

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Grynbaum, Michael" <grynbaum@nytimes.com>
Date: March 2, 2015 at 8:05:16 PM EST
To: "Katz, Rebecca" <RKKatz@cityhall.nyc.gov>
Cc: "Walzak, Phil" <PWalzak@cityhall.nyc.gov>
Subject: Larry Wilmore Pool Report PART 1 of 2

Your Pooler for tonight: Mike Grynbaum, NY Times.

Questions? Comments? [917-484-2422](tel:917-484-2422). grynbaum@nytimes.com.

Mayor Bill de Blasio arrived at The Nightly Show studios on West 54th and Tenth Avenue a few minutes after 6 p.m., accompanied by a press attaché, Rebecca Katz, and his advance man Frankie. An aide reported that the mayor was snacking on popcorn in the green room ahead of the taping, although your pool was not granted eyewitness access.

The Nightly Show, which began in January, typically features a roundtable of up to four guests. Tonight's taping was the first episode that features a one-on-one interview.

Taping began at 6:30 p.m. Larry Wilmore (henceforth Larry) recorded a quick segment with Jon Stewart, who asked what he would be talking about with the Mayor (henceforth BDB). "Beats me," Larry said. "I'm just going to wing it."

There was a brief interval where the warm-up comic bantered with the audience. The comic said that, with the mayor present, anybody who needed a parking ticket fixed was in luck. A female audience member shouted out: "Four in one month! That's why I'm here!" The parking scofflaw explained further that "the city hates me."

"Alright, well, security knows where you are," replied the warm-up comic.

Larry came out for a Q&A and was asked about politicians coming on the show. "What, the mayor isn't good enough for you?" he joked, adding: "With election season coming up, I'm hoping to get some of the candidates, that kind of thing." How about a dream guest? "My dream guest? One of them is tonight."

Larry also said The Dress is black and blue.

Show began at 6:48! Larry said he was “going one-on-one with New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio. I might ask him questions, might dunk on him. Either way, he’s getting a lot of L.W. in his face.”

“De Blasio is fighting to save New York City’s middle class,” Larry added. “All 12 of them.” /// “We’ll also discuss the mayor’s relationship with the NYPD, which is more beef than a New York City hot dog.”

Larry opened with an overview of issues facing NYC. “It is the third coldest winter on record. Thanks de Blasio. I don’t remember it being this cold when Bloomberg was mayor.”

“You know what they say about New York? If you can make it here, you can make it anywhere. Or, as the saying has been shortened to nowadays, you can’t make it here. Seriously, man, try Austin.” Income inequality is so bad that “the income gap between rich and poor isn’t so much a ‘Gap’ as it is a Prada.”

Larry added: “And perhaps most troubling in the last two years, New York City mayors have seen their net worth drop by nearly \$35.7 billion.” (This was accompanied, as you might imagine, by a graphic of a smiling BDB and a frowning Michael R. Bloomberg.) “Cover your ears, Mr. Mayor!”

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The stagehands arranged a new set for the show, hauling out two upholstered leather easy chairs for Larry and the Mayor. Here comes BDB! He is wearing a blue tie and dark navy suit. Very loud applause from crowd.

The men sat down in the comfy chairs. Larry: “I thought we might want to manspread a little bit.” BDB smiled and played along, flailing out his legs and even tapping Larry playfully with his foot.

“So if we keep it 100 percent Dickens--“ Larry began. “Is that a new segment?” BDB replied, smiling.

Larry asked if this is the “best of times or the worst of times.” BDB pointed out the 50,000 kids in Pre-K, the 50,000 in afterschool. Half a million with paid sick leave. And the 200,000 units of affordable housing.

At this point, there was a problem with the microphone setup, so the taping paused and restarted a few minutes later. “First technical issue we had and it was in front of the mayor of New York City,” said a stagehand.

[The two spoke here for a couple minutes about affordable housing, the middle-class, and the minimum wage-- Mayor's comments tracked with his usual comments on these subjects. Contact the pooler for a full transcript.]

Larry asked about the Governor. "I know you and Cuomo aren't necessarily seeing eye to eye. When you're asking him for funds, do you feel like the guy on the subway -- I'm not here to beg! I'm actually the mayor of a large city."

