, New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, armed with shovel and hardhat, fills the road hazard.
- Nov. 4: Rush Limbaugh appears in a taped comedy segment promoting "Big Ass Ham."
- Nov. 21: On the LATE SHOW with DAVID LETTERMAN VIDEO SPECIAL, Barry White presents "Top Ten Things That Sound Romantic when Spoken by Barry White." Among them: "jazzercise," "Gubernatorial" and "Oprah." Paul Newman and Zsa Zsa Gabor are guests on the special primetime broadcast.
- Nov. 21: Letterman sends the ticket standby line on an all-expenses-paid bus trip to Miami Beach.
- Dec. 2: The LATE SHOW premieres the first edition of "Fun with Rupert," featuring Hello Deli owner Rupert Jee. In the soon-to-be classic remotes, Rupert (wearing a headset and hidden

microphone) and Dave (who secretly communicates with Rupert while hidden in a nearby van) annoy and bother unsuspecting people on the street.

Dec. 23: Legendary singer Darlene Love begins a Christmas tradition on the LATE SHOW when she sings "Christmas, Baby, Please Come Home" during the holidays each year.

1995

Jan. 31: Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole announces his presidential candidacy on the LATE SHOW.

April 12: Dave gets a birthday gift he'll never forget when Drew Barrymore jumps on his desk, performs an impromptu birthday dance and flashes her breasts to a stunned Letterman. Also, New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani chooses a new slogan for his city -- "Our City Can Kick Your City's Ass."

May 15-19: The LATE SHOW makes late night history by presenting a week's worth of shows from The London Studios in London, England. Dave arrives on stage flanked by a dozen Buckingham Palace guards. The LATE SHOW presents Stupid Pet Tricks with talented animals of London, including a dog that pushes her puppies in a pram. Also featured is the LATE SHOW's London correspondent, Dave's Mom, Dorothy, filing reports from Big Ben.

May 17: In London, acting legend Peter O'Toole, star of the classic film "Lawrence of Arabia," arrives on stage riding a racing camel. Musicians Van Morrison, Sinéad O'Connor and The Chieftains perform "Have I Told You Lately."

May 19: On the LATE SHOW's last night in London, novelist Salman Rushdie comes out of hiding and delivers that evening's Top Ten List to Letterman.

June 23: Rock stars R.E.M. perform their hit "What's the Frequency, Kenneth?" with an unlikely singing partner – CBS News Anchor Dan Rather. Dressed in a dark suit and black shirt, Rather sings along with the band to the tune.

July 26: The LATE SHOW moves its entire studio audience outside on 53rd Street for its first outdoor musical performance, featuring rock stars Bon Jovi.

Sept. 7: High-diving drama takes place on 53rd Street as Women's World Diving Champion Cari Hutchinson performs an 80-foot dive off the Ed Sullivan Theater into a 10-foot deep pool.

Sept. 19: After calling New York a "culture of waste," House Speaker Newt Gingrich apologizes for the controversial and offending remark by presenting the evening's Top Ten List -- "Top Ten Things I Love About New York."

Oct. 23: The LATE SHOW's World Series correspondent, 9-year-old sportscaster Sparky Mortimer, files reports live on the program. Mortimer is hailed for his coverage by national press including *TV Guide* and the *Baltimore Sun*, which call him the "Most Valuable Reporter" at the World Series.

Nov. 6-10: The LATE SHOW makes a second trip to TV City in Los Angeles for a week of broadcasts.

- Nov. 8: In Los Angeles, superstar Demi Moore helps present the “Top Ten Least Popular Stripper Names” by tearing off her body 10 cards one by one until finally stripping down to reveal a bikini.
- Dec. 20: Howard Stern appears on the LATE SHOW in a long blond wig, with two bikini-clad men, who kiss on camera, in tow. Also seen kissing on camera are Mujibur and Sirajul.

1996

- Jan. 8: On the day of an East Coast blizzard (dubbed “Blizzardo” by Letterman), Letterman invites the entire stand-by audience in to see the show.
- Feb. 9: In a take-off on the HBO movie “The Late Shift,” the LATE SHOW presents its own outtakes of the film, featuring actor Harvey Fierstein as then-executive producer Robert Morton, Leonard Tepper as Letterman agent Michael Ovitz, and a LATE SHOW janitor as then-CBS Broadcast Group President Howard Stringer. Letterman plays actor John Michael Higgins, who plays Letterman in “The Late Shift.”
- Feb. 19: The critically acclaimed LATE SHOW VIDEO SPECIAL II, the broadcast’s second primetime special, features a star-studded array of guest appearances, including Jerry Seinfeld, Jason Alexander, Robin Williams, Mary Tyler Moore, Regis Philbin, Roseanne and Garry Shandling. The “Top Ten Beautiful Women’s Complaints About Men” includes contributions from 10 top models and actresses, including Isabella Rossellini, Yasmine Bleeth, Tyra Banks, Linda Evangelista – and radio host Howard Stern, in drag.
- Feb. 27: Pearl Jam lead vocalist Eddie Vedder makes a rare television appearance when he does a walk-on cameo on the LATE SHOW, singing the band's hit, "Black."
- April 5: Hypnotist Marshall Sylver hypnotizes members of the LATE SHOW staff and causes them to act in bizarre ways – especially stage manager Biff Henderson.
- April 25: In an ongoing competition to decide the new fictional home office of the LATE SHOW “Top Ten,” two residents from Wahoo, Neb., Josh and Jeff Price, donate themselves to the tanks that hold the “grafteroo” sent in by Wahoo and Grand Rapids, Mich. residents.
- May 3: The new fictional home office of the LATE SHOW’s “Top Ten List” is officially changed from Grand Rapids, Mich., to Wahoo, Neb.
- May 6-10: The LATE SHOW with DAVID LETTERMAN begins broadcasting a week of shows from the Palace of Fine Arts in San Francisco. Kicking off the week are Bay Area-native Tom Hanks, San Francisco 49ers Quarterback Steve Young, San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown and Robin Williams, who makes a surprise visit.
- May 10: Letterman spends his final day in San Francisco taking a tour of the city through the eyes of Manny the Hippie, who thinks good things are "dank," bad things are "schwag," but really good things are "diggity dank." Later, Letterman makes Manny’s dream come true when he brings the Haight-Ashbury hippie on stage during the broadcast to perform a harmonica solo and is joined by his idol, Blues Traveler’s John Popper.
- June 4: To promote deer tick awareness, Letterman has Dr. Sam Merrick from New York Hospital/Cornell Medical Center inspect audience members for any signs of ticks.

- June 17: In a classic four-part remote, Letterman mans the drive-thru window at Taco Bell. Among the highlights: he invites customers to drink directly from the soda fountain; tells a concerned woman that he just got over "the worst case of stomach flu," and asks an exasperated woman if she would order him food since he can't order anything while he's "working."
- June 25: Superstar Bruce Willis visits LATE SHOW in support of his wife Demi Moore's new movie, "Striptease," and dons a string bikini and performs a striptease of his own. Also, New Jersey Gov. Christine Todd Whitman makes her first late night appearance on the LATE SHOW and takes a spin on the dance floor with Dave.
- July 5: Letterman pays a special visit to Howard Stern and Robin Quivers to welcome them to the Westinghouse family, as Infinity Broadcasting and Westinghouse Radio prepare to merge. The gift: a Westinghouse refrigerator.
- Sept. 20: LATE SHOW's "Break-Free Show" breaks new ground by presenting one full hour of LATE SHOW without commercial interruption. The hour, sponsored by Anheuser-Busch, Nike, AT&T and Chrysler, makes mention of these sponsors throughout the show in typical comic LATE SHOW fashion. Featured are an edition of "Stupid Pet Tricks," actress Drew Barrymore, and shoe shine man Tony Avena, who received a generous donation from LATE SHOW so he could save his shoe shine stand.
- Oct. 11: Elizabeth Dole, wife of Republican Presidential Candidate Bob Dole, contributes to that evening's Top Ten List of "Reasons Bob Dole Should Be Elected President of the United States."
- Oct. 28: Members of the New York Yankees and their manager, Joe Torre, visit the LATE SHOW after winning their first World Series championship in 15 years. During Torre's interview with Letterman, a mischievous band of Bronx Bombers douses the manager and Letterman with bottles of champagne.
- Nov. 1: The LATE SHOW reinvents the usual single-city travel week by presenting "Friday Night on the Road" -- broadcasts from four different cities on four consecutive Fridays. The first stop on this four-city tour is the Tsai Performance Center in Boston, featuring a special Boston edition of Stupid Human Tricks, comedian Dana Carvey and Beantown-native Steven Wright. Also, 10 Boston firefighters present the "Top Ten Things That Sound Cool with a Boston Accent."
- Nov. 8: From the Warner Theatre in Washington, D.C., former Republican Presidential Candidate Bob Dole makes his first public appearance since his loss to President Clinton in the 1996 Presidential Election and shows a witty, lighthearted side that he had rarely shown before. Also visiting the broadcast are "Nightline" anchor Ted Koppel and Washington-native Mary Chapin Carpenter. Ten top political correspondents present the "Top Ten Questions I've Always Wanted to Ask the President," featuring Jane Robelot, Wolf Blitzer, Fred Barnes, Greta Van Susteren, Michael Kinsley, Frank Sesno, Cokie Roberts, Sam Donaldson, Helen Thomas and John McLaughlin.
- Nov. 15: The LATE SHOW presents its third "Friday Night on the Road" broadcast from the Steppenwolf Theatre in Chicago. Letterman spends the day with Dennis Rodman, witnesses a kiss between film critics Gene Siskel and Roger Ebert, and dons a dress with the Chicago

Bulls star. A Chicago edition of Stupid Pet Tricks features Alex Rothacker and his family who jump rope with their dog, an Afghan hound named Olive Oil.

- Nov. 22: The warm weather during LATE SHOW's final "Friday Night on the Road" broadcast from the Coconut Grove Playhouse in Miami makes an over-heated Letterman change from a suit to khakis, a t-shirt and baseball cap, the most casual dress he has ever worn during a LATE SHOW broadcast. On the broadcast, Hello Deli owner Rupert Jee travels around Miami annoying residents and tourists, while Miami Dolphins quarterback Dan Marino attempts to eat 100 stone crab claws throughout the broadcast.
- Dec. 13: In support of their movie, "Beavis and Butt-head Do America," the MTV cartoon stars make their first late night appearance on the LATE SHOW with DAVID LETTERMAN. A crew of animators and technicians, including Beavis and Butt-head creator Mike Judge, work around the clock to put the interview segment together.

