

Emmy Parties: The Best Bashes Before and After the Ceremony

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2010 Emmy Awards Party Survival Guide

The guest lists, the giftbags, Stevie Nicks, waiters with face tattoos, and where you're most likely to cross paths with Charlie Sheen.



Emmy parties have already begun in anticipation of Sunday night's ceremony and the revelry will continue well after the last trophy is awarded.

A group of Emmy-nominated actors — Elisabeth Moss, Julie Bowen, Melissa McCarthy, Ty Burrell and Walton Goggins — buddied up to host an awards week kick-off bash with Audi at West Hollywood's Ceconci's last

Sunday night.

Even Emmy host Jane Lynch, who academy officials say "has been at every meeting," made it out on Sunday, hanging with "Mad Men" showrunner Matthew Weiner all night.

Last year, Weiner and fellow AMC cohorts Bryan Cranston and Aaron Paul of "Breaking Bad," right, had much to celebrate at the network's party after the ceremony.

To find out who'll be rocking with Stevie Nicks, which waiters will have face tattoos, and where you're most likely to cross paths with Charlie Sheen, check out our complete guide to 2011 Emmy Awards parties.

FRIDAY

Television Academy's Performers' Nominee Reception

Direct the Car to: Spectra by Wolfgang Puck at the Pacific Design Center

Logline: After category-by-category receptions for each set of nominees over the last month, this is the varsity team gathering, the one not to miss.

Insider Tip: If you didn't make it off the waiting list for the \$700 tickets to the Governor's Ball, this is a cool surrogate. Cheryl Cochetto and her team from Sequoia Productions (Emmys and Oscars Governor's Balls) also produce this Friday-before-the-Emmys kickoff, with nearly all the same providers as Sunday's ball at the Convention Center. All the action's on the patio, so state out ground early. (Last year, the nominees all sang to winner-in-waiting Aaron Paul.) If you're stuck inside, the Grey Goose table is the hot corner.

15th Annual "Entertainment Tonight" Emmy Party

Direct Your Car to: The Vibiana (Downtown)

Logline: "E.T." is the only party to bring "entertainment" to Emmy night: Stevie Nicks. The event has become synonymous with and dominant on Emmy night. "E.T." host Nancy O'Dell has been taking the RSVP's herself on the private phone line. (Photo of Neil Patrick Harris at the 2010 "E.T." Emmy party courtesy of "E.T.")

Insider Tip: Following in the footsteps of Cyndi Lauper and Prince, Nicks will take the stage at 10 p.m. While big, there's not enough room for all 8.8 million viewers who tuned in to "Glee's" May sweeps "Rumours" episode. So make sure you're inside by then.

Wins the Emmy for: Helping the local economy. "E.T." and "The Insider" Executive Producer Linda Bell Blue chose a California theme for this year's event partnering with "Visit California," the state's Travel and Tourism Commission campaign. Expect lots of local wines (Diageo Chateau and Estate), the Sprinklesmobile truck outside for a sweet finish, and local A-list party tunesmith Zen Freeman (Weinstein/Relativity's Golden Globes Party, Esquire House, Paul Oakenfold's opener) behind the turntables.

Giftbag Loot: A free weekend stay at La Costa Resort down in Carlsbad, a gift certificate for a private jet travel from EAS Jet Charter, and Must Have's jewelry line from "Entertainment Tonight's" own in-house style expert, Anya Sarra.

Disclaimer: My twitter account (@CelebSightings) is adapted as a celebrity sightings column for "E.T.'s" corporate sibling "TheInsider."



HBO's Post Emmy Party

Direct Your Car to: Pacific Design Center, Fountain Plaza

Logline: The channel with the most Emmy nominations (104) has to shut down San Vicente Boulevard just for arrivals. The biggest off-site party has more than 1,500 guests inside at any given time, and goes late into the evening, just like the bashes on "Boardwalk Empire." Always top tier, never with sponsors, its reputation precedes it.

Insider Tip: Climb to the top of the elevated cylindrical lounges throughout the party for a bird's eye view of the festivities.

Insider Tip 2: Since most arrive after hitting a few other parties, there will be hair (Oscar Bland) and makeup (Stilla) touch-ups available on site.

Wins the Emmy for: Best Meeting Place. This is where everyone ends up. Where else might you see Larry David, Lady Gaga, and Kate Winslet breaking bread?

