

00:00:01	Dan McCoy	Host	On this episode of <i>The Flop House</i> , <u>another</u> current release! It's... <i>Cats!</i>
00:00:08	Elliott Kalan	Host	That's right! It's the first annual? <i>Flop House</i> Catstacular Catstravaganza, with special guests — Natalie Walker and Jenny Jaffe!
00:00:18	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Elliott:</b> Live!  <b>Natalie:</b> Womennnnn!  <i>[All laugh.]</i>
00:00:21	Music	Music	Light, up-tempo, electric guitar with synth instruments.
00:00:48	Dan	Host	Hey, everyone! And welcome to <i>The Flop House</i> . I'm Dan McCoy.
00:00:52	Stuart Wellington	Host	Oh, hey there, Dan McCoy! I'm... Little Stewie Wellington!
00:00:55	Dan	Host	Oh.
00:00:56	Elliott	Host	And over here is Big Elliott Kalan, the fiercest lumberjack of the Northwest!
00:01:01	Dan	Host	And who do you have next to you, Elliott?
00:01:04	Elliott	Host	Sitting next to me, it's—
00:01:05	Jenny Jaffe	Guest	Jenny Jaffe!
00:01:06	Elliott	Host	That's right, everybody! Returning guest Jenny Jaffe! And Dan, who's sitting next to <u>you</u> ?
00:01:11	Dan	Host	Who is it? It's Natalie Walker!
00:01:13	Natalie Walker	Guest	It's Natalie Walker!  <i>[Laughter.]</i>
00:01:15	Dan	Host	I don't know. I'd—I wanted you to—
00:01:16	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Stuart:</b> We didn't practice this bit, Elliott. You messed us up!  <b>Natalie:</b> Oh, you know—  <i>[Indecipherable crosstalk.]</i>
00:01:19	Natalie	Guest	Just a legendary <i>Cats</i> freak.
00:01:21	Dan	Host	Yeah. <i>[Laughs.]</i>  <i>[Stuart laughs.]</i>
00:01:22	Jenny	Guest	I think it's very fitting that there are so many of us to introduce, though!
00:01:25	Elliott	Host	Yes. Because each of us has a song to sing—  <i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>
00:01:36	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	—about our names and also our characteristics! Which are, strangely, enough, almost the same characteristics all the <u>other</u> ones of us have! But we all get our own songs! <b>Natalie:</b> We <u>all</u> can do magic!  <b>Jenny:</b> Unto thee, Jaffe, the on-a-podcast cat. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:01:41	Elliott	Host	<i>[Stuart and Elliott laugh.]</i> I'm Paul F. Thompkins, the podcast guest cat!  <i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>
00:01:45	Stuart Crosstalk	Host Crosstalk	I mean, he's <u>kinda</u> dressed like a— <b>Stuart:</b> Well, I mean, you know.

00:01:49 Stuart Host **Dan:** He is dressed like a Jellicle cat already.  
00:01:49 Elliott Host Yeah.  
00:01:50 Natalie Guest He's dressed like a Bustopher Jones, sure.  
00:01:52 Crosstalk Guest He's a full Bustopher Jones.  
00:01:52 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Natalie:** Yes.

00:01:53 Elliott Host **Elliott:** Yeah.  
He goes into the tailor and he says, give me the full Bustopher!

00:01:56 Stuart Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
How—how long are we gonna wait into the show before we start deciding which character we are?

00:02:03 Elliott Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
I thought it wa—  
00:02:03 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** I think we have to introduce the characters.

00:02:05 Stuart Host **Dan:** I mean, we can do it whenever you want, Stu!  
00:02:08 Elliott Host I'm just—I'm just saying... I think I'm—  
00:02:09 Stuart Host So we should just do it now, Stu?  
00:02:09 Elliott Host Uh—  
00:02:11 Crosstalk Host Like, to get it off our—  
00:02:11 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** those—it's the—it's the cat in the room.

00:02:13 Stuart Host **Stuart:** Yeah, I wanna get—  
Yeah. I mean—I mean, I'm pretty clearly a Rum Tum Tugger sort.

00:02:17 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
**Natalie:** Of course.

00:02:19 Elliott Host **Elliott:** Goes without saying. Goes without saying.  
I like to think of myself as a regular Skimbleshanks? You know, a railway cat.

00:02:23 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** Wow!

**Jenny:** Oh, yeah, yeah.

00:02:24 Dan Host **Elliott:** *[Inaudible.]*  
And what's the name of the—  
00:02:26 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** You're Gus the Theater Cat.

00:02:29 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** —the cranky, uh, barge cat? *[Laughs.]*  
Natalie: *[Through laughter]* Oh, uh—

**Jenny:** That's—my favorite character!

**Elliott:** Is it Growltiger?

00:02:32 Natalie Guest **Dan:** That kinda half-sings the thing.  
Growltiger and he does a slant rhyme.

*[Stuart laughs.]*  
That gets clawed out.

00:02:35 Stuart Host Yep. That was such a surprise. I mean, not to jump ahead, but I was so happily surprised to see... British, uh... like... crime movie feature, uh...

00:02:46 Natalie Guest *[Through laughter]* Ray Winstone?

00:02:47 Stuart Host Ray Winstone to show up! *[Laughs.]*

00:02:49 Elliott Host It was *[though laughter]* the moment Ray Winstone shows up as Growltiger and I was like, is he gonna sing a song, too?

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:02:55 Crosstalk Crosstalk And then he does! I was like, yes!  
**Dan:** Well—

**Stuart:** When he showed up, I'm like—

**Jenny:** *[Through laughter]* *[Inaudible]* shut down.  
Is he gonna kill *[though laughter]* somebody?

00:02:57 Stuart Host

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:02:59 Elliott Host Dan, I think you are very clearly Mr. Mistoffelees, the cat who lacks confidence but everyone—

00:03:05 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** —believes in him and in the end he gets the job done.

00:03:07 Dan Host **Dan:** You know what? I don't—  
I was gonna get to this later on? So... I uh... y'know, I— *[sighs.]*  
But I feel like since you've slandered me with that—I need to say—

00:03:16 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** Uh... what?

00:03:17 Natalie Guest **Natalie:** Why is that slander?  
Mistoffelees is the hottest one in this whole movie.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:03:19 Dan Host Yeah, but I—see, I got this kind of, like, real, like, “nice guy” energy from Mr. Mistoffelees I didn't like?

00:03:26 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** Like, he was really, like, hanging out, trying to impress Victoria the whole time.

00:03:30 Dan Host **Elliott:** Exactly. Oh yeah, 'cause—  
Like, surely if I save her from a dog, she'll love me.

00:03:32 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** And I—I didn't care for that.

00:03:34 Stuart Host **Stuart:** Yeah, but when he—  
When he starts, like, freak—when he starts doing his thing, man, he's like—flying and shit!

00:03:38 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** Yeah.

**Natalie:** Yeah!

**Elliott:** Yeah, that's true. And he's making roses fly out of flying trombones.

00:03:42 Elliott Host **Dan:** He is shooting car—yeah.  
Okay, Dan, you know what you are? You're Munkustrap, the narrator cat who's so boring he doesn't even get named in the movie.

00:03:48 Natalie Guest *[All laugh.]*  
*[Through laughter]* He doesn't get his own song! He can only say interesting things about other cats.

00:03:53 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** That was his curse!

00:03:56 Dan Host **Natalie:** *[Through laughter]* He has no discerning qualities. He's also there to lead Victoria, our... audience surrogate cat, gently by the hand to see the next character. *[Laughs.]*

00:04:04 Natalie Guest Ohhh!

00:04:05 Elliott Host I wish that she had a song that—where she was like, *[singing]* “Victoria's an audience surrogate cat!”

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:04:13 Crosstalk Crosstalk “And I'll look at that—and I'll look at that!” Like, that kind of thing.  
**Dan:** Now, Natalie—

00:04:14 Stuart Host **Stuart:** So, did we mention—

00:04:15 Dan Host —what we do on this podcast yet?

00:04:17 Elliott Host Well, hold on. Hold on. Natalie—  
Before we do that, more stuff!

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:04:18 Dan Host *[Through laughter]* Yeah! Before we do—

00:04:19 Natalie Guest *[Through laughter]* Before we do that, I also wanna say I am— Taylor Swift a Bombalurina. Uh—'cause I just wanna show up and do one song and think I'm really sexy but not be that good at dancing?

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:04:30 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Natalie:** Sort of get—while other people dance around me well.

00:04:33 Natalie Guest **Jenny:** No question.  
*[Through laughter]* And I'm sort of like—giving face while doing it? But not actually doing a good job.

00:04:39 Stuart Host She's animated strangely. *[Laughs.]*

00:04:42 Natalie Guest *[Through laughter]* Oh, yeah! She's the only one with boobs!  
*[Laughs.]*

00:04:44 Elliott Host And—yeah, well that was—it was—it was weird that she suddenly showed up and was like, oh, cats can have boobs, huh? Alright. I guess that was in her contract. And Jenny, which cat are you?

00:04:51 Jenny Guest So I actually thought that you and I maybe were the Mischief Cats?

00:04:54 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Jenny:** Because I have a feeling we might be very obnoxious to work with. *[Laughs.]*

00:04:57 Elliott Host **Natalie:** Mungojerrie and Rumpleteazer!

00:04:59 Jenny Guest Yeah, that's true. Mungojerrie and Rumpleteazer?  
*[Laughs.]* Yeah.

00:05:00 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Jenny:** I think that might be it.

00:05:02 Dan Host **Dan:** You know, I had a real problem—  
—watch—listening to that song, just because every time... they said “Mungojerrie?” I just kept thinking of the band they did in the summertime? *[Laughs.]* And I was like—oh—I had to look it up later, I'm like, of course! Because that's from the '70s—Mungojerrie took its name from the T.S. Elliott poem, just like *Cats* took those

names from the T.S. Elliott poem. But I'm like, okay. This is—this is weird. It'd be like if one of the cats was just named "Led Zeppelin."

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:05:27 Stuart Host Right in the middle of the movie.  
Mm-hm. Like many of the characters in the early, uh, issues of... the *JoJo's Bizarre Adventure* comic book. Where there's a character named REO Speedwagon; there's a character named Dio; etc., etc. *[Laughs.]*

00:05:40 Elliott Host Okay. So, uh, Dan, what do we do on this podcast, now that we've talked about cat names for a little bit?

00:05:45 Dan Host *[Laughs.]* Yeah. Well, we'll talk about the naming of the cats later on, I think, uh, too! But uh right now, this is a podcast where we watch a bad...? Movie...? *[Pitch rises as he finishes the sentences.]*

00:05:54 Elliott Host Mmmmm!

00:05:55 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** And then we talk about it! *[Laughs.]*

00:05:57 Dan Host **Elliott:** I dunno!  
Um, and—uh—

00:05:59 Stuart Host And this is a movie that's currently in theaters, and we have all seen it at least once in the theater. *[Laughs.]*

00:06:05 Dan Host And, uh, we're gonna be doing something a little different, uh—

00:06:08 Elliott Host We—we see a bad movie and then we talk about it. Right?

00:06:10 Dan Host Yeah, I said that, Elliott!

00:06:11 Elliott Host Mm. I didn't hear you say it.

00:06:13 Dan Host Well—you constantly don't listen to me. But um—*[Laughs.]*

00:06:16 Natalie Guest How Mungojerrie of you!

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:06:20 Elliott Host *[Through laughter]* I guess so.

00:06:21 Dan Host Uh, what was I saying? Oh. You've derailed my train. Uh—I was saying that—

00:06:28 Natalie Guest That's why you can't be Skimblehanks!

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:06:29 Elliott Host No, Skimblehanks keeps that train on the tracks so he can tap-dance along it! At the time when cats are about an inch tall, as opposed to other parts of the movie where cats are a foot tall.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:06:39 Stuart Host I saw—I saw a picture on the internet of the actor who plays Skimblehanks, uh, but it was a full-body nude. And that guy's ass cheeks are, like, two giant hams.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:06:50 Elliott Host Because he's a ballet dancer!

00:06:51 Stuart Host Yeah!

00:06:52 Elliott Host That's where his whole body—all his muscles are in his thighs and his glutes!

00:06:55 Stuart Host Yeah. Which makes it a shame—

00:06:57 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Natalie:** That's why they had to put pants on him!

**Stuart:** —that they dress him up like a fucking Mario Brother! Right?

00:07:00 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
**Natalie:** Well, it's like a weird thing.

00:07:02 Natalie Guest  
**Elliott:** That he's one of the few cats that wears pants. I feel like it was so horny for most of it, but then I feel like there were some bodies that they were like, *[though laughter]* can we just have this guy's ass out?

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:07:13 Stuart Host  
00:07:15 Dan Host  
*[Multiple people laugh.]* It's like—we have to push it into *[inaudible]*. Yeah.  
*[Through laughter]* It—so they went as far as the other direction as they could? 'Cause he like—kinda leaps into the movie like, “Wheeee!”

00:07:20 Natalie Guest  
Yeah! He like, leaps in, and he is in... like... so many clothes.

00:07:25 Stuart Host  
*[Multiple people laugh.]*  
Yeah, yeah, yeah.

00:07:26 Jenny Guest  
*[Multiple people laugh.]*  
I really felt like this movie was my Monkey's Paw wish? To see Idris Elba naked?

00:07:31 Natalie Guest  
*[Multiple people laugh.]*  
Yeah, it's really—it's like, oh, did you want it like this?

00:07:35 Crosstalk Crosstalk  
*[Multiple people laugh.]*  
**Jenny:** I did not!

00:07:37 Elliott Host  
**Elliott:** It's—it's—  
It seems like a strange choice to me—just jumping into that—that Macavity, the evil cat, who is—his trademark look is a trench coat for most of the movie. When it's time for him to do his big dance, he doesn't have it, and they're just like—uhhh, we'll just make him look like a naked guy with no penis.

00:07:50 Jenny Guest  
*[Multiple people laugh.]*  
*[Through laughter]* And it—yeah. It's truly a thing. Well also 'cause the song she just said that he's a ginger cat, but then they make it Idris Elba's skintone? And it's like—oh. I feel uncomfortable about all of this. No one is as naked as Idris Elba is in this movie.

00:08:06 Crosstalk Crosstalk  
*[Multiple people laugh.]*  
**Natalie:** No one has ever been so nude.

00:08:07 Elliott Host  
00:08:10 Stuart Host  
**Elliott:** They just—some—how someone can be covered in fur and yet—  
—incredibly naked at the same time. I dunno.  
He—yeah. He looks like he could do that move that that guy does in the *Watchmen* TV show, where he lubes himself up and slides into a gutter?

00:08:20 Elliott Host  
*[Multiple people laugh.]*  
So Dan, what was the thing you wanted to say?

00:08:21 Dan Host No, I just wanted to say that we're gonna do things a little differently? Because, uh... normally one of the three of us provides the synopsis—such as it is—but we have to give the, uh, power position to our guest Natalie.

00:08:35 Natalie Guest Hello.

00:08:35 Dan Host Who, uh... along with being a musical theater actress herself, was at the premiere of *Cats*.

00:08:43 Natalie Guest I was at the premiere of *Cats* and I have also seen the movie four times. In theaters, now, I've seen it under every sort of influence that I can be under?

00:08:52 Stuart Host Uh-huh.

00:08:53 Natalie Guest Um... and so I really feel like it's my [*though laughter*] time to shine.

00:08:57 Elliott Host [*Multiple people laugh.*] And—and the reason we should explain that—the reason that, uh, you guys are on the podcast for this episode is that you demanded to be on the podcast—

00:09:05 Crosstalk Crosstalk [*Multiple people laugh.*] **Elliott:** —for this episode. When the—

00:09:09 Elliott Host **Natalie:** Yes! As soon as the trailer came out, we said that's what has to happen. When the trailer came out, I think—I think both of you were like, we need to be on this show.

00:09:13 Jenny Guest I think we conspired together? I texted Natalie when the trailer came out and I was like, so we're doing *Flop House* about this. And then I texted you and said, hey, make note—when the—when *Cats* comes out, Natalie and I are jointly guesting on *Flop House*.

00:09:25 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** Yeah. And now it's happened.

**Natalie:** Yes. And then it was beyond all of our wildest dreams. [*Laughs.*]

**Jenny:** This is a—

00:09:31 Jenny Guest [*Multiple people laugh.*] This is a backdoor pilot for Natalie and my podcast where we only talk about *Cats* every week.

00:09:36 Natalie Guest [*Stuart laughs.*] Yeah! We just go in-depth on a different cat every single week.

00:09:40 Jenny Guest I would love that.

00:09:40 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Natalie:** We'd go through the entire history of the cat.

**Elliott:** Call it *The Jellicle Gals*.

00:09:43 Jenny Guest [*Multiple people laugh.*] I love that!

00:09:44 Natalie Guest Yeah!

00:09:45 Elliott Host Uh—okay. So. So tell us—Natalie—what is the tale of—pun intended!—

[*Multiple people laugh.*]

—of *Cats*?

00:09:53	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Jenny:</b> How long is a cat tail?
00:09:54	Jenny	Guest	<b>Dan:</b> Well, no, first—
00:09:57	Elliott	Host	That is another thing the movie <u>could</u> not agree on. I mean, there's so much—there's so much about the size and shape of cats—
00:10:00	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Elliott:</b> —that they [ <i>inaudible</i> ] standardize.
00:10:01	Dan	Host	<b>Dan:</b> I wanted to ask, though, uh— Before we start, should we—should we quiz Natalie about the premiere before or after we talk about the movie?
00:10:09	Elliott	Host	Uh—I think—I think maybe, for those—maybe we should do the plot first. And then we should talk about the premiere afterwards. Because I'm—I'm guessing you're—we've already spent so much time referring to things that will be <u>utter</u> nonsense—
			[ <i>Multiple people laugh.</i> ]
00:10:22	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	—to anyone who hasn't seen the movie. <b>Elliott:</b> And is the [ <i>inaudible</i> ] nonsense to people who have seen it.
			<b>Dan:</b> And to anyone who has!
			[ <i>Multiple people laugh.</i> ]
00:10:27	Natalie	Guest	Okay. So. We open on: the sky!
			[ <i>Multiple people laugh.</i> ]
			[ <i>Through laughter</i> ] The only thing large enough to contain <i>Cats 2019</i> . But what's the revealing itself to us amidst the stars? Sweetie is the face of a cat. The Jellicle Moon is out, baby!
			[ <i>Multiple people laugh.</i> ]
00:10:54	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	We bend down through London of an indeterminate time period, according to the libretto—1939, or the present, or a time in space. 1939 is when T.S. Eliot wrote the <i>Cats</i> series of poems. <b>Elliott:</b> 'Cause they keep referring to Queen Victoria.
00:10:57	Elliott	Host	<b>Natalie:</b> Suddenly— [ <i>Laughs.</i> ] And I was like—they have a car. So it can't be, like, really Queen Victoria time. But—
00:11:01	Natalie	Guest	Exactly. It's all a mish-mosh. And now—
00:11:04	Elliott	Host	So you're saying it's—it's 1939, and what—the universe is—what the film is saying is—the greatest war in human history is about to break open.
			[ <i>Multiple people laugh.</i> ]
00:11:17	Dan	Host	All laws have been suspended. Cats now have human faces and hands and can dance the night away. Well, and everyone has left town to prepare for that war. [ <i>Laughs.</i> ] Leaving only the cats—
00:11:21	Stuart	Host	And I mean—
00:11:22	Natalie	Guest	Exactly.



00:11:22 Stuart Host I think we've all learned that those—all those laws are meaningless, because Macavity's already broken them all.

*[Dan laughs.]*

00:11:27 Elliott Host Go on!  
Every human law.

00:11:28 Jenny Guest Every—the first thing my boyfriend said when he—we woke up this morning—like, before anything else, he just goes—every human law, Jenny.

*[Dan laughs.]*

00:11:36 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Natalie:** Every one!

00:11:37 Jenny Guest **Jenny:** Like, Macav—  
And it's not just British laws! Macavity has broken the law of every country.

00:11:40 Natalie Guest Every human—

00:11:42 Jenny Guest In every—every human law. Macavity has chewed gum in Singapore.

*[Stuart laughs.]*

00:11:48 Crosstalk Crosstalk Macavity has jaywalked.  
**Jenny:** Macavity has—yep.

00:11:52 Elliott Host **Elliott:** He went to Thailand and drew a moustache on the—on a poster of the King of Thailand.  
Very serious over there.

00:11:54 Jenny Guest He's set so many things on fire.

00:11:55 Elliott Host He's the—you know what? I bet Macavity—he was only doing it for research 'cause he wrote one of those books they used to sell at Scholastic Book Fairs? That are like—*101 Crazy Laws!* And they're like—did you know you can't quack like a duck in Bedford, New York? That kind of stuff. I bet Macavity was just testing for that.

00:12:08 Dan Host Yeah.

00:12:09 Natalie Guest Just went through all of 'em.

00:12:11 Elliott Host Okay. So we've established that it's in London and there's a—and the Jellicle Moon is out.

00:12:14 Natalie Guest The Jellicle Moon is out. Then, a car pulls over.

*[Stuart laughs. Dan joins in.]*

Someone pops out. Click-clack-click-clack-click-clack go her heels, and you think those are gonna be the signifiers of a human presence throughout the movie? Um, except for that most of the cats will randomly start wearing shoes midway through?

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

Um—woman swings a burlap sack around. And then she hurls it into the alleyway. And a bunch of cats start circling the little burlap sack. What is in the sack? What is in the sack? And then all of a sudden, a little white cat jumps out! Ooooh! Who is this? Her name is Victoria. She's the *[though laughter]* little white cat!

00:12:49 Stuart Host Natalie, I think you're doing a disservice. When you just say "cats"—

*[Dan laughs. The others join in.]*

00:12:56 Crosstalk Crosstalk —I hope that you are accurately representing—  
**Stuart:** —let's—what slams against your eyeballs? *[Laughs.]*

**Dan:** Yeah. We have to—we have to—

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:12:59 Dan Host We have to take a moment—or perhaps 15 minutes—to talk about the way these cats look. And how it is a fundamental flaw *[though laughter]* in the conception of this movie. *[Laughs.]*

00:13:09 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Natalie:** *[Through laughter]* Or the thing that makes it perfect.

00:13:12 Elliott Host **Elliott:** I would say it is—  
Yeah. It is—it is both the serious flaw that ruins the film, and also—as you said, Natalie—the thing that rockets it to the next level of euphoria.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

That—rather than people in—the people in the—in the show *Cats*—I've never seen the show, but I've seen pictures of it—they just look—and I saw the commercials that played endlessly in the New York area. *[Singing]* Ba da daa da daa da da daaa!  
Dadadada! *Cats!* Now and forever at The Winter Garden! I saw those growing up and it was like, okay, the people look silly. They look like WWF wrestlers—

*[Stuart laughs.]*

—that are supposed to be cat-themed. But instead here they've—it's—I guess you would call it, what, a Lovecraftian monstrosity?

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

It's like—something that is neither cat nor human but has the worst and also sexiest qualities of both?

00:13:52 Jenny Guest *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
It's also just, like—nothing can prepare you for it? 'Cause I saw the pictures. I—I'd seen, like, clips going in? But... the first time you see it and you're really, like, forced to sit and interact with it?

*[Elliott laughs.]*

In a storytelling context—it's the most horrific thing and you just go like, every—everywhere you look there's something else freakish. Like, why is—why is there so much shoulder action? Why are their hands like that? Why—

00:14:15 Elliott Host How come they're always posed so that their butts are sticking up in the air? Like, I think that part of the problem is they went—

00:14:20 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** You've seen a cat before, right? *[Laughs.]*

**Elliott:** —they went super—Yeah, that’s true.

00:14:22 Dan Host  
**Dan:** Yeah. That’s what I was going to say.  
That is very accurate to actual cats. But the problem is, with an actual cat, you just push that butt out of your face, saying, “Get out of here with that!”

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:14:40 Elliott Host  
*[Through laughter]* Whereas when you see sexy dancer butts being stuck in the air, you’re like, this has—this brings a different context to the whole thing that I’m not comfortable with.

00:14:43 Crosstalk Crosstalk  
They—apparently they had to go through some kind of cat camp? For training?

00:14:43 Crosstalk Crosstalk  
**Natalie:** Yes. They had to go to cat school. Mm-hm.

00:14:45 Elliott Host  
**Elliott:** And I think they went a little overboard with it? ‘Cause there’s—there are a lot of—I’m like—there are tons of times in the movie where I’m like, they have nailed that aspect of cat movement. But it—yeah, it is creepy to see a human being doing that.

00:14:53 Stuart Host  
00:14:54 Jenny Guest  
00:14:56 Elliott Host  
I—  
It is so much, like, just twitching. And—  
There’s also—it really—it made me realize that there’s such a thin line between, uh... cat movements and kind of like... vogue, kind of *Paris is Burning* style, like, *Pose* dancing? So I was like—I was like, this is basically *Paris is Burning* but with cats instead of people. Like, they’re just all—

00:15:12 Crosstalk Crosstalk  
**Elliott:** They’re all presenting themselves.

00:15:13 Natalie Guest  
**Natalie:** Well, when they have—  
When they have Les Twins doing their actual dancing—I’m like, oh yes! More of this! In the Jellicle Ball!

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:15:25 Stuart Host  
Get Billy Porter in here to judge all of the cats! *[Laughs.]*  
Funny you should say that! I mean... don’t you—what if Billy Porter had been pulled in to play Macavity? What a show this would’ve been!

00:15:35 Natalie Guest  
*[Dan laughs.]*  
Then he just would’ve roasted all of them as he was *[though laughter]* taking them—as he was “poofing” them into dust.

00:15:41 Dan Host  
00:15:42 Natalie Guest  
Yeah. But for—  
He would’ve had, like, just reads on them instead of just going “Macavityyyyy!”

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:15:48 Elliott Host  
Or—“Meow!” *[Laughs.]*  
Yes. He is—Macavity has—whenever he turns a cat into dust, he has a different catchphrase. And each one is sillier than the *[though laughter]* last.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:15:54 Stuart Host The—  
00:15:54 Natalie Guest When he just says “meow” I really think my brain... *[though laughter]* broke?

00:15:59 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Natalie:** In a beautiful way.

00:16:01 Stuart Host **Stuart:** Well, my favorite is when he goes—  
*[Whispering voice]* “Magic!”

00:16:03 Dan Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
*[Through laughter]* He just, like, sang the thing he’s doing as he does it.

00:16:06 Stuart Host Yeah. He’s saying—he’s saying “bat” and turning into a bat.  
00:16:08 Elliott Host I think a major flaw of the movie is that it’s called *Cats* and the people look like cats, and they’re constantly singing about how they’re cats, but the movie is like... we gotta keep convincing you that they’re cats.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

Sometimes they’ll just go, “Meow! Meow!” Or they’re like—or like—  
*[hisses]*. And—or—put their hands behind their ear and it’s like, I get it. They’re cats. Like, take a break from being cats for a moment.