1997

- Feb. 3: The LATE SHOW kicks off a month-long celebration of Letterman's 15 years in late night network television. The anniversary-themed broadcast features a new edition of "Stupid Human Tricks" (including the first appearance of Kimberly Goodman, who can "bug out her eyes"), guest stars Elle MacPherson and Charles Barkley, plus surprise cameo appearances by stars Billy Crystal, Jerry Seinfeld, Rosie O'Donnell, Paul Newman and Richard Simmons. The broadcast also features a Dave documentary, "The David Letterman Story," featuring stars Alec Baldwin, Howard Stern and Donny Osmond.
- Feb. 24: "The LATE SHOW with DAVID LETTERMAN Video Special III" features the best highlights from the LATE SHOW, including special rebroadcasts of "The David Letterman Story," "Dave Interviews CBS Job Applicants," "Dave Meets the Big Man on Campus" and encore presentations of the very best Stupid Pet and Stupid Human Tricks.
- March 25: The mettle of New Yorkers is tested when Letterman directs 23 five to six foot bunnies into a small cafe across the street from the Ed Sullivan Theater in a new comedy segment, "How Many Guys in Bunny Suits Can You Get into a Coffee Shop?"
- April 8: When the LATE SHOW tries to see "How many guys in bunny suits can get into an H&R Block?" during tax time, only two bunnies make it in after being escorted out of the offices by an irate H&R Block staffer.
- April 25: The LATE SHOW begins a series of special Friday broadcasts featuring a single-city-themed show with guests and comedy tailored specifically for that city and a studio audience all hailing from that particular city -- trip courtesy of Dave. The first city to be saluted is Indianapolis -- David Letterman's hometown. Guests include Rosie Perez and Indianapolis musician John Hiatt, plus a special Indianapolis-themed edition of "Stupid Human Tricks" and special appearances by Indianapolis Mayor Steve Goldsmith, Dave's Mom, Dorothy, and Indiana Pacers star Reggie Miller.
- May 2: The LATE SHOW's St. Louis-themed show salutes the Gateway City with appearances by actress/comedian Roseanne (who rides to the theater on a beer wagon drawn by Clydesdale horses), 7-year-old chef Justin Miller and legendary singer Chuck Berry. Also on the edition, St. Louis Mayor Clarence Harmon presents Letterman with a Gateway Arch made out of luncheon meat and stage manager "Biff Henderson's Tour of St. Louis."

- May 6: The evening's installment of "How many guys in bunny suits can you get into a fountain?" finds six bunnies in a Rockefeller Center fountain with actor John Goodman diving in the pool to join the fun.
- May 9: The LATE SHOW welcomes its special Minneapolis/St. Paul audience for an all Twin Cities-themed show. Featured are talk show host/actress Ricki Lake, Minnesota Twins legend Kirby Puckett, music group Soul Asylum, plus a special visit from Minneapolis Mayor Sharon Sayles.
- May 16: The final city-themed broadcasts wrap up with a Denver-themed broadcast featuring an all-Denver audience, a Denver-themed edition of "Stupid Pet Tricks," top 10 Denver Paul Shaffer look-alikes, actor Jeff Goldblum, music group Soul Asylum and a special visit from Denver Mayor, Wellington Webb.
- June 6: Farrah Fawcett makes her unforgettable appearance on the LATE SHOW.
- June 10: On tour for their latest album, "Pop," U2's Bono and Larry Mullen Jr., in their first visit to the LATE SHOW, make a rare interview appearance together.
- June 16: After having to look out from the Ed Sullivan Theater and see "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno's" billboard in Times Square proclaiming the show "#1 in Late Night!" Letterman and his staff came up with the perfect response -- erecting a Times Square billboard proclaiming the LATE SHOW "#3 in Late Night!" Why the billboard? "We put it up for the same reason we do everything else," said LATE SHOW Executive Producer Rob Burnett. "It made us laugh."
- Aug. 8: Superstar Demi Moore, visiting the LATE SHOW to promote her new movie, "G.I. Jane," gives an audience member a special treat by giving him a crew cut similar to the one she had in the movie.
- Nov. 5: New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani celebrates his reelection to a second term in office when he makes a special triumphant visit to the LATE SHOW.
- Nov. 12: Sportscaster Marv Albert visits the LATE SHOW after his sex scandal. On the show, Albert tells Letterman that at one time, he did go through a "curious stage." Letterman's response: "When I get curious, I turn on the Discovery Channel. And I think you should do the same thing, Marv."

1998

- Feb. 6: The LATE SHOW with DAVID LETTERMAN kicks off its special 1998 Olympic Winter Games coverage from Nagano, Japan with reports from Dave's Mom, Dorothy, stage manager Biff Henderson and his wife, Carolyn. Also, Letterman unveils a new Olympic addition to the Ed Sullivan Theater set -- a ski jump especially for toy ski jumping dogs.
- Feb. 9: John Elway, quarterback of Super Bowl XXXII champions the Denver Broncos, celebrates his first Super Bowl win by playing the "Quarterback Challenge" with Letterman (using fitness guru Richard Simmons as a target) when he makes his first visit to the LATE SHOW.
- Feb. 13: At the Olympics, Dave's Mom, Dorothy, delivers the "Top Ten Japanese Nicknames for

Americans,” including (#8) “McMorons” and (#3) “Gap-toothed Talk Show Monkeys.” Also, Letterman and Shaffer try snowboarding and prove to be quite the hotdoggers.

- Feb. 16: NASCAR champion Dale "The Intimidator" Earnhardt, who just scored a long sought-after win at the Daytona 500, presents the "Top Ten Reasons It Took Me 20 Years To Win the Daytona 500."
- Feb. 20: 1998 Olympic Freestyle Moguls gold medalist Jonny Moseley, fresh from his victory in Nagano, gives fans a special treat when he performs his trademark "Iron Cross" moguls jump from a 40-foot tower on West 53rd Street outside the Ed Sullivan Theater.
- April 24: The LATE SHOW begins another series of broadcasts hailing various U.S. cities -- kicking off with a special “Windy City” show saluting Chicago. Guests include actress Jennifer Aniston, controversial talk show host Jerry Springer and singer Al Green. Also, the LATE SHOW receptionist Bob Borden makes a special trip to Chicago in search of a one-on-one interview with talk show queen Oprah Winfrey. He’s not granted one.
- May 5: In honor of the upcoming Tony Awards, the LATE SHOW presents its own tribute to Broadway – its very own mini-musical production called “Homecoming,” featuring the song “Jimmy’s Coming Home,” written by the LATE SHOW writers with music by Paul Shaffer.
- May 8: “On the Road to LATE SHOW” continues with a Houston-themed broadcast and an audience comprised of Houston residents. The themed broadcast features guests Marilu Henner and legendary Apollo 13 astronaut Jim Lovell.
- May 12: Actor Christopher Reeve makes a special visit to the LATE SHOW to promote his new autobiography, *Still Me*.
- May 15: The LATE SHOW goes Cajun by presenting a special New Orleans-themed broadcast featuring an entire audience from that city. The Cajun-flavored broadcast features Bayou native Richard Simmons (who tosses Mardi Gras beads out to the audience), musical guests Beau Jocque and the Zydeco Hi-Rollers and the “Top Ten Nicknames for New Orleans” presented by actor and New Orleans resident John Goodman.
- May 18: “Friends” star Matthew Perry drops by the LATE SHOW for a surprise visit and later defaces the “Friends” billboard on Broadway with the help of a crane and some paint.
- May 19: The LATE SHOW’s second tribute to Broadway, "One Small Step," is a musical take-off on the Apollo 11 mission.
- July 3: Sen. Bob Dole entertains Dave and the audience when he discusses the wonders of Viagra.
- July 16: The LATE SHOW debuts a new, popular segment featuring stagehands Pat Farmer and Kenny Sheehan reading transcripts from “The Oprah Winfrey Show” called "Pat and Kenny Read Oprah Transcripts.”
- Aug. 6: Jerry Seinfeld makes his first visit to LATE SHOW since “Seinfeld” ended its nine-year run.
- Sept. 11: Letterman has close encounters with a very large condor (which tries to take flight in the

studio) and with an aroused baboon on a riotously funny animal segment with Jack Hanna.

- Sept. 24: "The King of All Media" Howard Stern shows Letterman and the LATE SHOW audience the benefits of his summer workout sessions when he strips down to his underwear to show his toned legs and flabby stomach.
- Oct. 2: When Steve Martin visits the LATE SHOW to talk about his new humor book, *Pure Drivel*, he and Letterman reminisce about "Dave and Steve's Gay Vacation," a hilarious comedy remote featuring Letterman and Martin cavorting on a romantic beach holiday. For this broadcast, the LATE SHOW wins an Emmy Award for "Outstanding Variety, Music or Comedy Series."
- Oct. 6: Former U.S. Sen. Bob Dole and his wife, American Red Cross President Elizabeth Dole, make their first joint late-night talk show appearance on the LATE SHOW and keep Letterman laughing with their witty banter.
- Oct. 30: Heavy metal legends Black Sabbath, featuring vocalist Ozzy Osbourne, reunite on the LATE SHOW for their first television performance in 22 years.
- Nov. 16: To help New Jersey Nets star Jayson Williams get work during the NBA lockout, Letterman enlists his aid as a LATE SHOW cameraman. The hoop star proves to be not too shabby behind the lens when he films Letterman, the evening's Kid Scientists, Cameron Diaz and Mariah Carey.
- Nov. 23: THE LATE SHOW with DAVID LETTERMAN 5TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL is broadcast on the CBS Television Network. The 90-minute retrospective of the late-night show's five years on CBS features the "Top Ten Things I've Always Wanted to Say to Dave," presented by Sean "Puffy" Combs, Mia Farrow, Michael J. Fox, John Goodman, Cindy Crawford, New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, Regis Philbin, "Leonardo DiCaprio" (played by Leonard Tepper) and Dave's Mom, Dorothy, whose "escort" is Jerry Seinfeld.
- Dec. 11: In honor of guest Tom Brokaw, who is wearing a sport jacket and black turtleneck, Letterman, Paul Shaffer, Biff Henderson, the CBS Orchestra and the rest of the stage crew change from their regular dress into turtleneck sweaters.
- Dec. 23: In the animation-style of such classics as "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" and "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town," an animated David Letterman drops in on Santa and Rudolph to pick up the correct Top Ten list for tonight's show.

1999

- Feb. 4: The LATE SHOW's music "discovery," boy band sensation "Fresh Step," debut on the program with their "hit" song "You Gotta Be Fresh."
- Feb. 23: Jesse "The Body" Ventura, former professional wrestler and now the outspoken governor of Minnesota, makes his first visit to the LATE SHOW and creates a stir among the Irish population of St. Paul when he says "whoever designed the streets must have been drunk. I think it was those Irish guys."

