

00:00:00	Music	Music	"Switchblade Comb" by Mobius VanChocStraw. A jaunty, jazzy tune reminiscent of the opening theme of a movie. Music continues at a lower volume as Katie introduces herself and her guest, then fades out.
00:00:08	Katie Walsh	Host	Hello! And welcome to <i>Switchblade Sisters</i> , the podcast where women get together to slice and dice our favorite action and genre films. Every week here on the podcast, we invite a new female filmmaker on—a writer, director, actor, or producer—and we talk in-depth about their favorite genre films, maybe one that influenced their own work.
			I'm film critic Katie Walsh, and today we have actor, comedian, writer, producer, Janet Varney!
00:00:29	Janet	Guest	Hello!
00:00:31	Katie	Host	Hello!
			<i>[Music fades out.]</i>
			And of course, <a href="#">JV Club</a> host—
00:00:33	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Katie:</b> —Janet Varney.
			<b>Janet:</b> That's true! On the Maximum Fun network!
			<b>Katie:</b> Yes!
			<b>Janet:</b> Yes, indeed!
00:00:36	Katie	Host	Cross-promote! <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:00:37	Janet	Guest	I know, you've gotta come on mine!
00:00:38	Katie	Host	Oh, I'd love to!
00:00:39	Janet	Guest	Mmm-hm! Mm-hm!
00:00:40	Katie	Host	So! You guys know who Janet is, but I'm just gonna let us all know who Janet is.
			<i>[Both laugh.]</i>
			Janet Varney is an Emmy-nominated actor, comedian, writer, and producer. She most recently starred as the horrible Becca in FXX's <i>You're the Worst</i> , and she created, wrote, and stars in the IFC series <i>Fortune Rookie</i> . JV can also be heard on her podcast <i>The JV Club</i> , as we mentioned, interviewing famous folks about their awkward teen years, and as the sarcastic AI Sorry on the sci-fi comedy podcast <i>Voyage to the Stars</i> .
			She fought dark forces opposite John C. McGinley on three seasons of IFC's <i>Stan Against Evil</i> , and starred in seasons one and three of <i>Burning Love</i> —obsessed with <i>Burning Love</i> .
			<i>[Janet laughs.]</i>
			In the animation world, she was the award-winning voice of Korra on Nickelodeon's critically acclaimed standout hit <i>The Legend of Korra</i> . In addition to numerous guest roles in television and film, both in

character and as herself, Janet co-created, co-wrote, and co-produced *Neil's Puppet Dreams*, a series featuring Neil Patrick Harris and his puppet-filled dreams, and can be seen on Geek and Sundry's *Escape!*, which she hosted and produced.

She's also the co-founder and co-director of SF Sketchfest, the San Francisco comedy festival which is now in its 19<sup>th</sup> year. NBD.

00:01:47 Janet Guest

Wake up, everyone who dozed off during that snore-fest!

*[Katie cracks up.]*

Katie—nooo—no insult to you.

*[Katie keeps laughing.]*

No insult to you. That was a lot of factoids.

00:01:57 Crosstalk Crosstalk

**Katie:** Lot of factoids!

**Janet:** I love factoids.

**Katie:** We gotta get 'em all, there's a lot going on!

00:01:59 Janet Guest

Boy.

*[Katie laughs.]*

Boy.

00:02:02 Katie Host

Janet has chosen Richard Donner's 1985 medieval fantasy film *Ladyhawke*!

00:02:08 Janet Guest

*[Stifling laughter]* That's right.

00:02:08 Katie Host

Janet.

00:02:10 Janet Guest

Yes.

00:02:10 Katie Host

Why did you choose *Ladyhawke*?

00:02:11 Janet Guest

The music?

00:02:12 Katie Host

Yes! I—we're gonna talk about the music!

00:02:14 Janet Guest

I meeean—I don't know! I mean, I honestly don't know. I never talk about this movie with anyone, so...

00:02:20 Katie Host

So today is a special treat. *[Laughs.]*

00:02:22 Janet Guest

It's a special treat! And yeah, when you—when, you know, I was given sort of the choice of a genre movie to pick... um... it's alarming how quickly I thought of that movie.

00:02:32 Katie Host

Oh yeah, you were like—

00:02:33 Janet Guest

And then I immediately was like "Oh, I better scan the list," thinking like "Oh, I'm sure someone did it already" but not really knowing why I would logically think that.

*[Katie laughs quietly.]*

And then realizing that it hadn't been done and feeling like "Oh my god, this is such a great excuse to watch this movie. I haven't seen it

in so many years."

00:02:46 Katie Host Yeah. It's a blast. I'm—I was super happy to watch it.

00:02:52 Janet Guest So! We are—I'm gonna describe *Ladyhawke* a little bit—  
Great!

00:02:53 Katie Host —for those who haven't seen it. And if you haven't seen it, today's episode will contain spoilers. But that shouldn't stop you from listening before you watch. Like we always say, it's not what happens but how it happens that makes a movie worth watching. Still, if you wanna pause this episode and watch it, now's your chance!

00:03:07 Janet Guest Great.

00:03:08 Music Music "Main Title" from *Ladyhawke Original Motion Picture Soundtrack* by Andrew Powell. Music plays quietly in the background until the first movie clip.

00:03:08 Katie Host So. *Ladyhawke*, as I said, is a 1985 medieval fantasy film—  
*[Janet laughs.]*  
—directed by Richard Donner, written by Edward Khmara, Michael Thomas, and Tom Mankiewicz. It stars a post-*War Games*, pre-*Ferris Bueller*—

00:03:22 Janet Guest *[Gasps.]* Thank you for putting that in a chronological context!

00:03:24 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Janet:** I had no idea.  
**Katie:** It's important. Yes.  
**Janet:** I have no idea where it falls. That's good. Okay. So pre... pre-*War Games*?  
**Katie:** *War Games* was '83—  
**Janet:** Post-*War Games*, pre-*Ferris*. That's what you said? Got it.  
**Katie:** *Ferris* was '88, and this movie's '85.  
**Janet:** Okay. Great.

00:03:36 Katie Host Uh, Matthew Broderick, as Phillippe Gaston.  
*[Janet laughs.]*  
Or Phillippe "The Mouse." A thief who escapes from the Bishop of Aquila's dungeon through the sewer right before he's due to be executed. He makes his way to an inn where he's captured by the Bishop's guards, but he's rescued by a mysterious blonde man in black armor and his trusty hawk. His name is Etienne Navarre.

00:03:56 Janet Guest Mm-hm.

00:03:57 Katie Host He is Rutger Hauer. He's the former captain of the guard and he wants Phillippe to help him sneak back into the palace or the fortress to kill the Bishop.

00:04:06 Clip Clip **Etienne:** "I need you to guide me into the city."

