# "Dave, it's not funny. It's dangerous." Michelle Buteau calls out Dave Chappelle's "transphobic" remarks



Comedian Michelle Buteau has publicly called out fellow comedian Dave Chappelle for his controversial statements regarding the transgender community in her latest Netflix special, A Buteau-ful Mind, which was recorded at the iconic Radio City Music Hall in New York City. The special premiered on Netflix on New Year’s Eve and marks Buteau's second comedy special, following her debut in 2020’s Welcome to Buteaupia.

During her set, Buteau directly addressed the ongoing backlash surrounding Chappelle's comedic remarks about transgender individuals, categorising them as “dangerous.” She highlighted the necessity of making jokes that are respectful and humorous without disparaging the LGBTQ+ community. “What I’m saying is it can be done. It can be done. We can tell jokes and stories and not disparage a whole community,” Buteau stated, receiving applause from the audience.

Buteau recounted a personal anecdote about a "beautiful, Black lesbian friend," using it to illustrate how comedy can be crafted thoughtfully. In a direct appeal to Chappelle, she remarked: “So if you guys ever run into Dave Chappelle, can you let him know that s—? I don’t think he knows that s—.” Addressing the gravity of the impact of such jokes, Buteau added, “Dave, it’s not funny. It’s dangerous. I can't believe somebody would make millions and millions of dollars for making people feel unsafe. That is so wild to me, truly.”

With a lively response from her audience, Buteau expressed her intention to revolutionise comedy by prioritising the safety and dignity of individuals within the marginalized communities she aims to represent. “I want to make millions and millions of dollars for making people feel safe, seen, secure, heard and entertained!” she declared.

Buteau's comments follow Chappelle's controversial specials that have garnered significant criticism, particularly his 2021 special The Closer, which prompted protests from transgender activists and some Netflix employees alike. Chappelle has faced backlash in various instances, including remarks made regarding Caitlyn Jenner and ongoing jokes about the trans community in his more recent performances.

Reinforcing her stance, Buteau remarked through a discussion with USA Today that addressing sensitive topics in comedy requires careful thought. She stated, “I’m not saying you can’t say things – I’m just saying, ‘Can you make it funny?’ Because it doesn’t feel funny. You’re hurting people and you’re making it dangerous.”

Buteau’s comments have sparked discussion within the entertainment community about the responsibility of comedians in addressing social issues thoughtfully. Chappelle’s recent works, including “The Dreamer,” have continued to draw scrutiny for his comments on transgender topics, which some have characterised as perpetuating harmful stereotypes.

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

## References

* <https://ew.com/michelle-buteau-dave-chappelle-netflix-special-not-funny-dangerous-8767822> - Corroborates Michelle Buteau's criticism of Dave Chappelle's anti-trans comments in her Netflix special and the audience's reaction.
* <https://www.imdb.com/news/ni65042461/> - Supports the details of Michelle Buteau's comments on Dave Chappelle and her approach to comedy in her new special.
* <https://ew.com/michelle-buteau-dave-chappelle-netflix-special-not-funny-dangerous-8767822> - Provides context on the backlash against Dave Chappelle's 2021 special 'The Closer' and the reactions from Netflix employees.
* <https://www.imdb.com/news/ni65042461/> - Details Buteau's story about her 'Black lesbian friend' and her appeal to Chappelle to be more thoughtful in his comedy.
* <https://ew.com/michelle-buteau-dave-chappelle-netflix-special-not-funny-dangerous-8767822> - Explains Buteau's intention to make comedy that prioritizes the safety and dignity of marginalized communities.
* <https://ew.com/michelle-buteau-dave-chappelle-netflix-special-not-funny-dangerous-8767822> - Discusses the protests and criticism Chappelle faced for his comments on the transgender community, including his special 'The Closer'.
* <https://www.imdb.com/news/ni65042461/> - Highlights Buteau's stance on addressing sensitive topics in comedy and the need to make jokes that are respectful and humorous.
* <https://ew.com/michelle-buteau-dave-chappelle-netflix-special-not-funny-dangerous-8767822> - Mentions the significance of Buteau's performance as the first female comic to record a special at Radio City Music Hall.
* <https://www.imdb.com/news/ni65042461/> - Corroborates Buteau's comments on Chappelle's jokes being 'dangerous' and her desire to make comedy that makes people feel safe and entertained.
* <https://ew.com/michelle-buteau-dave-chappelle-netflix-special-not-funny-dangerous-8767822> - Provides additional context on the ongoing scrutiny of Chappelle's recent works, including 'The Dreamer', for his comments on transgender topics.