- March 3: Music "sensations" Fresh Step debut their new "hit" song, "Don't Talk to the Hand," from the "movie" "Talk to the Hand," "starring" teen sensations James van der Beek and Sarah Michelle Gellar.
- April 13: One day after David Letterman's birthday, Kathie Lee Gifford, a la Marilyn Monroe, seductively croons "Happy Birthday" to the late night host.
- April 30: The LATE SHOW flies an audience from Miami to New York City for a special broadcast tailored to their city. Guests include actress Glenn Close, always-tanned actor George Hamilton and Latin music sensation Elvis Crespo.
- May 7: The LATE SHOW hails its latest visiting audience from Nashville, with a Nashville-themed show featuring Kelsey Grammer, musicians Steve Earle and the Del McCoury Band and Biff Henderson on a tour of Nashville with musicians BR5-49.
- May 14: Featured on the LATE SHOW's Philadelphia-themed show are Philly-favorite Bill Cosby and actor Jon Favreau and a Top Ten List presented by Philadelphia Phillies pitching ace Curt Schilling. Also, Frank Stallone joins Biff Henderson in the City of Brotherly Love when Henderson parodies Sylvester Stallone's Philly-based classic, "Rocky."
- May 21: On the LATE SHOW's Boston-themed show, the audience flown in from Beantown is treated to appearances by actress Natalie Portman and actor Tom Everett Scott, as well as "Memorable Moments in Red Sox History," featuring Dan Patrick, Carlton Fisk, Nomar Garciaparra and Bret Saberhagen. Also, the Boston-based J. Geils Band perform together for the first time in 16 years when they reunite on the show.
- July 20: Letterman, a stalwart supporter of the U.S. Women's Soccer team (who he affectionately dubbed "Soccer Mamas"), celebrates their Soccer World Cup victory when he welcomes the team to the LATE SHOW, featuring interviews with team stars Mia Hamm and Brandi Chastain.
- July 30: Lance Armstrong, cancer survivor and winner of the grueling Tour de France cycling race, talks about his battles and victories in his first appearance on the LATE SHOW.
- Oct. 5: Fellow Indiana native and former U.S. Senator Dan Quayle, who was the subject of many jokes by Letterman, talks to the late night host – and fellow Hoosier – for the first time.
- Dec. 31: The LATE SHOW with DAVID LETTERMAN rings in the new millennium with a primetime broadcast. Featured is a special edition of Stupid Pet and Human Tricks, standup comedy by "The King of Queens" star Kevin James, a performance by the Brooklyn Philharmonic and special cameo appearances by Dick Clark and New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani.

2000

- Jan. 12: After weeks of on-air pleading for her to appear during the nightly "Campaign 2000" segment, Letterman finally welcomes First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton to the LATE SHOW. During her highly anticipated appearance, she discusses her intention to run for United States Senate from New York.

- Jan. 13: During the late Thursday taping of the Friday, Jan. 14 LATE SHOW broadcast, Letterman reveals to guest Regis Philbin that he is to undergo an angiogram the next day.
- Jan. 14: Letterman undergoes quintuple bypass heart surgery at New York Hospital.
- Feb. 7: After three weeks of rebroadcasts during Letterman's recuperation from bypass surgery, the LATE SHOW presents "Late Show Backstage," with all-new interviews with some of the show's favorite guests talking about and showing clips from their favorite moments on the LATE SHOW. The first "Late Show Backstage" features Charles Grodin talking with Letterman favorites Julia Roberts and Regis Philbin about their favorite LATE SHOW moments.
- Feb. 21: In an Emmy Award-winning broadcast, David Letterman makes a triumphant and emotional return to the LATE SHOW after his Jan. 14 quintuple bypass heart surgery. During the broadcast, he personally thanks his doctors and nurses, who appear on the Ed Sullivan Theater stage. Letterman's guests on his first night back include a cameo appearance by Jerry Seinfeld, actor/comedian Robin Williams, who dons surgical scrubs; frequent LATE SHOW guest and talk show host Regis Philbin, and rock group Foo Fighters, who at Letterman's special request, perform on that night's show. Over the next three weeks, Letterman will return to a reduced hosting schedule of three shows per week, with guest hosts filling in the other two nights.
- Feb. 23: The LATE SHOW examines the extensive press coverage given to Letterman's bypass surgery in the taped segment, "How the Media Covered Dave's Heart Surgery." The hilarious segment featured many comic appearances including those by David Duchovny, Regis Philbin, the World Wrestling Federation, Genie Francis and Tony Geary from "General Hospital," and the gang from Sesame Street, to name a few.
- Feb. 22: Comic legend Bill Cosby becomes the first person other than David Letterman to host the LATE SHOW.
- Feb. 24: Kathie Lee Gifford becomes the first woman to guest-host the LATE SHOW, and keeps the show going when someone throws a bra at her while she's singing her song, "It Sells."
- March 1: Republican Presidential candidate George W. Bush, toting a "Dweebs for Bush" t-shirt, makes a memorable first appearance on the LATE SHOW via satellite from the campaign trail at St. Louis University in St. Louis, Mo.
- March 27: Letterman returns to broadcasting five days a week for the first time since his bypass surgery.
- May 4: Julia Louis-Dreyfus gets a surprise visit from her former "Seinfeld" alum Jerry Seinfeld when he joins her onstage in a duet of the song "I Am Sixteen" from "The Sound of Music."
- May 5: In honor of Mother's Day, the LATE SHOW presents the "Top Ten Good Things about Being the Mother of Someone Famous," featuring the mothers of Al Roker, John Malkovich, Queen Latifah, Erik Estrada, Andy Dick, Derek Jeter, George Clooney, Kathie Lee Gifford and, of course, Dave's Mom, Dorothy.
- June 13: Bon Jovi, the first band to ever perform outside the Ed Sullivan Theater, make LATE SHOW history once again when they become the first band to perform on the roof of the Ed Sullivan

Theater.

- June 16 Ron Hammer's dog Zeke returns for a record fifth time to "Stupid Pet Tricks." But after tonight, Zeke will forever be known as "the dingo that bit Letterman." During Zeke's demonstration, Letterman accidentally steps on Zeke's tail while bending over to kiss him which prompted the Labrador mix to nip the host near his lip.
- July 19: Letterman invites presidential candidates Al Gore and George W. Bush to share the Ed Sullivan Theater stage for a full-scale debate. Among his debate rules: scoring will be based on the Jai Alai "Spectacular Seven" scoring system, Letterman would moderate and would be allowed to make smart-ass remarks and five judges will participate, including Charles Grodin and state manager Biff Henderson. Additionally, Letterman promises an appearance by funnyman Don Rickles, who "will come out, drop his pants and fire a rocket."
- Aug. 2: White House Press Secretary Joe Lockhart visits the LATE SHOW, marking the first time a sitting presidential press secretary appears with Letterman.
- Aug. 23 On the night of the original "Survivor" finale, all 16 Survivor participants get together live via satellite from Los Angeles to present the "Top Ten Things I Learned on the Survivor Island." The number one item? "The human body is a beautiful thing," presented by completely naked "Survivor" million-dollar winner Richard Hatch.
- Sept. 14: Vice President and Democratic presidential candidate Al Gore is interviewed on the broadcast. On the show, Gore presents the "Top Ten Rejected Gore-Lieberman Campaign Slogans," including number nine: "Remember, America, I gave you the Internet and I can take it away. Think about it."
- Oct. 19: Republican presidential candidate George W. Bush makes his first face-to-face appearance with Letterman. After the late-night host grills Bush on weighty issues such as the death penalty and the environment, Bush presents the "Top Ten Changes I'll Make in the White House," including number two: "Give Oval Office one heck of a scrubbing."
- Nov. 3: Music superstar Madonna makes her first return visit to the LATE SHOW since her infamous March 1994 appearance, and does a rare acoustic guitar performance of her new song "Don't Tell Me."
- Nov. 22: Fitness guru Richard Simmons, dressed in a turkey suit, riles up David Letterman when he goes to hug the late-night host. In return, Letterman promptly grabs a fire extinguisher and chases the Simmons around the stage and out into the Ed Sullivan Theater lobby.
- Dec. 19: As a special treat for troops stationed overseas, the LATE SHOW presents a holiday-themed broadcast that is linked live via satellite to Eagle Base in Tuzla, Bosnia to the more than 1,000 troops stationed there. On hand with the troops in Bosnia is the LATE SHOW stage manager Biff Henderson, who takes a tour of Eagle Base. Guests include "Saving Private Ryan" star Tom Hanks and musical guest Darlene Love, who performs her LATE SHOW holiday tradition of "Christmas, Baby, Please Come Home" with a little help from the U.S. Air Force Singing Sergeants.

2001

- Feb. 13 During a new edition of Stupid Pet Tricks, Letterman marvels at Rebecca Kraft and her duck,

Regis, who eats cottage cheese out of his owner's mouth.

- March 21: Comic superstar Jerry Seinfeld makes his first television standup comedy performance since 1998 on the LATE SHOW.
- May 9: Ten U.S. Senators present the LATE SHOW's "Top Ten Things Never Before Said by a United States Senator." Participants include Sen. Joseph Lieberman ("I'm going to raise your taxes so I can buy myself a sweet Camaro") and Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton ("My day breaks up like this: 10 minutes doing senator stuff, nine hours Sony Playstation").
- June 20: Letterman debuts his new comedy segment "Hairpiece, Not a Hairpiece."
- July 10: In her first interview since her much publicized spilt with actor Benjamin Bratt, Academy Award-winning actress Julia Roberts makes her first public comments about their breakup, and she and Letterman get a shock when Paul Shaffer asks her "So Julia, you getting laid these days?"
- Sept. 5: In a stunning display, the United States Marine Corps military drill team perform the Cadence military drill, beginning on Broadway and marching into the Ed Sullivan Theater to the stage.
- Sept. 17: Letterman, in a moving and critically acclaimed broadcast, returns to the airwaves after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Joining him on the broadcast is a visibly emotional CBS News Anchor Dan Rather and television personality Regis Philbin. According to David Bianculli of the *New York Daily News*, the Emmy Award-winning broadcast "was one of the purest, most honest and important moments in TV history...I suspect Letterman will never know how valuable a service he performed that night."
- Sept. 24: New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani makes his first appearance on the broadcast after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, receiving a rousing standing ovation from the LATE SHOW audience. On the broadcast, Letterman tells Giuliani, "I hate the fact that we had to go through this, but I can't imagine having gone through it with anybody else." In return, the Mayor tells Letterman that "what you did last week in coming back, and the way you spoke to people helped to restore confidence in people."
- Sept. 26: New York City Fire Department Commissioner Thomas von Essen talks about dealing with the loss of more than 300 firefighters in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, sharing stories about some of his fallen comrades and the future of the FDNY.
- Sept. 29: Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (D., N.Y.) discusses her reactions to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks; her concern for her daughter, Chelsea, who was in lower Manhattan at the time of the World Trade Center disaster, and the efforts of the federal government in the relief effort.
- Oct. 29: Rock superstars U2 perform on the LATE SHOW for the first time, playing two songs: "New York" and "Stuck in a Moment." Also on the broadcast, Letterman pays tribute to Kathleen Ankers, his longtime, Emmy Award-winning production designer, who passed away the previous week. Included is a montage of some of Kathleen's most memorable show highlights, among them her appearances as the "Bookmobile Lady" and "Peggy, the Foul-Mouthed Librarian."
- Nov. 7: Realizing that he has no focus in life and needs to have a goal, Letterman finally sets one – to

be a guest on "The Oprah Winfrey Show." The following night, Letterman begins the *Dave's Oprah Log*, a journal of his nightly declarations and attempts to be a guest on "Oprah."

