

## Still Buffering 248: High School Musical (2006)

Published February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
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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:** Do y'all wanna know what I made for breakfast this morning? [laughs quietly]

[pause]

**Rileigh:** Sure.

**Taylor:** Yeah?

**Sydnee:** I'm really proud... of it.

**Taylor:** Okay.

**Rileigh:** Okay.

**Sydnee:** Uh, I made— Charlie didn't have virtual school today, so I had extra time. Usually I'm in a rush. So, I had extra time. So, I made for Charlie her favorite, um, meal, that she has called the McElroy BozacElroy.

**Rileigh:** [laughs quietly] Okay?

**Taylor:** Oh, what is this?

**Sydnee:** Uh, it's not as exciting as it sounds. Um, it is a piece of toast— like, a toasted piece of bread—

**Rileigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** —and then I put it in a greased waffle maker, and I scramble an egg and dump it over top of it, and then close it.

[pause]

**Taylor:** Okay.

**Sydnee:** And the resultant— the resultant... like...

**Raleigh:** It's egg toast, but—

**Sydnee:** ... egg toast waffled.

**Raleigh:** —[simultaneously] waffle.

**Sydnee:** Waffled egg toast.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** It— we pulled it out and I was like— uh, this is Charlie's favorite thing. I was like, "Charlie, you should make up a name for it. What do you— what do you wanna call it when we get this?"

I was playing around with, like, wafflegg. Something, I don't know. I was trying— I was working on it, and she was like—[crosstalk]

**Taylor:** [through laughter] I was workshopping wafflegg.

[all laugh]

**Sydnee:** Wafflegg toast. Uh, and she was like, "I know, perfect name. I got it. McElroy BozacElroy." [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** Well!

**Sydnee:** So... so she had that, and Cooper requested heart-shaped waffles, in that little heart-shaped waffle maker that mom got her. So I— not only did I make her heart-shaped waffles, I made the batter from scratch so that it could be a little sweeter.

**Rileigh:** Wow!

**Sydnee:** And I dyed half of it pink and half of it purple, and then I did, like, a tie-dye where I did, like, a little scoop of each, like you see in those videos. When people make unicorn things.

**Rileigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** And made her pink and purple heart-shaped waffles.

**Taylor:** Wow.

**Rileigh:** How did she feel about them?

**Sydnee:** I mean... she ate them, no better than any other waffle.

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** And she looked at it and said, "Why is it pink and purple?"

**Rileigh:** [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** And I said, "Well, I thought you'd like both."

And she just kinda looked at it like, "Huh. Okay."

**Taylor:** I don't know if your child actually sounds like a goblin or if that's just the voice you've chosen for your child, but—

**Rileigh:** No, she does.

**Taylor:** Okay. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** [laughs] It's very— it's very true.

**Taylor:** Alright. You know, but also, Syd, every story that involves your— what your family eats I feel like involves the shape of a waffle somehow.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** Like, has everything just become waffles in the pandemic, for the McElroy household? [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm. Yeah. Is that weird? [laughs]

**Taylor:** I— I don't know.

**Raleigh:** Eh, well... [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** I mean...

**Raleigh:** Not now. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** I actually would encourage you to just... fully embrace it, you know? Like, and don't explain it. Just, everybody that comes over to your house for dinner, whatever, it's just always waffles. All waffles. Waffle everything. Be those people that waffle everything.

**Sydnee:** I— I like waffling things. I got one of those books that tells you about all the things you can waffle.

**Raleigh:** What you do post-pandemic is you open up a restaurant called The McElroy BozacElroy.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** There you go!

**Raleigh:** And it's just waffled things! The whole menu is just things that are waffled!

**Taylor:** Everything's waffled. Waffled macaroni and cheese. Waffled, uh... Wa— Wagyu beef hamburgers. [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Waffled... b— b— banana splits.

**Rileigh:** Donuts?

**Taylor:** Waffled donuts!

**Sydnee:** I feel like— didn't everybody go one of two directions in this pandemic? You either waffled or you air fried.

**Rileigh:** Yeah, that's true. We've started air frying. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** I didn't do either! Man.

**Sydnee:** Dad was telling me about air fry pizza. And he was like—

**Rileigh:** Yeah. He just reheated his pizza in the air fryer instead of reheating it in the oven. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** He said, "Let me tell you. It was better than it was originally." [laughs] He was so excited about that air fried pizza. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** All I said was, "Hey, dad. Maybe you should consider trying the air fryer to reheat your pizza, because it would be maybe faster than the oven."

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Rileigh:** But I don't know.

**Sydnee:** Oh, he loved it.

**Rileigh:** He loved it.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Well. I— I still— I refuse to understand the science of the air fryer. [laughs] 'Cause I feel like it's just a toaster oven, but I don't wanna know that! [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Well, it's— I mean, it's not— I understand what you're saying, 'cause I had that same, like— when we got it and we— 'cause I got it for Christmas, and we hooked it up, and I was reading. And I was like, "Well, this is just a toaster oven. There's no way it does anything different than a toaster oven."

And then you put stuff in it and it comes out as if it was fried!

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Like, it really does feel and taste that way. And so, like, I have gotten to the point where I'll put things in it, and then I'll sit there and look through the little window trying to figure out, like, "What is happening in there?" [laughs] "What is the— what is the science of what I'm witnessing?" [laughs]

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** I— I don't understand it.

**Taylor:** It's like you wanna send, like, a probe into a black hole to understand what's going on in there. Like, "I need— I need information from the core! [through laughter] Please!"

**Sydnee:** [laughs] I'm g— I'm gonna load my Dorothy up on my truck.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** And I'm gonna drive it right into the middle! [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Of the air fryer?

**Sydnee:** Of the twister. [laughs]

**Taylor:** "I need readings from the center of the air fryer!" And it's just, like, the— like, the tape from *Event Horizon* where, like, you know, Sam Neill rips his own eyes out. Like, "Oh no! We were not meant to understand!"

[all laugh]

**Sydnee:** "We went too far!"

**Taylor:** "Do not question the air fryer! Just accept the air fryer."

**Sydnee:** [laughs] [sighs] Do you think it's an anomaly? Maybe.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. I like to think that the people that invented it were just trying to come up with, like, an easier way to put things into a toaster oven, in, like, the little basket, and then somehow it started doing this thing. And they were like, "I don't understand it, but let's go with it!" [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** I don't know. I just—

**Sydnee:** Is it part of *WandaVision*?

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** [through laughter] It is *WandaVision*.

**Sydnee:** Is this part of *WandaVision 2*?

**Taylor:** I just know that it's— I can tell— like, I don't know the age of, like, all my, like, internet friends. But I know if they're in their 30's, if their feeds have become posting pictures of things that come out of the air fryer. And a lot—

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Taylor:** I'm like, "Oh, okay. I— I— I roughly know your age now!" [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Yeah. Mom and dad have gotten to the point where they don't even— they just take things and just put 'em in there.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** Like, "I don't know how this is gonna turn out. I don't know if this is gonna work very well. Might as well try it."

**Sydnee:** I'm telling you, it's the same as the waffle maker. That's what I've just started doing. Like, "I'll try it in the waffle maker. I don't know. Maybe that'll work."

**Taylor:** We are learning that society is just this constructed belief that we have. But really, there are no rules.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Anything can be waffled, and anything can go in the air fryer.

[all laugh]

**Raleigh:** Anything can be in air fryer if you want it to be.

[all laugh]

**Sydnee:** These are just healthy ways of dealing with the wall we're all hitting. These are healthy ways.

**Taylor:** Are— are— okay.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** You know what other way I have dealing with the wall that all have been hitting for a year now?

