

00:00:00	Dan	Host	On this episode we discuss— <i>Happy Halloween, Scooby Doo!</i> That's right—it's our special, annual, Thanksgiving Halloween episode!
00:00:05	Elliott	Host	
			<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>
00:00:10	Music	Music	Light, up-tempo, electric guitar with synth instruments.
00:00:37	Dan	Host	Hey, everyone, and welcome to <i>The Flop House!</i> I'm Dan McCoy. I'm Stuart Wellington, you Shocktober freaks!
00:00:40	Stuart	Host	
			<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>
00:00:44	Elliott	Host	Stuart, no, no. I think you're under a misapprehension of what time of the year it is.
00:00:48	Stuart	Host	Wait, what's the name of the movie we watched?
00:00:50	Elliott	Host	The name was <i>Happy Halloween, Scooby Doo.</i> I'm Elliott Kalan.
			This is actually November. This episode. Yeah, yeah.
00:00:55	Stuart	Host	Oh, okay. And joining us this time is... podcaster... author... YouTuber, journalist—
00:01:04	Justin	Guest	Woodworker! Voice actor!
00:01:06	Stuart	Host	Number one Sheetz customer! Justin McElroy!
			<i>[Dan laughs.]</i>
00:01:11	Justin	Guest	What an honor. I am such a fan of you guys. You guys have got me through some real tough spells of mental health. Just turning through your shows. I can't believe I'm here. Can't believe I made it. Looks like I finally made it. Here I am.
			<i>[All laugh.]</i>
00:01:27	Elliott	Host	<i>[Singing]</i> Looks like you made it! Look how far you've come on faith!
00:01:31	Dan	Host	<i>[Through laughter]</i> I like you pretending that you're not doing a favor for us.
00:01:35	Justin	Guest	No, that was a joke. I love this show.
00:01:37	Dan	Host	Oh, okay.
00:01:38	Elliott	Host	No, this is a bit Dan does where he offends the guest immediately.
00:01:42	Stuart	Host	Mm-hm. He's like, "Why do you like the show, idiot?"
			<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>
00:01:46	Justin	Guest	I'm not offended. It's a great—
00:01:49	Elliott	Host	"Hey, dickface! Why do you like our show so much, stupid!"
00:01:51	Dan	Host	I know he likes the show. I just—it is very nice of him to come.
00:01:54	Justin	Guest	You can enjoy a favor. Like, if you help a friend move but all their furniture's really squishy and fun?
			<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>
			It turns out, like, "Oh, I'm actually enjoying this! This is not heavy, and it's fun to play with!"
00:02:08	Stuart	Host	That's usually what I ask my friends when I agree to help 'em move. Is the squishiness of their furniture.
			<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>
00:02:12	Elliott	Host	I have two questions. I say, one, is the furniture squishy? And two, is it just soft or is it moist? 'Cause I'd rather not carry the moist stuff. Oh!
00:02:19	Justin	Guest	It's gummy. And edible. Like in Willy Wonka's factory.
00:02:22	Elliott	Host	So my hands are gonna be really sticky at the end of it. Oh, Willy Wonka's friends must've hated so much when they had to help him

move! And they're like, "Just use the Oompa Loompas!" And he's like, "They're not slaves! They work for me! I can't just use 'em for my personal moving!"

00:02:34 Stuart Host Yeah. And he's like, "Why are you moving out in August of all months?"

00:02:38 Elliott Host "All your candy furniture's gonna melt in the truck! Why are you moving now?" *[Laughs.]*

00:02:41 Dan Host Well this does bring up a key problem with the factory. Is that that room that's all just candy must just, y'know, attract a tremendous amount of lint. Like, small dead insects—or live insects stuck to the candy.

00:02:58 Justin Guest Yeah. He doesn't brace Charlie for—"And did you ever hear what happened to the man who got everything he ever wanted?" "What?" "For six months he was really worked up about flies. Six month of the year, it's just flies, flies, flies, flies, flies. It is a big problem. You will not enjoy that time. Close it up. Go to Aruba. You will not like that time period."

00:03:18 Elliott Host And he goes, "Charlie, I know what you're thinking. You just package that candy with flies on it and call it Wonka Bar Bug 'Ems. It does not work. I tried it. Nobody wanted Bug 'Ems, the candy with real bugs attached to it. It just didn't work."

00:03:30 Justin Guest Don't you think the Willy Wonka company missed a trick by not selling chocolate bars called "A Li'l Bit of Augustus"? There's just a little bit of Augustus Gloop in every one!

[Multiple people laugh.]

00:03:42 Elliott Host Just a little bit of particulate.

00:03:44 Justin Guest Just call 'em Gloopies. Yeah. *[Laughs.]*

00:03:46 Dan Host Gloopies!

I mean, you gotta believe that he's well-marbled and delicious.

[Justin laughs.]

00:03:49 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** That's a very—

Dan: But anyway.

00:03:52 Dan Host **Stuart:** We're really showing our Western privilege—
In that we're making fun of the fact that people could be eating chocolate bars with insects or Augustus Gloops in them. And I think that's pretty fucked up.

[Multiple people laugh.]

00:04:02 Justin Guest In many parts of the world, Augustus Gloop is a primary source of protein. And I think we need to respect that.

[Multiple people laugh.]

00:04:07 Dan Host Okay. Well— *[Laughs.]* Let me explain the premise of this show to anyone checking in for the first time and thinking, "Oh, my favorite is Justin." You'll be disappointed next time. But—

00:04:18 Justin Guest Maybe!

00:04:20 Dan Host This is a show—

[Multiple people laugh.]

00:04:21 Stuart Host We could leave the door open.

00:04:23	Dan	Host	This is a— <i>[Laughs.]</i> This is a show where we watch a bad movie and then talk about it. That's our MO. But Justin—who knows what he thinks of this movie. He picked it. Now, Justin, I wanted to ask before we got into talking about the movie—what was it about this film that made you want to talk about it with us?
00:04:42	Stuart	Host	Yeah. When I texted Justin I was like, "Yeah, you can pick any movie in the world." And even before I was done sending the text message I got the response, " <i>Happy Halloween, Scooby Doo.</i> "
00:04:52	Justin	Guest	<i>[Dan laughs.]</i> Well... <i>[long pause.]</i>
00:04:55	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<i>[Dan laughs.]</i> Elliott: That was a long pause. Justin: I was watching it at the time that you texted me. Dan: Okay.
00:04:58	Justin	Guest	<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i> I was watching it at the time you texted me. <i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i> But! But. It was the third time I'd watched it with my children and my rationale was this—one, I thought I'd try to do Elliott a solid and have a movie that he <i>[through laughter]</i> could watch with his children.
00:05:15	Elliott	Host	Oh, thank you. I appreciate that.
00:05:17	Justin	Guest	Yeah. Secondly—and I hope that the logic of this has been borne out now that you guys have watched it and it wasn't just a sort of one-off, 'cause I watched it again today. It's a bizarre flick.
00:05:29	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Dan: It is very strange.
00:05:30	Justin	Guest	Stuart: <i>[Through laughter]</i> Yep. Almost every choice in this movie is <u>so</u> strange. <i>[Dan laughs.]</i> And it almost starts to feel like... y'know those—that one very funny Twitter writer who was doing the AI, like, an AI generated script for—
00:05:50	Elliott	Host	Yeah, yeah.
00:05:51	Justin	Guest	—an Olive Garden commercial? It feels like someone put every <i>Scooby Doo</i> into a machine and then let the machine generate a script for a <i>Scooby Doo</i> movie.
00:06:03	Stuart	Host	Yeah. Like it was trained to—
00:06:04	Justin	Guest	That's underselling it a bit, 'cause I think it's also very—it's surprisingly effective in what it attempts to do. But what it attempts to do is weirdly ambitious? <i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i> I feel <i>[through laughter]</i> for a movie of this stripe? You don't expect <i>Happy Halloween, Scooby Doo</i> to be a message movie, but it definitely, definitely is.

00:06:22	Elliott	Host	And there's a surprising amount of worldbuilding in this <i>Happy Halloween, Scooby Doo</i> movie.
00:06:25	Justin	Guest	Yes! Right? <i>[Laughs.]</i> And world... borrowing?
00:06:29	Elliott	Host	Yes. And crossover building. Now Dan—
00:06:32	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Dan: And it's also kind of a <i>Mad Max: Fury Road</i> which you don't expect from Scooby Doo.
			Justin: Yeah!
			Stuart: Kind of.
			Elliott: Yeah. Yeah.
00:06:37	Elliott	Host	Yeah. I didn't expect <i>Road Game: Scooby Doo</i> . Which it kind of becomes.
00:06:41	Stuart	Host	And speaking of worldbuilding, we are introduced right away to Crystal Cove, a—
00:06:48	Elliott	Host	Wait, Stuart, actually—I hate to interrupt. I just want to say, it is fitting that we watched this Halloween movie in November.
00:06:52	Stuart	Host	Okay. Why?
00:06:54	Elliott	Host	In honor of Joe Ruby and Ken Spears, the creators of Scooby Doo, who both died this year. Ken Spears just died about a week and a half ago, so it is in his honor that we are now going to—I guess—tear apart this movie that used his characters. He didn't write it, but y'know.
00:07:08	Dan	Host	Justin is making a face—
00:07:09	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Dan: —at the idea that we're gonna tear this apart.
			Justin: You guys tear it apart all you want.
00:07:11	Justin	Guest	I'll be there picking up the pieces and carrying them on my shoulders back over to the—wherever we're carrying it from.
00:07:16	Elliott	Host	When <i>Happy Halloween, Scooby Doo</i> saw just one set of footprints, that was you <i>[through laughter]</i> carrying it.
			<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>
00:07:21	Stuart	Host	Yep. So the movie opens up in Crystal Cove, a town built on a large natural crystal deposit, as we'll learn later. It's Halloween. There's a Halloween parade and Elvira is the—
			<i>[Dan laughs.]</i>
			—is on the main float.
00:07:36	Justin	Guest	You make it ten seconds in before you are to one of the wilder picks in the movie. Y'all? This is a children's movie! None of them know who Elvira is. Not a single child—
00:07:47	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Justin: —will know who Elvira is. They're going to think it is a Scooby Doo character.
			Elliott: It's bizarre. It's bizarre—
00:07:52	Elliott	Host	—that when I was a kid, I knew who Elvira was, since her main thing was being like—making death jokes and having boobs. And yet somehow this was a character I was aware of as a kid! But no kid now is gonna know who Elvira, the Mistress of the Night, is.
00:08:04	Dan	Host	And because this is a—I assume because this is a movie for children they largely take away the boobs. So— <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:08:11	Justin	Guest	So just write that down in the notes.
00:08:13	Stuart	Host	Yeah. Dan's made that they de-sexified Elvira. And Bill Nye.

00:08:16	Dan	Host	Well that's what—
00:08:17	Justin	Guest	Dan didn't think Elvira's boobs were big enough.
00:08:21	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Justin: <i>[Inaudible.]</i>
00:08:23	Elliott	Host	Elliott: That's his big note to Warner's on this one. "Warner's animation, I have one general note. This is a world note, just for the whole movie: Elvira is known for her cleavage and yet—"
<i>[Dan laughs.]</i>			
Within that note comes a secondary note. "In the scene where Daphne and Elvira switch clothes, we don't see that process taking place?"			
<i>[Stuart laughs.]</i>			
"That seems like a wasted opportunity. For me, deviant art scholar, Dan McCoy."			
00:08:45	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Justin: That's gonna hurt our international box office for sure.
00:08:49	Dan	Host	Dan: I'm just—in—in your own words, Elliott— —that is one of Elvira's main things. That has been removed. I'm not saying it should be in the movie, but even in <u>her</u> movie, which—the name—I've forgotten.
00:08:59	Stuart	Host	<i>Elvira, Mistress of the Dark?</i>
00:09:00	Justin	Guest	<i>Mistress of the Dark.</i>
00:09:01	Dan	Host	<i>Elvira, Mistress of the Dark.</i>
<i>[Elliott laughs.]</i>			
00:09:03	Elliott	Host	The—
00:09:06	Dan	Host	How could Dan remember that name for the movie? <i>[Laughs.]</i> She wins over many of the townspeople by doing a burlesque routine where her boobs spin her tassels around. Elvira knows that that is a key component to her whole thing. And yeah. It is just wild that <i>[through laughter]</i> she's in the movie.
00:09:20	Justin	Guest	Wild. It's wild.
00:09:21	Stuart	Host	Yeah. She's great. So she's the grand marshal and she's on the main float. The Scooby Doo gang—what, Mystery Inc. in their name?
00:09:28	Elliott	Host	Mm-hm. Yeah.
00:09:29	Stuart	Host	Are already undercover in costume, which is interesting for later. Trying to, y'know, they think there's gonna be a monster attack or they're trying to prove monsters aren't real. Just about then the Bahn Mi shop explodes—
<i>[Dan laughs.]</i>			
—and a hobgoblin pumpkin-headed character comes flying out and starts throwing pumpkin bombs and stuff.			
00:09:48	Elliott	Host	And I know what you're thinking. You're like, "Wait a minute. Is Scooby Doo crossing over with Marvel comics and their Jack O'Lantern villain?" No, wrong comics universe, friends! As you're about to find out.
00:09:58	Dan	Host	Or—I mean—doesn't the Green Goblin throw pumpkin bombs?
00:10:01	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Stuart: He does, yeah.