- Nov. 16: Day nine of *Dave's Oprah Log* and there's still no word from the Oprah Winfrey, even after he checks with LATE SHOW receptionist Art. While he waits to hear from Oprah, Letterman has come up with a mantra that might help him get through: "It Ain't Oprah 'Til It's Oprah."
- Nov. 20 Day 13 of *Dave's Oprah Log* and still "Oprah did not call." However, LATE SHOW Musical Director Paul Shaffer has put Letterman's mantra to music. The lyrics? "I called up Art and I said, 'Did we hear from Oprah?' But he said, 'Sorry, Dave, No-prah.' It ain't Oprah till it's Oprah, it ain't Springer till someone lands a zinger, it ain't Ricki till it's some chick with a hickey, it ain't Maury till that transsexual love story. No, it ain't Oprah till it's Oprah."
- Nov. 26: New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, appearing with Dave on one his last days in office, reminisces about the "Top Ten Things I Will Miss about Being Mayor," including number two: "The Yankees winning all those World Series? That was my idea."
- Nov. 27 In the only Top Ten List to ever have only one item – the "Top Ten Ways Osama Bin Laden Can Improve His Image" – Letterman reads just one item, "There's no way he can improve his image; he's a murdering, soul-less ass*****" and stops the countdown list. This single-item Top Ten drew massive cheers from the LATE SHOW audience.
- Dec. 27 New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani makes his last LATE SHOW appearance as mayor. Including interviews, Top Ten Lists and cameo/walk-on appearances, Mayor Giuliani has visited the show more than 20 times.

2002

- Jan. 10 On the night of the "Survivor: Africa" finale, all 16 participants appear in the "Top Ten Complaints of 'Survivor 3' Castaways.' Also on the broadcast, comedian and musician Jack Black does a take-off of one of the "Survivor: Africa" participants audition tapes when he rides down 53rd Street on a bicycle in nothing but very low-riding white underwear.
- Jan. 11: Movie superstar Tom Cruise makes his first visit to the LATE SHOW. Also on the show, it is Day 64 of *Dave's Oprah Log*. Dave tells the audience that a groundswell of public support of "Oprah, Call Dave" has started, from people holding signs at the "Today Show" to a few protesters in front of Harpo Studios, Oprah's production company in Chicago. He also tells of a small sign in the front of a Peugeot repair shop in Portland, Ore. – "Oprah, Call Dave." Today's entry in *Dave's Oprah Log*: "A small ray of hope."
- Jan. 28: Day 82 of *Dave's Oprah Log* and Letterman has "reached an important decision... This will be our final entry" in the *Oprah Log*. He's decided he doesn't want to be on "Oprah" for "one simple reason... Oprah doesn't want me on her show." For posterity, the *Oprah Log* will be on "display" in the Ed Sullivan Theater Lobby because "it's too valuable a document."
- Feb. 1: David Letterman marks his 20th anniversary in late night television. Joining him on tonight's LATE SHOW are television personality and frequent Letterman guest Regis Philbin and standup comedy star Steven Wright.

- Feb. 6: New England Patriots kicker Adam Vinatieri talks about kicking the game winning field goal in Super Bowl XXXVI, leading the Patriots to their first-ever Super Bowl win.
- Feb. 11: Letterman's assistant, Stephanie Birkitt, presents the first of her "LATE SHOW Olympic Updates" from the Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City, where she talks with U.S. women's moguls silver medalist Shannon Bahrke and sings with the Foo Fighters' Dave Grohl.
- Feb. 20: Michael Bloomberg, New York City's new mayor, makes his first visit to the LATE SHOW when he presents the "Top Ten Ways I'll Improve New York City," including number five: "Free full body massage from your cabbie," and number three: "Mandatory ten o'clock curfew for Bill Clinton."
- Feb. 21: Dave's assistant Stephanie is joined at the Salt Lake City Winter Olympic Games by a famous LATE SHOW Olympic veteran – Dave's Mom, Dorothy. While Stephanie spends time with U.S. men's skiing silver medalist Bode Miller, Dorothy talks with U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, where she asks him, "What's your favorite figure skating move?" and "When are we going to put the hammer on Osama?"
- Feb. 22: Stephanie Birkitt presents her final "LATE SHOW Olympic Update" from the Salt Lake City Olympic Winter Games. Asked what she and Dave's Mom will do now that that Olympic Updates are finished, Dave's Mom says, "We're crossing the state line to buy some liquor."
- Feb. 25: Jill Bakken and Vonetta Flowers, U.S. Olympic gold medalists in the women's two-man bobsled, visit the show. In winning her gold medal, Flowers became the first black athlete from any country to win a gold medal at the Winter Olympics.
- Feb. 26: Letterman plays a clip of Attorney General John Ashcroft singing a tune that Ashcroft wrote himself, "Let the Eagle Soar," while giving a speech at a North Carolina theological seminary. Over the next few weeks, Letterman will play the clip almost nightly.
- March 11: After considering an offer to take his late night talk show to ABC, Letterman announces on the broadcast that he is staying at CBS, with a five-year extension of his contract with the Network.
- March 13: Letterman proudly announces that he has been named the "Male TV-Personality of the Year (Non-Swedish)" by the number one newspaper in Sweden, *Aftonbladet*, in their annual Television Awards.
- April 9: U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft, whose singing of his song, "Let the Eagle Soar," got plenty of broadcast time on the LATE SHOW, finally visits the CBS late night program. Letterman, throughout the interview, asks Ashcroft if he will sing on the broadcast, but unfortunately, Ashcroft does not.
- May 13: Recently married Liza Minnelli makes her first visit to the LATE SHOW.
- May 22: April Kleinschmidt, the valedictorian of Harrold High School in South Dakota, in which she was the only student, talks about what it was like to be in a high school class of only one person.
- June 7: Paul Shaffer's cape segment makes its first appearance; in an homage to an old James Brown

performance, while singing the Blood, Sweat and Tears song "I Love You More Than You'll Ever Know," Paul takes center stage while someone drapes a cape over him. Tonight's cape handler is David Letterman.

- June 14: LATE SHOW stage manager Biff Henderson presents his first "LATE SHOW CBS Mailbag 2002 Biff Henderson Map across America Summer Tour," where Henderson does his usual map pinpointing of from where viewer's letters were sent – but in various landmarks throughout the country. His first stop on his summer tour: the Grand Canyon.
- June 21: Biff Henderson's next stop on his "Map across America Summer Tour" takes him to Oahu, Hawaii, where he's joined by superstar Bruce Willis.
- July 15: The Dave Matthews Band delight fans as they perform on the roof of the Ed Sullivan Theater building during the show.
- July 19: "Nightline" anchor Ted Koppel makes his first visit to the LATE SHOW since Letterman announced that he was staying with CBS instead of moving his late-night show to ABC. Koppel also takes a turn handling the cape during Paul Shaffer's cape segment.
- July 31: Blaine Mayhugh, who survived the recent Pennsylvania coal mining disaster, tells Letterman about his harrowing ordeal when he visits the LATE SHOW.
- Aug. 1: Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band make the first of two consecutive appearances on the LATE SHOW. Their performance marks Springsteen's first visit to the show since 1995.
- Aug. 2: Before he and the E Street Band perform, Bruce Springsteen gives a rare interview to David Letterman.
- Aug. 21: Actor Al Pacino makes his first-ever visit to the LATE SHOW.
- Aug. 30: After visiting such locales as the Hollywood sign; Washington, D.C.; Las Vegas; the Statue of Liberty; and, St. Louis, among others, Biff Henderson presents his final "Map across America Summer Tour" segment from Mount Rushmore.
- Sept. 11: On the first anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, former President Bill Clinton makes a very special first visit to the LATE SHOW.
- Sept. 22: The LATE SHOW with DAVID LETTERMAN wins its fifth consecutive Emmy Award for "Outstanding Variety, Music or Comedy Program."
- Sept. 24: The LATE SHOW presents "The Battle of Cedar Creek" Civil War re-enactment on 53rd Street.
- Sept. 25: During the LATE SHOW's "New for Fall" segment, Letterman introduces the first "Dr. Phil's Words of Wisdom," out-of-context sound bites taken from Dr. Phil's new and popular self-help talk show. The "Words of Wisdom" will go on to be an almost-nightly feature of the LATE SHOW.
- Sept. 26: Phillippe Petit, who made the famous tightrope walk between the Twin Towers of the former World Trade Center, does a similar feat on the LATE SHOW when he tightrope walks between the Ed Sullivan Theater building over Broadway and to the building across the

street. Also on the show, Letterman expresses his wish that, since Paul Shaffer recently had a street in his hometown of Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada named after him, Letterman would also like a road named after him; not just any road, but the I-465 Expressway that runs around his hometown of Indianapolis – it would be renamed the "David Letterman Expressway."

