

Still Buffering 238: "Animaniacs"

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[theme music plays]

Rileigh: Hello, and welcome to *Still Buffering*, a cross-generational guide to the culture that made us. I am Rileigh Smirl.

Sydnee: I'm Sydnee McElroy.

Taylor: And I'm Taylor Smirl.

Sydnee: Well, we got some snow here.

Rileigh: We did.

Taylor: Oh, I'm jealous.

Sydnee: Yeah. I was, uh—for some reason, Charlie was set on the idea that on December 1st, snow comes, and she had—she's been telling me this for, like, two weeks. "I can't wait! It's gonna be December and then it snows!"

And I kept saying, "Honey, I don't know where you got the idea that it always snows on December 1st, but that's not—"

Rileigh: She's been around for a few Decembers now.

Sydnee: Yeah, and I said, "That's not generally—here, that doesn't—I mean, it might, but probably not, so don't—don't get your hopes up."

We wake up on the morning of December 1st, and there's a couple inches of snow on the ground, so...

Taylor: You got a psychic baby.

Sydnee: Apparently, apparently. And forever now, by the way, this has been reinforced that, yes, it—

Rileigh: Yeah, now that's for every December.

Sydnee: Yes. On December 1st, we have to—we start checking the Advent calendar for prizes, we check to see where the elf on the shelf moved, and it snows.

Taylor: That's a pretty good day.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Rileigh: Where did the elf on the shelf move?

Sydnee: Um, wherever Justin woke up in the middle of the night and remembered to move it.

[all laugh]

Sydnee: No, no. We were trying to take turns. It's a hard habit to get into. Um, but we're trying to—I woke up literally the other night at three AM and went, "Ugh, crap." And had to get out of bed and go move the elf. [laughs quietly]

Taylor: [laughs] Are you keeping it safely out of Cooper's reach so it can retain its magic?

Sydnee: Mm-hmm, yep, yep. She is always, uh—our elf is—[laughs] So, our elf is, um... last year her name was Clarice—although both the girls call her Clorice.

Rileigh: That's not... [laughs]

Sydnee: Yeah.

Rileigh: That's not right.

Sydnee: So, Clorice. But then this year, it's the same elf, and she's wearing the same dress. Uh, but they wanted to rename her, so they—[laughs quietly]

they renamed her... I was so close to the best names. So I asked both the girls, "Both of you offer up some suggestions and let's work on it together. Let's cooperate and come up with a name together to rename the elf."

And, uh, Charlie says something—I forget, something at first, and went "No, that's not it." And Cooper says, "What about TV?"

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: And I said—and so I'm thinking, like, she's naming it something she loves.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: TV. [laughs quietly] And I'm like, "Well, I don't know about TV."

And Charlie says, "Well, we could call her TV, but it's short for... uh... Tiffany Ventriloquist."

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: And I said, "Well, I do love Tiffany Ventriloquist, so if we want to name our elf on the shelf Tiffany Ventriloquist, I'm on board with that."

And she was like, "No, no, that's not—that's not Christmassy enough. We need something like Snowflake... Ronnie."

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: "What about Snowflake Ronnie?"

And I was like, "Yes!" [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah. [laughs]

Sydnee: "I don't know how you topped Tiffany Ventriloquist, TV for short, but you did with Snowflake Ronnie, and I love this, and we're doing it."

And then she was like, "No, let's just call her Snowflake."

And I'm like, "Well... you can call her Snowflake, but to me... [laughs]"

Raleigh: She is Snowflake Ronnie.

Taylor: Ol' Snowflake Ronnie.

Sydnee: So that's our elf, Snowflake Ronnie. Ol' Snowflake Ronnie.

Raleigh: Wow.

Sydnee: Yeah. I made, like, a duct tape trail from where she was one day up to the top of the tree to show where she climbed duct tape to get herself to the top of the tree.

Raleigh: That's pretty good.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: Now you just gotta do, like, 25 more of those.

Sydnee: I know! I realized, like, why did I do this early? Why didn't I save this for closer—closer to the final day when the elf that snitches on you leaves?

Taylor: I mean, does the elf have to move magically every night? Is that part of the game?

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: There's no—

Sydnee: Because—well, you know, the thing is that the elf watches you all day, and then reports back to Santa every night.

Taylor: Oh, okay.

Raleigh: So then it comes back in the middle of the night.

Sydnee: Yes, it—

Raleigh: Before you wake up.

Sydnee: —it uses its elf magic to fly to Santa, tell Santa if you've been naughty or nice, and then come home. So it's—I mean, it's a little snitch in your house.

Taylor: There's a weird psychological control thing goin' on. [laughs]

Sydnee: Yeah, they love and hate the elf.

Raleigh: Yeah, it's like that documentary we watched about that clown... that was fake, but said you could hire him to, like, come scare your kids if they're being bad.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: Oh yeah.

Raleigh: It's like the—the more acceptable version of that. [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs] It's a lot to have to keep up with, I will say.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: The elf on the shelf. Um—

Taylor: How did this catch on? It sounds like it's only so much fun for the kids, and just awful for the parents. [laughs]

Sydnee: [sighs] I don't know. I don't know. It's one of those things where like—I don't know how this happens where you see it around you—and probably, like, pre-kids, I saw it out in the world and was like, "Phew, I'd never do that!"

And then one day you look around and there's an elf on your shelf, and you don't know why, or how it happened.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: You just know that now you're that parent, and this is part of your life now.

Raleigh: [through laughter] There's an elf on your shelf.

Sydnee: There—[laughs quietly] And I don't know why. On the—on a better note, we also built gingerbread houses out of Pop-Tarts, and I was actually proud of that. Like, this is—this is a holiday activity I felt good about.

Raleigh: That's good.

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: That's like a gingerbread house that you could actually eat!

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I felt really good about it. I made royal icing, just out of, like, water and confectioner's sugar. I know that's not real royal icing, before I get emails. Like, I know that's not the real thing.

Raleigh: It works.

Sydnee: But when it gets hard, it's like superglue. It's hard. That—[laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: If you wanna eat these Pop-Tarts, they are hard now!

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: Aw. Well, that's no fun. That's the great disappointment of a gingerbread house is you make something that looks so delicious, but in the process, you make it so inedible. [laughs]

Raleigh: So stale, and—and sticky, and hard.

