

## Sawbones 334: Osmosis Jones

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

[theme music plays]

**Justin:** Hello everybody, and welcome to Sawbones, a marital tour of misguided medicine. I'm your cohost, Justin McElroy.

**Sydnee:** I'm Sydnee McElroy.

**Justin:** Well, we've made it, Syd. We're in the final stretch of the Maximum Fun Drive.

**Sydnee:** That's right. We've come to the end of the road. I was gonna sing End of the Road, but I did that on another podcast, so that seemed...

**Justin:** Yeah, you don't wanna repeat yourself.

**Sydnee:** No.

**Justin:** This is the end of the road, though. This is the end of our pledge drive. If you've been waiting to the last minute, you have found it. [MaximumFun.org/Join](https://MaximumFun.org/Join) is the address where you can go to pledge, even as little as five bucks a month, to help keep our shows and the other shows on the Max Fun network running.

Your donation, a portion of it goes to Max Fun, a small portion, and then the rest of it goes right to the shows you listen to. So, if you say you listen to our show, you say you listen to whatever show, they're the ones that are gonna get your money. We really need your support. This is your last chance to do it. We'll talk about it more later.

**Sydnee:** And we really appreciate all of you who have become members

and upgraded your membership during this time, or shared our show or told other people about it to help us out. We really appreciate all you've done.

**Justin:** If you rely on Sawbones to help understand medical stuff, or just to entertain yourself or find weird trivia to annoy people with... whatever you rely on us for, we are relying on you now. Please, if you haven't done it, take a couple minutes right now. Go to [MaximumFun.org/Join](http://MaximumFun.org/Join) and uh... come on board.

**Sydnee:** Justin, this is the first episode of this show that we've done that kinda grossed me out.

**Justin:** Isn't that interesting?

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Justin:** We have a special. This is a special show.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. To finish out MaxFunDrive, we're doing something a little different.

**Justin:** And this has been something we have been trying to do for some time. I was threatening Sydnee with it for quite some time, and she didn't want to do it. And then we were about to sit down, we finally got—well, let me tell you what it is first. We are going to sort of rate, review, explore, holistically discuss the 2001 seminal film, *Osmosis Jones*. And I know, you're excited. I'm excited, too.

**Sydnee:** You shouldn't be, but...

**Justin:** You shouldn't be.

**Sydnee:** I mean, you can be. It's allowed, but not understood.

**Justin:** Yes. And we know that, as always, lately, a very difficult news cycle. We completely understand that, we'll be back to our regularly scheduled *Sawbones* next week, I'm sure. But we just wanna give a little break, a little oasis for you here.

**Sydnee:** An osmosis oasis.

**Justin:** An osmosis oasis, thank you Sydnee. What a mouthful.

**Sydnee:** Mm. That feels nice, though.

**Justin:** Nice sibilance, yeah. Cellar door. Osmosis oasis. Very pleasant sounds.

**Sydnee:** I prefer osmosis oasis.

**Justin:** Osmosis oasis. Um, okay, so this movie... [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Which, in order to— =I would like to say that, in order to do this show, since we were going to do this a while ago and then decided we needed to focus on more serious matters, I have now had to see this movie twice.

**Justin:** Yes. We were going to do it, and then our nation was consumed in the fires of protest, and we thought, "This is a weird time to do an Osmosis Jones episode," so we canned it. That was like a month ago.

**Sydnee:** It was more than a month ago.

**Justin:** More than a month ago.

**Sydnee:** It's been a while.

**Justin:** It's still a weird time to do an Osmosis Jones episode, but we kinda figured, you know, we've already watched this movie once. America needs a rest...

**Sydnee:** [laughs] We'll watch it again, we'll talk about it. Because there's gotta be—we have to find space for all of these things in life, right? We have to find space to speak out about the things that matter, and then I guess we also have to find space to watch Osmosis Jones twice, the second time around, forcing your children to watch it with you in the hopes that they would enjoy it, but also understanding why they didn't.

**Justin:** Your boy also did take a little trip to dreamland the first time we watched it, for the last 20 minutes or so.

**Sydnee:** But now you know the whole story.

**Justin:** Now I know the entire epic tale of Osmosis Jones and Drix, voiced by Christopher Rock and David Hyde Pierce. That's right, you could absolutely carbon date this movie within a good, like, week to a week and a half, just by its cast.

**Sydnee:** Bill Murray is in it as well, and let me say—

**Justin:** Yes. But that could be any point in the last 40 years.

**Sydnee:** I don't usually – and I think this might be a symptom of being a parent – I am usually not excited about watching anything animated when I don't have to. I watch plenty of animation with our children, and some of it is quite good. Some of it I would celebrate. But generally speaking, when it's just the two of us, I don't like to watch animated things. I wanna watch grown-up stuff. And when it started and it was—

**Justin:** Adult. You like to watch adult movies.

**Sydnee:** Well, not adult movies. When it started, and it started live action, because we've gotta meet Bill Murray, and I thought, "Bill Murray's here. Well, this can't be so bad. I love Bill Murray!"