- Oct. 3: In his continuing pursuit to have the I-465 around Indianapolis renamed the "Dave Letterman Expressway," the CBS late night host gives a call to Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson to see if there's anything he can do. Peterson says he will consider the idea.
- Oct. 9: Even though it's not exactly the I-465, the Indianapolis suburb of Lawrence renamed a portion of road "David Drive," which will intersect with, coincidentally, "Letterman Road." One mistake, though – the word David is misspelled "Daivd" on the street sign.
- Oct. 10: The people at Rand McNally send Letterman a special map of Indianapolis, with the I-465 renamed the "David Letterman Expressway." Letterman says he would now like the expressway called the "Dave Letterman Bypass," but eventually, it will just be known as "The Dave."
- Oct. 30: Warren Zevon is the sole guest on tonight's LATE SHOW with DAVID LETTERMAN and performs three of his classic songs on the broadcast.
- Oct. 31: Jerry Seinfeld debuts his new standup comedy routine and makes his first television standup comedy performance since March 2001 (which, coincidentally, was on the LATE SHOW) on tonight's broadcast.
- Nov. 11: At the end of tonight's broadcast, the show sets off a fireworks display by the famous Grucci fireworks family on the roof of the Ed Sullivan Theater and the marquee.
- Nov. 15: Former Vice President Al Gore gives his first late night television interview and makes his first appearance on the LATE SHOW since his Democratic run for the presidency in 2000.
- Nov. 18: Schoharie, N.Y. becomes the first small town to be brought in to see the LATE SHOW at the Ed Sullivan Theater in New York. The Schoharie-themed LATE SHOW features a "Biff Henderson's America" segment on the upstate New York town, a Top Ten List by Schoharie Mayor John Borst, plus visits from guest Kevin James and rock group matchbox twenty.
- Nov. 25: Rock group Audioslave become the first band to perform on the marquee of the Ed Sullivan Theater.
- Dec. 26: Letterman, Paul Shaffer and stage manager Biff Henderson discuss their special Christmas visit to the U.S. troops stationed in Afghanistan.

2003

- Jan. 9: Immediately following the "Top Ten Ways the Army is Different in 2003" presented by the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne Division at Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan, Capt. Ciro Stephano proposes to his girlfriend, Mary Cook, who Letterman has called to listen in. She happily says yes, and Stephano reacts with joy. (Since the Top Ten was on videotape, Letterman also showed Stephano's sad reaction if Cook said no.)

- Jan. 14 Hideki "Gozilla" Matsui, the New York Yankees newest team member, presents the "Top Ten Reasons I, Hideki Matsui, Signed with the New York Yankees," in Japanese – with English subtitles.
- Jan. 21 Mujibur Rahman and Sirajul Islam, a mainstay on Letterman's LATE SHOW since the show moved to CBS and the Ed Sullivan Theater, make their final appearance as Dave's neighbors as the Broadway store where they worked K& L's Rock America is set to close the next week.
- Feb. 4 Tampa Bay Buccaneers coach Jon Gruden visits the LATE SHOW to talk about his team's first and stunning upset of the Oakland Raiders in Super Bowl XXXVII. Also, Letterman gets the disappointing news that Indiana officials are thinking of naming the I-465 after Sen. Richard Lugar instead of after Letterman.
- Feb. 7: Paul Shaffer, whose cape homage to James Brown has become a weekly segment on the LATE SHOW, gets a visit from a very special cape handler – the "Godfather of Soul" himself, James Brown.
- Feb. 17 After months of nightly LATE SHOW airings of "Dr. Phil's Words of Wisdom", Dr. Phil finally makes his long-awaited visit to Letterman on the CBS late night broadcast. Also on the broadcast, due to a blizzard that has paralyzed the city, Letterman and two LATE SHOW models ride a snowmobile down 53rd Street to enter the Ed Sullivan Theater.
- Feb. 18 The day after the blizzard hits New York City, Mayor Michael Bloomberg presents the "Top Ten Good Things about Having 19.8 Inches of Snow in New York City," including number five: "I made a hundred bucks in overtime shoveling at Gracie Mansion," and number three: "Instead of 90 miles per hour, cabs traveling a more reasonable 60 miles per hour."
- Feb. 25 Grammy Award winner Norah Jones performs for the first time since her near-sweep at Sunday's Grammy Awards. Also, Letterman complains about his visibly puffy eye.
- Feb. 26 Due to an eye infection which is later diagnosed as shingles, David Letterman does not host the LATE SHOW. Bruce Willis, scheduled to be a guest on tonight's show, fills in as host. Letterman is out from that Wednesday through March 28, with a total of 14 guest hosts, including Paul Shaffer, Vince Vaughn, Elvis Costello, Whoopi Goldberg and "Everybody Loves Raymond" star Brad Garrett subbing for the recuperating CBS late night star.
- March 31: David Letterman returns to the LATE SHOW after recovering from a case of shingles. On the broadcast, Letterman thanks his dermatologist, Dr. Richard Granstein, for saving his face. Guest Billy Crystal, never too cautious, greets Letterman wearing plastic surgical gloves to shake the host's hand. Also on the broadcast, Letterman pays tribute to his longtime friend George Miller, who passed away the previous month, by broadcasting Miller's second stand-up comedy performance from "The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson" on July 20, 1976.
- April 1 After a New York City school student named Kate participates in the LATE SHOW's newest segment, "What's Your Problem?" at Rupert Jee's Hello Deli and tells Letterman that the reason she's there is to see guest Colin Farrell, Letterman hints that she may get to meet Farrell later in the show. Immediately following Farrell's interview segment, the Irish actor fulfills her wish and delights Kate by hanging out with her at the Hello Deli.
- May 5: Letterman revives an old tradition as his assistant Stephanie and stage hand Pat Farmer throw

stuff off the roof of the Ed Sullivan Theater, including a TV set that is broadcasting the LATE SHOW, super balls, a large bowl of chocolate pudding and bowling balls onto a used car. Later in the show, guest Kelly Ripa helps Stephanie and Pat throw more than 20 gallons of paint onto the street.

- May 7: Sen. Joseph Lieberman, who plans to run as a Democratic presidential candidate in 2004, presents the "Top Ten Reasons I, Joe Lieberman, Would Make a Great President."
- May 13: Chief Warrant Officers David Williams and Ronald Young, American prisoners of war who were rescued from Iraq, recount their time in captivity and their return home to the United States in April.
- May 19: On 53rd Street, "Monster Garage" host Jesse James unveils his latest transformation of an ordinary machine into an extraordinary vehicle – a New York City hot dog cart that has been made into a high-speed dragster.
- June 9: After slicing his pinky finger while cutting onions over the weekend trying to make Pasta Con Piselli (pasta with peas), Letterman gets his finger stitched on the show by orthopedic hand surgeon Dr. Robert Hotchkiss, with Letterman's personal physician Dr. Lou Arrone observing.
- June 11: During the LATE SHOW segment "Is This Anything?," the curtain rises to reveal members of the 2003 Stanley Cup Champion New Jersey Devils, who then hoist the Stanley Cup from the stage and through the aisles of the Ed Sullivan Theater.
- June 16: Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, who recently released her best-selling memoir, *Living History*, makes her first late-night television appearance to promote the book.
- June 17: Paul Teutul Sr. and Paul Teutul Jr., hosts of the Discovery Channel's "American Chopper" series, join Letterman on motorcycles and all three ride down Broadway.
- June 18: After Letterman takes a ride on a Segway scooter down 53rd Street, EPA Administrator Christine Todd Whitman takes a ride on one to greet Letterman on the stage of the Ed Sullivan Theater.
- July 16: Oakland A's pitcher Barry Zito, who two nights before had been replaced on the American League pitching roster by New York Yankee Roger Clemens for the All-Star Game, makes his first visit to the LATE SHOW. Although he didn't get a chance to pitch in the All-Star Game, he gets does get a chance to hurl some baseballs – from a building across the street and into windows at the Ed Sullivan Theater building.
- July 17: Former White House Press Secretary Ari Fleischer gives his first interview since leaving his White House post earlier that week. During the interview, Letterman and Fleischer discuss the controversy over the uranium statement in President Bush's State of the Union address, what Fleischer looks forward to now that he's moving into the private sector, and the President's pronunciation of the word 'nuclear.'"
- July 21: Hiker Aron Ralston, who had to amputate his own arm after a boulder fell on him during a canyon trek in Utah, tells his miraculous tale of survival in his first late night television appearance.

- July 23: Ten members of the National Baseball Hall of Fame, including Rollie Fingers, Ozzie Smith and Gary Carter, present the TopTen "Perks of Being a Member of the National Baseball Hall of Fame."
- July 24: Rookie professional golfer Ben Curtis, who shocked the world when he recently won the grueling British Open in his first attempt at a major championship, talks about his stunning victory – and even gets a chance to hit a golf ball off the roof of the Ed Sullivan Theater building onto a putting green on a building below – when he visits the LATE SHOW.
- Aug. 26: Tennis legend Pete Sampras, who a day before announced his retirement from professional tennis on the opening night of the U.S. Open, talks about his momentous decision with Letterman.
- Aug. 29: To mark the LATE SHOW's 10th anniversary on CBS, the show presents a special 10th anniversary edition of "Know Your Current Events," with categories such as "Know Your Dave Letterman Illnesses and Injuries" and "Know Your Guests Who Will No Longer Appear on Our Show." Also, LATE SHOW staff members present the "Top Ten Things I Have Learned Working for the LATE SHOW"; among them, number five: Writer Gerard Mulligan: "We really are a family, and Dave is the crazy uncle everyone is hoping will be put in a home," and number one: Musical Director Paul Shaffer: "It's much easier if I just tell people I work for Leno."
- Sept. 8: Letterman pays tribute to musician Warren Zevon, who passed away on Sept. 7.
- Sept. 12: Letterman announces on his show that he and his girlfriend, Regina Lasko, are expecting their first child and says that at his age, "not only will I be the baby's father, I'll also be the grandfather."
- Sept. 24: New York Giants placekicker Matt Bryant kicks field goals on the roof of the Ed Sullivan Theater, while Lynne Cheney, wife of Vice President Dick Cheney, makes her first visit to the show and Letterman asks her whether Vice President Cheney's "undisclosed location" comes with a mini-bar.
- Sept. 29: The New York Philharmonic performs the overture from Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro" during tonight's broadcast, but not in the Ed Sullivan Theater – rather, the Philharmonic, led by conductor Lorin Maazel, took their performance outside and on the roof of the Ed Sullivan Theater building.
- Nov. 3: While Letterman is at the hospital awaiting the arrival of his first child, Paul Shaffer subs as host of the LATE SHOW tonight.
- Nov. 4: Letterman proudly announces that "last night at 11:58, I became a father" to his first son, Harry Joseph Letterman, 9 lbs., 11 oz. and 21 inches long. Letterman, who shows off first photo of little Harry (who he and Regina named after Letterman's father), says that "I could never imagine being a part of something that turned out this beautiful."
- Nov. 25: Letterman makes an on-air plea to celebute Paris Hilton, who canceled her scheduled appearance on Nov. 26 because a sex tape was released of her and her ex-boyfriend, with the "Top Ten Reasons Paris Hilton Should Be on the Show," including number 10: "Chance to show America what she looks like with her clothes on," and number one: "If she wants, she can see *me* naked."

