

Sawbones 283: The Chattanooga Medicine Company

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Clint: Sawbones is a show about medical history, and nothing the hosts say should be taken as medical advice or opinion. It's for fun. Can't you just have fun for an hour and not try to diagnose your mystery boil? We think you've earned it. Just sit back, relax, and enjoy a moment of distraction from that weird growth. You're worth it.

[theme music plays]

Audience: [cheers]

Justin: Hello everybody, and welcome to Sawbones, a marital tour of misguided medicine. That's your co-host, Sydnee McElroy.

Audience: [cheers for a very long time]

Justin: I was trying to do a thing where... it's her Bunnacula t-shirt, isn't it? Dang it.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Justin: And I'm Justin McElroy. Whatever.

Audience: [cheers]

Justin: Stop. It's fine. I know where I stand. It's fine. It's fine, I know where I stand. Hello, Nashville, Tennessee.

Audience: [cheers]

Sydnee: Thank you for saying my name, just in case I forgot it, or...

Audience: [laughs]

Sydnee: I appreciate that.

Justin: Uh, we go on... We have played shows all over this beautiful country of ours, and uh, we're returning to Nashville. We played here in 2017. And uh, we were in a car, driving over to the Adventure Science Center. Was that the...

Audience: [cheers]

Justin: ...formerly the Cumberland Science Museum?

Audience: [cheers]

Justin: And when I was a small boy—

Sydnee: We've also been to science museums all over this country.

Justin: We go to science museums all over the—either the science museums, or aquariums, because we have a one-year-old and a four-year-old. And as we we're pulling up to the venue, the Adventure Science Museum, we both look at it and say, "Oh, wait a minute, we've been here before."

Audience: [laughs]

Justin: Literally, we've been to so many science museums and aquariums, but I gotta say, folks... It's a great one.

Audience: [cheers]

Sydnee: It really is. I am moved.

Justin: One of the finest in this great land of ours.

Sydnee: So, whenever we go on the road and do a live show, we like to talk about topics that relate to where we are, and the area we're in. And I want to talk to you... this theater is so beautiful. I'm distracted by...

Justin: Yeah, it's intimidating.

Sydnee: It's very church-like.

Justin: Mm-hmm. Mother church, yeah.

Sydnee: I feel like I need to—

Justin: The home of American music. I mean, it's the birthplace of American music, basically.

Sydnee: I know. I feel like I need to go—

Justin: The birthplace of country music, birthplace of bluegrass...

Sydnee: —to confession or something. It's a little intimidating.

Justin: Why don't you confess what the episode's about?

Audience: [laughs]

Sydnee: ... Good one.

Justin: Yeah. I'm just gonna segue.

Sydnee: Uh, I want to talk about the Chattanooga Medicine Company. Now...

Audience: [cheers]

Sydnee: I have a reason. I know I'm in Nashville. I was worried, as I put this episode together, I was like, "There's not some weird rivalry that I don't know about, right?"

Audience: [mixed shouting]

Justin: Okay, that was mixed. Thank you.

Sydnee: Okay.

Audience: [laughs]

Sydnee: The reason I want to talk about the history of the Chattanooga Medicine Company, because it was one of many medicine companies that kind of sprung up through the late 1800s that sold what we would probably call fake medicine now. [laughs] Patent medicines. Medicines that may or may not have worked, but were marketed well.

But the tie in, the reason that I think it's appropriate, is that the Chattanooga Medicine Company did what a lot of companies at the time started to realize was a good thing to do, and put on medicine shows. And this extended well into the mid-1900s, into the 1960s even. And one of the shows that they sponsored was the Porter Wagoner Show. So you could watch the show and watch Porter Wagoner, or Dolly Parton, sing...

Audience: [cheers]

Sydnee: ... sing songs about laxatives.

Audience: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs] I thought this was the perfect tie in.

Justin: Perfect.

Sydnee: Right?

Justin: Yes.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Justin: Agreed.

Sydnee: So, when... [laughs] When did it start? Well, the—

Justin: I don't know.

Sydnee: No, I'm gonna tell you.

Audience: [laughs]

Justin: Oh, it was rhetorical. Okay.

Sydnee: It dates back to February 21st, 1879. That's my mom's birthday. Not 1879. Don't..

Audience: [laughs]

Justin: You actually didn't say that fast enough. It needed to be...

Sydnee: Don't tell her I said that.

Justin: ...in the same syllable to keep you out of trouble.

