

## **Shmanners 145: Holidays Around the World (Live at Candenights)**

Published January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019

[Listen here on themcelroy.family](https://themcelroy.family)

**Travis:** And now, let us celebrate the holidays in the traditional way.

**Teresa:** With a podcast!

**Travis:** It's *Shmanners*!

[theme music plays]

[audience cheers]

**Travis:** [muffled] Hello, internet! I am your husband [normal volume] host, Travis McElroy.

**Teresa:** There it is.

**Travis:** Hi, let's start again.

**Teresa:** Okay.

**Travis:** Hello, internet! I am your husband host, Travis McElroy.

**Teresa:** And I'm your wi—

[audience cheers loudly]

**Teresa:** [through laughter] And I'm your wife host, Teresa McElroy!

[audience cheers loudly]

**Travis:** And you are listening to and watching *Shmanners*!

**Teresa:** It's extraordinary etiquette...

**Travis:** For ordinary occasions! Hello, my dove.

**Teresa:** Hello, dear.

**Travis:** How are you.

**Teresa:** I'm doing well.

**Travis:** You did so good in the *Sawbones* movie.

**Teresa:** Oh, thank you.

[audience laughs]

**Travis:** Um, I—

**Teresa:** My directions were... "Go fast."

**Travis:** Yeahhh. She did great.

[audience laughs]

**Travis:** I'm doing well too, but from my perspective it kind of looks like that Christmas tree in the hall dramatically threw open the doors to confront me—

**Teresa:** [laughs loudly]

[audience laughs]

**Teresa:** Well, get used to it! That's your seat for the rest of the night.

**Travis:** Yeah, this is where I sit for the rest of the—it really looks like it was, like, "[imitates sound of kicking a door open] [shouts] *Travis!*"

[audience laughs]

**Travis:** "We have to talk! I've come back to save you!"

[audience laughs]

**Travis:** "Come back from where, Christmas tree?"

"Even *I* don't know."

[audience laughs]

**Travis:** So here we are, back in my hometown... of Huntington, West Virginia.

[audience cheers]

**Travis:** Thank you. Anyone else here from Huntington?

[audience cheers]

**Travis:** Whoa! We don't get to do that at a lot of other shows.

[audience laughs]

**Travis:** Um, I'm so excited, 'cause here we are, and this is—Candlenights has become a—a bit of a holiday tradition for the McElroys, and for Huntington, and for, I imagine, a lot of folks here. Um, and so we kind of wanted to talk about holiday celebrations, but we've already talked a lot about kind of the standard, like, what we do. And so we wanted to talk about holiday celebrations [grandly] around the world!

**Teresa:** Ooh!

**Travis:** Oooh!

**Teresa:** Um, well, I hope that some of you listened to our last one. Not this last one, but the one before about when Christmas was banned?

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** Um—

**Travis:** Did anybody catch that episode? If not, you should listen to it. The Church outlawed Christmas... for being too sinful.

[audience laughs]

**Teresa:** And that's the first, like, holiday custom I would like to talk about, the idea—

**Travis:** Sin.

[audience laughs]

**Teresa:** Well... yes.

**Travis:** Yayyy! Let's hear it for sin!

[audience cheers loudly]

**Travis:** Yayyy!

**Teresa:** Well, there's a lot of talk these days about "Merry Christmas" versus "Happy Holidays." And you know, this battle—

**Travis:** And Starbucks cups, am I right? Wait, is that still a thing? Or are they cool now?

**Teresa:** That was 2015, honey.

**Travis:** Oh.

[audience laughs]

**Teresa:** Um, but—and this battle has been going on for... over a hundred years.

**Travis:** What?!

**Teresa:** Exactly. That's what *I* said.

**Travis:** That's almost 200 years!

[audience laughs]

[pauses]

**Teresa:** Um...

[audience laughs]

**Teresa:** [through laughter] This is the show, folks. He says jokes, and I ignore them.

**Travis:** Yayyy!

[audience laughs]

[scattered cheers]

**Teresa:** [laughs] Um—so, if you listened to that "Christmas is outlawed" episode, you'll know that Christmas, for a long time, was celebrated by basically drunken mobs in the street!