00:16:27 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Natalie:** When they make Jennifer Hudson crawl! *[Through laughter]* In the grass! *[Laughs.]*

00:16:31 Elliott Host **Jenny:** Or at one point they have—  
00:16:32 Natalie Guest *[Through laughter]* Yeah.  
*[Through laughter]* Let her stand up! Let her walk away!

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:16:36 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** Yeah. The other cats are walking. Why—

00:16:38 Stuart Host **Stuart:** Ian—Ian McKellen was—  
Ian McKellen’s *Cats* performance is, like... he took it up a couple extra notches. Where he’s—

00:16:43 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Jenny:** It feels lived-in—

**Dan:** We’ll get to that. *[Inaudible.]* Like, I can’t—*[inaudible]* gonna be—

**Natalie:** Yeah, we will. *[Laughs.]*

**Elliott:** Okay. Wait—

**Jenny:** Him licking up the milk—Sir Ian McKellen lapping up milk—is the most upsetting thing I’ve ever seen committed to film.

**Natalie:** *[Singing]* Meow, meow, meow, meowwww!

**Stuart:** Yep. *[Laughs.]* So—I do wanna—

00:16:57 Stuart Host **Dan:** I—oh sorry, Stuart, you go first.  
I just wanna say, the—so this movie opens. We have, uh, human-cat hybrids walking around.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

And I love that, like, the movie does not fuck around. It immediately throws you in. They start singing this Jellicle song that we're gonna talk about.

00:17:10 Crosstalk Crosstalk

**Stuart:** And like—

00:17:12 Stuart Host

**Elliott:** About how they're Jellicles, yeah.  
The—it's... experiencing that with a first-time audience was so much fun to feel the energy of people realizing what they were actually going to be doing.

00:17:22 Elliott Host

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

Oh, this is the movie!

00:17:23 Natalie Guest

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

Yes! Yes!

00:17:24 Dan Host

Yeah. It's so much madder than you think from the start, and—and like, I— *[Laughs.]* I had this jaw-open look that I can only liken to... the reaction shots at the end of *The Producers*? When they're watching "Springtime for Hitler?"

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

And like, I look over at Stuart and he has the exact same face on.

*[Stuart laughs.]*

And I—like—my journey with *Cats* was like, I had about 15 minutes of that stunned face. Then about, like, 60 or 70 minutes of... hysterical laughter.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:17:57 Elliott Host

And then, like, the last—the rest, like, half-hour of the movie, I was in something close to awe. *[Laughs.]*

Yeah. You were just in tears 'cause you're like, I've seen the face of God and it's *Cats*' face.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

So—I apologize. Natalie—so you've taken us about three minutes into the movie.

00:18:05 Natalie Guest

*[Through laughter]* Correct!

00:18:06 Crosstalk Crosstalk

**Elliott:** So. They're all singing about how they're Jellicles, right?

**Dan:** Well, but this is—

00:18:08 Natalie Guest

**Natalie:** But this is—

But this is really 'cause this is the imposed, uh, narrative of the movie? Because *Cats*—notably, like, doesn't really have a plot? Like, it literally is just cats coming forward—it's like the second act of *The Nutcracker* where everyone just comes forward and is like, "Here is me! Here's my thing! Goodbye!" Um, and then—

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:18:28	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Natalie:</b> —the real <u>coup</u> — Yeah. <i>[Laughs.]</i> Exactly.
			<b>Elliott:</b> Here’s how we dance in Russia. See ya later. Here’s how we dance in Arabia. See ya later. That kind of stuff.
00:18:33	Natalie	Guest	Like, the real <u>coup</u> of Tom Hooper’s is that he’s like, well, we’re gonna have a whole <u>journey</u> where we have our audience surrogate cat who is coming in—because Victoria’s just, like, one of the cats in the actual show. And you just, like, go into the show and the cats are prowling around the audience. And it just starts with them singing Jellicle Songs at <u>you</u> .
			<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>
00:18:58	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	They’re not doing it to—and—like, the whole show of <i>Cats</i> is that— <b>Natalie:</b> — <u>all</u> of them are on the same page.
			<b>Stuart:</b> Certainly <u>feel</u> like it!
			<i>[Dan laughs.]</i>
00:19:00	Natalie	Guest	And <u>you</u> are an outsider <i>[though laughter]</i> who sucks and doesn’t know what’s going on.
			<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>
00:19:04	Elliott	Host	So it’s like—spoiler alert—the end of this movie, when Judi Dench sings a song directly at the audience, and I was like—could she hear me laughing at her this whole time?
00:19:11	Natalie	Guest	<i>[Through laughter]</i> Yes! Yes! Yes!
00:19:13	Dan	Host	But I also feel like these, like—efforts to make it an understandable narrative? End up being even <u>more</u> alienating?
00:19:19	Natalie	Guest	Oh, no! It makes it even <u>worse</u> . <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:19:21	Dan	Host	‘Cause your brain—when—when it’s just the songs, like, your brain gets into this rhythm of, like, oh, okay, I’m watching a revue. And then, like, someone tries to advance the plot and you’re like, whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa—what?!
00:19:31	Natalie	Guest	What is this? Yeah.
00:19:34	Elliott	Host	Well—the— <i>[Laughs.]</i> The fact that you—that—that—I think—the, uh, the moment that—that typifies what they should’ve been doing with the movie for me is when Rum Tum Tugger is singing and then he just finishes and Victoria’s just like, whew! And then Bustopher Jones just strolls outta nowhere—
			<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>
			—and is like, and it’s time for my song! Bustopher Jones!
			<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>
00:19:49	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Natalie:</b> Oh, hello!
			<b>Elliott:</b> <i>[Inaudible.]</i> They have—
00:19:51	Elliott	Host	There’s so many moments where you’re like—and now the movie will begin!
00:19:55	Dan	Host	<i>[Through laughter]</i> That’s—
			<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>
00:19:56	Elliott	Host	No, ‘cause Skimbleshanks is gonna tell us what it’s like to live on the train!

00:19:58 Dan Host *[Natalie laughs loudly and at length.]*  
*[Through laughter]* That's—that's the best transition in the movie? Because—not only does he, like—not only does *[though laughter]* uh, Bustopher Jones just sort of take her arm and walk her away as if she like—he's like, now you listen to me!

00:20:11 Stuart Host *[Through laughter]* Yeah, he's like—  
00:20:13 Dan Host *[Inaudible.]* Get a Rum Tum Tugger song, he just turns and runs down the street away from the camera. *[Laughs.]*

00:20:19 Natalie Guest *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
*[Through laughter]* Well, no, because I think Grizabella is in-between! I think he hisses at Grizabella at the end of his, and then we get the moment of Jennifer Hudson being in a whole different movie from everyone else.

00:20:28 Dan Host Yeah.

00:20:29 Stuart Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
Which—like—it felt like a good 10% of the audience in our theater—most everybody else was there to see it, uh, ironically. But there is a 10% of the people that were like... Jennifer Hudson's in a movie singing songs. I'm gonna go see that!

00:20:43 Natalie Guest Yes!  
00:20:43 Stuart Host So any time the... very disrespectful audience were like, trying to riff over Jennifer Hudson's performance, they were getting shushed—and rightly so.

00:20:53 Natalie Guest Yes! I believe so. I really think that Jennifer Hudson is good in the movie that she is in, and I think it's right that she's in a different movie! 'Cause Grizabella is the outsider character!

00:21:03 Stuart Host Yeah, yeah, yeah.  
00:21:03 Natalie Guest Ultimately, moreso than Victoria!  
00:21:06 Stuart Host Mm-hm.  
00:21:06 Elliott Host I don't know that there's any performer in this movie who does... uh, themselves an injustice. It—they—they're all handed, like, bad material to work with, basically, but like—everyone's trying their hardest. No one's—no one's crapping out. Everyone's trying to sell it. Judi Dench finally gets her chance to be in *Cats* after missing her chance to be in the original London production of it.

00:21:24 Natalie Guest Correct.  
00:21:25 Elliott Host Like—it's—I was like—everyone is really working hard. There's nobody who's like, wink! I know it's stupid! I'm—it's a—it's *Cats*.

00:21:31 Dan Host I have a—  
00:21:32 Elliott Host But I had—  
00:21:33 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** Sorry. I have a theory about what you're saying.

00:21:35 Elliott Host **Elliott:** I had a question—so is—  
Not—not having seen the stage musical, is the scene where Bustopher Jones get hit in the nuts by a garbage can—

00:21:40 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
**Elliott:** —is that—is that in the original stage musical?

00:21:41 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Natalie:** *[Through laughter]* Absolutely not.  
**Natalie:** That is not in it. *[Laughs.]* That is not a part.

**Elliott:** Oh, okay.

00:21:45 Elliott Host Dan, what were you gonna say? *[Laughs.]*  
00:21:46 Dan Host Well I have—I—I have two things that are brought up by, uh... uh... things you've said. One about how everyone, like, kind of acquits themselves as best they can? Like—I—I kept thinking during it, y'know, not to borrow the, uh, title of another popular podcast—how did this get made? And—but—but it—but it was a sense of like, okay, there is such seriousness of purpose from these actors. And I think that it's because, of course—they are acting in a stage production of *Cats* not knowing that later on, CGI fur will be—

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

—obscuring everything that they're—all the fine work that they're doing!

00:22:20 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** So they're taking it very seriously.

**Elliott:** Oh, sure!

00:22:22 Natalie Guest **They** had no idea—  
00:22:23 Crosstalk Crosstalk How could they have known?  
**Dan:** Yeah. There's no way!

00:22:26 Stuart Host **Natalie:** How could they have known that's what it would look like?  
00:22:27 Crosstalk Crosstalk Mm-hm.  
**Dan:** Yeah.

**Stuart:** Yeah, it's like—it's like—

00:22:29 Stuart Host **Elliott:** So the thing is—  
It's like—in—when Harrison Ford was filming the upcoming film—

*[Elliott laughs.]*

—*Call of the Wild*, which we saw the trailer for before *Cats*—and I feel like there was—must've been a moment where Harrison Ford went up to the director and was like, the dog's gonna look normal, right?

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:22:46 Dan Host And the director's like, uhhhh.... Yeah! *[Laughs.]*  
I saw that trailer. I'm like—they know that dogs exist in the world, right? They don't have to *[though laughter]* have this crazy-looking fake dog!

00:22:52 Stuart Host The—the trailers before our screening of *Cats*—  
00:22:55 Elliott Host It was originally called *Scooby of the Wild*.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:22:57 Stuart Host The—the trailers before our screening of *Cats*—it started with, uh... the—the Aretha Franklin movie, uh, *Respect*. Then it went to *In the Heights* and we're like, oh, okay! This makes sense. And then it goes to *Call of the Wild* and I'm like, uh... wait a minute. And then it goes to *Sonic the Hedgehog* and at that point the audience is going crazy. *[Laughs.]*

00:23:15 Dan Host *[Laughs.]* And then they're all—there's lots of like, some Christian movie about a rock musician? And also a—



00:23:21 Stuart Host It was lost in the blue whirlwind of the *Sonic the Hedgehog* trailer.

00:23:25 Dan Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
00:23:29 Elliott Host But *Doolittle!* They had *Doolittle*, too. It was all the—all the hits. Look, anything with animals or songs! That's what the *Cats* people are there for! Now, Dan—to answer your question, how did this get made? I have a—I think—there is a very rational case to be made for making a movie—this movie of *Cats*.

00:23:40 Dan Host Yes.  
00:23:40 Elliott Host *Cats* was a huge hit for a long time. It was the longest-running show in both London and New York. This cast is amazing. Even the people who are not famous are fantastic performers. I dunno why that they then—so on paper, it's like—this should be a hit. And then for some reason they were like, but first, we're gonna slap some weird CGI crazy cat bodies on everybody.

00:24:00 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** I have a theory about this, too.

00:24:01 Dan Host **Jenny:** But I was talking—  
00:24:02 Jenny Guest Oh, sorry, you go, Jenny, and then I'll. Oh, no, so I—I—well I sorta disagree that it should be a hit. Because like, by its nature, *Cats* is basically a revue. It's like, a—it kind of works as a stage show but even then, like, only sort of? Like—

00:24:12 Elliott Host But you can do—but you could do a—if they did it as a revue movie? I think...

00:24:16 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** It mighta worked. As, like, a novelty.

00:24:19 Jenny Guest **Jenny:** Well here's—here's how I think would've been awesome. I legit—and I'm glad they didn't. I'm so glad they came out with this awful monstrosity instead. But like, I think if they had done a really cool *Fantasia*-like animated movie? Where they were, like, trying really cool, interested—interesting, like, animated techniques? And got like, cool, like...

00:24:34 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Jenny:** —performers—that would've been awesome!

**Elliott:** Well, sure, yeah, that's the good version of *Cats*. *[Laughs.]*

00:24:38 Jenny Guest *[Dan laughs.]*  
Like, there are ways to have done this in a way that would've been a really good... movie! That—it's just weird that Tom Hooper was like, I have an idea of like a weird narrative to lay over—lay over this. But I don't have any other vision.

00:24:51 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** Yeah. I mean—

00:24:53 Dan Host **Dan:** Well, that's what—  
That plays into my theory, which was just like... the problem with this is like... each successive, uh, medium? This, uh... material is given to us? Is less appropriate for what it is. Like, it starts out—

00:25:06 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** Until the VR performed version? *[Inaudible]* soon?

00:25:09 Dan Host **Dan:** It starts out about—  
Well, it starts out these poems of—like—these whimsical, like, character studies of cats. And it's like, okay. Whimsical poems about cats! That makes sense! And then they're like, oh, let's make a musical out of it! I'm like, uhh, that makes... less sense, but I

guess you could do it like a revue and like... y'know, the theatricality of being cats would work on the stage—

*[Someone laughs.]*

And then they're like, let's make a big blockbuster movie about it! Which is the worst thing to do with the material, because like... blockbuster filmmaking now is so literal? So of course they're gonna be like, how do we make them look like real cats? How do we, like... put a story in here?

00:25:42 Elliott Host

And then—and next it'll be the Netflix series? Where it's a ten-episode season and they've gotta, like, stretch that story out and everything?

00:25:48 Dan Host

Yeah.

00:25:48 Stuart Host

Uh-huh.

00:25:49 Elliott Host

Yeah.

00:25:49 Stuart Host

So, guys—

00:25:50 Natalie Guest

I mean, this was—

00:25:51 Stuart Host

Go on.

00:25:52 Natalie Guest

I was just gonna say, this is more or less high-budget hentai.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

I—that is what they succeeded at making. *[Laughs.]*

00:26:00 Elliott Host

Uh, so—uh—

00:26:01 Crosstalk Crosstalk

**Stuart:** So guys, what's—what's a Jellicle cat? *[Laughs.]*

**Elliott:** Just to jump back into the movie—that—we—yeah! Exactly! Yeah, so they spend—

**Natalie:** *[Laughs.]* Yeah! Well, they spend a whole song asking questions—

00:26:07 Natalie Guest

—of what the Jellicle cat is, um, because Victoria has appeared. Victoria's been abandoned by her quote-unquote “family” or... we don't know. And she *[though laughter]* and then all of these horrible... horrible-to-look-at CGI cats start just talking to her and screaming things about Jellicle cats.

*[Dan laughs.]*

Asking her—

*[Someone laughs.]*

—if she's a Jellicle cat. And they're getting increasingly frantic and shrill over the course of this song. And she... doesn't know if she is a Jellicle cat yet! Because in the musical, they're all Jellicle cats and we're like, all cats are Jellicle cats and that's the whole thing! But in this, it's like—they're, like, the Jets and the Sharks. They're like, I—the Jellicle cats are like, a gang of cats. And she doesn't know if she's part of it.

00:26:48 Elliott Host

So here's the way—here's the way I—I—thought—I fig—I—I understood it was: Jellicle cats are, like, the Mutants of cats. They've all got special powers.

*[Dan laughs.]*

And there's good Jellicles and bad Jellicles, and they—even, like, the way that the X-Men and their villains fight each other but then they'll occasionally team up? 'Cause, y'know, they're all Mutants? So like—they're—that's what a Jellicle is! It's just like a cat that was born with a special extra power. For instance: some of them cause mischief, but never get caught. And another one causes mischief and never gets caught. And yet another one does mischief—

*[Someone laughs.]*

—but never gets caught!

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

And another one works on a train.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:27:19 Dan Host My—my thing about this—like—all these—everyone says—always says, like, oh, they don't tell you what Jellicle means!

00:27:26 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** And I think it's something more—

**Elliott:** Everyone always says that, Dan?

**Stuart:** They spend most of the movie telling you that!

**Dan:** I—no, no! *[Sighs.]* Oh goddammit. Let me get my thing out! Like—one of the, like—

00:27:33 Dan Host **Jenny:** Well, but that is like, an old theater thing. Is people say that. —big jokes, the standard jokes about *Cats* is like, oh, they say Jellicle all the time but they don't say what it means! And like... it's more insidious than that. Like—

*[Elliott laughs.]*

—they never stop telling you what it means, but... everything they say it means is just a thing that a normal cat does?

00:27:47 Natalie Guest That a normal cat does. Correct.

00:27:48 Dan Host *[Through laughter]* So you're like—wait, what makes it special?

00:27:50 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** *[Through laughter]* I don't—I still don't know!

00:27:53 Natalie Guest **Natalie:** Because—  
—the actual definition of Jellicle cat in TS Eliot's version of it was it was just how his niece tried to say "dear little cat"? It was just her, like, little speech impediment mispronunciation of "dear little cat," which is a thing she heard, like, adults say. And she tried to say it and so it was "jellicle." And then... that comes back—spoiler alert!—at the end of the movie, after the movie thinks that the storyline we all care about is "will Victoria become a Jellicle cat or not?"

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

And so—finally at the very end of the movie, after *[though laughter]* Jennifer Hudson has flown off in her little chandelier—

00:28:28 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[Someone laughs.]*  
**Stuart:** Yeah, with the rest of the aeronauts.

**Elliott:** In her hot-air balloon chandelier, yes, to heaven. Yep.

00:28:32 Natalie Guest  
**Natalie:** Um—Judi Dench says—  
 Judi Dench turns to Victoria and she says, *[in Judi Dench voice]*  
 “You truly are a Jellicle cat.”

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:28:48 Elliott Host  
 00:28:48 Natalie Guest  
 And everyone in the theater usually is laughing too hard to know that right after that, Judi Dench says... “A dear little cat.”  
 Ahhhh!  
 And then—Jennifer Hud—Jennifer Hudson finishes flying ‘cause she’s flying forever.

00:28:54 Crosstalk Crosstalk  
*[Multiple people laugh.]*  
**Elliott:** She’s—she’s going into outer space because she burns up as she’s exiting the atmosphere, I think.

**Stuart:** Our—our theater—

**Dan:** Wow, we’re already at the ending!

00:28:59 Natalie Guest  
 00:29:01 Dan Host  
 00:29:02 Crosstalk Crosstalk  
**Natalie:** Well, ‘cause you said “What is a Jellicle Cat?”  
 And everyone’s saying the things of Jellicle Cats and I—  
 Yeah.  
**Natalie:** —aim to provide.

00:29:04 Stuart Host  
**Stuart:** In our theater, when she—when she announced Victoria—  
 —was a Jellicle Cat, like, people were freaking out.

*[Dan laughs.]*

Like, some—some people started to wave? It’s amazing!

00:29:10 Dan Host  
 00:29:12 Crosstalk Crosstalk  
*[Multiple people laugh.]*  
 High-fiving each other!  
**Natalie:** *[Through laughter]* Like, she did it!

00:29:13 Elliott Host  
**Elliott:** Somebody got up—  
 Somebody got up and yelled, “She is not a Jellicle cat! I refuse to accept it!”

00:29:17 Stuart Host  
 One guy stormed out. He’s like, “I gotta call my mom!”

00:29:20 Dan Host  
 00:29:22 Natalie Guest  
*[Multiple people laugh.]*  
 My fan fiction says she wasn’t Jellicle!  
 Yes. But basically, that’s the plot that is introduced at the beginning of the movie in the song “Jellicle Cats,” is, like, now the storyline of this thing before the cat pageant of it all, is... will Victoria be able to join the Jellicle cats? And at the end of Jellicle cats, like, everyone sort of scatters and Victoria does the thing where she’s still singing the song but *[though laughter]* everyone else is gone? *[Laughs.]* I’m like, you just learned it. Um—

00:29:47	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Natalie:</b> But Macavity—
00:29:50	Elliott	Host	<b>Elliott:</b> And that’s when she turns and sees that— —Angellicle Huston herself is standing there.
00:29:54	Natalie	Guest	<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i> But then Macavity appears, and Macavity’s like, oh, the ball! Could get dangerous! And then he disappears himself in a puff of smoke for the <u>first</u> time. The first time he says, “magic!” As he leaves.  <i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>
00:30:05	Dan	Host	Um—
00:30:06	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<i>[Through laughter]</i> Just to tell you what you saw. <b>Stuart:</b> So after first crazy song you’re like—
00:30:08	Stuart	Host	<b>Natalie:</b> <i>[Inaudible]</i> him away. —aw, this is probably gonna calm down and make a lotta sense!
00:30:11	Natalie	Guest	<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i> Yeah, yeah, yeah!
00:30:11	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Natalie:</b> And then the immediate next song—  <b>Elliott:</b> Also, you’re like—you’re like—you’re like—you’re like—
00:30:16	Elliott	Host	<b>Dan:</b> ‘Cause the first song has, like, the— I think I know enough about cats now! And then they—all the cats come back and they’re like—cats have three names!  <i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>
00:30:21	Natalie	Guest	Let me tell you about that! Yes. And the second song, like, is... the scariest... part of the whole movie for me? Like, it really is the boat ride from Willy Wonka writ large? Uh, in my estimation? Because it’s just, like, weird talking? And then it ends with the word “ineffable,” which <u>becomes</u> a huge part <i>[though laughter]</i> of this movie as well?
00:30:41	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Natalie:</b> The word “ineffable”?
00:30:43	Natalie	Guest	<b>Jenny:</b> Yeah! What was that about? Uh, <i>[though laughter]</i> as a concept? Uh... there’s... sexy dancing during that part, as well. Um, and then... Munkustrap, the narrator cat, comes forward—
00:30:56	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Natalie:</b> —and is like, “The Jellicle Ball!” Yeah. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:30:57	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Elliott:</b> Who is—who goes unnamed in the film. <b>Natalie:</b> Yes. ‘Cause he doesn’t have anything fun to do.
00:30:59	Stuart	Host	<b>Stuart:</b> But is this where he’s like— I’m gonna introduce you to some Jellicle cats.
00:31:02	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Natalie:</b> Yes! Well, ‘cause he says, are you gonna come—
00:31:05	Natalie	Guest	<b>Stuart:</b> I’m gonna introduce you to some <u>specific</u> person. He says, are you gonna come to the Jellicle Ball? And she’s like, <i>[breathy, girlish British accent]</i> “What’s the Jellicle Ball?” And then

he says, “The Jellicle Ball is where Old Deuteronomy decides who will be granted a new life!”

00:31:15 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** Naturally.

00:31:16 Natalie Guest **Natalie:** And she’s like—  
 “How does she decide?” And then— *[though laughter]* Munkustrap says, “Each cat will sing a song of themselves: who they are and what they do.” And at this point my boyfriend leans over to me and goes, okay, dramaturgy slayyyy!

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

Because it’s—that’s never, um... *[though laughter]* explicated like that in the show, either? Like, everyone just sort of starts saying here is who I am and what I do? But to have Tom Hooper add, uh, dialogue into the movie—to think that that will *[though laughter]* make everything clearer, when all it does is just sort of... muddy the waters even more of like... oh, now that they’re talking, like, is this supposed to be...

*[Dan laughs.]*

—like, naturalistic dialogue? What’s going on?

00:31:56 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Natalie:** But just—who they are and what they do.

**Dan:** Yeah. I—

**Jenny:** Wait, I have a question!

*[Stuart laughs.]*

00:31:59 Jenny Guest Point of order. Um—they all—  
 00:32:01 Elliott Host Yes. Uh, yes. The Chair recognizes Jenny.  
 00:32:03 Jenny Guest Uh—thank you. Um, the—the—they all start introducing themselves via song before they’re at any kind of recognizable ball?

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

And they frequently do it without Old Deuteronomy present?

00:32:13 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Jenny:** Yes. It seems like—

00:32:15 Natalie Guest **Natalie:** Oh, dress rehearsal!  
 Why are they blowing it? Right now?

*[Dan laughs.]*

00:32:17 Jenny Guest Right? They’re just doing it at Victoria, who’s like a nobody! Why are they, like, completely wasting their songs?

00:32:23 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** You’re right. That’s the main plot hole. Absolutely.

**Natalie:** You need to be marking. *[Laughs.]* Yeah, sure.

**Jenny:** Yeah. That’s my biggest problem.

**Dan:** I—

00:32:26 Natalie Guest Everyone needs to be marking their songs, because they're gonna blow out their voices before Old Deuteronomy gets there and is actually—

00:32:31 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Natalie:** —able to make a Jellicle choice.

**Jenny:** Exactly!

**Dan:** Yeah. And I want to say something about the structure, and Elliott—

00:32:36 Dan00:32:50 Host **Elliott:** 'Cause if she—oh, sorry. You—okay, go ahead. Elliott, you, uh, sort of, uh, fainted at it earlier. But I just wanna say—so—as we've said, basically, you've—basically every song is either “let me tell you about myself” or “here, let me tell you about this guy.” And—

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:32:50 Elliott Host And like—

00:32:51 Dan Host Or occasionally, “let me tell you about cats.”

*[Laughs.]* Yeah. And you can, like, logically know that that's the deal behind the movie *Cats* before going in? Being like, okay, well, it—y'know, I—my brain can handle that. But then once you go see it in a big-budget movie? It feels so strange 'cause it's like... it's like the first act of a movie never ends? Like, they just keep, like, introducing a new character? Like, oh, yeah, you know what? That guy—don't worry about him! How about her? Like, and they just keep introducing new characters.

*[Elliott laughs.]*

00:33:23 Crosstalk Crosstalk And then there's no second act, and then there's, like... 15 minutes of third act at the very end.

**Stuart:** Yeah. I mean, it's kinda like—

00:33:25 Stuart Host **Jenny:** But yeah, you—'cause Elliott—oh. It's kinda like, uh... *Suicide Squad*. Which—where, like, every 15 minutes they re-introduce all the characters—

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:33:31 Crosstalk Crosstalk —with a musical scheme.

**Stuart:** Although this is the—

**Natalie:** Yeah. I heard— *[Laughs.]*

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:33:32 Stuart Host —better version of that.

00:33:35 Natalie Guest Judi Dench constantly was sending dead animals—

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:33:39 Elliott Host *[Through laughter]* —to her costars. Similar to—similar to *Suicide Squad*, on the same level, it's like a movie version of—Italo Calvino's *If On a Winter's Night A Traveler?* Where every-other chapter—

*[Stuart laughs.]*

—is a new first chapter to the story? *[Laughs.]* And you're all—and you're trying to find the second chapter? That's what *Cats* is like. And it's—you're right, Dan, 'cause it's like—okay. We're at the Jellicle Ball.