**Philippe:** “Not for the life of my mother! Even if I knew who she was.”

**Etienne:** “You’re the only one who has ever escaped from there.”

**Philippe:** “It was chance! Pure chance! A miracle! Once in a lifetime! I fell down a hole and followed my nose.”

00:04:22	Katie	Host	But, uh, one night Philippe narrowly escapes attack from a farmer, uh, with the help of Black Wolf, who’s accompanied by a mysterious woman in a cloak. The mysterious woman is Michelle Pfeiffer.
00:04:33	Janet	Guest	Now—do you have the context for pre-and post—
00:04:36	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Janet:</b> —for Rutger and Michelle?
			<b>Katie:</b> I have—
00:04:38	Katie	Host	I have, um... it is post- <i>Grease 2</i> —
00:04:41	Janet	Guest	<i>[Through laughter]</i> Okay.
00:04:43	Katie	Host	—and post- <i>Scarface</i> .
00:04:43	Janet	Guest	Okay.
			<i>[Janet repeatedly affirms Katie.]</i>
00:04:44	Katie	Host	Which was significant to me because she looks so young in this film? And in those movies she’s, like, very mature.
00:04:48	Janet	Guest	Yes.
00:04:49	Katie	Host	Um... Rutger Hauer... <i>Bladerunner</i> was in 1982. So it was po—it was after <i>Bladerunner</i> .
00:04:55	Janet	Guest	Okay. Okay. Alright.
00:04:56	Katie	Host	Which is interesting ‘cause he’s kind of a bad guy in <i>Bladerunner</i> .
00:04:57	Janet	Guest	Right. But—
00:04:58	Katie	Host	And Richard Donner <u>wanted</u> him to play the bad guy.
00:05:01	Janet	Guest	Oh, really!
00:05:03	Katie	Host	He wanted him to play the—the captain of the guard.
00:05:05	Janet	Guest	Uh-huh.
00:05:06	Katie	Host	Who he ultimately kills at the end. Uh, he also—he had cast Kurt Russell as—
00:05:12	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Janet:</b> Oh my gosh. Okay.
			<b>Katie:</b> —Navarre.
00:05:14	Katie	Host	And then, like, 10 days before they were supposed to start shooting, Kurt Russell dropped out.
			<i>[Janet gasps.]</i>
			And—
00:05:19	Janet	Guest	What a rollercoaster!
00:05:21	Katie	Host	I know. And—and—uh, Rutger Hauer had initially been, like, I really wanna play the Navarre role, and so <i>[though laughter]</i> then Richard Donner calls him up, is like—can you get here? And he drove—he

had, like, a semi-truck that he had turned into a mobile home? And he drove it from the Netherlands to Italy. *[Laughs.]*

00:05:36	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Janet:</b> Okay. First of all—  <b>Katie:</b> And parked it— —outside of the studio and Richard Donner was <u>pissed</u> .
00:05:39	Katie	Host	
00:05:40	Janet	Guest	Okay.
00:05:41	Katie	Host	So—anyway. We—back to the synopsis. We are, uh—so there's this woman with the wolf. There's a man with a hawk.
00:05:48	Janet	Guest	Mm-hm.
00:05:50	Katie	Host	What does the connection?  <i>[Both laugh.]</i>  There's a fight with the guards again and the hawk gets injured and Philippe takes the hawk to this priest's castle.
00:05:59	Clip	Clip	<b>Philippe:</b> "I was told to bring you this bird! It's been wounded!"  <b>Priest:</b> "Oh! Good shot! Bring it in! We'll dine together!"  <b>Philippe:</b> "We can't eat this bird!"  <b>Priest:</b> "What? Oh God, is it Lent again already?"  <b>Philippe:</b> "This is no ordinary hawk, Father! It belongs to a man named Navarre!"  <b>Priest:</b> "Mother of God. Bring her in. Bring it in! Quickly!"
00:06:21	Katie	Host	Ultimately he finds out—he sees this—the young woman at night with a wound in the same place that the hawk is—dun, dun, dun!—Michelle Pfeiffer.
00:06:29	Janet	Guest	Yeah!
00:06:30	Katie	Host	Is a lady that turns into a bird!
00:06:31	Janet	Guest	That's right!
00:06:33	Katie	Host	<i>[Laughs.]</i> And Rutger Hauer is a man that turns into a wolf, but it's by day and by night and they swap.
00:06:38	Clip	Clip	<b>Priest:</b> "By day... you suppose the beautiful bird who brought me. And by night, as you have already guessed, the voice of the wolf that we hear is the cry of Navarre."
00:06:53	Janet	Guest	Mm-hm. It's an—it's a spell that a very wicked, uh, black arts-focused Bishop—
00:07:00	Katie	Host	Yes.
00:07:01	Janet	Guest	—um—holding true to the, sort-of, idea possibly from a middle—evil periods and others that somebody who has power and is supposed to be religious is actually, y'know, perhaps the most corrupt. So this guy sort of calls—he's in love with—with Michelle Pfeiffer's character and he is, uh, so jealous of the love that she shares with Rutger Hauer's character that he—he makes a pact with the Devil, essentially, and this, um, spell is cast and so he—she is—am I

00:07:29 Crosstalk Crosstalk allowed to just jump in? I'm so—  
**Janet:** —enthusiastic about this! *[Laughs.]*

00:07:31 Janet Guest **Katie:** Of course! No, no, no!  
 She—so she is a—she is a hawk, uh, by day and—and he's the wolf by night and they never—they never, ever get to interact. Because the transition takes place. So it's this very cruel joke that—

00:07:42 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Katie:** It's like you're together forever but you can never actually be together.  
**Janet:** —the Devil played on them.

00:07:45 Katie Host Yeah. Um, anyway. So—they wanna break the spell during a solar eclipse, which is a day without night and a night without day, so they ultimately break back into Aquila and... break the spell just by sort of like *[though laughter]* looking at him? *[Laughs.]*  
*[Janet laughs.]*  
 Like, I was like—they—like—I was like, what do they have to do? They have to confront him? So they both have to look at the bishop while they're in their human form?

00:08:08 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Janet:** Uh-huh! That—I don't even know if that's clear to me.  
**Katie:** And then the spell just breaks? *[Through laughter]* Yeah.

00:08:11 Janet Guest I think if you wanna see how passive love conquers all is?  
*[Katie laughs.]*  
That's what it looks like. Two people who love each other looking at someone else. Like, "See?!"  
*[Katie laughs.]*  
 "Love conquers all, everybody. That's what that is."

00:08:21 Katie Host Right. And then Rutger Hauer, like, throws a sword. Kills the bishop.

00:08:25 Janet Guest Gotta throw that sword.

00:08:26 Katie Host Lotta kissing at the end, and then... y'know, like— *[Laughs.]* I was like, everyone's just, like, kissing each other on, like—  
*[Janet laughs.]*  
 —Matthew Broderick kisses the priest *[though laughter]* and then they like—

00:08:35 Janet Guest Yeah. That's Richard Donner for you, I think. There's a lot of—

00:08:37 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Janet:** —comedy.  
**Katie:** Lotta love.

00:08:38 Janet Guest He packed some comedy into this where there didn't necessarily—there wouldn't have been if it were a different person, I think—

00:08:42 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Janet:** —in running this show.

**Katie:** I was gonna ask you—

00:08:44 Katie Host —when you first saw it, like, what’s your relationship to it, like, when you saw it as a kid? Like, do you remember the first time you saw it, or?

00:08:50 Janet Guest I don’t remember the first time I saw it, but I was definitely—like many kids—um, I think, maybe like all kids, I... if I liked something, I would just wanna watch it over and over again. And I think, um... I mean, if—it—I—when I look back on movies that I was kind of obsessed with when I was younger than a teenager? Um, I think... like, there are very few of them that are this—that hard-core romantic?

Like, this is very, very over-the-top, sort-of, love conquers all, and like, this idea of the star-crossed lovers who aren’t able to be together. I don’t know that I responded so strongly to other things like that? Um... but this movie I just loved. And I really do think I probably just stumbled upon it in the video store, ‘cause it was—I mean, I don’t think it’s rated R or anything and my dad would just sort of turn me loose, and uh, and be like, find something! And um—

00:09:44 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Katie:** And you were like, *Ladyhawke*?! Yes! *[Laughs.]*

**Janet:** And I was like—interesting!

00:09:48 Janet Guest Uh—so—but yeah. I just—I just loved it! But I think—Michelle Pfeiffer is so—she is a peculiarly beautiful woman.

