

How to watch every Nate Bargatze stand-up special

BY NATALIE OGANESYAN
Parade

Dubbed the “nicest man in stand-up” by *The Atlantic*, the Tennessee-hailing Nate Bargatze has seen his star on the rise for the past several years. In just half a decade, he has released numerous specials, hosted “Saturday Night Live,” been nominated for a Grammy and announced a forthcoming personal essay collection titled “Big Dumb Eyes.”

Known for his everman comedic sensibility and relatable self-deprecating humor, Bargatze’s most-known bit is perhaps his Starbucks order, in which he – not once, but twice – was served a full cup of milk or cream, with no coffee in it.

Aside from his four standalone specials, and upcoming fifth due by the end of the year, Bargatze has appeared on late night shows with Conan O’Brien, Seth Meyers and Jimmy Fallon, as well as on fellow comic John Mulaney’s talk show “Ev-

erybody’s in LA.” How to watch Nate Bargatze’s stand-up specials:

FULL TIME MAGIC

In 2015, following his first comedy album “Yelled at by a Clown,” Bargatze released “Full Time Magic,” a Comedy Central special that marked his first entry into one-hour TV sets. The special, which can now be viewed on Paramount+ for subscribers or rented and purchased on Apple TV+ or Prime Video, established Bargatze’s niche as a comedian who touts his most embarrassing and wacky slice-of-life experiences. Streaming on Paramount+

THE TENNESSEE KID

The first of his two Netflix specials, “The Tennessee Kid,” shot outside of Atlanta, Georgia, was released in 2019. While Bargatze had worked with Netflix before on a 30-minute-long self-titled episode of “The Standups,” “The Tennessee Kid” marked his first solo one-hour ven-

ture with the streamer. Streaming on Netflix

THE GREATEST AVERAGE AMERICAN

Produced mid-pandemic and filmed outside Universal Studios Hollywood, “The Greatest Average American” scored the comedian his first Grammy nomination, for Best Comedy Album. Released in 2021, the Netflix special builds upon Bargatze’s dry delivery of awkward, human interactions. Debuting to solid reviews from critics and audiences alike, *Vulture* wrote: “The special is a warm, collective embrace of how great it is to watch some anonymous, oblivious dude confidently screw up a simple task and to know that each of us will be that anonymous dude at some point in our lives.” Streaming on Netflix

HELLO WORLD

Released last year, “Hello World” marks Bargatze’s first collaboration with Prime Video. Filmed in Phoenix, Arizona, the special pre-dated

his “SNL” appearance and record-breaking show at the Nashville Bridgestone Arena. Complete with his signature laid-back exasperation, Bargatze delves into everything from family life to bald eagles, garnering similarly positive reviews. Streaming on Prime Video

NASHVILLE CHRISTMAS

Teaming up with CBS (the parent company behind his first special), Bargatze is set to debut a holiday-themed one-hour primetime variety show, to be taped Nov. 21 at the iconic Grand Ole Opry in his hometown of Nashville. While an exact release date has yet to be announced, the special is due sometime in December, with a broadcast spot on CBS and next-day streaming on Paramount+.

Executive produced by Bargatze, Lorne Michaels and the latter’s company Broadway Video, the special will include a mix of stand-up, pre-taped comedy sketches and musical performances.

Geared at families, as his sets usually are, the show will put a spotlight on the feel-good familial spirit of Nashville during the holidays. Particularly memorable for Bargatze, the venue marks a full-circle journey, as he began his comedy career as an entry-level employee at the Grand Ole Opry.

‘NCIS’ learns to time travel with prequel series ‘Origins’

BY ROBERT LLOYD, LOS ANGELES TIMES
The Tribune Content Agency

As humans in a changing world we crave continuity, reliability. Before we walk into a room, we like to be fairly certain of what we’ll find – walls, floor, furniture, not hot coals or clouds of poison gas. Thus the popularity of the franchise. It may not lead to great, revolutionary art, but at the end of a long day, when you kick off your shoes and sink down into the sofa, you may not be in the mood for “Les Demoiselles d’Avignon” or a stuffed goat with a fire around its mid-mountain.

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Offering access to some of the best views in the region. The forest bursts into shades of red, orange, and yellow during peak season, and its trails and overlooks make it perfect for a day of hiking or simply taking in the scenery.

CHEROKEE, NC

Cherokee is another great destination for enjoying the beauty of the Great Smoky Mountains, and the area is welcoming visitors. This town is home to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, who make their home on the 56,600-acre Qualla Boundary in five Western North Carolina counties.

Rich with culture, Cherokee has plenty to offer for those who enjoy art and history. The array of colors will be visible throughout the town as it’s surrounded by natural beauty – Visit Cherokee has even put together a list of the best spots for viewing the fall foliage. Whether you’re looking to enjoy the Oconaluftee Indian Village, hiking, elk viewing, fishing or golf, Cherokee’s list of fun things to do is certainly expansive.

CASHIERS, NC

Lauding itself as a “vacation paradise,” Cashiers is another great destination to consider for those seeking a beautiful display of this fall’s leaf colors. The town is open and eager to serve visitors.

While some nearby attractions remain closed, plenty of beloved natural areas are open for visitors. The town is lush with fall foliage, so no need to worry whether you’ll catch a glimpse of the leaves. If you visit, be sure to check out the community’s farmers market, antique shops and boutiques. Cashiers also offers a 13-acre park called The Village Green that holds a variety of events. This weekend, from Oct. 11-13, the park will hold the Cashiers Valley Leaf festival.

HIGHLANDS, NC

The quaint mountain town of Highlands, known for its upscale charm and breathtaking mountain views, is a prime spot for leaf-peeping this fall. The town is back open for business after the storm, according to a message from the mayor on the town’s website.

