# Mike Myers and Kenan Thompson revisit Kanye West’s controversial telethon moment on SNL



In a memorable return to the iconic sketch series "Saturday Night Live," Mike Myers joined forces with Kenan Thompson to revisit the fallout from a fateful moment in live television history. This special appearance marked the 20th anniversary of Kanye West's infamous remark during a Hurricane Katrina telethon, where he asserted, "George Bush doesn’t care about Black people." Myers, who was on stage during that live broadcast, has since reflected on the unexpected turn of events with pride, despite the shock it caused at the time.

The sketch took place in an elevator scenario, capturing the awkwardness of the original televised encounter while playfully critiquing West's recent controversies. Myers portrayed himself, while Thompson donned a characterisation of West, complete with a black ensemble and a mock titanium dental smile, which has become a trademark of the rapper's eccentric style. The interaction between Myers and Thompson was fraught with tension and humour, a blend that has come to define "Saturday Night Live." When Thompson's West entered, Myers’ line, "Oh, my God. Is that Kanye West?!" instantly invoked laughter, showcasing both men’s comedic timing.

As Thompson’s West joked about his supposed involvement in the KKK—an unnerving reference to the rapper's recent public missteps—Myers attempted to steer the conversation to safer ground, asking about West's latest projects. The resulting banter was an insightful commentary on the precariousness of celebrity interactions, particularly in an era when public figures face constant scrutiny and often polarising perceptions. Myers, perhaps recalling the mixed feelings he holds about West’s evolving persona, sought to create humour from the discomfort, a hallmark of SNL's satire.

The sketch's observational humour extended further, with Thompson's West making light of Sean "Diddy" Combs' ongoing legal troubles. This tactic of juxtaposing celebrity antics with social commentary reflected SNL's long-standing tradition of tackling real-world issues through the lens of comedy. The show adeptly slid into deeper satire as the dialogue referenced West’s well-documented struggles with mental health and substance use, specifically nitrous oxide, often referred to as "laughing gas." This cultural touchstone resonates with audiences familiar with West's turbulent career, creating a surreal yet poignant atmosphere in the elevator.

As the sketch progressed, its comedic climax involved a nod to West's legal battles and alleged substance abuse issues stemming from dental work. This added layer of complexity—a blend of comedy, criticism, and personal narrative—echoed the multifaceted realities of the stars involved. In the sketch's finale, Myers desperately pressed the elevator buttons in a bid to escape, highlighting the absurdity of both their exchanges and the broader media landscape surrounding celebrity behaviour.

This return to "Saturday Night Live" not only revitalised a legendary television moment but also provided a platform for reflection on the impact of public discourse on artists' identities and personal lives. Myers’ interplay with Thompson illustrated how comedy can serve as both a mirror to society and a means of processing uncomfortable realities, an ethos that continues to resonate with audiences today. Through laughter, the late-night comedy staple remains a pertinent space for exploring the absurdities of fame and the human condition.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

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2. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/tv/article-14725485/Kanye-West-Mike-Meyers-returns-Saturday-Night-Live-recreate-TV-moment.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Mike Myers returned to 'Saturday Night Live' to recreate a memorable moment with Kanye West from 2005. In the sketch, Myers, portrayed by Kenan Thompson, finds himself in an elevator with a character resembling Kanye West. The sketch humorously references their previous encounter during a live telethon for Hurricane Katrina victims, where West made controversial remarks about President George W. Bush. The sketch also touches on West's recent controversies, including his trial and alleged issues with nitrous oxide use.
3. <https://www.nme.com/news/tv/mike-myers-revives-dr-evil-for-snl-elon-musk-sketch-3845061> - Mike Myers revived his Dr. Evil character on 'Saturday Night Live' in a sketch parodying Elon Musk. The sketch features Myers as Musk, engaging in humorous interactions with President Donald Trump and Secretary of State Marco Rubio. Myers's portrayal includes exaggerated mannerisms and comedic takes on Musk's public persona, adding a satirical twist to the political scene.
4. <https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2025/mar/02/saturday-night-live-mike-myers-shane-gillis> - A review of a 'Saturday Night Live' episode featuring Mike Myers's portrayal of Elon Musk. The sketch satirizes the Oval Office meeting between President Trump and Ukrainian President Zelenskyy, with Myers's Musk character adding comedic elements. The review discusses the effectiveness of the sketch and Myers's performance, highlighting the show's approach to political satire.
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6. <https://www.nbcconnecticut.com/entertainment/entertainment-news/zelenskyys-white-house-visit-snl-cold-open/3510427/> - A report on 'Saturday Night Live's' cold open sketch mocking Ukrainian President Zelenskyy's visit to the White House. The sketch features Mike Myers as Elon Musk, adding a satirical twist to the political meeting. The article provides details on the sketch's content and the comedic elements involved.
7. <https://www.slashfilm.com/1656955/kanye-west-taylor-swift-vmas-interruption-snl-sketch-prediction/> - An article exploring how a 'Saturday Night Live' sketch from 2007 predicted Kanye West's infamous interruption of Taylor Swift at the 2009 MTV Video Music Awards. The sketch features West interrupting various award shows, showcasing a comedic take on his behavior. The article provides context and analysis of the sketch's foresight.