Sydnee: She's gonna be mad. [laughs] Um, Zeboim Cartter Patten was the founder of the company. And basically, he had been... he's from Illinois originally, and he came... well, he came down south.

Audience: [laughs]

Justin: Hold on. It's Sawbones, folks.

Sydnee: He came down south during the civil war. As... part of the union army.

Audience: [cheers]

Sydnee: The good guys. [laughs]

Justin: The good guys. Sorry.

Sydnee: I know, there's mixed reactions here. I'm not sure what's happening.

Audience: [laughs]

Sydnee: Well, I know—but the thing is like, he came down south because of the civil war, and then he stayed, and I think... I have a friend who's from Atlanta, and whenever I start to tell a story like this, she goes, "Huh. Carpet baggers."

Audience: [laughs]

Sydnee: So I think that... [laughs]

Justin: It's 2019. Why do you even have a bag full of carpets? It's 2019. Go to a store. It makes no sense. What is it we said yesterday? It was you or Teylor said, "Well, that's the whole ball of wax." And we stopped for a second like... what? Why is there a ball of wax?

Audience: [laughs]

Sydnee: What is that? Yeah.

Justin: What is this ball from?

Sydnee: I don't have any balls of wax. Uh, so anyway... So, Mr. Patten comes down south, decides he wants to stay. He likes Chattanooga, he

wants to stay there. He wants to set up a company, and he gets four of his buddies, and they all become very prominent business men in the Chattanooga community for like, decades to come.

But the first thing they start is this Chattanooga Medicine Company. And at first, it's a very humble operation. It's like, it's a little two-story building, and they just have a couple of employees. And their initial goal is, we need to get a couple medicines that we can start selling right away that will be really big, and we can market really well. They don't want to have a long list of products. Just like, let's start with ones we can really push.

And so, the first thing they go for is a laxative, 'cause those are very popular.

Justin: Laxatives, throughout history, are popular because... you know they're working.

Audience: [laughs]

Justin: It's one of the very few things where it's like, "Oh yeah, that one works. None of our medicines work, but laxatives? They work. The proof is, as they say, in the puddin'."

Audience: [uproarious laughter]

Justin: You can't hurt me, Nashville.

Audience: [laughs and cheers]

Sydnee: You're just done now, right?

Justin: I'm done.

Sydnee: You're done. You're like, that felt so good, I'm...

Justin: I'm done. Proof's in the puddin'. I'm gonna join my cabernet sauvignon over here and reflect on the great thing I said out loud.

Audience: [laughing]

Justin: Oakyyy.

Sydnee: Is it really oaky, or did you just say oaky?

Justin: How would I know? I would have no way. This is the 28th glass of wine I've ever drank. I have no idea if it's oaky or not.

Audience: [laughing]

Sydnee: [laughs] Uh, so they start with what they called Thedford's Black Draught.

Justin: Ohh. [laughs] A good name indeed.

Sydnee: Uh, Black Draught was named for a drink—

Justin: That great Kurt Russell movie we all love.

Audience: [laughs]

Justin: I'm sorry, I thought I was done, folks, but I'm full of 'em tonight.

Sydnee: Just gonna keep going.

Justin: That's actually all. Go ahead, Syd. Sorry.

Sydnee: Uh, no, that's the whole point of the show. You should keep doing that.

Justin: Oh, okay, I'll keep doing them. Dang, pressure's on me, still. Alright.

Sydnee: So, it was named for a drink that sailors would commonly have when they were on ship for long periods of time, because a sailor's diet largely consisted of like, a lot of salted meats, which is not so great for keeping things regular. And so, there was some sort of drink that had like, a black powder sprinkled in it, and it was... Sailors would call it Black Draught, and you would drink it every night before bed to make sure that, y'know, the next morning... things would... y'know.

Justin: You sit on the side of the boat and do your thing.

Audience: [laughs]

Sydnee: That can't be right.

Justin: No, no, no. We all know where they went on a ship. The poop deck.

Audience: [laughs]

Sydnee: No... I will not allow that. [laughs] So anyway, so, they take this laxative, which was... it used senna, which is a laxative. So I mean, I'm certain that it worked making people poop. It probably did just that for most of the people who used it. So, they started marketing Theford's Black-Draught, and it was very popular, and that took off pretty quickly.

The second medicine that they introduced was called—in 1880, was called Wine of Cardui. And they later added... I love this. I need this... sometimes I'll find something, and I'll think, "I want this merch to exist so I can own it." It's Dr. McElree's – not McElroy.

