

EVENTS

Matt LeBlanc set to host ‘Top Gear’ solo after Chris Evans’ exit

BY DANIEL HOLLOWAY
VARIETY.COM

LOS ANGELES — With Chris Evans’ departure from “Top Gear,” the British automotive series is undergoing its second host change in a little more than a year. But don’t expect a complete overhaul this time.

Sources tell Variety that Evans’ co-host Matt LeBlanc will return for the show’s 24th season, which is set to begin production in September. Contributors Chris Harris, Eddie Jordan, Rory Reid and Sabine Schmitz, who joined LeBlanc and Evans for season 23, are expected to return alongside LeBlanc for season 24. No replacement for Evans is expected to be named — leaving LeBlanc and the contributors to carry the show’s on-camera responsibilities.

LeBlanc also is set to star this fall in the freshman CBS comedy series “Man With a Plan,” his first starring role on U.S. broadcast TV in a decade. Under LeBlanc’s deal with the studio, “Man With the Plan” is in first position, with the studio obliged to

make a good-faith effort to accommodate his “Top Gear” hosting duties. “Top Gear” is expected to work around LeBlanc’s CBS shooting schedule.

A representative for LeBlanc directed questions about his future on the show to the BBC. A BBC America spokesperson referred Variety to a previously released statement from BBC Studios director Mark Linsey saying that “the right people remain, on both the production team and presenting team to take the show forward and make it the hit we want it to be.”

Evans announced his departure from the long-running BBC Two series, which has been broadcast in the United States on BBC America since 2007, on Monday. He wrote on Twitter, “Stepping down from Top Gear. Gave it my best shot but sometimes that’s not enough. The team are beyond brilliant, I wish them all the best.”

Poor ratings and reports in the U.K. tabloids of on- and off-set controversy provided the backdrop for Evans’ exit. The season 23 finale dipped to a season-low 1.9 million overnight viewers in the U.K. ear-

lier this month, fewer than half the show’s average from the previous season. The finale faced stiff competition from the Euro 2016 soccer tournament but also was beat by ITV’s “Antiques Roadshow,” which drew 3.9 million viewers. In the U.S., the first five episodes of season 24 have averaged 379,000 viewers for BBC America in Nielsen live-plus-three ratings — better than the network’s primetime average but well below previous seasons.

Evans, a well-known U.K. radio personality, signed a three-year deal last year to take over “Top Gear” hosting duties after former host Jeremy Clarkson was fired for punching a producer.

Co-hosts Richard Hammond and James May left with Clarkson, and the three went on to sign a deal to develop a new show for Amazon Studios.

Evans’ own tenure also has been hit by controversy. He has been the subject of sexual harassment allegations, with The Guardian reporting this week that Evans may be questioned by London police over

claims dating back to the 1990s.

LeBlanc was added as Evans’ co-host before the start of season 23, signing a one-season contract with an option for a second season. The actor had previously appeared as a celebrity guest on the show in 2012.

In June, Britain’s Sun tabloid, citing unnamed sources, reported that LeBlanc had threatened to quit unless Evans was fired. LeBlanc’s publicist shot the report down as baseless. Variety reported at the time that the actor was in talks with “Top Gear” producers over his future involvement with the show as he prepared to begin production on “Man With a Plan.”

The Evans-LeBlanc “Top Gear” was poorly received by most critics and fans, but the bulk of negative sentiment was aimed at Evans. Website Digital Spy’s critic wrote in a review of the season 23 finale, “When the right people — Matt LeBlanc, Rory Reid, Chris Harris and Sabine Schmitz — are front and center, there are moments where ‘Top Gear’ feels like it has found its feet.”



JEROME MIRON-US PRESSWIRE

Television actor Matt LeBlanc is interviewed before the start of the United States Grand Prix at the Circuit of the Americas in 2012.

Things to Do

BANGOR — River City Cinema presents “Summer of Love” outdoor summer movie series, sundown Fridays in July, Pickering Square: “Harold and Maude,” July 8; “The Princess Bride,” July 15; “Say Anything,” July 22; “You’ve Got Mail,” July 29; rain date Aug. 5. Free.