**Sydnee:** What?

**Raleigh:** Watching old Disney Channel Original Movies.

**Sydnee:** Ahh.

**Raleigh:** Um, including my favorite, *High School Musical*.

**Sydnee:** Uh, I had no— I mean, other than— like I think I said before, I think there's basketball.



**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Um... [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** There was basketball.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. I had, like, zero familiarity with this show. Now, the song at the end of it I have heard.

**Raleigh:** "We're All in This Together?"

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Uh, because I sing it to the kids sometimes. I don't know any other words other than the "[singing] We're all in this together." And then I'll be like—

**Raleigh:** How did you now that if you've never seen *High School*—?!

**Sydnee:** —"[singing] Time to get dressed and eat breakfast and go to school!" And then they get mad, 'cause that's what kids do when you—

**Raleigh:** That's not the words. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs] But they don't know the song, either! They don't know what mommy's singing. They're just like—

**Raleigh:** They just know that can't be right. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs] They just know, like, "I hate whatever mom's doing right now."

[all laugh]

**Raleigh:** Um, that's wild to me, because this was my favorite thing for such a long period of time that at one point— like, when I first got to change my bedroom on my own from, like, what mom and dad made it before I was born to my own bedroom, it was *High School Musical*. 'Cause, I mean, this came out in

2006, so I was five when it came out. I was probably only, like, five or six when I saw it for the first time. Um, so I made my bedroom *High School Musical*. I had the bedding, I had a Troy Bolton pillow...

**Sydnee:** I don't remember the— I remember the lunchbox—

**Raleigh:** I had a lunchbox.

**Sydnee:** —just because you gave it to Charlie.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm. Well, mom did.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, well. [sarcastically] Oh, oh! [laughs]

**Raleigh:** It was— it was like— you know the New Kids on the Block that you treasured for so long? [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** I know.

**Raleigh:** [through laughter] It was my *High School Musical* equivalent. [laughs]

**Taylor:** Wait, I have that lunchbox! Do you want it back?

**Sydnee:** No! I'm glad you have it. Take care of it.

**Raleigh:** At least one of— at least, you know, you all enjoyed it together.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** No, wait! Now I feel like I've stumbled on a—

**Raleigh:** [simultaneously] One of you has it.

**Taylor:** —a— an offense that I did not know I was a part of! [laughs]

**Raleigh:** [through laughter] No, no, no.

**Sydnee:** You were not part of the offense.

**Taylor:** [through laughter] I am going to ship you that New Kids on the Block lunchbox.

**Sydnee:** No! Keep it, because I have kids that will destroy it. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Exactly. You can't—

**Sydnee:** Everything I love they destroy! [laughs]

**Raleigh:** You can't bring anything into this household that you care about!

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Well... well, it's safe here. It's—

**Sydnee:** Keep it safe until my children are older. [laughs]

**Taylor:** It's holding my wig cutting accessories. It's very safe.

[all laugh]

**Raleigh:** Um, but yeah, this was my favorite. I don't know why I loved it so much, or attached to it so much.

**Sydnee:** One quick thing— one quick thing. Could you explain what is in, by the way, the *High School Musical* lunchbox that was gifted—

**Raleigh:** Erasers.

**Sydnee:** Yes. Your eraser collection.

**Taylor:** Ahh.

**Raleigh:** My eraser collection.

**Sydnee:** Your eraser collection.

**Raleigh:** Yes. I got—

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** I don't wanna say that—

**Rileigh:** For a short period of time, I got very into collecting those, like, fun shaped rasers— erasers. Like, the food-shaped ones that you could, like, take 'em apart into the pieces, and the...

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Rileigh:** [quietly] I got into it.

**Taylor:** I feel like there might be some correlation between people who collected eraser when they were kids—

**Rileigh:** [muffled laughter]

**Taylor:** —and are now a member of the LGBTQ.

[all laugh loudly]

**Taylor:** I, too, collected erasers! [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Well, I didn't collect erasers.

**Taylor:** You're out!

**Rileigh:** Oh, man, I think you're right. You're out!

**Sydnee:** I don't know.

[all laugh]

**Taylor:** I'm just saying, "Are you into boys, girls?"

"I'm into erasers."

"Ah, we know what that'll mean."

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Ohh, okay. Erasers. See, I owned an iguana, though. I feel like that's...

**Raleigh:** Okay. [laughs]

[all laugh]

**Sydnee:** And that— on *SNL*, that "It Gets Better" sketch where Kate McKinnon has the iguana.

**Raleigh:** [simultaneously] Kate McKinnon has the iguana!

**Sydnee:** I keep thinking, like, "That's me!" [laughs]

**Taylor:** [laughs] That's pretty— that's— yeah. There you go. You're— yeah, you're back in, and you— you get a promotion. I don't know to what.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I miss my iguana. Um, let's—[laughs]

**Raleigh:** [laughs] Jimmy Buffet?

**Sydnee:** [through laughter] Yeah, Jimmy Buffet, my iguana Jimmy Buffet! Oh, no.

**Raleigh:** Wait! How did you know— that's such, like, a straight thing to name an iguana, though! [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Mixed bag, here. I don't know. Mixed bag. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Okay. Anyways... um, *High School Musical*. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Yes. Uh, I— my first impression is, it's much like *Grease*. [pause] That's the first thing I'll put out there.

**Raleigh:** Do you think this about a lot of things?

**Sydnee:** Um... well, maybe. But I just—

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** —like, I felt— here was part of the problem, I felt like. And I will say, I enjoyed it.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** In the way that I think you were intended to enjoy this, you know?

**Raleigh:** Yeah. And, I mean, you're an adult.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Raleigh:** I was a child, so it is different. [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** And Charlie and Cooper liked it, Cooper more so, which I did not see coming.

**Raleigh:** That's very weird.

**Sydnee:** Charlie gets really worried about mean characters right now.

**Taylor:** Hmm.

**Sydnee:** Cooper gets into the drama. Like, she kept wanting—

**Raleigh:** Cooper prefers the mean characters.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. Cooper kept wanting angry basketball dad to come back and yell some more.

**Taylor:** [laughs] Angry basketball dad.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** I have to— I agree with Charlie on this. Like, I kinda have— I tend to— I have to know that resolution is coming, and it's good and positive, and then I can enjoy something. So, don't— like, let her know that that is a-okay to feel that way. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** She— 'cause I really thought, like, "Oh, Sharpay is, like, sparkly, and she, you know, dresses so cute, and she sings, like, and her microphone—"

**Raleigh:** [simultaneously] Her locker's pink.

**Sydnee:** "—is sparkly." Yes. "She's gonna love Sharpay."

And she was like, "No, no, no. Those two are mean. Why are they so mean? Why can't they just be nice?"

Like, she was not into that at all.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Um, I— the only thing I will say is, one, I feel like it's a lot harder to contrive the conflict that exists, um, and maybe it's because I'm watching it now. But, like, okay. So, he's a basketball player, and he's secretly into singing and theater. And I can see where, like, eh, toxic masculinity, alpha male, like, okay.

**Raleigh:** Angry basketball dad.

**Sydnee:** Angry basketball dad who's, like— and, like, he doesn't wanna tell people. I can see where that might be true still. But the fact that her thing is, like, "Well, but she's a nerdy smart girl, so she *can't* be into theater!" [laughs] It's like, were you in theater? 'Cause... [laughs]

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Let me tell you.