*[Dan laughs.]*

We've met all the cats. Now she's gonna make her decision. Op! Here's Skimbleshanks! We've never seen him before!

*[Dan laughs.]*

So *[inaudible]* introduce himself! Oh, wait, here's Bombalurina! She's gonna tell us about Macavity! Who we already know about? But—I don't know why he's not singing about himself.

00:34:08 Crosstalk Crosstalk

**Jenny:** But he has *[inaudible]* *[Laughs.]*

**Dan:** *[Through laughter]* And it's weird, 'cause most—

00:34:09 Dan Host

**Elliott:** I dunno.

—of these characters, as well, you don't see *[though laughter]* again really, so they just come in—

00:34:13 Natalie Guest

Yeah! You don't see them before or after!

00:34:16 Jenny Guest

*[Dan laughs.]*

Elliott turned to me at, like, a few times. And was like, we are 10 minutes in or 2 hours in.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:34:23 Natalie Guest

I have no idea.

There's truly no way of knowing.

00:34:24 Dan Host

I—I want to—I want to admit this, like... uh... you in no way need this to, uh... to enjoy this movie? And, y'know, if you have a—y'know, problems with substances you probably shouldn't. But I had an edible before seeing this movie. You don't need it, but I will say that the moment that... I started—

00:34:41 Crosstalk Crosstalk

**Dan:** —giggling uncont—

00:34:44 Dan Host

**Stuart:** Is that for our... 4/20 screening we went to? Yeah. That's—

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:34:46 Stuart Host

—the, uh— *[Laughs.]*

I think the programmer was having a laugh.

00:34:50 Dan Host

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

The moment I first started giggling uncontrollably? And just genuinely couldn't stop was thinking about... these introductions? And imagining if, like, that's how... I—like, life went for me?

*[Multiple people laugh.]*



00:35:08 Crosstalk Crosstalk Like, if I met a new person they were like, hey, I'm Mumblepeg!  
**Dan:** The scullery human! Who, like—my deal is this! I'll tell you for nine minutes! *[Laughs.]*

*[Stuart laughs.]*

**Natalie:** What's your whole deal?

00:35:13 Elliott Host **Elliott:** Oh, no—you know what?  
You'd be starting a new job and it'd be like, well, tell us about yourself, Dan! "I'm Dan McCoy—a glum kind of fellow!"

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:35:23 Stuart Host "Sometimes I'm angry and sometimes I'm mellow!" And I'd be, like, yes, perfect. Exactly what we wanted.  
Not to stop you—you don't have to tell me your extra—I already know it. *[Laughs.]*

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:35:28 Jenny Guest The thing about all these cats? Is that they can tell us whatever they want? As far as we've been shown and not told, they are exclusively self-introduction cats.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:35:37 Elliott Host Yeah. It's all they do.  
00:35:38 Natalie Guest Also, I'll say—if you don't do edibles often, uh... I took an edible the second time I saw it, and when it all hits you at once, um... for me personally? I just became very aware of, uh, my mortality?

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:35:56 Crosstalk Crosstalk And I just—  
**Dan:** And the fact that you're seeing this a second time?

00:35:59 Natalie Guest **Natalie:** Yyyesss. And I just sort of was like—  
Oh, my God. I'm gonna die from being too high at *Cats*—

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:36:09 Elliott Host —and that's what my family is gonna have to say at my funeral. They're gonna say she was too high at *Cats* and she died from it!  
You—you're like—I think I'm gonna not survive the next time that Rebel Wilson as Jennyanydots scratches her crotch on camera.

00:36:16 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** Uh-huh.

00:36:18 Natalie Guest **Natalie:** Yeah. Or I don't think I'm gonna survive—  
—when Checkov's skinsuit— *[Laughs.]*

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:36:20 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Jenny:** Oh, God!

00:36:22 Elliott Host **Natalie:** —melted away.  
00:36:24 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[Through laughter]* That's—so—yeah. Let's go to her. So—so—  
**Elliott:** They're talking it—they're like—let's meet some other cats.

00:36:26	Natalie	Guest	<b>Natalie:</b> She is the first. She is—yes. And I think her introduction is basically like... do you wanna see one of the cats that's getting ready for the ball? And then we go to Rebel Wilson, who is a gummy cat, which they never really say <u>what</u> that means other than that she, like, hangs out during the day and everyone thinks she's lazy, and then when everyone goes to sleep, she recruits all of the mice and the beetles to be, like, a little servant... fleet.
00:36:51	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Dan:</b> Yeah, yeah, yeah.
00:36:52	Elliott	Host	<b>Natalie:</b> For her. And she—and she teaches them how to sing and dance and she manages to make a dance troupe out of some child mice? And this is the most—
00:36:59	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Elliott:</b> —disturbing visual in the whole movie.
00:37:01	Natalie	Guest	<b>Natalie:</b> That are too small! The mice are too small compared to how big the cats are in this part.
00:37:05	Stuart	Host	Uh-huh.
00:37:06	Jenny	Guest	<u>So</u> bizarre.
00:37:06	Elliott	Host	And—and I was like—so she goes to, like, a stove or something—
00:37:09	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Elliott:</b> And opens it and there's this child mice and I was like—what—like—child—
			<b>Stuart:</b> So wait a minute. They all have—they all have human faces. What do <u>humans</u> look like?
			<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>
00:37:16	Dan	Host	Well, the—
00:37:17	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Elliott:</b> And I was like—
00:37:20	Stuart	Host	<b>Stuart:</b> What if they went to a statue and it— The human had, like, a monster face?
			<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>
00:37:22	Natalie	Guest	Oh, yeah, it's "Eye of the Beholder"! It's the <i>Twilight Zone</i> "Eye of the Beholder" episode! <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:37:26	Elliott	Host	And, uh—I—I—they kept thinking of the lady in <i>Eraser Head</i> who lives in the radiator and sings the heaven song? And I was like—I will show that to my son before I show him these weird baby mice—
			<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>
00:37:38	Dan	Host	—that live in the stove? Well, there's sequences in this where like, the like—they're—they've just superimposed a strip of, uh, these... these people in CGI cockroach costumes marching across the screen. And then you have these giant, big cat heads in back—
			<i>[Elliott laughs.]</i>

—like, that’s the back layer of it. And it’s as wacky and as, like, sort of collage-y an image as you would see in, like, *Hausu* or something?

00:37:58 Stuart Host Mm-hm.  
00:37:59 Elliott Host Yeah.  
00:37:59 Dan Host It’s just—mind-blowingly strange to look at.

[*Someone laughs.*]

00:38:02 Stuart Host So the—the movie continues to be on hard mode.

[*Multiple people laugh.*]

00:38:07 Natalie Guest Can we talk about just a second the shot when she, like, the beetles come out? And then [*though laughter*] it randomly goes upside down? In this way that feels very, like, eighth-grader doing his first, like, film project for school?

00:38:19 Dan Host Yeah. No. it’s like an ‘80s video transition.  
00:38:21 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Natalie:** [*Inaudible.*]

00:38:23 Stuart Host **Stuart:** And there’s—there’s a scene where she is—  
00:38:26 Crosstalk Crosstalk —singing into something, and I can’t tell—  
**Stuart:** If it—is it—

00:38:28 Stuart Host **Natalie:** And you don’t know what it is!  
Is it a tail? Is it a length of intestine?

[*Dan laughs.*]

It’s pink!

[*Multiple people laugh.*]

00:38:33 Crosstalk Crosstalk I don’t know what’s going on! [*Laughs.*]  
**Dan:** Yeah, yeah. It was like— [*inaudible*]

**Natalie:** ‘Cause she sings into her tail later—

00:38:36 Natalie Guest **Stuart:** I’m scared!  
—and it looks different from what that is. It looks like an umbilical cord.

00:38:40 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** The rest of the movie, I was like—looking for this—

**Elliott:** Yeah.

00:38:43 Stuart Host **Natalie:** —really perplexed.  
00:38:44 Elliott Host —for this pink cat! [*Laughs.*]

Yeah. There’s a—there’s a real *Tetsuo the Iron Man* feel to this whole sequence, culminating when she unzips her skin and underneath is wearing like a—a music note sequined vest and hotpants? And it’s like—whose skin were you wearing?

[*Multiple people laugh.*]

00:39:05 Crosstalk Crosstalk Was it your—was it your sister, Jenny, when we walked out, who was like—oh, she’s like—she’s like Buffalo Bill—  
**Elliott:** And she kills other cats and made a skin suit out of it?

**Jenny:** *[Laughs.]* Yes!

**Dan:** You know what? I—I—I guess that's the second way to skin a cat!

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:39:10 Dan Host

*[Through laughter]* I—I—I've always been told there's more than one, but it really seemed like there was just one way, but I guess—  
Uh, now, of course this—we move on from that musical number to the plot. Which is that Rum Tum Tugger is also in the movie!

00:39:15 Elliott Host

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:39:23 Crosstalk Crosstalk

*[Crosstalk]*

00:39:25 Natalie Guest

Jason Derulo appears, and he says—that was boring. It's pretty old-fashioned. He has a *[though laughter]* British accent 'cause all of them have to have British accents.

00:39:34 Crosstalk Crosstalk

**Jenny:** You know what? I loved what he was doing. I was into it.

00:39:38 Natalie Guest

**Natalie:** *[Inaudible.]* Honestly? I did too! I loved that arrangement—  
—of Rum Tum Tugger as, like, this sort of a Prince vibe?

00:39:41 Jenny Guest

I did too!

00:39:42 Stuart Host

Like James Brown-y, like a little bit of that? I—I like, uh—

00:39:46 Crosstalk Crosstalk

**Stuart:** It was weird, though, his—

00:39:48 Stuart Host

**Natalie:** When he screams “milk”? Nothing better!

*[Laughs.]* Yeah, and then he starts pouring cream all over *[though laughter]* everybody?

00:39:51 Crosstalk Crosstalk

**Natalie:** All over the women? Oh, he—yeah.

00:39:53 Natalie Guest

**Elliott:** Oh, yeah, there—

He takes them all to a milk bar. And all of a sudden all of these cats are just writhing under milk hoses?

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:39:59 Elliott Host

Uh—

They are guzzling milk like Luke Skywalker at his hermitage.

*[Someone laughs.]*

00:40:06 Stuart Host

It's just like—it's just getting all of their fur? It must be so gross.

*[Laughs.]*

Oh, man. It's so great and it's so bad for cats, but whatever. They love it. And the—the thing is, there was—

*[Elliott laughs.]*

Uh, is this where we should talk about how they minimized all the actors', uh, crotch areas?

*[Dan laughs.]*

00:40:16 Natalie Guest

Or— *[Laughs.]*

Yeah. I think Jason Derulo—

00:40:18 Crosstalk Crosstalk

**Natalie:** —is the proper way to—yeah.

00:40:20 Stuart Host **Stuart:** He was the one who famously—  
Like, argued that they, like, shrank his bulge. Which—thank god.  
[Laughs.]

00:40:25 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Natalie:** Yeah. ‘Cause it’s too big! Based on that Instagram photo  
of him?

**Dan:** Wow. [Inaudible.]

00:40:28 Stuart Host **Stuart:** No, I’m just saying like—  
Like, de—try to make them less sexual is [though laughter] all I’m  
saying. ‘Cause—there’s enough stuff moving in my face. [Laughs.]

00:40:35 Elliott Host No, clearly—clearly, Tom Hooper is a butt guy. Because all sorts  
of—

00:40:40 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** —crotchal or chestal genitalia or secondary sex  
characteristics—

00:40:44 Elliott Host **Natalie:** And a foot guy!  
—has been shrunk to almost nonexistence so that we can focus  
more on the—on the double moons of their butts.

[Multiple people laugh.]

Just bobbing up and down in front of the camera constantly.

[Multiple people laugh.]

00:40:54 Natalie Guest Tons of butt stuff and then in the middle of Rum Tum Tugger, when  
Victoria, like... does her leg extension at him? And there’s just a  
closeup of him staring at her foot? And then it goes back to the—  
like, it—the camera cuts away from that and then goes back to her  
foot in his face as he’s singing “Victoria”—

00:41:14 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** Right.

**Jenny:** When he’s about to suck her toes, that was nuts.

00:41:16 Jenny Guest **Natalie:** —in that high falsetto. Yes!  
Yes.

00:41:17 Stuart Host Yes.

00:41:18 Natalie Guest It was very Tarantino.

00:41:19 Dan Host Now we said that we liked the arrangement here, but I do have to  
say something about the music. And that is that... y’know, I am—  
I—I know Elliott is a proponent of *Jesus Christ Superstar*. I am not  
a—a big Andrew Lloyd Webber fan in general.

00:41:32 Elliott Host No, I think *Jesus Christ Superstar* is the only Andrew Lloyd Webber  
I can legitimately say I love.

00:41:36 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** Yeah.

**Natalie:** Yes.

00:41:37 Dan Host I think that there are some good songs in this... show. I mean, I at  
least—like, the melodies are catchy. But for me—

00:41:45 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** Catchy?

**Stuart:** Cat-chy?

00:41:47 Jenny Guest **Jenny:** Some of them?  
Some of them are just like, this is just some words.

00:41:49 Dan Host Yeah, no, I agree. But like—the instrumentation, like... I—this is like such an expensive... movie, but the way they do it it sounds like a carousel is farting on a synthesizer.

*[Someone laughs.]*

00:42:00 Crosstalk Crosstalk Like, it's like—  
**Elliott:** Well, that's—I really—

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:42:05 Elliott Host **Dan:** “Blorpity blorp, bla blorp, ba blorp. Blub blub blub blub”—like that's— *[Laughs.]*  
I really admire that they kept the electronic synth sound in? So much? 'Cause like, that set—not having seen *Cats* on stage—again, only knowing it from the TV commercials—that says *Cats* to me.

*[Dan laughs.]*

It's like, that '80s synth sound. And like, I'm like—you know what? That's—I'm sure there would be a lot of mad musical theater people if you took the synths out of *Cats*.

00:42:22 Natalie Guest *[Dan laughs.]*  
And I—I will say—I'm gonna drop a name—that is exactly what Mr. Lin-Manuel Miranda said *[though laughter]* when it started.

*[Stuart laughs.]*

He was like, I'm so glad that they're doing all of the synths.

*[Dan laughs. Elliott joins in.]*

I'm so glad. 'Cause it doesn't sound—it—I feel like... weirdly, this score is like... such a product of 1982? That to try and like, beef it up? I feel like that would sound weirder, almost. Is—if they'd... rearranged the orchestrations to be... not synth-heavy at all. If they, like—

00:42:53 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Natalie:** —tried to make them fancier.

00:42:56 Elliott Host **Elliott:** Look, I'm just—I'm just gonna say—  
Yeah. I'm gonna say two words: “autotuned cats.” We don't need that.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:43:03 Jenny Guest I'm glad that they didn't do any of that stuff! They didn't modernize it too much!  
There's a—I've a question, or just—I have another point. Because we brushed by this and I'm sorry to derail the conversation, but it's—

*[Dan laughs.]*

It's bothering me. Uh, the—the milk bar.

00:43:15 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** Uh-huh. *[Laughs.]*

00:43:15 Jenny Guest **Natalie:** Yes.  
00:43:17 Elliott Host They are in London.  
00:43:17 Stuart Host Yes.  
00:43:17 Jenny Guest Mm-hm.  
00:43:19 Crosstalk Guest But they're also in an all-cats world.  
00:43:19 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** Yep.

**Jenny:** Everything is cat themed.

**Elliott:** Yeah. All the signs are cat puns. There's a cat-sino across the street.

**Stuart:** Mm-hm.

**Natalie:** Yes.

00:43:26 Jenny Guest **Jenny:** And there's post—  
00:43:28 Stuart Host —wanted posters for—  
00:43:28 Crosstalk Crosstalk A cat, yeah.  
**Jenny:** —for Macavity.

**Elliott:** Macavity.

**Stuart:** There's also—committed human crimes.

**Natalie:** Right. But they were Moriarty during the day.

**Dan:** Yeah.

**Elliott:** Oh, that's right. At night, it becomes a cat world.

00:43:35 Natalie Guest **Natalie:** During the day they were Moriart—I think the—  
'Cause the—it like—it's Moriarty and then it goes dark in the middle of "Jellicle Songs" and then it kicks back and it's Macavity. So I think in the world of *Cats*, we're supposed to believe that after dark... it becomes cat world.

00:43:50 Jenny Guest Wait, but during the day, Sherlock Holmes is real?  
00:43:52 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** Well that's what—so that's another—

**Natalie:** *[Laughs.]* I guess!

00:43:54 Elliott Host **Stuart:** Yeah.  
That's another nod to the T.S. Eliot stuff. I was doing my research a little bit, too, 'cause I'm just—I was like—I didn't realize how in-depth the Wikipedia articles on almost every cat except Bustopher Jones, who does not get his own Wikipedia article—

*[Dan laughs.]*

00:44:05 Crosstalk Crosstalk —which is crazy.  
**Natalie:** No. 'Cause he's just a cat who likes to eat garbage.

*[Stuart laughs.]*

**Elliott:** But—that, uh—that—but—that Macavity was very much—

00:44:10 Elliott Host **Stuart:** That’s true.  
—T.S. Eliot’s play on Moriarty. Like, that—that’s his joke. Like, he was inspired by Moriarty for that character. And so, like, to have a Moriarty poster become a Macavity poster, it’s another little wink to the people who know the *Cats* story.

00:44:20 Jenny Guest Oh, right, ‘cause—Moriarty’s always, like, doing crimes and then going “Crime!”

00:44:25 Elliott Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
And that—that—it’s all based on the old Sherlock story the, uh, the case of the disappearing dust dude.

00:44:31 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
**Dan:** Uh, can I say one—sorry.

00:44:35 Dan Host **Elliott:** And also Moriarty’s body is covered in fur and he has no penis. Yeah.  
Can I say one more thing about, uh... the music.

00:44:38 Elliott Host It’s your podcast, man! Go ahead!

00:44:39 Dan Host Is that, uh— *[through laughter]* I do think that the way everything is mixed together? I don’t know what it is... a—like—I think it’s partly the singing, partly T. S. Eliot’s, uh, poetic language? Which—a lot of which is kept. Uh... I can’t understand a lot of what the cats are singing?

00:44:56 Natalie Guest No, never.

00:44:56 Dan Host So like, their whole deal is, like, let me tell you about you, but like—

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:45:06 Elliott Host —I just have to guess from what, like, the—the—the visions of like—what’s—I’m seeing visually on the screen?  
Yeah, it’s very hard to make out the lyrics a lot of the time. So you’re just seeing, like... Rum Tum Tugger just kinda like dancing and girl cats going “Ahhh!” and I’m like—I guess he’s a—he’s a Don Juan cat!

00:45:15 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[Dan laughs.]*  
**Elliott:** I don’t know.

**Stuart:** Yeah, yeah, yeah.

00:45:16 Dan Host **Dan:** *[Through laughter]* Yeah, I mean, that’s the thing.  
They all have, like, one thing. So you get what it is, but it’s still...

00:45:20 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
**Stuart:** I—I really can’t wait for the, uh—

**Elliott:** It’s like Shakespeare, Dan!

00:45:23 Stuart Host **Dan:** Yeah.  
I really can’t wait for this to hit streaming so you can just slap on those closed captions. *[Laughs.]*

*[Dan laughs.]*



00:45:27 Natalie Guest Yeah.  
00:45:28 Elliott Host Now—I—I'm gonna correct something I said earlier. I said that the best part is the transition between Rum Tum Tugger and Bustopher Jones. Looking back on my notes, I somehow forgot that Grizabella shows up between those two characters.

00:45:38 Natalie Guest She does indeed!  
00:45:39 Elliott Host And sings the little, like, condensed early version of "Memories," just to give us a taste of it. Right?

00:45:43 Natalie Guest Yes. Well she—I think this is actually not the pre-prise of "Memory"? I think when she first—

00:45:47 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Natalie:** —appears this is the—

00:45:49 Natalie Guest **Elliott:** Oh, that's later? —weird recitative moment? Where she's like—

*[Elliott laughs.]*

*[singing]* —"She walks and she's doing a thing! And her eye—twist!" And— *[breaks off, laughing.]*

00:45:57 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** *[Through laughter]* Yeah, yeah, yeah.

**Elliott:** Oh, right. Right.

00:45:59 Dan Host **Dan:** Now—Natalie, I'm very curious. Is preprise an actual word? Because that's what I wrote in my notes? *[Through laughter]* But I didn't know whether it—

00:46:03 Natalie Guest I think—that's how—that's how I've always heard it.  
00:46:05 Dan Host Alright.  
00:46:06 Natalie Guest Referred to.  
00:46:07 Dan Host Interesting.  
00:46:07 Natalie Guest So I think you just know things, Dan!  
00:46:09 Stuart Host Oh, wow.  
00:46:09 Dan Host Great.  
00:46:10 Elliott Host And—and so why did the other cats not like Grizabella? Just because she has the stink of failure about her? Or is there—

00:46:14 Jenny Guest No, it's the double snot rivulets.

*[Elliott laughs.]*

00:46:16 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Natalie:** She was, uh—she was a sex worker with Macavity.  
*[Laughs.]*

**Stuart:** Oh.

**Elliott:** *[Laughs.]* Yeah. She does constantly have two rivers of snot down her nose.

**Stuart:** *[Laughs.]* Oh, wow!

00:46:21 Natalie Guest **Natalie:** Under Macavity. I feel like that's the vibe that they were—they were trying to give, is that she, like, went off with Macavity. Uh—she, like, was the glamour cat. Which—I don't know what her job was even when she was the glamour cat?

00:46:34 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Natalie:** 'Cause they seem to be, like, she was the glamour cat, then she—fell on hard times. And yeah.

**Jenny:** Clever!

**Elliott:** Here's my guess—here's my guess. She's—she—

00:46:40	Elliott	Host	<b>Dan:</b> She's a sad cat. Yeah. As glamour cat, she was the cat in the Fancy Feast commercial who ate out of the crystal goblet. And that's what her song <u>would've</u> been about— "I'm the glamour cat! Eating out of crystal! Everybody—"
00:46:50	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Stuart:</b> Top that!  <b>Elliott:</b> "Hiss... til." I don't know.  <i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i> You know—
00:46:53	Dan	Host	This—this falls into my other favorite Andrew Lloyd Webber thing, which is the part in "Rainbow High" where people just list whatever they're gonna do for Eva Peron?
00:46:53	Jenny	Guest	
00:47:00	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Natalie:</b> Oh, yes!  <b>Stuart:</b> Mm-hm.
00:47:01	Jenny	Guest	<b>Jenny:</b> And one of them just goes— "Glamour!"  <i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>
00:47:02	Natalie	Guest	Yes! And also, someone in "Rainbow High" just goes "Magic!" And I'm like, when does Eva Peron learn magic?  <i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>
00:47:13	Elliott	Host	<i>[Through laughter]</i> What's—she's doing sleight of hand? I don't know what's going on. So—I—I really wanted the moment where Victoria—like, Victoria clearly part of the—clearly telegraphed, she's gonna be the one who allows Grizabella to redeem herself 'cause she is nice. But I wanted everyone to be like, no, don't you get it? Grizabella was Hitler's cat! That's why we don't like her!  <i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>
00:47:30	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Like, you don't <u>know</u> everything about Grizabella! <b>Elliott:</b> You just got here!
00:47:32	Dan	Host	<b>Dan:</b> Is this—
00:47:34	Natalie	Guest	Is this when Victoria sings the new song?
00:47:35	Dan	Host	No.
00:47:35	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Okay. <b>Elliott:</b> No, no, that's much later. Now it's when—
00:47:37	Natalie	Guest	<b>Natalie:</b> This is just the fir—but this— <u>Is</u> when they force <i>[though laughter]</i> Jennifer Hudson to crawl away. Even though <u>no</u> one has been crawling.
00:47:45	Dan	Host	You know, a lot of people talk about how she's, like, snotty while she's singing?
00:47:48	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Natalie:</b> I love it.

00:47:49 Dan Host **Dan:** She's like, there's a lotta—  
—and, like, that—y'know. I mean, she does a—an amazing job singing. I'm not, like—she's great in it. But like—I do think that Tom Holland has—or—

00:47:58 Natalie Guest  
00:47:58 Dan Host Hooper.  
00:48:00 Crosstalk Host Hooper, sorry. I keep doing that.  
00:48:00 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** Although you can drag him into this. *[Laughs.]*

00:48:01 Dan Host **Elliott:** You know, it could've been Tom Holland. Maybe he's—  
00:48:02 Elliott Host *[Through laughter]* Yeah. Why not.  
Maybe Tom Holland stopped by for the day and Tom Hooper played Spider-Man for a day! I dunno. Job swap.

00:48:06 Dan Host I do think this is a directorial choice from Tom Hooper, who's probably like... okay. The one thing that everyone thought was great in my Les Mis was the Anne Hathaway was crying so much singing "I Dreamed a Dream." So we gotta really cry up this "Memory!" Like, we gotta—

00:48:21 Elliott Host Maybe.  
00:48:22 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Natalie:** Yeah! And people love it—the—the Viola Davis moment.

00:48:25 Natalie Guest **Dan:** Put a buncha snot on her.  
'Cause—Lin turned to me and was like, her snot! And I was like—yeah! They're giving her a Viola Davis moment. It's just that this movie is bad? And so... every, like, little minute detail we are, like, dissecting? But I weirdly think that if this movie were being generally perceived as good? We would love her snot and be like, oh, she's so raw. And in it. And like, doing the thing.

00:48:50 Elliott Host Here's—here's why—here's why I disagree. I think you're right if it was real snot. I kinda suspect it's CGI snot.

00:48:56 Natalie Guest Ooooooh!  
00:48:56 Stuart Host Wowww!  
00:48:57 Elliott Host It is such perfect dual twin rivulets down her face. In a way that I've never seen in a human being. And I'm like—I think they put some computer snot on her face to make it, like, look more raw.

00:49:07 Natalie Guest Ohhhhhh. That would bum me out so hard!  
00:49:10 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** Well, all of our v-effects listeners, please, uh—

00:49:12 Stuart Host **Natalie:** But also—  
00:49:14 Crosstalk Crosstalk Chime in and let us *[though laughter]* know!  
**Dan:** You know—

00:49:16 Elliott Host **Elliott:** And again, I'm talking—  
—completely—I have no idea. I'm not a v-effects cat. So I don't know—  
  
*[Someone laughs.]*

00:49:20 Dan Host —particularly, but.  
While we're back to the CGI mistake? I—there was something that I forgot I wanted to say before, which is that, like... that—y'know—there's a lot of dancing in this movie? A lot of, like, people doing real dancing who, like, I presume at the time were on set doing amazing things with their bodies. But then they paint a bunch of CGI fur over it and it all looks like it's just badly-rendered animation.