BANGOR — Penobscot Theatre Company Dramatic Academy youth production, “School of Rock,” 7 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, July 14-16; 2 p.m. Saturday, July 16; 3 p.m. Sunday, July 17, 131 Main St. 626-674-0942 or penobscottheatre.org.

BAR HARBOR — 19th annual Native American Festival, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, July 9, College of the Atlantic. Produced by Abbe Museum and Maine Indian Basketmakers Alliance, hosted by COA, sponsored by the Maine Arts Commission. Features basket makers from all four tribal nations in Maine: Maliseet, Micmac, Passamaquoddy and Penobscot, collectively known as the Wabanaki.

BELFAST — “Conscious Falling,” original collaborative adventure in performance with Barbaria Maria, Kathryn Robyn and Beverly Mann, 7:30 p.m. Friday through Sunday, July 8-10, Playhouse, 107 Church St. \$10 at the door. Seating limited. Reservations, Mary Weaver, Playhouse, 338-5777.

BLUE HILL — Flash in the Pans street dance, 7:30-9 p.m. Monday, July 11, Blue Hill Town Park. Benefits Flash in the Pans. flashinthepans.org.

BREWER — Bangor Singles Club dances, 8 p.m.-midnight Fridays, Brewer Eagles Club, 22 Atlantic Ave.: Honky Tonk, July 8; Allison Ames, July 15; Bushwhack, July 22; New Society, July 29. Marilyn, 827-5751.

BREWER — “The Little Mermaid Jr.,” 6-8:30 p.m. Friday through Sunday, July 8-10, Next Generation Theatre, 39 Center St. \$7, \$4 students under 17. 989-7100 or nextgentheatre@gmail.com.

BRUNSWICK — Coin and Stamp Show, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Sunday, July 10, Knights of Columbus Hall, 2 Columbus Drive. Free. Also, silent bid auction and hourly door prizes. brunswick-mainecoinclub.com, Bob Caouette at 721-7872, brunswickcoin-

club@comcast.net or caouette@earthlink.net.

BUCKSPORT — 20th anniversary Down East Center Ring Circus Band concert, 7:30 p.m. Friday, July 8, Bucksport Performing Arts Center, Miles Lane Middle School, 52 Miles Lane. Benefits Down East Center Ring Circus Band Music Scholarship program. Martha Pedrick, mpedrick@mind-spring.com.

CHINA — China Village Volunteer Fire Department annual chicken barbecue fundraiser, 11:30 a.m. Saturday, July 9, fire station, Causeway Road. \$8 for half a chicken, baked beans, chips, roll and beverage. Eat in or take out. Raffle featuring 17 prizes from local businesses. sbatteese@yahoo.com.

COLUMBIA FALLS — Ruggles House Society annual Ice Cream Social, 1-3 p.m. Sunday, July 10, Ruggle House. Free tour of the historic house museum. Simple games for children of all ages. 483-2131 or ruggleshouse@gmail.com.

DEER ISLE, STONINGTON — Mount Adams Cemetery on King Row, Deer Isle, and Mount Rest Cemetery at the Burnt Cove Church, Airport Road, Stonington, featured in Island Cemetery Tour, hosted by Stonington Public Library, 1-4 p.m. Saturday, July 9. Rain date, Sunday, July 10. \$20, includes gravestone rubbing, and light refreshments at Burnt Cove Church. Tickets available at Stonington Public Library, Island Approaches, Boyce’s Motel, Turtle Gallery and Dockside Books, or Burnt Cove Church day of tour. Benefits the library.

DEER ISLE — “Imaging the Sea” exhibit featuring photographs taken by members of Deer Isle’s fishing community, through July 17, Kingman Gallery, 117 Center District Crossroad. Benefits Island Fishermen’s Wives Association. Gallery hours, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday; 1-5 p.m. Sunday. 348-9333.

EASTPORT — The Eastport Moonlight Movies, 8 p.m. Fridays, Sutherland Amphitheater, 80 Water St.: “The King and I,” July 8; “Edward Scissorhands,” July 15; “The Second Best Mari-gold Hotel,” July 22; “Frozen,” July 30. 214-0040 or lolly@sweeties-downeast.com.

ELLSWORTH — Summer Waterfront Concert series, 6 p.m. Fridays: violinist Gus LaCasse,

July 8; Ellacapella, July 15, Union River Harbor Park. Free.