Sydnee: Yeah, I—

Taylor: And it just had hands everywhere. [laughs]

Sydnee: Uh-huh, uh-huh. Well, and these—so, I didn't—I really was trying to just kinda do it on a whim, so, like, a bought some Pop-Tarts and I was like, "Everything else—I know we have some confectioner's sugar. We probably have some candy laying around, or something we can stick on it. [laughs quietly] We'll get some stuff and stick it on it."

Raleigh: Sure.

Sydnee: And, uh, among the candy that they found in our house were some Pixy Stix that mom bought. I do not buy them Pixy Stix. Mom bought them Pixy Stix.

So they decided to just dump Pixy Stix all over them.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: So that became part of it.

Raleigh: Man.

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Taylor: Well, these just sound gross. Just straight up... ew. [laughs]

Sydnee: I don't know. I'd eat 'em, is what I'm saying. I'd eat 'em.

Rileigh: Oh, you still would?

Sydnee: I—I would—I mean, they're brown sugar cinnamon Pop-Tarts!

Rileigh: Are you sure you don't just want a pop tart?

Sydnee: I do—the—the girls don't like the brown sugar cinnamon, so I bought 'em to make the houses out of—

Rileigh: [holding back laughter] So that you could eat 'em?

Sydnee: And I really want one.

Taylor: Well, you know, the good thing is, is now you have this tiny snitch in your house that you can then blame things on. So if a couple bites get taken out of one of the gingerbread houses—

Sydnee: [gasps]

Taylor: —you know, after—after a few too many craft beers, uh, you can just blame the elf.

Sydnee: It wasn't me! It was Snowflake Ronnie!

Taylor: [laughs]

Rileigh: It was Snowflake Ronnie.

Taylor: Aw, Snowflake Ronnie. They only eat pop tart gingerbread houses. That's true for elves. That is what they live on.

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: It is—it is terrifying, though, now that Cooper understands the premise of the elf, when they were still calling the elf Clarice. Now if Cooper thinks I'm being naughty, Cooper'll just look at me and go, "[monotone] Clarice is watching."

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs] It's like, "[whine] I don't think I like that she's watching me! I am not her intended audience."

Sydnee: How would you feel if she said, "[monotone] Snowflake Ronnie is watching." [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs] Now that, I would like.

Taylor: I don't know, I think I—I think without context of who we're talking about, if a small child told me that somebody named Snowflake Ronnie [through laughter] was watching me, I would immediately be horrified!

Sydnee: [laughs] I'm gonna get a second elf so that the other one can be Tiffany Ventriloquist.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: Now, they have two elves. They have one at mom's house and they have one at your house.

Sydnee: But the one at mom's house is always—

Raleigh: Tippy.

Sydnee: —Tippy.

Raleigh: Yes. Tippy.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: [monotone] Tippy is watching. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: Charlie used to hate Tippy. She used to get ang—she used to cry when she would see Tippy.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: Yeah, why—

Raleigh: She got it at first.

Sydnee: Yeah, she got what it was. She was like, "Oh, no!"

Taylor: I don't understand, this is a horrible tradition. I... [through laughter]
I don't understand this!

Sydnee: I mean, it is. I'm not arguing that it's great. I don't know—like, again, I am participating in it, and if you wanna ask why I ever made that decision...

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: I mean, I think the truth is probably that mom did it first, and then I felt like, "[sighs] Now I've gotta do it to be a good parent. 'Cause mom did it."

That's probably how this came down.

Taylor: Holiday tradition of indoctrinating your youth into living in a surveillance police state.

[all laugh quietly]

Sydnee: Ho ho ho!

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: Happy holidays. [laughs]

Sydnee: What are we talkin' about, Tey? [laughs]

Taylor: Uh, not... not this. Uh, I want to talk about the *Animaniacs*. Uh, it's a cartoon from our youth. It ran from '93 to '98. Uh, and then more recently, just this year, was released—a new season was released on Hulu. So...

Sydnee: Uh, that was very exciting, when I saw—did you see the commercial, too, when they announced the new season?

Taylor: No.

Sydnee: And they did it—it was like a, uh... um, *Jurassic Park* style—

Taylor: Oh wait, I did see that, yes!

Raleigh: I didn't see that.

Sydnee: Yes. Oh, it's so good. It's—it's very—it's very—it's very good.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: You've seen *Jurassic Park*, right?

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: Okay. Alright. [laughs quietly] Well, it would—it wouldn't really land if you haven't. [laughs]

Raleigh: Okay. [laughs]

Taylor: I like that that's—I think that when you watch on Hulu, that's the first thing that runs is that, uh, *Jurassic Park* bit, and then it goes into the show.

Sydnee: Ah.

Taylor: Yeah. But, uh, I like that they kind of—like, "Well, here's a joke that is actually more applicable to the adult audience than were children when—" but hopefully it will still land with the actual kids, which I don't think it would.

They kind of walk that line in the new one of, like, "Here's some jokes that only will make sense to the old people that are watching this children's show." [laughs]

Sydnee: They definitely know—like a lot of these kind of reboots, they know where the—like, the people that are gonna tune in first, they know who we are. [laughs quietly]

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: They've got our number. Uh, what they're hoping is that enough of us have children [through laughter] that it will trickle down to the kids.

Taylor: Well, and just as a brief—in case you've never encountered the *Animaniacs*, what is it? It's just a—it's sort of a sketch comedy show, really. Like, it's a—there are three—you know, your three stars, which are the two Warner Brothers and the Warner Sister, Dot.

And, uh, they just... got into shenanigans. There were other sort of bits that were regular occurrences on the show. Uh, and it was meant for kids, but like a lot of that '90s era cartoons, had a lot of adult humor fed into it.

Sydnee: You might say that just for fun they sort, like, run around... the Warner movie lot.

Taylor: Yeah. And, uh—and they would get locked in a tower whenever they got caught. Um...

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Taylor: But sometimes—

Sydnee: So, now you know the—the plot. [laughs]

Taylor: —they—they break loose, and then vamoose. [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: And, uh, Bill Clinton played the sax.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs] Boy, that—they had to change that.

Taylor: Yeah. [laughs]

Sydnee: That would be a weird—like, now in 2020, like, "Also—" [through laughter] Raleigh, you remember former President Bill Clinton? Here's him playing a saxophone.

Raleigh: Not even so much explaining it to, like, people—'cause I will say, the original *Animaniacs* was still slightly before me. I never watched it growing up. It was a little bit before my time. But, like, Charlie, Charlie watching it now. Like, "Charlie, let me tell you about [through laughter] President Bill Clinton."

Taylor: Well, 'cause the original *Animaniacs* even had a lot of jokes that referenced, like, old Hollywood.

