

## Shmanners 272: Rock Concerts

Published July 30, 2021

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**Travis:** [raspy rock singer voice] Are you ready to rock?!

**Teresa:** [calmly] Yes.

**Travis:** Okay! It's *Shmanners*! [imitates rock guitar]

[theme music plays]

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

**Teresa:** And I'm your wife host, Teresa McElroy.

**Travis:** And you've been listening—you've *been* listening? You *are*—

**Teresa:** You are listening.

**Travis:** —currently listening to *Shmanners*.

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

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

**Teresa:** Hello, dear.

**Travis:** How are you?

**Teresa:** Good! There's nothing like a guitar solo to wake a person up in the morning.

**Travis:** [squeakily imitates rock guitar]

**Teresa:** [laughs] Hey now, you have to be careful. We're gonna start getting copyright notices from *Bill and Ted*.

**Travis:** That's true.

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Now, here's the thing that most people can't see, is when I air guitar—see, a lot of people when they air guitar, they just play the strings with their right hand—

**Teresa:** Uh-huh.

**Travis:** —and then they hold the frets with their left. But I tend to strum with both hands, 'cause I don't know how to play guitar.

**Teresa:** Play it like a piano.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Yeah, yeah, yeah. It's kind of like I'm strumming two simultaneous guitars that are stacked end-on-end.

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Um, I am not a musician.

**Teresa:** Indeed.

**Travis:** That may surprise some people [fake laughter] But I do not play any instruments. But I do enjoy going to concerts.

**Teresa:** I would like to first tell my sad, sad story about concerts.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** And then you can tell some awesome stories about concerts.

**Travis:** Okay, great.

**Teresa:** I have asthma. Hello, my name is Teresa, and I have asthma.

**Travis:** Uh-huh, yeah, no, I know.

**Teresa:** And up until probably, what? Ten years ago...

**Travis:** Ohh, you couldn't attend because of smoking!

**Teresa:** Because of smoking! If there was smoking allowed, if it was an indoor event, sometimes even if it was an outdoor event, um, I just couldn't handle the cigarette smoke. Um, and so my first memory of concerts is when all of my friends in high school got tickets to go see the Piffers?

**Travis:** I don't know who that is.

**Teresa:** It's a ska band.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** Um—

**Travis:** Are you big into ska?

**Teresa:** I mean... I like to dance.

**Travis:** Were you out there—you were skanking?

**Teresa:** I can skank it.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** And so, uh, they went to go see Piffers, and I couldn't go, because it was at an indoor venue, and there were definitely gonna be—*definitely* gonna be cigarette smoke there.

Um, and then the next time I went to a concert it was an outdoor area, which was better. I saw Journey, with the new front guy.

**Travis:** I was with you!

**Teresa:** Yes! Yes, you were.

**Travis:** Yes, I was.

**Teresa:** And you were also with me when we went to Kentucky. We went to a Southgate house which no longer exists, I think. Uh, remember? It was, like, kind of a basement-y place.

**Travis:** Yes. I don't remember what band we saw there.

**Teresa:** I don't remember what band we saw either, but I do know that we left early. Because, again, cigarette smoke.

**Travis:** There was smoking. We've seen Moody Blues in concert together too.

**Teresa:** We have. Uh, which was at Riverbend, right? So there was an indoor, outdoor-ish—

**Travis:** I just wanna say, none of these are making us sound super cool?

**Teresa:** I'm—I told you, sad story!

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** Sad story with Teresa and concerts.

**Travis:** I have some cool—I have—I don't know, cool to me. Maybe no one else will think they're cool. But, um, I saw in Oklahoma City Junior Senior opened for Electric Six, which if you like either of those bands you love those bands.

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Uh, and I did not know hardly anything about them at the time. Um, and for the Junior Senior section of it, everybody in the crowd just jumped simultaneously for the entire show. Like, in unison, just jumping up and down? It was awesome! It was one of the best energies ever.

**Teresa:** That's probably the best—like, the... mosh pit best that there could ever be, is everyone jumping up and down simultaneously.