00:10:04	Elliott	Host	Elliott: Yeah, but he doesn't have a jack-o'-lantern on his head. But Jack O'Lantern uses a lot of Green Goblin's old stuff. Green Goblin left a lot of his weapons all over New York because—one—he's a pack rat. And two, just in case—I guess—he was in the Nabe and he needed to switch costumes and so Hobgoblin, Jack O'Lantern, Demogoblin—they're all always borrowing Green Goblin's old stuff. Y'know.
00:10:21	Dan	Host	Okay. Well—
00:10:21	Justin	Guest	That's—it's Scarecrow.
00:10:23	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Dan: Yeah. It's Scarecrow in Gotham City.
			Elliott: <i>[Through laughter]</i> It's Scarecrow.
			Stuart: After—
			Justin: It's Scarecrow.
00:10:27	Justin	Guest	And you watch that and you think—when I first watched this, I thought, “Oh, this is a Batman crossover? Nope!”
			<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>
			“It's just Scarecrow!”
00:10:35	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Stuart: Just Scarecrow. He's branching out. Y'know.
			Dan: I watched this with—
00:10:39	Stuart	Host	He's like, “I don't just wanna be a Batman guy. I wanna be a little bit of everything.”
00:10:41	Dan	Host	90% of the time I'm watching the movie with Audrey and 90% of the time she loses interest almost immediately. But she was on the edge of her seat for this one 'cause she's a big Scooby Doo fan from way back. She actually convinced me to watch <i>Scoob!</i> a while back. But—
00:10:57	Justin	Guest	Sorry.
			<i>[Elliott laughs.]</i>
00:10:58	Dan	Host	She said, “Oh, it's the Scarecrow!” And I thought she was just joking for a while. 'Cause I missed the fact that—they're like, “Oh, from Gotham!” But no. It's actually—it's—
00:11:06	Elliott	Host	Actually Dr. Crane. Not Frasier Crane, but what if—wait a minute! Hold on. What if Frasier Crane was the Scarecrow's brother? Hold on a second! There's a third Crane brother. He's not in Seattle. He's in Gotham. And he's the Scarecrow. I gotta see it happen. Okay.
00:11:21	Stuart	Host	So he's about to attack 'em with a bunch of drones, and then Fred uses a phone app that is not a trap to turn 'em off and then they shoot 'em with a crossbow. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:11:31	Elliott	Host	Now here's the thing I like about this right off the bat. Is now I have to assume that Batman and Scooby Doo coexist in the same universe. Which I love, because I've been having some real issues with Batman lately as I come to realize that he is, essentially, a character who uses violence to solve a mental illness problem? And that his entire series is a long-running argument against empathy for anyone who commits a crime and in favor of just throwing 'em into an easily-escapable asylum? But here—if Scooby Doo exists in that world? Then all bets are off. You know what? Maybe Batman's the right way to handle it 'cause this world is nuts.

[All laugh.]

00:12:15 Stuart Host If there's just a talking dog who's also a pothead who solves mysteries with some teens who don't have families? Then like, okay, sure. Maybe Batman makes sense.
So there's a couple of turnarounds. It looks like Scarecrow's dead man's switch is gonna launch a huge new batch o' drones and then Shaggy picks up Scooby and uses him like an anti-aircraft gun—

[Dan laughs.]

00:12:32 Dan Host —and he spits candy that is still fully-wrapped out of his mouth and shoots down all of the drones.
Yeah. They were terrified. They locked the doors to the Mystery Van, not allowing their teammates to get back in. And yeah. They've just been swallowing a bunch of fully-wrapped candy for the credit sequence.

00:12:45 Stuart Host It's easier to animate.

00:12:46 Dan Host Yeah.

00:12:47 Elliott Host *[Laughs.]* Yes. Yeah. Now here's a—I wanted to bring up—so as always with Scooby Doo, it looks like it's a supernatural thing. It's some guy with pumpkin powers. No, it's just drones and stuff. Were you guys as kids ever as disappointed as I was that every episode of Scooby Doo ended with the reassuring message that monsters and ghosts don't exist, and it's just old men who don't want people to go to their amusement parks for some reason?

[Justin laughs.]

00:13:10 Dan Host Well, it is my—I mean, *Scoob!* breaks with that tradition. There is actual, like, supernatural stuff going on. And it's my understanding that some of the more recent Scooby Doo versions have had actual supernatural stuff going on.

00:13:22 Elliott Host Oh, okay. I'm not fully up on Scooby Doo's modern continuity—

[Dan laughs.]

00:13:31 Dan Host —which is why one of the characters in this really threw me off when it turns out he was a continuing character.
I mean, I understand—Scooby Doo in general—I understand having affection for it in the way that I understand having affection for any old garbage from your childhood? *[Laughs.]*

[Elliott laughs.]

00:13:57 Elliott Host But let's stipulate that the original cartoons were not very good. I mean, they've done—I think they have done some better versions of it over the years, so I hear. But I don't—it is wild to some degree that this is—Scooby Doo has been in syndication from the 1980s. They're they've done so many different versions.
He's the longest-running television cartoon character that there is. His show's been on the air in some form or another basically—with few breaks since the early '70s? Late '60s? And like... considering his main—when I think about him, his main thing that I can think of is like this kind of shit brown color palette that is—

00:14:17	Dan	Host	Oh, wow.
00:14:18	Elliott	Host	—hideously unappealing. There's no—there's nothing visually appealing about the show. And also that every episode ends with them being like, "Uh oh! A monster! Psych! Kids, there's no magic in the world. It's just an old man in a mask."
			<i>[Dan laughs.]</i>
			But this one really turned around for me, partly because it's a very colorful show. Yeah.
00:14:35	Dan	Host	Yeah. It is a much prettier-looking version.
00:14:38	Stuart	Host	I was actually going to say, I feel like the animation was a little bit herky-jerky and not particularly appealing to <u>me</u> , but then I don't watch a lot of animation for kids. How about you daddies out there?
00:14:50	Justin	Guest	It—I would say middle of the pack. It's serviceable. It's certainly better than a lot of the animation you see on television is a lot fewer frames of—much less animation. Per square inch. <i>[Laughs.]</i> Of that.
			<i>[Dan laughs.]</i>
00:15:04	Dan	Host	I would say that—for me, the limited cell animation was—the animation itself was not good, but I liked the brightness of the designs.
00:15:12	Stuart	Host	Okay. So they save the day. They start to celebrate. They—the cops show up to take Scarecrow away. Velma has some verbal sparring with the Scarecrow and he gives 'em a mysterious threat. Daphne uses a whole bunch of outdated slang and I feel like she's drunk on white wine spritzers.
			<i>[Justin laughs.]</i>
			Let's see...
00:15:36	Elliott	Host	I found that whole sequence surprisingly funny but at the same time I was like, "Who is Daphne supposed to be here? What is her personality?"
00:15:42	Justin	Guest	Daphne is—here's what I like about this—what I really like—other than the fact—well, I'll talk about a lot of things I like. One of the things I enjoy about this film is that I feel like one of the things that has put me off of Scooby Doo to this point is I feel like Scooby Doo has been meta at this point longer than it has been Scooby Doo, right? Almost all of our Scooby Doo media is a running gag about how—y'know, like a <i>Brady Bunch</i> movie-style, like, sort of... it's usually riding this line between parody and earnestness. And I feel like this movie really doesn't... lean as hard—it's funny of its own... creation. Right? What it does is it makes choices for each of these characters that is not necessarily referencing Scooby Doo from 40 years ago, but is rather, like, it's making choices that let them be funny. So in this one, Daphne is very strange. I mean, Daphne is the oddball of the group. And Fred is funny not because he's referencing what a—y'know—lovable... doofus—
00:16:50	Dan	Host	Lunkhead?
00:16:51	Justin	Guest	Yeah. But like... he's funny for other reasons. Because he is his own character that is not a meta-commentary on Fred of yore.
			<i>[Elliott laughs.]</i>
00:16:59	Elliott	Host	Ye olde Fred.

00:17:01	Dan	Host	Yeah. I agree that—when we were watching this, we’re like, “Oh, Daphne gets to be funny in this!” ‘Cause usually, Daphne, I think, is the biggest blank in it. They’re just like, “Okay.” Well she and Fred both. They’re just like, “Okay, these are like our pretty leaders, but I don’t really know who they are.”
00:17:18	Stuart	Host	Yeah. And she’s—what—effective? She has skills and is the physical one. I guess Fred, too, can make traps and use apps. Um—so they—
00:17:28	Elliott	Host	That was the thing. Fred kept talking about traps and I was like, “Was that always his thing? Did I forget that Fred’s thing was traps? ‘Cause I thought his thing was just being like the guy who could walk into a normal, like, establishment situation and have like some kind of face that is trusted as opposed to Shaggy, who is clearly a dropout from society. I thought Fred was just kinda like the guy who would go in to be like, ‘They can trust me. I’m wearing an ascot. It’s okay.’”
00:17:54	Dan	Host	No, it is definitely one of those things where it’s like a <i>Back to the Future II</i> situation, where it’s like—wait, was Marty’s thing before that he doesn’t like being called a chicken? ‘Cause I don’t remember that!
00:18:04	Justin	Guest	<i>[All laugh.]</i> Now he had—Fred has one of the best—one of my favorite Fred lines. Is he says, “I wanna do what I do best—I’m gonna do traps.”
00:18:15	Stuart	Host	<i>[All laugh.]</i> So they decide to celebrate by going trick-or-treating. They talk about how they don’t have costumes, which is weird ‘cause Fred is wearing like a half-skeleton costume the whole movie.
00:18:23	Elliott	Host	<i>[Dan laughs.]</i> I mean, he’s wearing the costume from <i>Karate Kid</i> that those kids were wearing on Halloween. He could just wear that skeleton costume.
00:18:29	Stuart	Host	Yep. So Shaggy and Scooby, of course, chew mouthfuls of candy and then spit it all over themselves and cover themselves with extra candy and become spilled Halloween candy is their costume. It’s wild.
			<i>[Dan laughs.]</i>
00:18:47	Elliott	Host	And then they have a trick-or-treating and dancing montage? To an original song, I’m assuming, created for this movie. There’s a few times in the movie where I think it’s about to become a musical and then it doesn’t quite. Become a musical. Like, the faint at it and the characters sing a little bit and then it just kinda goes away. And you’re like, “Oh, okay. Kinda thought you’d do a whole number here, but I guess not.”
00:19:03	Stuart	Host	So they then find a wrecked drone and a wrecked toxic waste truck and the two things combine to smear their juice all over a local pumpkin patch, which turns—
			<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i> —the pumpkins into monsters, which are heretofore known as Jackal-Lanterns.

00:19:17	Elliott	Host	Now why do you think they call them “Jackal-Lanterns”? They’re not scavengers. Y’know. Like jackal—they don’t have anything like jackals, basically.
00:19:25	Stuart	Host	I think it sounds like jack-o’-lantern, Elliott.
00:19:27	Elliott	Host	Oohhhh.
			<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>
00:19:30	Stuart	Host	Oh, okay. Behavior-wise, they’re a lot kind of like critters that are also zombies. And they can fly and drive custom hotrods.
00:19:35	Elliott	Host	And they laugh. They’ve got a very Gremlin-y laugh. Although I guess it’s a critters-y laugh, too. But unlike Ghoulies, they don’t get ya in the end.
00:19:44	Stuart	Host	Well, actually, they kinda do later on. But—
00:19:47	Dan	Host	That’s true.
00:19:48	Elliott	Host	And are they like Munchies? I don’t really remember what the Munchies used to do.
00:19:52	Dan	Host	Well they look up women’s dresses based on the VHS post— <i>[inaudible]</i> .
00:19:58	Elliott	Host	And what about Trancers? Were Trancers like this?
00:20:00	Stuart	Host	Oh man. Trancers are completely different. Involves jumping to different dimensions. Jack Death is involved. It’s great. So the rest of the gang meets—
00:20:09	Elliott	Host	And what about Bad News Bears? Are those— <i>[Laughs.]</i> Are those little creatures?
00:20:13	Dan	Host	They’re just kind of... racists in that 1970s way.
00:20:15	Elliott	Host	Oh, okay. Okay. Got it. And what about Little Big Leagues? Is that— <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:20:19	Dan	Host	Oh, god. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:20:21	Stuart	Host	Uh... so while Shaggy and Scooby are watching the Jackal-Lanterns origin story, the rest of the team meets the local sheriff, who threatens them and then takes away the Scarecrow. Obviously burn case for defund. They meet locals—
00:20:39	Elliott	Host	Wait, Stuart. He—I mean, if any criminal seems to be an imminent danger that should be locked up at the moment, it seems to be the Scarecrow.
00:20:46	Stuart	Host	Yeah. I mean, I’m not talking about the way they’re handling the Scarecrow. I’m just talking about the general sheriff’s overreach in his ways interacting with these helpful teenagers.
00:20:56	Elliott	Host	Oh, okay. Okay. Fair. Fair.
00:20:58	Stuart	Host	So we meet a local father and daughter team, Mike and Michelle. Mike thanks them for—
00:21:04	Elliott	Host	Also known as a family. Father-daughter team?
			<i>[All laugh.]</i>
00:21:08	Stuart	Host	They thank them for saving the town and offer “to buy y’all a caramel corn later on.” Well, we’ll see if that ever happens.
			<i>[All laugh.]</i>
00:21:20	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	The gang— Elliott: So you’re positing that that’s sort of a Chekhov’s caramel corn purchase offer.
			Dan: Foreshadowing. <i>[Laughs.]</i>

00:21:24	Elliott	Host	Where if you promise the purchase of a caramel corn in act one, by act three we better see that caramel corn get purchased.
00:21:30	Stuart	Host	Shaggy and Scooby show up. They try and warn the local reporters, who are very excited about the saving of the town, that the town is in fact not saved. That there are a bunch of Jackal-Lanterns on their way. Nobody believes them 'cause they're covered in candy and there's an owl stuck on his butt.
			<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>
			Daphne then sings an original song that is very kind of stream-of-consciousness Elliott Kalan quality. While cleaning Shaggy and Scooby.
00:21:51	Elliott	Host	<i>[Dan laughs.]</i> I had—let me read to you from my notes. Let me read to you from my notes. “Daphne sings a real Elliott-style song.” I wrote—
			<i>[Stuart laughs.]</i>
00:22:00	Stuart	Host	So I appreciated that part.
00:22:01	Elliott	Host	Yeah. That was great.
00:22:04	Stuart	Host	I felt seen by <i>Happy Halloween, Scooby Doo</i> . <i>[Laughs.]</i> Uh-huh. Now we have our next celebrity cameo—Bill Nye shows up and he organizes—
			<i>[Dan laughs.]</i>
00:22:15	Dan	Host	—an air-drop for the team to receive a new fancy Mystery Machine. Mystery Machine X. Now again—again, I think this is a strange thing. Because at one point—
00:22:18	Justin	Guest	Huh.
00:22:20	Dan	Host	Bill Nye was sort of a figure for children. But at this point in history, I think he's mostly known for appearing on CNN, sort of throwing his hands up at the fact that no one believes in science anymore.
00:22:31	Justin	Guest	But that is—what is fascinating about it is that that is what—if this movie is about <u>anything</u> , that is what this movie is about. Is it about Velma struggling with the limits of science and belief and where those two intertwine. And the overlap of fear and science and belief.
00:22:51	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Stuart: Yeah. And that's why Bill Nye is the perfect—
00:22:55	Stuart	Host	Justin: If this movie is about anything, it's about that. —perfect guy. I wish they didn't de-sexify him so much, because, y'know.
			<i>[Dan laughs.]</i>
00:23:01	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Fine. Stuart: Fine. It's a kid's movie. I get it. I guess you do, yeah. But I mean I feel like he could've been sexier.
00:23:09	Stuart	Host	Elliott: You do see him as a sexy cat at one point. He is a sexy cat at one point, yeah. The sexiest animal. So the new Mystery Machine is like a cool automated... like, robo-car that has arms at times—