[audience cheers]

**Travis:** And now they're celebrated by drunken mobs in the theater.

[audience cheers]

**Travis:** I *knew* it!

[audience laughs]

**Teresa:** And so...

[audience laughs]

**Teresa:** And so, the term "Merry Christmas" was more about, uh, merry-*making* at Christmas. So much so that in 1786, a paper called *The Newhaven Gazette*, uh, decried the common salutation of "Merry Christmas," saying:

"So merry at Christmas are *some*, they destroy their health by disease and their trouble by their joy."

**Travis:** [gasps] That is why we now say, "An austere Christmas to you."

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Ah, and a very austere Christmas to you. And then you nod solemnly.

[audience laughs]

**Teresa:** So, although we think of today the common salutation of "Merry Christmas" being about the, quote, "Christ in Christmas," that sort of thing didn't come about really until the 1900s. Before that, the first commercially produced Christmas card, which was created in 1843, showed not the nativity or a manger scene, but instead a multi-generational family [holding back laughter] drinking wine by the fireside!

[scattered cheers]

**Travis:** Nice.

**Teresa:** Um, so, that's one of the ones that we're pretty familiar with. But holidays around the world are pretty different from ours. Um—

**Travis:** There's one specific one that I'm really excited about. I can't decide if I want to start—

**Teresa:** [simultaneously] You're really excited—okay.

**Travis:** —first with that one or save it, or... should we start with it?

**Teresa:** Go ahead, honey.

[audience cheers]

**Travis:** Okay. I'm going to mispronounce this word, and it's in Switzerland?

**Teresa:** Yes.

**Travis:** It's a place—it's called the Gavle Goat. G-A-V-L-E, yes.

[scattered cheers]

**Teresa:** Some of you are familiar.

**Travis:** Every year... they build a giant effigy of a goat... to celebrate the holidays, and every year for the past, like, 37 years, someone has burned it down.

[audience laughs]

**Travis:** Like, they—they post armed guards and, like, they—they build fences around it and people have *still* found ways around it to burn down the goat.

**Teresa:** The last time this happened was in 2016, last—

**Travis:** Yes.

**Teresa:** —2017 it wasn't burned down.

**Travis:** [gasps] [excitedly] We— [deflates] Well... I was about to celebrate—

**Teresa:** Was that an "aww?" Oh no! [laughs]

[audience laughs]

**Travis:** I think it's a clever ruse. Are you gonna play with that troll that's sittin' on the desk? Woo—oh no! Poppy!

**Teresa:** That's not Poppy.

**Travis:** No. It's Branch.

**Teresa:** The troll will forgive me. I just wanted to be able to see this beautiful audience.

**Travis:** Oh, perfect. But—

[scattered cheers]

**Teresa:** You deserve that.

**Travis:** I think the plan was, they probably skipped burning last year so they could double burn it this year.

**Teresa:** Double burn it!

**Travis:** And no one would ever expect it. They'll burn it, put out the fire, burn it again.

[audience laughs]

**Travis:** "Take that, goat!" That's my favorite.

[scattered laughter]

**Teresa:** So, another country where their celebrations are a little different is in Armenia, which was actually the first country to adopt Christianity as its official religion. Uh, uses its own calendar, so they celebrate the Armenian apostlistic—apostla—apostolic—

**Travis:** [low voice] I don't know, don't look at me.

**Teresa:** —Apostolic, excuse me, church, honors January 6<sup>th</sup> as Christmas. So it's not even the 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Travis:** Now, here's what I like about that. What I like about that is they... they have their own calendar, but it's only, like, two weeks different. So, like, that's really a line in the sand that they've drawn of, like, "No! Ours is different." Like, yeah, but it happens... in a fortnight of the other one. Just meet in the middle! How about everybody does it—"No! Ours is the 6<sup>th</sup> of January! We have special Advent calendars! They're longer!"

[audience laughs]

**Teresa:** Yeah.

[audience laughs]

**Teresa:** Well—okay. So—and even in, um—in countries very close to ours—

**Travis:** There's other countries close to ours?

**Teresa:** Yeah! Central—

**Travis:** What?!



**Teresa:** [holding back laughter] South and Central America are very close to the United States.

**Travis:** Huh!

**Teresa:** Um—

**Travis:** So weird that I haven't heard anything about it.

**Teresa:** So weird!

[scattered laughter]

**Teresa:** Um, but in—in Mexico, for example, on the days leading up til Christmas, they have a special pageant depicting the search of Mary and Joseph for a place to stay, and when they finally find the place to stay, the children all break the pinata filled with toys and candy.