**Justin:** Right.

**Sydnee:** Because Bill Murray is whose body we're going to spend the rest of the film inside.

**Justin:** It's called the City of Frank, and this is where Bill Murray lives.

**Sydnee:** And I love Bill Murray, but he is as gross as a human can be in this movie. The basic idea... I feel like we should just, like, outline...

**Justin:** We can't tear through the plot. We've gotta lovingly dissect it, beat by beat, or else what are gonna talk about here?

**Sydnee:** Well, I just mean the premise. The premise is, this movie has, like, two sides that you're seeing.

**Justin:** Yeah. Just like Hugh Jackman, two sides.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] You're seeing the live action side with Bill Murray and his daughter. Bill Murray, a father who's, I would say, not winning any awards for father of the year right now, and certainly not concerned with his own health and safety.

And then the inside of his body, the inside of Frank's body, where we watch all of the various cells and germs and whatnot interact... and I don't wanna spoil, I guess, if you wanna go through it bit by bit.

**Justin:** Oh yeah, I do.

**Sydnee:** But that part is animated, obviously.

**Justin:** That part is animated.

**Sydnee:** Yes, it's not like Inner Space. We're not like, inside it like little humans in there.

**Justin:** That would be interesting, too.

**Sydnee:** Chris Rock is a white blood cell.

**Justin:** Uh, yes. Chris Rock is a white blood cell, he's sort of basically a cop. A body cop. And Drix, the cold pill, is sort of like, um...

**Sydnee:** He's supposed to be any sort of over-the-counter cold medicine you would buy that's actually—it's got one capsule but it's got a bunch of different medications in it to do different things. I don't think—I mean, he could be any number of them.

The chemical name for him that they throw out isn't really one thing. It's like a combination of a bunch of different things. Um, so, you know. And I do like—that is one of the things I liked, if I'm watching this from a standpoint of medical accuracy, is that our character Frank, Bill Murray,

gets sick, or has some symptoms of illness early on, and takes the cold pill.

And I feel like in the movie, what we understand the cold pill to be doing inside the human body is actually, at first, fairly true to life.

**Justin:** There's like a irritation in—so, the gimmick of the movie is Frank's body is presented like a city, called the City of Frank. So, when he's got a sore throat, they're in the, you know, throat district of the body and there's burning buildings, because his throat is sore.

**Sydnee:** And inflamed.

**Justin:** And Drix shows up with, like, an ice cannon and basically blasts the whole throat and numbs the pain of his sore throat.

**Sydnee:** Yes. And I thought that was like a nice representation, because it's like—he's not actually fixing anything. And in fact, they even represent that further, because the premise is that in the very beginning... I can't even believe I'm describing this. I'm a medical doctor.

In the very beginning of the movie, Frank is eating a hardboiled egg covered in mayonnaise in front of a monkey at the zoo.

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** And the monkey steals his egg and he wrestles the monkey through the cage to get the egg back and then eats it. After it's been in the monkey's mouth, on the ground of the monkey's cage. And doing this truly heinous act that I have to watch on TV, he gets a virus.

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** A very bad virus is introduced into Frank. And it's funny, because again, I thought this was kind of a good—like, I was hoping there were things the kids could learn from it.

So, they're used to germs coming into the body. Germs come in all the time. They joke about how often Frank gets germs and how he needs to learn to wash his hands before he eats. Which is true. We encounter lots

of germs that our body is good at just kind of taking care of, right? Like, no big deal. But this time, this germ, this virus...

**Justin:** Thrax.

**Sydnee:** ... is a big bad gay.

**Justin:** Voiced by our friend and, uh, your friend and mine, Larry Fishburne.

**Sydnee:** He's our friend?

**Justin:** Well—

**Sydnee:** Personal friend?

**Justin:** No. There was just that one season of I Love New York, when the guy said he got flowers from Larry Fishburne.

**Sydnee:** That's right.

**Justin:** Remember that?

**Sydnee:** I don't think that was ever proven.

**Justin:** No, that was never proven. But—[laughs]

**Sydnee:** So this Thrax, obviously the name sort of sounds like anthrax, but I don't—

**Justin:** That's a chemical, right? Like...

**Sydnee:** No, no, that would be a germ.

**Justin:** So he could be anthrax.

**Sydnee:** He could be, but I don't get the sense... the things he does to the body don't really make sense to me as any one infectious organism. I feel like they very intentionally were keeping that vague. Or else they just

didn't know, I don't know, but my sense was this is supposed to be a bad virus that probably doesn't really exist as this one thing. It's an amalgam.