2004

- Jan. 7: Baseball legends Paul Molitor and Dennis Eckersley, Major League Baseball's Hall of Fame class of 2004, present the "Top Ten Things I'd Like to Get Off My Chest Now That I'm in the Baseball Hall of Fame."
- Jan. 12: Democratic Presidential Candidate Dick Gephardt presents the "Top Ten Signs You've Been on the Campaign Trail Too Long," including number 10: "Every speech begins: 'It's great to be wherever the hell I am today,'" and number two: "Agree to appear on lame late night talk show."
- Jan. 22: After setting off a swirl of controversy after a fiery, energetic speech after his loss at the Iowa Caucuses earlier in the week, Democratic Presidential candidate Howard Dean makes light of the situation when he presents the "Top Ten Ways I, Howard Dean, Can Turn Things Around," including number 10: "Switch to decaf" and number two: "Fire staffer who suggested doing lousy Top Ten List instead of actually campaigning."
- Feb. 4: Bill Belichick, head coach of the Super Bowl-winning New England Patriots, talks about his second Super Bowl win coaching the team when he visits the show. Also on the broadcast, Democratic Presidential Candidate Sen. John Edwards presents the "Top Ten Things Never Before Said by a Presidential Candidate," including number seven: "I'd give you my plan for economic recovery if I wasn't rip stinkin' drunk," and number two: "When I'm President, I'm putting Regis on Mt. Rushmore."
- Feb. 9: X-Games snowboarding star Tara Dakides, who was injured during the taping of the Feb. 5 LATE SHOW when she attempted one of her trademarks jumps on a ramp outside the theater on 53rd Street, returns to the LATE SHOW in perfect health and good spirits, and also takes her first look at the video of her fall. Also on the broadcast, The Beatles "perform" on the broadcast – in honor of The Beatles' first performance on the "Ed Sullivan Show" 40 years ago, the LATE SHOW airs the video of The Beatles' performance of "I Want to Hold Your Hand" from the Feb. 9, 1964 "Ed Sullivan Show."
- Feb. 17: Daytona 500 winner Dale Earnhardt Jr. gets a different kind of driving experience during his visit to the LATE SHOW – parking cars on 53rd Street.
- March 1: Guest Anne Heche gets a surprise during her interview with Letterman, when Richard Hatch, the "fat naked guy" winner of the first "Survivor" and recent evictee of "Survivor: All-Stars," walks out onstage in the area behind Letterman's desk and is, of course, completely naked.
- March 3: Ten members of California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's staff present the "Top Ten Things Governor Schwarzenegger Hears in a Typical Day," including number six: "Letterman on the phone again – should I tell him you are still in a meeting?" and number four: "Relax, Governor, I wasn't sent from the future to kill you."
- March 22: Democratic Presidential Candidate Dennis Kucinich presents the "Top Ten Ways Dennis Kucinich Can Still Be the Next President of the United States," including number eight: "Act like a boob so people perceive me as more Presidential," and number four: "Just wait till I unleash my new campaign slogan: 'Kucizzle in the Hizzle!'" Also on the broadcast, LATE

SHOW stage manager Biff Henderson shows video from his arthroscopic knee surgery.

- March 29: Janet Jackson gives her first television interview since her infamous “wardrobe malfunction” at the Super Bowl XXXVIII halftime show. Also on the broadcast, Nobel Prize winner in economics, Professor Robert Mundell, tells “You might be a redneck” jokes during the show, and the LATE SHOW debuts the video “George W. Bush Invigorating America’s Youth,” which shows a young Bush supporter yawning during a speech by the President.
- April 2: After the LATE SHOW video segment “George W. Bush Invigorating America’s Youth” creates a maelstrom of media interest, the yawning boy from the video, 13-year-old Tyler Crotty from Orlando, Florida, appears on the show. When Letterman asks what he thought of the clip, Crotty exclaims, “I find it hysterical!”
- April 12: Letterman celebrates his 57th birthday with newest New York Yankee Alex Rodriguez and one of the Yankees’ biggest fans, superstar Billy Crystal. After his interview with Rodriguez, Letterman pitches baseballs for all-star Rodriguez to hit on 53rd Street, and also has Yankees star Jorge Posada behind the plate as catcher.
- April 29: U.S. Olympic softball team pitcher Jennie Finch visits the broadcast, and gets a chance to display her hurling skills when she pitches from the roof of the Ed Sullivan Theater to 8th floor office windows.
- May 4: Nobel Prize-winning Professor Robert Mundell returns to the show, this time to tell “Yo Mama” jokes throughout the broadcast.
- May 5: The show celebrates Cinco de Mayo by having a Mariachi band perform on the marquee of the Ed Sullivan Theater all night long.
- May 14: The LATE SHOW takes the term “late night” quite literally when it pulls an all-nighter to present the “4 AM Show” taped at 4 AM Friday morning. Letterman starts the broadcast by riding a horse down an empty Broadway and 53rd Street to enter the Theater. Featured during the groundbreaking broadcast are actress Amy Sedaris, who takes the audience on a tour of her West Village neighborhood before dawn, a video remote of Biff Henderson spending the night with the NYPD, rat expert Robert Sullivan and musical guests Modest Mouse.
- May 19: Arizona Diamondbacks pitcher Randy Johnson, who last night pitched only the 17th perfect game in Major League Baseball history, presents the “Top Ten Cool Things about Pitching a Perfect Game,” including number 10: “After this, I can go 0-15 for the rest of the year and honestly not give a crap” and number seven: “Cool to get congratulatory call from the President, even though he kept calling me ‘Larry.’”
- May 24: Ten cast members from the hit television show “The Sopranos,” including stars James Gandolfini, Edie Falco, Michael Imperioli and Dominic Chianese present the “Top Ten Things Never Before Said on ‘The Sopranos.’”
- May 25: Ten NBA Hall of Famers, including Walt Frazier, Oscar Robertson, Bill Walton, Clyde Drexler and Bill Walton, present the “Top Ten Signs Your Team Is Not Going to Win the NBA Finals.”
- June 9: Rahal Letterman IRL driver, Buddy Rice, who won the 2004 Indianapolis 500, visits with team co-owner Letterman to celebrate their victory in the legendary race.

- June 11: On its second anniversary, the LATE SHOW bids adieu to the “Big Cape” segment, Paul Shaffer’s homage to a James Brown performance where a large cape is draped over him. Since its debut June 7, 2002, 65 different celebrities, including James Brown himself, have participated in the cape. Tonight, music legend Paul Anka says goodbye to the cape with a special song in tribute to the segment.
- June 14: Paris Hilton, who last November canceled a scheduled appearance on the LATE SHOW because of a sex tape that was released by an ex-boyfriend, finally makes her first visit to the LATE SHOW.
- June 21: Superstar jam band Phish, who will disband after their current tour is over, draws a huge crowd outside the Ed Sullivan Theater when they perform on the Ed Sullivan Marquee over Broadway during the show taping. After taping their performance on the show, they continue to play a mini-concert on the marquee, to the delight of thousands of fans filling Broadway and surrounding streets.
- July 26: The United States Olympic Synchronized Swimming Team debuts part of their Olympic routine when they perform on the show in a pool constructed outside the Ed Sullivan Theater on 53rd Street.
- Aug. 5: Gerard Mulligan, a writer with David Letterman for 25 years and a familiar face to both “Late Night” and LATE SHOW viewers retires and marks his last day at the show as a guest on the broadcast, which features a montage of Mulligan’s memorable appearances on both late night shows, as well as Letterman’s 1980 morning show, “The David Letterman Show.”
- Aug. 24: The gold-medal winning U.S. Women’s Olympic Softball team present the “Top Ten Signs You’re Not Going to Win a Gold Medal in Olympic Softball” via satellite from the Olympics in Athens, Greece.
- Aug. 25: Paul Hamm, gold-medal winning U.S. men’s gymnast in the All-Around, visits the show and talks about the controversy over his gold medal after it was discovered that a South Korean gymnast had suffered a scoring error by the judges and in theory scored higher than Hamm, but the medal had already been awarded to Hamm and the decision could not be changed.
- Aug. 26: Multi-medal winning U.S. Olympic swimmer Natalie Coughlin visits the show to talk about her amazing feat at the Olympic Summer Games – winning five medals, to equal the most won by an American woman at one Olympic Games.
- Sept. 1: Biff Henderson, reporting from the Republican National Convention in New York City, talks with documentary filmmaker Michael Moore, whose “Fahrenheit 911” has become a box office blockbuster and who the other night was jeered by Sen. John McCain during his speech at the Convention. Later in the show, guest Sen. McCain addresses Moore’s comments and the situation and does admit that he did not know that Moore was in the audience when he was making his speech.
- Sept. 20: Democratic Presidential Candidate John Kerry makes his first visit to the LATE SHOW.
- Sept. 30: Tim Frisby, a 39-year-old freshman football player for the University of South Carolina Gamecocks, visits the show. Frisby spent the last 20 years as a member of the U.S Army in the 82nd Airborne before going to college and playing NCAA football.

- Oct. 7: Donald Trump is ever the good sport when he takes part in playing the popular LATE SHOW game “Trump or Monkey,” where he has to guess which one of three photos of hair is either his or a monkey’s – and successfully guesses which hair is his.
- Oct. 21: Curt Schilling, who pitched on a hurt ankle to help lead the Boston Red Sox to a Game 6 victory over the New York Yankees to win the American League Championship, presents the “Top Ten Secrets to the Boston Red Sox Comeback,” including number nine: “We put flu virus in Jeter’s Gatorade” and number three: “We pretended the baseball was Letterman’s head.”
- Nov. 1: Johnny Damon, who helped his Boston Red Sox win their first World Series win in 86 years with a sweep of the St. Louis Cardinals, celebrates his team’s victory on the LATE SHOW.
- Nov. 19: Tom Brady, quarterback of the reigning Super Bowl champion New England Patriots, visits the show and he and Dave compete in the “Late Show Quarterback Challenge” by tossing footballs into windows of cabs driving down Broadway.
- Nov. 23: Ben Roethlisberger, rookie quarterback for the Pittsburgh Steelers who set an NFL record by winning his first eight games to start a career, visits the show and he and Dave attempt to throw footballs into windows of passing cabs on Broadway during the “Quarterback Challenge,” but each go 0-for-4.
- Nov. 30: Ken Jennings, who earlier in the evening lost on “Jeopardy” after winning 74 consecutive games and amassing a record \$2.5 million, talks about his incredible run on the television game show and later participates in a little “LATE SHOW Jeopardy” with Letterman.
- Dec. 2: After reading and hearing about Cleveland news anchor Sharon Reed’s report on appearing nude for a report she did on artist Spencer Tunick’s nude photo shoot in Cleveland, Reed appears on the LATE SHOW, after a week of pleading by Letterman, to discuss why she did the report naked.
- Dec. 3: Auto racing star Alex Zanardi, who lost both his legs after a horrific car accident in 2001, makes his first visit to the show since the accident.