00:23:17	Elliott	Host	Stuart, wait. So your issue with their handling of Bill Nye is similar to Dan's issue with their handling of Elvira. The character who is just radiating sexuality and is known for that has been neutered for a child audience. Okay.
00:23:27	Justin	Guest	Bill Nye largely appears in the movie as the—a hologram?
<i>[Dan laughs.]</i>			
			In their car? And you think it's a Bill Nye AI, but it's not that because he's interrupted by trick-or-treaters. One of whom is dressed like Aquaman, who he then complains about the unbelievability of the Aquaman character. But he's—it's real! It's real Bill Nye! So Bill Nye's just sitting there as a hologram in the van. There's no call for it.
00:23:56	Elliott	Host	He's just Twitch livestreaming direct to their van via hologram, and—here's the thing. We live in a world where—now in this show where Scarecrow is real, meaning Batman is real. Aquaman? Bill Nye has a lot of issues with how Aquaman could exist, which implies either, one, Aquaman is not real in this strange DC/Hanna-Barbera hybrid, or two, Bill Nye is always writing letters to the local newspaper saying "Aquaman is a hoax and I can prove it. The science doesn't make sense. Here's my seven-minute YouTube video on how Aquaman's not real. Fake news. Fake news. Aquaman." And I just don't wanna believe that Bill Nye is harassing Aquaman that way.
00:24:32	Dan	Host	I also think that Justin brings up a good point, which is—the fact that he is not an AI and that he's built this for the Mystery, Inc. teens—like, is he committing himself to <u>always</u> sitting there in that chair, helping them and being like their kid, y'know?
00:24:50	Justin	Guest	It's a good question.
00:24:51	Stuart	Host	I mean, y'know, it depends. Like... there's times in our lives where we just kinda wanna hang out and really enjoy our long-distance connections as opposed to the people that are nearest that maybe know us too well. That sometimes it's better to work on a relationship where there's a little bit of extra distance.
00:25:07	Dan	Host	With a bunch of teens in a van. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:25:10	Stuart	Host	Yeah. I mean, that's totally normal. Right?
00:25:13	Elliott	Host	I mean, would it be weird—it would be weirder if Bill Nye was just roaming the country with a bunch of teens in a van solving mysteries, right? Like, that would be more questionable.
00:25:19	Dan	Host	Maybe that's it. He's like—he knows that there needs to be distance if he wants to help 'em out.
00:25:24	Elliott	Host	Well and he—and also he and Daphne used to date—
00:25:26	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Elliott: —and he knows it would be weird if you don't have— <i>[Laughs.]</i>
			Dan: Okay. Well now we're getting into a weird area. Let's just— <i>[Laughs.]</i> Moving on.
00:25:30	Stuart	Host	So Scooby and Shaggy get tired of hitting at Jackal-Lanterns, so Shaggy sits on it. And then it turns into a monster pumpkin and bites him on the butt and he says, "Look, I've got a pumpkin butt."
<i>[Dan laughs.]</i>			

That was cool. The reporters and various people are being attacked by the Jackal-Lanterns. A Jewish-coded reporter gets eaten by a

giant Jackal-Lantern and then gets turned into a Jackal-Lantern? Uh, the ground starts to be torn apart—riven by earthquakes. Shaggy and Scooby jump into a station wagon with Mike and Michelle. Daphne manages to convince Elvira to take her on as a protégé—

[Dan laughs.]

—and Fred and Velma drive away in the new Mystery Machine X! And now it's a driving movie.

00:26:13 Dan Host
00:26:15 Justin Guest

Yeah.
For, like, the rest of it.

[All laugh.]

00:26:16 Elliott Host
00:26:19 Justin Guest

For a long time.
You keep remembering, like, wait—this car chase is still going on! It is the *Fury Road* of Scooby Doo movies. It's wild.

00:26:25 Dan Host

They have whole conversations with one another from *[through laughter]* one vehicle to another.

[Multiple people laugh.]

00:26:30 Crosstalk Crosstalk

Dan: I honestly, like—no, I just—

00:26:34 Dan Host

Justin: Speaking of conversation—go ahead, Dan.
The beginning of the movie zipped along a lot more for me, honestly, than this long car chase? 'Cause at a certain point—
Ironically.

00:26:40 Justin Guest
00:26:41 Elliott Host

Oh, you mean the 45 minutes of them driving didn't zip along the way you expected it would? *[Laughs.]*

00:26:46 Dan Host

At a certain point I'm like, "Get out of the car, guys."

[Elliott laughs.]

00:26:48 Justin Guest

Yeah. It's like they didn't write any more movie *[through laughter]* so they're all driving very slowly to the end of the movie.

[Multiple people laugh.]

00:26:56 Elliott Host

There's part of me that imagined them just—the movie ended with them driving off into the sunset, forever chased by these Jackal-Lanterns. Never getting out of their cars. *[Laughs.]*

00:27:05 Stuart Host

Yeah. It's funny you should mention that, 'cause the Jackal-Lanterns are hot on their tail with their own custom hotrods that I think are built out of the parade floats? I can't quite tell.

00:27:13 Crosstalk Crosstalk

Justin: Yes. They look like that.

00:27:15 Elliott Host

Elliott: Yeah. Yeah.
It's a real *Monster Garage: Special Edition*. Where they just like took—they're like, "Take these floats and turn 'em into cool monster trucks!" And they're like, "Yeah, we can do that!" *[Imitates sound of electric saw.]* "The customer was a bunch of Jackal-Lanterns, but we decided we were still gonna do as good a job as we can. Hey—we need this part." "Well, oh, it's—we have to get that from Japan. Jackal-Lanterns, this is gonna take awhile?" "Uh, but we are kinda chasing these teens." "Okay. We'll do as best as we can." "We don't have a lot of time." So the Monster Garage guys had to get on it!

00:27:43 Dan Host

[Imitates electric saw.] Those are the tools.
Y'know— *[Laughs.]*

[Multiple people laugh.]

00:27:48 Elliott Host Elliott, this shows a greater familiar with *Monster Garage* that I would've expected out of you. I used to watch a lot of *Monster Garage*. *Monster House*? I was never as much into. Because there's something about having a crazy themed car that I can understand. But when you theme your house around something? It really—like, you're not gonna wanna live inside of a dinosaur cave every day. And that's coming from me, a guy who wishes he could live in a dinosaur cave, like, three days out of the week?

[Dan laughs.]

00:28:24 Justin Guest But there was a *Monster House* where it's like, "The baby's coming, and we decided to make his room underwater themed." So there are sharks everywhere and fish? And I was like, "Ooh, I hope this kid likes underwater stuff 'cause this is gonna be a bad room if he doesn't like it." I did that with my daughter. My first daughter. We made her room space themed. And almost as soon as she could talk, she informed me how much she hated the space theme of her room.

00:28:37 Elliott Host [Multiple people laugh.]

00:28:38 Justin Guest [Through laughter] Oh no! And how much she wished it was princesses. And so I had to have this sad montage of me like taking the rocket ships down off the wall and piling them on my arms. And the stupid Doctor Who clock just piled on top.

[Elliott laughs.]

The starry curtains straight in the trash.

00:28:58 Stuart Host [Multiple people laugh.]

00:29:02 Justin Guest With a little scraper, like, scraping the stars off the ceiling. Yeah. Uh, wow. I did exactly that. Um—can we take a brief diversion to just check in on Matthew Lillard real quick?

[Multiple people laugh.]

I wanna talk about Matthew Lillard and this is celebratory. I am not ragging on him whatsoever because I'm envious in a way. 2002—Matthew Lillard plays the role of Shaggy Rogers in the movie *Scooby Doo*. And then Matthew Lillard's like, "You know what? This is good for me."

[Dan laughs.]

00:29:37 Dan Host "I'm just gonna stay here if that's alright. And everybody can go about their business. I'm just [through laughter] gonna chill here." [Through laughter] Except for appearing in *Twin Peaks: The Return* briefly. [Laughs.]

00:29:40 Justin Guest Yeah. I'm gonna dip in on David Lynch's return to television and then I'm just gonna keep—

00:29:43	Stuart	Host	And <i>Good Girls</i> .
00:29:44	Justin	Guest	He's done other stuff. Yeah. He's done other stuff but the fact that he just like—even the last movie had Will Forte as Shaggy and they were like, "Certainly Matthew's not gonna come back after that." He's like, "No, it's fine. I'll just come right back. It's really not a big deal."
00:29:59	Dan	Host	Well and there was like a big—like, well not "big." But big for Scooby Doo. Internet controversy where they're all like—everyone's like, "Why are they giving Will Forte—Matthew Lillard has been playing this part since 2002!"
00:30:09	Justin	Guest	He has been putting in the work! I mean, he's great. And like Kate Micucci is so—she's so good as Velma, it's weird that she hasn't always been Velma. It's like it's that—that sort of perfect. But I just think it's fascinating. Matthew Lillard's like, "Nah, this is good. I'll just keep doing it. It's pretty easy and I get money for it and it's fun to keep being this guy." And I don't think we have a lot of—unless you want to look at like... a Bret Iwan or one of the Mickey lineage. Like, you don't have this level of... interconnectedness between a character and a voice actor that goes on for, y'know, years and years and years and years and years. It's wild.
00:30:53	Elliott	Host	That's—it's always—whenever they would have like a guest star on the Simpsons and that character would become a fairly regular recurring character? I always imagine—think it's weird that Joe Mantegna still goes in and they're like, "Yeah, yeah. Fat Tony's in this episode. Can you come in, record three lines?" "Yeah, sure, okay. Yeah, why not? Okay."
00:31:11	Justin	Guest	No problem.
00:31:13	Elliott	Host	But I always thought it was weird that—
00:31:16	Stuart	Host	Who did Shaggy before Matthew Lillard?
00:31:19	Elliott	Host	Casey Kasem.
00:31:20	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Elliott: Did Shaggy for most of it.
00:31:23	Elliott	Host	Stuart: Casey Kasem. Okay. Yeah, yeah, yeah. Of course. And I always thought it was weird that Casey Kasem had his own big career, but he was still for years the same thing—coming in and doing Shaggy and stuff. It's like—
00:31:29	Justin	Guest	Is it just maybe really great to be Shaggy? It's like so—what a joyful connection.
00:31:37	Stuart	Host	This might be a crazy question, but why wasn't Casey Kasem in the live-action movie as Shaggy?
00:31:42	Elliott	Host	Uh, well—
			<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>
			I mean, one, by that point, he was either a very old man or dead. I can't remember which.
			<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>
00:31:50	Justin	Guest	The "live" part. "Live" would've been challenging for Casey Kasem.
00:31:54	Elliott	Host	Yeah. Let's take a look at Casey Kasem and see—
			<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>
			—how alive he was when that movie came out. Let's see.
00:32:00	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Elliott: Oh, he was alive! He was alive. Okay. Okay. Uh, he—

00:32:05	Dan	Host	Stuart: I don't think it's fair for you to judge me. I think it's a totally normal question to ask. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:32:09	Elliott	Host	Well you did ask if it was crazy ahead of time. So that—
			That's true. So he voiced Norville "Shaggy" Rogers from 1969 to 1997. Then again from 2002 to 2009, it says. So in 2002 he was 70 years old? So it might've been a little strange if it was like these young people playing the rest of the characters and then a 70-year-old man in a—
00:32:28	Stuart	Host	Yeah. It's like N-15.
00:32:29	Elliott	Host	And if anything, what's weird about it is that Shaggy is so clearly a takeoff of Maynard G. Krebs from the <i>Dobie Gillis</i> show, 'cause they're basically the Dobie Gillis characters—why didn't they just get Bob Denver to do it? I don't know. Look. I'm not Hanna or Barbera. I can't answer these questions. I mean, the answer is probably that Bob Denver wanted too much money. But I don't know. We'll have to go into an oral history somewhere to find out.
00:32:53	Justin	Guest	It's also worth noting that Casey Kasem did voice Shaggy Rogers in the year of his death, 2014. So that was a... seventy... two? Judging from Wikipedia here? No, sorry! <u>Eighty-two</u> -year-old man!
			<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>
			Voicing a local teen!
			<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>
00:33:17	Stuart	Host	<i>[Through laughter]</i> Shaggy Rogers! Yeah. The directors are like, "Okay, Casey. Just remember you're a teenager."
			<i>[Dan laughs.]</i>
00:33:26	Dan	Host	"This is what teenagers care about."
00:33:28	Stuart	Host	"Is it the Charleston?"
			I always kind of assumed Shaggy was a little bit older than a teenager at this point.
00:33:32	Elliott	Host	I mean, they're all supposed to be teens. Here's something that Wikipedia says and I wonder if it's true—that Casey Kasem was at first uncomfortable about being assigned to Shaggy, as he had never before portrayed a hippie character. He wanted to play Fred, and Frank Welker—who, of course, has played Fred for the entire—I think—of the run, wanted to play Shaggy. But instead, CBS assigned them the other way. It's just like that old story about how originally, Christopher Walken was going to play Han Solo and Betty Davis was gonna play Princess Leia. And they decided at the last minute that they did not want Christopher Walken to play it or an elderly woman to play Princess Leia. Y'know. And originally Chewbacca was gonna be played by the late Clark Gable. It's just amazing when you hear about who was gonna play these roles.
			<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>
00:34:14	Dan	Host	Oh god. Okay.
00:34:16	Stuart	Host	So back to the chase. Daphne uses a blowtorch to cut the parade float loose from the back of Elvira's car, which then runs into all the Jackal-Lanterns' hotrods, which explode like <i>Mad Max: Fury Road</i> . So they get a little bit of breathing space. Y'know, they're still on

their tail but they got a little bit of room to breathe. Not as much room as in the movie *The Chase* where Charlie Sheen and Kristy Swanson have a sex scene while being chased by the cops. That's crazy.