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: So that was, like—there was a learning curve there for our generation, when you'd watch it and they'd make some reference to, like, you know, I don't know, Humphrey Bogart or something. And when you're, like, ten, like, "Oh, sure, I know—[through laughter] I know about him!"

Raleigh: "Ha, ha, ha."

Sydnee: It was thinking about that. It's weird how that landed, because I did enjoy *Animaniacs*, and I was thinking about that watching it. Like, I don't—I still only sort of know sometimes who they're talking about, you know? Because, I mean, it was so before our time. Um, and it is weird. It reminds me of—you know on *SNL* when they would do sketches about, like, *The Lawrence Welk Show*?

And I would think, like, "Why are you doing a sketch about *The Lawrence Welk Show*? Like, there is no—I am... among the older people watching this show, and we—I don't know what you're talking about."

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs] It was like that, but it worked. I mean, it was funny. I don't know why I thought it was funny when I was a kid, but I did.

Taylor: Well, you get the idea, uh, like that the writers on this show—there was a lot that was written for kind of their own enjoyment. So, you know, for a generation of people that were in their 30s in the '90s, I guess they would have reference points that could've been from that, you know, older era of Hollywood that would've made sense to them. And it's just like, "Oh, just leave it in. It's funny to us." [laughs]

Sydnee: I think that's definitely true. Well, and I mean, that's why, like, I would learn things from the *Animaniacs* about, like—one of the things I always remember knowing because of the *Animaniacs* is about the Presidents.

Taylor: Yeah, I think I know what you're gonna say.

Sydnee: Uh, I remember talking to our dad once and saying, "Well, I know that former President Gerald Ford used to fall down a lot." [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs] "[singing] And Gerald Ford fell down a lot."

[all laugh]

Sydnee: And my dad saying—dad was like, "Yeah, like Chevy Chase on *Saturday Night Live*."

And I'm like...

Raleigh: Uh-huh.

Sydnee: "Uh-huh?"

[all laugh]

Sydnee: "What? [laughs] I don't know what you're talking about! I just know that Gerald Ford did, in fact, fall down a lot." [laughs]

Rileigh: Did Gerald Ford fall down a lot?

Sydnee: I think he did one time.

Rileigh: [laughs]

Taylor: That's the thing.

Sydnee: I don't—[laughs loudly]

Rileigh: Hold on, let me go to Google real quick.

Taylor: I think that's the one fact that I—fact—is it a fact? That I would say that I know about [through laughter] Gerald Ford!

Sydnee: [laughs]

Rileigh: [laughs] If you type in "Did Gerald Ford" the first thing that fills in is "fall a lot!"

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: I mean, I think there was, like, one famous fall when he was, like, getting on a plane or some—maybe. I don't know. I might be making this up.

Rileigh: "Ford Takes a Fall" is in the "Top 10 Embarrassing Diplomatic Moments."

Taylor: Well... so—

Sydnee: So he did fall?

Rleigh: So it was—while visiting Austria in 1975, his knee gave away and he tumbled down the Air Force One stairs.

Sydnee: Oh, see, I knew it was a plane thing.

Rleigh: Oh! Uh, a few more falls, combined with Chevy Chase's *Saturday Night Live* pratfall routine—there you go.

Sydnee: There you go.

Rleigh: Uh, earned the former University of Michigan football star a reputation as a bumbling klutz. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: [snorts]

Taylor: [laughs]

Rleigh: That's not my words. I'm reading out of an article. But there you go. That's why Dad said Chevy Chase. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: Ah, those were the good old days when we used to make fun of our Presidents for, like—

Rleigh: Falling. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: —being clumsy, as opposed to, like... attempts at fascist coups. [laughs]

Taylor: Oh, just—you know. [laughs] Just—oops! I did a coup! It's just so charming.

Sydnee: Oh no. You know—but along those lines, it is interesting, because in the new *Animaniacs*, they take on Donald Trump right away. Um, and now of course, it was all made in 20... 18?

Taylor: Yes.

Sydnee: So it is made without a knowledge of how bad things would get. Um, and maybe, like, with this kind of freedom to still make fun of Donald Trump—not that you—I'm not saying you can't make fun of—make fun of Donald Trump all you want. But my point is, like, I think that now, it would be harder to do that, because Donald Trump was seen over time as more and more of a threat.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: And less ridiculous, because—you know? Whereas, like, early on in his Presidency for a lot of people it was like, "Well, this guy's just ridiculous."

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: And the *Animaniacs* can take that—that kind of track with him.

Taylor: Well, and I do—I think it's—you know, I mean, they—[laughs quietly] The new intro, uh... they changed a couple lines, and they make a point of saying that they've always been, you know, meta, and that, like—kind of, like, preempting for, like, "We always did—we always made fun of political figures of our time. Like, you know. We've always kind of—" there was a general awareness of, like, you know, uh... society in the old *Animaniacs*. So it wouldn't not be there in the reboot.

So I like that they kind of prepared us, like, "Yes. This is what we do. We're not—oh, we're trying to appeal to, like, a woke audience." They always did. [through laughter] They always had a—a political agenda of a certain degree.

Raleigh: It is funny, though, when you think about that, because then it's very—and it is, to me watching it, comes across very much as one of those cartoons where, like, you know that the parents are gonna have to be watching with the kids, so you throw all the stuff in there that is just kinda stupid so the kids laugh at it, but then you have all, like, the more topical jokes that are more for adults, just for the parents. Like, "We know you're having to watch this too. This is—this is for you."

Taylor: I think, uh—one episode in the new one that I thought was really interesting, uh, was the bunny episode? Did you all get that far?

[pauses]

Sydnee: Hmm. I don't think I watched the bunny episode.

Raleigh: I don't remember a bunny episode.

Taylor: Well, it's a skit that's about a guy that's offering them—he keeps calling them buns, and they're little bunnies, and then they have too many buns, and they need—like, it's an epidemic of bun violence. And so—

Sydnee: Ohhh.

Taylor: —the call in people from Australia—well, actually I think it's kangaroos—to do a bun buyback program.

Raleigh: Ohhh!

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Raleigh just got it.

Raleigh: Okay.

[all laugh]

Taylor: And I was watching it like, "How long is this joke gonna go on? Oh this is the whole episode!" And it was kind of—like, I was surprised that they would—that they would go that far into, like, this, you know, alluded to—I mean, thinly veiled metaphor for the gun problem in America. That they were like, "We're just gonna write a whole skit about it. And make parents have to have a conversation with [through laughter] their kids about this!"