**Travis:** Yeah, this was it, is like, I've been in mosh pits before.

**Teresa:** Yeah, and when people are not jumping together, that's when you get hurt. [laughs]

**Travis:** This was not a mosh pit. This was like something out of, like, a fully choreographed dance number, where we were all on the beat. It was that song, "[singing] Go junior, go senior, go junior, junior, senior." And there's such a clear rhythm to it. Everybody was jumping in unison. Uh, I saw Elvis Costello open for—uh, open for Bob Dylan. Uh, I saw Barenaked Ladies open for Ben Folds—well, Better Than Ezra opened for Barenaked Ladies who opened for Ben Folds. Uh, I also saw Ben Folds open for Rufus Wainwright. I also so Ben Folds, uh—

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** —at University of Oklahoma.

**Teresa:** Did you go to a lot of Ben Folds? Were you really into Ben Folds at the time?

**Travis:** Griffin was really into Ben Folds, and so I knew a lot about Ben Folds. And Ben Folds is a good concert.

**Teresa:** Oh, yes.

**Travis:** It's a fun concert.

**Teresa:** Yes.

**Travis:** I've seen Styx in concert, I've seen Journey in concert, I've seen Moody Blues in concert.

**Teresa:** Oh, we went to see Styx, didn't we?

**Travis:** Yes we did.

**Teresa:** Yeah! That was outside again.

**Travis:** But my first concert ever... and I'm sure that there were, like, things I went to, like, you know—I know I went to a Sharon, Lois, & Bram concert. Don't get it twisted.

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** And it was wild! Um—but, uh, the first concert I remember going to of me being like, "I would like to go to this concert," is Tom Jones, and I think I was, like, 11, and Justin would've been 14.

**Teresa:** Wow.

**Travis:** And our parents dropped us off [crosstalk]—

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** —and, like, Mom and Dad just didn't want to go. And Justin and I had, like, front row seats in the balcony in Huntington, and we watched it there.

**Teresa:** Wow! I went to a B. B. King show, I would say, when I was in college. It was more like an orchestral concert type deal, where it was at a theater, and there were—you know, everyone was seated the whole time, and... it wasn't really a rock concert.

**Travis:** I've reached an age now where those are—I went to recently a Fallout Boy one, and I got—it was, like, an outdoor thing, and there were, like, two levels, and I was able to, like, sit at a table and watch it. It was great. [laughs]

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** I loved that.

**Teresa:** That's what I loved about the Moody Blues concert.

**Travis:** So chill. So chill.

**Teresa:** [simultaneously] So chill.

**Travis:** Okay. I also at one point went to—it's not rock at all, but I went and saw Harry Connick Jr.

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** [crosstalk] It was a Christmas, like, concert, and every set—it was amazing. Okay, but we're talking about rock concerts today.

**Teresa:** We are. And we also—

**Travis:** Starts with Beethoven.

**Teresa:** —may have regaled you with some of our—our fun times in Cleveland, hint, hint.

**Travis:** What?

**Teresa:** Cleveland. I'm gonna talk about... Cleve—

**Travis:** Oh, because it has the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame?

**Teresa:** Yes.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** Cleveland, I'm gonna talk a little bit about Cleveland, and it has the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame because... I mean, a lot of reasons. But one of the reasons is because it is widely considered the birthplace of the rock and roll concert.

**Travis:** Get out of the town.

**Teresa:** Totes.

**Travis:** Tell me about that. I had no idea. I thought it was just arbitrarily there.

**Teresa:** No.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** Cleveland. March 21st, 1952.

**Travis:** Do you think if someone else, like, in America, was like, "We're gonna open a Rock and Roll Hall of Fame." Is rock and roll gonna stop them? Like, who decides if you're allowed to do that or not?

**Teresa:** [laughs] Uh, I—I don't know.

**Travis:** "As the President of rock and roll, I declare this to be an unofficial Rock and Roll Hall of Fame!" Okay, go on.

**Teresa:** It's probably trademarked by now. I mean, "The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame" definitely is.

**Travis:** Sure, sure.

**Teresa:** Anyway. Uh, there was a legendary DJ named Alan Freed, who went by the name of Moondog.

**Travis:** Oh, okay. Yeah.

**Teresa:** Are you—are you thinking back to Drunk History? There's a Drunk History about this.

**Travis:** Yes, there is. But also, like, Moondog to me is, like, just kind of a thing I will foll—like, if I'm looking for a name for, like, a DJ—usually a DJ's more like Velvet Thunder.

**Teresa:** Yeah.

**Travis:** But I'm thinking of a different kind of DJ. But, like—like, surfing, that kind of thing. Like, Moondog is a very cool, hip... name.