HAMPDEN — Yard sale, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday and Saturday, July 8-9, Hampden Congregational Church, 101 Main Road North. Furniture, books, clothing, household items, toys and more. Benefits the church and its missions. 862-5248 or hcc@roadrunner.com.

HOLDEN — Baked bean supper, 5 p.m. Saturday, July 9, Holden Congregational Church. Menu will include home-baked beans, hot dogs, casseroles, cole slaw, salads, rolls, pies and beverages. Cost \$8, \$4 children under 12, free to preschoolers.

LINCOLNVILLE — 23rd annual Strawberry Festival and Parade, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, July 9, United Christian Church and community building in Lincolnville Center, 18 Searsmont Road, Route 173. Parade, 10 a.m.; food, local authors, children’s activities including a puppet show, music, crafts and artwork by Mary Bok and Marcia Anderson, tours of historic church. Proceeds benefit church and community center operation. 763-2170.

MONMOUTH — “Puss in Boots,” 1 p.m. Saturday, July 9, 16 and 23, Theater at Monmouth. Ticket information, 933-9999, boxoffice@theateratmonmouth.org or theateratmonmouth.org.

NORTHPORT — Belfast Garden Club garden tour, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday, July 8, at transformed Bayside cottage, 37 George St. Rain or shine. Driving directions and descriptions posted at BelfastGardenClub.org. Martha Laitin, 323-2368.

OWLS HEAD — Annual Hot Rod, Custom and Muscle Car Cruise-in and Antique Aeroplane Show, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, July 9-10, Owls Head Transportation Museum. Exhibitor gates open 8 a.m. Clubs that want to arrange parking are encouraged to call ahead. \$18, free to children under 18 and to retired and active-duty military. 594-4418 or owlshead.org.

PORTLAND — Guided tour of Portland’s oldest burial ground, 11 a.m.-noon Saturdays, Sundays and Wednesdays, July 9 through Oct. 16. Tours led by trained volunteers. Tickets \$10, \$5 students and seniors, free to children under 12, available at the gate, 224 Congress St., at time of tour, or in advance, spiritsalive.org or eventbrite.com.

ROCKLAND — Alternative country, blues, folk rock band Cowboy Junkies, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, July 9, Strand Theatre, 345 Main St. \$45. rockland-strand.com, 594-0070, ext. 3, or info@rockland-strand.com.

THOMASTON — “The Music Man” directed by Daryl Hahn, 7 p.m. July 8 and 9, Watts Hall. No reserved seating. Tickets \$12 adults, \$6 children, \$35 maximum families at the door 6-7 p.m. each performance night. Reserve tickets

at 354-0615.

WISCASSET — Castle Tucker Tours, 10-11:30 a.m. Saturday, July 9; Friday, Sept. 9, 2 Lee St. Registration required. Space limited. Admission \$10 members Historic New Eng-

land, \$15 others. 882-7169 or historicnewengland.org/events-programs.

For a complete listing of calendar items or to submit your event, visit www.bangordailynews.com.

SHOWTIMES VALID 7/8 thru 7/14
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HOLLYWOOD CINEMAS

Previously known as: Movie Magic Cinema

The Secret Life of Pets (PG)	11:55	1:55	3:30	5:15	7:00	8:45
Mike and Dave Need Wedding (R)	12:50		3:00	5:00	7:00	9:00
The BFG (PG)	12:00	2:15	4:30		6:45	9:00
The Legend of Tarzan (PG-13)	12:20	2:30	4:40		6:55	9:05
The Shallows (PG-13)	12:40	2:20	4:00	5:40	7:20	9:00
Finding Dory (PG)	11:40	1:30	3:20	5:10	7:00	8:50
Central Intelligence (PG-13)	12:15	2:25	4:35	6:45	8:55	