**Justin:** I wanna give you some background first, before we get into the plot of the film.

**Sydnee:** As to, like, why this movie exists?

**Justin:** Uh, sort of, yes. It was in sort of development hell for a long time. The animated parts were done, okay, and you know, they referred to Frank, but they didn't have a Frank or the live action sequences.

So, the animated stuff, which was all directed by Tom Sito, who had done a ton of Disney stuff. Like, he worked on Little Mermaid, Beauty and the Beast, Aladdin, Lion King, you know, a bunch of those. And he was the animation director. He directed the animated portions, they were done, and then they still have not done the live action.

So it sort of, like, languished in development hell for a long time. And I think it's worth saying that the animated parts, I think, function better than the live action portions of the movie, which were directed by the Farrelly brothers of, you know, Something About Mary, Kingpin, now Green Book. [laughs] Me, Myself and Irene.

**Sydnee:** Did they do Green Book?

**Justin:** I think just Peter Farrelly did. So, they directed those parts, the live action parts. They're credited as the sole directors of this movie, but that's why the live action parts feel like a Farrelly brothers comedy, and the animated parts feel like an animated film. They're tonally completely different.

**Sydnee:** It is very disjointed, and I don't—this was my key question. I wanna try to focus on the medical accuracies, because this is a medical show, but that was my key question, is like, why was this movie made? In terms of, like, who was it for? I don't know who this movie's for.

Because the animated stuff skews younger most of the time. Like, it's more aimed at a younger audience. Although, there are moments where there are, like, jokes and things... like, they're in a club at one point. The

white blood cell and the cold pill are in a club that's taking place in a zit. And in the club there are, like, dancers that are supposed to look like they're kind of scantily clad. And all of it felt like, okay, now who is... this is not aimed at little, little kids.

**Justin:** Right.

**Sydnee:** Because they would have no context for what is happening here. So, this is aimed at a slightly older audience.

**Justin:** There are some truly ghoulish deaths, too. [laughs] Like, some of the cells getting killed by Thrax are incredibly disturbing.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. Thrax is scary.

**Justin:** Thrax is scary.

**Sydnee:** I mean, well, and Thrax... what you learn about Thrax early on... and this is the thing that, like, for all the moments where I felt like, "Huh, I see what they're trying to do. This is a real scientific concept. Like, a real medical concept and they're trying to represent it in kind of a fanciful way." For all that, Thrax is the number one thing that doesn't make sense to me.

I don't know what disease this is, and ostensibly Thrax has been passed along. He kind of gives this history as to who the different people throughout the country he's infected are.

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** And killed.

**Justin:** And killed. The first one being a little girl.

**Sydnee:** Yes, and he says that.

**Justin:** [laughs] He says it!

**Sydnee:** And luckily, the way that it's worded, our children did not pick up on that. [laughs]

**Justin:** Yeah, cause that would have been the rest of the night for us.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Justin:** “Who was she? What does she look like? Does she seem like me? Where her parents nice?” Like, that would have been the entire rest of the evening.

**Sydnee:** Yes. But somehow the way he’s doing it is by collecting these DNA beads.

**Justin:** Beads?

**Sydnee:** From different people, and once he takes their DNA bead from their hypothalamus, then he can kill them. Which—

**Justin:** Okay, you’re getting into plot.

**Sydnee:** I’m just saying, like, this was the one thing where I was like, “I don’t even know what you’re trying to represent from a medical standpoint with this part of it.”

**Justin:** I wanna finish setting the stage a little bit more and then we’ll talk about this movie.

**Sydnee:** Okay.

**Justin:** Plot of the film and the medical inaccuracies.

**Sydnee:** Okay.

**Justin:** Or accuracies, as the case may be.

**Sydnee:** There are some.

**Justin:** There are some. Warner Brothers feature animation was having a very bad time, financially. They had to choose between two projects that really were gonna make or break the division.

There was a project from a director they'd worked with before, and the other one was Osmosis Jones. The one that they'd worked with before, uh, was someone who had just delivered a hit to the studio. But they still went with Osmosis Jones.

**Sydnee:** What was the other one?

**Justin:** The other one, the last movie they had made with this director was Brad Bird, who directed the Iron Giant for Warner Brothers feature animation. The movie that he pitched to them, that he then took across the street to Disney, was The Incredibles.

**Sydnee:** Ooh.

**Justin:** This movie, on the other hand, that Warner Brothers decided to bet the farm on, cost \$70 million and brought in a whopping... [drum roll] \$14 million. This was a gigantic... [laughs] A gigantic flop.