2005

- Jan. 11 The newest New York Yankee Randy Johnson visits the show. The day before, Johnson made headlines when he was photographed pushing a reporter’s video camera lens out of his way. When he walks out on stage tonight, Johnson pokes fun at the incident by putting his hand in front of one of the LATE SHOW cameras and shoving it aside.
- Jan. 20 David Letterman explains to the audience why he did not host the show last night, with Paul Shaffer subbing as host – he, along with Rahal Letterman Racing co-owner Bobby Rahal, was in Dearborn, Michigan at the Automotive News World Congress accepting the BorgWarner Team Owner’s Trophy for Buddy Rice’s victory in the 2004 Indianapolis 500. Letterman proudly displays a replica of the trophy on tonight’s show.
- Jan. 31: After the passing of talk show legend Johnny Carson, Letterman and the LATE SHOW feature an entire broadcast dedicated to the memory of Carson. The entire monologue consists of jokes that Johnny Carson had been writing for Letterman’s monologue over the

last few years. Guests on the show include Worldwide Pants executive and former “The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson” executive producer Peter Lassally and musical guest and former “Tonight Show” bandleader Doc Severinsen, who, along with former “Tonight Show” orchestra members Tommy Newsome and Ed Shaughnessy, perform “Here’s That Rainy Day,” Carson’s favorite song.

- Feb. 10: Patrick Lawler, a construction worker who unknowingly shot a 4-inch nail into his skull, talks about what happened and the steps that doctors took to finally remove the nail after six days of it being in his head. He also brought along the X-rays of his skull showing the nail, which Letterman shows to the audience.
- Feb. 28: Jay Quinlan, the “Godfather of freestyle snowmobiling,” performs snowmobile stunts on 53rd Street all night long during the show.
- March 15: Mario Vasquez, one of this season’s “American Idol” and who recently abruptly quit the competition, presents the “Top Ten Reasons I left ‘American Idol.’” He presents most of the list and after number four, “Screw it – I’m quitting this too,” he also quits the Top Ten and walks off stage.
- April 6: Jane Fonda makes her first appearance on the LATE SHOW and first visit with Letterman since 1986. In the wide ranging interview, she talks about her marriage to Ted Turner, her 1972 trip to Vietnam and her feelings on the current war in Iraq.
- April 15: Daniel Tammet, mathematical savant and documentary film subject, displays his genius on the LATE SHOW, explaining how he’s able to figure out numbers so well, and even able to tell what day Letterman was born and what day he will turn 65 – both Saturdays.
- May 5: Orlando Bloom, who Letterman mentions as having starred in many movies where he’s in costume, appropriately comes out for his interview in costume and donning a police uniform.
- May 9: Hall of Fame jockey Mike Smith, who over the weekend won the 131st Kentucky Derby riding longshot horse Giacomo, presents the “Top Ten Tips for Winning the Kentucky Derby,” including number seven: “Practice by riding a lot of merry-go-rounds,” and number one: “It helps if your trainer is Jose Canseco.”
- May 16: On the night his Emmy Award-winning blockbuster comedy show “Everybody Loves Raymond” ends its long run on CBS, Ray Romano visits the LATE SHOW. Also on the show, “Star Wars” characters present the Top Ten List.
- May 17: Newsmaking celebrity couple Britney Spears and Kevin Federline present the “Top Ten Reasons To Watch Britney Spears and Kevin Federline’s New Show.” Spears and Federline are starring in the UPN reality show “Britney and Kevin: Chaotic.”
- May 23: Rahal Letterman Racing driver Danica Patrick talks about being the fourth woman ever to qualify for the Indianapolis 500 and about achieving the best starting position ever for a woman in the upcoming race. Also on the show, Academy Award-winning movie legend Paul Newman gets a lift – literally – when he is buoyed in the air by over 6,000 balloons that “Mythbusters” hosts Jamie Hyneman and Adam Savage corralled to prove that a person can be carried aloft if they’re carrying too many party balloons.
- May 24: Reggie Miller, who after 18 years is retiring from the NBA and Letterman’s beloved Indiana

Pacers, visits the show to talk about his decision to retire.

- June 9: Actress Katie Holmes, whose relationship with Tom Cruise has made headlines around the world, talks about her whirlwind courtship with the megastar and Cruise's couch-jumping profession of love for Holmes on "Oprah."
- June 16: President Bill Clinton makes his first visit to the show since his quadruple bypass surgery and shares heart surgery stories with Letterman, who had quintuple bypass surgery in 2000.
- June 23: Actor Tom Cruise, who recently got engaged to actress Katie Holmes after a whirlwind romance, talks about their relationship and his proposal on the Eiffel Tower in Paris. In the event that Tom spontaneously decides that he and Katie should get married right that very minute on the show, Letterman has Judge Larry Block on standby in the greenroom to marry them.
- July 1: Johnny Dark, the world's oldest CBS Page, makes his first visit to the LATE SHOW.
- Aug. 1: Lance Armstrong, who just won his record seventh Tour de France cycling championship, talks about his feat when he visits the show.
- Aug. 30: The LATE SHOW with DAVID LETTERMAN broadcasts in High Definition Television for the first time tonight. Also on the show, Space Shuttle Discovery Commander Eileen Collins talks about the recent mission and also the daring backflip she had to maneuver around the Shuttle so she could do repairs to the craft, the first time repairs have been done to a spacecraft in orbit.
- Sept. 1: Florida Marlins bat boy Nick Cirillo, who, on a dare from Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher and former Marlin Brad Penny, drank a gallon of milk in under an hour and was later suspended by the Marlins, talks about what happened that led to his six-game suspension from the team.
- Sept. 7: Musician, composer and producer Allen Toussaint, who was in New Orleans when Hurricane Katrina hit and escaped safely, sits in with Paul Shaffer and the CBS Orchestra all night long.
- Sept. 16: Television mogul Ted Turner makes his first visit to the LATE SHOW. Also on the broadcast, New Orleans music legends the Neville Brothers and the Meters, who will be participating in a pay-per-view benefit concert for victims of Hurricane Katrina, perform on the show.
- Sept. 19: Martha Stewart makes her first late night talk show appearance and first appearance on the LATE SHOW since Nov. 2002 after serving a five-month prison sentence – and over five months under house arrest – stemming from the ImClone Systems Inc. stock investigation.
- Sept. 22: Australian Rules Football player Brett Backwell reveals his way of longevity as a player – after breaking and dislocating the ring finger of his left hand one too many times, he decided, even after doctors' protestations, to have it removed.
- Sept. 3: After months of being "put away" by LATE SHOW staffers and celebrities, the LATE SHOW Bear will be "put away" for the very last time, by two enthusiastic audience members who requested to do the task.

- Oct. 6: Talk show host Jon Stewart reveals that his wife is pregnant with their second child during his appearance on the show.
- Oct. 4: Controversial Philadelphia Eagles wide receiver Terrell Owens visits the show and when he and Letterman try to catch passes out on 53rd Street, a cab “runs over” T.O. – luckily, due to the wonders of television (and comedy), Owens gets up and is just fine.
- Oct. 11: Actor Woody Harrelson announces on the LATE SHOW tonight that his wife is expecting their third child.
- Oct. 20: Superstar Madonna, who talks about her recent fall from a horse over the summer, gets back on the saddle for the first time since the fall when she and Letterman get on horses and take a ride down 53rd Street.
- Nov. 9: During her guest appearance on the show, talk show host Kelly Ripa gets a surprise at the end of her segment – her on-air partner Regis Philbin is there to pick her up in a convertible when her segment is over.
- Nov. 10: Eighteen-year-old Michael Sessions, who was elected mayor of Hillsdale, Michigan as a write-in candidate, presents the “Top Ten Good Things about Being an 18-Year-Old Mayor.”
- Nov. 21: On tonight’s show, Letterman announced that Oprah Winfrey will finally appear on the broadcast on Dec. 1 after 16 years. During the show, Letterman said, “What a big night that is going to be – not only for us, not only for Oprah, but for Broadway.” Winfrey’s musical “The Color Purple” premieres Dec. 1, the same night as her LATE SHOW appearance.
- Nov. 22: In anticipation of Oprah’s long-awaited LATE SHOW appearance on Dec. 1, Dr. Phil McGraw presents the “Top Ten Dr. Phil Tips for Interviewing Oprah,” including number 10: “Keep questions short – the less you talk, the better,” and number eight: “Bond over forming a club of people who won’t marry their mates.”
- Nov. 29: Regis Philbin and Donald Trump perform a duet of “Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer,” which is featured on Philbin’s new Christmas CD, on the show.
- Dec. 1: The day has finally arrived: Oprah Winfrey makes her first visit to the LATE SHOW and her first appearance with Letterman in 16 years and is greeted with a standing ovation by the LATE SHOW audience. After the interview, in which Oprah dismisses the notion of any sort of feud she had with Letterman, Letterman escorts her hand in hand to the red carpet for the premiere of her musical, “The Color Purple,” which debuts right across the street from the Ed Sullivan Theater at the Broadway Theater. Letterman’s interview with Oprah garnered the fourth highest ratings for the LATE SHOW since its debut, attracting an audience of 13.45 million viewers.
- Dec. 19: After injuring his hand over the weekend trying to fix something, Letterman has the stitches in his hand removed on the show by Dr. Richard Hotchkiss from the Hospital for Special Surgery.

2006

- Jan. 3: Bill O’Reilly and Letterman kick off the New Year with a fiery discussion over Iraq,

prompting Letterman to tell the pundit that “I have a feeling about 60% of what you say is crap.”