00:49:46 Elliott Host You know? Like—it immediately ruins the work of those dancers. You're just like, oh, that looks so fake! And weird!  
I don't—I don't know, necessarily. 'Cause there are two—there were two sequences in the movie, when we went to see it. Jenny and I just saw it last night. There are two sequences when the audience stopped laughing? And it was just—the silence of an entertained audience? And those were both big dance numbers. When—and—I'm like—there was—there were those—there were a couple moments where I was like, this is really good dancing. If they had just let the dancing—

00:50:05 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** Live on its own. Like you're saying.

**Stuart.** Yeah. The—the cockroach dance, right?

**Dan:** Well—was it Skimbleshanks' tapping? Was that one of 'em?

00:50:10 Dan Host **Jenny:** Skimbleshanks. *[Laughs.]*  
'Cause that was one for—

00:50:10 Elliott Host One was Skimbleshank's tapping, and the other one was—there's a long, wordless dance? When the Jellicle Ball is starting? And it starts out funny and then you're like, oh, no. Like, these are really good dancers that are all, like, taking their turn dancing! And... and it's like, oh! This is good—like, dance is powerful!

00:50:24 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** And like, I was like—

00:50:26 Elliott Host **Dan:** But those are both—  
Oh, this movie shouldn't have words in it! It should just be dancing!

00:50:27 Natalie Guest Yeah.

00:50:28 Dan Host But also, those are both specifically more grounded dance sequences than a lot of the ones.

00:50:33 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** Yes. They're not leaping around through the air. Yeah. That's true.

**Natalie:** Yeah. 'Cause—'cause it's also the Jellicle Ball—

00:50:37 Natalie Guest **Jenny:** The slow-motion leaping!  
The Jellicle Ball, when it starts? It's like... shot in the CGI is in a way where it looks like they're floating? And so it feels really CGI'd? But then it gets to a point in it? Where then, like—Les Twins are in, like, sneakers? For their featured moment of it? And then it feels really real! Because obviously, like, they have shoes on—they're on the floor. So all of this is like—them doing these things. And—and then after that, it get—it gets a little more grounded. But I feel like it's—whenever it's the cats at the whims of *[though laughter]* Tom Hooper's CGI?

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:51:13 Crosstalk Crosstalk It looks so fake that you're like—this isn't dance anymore?  
**Dan:** Yeah.

00:51:14 Elliott Host **Elliott:** Yeah.  
It starts—it starts to—it starts to be like the old man character from the Six Flaps commercials? *[Laughs.]*

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:51:21 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[Through laughter]* Where you're just like—this isn't how this guy would really dance.  
**Elliott:** *[Through laughter]* Come on.

00:51:23 Dan Host  
**Dan:** Well, and there will be moments—  
—where like, they have people doing stuff that they couldn't do. In life. And they've just, like, mapped a face onto something? And like, that face like... like sort of shimmies around where it should be?

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:51:36 Elliott Host  
00:51:39 Crosstalk Crosstalk  
But is never quite at the right place? *[Laughs.]*  
Yeah. It kinda—it kinda swims around the head. It's like the, uh—  
**Elliott:** —the swords in, uh, in—

00:51:41 Elliott Host  
00:51:42 Stuart Host  
**Stuart:** Yeah, like when, uh— *[Laughs.]*  
*Zatoichi the Blind Swordsman.*  
Yeah. Or when, uh, Christopher Lee battled Yoda those times.

00:51:46 Elliott Host  
00:51:51 Natalie Guest  
00:52:01 Crosstalk Crosstalk  
*[Multiple people laugh.]*  
*[Through laughter]* Yeah! Those— *[Laughs.]* Uh, so, uh... so anyway.  
So Macavity appears after—after Grizabella is banished by the group, Macavity appears and magics away Rebel Wilson. Poofs her into dust. We don't know where she went yet. And then James Corden!  
**Stuart:** Yayyy! Bustopher Jones!

00:52:04 Natalie Guest  
**Natalie:** Is around and doing his big song.  
About how he loves to be fat and eat—

*[Dan laughs.]*

00:52:09 Stuart Host  
00:52:10 Elliott Host  
—trash out of the *[though laughter]* garbage.  
Yep.  
And they missed a real opportunity here to do the thing that Heathcliff would do, where he would take a whole fish and put it in his mouth and then pull out just the bones?

00:52:17 Crosstalk Crosstalk  
**Dan:** Oh, yeah.  
**Stuart:** Cliché.  
**Elliott:** Like, why didn't you do that, Tom? Come on!

00:52:20 Dan Host  
**Natalie:** Oh, yeah.  
That—uh—I—I also like, want to say that, uh—when—y'know, Rebel—Rebel Jones and, uh, James Corden have a lot of moments—

00:52:26 Elliott Host  
00:52:27 Dan Host  
00:52:28 Crosstalk Crosstalk  
Rebel Jones?  
*[Sighs.]* God.  
**Dan:** Rebel—*[sighs.]*  
**Stuart:** Did you combine her with Felicity Jones?

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:52:32 Dan Host Rebel Wilson and James Corden have a lot of moments in this, uh, where they are clearly, like, just ad-libbing a joke? And—they'll do this joke and the camera will just hang on them *[though laughter]* for a while.

00:52:44 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
**Dan:** *[Through laughter]* Like they're expecting uproarious laughter from the audience!

00:52:47 Elliott Host **Elliott:** Yeah, because in a—in a—  
 In an audience full of people, yeah, exactly! It's just gonna be wave after wave of laughter and you don't want them to miss any of those—

00:52:52 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** —great lyrics!

00:52:53 Stuart Host **Stuart:** Yeah. They don't want—  
 They don't want the laughter to step on the—

*[Dan laughs.]*

—very well-enunciated lyrics *[though laughter]* that are about to show up.

00:52:59 Elliott Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
 And, uh, and then—and then Macavity takes Bustopher Jones, too.

00:53:02 Natalie Guest Yes. Macavity takes Bustopher in a way where he appears with more trash food in a garbage can?

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

And like—even though Bustopher has just eaten so much trash food in the garbage can, this *[though laughter]* trash food in a garbage can looks so much more sumptuous and so he disappears into it and I think this one... Macavity just says, "Meow."

00:53:23 Elliott Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
 Yeah, yeah. I think so. *[Laughs.]*

00:53:25 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Jenny:** But he really says it in a—

00:53:26 Jenny Guest **Stuart:** Yes, Jenny?  
 —*Flop House* housecat cadence, too!

00:53:28 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** Uh-huh! Yep! Uh—yeah, I actually—I actually got a check in the mail.

**Elliott:** Yeah. Me-yoww! *[Inaudible.]*

00:53:32 Stuart Host **Jenny:** I was really excited about that!  
 Uh, from Tom Hooper— *[Laughs.]*

00:53:35 Elliott Host And now that—now that we've established Macavity is stealing these cats, it's time for the plot to start! Time to get on the hunt and stop Macavity—

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

—from kidnapping any more cats. Right? That's the next thing that happens?

00:53:44 Natalie Guest No, Elliott! I'm so sorry *[though laughter]* to announce that now it's Mungojerrie and Rumpleteazer!

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:53:54 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[Through laughter]* I regret to inform you!  
**Stuart:** Not—not—

00:53:56 Stuart Host **Elliott:** Oh. So disappointing.  
Not to pump the brakes too much on this—

00:53:58 Dan Host Oh, God.

00:53:58 Stuart Host On this roaring train of a podcast. But at this point, during, uh, Bustopher Jones's song, we actually see Rum Tum Tugger, who had introduced himself previously. And he had run away. Do you think he was running away from Macavity so he didn't get dusted? Like—he's the only one—he's the only cat who—he's the only Jellicle cat who introduced himself and doesn't get disappeared. What do you think, gang?

00:54:22 Natalie Guest Oh, yeah!

00:54:23 Elliott Host I think you—I think you've put more thought into it, Stuart, than anyone involved—

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:54:27 Stuart Host —in the making of the movie.  
Y'know, it's just cause, uh, I'm kind of a Rum Tum Tugger myself.  
*[Laughs.]*

00:54:32 Dan Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
As long as we're talking Macavity, I do wanna *[though laughter]* say that—Idris Elba has been handed a thankless chore? Um *[though laughter]* by being given the idea that he has to yell a catchphrase as he disappears?

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:54:43 Natalie Host I love it!

00:54:44 Dan Host *[Through laughter]* But he gives it his all.

00:54:45 Natalie Guest *[Through laughter]* He really goes for it! It's—

00:54:46 Elliott Host Look, if they're gonna sell those Macavity talking dolls, they need things for it to say when you pull the string!

*[Someone laughs.]*

00:54:51 Stuart Host Yeah.

00:54:54 Natalie Guest *[Laughs.]* So at the end of Bustopher, after, uh... Bustopher has been disappeared by Macavity, all of the other cats have sort of scattered. And once again, Victoria is sort of alone. And the only people she's left with—the only cats she is left with—are Mungojerrie and Rumpleteazer, who, like, sort of take her under their wing and say we're gonna show you our little neck of the woods! And they are housecats, but they're terrors *[though laughter]* to the people who own them. And they've—do a whole song that's slinky and—and weird—

00:55:19 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Natalie:** *[Through laughter]* —about how they love to—

00:55:21 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** Yeah, I don't care for the melody of this song.  
**Natalie:** No, it's very bad.

00:55:22 Natalie Guest **Elliott:** Oh, see, and—  
And the—it—this is a departure from the show version. The show version is a big, like, vaudeville acrobatic number where they're doing—they're doing, like... double-cartwheels on each other. They do, like, three cartwheels where they're holding each other's—it's like, a whole deal. And I really recommend you watch it. This is my biggest problem with this movie is that they changed this melody. Because this one is a funeral dirge pace.

00:55:47 Stuart Host Yeah.

00:55:48 Natalie Guest It is just so slow and it's boring and— *[sighs.]*

00:55:52 Elliott Host And it—it sounds weird each time they go, "Mungojerrie and Rum...ple...teazer!"

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:56:01 Crosstalk Crosstalk Like, they got—they've gotta try so hard to stretch out the word to match the—  
**Elliott:** —amount of space.

**Natalie:** That's the "tease" in it!

**Jenny:** *[Inaudible.] [Laughs.]* That's true!

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:56:03 Dan Host I wanna—

00:56:03 Elliott Host And also, it's very rumpled.

00:56:04 Natalie Guest They want Mungojerrie to be, like, a Jason Statham type so clearly. Like, he just keeps being, like—*[Cockney accent]* "No pictures, right."

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:56:12 Dan Host This song did inspire the best, uh... audience talk in my second, uh, screening. And this is a two-part joke, so prepare yourself.

00:56:20 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Natalie:** Great.

00:56:21 Dan Host **Stuart:** Okay.

00:56:21 Stuart Host Uh—

00:56:22 Dan Host Buckle up.  
A woman yelled— *[though laughter]* Just, like, in exasperation, goes—"They're three inches tall!"

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:56:37 Stuart Host "Look at the baseboard!" And then there's a laugh, and then she reconsiders and goes, "Well... six in Park Slope." And I'm like—great local humor you have!  
Yeah, yeah, yeah. That's great. The—there's the moment—so they're festooning, uh... Victoria with jewels. And those—those very jewels that she thought might buy her happiness instead form some kind of a cage—

*[Dan laughs.]*

00:56:52 Natalie Guest —and tie her to the bed. *[Laughs.]* They chain her to a bed!  
*[Through laughter]* Oh, God. It is so sexual!



*[Dan laughs.]*

It's like, a very *Vicky Cristina Barcelona* situation, where like—it's the part where Scarlett Johanssen becomes the third to Javier Bardem and Penelope Cruz? Like, they're clear—and I'm like, oh, this is gonna be a no-go for you. And then as soon as—

*[Dan laughs.]*

—they're—there comes the bark of a dog.

00:57:11 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** Uh-huh. Which—obviously, the question is—

**Elliott:** Oh, no! And we—we can't—

00:57:14 Stuart Host What does that fucking dog's face look like?

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:57:17 Elliott Host Yeah, we had the same wonder! Does it look like a person, too, or is it just a regular dog? Like, I dunno.

*[Dan laughs.]*

00:57:22 Jenny Guest It's a reverse thing? It's a human body and a dog face.

00:57:25 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** Whoaaaa!

**Stuart:** Yeahhh!

00:57:27 Elliott Host That would be so creepy! *[Laughs.]*

00:57:27 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** Cool! Like a dog boy from *[Inaudible.]*

**Elliott:** 'Cause it knows—'cause then it's nude, right?

00:57:30 Jenny Guest Yeah, exactly! *[Laughs.]*

00:57:30 Elliott Host Ugh. Man.

00:57:31 Jenny Guest The um—the—other thing is this is the scene where I think it really clicked into place how strange the proportions were? Because she's got, like, a watch as a collar, which—okay. I'll buy that for a cat. But she also has rings, like, human rings, as bracelets.

00:57:46 Natalie Guest Yes!

00:57:47 Jenny Guest And... they're huge on her!

00:57:49 Natalie Guest Yes!

*[Dan laughs.]*

00:57:51 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** Like... yeah. How big is that person's fingers? *[Laughs.]*

**Jenny:** How big is—yes.

00:57:53 Dan Host Yeah. I mean—I think—

00:57:55 Elliott Host And how small are their wrists? *[Laughs.]*

00:57:57 Dan Host I think that if this was, like, a stage design idea—on stage, like... okay, we're gonna create this kind of fantastical world where, like, we're gonna have different stage, like, pieces be different sizes.

00:58:09 Elliott Host It's your classic Gilda Radner little girl type thing. You know.

00:58:12 Dan Host Yeah. That would be fine, 'cause it's like this fantastical univ—but, like, they're constantly interacting with so much stuff in this movie? And the problem is the audience knows what size a cat is.

00:58:23 Natalie Host Yes.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:58:23 Dan Host The audience has seen cats. And now they're seeing *Cats!*

00:58:26 Jenny Guest But there's like—  
00:58:26 Elliott Host It—it is like you—you expect at any moment a cat could fit through the—through the shoelace hole of a shoe, and then suddenly be as tall as a building.

*[Dan laughs.]*

00:58:38 Jenny Guest And like—and the movie would be just like... deal with it. *[Through laughter]* Whatever.  
But there are like, three instances where a character interacts with a fork.

*[Dan laughs.]*

00:58:44 Elliott Host And every time the fork is a different size.  
00:58:47 Jenny Guest Well—forks come in different sizes, Jenny!  
00:58:49 Crosstalk Host Oh, you're right! Oh man, it was like the salad fork and—  
Crosstalk **Jenny:** —you know.

**Elliott:** Yeah. One of those big serving forks and then like a trident that Poseidon left behind?

**Stuart:** Oh, wow.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:58:54 Natalie Guest Absolutely.  
00:58:54 Crosstalk Host **Dan:** Left behind? What was he doing there?

00:58:56 Stuart Host **Jenny:** That makes so much more sense!  
00:58:57 Crosstalk Host *[Through laughter]* Yeah, yeah, yeah!  
Crosstalk **Stuart:** There were just boots and a trident.

**Elliott:** I'm not Poseidon. I don't know what he's doing leaving tridents behind.

00:59:00 Stuart Host Poseidon was whisked away to the heavens. *[Laughs.]*  
00:59:02 Natalie Guest Oh, my god.  
00:59:03 Elliott Host I have to assume Macavity was like, "Poseidon!" and just turned him into dust, y'know?

*[Dan laughs.]*

00:59:07 Crosstalk Host **Natalie:** So, uh—Victoria's, like, chained—

00:59:10 Natalie Guest **Elliott:** Because here's where we—here—so—  
—to the door. She cannot get out because as soon as the dog—the threat of the dog happens, Mungojerrie and Rumpoleazer just leave her. They leave her and they're like, bye-bye-bye! And they just laugh. And then—Magical Mr. Mistoffelees appears! Because in this movie, there's a love story between Victoria and Magical Mr. Mistoffelees. Which I'm fine with, because I think Magical Mr. Mistoffelees in this movie is so hot. He has, like, a Robert Pattinson-esque Cedric Diggory vibe? Like, he doesn't know how hot he is yet? But you can tell he's a little weirdo?

00:59:41 Dan Host He's also—

*[Stuart laughs.]*

00:59:44 Crosstalk Crosstalk —kinda dressed like Jesus in *Godspell*, though.  
**Natalie:** Yeah! And that works for me!

00:59:48 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** Yeah, and his fucking song sounds like *Godspell*. *[Laughs.]*  
**Natalie:** Um—and so Magical Mr. Mistoffelees rescues her—

00:59:51 Natalie Guest **Jenny:** Uh, my sister earlier today said—  
—by throwing, uh, by magicking a dog bone out of nowhere. Not the bone of a dog, but a—  
*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:59:59 Crosstalk Crosstalk —bone that a dog could, like— *[Laughs.]*  
**Natalie:** *[Through laughter]* And then he throws it at the dog.  
*[Laughs, continues speaking through laughter.]* Dog loves it.

01:00:04 Jenny Guest **Stuart:** I mean, we can't tell you—tell that's not actually the case.  
01:00:07 Natalie Guest They, like, clearly wanted Eddie Redmayne for that part so bad?  
01:00:08 Jenny Guest *[Through laughter]* Oh, of course.  
And he wouldn't do it?  
*[Dan laughs.]*

01:00:10 Elliott Host But, like, he is completely—  
Which is too bad, because that's a great name for a cat.  
*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:00:16 Crosstalk Crosstalk In the movie. *[Laughs.]* "I'm Eddie Redmayne, and I'm the cat that is okay—"  
**Elliott:** "—in the one movie and then in other movies I'm not so good!"  
**Stuart:** Or—or— *[Laughs.]*  
*[Dan laughs.]*

01:00:19 Stuart Host Or Donald Gleason. He would've—that's a good cat name.  
01:00:24 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** Uh, so—  
**Natalie:** *[Through laughter]* Eddie Redmayne is just himself as a cat.  
*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:00:28 Elliott Host After that is when we finally find out where Macavity has been taking all these cats. Right? And I apologize if, uh, if listeners can hear—there's some crying going on outside the door due to a baby. But that's okay. It'll go away.

01:00:38 Stuart Host Imagine those cries are from a dog! Barking at Victoria and Magical Mr. Mistoffelees.

01:00:42 Dan Host Just don't start imagining that that baby is a chicken and strangle it, Elliott. That's—that's all I ask of you.

01:00:48 Elliott Host Oh, oh, M\*A\*S\*H it? Yeah, okay.  
01:00:50 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** *[Through laughter]* Yeah. Do a—do a real—"Farewell, Goodbye, Amen" there.

**Elliott:** Uh, so—‘cause—so where—where—where—gent—where has Macavity been taking all these cats?

01:00:57 Natalie Guest **Natalie:** Uh, so we go out to a barge—a barge on the Thames. Where Macavity has been magicking his competition for the Jellicle Ball. And we find out that that is the reason he has been magicking them away. He wants to be the one that is chosen to go to the Heavyside Layer, and he wants to make sure that all the competition is being wiped out.

01:01:10 Stuart Host The what?!  
01:01:12 Natalie Guest Uh, oh! The Heavyside Layer?  
01:01:14 Stuart Host Okay. What’s that? *[Laughs.]*

*[Dan laughs.]*

01:01:16 Natalie Guest Uh, it’s where the cats go to be granted a new life! Um, it is death, I believe. They’re just flying up there. Um, but they believe they will be granted a new life. It’s very, sort of, Heaven’s Gate Cult vibes.

01:01:28 Stuart Host Oh, okay. Cool.  
01:01:30 Natalie Guest Um.... They’re gonna get their—  
01:01:32 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** Very popular in the ‘70s.

**Natalie:** —*[inaudible]* new balances? *[Laughs.]* It’s gonna be incredible.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:01:36 Natalie Guest Um... but yeah. We—we find that out. Rebel Wilson and James Corden are there together so that they can... do a tag-team ad lib situation?

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:01:46 Elliott Host Uh—  
Wait, and then—but then we get to meet—we get to meet Growltiger.

01:01:49 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Natalie:** *[Through laughter]* Yes! Growltiger! *[Laughs.]*

**Elliott:** The most unexpected song of the night.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:01:52 Jenny Guest My favorite song in the entire thing.  
01:01:55 Natalie Guest Yes! Uh, it is 20 seconds long.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

Because he—he says, like, *[in exaggeratedly Cockney accent]* “To destroy, my evil aims! I’m the Terror of the Thames *[pronounced with a long ‘a’]!*”

*[Stuart laughs.]*

And then it’s immediately stopped by James Corden going, “And is it—I think it’s ‘Thames’ *[pronounces it ‘Tems’]*. It’s Thames, that doesn’t rhyme, see? So—” Badadada. And then the whole thing is stopped. But then James Corden gets his little head...

*[Dan laughs.]*

01:02:19 Dan Host Bored into?  
01:02:19 Natalie Guest *[Laughs.]* Bored—yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah! Bored into by Growltiger. Um— *[Laughs.]* And it's just... it's—it's a delight. Growltiger's song is like four minutes long in the stage version and I—but I just love that...

01:02:32 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[Dan laughs.]*  
**Natalie:** They just have completely abandoned that.

01:02:34 Natalie Guest **Stuart:** They shut it down, yeah.  
Also, I will say—uh, apparently a bit of James Corden ad-lib—like, the best bit of James Corden ad-lib—got deleted from the movie. Which is that apparently, his biggest ad-lib right after Growltiger started doing that is that he went, "Wait, are you just introducing yourself? I just did that!" *[Laughs.]*

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:03:01 Stuart Host *[Through laughter]* I want to believe it! 'Cause—just sort of—  
*[Laughs.]* Upset the entire— *[Laughs.]* World of *[inaudible.]*  
Yeah, yeah. They—they'd be worried that people would be struck from their *Cats* reverie—

*[Dan laughs.]*

01:03:08 Natalie Guest —and stumble out of the theater immediately. *[Laughs.]*  
Taken out of the world! Um... so we now know where they're being magicked off to. We go back to... Victoria. Victoria has been rescued by Mistoffelees. He takes her back to Monkustrap, the narrator cat, who is boring and has no discerning qualities.

*[Dan laughs.]*

*[Through laughter]* Um—and Monkustrap is like, where have you been?! And... Old Deuteronomy is almost here! And... maybe there's a fog? And coming through that fog is Ms. Judi Dench! Dame Judi Dench.

*[Stuart laughs.]*

She is appearing and when it pans out and you see her little legs—

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:03:42 Crosstalk Crosstalk —it's so unsettling.  
**Stuart:** It's amazing.

**Elliott:** It's really funny because—it's like—

01:03:44 Natalie Guest **Natalie:** It's just really upsetting. Her human hand—  
01:03:48 Stuart Host —with a wedding ring on it is in full view.  
01:03:48 Elliott Host Yeah.  
It should be, like, an epic moment, but then they cut back and show you how tiny she is and how much distance she has to walk.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:03:54 Crosstalk Crosstalk To get to them?  
**Dan:** *[Through laughter]* Well and—and what a—giant fur coat she’s wearing! *[Laughs.]*

01:03:59 Natalie Guest **Elliott:** And you’re like, so is everybody just standing around watching these old feet walk? *[Laughs.]*  
Yes. Yes. And this is also the first time where I noticed, like, how weird the sound mixing of the movie is? ‘Cause they will randomly—Tom Hooper is so obsessed with reaction closeups of people? But then he will have the sound mixing also turn up their weird harmony line?

01:04:16 Stuart Host Mm-hm.  
01:04:17 Elliott Host Yeah.  
01:04:17 Natalie Guest So like, you’re watching Munkustrap greet Old Deuteronomy, but his part is this weird tenor line, and it’s just like... just... don’t—don’t turn his up in the mix!

01:04:29 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Natalie:** Just keep it—it’s a group number! Chill out! Yes.  
**Jenny:** Oh, that’s—never better than when Mr. Mistoffelees—

01:04:36 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** Yeah. When—when Rum Tum Tugger’s like, *[sings high pitched note]*.  
**Natalie:** Yes! Yes, yes, yes! That’s the best instance of it.

01:04:39 Dan Host **Jenny:** Below. Giving the strangest tenor line.  
Well, he’ll also do the—he did the strangest thing in the first song, uh, the Jellicle Songs for Jellicle Cats where he would just like—cut abruptly to someone else singing in a completely different style very quickly? And then back to the *[though laughter]* main melody and it’s like—and it’s like this Moulin Rouge frenzy?

01:04:56 Natalie Guest *[Elliott laughs.]*  
Yes! My favorite—I’m sorry. My favorite part of Jellicle Songs is when they do the *[high-pitched singing]* “two others who do!” and then it cuts to Idris Elba and he just goes, *[menacing whisper]* “What? What?”  
*[All laugh.]*  
And you think for a second—‘cause then the continuation of the thought is like—two others who do what Jellicles can and Jellicles do—but instead it just feels like there’s a huge ensemble moment and then Idris Elba just goes, “What?!” *[Laughs.]*

01:05:24 Elliott Host *[All laugh.]*  
It—it feels like Idris Elba has stumbled on the movie that he’s in, and he’s like—hold on a second. *[Laughs.]*

01:05:28 Natalie Guest It’s like—oh, that’s the audience surrogate that you want!  
01:05:30 Jenny Guest Yes. Absolutely.  
01:05:31 Elliott Host Yeah. Uh—  
01:05:33 Stuart Host Yeah, yeah, yeah. The audie—the audience is taking cats away after they’ve been introduced.

01:05:38 Elliott Host So we’re finally at the Jellicle Ball at this point. Right?  
01:05:41 Natalie Guest We’re finally at the Jellicle Ball. Uh—  
01:05:43 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** It’s like a salon—

01:05:46 Jenny Guest **Jenny:** But, like, they weren't all Jellicle Balling before? Like—why were they introducing themselves to get to the Heavyside Layer—

01:05:49 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Natalie:** Just... rehearsing!

**Jenny:** —if it wasn't part of it?

01:05:52 Natalie Guest **Stuart:** This is the— Practice makes perfect!

01:05:53 Stuart Host *[All laugh.]* Yeah, yeah, yeah.

01:05:54 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Natalie:** How do you get to the—

**Stuart:** This is the—that was the, like—that was the—that was the, like—

01:05:59 Stuart Host **Dan:** It's—all of this as if it's not— *[Laughs.]* As if it's a gibberish movie! —tailgate party before the—

*[All laugh.]*

01:06:02 Natalie Guest —the Jellicle Ball. Well, it's what they've always said—how do you get to the Jellicle Ball? Practice! Okay? Um—

01:06:05 Elliott Host I mean, honestly. Bustopher Jones and Jennyanydots are not getting chosen for reincarnation.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:06:12 Dan Host They—they might as well just burn their song early. *[Laughs.]* No, no. They're going to fall into the river and get sucked up the chocolate pipe. *[Laughs.]*

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:06:20 Natalie Guest They never really explain what, like, the—um—the qualifications are for getting to the Heavyside Layer, either! Because Bustopher Jones—as we've established—his song is just: I'm fat. I like to eat.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:06:32 Elliott Host And, like, that is the entire thing. Well—I—I think it could be like in defending your life, when they're basically saying, like, you didn't make the most of your life. You had all these opportunities to make the most of it and you held back.