Sydnee: Well, I mean, I think that that—I think that's pretty powerful, 'cause I didn't—I missed something in, um... it was in maybe the first episode of the new series where Dot was whitewashing a fence, when they

were singing about Hollywood just rebooting the same thing over and over again 'cause we don't have any new ideas. Uh, she was whitewashing the fence next to a poster of, like... it was like *Oldboy* or something?

Taylor: Oh yeah.

Sydnee: But it was—yes. But, I mean, it was a commentary on Hollywood whitewashing films. And I—like, I totally missed it. And Justin was like, "Did you just see what that was?!" And we, like, ran it back to watch it again. I was like, "[gasps] Oh my gosh! [laughs] Did you just put that in there?"

'Cause, like, I know kids wouldn't get it, but... I did not take that opportunity at that moment we're about—

Raleigh: To talk to [laughs quietly] Charlie and Cooper.

Sydnee: [laughs quietly] I will, though, when they're a little older and would understand what the heck I'm talking about.

Taylor: I mean, I also—I appreciated their—their episode about Marie Antoinette, too. Like, they have an episode about how they're—they're just, you know, like, I don't know, townfolk, and they, uh, are hungry, and they, you know, disguise their way into Marie Antoinette's court so they can eat all of her cake. And then basically invoke a proletariat uprising, uh, against Marie Antoinette.

Um, and it does allude to her death. [through laughter] It's pretty dark, actually! But it's, like—for kids it's just, like, the zany history lesson you get from that is like, "Oh, sometimes rich people have more cake than they should have, so you have every right to take it from them." [laughs] Like, good, yeah! Teach the youth that.

Raleigh: That's a good lesson.

Sydnee: Anyway.

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: Anyway, here's some more jokes about falling down.

Taylor: Exactly.

[all laugh]

Sydnee: Uh, I want to talk some more about why this series appealed to you so much in the beginning and everything, Tey, but before we do that...

Raleigh: Let's check the group message.

Sydnee: Uh, the first thing I want to tell you all about—man, this has become, like, a weekly tradition where I sit my two siblings down to tell them about my pants.

Raleigh: Yeah. [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs] We love to hear about your pants every week.

Raleigh: [holding back laughter] Yep.

Sydnee: [laughs quietly] Hello. Let me tell you about my pants. Uh, my pants are Betabrand's dress pant yoga pants. Uh, I love these pants because they are as comfortable as if I'm wearing, like, workout gear, or pajamas, or yoga pants! All the things you would wear yoga pants for because they're super comfortable and movable and breathable and, like, you feel good in them, Betabrand's dress pant yoga pants can do all that for you while you look like a stylish professional, so you get the best of both worlds.

Um, they're great for going to work, for those of you who are still working outside your home, all those essential workers out there who have long, hard days. And you know, it can be a little uncomfortable sometimes. I know what it's like to wear a mask all day. Um, so at least keep your butt and legs comfortable... in Betabrand's dress pant yoga pants.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: Uh, while you're—while you're wearing your mask. Um, they're so functional. You can move in 'em, they're wrinkle resistant, they're made of this stretch knit fabric, they're great for long days out in the workin' world, or if you're working at home, you know? You wanna dress up for work even if you're working at your computer, so that you can get in that right headspace, that right mindset, and Betabrand's gotcha covered.

So, uh, Raleigh, if our listeners want to check out these—my pants—

Raleigh: Your pants.

Sydnee: —my pants, where should they go? [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: [laughs quietly] Well, right now our listeners can get 25% off their first order when you go to betabrand.com/buffering. That's 25% off your first order for a limited time at betabrand.com/buffering. Find out why people everywhere are ditching typical work pants for Betaband—Betabrand's dress pant yoga pants. Go to betabrand.com/buffering for 25% off.

Sydnee: Teylor, we have a Jumbotron!

Teylor: Yes we do! Uh, this week we've got a Jumbotron for Allie Tyrion, from Drew Blacious. And, uh, this says:

"Allie, I'm so full of excitement as we take our next big step together and our first home. Love you always, and looking forward to making many more memories together. Drew. PS: Dr. Sydnee rules!"

Well, okay. [laughs]

Sydnee: Well, I wanna say thank you to Drew for making Teylor say that.

Teylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Teylor: Thanks, Drew. But, uh, congratulations, Allie and Drew.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yes, congratulations, you two. I hope it's great. It worked out—Justin and I moved in together. I still remember our first night in our apartment. We ate Chinese food. Um... and didn't unpack anything. It was great.

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs] [holding back laughter] That was a great story, Syd!

Sydnee: It w—[laughs] we sat on the floor and ate Chinese food and refused to unpack any boxes 'cause we were tired. But, I mean, it all worked out in the end. [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: [snorts]

Sydnee: We eventually unpacked those boxes.

Raleigh: Oh, good. I was waiting for that.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: I never knew if they got unpacked.

Sydnee: We don't still live there, either. We've moved since then. But it was great! At the time. Congratulations, Allie and Drew.

Taylor: Everybody has that first night in a new house or apartment where you don't have to—you have the freedom to not do any work. You just get to, like, eat food on the floor and celebrate. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: Mm-hmm. Yeah!

Taylor: I've done that before.

Sydnee: Then we made a stool top out of bottle caps once.

Taylor: Well—

Sydnee: I don't know. It's—you know... [laughs]

Taylor: Not everybody does that.

[all laugh]

Sydnee: Anyway, congratulations! It's a wonderful step. It's big, it's important, it's beautiful, it's great. Uh, thank you both. And, anyway, *Animaniacs*.

So, uh, Tey, you said something before we started recording, and I hadn't really thought about it this way, but it really occurred to me that *Animaniacs*, um, was sort of like sketch comedy. And when you referred to it that way it clicked that "Oh, it is like sketch comedy, sort of, for kids!"

And I don't think it had occurred, like, how much like that it is.

Taylor: Yeah. Well, it's—the parallel to *SNL* I think is kind of spot on, because it didn't have, like, the format of a lot of cartoons at the time where you had a half an hour episode and two 15 minute or 10 minute kind of cartoons within that, right? Like, that's how kind of *Tiny Toons* worked, is you had sort of a wrap around it, and then you had two segments. Sometimes one big segment, but that was kind of it. But with *Animaniacs*, you never knew what segments you were gonna get.

They'd have little short jokes. They had little, like—like, do you remember the "Good Idea, Bad Ideas"?

Sydnee: [through laughter] Yes.