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Friday prime time

	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM
BROADCAST	2 NBC 207	Inside Ed.	U.S. Olympic Trials	Mr. D	Mr. D	U.S. Olympic Trials Women's Gymnastics (N)			News
	4 CBC Creek	22 Minutes	Mr. D	Mr. D	The National (N)	CBC	Calgary Stampede		
	5 CBS Big Bang	Broke Girl	NCIS: Los Angeles		Hawaii Five-0 (HD)	Blue Bloods (HD)			News
	52 CW Family Guy	Family Guy	Masters of	Masters of	Penn & Teller: Fool Us	News	Seinfeld		Cougar
	6 NBC 207	Inside Ed.	U.S. Olympic Trials		U.S. Olympic Trials Women's Gymnastics (N)				News
	7 ABC Wheel	Jeopardy!	Shark Tank (HD)		(:01) What Would You Do?	20/20 (N) (HD)			News
	WAGM FOX The Insider	Ent. Tonight	Rosewood (HD)		MasterChef (HD)	News	Big Bang		Big Bang
	8 ABC Wheel	Jeopardy!	Shark Tank (HD)		(:01) What Would You Do?	20/20 (N) (HD)			News
	MPBN PBS PBS NewsHour (N) (HD)	Washington	Charlie		British Baking	A Few Good Pie Places			C. Rose
	9 IND Blue Bloods (HD)		Shark Tank (HD)		Motive (HD)	News-Lisa	CTV News		Big Bang
KIDS	13 CBS Ent. Tonight	The Insider	NCIS: Los Angeles		Hawaii Five-0 (HD)	Blue Bloods (HD)			News
	22 FOX Mod Fam	Mod Fam	Rosewood (HD)		MasterChef (HD)	FOX 22 News at 10 (N)			Bones
	33 IND M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Happy Days	Gilligan Isle	Hogan Hero	Hogan Hero	C. Burnett
	38 IND Big Bang	Big Bang	Bones (HD)		Bones (HD)	WBZ News (N) (HD)			Seinfeld
	NICK Crashletes	Crashletes	All In	Game	Full House	Full House	Full House	Friends	
	DISN K.C. Under.	Liv-Mad.	Stuck	Girl Meets	Walk the	Walk the	Star-For.	Star-For.	Stuck
	FREE (6:30) ***	The Truman Show (1998)	Jim Carrey.		** Paul Blart: Mall Cop (2009)	Kevin James. (PG)			700 Club
	HIST Ancient Aliens		Ancient Aliens		Ancient Aliens (N)	(:03) Ancient Aliens			Aliens
	DISC Alaskan Bush: Off Grid		Alaskan Bush: Off Grid		Alaskan Bush People	(:02) Homestead Rescue			Alaskan
	TLC Deadly Women		Killer Women	Erin Caffey murdered her entire family.		Women in Prison			Killer
LEARN	A&E Duck D.	Duck D.	Duck D.	Duck D.	Duck D.	Duck D.	Duck D.	Duck D.	Duck D.
	ANPL Treehouse Masters		Treehouse Masters		Treehouse: Out on a Limb		(:02) Treehouse Masters		Treehouse
	CSNE SportsNet	Early	On, Water	Wrestling			SportsNet		Sports
	ESPN SportsCenter (N) (L)			NBA Summer League Basketball			NBA Summer Basketball		
	ESPN2 (6:30) College Swimming		O.J.: Made in America (Part 1 of 5)				CFL Football: Roughriders at Eskimos		
	NBCSP XFINITY Series Countdown to Green		NASCAR Racing XFINITY Series: ALSCO 300. (N) (L)				NASCAR		
	NESN MLB Baseball Tampa Bay Rays at Boston Red Sox. (N) (L)					Extra	Red Sox		Sports
	CNBC Undercover Boss		Undercover Boss		Undercover Boss		Undercover Boss		Undercover
	CNN Erin Burnett OutFront (N)		Anderson Cooper 360		CNN Tonight		Morgan Spurlock Inside		Declassified
	FNC Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor (N)		The Kelly File (N)		Hannity (N)		O'Reilly
NEWS	MSNBC Hardball Chris Matthews		All In With Chris Hayes		Rachel Maddow Show		Hardball Chris Matthews		All In With
	AMC (5:00) *** The Matrix		** Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (2011)		Robert Downey Jr. (PG-13)		Gran Torino		
	BRV Housewives (:26) *** The Devil Wears Prada (2006)		Meryl Streep. (PG-13)		Housewives		Below Deck		Devil-Prada