01:06:41 Natalie Guest Ooooh!

01:06:42 Elliott Host And Bustopher's like—I never held back. I saw something I wanted to eat and I ate it. I enjoyed life to the fullest. Give me another one, please!

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:06:49 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** Uh, that's the game he's playing?

**Jenny:** But Rum Tum Tugger's also saying that.

01:06:52 Elliott Host Well, and all—well, and I think it all comes down to the mystery of faith? That uh—

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

—that being—being saved by the Lord is not your choice; it's the Lord's choice. And the Lord is mysterious and operates according to Old Deuteronomy's own arithmetic that mortal cats cannot hope to penetrate, except that in the end she picks the most obvious cat? That we all thought she was gonna pick?

01:07:14 Natalie Guest Please—Old Deuteronomy is her father. Call her Old Deut.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:07:18 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Natalie:** As Mungojerrie does later.

**Elliott:** Old Deut? As—as—

01:07:21 Elliott Host Remember when—when Old Deut was crucified between those two criminals and said, you, too, shall dine with me in heaven tonight. Why—why'd she—why'd she bring those criminals up to the Heavyside Layer with her? I don't know. That's the mystery of Old Deuteronomy.

01:07:33 Stuart Host I do like the idea of calling her Old Deut 'cause that's gonna get those, uh—that's gonna get the teens into it. Right?

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:07:38 Natalie Guest Yeah, totally!

01:07:39 Dan Host I think it's the Heavyside Layer—it's more kind of a Buddhist thing. Where you have to—you just have to sorta have to unburden yourself of the things of this life and the last thing that you—Grizabella gets rid of is her pain. And then that allows her to—

01:07:50 Elliott Host Oh, I see.

01:07:51 Dan Host —ascend to the Heavyside Layer.

01:07:53 Natalie Guest Oooh!

01:07:53 Elliott Host And then once they get to the Heavyside Layer, they—their collar is weighed against a feather. Right? And— *[Laughs.]* And if they don't—if it doesn't work, then—wait, Dan! Don't look behind you—there's a cat!

*[Dan laughs; Natalie shrieks.]*

01:08:05 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** Watch out! It's about to start singing! Archie's my name and being huge? My game! I interrupt podcasts every single day!

**Dan:** *[Laughs.]* And it's on Natalie's—Natalie's coat. I hope that's alright, Natalie.

**Stuart:** Archie's making muffins on Natalie's coat.

**Natalie:** Yeah, yeah, yeah! *[Laughs.]* It's fine.

01:08:14 Stuart Host Uh—so the Jellicle Ball.

01:08:16 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** There's a lot of—there's a little—

**Natalie:** The Jellicle Ball begins. There's a big dance showpiece. Everybody's tails are operating like dicks.

01:08:19 Natalie Guest Is there a bit of the reprise of the—

01:08:20 Stuart Host

*[Elliott laughs.]*



—“Jellicle Cats,” uh, song? Where they’re like, explaining the Jellicle cats are? *[Laughs.]* Not to, you know, do a musical theater thing!

01:08:29 Natalie Guest Yeah, no. They’re—they—as they’re walking into the Jellicle Ball, they all sort of start saying what Jellicle cats are? But it keeps changing and they’re saying—they’re speaking it in a scary way. So there’s one verse where they’re like—Jellicle cats come out! Jellicle cats are a moderate size! Jellicle cats—as we said, are small. *[Laughs.]*

01:08:50 Jenny Guest *[All laugh.]*  
And they’re black and white, and of moderate size.

01:08:54 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Natalie:** And they’re small.

01:08:55 Jenny Guest **Jenny:** Those are—  
—we have learned neither of those things.

01:08:57 Dan Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
I loved that, like, the first song in the musical’s about Jellicle cats; then you get another song that’s about something else, and then the third song is about Jellicle cats again. And it’s like—in this point in my head, I’m just like—okay. If you’re gonna make up a word, you can’t, like, use it all the time. Just, like, do it in two songs. Totally.

01:09:14 Elliott Host **Dan:** Total in the musical.

01:09:17 Elliott Host **Elliott:** No, no, no. You gotta do it—that’s—  
You gotta sell it. Sell that word constantly until it no longer has any meaning—  
*[Dan laughs.]*

01:09:28 Jenny Guest —just becomes a strange—it starts as a strange sound? Then you’re like—I kinda understand what they’re saying! And then it’s just a strange sound and it loses, like, all comprehension to you.

01:09:36 Elliott Host This is the point at which Dan was like, this is *A Clockwork Orange*.  
Just a bunch of, like, scary—other—my Dan. Not this Dan.

01:09:37 Crosstalk Crosstalk Your boyfriend Dan.  
**Jenny:** My boyfriend Dan. Bunch of people just—  
**Dan:** No! But also me. *[Laughs.]*

01:09:39 Natalie Guest **Natalie:** Yes! Yes!  
Also this—also Dan McCoy. Just like—‘cause a bunch of people creeping into an abandoned theater with, like, weird sinister intentions saying words that don’t totally make sense and the audience feels like their eyes are like forced open.

01:09:51 Elliott Host It’s—I—not since, uh... yeah. Like—it’s the only thing I can think—I can compare it to in some ways is—in the way they repeat words and stuff—is like, how in *Sweeney Todd* they keep reminding you that the show’s about Sweeny Todd?  
*[Dan laughs.]*

Like, every now and then they'll just be like—[singing] “Sweeny Todd’s the guy! Remember?”

[Multiple people laugh.]

But it’s a little bit like if—in *Fiddler on the Roof*, the—every song was like, “Jews! Jews! What are Jews?”

[Multiple people laugh.]

“What were Jews? I’ll tell you about Jews!” [Laughs.]

[Multiple people laugh.]

01:10:15 Jenny Guest  
01:10:18 Elliott Host  
01:10:19 Stuart Host

Every song in *Fiddler on the Roof* is kind of like that, Elliott.

A little bit. Yeah. I guess so.

This—this sequence where, uh, people in weird costumes dance into a abandoned church, uh, wearing top hats and shit remind me a lot—

[Dan laughs.]

—of the first time I played a live-action roleplaying game—

[Elliott laughs.]

—in a church after hours.

[Multiple people laugh.]

Back in high school! [Laughs.] Oh, what a vampire I was that night, guys! [Laughs.]

01:10:40 Dan Host  
01:10:41 Natalie Guest  
01:10:44 Dan Host

Very cool.

Absolutely incredible. Uh—

I—it’s a—it’s a cliché to say something is dreamlike? But like, this movie is dreamlike in that... it has its own concerns. Like, everyone in this have concerns that are very important to them, and within the movie it makes sense. Like, within the movie everything is as constructed world—like, oh, okay. Like—it’s important to be the chosen Jellicle cat! Of course! We all know that! But as soon as you, like, wake up and step outside of the dream, you’re like—what was all that nonsense [though laughter] about the Heavyside Layer?

01:11:14 Elliott Host

Well, but also—but also, many moments where you’re like—did I— is there any way that that actually existed outside of my subconscious?

[Multiple people laugh.]

01:11:21 Crosstalk Crosstalk

**Natalie:** Yeah! It all takes place in a—

01:11:22 Natalie Guest

**Elliott:** I think so!

—snowglobe.

[Multiple people laugh.]

I think that’s—it’s Tom Hooper—Tom Hooper is shaking a snowglobe full of cats.

*[Elliott laughs.]*

01:11:30 Jenny Guest Um—  
I had like a very, like, clear half-asleep thought this morning? Which is that maybe the thing is—like—I have a dog. I love my dog. And most of my—  
01:11:40 Elliott Host As Judi Dench says at the end of the movie—  
01:11:42 Jenny Guest Cats are not dogs.  
01:11:43 Elliott Host Cats are not dogs. *[Laughs.]*  
01:11:44 Jenny Guest You're right! But I spend so much of my time picking him up; giving him weird nicknames? And being like, "Spoof's the Pope of France!"

*[Elliott laughs.]*

And like, just declaring weird things about him? And I'm like—what if all the cats are declaring stuff that humans have declared about the cats that they own.  
01:12:00 Elliott Host Oh. Could be.  
01:12:01 Natalie Guest Just repeating what they heard.  
01:12:03 Jenny Guest Like, I would definitely be like—Spoof's a little railway guy!

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

*[Inaudible]*  
01:12:07 Jenny Guest Goes everywhere!  
01:12:08 Natalie Guest The train can't start without Little Gus! *[Laughs.]*  
01:12:12 Elliott Host The—now—this—now this big dance scene—this is the one I was talking about earlier, where I was like—this actually works for me. But it starts with—the moon comes out—  
01:12:18 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** —and they all start twitching—  
**Stuart:** And it's like climax.  
01:12:19 Elliott Host —as if they're going to turn into werewolf cats?

*[All laugh.]*  
01:12:24 Natalie Guest Um—and then over the course of this dance, Grizabella sort of creeps in to see what's going on. Um, and she like slinks out and Victoria sees her and she goes to see Grizabella out in the—in the... in the moonlight. Um, and... this is when Grizabella does the "Memory" preprise. She is sort of, like... holding her face to the lamplight? It's really intense. And honestly? This is the first part where I like—did get teary-eyed! Because Jennifer Hudson—I don't think she's great with dialogue in films? But—Jennifer Hudson knows how to emote during a song. And sound great doing it. And so I was very moved. And luckily, lest I get too moved—

*[Stuart laughs.]*

—during this point in the movie, the next thing is "Beautiful Ghosts" sung by Victoria.  
01:13:16 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** We're gonna fight about this, Natalie!  
**Natalie:** The White Cat. *[Laughs.]*  
01:13:18 Dan Host I—I thought that "Beautiful Ghosts"—y'know, I know it's new for this movie version, but I really liked the melody for that song a lot. I

01:13:32 Natalie Guest thought it was very, very pretty song. Like—and I don't—and—as I said—I don't like *[though laughter]* many songs!

01:13:47 Crosstalk Crosstalk Sure! I think the song is not the problem? I think the space that it occupies? Is the problem for me? Because it's sort of like—you look at *Cats*—even people who despise *Cats*, you have to admit—“Memory” is great!

**Stuart:** Yeah, it's banging.

**Dan:** Yeah.

01:13:48 Natalie Guest **Natalie:** And it's like—  
Okay. What is the iconic song from this show? The iconic song is about, like, an outcast discussing, like, the only memories that they have to, uh... sustain them. Um, and then to follow up, like, at least the preprise of that? With someone else coming up and being like—hey! So... you think you have it bad?

*[Dan laughs.]*

You at least have memories that are good! My life is worse—

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:14:20 Elliott Host —than yours!  
Well that—she's like—she's like, at least you have your memories! I'm young and have my whole life ahead of me!

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:14:24 Natalie Guest Exactly!

01:14:25 Elliott Host I haven't done anything yet!

01:14:26 Natalie Guest Yes!

01:14:26 Elliott Host Isn't that terrible? *[Laughs.]* And Grizabella's like—I'm gonna kill you right now.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:14:30 Natalie Guest Yes! Yes! And also, weirdly—Francesca Hayward, who plays Victoria, is... half-black in—in real life? But the optics of the way that they have her as just a white cat approaching a cat who is clearly a woman of color and being like—*[whiny, entitled voice]* hi! Mmmm, I have it worse because, like, sometimes people say I'm too beautiful—

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:14:52 Dan Host —to be around them. Like, it feels very supermodel. *[Laughs.]*  
No. I—I agree with that. It does feel like stealing the moment. I—but I guess that—because I do not have any previous, like, attachment to the musical *Cats*? I had not seen it in any other format—

01:15:04 Stuart Host So what you're saying is—you're like—I'm sorry that I don't love *Cats* as much as you, Natalie!

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:15:08 Dan Host Yeah! That's what I said.

01:15:09 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** No. What you're saying is—you're like—

**Natalie:** Yes. I'm too addicted to *Cats*.

01:15:12 Elliott Host At least you have your memories of the original *Cats* to cling to. What about me? Who's never seen *Cats*?

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:15:17 Dan Host Isn't that the worse thing to be?  
*[Through laughter]* No! I'm saying that I only—I only registered *Cats* as a bunch of stimuli that was being thrown at me. So—

01:15:24 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** My thought when I heard this was like—

01:15:26 Dan Host **Elliott:** But that's just—that's what you're—  
"Oh! Pretty song!" *[Laughs.]* Like—

01:15:28 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Natalie:** I will say I also like this song much better—

01:15:31 Natalie Guest **Elliott:** But that's what the song becomes—  
—uh, when Taylor Swift sings it.

01:15:32 Dan Host Yeah. I—

01:15:33 Natalie Guest I like Taylor Swift's version on the soundtrack a lot.

01:15:36 Elliott Host This—when the—what this song becomes—it eventually turns into Judi Dench watching them and—and sing-talking words that were incomprehensible to me. It was like they float in one ear and out the other and my brain refused to register them. *[Laughs.]*

01:15:46 Natalie Guest *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
Well, this is—'cause then Judi Dench's song is from the actual show, and it leans into Andrew Lloyd Weber's favorite thing, which is just like—recitative that's a bunch of random *[though laughter]* notes together? Where it's like—*[singing]* "Here are some words I say now!" *[Laughs.]*

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:16:04 Dan Host And— *[Laughs.]* Uh—  
That was always—that's—that's—that was—when I was a kid, that was my, like, mental parody of sung through musicals? Because there is always that part which is like—*[singing]* "And now to transition from this song!"

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:16:20 Crosstalk Crosstalk "To another!" And it's just like, okay. Well this is not a melody.  
**Dan:** *[Inaudible]*

**Stuart:** Just—just let—the listeners know that—

01:16:23 Stuart Host **Elliott:** *[Singing]* "What do you say to that, Sir?!"  
—Dan went from looking at Natalie to looking at me to really—

01:16:27 Dan Host That's stagecraft!

01:16:29 Stuart Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
*[Inaudible.]*

01:16:29 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Natalie:** *[Through laughter]* Yeah! He has to include the whole audience!

**Elliott:** Sold it. He sold it.

01:16:31 Natalie Guest *[Through laughter]* You gotta play to all the sides! This is theater in the round! Um— *[Laughs.]*

01:16:34 Elliott Host So Dan, you were listening—you were listening to a lot of Gilbert & Sullivan, is what you were saying.

01:16:38 Dan Host *[Dan laughs.]*  
That's right.

01:16:38 Natalie Guest Great. So, Victoria goes back in after, uh, Judi Dench has watched. And Judi Dench is like—it's time for the Jellicle Ball to start! And Victoria's like, I don't know if I can! And Judi Dench is like, why? And Victoria says—*[girlish British accent]* but I'm not a Jellicle! And Judi Dench is like, well you can watch and you can be my guest.  
Uh—

01:16:55 Dan Host It's better if you watch. *[Laughs.]*

01:16:56 Natalie Guest *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
Yeah. It's very wild. And now the Jellicle Ball finally begins, even though we have been—

*[Dan laughs.]*  
—watching it happen *[though laughter]* forever. And the first player up is Ian McKellan as Gus the Theater Cat. And—ooh, baby, this movie is good. *[Laughs.]*

01:17:15 Dan Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
No, this is—like—the—look. I will make an argument that there are... multiple moments in this movie that come very close to actually working well on their intended level. And all of them are when the camera just kinda stops and focuses on a performer and lets them, like, emote or sing or do their thing.

01:17:36 Elliott Host You mean, if—if you let Ian McKellan just perform what's essentially, like, kind of a speech-song? That he'll be able to do a great job? Like—the restraint—I wonder if—there was like—a waiver they had to sign when they were being cast that said, like, I give them permission to turn my body into a CGI thing—

*[Multiple people laugh.]*  
—that just floats around in the air and leaps and Ian McKellan was like, *[British voice]* mm, Sir Ian is not signing this.

01:17:57 Dan Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
*[British voice]* “I won't be doing that.”

01:17:58 Stuart Host I'm sure—I'm sure they've signed a contract that says that we will look like absolutely normal cat-humans. *[Laughs.]*

*[Multiple people laugh.]*  
Not weird at all. *[Laughs.]*

01:18:07 Dan Host **Dan:** After Ian—

01:18:08 Jenny Guest **Jenny:** But he did agree—  
—to say, “Meow, meow, meow!” *[Laughs.]*

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:18:09 Natalie Guest Oh, yeah!

01:18:10 Elliott Host He probably ad-libbed that. *[Laughs.]*

01:18:11 Natalie Guest He does, like, an arpeggio of *[singing]* “meow, meow, meow, meowwww!”

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:18:15 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[Through laughter]* It’s so wild!  
**Stuart:** Didn’t he also, like, scratch his head against, like, a wall or something?

**Dan:** Yeah. He goes *[inaudible]*.

**Elliott:** Post or something and he scratches his head like a cat.

01:18:21 Natalie Guest **Natalie:** He scratches his head against a wall. It’s very sweet because he scratches his head against a wall for luck right before he goes on. And Mistoffelees is watching him right behind, and Mistoffelees copies that behavior because he, like, idolizes Gus the Theatre Cat. And it’s very sweet and contributed to my huge Mistoffelees crush.

01:18:38 Elliott Host *[Stuart laughs.]*  
This was—this was one of the scenes where I was like—why—like—this scene works somewhat and it’s one of the less CGI-ish scenes. And it made me start thinking about, like, the Cowardly Lion in *Wizard of Oz*. Where like, that’s not a realistic-looking costume. Like, I’m never like—oh, wow, there’s a real lion walking around!

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:19:11 Dan Host And his—Burt Lahr’s performance is so broad. But when he’s sad in it, it’s like really moving to me. And I’m like—so how come this movie can’t do that? Is it that—is it partly the CGI? Is it partly what—I couldn’t quite figure out what—how this—how—how the *Wizard of Oz* was accomplishing what this one was not.

01:19:31 Elliott Host It can’t do it in general, but I’ll tell you something—at the end of Ian McKellan’s number—the second time I saw this movie in theaters—*[Laughs.]* The audience burst into applause. The whole audience! And it was genuine applause! Like, it did not seem ironic! They’re like—holy shit! Some acting just happened in the middle of *Cats*!

01:19:50 Natalie Guest *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
Well—and it’s also that it’s an—an older actor that we’re very familiar with singing about being an old actor who has his memories of—like, it’s—it’s one of the few times where I’m like, oh the part and the perform—uh, this and Bustopher. I’m like, the part and the performer match perfectly. ‘Cause James Corden does strike me like a big, silly cat that likes to *[though laughter]* eat all the time.

01:19:51 Elliott Host Yeah. And that loves garbage.  
Like, it’s the—

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

—it’s the reason that, like... but also—the reason that like—Alec Guinness can pull off Obi-Wan Kenobi, which is a silly character

'cause he's an old man with magic powers that lives in the desert.  
[Laughs.]

[Multiple people laugh.]

And—and takes a young man to a bar. 'Cause it's like, oh, oh. This guy has, like, years of—of weight on him. Y'know. From his past, uh, performances. Like, it's just—this—gives you a glimpse of the *Cats* that might have been.

01:20:14 Jenny Guest But to your, like, Cowardly Lion point—I think the thing is, when you're being shown something that is so clearly representative of something but not trying to be realistic? The reason musical theater works—like, nobody's singing, but they're also like—y'know what? This is just the reality so we're not gonna try and make it seem realistic. It's just like, the world of the show? This is like... they went out of their way to try and make it realistic. And so then you're like—well, now I can't take anything seriously.

[Multiple people laugh.]

01:20:38 Elliott Host It's like the show—the movie would be better if—people were like, oh, there's this one guy in the crowd that they forgot to CGI into a cat!

01:20:44 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Natalie:** That would've been so much better!

**Elliott:** And it's like—

01:20:44 Elliott Host **Dan:** Yeah.  
Maybe—if the movie would've been better if it was just people wearing regular clothes!

01:20:48 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** But that's—

**Elliott:** —within *Cats*.

01:20:49 Natalie Guest **Natalie:** And that's why Ian McKellan, I think—  
—like, works really well. Is because he's wearing some of the most clothes of anyone? Like, he's in a scarf and a, like—

01:20:54 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Natalie:** —shabby little coat.

01:20:56 Natalie Guest **Jenny:** That would've been great! Yeah!  
And like—he—his face, like—they did so much hair on the sides that it looks like an exaggerated cat?

01:21:04 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** Yeah! It looks like a cat that—no, it looks like a cat—

01:21:07 Dan Host **Natalie:** I keep gesturing! [Laughs.] A visual medium.  
—but it also looks like an old man's, like, sideburns.

01:21:10 Natalie Guest Yes! Exactly! And so I felt like he was the most, sort-of... humanlike of the cats in terms of the design.

01:21:17 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Natalie:** Which helped a lot.

**Dan:** Yeah.

01:21:19 Stuart Host **Stuart:** And certainly—  
—most of his movements. I think he does some great little cat touches.

01:21:23 Natalie Guest Mm-hm!



01:21:24 Stuart Host Uh, but to—to play with—uh, what you guys were talking about. It's—part of the idea of, like, these—like, a blockbuster movie musical—especially in the—like, the era of... uh, digital effects? Is that there is a feeling of like, let's make it more realistic.

01:21:40 Dan Host Yeah.

01:21:40 Stuart Host Let's make it feel less like something that you could go see on stage at your, uh, I don't know—your local gymnasium or whatever. And— *[Laughs.]* Uh... and I think it does a disservice—in some ways—here, and in other ways it makes it great. *[Laughs.]*

01:21:55 Dan Host That's what I was trying to get at earlier, 'cause I think that specifically, like, blockbuster filmmaking—they almost feel this obligation. They're like, okay. We're throwing a bunch of money at, like, a big property and good actors, so... we also have to, like, put a bunch of money into CGI fur, too. And it's like—no, no, you don't. You don't need to do that.

01:22:14 Elliott Host Well, here's the—here's the—then another question this raises in my mind. Which is: so... there is a better version of this movie. Which is not as CGI crazy. And embraces the reality of the stage as opposed to the reality of, y'know, special effects illusions. That is not a version of the movie that I think would've given me the same joy?

01:22:32 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** That I got watching this crazy nonsense flying around in front of my face.

**Natalie:** Correct!

**Stuart:** That's the thing!

01:22:37 Elliott Host **Dan:** *[Laughs.]* No, it's true! 'Cause I—like—I got more genuine joy from this movie than I think any other movie I've seen—I—I'm not gonna say all year 'cause it's—we're—we're one week into the year. But like, in the past six months. So like—is it—this movie, like—is it—it's like, the worst version of it but also—I got more out of it than I would've out of, like, a good, straightforward adaptation of *Cats*.

01:22:56 Natalie Guest Yeah! Well, especially for people that like bad movies? I think... there's an aspect of this that's like... it's so earnest? 'Cause a lot of bad movies, like... try to have—try to pretend that they know what's going on? Also, it's hard for me, like, I've talked about this—like, I've never gotten into the cult of *The Room* because it feels cruel to me on some level? And I don't care about Tommy Wiseau, but then there are like other people—well, especially for me as an actor, where I'm like—a lot of these people were just people that like wanted a job. And like, showed up and did a job and we're making fun of them as well. And like... it just really bums me out. This is like, so many people with so much money? And influence? Who are going to be fine? Like—all committed to this thing that is so earnestly, operatically bad? And insane? But the flickers of—the flickers of goodness in it? Like, it's just like a whiplash-inducing extravaganza and it's just—

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:24:00 Dan Host —like—you just feel so free! *[Laughs.]* And I've also—like, y'know, like—I've also heard people argue—who didn't have as good a time as we all obviously did? That like,

oh, y'know, okay. Like... but everything that's crazy about the movie *Cats* was, y'know, basically crazy in the show *Cats*. I'm like... yeah, I—I get where you're coming from and I don't wanna say that—like, those people can feel that way. But like, for me, like—

01:24:20 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** You're not saying they can go, like, jump in a lake or take a hike or.

01:24:23 Dan Host **Dan:** No, I'm not saying that. But for me—  
Like—

01:24:24 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
**Dan:** The interesting thing is like—okay—

**Natalie:** Or even get a life?

01:24:27 Dan Host *[Stuart laughs.]*  
They took this successful, pre-existing material; threw a bunch of money and talent at it; but then along the way, made every decision wrong.

01:24:36 Natalie Guest Yes!

01:24:36 Dan Host Like, every single decision wrong. And like, I feel like—

01:24:39 Stuart Host Or right! *[Laughs.]*

01:24:40 Dan Host Maybe, like... maybe if you do everything wrong it equals good movie?

01:24:45 Elliott Host You're saying the movie shot the moon. Like, it lost so bad that it won.

01:24:48 Dan Host Exactly!

01:24:49 Natalie Guest Yeah.

01:24:50 Jenny Guest Well it was bad in new ways, and that's exciting!

01:24:53 Elliott Host Is it—it—it is—I mean—say what you will—

01:24:55 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** —about it. Tom Hoop—

**Stuart:** Bad movie cocaine.

01:24:57 Elliott Host Say what you will about Tom Hooper. I never saw *Les Mis*, the movie version of it.

01:25:00 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Natalie:** It's not bad. But it's not fun. It's not fun in any way.

**Jenny:** It's not good but *[inaudible]*.

01:25:04 Elliott Host **Elliott:** But—but this is the first time—  
This is the first time I've ever considered him a director with a creative vision?

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

And I'm like—I love it. Yes. 'Cause mostly what I know him from is *The King's Speech*. Which is like... fine! Like, it's a fine movie. It's nothing special. It's the—it's—y'know, I remember seeing that movie and I was like, that movie hit every note I thought it was gonna hit and I'm fine with that. But—so I was like, oh, yeah, he makes those kinds of movies. And then to see this and it's like, oh, no, no. There are things—

01:25:26 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** —living in his head that I could not even have dreamed of!  
*[Laughs.]*

**Dan:** 'Cause this is a neon fever dream! And like a fever dream—

**Natalie:** Yes!

01:25:30 Dan Host **Stuart:** And—and—  
It, like, it's a thing where you're like—your brain just keeps rushing and doing the same thing over and over again with slight variations.

01:25:35 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[Elliott laughs.]*  
**Stuart:** And—and to think that Geoffrey Rush was probably—

01:25:38 Stuart Host **Dan:** *[Inaudible]*  
—waiting as a stand-in for—  
*[Multiple people laugh.]*  
—Gus the Theatre Cat in case Ian McKellan hurt himself. *[Laughs.]*

01:25:44 Natalie Guest *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
Oh, my god. So speaking of Ian McKellan, Gus gets disappeared by Macavity, 'cause honestly—Gus would probably be my Jellicle choice.

01:25:52 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** Oh, of course! Is this when he says—

01:25:54 Elliott Host **Natalie:** Um, and so—  
“Macavity!”