**Travis:** Huh.

**Teresa:** Yeah!

**Travis:** Now, what I like about that... is usually that part is left off a lot of our nativities, and they just focus on when the baby was born.

**Teresa:** Right.

**Travis:** I prefer this calling around. Like, "Do you have a room? No? You've got one? Yayy!"

**Teresa:** "Pinata!"

**Travis:** That—as if—like, you know what the best part? When they found a place to stay. 'Cause I've been there, you know? You're on AirBnB and there's no good place and finally you find one, and then you smash something with candy in it!

[audience laughs]

**Teresa:** It's a perfect celebration of Christmas.

**Travis:** I also—can we talk about in Japan?

**Teresa:** Sure! We can skip ahead to Japan, honey.

**Travis:** We can jump around. There's not—are we going in alphabetical order?

**Teresa:** Jump... jump... jump around.

[scattered cheers]

**Travis:** The traditional Christmas carer—

**Teresa:** Yes!

**Travis:** —carol. Jump! Um, so in Japan they for a long time didn't celebrate Christmas—

**Teresa:** Well, because it's mostly a Buddhist country.

**Travis:** And so then they—they saw, like, you know, Americans in the US celebrating and they're like, "Oh, hey, cool! That seems fun." And so they made it super American, so the traditional Japanese, like, Christmas Eve day meal is KFC.

[audience laughs and cheers]

**Travis:** And that makes me happy to a degree that I cannot describe.

[audience laughs]

**Teresa:** Along with another Christian—uh, sorry, American tradition of the Christmas tree, and the lights, and things like that.

**Travis:** And Kentucky Fried Chicken.

**Teresa:** Kentucky Fried Chicken!

**Travis:** [giggles quietly]

[audience laughs]

**Travis:** They've got our number!

**Teresa:** Well, that's some Northern Hemisphere traditions. But in the Southern Hemispheres, particularly in Brazil, it's a summer holiday.

**Travis:** [flatly] What?

**Teresa:** Yeah!

**Travis:** But—

**Teresa:** Because the summer happens during this—

**Travis:** [whispering] What?!

**Teresa:** Yeah.

**Travis:** No, I know this. I'm not that dumb. I mean, I'm pretty dumb. Emphasis on pretty!

[audience cheers]

**Teresa:** How old were you when you figured that out?

**Travis:** How old was I when I figured that out? Last year.

**Teresa:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Yeah.

[audience laughs]

**Teresa:** That's the—

**Travis:** I did. You can actually hear on an episode of *My Brother, My Brother, and Me* where I figured it out. It was very off-putting to me.

**Teresa:** Yeah. So, uh, they have picnics and fireworks. Pretty cool. I'd enjoy some fireworks on Christmas.

**Travis:** Eh. I could take or leave fireworks. I get it. They're loud, they're bright. Meh.

**Teresa:** Alright. I think it would look really cool!

**Travis:** I mean, I'm just sayin'. When you've seen one firework, you've seen them all.

**Teresa:** I—

**Travis:** I get it. Boom! Great. Give me some candy.

**Teresa:** But I've never seen fireworks in the snow!

**Travis:** Well... but this is warm and summer. You wouldn't see 'em in the snow then.

**Teresa:** Well, no, but I'm talking about—I don't wanna go to Brazil for Christmas. I'm talking about fire—

**Travis:** Oh, take that, Brazil.

[audience laughs]

**Teresa:** I'm talking about fireworks at our Christmas celebration.

**Travis:** You want me to do fireworks?

**Teresa:** No. I don't want *you*—

**Travis:** I can do fireworks.

**Teresa:** No!

**Travis:** I could make some fireworks.

**Teresa:** Absolutely not!

**Travis:** I—I know people. I could get some fireworks *today*. Right now. We're in *my* home terri—[loudly] somebody get me—who here has fireworks!

[audience laughs]

**Travis:** I got to prove to my wife that this is a bad idea!

**Teresa:** I *know* it's a bad idea! [through laughter] Especially from you!

**Travis:** I don't think you know *how* bad an idea it is yet.

**Teresa:** Oh, I do.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** Trust me. I... do.

\*\*\*\*\*

[theme music plays]

**Travis:** Hey, folks! It's Travis. Aw, man. I sure do hope you're enjoying this live *Shmanners*. Uh, we did it live at the 2018 Candelights show in Huntington. Oh, hey! Happy New Year, everyone! I sure do hope that you had a safe and a happy holidays, and we're so excited that you're here listening to the show.