	CMT Last Man	Last Man	*** Jarhead (2005, War)		Jake Gyllenhaal, Peter Sarsgaard, Jamie Foxx. (R)		S. Austin		
	COM Futurama (:40) *** Pineapple Express (2008, Comedy)		Seth Rogen, James Franco. (R)		Forgetting Sarah Marshall				
	E! News (N) (:23)		The Kardashians		The Kardashians		E! News		
	FOOD Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners
	FX ** Rush Hour 2 (2001) Jackie Chan. (PG-13)		** Ride Along (2014, Comedy)		Ice Cube, Kevin Hart. (PG-13)				
	GAC Top 20 Countdown	Flea Market	Flea Market	Flea Market	Flea Market	Flea Market	Flea Market	Flea Market	Flea Market
	HALL (6:00) A Christmas Detour		Crown for Christmas (2015)		Danica McKellar. (NR)		The Middle	The Middle	Golden Girls
VARIETY	HGTV Island	Island	Dream	Dream	Dream	Dream	Hunters	Hunters Int'l	Hunters
	LIFE Little Women: Atlanta		Little Women: Atlanta		Little Women: Atlanta		Little Women: Atlanta		Little
	MTV Ridiculous. (:45) Ridiculousness		Ridiculous.		(8:55) ** Project X (2012)		Thomas Mann. (R)		Ridiculous.
	OXY Snapped		Snapped		Snapped		Snapped		Snapped
	SPIKE Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops		Cops	Cops	Cops
	SYFY (6:30) ** Clash of the Titans (2010) (PG-13)		Killjoys (N)		Dark Matter (N)		Killjoys		
	TBN Supernat.	Potters	Trinity	Hal Lindsey	End/ Age	Perry Stone	Praise the Lord		
	TBS Seinfeld	Family Guy	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	ELeague (N) (L)		Hangover III
	TCM Asphalt	MGM	*** In This Our Life (1942)		(NR)		(:45) *** They Died With Their Boots On (1941)		
	TMC (6:30) Mercenaries (2014)		*** Rules of Engagement (2000)		Tommy Lee Jones. (:10) *** Pulp Fiction (1994) (R)		Adjustmnt		
PREMIUM	TNT Bones (ESP)		*** The Shawshank Redemption (1994, Drama)		Tim Robbins. (R)				
	TRAVEL Mysteries at the Museum		Mysteries at the Museum		Mysteries at the Museum		Mysteries at the Museum		Mysteries at
	TRU truTV Top Funnies		truTV Top Funnies		truTV Top Funnies		truTV Top Funnies		Greatest
	TVL Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	George	George	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	King
	USA Mod Fam	Mod Fam	Mod Fam	Mod Fam	Mod Fam	Mod Fam	Mod Fam	Mod Fam	Mod Fam
	VH1 (5:55) *** Friday (R)		* Friday After Next (2002, Comedy)		Ice Cube. (R)		Love & Hip Hop: Atlanta		Amber Rose
	WGN-A Person of Interest		Person of Interest		Person of Interest		Person of Interest		Person
	HBO How to Let Go (:45) ** National Treasure (2004, Adventure)		(ESP) Nicolas Cage. A man tries to steal the Declaration of Independence. (PG)		Real Time With Bill Maher		Any Given Wednesday		
	MAX (6:25) ** Aliens vs. Predator: Requiem (2007)		*** Crimson Peak (2015, Horror)		(ESP) Mia Wasikowska, Jessica Chastain, Tom Hiddleston. (R)		Outcast Kyle pressures Allison for a meeting. (N)		Outcast (ESP)
	SHOW (6:59) ** Shooter (2007, Suspense)		(ESP) Mark Wahlberg, Michael Peña, Danny Glover. (R)		As I Am: The Life and Times of DJ AM (2015) The life and work of the mash-up pioneer. (NR)		Roadies (ESP)		
STZENC	STARZ (6:59) *** There's Something About Mary (1998, Romance-Comedy)		(ESP) Cameron Diaz, Ben Stiller. (R)		** The Night Before (2015, Comedy)		(:45) ** Transporter 2 (2005) Jason Statham.		
	(6:25) *** A Soldier's Story (1984) (ESP) (PG)		(:07) Spartacus: Blood and Sand (ESP)		Power Ghost and Angela travel to Miami. (ESP)		*** Kingdom of Heaven (2005, Historical Drama) (ESP)		Orlando Bloom. (R)