

EVENTS

VMAs: ‘This is fame, bruh!’ And not much else.

BY CHRIS RICHARDS  
THE WASHINGTON POST

Before “disruption” became an abused Silicon Valley buzzword, it was something you might encounter on MTV’s annual Video Music Awards show. Sometimes, the disruptions are low-stakes: Madonna smooching Britney Spears in 2003. And sometimes they’re lower-stakes: Howard Stern dressed up as a flatulent superhero in 1992.

Sunday night’s VMAs felt no-stakes. A smattering of pop’s biggest names gathered inside Madison Square Garden for an evening of on-message performances and mutual congratulations. That meant no feuds, no stunts, no sabotage and just about zip-zero drama — because who needs Viacom’s megaphone to make mischief in the social media age? Today’s pop stars are free to disrupt on their own time.

Beyonce and Rihanna dominated the evening, as they are wont to do. Both singers launched massive and magnificent concert tours earlier this year, and on Sunday night, they each did their best to squeeze those shows into the context of an awards-show telecast. Rihanna, who was receiving MTV’s shiny Video Vanguard Award, gave four separate performances throughout the



LUCAS JACKSON | REUTERS

Rihanna performs during the MTV Video Music Awards in New York on Sunday night.

evening — some stronger than others — while Beyonce blasted her way through an extended medley of songs from her remarkable new album, “Lemonade.”

In the context of MTV’s history, the extra screen time felt meaningful. Back in January, shortly after the death of David Bowie, an early-1980s interview with

the rock icon began circulating. In it, he chastised MTV for its failure to air music videos from black artists. More than three decades later, despite the fact that MTV no longer airs music videos, the network appeared to be staging a tacit celebration of black women and the power of their music.

As for the rest of the

show, it told us things we already knew. We were reminded that Spears has spent nearly three years in Las Vegas. (Her performance felt unstylish and far away.) We were reminded that Diddy is still about his Benjamins. (He managed to drop a sponsor’s slogan into his presentation prattle.) And we were reminded that Drake is still corny. (He

fawned over Rihanna while presenting her with the Video Vanguard Award — and for a moment, it looked as if he might get down on one knee in what would have been the most ill-advised stunt marriage proposal in history.)

But here’s something we didn’t know: Earlier this month, when Olympic swimmer Michael Phelps famous-

ly scrunched up his face before the men’s 200-meter butterfly semifinal, he was listening to Future’s “Stick Talk” — a detail that Phelps revealed before bringing the innovative Atlanta rapper to the stage. This obviously didn’t generate the kind of titillation that once was synonymous with the VMAs, but it was a satisfying little surprise. It’s also cool that Phelps digs an artist who often raps as though he is drowning.

Aside from Future, only two other rappers performed. The great Nicki Minaj gave a not-great duet with Ariana Grande, while leather-and-pomade-enthusiast G-Eazy said some rhyming words alongside Spears. Chance the Rapper, Designer and others sat in the audience and watched. What a waste. This has been an astonishing year for rap music, but Sunday’s VMAs seemed to be suffering the same kind of hip-hop allergies we see every winter at the Grammy Awards.

In the middle of all of this, Kanye West materialized to introduce his new music video, and he managed to sum up the entire night with one bull’s eye phrase in an otherwise wayward speech: “This is fame, bruh!” Exactly. In total, this year’s VMAs were not honoring mischief, or excellence, or the intersection of the two — just fame.

Things to Do

AUGUSTA — Rockhounds Gem and Mineral Show, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 3; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 4, National Guard Armory, Western Avenue. Door prizes, demonstrations in cabbaging and lapidary, mineral displays, dealers in minerals, jewelry, gems, fossils, geode slicing, mineral mine and other games for children. 873-6270.

BANGOR — “Cutting Edge Quilts: The Work of Sally K. Field, with Elizabeth Busch and Ellie Pancoe,” on display 9 a.m.-7 p.m. daily through Sept. 30, Boyd Place Gallery, 21 Boyd St.

BANGOR — Bangor Parks and Recreation Department 54th annual Labor Day Road Race, 9 a.m. Monday, Sept. 5, 647 Main St. Race day registration, 7:45-8:45 a.m. \$20. Advance registration, to print registration form or information, BangorParksandRec.com or 992-4490.

BREWER — Bangor Singles Club dances, 8 p.m.-midnight Fridays, Brewer Eagles Club, 22 Atlantic Ave.: Steve and the Good Old Boys, Sept. 2. Marilyn, 827-5751.

CAMDEN — West Bay Rotary Club’s annual Chowder Challenge as part of Camden Windjammer Festival, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 3, Camden Town Landing. Admission \$9 adults, \$5 children. Meal includes nearly a quart of chowder, oyster crackers, a drink and a chance to vote for your favorite chowder. Proceeds to support local civic charitable and non-profit activities and the Windjammer Festival. Sandy Cox, 691-9204; or Mark Masterson, 236-7997 or 975-1177.