Taylor: Those were so creepy, too! That weird little skeleton character that didn't look like any of the other designs on the show but it was just the

creation of one of the people that worked on the show, and they were like, "Sure, put it in."

Like, it had that free form sort of creativity to it that I think, you know—it was really—that was what really drew me to it, I think, as a kid, is that it just—you know, if you didn't like one character, that's okay, because there were new characters all the time. There were different bits they'd go back to. That was really fun, and—and I think put it—separated it from everything else.

Sydnee: I think that's so true, and that really hits on the difference between—'cause even though they tended to, like—I feel like they aired back to back, *Tiny Toons* and *Animaniacs*. I feel like a lot of the time they were on close together, and I—you could compare them, except in my head at the time, they were distinctly different shows. They had very little in common. And I think that's really what you're talking about, there. And I hadn't thought about that.

Um, it also allowed for things like... I know now, Charlie and Cooper like—they've mainly seen the new *Animaniacs*. We had shown them some of the old *Animaniacs* before, um, before we knew it was coming back. Uh, and now we've shown them just the new ones more recently. I think that's all Cooper's ever seen.

But Charlie loves the—when the—Yakko, Wakko, and Dot are there. Like, those segments. Um, that's really all she wants to watch. Whereas Cooper is obsessed with Pinky and the Brain. And will sit through the *Animaniacs* parts so that she can get to a Pinky and the Brain—

Taylor: [through laughter] Of course.

Sydnee: [laughs] And she'll—I mean, like, all the time, she'll be sitting there playing or drawing and all of a sudden I'll hear her over there going, "[monotone] Pinky and da bwain, bwain, bwain, bwain, bwain."

[all laugh]

Raleigh: It makes sense.

Taylor: I love that. God, Pinky and the Brain was always good, but the reboot—those episodes are great. I love the one where Brain invents a robot son, and then he sing—

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: —he sings that song, "Bonding." [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: "[singing] Bonding. [laughs] You don't know how to hug. Bonding. That's a feature, not a bug." [through laughter] Like, it's just—it's like, is that not what you hope as a parent, right? That—you hope your kid's, like, functional and smart and great in the world, but actually you hope that they're weird in the same way you're weird. [laughs]

Sydnee: I thought it was really interesting that they played with the whole, um—when he was trying to hypnotize everybody through use of a YouTube video, and that whole idea of, like, using it as a metaphor for, if you do something that's cute or funny, maybe, but if you look ridiculous, everybody will watch that. But then as soon as someone else does something ridiculous, that's the end of it. And, like, I don't know! It was all—it was—but it—I don't know. I thought it was all really well done and funny.

Taylor: Well, and I think that that—I—you know, you always worry with these reboots, especially when they're gonna make jokes about like, "Oh, now there are the—there are tiny phones that have brains in them! Like, oh, it's the modern age!" Like, that humor can be pretty clunky.

But, like, I think because *Animaniacs* always was this sort of goofy mirror reflecting, like, what was going on in the real world, it still holds up. Like, those jokes still fly in the same way that they did, you know, back in the '90s.

Sydnee: Yeah. Um, I was—I really was surprised how hard they went on, um, Donald Trump, but I also thought, like, when he is the cyclops—

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: —when he's the giant orange cyclops—

Taylor: [through laughter] That was good!

Raleigh: Mm-hmm. [holding back laughter] Mm-hmm!

Sydnee: Um... [laughs quietly] I actually thought it was pretty good, just having something as visual as, like, here is a giant orange cyclops who clearly has one eye, talking about his two beautiful eyes.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: "I have two beau—" when he says that, I thought, like, "Well, that's kind of a good illustration for younger people, like, see? He's obviously lying."

[all laughs]

Sydnee: "See? There it is. He has one eye and he just said he has two."

Raleigh: [simultaneously] Did you—did you take that—[laughs]

Sydnee: I did! I said—

Raleigh: [simultaneously] Did you take that moment to say, "Charlie—" [laughs]

Sydnee: I did! I said, "See? They're joking, because Donald Trump lies," which she already knows that.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: [laughs] She—[laughs] she, for some reason, was drawing the other day and brought to me a picture of a—the poop emoji with Donald Trump's face on it.

Taylor: Ohh.

Sydnee: So... that she drew.

Taylor: [simultaneously] Peak comedy.

Raleigh: I would love to see how she draws his face.

Sydnee: I'll show you. It's mainly just, like, um, an angry face that's orange.

Taylor: That's fair. That's a good—

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: [laughs] Good—good—

Raleigh: That's—that's... accurate.

Taylor: Visual language.

Sydnee: In the middle of a poop emoji. I don't know. [laughs]

Taylor: Yeah. Describes... the past four years. Uh... [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: Well, and I—and I liked, um—yeah, I liked that they didn't—they didn't show him in office. They didn't give him any sort of framing as, "This is the President." It was legitimately like, "This is a ridiculous caricature that is also highly accurate." [laughs]

Sydnee: Um, there was a lot of, uh—a lot of body hair being shown, by the way, on Odysseus. [laughs quietly]

Taylor: Yeah, yeah, there was. That was—that was a point. [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs] Sorry.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: I just kept getting distracted by, like...

Raleigh: Let's talk—okay, let's talk about that. [laughs]

Sydnee: Is there—am I seeing... pubic hair? [pauses] Did that not—did that not throw anybody for a second?

Taylor: No, I was not looking at the animated pubic hair. What? [laughs]

Raleigh: I was—yes. I was not looking in that area.

Sydnee: I—I thought—like—[laughs]

Taylor: You were?

Raleigh: I was not looking for that.

[all laugh]

Sydnee: I was distracted by how hairy all of the naked people were. [laughs] Well, not naked, but, like... skimpily clad.

Raleigh: Were you watching the right show? [laughs]

Taylor: Were you watching it for the right reasons?

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs] I just—I got distracted by that! [laughs]

Taylor: You got—okay. Well, alright.

Raleigh: Alright.

Taylor: Uh, I liked that episode, not—not for the—I guess the—the titillating body hair. Uh, but—

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: —that was one of my favorite bits in old school *Animaniacs* is when they would throw at you some, like, historical character that you wouldn't really expect a kid to know that much about and kind of—you know, they didn't—wouldn't bother themselves too much with the facts, but they'd tell you enough that you would have a framing, so that then when you, like, encountered that in your history book you kind of had an idea of what you were coming across.

Like, I re—I still remember, like, the Magellan song, or the Magellan episode where they tell you all about, like, Magellan. Like, that—you know, maybe I didn't know the nuances, but it still, like, set up—there was a lot of education in the show. That was always a feature.