We're also excited because this week we're sponsored by ModCloth. What is ModCloth, you ask? Man, that's such a good question. At ModCloth, there's no such thing as an ordinary outfit. We're not afraid to wear what we want, to go against the current and be unapologetically ourselves! I can get behind all of that.

Crafted by a team of in-house designers, our signature styles include hand-drawn prints, standout silhouettes, and an inclusive size range that celebrates all women. Start the new year with a clean slate and a fresh wardrobe. Your closet is ready for pieces that are easy to transition from winter to spring.

ModCloth believes fashion should celebrate everyone. That's why they offer a full range of sizes, from XXS to 4 Xs. Man, XXS is really hard to say for someone who grew up with a bad lisp and went to speech therapy.

Uh, while we are in Austin, we visited a ModCloth store and Teresa tried on a bunch of outfits, and let me tell you, every single thing she put on was both, like,

stylin' and fit super good, and was really high quality. It was wonderful. It was like a full on, like, 80's movie montage, try on dressing room—it was amazing.

Um, and right now you can get 15% off your purchase of \$100 or more if you go to modcloth, that's M-O-D-C-L-O-T-H, modcloth.com and enter "shmanners" at checkout. This offer is valid for one time use only, and expires on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019. that's M-O-D-C-L-O-T-H modcloth.com and enter code "shmanners."

Okay! We're gonna get back into the live show here. Uh, and we'll be back next week with more *Shmanners*. Enjoy!

\*\*\*\*\*

[scanning through radio stations]

**Griffin:** —come back to WKEP at Night. Up next, looks like we've got a PSA from local forest ranger Duck Newton.

**Duck:** Do I start now, or—

**Griffin:** Yeah. Uh, lean in, Duck.

**Duck:** [louder] Yeah—sorry. Um... okay, I wanted to address the unfortunate situation that... okay. [sighs] Listen. Two people, good people that I and a lot of y'all have known our whole lives are dead. Torn to shreds by—

**Ned:** [dramatically] A savage, bloodthirsty beast that defies human comprehension! If you'd like to know more, stop by the Cryptonomica, Kepler's premier museum of the macabre, just off highway—

[mic thumping]

**Duck:** Come—[sighs] come on. We just wanted to warn y'all—to—to beg you. If you see one of those things out in the forest, don't fight. Don't scream. *Run*. Run as far as you can.

**Aubrey:** Duck, it's almost midnight. Listen, folks. If you see anything, please go to thelamplighter.org and let us know, and get behind a locked door tonight.

**Griffin:** Anything else we need to—oh! They're leavin'. Okay, well, that's [thelamplighter.org](http://thelamplighter.org) and... stay safe out there, Kepler.

[music plays]

[scanning through radio stations]

\*\*\*\*\*

**Janet:** Hey! It's Janet Varney of *The JV Club* podcast, and I am so excited to be joining Maximum Fun! If you're not yet familiar with *The JV Club*, it's a podcast with me and some of my favorite women—and in the summer, men—as we explore the highs and lows of our terrible teenage years into what I like to call our adult-lescence.

For example, hear Emily Heller describe her time on the national circuit for the debate team, or how Travis McElroy took over his drama class and gave his fellow students notes. Yeah, that went over great. Or let Busy Philipps tell you how she met Sharon Stone at an Arizona toy fair!

You can join me and all my once-awkward, sometimes still awkward friends, every Thursday, by subscribing to *The JV Club* on [Maximumfun.org](http://Maximumfun.org)!

[music plays]

\*\*\*\*\*

**Teresa:** Um, and in India, evergreen trees? In short supply. Who would've thought?

**Travis:** So what do they decorate?

**Teresa:** Mango and bamboo trees!

**Travis:** [gasps] I love mango!

**Teresa:** You do!

**Travis:** For a lot of reasons.

**Teresa:** Well, now—

[audience laughs]

**Teresa:** Now you can decorate them with paper stars.

**Travis:** [gasps]

**Teresa:** As they do in India.

**Travis:** I *do* like that. Is it Australia where Santa surfs in?

**Teresa:** It is! And not only does he commonly surf, but he, uh, makes—

**Travis:** He's ripped.

**Teresa:** —his—

**Travis:** Sexy Santa!

**Teresa:** Ehh, no, not really. But, uh, he makes his journey to the islands in a dolphin-pulled canoe!

**Travis:** Huh!

**Teresa:** Yeah!

**Travis:** Okay! That explains why he has to surf the rest of the way.

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Not practical on land, those dolphins.