[Dan laughs.]

SO they argue about being scared; whether or not it's logical or not. This is when Velma starts talking about mind palaces and it's like, of course. It's 2020. If you have a smart character in your property, they have to talk about memory palaces or they have to be able to play fucking chess on the ceiling. Like—

[Multiple people laugh.]

00:35:00	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	—well I don't buy it. I don't believe it. Stuart: They gotta be able to do things in slow motion.
00:35:04	Elliott	Host	Dan: Like all smart people. We just started watching that show and we just watched the episode where she tears the canopy of her bed because chess doesn't work on a bed canopy. It only works on a ceiling.
00:35:16	Stuart	Host	<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i> Yeah. Oh man, that was great.
00:35:17	Elliott	Host	I haven't finished <i>Queen's Gambit</i> yet. Does she play Lionel Richie, who of course has the strength of being able to sit on the ceiling while playing?
00:35:25	Dan	Host	<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i> Like, the nutty thing is—I haven't watched that movie and I just accepted that as Stuart's crazy joke about a thing that smart people do.
00:35:32	Stuart	Host	<i>[All laugh.]</i> Yeah. Y'know, I got crossover appeal. So... they speed up. They catch up to the sheriff and the paddy wagon that is carrying the Scarecrow. It is quite a large van, to be honest with you.
00:35:45	Elliott	Host	And it looks even bigger on the inside. Once they get inside it, it's like they're inside an office building. There's so much room in there.
00:35:52	Stuart	Host	<i>[Justin laughs.]</i> The sheriff then gets overtaken by Jackal-Lanterns and then—
00:35:55	Justin	Guest	Oh, we skipped my favorite sheriff dialogue!
00:35:58	Stuart	Host	My mistake! Explain, please!
00:35:59	Justin	Guest	No, please—Fred—Fred and the sheriff are talking— <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:36:03	Stuart	Host	And by talking, they're yelling out the window, right?
00:36:05	Justin	Guest	Yeah. They're yelling <i>[through laughter]</i> out the window to each other and the sheriff said that the kids should go back because even though he gives 'em a hard time, they're pretty much the closest thing to family he's got.

[Multiple people laugh.]

[Through laughter] Fred said, "We've talked eight or ten times!"

[All laugh.]

00:36:24	Stuart	Host	It's great.
00:36:25	Justin	Guest	Oh man.
00:36:27	Stuart	Host	It's great.
			Yeah. The sheriff is definitely the—at this point is still a wild card. Was there a previous movie—'cause they keep referencing a thing—
00:36:33	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Elliott: Yes. So apparently—apparently the sheriff was in a couple of previous Scooby Doo movies. This is a long [inaudible].
			Stuart: There's a previous movie that he was in. Okay. Yeah. This should be all payoff.
			Dan: A couple of 'em. So they've been setting this up for a while. There's things that they're setting up we haven't gotten to, but yes. This character was seen in <i>Curse of the 13th Ghost</i> and <i>Return to Zombie Island</i> , setting up his appearance here. Now my question—you've been to Zombie Island once. You know there's zombies on it. Why are you returning to zombie island?
			[Multiple people laugh.]
00:36:58	Stuart	Host	I mean, that's the question that the title raises, Elliott. That's why you're like—
00:37:01	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Stuart: "I gotta see what's so cool about this fucking zombie island."
			Dan: You lost your wallet. [Laughs.]
			[Elliott laughs.]
00:37:05	Elliott	Host	"I lost a ring on Zombie Island. We gotta go back."
00:37:09	Stuart	Host	So they—the pumpkins take over some construction equipment. That's not gonna be good. They then— [Laughs.] They then start interviewing the Scarecrow. Somehow Scooby and Shaggy Doo, they take their Scooby Snacks and then they flip over some things and land in the paddy wagon with Velma. Bill Nye gets distracted by the trick-or-treaters as we mentioned, and the Mystery Machine starts misbehaving. Go on, Dan?
00:37:38	Dan	Host	Y'know, Scooby Snacks—obviously a big part of Scooby Doo lore. Why are they—there's a product out there that's named after this dog? Is that what the—
00:37:51	Stuart	Host	Yes.
00:37:52	Dan	Host	We are to believe?
00:37:54	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Stuart: Or did they name the dog after the product?
			Elliott: Maybe—maybe Scoob—
			Dan: 'Cause it is—
00:37:56	Elliott	Host	Well maybe Scooby is a brand of dog in this world. Not a brand. A breed of dog.
00:37:59	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Stuart: No, they call them brands.
			Elliott: Like, maybe a "scooby" is a kind of dog.
00:38:02	Elliott	Host	Yeah. [Through laughter] Or brand. I mean, dogs are all working on their brands these days. Y'know. They're all entrepreneurs. But it does seem—it is a packaged product. It's not something they make. But maybe they named him after it! Like a dog—

00:38:14	Justin	Guest	That's what <i>Scoob!</i> Suggests. Right? I think is that he was named after the snack.
00:38:19	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Dan: Ah, okay.
			Elliott: Okay.
00:38:22	Justin	Guest	Justin: Do you guys take— Okay, real quick. Quick—just don't even think about it. Sweet or savory?
00:38:24	Justin	Guest	I think—
00:38:26	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Dan and Stuart: Savory.
			Stuart: Yeah.
			Elliott: Yeah. I think—
00:38:27	Elliott	Host	Justin: Savory? Well actually, I don't know! I don't know.
00:38:31	Justin	Guest	The ones they made for kids are like graham cracker type things, but kids aren't gonna eat—y'know, it tastes like Chicken in a Biskit then kids aren't gonna eat it.
00:38:39	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Justin: They only like sweet stuff.
00:38:41	Elliott	Host	Elliott: No. They need sugar. Kids love anything sweet and they hate anything not sweet. If my kids—my children, who like to eat literally spoonfuls of sugar like they're taking medicine from Mary Poppins. Like—
00:38:49	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Stuart: It's like when kids come into the bar, I'm always like—
00:38:53	Stuart	Host	Elliott: But then also— "Hey, that cocktail they ordered? Put another squirt of simple syrup in it."
00:38:56	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<i>[Elliott laughs.]</i> Justin: <i>[Through laughter]</i> They love it sweet.
			Dan: I gotta say—
00:38:59	Elliott	Host	Elliott: Put some complex syrup in that. It's gotta be real sweet.
00:39:01	Dan	Host	<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i> I've been going the other way. When I was a kid I only liked sort of like... salty things?
00:39:06	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Justin: That explains it.
00:39:09	Dan	Host	Stuart: Yeah. And I got— <i>[Laughs.]</i> I got a sweet tooth as I grew older, which explains my expanding waistline, I think. But like—
00:39:15	Justin	Guest	I was gonna say, that's a bad time—that's when we're all least <i>[through laughter]</i> biologically capable of dealing with sweet teeth.
00:39:20	Elliott	Host	<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i> That's when you want your savory teeth to grow in. Now I always assumed Scooby Doo—
00:39:23	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Elliott: —was named after <i>Scooba Dooba</i> —

Stuart: Savory Teeth is my least-favorite *Twisted Metal* character.

00:39:29	Elliott	Host	<p>[Multiple people laugh.]</p> <p>I always thought he was named after <i>Scooba Dooba</i>, the Bruce Jay Friedman off-Broadway play. But maybe that's not it. Maybe that's not the case. But let's say for the purposes of this moment of us talking about this show, that he exists in a world where there is a famous snack called Scooby Snacks. Scooby Doo as a puppy loved them, so they named him Scooby Doo because a dog's body—when you think about it in that case—is a machine for turning Scooby into doo. And that's where the name comes from, everybody! Stuart? What's going on in that car chase? [Laughs.]</p>
00:40:01	Stuart	Host	<p>[Dan laughs.]</p> <p>Okay! So at this point, Velma, Shaggy, and Scooby are inside the armored truck and they are interrogating the Scarecrow. Then the construction equipment starts to tear apart that paddy wagon. Scarecrow suggests that there may be a different villain—that he's not behind all these pumpkins. Fred saves Mike and Michelle using the Mystery Machine's long arms and then it runs out of electric power, probably because of all that shit.</p> <p>[Elliott laughs.]</p> <p>Velma tried to save the Scarecrow from the Jackal-Lanterns but has to fight a bunch of them, and then Scarecrow puts on his suit and he does all kinds of fucking badass flips. He pulls out a scythe.</p>
00:40:34	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<p>Justin: It's sick!</p>
00:40:38	Elliott	Host	<p>Stuart: Does he do that stuff in the comics?</p> <p>I mean, I always—I don't—to be honest, whenever I've seen a Scarecrow comic, he just uses fear gas to make people fall on the ground and then he runs away or steals—I don't think of him as a badass fighter. But everybody in this show is. They all have moves.</p>
00:40:52	Dan	Host	<p>I mean, this is the useful thing that they—where Velma has released him. Like he is effective in helping them fight. But they set it up like, "Oh, Velma, I gotta go get some clues from him." And they have this scene that is kind of like, y'know, Clarisse visiting Hannibal Lecter.</p> <p>[Justin laughs.]</p>
00:41:12	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<p>Another thing that kids—</p> <p>Justin: It's very much so.</p> <p>Dan: Won't understand.</p>
00:41:15	Elliott	Guest	<p>Stuart: Yeah. It's a reference that the kids are looking for, too. Well, because she also does walk past Zazz in his cell and he throws a cupful of cum at her, just like in <i>Silence of the Lambs</i>. So.</p>
00:41:22	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<p>[Multiple people laugh.]</p> <p>Dan: But like—I don't think that she gets—</p> <p>Stuart: Zazz always do it.</p>

Justin: It would be the third-weirdest thing in this movie—

00:41:25	Justin	Guest	<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>
00:41:28	Dan	Host	—if that did happen. But I don't think she actually gets any clues from talking to him. She already knew that he said that there was some other person in charge.
00:41:34	Elliott	Host	She gets nothing from the conversation. But then he becomes a hero and saves them, mainly because he's a big fan of Elvira, it turns out.
00:41:45	Dan	Host	Yeah. Which makes sense. The whole Mystery, Inc. plus Mike and Michelle all jump into Elvira's car.
00:41:51	Justin	Guest	Mike and Michelle just keep being in this movie.
			<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>
00:41:56	Stuart	Host	It is super not clear why.
00:42:00	Justin	Guest	He made a vague promise about caramel corn? Caramel corn? It's like a life debt? He's like, "I've gotta follow these kids. Get 'em that caramel corn."
			<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>
00:42:04	Stuart	Host	Yeah. Otherwise—like a normal reaction would be, "I'm just gonna leave these teenagers to be killed by these pumpkins." Right?
00:42:11	Justin	Guest	<i>[Through laughter]</i> "I have a daughter!"
00:42:12	Elliott	Host	Well I mean—if I was somewhere with my young children I wouldn't be like, "We're in an adventure now, kids. Hurry up." 'Cause at any moment Mike and Michelle could just pull off on any exit and go into a town and not be chased by pumpkin monsters. Y'know.
			<i>[Justin laughs.]</i>
00:42:30	Stuart	Host	So the Scarecrow gets overcome by the Jackal-Lanterns—
00:42:33	Justin	Guest	Did we mention Mike's in a cowboy costume?
			<i>[All laugh.]</i>
00:42:37	Elliott	Host	They're both dressed as cowfolk. That's true. I forgot about that.
00:42:40	Stuart	Host	Maybe that's part of it! Maybe he dressed up as a cowpoke. He's like, "I feel a sense of—I'm honor-bound in this Western way to—"
00:42:47	Justin	Guest	Yeah. "I'm inhabiting the look."
00:42:50	Stuart	Host	The character, yeah.
			<i>[Elliott laughs.]</i>
00:42:53	Elliott	Host	So they— Modern-day Mike would run and save himself and his daughter, but Old West Mike? He follows a different code. He's gotta do what's right.
00:43:00	Stuart	Host	He follows the code that when their car runs out of gas, they abandon the vehicle and run off into the woods to a spooky house up a hill. They prepare to fight. Fred does this Predator—Dutch from Predator thing where he makes a bunch of fucking traps and then he lights a bonfire?
00:43:17	Justin	Guest	<i>[Laughs.]</i> Which Daphne watches while eating popcorn. Watches shirtless Fred <i>[through laughter]</i> set all these traps.

00:43:25	Dan	Host	<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i> Yeah. These are much more violent traps, too, than you'd expect. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:43:28	Justin	Guest	These are death traps.
00:43:30	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Stuart: Yeah. These are not to maim.
00:43:33	Stuart	Host	Elliott: They are killing these pumpkins. So Scooby and Shaggy then make Velma eat a Scooby Snack so they can follow her into her mind palace.
00:43:40	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Justin: I don't even know what— <i>[Laughs.]</i>
			Stuart: The Scooby Snack creates a bond, of course. And a—
			Elliott: You would expect that the FDA—
00:43:46	Elliott	Host	Dan: What— —would not allow this product on the market. <i>[Justin laughs.]</i>
00:43:53	Justin	Guest	If it has this kind of psychotropic properties. This is something— It's clearly like leaning into the drug references of Shaggy? But it doesn't map to <i>[through laughter]</i> any sort of like—it doesn't map 1:1 to a drug experience. I mean, they're treating it almost like peyote or something? "We'll all eat the same Scooby Snacks and we'll be bonded"? It's very strange.
00:44:14	Stuart	Host	So they travel through Velma's memories of the inciting incident. They—they don't really figure anything out, right? They just like—
00:44:23	Dan	Host	Well they do, 'cause apparently their consciousness merges enough that she sees the drone—
00:44:29	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Dan: —that Shaggy saw earlier. Stuart: She's able to go into—yeah.
00:44:32	Dan	Host	Elliott: Mm-hm.
00:44:36	Stuart	Host	That has the writing on it that will help crack the case. Yep. So the pumpkins arrive and all their cars just get wrecked. It's pretty crazy. And then Fred's traps murder a shitload of pumpkins— <i>[Dan laughs.]</i>
00:44:53	Elliott	Host	—and they charge and murder <u>more</u> pumpkins, along with a musical montage. This was pretty fun. And then despite all the— They kinda—there's so many points in the movie where they're like, "I guess we gotta fight some pumpkins." And they're just massacring these pumpkins! Like they could <u>easily</u> take out all of 'em! And then at a certain point they go, "Oop! More pumpkins! We gotta get outta here!" And I'm never quite sure how they do that mental math. But you gotta keep the story moving, I guess. And there's that giant pumpkin that's the size of an elephant, so.
00:45:12	Dan	Host	Yeah. I think they're mostly afraid of that big pumpkin.
00:45:14	Stuart	Host	Yeah. So despite all their efforts, they're surrounded. Velma admits that she is frightened, and she then charges into the alpha pumpkin's mouth. Then an app shuts down all the pumpkins; turns out that they're all drones and that the alpha pumpkins is like a drone factory that captures people and then takes their stuff and

puts it on a new Jackal-Lantern? And then keeps them in a crappy little, like, cell? *[Laughs.]*

00:45:40 Elliott Host It's an elaborate way of making you think that people are being turned into pumpkin monsters, when the pumpkin monsters would be just as effective if they didn't try to convince you that they were turning people into pumpkin monsters.