- Jan. 19: After Indianapolis Colts place kicker Mike Vanderjagt missed a make-or-break 45-yard field goal attempt in the team’s playoff loss to the Pittsburgh Steelers, Letterman tries to make the loss of his beloved Colts right again by having Vanderjagt attempt another 46-yarder on the LATE SHOW. Outside on 53rd Street, with Colts long snapper Justin Snow on hand and Letterman ready to take the snap and hold the ball, Vanderjagt makes the field goal easily.
- Feb. 6: Ben Roethlisberger, who, after just winning Super Bowl XL with the Pittsburgh Steelers, became the youngest quarterback ever to win a Super Bowl, celebrates the Steelers victory by allowing Letterman, with the assistance of an audience member, to shave his trademark beard.
- Feb. 8: Similar to a concert film shot entirely by fans given video cameras at a 2004 Madison Square Garden concert, the Beastie Boys give several cameras to some audience members as well as Letterman and Paul Shaffer to shoot the Beasties’ performance on the show tonight.
- Feb. 10: This week, the show takes the “floating” on the road, when it presents the first in a series of the “Will it Float’ Travel Edition.” This week, the LATE SHOW models, Hula Hoop Girl and Grinder Girl try floating a Dustbuster in a 12-foot-deep ocean habitat pool at Marineland in St. Augustine, Florida.
- Feb. 24: The latest stop on the “Will It Float’ Travel Edition” tour is the Playboy Mansion Grotto in Los Angeles. Joining the “Will It Float” crew this week to see if an ionic air purifier floats or sinks in the Playboy Mansion Grotto is none other than *Playboy* impresario Hugh Hefner.
- March 27: Mark Fainaru-Wada and Lance Williams talk about their controversial new book, *Game of Shadows*, which focuses on baseball and steroids and Barry Bonds’ alleged steroid use. Also on the show, Letterman pays tribute to Rahal Letterman Racing driver Paul Dana, who died over the weekend in a tragic accident at Homestead-Miami Speedway.
- April 10: When newest New York Yankee Johnny Damon visits the show, he takes part in a mini-baseball game on 53rd Street, with Damon and actor/Yankee fan Billy Crystal at bat and Letterman at the mound. New York Yankees manager Joe Torre, watching from the sidelines, steps in to relieve Dave and pitch a few balls to Damon and Crystal.
- April 27: David Ogren, the world’s fastest golfer, breaks the record for most golf balls hit in a 30-minute period by hitting over 1,010 golf balls. Joining him to take a few shots on the roof of the Ed Sullivan Theater building is guest and avid golfer Michael Douglas.
- May 4: After their performance on the LATE SHOW, rock stars Pearl Jam perform an exclusive, live webcast concert from the Ed Sullivan Theater. The concert is streamed live on the LATE SHOW website at www.cbs.com, and marks the first time the LATE SHOW has used the Ed Sullivan Theater as a concert venue.
- May 9: Britney Spears makes a surprise visit to the show and announces to Letterman that she is expecting her second child, but lets the host know “don’t worry, Dave, it’s not yours.”
- May 18: Eagles of Death Metal put a new twist on performing outside the Ed Sullivan Theater during tonight’s show – they perform on the southwest corner of 53rd Street and Broadway, right on

the sidewalk.

- June 14: Outspoken Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban visits the show and talks about the millions of dollars he's been fined by the NBA for acting up on the sidelines, and also shares his thoughts on Donald Trump. When Letterman asks if he's ever met Trump, Cuban replies, "You can have him."
- June 21: Dwayne Wade, who last night helped the Miami Heat win the NBA Championship, talks about the team's comeback from a 0-to-2 game deficit to win four games in a row and the title over the Dallas Mavericks when he visits the show.
- June 26: After his interview is over, actor Kevin Spacey decides to take a ride on the X-Treme Air Skydiving Simulator, which allows him to float in mid-air as if he was skydiving.
- June 29: After the viral video of the "Extreme Diet Coke and Mentos Experiment" creates an Internet frenzy, experiment creators Fritz Grobe and Stephen Voltz perform the experiment, which involves fountains spraying from bottles of Diet Coke with Mentos dropped in them, on 53rd Street.
- July 12: A day after appearing in his first All-Star Game, New York Mets star and baseball sensation David Wright talks with Letterman in his first appearance on the show.
- July 26: When "American Chopper" stars Paul Teutul Jr. and Sr. and Mikey Teutul visit the show to introduce their new mass production bike, the OCC Splitback, Letterman decides to try the bike out and takes a ride on the Splitback down 53rd Street and around the block.
- Aug. 22: House Minority Leader Rep. Nancy Pelosi talks about being the highest-ranking woman to hold elected office in U.S. history and her thoughts on possibly becoming Speaker of the House if the Democrats win control after the elections in November.
- Aug. 28: Freestyle motocross star Travis Pastrana performs high-flying stunts on 53rd Street all throughout tonight's show. Also on the show, comedian Larry David makes a rare television appearance when he presents the "Top Ten Reasons I Didn't Win an Emmy."
- Aug. 31: After having her bathroom break broadcast across the nation when she left her microphone on, CNN anchor Kyra Phillips pokes fun at herself when she presents the "Top Ten Kyra Phillips Excuses," including number nine: "Larry King told me he does this all the time," and number five: "I was set up by those bastards at Fox News." Also on the show, shock jocks Opie & Anthony make their first appearance.
- Sept. 13: The 10 NASCAR drivers involved in the "Chase for the Nextel Cup," including Jimmie Johnson, Dale Earnhardt Jr., Mark Martin and Jeff Gordon, present the "Top Ten Things Never Before Said by a NASCAR Driver."
- Sept. 14: Twenty-six year old Pittsburgh mayor Luke Ravenstahl, the youngest mayor of a major American city, talks about his meteoric rise in Pittsburgh politics when he visit the show.
- Sept. 18: The LATE SHOW presents "Ventriloquist Week," a week-long extravaganza featuring the top ventriloquist talent in show business, including Willie Tyler and Lester, Jay Johnson and Darwin, Todd Oliver and Irving, Jeff Dunham and Walter, and Ronn Lucas and Scorch.

- Sept. 22: Cleveland Cavaliers star LeBron James makes his first visit the show, and later displays his basketball prowess alongside Letterman, as James shoots three-pointers while Letterman hits free throws outside the Ed Sullivan Theater on 53rd Street.
- Sept. 26: Eleven-year-old Lily Capehart, the “lizard whisperer,” shows off her lizard hypnotizing techniques when she puts lizards in trances and dresses them in different outfits on the show.
- Sept. 27: Actress Amanda Peet, who is four months pregnant with her first child, announces that she’s getting married over the weekend in New York to her longtime fiancé. Also on the show, Bob Seger, who performs with his Silver Bullet Band, announces that he will be touring for the first time in a decade.
- Sept. 28: After recently canceling a scheduled appearance to present the “Top Ten List,” former New Jersey Governor “Jim McGreevey,” played by former LATE SHOW writer Gerard Mulligan, presents the “Top Ten Chapter Titles in Jim McGreevey’s Book,” including number 10: “The Day I Got Caught Governing Myself,” and number six: “At First I Thought I Was Just Bipartisan.”
- Oct. 2: Pete Rose visits with Letterman for the first time in 15 years, and comments that although he took “greenies” as a player, which he deemed nothing more than “diet pills,” he never used performance-enhancing drugs like steroids, although “if I took steroids, I’d have gotten 5,000 damn hits.”
- Oct. 11: Pop star Nick Lachey lets out some revelations to Letterman when he visits the show, including that he still keeps in touch with his ex, Jessica Simpson, and that the reality show he and Simpson did together, “Newlyweds,” was “among the dumber ideas I think I’ve ever seen executed in history.”
- Oct. 27: Bill O’Reilly, who famously tussled with Letterman on the Jan. 2, 2006 LATE SHOW, returns to the program for some more heated back-and-forth with the late night host.
- Oct. 30: Fictional Kazakhstani journalist Borat (a.k.a Sascha Baron Cohen) makes his first late night talk show appearance on the LATE SHOW. Also on the broadcast, New York Giants running back Tiki Barber talks about his decision to retire from football at the end of the season.
- Nov. 3: Musician, author and now Texas gubernatorial candidate Kinky Friedman talks about his popular independent campaign to be the next governor of Texas when he visits the show.
- Nov. 6: Britney Spears, debuting a sleek new look and hairstyle after having her second child almost two months ago, surprises Letterman on his show. A day later, news breaks that Spears has filed for divorce from her husband of two years, Kevin Federline. Also on the show, Will Ferrell, whose wife is expecting their second child, reveals exclusively to Letterman that their upcoming baby will be a boy.
- Nov. 8: Members of the Metropolitan Opera give a sneak peek at their new production of “Il Barbiere di Siviglia” when they perform a portion of the opera on the show, the first time the LATE SHOW has had an opera production as a musical guest.
- Nov. 13: Hot on the heels of the popular “Ventriloquist Week,” the LATE SHOW presents a week of legendary impressionist when it presents “Impressionist Week,” including the talents of Rich

Little, Fred Travalena, Frank Caliendo, Gordie Brown and Kevin Pollak

- Nov. 20: After being heckled at a comedy club and making racial comments at the hecklers during a performance at a comedy club in Los Angeles over the weekend, comedian Michael Richards, at the request of that night's scheduled LATE SHOW guest, former "Seinfeld" co-star Jerry Seinfeld, appears on the show via satellite and publicly apologizes for his tirade.
- Dec. 4: CBS announces that David Letterman has signed a deal with the Network to extend his contract through the fall of 2010.
- Dec. 15: Academy Award winning actor Clint Eastwood makes his first appearance on the LATE SHOW.

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- Jan. 4: Wesley Autrey, who heroically jumped in the path of an oncoming train to save someone who fell onto New York City subway tracks, recounts his amazing tale of bravery on the show.
- Jan. 5: Donald Trump continues his feud with talk show host and comedian Rosie O'Donnell when he goes on the LATE SHOW and tells Letterman that "I've always felt she's a degenerate."
- Jan. 10: Baseball legends Cal Ripken Jr. and Tony Gwynn, who receive a standing ovation from the LATE SHOW audience, present the "Top Ten Good Things About Being Elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame." Ripken Jr. and Gwynn were named to the Hall of Fame the previous day, being the top two vote getters this year.
- Jan. 11: Madonna visits the show and she and Letterman talk about the current trend of celebrity women, like Britney Spears, not wearing underpants. When Letterman says that he still has a pair of underpants that she gave him many years ago, Madonna says, "Maybe you could send them to Britney."
- Jan. 16: Superstar Diana Ross visits the show, and when Letterman asks her if she has seen or plans to see the hit film version of "Dreamgirls," Ross jokes that she's "heard a lot about it. I'm going to see it with my lawyers."
- Feb. 1 David Letterman marks 25 years in late night television on this date. Bill Murray, who was the first guest on "Late Night" and the first guest on the LATE SHOW, visits the LATE SHOW tonight, along with Cleveland Cavaliers star LeBron James.

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