Sydnee: You know, there was, and I will say that, like, I think there was something really progressive in the idea of some of the, like, irreverence that they would show. Uh, for historical figures and, like, these stories, in a way that, like, at the time—it was very subversive to say, "Hey, these stories that you're learning in history class, maybe—maybe, like, the facts are there, but the way they're being presented to you is not... the truth, is not the whole story. Like, there are a lot of other ways to look at this."

I mean, I really feel like *Animaniacs* set up historical tales that way, for, like, what we understand now to look back at the way we were taught history. I know that I was taught history in high school as, like, this completely one sided, very, like, white-centric sort of view of what happened, and who was right and who was wrong, and who won and who lost, and all this kind of stuff. Um, the *Animaniacs* were already—they weren't talking about that, but you know what I mean? Like, the way that you look at, like, this powerful historical figure and kind of make fun of him? I think you're setting the stage for that. Like... restructuring of your understanding of, like, real events.

Taylor: Well, I want to say that I do think that—they were—[laughs quietly] they were attempting something very purposeful with the origins of *Animaniacs*, you know? Like... have all, you know, the violent cartoon humor and the funny... animation and the jokes that kind of keep kids watching, but then also throw in history, throw in information, throw in a way at looking at history that could shape somebody's worldview that I think was effective for a generation of people, you know? Like, you could be informed but, like, also—yeah, you don't have to have reverence for these figures just because they're historical.

Raleigh: I mean, it is, again, like—like a kids' animated *SNL*. I mean, taking ridiculous caricatures of historical or current figures and, like—there is a little—there is a little bit of a basis of fact there somewhere.

Taylor: [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: Of things that have happened. But it's a character, and it's exaggerated, but yeah. I hadn't thought about it that way. Um, but that is... true. They did that with Trump, also.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm. Yeah, they don't—I think—I think you can do that so easily with cartoon characters, who are supposed to be, like—their whole thing is that they're constantly making jokes about everything. They're never taking anything seriously, and so, they don't have to take any *one* seriously. Uh, and that gives you so much freedom of movement to, like... well, I know this sounds a little melodramatic, but to kind of speak truth to power.

Raleigh: [laughs quietly] Yeah.

Sydnee: Well, I mean, you can do that a little easier if you're doing it through the face and voice of a cartoon character, you know? Whose whole job is like, "Well, I'm just a cartoon c—cartoon character. I'm just here to make fun of things. Like, that's my job!"

Taylor: Well, that's what I thought—their—their little bit about, uh, Russian interference in the election was probably the funniest interpretation of that—that bit of knowledge that I've seen. Like, that was definitely—I laughed more on that than anything that I've probably seen on *SNL*, 'cause it was just all of those caricatures. You know, the people that were just like, "Yes, I am super American, and—" [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: [unintelligible] What was it? It was like, Johnny Thanksgiving or something? The—the—the Presidential candidate? But I thought that was great! And it was so spot on and smart and, like—I don't—like, that's—that was, uh—you're right, you kind of need that complete ridiculous, like, you know, viewfinder to look through for that, but...

Sydnee: And—[sighs] I know I've looked this up before, because Justin and I have had this conversation before, what Steven Spielberg had to do with the *Animaniacs*. 'Cause it says that, right? Like, produced by, or brought to you—or something? Like, from the original?

Taylor: He was very, very hands on in the creation of it. Like, he was the one who set the guideline that there needed to be a song every episode. Uh, and he would have, like, weekly meetings where—you know, in the middle of him making, like *Indiana Jones* and all these giant properties, he would sit down and, like, talk through, like, "Okay, what are Yakko, Wakko, and Dot gonna be doing this week?"

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: Like, he was involved with a lot of the ideas of it. Uh, it was originally meant—so, *Tiny Toons* came first, and then they were gonna do a spinoff of *Tiny Toons*. The original concept was, um, possible going to star Plucky Duck, which, let's be real, that would've sucked. Uh—

[all laugh]

Sydnee: I was never a big Plucky Duck fan.

Taylor: Me neither. Uh, but then they—this kind of warped into this, uh, and then that's when, you know, Spielberg's involvement shaped it. Uh, there's actually—the origin story of *Animaniacs*—there's a lot of funny moments of, like—they thought for a minute that they would have them be, like, three duck brothers, but they decided that there was an over saturation of ducks at the time in animation.

[all laugh]

Taylor: 'Cause you had, like—you know, you had *Darkwing Duck*, and *DuckTales*.

Sydnee: [simultaneously] Like, *DuckTales*.

Taylor: Yeah, you had a lot of ducks out there. So, like, "Nah, it can't be ducks."

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: That's true, when you think about it.

Sydnee: Ducks are, uh, funny.

Raleigh: Donald, Daffy—

Sydnee: Ducks are just funny. Ducks are just inherently funny.

Taylor: Why are there so many animated ducks?! [laughs]

Raleigh: There are lots of ducks!

Sydnee: Ducks are funny to look at, to listen to, I love them—

Raleigh: Oh, you got very serious about this!

Taylor: Whoa!

Raleigh: [laughs] I didn't know you were so passionate about the duck representation in media!

Sydnee: Who doesn't love ducks? Like, I see ducks and I'm happy!

Taylor: I mean, I like ducks too. I just—I guess it's accurate that all of the animated ducks are kind of—kind of jerks? But, like... I also...

Sydnee: Is that—is that true?

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Well, I mean... okay—

Raleigh: Donald. Kind of a jerk sometimes.

Taylor: And Daffy.

Sydnee: Daffy.

Raleigh: Daffy.

Taylor: Scrooge.

Raleigh: Kind of a jerk sometimes.

Sydnee: Scrooge Mc...

Raleigh: Mmm, Scrooge Mc.

Sydnee: ... Duck.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: [laughs] Plucky was a little baby jerk.

Sydnee: Huey, Dewey, and Louie were kind of jerks.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: A lot of the time. I mean, not so much maybe in more recent, but, like... they were always giving Uncle Donald a hard time. Remember that one cartoon where they made ice bullets for their ice cannon [through laughter] and shot them at Uncle Donald?

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: That was intense.

Taylor: That's violent! I don't remember that, but I don't like that!

Raleigh: [through laughter] I don't remember that either!

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: You know, it says a lot about someone, [through laughter] what they remember about the cartoons they watch.