**Teresa:** Totally. He was the self-styled father of rock and roll, and this was because in the 50's, he was the host of a very popular AM radio show on WJW called *The Moondog Show*.

**Travis:** Of course.

**Teresa:** Duh. And, um, when he joined the station in 1951, he was meant to host a classical music show. But he found himself drawn to early rock and roll at the suggestion of a record store owner, Leo Mintz. Mintz told Moondog that this new, faster, catchier rhythm and blues music by Black musicians was growing in popularity among all of his young customers, regardless of race. Mintz was so confident in the popularity of this new sound that he decided to sponsor three hours of late night air time on WJW so the music could be featured. I mean, this makes complete sense, knowing about the record industry. A lot of the times, people who produced the records also owned the stores, also made jukeboxes, also, like—



**Travis:** Yeah, there's—if you are a fan of this kind of thing, I highly recommend this season of *Cocaine and Rhinestones*, which is a history of country music. But, uh, they talk a lot about how the record industry worked at this time as far as, like, publishing records and getting airplay on the radio, and how that affected things. Like, Billboard the magazine began as a, like—a way to chart how records played on jukeboxes, right? So that people knew which albums to put on their jukeboxes. Yeah.

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. And it was all connected. Um, and Mintz only wanted Moondog to do it. Uh, and he was great at it. Uh, he started doing this new, like, hip persona and vocabulary, and really as kind of like the starting point of the DJ sound that we think of. You—I mean, you were talking about [crosstalk]—

**Travis:** [bombastically] Hey everybody, it's me, Moondog, comin' to you live, bringin' you the hits!

**Teresa:** That's right.

**Travis:** We're playin' all the records here, all day long. So stick around. [normally] Yeah.

**Teresa:** Yeah. And that was Clint McElroy as Moondog? Is that what—

**Travis:** Well, that was, uh, Travis as Clint McElroy—

**Teresa:** Right.

**Travis:** —uh, as Moondog.

**Teresa:** Yes, that's it, that's it.

**Travis:** [nasally voice] I'm Clint McElroy, bringing you the greatest...

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** [normally] Yeah, Dad was a—a rock and roll DJ for I think as far as I can remember. And then, uh—then oldies, and then country for a long time.

**Teresa:** Um, and legend has it that he was the one to coin the phrase "rock and roll."

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** Um, the new program was amazingly popular. So many people tuned in that Moondog and Mintz decided to host something that had never been done before.

**Travis:** A rock concert!

**Teresa:** They would hold a dance.

**Travis:** Oh.

**Teresa:** But not just any dance. A dance featuring some of the popular artists whose records were appearing on the show.

**Travis:** Like the Oneders!

**Teresa:** [laughs] Yeah. [laughs]

**Travis:** They got the Oneders!

**Teresa:** I don't know—is our audience gonna get that?

**Travis:** One—one person did.

**Teresa:** One person'll know.

**Travis:** They're—they're cackling.

**Teresa:** Paul Williams and the Huckle—uh, Hucklebuckers were quickly set to headline—

**Travis:** [gasps] The what? The Hucklebuckers?!

**Teresa:** Yes?

**Travis:** Okay. That seems like dirty slang for something.

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** And I don't know what.

**Teresa:** Along with Tiny Grimes and The Rocking Highlanders. I've never heard of any of these bands.

**Travis:** All of these are great, and they sound like made-up.

**Teresa:** But they're great.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** Uh, and the dubbed it the Moondog Coronation Ball.

**Travis:** Okay!

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm!

**Travis:** I like that.

**Teresa:** Alright. To say that this was a hot ticket in town is a complete understatement.

**Travis:** Well, when The Hucklebuckers are gonna be there.

**Teresa:** They sold out so quickly that people began to counterfeit tickets, and by the evening of the event, somewhere between 20 to 25,000 fans showed up for an event that only had the capacity for 10,000. [laughs]

**Travis:** Oh boy!

**Teresa:** Uh, less than an hour into the show, the massive crowd broke through the outside gates, and the hubbub was so enormous that the show had to be canceled for everybody's safety.

Um, I mean, Moondog offered an apology to the listeners the next evening, but it was clear that rock and roll was here to stay. And this is why, one of the reasons that Cleveland is known as the birthplace of rock and roll.