00:45:52 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** And they were just eating people.

Dan: Mm-hm.

00:45:55 Stuart Host **Stuart:** Okay, real quick. Justin, if you're captured by the alpha pumpkin, what of your garments would they take to put on a Jackal-Lantern to make us think, "Oh fuck, Justin's now a Jackal-Lantern!"

00:46:04 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Justin:** A Hawaiian shirt, I guess, would be the one—my woodworking goggles.

Stuart: A Hawaiian shirt, yeah. *[Laughs.]* Sure.

00:46:12 Elliott Host *[Dan laughs.]* They would fly out wearing those and we'd say, "It's a McO'Lantern! We gotta get outta here!"

00:46:17 Justin Guest *[Stuart laughs.]* I—that—guys, as a *Flop House* listener, I have made—I would say—not infrequent situation is me listening to the podcast with little-to-no familiarity of the film that you are describing. But I am listening to this discussion as both a viewer of this film and a listener, and this has gotta be one of the ones that sounds the most made-up.

[All laugh.]

00:46:58 Stuart Host This has gotta be way up there on like—Stuart is saying these things as if like, "Well, and then, y'know, the alpha pumpkin has been transforming them and then Velma is in the mind palace with Shaggy and their consciousness form—" it is indescribably strange. *[Laughs.]*

00:47:07 Dan Host Yeah. Well a lot of times I had to pause the movie to be like, "Okay. I gotta write some sentences *[through laughter]* down while it's still happened."

[Multiple people laugh.]

00:47:23 Crosstalk Crosstalk Well also, hearing it described back to me, like, really has sort of undone like a lodestone of like... Scooby Doo in general? Where I'm just like, "Okay, wait. Hold on. Why does the villain need to convince everyone else that something supernatural is happening?" *[Laughs.]*

[Multiple people laugh.]

Dan: But, y'know.

Stuart: Yeah. Obviously doesn't.

Elliott: Yeah. It's never been adequately answered—

00:47:28	Elliott	Host	<p>—in 50 years of Scooby Doo productions. I think what I... it's basically just a means to get these incredibly charismatic characters—Shaggy, a cowardly hippie; Scooby Doo, a cowardly dog; Velma, a smart nerd; Daphne, a blank—a sociopath whose mask hides nothing behind it—</p> <p><i>[Dan laughs.]</i></p> <p>—and Fred, who's kind of, y'know, a lumbering lunkhead with a sweater on.</p>
00:47:56	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<p>Stuart: Trap master.</p> <p>Dan: Yeah.</p>
00:47:59	Elliott	Host	<p>Elliott: It's just to get those guys in action! And traps. It's just to get them in action and hope that they eventually run into the Three Stooges, or perhaps Sonny and Cher, or Tim Conway. Or someone else that you'd see on TV in the 1970s! Y'know? That's—</p>
00:48:09	Stuart	Host	<p>It's wild, 'cause you see—in the character select screen, you would see Fred and you'd be like, "He's a bruiser. He's just gonna go in there. He's gonna hit big but he's gonna be slow." But you wouldn't expect him to be a trap character. But whatever, man. y'know. It's cool. Sometimes games change it up.</p>
00:48:24	Dan	Host	<p>It is funny seeing like those old celebrity Scooby Doo's? 'Cause you have the same sensation when you're watching an old <i>Muppet Show</i>? Where you're like, "I guess this person was popular at one point."</p> <p><i>[Elliott laughs.]</i></p> <p><i>[Through laughter]</i> I don't know who they are. Y'know, sometimes you get a Mark Hamill and then sometimes you get someone and you're like, "Okay, they were... a dancer, I guess? I don't know." Along with Elvira, they—late in the—almost at the end—reference a celebrity crossover that literally no child will enjoy or appreciate. There's a Phyllis Diller nod that is absolutely bizarre. No reason to think that a child would enjoy that.</p>
00:48:39	Justin	Guest	<p>So what would be the modern-day equivalent? If Scooby Doo was doing with celebrities now what they did then, would it be like... I dunno. Are they teaming up with Judge Judy or are they teaming up with Jim Parsons? Like, who would it be?</p>
00:48:55	Elliott	Host	<p>I actually have an answer for this, because they—the current series—or at least the most recent series—is called <i>Scooby-Doo and Guess Who</i>? Which is—each episode is with a new celebrity. So just recently we have—the premiere episode was NBA basketball legend Chris Paul. And then there's the ghost of Abraham Lincoln is in the next one.</p>
00:49:07	Justin	Guest	<p>Justin: There's a crossover— <i>[Laughs.]</i> Is it—I mean—</p>
00:49:35	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<p>Elliott: That doesn't seem like a real guest star. I have to say. <i>[Laughs.]</i></p>
00:49:40	Justin	Guest	<p>That's a pretty big get, Elliott. I don't know. I would be excited.</p>
00:49:43	Elliott	Host	<p>I mean, if it says "Ghost of Abraham Lincoln: Himself" in the credits, then yes. That's a huge get. But.</p>

00:49:48	Justin	Guest	<p>This is the—yeah. So we’ve got—the next one is Wanda Sykes and then it’s Sherlock Holmes.</p> <p><i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i></p> <p>And then it’s Ricky Gervais—</p> <p><i>[Elliott laughs.]</i></p>
00:49:56	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<p>Justin: And then it’s Wonder Woman and then it’s Penn & Teller—</p> <p>Stuart: Ricky Gervais is gonna tell everybody to be atheists.</p> <p><i>[Laughs.]</i></p>
00:50:02	Dan	Host	Yeah. Is it Ricky Gervais as himself?
00:50:04	Elliott	Host	It’s gotta be.
00:50:05	Justin	Guest	Guys? I’m gonna tell you—I’m just trying to tell you it’s Ricky Gervais and then Wonder Woman and then Penn & Teller and then Urkel from <i>Family Matters</i> —
00:50:13	Elliott	Host	Wait. But it’s Urkel, or it’s Jaleel White?
00:50:16	Justin	Guest	No! It’s Urkel!
00:50:17	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Elliott: It’s the character Urkel. Okay.
00:50:19	Justin	Guest	<p>Justin: Then Jim Gaffigan.</p> <p>And Weird Al—</p> <p><i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i></p>
00:50:24	Elliott	Host	<p>And Sia?</p> <p>I love the idea—this is good, ‘cause it’s like Scooby Doo and the Mystery Gang. They’re like the Man-Thing in the Marvel comics who’s the guardian of the nexus of all realities. So who knows what could pop out—a barbarian. Howard the Duck. The Scooby Doo gang can meet anybody in any reality at any point in time. Y’know. That’s pretty—one week they’re hanging out with Jordan Peterson and the next week it’s them and Justin Bieber and the next week it’s them and Rick Moranis. I guess these are just all Canadian people. Hold on.</p>
00:50:52	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<p>Elliott: Maybe—</p> <p>Stuart: Yeah. There’s no way into your mind palace.</p>
00:50:56	Justin	Guest	<p>Justin: <i>[Inaudible.]</i></p> <p>I’m losing it over here, guys, ‘cause then we’ve got what’s described as “comedy rocker Kenan Thompson.” Okay.</p> <p><i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i></p>
00:51:02	Elliott	Host	Comedy rocker?
00:51:03	Dan	Host	Comedy rocker?
00:51:03	Justin	Guest	Batman. Whoopi Goldberg.
			<p><i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i></p> <p>Paul— <i>[Laughs; totally loses it through the next few dialogue boxes.]</i> Paul— <i>[inaudible through laughter.]</i> <i>[Through laughter]</i> And then Mark Hamill.</p> <p><i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i></p>

			<i>[Through laughter]</i> And then the Flash. And then George Takei. And then Steve Buscemi.
00:51:21	Elliott	Host	Wait. Steve Buscemi's in it?
00:51:23	Justin	Guest	<i>[Through laughter]</i> Then we check in with Jeff Dunham.
			<i>[All laugh.]</i>
			And then we're just gonna take a real quick spin and we're gonna see Maddie Ziegler from <i>Dance Moms</i> , and then over the horizon it's Jeff Farnsworth. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
			<i>[All laugh.]</i>
			Followed by Malcolm McDowell.
00:51:43	Dan	Host	What? Malcolm— <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:51:46	Elliott	Host	So it sounds like they literally put the names of every human being in the world in a hat—
			<i>[Justin laughs.]</i>
00:51:52	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Elliott: And they just pick 'em out.
			Stuart: Including some that are fictional characters. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:51:58	Elliott	Host	Including some fictional characters.
00:52:01	Justin	Guest	Guys? "While investigating a werewolf attack on Broadway, the gang runs into actor and voice talent Christian Slater, who joins him on his heartbreaking song-filled Musical Mystery, centered around the prom night that changed his life forever." And then it's finally Neil deGrasse Tyson.
00:52:16	Dan	Host	"Heartbreaking."
00:52:18	Justin	Guest	Holy—season two just kicked off so make sure to get in there. You're gonna meet Kacey Musgraves and Morgan Freeman.
			Already.
00:52:27	Stuart	Host	Oh wow. The duo I never expected, but welcome.
00:52:30	Elliott	Host	"This week, we're teaming up with Billie Eilish and next week it's Odysseus! And the week after that it's Arsenio Hall and then the week after that it's Adam, of Adam & Eve fame!"
00:52:41	Justin	Guest	Actually, it's Kristen Schaal and Joey Chestnut and—
00:52:44	Elliott	Host	Joey Chestnut?
			<i>[Justin laughs.]</i>
00:52:49	Stuart	Host	Guys, wow. Man alive.
			<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>
			<i>[Through laughter]</i> That's so <i>[inaudible]</i> .
00:52:55	Justin	Guest	If it goes—if it continues in this direction it's gonna be, eventually, Matthew Lillard.
			<i>[All laugh.]</i>
			<i>[Through laughter]</i> And it's gonna be ouroboros. The Shag will eat his own tail.
00:53:06	Dan	Host	That's when the earth explodes. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:53:08	Justin	Guest	Yeah.

00:53:10	Stuart	Host	Okay. So the sheriff reveals his crazy plan. It turns out the sheriff's the villain. No big surprise. So the sheriff's the villain; he has a crazy plan to spend millions of dollars to slowly become a local sheriff and be mean to some teenagers and then steal some crystals. And then make more millions.
00:53:23	Elliott	Host	Well because he was a rich guy who the kids unmasked and got in trouble. Yeah.
00:53:30	Stuart	Host	Yeah. So that justifies his spending millions of dollars—
00:53:33	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Stuart: —and actions. Yeah.
00:53:35	Elliott	Host	Elliott: I'm just saying it's a revenge plot. I'm not—the sheriff didn't win the lottery and decide that he was gonna spend that millions to get even with some kids.
00:53:37	Stuart	Host	That's what people were concerned about, is that the sheriff had illegally stolen the money or something. So they—
00:53:43	Dan	Host	But—can I say—like, he's already failed once at this "I'm gonna have a supernatural scam thing." If he's gonna have revenge on the kids, why not just show up and shoot 'em?
00:53:55	Elliott	Host	Hey, look. Scorpion keeps getting caught by Spider-man, but every time he breaks out of jail he puts that damn tail back on and just tries to hit Spider-man with it. Like, people get stuck in cycles, y'know?
00:54:05	Dan	Host	Yeah.
00:54:07	Stuart	Host	Yeah, 'Cause after a while you're like, "I've spent so much time learning how to use this fucking scorpion tail. I don't wanna try and do something different."
00:54:15	Elliott	Host	He's like, "I'm too old to learn a new employment skill."
00:54:18	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Dan: Hey, man—
			Elliott: "This is just what I do."
00:54:20	Justin	Guest	Justin: He also didn't want to change his—
00:54:22	Dan	Host	He didn't wanna change his Twitter handle. It's a whole thing.
00:54:24	Elliott	Guest	Why do you think I'm still a comedy writer?
00:54:27	Stuart	Host	It was so hard for me to get @Scorpion1. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
			So they track the sheriff's phone. They try to catch him, but uh-oh! The Scarecrow's already got him! His car's been abandoned. They wander—
00:54:37	Elliott	Host	And it's just implied that the Scarecrow has taken him to torture or kill him. Like, he's just—gone in the Scarecrow's clutches.
00:54:45	Stuart	Host	Yeah. So they then wander down the street with Elvira. They happen upon a Halloween party. They argue with the host, who keeps inviting them and they keep trying to come up with excuses for why they <u>shouldn't</u> go to the party—
00:54:55	Elliott	Host	At this point in the movie I was like, "Why is the movie still happening? Why aren't they just joining this party? Why are they so resistant to being at this party?"
00:55:03	Stuart	Host	Shaggy and Scooby see a snack station so they start to drool so much that their drool becomes a river and then they stand-up surf all the way to the snack station.

[Multiple people laugh.]

Elvira reveals that she realizes Daphne's whole reason for trying to be mentored by Elvira is so that she could take Elvira's clothes and

be Elvira for Halloween, so Elvira gives Daphne her wig, which is actually a monkey—

[Elliott laughs.]

—and then wanders away.

00:55:30 Dan Host [Through laughter] Well also, let's be clear. At first they're like, "Hey, was your plan to take Elvira's clothes for a costume?" And then it becomes implied that it's more like a *Single White Female* situation where—

00:55:43 Justin Guest She wants to steal Elvira's life and—

00:55:46 Elliott Host That's when they mention Phyllis Diller. They say, "We went on three mysteries with Phyllis Diller before we realized it was Daphne."

[All laugh.]