**Raleigh:** 'Cause that was almost all of 'em.

**Sydnee:** That was— there were a lot of us there. [laughs] That was a little harder for me to buy. Like, what, so she can't be on the academic decathlon team *and* in... the theater?

**Raleigh:** Well, the dates conflicted.

**Sydnee:** [bursts into laughter]

**Rileigh:** Sydnee.

**Taylor:** [quietly] That's true, that's true.

**Rileigh:** Callbacks were at the same time as the big smart competition, and the big basketball game. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Seems like a scheduling issue. Somebody...

**Rileigh:** There's so many things going on in this high school at one time!

**Sydnee:** At one time. Apparently during a school day.

**Rileigh:** Yeah, during the school day, too. It's just the weirdest time.

**Sydnee:** [through laughter] They canceled school that day! They made everybody come to school, but then they also canceled school. 'Cause they wanted everybody to be there for all these events, but not learn. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Well, everyone was at the basketball game, too. I mean, *everyone* was at that basketball game.

**Sydnee:** Yes. 'Cause there was nobody at that academic decathlon thing. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Nope.

**Taylor:** Can you imagine just being a normal kid at this school? Like, I literally just wanna go to class, learn some stuff. I don't—[through laughter] why are there—

**Rileigh:** [laughs] That's how I feel about Kelsie, the character that, like, writes the musicals and plays the piano and is obviously very talented, that she's, like, 16 or whatever and she's writing, you know, whole musicals.

**Sydnee:** An entire musical, composing music!



**Raleigh:** And plays piano beautifully. That's how I feel—

**Sydnee:** Piano?

**Raleigh:** Piano.

**Sydnee:** Piano.

**Raleigh:** Piano. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Wait—

**Raleigh:** But, like—[laughs quietly] piano!

**Taylor:** P-y'know. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** P-y'know.

**Taylor:** Piano?

**Raleigh:** Y'know. [laughs] Shut up!

**Sydnee:** Umm... alright? [laughs]

**Raleigh:** But, like, she has to be the one that's just, like, "I'm just here to play the piano. I am just here to watch my musical be performed. I don't wanna be a part of all this."

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I— does she get— 'cause you all have gone on to watch the rest of them.

**Raleigh:** The two and the three.

**Sydnee:** I just watched the first. Uh, does she get more screen time?

**Raleigh:** Ehh...

**Taylor:** Mmm...

**Raleigh:** I mean, in the same capacity. Like, she's always just the one playing the music.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Like, she doesn't get developed as a character in her own right with, like, wants and needs and— does she get an "I Want" song? Does she—[laughs]

**Taylor:** No.

**Sydnee:** I mean, like, what happens?

**Raleigh:** No.

**Taylor:** But she does get a good ending. Like—

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** She— am I gonna spoil something? Can I—

**Sydnee:** No, go ahead.

**Taylor:** She gets into Julliard, so that's cool.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Oh, okay. Well, that's good.

**Taylor:** Yeah. Like, on scholarship.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, 'cause I was interested in her, and I was a little disappointed that I never get to see more about her than what we know, and her whole thing is, like, trying to help the two... I guess they're not popular, but come on, they're incredibly popular— basketball boy and smart girl. Like, they're very popular.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** Is Gabriella extremely popular?

**Sydnee:** By today's standards, they would both be popular.

**Rileigh:** Okay.

**Sydnee:** Uh, but, like, she's trying to help them. That's kind of her whole thing. And then at the end, one of the other basketball players helps her shoot a basket.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** And he takes off her bowler, which offended me, 'cause it was cute!

**Sydnee:** Yes!

**Rileigh:** It was a cute bowler.

**Sydnee:** I loved her look. I loved her whole look.

**Rileigh:** She is a character that watching back now I'm like, "Hmm. Was she a member of the LGBTQ?" [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Okay.

**Taylor:** Did she collect erasers? [laughs]

**Rileigh:** [through laughter] Did she collect erasers?

**Sydnee:** If that's the— if that's the road we're going down here, I have to ask a question.

**Rileigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** The question to ask, really. [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** The only question. Sharpay's brother, his name is Ryan.

**Rileigh:** Ryan.

**Sydnee:** Ryan. *Ryan*. In the second or the third movie, do we ever get...

**Rileigh:** Mm-mm.

**Sydnee:** ...confirmation?

**Rileigh:** No.

[pause]

**Sydnee:** No?

**Taylor:** No.

**Sydnee:** Is he— is he—

**Rileigh:** No.

**Sydnee:** —like...

**Rileigh:** Again, another character watching back I'm like, "Oh, he collected erasers for sure."

**Taylor:** Well, that's— I mean, the character is written— but, I mean, I don't wanna— I don't wanna give into stereotypes, here. But I was like, "This clearly is meant to be a gay character," but then nope, there's never— it's just— and then, like, he flirts with a girl at some point, kinda, right? Which is fine.

**Rileigh:** Yeah, he and Kelsie are, like, suggested at being, like, flirting with each other at one point, and then in the second movie Troy gets jealous of him for, like, becoming close with Gabriella. I don't know.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** See, I—[sighs] I— my theory watching it was that this— this duo of Sharpay and Ryan were originally written as the kind of diva girl in the theater world and her stereotypical movie gay best friend.

**Rileigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Like, that was my assumption.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** And he very much fits the stereotype of that, especially that time, 2000—

**Rileigh:** Especially in 2006.

**Sydnee:** —6, yeah. Like, that was very much that stereotype, that they are— that they are putting him in. And then somebody thought that was too much.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** For *High School Musical*, for Disney, for 2006, and rewrote it as her brother. Because otherwise, like, you'll have— you have these two characters who are together all the time, who are singing duets and dancing together, and in movie, you know, language, you would assume there might be a romance, or if there's not, why isn't there one? And so you make 'em brother and sister, and then you remove all idea of romance from it because they're brother and sister.

**Rileigh:** Even though they're singing romantic duets to each other and with each other.

**Sydnee:** Yeah...

**Taylor:** I was gonna say, this is kind of like the Sailor Uranus and Neptune in the dub effect, right? Like, "Oh, we made 'em cousins, so it's— it's not gay anymore. This is way better." It's like, nope, you made it worse. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Yeah, you made it worse.

**Taylor:** [through laughter] You made it creepy.

**Rileigh:** I do like to think if it were remade today, Ryan would be a gay character.

**Sydnee:** Right!

**Rileigh:** Like, not like a— like, not a reboot or, like, a reunion, but, like, if they were making the first *High School Musical* now.

**Sydnee:** It reminded me— it gave me the same vibes— this is what I'm wondering. And, like, I've never known— I mean, you don't think of Disney as one of, like, your big offenders as, like, not a friend of the LGBTQ community.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** This is not my big defense of Disney, by the way. I'm just saying, like, you don't think of them as one of the main perpetrators. But it started— I started thinking about, like, I have suspected, because I have watched the *Descendants* movies 80,000 times each, um, especially *Descendants 3*. Oh man, know that one back to front. Uh—[laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** Because the kids are obsessed with them. There is a moment in it where there's this friendship developing between two of the male characters that by the end, as I'm watching, really reads to me as, like, a little bit of a flirtation, maybe a little bit of a, like— because they're youths, like, a little bit of an interest. Like, "Hm, this person— I might be interested in."