CAMDEN — The Camden Windjammer Festival Nautical Dog Show, 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 3, Camden Harbor Park, presented by P.A.W.S. Animal Adoption Center. pawsadoption.org to register.

CASTINE — Writing workshop with actor, writer and director Stewart Moss, 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 30, Witherle Memorial Library, 41 School St. Free. 326-4375 or refdesk@witherle.lib.me.us.

DEER ISLE — Studio walk-through and end-of-season auction, 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 2, Haystack Mountain School of Crafts, 89 Haystack Drive. Free. Item preview and silent auctions, 7:30 p.m. Live auction, 8 p.m. Benefit school’s scholarship program and studio improvements. Haystack-mtn.org.

EASTPORT — The Eastport Moonlight Movies, 8 p.m. Fridays, Sutherland Amphitheater, 80 Water St.: Sept. 3, “All About Eve.” 214-0040 or lolly@sweetiesdowneast.com.

EASTPORT — Eastport Salmon and Seafood Festival, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 3-4, downtown and other venues. Food, arts, film, tours, children’s activities. eastport-salmonfest.com or Jeanne, 214-1855.

ELLSWORTH — Flash in the Pans street dance, 7:30-9 p.m. Monday, Sept. 5, Jordan’s Snack Bar, Route 1. Benefits Everybody Eats! Flashinthepans.org.

ELLSWORTH — Tea Time Tours, 3 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 31, Woodlawn Museum. Staff-led tour followed by tea and cookies. \$12 Woodlawn members, \$15 others. Space is limited. Reservations, woodlawnmuseum.org.

GORHAM — Rinde Eckert’s “My Fools: A Life in Song,” with Rinde Eckert, 8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 3, Corthell Concert Hall, University of Southern Maine Gorham. Free.

HOWLAND — Howland High School/Penobscot Valley High School reunion for classes 1960-1970, 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 4, at the home of Cheryl and Millard Hatch in Sebobeis. Potluck appetizer and dinner at 5 p.m. Bring your own beverages. A deejay providing music. Bring a chair, \$5 per person and food to share. The Class of 1966 to hold private gathering, 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 3, upstairs at Trapier’s in West Enfield. 732-3636 or 794-3290.

LUBEC — Mary Potterton Memorial Concert series finale, 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 31, Congregational Christian Church. Cellist Peter Lewy and pianist Richard McIntyre performing works by Beethoven,

Schumann, Bach and Lewy. Free. Piano tuning donations accepted. 733-2316, sksmaill@summerkeys.com or summerkeys.com.

NEWPORT — 17th annual North Country Inter-Tribal PowWow, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday-Monday, Sept. 3-5, 934 Elm St. Adults \$5; children free with paid adult. Animals on leash welcome. Emcee James Augustine. Host drum Grandmother’s Tears; other drums Sacred Wolf Singers, Black Hawk Singers, Fish River Singers. Vendors and traders. Ed Littlefield at 368-4944 or Ellie Luce at 443-771-6207; ncountrypowwow1@yahoo.com.

PORTLAND — Third annual Down East Art of Giving Gala, presented by Northbridge and in celebration of Maine arts community and in support of four charities, 6-9 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 1, The Landing at Pine Point, One Union Wharf. Tickets available at a rtogiving2016.brownpapertickets.com.

PORTLAND — Opening reception for “Exhalation,” solo show by Dietlind Vander Schaaf, 5-8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 2, Vestibule 594 gallery, 594 Congress St. Runs through Saturday, Oct. 29.

SOUTHWEST HARBOR — David Little, co-author of “Art of Acadia,” 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 30, Southwest Harbor Public Library. Books available for purchase and signing. 244-7065.

SPRINGFIELD — 166th Springfield Fair, 8 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday-Monday, Sept. 2-5, Springfield Fair grounds, 94 Park St. 4-H exhibits and activities, demolition derby, livestock competitions and agricultural exhibits, horse pulls, children’s activities and contests, midway rides, baking contests, mutton bustin’, eel racing, power wheel derby and more. Admission \$5 ages 3-18; \$10 ages 19 and up. Ride bracelets \$10. Military Night Friday with free admission to active duty and veteran military; Police Recognition Sunday with free admission to law enforcement who show badge.

STONINGTON — “Mr. Burns,” 7 p.m. through Wednesday, Aug. 31; Thursday through Saturday, Sept. 1-3; 2 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 4, Stonington Opera House. \$20 to \$50. Suitable for ages 13 and up.operahousearts.org or 367-2788.

SURRY — Anatoly Wiecek, viola; Riu Mitsuhashi, violin; Liz Downing, flute, perform classical selections 7 p.m. Monday, Sept. 5, Surry Arts at the Barn, 8 Cross Road. \$15. 667-1308 or surryartsatthebarn.com.