So Phyllis Diller's body is just in a freezer somewhere. While Daphne was running around with her clothes. But. But yeah. I think—the moment when Elvira takes off her wig and it's revealed to be a big ape that sits on her head [through laughter] was—was, I think, when the movie kind of entered a new realm for me.

[Dan laughs.]

00:56:09 Dan Host Yeah. Bald Elvira wanders off and sort of gives an outro to the movie.

00:56:14 Stuart Host Yeah. A little Cryptkeeper outro. Her head turns around and she's got a scary face?

00:56:17 Elliott Host Famously red-haired Cassandra Peterson, suddenly walking away bald for some reason. But.

00:56:22 Dan Host Yeah. Because they have to have the reveal where she turns—like, her neck twists all the way around like an owl and she has a weird alien face on the back of her bald head. [Laughs.]

00:56:34 Justin Guest Again, not for kids. Not a good fit for children at all.

00:56:37 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Elliott:** The movie—in the last five minutes—

Stuart: No. Yeah. It's a little Large Marge ending.

00:56:40 Elliott Host In the last five minutes it kinda gives a glimpse of what this movie could've been if it was even crazier. Like—

[Justin laughs.]

The movie is like, it's riding this thing where it's like, "Yeah, I guess it's Scooby Doo, but it's a little sillier." And then the end is just like, "Hey, you know what? This is what you could've been watching. Just bonkers."

00:56:56 Stuart Host Yeah. A glimpse of the madness is *Happy Halloween, Scooby Doo*. So what's the next part of the podcast, Dan?

00:57:02 Dan Host Well, we gotta make our Final Judgments on this movie, whether it's a good-bad movie, a bad-bad movie, or a movie we kinda liked. I will say—um... so if you were a bigger Scooby Doo fan, like, Audrey was eating this up. So I have to assume that if you like Scooby Doo this is, like, the *Citizen Kane* of Scooby Doo films. Uh... I liked a lot of the silliness? I got to admit, like, at a certain point the movie started dragging for me? Which is crazy, [through laughter] because it is only 70 minutes long—

[Elliott laughs.]

—and so much crazy stuff is happening at all times. But there came a point where I'm like, "Alright. I know that the ending to this is not gonna make any sense. Let's just get to the solution of the mystery." But I guess marginally—look. If this is your thing... it was fun. I kinda liked it. But... it's borderline. What do you guys have to say?

00:57:57 Elliott Host I would say, also, that I kinda liked it. I'd give it a more full-throated recommendation than Dan did. I would say it does drag a little in the four hours or so that they spend driving on the road?

[Multiple people laugh.]

But that's just based on reality. They said "Crystal Cove is this far away from the nearest town. We cannot have them drive less 'cause people are gonna be like, 'Wait a minute. There are no towns that close to Crystal Cove. They've gotta be on the road longer than that.'" And I totally understand not wanting to end up in the Goof section of IMDB, but otherwise—as someone who is not a fan of Scooby Doo, it was fun to see a Scooby Doo thing where I was like, "Oh, there's a lot of funny jokes in this. And..." But like Justin was saying, it's not all meta-jokes. Y'know. There's some, but it's not all, like, them just undercutting what a Scooby Doo should be. And until we get that gritty, realistic reboot of Scooby Doo—a la *Detective Pikachu*—then this is the best we're gonna get. So I say I kinda liked it.

00:58:49 Stuart Host Yeah. It's basically that *Venture Bros.* episodes. Um, I... uh, I think I'll join you guys. I'll say it's a movie I kinda liked. I will say that trying to write a plot summary for this movie was—

[Dan laughs.]

—like Pecos Bill trying to lasso a fucking whirlwind.

[All laugh.]

But stuff certainly happened!

00:59:12 Dan Host Yeah. And Justin—I think you might be the most positive.

00:59:15 Justin Guest Well, it's—y'know, you watch enough animated films as a parent that so many of them are... and Elliott can attest to this. So many of them, the work has not been put in to... not even making it something adults can enjoy. But just like a functional piece of entertainment. That when you stumble on something like that, it's almost kind of a nice surprise. Like, we turned it on around Halloween 'cause—I dunno. Scooby Doo. It's a new Halloween movie and whatever. They watched *Scoob!* And enjoyed it which is—doesn't speak well of their character.

[Multiple people laugh.]

But I—they have two parents. I'm only half of their parents.

00:59:54 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Justin:** So we turned it on and—

Elliott: The whole time they were watch—

00:59:57	Elliott	Host	The whole time they were clapping and laughing at <i>Scoob!</i> You would turn to your wife and say, “This is your—these are your genes.”
01:00:01	Justin	Guest	“This is your genes.”
01:00:02	Elliott	Host	“This is not my genetics.”
01:00:05	Justin	Guest	It’s like... it’s just kind of a relief when you find something that’s like, “Oh, somebody actually tried on this. Like, somebody actually put the work in and made some good jokes in here.” I can watch this thirty times and not be driven mad. So yeah. On that basis, I... I think it’s a quality piece of entertainment. You’re not gonna go in getting your guts busted constantly as an adult, but—
			<i>[Elliott laughs.]</i>
			—if you go in a little, in the right frame of mind, there’s a lot of fun stuff going on. It is surprisingly—there’s a lot of adult comedies that do not deliver as many laughs as this film does. I will say that. It—we are in a stage in Hollywood where actually funny comedies are pretty hard to come by, so this will have to do.
01:00:52	Elliott	Host	<i>[Laughs.]</i> “This will have to do,” screams the quote on the box.
			<i>[Laughs.]</i>
01:00:58	Justin	Guest	“This will have to Scooby Doo.”
			<i>[Elliott laughs, applauds.]</i>
01:01:01	Elliott	Host	“In a world bereft of truly funny adult comedies, this will have to Scooby Doo.”
			<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>
01:01:06	Justin	Guest	<i>[Through laughter]</i> That’s the name of the next film. <i>This Will Have to Scooby Doo.</i>
			<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>
01:01:09	Music	Music	Light, up-tempo, electric guitar with synth instruments.
01:01:16	Promo	Clip	Rachel McElroy: Congratulations! You’ve won a ticket to attend an exclusive opportunity in a relaxing environment with two lovers.
			<i>[Laughs.]</i>
			Griffin McElroy: Wow! Well this sounds like a sort of... proposition of sorts, but really it’s an ad for our podcast, <i>Wonderful!</i> It’s a show we do here on Maximum Fun where we talk about things that we like and things that we’re into.
			Rachel: I’m Rachel McElroy and you just heard Griffin McElroy and we are excited for you to join us as we talk about movies and music and books!
			Griffin: Things like sneezing. Or... the idea of rain.
			<i>[Both laugh.]</i>
			Rachel: Can you get news or information you can use?
			<i>[Simultaneously]</i>
			Rachel: I don’t think so!
			Griffin: Absolutely you cannot!

Griffin: Because we're here to talk to you about pumpernickel bread.

Rachel: You can find new episodes on Wednesdays.

01:02:00 Promo Clip

Gruff announcer voice: So catch the waaaaave!

Music: Laid-back, rhythmic music plays in background.

David Letterman: I—I can remember—as—as a child—thinking it was odd that here was this can full of meat.

Jesse Thorn: I'm Jesse Thorn. This week on my show *Bullseye*, David Letterman—on shame, regret, and canned hams.

David: Is this the best delivery version of—of pork?

01:02:26 Dan Promo

Jesse: That's this week on *Bullseye* for MaximumFun.org and NPR. *The Flop House* is sponsored in part by Squarespace. With Squarespace, you can turn your cool idea into a new website. You can blog or publish content; you can sell products and services of all kinds and much, much more. And Squarespace helps you do this by giving you beautiful, customizable templates created by world-class designers. Everything optimized for mobile right out of the box. A new way to buy domains and choose from over 200 extensions. Free and secure hosting and more. Head to [Squarespace.com/flop](https://www.squarespace.com/flop) for a free trial, and when you're ready to launch, use the offer code "Flop" to save 10% off your first purchase of a website or domain.

01:03:09 Elliott Promo

Now Dan, I had an idea for a website. And I was hoping that—inspired by today's movie—and I was wondering if Squarespace, you think, could help me.

01:03:17 Dan Promo

Uh, probably. But let's hear it.

01:03:18 Elliott Promo

Okay. So this is a business website. It is called www.Nonster.com. That's N-O-N—"N" as in "No," as in "Non." Not a monster. How many times has this happened to you? You hear a story about a ghoul, ghost, monster, gremlin, or other fantastical being somewhere in our great nation. You get in your van. You get your friends together. You get your talking dog with you. You head to that location to see this cool monster for yourself, only for it to turn out to be some dude who has plans for a public park and wants to buy it and turn it into an oil refinery so he's scaring people away by pretending to be, like, y'know. The Pittsburgh Palooka or something like that. What a disappointment! I wish I'd saved the time, energy—

01:04:00 Crosstalk Crosstalk

Stuart: Isn't the Pittsburgh Palooka—

01:04:03 Stuart Promo

Elliott: —and the drive—
—the nickname of the Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania?
[Laughs.]

01:04:05 Elliott Promo

[Laughs.] It's a good point and very topical. So instead, let's call him the Boise Boogeyman. So you go all the way to Boise and not a boogeyman, just some dude. I wish that there'd been a website out there—a kind of Snopes legend-denying website that told me when it was a monster or what I'm calling a "Nonster," or not-monster. Now I know there's some difficulty here because "Monster" and "Nonster" sound very similar. Be sure that you are putting in "Nonster" with an "N" as in "Norville," not a "Monster" with an "M" as

in “More-ville,” which is what you would say if you wanted more of a ville. This isn’t enough town, give me more of it. Whereas Norville is what you’d be saying if you were talking about Norval Jones, the main character from *The Miracle of Morgan’s Creek*, starring Eddie Bracken and Betty Hutton. Now www.Nonster.com—

[Dan laughs.]

—it’s your place for both public, crowdsourced comments on what are real monsters and what are not, and what—basically what are “Ahh! Real monsters!” and what are “Nah. Real non-sters.” So we have people all over the place. It’s like Ways, but for monsters and nonsters. And they send in their reports, and you can just look it up. Tip-tap-tap. That’s you typing in the nonster’s name on the keyboard. And oop! It turns out that the San Antonio Psycho—I thought it was some kind of toxic waste-created humanoid chud. Nope. It turns out it’s just some guy who is trying to sell his minor league baseball team to a different city and wants it to seem that the stadium is haunted or something.

01:05:32 Stuart Promo

Now, I don’t mean to split hairs here, but you just said “humanoid chud.” And now—aren’t chuds always humanoid? Isn’t that part of the description? That’s like saying “ATM machine.”

01:05:40 Elliott Promo

That’s a very good point and you know what? Forget the whole website. You just figured out—you just figured out that I don’t know what I’m talking about. So—

01:05:48 Stuart Promo

Yeah. That’s why we have these kind of rap sessions, right? Is so I can poke holes in—like, find out if there’s any mistakes. Or, y’know.

01:05:52 Elliott Promo

No, I appreciate it. I appreciate it. So when I say—

01:05:55 Stuart Promo

Troubleshoot.

01:05:56 Elliott Promo

Instead of humanoid chud, maybe I should’ve said some kind of... some kind of... leonid chud? A kind of lion-based cannibalistic humanoid underground dweller?

01:06:06 Stuart Promo

Woulda, coulda, shoulda. I don’t know if it would’ve worked, but it’s over now. Y’know. We’re past that.

[Elliott laughs.]

01:06:09 Elliott Promo

It’s true. We can’t change the past and I’m just Monday morning quarterbacking at this point. So anyway, that’s www.Nonster.com, a website I am now officially cancelling because Stuart has pointed out that I’m the wrong person to run it. Dan, maybe you wanna take this on? But Squarespace, I think, is the company to help you.

01:06:28 Dan Promo

Well, that was certainly an effective ad for Squarespace. Stuart—

[Elliott laughs.]

01:06:35 Stuart Promo

—do you have a Jumbotron for us?

[In announcer voice] I do have a J-J-J-J-J-J-J-J-J-Jumbotron! Garbage warlocks Alex and Ian dive headfirst into the raging dumpster fire that is seasonal anime. Join them as they uncover hidden gems, discuss how a snake girl would wear a onesie, and hand out awards to the best show at the end of every season. With almost two years’ worth of episodes, there’s plenty of goofs and random tangents to dive into. Look for *The Protagonist Seat* podcast on YouTube, iTunes, or wherever you get your podcasts.

01:07:15	Elliott	Promo	Now whenever they say seasonal anime, do they mean anime that comes in seasons, like, TV seasons? Or do they mean like <i>A Very Akira Christmas</i> ? That kind of stuff?
01:07:24	Stuart	Promo	<i>[Dan laughs.]</i> That is a question that is not explained. I can't answer it. But maybe—I mean, maybe there is, like, fall anime. Summer anime.
01:07:32	Elliott	Promo	<i>[Elliott laughs.]</i> Maybe that's it, yeah, yeah.
			<i>[Dan laughs.]</i>
01:07:43	Stuart	Promo	Like, <i>Happy 4th of July, Project A-ko!</i> Like, that kind of stuff? Yeah. Okay. All of my anime references, as you can tell, are thirty years old. <i>[Laughs.]</i> Yep. Yep. Uh, yeah. <i>Ranma ½</i> is now <i>Ranma 43½</i> , right?
01:07:50	Dan	Promo	<i>[Elliott laughs.]</i> Uh, I guess. Anyway.
01:07:53	Stuart	Promo	It's been a long time. I don't know.
01:07:55	Elliott	Promo	Yeah, yeah. "Happy Dragonzballsgiving, everyone." So I have another Jumbotron. This is a message for Nathan and this message is from Sarah. And Sarah writes to Nathan; she says—
			"Happy 40 th ! You're one of my oldest friends and now you're <u>also</u> OLD." In capital letters. "I'm so glad we've remained friends all these years and I'm inspired by how much you've accomplished. You're truly the Stuart Wellington to my Elliott Kalan. John is obviously Dan, which means Ellis must be... <i>The Flop House</i> housecat! It's perfect. Love and hugs to you both, Sarah."
01:08:25	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Stuart: That's lovely!
			Elliott: How sweet.
01:08:28	Dan	Promo	That's a sweet message and I wish I knew who all these people were so I could see who we, y'know, track toward. Who we match with.
01:08:34	Stuart	Promo	Yeah. How well we map, yeah.
01:08:38	Dan	Promo	Yeah. So guys? Y'know, <i>Sharko and Hippo</i> is still available. Stuart still owns some bars.
01:08:46	Elliott	Promo	I mean, <i>Sharko and Hippo</i> —for people who are just checking in—is a book that I wrote. It's not—otherwise, that sentence that Dan said—though true—would seem completely incomprehensible. But yes.
01:08:55	Stuart	Promo	Well, they'd hear it and may be like, "What is that?" And then they'd google it and hopefully the first google result would be the book you wrote and not something, I dunno, weird? Or.
01:09:02	Elliott	Promo	No, probably it would be Nonster.com telling you that Sharko and Hippo are not real monsters. They are, in fact, the stars of my new children's book, <i>Sharko and Hippo</i> . But! <i>Sharko and Hippo</i> . It's available in bookstores everywhere. Get it through your local independent bookstore! And, of course, Hinterlands bar—still barring along after all these years. I'm Casey Kasem!
01:09:19	Stuart	Promo	And Minnie's Bar, which is barring after slightly not as many years, but it's still barring! I'm Casey Kasem.