01:25:55 Natalie Guest “Maca—” Yes. This is—this is the second “Macavity”—  
*[Stuart laughs.]*  
—and this one is even more exaggerated. This one he goes *[enunciating to an extreme]* “Macavityyyyy!”  
*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:26:08 Crosstalk Crosstalk It's absolutely incredible. And then we get to my man—  
Skimblehanks!  
**Jenny:** Yayyyy!

01:26:11 Dan Host **Natalie:** Skimblehanks! The railway cat.  
**Dan:** *[Through laughter]* And what I love about this is—  
There's like 20 minutes of sad shit, and then it's just like—and now!  
Skimblehanks, the fabulous tap-dancing cat!

01:26:19 Natalie Guest *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
And it's incredible.

01:26:20 Stuart Host And Munkustrap starts talking about this guy, and I'm like—is he introducing himself? Who is this guy? Like, why are they introducing *[though laughter]* a new person at this point?

01:26:28 Elliott Host Well, this character—so he was a background dancer in a bunch of the prev—in—when the ball started. And he's wearing red pants with suspenders over his cat chest and he's got a hat—

01:26:39 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** And a big handlebar moustache.  
**Stuart:** He's Super Mario.

01:26:40 Elliott Host And you're like—you better introduce me to this cat 'cause you cannot just doll up—

01:26:44 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
**Elliott:** —an extra dancer that way.

**Natalie:** *[Through laughter]* I must know who this steampunk cat is!  
*[Laughs.]*

01:26:47 Dan Host **Dan:** He looks—  
He looks like he's in a cat strip revue.

01:26:51 Elliott Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
Yes! Yeah.

01:26:52 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** He's in—he's in Chippencats. Yeah. Yeah, he's like cat Waluigi! And it's like—and—and he does—

**Natalie:** He looks like Waluigi.

**Dan:** *[Laughs.]* Yeah. *[Laughs.]*

**Jenny:** *[Laughs.]* He looks like Waluigi! *[Laughs.]*

**Stuart:** He looks exactly like Waluigi! *[Laughs.]* He's super sexy.  
*[Laughs.]* And very—and very charismatic.

01:27:04 Elliott Host And his whole sequence I love and his tapdancing is great and it's almost like the movie is like, this is—it's—because tapdancing on film, it is like one of the most classic things a movie can do. Like, it goes back to almost the beginning of film. Certainly the beginning of sound film, to watch tapdancing on screen. It's just the most basic cinema dancing you can do. And the—it's like—so every now and then the movie is like, uh, let's undercut it with some crazy shots of something else real quick and then we'll go back to the dancing.  
*[Laughs.]*

01:27:29 Stuart Host And my—and my wife was getting so much pleasure out of the shots of him tapdancing on the rail lines. And the other cats would be like, watching his feet? Because that's exactly what cats do!

01:27:43 Natalie Guest *[All laugh.]*  
Uh, and they tapdance all the way out onto the train tracks on the river. It's like a very magical reveal *[though laughter]* and then every time I see it—no matter what capacity of mind I am in—I am just like—*[excited screaming]*. And I—

01:27:57 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Natalie:** —just Pavlovian response start clapping like crazy.

**Elliott:** Oh, and—'cause all I could think was—all I could think was that—

01:28:02 Elliott Host —the train is gonna come! It's gonna just splatter *[though laughter]* all these cats!

01:28:05 Natalie Guest I get anxious. There's also a big part in this song when it's like—  
*[singing]* “And the lock on the door” and all the cats go, *[imitating train whistle]* “Woo! Woo” And I love that part. *[Laughs.]* That part? Really excellent. Um, and then at the end of Skimbleshanks the railway cat, he starts doing a spin. But then he starts *[though laughter]* spinning up into the air and everyone in the audience is like—*[gasps.]* What?! What's going on? *[Laughing so hard that by*

*the end of the sentence she's barely hanging on]* And then he spins himself into freaking dust and it's Macavity again!

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:28:36 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** Oh, no! Macavity got him! Because it's like—it—

**Natalie:** And this time, Macavity says—"Ineffable!" *[Laughs.]*

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:28:41 Elliott Host

"Ineffable!"

01:28:41 Dan Host

This—uh—spin into dust is a .gif available on the internet and you need to seek it out.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:28:47 Crosstalk Crosstalk

**Natalie:** *[Through laughter]* It's—absolutely.

01:28:48 Elliott Host

**Elliott:** There's a—

There's a moment—I need to know if there's a—if there's a .gif of it—I think it's Rum Tum Tugger? But there's a point where one of the cats is just like—"Eeeeeee!"

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

Uh, like—does like—does that kind of gritted-teeth, like, uh-uh! I don't think so! And I wanna use it so badly on Twitter.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:29:04 Natalie Guest

*[Through laughter]* Skimblehanks gets disappeared and ev—and before anyone can even know what has become of Mr. Skimblehanks—ohhh, there's some sensual music that starts happening! And a crescent moon comes down from the sky!

01:29:20 Stuart Host

And you're like—mac tonight?

01:29:21 Natalie Guest

And you're like—

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

Oohhhhh, man! Whomst could this be but Taylor Swift, who is wearing kitten heels. Wink wink! And—

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

*[Through laughter]* And has boobs. Has such prominent boobs. And she is just maxing and relaxing on her crescent moon and she starts singing a whole song about Macavity.

01:29:41 Stuart Host

And she's got, like, a bedazzled catnip, uh, cocktail shaker that she's—she's sprinkling sparkly catnip which is making all the cats horny or tired? I can't tell.

01:29:52 Crosstalk Crosstalk

**Natalie:** Yeah. It's— *[Laughs.]* It's supposed to be like, a poppies—

**Dan:** Yeah. Whether—Mungojerrie and—

**Elliott:** Yeah. It's the—it's not *[inaudible]*.

01:29:55 Natalie Guest

A poppies in the *Wizard of Oz* type thing?

01:29:58 Elliott Host

Yeah. Not since Val Kilmer casting drugs to the animal people of *The Island of Doctor Moreau*—

[Stuart laughs.]

—was I more weirded out—

[Dan laughs.]

—and kind of confused by the effect that this thing was happening—

01:30:07 Crosstalk Crosstalk

**Elliott:** —having on animal people. [Laughs.]

01:30:09 Natalie Guest

**Natalie:** Also the—

This, uh, is one of my favorite stories now about *Cats*, which is that—Taylor Swift’s dad had the idea for her to have catnip? And apparently like came to set to—like, Taylor Swift gave an interview about this. Her dad came to set on one of the early days and was like, hey, like, Taylor—like, she should be catnipping everyone and like, they—it makes them all go crazy. And Tom Hooper did not know what catnip was. [Laughs.]

01:30:33 Dan Host

Oh, wow.

01:30:33 Natalie Guest

He’s doing *Cats* and he didn’t know what catnip was.

01:30:37 Dan Host

‘Cause I could only assume that’s the only reason there was not already a catnip gag in the movie. [Laughs.]

01:30:42 Natalie Guest

Yeah. Um—wild.

01:30:44 Elliott Host

Now—now—I’m—I’m not—I—full credit to Taylor Swift’s dad, but it doesn’t surprise me that one of the great satirists of the English language, Jonathan Swift—

[Multiple people laugh.]

—could come up with an idea like that.

[Multiple people laugh.]

He’s like, uh, director Hooper, I have a modest proposal for you about this scene!

[All laugh.]

01:30:58 Natalie Guest

[Through laughter] Oh my god! Um—

01:31:01 Jenny Guest

I love Taylor Swift in this movie because there—you just get such a clear picture. She is such a.... mean girl who likes the VHS of *Cats* and makes you watch it at her sleepovers.

01:31:13 Natalie Guest

Yes!

01:31:13 Crosstalk Crosstalk

**Jenny:** And she’s not, like even—

**Natalie:** And if you fall asleep she’s gonna [through laughter] put water in— [Laughs.]

01:31:19 Elliott Host

So she’s—it’s like—you can see her as a—as a little girl bossing her other friends around to be her backups for her choreographed version of this song.

01:31:27 Natalie Guest

Exactly.

01:31:28 Elliott Host

But I think—but that’s the right feel for this character! For—what’s her name? Bombalaura—something?

01:31:31 Natalie Guest

Bombalurina.

01:31:32 Dan Host

Hey, man, I was having a great time. I was slinking around in my seat at this point.

01:31:36 Natalie Guest

Yeah. Also—

[Elliott laughs.]

01:31:39 Stuart Host —Taylor Swift was the first person cast in this movie. [Laughs.]  
01:31:40 Natalie Guest Oh.  
Taylor Swift was the first person Tom Hooper asked, because she was almost Eponine in *Les Mis*. And I guess this was, like... Tom Hooper's sort of... olive branch or... I'll give this [though laughter] to you instead.  
01:31:52 Jenny Guest Well that would've been a nightmare!  
01:31:53 Natalie Guest Yeah.  
01:31:53 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** This was her Mary Poppins to Julie Andrews for missing out on *My Fair Lady* or whatever it

**Natalie:** Exactly! Exactly. Exactly.

01:32:01 Natalie Guest **Elliott:** Oh, no! *Sound of Music*, I guess it was. *Sound of Music*.  
01:32:02 Stuart Host Absolutely wild.  
Do you... but why—I mean—is the—is this character, like... shouldn't she have been, like, Old Deuteronomy or Grizabella or something? [Laughs.]  
01:32:11 Natalie Guest [Through laughter] What do you mean?  
01:32:12 Stuart Host I don't know. If like—this is the first person cast, it's like a weird role to cast first.  
01:32:16 Natalie Guest But I feel like Jenny is right. I feel like Jenny's on to something in that, like—if there's a—there's a filmed version of the show? And this song in the show is like—its two women in the show that are doing it together. Um, but Bombalurina is one. And like, she's like, the hottest cat. She's like, the young hot cat on the scene. And like it's belty. It's like, a huge number! And like it becomes this like—huge female empowerment number by the end because the—none of the men sing it. In the show. Like, it just becomes when it—when there's that huge build, all of the female cats just like crowd around her and are just her backups. And I could see how—if you grew up addicted to *Cats*?  
01:32:57 Stuart Host Yeah.  
01:32:58 Natalie Guest You'd be like—

[Multiple people laugh.]

01:33:15 Crosstalk Crosstalk I'm Bombalurina! And also they could—like—it—it seems clear to me that everyone who was associated with *Cats*, like, the bigger stars? Came and did their stuff and then peaced out? And so I feel like... it was an easier ask for Taylor Swift to do this.  
**Natalie:** Big... yeah. [Laughs.] Exactly.

**Stuart:** T-Swift was probably gonna be hanging out the whole time.

01:33:22 Natalie Guest **Elliott:** I don't think she—I don't think she was on location in cat  
01:33:24 Stuart Host London for weeks in her trailer waiting for her scene.  
01:33:28 Natalie Guest Like, this big showpiece number and then peace out.  
01:33:31 Jenny Guest And this is where they—they list all of Macavity's qualities, right?  
Yes. Including that he's broken every human law.  
Every human law.

[All laugh.]

01:33:33 Elliott Host And so—and this is—when we get to the, uh—after the—after the—  
01:33:36 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** *[Through laughter]* Oh, boy! *[Laughs.]* I'm sorry, I know you made the joke earlier, but—

**Stuart:** Which is weird, 'cause he—he doesn't sing his own song!

**Elliott:** *[Inaudible].*  
01:33:40 Dan Host —now I'm just really thinking about the *[though laughter]* ramifications for the first time. *[Laughs.]*  
01:33:43 Natalie Guest Of every human law.  
01:33:45 Dan Host **Dan:** Every one.

**Elliott:** Every human crime.  
01:33:45 Elliott Host Oh, he's done terrible things. Macavity's done horrible things.

*[Dan laughs.]*

But also kind of silly things! But this is—after—after the mice babies, this is the second-most terrifying sight to me. Is—as we mentioned—when Macavity appears with no trenchcoat and he just looks like he's been—he's just a castrated man.

*[Dan laughs.]*  
01:34:01 Natalie Guest Yes! Horrible! It's a really “Samson shorn” moment. Like, if we had seen—

*[Stuart laughs.]*

—Idris Elba that naked the whole movie it would've been one thing? But because we've been shown Idris Elba in a hat and trenchcoat he maintained a level of dignity *[though laughter]* and then—  
01:34:17 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** Well it also means that Macavity is making the choice to show up naked!

**Natalie:** —they strip him! *[Laughs.]*  
01:34:21 Stuart Host And he—and—  
01:34:22 Natalie Guest Macavity is the one that's like, this is my big number! *[though laughter]* I gotta take it off!

*[Multiple people laugh.]*  
01:34:26 Stuart Host And I feel like—of—of the performers—he doesn't quite have the same pipes as everyone else. Maybe I'm just being a jerk.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*  
01:34:34 Natalie Guest *[Through laughter]* No. No. He sings for a second in the first—his first appearance when he's like, “Macavity is a bad cat and a monsterrr!”

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

*[Inaudible]* And he just sings for a second. Like, what's going on? Um—but yeah. Yeah. He's so naked at the end of his number.  
*[Laughs.]* At the end of his number—his big number ends. They made a whole light-up staircase happen. Um, and at the end of it, Deuteronomy walks up and Macavity is like—well, clearly I won! I'm



			the best one. And Judi Dench says, no. And then he magicks <u>her</u> away! Old Deuteronomy is gone! Oh nooo! It's very sad!
01:35:17	Elliott	Host	Nooooo!
01:35:18	Natalie	Guest	It's very sad.
01:35:18	Elliott	Host	Time for the New Deuteronomy!
			<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>
01:35:20	Jenny	Guest	Time for the best song in the movie.
01:35:21	Natalie	Guest	Time for the best song in the movie! But also before that they go to the—they go to the barge and my favorite line happens, which is the—uh—they try to force Deuteronomy to walk the plank. And—
			<i>[Dan laughs.]</i>
			—he says like, just make me the— <i>[though laughter]</i> make me the Jellicle Choice! Just say it's me and then—like—we can all go home! And Judi Dench turns around and with every bit of gravitas she has, she goes, <i>[haughty English accent]</i> “You will <u>never</u> be my Jellicle Choice!”
			<i>[All laugh.]</i>
			<i>[Inaudible]</i>
01:35:51	Elliott	Host	I mean, I have to assume that—I mean, again. She was—she was almost gonna be in <i>Cats</i> when it was on the stage when she was younger. But I assume, after being in, uh, <i>The Chronicles of Riddick</i> ? She was like—I'll say whatever. Just give me whatever dumb line and I'll say it.
			<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>
01:36:04	Natalie	Guest	<i>[Through laughter]</i> Who cares? You will never be my Jellicle Choice. But then we go back to the Egyptian Theatre, which is where they're having the Jellicle Ball. And uh, they all—none of them know how they're gonna get Old—Old Deut back. This is when Mungojerrie calls her Old Deut. And Victoria's like—well—Mistoffelees can do magic! And the song “Magical Mr. Mistoffelees”—which in the show is just Mistoffelees being arrogant and singing about himself—now in this movie becomes, like, we all gotta psych up Mr. Mistoffelees!
01:36:34	Dan	Host	And I gotta say—there—there's something about the way it's shot where like he's standing on the stage with the footlights on him and the cats are kind of, like, gathered around some—like—from below. That it really felt to me that suddenly the movie of <i>Cats</i> transformed into a high school production of <i>Cats</i> .
			<i>[Elliott laughs.]</i>
01:36:49	Elliott	Host	Yeah.
01:36:51	Dan	Host	Had this weird feeling.
01:36:53	Jenny	Guest	It's so confusing because Macavity had disappearing powers and stuff. Um... but Mistoffelees really just had, like, the magic he had was like—cards.
01:37:02	Elliott	Host	Yeah. It was all parlor magic.
01:37:04	Jenny	Guest	Yeah! It's not—like, it's weird that she's like, oh, he does—he does magic! He could probably do other kinds of magic, too.
01:37:09	Elliott	Host	That's because Victoria is somewhat brain-damaged from being tossed out of a car in a sack.

01:37:14 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
**Elliott:** So she's like, uh, he—

01:37:18 Stuart Host  
**Natalie:** Yeah! Honestly, she got tossed out with vigor!  
 So yeah. This is—this is very, like, '70s—there's a little bit of rock to it? Right? It's a little bit of swing.

01:37:26 Dan Host  
 01:37:26 Elliott Host  
 Uh—  
 I'm just gonna go out—I'm just gonna go and say: not a fan of this song?

01:37:29 Crosstalk Crosstalk  
**Dan:** Really?

**Stuart:** Wowww!

01:37:31 Crosstalk Crosstalk  
**Natalie:** Really?  
**Jenny:** But the audience—we were so on board! People were singing!

01:37:34 Elliott Host  
**Elliott:** The audience that we saw it with was—  
 —was singing and swaying with it? But that's—you know what? Maybe it's just because this, plus the—*[singing]* “Doo, doo dooooo, doo doo”—

01:37:40 Crosstalk Crosstalk  
**Elliott:** *[Continues.]* Those are the only things I knew about it.

01:37:42 Elliott Host  
**Dan:** And you guys are in Hollywood, right? It's full of—  
 So it was like—when it finally showed up I was like, oh, yeah. This song. Whereas every other song was a delightful new discovery—

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:37:53 Jenny Guest  
 01:37:54 Elliott Host  
 01:37:56 Natalie Guest  
 —for me. Like a—like—find—opening up an oyster and finding not a pearl but some kind of like—like a squid's eyeball?  
 With a cat face on it.  
*[Through laughter]* With a cat face on it! Yeah.  
 I'll say—I don't listen to this song on its own ever? But in—

*[Stuart laughs.]*

01:38:06 Stuart Host  
 —the experience of watching it in the theater with an audience? It's one of my favorites in the context of watching the thing.  
 Natalie this—that—that comment raises way more questions.

01:38:09 Dan Host  
 01:38:11 Crosstalk Crosstalk  
*[Multiple people laugh.]*  
 Well, because—I think that it's so great in a—  
**Dan:** —in an audience in a theater—

01:38:15 Stuart Host  
 01:38:16 Natalie Guest  
 01:38:19 Stuart Host  
**Stuart:** I'm imagining Natalie at the gym!  
 Listen to all the cat songs! *[Laughs.]*  
*[Through laughter]* Yeah! Listen to Skimbleshanks on the treadmill!  
 I guess that makes sense. *[Through laughter]* You're right.

01:38:21 Dan Host  
*[Multiple people laugh.]*  
 But I—I— *[Laughs.]* I do think it makes sense that this plays so well with an audience 'cause it is that moment of, kind of like... uh, clap your hands and Tinkerbell will come back to life?

01:38:31 Crosstalk Crosstalk  
**Elliott:** Yeah. It's exactly that.

01:38:33 Dan Host **Dan:** And—  
And everyone—everything in this movie is so dumb? But at this point... no matter how dumb it is, everyone has somehow bought into it? *[Through laughter]* And they're like—yes!

01:38:43 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** Yes! Do your magic!

01:38:45 Natalie Guest **Natalie:** All of the people— *[Laughs.]*  
All of the people—by this point in the movie—that hate the movie and wouldn't have been on board have walked out? *[Laughs.]*

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

And everyone that's left has let the movie happen to them? And are just luxuriating in it.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:38:56 Elliott Host **Elliott:** And there's—so—he—well, I should mention what—the—the baby mice come back while he's singing his song? And there's a bizarre moment where he like lifts off his hat and there's like mice on his head and one of them falls to the ground and scurries away and no one seems to notice?

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

It was like—so did they just like—add that in like Sergio Aragones margin cartoon style after they made the movie and no one knew it was gonna be there?

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:39:18 Jenny Guest Like, it was just so strange to me.  
01:39:19 Crosstalk Crosstalk The mice were all upset about it, too!  
**Jenny:** The other mice, like—there is a whole story happening.

**Elliott:** Yeah, they were not happy.

**Dan:** They were horrified!

01:39:23 Natalie Guest **Natalie:** Yeah! And then he just puts his hat back on—  
01:39:27 Crosstalk Crosstalk —over the remaining two mice and is like, shut up!  
**Elliott:** It's the most—

01:39:28 Elliott Host **Dan:** I'll eat you later!  
It was at that moment that I was like, oh, this is the movie Tim and Eric should've made.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:39:36 Crosstalk Crosstalk Instead of the movie they did make. But he does it! They—they manage to get his confidence up. And—  
**Elliott:** —we have a little bit of a fakeout which—

01:39:38 Elliott Host **Natalie:** Yes. They magick Judi Dench right on back.  
—they think they—they think they didn't magick back Old Deut but then she's standing right behind them.

01:39:42 Natalie Guest Yep. It's—  
01:39:43 Dan Host And then she sings a verse.  
01:39:45 Natalie Guest Yeah. *[Through laughter]* She does sing a verse, and when we first hear Judi Dench's voice in the verse I did gasp aloud at the premiere to a point where there was, like, a smattering of laughter—

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

—at me being shocked when everyone knew it was happening.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

*[Through laughter]* Like, it was being telegraphed so intensely and yet I— *[Laughs.]* Was overwhelmed.  
01:40:06 Jenny Guest So after—after this, like, seven-minute song—

*[Elliott laughs.]*

—where they only sing “His name is Magical Mr. Mistoffelees”—  
01:40:11 Elliott Host Yeah! It just goes on forever!  
01:40:13 Jenny Guest Max Ash pointed out that the funniest moment in the movie is Munkustrap then—at the end—saying, “And now we are introducing—”

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

“Magical Mr. Mistoffelees!”

*[All laugh.]*  
01:40:25 Jenny Guest Oh, is that what we were doing?

*[Multiple people laugh.]*  
01:40:27 Natalie Guest Oh, this whole time? Wow!  
01:40:29 Elliott Host It's like Munkustrap was in the bathroom during the song—

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

—and he missed his cue and he had to—he just came—he just came out, like, yeah. High school play style and just yelled his line onto the stage no matter what was going on. *[Laughs.]*  
01:40:38 Stuart Host I think—I think this was around when I went to the bathroom during the movie. Because I held it for so long 'cause I had no concept—

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

—of where I was in the movie! *[Laughs.]*  
01:40:47 Elliott Host Yeah.  
01:40:49 Dan Host Or in physical space. *[Laughs.]*  
01:40:51 Natalie Guest Oh my god.  
01:40:51 Elliott Host Uh, meanwhile on the boat, our—we've—uh, our—Bustopher and Jennyanydots—they use their powers to defeat Growltiger and knock him into the water and he's dead I guess. *[Laughs.]*

01:41:00 Natalie Guest Oh, and the final thing of it—they, like, do most of the work and then Gus the Theatre Cat goes to the plank in front of Growltiger and scares him off by doing—by recreating the performance that he talked about all through his song, which is The Fiend of the Fell.

*[Through laughter]* And he does—he does this by going, “Fi—”  
*[breaks off, laughing.]*

01:41:24 Natalie Guest *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
*[Through laughter]* I—I—he just—and you can’t tell what he’s saying. He’s like, “Fiend!”

01:41:31 Dan Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
This is one of many things that totally *[though laughter]* eluded me the first time I saw the movie. And then opened like a flower to me the second time.

01:41:40 Natalie Guest *[Through laughter]* He says, “Fiend of the Fell!” *[Laughs.]*

01:41:45 Elliott Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
That was—there were—like, I knew—I could under—it was like Shakespeare. I could understand the gist of what he was talking about? But if you asked me the specifics? I’d be like—I don’t know. It like—he’s—he’s clearly re—recreating the thing he used to do but I don’t know what it is. Like, I don’t know what he means. Like—

01:41:58 Jenny Guest Did we also mention that the way Jennyanydots escapes by ripping off another skinsuit?

01:42:02 Natalie Guest Yes!

01:42:04 Elliott Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
Either she has constantly regenerating outer skin, or she was wearing several different layers of her—

01:42:10 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** —dance suit *[inaudible]*

**Stuart:** Elliott—to—to suggest that—yeah.

01:42:13 Stuart Host **Dan:** She’s the Russian doll of cats.  
Elliott, to suggest anything but the first thing is horrifying and horrible. *[Laughs.]*

01:42:17 Natalie Guest She is a Matryoshka cat. *[Laughs.]* Uh—

01:42:20 Elliott Host There’s something about—there’s something about wearing a skinsuit from another person that is terrifying. But then wearing multiple skinsuits—all I could think about is how sweaty—

*[Dan laughs.]*

01:42:28 Stuart Host —you would get underneath! It just feels gross! *[Laughs.]*  
And all the planning involved! *[Laughs.]*

01:42:30 Elliott Host Oh, man. And you gotta tailor the ones on the outside to be bigger than the ones on the inside so it fits over?

01:42:36 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** That’s—*[inaudible]*

**Stuart:** And you don’t have a lot of time so you have to swiftly tailor them!

01:42:39 Natalie Guest **Dan:** *[Inaudible]* go too far.  
*[Laughs.]* Yeah! So—

01:42:40 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Natalie:** Old Deuteronomy’s— *[Laughs.]*

01:42:41 Elliott Host **Elliott:** It’s like—it’s a little bit like—  
In the—in the Wile E.—in—in the, uh—the cartoons where it’s the, uh—it’s the wolf and the sheep? And they’re—they’ve each dressed

up as each other and they continue to remove their costumes until at the end the wolf is holding a stick of dynamite and you're like—wait. That stick of dynamite was walking around dressed as a sheep? *[Laughs.]*

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:43:01 Natalie Guest Oh, no, it's the—it's the wolf and the sheepdog and they're wearing each others' skin. Anyway. It's a great—great cartoon. Old Deuteronomy is back and luckily, it's now time for "Memory." The song we've all been waiting for. Victoria finally—like, she goes out. She brings back in Jennifer Hudson. And the lead-in to "Memory"—the way "Memory" starts—is Victoria just looks at Jennifer Hudson and goes—sing!

*[All laugh.]*

01:43:26 Stuart Host And then "Memory" happens. *[Laughs.]* And—  
01:43:29 Elliott Host Audience surrogate says "Sing!" to Jennifer Hudson! *[Laughs.]*  
And the only—the only way it could've been better is if—during the middle of the song—a cat off to the side of the stage had picked up a phone and said—said—said—"Uncle Andrew? It's your nephew!"

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:43:46 Natalie Guest "Gary! Gary Lloyd Weber? I'm a cat. Anyway—you know that song you've been looking for?" And then held up the old phone.  
01:43:48 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[Through laughter]* Oh no! Oh no!  
**Dan:** Uh, yeah. When Jennifer Hudson—

01:43:51 Stuart Host **Stuart:** And the—and the phone would be—  
—very strangely proportioned for the cat's body.

*[All laugh.]*

01:43:53 Elliott Host Yeah. It takes like 10 cats to pick up the phone and—  
01:43:56 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** —yet somehow the rotary dial is smaller than the cat.

**Dan:** *[Laughs.]* It's like the—it's like the phone in *Top Secret*.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:44:01 Dan Host No, uh— *[Laughs.]* Yeah. When Jennifer Hudson hits her big dramatic note at the end of the song, that was the second genuine applause break in my theater.