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

Yard sale to benefit Corinth food pantry

CORINTH — Safe Place Food Pantry will hold its fall September Savings yard sale 5-7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 15, and 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday, Sept. 16, at the food pantry, 332 Main St.

There will be a range of items, from cleaning to cooking to pet foods to paper products.

All proceeds will go toward maintaining and improving the pantry building and to serving the community.

The pantry feeds approximately 800 families a month.

Baked bean supper at Orrington church

ORRINGTON — A public baked bean supper will be held 4:30-6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 10, at Orrington Congregational Church, 38 Johnson Mill Road.

The menu will include baked beans, hot dogs, casseroles, coleslaw and homemade pies.

Cost is \$7, \$3 for children.

Tuesday 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.	America's Got Talent (N) (L) (HD)			Better Late Than Never		News	
	4	CBC	Rick Mercer	22 Minutes	Standing	Comedy	The National (N)	CBC News	Coronation	Coronation	
	5	CBS	Big Bang	Broke Girl	NCIS (HD)		Zoo (N) (HD)	NCIS: New Orleans		News	
	6	CW	Family Guy	Family Guy	The Flash (HD)		MADtv (N) (HD)	News	Seinfeld	Cougar	
	6	NBC	207	Inside Ed.	America's Got Talent (N) (L) (HD)			Better Late Than Never		News	
	7	ABC	Wheel	Jeopardy!	Bachelor in Paradise (N)	After Paradise		The Middle	Fresh-Boat	News	
	WAGM	FOX	The Insider	Ent. Tonight	Brooklyn	New Girl	Lucifer (HD)	News	Big Bang	Big Bang	
	8	ABC	Wheel	Jeopardy!	Bachelor in Paradise (N)	After Paradise		The Middle	Fresh-Boat	News	
	MPBN	PBS	PBS NewsHour (N) (HD)		Humanity From Space			Uranium -- Twisting		C. Rose	
	9	IND	Motive (N) (HD)		Amazing Race		Zoo (N) (HD)	News-Lisa	CTV News	Daily Show	
13	CBS	Ent. Tonight	The Insider	NCIS (HD)		Zoo (N) (HD)	NCIS: New Orleans		News		
22	FOX	Mod Fam	Mod Fam	Brooklyn	New Girl	Lucifer (HD)	FOX 22 News at 10 (N)		Walk-Dead		
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	WBZ News (N) (HD)		The Walking Dead		The Walking Dead		Seinfeld	
KIDS	NICK		Thunder	Thunder	Nicky, Ricky	Nicky, Ricky	Full House	Full House	Full House	Friends	
	DISN		Girl Meets	Stuck	Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs (PG)		Elena	K.C. Under.	Liv-Mad.	Bunk'd	
LEARN	FREE		Pretty Little Liars		Pretty Little Liars (N)	(:02) Dead of Summer		(:02) Cheer Squad (N)		700 Club	
	HIST		Cnt. Cars	Cnt. Cars	Cnt. Cars	Cars	Forged in Fire (N)	Milwaukee	Milwaukee	Milwaukee	
	DISC		Deadliest Catch		Deadliest Catch		Deadliest Catch: The Bait	Blue		Deadliest	
	TLC		Say Yes	Countdown	Counting On (N)		Cake Boss (N)	(:02) Playhouse Masters		Counting On	
	A&E		Married at First Sight		Married	(:45) Married at First Sight (N)		(:01) Born This Way (N)		Married	
	ANPL		Lair of the Killer Crocs		Man-Eating Super Croc		Man-Eating Super Squid	(:02) Drug Kingpin Hippos		Devoured	
	CSNE		SportsNet	Early	Horse Racing		Equestrian	Sports	SportsNet	Sports	
	ESPN		2016 U.S. Open Tennis First Round. From the USTA National Tennis Center in Flushing, N.Y. (N) (L)								SportCtr
	ESPN2		SportsCenter (N) (L)		Championship Drive		NFL's Greatest Games	Baseball Tonight (N) (L)			Drive
	NBCSP		Spartan Race		Spartan Race (N)		Spartan Race (N)	Spartan Race			Beach Voll.
NESN		MLB Baseball Tampa Bay Rays at Boston Red Sox. (N) (L)					Extra	Red Sox		Sports	
NEWS	CNBC		The Profit		Shark Tank		Shark Tank	The Profit (N)		The Profit	
	CNN		Erin Burnett OutFront (N)		Anderson Cooper 360		Anderson Cooper 360	CNN Tonight		Tonight	
	FNC		Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor (N)		The Kelly File (N)	Hannity (N)		O'Reilly	