01:09:26	Elliott	Host	<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>
01:09:29	Dan	Host	Dan, are you also Casey Kasem?
			I'm also Casey Kasem! And Elliott is Casey... Kasem? And back to the show!
01:09:37	Dan	Host	<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>
			Alright. Well, next we move on to letters. And the first letter is from Marlena, last name withheld. Who writes—
01:09:47	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Elliott: Marlena Dietrich, one of the great legends of the screen.
01:09:50	Elliott	Host	Dan: "I just listened to your—"
01:09:53	Dan	Host	It's an honor to get a letter from her.
			She writes, "I just listened to your recent episode with Mike Reiss <i>[pronounces it "Rice"]</i> and I thought I'd share the story of why that's a big deal for me. So here's the tale of how a brief encounter with Mike Reiss made me accidentally—and hopefully temporarily—ruin <i>The Simpsons</i> for myself."
01:10:09	Elliott	Host	I think his name might be pronounced "Reese."
01:10:10	Dan	Host	Yeah? I was confused, too. And I—
01:10:14	Elliott	Host	'Cause it's spelled "Reiss." <i>[Pronounces it "Rice"]</i>
01:10:16	Dan	Host	Yeah. I looked up the pronunciation of that name, and... the internet said "Reiss," but I don't know if—
01:10:23	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Dan: Let's say Mike "Reese."
01:10:25	Elliott	Host	Elliott: Hm. I could be wrong.
01:10:27	Dan	Host	Let's call him Mike Simpsons.
			Yeah. Mike Simpsons. "This brings me to a few winters ago. My dad and I went to the Museum of Modern Art for a showing of a silent comedy—something we both love—when the couple next to us took their seats and started talking to each other, I tensed with recognition. 'That's a <i>Simpsons</i> writer,' I whispered to my dad. I was certain it was Mike Simpsons, whose voice I had been listening to in commentaries for all those years. I surreptitiously googled to match the face to the name and yes, it was definitely him. There wasn't time to do or say anything since the movies began shortly after. I did enjoy finding out what jokes Mike Simpsons laughed at, though."

[Elliott laughs.]

"I'm a pretty reserved and somewhat socially anxious person, so I knew I would need my dad's prompting to tell Mike that I was a huge fan after the screening. Unfortunately, my dad is even more reserved than I, and when I asked if I should say something he did not encourage it. So I didn't say anything, a decision I regretted pretty much instantly after leaving the theater. This regret was compounded when my mom and friends I told assured me that he probably would've been flattered and not annoyed by the intrusion. The regret icing on the cake was realizing that I had actually been wearing my Bartman sweatshirt to the screening. Now, as I've said, I'm an anxious person and I have trouble compartmentalizing, so instead of just having a twinge of regret when I listen to the commentaries, I had soured the entire experience of *The Simpsons* for myself. I couldn't casually watch an episode without thinking of what a mistake I'd made. As time has passed I've started to watch

			again, but never with the same fervor and joy as I used to have.” Well, there might be other reasons. “So—”
01:12:00	Elliott	Host	Wow!
01:12:02	Dan	Host	“It was a big step when I listen—”
01:12:03	Elliott	Host	Big dig on the show, Dan.
<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>			
			It’s hard for a show to maintain consistent quality over thirty years and four million episodes, but come on, Dan.
01:12:12	Dan	Host	<i>[Laughs.]</i> I watched ‘til very recently. “So it was a big step—”
<i>[Elliott laughs.]</i>			
			“—when I listened to your episode with Mike as a guest and didn’t feel any psychic pain. Maybe I’m back on my way to wholeheartedly loving my favorite show again. The next step is wearing all my various <i>Simpsons</i> shirts again.” <i>[Laughs.]</i> “Thank you, Peaches, for being part of the healing process. Marlena, last name withheld.” I just, y’know. Wanted to share that moment of feeling. <i>[Laughs.]</i> <i>The Flop House</i> is here for you in ways big and small.
01:12:42	Elliott	Host	Yeah. And you know what? If you ever run into him again? Introduce yourself. As longtime listeners may remember, I have long regretted that I never sent Ray Harryhausen a fan letter ‘cause I was always like, “Eh, I’ll get around to it.” And then of course he was an old man and he passed away. But the way to do it—just a tip for next time—is not to do it the way my grandma does, where there was more than one occasion where she and I would be at the theatre—me and my grandmother, who I love—and Wallace Shawn from <i>Princess Bride</i> would be in the audience. And she would ask me who he was and what his name was, mere seats from the man himself.
<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>			
			And I would try to surreptitiously say, “Oh, that’s Wallace Shawn.” “What? What’s his name? His father was the editor of <i>The New Yorker</i> . What’s his name?” And it was always excruciating and then after the fact I found it pretty funny. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
01:13:27	Dan	Host	And also—famously kind of a grumpy man.
01:13:30	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Dan: So I’m sure he didn’t—
			Elliott: Oh, yeah. I’m sure he did not enjoy having someone— having an old woman loudly near him question who he is. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
01:13:37	Justin	Guest	I have long tried to encourage people that like, if you see someone whose work you enjoy, I don’t care how famous they are. I think everyone always likes to hear, “I like the things you make!” That’s a little—especially if you’re having kind of a bum day. I can’t imagine a situation where I wouldn’t want someone to be like, “Good! You’re good!” Now the—
01:14:00	Dan	Host	As long as you don’t bend their ear, I think I agree with you. Yeah.
01:14:02	Justin	Guest	Yeah. The seedy underbelly of that advice is that one time I was at the LAX and I saw John C. McGinley and I thought, I’m gonna go over there and say hi to John C. McGinley. I <u>love</u> John C. McGinley.” We’re in line at the thing—y’know, in the TSA line? So we kept serpentineing past each other and I had all these

opportunities. “I’m gonna do it now. I’m gonna do it now.” And afterwards I was kicking myself. I was like, “Dammit! Shoulda said something to John C. McGinley.” And as I was boarding my plane I realized in my head—that was John C. Reilly. And if I had gone up to him—

[Multiple people laugh.]

[Through laughter]—if I had gone up to him, I would’ve said, “Mr. McGinley—” *[Laughs.]* “Mr. McGinley, I’m sure you get this all the time—” Which I doubt he does, ‘cause his name’s John C. Reilly. **Justin:** I woulda been *[inaudible]* but I saved myself that time.

Stuart: Yeah. You woulda jumped into some like—

Dan: *[Laughs.]* Yeah.
Scrubs scenes and stuff and—

[Elliott laughs.]

Yeah. *[Laughs.]*

That’s why it’s always a good idea—as the letter-writer said—to google the person just to make sure you got everything right.

I would say judge the vibe. See if they’re in a good mood. I did see Adam Scott at *Tootsie*, the Broadway show of *Tootsie*, and afterwards, like, I was very close to him and if I’d been one person closer I would have told him how much I loved *Piranha 3D*, *[through laughter]* which is not ironic. But he kinda looked like he was keen on getting out of there and not being—

Impossible. He saw *Tootsie*. There’s no way that’s possible. He was probably still laughing.

You would’ve been the second-best part of his night. After seeing *Tootsie*.

Well I mean, it’s kind of famous among Broadway hounds that he was lobbying very hard for the lead role in *Tootsie* and did not get it. And he went to every show just to scowl through it and think about how much better he would’ve been in that role.

That was the guy from—that was the guy from *Crazy Ex-Girlfriend*, right? Who—

Elliott: Who actually played it, yeah. I think so. Yeah, yeah.

Stuart: Who was the lead? Yeah.

Dan: Yeah. Yeah.

Yeah. Rachel Bloom.

Dan: *[Laughs.]* Okay. Uh, second—

Elliott: That’s not a guy, and it’s not the person who was in *Tootsie*! That’s the star of *Crazy Ex-Girlfriend*.

Mm-hm. Second and final letter of the evening. Or morning.

Whenever you listen. Amy, last name withheld, writes—

Amy Adams. Again, hugely impressive. Yeah.

“I’m writing to ask if you could all name a pet after any character from a movie, what name would you choose? Thanks for the great podcast! Amy, last name withheld.” I gotta say, my last two cats have been named... after, um... old movie stars. Not necessarily their characters. In one case, named after the character that came

01:14:47 Crosstalk Crosstalk

01:14:54 Stuart Host

01:14:57 Justin Guest

01:14:58 Elliott Host

01:15:04 Dan Host

01:15:28 Justin Guest

01:15:32 Stuart Host

01:15:36 Elliott Host

01:15:49 Stuart Host

01:15:54 Crosstalk Crosstalk

01:15:57 Elliott Host

01:15:59 Crosstalk Crosstalk

01:16:02 Elliott Host

01:16:04 Dan Host

01:16:12 Elliott Host

01:16:15 Dan Host

to be identified with him. My first cat, Lulu, was named after Louise Brooks, who was often called “Lulu” because of her character in *Pandora’s Box*. And we called her that because early on, Lulu did not make any noise? And we thought—is this cat mute? And so a silent film star came to my mind. And Archie is named after Archie Leach, which is Cary Grant’s real name. But guys, do you have characters from movies you would name your cats after? Or dogs? Or pets or a baby?

01:17:19 Stuart Host

Sure. I mean, the main reason why I think Charlene’s not going to let me ever buy a dog or adopt a dog is because I would 100% name him after the most noble of all the Jedi—that’s right—Ki-Doggie-Mundi, or Ki-Doggie-Doggie, or Dog-Adi-Mundi. I haven’t decided which one I wanna go.

01:17:37 Stuart Host

Or Rodney Dogerfield.

01:17:38 Dan Host

Dogney Dogerfield. That’s already taken and also not a character. That’s a—

[Dan laughs.]

01:17:46 Stuart Host

—the actor. We’re talking about the character, Ki-Adi-Doggie.

01:17:48 Dan Host

It’s kind of the character he played eventually.

01:17:49 Crosstalk Crosstalk

That’s true, yeah.

Dan: Anybody else?

01:17:51 Elliott Host

Elliott: Yeah. I probably—

I probably—y’know, *The Thin Man* is one of my favorite movies and of course I’d name it after the titular thin man—Claude Wynant. So my dog, Claude Wynant—or maybe it’s a fish or a cat—that’s what I’d name him. Or her. Claude Wynant. Sorry, Clyde Wynant.

01:18:07 Justin Guest

Probably Teddy KGB from *Rounders*.

[All laugh. Someone applauds.]

01:18:14 Dan Host

Because the pet’s accent is outrageous. *[Laughs.]*

01:18:18 Justin Guest

[In terrible Eastern European accent] I’ll splash the dog food whenever I want! *[Regular voice]* Naw, just seems like it’d be fun to have a dog named Teddy KGB. *[Laughs.]* It would be good, now that I think about that. I came up with that in the moment, but I think it would be powerful.

01:18:31 Stuart Host

Sometimes that’s the best ones.

01:18:32 Elliott Host

So—I mean, Scooby Doo tells us—as we’ve postulated—that a dog is named—

01:18:36 Justin Guest

That’d be a good one, too. Scooby Doo.

01:18:39 Elliott Host

That Scooby Doo is named after—dogs are named after the foods they like best. So I guess if I had a dog, he’d be named Pill Wrapped In Cheese.

[All laugh.]

01:18:49 Dan Host

Um, okay.

01:18:50 Justin Guest

Does that mean I’m gonna have to start calling my two-year-old Old Pringles? ‘Cause that’s—

[Multiple people laugh.]

—her whole thing. “Carpet Pringles! Get over here!”

[Dan laughs.]

01:18:58	Elliott	Host	Earlier, before recording this, my family and I, we went out to play some baseball at the local rec center. And—just the family. And my younger son, the two-year-old, was holding a rice cake? And every time a tiny grain of rice cake would fall on the ground, he would scrabble for it. That was the one he wanted to eat the most. And I'd have to pull it from his hand and throw it away and he literally has a whole rice cake in his hand! But it's like each grain in the dirt is what he wants to eat.
			<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>
			What a country, amirite?
			<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>
01:19:28	Stuart	Host	<i>[Through laughter]</i> Yup.
01:19:29	Dan	Host	In this economy? So now the last segment comes. That is Recommendations. Movies that maybe, y'know. Would be—an adult human would fully enjoy <i>[through laughter]</i> rather than—
01:19:42	Stuart	Host	Or watch it as a movie marathon along with <i>Happy Halloween, Scooby Doo!</i> .
01:19:48	Dan	Host	Uh, sure. I wanna recommend... <i>[Laughs.]</i> I'm glad Justin is here for this. I'm maybe recommending this in part because Justin's here. Yesterday a friend of ours had a Tom Arnold marathon on Twitch of three movies released—all, I believe, in 1996. He had <i>Carpool</i> , <i>The Stupids</i> , and <i>Big Bully</i> . That was Tom Arnold's big year, I guess. They were really trying to make him happen. And I only saw in full <i>The Stupids</i> . Which is the one I cared about, because—as a big <i>My Brother, My Brother and Me</i> listener, <i>[through laughter]</i> I've heard it referenced many times. And I've gotta say— <i>[through laughter]</i> it was very funny. I laughed a lot.
01:20:31	Justin	Guest	It's really good. <i>The Stupids</i> holds up. It is fantastic. What a film.
			<i>[Dan laughs.]</i>
01:20:37	Dan	Host	I think it was not appreciated because—as the title would suggest—it is very stupid. But it is stupid in a smart way. Like they have really put a lot of work into creating a house of cards that pays off by the end of just, like... idiotic misapprehensive—misapprehensions. And I don't think everyone in it is doing a great job? Like I kind of feel like Mrs. Stupid is playing stupid more than, like, Tom Arnold, I believe with my full heart and soul that he is this <i>[through laughter]</i> stupid character. But Jesus. It's a hard one to recommend to people because they might watch it and be like, "What is wrong with you?" But I was watching it and being like, I can't imagine anyone not laughing at this.
01:21:24	Stuart	Host	There's an actor named Bug Hall in it? Plays Buster Stupid. Okay.
01:21:30	Justin	Guest	Bug Hall—it's hilarious. You and I had a—we watched the entire Bug Hall omnibus, because I watched <i>Little Rascals</i> with my kids last week.
			<i>[Dan laughs.]</i>
			So those are all the Bug Hall movies. He played Alfalfa in that one. Now that is all the... Bug Hall films.
01:21:46	Elliott	Host	Oh, he's in a bunch of other movies, it turns out. As more of a grown-up. I didn't realize this. Bug Hall. Like <i>Atlas Shrugged: Part II</i> apparently he's in.