**Sydnee:** So, they lost money. [laughs]

**Justin:** An unmitigated disaster.

**Sydnee:** Well, it's really—I mean, like I said, I don't know who this... there are parts of it that feel like they're trying to educate kids about the body for a minute, and then it's like, then there are some jokes which are aimed at slightly older kids, 'cause little little kids wouldn't get them.

**Justin:** You're right.

**Sydnee:** There's a lot of broad humor that's, like, very gross. There's a lot of body humor. I mean, I find the whole film pretty gross.

**Justin:** It's pretty gross. There's a lot of gross parts. It's actually pretty hard to watch some of it.

**Sydnee:** The live action stuff is gross, because Bill Murray engages in some of the most wretched behavior.

**Justin:** We're gonna get there! Let me finish my stage setting, okay?

**Sydnee:** Okay, well this is Sawbones.

**Justin:** \$14 million. Still though, this is wild, I don't know if you know this. A year after this movie came out, there was a spin-off animated series, which I will not make you watch, on the kids' WB called—

**Sydnee:** I will not watch.

**Justin:** Ozzy and Drix. Get this – a mosquito sucks Drix and Ozzy out of Frank's body and places them into a teenager named Hector. And they then battle viruses inside Hector's body. For two seasons this show ran, Ozzy and Drix. I, uh, yeah. So that actually did happen, despite being a catastrophic failure. Featuring the voice talents of Phil LaMarr, who has done the voice of basically everybody forever.

**Sydnee:** So they didn't get Chris Rock back, huh?

**Justin:** Uh no, Chris wasn't along for the ride.

**Sydnee:** That's too bad.

**Justin:** And Jeff Bennet, who voiced Johnny Bravo and Dexter's dad and some other people. Anyway, I wanna talk about this movie in detail, but before that, I'm gonna need you to follow me to the billing department.

**Sydnee:** Ooh, let's go.

[theme music plays]

[ad break]

**Justin:** Okay, so Osmosis Jones begins—[laughs] You've already summed up the first, literally, ten minutes of this movie. And it's Bill Murray eating an egg that a monkey stole from him. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** It's so gross. It's so gross, him putting the mayonnaise on the egg, and then the monkey stealing the egg, and then he steals the egg—and his poor daughter. This is, okay, this is part of the—I don't feel like... Something About Mary had this level of, like, depravity, where we have

this adult man who has lost his wife, the mother of his daughter, at some point in the past, due to sickness that they sort of insinuate was brought on by unhealthy lifestyle.

**Justin:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** Like, that is very... that is said several times. Like, "If you guys took better of yourself, maybe mom would still be here."

**Justin:** Yes, this is, I mean, she explicitly says that mom would still be alive if you guys had a better diet.

**Sydnee:** So, I don't know, I mean, it's never made clear what exactly happened, but that definitely is, like, the daughter says this. But in the face of this from his child, he is eating buckets of chicken, and he wants to take her to a wing festival. He's just, like, so in her face about his complete lack of self-care.

**Justin:** He slams beers with a shirtless Chris Elliott wearing a really tragic wig, which, that part was good. Meanwhile, we meet Osmosis Jones, who is a cop that has been demoted because he, uh, took some sort of action that forced Frank to throw up.

**Sydnee:** Frank ate a bad oyster at a school science fair. [laughs]

**Justin:** No, that's later. This is—oh, you're talking about, was that a flashback?

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Oh, okay, got it, okay.

**Sydnee:** Could you not follow this movie?!

**Justin:** No, it was so confusing, Syd.

**Sydnee:** Yes, it was a flashback. Frank ate a bad oyster at a school science fair, and it had a bad germ on it, and in order to save his life, Osmosis Jones made him throw up.

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** But he threw up all over his kid's teacher, and then his kid's teacher got a restraining order against him as a result?

**Justin:** And he also got fired from his job at the pea soup factory.

**Sydnee:** For throwing up on his kid's teacher.

**Justin:** Yeah, that part is really challenging. He accidentally throws up on the teacher, and she literally files a restraining order against him. [laughs] That is not how that works.

**Sydnee:** Later preventing him from going on the school field trip with his daughter.

**Justin:** There's a very strange part, the kid who—there's a kid whose project is about oysters, and he, like, tried to clean them in the ocean for six months, or whatever. And Frank says, "So they should be okay to eat," and the kid says, "Well, if my hypotenuse is correct," and I'm like, "Um..."

**Sydnee:** Well, they say later he's a bad student.

**Justin:** Oh...

**Sydnee:** That's the joke. The project was bad.

**Justin:** Okay.

**Sydnee:** She says, I think he probably started it last night but we'll just give him an A anyway.

**Justin:** Oh, okay, I got it. Still, okay—

**Sydnee:** Yeah, the whole joke is that this kid is not good at this.

**Justin:** I challenge that.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Justin:** Because the hypotenuse line is delivered completely straight, not in any way a joke and is not a joke, no.