It feels that way to me, but it's obviously not said. It's obviously not, like, addressed, or... I mean, at the end instead of hugging they chest bump, so... [snorts]

**Taylor:** [groans quietly]

**Sydnee:** They're still—[laughs]

**Raleigh:** Sure.

**Sydnee:** They're still really... couching that. But I don't know. And it felt to me like Disney wants to do more, but then is afraid? I don't know. This echoed that.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. I mean, I have to imagine that in 2006, it was just, like, I don't know. They thought they couldn't make a movie made for kids that had a gay character? I don't know. Obviously I don't think that's, like, good that they felt that way.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] Yeah, obviously.

**Rileigh:** Or, like, decided that. But I have to imagine that's just, like, the thought process.

**Sydnee:** Well, and it's totally fine to have, like— if instead what your point is, you can— you can be into theater and dress however you want and dance and sing, and be kind of, like, flashy and somewhat flamboyant in the way that Sharpay is, and be a guy.

**Rileigh:** Yeah. And it is—

**Sydnee:** And that's okay, too. I mean, like, that's a great message to send, too.

**Rileigh:** Yeah. And it's not like you see him get, you know, bullied or anything a lot for being that way, or being who he is, which I think is nice.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Rileigh:** Like, he becomes friends with the very... almost toxically masculine basketball players. [laughs]

**Taylor:** Good? Like, the one character that always has the—

**Rileigh:** Like, is that good? [laughs]

**Taylor:** —like, carries the ball throughout the entire first movie.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. [laughs]

**Taylor:** Like, he never is without the basketball.

**Rileigh:** But also the one whose secret is that he likes to bake.

**Taylor:** Oh, I love that character, though.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** I love Zeke. [laughs]

**Taylor:** He was great. Well, there's that— there was that whole sequence of, like, "I've got a secret," [through laughter] like... was, like...

**Rileigh:** Yeah. [laughs]

**Taylor:** And, like, it happens in the background. 'Cause, like, the main characters are talking up front and, like, you see Zeke, like, approach the cello stoner. And, like, they have a little, like, "Oh, have some crème brûlée."

I'm like, "That's— I want that movie. Tell me about cello stoner and baker basketball boy bein' buddies. There you go." [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** And also— also Martha Cox, who is supposed to be a nerd who likes to pop and lock and jam and break.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** How do you know her name?

**Rileigh:** Um, that is just her character's— it is her character's name.

**Sydnee:** How do— does— does she feature more in other films?

**Taylor:** No, Rileigh just really likes these movies.

**Rileigh:** No, I mean, she's in— yeah, she's in them, like, in the background. But... I just really like these movies. [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** Okay. I was gonna say, 'cause I don't think I knew her name from watching the first one.

**Rileigh:** No. I— I just like these movies. Um...

**Taylor:** I did find it hard to believe that the stoner boy would admit to all his friends, like, "I like to play the cello," and they'd be like, "No, that's not cool!" Like, have you ever met a stoner? They'd be like, "That's amazing! Can I put my head against it and see if it vibrates!" [through laughter] Like—

**Rileigh:** [laughs]



**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** [through laughter] I don't believe that!

**Sydnee:** I felt that way too. I also like that Disney was like, "They're stoners, but we can't let them."

**Raleigh:** So they skate.

**Taylor:** [through laughter] Exactly!

**Sydnee:** They skate.

**Taylor:** [through laughter] They have a skateboard!

**Sydnee:** You know that's what it said in the script. As they were like, "Who sings what?" They were like, "Skaters." [laughs]

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** "Not stoners! Skaters."

**Raleigh:** [simultaneously] Skaters.

[all laugh]

**Sydnee:** It may have even said skateboarders. [laughs]

**Taylor:** Yeah, yeah, absolutely.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** "Skateboard crew."

[all laugh]

**Sydnee:** Uh, I— we need to talk more about the movie.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Um, and the actual plot of the movie.

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] But before we do that...

**Raleigh:** Let's check the group message.

Um, so, you know, much like Troy, or Gabriella, or Sharpay, mostly, we've all got goals. Um, whether that's, you know, to lead in the musical, to be the best at the academic competition game, or win the sports game.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** We've all got goals. But have you thought about your hair goals, is my question?

**Sydnee:** Not recently.

**Raleigh:** 'Cause I hadn't either, until I started using Function of Beauty. Function of Beauty is the world leader in customizable beauty, and they offer precise formulations for your hair's specific needs, which I thought was very fun, to figure out what my hair needed, because I like taking little quizzes online, and to do that, you take a quick quiz on Function of Beauty, you tell 'em about your hair type, your hair goals, maybe you want to lengthen your hair, oil control, some more volume in your hair.

Uh, and then they determine the perfect blend of ingredients, bottle your formula, and deliver it right to you. So, it is specifically for you and your hair. You get to pick a scent, you get to pick a color, um, it's very— they send you little stickers. It's great. Um, and it works great for my hair, and I think it will work great for yours as well.

So, Teylor, if our listeners want to check out Function of Beauty, what should they do?

**Taylor:** Well, never buy off the shelf just to be disappointed ever again. Go to [functionofbeauty.com/buffering](https://functionofbeauty.com/buffering) to take your quiz and save 20% on your first order. That applies to their full range of customized hair, skin, and body products. So, once again, go to [functionofbeauty.com/buffering](https://functionofbeauty.com/buffering) to let them know we sent you, and get 20% off your order. [Functionofbeauty.com/buffering](https://functionofbeauty.com/buffering).

**Sydnee:** So, a lot of us have gotten used to the reality of working from home at this point, we've been doing it for a while. And I think most of us have realized that it feels better, it feels more like you're working if you dress for work when you're at home, you know? Not just roll out of bed and leave the pajamas on, but actually be dressed for work so that you look nice on those video conferences.

But, you do wanna be comfortable, 'cause you've got a whole home life to lead. For me, I've got kids that are kind of, like, just hanging off me at all hours of the day.

**Raleigh:** That's true.

**Sydnee:** This is very true, actually. And, uh, Betabrand has you covered with dress pant yoga pants, because you look professional, because they are dress pants, but you feel comfortable, 'cause they feel like yoga pants.

The combine customer experience with their expertise to make work wear that's as functional, comfortable, and as inspiring as your favorite workout gear.

So, for those moments when you do get that cat filter off your Zoom call...

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Everybody can see that you're dressed for work, in your Betabrand dress pant yoga pants, made out of wrinkle-resistant stretch-knit fabric. They're perfect for long workdays, they're perfect for working from home. I'm a huge fan. I've been wearing them for a long time. They were my go-to work pants, and they have been.

Um, having learned about 'em from a bunch of other, like, busy doctor moms who are like, "These are the best pants to wear for long days and rounds in the

hospital, and for home telehealth visits," so I love my Betabrand dress pant yoga pants.

Taylor, if our listeners want to check 'em out, what should they do?

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

**Raleigh:** Um, I need to inform you all, I did look this up, because on the Wikipedia when you're looking at *High School Musical* there is a whole section for the musical numbers, and it tells you the primary singers and the other singers.

So I looked at "Stick to the Status Quo," which is cafeteria scene. Your primary singers— this is very important— are Sharpay, Ryan, sure, Zeke, okay, Martha, as in Martha Cox, and Ripper. The skater's name is Ripper!

**Sydney:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** And it says the backup singers are the jocks, brainiacs, skater dudes, wildcats, dudes, and dudettes.