**Travis:** Okay. Well, let's talk more about this, because I'm on the edge of my seat. But first... how about a thank you note for our sponsors?

**Teresa:** Let's go!

[theme music plays]

**Travis:** We wanna say thank you to Curology. Curology is sponsoring us in part this week, uh, and we want you to know what Curology can do for you. So, I have been using Curology for a while now. So, how it works: you get sponsored with a dermatology provider, right? And then they're going to make sure that you have the right formula for you, right? Maybe you're worried about dry skin. Maybe you're worried about acne. That's part of what I'm worried about, and I'm not embarrassed to say it. Let's normalize it, right?

But they help you figure out what your skin goals are, and then they're gonna come up with the formula that works for you. They will customize a prescription formula with three active ingredients, picked just for you, to tackle your skincare needs. And I like I said, they will match you with a licensed dermatology provider who gets to know your skin, and if it's a good fit, you'll get a customized prescription cream to address your acne, fine lines, dark spots, and more, all shipped right to your door.

I've been using it for a while now, 'cause sometimes I get the dry skin. Sometimes I get the breakouts, right? And I wanna take care of that!

**Teresa:** You're a classic combo.

**Travis:** A classic combo!

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm.

**Travis:** I'm a dancer, and a singer, and an actor.

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** And I have acne. A quadruple threat.

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Right? So take control of acne, dark spots, breakouts, or whatever your unique concerns may be, with a powerful skincare treatment made just for you. Go to [curology.com/shmanners](https://curology.com/shmanners) for a free 30 day trial. Just pay for shipping and

handling. That's [C-U-R-O-L-O-G-Y.com/shmanners](http://C-U-R-O-L-O-G-Y.com/shmanners) to unlock your free 30 day trial. See [curology.com](http://curology.com) for all the details.

**Teresa:** *Shmanners* is also sponsored in part this week by Made In. Um, I get a lot of things—like a lot of people, we get 'em online. Um, and it's not always easy to tell exactly where things are sourced or where they're made, or even, you know, the quality of something that you get. But if quality and craftsmanship is important to you...

**Travis:** Which it is. 'Cause, you know, sometimes you're buying stuff that you wanna use for a long, long time. In fact, you know, I miss the days of being able to say, like, "Oh yeah, this was my mom's, and she got it from her grandmother," and that kind of that thing.

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm, mm-hmm. You should check out Made In. It is a cookware and kitchenware brand that works with renowned chefs and artisans to produce some of the world's best pots, pans, knives, and wine glasses. Um, I tried the non-stick pan.

**Travis:** Mm-hmm. Way better than the stick pan.

**Teresa:** Way better. [laughs]

**Travis:** If you ask me.

**Teresa:** Here it is. We make a lot of grilled cheese.

**Travis:** We do.

**Teresa:** We use a lot of butter.

**Travis:** Lot of grilled cheese.

**Teresa:** We do, like, fry it up. And the worst thing is when you get that cheese that sticks to the pan, and it's not in your sandwich, right?

**Travis:** No, no, no, no.

**Teresa:** I used this pan. No stick.

**Travis:** No stick!

**Teresa:** It didn't even look like I had to wash it? I did wash it.

**Travis:** We did wash it. But it also feels good to use. That's the other thing I like, is sometimes you get it where it's got, like, a flimsy-feeling handle, or you feel like it's gonna come separate, you know? From—from the pan itself, right? But this feels solid, and it feels good. Like, you could really whack a robber over the head with this thing. You know what I mean?

**Teresa:** [laughs] You totally could. And it's more affordable than some other brands, because they make premium kitchen tools available directly to you, without the middleman markup.

**Travis:** And they offer a lifetime guarantee.

**Teresa:** So right now, Made In is offering our listeners 15% off of your first order with promo code "shmanners." That's the best discount available anywhere online for Made In products. So, go to [madeincookware.com](http://madeincookware.com) and use promo code "shmanners" for 15% off of your order. That's Made In, so M-A-D-E-I-N [cookware.com/shmanners](http://cookware.com/shmanners), using the promo code "shmanners."

**Hal:** [wrestling announcer voice] Prepare yourself for the greatest pro wrestling podcast spectacular, known as *Tights and Fights!* A backdopping audio showcase that helps you understand the world of pro wrestling, with a lot of love, and no toxic masculinity!