Justin: Close.

Sydnee: But so close. Dr. McElree's Wine of Cardui. Which was a product for... y'know, female problems.

Audience: [laughs]

Sydnee: Just any of them.

Audience: [laughs]

Sydnee: Which a lot of... I mean, they said it was anything related to 'menstrual relief.' Just all parts of that that might bother you, if you are a menstruating person. Whatever it is, just take this. It's fine.

The story behind it... 'cause when you listen to the stories behind these old patent medicines, there's always like, well, sit down, kids, let me tell you the tale of Wine of Cardui. There was a Mrs. Francis Smith. This is the story. Who observed that there was, uh, someone in her town who was suffering from great menstrual pains. And she observed a member of the Cherokee nation give this young woman some leaves, and all of her menstrual pains were gone.

And she thought, "Hm, well, that's really interesting." And her husband, I guess we'll call him Mr... Mrs. Smith. Anyway, Mr. Smith went and said, "Can we get some of those leaves, maybe?" Apparently, he didn't want to sell them, 'cause that's where you think he's like, "Oh, he's gonna sell these." But he doesn't. He just saves them and gives them to their granddaughter.

Justin: This is a cool cat.

Sydnee: Mrs. McElree.

Justin: Okay.

Sydnee: Who then keeps them in a trunk for some period of time. And then, at some point, her husband—it's always the husband. It's gotta be the husband, right? And then *her* husband's like, "Y'know, we should plant those seeds and see what happens." So then, he plants the seeds, and he grows it, and lo and behold, it's a medicine that is great for everything related to menstrual problems.

And then, I guess he gets to be called 'doctor' because of that? It's never clear why Mr. McElree becomes Dr. McElree at this moment in the story. But then he does, and he sells the recipe. So... recipe. Formula. Whatever. In

1882 to the Chattanooga Medicine Company. And so, now, they have Dr. McElree's Wine of Cardui.

And in order to make sure that they had a good reputation, the company wanted to make sure, we're gonna start selling this new medicine, and we want everybody to feel like, ooh, the Chattanooga Medicine Company, their products work. They had a guarantee. We're going to send you all of this product, and if you are not fully satisfied with your results, we'll refund all of your money.

So they sent out like, seven thousand bottles of Wine of Cardui in their first shipment. I mean, tons of this stuff to people all over who were suffering from anything related to menstruation. Literally, any time of the month. Not just—before periods, during periods, after periods, when you think about periods...

Audience: [laughs]

Sydnee: If you can have children, can't have children, any of it, it was good for. So I mean, anything. Pain in the back, in the hips, in your butt, in your stomach, in your legs... they marketed it for all of that. It will work for any of it. And it was a huge success. People loved Wine of Cardui.

So much so, that they had all of these testimonies. And that was often how you would sell these patent medicines back in the day. Because even as we move into the early 1900s, you start to see laws being passed that say like, hey, you can't sell a medicine and lie about what it does...

Justin: [laughs] And what's in it.

Sydnee: And what's in it. That's bad. You need to tell the truth. But you can print whatever testimonials you want. That was no problem. That was like, a legal loophole. So instead of saying, "Here's what our medicine does," they would say, "We could tell you what Wine of Cardui can do for you, but why don't we let all of our satisfied customers?"

[theme music plays]

Justin: Hey, folks. Boy, this is such a fun one to do. I hope you're having fun listening to it, as well. I wanted to break into the show real quick to tell you about our sponsors for this week. The first up is Zip Recruiter.

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Uh, so that's 10% off discount when you use the code 'Sawbones' for the premium version. Dashlane.com/Sawbones for the free 30-day trial of premium.

That is going to do it for our advertisers this week, and uh, without any further ado, let's get back to the show.

Sydnee: And so, I found tons of ads for Wine of Cardui that were marketed, mainly aiming at women, again, with any kind of menstrual related issues. But they would say... this is my favorite. "Woman's modesty and ignorance of danger..."

Audience: [laughs]

Sydnee: "...often cause her to endure pains and suffer torture."

Justin: If you're not a woman, I would encourage you, at this point, to remain perfectly still.

Audience: [laughs]

Justin: You may be tempted to laugh. You may be tempted... [laughs] To react in any way. I would encourage you, please... stay perfectly still.

Audience: [laughs]

Sydnee: So, introducing Dr. McElroy's—not McElroy. Wine of Cardui. I did not make this. "It's a harmless, bitter wine without intoxicating qualities," which is cool, since it's 19% alcohol.