**Taylor:** Okay.

**Sydney:** Dudes and dudettes?

**Taylor:** Dudes and dudettes.

**Raleigh:** That's a whole section, separate from the skater dudes! [laughs]

**Taylor:** Ah, the two genders.

**Raleigh:** And— and the wildcats.

**Taylor:** [laughs] Well, okay. Skater dudes.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** It's weird—

**Raleigh:** [whispering] His name is Ripper. [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** Like I said, I felt like in *Grease* you had this sort of, like, the... you had the, like, motorcycle guys, and then Sandy was, like, a good girl. And they did, like— because, I don't know, because it was set in the 50's, which I was never alive for, seemed like, "Well, maybe that is a big deal." [laughs] "Maybe—[laughs] maybe his rep that he's gotta protect is a really big deal! And she can't be with him because... she's not a Pink Lady."

And I don't know, maybe that was a big deal. I don't know what the 50's were like. It was harder for me in the 2006 world to be like, "Well, I mean... was it really that?"

But I don't know, because if they were talking about dudes and dudettes... I guess maybe it was like that in 2006. It was still that, like—

**Raleigh:** I mean, it is a year that none of us were in high school. [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** [laughs] That divided.

**Taylor:** That's true.

**Raleigh:** Um, but I do— it is important. We did not discuss the basic plot of this movie. [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** Oh, right!

**Sydnee:** Yeah. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Troy and Gabriella meet at a ski lodge on New Year's and sing karaoke together, and then they don't get each other's information, right? Isn't that it?

**Sydnee:** No.

**Raleigh:** Oh, they do.

**Sydnee:** They do.

**Rileigh:** But he doesn't text her. They don't communicate. But then she shows up and is the new kid at his school.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, her parents get transferred from Australia— no, wait, I'm sorry, that's *Grease*. Her parents get transferred—[laughs]

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** —from San Diego to Albuquerque.

**Rileigh:** [simultaneously] Yeah, California.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** Yeah. Um, so she's the new kid at his school. She's very smart. There's a musical. Um, she likes to sing. She signs up for the musical. Sharpay is the "mean girl," quote, unquote, I guess, and her brother Ryan—

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** —I don't think she's a mean girl. Now that I look back at this I'm like, I think she just, like, was really driven, and had committed her whole life to musical theater and performing, and just really wanted the lead part.

**Sydnee:** Not only that. Okay, one, in this movie the— the mean girl is really big into theater, which was not the world that I lived in.

**Rileigh:** That is not the world. [laughs]

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** No. That was not my high school reality. And two, also, she's like every other girl that was ever in theater, so I don't know what the big deal is. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Yeah!

**Sydnee:** That was just the norm.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** I— I think they make her a lot worse in the second movie. I think that they have some more, like, "She's the bad guy" story lines later, but definitely in the first movie I'm like, "No, she's just... "

**Raleigh:** It's true.

**Taylor:** "She just really— this is her thing, and some new kid just came along and, like, oop, now it's mine."

**Raleigh:** Yeah. Um, Troy plays basketball. His dad was a basketball star, so he's gotta be a basketball star. But he also secretly likes to sing. [laughs] And also wants to sign up for the musical when Gabriella signs up for the musical, and then they audition, and they get a call back, and Ryan—

**Sydney:** They hear him singing in the shower after practice.

**Raleigh:** Just like at *Glee*!

**Sydney:** Oh no, wait, that's *Glee*! Sorry.

**Raleigh:** [laughs] They get a call back, and exactly like Taylor said earlier, you'd think the climax of the movie's gonna be the musical. No, it's the call backs.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydney:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** [laughs] Um, but oops, call backs are at the same time as big basketball game and the academic decathlon tournament. Um, so the brainiacs try to get Gabriella to not be with Troy so she'll be on the academic decathlon team.

**Sydney:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** And the basketball boys try to get Troy to not be with Gabriella so he'll play, um, in the basketball game.

**Sydney:** 'Cause he's gotta get his head in the game.

**Raleigh:** [laughs] 'Cause he's gotta get his head in the game.

**Taylor:** It's really funny having a movie where— I mean, obviously in musicals people break into song and it's not thought to— like, it's not like in reality people are singing. It's like, this is just part of the narrative, right? But in a movie where the conflict is, like, "Oh, it's not cool to sing, but then we also sing when we're in practice, but it's not a real song, it's a musical, but then— then there's real songs happening, too." It's very meta. [laughs] Like, what's happening?! Is this— yeah.

**Raleigh:** There's a lot of layers. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** It really is. And I would say that that is one thing I think that— I mean, obviously it's all— it's a Disney movie. It's happy ending. Everyone gets what they want. Well, except for Sharpay and Ryan.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** But everyone else basically gets what they want.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Um, and wins. Everybody wins.

**Raleigh:** They win the basketball game, they win the academic decathlon...

**Sydnee:** And they get the parts.

**Raleigh:** They get the parts.

**Sydnee:** And... they get to do a big dance number in the gym.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** About—

**Raleigh:** All wearing color coordinated clothes.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. That was weird, I will say.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]



**Sydnee:** Like, they're all in the immediate scene before that wearing different things, and then they show up in the gym all dressed in various—

**Rileigh:** Red and white, yeah.

**Sydnee:** —red and white getups. I felt like that sort of transcended into, like, "And now it's a musical!" [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Yeah, and now it's the finale of the musical. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I felt like the music wasn't as catchy as, like, with *Grease*.

**Rileigh:** Really?

**Sydnee:** Yeah, other than that last song which is an earworm. I agree that that "All in This Together." The rest of the songs sort of, like, became the same to me. They all kind of faded together.

**Rileigh:** Interesting.

**Sydnee:** None of 'em really stuck with me. Like, I couldn't tell you anything about them now.

**Rileigh:** Hmm. See, for me this was just, like, a big deal. The soundtrack. Like, I had all three of the soundtracks from the movies on CD.

**Taylor:** [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Rileigh:** Um, in my little zip-up CD binder, I guess, when I was, like, seven. Um, but I don't know. I guess I— I don't know why— looking back, yeah, the songs weren't that great. Um, but I did think they had some more catchy ones as the movies went on. Um, I know you didn't watch the second and third ones, but there's a song in the second one called "Bet on it" that's Troy angrily dancing around a golf course.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** As— I think that was my favorite song in the trilogy. I did watch— I thought it was— I thought it was required viewing that we were watching all three, so I was up til 5 o' clock in the morning watching *High School Musical*.

**Riley:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** But that was easily my favorite song. Where he's just like, "[singing] I'm angry and singin' on a golf course! I'm punching the ground, I'm punching the ground!" It was so good! [laughs]

**Riley:** It's very good. And then there's "I Don't Dance" in that one, which is a baseball number where they're singing about how they don't dance. Um, [crosstalk]—

**Taylor:** [simultaneously] While dancing.

**Sydney:** Do they dance while they—

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Riley:** They dance, while playing baseball, while they're singing about how they don't dance. There's "Gotta Go My Own Way," which I think is the best song between Troy and Gabriella, 'cause she very dramatically leaves the country club for the summer, 'cause she's gotta go her own way.

**Sydney:** Is it something for smart kids that she has to go do?

**Riley:** No.

**Taylor:** No, she's— she's just mad at Troy. And she's like, "I'm gonna just— maybe this isn't working. Bye... country club." I don't really understand where they are. [laughs]

**Sydney:** [laughs]

**Riley:** That's pretty much the premise of the second movie, is somehow Sharpay gets all of them jobs at a country club that her parents—

**Taylor:** Oh?

**Sydnee:** It's like in *Saved By the Bell!* Remember?

**Raleigh:** —own? [laughs]

**Sydnee:** When they all worked at— remember when they all worked at Stacey's dad's beach club?

**Taylor:** May— maybe?

[pause]

**Sydnee:** Like on *Saved By the Bell!* Well, they all worked there except for Lisa, 'cause she was a member there, so she hung out there.