**Sydnee:** The kid didn't know it was a joke. He thought it was the right word.

**Justin:** Someone wrote the word. You didn't think the whole thing was impro—it's not a documentary. [laughs] Someone is writing the words for the child. And hypotenuse is not the word. Anyway, okay, so we meet Osmosis Jones, who's been demoted to patrol duty. He wants to be, like, bigger... there's better assignments in the body.

**Sydnee:** Big cop? I don't know.

**Justin:** He's assigned to the teeth, blasting, like, germs in the teeth.

**Sydnee:** They're, yes. And he wants... I don't know know what job he wants, but he wants a bigger job. The lungs, maybe.

**Justin:** Right, so the filthy egg allows in Thrax, which is a virus. And all of the City of Frank is kinda thrown into upheaval, in part because of the mayor, Mayor Phlegmming, voiced by Will Shatner, has a re-election campaign against Tom Colonic, who is voiced by Ron Howard, and the two of them are... basically, the mayor doesn't wanna handle it well because he's afraid of losing his re-election campaign.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. I do think, so, Thrax initially as he appears and he's, like, killing other types of cells, there are moments where he uses his long pointer finger to infect people. And a lot of times, they just sort of melt into goo. Which, like, is not totally off-base, the idea that after a cell is infected, it dies.

But then sometimes, you can see he infects things, and the flames that spring up around it, because it's like, when he infects it, it bursts into flames, the flames look like little viral particles bursting up into the air. And I actually thought that was really creative as a way of saying, like, when a virus infects a cell, it can turn the cell into a virus-making machine. And then it'll pump out more virus.

And I feel like they did a good job with—there's some really, like, creative visual representation of aspects of an infection and an immune response and that kinda thing.

**Justin:** One I liked is actually in the next beat. So, Thrax starts making Frank feel bad. He takes a cold pill, which is Drix, who's a very strait-laced sort of by-the-books cop. Osmosis is a more rebellious, play by his own rules kind. A classic buddy cop pairing. They start pumping people for information, looking for more information on Thrax, and one of them that they talk to is a... we would call them a confidential informant, or a CI, but in the world of the movie, it's...

**Sydnee:** A flu vaccine.

**Justin:** A flu vaccine. Can you...

**Sydnee:** So, what they've done is they've—and you know, I've used a similar analogy in past shows. The idea that the way that a vaccine works is you take, in this case, the flu virus, and you have made it harmless. It can't make you sick, but it tells your immune system how to attack the real flu virus. It has the right pieces of it so that your immune system will learn how to fight off the flu virus when the real deal shows up.

And that's exactly what this is. It looks like a virus, and he's, like, hanging out supposedly with the criminal element, because he looks like he belongs there. But secretly, he's informing... I mean, literally informing the immune system on viruses. It's a very—I mean, somebody really understood all that to make that connection. I was impressed with that.

**Justin:** And then we head over to the hot new club in town, The Zit. Which is where Thrax has set up shop. Ozzy and Drix go to the club. There's a dance sequence for absolutely no reason. The performer there is none other than Joe C and Kid Rock themselves. Kid Rock, of course... Kidney Rock is what he's going by in this film.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm. I got nothing for all that.

**Justin:** Basically, this is the zit that we alluded to earlier. There's a big kind of, not a shoot-out but a stand-off really, where Drix blows the place up. Zit pops. Frank shoots the zit on the teachers face.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, he was begging to be allowed to go along on the school field trip... and then his zit popped in her face.

**Justin:** We're making Bill Murray's character Frank seem less contemptible than he is in the film. He's a truly wretched person. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Yeah. I mean, he's very gross. I mean, it's just, I can't underline how the whole thing is very gross. Animated and live action scenes. But they do have, like, when Osmosis Jones goes into the zit club, he disguises himself as a pathogen. And it's to, like, echo the pliability of these cells, that they don't really have one form a lot of the time. They're not, like, perfect circles or ovals or whatever we envision cells to be. They're sort of globular.

**Justin:** Right.

**Sydnee:** And I thought that was kinda cool. Like, to show those—I mean, and later, he kind of at one point divides and reattaches himself. The animation is cool in that sense.

**Justin:** Yeah, they do a neat job with the aesthetics of it. Of making the—the organic stuff is all very, like, goopy. But anything sort of inorganic has a sort of cooler, retro-futurism kind of like, curved lines and very clean and futuristic looking. It's neat.

**Sydnee:** They have a scene where Osmosis Jones accidentally shoots his whatever, I don't know what the weapon is supposed to be, whatever that is.