00:09:56 Katie Host Yes.

00:09:56 Janet Guest In a very otherworldly way, and I think, y’know, we can get into the sort of, like, feminism or lack thereof or whatever and the fact that she’s sort of literally the only woman in the movie except for, like, one little thing you see in the background—

*[Katie laughs.]*

—of a different scene! Um, but—but she is the kind of actress that I do associate with this kind of ethereal—but also, like, a toughness! So she’s—to me she’s believable even though she’s this tiny little creature, she’s sort of believable as surviving? In some way? Um—

00:10:27 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Katie:** And she’s very self—yeah.

**Janet:** And very little makeup, y’know.

00:10:29 Janet Guest They don’t do much. So she just seems like she could transform into a bird! Whereas, like, if you told me—y’know, if they were like, “And Cameron Diaz as—”

*[Katie laughs.]*

I would be like, oh, no, no, no, no, no, no, no.

00:10:38 Katie Host Well, apparently—I don’t know who else was in the mix for the role, but apparently, um, she ta—she self-taped and—and she had an unknown friend named Kevin Costner—

00:10:48 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Janet:** Oh my God, that’s so funny!

**Katie:** —read the lines with her.

00:10:50 Katie Host It was like, prior to his breakout roles. Um—but uh—she didn't want to play a princess. Like, she wanted to play... you—and I think people had kind of said oh, you're too pretty for certain roles.

00:11:02 Janet Guest Sure!

00:11:03 Katie Host And—which is *[though laughter]* believable.

00:11:05 Janet Guest Yeah, yeah, yeah!

00:11:06 Katie Host Um, but, uh, she want—I think she wanted to play something that was, like, not just a damsel? And I don't think this role is really a—

00:11:12 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Katie:** —damsel role at all.

**Janet:** Not at all. Yeah.

00:11:13 Katie Host And I like that she has sort of androgynous hair?

00:11:17 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Janet:** Yeah!

**Katie:** And— *[Laughs.]*

00:11:18 Janet Guest I know! It's great! It's just like, a weird, bedhead, little-boy messy hair!

*[Katie laughs.]*

00:11:22 Katie Host Yeah! And I think that's why I was, like, surprised that it was after *Scarface* and *Grease 2*! Because she looks really young.

00:11:27 Janet Guest Yeah. She does.

00:11:28 Katie Host Um, and I think they kind of make her look a little bit more boyish and I like that she's, like, always just wearing like these huge, like, sack gowns? *[Laughs.]*

00:11:34 Janet Guest Yeah! She's sort of, like—she—if she's putting on—off and she's putting on Rutger Hau—we assume—

00:11:38 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Katie:** Yeah. Like his clothes, yeah.

**Janet:** Like, the clothes he was wearing—

00:11:40 Janet Guest —but now he's a wolf, so she's swimming—you're right—in these, like, giant cloaks and hoods and stuff like that, and.

00:11:44 Katie Host I do appreciate that the film really takes the time to dive into the logistics of transforming into a— *[though laughter]* animal?

00:11:52 Janet Guest That's right! You know what? But that's the thing that I love about it! And because I did rewatch it, and I—there is a scene in it that still makes me cry, where the—because of the way they're positioned on this one particular day, because there's a mountain peak behind them—

00:12:06 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Katie:** Oh, when they're in the—it is such a—I was—devastating scene.

**Janet:** —the sun hits—yes! The sun hits this—

00:12:11 Janet Guest —so you—so they—the sun is hitting his fur and it's sort-of—at the—it's behind her, she's sort of backlit, and so it's coming past her and it's hitting him and we see the transformation of them, and it's so not, like... y'know, *Teen Wolf* or *American Werewolf in London* or the *Thriller* video? Where, like, the whole point is the special effects?



00:12:31 Katie Host Mm-hm.

00:12:31 Janet Guest It's all very, kind of, symbolic? And it's—it's—that whole movie, to me, is both, like, adorably dated? But also weirdly timeless? For some of the same actual reasons. Like, for some of the same things! Like, to me that whole sequence seems so dated in the sense that it's, like, hey, they did the best they could.

Because, this is—y'know—this movie isn't about special effects. And they just wanted to convey a feeling, but it's also clear that, y'know, it's not overly sophisticated. But at the same time, like—seeing it now—to me, it super works! It's just like this beautiful artistic... series of shots!

00:13:07 Katie Host All of the transformation, uh, sequences are really interesting 'cause it is, like, close-ups of, like, a hawk's eye. And a wing. And someone falling. And—y'know, sunlight hitting and eyeballs changing and it's like—it's not that body horror of transformation—

00:13:21 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Katie:** —where it's like—*[makes agonized monster noise]*. Yeah! *[Laughs.]*

**Janet:** Right! Where it's like *[makes agonized monster noise]*.

00:13:24 Janet Guest And whiskers come out of your skin. Yeah.

00:13:25 Katie Host Right. Um... were you a fan of the fantasy genre? Or like the—medieval period at all? Yeah.

00:13:32 Janet Guest Not really. I mean, I—I definitely—I feel like I, like, tried some Piers Anthony? When I was young? Um, but I was... I think I was much more a sci-fi reader? Like, I loved Ray Bradbury a lot, um, as a kid. And uh, and so—yeah. I wasn't—I wasn't into particularly like... y'know, if you'd asked me if I wanted to be, like... Madison in *Splash* versus—

*[Katie laughs.]*

—any middle—medieval princess, like Maid Marian or anything like that, I would've picked, y'know, being a mermaid. *[Laughs.]*

00:14:00 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Katie:** Right. Well. It's a difficult choice.

**Janet:** Um—or being a—yeah.

00:14:03 Janet Guest And I think I also, in a lot of the medieval stuff, I really—I—I identified—and I—and I would love to—I feel like there's something pat-y-on-the-back-y about being like, "Well, I identified with the boys in the movies!" But that is what I—identified with. Like, I grew up on—my dad is a—loves the *Pirates of Penzance* movie that Kevin Kline is one of the stars of?

And... I loved him? And the—and what the policemen got to do so much more than the idea of, like, wearing a frilly white dress and singing high? That, y'know—that's what I wanted to look like. I wanted to have the pirate boots and to have, y'know, the sword and to have the white floofy shirt—which I guess you get as a man or a woman in certain areas.

*[Katie laughs.]*

Uh, certain eras. But—so yeah. I—I—I—wasn't really—I wasn't, like, miss medieval. *[Laughs.]*

00:14:47 Katie Host Right. Well, it is tough because in those movies—and I—I grew up watching all those—'90s, uh, *Robin Hood*, *Musketeers*, *Man in the Iron Mask*. It's like—you—I wanted to be Kiefer Sutherland!

00:15:02 Janet Guest Yeah!

00:15:03 Katie Host *[Laughs.]* In *Three Musketeers*! Like, I'm like, I don't care about being Maid Marian! She's stuck in some castle! But, um... yeah! I mean, so you do have to find those moments of identification where you can, kind of, like, get in. If they're not being represented.

00:15:19 Janet Guest Yeah. But I think the idea of—of... transforming into an animal and back? I think that was always something. That like—did that—did you watch stuff like that? Where that appealed to you? Like, I remember when *Wolf* came out.