**Teresa:** Yeah. Um, so... here's another kind of strange Switzerland one.

**Travis:** Don't say strange. We'll say... different.

**Teresa:** [simultaneously] Different. Different. Um, you skipped around, so let me—let me find—ah.



**Travis:** That's what I do!

**Teresa:** Kussnacht.

**Travis:** Kussnacht!

**Teresa:** Nacht.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** Kussnacht.

**Travis:** Uh-huh?

**Teresa:** Um, so most of the—the countries that celebrate Santa Claus's arrival kind of wait for him with open arms, right?

**Travis:** They're excited.

**Teresa:** In this particular town on the shore of Lake Lucerne, um, over 20,000 people show up on December 5<sup>th</sup> to—

**Travis:** To welcome Santa?

**Teresa:** —hunt for Santa.

[audience laughs and cheers]

**Travis:** What?!

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm, mm-hmm, mm-hmm!

**Travis:** What?! Like *The Most Dangerous Game*?!

**Teresa:** Kinda! The showdown is called Klausjagen, AKA "Chasing the Claus."

[audience laughs]

**Travis:** *The Most Jolliest Game*. I can get down. Hold on.

**Teresa:** So—oh, am I waiting for you to make joke—

**Travis:** No, you can keep talking.

**Teresa:** Okay.

**Travis:** I'll just think while you talk.

**Teresa:** And interrupt me when you figure it out.

**Travis:** Yes.

**Teresa:** Um, so this started as a—as a pagan tradition in the Middle Ages. A lot of Christmas things really did. Um—

**Travis:** *The Most Mangerous Game.*

**Teresa:** Hmmm.

[audience cheers]

**Teresa:** I'm gonna give that a B+ for—

**Travis:** I'll take it.

**Teresa:** —because it sounds good, but Santa Claus doesn't really have anything to do with the manger?

**Travis:** [confidently] He was there.

[audience laughs]

[pauses]

**Teresa:** What?

**Travis:** Yeah! He was there.

**Teresa:** No, he wasn't there.

**Travis:** Then who brought baby Jesus Christmas presents?

[audience laughs]

[pauses]

**Teresa:** The three wise men.

**Travis:** One of 'em was Santa.

[audience laughs]

**Teresa:** Oh, no...

**Travis:** Okay, if it's not, who were they? Give me their names!

[audience laughs]

**Teresa:** I was raised Catholic. We don't learn any of their names.

**Travis:** That's what I'm saying. One of the wise men was Santa Claus. Look it up, don't.

**Teresa:** Anyway... Um, so this is an all night long parade, okay? Where people thump drums, they blow horns, and they scream, with giant, candlelit bishop, like, flags, right? Designed—they look like glass windows so it's kind of like holding a flag that looks like a church window. Um, and they crack whips and cowbells to chase the rebel known as Claus and his four dark elves out of town.

[audience laughs]

**Travis:** Okay... this is, like, someone who learned about Santa from hearing it from, like, four different three-year-olds.

[audience laughs]

**Teresa:** Hmm.

**Travis:** This is like the story of Santa has been translated and then translated back.

**Teresa:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Like, "Oh, he—the *rebel* Santa—"

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** "—[through laughter] and his—[muffled laughter]" [thumps mic]

[audience laughs]

**Teresa:** Hey, you know what? I bet it's fun.

**Travis:** I mean, I bet it's fun, too! Bet then, like, when he brings presents and they're like, "Ohh, he got us!"

**Teresa:** Well... it makes the chase that much more fun next year.

**Travis:** Uh-huh. [laughs]

**Teresa:** "I'm gonna getcha this year."

**Travis:** "We won't let him bring presents again this year! We have too much stuff!"

**Teresa:** Uh, moving away from Santa from a moment—

**Travis:** Good, he seems scary!

**Teresa:** Yeah! Uh, in Venezuela it is common practice to visit church, like a lot of places. But often, the towns close the streets because people roller skate to church.