**Justin:** It's a metaphor for gun.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] Yeah. And instead of hitting the germs he's chasing, he hits a nerve and it causes a cramp, because the nerve continues to fire over and over again, contracting the muscle and causing a cramp. And I thought that was, again, like—there are parts of this—that was what was so weird to me about it. Like, there are parts of this that are like, "Oh, that's a useful analogy to teach somebody about some part of how the human body works."

**Justin:** And then other times, a cold pill blows up a grenade and that makes your zit explode.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] Or, like, or they have... there's pollen is a big theme. Frank is allergic to pollen, and so pollen can be used at any time to make him sneeze. And so, like, people have pollen, and they can just deploy it as needed. But like, at one point that's represented by, like, a dam that's holding back snot breaking.

**Justin:** Gross.

**Sydnee:** Which was disgusting.

**Justin:** Inaccurate. So, basically, Ozzy gets fired and Drix quits because of the zit explosion causing such a kerfuffle. And one joke that I did enjoy is when Drix is forced to leave the body, he gets on a bus that says it's headed to the bladder. Cause he's gonna get peed out. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Which I kind of enjoy. Because he is just a, you know, a 12-hour cold pill, so he's gotta move on. Um, and Ozzy is UH... they go into a—I thought this was kinda neat. Ozzy goes into a movie theatre to sort of like while away the time. They think Drax is—Thrax is dead, by the way. Drax is the guy from Guardians of the Galaxy. Thrax is dead, they think.

**Sydnee:** They thought they blew him out with the zit.

**Justin:** Yep. So, Ozzy goes to the movies and the movies are, you see the posters on the wall as he walks in, and one is like, The Exam, the other is Your Worst Nightmare, which is his daughter marrying the Chris Elliott character, one is, uh, That Girl At The Bus Stop. And it's just dreams, basically, is the movies that are playing for the different cells, are like dreams that he's having.

**Sydnee:** Can I just say, too, we kinda skimmed over this part, but you get some backstory on Osmosis Jones as the two are talking throughout the film. And this was also, I thought, kind of a funny thing, too. He talks about his ancestors coming over on the Umbilical Cord.

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Which, I mean, that's accurate.

**Justin:** Yeah, it's not that far off.

**Sydnee:** Well, I mean, in a sense. They don't literally come through the umbilical cord, but you know what I mean. Like, all the cells are ancestors of the original cells. Or all the cells came from the ancestor cells.

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, I mean like, I thought that was kind of clever. They talk about, he is a white blood cell, and he talks about is time growing up somewhere in the GI tract, and I mean, ostensibly he could have come from lymphatic tissue somewhere there. And there's just, there are things like that that are quite accurate. Which is what makes as we're getting to the end of the film here so frustrating.

**Justin:** Yeah. Drax—Thrax—

**Sydnee:** His name is Thrax, it is not Drax.

**Justin:** Thrax re-emerges, and Ozzy realizes it because he sees the theatre catching on fire. And thus begins the strangest, like, twenty minutes conclusion to a film. I mean, absolutely buck-wild. So, okay, on the Thrax end of things...

**Sydnee:** Let me handle the Thrax end of things.

**Justin:** Okay, yes, please.

**Sydnee:** This is the stuff I have expertise on.

**Justin:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** This is, like I have said, this is part of what bothered me. Thrax's goal was to kill Frank faster than he killed his previous victims. To

make it into the medical textbooks. So, he gets to—the way he does this is, he gets to the hypothalamus—

**Justin:** Medical experts are like Guinness, right? Like, you only worry about the one that kills people the fastest. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Exactly. So, he gets to the hypothalamus, with his goal is, if I can break it open and steal... it looks like a giant, circulating piece of DNA.

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Like a giant double helix. But, like, it's the same size as—it's larger than the cells themselves. So, like, we're already—

**Justin:** It's like a bead of DNA. Maybe it's like adenine, or thymine, or...

**Sydnee:** Yeah, but like, the DNA is larger than the cells.

**Justin:** Yeah, it's weird.

**Sydnee:** So it doesn't make sense.

**Justin:** It's just a metaphor. It's just a metaphor.

**Sydnee:** Right, like we've left the realm of "these are supposed to actually represent things that are happening in the body," and there's just this giant piece of DNA. He breaks it open and steals a bead from the DNA, adds it to his bead of other people he's killed, to his chain of other people he's killed, and then takes off. And then the body starts heating up. And the way he escapes then is once again, he deploys pollen, makes Frank sneeze, gets shot out of his mouth with the sneeze.