**Raleigh:** She, that's Sharpay. Sharpay didn't work there. She's a member.

**Sydnee:** That's— like Lisa Turtle! [laughs]

**Raleigh:** And, uh, every summer they have a talent show at the end of the summer at the country club, and Sharpay has won every year, 'cause her parents I guess either own it or just give a lot of money to it. They're very wealthy. Um, so then at the end of course Gabriella leaves, 'cause she's like, "Troy, you're not paying enough attention to me. You're playing golf with professional basketball players."

**Sydnee:** [bursts into laughter]

**Raleigh:** Which is what he does. [laughs quietly] Um...

**Sydnee:** So he sports all the sports.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** 'Cause they're, like, trying to recruit him to play basketball, I guess? And then the third movie is their senior year, and they're graduating, and it's gonna be long distance for Gabriella and Troy. That's the plot of that movie.

**Sydnee:** Does it remain that way?

**Rileigh:** [hesitantly] Yes? Yes? Yes. But he drives to visit her?

**Taylor:** Well, he goes— he ends up choosing a school that 30 minutes— or 30 miles.

**Rileigh:** That's right.

**Taylor:** It's closer to her. 'Cause she goes to Stanford, right?

**Sydnee:** Hmm.

**Rileigh:** She goes to Stanford, back in California, and he gets a basketball offer at somewhere in Albuquerque.

**Taylor:** Yes.

**Rileigh:** Right?

**Taylor:** Yes, but he decides to go closer to her so they can be...

**Rileigh:** Yes. So they're closer.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm. And then he drops out of film school and ends up back in Boston with the rest of the gang. Oh no, wait, that's *Dawson's Creek*. [laughs]

**Taylor:** No.

**Rileigh:** Um, but yeah, that's the arc of the trilogy pretty much for you. Then they all graduate and... then Sharpay got a spin off movie.

**Taylor:** Oh!

**Rileigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** I mean, I thought— like, that was one part that irked me is having— and maybe it was because I was, like, a theater kid. I don't think I was as aggressive, perhaps, as Sharpay is.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Uh, but I mean, you were competitive. If you were trying out for the—the musicale, as it is referred to—

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** —the musicale, the Winter Musicale, it was very competitive. It was kinda cutthroat, and there definitely were always people— you know this if you were in drama. There were always people who, like, you were— like, you kept one eye on 'em. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I mean, you were worried, like, they might, I don't know...

**Raleigh:** Audition? [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Well, no. Like—[laughs]

**Raleigh:** For the same part. But I mean, there were the ones—

**Sydnee:** Like, break the heels off your tap shoes or something. You know?

**Raleigh:** Oh yeah.

**Sydnee:** I mean, like, there were always those people in drama. Like, that's not... wild.

**Raleigh:** And there were the ones that took all the extra voice lessons and dance lessons and— like Sharpay and Ryan.

**Sydnee:** But they also, like, they worked really hard at it, and it was their thing, and they didn't do— they didn't wanna do it 'cause, like, they just felt they deserved because they cheated and— or 'cause they were rich or whatever. They just... worked really hard.

**Raleigh:** Well, and they're good!

**Sydnee:** Yes! They're very talented.

**Rileigh:** It's not like they were really bad and it's like, "Well, obviously you're really bad even though you, like, spend a lot of time on it, so you can't get the lead parts." Like, they're both very talented.

**Sydnee:** They need someone to help them choosing material, I would say.

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Uh, yeah! They— they love their culturally appropriative, uh, musical numbers. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Rileigh:** They do.

**Sydnee:** They need someone to coach them in what material they do. But, uh— [laughs] from a performance standpoint, they're both extremely talented. In many ways, more talented than the two who get the leads, I would say.

**Rileigh:** Yeah. And I would say it's unfair that Kelsie writes and presumably musically directs the musical, and gives Troy and Gabriella, like, the songs, and, like, helps them sing them, and, like, shows them how to perform them. That seems a little unfair.

**Taylor:** Well, but in her defense, Sharpay and... Sharpay brother, uh...

**Rileigh:** [holding back laughter] Ryan?

**Taylor:** Ryan, sorry. Uh, they— they— they had their own musically arranged— musical arrangement of her songs, so they weren't respecting her vision. She wanted a slower tempo and they were like, "No, people will fall asleep." So, you know.

**Sydnee:** That is true.

**Rileigh:** Yeah, that's true. Um, but they don't... I don't know. I just— looking back, in the first movie especially, Sharpay's the mean girl.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Raleigh:** But really she just, like... wants— she works hard for what she's gotten, and is going to get the lead in a musical until this new girl shows up out of nowhere.

**Sydnee:** And then— and then she, like, does mean things. I get it. Like, she gets call backs rescheduled to be right at the same time.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I get why all that happens, and that that's mean. But her redemption is purely during the final musical number, when she's like— she comes up to Gabriella and she's like, "Well, I guess I'm going to be your understudy. Break a leg."

And then she's like, "Oh no, that's just what we say! It's good luck in theater." Which I guess means "We're fine now."

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** "I've— I've gotten over it. I have instantly—" Also, if you ever did high school theater, community theater, is that how fast you get over it when you don't get the lead you wanted?!

**Raleigh:** You never get over it!

**Sydnee:** Or do you never get over it?

**Raleigh:** Oh, Sydnee's still not over it, it seems.

**Taylor:** Yeah!

**Raleigh:** There's a part Sydnee's still not over.

**Taylor:** There's a person out there that Sydnee still has her eye on! [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Taylor, tell me you got over all the parts you wanted.

**Taylor:** I only— I think— well... no. I—

**Sydnee:** Uh-huh, uh-huh! [laughs]

**Taylor:** No, 'cause I bowed out pretty early. I stopped doing theater when it was competitive and dramatic. That's why I went to stage crew. 'cause I was like, "I really like singing and performing, but y'all are scary, and this makes me feel bad, so I'm gonna do the thing that nobody challenges me for." And I became the set lord. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Sydnee and I stayed. [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** That's the— that was the one part that I was like, "This isn't believable." When everybody's painting the school sets. I'm like, "No." 'Cause I did sets in my high school! And it was, like— I would, like, "This is the brushstroke that you do 20 times. Tell me when you're done and then I'll come over and tell you a new brushstroke to do." It's just not anything goes. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Also, a lot of times you have to beg cast members to come help paint set.

**Taylor:** Oh yeah.

**Raleigh:** They don't just come do it.

**Sydnee:** No.

**Taylor:** No. It was the— like, in my— in my high school experience, it was the art department that painted sets, and the— the theater people just got to waltz around, being the stars, and we did all the work.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** I was stage crew. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** [laughs] I would like to share with anyone listening who did not know this. Um, which I don't think anyone knew... for a long time after the movies came out, or recognized. Um, that Zac Efron does not sing in the first movie, that



he is Troy, and Troy sings, but the guy that came in second, I guess, to play Troy, actually sings, Drew Seely. Um, he sings the songs and Zac Efron just lip syncs.

**Sydnee:** That's so sad for Drew Seely!

**Taylor:** Right?

**Rileigh:** I know. Um, but then Zac Efron apparently demanded, then, in the next two movies— he said, "I didn't realize these were gonna be so popular. I want to sing. Let me sing."

**Sydnee:** "Teach me to sing!" [laughs]

**Rileigh:** "Teach me to sing. Let me sing." So he did sing in the second and third movies. And I will say, now— I mean, he was in *The Greatest Showman*, and he sang in that.