00:15:31 Katie Host Mm-hm.

00:15:31 Janet Guest Um, I was—I was, like, real into that too. Weirdly, with Michelle Pfeiffer as well!

00:15:36 Katie Host *[Through laughter]* Yeah!

00:15:37 Janet Guest Um—but, like, anything like that, where someone transforms into an animal and back? Like, there—like, there's this movie called *Cat People* that I saw on video? Y'know? And stuff like that I was very attracted to. I'm realizing that now. Like, oh, it was probably more about—

*["Switchblade Comb" by Mobius VanChocStraw begins playing in background. A jaunty, jazzy tune reminiscent of the opening theme of a movie.]*

—the animal transformation than it was about anything else.

00:15:53 Katie Host Yeah. Um, and you also mention the score. Uh, so when—we are gonna take a quick break. When we come back we are gonna dive deep.

00:16:00 Janet Guest Great.

00:16:02 Katie Host On the score. *[Laughs.]*

00:16:02 Janet Guest I can't wait.

*[Music continues playing, then fades out.]*

00:16:08 Promo Clip **Music:** Upbeat, sci-fi sounding music plays.

**Dan McCoy:** Hey! I'm Dan McCoy.

**Stuart Wellington:** I'm Stuart Wellington.

**Elliott Kalan:** And I'm Elliott Kalan. Together, we are *The Flop House*.

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**Dan:** New episodes available every other Saturday!

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**Dan, Elliott, and Stuart:** *[In unison] Byeeee!*

00:16:54	Music	Music	"Switchblade Comb" by Mobius VanChocStraw plays, then fades out as Katie speaks.
00:17:00	Katie	Host	Welcome back to <i>Switchblade Sisters!</i> We are with Janet Varney and we are talking about <i>[dramatic sing-song voice] Ladyhawke. [Regular voice]</i> I don't know why I said it like that.
00:17:07	Janet	Guest	It's good. I like a musical title.
00:17:08	Katie	Host	Yeah. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:17:09	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Janet:</b> Whether it deserves it or not. <b>Katie:</b> It seems appropriate.
00:17:11	Janet	Guest	Yeah.
00:17:12	Katie	Host	Um, so we're gonna talk about the score.
00:17:13	Janet	Guest	<i>[Laughs.]</i> Great.
00:17:14	Katie	Host	Which is... bonkers?
00:17:16	Janet	Guest	Yeah.
00:17:16	Katie	Host	I mean, what—
00:17:17	Janet	Guest	I've gone through—I feel like I've cycled through—not <u>eight</u> —did <u>not</u> remember it at <u>all</u> . Like, it made <u>no</u> impression on me as a child? So... when I—and then I remember, like—like, catching up on this movie. Like, feeling like—maybe it was on. I don't know. But maybe <u>10</u> years ago?
00:17:32	Katie	Host	Mm-hm.
00:17:33	Janet	Guest	Seeing some of it? And being—

*[Excerpt from movie score begins playing in the background; dramatic adventure orchestral music heavy on the synth.]*

—so horrified by the music?

*[Katie laughs.]*

That I was like—what are they do—they ruined this movie! How did I not remember this?! To now—fast-forward to today—I watch it and I'm like, this is great!

00:17:47	Katie	Host	Yeah.
00:17:48	Music	Music	Dramatic adventure music somewhat reminiscent of the orchestral Classic Hollywood swashbuckling adventure music found in films like <i>The Adventures of Robin Hood</i> , combined with the heavy-handedness of 1980s fantasy adventure scores, and overlaid with a disconcerting quantity of synth.
			<i>[Music continues playing in background as Katie begins talking.]</i>
00:17:56	Katie	Host	So. The score was written by a guy named Andrew Powell, who only did one other movie score. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:18:03	Janet	Guest	Okay.
00:18:04	Katie	Host	Called <i>Rocket Gibraltar</i> .
00:18:06	Janet	Guest	Alright. Alright. Alright.
00:18:07	Katie	Host	Um, but he's, like, a pretty... he works a lot. He's like, an—a composer-arranger, and he was working with this group called <i>The Alan Parsons Project</i> — <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:18:15	Janet	Guest	Yes! Yes!
00:18:17	Katie	Host	And apparently Richard Donner, when he was location scouting, was listening to the— <i>The Alan Parsons Project</i> ? And then he, like, could <u>not</u> get that out of his mind?
00:18:25	Janet	Guest	Oh no.
00:18:26	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Janet:</b> It's so personal!
			<b>Katie:</b> So of course this—
00:18:27	Janet	Guest	So this is like a <u>personal</u> inside reason—
			<i>[Katie laughs.]</i>
			—for this <u>absurd</u> score.
00:18:31	Katie	Host	<i>[Laughs.]</i> Yeah. And so—and then—of course today I was listening—uh—to get in the zone, I was listening to, um, <i>The Alan Parsons Project</i> , their, like, 1982 <i>[though laughter]</i> album?
00:18:40	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Janet:</b> Oh my god.
			<b>Katie:</b> And it is like—
00:18:42	Katie	Host	It is <u>exactly</u> —
			<i>[Janet laughs.]</i>
			—this vibe. Um, but the <u>other</u> fun fact about Andrew Powell is that he com—um, produced Kate Bush's first two albums.
00:18:51	Janet	Guest	Interesting!
00:18:52	Katie	Host	So—

00:18:53	Janet	Guest	I love that!
00:18:53	Katie	Host	Yeah. He produced <i>The Kick Inside</i> , which has “Wuthering Heights” on it. Which—everyone knows “Wuthering Heights” because it’s—
00:18:58	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<i>[Kate Bush’s “Wuthering Heights” begins playing in background—light piano with mystical chimes.]</i>
			<b>Janet:</b> Oh, come on, guys.
			<b>Katie:</b> —Kate Bush in the red outfit—
00:19:01	Katie	Host	—doing a crazy dance in a field.
00:19:03	Janet	Guest	Yeah. <i>[Singing]</i> Dee dee dee, dee dee dee—dee dee—dee dee deeee. Yeah.
00:19:07	Music	Music	<i>["Wuthering Heights" increases in volume]</i>
			<i>Out on the wily windy moors We'd roll and fall in green</i>
			<i>[Music fades down and continues softly under dialogue]</i>
00:19:14	Katie	Host	Also, that video—I mean, like, that vibe of that video is <u>totally</u> this movie, which is like—ancient, but modern.
00:19:21	Janet	Guest	Yeah.
00:19:21	Katie	Host	And like—
00:19:21	Janet	Guest	Sexy, misty—
			<i>[Katie laughs.]</i>
			What—what’s happening?
			<i>[Music fades out]</i>
00:19:25	Katie	Host	We’re on the moors. It’s like, witchy.
00:19:27	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Katie:</b> There’s magic. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
			<b>Janet:</b> Your—my heart is broken—
00:19:29	Janet	Guest	And I must sing about it.
00:19:30	Katie	Host	<i>[Through laughter]</i> Yes.
00:19:31	Janet	Guest	Yeah. You’re right.
00:19:31	Katie	Host	And like—or you’re like—this is weird, but I love it?
00:19:34	Janet	Guest	Yeah.
			<i>[Katie laughs.]</i>
			Yeah! It came right back around!
00:19:36	Katie	Host	Um. But it’s interesting, because I—I feel like—y’know, we—we say, oh, y’know, this is a Richard Donner film and like... y’know, Vittorio Storaro shot it, but—the—I really feel like the—as I was researching the film, the—the driving force behind this movie was Lauren Shuler—
00:19:52	Janet	Guest	Okay!