01:21:56	Stuart	Host	[Justin laughs.] Oh, Max Landis is in it as a graffiti artist? Oh damn! You musta loved that!
01:22:00	Dan	Host	It's a John Landis-directed film.
01:22:03	Stuart	Host	[Multiple people laugh.] John Landis—he doesn't murder anyone in this one, right?
01:22:05	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Dan: No. He does not murder—
01:22:06	Elliott	Host	Elliott: Yeah. How many people died— How many people died during the making of <i>The Stupids</i> , Dan?
01:22:08	Dan	Host	[Multiple people laugh.] If anyone died he covered it up effectively.
01:22:11	Elliott	Host	Wait, and there's a cameo in it—according to Wikipedia—from director Costa Gavras, so that's pretty amazing. Director of <i>Z</i> and—
01:22:18	Dan	Host	David Cronenberg is in it as well. There are a lot of directors' cameos.
01:22:19	Justin	Guest	You know, Dan—
01:22:21	Elliott	Host	Mick Garris.
01:22:22	Justin	Guest	I'm not recommending <i>The Little Rascals</i> , but I do want to say that Donald Trump is in <i>The Little Rascals</i> as the father of the rich kid?
01:22:27	Elliott	Host	Oh, right.
01:22:29	Justin	Guest	And there's an outtake where he reaches over and steals this lady's popcorn. And it's clearly, like, improvised. He reaches over and steals this lady's popcorn and eats some of it. And it's like, "Oh, that's a funny outtake. Okay, fine. Put that in." There's a different outtake and then they cut back to this one, and they showed Donald Trump spitting the chewed-up popcorn onto the person sitting in front of them, and saying "This popcorn really is terrible!" That is not improvised. That is just what he was doing with his human life and they caught it on film. And they put it in the outtakes. He was really a terrible person.
01:23:05	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Stuart: Little slice of history.
01:23:08	Elliott	Host	Elliott: Yeah. Always. It's—
01:23:11	Justin	Guest	It's not like power drove him mad. He was always a bad person.
01:23:13	Elliott	Host	No. He sucks, always. Dan, the Wikipedia list of celebrity cameos for <i>The Stupids</i> is making me wanna see it 'cause it's almost like a Scooby Doo series 'cause it's like, you got Jenny McCarthy. Okay, it was made in the '90s. Then you got Atom Egoyan, Norman Jewison, Robert Wise, Gillo Pontecorvo—this is—yeah. Max Landis was really calling in all of his director buddies to be in <i>The Stupids</i> ! [Laughs.]
01:23:31	Dan	Host	It has a lot of very, very strange jokes in it that you would not expect. But uh.
01:23:37	Stuart	Host	That sounds great! It's funny you mentioned David Cronenberg. I'm going to recommend a movie called <i>Possessor</i> , or <i>Possessor: Uncut</i> , which is directed by the son of David Cronenberg, Brandon Cronenberg. It is a nice little gross thriller. It's kind of like if you took a LaserDisc of a Christopher Nolan movie and kind of pressed your thumb on it to slow the whole thing down? It's high concept about an assassin who—using technology—transfers her consciousness into somebody else's brain and then uses them to kill people. And it's super slow and gross. And I liked it a lot. So <i>Possessor</i> .

01:24:20	Dan	Host	Yeah. Stuart, I want to say—that's what I would have recommended. I just watched it. It's what I would have recommended if I decided—if I hadn't decided to throw caution to the wind <i>[through laughter]</i> and recommend <i>The Stupids</i> .
01:24:31	Stuart	Host	<i>[Laughs.]</i> Yeah.
01:24:32	Elliott	Host	Should I go next?
01:24:34	Justin	Guest	Sure. Sure.
01:24:36	Elliott	Host	I'm gonna recommend a film drama from the early '70s. I'm gonna recommend a movie called <i>Cinderella Liberty</i> , starring James Caan and Marsha Mason, with Eli Wallach in a supporting role. And this is a movie that I had been wanting to see for a number of years because I could not understand the title: <i>Cinderella Liberty</i> . And it turns out it's because that's the name—
01:24:55	Stuart	Host	It's just two different words.
01:24:56	Elliott	Host	It's just two different words thrown together. No, it's what they call it when you are on shore leave in the Navy but you have to be back at midnight. So you don't have a full night; you just have to be back at midnight. James Caan is a sailor who has shore leave in Seattle and falls in love with a—essentially a prostitute who has a teenaged son and finds that his records have been lost by the Navy. This is the '70s. It's literally a paper file that they can't find. And so he's stuck there and can't be put on another ship. And he forms a relationship with her and it is a real, like... y'know. Sometimes funny, sometimes serious character study of these characters. And I liked it a lot and it was fun seeing James Caan playing a character who is not like a blustery, y'know, tough guy? Y'know? And so I liked it a lot. It's directed by Mark Rydell, who also directed one of Dan's favorites— <i>For the Boys</i> . Starring Bette Midler. So.
			<i>[Dan laughs.]</i>
			<i>[Through laughter]</i> So that's <i>Cinderella Liberty</i> . Justin, what would you like to recommend?
01:25:56	Justin	Guest	Uh, y'know, there's so many—I only get to do this show once and I've seen so many movies that I'd like to recommend.
			<i>[Elliott laughs.]</i>
01:26:04	Dan	Host	But you know what? I'm gonna go with—
01:26:06	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	I mean... you <u>could</u> come back. <i>[Laughs.]</i> Dan: You're not banned after this.
			Stuart: I don't know. At the start of the show you were pretty sincere—
01:26:10	Stuart	Host	—about not having him back on. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
01:26:12	Dan	Host	Yeah.
			<i>[Elliott laughs.]</i>
01:26:13	Justin	Guest	Yeah. You're—I think that decision's been made. No, I want to recommend <i>Velocipastor</i> . Have you guys seen <i>Velocipastor</i> ?
01:26:18	Elliott	Host	I've only seen clips from it and I've yet to see the whole movie and it seems... yeah. Bonkers.
01:26:23	Justin	Guest	It—it's bonkers. It's a really interesting—'cause it starts out seeming like it's gonna be sort of an intentionally bad camp thing. And there is some of that. And then there's some jokes that just work

earnestly. And then the strangest thing about this film is that every once in a while, it will... just pick up competence.

[Dan laughs.]

And put it over its shoulder and just be a competent movie for like fifteen minutes. And then just drop it again.

[Multiple people laugh.]

And it's almost like the director is teasing you? Like, "Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah. No, no. I know how to—I could do a good—" there's like a love scene in this movie that is so wildly effective and like romantic and sweet and erotic? And it's like, "What the hell? Wait—if you could—you know how to do it! Why are you not doing it?"

[Dan laughs.]

He's like, "I don't wanna. I don't wanna. It's a movie about a pastor that turns into a velociraptor and eats criminals. So that's the movie I'm making. I could make a good movie, but I'm gonna make this movie." And it is a really, really enjoyable—it's like—again, it's like 70 minutes long. It's about one *Happy Halloween, Scooby Doo!* Worth of time to watch.

[Elliott laughs.]

But I got a big kick out of it. I've seen it a few times now. I really dig it.

01:27:35 Elliott Host

I would love for that to be the new measurement of time that becomes the official one? That scientists doing, like, *Cosmos*-type TV shows will say, "Billions of *Happy Halloween, Scooby Doo!*s ago, our universe was created." Yeah. That's set. Is *Velocipastor* the movie where a car explodes but they just wrote, "Car explosion effects" on the screen?

01:27:54 Justin Guest

[Through laughter] Yeah. Yeah.

01:27:55 Stuart Host

That's great.

01:27:56 Justin Guest

That's the one! Good stuff.

[Elliott laughs.]

A microbudget, too. It was made for basically—I think—\$80,000. It is—yeah. Very impressive. The director—Brendan Steer, I think his name is—has gotten a large cash investment for his next film, so I'm—which apparently has some connection to *Velocipastor*? It's called *Outback Dracula*?

[Elliott laughs.]

01:28:26 Stuart Host

Already—

So I should get on *Velocipastor* so I'm caught up for when *Outback Dracula* comes out.

01:28:30 Justin Guest

Yeah. Watch *Velocipastor* 'cause he will probably show up in *Outback Dracula*, which—according to the press release—shifts the madness to 1880s Australia where a psychic lesbian schoolteacher teams up with the world's greatest adventurer to find her missing

			girlfriend and defeat Dracula and his golden army of the undead. So.
01:28:46	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Stuart: Sounds kinda like <i>Quigley Down Under</i> .
			Justin: Do not miss this. Yeah. Get on there.
01:28:51	Elliott	Host	Elliott: I mean, that is the plot of <i>Quickly Down Under</i> . They're just ripping it off. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
01:28:54	Dan	Host	Um, so, uh... before we do our quick closing stuff, Justin, do you have anything to plug? I know that you have a book about how to podcast coming out and I know this because even—
01:29:03	Justin	Guest	When will this episode be out?
01:29:04	Dan	Host	Uh—
01:29:05	Stuart	Host	Saturday.
01:29:06	Elliott	Host	Well after Halloween.
01:29:07	Dan	Host	Saturday, yeah. I—this—I—even though I already have a podcast myself, I preordered your book and I'm looking forward to reading it.
01:29:16	Justin	Guest	Thank you. You'll learn a few things. Saturday, November 21 st , this is coming out. We're doing a live show <u>tonight</u> ! If you go to live.TheMcElroy.family. That's M-C-E-L-R-O-Y. We're doing a livestreamed show. You can get tickets for \$10. <i>Sawbones</i> , my medical history podcast I do with my wife Sydnee, is gonna be there, and it's gonna be... fun! And please go watch it.
01:29:49	Stuart	Host	live.TheMcElroy.family. It's tonight. Catch it. Yeah. You guys are the best in the biz. Having seen you guys do live shows over the last couple years, you guys have gotten so tight and professional at it? That it makes me wonder what we're even trying to do over here.
01:30:05	Dan	Host	<i>[All laugh.]</i> Yeah. I mean, I have tickets for the streaming show. I'm looking forward to it. Um—
01:30:09	Justin	Guest	Thank you so much! Even if you don't come, folks. I really can't emphasize that enough. Just please buy tickets. And watch it or don't. It's up to you.
01:30:18	Dan	Host	<i>[Dan laughs.]</i> Well anyway. Before we go, I would like to say thank you to our network, Maximum Fun, that carries our show— <i>The Flop House</i> —and a couple of shows by Justin and his extended family. <i>[Laughs.]</i> A family full of podcasters! Just like <i>The Partridge Family</i> except for not singing.
01:30:39	Elliott	Host	But the Partridge family was full of podcasters. That's true.
01:30:43	Dan	Host	And I'd like to thank Jordan Kauwling for editing this show and making it sound better than it ever did when I produced it. And I'd like to thank our guest, Justin, for being here.
01:30:55	Justin	Guest	My pleasure.
01:30:56	Dan	Host	And so for <i>The Flop House</i> , I've been Dan McCoy.
01:30:59	Stuart	Host	I've been Stuart Wellington!
01:31:01	Elliott	Host	I'm Elliott Kalan! And continue to be.
01:31:04	Dan	Host	And that's Justin McElroy. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
01:31:06	Justin	Guest	I'm Justin McElroy. Do I say? This is—that's a weird thing to have a guest do. I'm Justin McElroy.
			<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>

01:31:11	Dan	Host	Yeah. You can give us the postmortem afterwards. How we're doing.
01:31:14	Stuart	Host	Oh, Charlene wants to say hi.
01:31:16	Justin	Guest	That was weird. I'll do a now-mortem. Hey, Charlene! <i>[Laughs.]</i>
			<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>
01:31:21	Elliott	Host	Okay. Now that's—now that's—
01:31:22	Justin	Guest	Am I not supposed to do—now that was a weird thing for a guest to do. 100%.
01:31:24	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Charlene: <i>[Inaudible]</i> Yay!
			Elliott: Yeah. That's on Justin.
01:31:25	Elliott	Host	The first thing was on us, but the second thing was on Justin.
			<i>[Multiple people laugh. Someone applauds.]</i>
01:31:30	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Justin: You listeners can see that, right?
			Dan: See y'all next time! Bye!
01:31:34	Justin	Guest	I've gotta pee so bad. This is end of show. I'll end it. And this has been <i>Flop House</i> . Keep reaching for the stars!
01:31:41	Dan	Host	Okay. Well we'll have to go. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
01:31:42	Stuart	Host	Byeeee!
01:31:43	Music	Music	Light, up-tempo, electric guitar with synth instruments.
01:31:57	Dan	Host	Uh, yeah. I'll do the intro and then we'll do the show.
01:32:00	Stuart	Host	Oh, okay.
01:32:01	Justin	Guest	Good order. <i>[Laughs.]</i> I'd head to the outro right after that, though.
			<i>[Elliott laughs.]</i>
			<i>[Through laughter]</i> Oh, it's like you're peasants
01:32:08	Dan	Host	Oh. So many burns. Okay.
01:32:09	Music	Transition	A cheerful ukulele chord.
01:32:11	Speaker 1	Guest	MaximumFun.org .
01:32:12	Speaker 2	Guest	Comedy and culture.
01:32:14	Speaker 3	Guest	Artist owned—
01:32:15	Speaker 4	Guest	—Audience supported.