**Sydnee:** Oh, that's true. He's very good in that.

**Rileigh:** Now he does sing, I guess. Um...

**Sydnee:** I wonder if the girls realize that.

**Rileigh:** Probably not.

**Sydnee:** I bet they didn't, that that was Zac Efron.

**Rileigh:** You should tell them that.

**Sydnee:** 'Cause they love *The Greatest Showman*. [through laughter] We wa—we—

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** —we've seen that many times, and we listen to that soundtrack on the reg, so...

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Huh. Um, well, that's sad for Drew Seely.

**Rileigh:** I know. Um, I mean, he's an actor. I guess he did other things, probably. I don't know. Oh, oh! He did! Uh, they did a concert. Um, a *High School Musical* touring concert after a while. After— I don't know if all the movies came out, or some of them came out. Uh, and Drew Seely played Troy Bolton in the stage concert.

**Sydnee:** Well, that's good.

**Rileigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** Um, yeah. That also must've been pretty hard for Zac Efron to have an entire part that is, like— I mean, how many times does Troy Bolton, like, "[tearfully] I wanna sing! I love to sing!"

**Rileigh:** Yeah! It's about singing.

**Sydnee:** "[tearfully] I wanna sing, dad! Just let me sing!" And, like, he can't sing. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** It is kinda sad. I read an interview with Zac Efron. He was like, "I mean, I— I recorded some of the songs. I learned 'em. But then it was just— they said 'No, actually you're gonna just lip sync.'" And then he said, "And I watched it, and I didn't sing any of 'em."

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** It was sad! He was like, "I didn't get— I thought I was gonna sing, and then they told me I couldn't! [laughs] They told me I wasn't good enough!"

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

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Well, he— he redeemed himself with that amazing—

**Rileigh:** He did.

**Taylor:** —sick singing on the golf course dramatic number.

**Raleigh:** [holding back laughter] It's so good.

**Sydnee:** I'm gonna have to watch this now. I couldn't convince the girls—

**Raleigh:** Just the number is—

**Sydnee:** —to watch more with me, but I'm gonna have to— well, hey. Is angry basketball dad in—

**Raleigh:** Oh yeah.

**Sydnee:** Okay.

**Raleigh:** He's in all of 'em.

**Sydnee:** 'Cause Cooper will watch it if she thinks she can see more of [through laughter] Angry Basketball—"[little kid voice] Where's da Angry Dad?" [laughs]

**Raleigh:** [laughs] Angry basketball dad has my favorite line in the whole first movie, which is when he's looking for Chad and Troy. Chad is Troy's friend who also plays basketball. Um, and doesn't sing. And in the second movie insists that he also does not dance, which is untrue. He eventually ends up singing and dancing.

Um, but in the first movie they both get detention, so they have to go paint set, but there's supposed to be at basketball practice, [laughs] so angry basketball dad comes angrily storming down the middle of the theater and says, "Why are those boys—" or, "What are those boys doin' in a tree?" [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** 'Cause they're painting a tree on the set and, um, [quietly] they're supposed to be at basketball practice.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** [quietly] That's my favorite part.

**Sydnee:** I, uh— I just— I felt bad for all the other players on the team, because in almost every scene with angry basketball dad he was yelling at a different player about where Troy was.

**Rileigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** And it's like, dude, he's your kid.

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** So, like, it's not— whoever that guy is who's standing next to you that you're yelling at, it's not his fault.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** He's your kid. You go find him.

**Rileigh:** And most of the time he was in detention.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] I had a moment where I was like, "That is his dad, right?"

**Rileigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** And it is.

**Rileigh:** It's his dad. [holding back laughter] Angry basketball dad. [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** They also try to make it like there's a moment where he meets Gabriella, he sees Troy and Gabriella together and you have to pretend like the dad doesn't approve. And it's like, you don't approve of your son, like, talking to an attractive girl who is incredibly intelligent, so much so that she's on the academic decathlon team? Like, she's, like, the smartest kid in school and you're like, "Hmph. Watch out for that one."

**Rileigh:** [gasps] I forgot! That's one of the craziest things about this movie is that Sharpay tries to, like, reveal Gabriella's big secret, which was that she was a genius and really smart at her old school.

**Sydnee:** Yeah!

**Taylor:** Yeah!

**Raleigh:** It's like, "I'm gonna ruin you! I'm gonna show everyone that you're a genius!" [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** Which she's also not hiding. She's not, like, being secretive about it. She just didn't wanna join any clubs right now, guys! She just started the school!

**Raleigh:** Yeah! She wanted to be herself! She didn't wanna be defined by, like, I don't know, how smart she was.

**Sydnee:** But she wasn't like— it wasn't like a *Mean Girls* thing where she was, like, getting bad grades. She just didn't wanna be on the team.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. And, I don't know, Sharpay thinks she's gonna ruin her life. [laughs] By— "You were so smart at your last school!"

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** I know. I love—

**Sydnee:** "You're a genius!"

**Taylor:** The googling of her— of her whole name, and it's just like, every article that comes up is like, "Local school genius!" "Genius girl wins award!" "Total genius does a thing!" [through laughter] It's like, "Ah, yes."

**Raleigh:** [laughs] Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I do like that character, Taylor, then.

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** I do like Taylor a lot.

**Taylor:** Taylor's a good Taylor, yes.

**Rileigh:** Gabriella's friend.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, Taylor's a good Taylor.

**Rileigh:** [simultaneously] [through laughter] Yeah, Taylor's a good Taylor.

**Sydnee:** I could— I could do without the cheerleader shaming. But other than that...

**Rileigh:** Sure.

**Sydnee:** ... Taylor is a good Taylor.

**Rileigh:** Taylor is good. She's very smart as well. Um, and also eventually sings and dances. Everyone eventually sings and dances.

**Sydnee:** [holding back laughter] Of course. It's *High School Musical*.

**Taylor:** But they also do sing and dance the whole time. It's very confusing to my brain. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Like, "Is this real singing and dancing, or is this not real singing and dancing?!" I need a little sign in the corner that goes, "This is real!"

**Rileigh:** [laughs] I would, uh— I would recommend— especially I think Charlie might enjoy more *Sharpay's Big Adventure* I believe is what it's called. Sharpay goes to New York, um, and is in New York after graduating I think, and that is her spin off.

**Sydnee:** Hmm.

**Rileigh:** That's *Sharpay's Big Adventure in New York*.

**Sydnee:** And is she redeemed as being a decent person?

**Raleigh:** I think so. I also think that by the end of the movie— like, the series, like, the last movie, um, it's not like she's trying to sabotage anyone anymore. The only big conflict in the third movie is that Troy and Gabriella were gonna go to different schools. Um, so Sharpay's more so just, like, "Okay. I've accepted this." [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** Yeah. She's like Veronica Lodge.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. She just wants to be a star.

**Sydnee:** She's doin' her own thing.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Well, that was your favorite character, right, Raleigh? You were all about Sharpay.

**Raleigh:** I was all about Gabriella when I was younger. Um, but now that I have watched them as I was older, as I have gotten older, I have realized that... it's not that Gabriella is a bad character, it's just that I don't know why I had to— everyone thought that Sharpay was the bad character because she was a girl who liked to be very feminine. And also just, like, liked to demand what she— demand what she deserved, um, which I guess was a thing that meant you were a bad girl.

