

TAGGING ALONG AT THE LATE LATE SHOW

As many of you might have recently become aware, Joel McHale was one of Craig Ferguson's guests on *The Late Late Show* last night. If you keep regular hours, the entire interview has been embedded here for your shockwave-flash enjoyment.

Joel invited us to accompany him to the show and, of course, we accepted. Well, he had us at knife point, after all. So, in an effort to provide content for this blog and push our employment status back to just above tenuous, here are our highlights of the evening.

Editorial note: Though we typically refer to ourselves in the plural form, i.e. we, us, our, etc., for the remainder of this post, we'll drop that nonsense as we'll be discussing ourselves far more than usual and calling us... er, me. This 'us' is beginning to give me an identity crisis.

4:35 - Joel meets me outside the historic CBS Television Studios in Hollywood. It's the same place that they filmed *The Young and the Restless*, *The Price is Right* and that never-aired episode of *Cheaters*. The first thing I notice is Joel's ridiculous new car. Seriously, it's even worse than his last car. It's black with a silly red racing stripe and I'm not even kidding a little bit. I later described it as the kind of thing your daughter's babysitter's boyfriend would drive. For any gearheads out there, it's a 2008 Subaru WRX STI ESX CSI: Miami or something.

4:45 – We're met in the parking lot by the friendly and personable, Julie, a representative of the show. She leads us through the security entrance and into the backstage area. Joel makes me carry his clothes and shoes.

4:50 – Julie escorts us to Joel's green room. The room is certainly big enough for Joel and me to sit and wait in comfortably. But the room slowly fills up as more of Joel's management and representation entourage show up to show their support, give encouragement and test the endurance limits of their Blackberrys. Eventually, there are nine people in this little room, a record according to *The Late Late Show* staff.

P.S. On the way in, I spied a fleeting glance of Craig's first guest, *Sex & the City*'s Kristin Davis in her neighboring room. She was straightening her dress in the mirror. She looks terrific and normal. A real class act as my friend's mother might say. Also, even though she had the number one movie

in the country last week, she only brought two other people with her. Take a note, McHale.

5:20 – Joel returns from make-up and assaults the claustrophobic retinue inside his green room with insults and belittlements. Well, just me, actually. While Craig interviews Kristin Davis in the studio, there is a heated discussion about Joel's clothing. Specifically, Joel has a lot of apprehension about wearing a brown belt with his gray suit. He attempts to borrow his agent's belt (black) but since Joel has the waistline of a twelve-year old gymnast, of course it doesn't fit. We all do our best to assuage his concerns and he ultimately decides to keep the brown belt. That controversy closed; he moves on to the shoes.

5:50 – A runner for *The Late Late Show* shuffles Joel into position. Kristin Davis has asked to stay on for Joel's interview. This rarely ever happens and I can only assume that she has mistaken him for someone of far more fame and worth, like that guy that played "Cliff" on *Cheers*. No, it turns out that, inexplicably, she's a fan of *The Soup* and the two have a fun interplay wherein Joel offers to leave his family for her. The rest of the interview goes really well—Joel is very funny—and Craig all but offers his job to Joel. The sudden, mad clicking of Blackberrys in the Green Room sounds like a swarm of locusts.

6:15 – We're all still waiting in Joel's Green Room, while he stands just outside chatting with Kristin Davis in the hallway. I'm about twenty feet away and I can tell you that she is both lovely and charming. Also, her hair is very shiny. Joel returns, insults me, and everyone congratulates him on a job well done. Even me. He insults me again.

6:40 – Outside, in the parking lot, Joel shows off his ludicrous Subaru to his agents. Kristin Davis rides by, waving goodbye to us from the back window of her very tasteful chauffeured car. Am I noticing just a tinge of embarrassment from Joel as she realizes that the absurd vehicle he is standing in front of might be his own? No, I am decidedly not.