**Justin:** And onto his daughter's eye.

**Sydnee:** Yes. Now at this point, in the live action film, where has Frank ended up?

**Justin:** Uh, in hospital.

**Sydnee:** Yes. Frank was going on his wing trip with his buddy, Chris

Elliott, because he was demanding that his daughter go with him to a wing show, and his daughter was like, "I really wanna go camping and you're just, you're really letting me down non-stop Dad, I'm not going with you."

So, Frank and Chris Elliott are drinking and driving and going to a wing show in Buffalo when Frank, like, passes out because he had a 106 degree fever.

**Justin:** Yes. He's incredibly hot. He goes to the hospital...

**Sydnee:** And just by chance, his daughter's school bus happens to be passing while he's pulled off the side of the road.

**Justin:** Sure, it happens.

**Sydnee:** The school bus stops, the daughter sees, so she jumps in the car with Chris Elliott.

**Justin:** Right.

**Sydnee:** And they drive to the hospital too. This is how the daughter ends up there.

**Justin:** And so, he sneezes on the daughter, and so, uh... Ozzy and Thrax are basically, like, doing battle on the eyeball of the daughter, right?

**Sydnee:** And onto her eyelash.

**Justin:** I wanna be clear about this. In this movie we are watching, the two leads are now battling on the eyelash of another character in the movie, right? Meanwhile, Bill Murray... legally dies.

**Sydnee:** Yes. They are coding him.

**Justin:** He *dies*.

**Sydnee:** The doctors are doing everything they can.

**Justin:** It's like a fairly intense—like, he dies while his daughter looks on.

**Sydnee:** Yes. His temperature hits 108. For some reason, they have decided, like, the moment his temperature hits 108 that's it, bam.

**Justin:** You die.

**Sydnee:** He dies. And his heart stops. And by the way, his heart stops—well, I won't get into... nothing that they're doing to respond to this makes any sense. Let me just say that.

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** They're just, like, bagging him and bagging him and bagging him, but no one has done anything about is rhythm at any point. What I'm saying is they're running the code wrong. But—

**Justin:** Well, that's true, yeah.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] And then he flat lines and they're like, "Dead."

**Justin:** "Dead."

**Sydnee:** "I'm calling it." And it's like, well you haven't done anything!  
[laughs]

**Justin:** Uh, they do, well—okay. Well, that kinda sets the scene a bit. So, Osmosis Jones gets the DNA bead back from Thrax, and then Thrax basically—a false eyelash rips off of his daughter's face with Thrax still clinging to it, and it falls into a cup of alcohol and kills Thrax in, again, an extremely ghoulish fashion.

**Sydnee:** Well, it's important that, in any code, you have a tray with a giant glass jar of rubbing alcohol on it.

**Justin:** To store the eyelashes.

**Sydnee:** To store the eyelashes from the daughter of the guy who you just let die because you didn't know how to run a code.

**Justin:** So, he's got the bead, and for some reason, if he can return the bead back to Frank, Frank will be fine. The daughter is crying over the dead body of her father. [laughs] The daughter is crying over the—and his daughter, we're talking like, she's probably, what, 13? I mean, she's a kid.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. Or maybe younger. I was thinking more like 11 or 12.

**Justin:** She's crying over the dead body of her father, and in what is presented as, like, a climactic action moment...

**Sydnee:** And she's apologizing, saying, "I'm so sorry I said the things to you I said about Mom, it's not your fault that Mom died," she's saying to Bill Murray, who has died.

**Justin:** Who has died!

**Sydnee:** It's all—I mean, it's gruesome.

**Justin:** It's ghoulish.

**Sydnee:** Yes, it's a gruesome moment. I mean, it was really, as we were watching it I thought, "I'm glad that my children have already lost interest in this film and are playing together behind the couch, because if they saw this, it would be upsetting, but I don't have to shield them from it because they have no interest in this movie anymore." [laughs]

**Justin:** They're not watching. He hops into the tear and rides the tear into Frank's mouth. Again, the action climax of this film is a 13-year-old girl crying magical tears into the mouth, the open mouth of her father's corpse. That's how the movie ends. That is supposed to be the moment where audiences stand up and cheer.

**Sydnee:** And then, so he replaces the DNA bead in the hypothalamus, and then it's like—and nobody's doing anything, by the way. The doctors are walking away, everybody's given up, they've let it go.

**Justin:** One of them says, "He's coming back!" [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Yeah. Well, you see the pulse start up again. Beep, beep, beep. And then his temperature starts dropping. [laughs]

**Justin:** Do they monitor temperature like that?

**Sydnee:** No, they have, like—

**Justin:** “His temperature’s dropping. 107.8, 107.6!” Like...

**Sydnee:** Well, they have this—you can, I mean, you can do that, but that’s not—I don’t know why you would do that in this situation. And there’s also, I think you will notice... where is the thermometer?