**Sydnee:** She's a boss.

**Raleigh:** Yeah! And I didn't like— like, I thought being bossy was a bad thing. I was like, "But Gabriella's so quiet and kind, and... just smart." But now I'm like, "Well, no, they're both good— they're both good at what they do."

**Sydnee:** It's very much like the Joey Potter Jen Lindley phenomenon.

**Taylor:** Hmm, sure.

**Raleigh:** Sure.

**Sydnee:** When you watch *Dawson's Creek* as a kid, you're like—

**Taylor:** [simultaneously] Mm-hmm, yeah.

**Rileigh:** [simultaneously] Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** —"Oh, I'm just like Joey Potter." And then as you get older you realize, like, "Man, Jen got the shaft over and over again, and she was the only one, like, speaking truth the power the whole time."

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** The introduction of Gabriella's character is just so funny to me. Where she's like, "No! My book! I must have my book! Don't make me sing—"

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** "I have a book to read!"

[all laugh]

**Taylor:** Like, okay, we get it.

[all laugh]

**Rileigh:** Oh, man.

**Sydnee:** Oh... that might've been me, though, when I was a kid. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** "My book!"

**Sydnee:** "My book!"

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs] "My *Archie* Comic! [laughs] Give it back!"

**Rileigh:** Well, thank you all for watching *High School Musical*. Tey, especially, you watched all three of them, which I deeply appreciate.

**Taylor:** I thought it was— I thought I was supposed to! I wanted to show up ready, and then I didn't— I— I did, though.



**Raleigh:** You did.

**Sydnee:** I'm at least gonna watch the second, because my theory is the second will be better than the first.

**Taylor:** No!

**Sydnee:** Much like—

**Raleigh:** That's not true.

**Taylor:** Absolutely not!

**Sydnee:** —*much* like *Grease*!

**Raleigh:** It's not true.

**Taylor:** I think I— I—

**Sydnee:** Huh?

**Taylor:** —I think Raleigh and I agree on a ranking, here, that the first is the best.

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Taylor:** And the second is the worst. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Taylor:** And the third's alright.

**Raleigh:** The third's fine.

**Sydnee:** I'm gonna see for myself, I think.

**Taylor:** Oh, no.

**Raleigh:** Okay.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm. We'll see.

**Raleigh:** Um, Sydnee, what's next? What's next week?

**Sydnee:** Uh, I thought the other day of a movie that I loved when I was young, and, um, I think— I know Teylor's seen, I think you've seen, Raleigh. But, um, *Now and Then*.

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Teylor:** Hmm.

**Raleigh:** Long time ago.

**Sydnee:** And that was a very important movie to me when I was a teenager.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** So.

**Raleigh:** Exciting. It's been a long time since I've seen it, so.

**Teylor:** Same.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. Yeah, me too, me too.

**Raleigh:** Get to watch it again.

**Sydnee:** I don't know if I can show that to the— we'll see.

**Raleigh:** Maybe, maybe.

**Teylor:** Uh, it's a little scary.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. It's intense. Cooper will say that. Cooper uses the word "intense."

**Raleigh:** [laughs] That's very good.

**Sydnee:** "[little kid voice] That was intense."

Uh, alright. Well, thank you, Rileigh.

**Rileigh:** Thank you all.

**Sydnee:** I— I enjoyed it.

**Rileigh:** Good.

**Sydnee:** You know. It's— I mean—

**Rileigh:** It's a kids' movie. It's a Disney Channel Original Movie from... oh my gosh, 15 years ago! Pshh.

**Taylor:** Aw, yeah.

**Rileigh:** Jeez. Anyways. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** It was fun.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** It was fun.

**Taylor:** No, I had a great time. [laughs] I had a—

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** —trilogy. [through laughter] I stayed up—

**Rileigh:** You got the whole experience!

**Taylor:** It was great!

**Rileigh:** Got their whole character arcs.

**Taylor:** By the end of it I was a little teary eyed.

**Raleigh:** Yeah!

**Taylor:** That might've just been sleep deprivation. But I was into it!

**Raleigh:** Yeah!

**Sydney:** Well, uh, thank you listeners. Um, thanks for joining us. Hopefully you also enjoyed *High School Musical* and, you know, maybe you saw the whole trilogy too. I gotta see this angry golf song, if nothin' else.

**Raleigh:** You have to.

**Taylor:** [laughs quietly]

**Sydney:** [laughs quietly] You should go to Maximumfun.org and check out all the wonderful podcasts there that you would enjoy. Uh, you can email us at stillbuffering@maximumfun.org. You can tweet at us @stillbuff. Taylor, before I— before I take us out here, um— or I let Raleigh do that—

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydney:** —last week we talked about *Howl's Moving Castle*.

**Raleigh:** Yes!

**Taylor:** Yes.

**Sydney:** And you have made a— a— something that would relate to that that I think you should tell everybody about, and where to find it.

**Taylor:** Oh! Uh, well, um— along with the other podcast I do, which is *Neat!* which is about alcohol history, uh, I've started doing a unique series of videos for that, which are combining cosplay and cocktails, and so the first one that I did was a *Howl's Moving Castle* video, so that's on the *Neat!* YouTube channel. So, you don't have to listen to the podcast— though you should— uh, but it's, uh— it's a video that stands alone, and is about *Howl's Moving Castle* and cocktails.

**Sydney:** But you should listen to the podcast *Neat! Neat! The Boozecast*, wherever your podcasts are sold.

**Rileigh:** Wherever you listen to this podcast, you can listen to that podcast.

**Taylor:** Yes. And the rest of the videos on that channel relate to specific episodes of the podcast, so it's a whole fun multimedia experience.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, Taylor will tell you the history of booze, of various boozes, and then dad, our dad, Low Country Thomas there—

**Rileigh:** Our dad. [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** —um...

**Taylor:** [laughs] Will... talk about his experience drinking them.

**Sydnee:** Uh-huh, so there you go! So you should check that out as well.

**Rileigh:** Both sides of the bar. [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Exactly.

**Sydnee:** Hey, that was— you should use that, Tey. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Yeah, actually. That's better than what we've got. Oh. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** It's not. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** No, it's just, like, an extra thing.

**Rileigh:** But you can have it if you want. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** It's an extra thing. It could be a segment. I like it. Anyway... uh, and thank you to The Nouvellas for our theme song, "Baby You Change Your Mind."

[theme song plays in the background]

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

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

**Taylor:** And I'm Taylor Smirl.

**Rileigh:** I am still buffering...

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

**Sydnee:** [singing quietly] All in this together... I have to pee, now I'm leaving,  
da, da, da...

[all quietly singing over each other]

**Rileigh:** That was good.

**Sydnee:** Was it good?

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

[all laugh]

[theme music plays and ends]

[music plays]

**Speaker One:** Welcome!

**Group:** Thank you.

Thanks.

No problem.

Thank you.

**Speaker One:** These are real podcast listeners, not actors. What do you look for in a podcast?

**Speaker Two:** Reliability is big for me.

**Speaker Three:** Power.

**Speaker Four:** I'd say comfort.

**Speaker One:** What do you think of this?

[loud clanging]

**Group:** [groans]

**Speaker One:** That's *Jordan, Jesse, Go!*

**Speaker Two:** *Jordan, Jesse, Go?*

**Speaker Four:** They came out of the floor?

[thud]

**Speaker Four:** And down from the ceiling?

**Speaker Two:** That can't be safe.

**Speaker Four:** I'm upset.

**Speaker Three:** Can we go now?

**Speaker One:** Soon.

*Jordan, Jesse, Go!* A real podcast.

[chord]

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