

CELEBS

celebs

Chris Rock hits back at Will Smith in Netflix livestream

AFP | Los Angeles

Chris Rock finally hit back at Will Smith on Saturday in a brutal stand-up routine, a year after the actor slapped him in front of a global TV audience for the Oscars.

The comedian came out swinging, accusing the Hollywood star of "selective outrage" when he reacted to a jibe about Jada Pinkett Smith's shaved head, and saying Smith lashed out at a shorter man because he was annoyed his wife had cheated on him.

"Will Smith practices selective outrage," Rock told an audience in a show that was streamed live on Netflix.

"Everybody that really knows, knows I had nothing to do with that. I didn't have any entanglements," he said, referring to Pinkett Smith's acknowledged marital infidelity.

Rock was presenting an Oscar in Hollywood last March when

he made a crack about Pinkett Smith's closely cropped head. She has alopecia.

The "Men in Black" star mounted the stage and slapped the comedian hard across the face, before returning to his seat and yelling obscenities at the presenter.

A few minutes later, Smith was presented with an Oscar for best actor for his role in "King Richard."

He later apologized to Rock, but was banned from the Oscars for a decade.

Rock was praised for his measured response on the night, and has maintained near silence on the issue in the year since.

But on Saturday night's livestream from Baltimore, he let rip. "People ask 'Did it hurt?'. It still hurts," he said.

"Will Smith is significantly bigger than me. Will Smith played Muhammad Ali in a movie. You think I auditioned for



Will Smith (R) slaps Chris Rock onstage during the 94th Oscars

that?"

"I finish it"

The comedian said Smith had been widely mocked after an episode of his wife's podcast in which the couple talked about her affair and how it affected him.

"Why would you do that?" he asked. Many people have been cheated on, but the Hollywood power couple are the only ones

who discussed it in public that way, he said.

"Everybody in the world called him a bitch. They called his wife a predator. Everybody called him a bitch," he said, noting that he had tried to offer condolences after news of the affair became public.

Rock said the animosity from Pinkett Smith stemmed from a few years earlier when she had

called on him to boycott the Oscars because her husband had been overlooked for his 2015 movie "Concussion."

"She said... a grown ass man should quit his job because her husband didn't get nominated for 'Concussion.' Then (Smith) gives me a concussion," he quipped.

"What the fuck? So did I do some jokes about it? Who gives a



Will Smith practices selective outrage. Everybody that really knows, knows I had nothing to do with that. I didn't have any entanglements

CHRIS ROCK

fuck? That's how it is; she starts it, I finish it. Nobody was picking on her."

Rock, who at times appeared genuinely angry, said before last year he had always loved Smith, first as a rapper, and then as an actor.

"He'd made some great movies. I've rooted for Will Smith my whole life," but now, he said, he was rooting for the slave master who beats Smith's character in his latest movie, "Emancipation."

Rock's show was the first live comedy event for Netflix, with the platform reportedly also looking at offering live sports.

Rivals including Disney+ and Amazon Prime Video already offer live events including sports and musical performances.

Netflix hosts a live comedy festival at dozens of venues in Los Angeles, but those shows have not yet been available to stream live on its platform.

Austin Butler reveals he drank ice cream to gain weight for 'Elvis'

ANI | Washington

Austin Butler recently revealed that he drank a lot of ice cream to gain weight for his film 'Elvis'.

Austin, while speaking to Variety, said, "I heard that Ryan Gosling when he was going to do 'The Lovely Bones,' had microwaved Haagen-Dazs and would drink it."

"So I started doing that. I would go get two dozen doughnuts and eat them all. I really started to pack some pounds. It's fun for a week, and then you feel awful about yourself. But we were planning on shooting chronologically in the beginning. That quickly went out the window with COVID. It was just impossible," he added.

Butler further discussed with Variety his first nomination for Oscars in the Best Actor category for the film.

'Elvis' chronicles the illustrious life of the King of Rock and Roll, from his early discovery at age 19 to his untimely passing at age 42. Eight Academy Award nominations were made for the biopic, including best picture (Catherine Mar-

tin, Gail Berman, Patrick McCormick, and Schuyler Weiss), actor (Butler), production design (Catherine Martin, Karen Murphy Bev Dunn), cinematography (Mandy Walker), costumes (Martin), editing (Jonathan Redmond, Matt Villa), makeup and hairstyling (Mark Coulier, Jason Baird, and Aldo Signoretti), and sound ((David Lee, Wayne Pashley, Andy Nelson and Michael Keller).

According to Variety, Butler acted as though he already owned the

role of Elvis when he auditioned for it. After being offered the part, the COVID-19 epidemic interrupted filming in Australia in March 2020. The now-31-year-old remembers being prepared to stick around for the project.

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Austin Butler



'Free Guy' star Ryan Reynolds says "does everything have to be a sequel" about film's next instalment

ANI | Washington

Hollywood star Ryan Reynolds has cast doubt on the long-hoped sequel for his 2021 action comedy film 'Free Guy' which proved to be a success upon release.

According to Variety, an American media company, Reynolds appeared in conversation with his 'Deadpool 2' co-star Rob Delaney at the four-day Just For Laughs comedy festival. The actor was asked whether he was planning a sequel to any of the films he has produced, which include



Ryan Reynolds

'Free Guy'.

"There is the potential to do a sequel to 'Free Guy,' which would be fun... I would love it.

But also like, does everything fucking have to be a sequel? I don't know. Sometimes it's OK to just do a movie and have it kick

ass and then everyone go home," Reynolds replied.