Sydnee: I still—there are people out there who remember this cartoon. They're playing in the snow, they make, like, a snow fort, and they make these—anyway. [laughs]

Taylor: Well... that—so they—

Raleigh: Um, I do think it's funny. If you look in Wikipedia, by the way, I was just looking to see what Steven Spielberg was doing all up in that, it says it's *Animaniacs*, also known as *Steven Spielberg Presents: Animaniacs*.

Taylor: Yeah, yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah!

Taylor: It had his name on it. Uh...

Raleigh: That's—I didn't realize that.

Sydnee: Do you know why? Like, why was he...

Taylor: He—I mean, it was—he wanted to have a kids' show. Like, this was—he kind of envisioned this just as much as, I don't know, anything else. Like, he thought this was a thing that should exist! It should be, you know...

Sydnee: That's so cool.

Taylor: Uh, well, and then the design that they decided on, they changed it after it was already started animated, 'cause they thought it looked too much like [through laughter] a distorted Mickey Mouse, which it was kind of based on!

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: I could see that.

Taylor: It was based on that, yeah.

Sydnee: I could see that.

Taylor: Uh, they actually—one of the earliest examples, maybe, of viral marketing, they put a giant Wakko on top of the Warner Brothers Water Tower before the show launched, and I guess the message didn't get around to all the studio heads, because somebody reported it thinking it was a Mickey Mouse, like... thing—

Sydnee: Oh my gosh.

Taylor: —yeah, like some sort of prank, and had it taken down. [laughs]

Sydnee: What, uh—do you know, is there any—are they supposed to be any sort of... like—

Raleigh: Animal?

Sydnee: —known species? [laughs]

Raleigh: That's what I was wondering.

Taylor: No, they—they say what they are, which is, like, *Cartoonus Animus* or something. Like, they're just... you know.

Sydnee: Okay.

Taylor: Sometimes they're interpreted as dogs, sometimes not. Uh... but just—

Sydnee: Charlie has asked me that probably 30 times, and every time I say, "They're not really any animal, honey. It's not—they're just, you know, funny characters."

And then she'll come to me later and go, "Really, what are the *Animaniacs*? Like, really."

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: As if, like, I just—"Okay, fine, you asked enough. I'll tell you the truth." [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs] "You're old enough now."

Sydnee: "You're old enough now to know."

Taylor: You know, there were originally four *Animaniac* siblings, Warner siblings.

Sydnee: No.

Taylor: Yeah. There was, uh—there were originally Yacky, Wacky, Smacky, and Dot. And there was, like—you know, Yacky became Yakko, Dot was Dot, but they merged the two middle siblings. 'cause one was, like, sort of like the angry, like, cynical one in a backwards hat, and then Wacky was Wacky, and so they—they actually merged them together to create Wakko. So he got the design of the cool, you know, whatever... cynical sibling, but was also... wacky. [laughs]

Sydnee: And gave him that sort of, like, Liverpudlian accent, there.

Taylor: Well, this is funny too. So, when they were auditioning the voices, you know, a lot of them they kind of already knew who was gonna get the part, but it was—that was the hardest voice for them to figure out was who was who was gonna be Wakko, because all of the auditions they kept getting were people that were like, "Oh, his name's Wakko, so I'm just gonna do the wackiest voice!"

And they were like, "We hate all of these. These all are terrible! Like, stop."

And so then some—so they just were like, "Do... like, do an impression of this—of a couple celebrities, and we'll just see if one sticks."

And the guy who eventually got the part did an impression of, like, a Beatles-esque, like, Ringo Starr voice. And they were like, "Okay, that. That, that works. [through laughter] Let's do that!"

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: It's so weird that it works, but it does.

Raleigh: It does.

Sydnee: Who would've predicted that? But yeah. No, and it does undercut that he is going to be the wacky one, you know? So that it's not ridiculous—well, I mean, you know what I mean.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: 'Cause he seems so laid back and chill.

Taylor: Yeah, I think he's maybe the least wacky of the—of the Warner Brothers and Sister. I don't know.

Sydnee: Um... but, uh—

Taylor: He doesn't have meat in his pants.

Sydnee: That's true.

Taylor: He doesn't have pants, though.

[all laughs]

Raleigh: That's true.

Taylor: That's why cartoons don't get pants, because you—you—you do irresponsible things to them, like store baloney there! [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: That's—that—that is—they do follow in the grand cartoon tradition of, like, posing more questions than answers by putting Yakko in a pair of pants, Wakko in just a shirt and a ball cap, and Dot in just a tutu.

Taylor: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Just do with all that... what you will.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: I—I like the change, the subtle change in the lyrics of the opening from "Dot is cute, and Yakko yaks" to "Dot has wit, and Yakko yaks."

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: Yes.

Raleigh: Ohh, I hadn't caught that.

Sydnee: That is a really good point, I noticed that too. Yeah, I appreciated that too. 'Cause I do think that was true. While Dot sometimes would do that, like, "Aw shucks, I'm so adorable!" thing, that was not the main thing I remember about that character. And so it was nice to see that, you know, modernized.

Raleigh: Who are we?

Taylor: There are three siblings.

Raleigh: There are three of us.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: Umm... well...

Raleigh: I always like to ask this question whenever we have a piece of media that has three—

Sydnee: I guess you're probably Dot.

Raleigh: Okay.

Taylor: I think that's safe to say.

Raleigh: [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: That's—okay.

Sydnee: If there's—if there's one of us who occasionally likes to be adorable—

[all laugh]

Raleigh: Oh, man!

Taylor: I wish—I wish that they audience could see the pose that Raleigh had as she asked that question. Like, "Ooh, who are we? As I lean on my fist." [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: I just wanna know!

Taylor: "Am I the cute one?"

Sydnee: "I'm just a little baby, who am I?"

Taylor: "Am I [unintelligible] cute one with—well, with wit." [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: With wit.

Sydnee: And a flower. [laughs]

Raleigh: I like the flower.

Taylor: Yeah, you're Dot.

Raleigh: Never mind.

Taylor: No, you're definitely Dot. I think the tossup is between me—the Yakko and Wakko for Sydnee and I. 'Cause I think my—my impulse is to say, well, clearly Sydnee's Yakko 'cause that's the eldest sibling, and kind of the leader.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: But then... I mean, I guess—[laughs]

Sydnee: That's probably—well, if you—if you—I would say that—I would argue that Wakko was the coolest.

Taylor: He did have that backwards baseball cap.

Raleigh: Well, if Wakko's the coolest, then Taylor is Wakko.