00:19:53 Katie Host —Donner. Who...

00:19:55 Janet Guest Interesting.

00:19:56 Katie Host Is married to Richard Donner—

00:19:57 Janet Guest Okay.

00:19:57 Katie Host Um, and they met and fell in love on this movie!

00:19:59 Janet Guest Really!

00:20:00 Katie Host Yes! And they're—

00:20:01 Janet Guest Wait, what does she do?

00:20:02 Katie Host She's the producer!

00:20:03 Janet Guest She's—okay. She's the producer. Yeah.

00:20:04 Katie Host So she—got—she produced *Mr. Mom*, one of—

00:20:07 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Katie:** —my favorite movies from childhood. [*Katie laughs.*]

**Janet:** Great movie. Great movie.

00:20:10 Katie Host Another movie I watch on VHS all the time—why? I don't know. I was, like, eight years old. [*Laughs.*]

[*Janet laughs.*]

What was I doing? Just—it was, like, the only movie we had.

00:20:17 Janet Guest Yeah.

[*Katie laughs.*]

So—I mean, listen! Things that have, like, a comedy and a heart to them, it's hard not to, just, like, always wanna—

00:20:24 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Janet:** —watch it every day.

**Katie:** And that's kind of—

00:20:26 Katie Host Um... Richard Donner and that's obviously her movies, too, but... she got the option for the script. Um, from Edward Khmara, who—who was one of the screenwriters, and then she spent years trying to, like, get it into production. She convinced Richard Donner to direct it, and... then they fell in love! And—

00:20:42 Janet Guest That's a wonderful story!

00:20:43 Katie Host Yeah, they got married in 1985 and they're still married!

00:20:45 Janet Guest Unfortunately, she was—could only produce the movie by night—

[*Katie laughs.*]

—and he could only direct the movie by day. It's so— [*Laughs.*] She would see—it would be, like, they would have the slate and it would be like, just as it was clicking to end the last scene as the sun was going down—

[*Katie laughs.*]

—he would turn into, uh, *Lethal Weapon*. I don't know.

00:21:03 Katie Host *[Through laughter]* Yeah, exactly.

*[Janet laughs.]*

*Superman*. Um... in your career—I mean, you’ve done a lot of stuff where you—you’ve started things and you’ve done creative stuff on your own, like, sort of like, not waiting for someone to just hand you something. You—doing creative projects with your friends; I mean—it—I—I was thinking about that when I was thinking about Lauren Schuler Donner and her producing things in her career, and, I mean... how—you know—what—what’s been your ethos in sort of, like, starting your career and—and—y’know, getting your projects going?

00:21:33 Janet Guest Well, I think, um... one of the things that actually—it’s funny. If—if we’re—if we’re going to draw any comparisons between my meager career—

*[Katie laughs.]*

—and this movie, um, I do think the idea of... like, it’s—even when I started my podcast? I—at the time, I—I—that was, like, seven years ago or so. And—and—there was—there were great podcasts already. I mean, I laugh because I remember thinking then, oh, but everybody already has a podcast!

*[Katie laughs.]*

And that just meant five people did instead of, like, literally everyone? Um... not literally. Uh, but uh—but I think I... I very much at that time... um... wanted to... be able to... be really sincere? And it’s funny that I finally ended up on Maximum Fun, because that’s something that Jesse has always, like, been very forward about.

And I always—I always tell him how much I loved—like... 12 years ago I—maybe more. He had these little buttons that said “The New Sincerity” that had two kittens hugging?

00:22:30 Katie Host Aww!

00:22:31 Janet Guest And—the idea being, like, no, you like it ‘cause you like it! You don’t like it ‘cause you’re snarky and you’re being ironic about it! Yes, there’s a place for that, but also, like—how about you just gushy gushy mushy love something, and you’re also a comedian who makes fun of stuff? Like, can’t those things coexist?

And I think I really—that was at a phase in my life where maybe I felt like I was—like—what I was exposed to or what I was around a lot was maybe a little too snarky for what I was feeling? So the idea of being able to mix comedy and heart? I think, um, that comes from, like, loving movies like this. Where, y’know, there are very few movies that I love that don’t have a real sense of humor to them. That don’t take themselves so seriously.

Um, because it gives you permission to... it almost gives you permission—and that’s why I think things like *Guardians of the Galaxy* succeed so well now, is like—you have the permission to—to recognize when something is preposterous? But because the whole

movie has a spirit of, like, self-awareness or just... joyful silliness? You can sort of accept and move past all of these things that maybe don't make sense or they're just, y'know, so absurd.

Um, but when you—when a movie takes itself super seriously—when anything takes itself so seriously? That's when it's, like, begging you to find the—the faults. In a sense. Y'know? It better be real good, because you're gonna have a lot of down time to sort of go, hmm, I dunno. You're being very, like... y'know, strum und drang about this moment in this movie, but like—does this even make sense?

00:23:58 Janet Guest Because if he's in—if he went back in time, how is he not—like, y'know, you sort of start deconstructing it. So I think if you can—if you can leave room for humor but also leave room for vulnerability? Then that's—that's, uh, that's a really great piece of work and I think that's what I'm drawn to and that's what I'm drawn to creating? Um, and—and so that's something that, y'know, can be hard because... if you're working in—and this goes in—sort of any business where you feel like maybe you're not represented the same way another group is.

Um... and you don't see as many people pushing the boundaries or—or what have you. And that's definitely happening, um, less for women nowadays. Like, there's a lot more equality on the way and happening and present. But um, to be able to just go... okay, not only do I want to start this new thing but I wanna start this new thing that feels like a very vulnerable thing to do because it's from the heart and I'm not protecting myself and I'm not, y'know, I'm just kind of putting it all out there. Um, I think that's a different kind of courage? And I just admire people so much who do that. Like, the Maria Bamfords of the world, for example.

00:25:04 Katie Host Yeah! And it's interesting—like... I was looking at your Twitter and it's like, it's very enthusiastic! And celebratory!

*[Janet laughs.]*

And... um... that can be—y'know—and—and I think that... even in like fandom worlds now, it's like, it's not about loving things. It's about not liking certain things? Which is so frustrating!

00:25:26 Janet Guest Yeah.

00:25:27 Katie Host Um... especially as a creator or even as a fan or a critic or anybody who... um... y'know, is in this world. It's like—it's just like constant negativity.

00:25:37 Janet Guest Yeah. That's a hard thing. I mean, that's a conversation obviously that's ongoing about things like social media and—um, that's obviously like a very, very fair criticism and it's kind of the reason why I haven't really engaged negatively. Um, even though... that's something that I—that I struggle with! I mean, I struggle with not being more political on social media!

But I... I can't—I can't do it! I mean, I—I physically can't take it. I can't take... that much... righteous indignation? Even though I certainly feel it and I certainly act upon it in other ways? Um...I—I'm a—I mean, I have friends who are extremely, uh... loud! On social



media. And in trying to, y'know, amass, uh, a—a bunch of people to—to make good things happen and all of that. And I respect and appreciate that so much, and I'm so glad that there are people doing it. Um.

But that's a—that's something that's—that's I think, um, an ongoing question that we're asking ourselves in this particular, uh, place in time, because if you... you can either feel the responsibility of, like, no, I need to be very loud because I need people to hopefully understand that I stand for something, or, y'know, maybe I'll change some minds. Versus, like, is there some way for me to do that that doesn't encourage trolls? Or that—or that—that doesn't feel like I'm preaching to the choir. Or... do you know what I mean?