"So you know, there's a bit of a push and pull there, resisting the urge to just immediately say, 'Ohh, doing a sequel will validate the first one'. No, the first movie validates the first one and then you can leave it at that. So I don't know, we're still talking about it," Reynolds continued, reported Variety.

During the wide-ranging talk, Reynolds' role in the widely-panned 2011 film 'Green Lantern' inevitably came up and the actor said that it suffered from "Too much time, too much money."

Idris Elba won't 'say too much' to avoid social media rows

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Idris Elba is afraid of "saying too much" and getting involved in a "b***** social media argument".

The 50-year-old actor insisted he lives "quite a sheltered life" and like many people in the public eye, he is reluctant to offer opinions

on topical issues in case they are "taken out of context" and become the focus of an online row.

He told The Guardian newspaper: "Contrary to popular belief, I live a quite sheltered life.

"I feel as I get older - I'm 50 now - we all

have fears of saying too much, oversharing and whatnot.

"And in this day and age, it's really difficult to have an opinion if you're in the public eye because it gets overly scrutinised, taken out of context, thrown into some sort of b***** zeit-

geisty social media argument."

Idris - who has two children from previous relationships and married third wife Sabrina Dhowre in 2017 - can next be seen reprising his role as John Luther in 'Luther: The Fallen Sun' and while he doesn't think he's much like the detective, he admitted one thing they do have in common is being "guarded" about their deepest feelings.



Idris Elba

SUDOKU

1	5	2	8					
6		9					3	
9	8	4						
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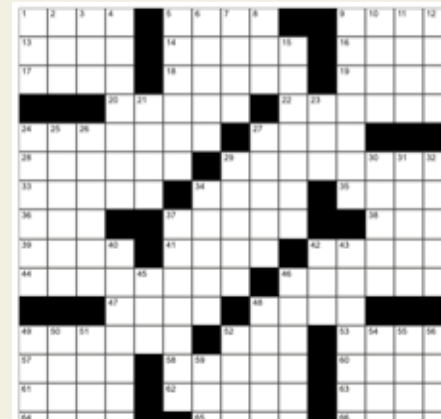
Yesterday's solution

7	8	5	1	9	3	2	6	4
4	6	1	8	5	2	9	7	3
3	9	2	7	4	6	5	8	1
2	4	9	6	7	8	3	1	5
5	3	7	2	1	9	8	4	6
8	1	6	5	3	4	7	2	9
1	7	4	3	8	5	6	9	2
6	5	8	9	2	1	4	3	7
9	2	3	4	6	7	1	5	8

How to play

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

CROSSWORD



Across

1-Stringed instrument; 5- Camp beds; 9- Enlarge, as a hole; 13- News bit; 14- In the future; 16- It parallels a radius; 17- Linebacker Junior; 18- Vessel; 19- "Peter Pan" pooch; 20- Pick up; 22- Mad confusion; 24- Extraordinary occurrence; 27- avail; 28- Motown's Franklin; 29- By means of this; 33- Lover of Juliet; 34- Israeli round dance; 35- "A Doll's House" heroine; 36- Cone; 37- Intense gum; 38- Mart; 39- Shelter for honeybees; 41- Facilitate; 42- Skirt; 44- Make sour; 46- Kitchen utensil; 47- Breather; 48- Lead; 49- Sharon's land; 52- Join a poker game; 53- No ifs, ands, or buts; 57- Nair rival; 58- Clear the boards; 60- Tidy, without fault; 61- Royal Indian; 62- Sub system; 63- Actress Merrill; 64- Apple variety; 65- Electric fish; 66- Some are pale;

Down

1- Fleur-de-lys; 2- Shoshone language member; 3- Green or black, e.g.; 4- Imitate; 5- Occult doctrine; 6- Chicago's airport; 7- Small gull; 8- Lose firmness; 9- Dilapidated; 10- Airline to Tel Aviv; 11- Editor Wintour; 12- Polite address; 15- Prophetess of Israel; 21- Parrot; 23- Hydrocarbon suffix; 24- Actress Mason; 25- Sardonic; 26- Take off; 27- Haute; 29- Stallion, e.g.; 30- Herbert Hoover, for one; 31- Commerce; 32- More healthy; 34- Hilton competitor; 37- Rubella; 40- Unpredictable; 42- Clean air org; 43- Porch; 45- Spelling contest; 46- Furry swimmers; 48- Agave fiber; 49- Cross inscription; 50- Thin stratum; 51- Actress Sofer; 52- All there; 54- Singer Sedaka; 55- Hamlet, e.g.; 56- RR stops; 59- v. Wade;

Yesterday's solution

B	E	A	M	E	A	S	E	S	R	B	I	S
A	L	T	I	G	E	N	O	A	I	L	S	A
S	K	I	M	G	R	O	S	S	N	E	A	T
T	E	P	I	D	W	I	S	E	G	U	A	T
C	A	E	N	N	E	W	T					
M	E	A	S	U	R	E	S	S	E	R	U	M
A	P	E	B	I	G	O	T	S	U	G	A	R
C	O	R	E	F	E	E	L	E	R	E	L	S
E	D	I	A	N	V	A	T	I	C	L	I	S
F	E	E	R	I	E	R	E	C	L	U	S	E
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C	E	L	S	I	U	S	F	L	A	G	S	
D	I	A	L	B	L	O	A	T	O	L	I	O
I	N	R	E	L	L	A	M	A	C	A	L	L
S	E	N	D	E	Y	R	I	R	K	I	L	O