Sydnee: Right.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: Well, that—no, I was—I was not—[laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah. [laughs]

Taylor: If one of us were going to be voiced by a bad Ringo Starr impression, I think we know who hit would be. [laughs]

Sydnee: I—I think that that makes sense, that I would be Yakko, Tey would be Wakko, and you would be Dot.

Raleigh: Sure.

Sydnee: I think.

Taylor: I accept that.

Sydnee: I think. Yeah.

Raleigh: Sometimes it's hard to find—I'm just wondering 'cause—you know, like, we all watched that new Christmas movie with Kristen Stewart and we couldn't figure out—there were three sisters there. Couldn't figure out—there was no—there was no correlation there.

Sydnee: Well, I think that's 'cause—I mean, if you guys were like me, you just wanted to be Jane.

Taylor: I was gonna say, I think the problem there is that two of the sisters kinda sucked. [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah. [laughs]

Sydnee: I just—I just really wanted to be Jane.

Raleigh: I didn't wanna be any of 'em except for Jane!

Taylor: No, I was gonna say, I liked Jane, and then Aubrey Plaza. And, uh, I related to Kristen Stewart, but that was—you know.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: [laughs] Sorry, Sloan and... Harper?

Sydnee: Or—or Dan Levy. [laughs]

Raleigh: That too, yeah.

Sydnee: There were lots of good options there. [laughs] That weren't Sloan and Harper.

Raleigh: That's true.

Sydnee: Uh... well, this was fun, and it's been fun watching *Animaniacs* with Charlie and Cooper, so thank you, Tey.

Taylor: Yeah, no, absolutely. And I think if you're of... in my age range or not, honestly, and you haven't watched the new yet because, like a lot of those old properties, you're worried it's not gonna live up to what you remember it as, I think that the reboot really does. It's fun, it's irreverent, it's fast paced. I think my favorite in-joke of an old fan is that they make fun of the fact that Chicken Boo was the worst bit on the show. [laughs] [through laughter] And they definitely—

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: —point that out. Uh, so yeah. I highly recommend it.

Sydnee: I, uh—I agree. I think it's quite enjoyable. And the kids liked it so far. Like, just like the old one, I don't understand exactly why it appeals to kids.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: You feel like it shouldn't, because it so appeals to me as an adult. But I loved it when I was a kid, and my kids love it now, so it obviously works.

Raleigh: And I am an adult watching it all for the first time ever, and I still enjoy it.

Taylor: That's great.

Sydnee: So.

Raleigh: So.

Sydnee: Fun for the whole family.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Uh, what's next, Raleigh?

Raleigh: Okay, everybody get ready. It's—it's December. You know what that means. Everybody's putting out lots of Christmas movies—

Sydnee: Oh, no!

Raleigh: —and most of 'em are questionable. So I wanna talk about both the *Princess Switches*. Because the first one came out last year and we didn't talk about it. The second one just came out, and the first one had Vanessa Huygens playing two different characters. And now this one, from what I understand, has her playing at least three characters, but maybe four.

Sydnee: I only have seen three so far, but I didn't finish it yet, so...

Raleigh: I saw someone on Twitter say four. Sydnee said three. I haven't watched the second one yet. There's no new *Christmas Prince* this year for us to talk about, so...

Taylor: See, I—I knew there wasn't a new Christmas Princes, so I thought I was gonna get out of the—the forced—

Raleigh: No.

Taylor: —need to watch this kind of movie, [pained] but alright. Okay. Alright.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: I love the—it introduces two countries that don't exist.

Raleigh: [holding back laughter] I love it. I love it so much.

Sydnee: And they're always, like, these... vaguely sorta European-esque where people still have what I would consider British accents.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: But also, they're distinct countries.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Well...

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: Very fun. I'm very excited.

Taylor: Is this part of the—

Sydnee: The most important thing is that they're quaint and snowy.
[laughs]

Raleigh: Yes.

Taylor: Is this part of the extended universe of the—I guess we'll get into this, 'cause I think there's some overlap here as to the *Christmas Prince*, the *Christmas Switch*, there's a—a—an EU going on here.

Raleigh: There is.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: And I think one of them overlaps with the real—the real world, our world.

Taylor: Oh, okay.

Raleigh: So I don't—yeah.

Sydnee: Is this the real world?

Raleigh: That's a good question.

Taylor: Is this just fantasy? [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: We're caught in a landslide.

Taylor: No escape from reality. Yeah, well, that's fair.

Raleigh: Okay.

Sydnee: Do we keep going to the head banging?

Raleigh: No.

[all laugh]

Raleigh: I think we're reaching—no, we're gonna break copyright rule.

Sydnee: I know.

Taylor: How far can we go?

Sydnee: Uhh, thank you both. [laughs] Thank you, listeners. Um, I hope you're all doing well out there, staying safe, and wearing your masks.

And, uh, thank you to Maximum Fun, the network, of which we are a part. You should go to MaximumFun.org for a lot of wonderful shows that you would enjoy.

Uh, you can tweet at us @stillbuff. You can email us at stillbuffering@maximumfun.org, and thank you to The Nouvellas for our theme song, "Baby You Change Your Mind."

[theme music begins in the background]

Raleigh: This has been your cross-generational guide to the culture that made us. I am Raleigh Smirl.

Sydnee: I'm Sydnee McElroy.

Taylor: And I'm Taylor Smirl.

Raleigh: I am still buffering...

Sydnee and Taylor: And I... am... too.

Sydnee: Did you even know that Bill Clinton played the sax?

Raleigh: Uh, I think I had actually seen that as a joke in, like, *Family Guy* before, so [through laughter] that's where I got that from.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: Oh no.

Taylor: Every President just gets reduced down to one stupid fact. [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Could be worse, I guess.

Taylor: [laughs]

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[music plays]

Justin: Hi, everybody! My name is Justin McElroy.

Sydnee: I'm Sydnee McElroy.

Justin: We're both doctors, and—

Sydnee: Nope! Just me.

Justin: Okay, well, Sydnee's a doctor, and I'm a medical enthusiast, and we create *Sawbones*, a marital tour of misguided medicine.

Sydnee: Every week, I dig through the annals of medical history to bring you the wildest, grossest, sometimes dumbest tales of ways we've tried to treat people throughout history.

Justin: And lately, we do a lot of modern fake medicine... because everything's a disaster. But it's slightly less of a disaster every Friday, right here on MaximumFun.org as we bring you *Sawbones*: a marital tour of misguided medicine. And remember...

Sydnee: Don't drill a hole in your head.

[music and advertisement end]

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