BDB kept a big smile on his face. "I actually do that in Albany, it's exactly how I do it."

Larry played a video question on race relations and the police. An older African-American man named Alexander Hamilton asked the question. "That was from one of our founding fathers!" Larry said. "That's how important this issue is." BDB: "Larry, you are booking some amazing guests."

So, about the police: "How's that beef?" Larry asked. "Is it like a west coast, east coast thing?"

"No, thank god," BDB replied. "A lot of work went into everyone finding a way to get onto a better page."

Larry: "You got in trouble for talking about your biracial son -- or, as I like to call him, your black son. If you're having a talk with your son about the cops, that's your black son. It's not like the cops are going to pull you over and say, 'Freeze! Oh, wait, are you mixed or something?'"

"Is that called Keeping It 100?" BDB asked with a smile.

BDB: "The first thing that astounded me about the whole reality is, i spoke about these issues when i was running for mayor. It wasn't a new thing. we did a TV advertisement talking about the reality of the conversations we had in our family. A young man of color today needs to have that conversation in his family. It's something that everyone knows. And it's not a comment that's disrespectful to the police. We deeply respect our police, we need our police to protect us. But it's a comment that refers to our history and some things we still haven't worked out. That's the reality."

STAY TUNED FOR PART 2, FEATURING KEEP IT 100!

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Grynbaum, Michael" <grynbaum@nytimes.com>

Date: March 2, 2015 at 8:18:16 PM EST

To: "Katz, Rebecca" <RKKatz@cityhall.nyc.gov>

Cc: "Walzak, Phil" <PWalzak@cityhall.nyc.gov>
Subject: **Larry Wilmore Pool Report Part 2 of 2**

Your Pooler for tonight: Mike Grynbaum, NY Times.

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It's Keep It 100 time, which began with questions submitted via Twitter.

[@TheDandyManNYC: when will recreational marijuana be legal in NY?](#)

Larry: "why should the rent be the only thing that's too damn high?"
BDB: "No plan to do that now." [he described his new marijuana policy]

Larry: "How much marijuana do you have to have on you to be arrested, and I'm asking for a friend." BDB: "We'll get your friend the answer."

[@MarshallLove1: tell us nobody knows about New York but you know right now](#)

BDB: I've been holding this back for an occasion like this. Every New Yorker, all 8.4 million people, has a heart of gold. And Larry, I am the only person who sees it. You wouldn't know it, but I see it."

Larry: "I feel like somebody's keeping it 70!"

[@Chirlane: did you or did you not promise to pick up the dry cleaning over the weekend?](#)

BDB: "This is truly keeping it 100." [*Your pooler will interrupt here to note that Chirlane's tweet was posted at 12:49 p.m., earlier today.*] "I was ordered to pick up the dry cleaning. I am too scared to defy that order."

Larry: "So what you're saying, Mr. Mayor, is that Black Wives Matter?"

BDB: "Clever! Very good. Yes they do. Si se puede."

Okay, it's time for the Big One. Larry says: "It's time to keep it 100. I've been waiting to ask you this question for awhile. And I really want to get your honest answer. Remember, you have to keep it 100 percent real....."

"What color is this dress?"

The audience laughed as BDB stared at The Dress, projected onto a screen behind him. He looked perplexed, and a bit confused. "Take your time, Mayor," Larry said.

BDB ventured a guess: "I'm gonna go with blue....and green?"

Some groans from the audience. BDB smiled sheepishly, biting his upper lip, Clinton-style.

Larry: "And that's what wrong with this city, mayor."

The audience, asked about the color, shouted out a variety of answers. Larry was unimpressed -- "I'm throwing tea at the whole audience" -- before turning back to the Mayor.

Larry: "You honestly see green in that?"

BDB: "Yeah."

"You don't see blue and black?"

"No, I see green."

"Yeah, it looks a little green."

"I think that's very 100."

"Okay, we'll give it to you because he kept it 100 tonight."

The prized 100 sticker was proffered to, and accepted by, BDB.

Larry and BDB shook hands. Big applause. The Mayor headed out. Larry told the audience, "I think he kept that whole thing 100. I think he did -- that was great."

Backstage, by your pooler, a stagehand looked out where the mayor had been standing. "Mayor today -- president tomorrow!" she said, to no one in particular.

ENDIT.