Justin: [laughs]

Sydnee: I would've thought otherwise.

Justin: [laughing]

Sydnee: "It can relieve pain, correct derangements, quiet nervousness..."

Justin: Can you imagine drinking... [laughs] Drinking this stuff, and someone's like, "Uh, hey, Mrs. Peterson, you're drunk." She said, "No, that's impossible!"

Sydnee: "No I'm not..."

Justin: "I'm not drunk, it's—look at it, I'm toxicamidating! It's a carbon monoxide leak."

Audience: [laughing]

Justin: I don't think so.

Sydnee: Again, couched in the time, as we start to move into like, temperance and prohibition era, it was not uncommon to find a medicine that was really just alcohol with some herbs in it that you could call a medicine so you could legally purchase it and drink wine. Y'know. But there were—there were herbs. There were other things. There was blessed thistle, and golden seal, and some other ingredients. But I think the alcohol was the... [laughs] That was probably the prominent effect.

And it was extremely popular. They sold calendars, and almanacs, and song books?

Audience: [laughs]

Justin: About the great period wine?

Sydnee: Well, they were just like, songs of the day. And then like, on one page, you'd have, "Here's a very popular, like, gospel tune." And on the other page, like, "Here's an ad about my period." [laughs]

Audience: [laughs]

Justin: Alright.

Sydnee: There was one, like... I have examples. There was the music for popular song, "Rock me to Sleep, Mother." That's nice. That's pleasant. And next to that was a big testimonial from Mrs. C.M. Ladd, who said, "I take pleasure in telling you and afflicted women that I owe my life, my health, and my happiness to Wine of Cardui." And she... [laughs] "After my marriage, my health broke."

Audience: [laughs]

Justin: Fair.

Sydnee: She went to many physicians. No one could fix it. But then she got Wine of Cardui... [laughs] And she felt so much better. She owes it all to wine.

Justin: Thanks, wine.

Sydnee: Of Cardui. Uh... [laughs] There are others that are very... They had very explicit descriptions of their symptoms. There was one, uh, Mrs. Grace Brown, who said, "I could hardly walk from one room to the other without my womb coming down."

Justin: [laughs]

Audience: [laughs]

Sydnee: That's a problem.

Justin: [laughing]

Sydnee: That's a problem. But then she started taking Wine of Cardui. And she doesn't say that her womb *doesn't* fall down after that... I think she just doesn't care.

Audience: [laughing]

Sydnee: I feel great. [laughs] I'm like, "What's your problem?" Uh, and then, one of my favorite, Mrs. Martha Dingus of...

Audience: [laughs]

Justin: Martha already had the deck stacked against her.

Sydnee: She put... her testimony was published in... they had all these ladies' birthday almanacs. Which, I was thinking, like... what? Birthday almanac? Like birthdays of... and they do. They have like, famous birthdays. They have all the holidays. Which, I guess is good to have a book...

Justin: It was before Google, people.

Sydnee: A book with all the holidays. And then they have a lot of like... astrology? They have like, a lot of zodiac signs, and like... what... where, like, the moon will be. Nativity charts. Different days of the month. That kind of thing. Um, and then they would have like, weather reports. Like, an almanac. Like, weather reports.

And then, they would also have a bunch of ads for whatever patent medicines had sponsored the almanac. Whoever was selling it. And so, in the ladies' birthday almanac in 1909, Mrs. Martha Dingus says, "I feel it my duty to inform you what Cardui has done for me. I was a noted invalid for 20 years."

Audience: [laughs]

Justin: A noted invalid. One of the very popular ones.

Sydnee: But then, four months ago, she commenced to take Wine of Cardui, and now she's great. It's that easy.

Justin: It's that easy. Thanks, wine. Did it again.

Sydnee: Now, the problem that a lot of these patent medicine companies started to run up against, as we move into... this is 1916 when this occurs. And this is about the time when you start to see the FDA is formed, and the pure food and drug act is passed, and the government kind of says, "Listen, we know. We know what you're doing."

Justin: And we love it. We're wild about it.

Audience: [laughs]

Sydnee: "We're the government. We're gonna do a lot of wack stuff in the next... ever. So..."

Audience: [laughs]

Sydnee: "We're not against it, but we gotta look good. So for appearances, we're gonna pass some laws that say you really gotta stop this. We know you're lying. We know this doesn't work, and we also know you're using the testimonials."