01:44:10 Natalie Guest Yeah. That—that key change moment—that big modulation? It's so satisfying. She sounds incredible. She adds, like, a little bit of a growl on the "all alone" with the memory? So it's just adding, like, enough of her own... sort of spin on that song? Um—it's just great! It's just great. They also like—there's not a lot of, like, funny camera stuff going on? They just—

01:44:32 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** There's, like, nothing! It's like, right on her face and Deuteronomy's face.

01:44:35 Natalie Guest **Natalie:** Yeah! It's—  
Just let her do the thing and she does the thing and I cried. Oh, how I cried.

01:44:40 Elliott Host It's like the difference between a movie that is throwing all sorts of crazy junk at you and a movie that is like—oh, there are things that are like... genuinely like entertaining performance things! Like, singing beautifully or tapdancing. Where it's like, that's enough to just put that on screen so you can see it and that's enough to make the movie. But every other scene it's like—uhhh, I don't feel confident that this is gonna hold the audience's attention. So maybe there should be trombones and flowers flying around the screen?

01:45:09 Natalie Guest  
01:45:11 Elliott Host *[All laugh.]*  
Yup! Uh, and so—  
It reminds me—it reminded me of a—oh, wait. Sorry. It reminded me of a, uh—there's an—there's a—Louis Malle documentary called *God's Country*? That's about this little—this small rural town. And there's a scene where it's just a low—it's just a wedding? And the people are dancing at the wedding, and there was something about like—oh. This being on film suddenly shows me how special it is? Like, if I was seeing it in real life I might not realize how much it—how captivating it is. Just in its existence? And that song—it's like that. I think if I saw it in a theatre, it might not've hit me—maybe 'cause it's a person singing it in real life. But like on film it's just like—oh, this is all it is and it's still so—so captivating. Like, and to put it on film so simply is like—they finally—they knew what they were doing for once! *[Laughs.]* In the movie!

01:45:52 Stuart Host And it's a—it's a fairly simple song.  
01:45:54 Natalie Guest Yeah! They let it be her “I Dreamed a Dream” moment.  
01:45:56 Stuart Host Yeah.  
01:45:57 Natalie Guest And—it works. And—  
01:45:59 Jenny Guest She kills it!  
01:45:59 Natalie Guest She wins the Jellicle Ball! She is Judi Dench's Jellicle Choice.

01:46:05 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
**Dan:** The death cult has their sacrifice!

01:46:08 Natalie Guest **Natalie:** And right after—yes!  
01:46:12 Crosstalk Crosstalk And also it's very— *[Laughs.]* The way—it becomes, uh...  
**Stuart:** She's the May Queen.

01:46:13 Natalie Guest **Natalie:** —the whiplash—  
—of going back to how bad the movie is after this genuinely good and—like—sort of tasteful moment? Is that right after this happens, they force everyone to start doing, like, cat moments of affection with each other and start just like rubbing each other? As like a way of saying good job on this song? *[Laughs.]*

01:46:32 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Natalie:** And you're the Jellicle Choice?  
**Stuart:** Fuck. I just remembered that.  
**Dan:** “Bunching,” they call it.

01:46:35 Elliott Host **Elliott:** And they all look like—  
—they're about to kiss each other. But then their heads, like, jerk away at the last minute.  
01:46:39 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Natalie:** Yes!  
**Dan:** Yeah.

01:46:39 Elliott Host Like cats do.  
01:46:40 Natalie Guest Yes!  
01:46:41 Elliott Host Uh, and she gets into the—the—I guess the vehicle that takes you to the Heavyside Layer, which is a hot air balloon attached to a chandelier—

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

—and it—Mr. Mistoffelees lights all the candles and she floats up and the—there’s a moment here where I was like—but—and then Macavity is like, no! Me! Me! And he tries to hang onto it and falls off above Trafalgar Square and for a moment I was like—are we gonna see Macavity, like, slam against the pavement and die?

01:47:03 Natalie Guest

Me too!

01:47:03 Elliott Host

*[Through laughter]* That would be terrible!

01:47:05 Dan Host

Well this also—like, this is like this big dramatic moment and like Idris Elba—like—Idris Elba cat jumps on to, like... uh—y’know, a stray piece of cloth coming off of this and it’s like—a moment from Marmaduke or something. *[Laughs.]* Like—it becomes a totally different movie!

01:47:22 Crosstalk Crosstalk

**Natalie:** Yes. And then he tries—

01:47:25 Natalie Guest

**Stuart:** Or Hobbes and Shaw or something.

He tries to say his final magic phrase as he tries to use “Ineffable” one more time, and it doesn’t work! And then he goes, “Ruh-roh!”

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:47:44 Stuart Host

A real, like, oh no! I guess he’s not magic anymore? I guess, like, this entire experience has taken away his ability to magic?

Yeah. I thought I saw a cartoon sweat drops appear on his forehead.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:47:48 Elliott Host

Now—now I wish he had hit the ground and then went “Me-owch!”

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:48:00 Crosstalk Crosstalk

And been—but instead he just falls on the top of Nelson’s Column. Right? Like that’s the—and all the cats have gathered around the lions of Trafalgar Square—

**Elliott:** Which—this is what really got me was I was—what?

01:48:04 Elliott Host

**Stuart:** Which are cat—lions are cats too.

The what? Yeah. Lions are cats too. What really got me here was I was like—could they not get a photograph of Trafalgar Square? Like, it’s this crazy CGI Trafalgar Square and the cats look like they’re made out of—the lions look like they’re made of Irish Spring soap. Like, they’re so bright and green and everything is so weird-looking. I was like—this is a real place. Like, you didn’t need to like crazy it up. Just stick some cats around there! Come on!

*[Jenny laughs.]*

01:48:26 Natalie Guest

Yep. And it is at this point that even though there has been no fourth wall breaking the entire movie, Judi Dench suddenly looks straight into your eyes—



01:48:39 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[Dan laughs.]*  
**Dan:** The audience gasps!

01:48:42 Natalie Guest  
**Natalie:** —and makes you complicit!  
 In everything that has been happening.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:48:56 Crosstalk Crosstalk  
 And on second watch of this, I noticed that Munkustrap is very aware of her going directly to the audience? And keeps sort of, like, looking at her quizzically? And it becomes *Fleabag*.  
**Natalie:** He is— *[Laughs.]*

**Elliott:** Yeah. So it's just *Fleabag* Season 2, basically. *[Laughs.]*

**Stuart:** Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah.

**Dan:** I wanted to say about the reaction—

01:48:58 Dan Host  
**Natalie:** Yes. He's like, where did you just go? *[Laughs.]*  
 I wanted to say about the reaction shots of this is they—they stay on this close—this—it's a tight shot but they still have all four actors on camera at the same time. They got, y'know, two cats on one side, two cats the other side. Old Deuteronomy is one of the middle cats. And—y'know—she's delivering this long speech to the audience and they have absolutely nothing to do. So they're just staring at her very, very intensely—

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

—while squirming around. And it looks like all the actors are, like, pre-orgasmic or something.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:49:35 Elliott Host  
 It's very weird if you start paying attention to them.  
 It was so strange to see—so the end shot of this movie should be that the chandelier is going off into the sky and all the cats, like, wave goodbye. And then big musical—big music rise and then it's out. And the credits. But it's like—the movie is over. And then Judi Dench is like—looks at the camera, like, alright. Let's go over what we learned.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:49:54 Crosstalk Crosstalk  
 You're probably wondering how we ended up here.  
**Elliott:** But let me tell you a few things about cats. *[Inaudible.]* I know enough about cats! I saw the movie! *[Laughs.]*

**Dan:** Well—well this is the— *[Laughs.]* Elliott, this is the part of the— *[Laughs.]*

**Stuart:** You'd think this would be happening during the credits or something.

01:49:59 Dan Host This is the part of the movie that is for people who wandered in thinking it was a cats instructional video?

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:50:07 Elliott Host For, like, owning cats? Like, how you're supposed to treat a cat. She's—she's like—they sing about how cats are not dogs and I'm like, seems pretty fundamental.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:50:32 Crosstalk Crosstalk Maybe you should open the movie with that one! Like— *[Laughs.]* It's—they—it felt like, uh, to me like the end of, uh, *Thor: Ragnarok*. Where the movie is over but Taika Waititi's character is still joking around? And I was like, movie! You're over! Like, just show me some credits! Get out of here! But I guess this—and each time Judi Dench finishes a verse of this song, you're like, ah, and the song is over. *[Laughs.]*

01:50:36 Elliott Host **Natalie:** It's the longest! And they all have to repeat it!

**Elliott:** *[Through laughter]* And then she comes back! *[Laughs.]* But it's—like—it feels like a bit I would do?

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

With a song? Like, just keeps going and every time you think it's over she just starts singing and I just imagine the Dan cat being like—*[uncannily accurate "annoyed Dan" impression]* goddammit, Judi Dench!

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:50:48 Natalie Guest Like, come on!  
'Cause it is panned out and then like it goes right back to closeups—

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:51:04 Elliott Host And it's like, she does an aggressive turn right to us. 'Cause like—it pans out and you're like, oh, thank god! Like, that part is over. I felt very put on display. I felt like I was in the play and I didn't want to be in the play. *[Laughs.]*

You know what my guess is—maybe they saw the movie of *Into the Woods* where that final song about how children will listen for some reason was just over the—a wide shot and then the end credits. And not really in the movie. And they were like, we're not doing that. Every song's on camera. We are not—we're—this—

*[Dan sighs.]*

01:51:23 Crosstalk Crosstalk We're go—we're—look. We are not skimping on it.

**Stuart:** Maybe Tom Hooper saw—

01:51:24 Stuart Host **Dan:** Talk about it—  
Maybe Tom Hooper saw *Funny Games* and he's like—

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

*[Through laughter]* That's what I wanna do. Make the audience feel like they're in the action.

01:51:33 Crosstalk Crosstalk

**Dan:** Then we get the—

01:51:35 Natalie Guest

**Natalie:** And then— *[Laughs.]*

*[Through laughter]* They finally finish that song and Judi—and we think it's done. And then Judi Dench reminds us that—oh—the storyline that has been imposed on the film is “will Victoria become a Jellicle cat? I wonder!” and then she tells her that she's a Jellicle cat—a dear little cat—that was Rosebud all along.

01:51:55 Crosstalk Crosstalk

**Dan:** Then we get the final shot of the movie—

**Elliott:** I thought—

01:51:57 Dan Host

**Stuart:** Yeah.

Which I love! *[Laughs.]*

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:52:04 Crosstalk Crosstalk

*[Through laughter]* Which is just another wide shot of that chandelier balloon flying up—

**Dan:** —to space! *[Laughs.]* Where the cat will presumably die alone.

**Natalie:** *[Through laughter]* Floating up! Why— *[Laughs.]*

*[All laugh.]*

**Elliott:** And—and—and what—but then—nope—but then—

**Natalie:** Gravity—I want *Gravity* with Jennifer Hudson! *[Laughs.]*

**Stuart:** Yeah.

01:52:14 Elliott Host

**Elliott:** It shimmers away—

—with magic. And the end—we know that she's made it to the Heavyside Layer.

*[Dan laughs.]*

Which—I assume turns out to be a place where Alf eats cats!

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

Like, he's just on Melmac and they're gonna eat her! It's—

*[Laughter renews.]*

01:52:29 Dan Host

Oh my gosh!

01:52:29 Elliott Host

All—this whole time—it—this whole time Old Deuteronomy's just been working for the Melmacians. Just, like, helping 'em get supplies of cats! And it's terrible!

01:52:36 Music Music

Light, up-tempo, electric guitar with synth instruments.

01:52:39 Promo Clip

**Music:** “War” by Norman Whitfield and Barrett Strong with lead vocals by Edwin Starr plays in the background.

**John Roderick:** *Friendly Fire* is a podcast about war movies, but it's so much more than that.

**Adam Pranica:** It's history!

**Speaker 1 (Film clip):** Was just supposed to be another assignment.

**Ben Harrison:** It's comedy.

**Speaker 2 (Film clip):** Under no circumstances are you to engage the enemy.

**Adam:** It's... cinema studies.

**Murdock (*Rambo: First Blood Part II*):** That's a hell of a combination.

**John:** So, subscribe and download *Friendly Fire* on your podcatcher of choice.

**Ben:** Or at [MaximumFun.org](http://MaximumFun.org).

**Adam:** And also, come see us at San Francisco Sketchfest on January 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Ben:** You can get tickets at [SFsketchfest.com](http://SFsketchfest.com).

**Speaker 3 (Film clip):** *[A strained whisper]* Mission... accomplished.

*[Music fades out.]*

01:53:14 Promo Clip

**Music:** Upbeat, cheerful music plays in the background.

**Allie Goertz:** Hi, I'm Allie Goertz!

**Julia Prescott:** And I'm Julia Prescott. And we host—

**Both:** —[Round Springfield!](http://RoundSpringfield!)

**Julia:** *Round Springfield* is a new *Simpsons* podcast that is *Simpsons-adjacent*—

**Allie:** Mm-hm.

**Julia:** —um, in its topic. We talk to *Simpsons* writers, directors, voiceover actors, you name it, about non-*Simpsons* things that they've done. Because, surprise! They're all extremely talented.

**Allie:** Absolutely. For example, David X. Cohen worked on *The Simpsons*, but then created a little show called *Futurama*!

**Julia:** Mm-hm!

**Allie:** That's our very first episode.

**Julia:** Yeah!

**Allie:** So tune in for stuff like that with Yeadley Smith, with Tim Long, with different writers and voice actors. It's gonna be so much fun, and we are every other week on [MaximumFun.org](http://MaximumFun.org) or wherever you get your podcasts!

*[Music fades out.]*

01:53:56 Dan Host  
01:53:57 Natalie Guest

*[Through laughter]* Guys!

*[Through laughter]* Guys, I'm sorry that my synopsis was, like, so long! But I wanted to talk— *[breaks off, laughing.]*

01:54:02 Crosstalk Crosstalk

**Stuart:** Yeah, you're—you're to—you're to blame. It's not the interruptions. The uh—

**Dan:** *[Through laughter]* *[Inaudible]* everybody—I've never wanted to talk so much about a movie!

**Elliott:** Oh, no. I—we had to *[inaudible]*.

01:54:10 Stuart Host  
01:54:13 Crosstalk Crosstalk

**Natalie:** *[Through laughter]* No, I know! Ever—

Uh, I—I have a lot of questions about what the premiere audience—

**Dan:** Oh, yeah! Shit! We haven't even done that!

**Stuart:** Yeah, how they reacted to this movie.

*[Natalie is laughing wildly.]*

01:54:16 Elliott Host

**Elliott:** Now it's time for our—

—our roving entertainment reporter, Natalie Walker—she's our premiere princess. She goes to—

01:54:21 Crosstalk Crosstalk

**Elliott:** —all the movie premieres and tells us about it. *[Inaudible]*

**Natalie:** *[Through laughter]* I'm sort of— *[Laughs.]* I'm sort of the Maria Menunos of *The Flop House*. *[Laughs.]*

01:54:24 Dan Host

**Dan:** Yeah. *[Laughs.]* Alright, guys, I'm—

I'm gonna make room for recommendations at the end of this show but I'm gonna say that this behind-the-scenes stuff takes the place of letters. Let's uh—

01:54:31 Stuart Host

Wow!

01:54:32 Crosstalk Crosstalk

**Dan:** Just stipulate that.

**Elliott:** Yeah. Let's not worry about letters.

**Natalie:** Great. Great.

01:54:33 Natalie Guest

**Jenny:** Great.

Um—

01:54:34 Elliott Host

*[Singing]* Oh, well! There never was a letter segment in this episode of *Flop House* that was about *Cats* right now!

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:54:56 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[Still singing]* Buh-bum! Buh-bum! Natalie will tell us about the premiere of *Cats* right now, which she attended a few weeks ago! Bum-bum, buh-bum! What was it like to see this movie—  
**Elliott:** —with the people who made the movie called *Cats*? Perhaps?

**Stuart:** Can't believe Elliott's coming up with this melody for the first time!

*[Dan and Natalie are laughing wildly.]*

01:55:04 Natalie Guest  
01:55:07 Stuart Host **Dan:** *[Through laughter]* For the—the music writes Elliott!  
*[Through laughter]* Oh my god! Okay. So. Um—first—  
*[Singing]* Natalie Walker is a curious cat!

01:55:14 Natalie Guest *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
*[Through laughter]* No. First of all—right before the premiere—um—I got drinks with Lin-Manuel Miranda which—who is who I went with because his wife had no interest in seeing *Cats*—

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:55:31 Dan Host —and he had seen how unhinged I was about the trailers online and he was like, you seem like you have the right mindset about this movie.  
*[Laughs.]* That was—that was the connection? I was curious—I was curious what the— *[Laughs.]*

01:55:35 Natalie Guest Yeah! Well, we had—like—I had watched *Fosse/Verdon* at his house when he was, like, doing that every week. Having different, like, groups over and so he knew I wasn't a murderer. *[Laughs.]*  
Um—

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:55:57 Dan Host And then I, like, did a workshop that he is working on, uh, in the fall and so he knew that I could be around industry people and not— all—uh, murder them? Um, and so— *[Laughs.]* So that was the— We've talked—we've talked to him briefly through the—the auspices of the McElroys. A very, very, very nice human being. Uh, and—and—and very publicly nice. So we will not ask you what his reaction was.

01:56:08 Natalie Guest Exactly! Exactly.  
01:56:09 Dan Host *[Through laughter]* But I am curious about everyone else's.  
01:56:11 Natalie Guest Um—the—we—  
01:56:11 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Natalie:** So we got—

01:56:13 Stuart Host **Stuart:** My wife has talked to him—  
—about George Whipple many times!

01:56:15 Natalie Guest *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
We got drinks—we got drinks before and like he had gotten, like, a full dinner but I got there a little later. Um, and there was a group from Universal at the table next to us? And they had made a big point of coming over and being, like—oh, like, Lin, we're so—we're so glad you're coming tonight and buh-duh-duh-duh-duh. And then they leave. And then like, 15 minutes later Lin and I get up to leave

and... the server comes over and is like—oh, that other table took care of, uh, all of your stuff—except mine? *[Laughs.]*

01:56:45 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** Weirrrrd! Burrrrn!

**Elliott:** Wow!

**Dan:** Oh, wow.

01:56:47 Natalie Guest **Natalie:** *[Through laughter]* They left—my one— They took care entirely of Lin and they left my single cocktail to fend for itself. *[Laughs.]*

01:56:53 Dan Host Wow.

01:56:54 Stuart Host Wowwww.

01:56:54 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Natalie:** *[Through laughter]* Just—so funny—

**Jenny:** Nuts!

01:56:56 Natalie Guest —to just sort of be, like, we don't know who that is so fuck that. Um, but then we—

01:57:00 Elliott Host Wow. What was it like being the Grizabella of that moment?

01:57:02 Natalie Guest *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
Yeah! Absolutely! I felt like I had been absolutely hissed at. Uh, I was crawl—I had to crawl over to Lincoln Center for the premiere, actually.

*[Elliott laughs.]*

Lin was like, well, you know what you gotta do!

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:57:18 Stuart Host Um—so—we, like, go—we go to the premiere and everyone— So that double Long Island Iced Tea you had to pay for, right?

01:57:22 Natalie Guest *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
*[Through laughter]* Yeah, exactly! So I—I'm sort of, like, raring to go. We like get to our seats and... I'm looking in front of us and there—first of all, our row is like... Andrew Lloyd Weber's daughter is right there. And then like, the Nederlander family, who own, like, half of the Broadway theatre—like, it's—it's insane row. And I'm like, Natalie, please don't embarrass yourself tonight. Please don't do anything insane. Like, keep together. And—

01:57:47 Elliott Host Do not gasp when Judi Dench starts singing.

01:57:49 Natalie Guest *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
Yes! Exactly! And so I— *[Laughs.]* Oh my god. So then I look in the row in front of us and there's, just, like, 10 empty seats! And I'm like, wow, I guess a lot of people bailed on *Cats*! And then I realized as it was starting that that was the cast seats? And they were all gonna be sitting right in front of us? And I was like, oh no. I have to chill out. But um—before it started, Tom Hooper goes on stage and introduces, like, all of the cast. And that's when he said, like, this person is the first person that I cast and it's Taylor Swift and I was like, you cast Bombalurina first? Like, okay. Um—

01:58:26 Stuart Host Thank you!

01:58:26 Natalie Guest *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
 And—and then he—um—and then he says, uh... “And now, like, two consummate clowns—Rebel Wilson and James Corden!” Rebel Wilson walks out and everyone is sort of confused and looking around and... Tom clearly whispers, like, off-mic, like—“James”—and then Rebel—Rebel uses her mic and is just like, oh, James has had enough. And everyone’s laughing ‘cause we think it’s a bit and he’s gonna come out soon? ‘Cause he was at the—

01:58:54 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** He’s gonna be in the audience or something?

**Natalie:** He was at the premiere!

01:58:56 Natalie Guest *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
 He was photographed on the carpet and fully—no. He never came out. He apparently left right after the red carpet! *[Laughs.]*

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:59:05 Jenny Guest  
 01:59:06 Natalie Guest Did not go see the movie!  
 Wow.

01:59:17 Stuart Host  
 01:59:18 Natalie Guest Um, yeah. And—and then Tom Hooper starts talking more about the movie and he says—it’s—it’s really about the perils of tribalism and— *[Laughs.]*  
 What?!

*[Through laughter]* The importance of acceptance. And then he brings out Andrew Lloyd Weber and introduces Andrew Lloyd Weber as, like, the reason all of us are here. Andrew Lloyd Weber walks out and makes a point to say—“I haven’t even seen this movie yet, so I really feel that even though I wrote the music—” and he’s trying to say it in a way where he clearly wants everyone to perceive it as a magnanimous thing? But—what he ends up saying is—“—so at the end of the day I think that, uh... really more, even, than—than my project, this is Tom’s movie.”

01:59:53 Natalie Guest  
 01:59:55 Elliott Host *[Dan laughs. Elliott follows.]*  
*[Through laughter]* And I was just like—oh.  
 So it’s—it’s like—it comes off like Tom Wolfe taking out those ads after *Bonfire of the Vanities* came out where it was like, I didn’t have anything to do with this movie.

02:00:01 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** Do not blame me.

**Natalie:** *[Through laughter]* Yes. He’s just like—this is his thing.

02:00:05 Dan Host **Dan:** *[Through laughter]* I also—I assumed you were gonna say—  
 —that he comes out and be like, uh... I don’t know what he was talking about. This is just a play about cats.

02:00:09 Natalie Guest Yeah!

02:00:10 Dan Host Because, like, that’s what he’s always said to that!

02:00:13 Natalie Guest Yes! It’s like, the famous—Hal Prince—how it’s about cats story! Where Hal Prince was like—who is this—who are the, like, political stand-ins for these cats? I’m so intrigued! *[Through laughter]* And Andrew Lloyd Weber just said, Hal, it’s about cats.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

Um— *[Laughs.]*



02:00:25	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Stuart:</b> So who is—so vain?
			<b>Elliott:</b> That’s—that—now—
			<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>
02:00:29	Natalie	Guest	So—
02:00:30	Elliott	Host	The—it may—I don’t know why I didn’t think about this before, but him bringing him out and being, like, the person we’re all here, it makes me think that like Andrew Lloyd Weber is the Stan Lee of <i>Cats</i> ? And I wish now that he had a cameo in the movie as, like, a dogcatcher who’s like—“Doing what I can to help you cats! Wink!”
			<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>
			And then like runs off.
02:00:45	Natalie	Guest	<i>[Through laughter]</i> Or he could’ve been the dog! Andrew Lloyd Weber could’ve been the dog. Um—
02:00:49	Elliott	Host	That might—it might’ve been him.
02:00:51	Natalie	Guest	So then the movie starts and already we’re sort of, like... the perils of tribalism thing—like, Tom Hooper was clearly taking it so seriously in his speech before that everyone was a little... anxious about how we were expected to perceive this <i>Cats</i> ? And it starts and—thankfully—I mean, “Jellicle Songs” is such a crazy song? That is notoriously... insane? And so—it starts and we’re all sort of like—yeah! Like, party song! Like, this is fun. This is silly a little bit. We’re, like, laughing and sort of trying to... enjoy it audibly? Um, and then after “Jellicle Songs” happened it became increasingly clear over the next, like, three minutes that the movie was expecting us to take it very seriously?
			<i>[Dan laughs.]</i>
			And then it just was sort of eerily silent for <u>most</u> of the movie? There were—there were like—titters of laughter when Rebel Wilson appeared and was like scratching herself and at some of the improv? But for most of the movie everyone was just, like, stoic. Mistoffelees? Nothing. Everyone was just sort of... sitting on their hands. It was <u>really, really</u> wild. And then—
			<i>[Stuart laughs.]</i>
			—that final—when you don’t know that Judi Dench is gonna look at you?
			<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>
			The—the—the energy in the room. It was absolutely insane.
02:02:18	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Natalie:</b> It was all that anyone was talking about at the afterparty.
			<b>Elliott:</b> Well, <i>[inaudible]</i> Judi Dench can look at a can.
02:02:20	Elliott	Host	Look, that’s what they say!
02:02:21	Natalie	Guest	Yeah! At the afterparty, all people were talking about was—we were like—what did you do when Judi Dench looked at you? <i>[Laughs.]</i>
			<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>

02:02:31	Elliott	Host	Like, how did you perceive it? Judi Dench is like—I know why you’re here. You think this is funny, don’t you?
02:02:35	Natalie	Guest	<i>[Laughs.]</i> Yes!
02:02:35	Dan	Host	And were people, uh, lining up, uh, y’know, to talk to Tom Hooper after it, something like—well, you know what? Uh, the screen was very clean!
			<i>[Stuart laughs.]</i>
02:02:47	Natalie	Guest	It was all— They had, like, a big table at the afterparty. And, uh... I didn’t realize, like... how famous Lin is? And so this, like, woman like ran over and was like—Andrew and Tom want you to come over to their table now! And I was like—I can’t go there right now. I had three wines during that movie and I am too scared—
			<i>[Stuart laughs.]</i>
02:03:16	Stuart	Host	—of what I will do and say.
02:03:17	Natalie	Guest	Yeah. Yeah. <i>[Through laughter]</i> And so I stayed away from that entire vicinity. But I will say, Jennifer Hudson walked by me looking gorgeous and I screamed, “You’re iconic!” at her. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
			<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>
02:03:35	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	And she seemed—she was really nice! She was like, oh really? Thank you so much! She seemed very genuinely touched. And so I love you, Jennifer Hudson. <b>Natalie:</b> You’re great in this movie.
			<b>Stuart:</b> She didn’t, like, push you over and schoolyard you or something?
02:03:38	Natalie	Guest	<b>Jenny:</b> I saw her one time—
02:03:40	Jenny	Guest	Yeah. I was—I—one time, um, I was, like having this like really bad weekend. And I ended up being at Target in West Hollywood at, like, 11PM on a Saturday. And I felt so uncool. I was like, I don’t have anyone to hang out with. Like, I don’t know what I’m doing.
			<i>[Stuart laughs.]</i>
			And I walk down the aisle and Jennifer Hudson—
			<i>[Natalie gasps.]</i>
			—was in that same Target. And I just had this moment of—if Jennifer Hudson’s in this Target, I—like—it’s okay for me to <i>[though laughter]</i> be in this Target, too!
			<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>
02:04:07	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	I must be living my best life! <b>Natalie:</b> Anything is possible!