**Justin:** I don’t know.

**Sydnee:** Because that say they have a constant temperature meter on him where they’re watching his temperature drop point by point by point, but... it’s not in his mouth, it’s not in his ear, it’s not taped to his head, it’s not under his arm. Does he have a rectal thermometer in?

**Justin:** Um...

**Sydnee:** I feel like they would have made a joke about it.

**Justin:** Something, yeah. They wouldn’t have left that on the table.

**Sydnee:** But yes, so anyway, he miraculously comes back from the dead, thank goodness.

**Justin:** I do wanna point out... I do wanna point out that, at one point, Ozzy and Drix are chasing Thrax, and Drix hypothesizes that Thrax must be headed towards the uvula, and Osmosis Jones says, “What’s the uvula?” and Drix says, “It’s the small dangly thing that—” And Osmosis Jones says, “Oh, the boxer shorts, okay I’m headed there,” and Drix says, “No, not that small dangly thing.” I thought that was a little racy for a kids movie, but I did get a good chuckle.

**Sydnee:** There are a lot of moments where it’s not like, I mean... I’m not prudish about that stuff. But there are a lot of moments where I thought,

okay, well this really clearly isn't aimed at as young as, like... that joke was aimed at a little kid. Like, that was a fart joke. There are lots of those kinds of jokes.

There are lots of poop and fart jokes, there are lots of moments spent in the colon for the sake of being in the colon and laughing about it. There are lots of those kinds of things, and then coupled with a very, like, upsetting scene of a young girl's father dying.

**Justin:** And it's Bill Murray, so it's doubly upsetting for all of us.

**Sydnee:** But he lives, he's okay, they're seen hiking together at the end.

**Justin:** And he eats a carrot, that's a very triumphant moment. Oh, and also, the mayor accidentally makes him fart, and he farts so hard, he blows the mayor out of his butt. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** That happens too. Well, the mayor's lost his job. There's, I guess, a new mayor and, um, and then there was a spin-off, apparently.

**Justin:** Yeah, Ozzy and Drix.

**Sydnee:** I asked Charlie when the movie was over if she liked it, and she said no. Charlie doesn't mince words. "No, I didn't like it." And I said, "What do you think would have made it better?" and she said, "Uh... if it were, you know, more like a normal movie."

**Justin:** Well there it is, folks.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Justin:** It's not like a normal movie. It is one of the stranger films I have seen two times. Technically 1.8 times, I guess, if you count the nap. But it is wild. I don't think you should see it. You probably don't need to see it. If you do see it, let us know.

**Sydnee:** And I would say, there are little moments in there. It's such a shame that in the movie that—I can't say I enjoyed it—that there were moments like the vaccine analogy, and many of the things that the white

blood cells do to fight infection and to ward off disease and that kind of thing, it's all very clever.

It's all very, like... there are moments where you can really tell somebody thought about it, and a real creative brain put those ideas together. And the visuals are pretty grotesque, but I mean, the inside of the human body's pretty gooshy, so...

**Justin:** Yeah, sure.

**Sydnee:** You know, but, I don't know.

**Justin:** Overall, no stars.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Justin:** Maybe one star. Thank you so much for listening, and one more time, this is literally our last one of the year. Thank you for listening and thank you for supporting us in the Maximum Fun Drive. This is our last week of the drive, as I said, and it's your last chance to get on board if you want the gifts.

Oh that's right, there are gifts! You can pledge five dollars a month, you get over 200 hours of bonus content from all your favorite Max Fun shows. Ten bucks, you get all the bonus content, plus you get a beautiful pin from the show of your choice. Ours says, "Homeopathy means pretend." It's on a picture of a unicorn. All of the designs are by Megan Lynn Kott. They are beautiful.

There's other gifts, there's like a game set at \$20 that have Max Fun dice and cards, but really what you're doing is you're supporting the shows that you love and helping us to keep making them.

I know things are weird, it's a weird time to be asking for money, but honestly, like, things are weird all over. We've had to cancel all our live shows for the year, there's a lot of events we're not able to do and stuff like that, so we're really relying on y'all, as you have done so many times in the past, to come through for us.

So please, if you can, if you've got a few bucks and a few minutes to spare, please head on over to [MaximumFun.org/Join](http://MaximumFun.org/Join) and come aboard.

**Sydnee:** Thank you to all of our members, to our upgrading members, and to everybody who shares our show with a friend or tweets about us or lets somebody else know. It all helps us out.

**Justin:** Thanks to the Taxpayers for the use of their song "Medicines" as the intro and outro of our program. Thanks to you for listening. We so appreciate you. And be sure to join us again next time for Sawbones. But until then, my name is Justin McElroy.

**Sydnee:** I'm Sydnee McElroy.

**Justin:** And as always, don't drill a hole in your head.

[theme music plays]

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