So at that point, the Chattanooga Medicine Company, along with a lot of other patent medicine companies, gets in trouble and ends up in court with the American Medical Association. The AMA takes them to court. Which the AMA was doing with a lot of different patent medicine sales companies at that point. Taking them on, and saying, like, "Listen, we're doctors. We know this is not real."

Justin: "You can't sell fun medicine anymore. Only boring medicine that fixes stuff."

Audience: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughing] That really is what happened. "We know this medicine is just alcohol. Stop it." Aw...

Justin: This is cocaine and Pixi Stix mixed up in beer. It said it treats arthritis. You've done a very bad job. Take this medicine off the market.

Sydnee: I have to imagine there was some like, back room conversation where they were like, "We know. We know. But like, we can't buy beer. So..."

Justin: Yeah. Beer's illegal.

Sydnee: So just let it... Well, not yet. But almost. But anyway, they were taken to court, and they said, "Look, this is a fraud. What they're saying is deceitful. They're lying. They're misleading the public." And it was this huge trial.

And then, in the midst of this, at one point, the court is briefly adjourned for, I don't know, whatever courts adjourn for briefly before it recommences. And the company owner at the time, who was the nephew of Patten, the original... Zeboim Patten, uh, John Patten. He has taken over the company, and he, while they're in, while they are adjourned briefly, he starts having this horrible stomach pain, is rushed to the hospital, and ends up in surgery, and then dies.

And so, this throws the whole thing into a tizzy, and nobody knows, like, what's gonna happen with this court case. Like, the owner of the company has just died, and the AMA is still mad, and I mean, they did still lie, and they're still selling this stuff. And what ends up happening is, the whole thing... They declare the Chattanooga Medicine Company the winners of the suit, at the end of it, but their damages that they get are one cent.

Audience: [laughs]

Sydnee: So it was kind of like this draw at the end of the day, like, they have been lying, they've been misleading people... yeah, well, we don't think that, but at the same time, we know what they're doing is wrong, so... you get a penny?

Justin: But also, that guy did die, so maybe what they did wasn't so bad if you think about it.

Audience: [laughs]

Sydnee: So they keep selling their medicine.

Justin: Yay! Chalk one up for the good guys!

Sydnee: So nothing stops them at that point, even though the AMA is still issuing statements like, "We still think it's bad to sell medicine that's mostly alcohol." Everybody else is like, "We don't. We're fine with it."

Justin: Can't chime twice. That's Double Jeopardy. I know the law. I know my rights.

Sydnee: We don't.

Justin: That's why I'm drinking Wine of Cardui to this day.

Sydnee: So they continue to sell these products. They start to roll out more products, uh, to increase, y'know, their profits. To address more problems. In 1935, they develop—there's a doctor, an actual doctor does develop a medicine. Dr. Irvine Grote makes, uh, medicine that was called menthocol, and it was something that you were supposed to put on like, sore muscles. Kind of like an Icy Hot kind of thing.

Except it's totally unpopular. Nobody wants to buy menthocol. So they rename it Soltice, and it becomes hugely popular. Which... I don't understand.

Justin: No.

Sydnee: But for whatever reason, Soltice becomes hugely popular, and so, they start marketing a lot of different like, crèmes and balms that you can rub on your sore muscles, and they make a ton of money that way. Uh, they continue to expand, and during World War II, they actually make K rations for people. And so, they're like, the government like, hails them. Like, ah, they're patriots.

And so, like, now they're on the good side. And everybody's like, hey, it's fine. Keep selling your laxatives and your Wine of Cardui. No problem. And that's when, in 1960, they start thinking big. So the Chattanooga Medicine Company says, "Y'know, it's great to hock these products in our magazines and our almanacs and our calendars. They're still selling all this stuff. But now, there's television, and we could probably reach a lot more people and sell a lot more stuff if we could sell our products on television."

So, they actually start the Chattanooga Medicine Company network. The CMC network, to sell their products on TV. And that is when they start what was initially called the Black-Draught Soltice Porter Wagoner Show.

Justin: [laughs] Just trips off the tongue.

Audience: [laughs]

Justin: The DirecTV cuts it off right after Black-Drought.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Justin: If you look for it today, just search for Black-Drought, 'cause the whole title isn't on there.

Sydnee: You can find... it's actually—it's really interesting. So, of course, as I start reading about this, I'm like, "Well, I gotta find this." It's hard to find the original season of the—like, these started airing in 1961. And to find episodes on YouTube from 1961 is hard.

Justin: We didn't preserve anything back then. I mean, there's episodes of Doctor Who that have been lost to time, because we didn't archive them. There's not a joke there, it's just true.