[scattered cheers]

**Travis:** Huh. Okay. Now is—

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm?

**Travis:** —is that a *holiday* tradition, or just a random coincidence?

**Teresa:** Um... I don't know.

**Travis:** 'Cause that had to start with, like, one person, and somebody else going "Is this Christmas?"

[audience laughs]

**Travis:** "Are we supposed to—I see them doing it."

**Teresa:** It seems like a fun, together, family activity. To roller skate to church.

**Travis:** You know what else is a fun together activity? Riding in a car.

[audience laughs]

**Teresa:** Is it, though?

**Travis:** Yeah! It's pretty good!

**Teresa:** Ehh...

**Travis:** We ride in cars together all the time! You don't enjoy it? Hey, talk amongst yourselves. How can I make it better?

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** We'll listen to the podcasts *you* like and not just the ones I'm on.

**Teresa:** Aww, thanks.

[audience laughs]

**Teresa:** [sighs]

**Travis:** It's funny but it's not a joke.

[audience laughs loudly]

**Teresa:** Welcome to my life.

**Travis:** Uh, in the early days of our dating I would shush her to—when I was comin' to really good jokes I had made. Like, "Shh, listen!"

[audience laughs]

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Teresa:** See, maybe—

**Travis:** And she still married me!

[audience cheers]

**Travis:** Yess.

**Teresa:** Maybe this is why they're on roller skates. Uh, they're not captive audience to each others' podcast.

**Travis:** "Wait, where are you going? This is the good part!"

[audience laughs]

**Teresa:** Um, so crossing the ocean yet again, in the Marshall Islands people prepare for Christmas months in advance by stockpiling gifts and dividing into teams to hold song and dance competitions on Christmas Day.

**Travis:** Huh!

**Teresa:** That's a new Christmas game, right? I'd be down for that.

**Travis:** I like that!

**Teresa:** I would totally—and they, um—so, they also build a pinata-esque thing, and instead of breaking it for children, it's for God.

[pauses]

**Travis:** So they wait for God to come and break it?

**Teresa:** Mmm—no. I don't—I don't think anybody's waiting for that.

**Travis:** You break it and then you just go, "Eh?"

"You're welcome!"

**Teresa:** Um... okay. Um—a lot like the Christian celebration of Easter in New Orleans, if you've ever heard of a King Cake?

[scattered cheers]

**Teresa:** This is something—you have, good! Uh, in Peru, a very similar tradition exists—

**Travis:** Have you heard of Peru?

[audience laughs]

[scattered cheers]

**Teresa:** I think they have. Um, where they, after Mass, again, families go home to have a traditional kind of feast dinner. Um, and the gifts, instead of being spread around the tree, it's um... you have each—all the individual, like, nativity people... participants?

**Travis:** Yeah, Mary and Joseph and Santa.

**Teresa:** Right, and—

[audience laughs]

**Teresa:** Uh-huh. And, uh, they person who finds the baby Jesus in the cake gets to put that baby Jesus in the manger!

**Travis:** So it's a king of kings cake.

[audience laughs and cheers]

**Travis:** Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

**Teresa:** Hmm... alright. Okay.

**Travis:** Is Jesus gluten free?

[audience laughs]

[pauses]

**Teresa:** No, 'cause he had the... fishes and loaves, right?

**Travis:** Ohh yeah, and the bread is his body! Hmm, yeah! It all makes sense now!

**Teresa:** But—

**Travis:** You all thought I was joking, but Jesus is made of bread!

[audience laughs]

**Travis:** And his blood is wine. He's a monster.

[audience laughs]

**Travis:** He's a living gingerbread man.

**Teresa:** Anyway, um... but let me tell you about a gluten free meal that you can have for Christmas in Greenland. Uh, the traditional Christmas dish is called Kivia—Key—no.

[audience laughs]

**Travis:** [laughs] "No."

**Teresa:** Kiviak! Kiviak. There it is. Um, and this again takes seven to eight months to prepare, so you start it very early.