Um, so it's an ongoing—it's kind of an ongoing thing! Y'know. Where—where do you put what? Where—what's your output? Where is your art? What kinds of art are you putting out and where, and what are the desired effects, and what can you handle as an artist before you would just, like, crumple up into like a dry leaf and blow away and not be able [*stifling laughter*] to do anything anymore! [*Laughs.*] Y'know?

00:27:18 Katie Host Right! And as someone who's, like, constantly creating new stuff, whether you're, like, doing a podcast or a show or like acting on a show or like... whatever—I mean, how do you, like, keep those—I imagine that in order to keep going, like, in the landscape that we're in with social media, with Twitter, like—is there some sort of... personal resource that you have to just like fill your own cup and like make sure you, like, are—are not getting too drained by, like, the quote-unquote “discourse?”

00:27:43 Janet Guest Yeah, I—I'm—I'm so rarely on social media. I think that's really what it has—has been for me. Um, if—if I were... I think it's a—I think it's habit-forming and it can be habit-forming in a great way? If it's moving your... agenda forward? In a—in a—and it feels good and you're getting more work because you have more followers? All of that kind of stuff? Like, I don't wanna be cynical about that. It's easy to be cynical about it. But... I've seen it help friends of mine who... maybe didn't get that credibility from somewhere else!

And so you could argue that they built it themselves via social media! And I totally respect that. And I—I envy that! But every time I think to myself, like, oh I should—I should engage more so that I get more and more and more followers, um, something inside me, like, cries. [*Laughs.*] Because I just can't live... um... I can't live online that way. I just have—I can't. And I don't think it's this about my age, I think... I've always been somebody who... um... needs to be very physically kind of present to things. And, um—

00:28:42 Katie Host Grounded.

00:28:42 Janet Guest And not be overwhelmed and not get a headache from staring at my computer and stuff. So I have a vulnerability to electronics in that way, where I'm like, oh, I can only do this for a short period of time and then like I can't.

00:28:52 Katie Host Was that always the case or did you—was there a moment where you, like, I have to draw the line.

00:28:55 Janet Guest I never felt like I drew a line.

00:28:57 Katie Host Oh, okay.

00:28:57 Janet Guest Yeah. Um, that's what I—people are like, how do you manage to not get sucked in to Instagram? And I'm like—I don't know!

*[Katie laughs.]*

I—I have so many people that I quote-unquote “follow” who I adore! On Instagram. I have no idea what their children look like! I truly don't know what they're up to! Unless I talk to them! Um, I never scroll through feed! Never!

00:29:18 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Katie:** Yeah. It's inter—

**Janet:** I might see the first—

00:29:20 Janet Guest I go on to post, and then I'm out. Or I go on to respond because I feel like if I post then I want the responsibility of that engagement, of being like, hey, thank you for taking the time to say you liked this picture! You're cool! Or give it a little heart or whatever. I don't wanna just, like, be that un—I mean, I'm not an unapproachable person at all. I'm like, grossly approachable—

*[Katie laughs.]*

—but, um...

00:29:39 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Katie:** Put that in your, uh, in your bio.

**Janet:** But it's like—but yeah.

**Katie and Janet:** Grossly approachable! *[Laughs.]*

00:29:43 Janet Guest But yeah. I—but I—but I don't—I just don't start! I just don't start. And it's not like I have to stop myself. There is no part of me that's like, oohhhh, I really wanna scroll through this feed! It's just not even something that comes up for me.

00:29:54 Katie Host There are some people that just have that, like, they—they don't—they can—in and out. And not have that, like, addictive relationship to social media. Which—is very healthy.

00:30:03 Janet Guest I guess. I mean, I think there are things I'm missing out on, too, but I—I don't—I think I'm getting to the place in my life where you sort of acknowledge who you are and go from there? And I think that would be... I would have to really mean it if I wanted to change myself in that way? And it—then it is, like, well what do I have time for? Becoming a totally different person in that regard? Or just... making some other stuff or, y'know. I dunno.

00:30:27 Music Music "Switchblade Comb" by Mobius VanChocStraw. A jaunty, jazzy tune reminiscent of the opening theme of a movie.

00:30:28 Katie Host It's super interesting. We could go down the rabbit hole—

*[Janet laughs.]*

—of the—

00:30:31 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Katie:** —of the social media conversation. We will take a very quick

break—

**Janet:** It's a hot topic. It's a hot topic.

00:30:35 Katie Host

—and come right back with more Janet Varney and *Ladyhawke!*

*[Music fades out.]*

00:30:44 Promo Clip

**Music:** Gentle, upbeat piano music.

**J. Keith van Straaten:** Hey everybody, this is J. Keith van Straaten, host of *Go Fact Yourself*, a live game show here on the Maximum Fun network. On *Go Fact Yourself*, we take the smartest people we know, and make them look dumb.

**J. Keith:** Paul, by the way, how much do you know about chicken husbandry?

**Paul F. Tompkins:** You gotta give 'em that grain.

**J. Keith:** Alright!

*[Audience laughs.]*

**Paul:** You gotta give 'em that grain!

**J. Keith:** And then smart again.

**J. Keith:** What future hall of fame pitcher for the Cleveland Indians became the first active player to enlist—

**Speaker 1:** Rob Fuller.

**J. Keith:** —wh—oh. Okay!

*[Audience laughs again.]*

**J. Keith:** We've got me, co-host Helen Hong, plus celebrity guests and actual surprise experts.

**J. Keith:** Alright, we have an expert on hand for sure.

**Speaker 2:** Is it Allan Havey?

**J. Keith:** Helen, who do we have tonight?

**Helen Hong:** Allan Havey!

**J. Keith:** Allan Havey!

*[Crowd cheers.]*

**J. Keith:** In the coming weeks, you can hear guests like Maria Bamford, Tom Bergeron, Paul F. Tompkins, Janet Varney, and Grant Imahara. Check us out on the first and third Friday of every month, here on the Maximum Fun network.

*[Music continues for a moment, then ends.]*

00:31:35 Music Music "Switchblade Comb" by Mobius VanChocStraw plays for several moments, then fades out.

00:31:41 Katie Host We're back! We're talking *Ladyhawke*. I'm Katie Walsh. We're here with Janet Varney. So I did promise Janet we would talk about some of the other—could-have-been casts.

00:31:52 Janet Guest Yeah! The other—the other Eric Stoltzes in the *Back to the Futures*.

00:31:55 Katie Host Yes.

00:31:56 Janet Guest Great!

00:31:57 Katie Host Um... huge crazy one, uh, Richard Donner really wanted Mick Jagger to play the bishop.

00:32:02 Janet Guest Really?!

00:32:04 Katie Host Yes! Which I cannot imagine. I—I can imagine then—that the bishop would've been a lot more, like, sexy and slimy? But like—can you imagine Mick Jagger with that hat on?

00:32:13 Janet Guest I mean, no!

*[Both laugh.]*

I'm like, I—because—y'know, you see David Bowie in *Labyrinth* and you're like, how has that—like, nothing has ever made more sense than that, somehow. Even if you didn't see it coming. Mick Jagger as a bishop? I mean, it's... listen. It's a major wink. It's like a—y'know, that's really—when you're stunt casting like that?