Highlands is a great home base for exploring the nearby Nantahala National Forest’s beauty while also enjoying the town’s relaxed, mountain vibe, complete with plenty of outdoor activities and a killer downtown shopping area. Nantahala Forest reopened for visitors on Friday, Oct. 11,

SYLVA, NC

Sylva located within Jackson County, is open for visitors.

The town is located in the heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains,

and the town is surrounded by plenty of trees and foliage for all of your leaf-viewing needs.

Its proximity to both the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the Nantahala National forest make it a great home base for leaf-peeping visitors.

Sylva also offers the Pinnacle Park Trail and the Jackson County Greenway, so plenty of outdoor activities are still possible. As for indoor activities, shopping, dining, museums and events are all plentiful in charming Sylva.

OTHER WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA AREAS ARE OPEN

Other towns that are open and welcoming

visitors include Boone

(which advises sticking to

the main roads and is still

under a curfew of 11 p.m.

to 7 a.m.), Murphy, West Jefferson and more. Check out [highcountryhost.com](#) for updates.

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LEAVES

road closures listed as well, but be mindful that some of the impacted areas may not have been able to report.

The bottom line: Be smart, and respectful of work crews. But if you’ve found a way to travel there safely, here are a few places that have indicated they’re ready for visitors.

BLOWING ROCK, NC

Just this week, Blowing Rock invited visitors to return, although on Friday, Oct. 11, a curfew remained from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. Tweetsie Railroad remains closed. For those looking for a quaint tourist destination, Blowing Rock offers farms, wineries, a resort, spas, museums and more. Although the majority of the Blue Ridge Parkway will remain closed for the foreseeable future (check updates with the National Park Service), the town’s positioning on the crown of the mountains still leaves visitors surrounded by the gorgeous, colorful foliage.

BRYSON CITY, NC

Far Western NC in the Smoky Mountains, including Bryson City, was primarily spared by Hurricane Helene. Within Bryson City is the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, which is the most visited national park in the nation and is also great

option for seeing a spectacular display of colorful fall leaves. The town touts that its “shops, lodgings, restaurants and attractions showcase the best of the Smokies.” The fall color display usually reaches peak at mid and lower elevations between mid-October and early November, so there’s plenty of time to plan your leaf-peeping adventure. Aside from leaves, Bryson City offers a variety of outdoor and indoor attractions such as train excursions, mountain biking, museums and more.

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TROY’S 105 DINER
Location: 1286 Highway 105, Boone, NC, 28607

Troy’s 105 Diner offers breakfast all day, along with house-made soups, thick burgers, comfort food platters and a variety of salads. Daily specials and a whole lineup of desserts are among the selections. It’s open Sunday-Tuesday, 7 a.m.-3 p.m., and Wednesday-Saturday, 7 a.m.-8 p.m.

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR BOONE TRAVELERS

Here are need-to-know points for visiting Boone and the surrounding area:

- A curfew from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. is in effect in Watauga County.

• The Blue Ridge Parkway in North Carolina is indefinitely closed for all uses, including foot and bike traffic.

• North Carolina State Parks, including Elk Knob State Park and Grandfather Mountain State Park, will be closed through at least Oct. 31. Hiking on Boone-area trails outside of these areas is not recommended for safety reasons. Explore Boone has said.

• Explore Boone

• Town of Boone

• North Carolina Department of Transportation

• Heidi Finley: @HWhiteFinley

[STATE PARKS UPDATES]

13 state parks closed in Western NC after Hurricane Helene. Estimated reopening timeline.]

RESOURCES TO CHECK BEFORE YOU GO

Storm cleanup is an ever-changing situation, so make sure to get the most up-to-date information you can before you head out.

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ATTORNEYS, GUARDS, MAIDS, PILOTS, DRIVERS, MASSAGE THERAPISTS – AND THE UNFATHOMABLY WEALTHY ZAKHAROV.

Exploring this world of hyper-wealth allows Baker to splash out a bit. “Anora” feels bigger than most of his films, exploring a world where private jets, penthouse suites and pulsing nightclubs are the norm. In carefully observing this wealth disparity, he finds that these oligarchs also exist on the fringes of society in their own little-seen world. They too are defined by their economic circumstances, driven to maintain their wealth and power, now threatened by little Ani.

But he remains focused on those in their employ, the lowest in the hierarchy. Ani and Igor, two kids from Brighton Beach, are in the same boat, both using their bodies to perform labor; while Igor threatens and enforces, Ani titillates and pleases.

Baker and cinematographer Drew Daniels draw these two together for this journey – as soon as Igor enters the picture, he never leaves the frame.

He takes in every insult thrown her way, and every punch, kick and slur she

throws in return, taking a few himself. He’s the only person who doesn’t underestimate Ani. He sees her.

At the center of this careening circus of chaos is the tiny dancer with a banshee wail. Madison, memorable in “Once Upon a Time ... In Hollywood” and the “Scream” reboot, is a whirling dervish of glitter and acrylic, sex and rage. She taps into a seemingly bottomless well of sheer emotion (and epithets) to deliver a towering performance.

When she finally lets the wall fall, it’s in a moment of true emotional catharsis and hard-fought, surprising connection, where she finally lets us in. That

moment is the pearl at the center of the oyster, a gem produced of distress. Baker finds it every time, and “Anora” is his most spectacular pearl yet.

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menu, which includes emu, duck, elk and bison. You’ll also want to take note that valet parking is offered, as the driveway and parking lots are steep and can be difficult to access. Gift cards are also available.

Melanie’s Food Fantasy

Location: 664 W King St, Boone, NC 28607

For now, Melanie’s Food Fantasy is open from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. daily. Customers can purchase gift cards at the cafe that will help fund the restaurant’s free meals for the community. Melanie’s calls its vegan-friendly menu

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