	MSNBC		Hardball Chris Matthews		All In With Chris Hayes		Rachel Maddow Show	The Last Word		All In With	
VARIETY	AMC	*** Walk the Line (2005, Biography) (ESP) Joaquin Phoenix. (PG-13)							Halt and Catch Fire (N)		Halt-Catch
	BRV	Below Deck (Part 2 of 2)				Housewives/OC	Housewives/NJ	Housewives/NYC			Happens
	CMT	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man		*** Double Jeopardy (1999, Suspense)	Tommy Lee Jones. (R)			
	COM	Futurama	Futurama	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Tosh.0		Daniel Tosh
	E!	E! News (N)		Botched By Nature		Botched By Nature		Botched By Nature			E! News
	FOOD	Chopped		Chopped Junior (N)		Chopped		Chopped (N)			Chopped
	FX	(6:00) *** Salt (2010)		** Snow White and the Huntsman (2012, Fantasy)	Kristen Stewart. (PG-13)						Snow White
	GAC	Big Sky	Big Sky	Big Sky	Big Sky	Big Sky	Big Sky	Big Sky	Big Sky	Big Sky	Big Sky
	HALL	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man		The Middle	The Middle	The Middle	The Middle	Golden Girls
	HGTV	Fixer Upper		Fixer Upper		Fixer Upper		Hunters	Hunters Int'l		Fixer Upper
	LIFE	(6:00) The Nanny Diaries		* The Ugly Truth (2009) Katherine Heigl. (R)				(:02) * One for the Money (2012)			
	MTV	(10) 2016 MTV Video Music Awards From Madison Square Garden.						Ridiculous.	Ridiculous.		Ridiculous.
	OXY	Sisterhood of Hip Hop		Sisterhood of Hip Hop		Sisterhood of Hip Hop		Sisterhood of Hip Hop			Of Hip Hop
	SPIKE	Ink Master		Ink Master		Ink Master		Ink Master (N)			Ink Master
	SYFY	(6:30) ** Pitch Black (2000)	Radha Mitchell. (NR)			** The Chronicles of Riddick (2004) Vin Diesel. (PG-13)					
	TBN	Supernat.	Potters	Fear Fight	Everyday	Prince	Cornelius	Praise the Lord			
	TBS	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Conan (N)
TCM	(5:15) Guys and Dolls (NR)		*** Young Bess (1953) Jean Simmons. (NR)				**** Spartacus (1960) (PG-13)				
TMC	Life Aquatic With Steve		*** St. Vincent (2014) (ESP) Bill Murray. (PG-13)				*** Up in the Air (2009) (ESP) (R)				
TNT	Castle		Castle		Castle		Castle			Castle	
TRAVEL	Bizarre Foods America		Bert the Conqueror (N)		Andrew Zimmern		Bizarre Foods/Zimmern			Bizarre	
TRU	Imp. Jokers	Imp. Jokers	Imp. Jokers	Imp. Jokers	Imp. Jokers	Imp. Jokers	Adam Ruins	You Can Do		Adam Ruins	
TVL	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	The Andy Griffith Show		Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond		King	
USA	NCIS		WWE SmackDown! (N) (L)				Chrisley	Chrisley		Mod Fam	
VH1	Basketball Wives LA		Basketball Wives LA		Love & Hip Hop		Love & Hip Hop			* B.A.P.S	
WGN-A		** Unbreakable (2000, Suspense)	Bruce Willis. (PG-13)				* The Happening (2008) Mark Wahlberg. (R)				
PREMIUM	HBO	(6:20) The Night Of (ESP Part 8 of 8)			** A Walk Among the Tombstones (2014, Crime Drama) (ESP) Liam Neeson, Dan Stevens. (R)			Hard Knocks: Training Camp With		Vice Principals	
	MAX	(5:55) ** Selfless (2015) Ryan Reynolds.			(7:55) *** Spider-Man (2002, Action) (ESP) Tobey Maguire, Willem Dafoe, Kirsten Dunst. (PG-13)			*** John Wick (2014, Action) (ESP) Keanu Reeves, Michael Nyqvist. (R)			
	SHOW	(5:30) *** Casino Royale (2006) (PG-13)			(7:55) Roadies			*** The Gift (2015) Jason Bateman. An old acquaintance causes trouble for a man and his wife. (R)			Roadies
	STARZ	(6:50) Power (ESP)			(7:50) *** Truth (2015) (ESP) Cate Blanchett. Controversy surrounds CBS anchor Dan Rather. (R)			Power Ghost and Tommy re-enter the game. (ESP)		(1987)	*** Predator
	STZENC	(5:50) *** An Officer and a Gentleman (1982) (R)			*** On Her Majesty's Secret Service (1969) George Lazenby. Agent 007 fights Blofeld's plan to poison the world's food. (PG)			(25) *** Dr. No (1962) (ESP) Sean Connery. (PG)			