That feels so self-aware? Because you gotta know, if you're Richard Donner, you have to know that that is going to pull people out of the movie so fast. Like, it's Mick Jagger! You're—no. You know you're casting Mick Jagger. Y'know?

00:32:47 Katie Host Right, and he's gonna be like—y'know, doing his, like—

00:32:49 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Katie:** —swivel-y hip dance? Yeah.

**Janet:** His little sassy—yeah.

00:32:51 Janet Guest I—it's very, very hard to imagine.

00:32:53 Katie Host Um, and then for... the Philippe the Mouse role, which was so beautifully captured by Matthew Broderick—

00:32:59 Janet Guest Did a good job.

00:33:00 Katie Host Both Sean Penn—

00:33:02 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Janet:** Oh no. No. No, no, no, no, no, no.

**Katie:** Post-*Fast Times*—

00:33:04 Katie Host And Dustin Hoffman.

00:33:06 Janet Guest *[Shrieking]* What?!

*[Katie laughs.]*

I just exploded the microphone. Are you kidding me?!

00:33:10 Katie Host Were considered. But like, Dustin Hoffman was older than Rutger

Hauer, like—

00:33:16 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Janet:** Yeah!

**Katie:** —when they were— *[Laughs.]*

00:33:18 Katie Host Shoot the movie.

00:33:19 Janet Guest I mean, it doesn't say that he has to be any particular age now that I'm thinking about it, like it doesn't say that—

00:33:23 Katie Host Right. But it really does have that kind of, like, y'know, when he gets like scooped up by Navarre—like, he needs to be younger, like, more—like, there's the power dynamic at play.

00:33:34 Janet Guest Yes. Yes.

00:33:35 Katie Host Um... but yeah. It's—

00:33:37 Janet Guest That is nuts. I—if he—I could—we coulda sat here for three hours and you—and you should—

*[Katie laughs.]*

—and you would say, like, fire off some guesses.

00:33:43 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Katie:** And you wouldn't have—and I'm—

**Janet:** And I would never have gotten to those two. Never.

00:33:47 Katie Host Also, just imagining, like, Spicoli?

00:33:50 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Katie:** As like— *[Laughs.]*

**Janet:** I know!

00:33:51 Katie Host As like—as like, *[surfer dude voice]* hey, like, I just escaped from the bishop!

00:33:55 Janet Guest *[Surfer dude voice]* Yeah! Just call me the Mouse!

*[Katie laughs.]*

What's uppp! *[Regular voice.]* It's so funny. Oh my god.

00:33:59 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Katie:** Like, his blonde feathered hair.

**Janet:** I could not.

00:34:01 Janet Guest I mean, what did—what—what—I would've thought you would've said is like, Ricky Shroder! Or like, y'know what I mean? I would've thought that somebody who was somewhat comparable—

00:34:08 Katie Host Right.

00:34:10 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Katie:** But—but really—

**Janet:** Wow. That's nuts.

00:34:11 Katie Host When you think about it, it's like, it only ever could've been Matthew Broderick.

00:34:14 Janet Guest I agree! I mean, I feel that way about all three of them!

00:34:16 Katie Host I know. I know. When you—

00:34:17 Janet Guest Kurt Russell! I mean, listen. I love Kurt Russell. But—

00:34:19 Katie Host Okay. So try to imagine Kurt Russell and Sean Penn. *[Laughs.]*

00:34:22 Janet Guest No. No. No, no, no.

00:34:24 Katie Host It—they—you wouldn't have gotten the, like, European medieval vibes. Like, Rutger Hauer and, y'know—RIP, Rutger Hauer.

00:34:31 Janet Guest I knowww!

00:34:32 Katie Host I'm so sad. Um... he has the—he seems of another time.

00:34:36 Janet Guest Yeah. You can put him anywhere.

00:34:38 Katie Host In the same way that, um, Michelle Pfeiffer... seems like an otherworldly, like, magical creature? Rutger Hauer seems like he's an ancient Viking. *[Laughs.]*

00:34:49 Janet Guest Yeah. Absolutely. 100%. He really can pull that off.

00:34:53 Katie Host Which—

00:34:54 Janet Guest You can—I mean—Matthew Broderick—again—I wouldn't necessarily have thought that that would work. But—

00:34:59 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Katie:** Yeah, 'cause he seems very modern. Yeah.

**Janet:** He's darling. He's darling.

00:35:02 Katie Host Some other fun facts, uh... let's see. I—y'know, um, Rutger Hauer was like a very accomplished swordfighter because he was like, in a show—

00:35:11 Janet Guest You said he was, like, obsessed with—

00:35:13 Katie Host Um—

00:35:13 Janet Guest He was in another medieval thing with the—Jennifer Jason Leigh that I was very shocking to me when I saw it too young and I was like, what is happening? Oh no!

00:35:20 Katie Host That movie came out the same year.

00:35:22 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Katie:** So 1980—

**Janet:** That doesn't surprise me.

00:35:23 Katie Host 1985 was a—a big year for a lot—a lot of these people. *[Laughs.]*

00:35:26 Janet Guest Yeah!

00:35:27 Katie Host Um, Richard Donner had a little movie called *The Goonies*.

00:35:29 Janet Guest Mm-hm.

00:35:30 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Janet:** Heard of it! Heard of it!

**Katie:** Also released in 1985?

00:35:33 Katie Host And, um, Rutger Hauer was in a Paul Verhoeven medieval movie called—

00:35:38 Janet Guest Oh, that's why! 'Cause it's Verhoeven!

00:35:40 Katie Host Yeah. It's *Flesh and Blood*.

00:35:41 Janet Guest With Jennifer Jason Leigh. Yeah.

00:35:43 Katie Host With Jennifer Jason Leigh.

00:35:43 Janet Guest Yeah. That's a confus—that's a very confusing movie for a young person.

[Katie laughs.]

It was definitely very, like... because he—again, he does play this kind of bad person who... is doing very bad things! But because—he—he's a classic antihero! Right? He—he sort of takes advantage of Jennifer Jason Leigh but then she manages to manipulate him so that she's taken less advantage of, and then they have this sort of love affair, but like... from whence it came! You're like, oh no! This is bad!

00:36:13	Katie	Host	Creepy!
00:36:14	Janet	Guest	Yeah.
00:36:15	Katie	Host	Um... and... yeah! It's a—it's an interesting—Rutger Hauer is such an interesting actor. I—we sort of touched on it a little bit earlier, but like—he—y'know, has a—the ability to play sort of sinister characters and... this is a straight-up romantic leading role—even though he is a wolf-man. But— [though laughter] um. He, uh, he is—I think he—I saw a quote from him when I was looking this up that he was sort of, like, he didn't really want to be a huge star. So I wonder if he kind of denied some of those, like, hero roles? So he could, like, be more of a character actor type?
00:36:50	Janet	Guest	I do—and I do think of him as a character actor!
00:36:52	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Janet:</b> Don't you? Yeah!
			<b>Katie:</b> Yeah. Totally.
00:36:52	Janet	Guest	It's like, what would <i>Bladerunner</i> have been without him? I mean, what would've <i>Bladerunner</i> been without basically <u>any</u> of the—the wonderful actors in it. But trying to imagine that movie without him? And like, someone else being in that seminal scene where he's, y'know, the—the tears of rain! Tears of rain, everybody! Like, that is—that—to—to me that scene <u>is</u> the movie in some ways. Y'know.
00:37:11	Katie	Host	Yeah! I mean, the—it—and it—like—we said about this movie, <i>Bladerunner</i> is just cast... you can't imagine anyone else.
00:37:18	Janet	Guest	Yeah.
00:37:18	Katie	Host	In it. [Laughs.]
00:37:19	Janet	Guest	Yeah. I love—I mean, those—those—that's the reason that those movies stand the test of time! Clearly, no one's heard of <i>Ladyhawke</i> so it hasn't quite—
			[Katie laughs.]
			[Stifling laughter]—made it into the <i>Bladerunner</i> category.
00:37:28	Katie	Host	The VideoTech staff has heard of <i>Lady</i> —
			[Janet laughs.]
			[Through laughter] They were—when I rented <i>Ladyhawke</i> from VideoTech, they were like, yeah, obviously. Like, duh!
00:37:37	Janet	Guest	It is—three names—it's nice—it's one thing when someone's like, you've never seen blah, blah, blah? And you're like, who's in it? And then they say three semi-obscure people? You're like, okay, well

that's—I don't necessarily—I shouldn't have necessarily—but when you hear those three names together, you're like, huh! Are—I—no, I haven't seen it or heard of it!