**Travis:** How big a meal is it?!

**Teresa:** Well... um, to start out with you hollow out a seal skin.



**Travis:** When you say "hollow out," you're removing... the seal part.

**Teresa:** Right.

[audience laughs]

**Teresa:** And keeping the rest of it, so that you can stuff it with 500 auks, which are a kind of sea bird.

[pauses]

**Travis:** Okay?

**Teresa:** And you... let that ferment—

**Travis:** [simultaneously] Then you throw that away.

**Teresa:** No.

[audience laughs]

**Travis:** And—and you make burgers.

**Teresa:** No.

**Travis:** Good prank.

**Teresa:** Uh, you allow it to ferment. And I'm talking about these birds with, like, the feathers still on?

**Travis:** Huh!

**Teresa:** [holding back laughter] And then when it's Christmas time, you bring the seal to the table. And you eat 'em.

[scattered cheers]

**Teresa:** Yeah!

**Travis:** Huh!

**Teresa:** Hey, we're not yuckin' anybody's yums!

**Travis:** I've never had it, and if someone has done it more than once, it can't be *terrible*.

**Teresa:** [simultaneously] It must be fine!

**Travis:** Right?

**Teresa:** Yeah!

**Travis:** Like, that's the thing I always have to think. Like, somebody ate it, and then ate it again later? Can't be that bad.

**Teresa:** Huh. They're still alive, so—no, not the birds. The people.

**Travis:** Yeah, okay. You threw me for a second.

**Teresa:** Yeah. Sorry.

**Travis:** That's okay. Paul, what time are we at? Are we doin' good?

**Paul:** [distantly] Who cares? Keep goin'.

**Travis:** Don't say "Who cares!" We have a whole other show to get to! We have two more shows, Paul! No, really. What time—do you know? We've been goin' about 20 minutes. Okay, we'll keep goin'.

**Teresa:** [through laughter] No, because I'm done. That's all. [laughs]

**Travis:** Okay! Huzzah!

[audience laughs and cheers loudly]

**Teresa:** [laughs] That's a—I covered pretty much the entire globe, pieces here and there, and so I thought that was enough. Do you—

**Travis:** No, I thought you did great, and we need to leave more for the next holiday. So, for Candenights next year maybe we'll do a part two.

[audience cheers]

**Travis:** And maybe, as a gift, *I'll* research it.

**Teresa:** [gasps]

**Travis:** I won't!

**Teresa:** Best Candenights ever!

**Travis:** Um, so first, thank you all so much for coming out! Hope you enjoyed *Shmanners*. How many people here, this is the first time ever hearing an episode of *Shmanners*?

[audience cheers]

**Travis:** Oh, awesome! They're all this good.

**Teresa:** We hope that you'll join us. Some even better.

**Travis:** What?! Um, you can check it out. It comes out every week, day depending on, you know, life. But it comes out pretty much every week. Uh, you can hear us talk about both—uh, normally we talk about the history of an etiquette topic as well as answering questions from the audience about ways to kind of follow that etiquette and make it apply to modern life without feeling restricted.

**Teresa:** And you can ask us questions when we make the call out for episode by tweeting @shmannerscast.

**Travis:** Correct. And we are a nonjudgmental etiquette podcast, so if that's been keeping you away, don't worry! We're cool. We're cool parents!

[audience laughs]

**Travis:** Um, you can follow us on Twitter, like Teresa said, @shmannerscast. You can email us if you have episode ideas you would like to hear.  
[shmannerscast@gmail.com](mailto:shmannerscast@gmail.com).

We want to say a big thanks to Maximumfun.org for hosting our show. Um, go check out all the other amazing shows there. *And*, you need to stick around—I assume you're not going anywhere. Why would you leave after our show? 'Cause we have another great show coming up, and then a quick intermission, and then we're doin' *My Brother, My Brother, and Me*.

It's very exciting stuff. You're gonna see *Still Buffering*, and then *My Brother, My Brother, and Me*. And then we'll all go home, and then we'll go to bed...

**Teresa:** They—I think they get that.

**Travis:** Okay, and after that it's up to you!

**Teresa:** Right. After that—

**Travis:** After that, it's what you wanna do.

**Teresa:** —whatever!

**Travis:** Um, so that's gonna do it for us, so join us again next week.

**Teresa:** No RSVP required!

**Travis:** You've been listening to *Shmanners*...

**Teresa:** Manners, *Shmanners*. Get it?

[audience cheers loudly]

[theme music plays]

Maximumfun.org.

Comedy and Culture.

Artist Owned.

Listener Supported.