Sydnee: Doctor Who. [laughs]

Justin: You'll never see all of Doctor Who, 'cause there's a lot from the... whatever, you don't care.

Audience: [laughs]

Justin: Whatever. Just do your medicine thing.

Sydnee: You're being a real bumner right now.

Justin: I'm just saying, if you want to see all William Hartnel's Doctor Who episodes, they're not archived! They're lost to time in memorial!

Audience: [cheers]

Justin: Preserving media is important!

Sydnee: So I went and searched... I said, I gotta find... because I kept reading these accounts of Porter Wagoner and Dolly Parton selling Black-Draught laxative. And I thought, I have to be able to find this. And I found... [laughs] I found a clip of Dolly Parton selling Black-Draught laxative. And Paul, would you mind playing us some...

Audience: [cheers]

Sydnee: ... Dolly Parton, please?

Justin: You gotta listen. This is so good.

Dolly: [singing] Smile from the inside out. Smile from the inside out. Black-Draught... makes you... smile from the inside out!

Audience: [cheers]

Dolly: Ain't that beautiful? Know what that's about? A laxative. Really, Black-Draught is a laxative. But anyhow, oh, it sang it so beautiful. They tried to make it sound pretty. And it sold a lot of products, and it kept us on the air. Also, there was something else we sold - I sold - from the Chattanooga Medicine Company that sponsored the show.

And I tell you... I was so embarrassed, I thought that I would die. I would dread it all week long, having to do the show, 'cause I had to stand up, hold this box of Cardui... which is for that woman's time of the month... water retention, swelling, bloat, y'know, all that stuff.

Well, it was a good product. Oh, I just would rather die than to have done that, but we had to do it. You gotta make your livin'. I'm not so shy anymore, and thanks to the Chattanooga Medicine Company and Porter, I wrote this particular song, because I think it's about time somebody wrote it.

Justin: Thank you, Dolly Parton.

Sydnee: Thank you, Paul.

Audience: [cheers]

Sydnee: She really makes that laxative sound beautiful.

Justin: It's a beautiful laxative.

Sydnee: It really... I mean, it does. Uh, the cool thing... the end of the Chattanooga Medicine Company story is that—

Justin: The cool thing.

Sydnee: The cool thing is that later, it would become known as Chattem Inc, which is still around today. They're still making medicines in Chattanooga today. So there's still a medicine company. They're not selling Black-Draught, as far as I know. They're not selling Wine of Cardui.

Audience: [aww's]

Sydnee: I know. But they're selling stuff like, y'know, Aspercreme, and Selsun Blue, and Gold Bond, Icy Hot, Unisom, Allegra... lots of stuff you probably use. So like, real medicines now. So it's like a happy end to the story.

Justin: Is it?

Audience: [laughs]

Justin: That's a funny way of looking at it. So, for you, a happy story is one in which a bunch of con men dig up some weird leaves out of a lady's trunk, and then plant them, and mix them with booze, and sell them to ladies for like a thousand years, and then they sell pirate laxatives to people that... and they sell those for a long, long time, and then a guy *beefs it*, mid-trial, and everyone's so sad that they give them a penny, and let them keep doing crimes for like, a thousand years.

Audience: [laughing]

Justin: And then later, they make... later, they get to make a bajillion dollars selling old people creams. And you feel like... very happy story. Very good narrative. Another Sawbones well done.

Audience: [cheers]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Justin: Just so I sort of understand what constitutes a happy ending for you.

Sydnee: I mean, you know what we do here. It's all relative. That is a happy ending for Sawbones.

Justin: [laughs] That's a happy ending. Folks, thank you so much for listening to our show.

Audience: [cheers]

Justin: We hope you've enjoyed yourselves. Such an honor to be here. Thank you to Paul. Uh, thank you to the great staff here at the Ryman. We've got, um, a book, it's called Sawbones: The Book, or The Sawbones Book, actually.

Sydnee: That's what it's called, yeah. The Sawbones Book.

Justin: It's on Amazon. You can buy it there. Thank you to the Taxpayers for the use of our song, Medicines, as the intro and outro of our program. There will now be a brief intermission. We encourage you to go buy a bunch of things in the lobby. Um, but uh, that is going to do it for us. So... uh, as always, my name is Justin McElroy.

Sydnee: I'm Sydnee McElroy.

Justin: Until next time, don't drill a hole in your head!

Audience: [cheers]

[theme music plays]

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