- 00:37:53 Katie Host It's a great combo. *[Laughs.]*
- 00:37:54 Janet Guest Yeah! Unexpected combo.
- 00:37:56 Katie Host So—I—have you ever wanted—I mean, we're talking about this now, but like, y'know—do a medieval period piece? They don't make the movies like this anymore!
- 00:38:03 Janet Guest I would! I mean, I definitely would. I—I—I did—I—I've worn clothes—I've worn sort of Shakespearean classic clothes in one—once in my life, which was when I did, uh, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. When I was in college. And they are heavy as hell. There was like, a very heavy, multilayered velvet, like, with the sort of bustier and everything—the corset and all of that. Um, I do not envy—I mean, *Dangerous Liaisons* is a great movie to show off just how often women fainted.
- [Katie laughs.]*
- Like, they do not shy away from that. Women are constantly having to get some air or pass out on a couch. And that is how it was. Like—
- 00:38:41 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Janet:** You could not breathe.
- Katie:** It's too damn hot! *[Laughs.]*
- 00:38:43 Janet Guest You could—you were crushing your lungs and everything was heavy and hot and you couldn't breathe. And I'm sure everyone stunk.
- 00:38:48 Katie Host I know. I know.
- 00:38:50 Janet Guest Which is fine! But you never think about that when you're watching things like that.
- 00:38:52 Katie Host Well, at least Michelle had some garments that breathed a little bit. *[Laughs.]*
- 00:38:56 Janet Guest Yeah! She got to—she really—it was—you're right. It was this sort of little boyish androgyny to it.
- 00:39:00 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Janet:** Swimming in her cloaks. Me, too.
- Katie:** I know. I lo—I love all her costumes. I—
- 00:39:03 Katie Host I think it was an Italian costume director. I think she makes a little cameo in the film, too.
- 00:39:07 Janet Guest Oh, really?
- 00:39:07 Katie Host Yeah. So.
- 00:39:08 Janet Guest We should—I wonder if she was the bird when they have the— 'cause there's a woman dancing with the bishop at the beginning.
- 00:39:13 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Janet:** That's the only—
- Katie:** I think that's—
- 00:39:14 Katie Host I think that's her.
- 00:39:15 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Katie:** Yeah, yeah, yeah. Yeah.



**Janet:** Yeah. It would make sense.

00:39:16 Janet Guest She was wearing a beautiful robe that had wings on it—

00:39:18 Katie Host Katie: Yeah. That's her.

Janet: So it looked like—

00:39:20 Janet Guest Yeah. That's cool.

00:39:21 Katie Host Well, Janet Varney, thank you so much—

00:39:23 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Janet:** Katie! Thank you!

**Katie:** —for talking about *Ladyhawke*!

00:39:25 Janet Guest Thank you for giving me a reason to rewatch it and talk about it! It was just so much fun!

00:39:29 Katie Host Guys, you gotta see *Ladyhawke*. Go listen to the score. Listen to some *Alan Parsons Project*—

*[Janet laughs.]*

—some Kate Bush. And just get into your medieval fantasy—

00:39:39 Janet Guest That's right. Don't be afraid because love conquers all. *[Laughs.]*

00:39:41 Katie Host Yeah. And uh, listen to Janet's podcast, *Voyage to the Stars, JV Club*—

00:39:45 Janet Guest Awesome.

00:39:46 Katie Host Anything else?

00:39:46 Janet Guest No, I mean, just come up to Sketchfest! There's a ton of Max Fun shows that are gonna be up there, per ushe. We got *Judge John Hodgman*, and, uh, *Jordan, Jesse, Go!* And a bunch that I'm forgetting 'cause we have, like, 300 shows *[though laughter]* so—

*[Katie laughs.]*

But we love—

00:39:59 Katie Host Remember all of them!

00:39:59 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Katie:** Right now! List them! And that's—so soon! Are you guys—like—

**Janet:** Yeah. Remember all of them. Um, but lots of great opportunities to come and see comedy in San Francisco. Yeah! January 9<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>.

00:40:07 Katie Host —in the thick of planning right now?

00:40:08 Janet Guest Very much in the thick. Lots of editing of the program of the, like, 56-page program. *[Laughs.]*

00:40:13 Katie Host Are you gonna do your podcast there?

00:40:14 Janet Guest I'm not! I—I usually take—I do usually do like a year then I take a year off, do it, do it, take a year off.

00:40:19 Katie Host I see.

00:40:20 Janet Guest So this was a year where I felt like there was so much going on that I should probably do—that I should skip.

00:40:24	Katie	Host	Is this the 20 <sup>th</sup> anniversary?
00:40:25	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Janet:</b> Almost. 19 <sup>th</sup> . Yeah. I know. I know.
			<b>Music:</b> "Switchblade Comb" by Mobius VanChocStraw begins playing in background.
			<b>Katie:</b> Almost. Oh, okay. Oh my gosh.
00:40:30	Katie	Host	Well—
00:40:31	Janet	Guest	The one before 20.
			<i>[Katie laughs.]</i>
			That's how we think of it. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:40:33	Katie	Host	Alright. Thank you so much, Janet!
00:40:34	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Janet:</b> Thanks, Katie!
			<b>Katie:</b> This was such a treat.
00:40:35	Janet	Guest	Oh, thank you so much!
00:40:36	Katie	Host	Thank you.
00:40:37	Janet	Guest	Bye, guys!
00:40:37	Katie	Host	Bye!
			Thank you for listening to <i>Switchblade Sisters</i> . With me—Katie Walsh! If you like what you're hearing, please leave us a five-star review on Apple Podcasts. If you wanna let us know what you think of the show, you can tweet us @switchbladepod or email us at <a href="mailto:switchbladesister@maximumfun.org">switchbladesister@maximumfun.org</a> . Please check out our Facebook group— <a href="https://facebook.com/groups/switchbladesisters">facebook.com/groups/switchbladesisters</a> . Our producer is Kasey O'Brien; our senior producer is Laura Swisher. This is a production of MaximumFun.org.
			<i>[Music ends.]</i>
00:41:10	Clip	Clip	<b>Philippe:</b> "I was told to bring you this bird!"
00:41:13	Speaker 1	Guest	<a href="https://MaximumFun.org">MaximumFun.org</a> .
00:41:15	Speaker 2	Guest	Comedy and culture.
00:41:17	Speaker 3	Guest	Artist owned—
00:41:17	Speaker 4	Guest	—Audience supported.