02:04:09 Jenny Guest **Jenny:** 'Cause she's just—she was just like—  
02:04:11 Crosstalk Crosstalk —so cool and glamorous. And—anyway.  
**Natalie:** She really is so glamorous. She's iconic!

02:04:13 Jenny Guest **Jenny:** She's iconic! *[Laughs.]*  
That's exactly the same as running into her at a cool party that Lin-Manuel Miranda invited you to.

02:04:18 Natalie Guest *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
Target is better. I think Target is better than the *Cats* party. There's less existential crisis involved—

02:04:24 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Natalie:** —at a Target, I feel.

02:04:26 Elliott Host **Elliott:** Just—to be—  
To see Jennifer Hudson just pricing out generic brand toilet paper like that is just inspiring, y'know?

02:04:32 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
**Jenny:** *[Through laughter]* It was so inspiring!

**Natalie:** It's like—Jennifer, you're an Oscar winner!

02:04:35 Natalie Guest **Elliott:** Saying, is it worth it?  
You don't have to get Scott!

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

02:04:40 Dan Host You can get Charmin Ultra-Soft, even!  
02:04:43 Crosstalk Crosstalk Um... is there more stuff? Or—  
**Natalie:** Um—I don't—

02:04:45 Elliott Host **Elliott:** So—so you're saying—  
So you think the people at the premiere weren't like—it—love it. This is great. You got a hit on your hands. Everyone was kind of aware that it was a crazy mess?

02:04:53 Natalie Guest Yes. Everyone was aware that it was a crazy mess, but also, like, a lot of people were already sort of being like—this is gonna be a really fun movie to go watch with friends later. Um, there was—

02:05:04 Jenny Guest What was the cast doing? Like, during the movie? How were they reacting?

02:05:08 Natalie Guest I, like—did not clock what they were do—I was so overloaded?

*[Dan laughs.]*

02:05:27 Crosstalk Crosstalk With anxieties about how I was coming off that I feel like I didn't really clock them because I was just, like, please don't embarrass yourself in front of the shiny celebrities! *[Laughs.]*  
**Natalie:** *[Through laughter]* That are about!

02:05:29 Elliott Host **Elliott:** Yeah. It is—it is a little bit also, like—  
—the sun is exploding in front of your face and there's, like, a kid doing a cute thing?

*[Jenny laughs.]*

02:05:34 Natalie Guest And you're like—I don't know what the kid was doing. The sun was exploding right in front of me! *[Laughs.]*  
Yes, exactly! Exactly. I have never been so hyperaware of myself in a space while also being... attacked with a—I, like, had no idea what anyone else around me was dealing with? I could only—only, like, the audible things? I could really pick up on? But... I wish that I had—

02:05:55 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Natalie:** —looked down more often at—

02:05:57 Natalie Guest **Stuart:** You did—you didn't wanna—  
02:05:59 Stuart Host —Miss T. Swift.  
You didn't wanna be the one, like, leading the audience in like a group cheer *[though laughter]* or anything.

02:06:04 Natalie Guest Right! The closest I came was that gasp for Judi Dench 'cause I kinda thought we all were gonna be like, wow! He did it!

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

And instead it was only me. *[Laughs.]* I was fist-bumping during “Jellicle Cats,” which did lead, like, a very old man in the row behind me to come up to me after and was like, “I like watching you *[though laughter]* more than the movie!”

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

02:06:27 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Jenny:** Awwww!

**Dan:** That's just a sweet old man thing to say.

02:06:30 Natalie Guest **Stuart:** Oh, wow!  
Yeah. It was a very sweet old man thing to say. 'Cause I really was—like—during the high-energy moments I was trying to be like, yeahhh! *Cats!*

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

Sure! Uh, there was a man in my row who was dressed up as Grizabella—

*[Jenny gasps.]*

—which I felt like was the correct vibe.

02:06:44 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Natalie:** He was in, like—

02:06:45 Natalie Guest **Stuart:** And they—  
02:06:47 Crosstalk Crosstalk —a floor-length fur and full-on—  
**Jenny:** Amazing.

02:06:50 Stuart Host **Stuart:** I'm assuming they did not play—  
02:06:52 Crosstalk Crosstalk —trailers before the movie.  
**Natalie:** No. Yeah. *[Laughs.]*

**Elliott:** Usually at premieres they don't have the trailers. *[Laughs.]*

02:06:54 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** So you didn't get—  
**Stuart:** Well, they didn't show a trailer for *In the Heights*—the, uh, upcoming Lin-Manuel Miranda.

**Natalie:** *Call of the Wild?* No. [Laughs.]

02:06:59 Elliott Host

**Elliott:** It would've been so funny if they were like—  
—if Tom Hooper's like, thank you so much, thank you to everyone—

[Stuart laughs.]

—and now, my big production—this is a movie I've spent years on—*Cats*. But first? What else is coming to a theater near you?

[All laugh.]

02:07:11 Stuart Host

And then the *Sonic* trailer starts playing? [Laughs.]

02:07:12 Natalie Guest

That would be great.

Also, he did say that he finished the movie at 9AM the day before.

[Laughs.]

02:07:17 Dan Host

Oh, wow.

02:07:19 Crosstalk Crosstalk

**Natalie:** [Through laughter] And so—

02:07:20 Natalie Guest

**Stuart:** He's like— [Laughs.]

[Through laughter]—that was a cool thing to hear before—

[Multiple people laugh.]

02:07:23 Crosstalk Crosstalk

**Dan:** On so much speed right now.

**Stuart:** Yeah.

02:07:26 Elliott Host

**Natalie:** [Through laughter] Something of this magnitude. [Laughs.]

02:07:26 Dan Host

Oh, wow.

Look, guys, uh... I don't wanna do a traditional final judgments

'cause I think we all—

02:07:30 Crosstalk Crosstalk

**Dan:** —really loved ourselves?

02:07:32 Dan Host

**Stuart:** Yeah, we all liked it!

But I—that sounds weird. Loved seeing this. Um—but—I—I just wanna say, like... I wanna give a little space for some, like... final, like, outpouring about *Cats*. 'Cause I want—I wanna—I will tell this story. I came home from *Cats* having a great time with Stu and Charlene and Audrey. As I was going to bed, the—I—y'know, I have sleep apnea as many know. I—the last thing—

02:07:58 Elliott Host

Yeah, you're Dan the Sleep Apnea Cat.

[Multiple people laugh.]

02:08:00 Dan Host

The last thing before—

02:08:02 Elliott Host

[Singing] There's a certain cat who doesn't sleep well!

[Multiple people laugh.]

Breathing for him is a sort of a hell! He's Dan the Sleep Apnea Cat!

[Multiple people laugh.]

02:08:11 Dan Host

What's that machine—

Oh, god.

02:08:11 Elliott Host —on that cat’s face?

02:08:14 Dan Host *[Dan laughs.]*  
 No, but like—so like—I—I make a decision, y’know, like, I’m going to bed. *[Through laughter]* This is the last thing I’m gonna say before I put a mask on my face. And I said—I wonder what dreams about *Cats* I’ll have tonight.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

And then the next—the first thing I said the next morning was—was something about *Cats*. I can’t remember what it was.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

I’ll have to ask Audrey. But like—she has videos of me, like, two days afterwards hysterically laughing about the word “Jellicle” and why they kept saying it over and over again—

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

Like, me singing songs. These were, like, half-secretly taken. Maybe I’ll post them after the thing comes out. But like—I—like, my social media was all about *Cats*. I just descended into *Cat* madness.

02:08:53 Elliott Host You did—you did get cat scratch fever, Dan. Your Twitter was just about *Cats*—

02:08:56 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** —for a while.

**Stuart:** Mm-hm.

02:08:57 Dan Host **Dan:** But I—I—  
 —have not laughed at something so hard and had such a fun time in years and years and years, and you have to—you have to just, like, face yourself. At a certain point, if you’ve had that good a time watching a movie—you just like that movie!

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

02:09:14 Elliott Host Like—  
 I’ll tell—you know what? Dan—I’m gonna suggest we skip straight to recommendations. Because my recommendation for this episode? Is *Cats*.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

02:09:27 Crosstalk Crosstalk Like, I think maybe it’s the first time I’ve ever said, y’know what movie I’m gonna recommend? The one we talked about. This movie.  
**Elliott:** We’ve gotta—

02:09:28 Elliott Host **Jenny:** Please watch it!  
 People gotta go out and see *Cats*! *[Laughs.]*

02:09:28 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** I will say—

**Jenny:** I would recommend—

02:09:29 Jenny Guest —seeing *Cats* while you can see it in the theatre. That is not expressly a call-and-response thing? Because when we went to—we went to Alamo in LA last night and the showing after ours was the quote-unquote “rowdy” screening? And they were already starting to do the, like, call-and-response type things? I think it’s really fun to go with a group of people where some people might still be there to see *Cats*.

02:09:51 Elliott Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
You wanna—you wanna be part of that legendary first generation of filmgoers to see *Cats* sincerely.

02:09:56 Stuart Host You want the assholes to get shushed when Jennifer—Jennifer Hudson does her solo. When these two fucking nutsacks sitting behind me—

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

—at one—like—right in the final scene of the movie, one of the guys is like *[dumb voice]* “This is gonna be the next *Rocky Horror Picture Show!*” And I’m like—not if you’re fucking there, dude!

02:10:14 Elliott Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
Oh, you wanna see it when—when you’re laughing and someone behind you goes, “Show Skimbleshanks some respect!”

02:10:21 Dan Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
Yeah. No, but I—yeah. I came to a realization. I’m just like—y’know, I could see this movie again and again. I—I kinda want to own it *[though laughter]* when it comes out on Blu— *[Laughs.]*

02:10:29 Elliott Host **Natalie:** Yes! I wanna watch—

02:10:30 Natalie Guest **Dan:** Like, I wanna—  
—all of the special features. I want the commentary. I want everything!

02:10:34 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Natalie:** I wanna *[inaudible]*. Yes! I wanna consume everything about this!

02:10:39 Natalie Guest **Stuart:** *[Through laughter]* You want that Criterion Collection version.  
There—like—there will be moments where I’m going about my day and just images from this movie pop *[though laughter]* into my head—

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

—and it just makes my whole day. When I think about Skimbleshanks spinning into dust—

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

*[Through laughter]*—it makes me laugh so much! I will just—  
*[Laughs.]* Like—the end of the film—when—like—the way that I could not get through it even on this podcast. There was like, a whole day where out of nowhere I started thinking about it on the street and I had to stop and get—

[Multiple people laugh.]

—into—like—I crouched down in the middle of the sidewalk because it was making me—

[Multiple people laugh.]

02:11:14 Stuart Host —laugh so hard.  
02:11:16 Natalie Guest Classic Manhattan moment!  
02:11:21 Elliott Host It's truly just like—the most joy that I can—that I can possibly, possibly have!  
There's something about this—it's like seeing *Cats* is the first time I really felt like I understand the characters in *Ringu*? Where it's like—

[Multiple people laugh.]

02:11:32 Stuart Host —oh, yeah, they saw something and it infested their brain and they can't—[*though laughter*] they can't deal with anything else now. Like stumbling out of that theatre I was like—how do I just go on and do normal stuff?

[Multiple people laugh.]

02:11:41 Dan Host Like, it's so boring!  
02:11:45 Natalie Guest Uh— [*Laughs.*] I mean... yeah. That's *Cats*, guys.  
02:11:45 Dan Host Yep.  
02:11:47 Elliott Host Uh—  
02:11:49 Dan Host Look, it's a cat's world! We're just living in it!  
I have—y'know, I have a recommendation. It feels kinda anticlimactic, but it does sorta tie into musical theater, but—  
02:11:54 Natalie Guest As do I!  
02:11:55 Dan Host What? What'd'ja say?  
02:11:57 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Stuart:** She—she said she also has a recommendation. You're not alone. It's not—it's not five recommendations for *Cats*.

**Natalie:** I have a recommendation that ties in as well.

**Dan:** So I don't—maybe we have the same one. I—I uh—I would like to recommend—

**Jenny:** I just can't remember having seen another movie!

[Multiple people laugh.]

02:12:07 Dan Host I would like to recommend—there's, uh, a documentary called *Best Worst Thing That Could've Happened*.  
02:12:13 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** Is that your recommendation?

02:12:15 Stuart Host **Natalie:** That was literally my recommendation!  
02:12:15 Natalie Guest Holy shit!  
02:12:19 Dan Host 'Cause it's a perfect title for this movie as well! [*Laughs.*]  
Well, we can talk about it in—uh—sort of in tandem, then. It's—y'know, it's about, um, the production—the original production of *Merrily We Roll Along*. The Steven Sondheim musical that legendarily, uh, closed at—what was it? Like, six days or eight days or something?



02:12:34 Natalie Guest Yeah. Yeah. And it was in 1981 so it's coming off of the huge success of *Sweeney Todd*. It was him and Hal Prince. This movie basically, like, destroyed their working relationship. Uh, this musical basically destroyed their working relationship for a little bit. It was like a really personal loss for Hal Prince because his daughter was in it. He cast his daughter in this cast. Um, 'cause it's this musical that, uh... goes backward in time and sort of—long before *The Last Five Years* and like, especially, uh... before—that became like a more popular structure for most, like, movies and, uh, musicals?

But—it was a colossal failure. 'Cause you're supposed to be tracking the trajectory backwards of this group of friends and you meet them when they're these, like, unbelievably bitter, cynical, uh, middle-aged people. And then you go backwards so the finale of the show is meeting them as these, like, bright-eyed, bushy-tailed, uh... college kids. But the conceit of the show—they cast all of these, like, 20-year-olds. 'Cause they cast it like it was gonna start when they're 20. And so then the show began with seeing 20-year-olds in, like... drawn-on wrinkles. Like, old-person cosplay. *[Laughs.]* Like, doing this stuff.

And... it just is such a failure but the lead guy... also had, like, filmmaker aspirations and thought this was gonna be a huge deal so he took a ton of behind-the-scenes footage during the rehearsal process.

02:14:09 Dan Host Yeah. And you may know, uh—you may know the director of this film as the guy who wants to be a Broadway producer in *The Muppets Take Manhattan*. The—the human being, uh, male lead. In that movie.

02:14:24 Elliott Host Not Dabney Coleman.

02:14:24 Dan Host Uh, no. But the—

02:14:25 Elliott Host Okay.

02:14:26 Jenny Guest He said human being, Elliott.

02:14:28 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
**Elliott:** Good point, yeah. He's a coal-man. Isn't he made of coal?

**Dan:** But— *[Laughs.]* But the thing about this—

02:14:31 Dan Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*  
But the thing about, uh, the documentary is—because these people were basically kids when they were cast and they're, like, they're old people now looking back on their career and looking back on this experience, it's like the—it's flipping the musical, y'know.

It's—it's not... y'know, young people playing old people looking back; it's old people actually looking back at the time that they were young people playing old people looking back.

And so there's all this, like... genuine, y'know, emotional feeling about the way time passes and what it means. And also it's interesting to see, like... there are very successful people in the cast? Jason Alexander was in the cast.

02:15:07 Natalie Guest John Carlo Esposito was in the—was in the original cast.

02:15:10 Dan Host And then there are—people for whom this kind of was a dead end in their career and... both of those groups of people have major

regrets about their lives. And it's sort of— *[Laughs.]* In a depressing way, like, it—it—it shows that, y'know... you can do anything with your life and still kind of look back on these things with regret. But still also, y'know, have wonderful memories! Um... I don't know.

02:15:34 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Natalie:** Yeah.

**Dan:** Do you have *[inaudible]*?

02:15:37 Dan Host **Elliott:** Even if you're all alone in the moonlight? *[Through laughter]* Yeah.

02:15:39 Natalie Guest *[Natalie laughs.]* No, it's just great! It's just great. I'm also—I'm so glad that that was yours, too!

02:15:43 Stuart Host Oh, that's funny.

02:15:44 Natalie Guest It's a really good one. It's available to watch on Netflix any time. Um, it's really, really excellent and heartbreaking and also the score of *Merrily We Roll Along* is great! So. There's a very good song for you in *Merrily We Roll Along*, Elliott. You would do a very good "Franklin Shepherd, Inc."

02:15:59 Jenny Guest He would be an awesome Franklin Shepherd, Inc.

02:16:02 Elliott Host I've been saying it for years—

02:16:03 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** That is a *[inaudible]*.

02:16:05 Elliott Host **Jenny:** I love *Merrily*. *[Laughs.]* I have to—it's one of those shows that I've always been meaning to, like, listen to the music and I just haven't.

02:16:08 Jenny Guest It was one of my high school yearbook quotes. *[Laughs.]*

02:16:10 Dan Host *[Multiple people laugh.]* Oh yeah?

02:16:11 Jenny Guest I was *[though laughter]* deeply unpopular.

02:16:13 Natalie Guest *[Elliott laughs.]* No! It was one of mine! "What a time to be starting out! What a time to be alive!" *[Laughs.]*

02:16:19 Dan Host I like that song—

02:16:20 Dan Host Natalie! *[Laughs.]*—very much. And I saw a—a—what I think is a pretty good production of the musical recently. But I—I don't really like the musical that much, despite liking a lot of Sondheim's stuff. But like—but the documentary on it, like, made me appreciate it a lot more.

02:16:38 Natalie Guest Absolutely. I also recommend the, uh, there's a video of Raul Esparza doing "Franklin Shepherd, Inc." That is—I think—the best version of that song.

02:16:46 Jenny Guest I think you'll relate to it 'cause it's about somebody who cannot stand their writing partner.

02:16:51 Elliott Host *[Multiple people laugh.]* And it's very much our relationship. Tell me about it! Finally! Someone's put my thoughts and feelings into words and music!

*[Jenny laughs.]*

02:16:55 Stuart Host Yeah. Outside of—I don’t—uh, when it comes to my recommendation this week, outside of, uh, Disney+’s *Encore* I don’t have much musical theater-related. But—

02:17:06 Dan Host Is it good? I want to see that.

02:17:08 Natalie Guest *[Stuart laughs.]*  
Stuart, we have to do—it’s great. It’s great. Between *Younger*—

02:17:10 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Natalie:** *Younger* the last time I was here and *Encore* now.

02:17:16 Stuart Host **Stuart:** Uh, yeah. We’ll do our *Younger* podcast and then our *Encore* podcast.  
Uh—I—I’m gonna recommend a—uh, a classic Stuart movie. I’m gonna recommend the 2019 remake of the movie *Black Christmas*. Uh, this is a, uh... y’know, the original *Black Christmas* was a foundational slasher movie. It was remade back in, what—like, 2001 or 2? Uh, it was recently remade. It was cowritten by, uh, friend of *The Flop House* and Max Fun alum April Wolfe.

Uh, it is a—kind of a modern take on the sorority slasher. It’s fun. Uh, it’s gross. It—and it provides a—like, uh—a different perspective on that kind of a horror movie. I don’t wanna go too into the plot. Uh, and I also recommend not watching the trailer ‘cause it kinda goes too into the plot. But uh... if you get a chance—if you like horror movies and you also are interested in watching horror movies from a female perspective, uh, I would totally check out *Black Christmas*.

02:18:14 Dan Host Anyone else? Or just *Cats*?

02:18:15 Elliott Host Jenny, do you have a—another recommendation?

02:18:18 Jenny Guest Sincerely just *Cats*.

02:18:19 Elliott Host Okay. So that’s two for *Cats*. Yeah. *[Laughs.]*

02:18:20 Dan Host Alright.

02:18:20 Stuart Host I feel like “Just *Cats*” is, uh, underselling it, Dan.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

02:18:24 Dan Host Oh. I mean, I—

02:18:26 Natalie Guest “Only” *Cats*.

02:18:27 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** It was my theatrical experience of the decade. *[Laughs.]*

**Jenny:** Forever *Cats*!

02:18:32 Jenny Guest **Stuart:** Now and forever!  
Just—while it’s still in theaters, go in theaters. Go have that experience.

02:18:35 Elliott Host The image that was on all the ads and the posters is like—these two cats’ eyes and the pupils are people dancing? And it’s like—I feel like that’s what my eyes must look like all the time.

*[Jenny laughs.]*

02:18:46 Jenny Guest It’s just cats dancing in them constantly.  
I wanna go again. It was like a ride.

02:18:48 Natalie Guest Yes.

02:18:48 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Natalie:** Oh, also please watch—

**Elliott:** You know, guys—

02:18:50 Natalie Guest There's a commercial for the Broadway production of *Cats* where they did, like, a tie-in against drunk driving?

*[Elliott laughs.]*

*[Through laughter]* And it's all the cats warning people against drunk driving? And they're like—if you're a drunk driver, you could kill a child! A child! A child! Please—don't let a child be just a...  
*[Sings]* "Memory!" *[Snaps.]*

*[Hosts express disbelief.]*

It literally comes in—it's insane. And I hope that you do that as the ploy of this—

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

—because really just the audio, even, will give it to you. It's incredible. *[Laughs.]* It's incredible. Everything related to *Cats* is my life now. *Cats* is my god and my disease.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

02:19:28 Dan Host Um—well, we'll quickly do some, uh, y'know, just plugging—  
02:19:33 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** —some show in the network before saying goodbye to everyone.

02:19:37 Dan Host **Stuart:** Some vocal exercises?  
And thanking our guests. But uh, y'know, go to [MaximumFun.org](http://MaximumFun.org). Listen to the other shows on our network. They're all wonderful. Like, I don't know. *Switchblade Sisters*—the one by April Wolfe?  
*Who Shot Ya?*

02:19:49 Stuart Host Uh—yeah! Other movie podcasts, if that's your thing, man.  
02:19:49 Dan Host

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

02:20:07 Crosstalk Crosstalk Uh, go to iTunes. Y'know. Uh, give us a good review. We hope. Uh, tweet about us. Tweet about *Cats* like I've been doing for the past two weeks. Um, y'know.  
**Dan:** Just have fun. Yeah.

02:20:10 Dan Host **Stuart:** Leave a nice review for us on iTunes, why not?  
Uh...  
02:20:11 Elliott Host And, uh, we should thank our two guests.  
02:20:12 Dan Host No, yeah!  
02:20:13 Elliott Host Uh, Jenny Jaffe and Natalie Walker. Our great editor is Jordan Kauling. Uh, we are a product of, uh, us on the Maximum Fun network—as Dan said, listen to those. And uh—well, guys, I hate to break it to you, but uh—but—

02:20:27 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** —but what you were you gonna say, Dan? Before I—

02:20:31 Dan Host **Dan:** No, I wanted to—I wanted—I—I—I wanted to—  
—extend our guests a—a bit more of a fulsome thank-you for being on the show because it would not—

*[Stuart laughs.]*

02:20:37 Elliott Host Well, Dan, usually you don't even wanna introduce the guests!

02:20:39	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Dan:</b> It would not be—
02:20:40	Dan	Host	<b>Elliott:</b> So I'm just surprised.
02:20:41	Stuart	Host	We would not have had— Yeah! I hand you their credits and you throw it in the garbage!
02:20:45	Dan	Host	<i>[Elliott laughs.]</i> We would not have had such a fun time, nor would it have been, uh, such a good show without Natalie and Jenny. Do you guys have anything you wanna plug before we sign off?
02:20:55	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Natalie:</b> No. Please just see <i>Cats</i> .  <b>Jenny:</b> No, truly just the movie <i>Cats</i> .
02:20:58	Dan	Host	<i>[Both laugh.]</i> Okay. Just see <i>Cats</i> .
02:20:59	Elliott	Host	They're just spreading the gospel of <i>Cats</i> .
02:21:01	Natalie	Guest	Please!
02:21:02	Elliott	Host	Well, guys, I uh—I unfortunately have to go. I was chosen as the Jellicle Choice.  <i>[All express dismay and surprise.]</i>
02:21:08	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	This evening. <b>Elliott:</b> This evening.  <b>Stuart:</b> No. You?!  <b>Jenny:</b> Wow! Meow-el tov!  <b>Natalie:</b> Noo!
02:21:12	Elliott	Host	<b>Dan:</b> You're the worst one! <i>[Laughs.]</i> Thank you. Thank you. And I—yeah. I'm Elliott, the, uh, culturally Jewish cat.  <i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>
02:21:21	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	And, uh, I have, uh—there's been a—there's been a hot-air balloon with a chandelier under it waiting for me— <b>Elliott:</b> —this whole time. Uh—  <b>Stuart:</b> There's gotta be some kind of gefilte fish joke.
02:21:26	Dan	Host	<b>Dan:</b> Your dance is you're just batting at a dreidel? <i>[Laughs.]</i> You're going—
02:21:27	Natalie	Guest	Putting it under the sofa.
02:21:29	Stuart	Host	Noooo. You have the curls.
02:21:31	Elliott	Host	<i>[Someone laughs.]</i> Yeah.
02:21:31	Dan	Host	Oh, wow. Wow.
02:21:34	Elliott	Host	Yeah. We've really—we've really figured out this Jewish cat! Yeah.  <i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>

02:21:37 Dan Host Um—  
02:21:38 Elliott Host But uh—that—  
02:21:39 Dan Host I guess that's it, guys!  
02:21:39 Elliott Host Yeah!  
02:21:40 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Dan:** Thanks for—

**Elliott:** I mean, *Cats* is kinda now and forever, but, this is it for *The Flop House*.

**Stuart:** Okay. So—who are you?

02:21:44 Dan Host **Dan:** Oh, sorry!  
02:21:45 Stuart Host I—I've been Dan McCoy.  
02:21:48 Elliott Host I've been Stuart [*singing*] Wellington!  
02:21:52 Stuart Host And I'm Elliott Kalan, the Ending The Show Cat!  
02:21:53 Natalie Guest See ya? [*Laughs.*]  
02:21:54 Stuart Host Bye! [*Laughs.*]  
02:21:54 Natalie Guest Byeeee!  
02:21:54 Natalie Guest Meow! [*Laughs.*]

02:21:57 Elliott Host [*Stuart laughs.*]  
02:21:57 Jenny Guest Macavity!  
"Ineffable!"

02:21:59 Natalie Guest [*All laugh.*]  
02:22:01 Music Music "Magic!"  
Light, up-tempo, electric guitar with synth instruments. Music continues in background as Stuart talks.  
02:22:12 Stuart Host [*Through laughter*] All—the sky is dark. For all the stars are in *Flop House Theatre*.

[*Multiple people laugh.*]

02:22:28 Speaker 1 Guest [*Music ends.*]  
02:22:31 Speaker 2 Guest [MaximumFun.org](http://MaximumFun.org).  
02:22:32 Speaker 3 Guest Comedy and culture.  
02:22:33 Speaker 4 Guest Artist owned—  
—Audience supported.