Featuring hosts Danielle Radford.

**Danielle:** Time to kick butt and chew gum... and I'm all out of butts.

**Hal:** Lindsey Cal.

**Lindsey:** I'm a brittle Brit and my fists were made to punch and hit!

**Hal:** And Hal Lublin!

[normally] I was doing the voice over this whole time.

[audience cheers]

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[advertisement ends]

**Travis:** I just remembered two other really great rock concerts that I've been to.

**Teresa:** Lay 'em on me!

**Travis:** Uh, I went and saw—so this is one of those where—you know, there is a lot of rock concerts that I wish I had gone to, and either the band is broken up or, like, the person has passed and, like, the opportunity is gone. But this is one of the rare cases of, uh, like, within the first six months of moving to Cincinnati so long ago, 12 years ago now—

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** —uh, I went with my friend Jeremy to a concert, and it was Foxy Shazam.

**Teresa:** Ah!

**Travis:** Who I knew nothing about at the time, uh, and we—and went to the concert, and it was wild. Like, the energy of it was off the charts. It ended with the lead singer Eric Nally, like, jumping up, grabbing a pipe from the ceiling, and hanging upside down and kicking out ceiling tiles. And then when he finished the song, dropping to the floor and running out and getting into, like, their van or whatever.

**Teresa:** [wheeze-laugh]

**Travis:** Right? And it wasn't until, like, five years later that I started really getting into Foxy Shazam. Uh, and the other one... I went and saw the Protomen, who do the Megaman.

**Teresa:** Ohh, yeah.

**Travis:** Along with other stuff. I saw them, uh, with my friends Bob and Bradbury in Louisville. It was an amazing concert. Highly recommend, if you ever get a chance. Also Megarun. That's another good one. [getting out of breath] I've seen They Might Be Giants. I've seen—

**Teresa:** Okay.

**Travis:** —I've been to a lot of cool—I'm cool—hey! I'm cool, guys, is what I'm saying.

**Teresa:** [laughs quietly] You're cool of a certain age.

**Travis:** What?!

**Teresa:** I mean...

**Travis:** No, I—listen.

**Teresa:** Neither of us have ever been to, like, Bonnaroo, or, like—

**Travis:** No! Ew, gross!

**Teresa:** I mean, but that's, like, the thing now!

**Travis:** But where do you shower? You sleep on the ground in a—in a tent?! No!

**Teresa:** Anyway. Uh, I mean, it really is true, the way that you're talking about, like, these concerts.

**Travis:** You know who I wanna go see now?

**Teresa:** Yeah?

**Travis:** I wanna go see Shawn Mendes. I bet a Shawn Mendes concert is great. I'll be there's a lot of—and we'll talk about this in the questions, but I'll bet a lot of that thing where they hold the microphone out to the audience and people, like, sing along to it, and it's like, "Now your turn! Blehh."

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Right? That kind of thing.



**Teresa:** The history of rock concerts does really—you know, it's more of a highlights list, right? Because as soon as people heard rock and roll, they wanted to go see it and dance to it and—and, you know, be part of the experience.

**Travis:** That, and I think we'll talk more about this in the questions, too. But I think that that word is the difference, right? Because I think... there are some bands and music, right? Where I feel that the—listening to the album, or even listening to a live album, is a same experience, right? Of being there and thing—and then there are some bands where you're like, the energy of this, the experience of this, being there, being in the moment, sharing this with people, that's why the concert exists, right? Like, that—that is the difference to me of, like, a concert that I don't need to go to, and a concert I do need to go to.

**Teresa:** Um, so some highlights. The first ever stadium show occurred when The Beatles played to a sold-out crowd of 55,600 people in Shea Stadium in New York City. That was August, 1965. And then there was also the Monterey International Pop Music Festival in the summer of 1967, featuring breakout performances from, like, The Who, Jimi Hendrix, Janice Joplin, and then of course we know the cultural impact of Woodstock in 1969.

**Travis:** Absolutely.

**Teresa:** Um, and—

**Travis:** I would not have gone to Woodstock. Even knowing what I know now, I'm not—I don't—ugh. I am—I am a, uh, a prissy cat when it comes to that, and I—I have a hard enough time sleeping on a mattress that's not my own, let alone, like, camping. I—ugh! I don't do it! I don't do it, folks. I am a delicate flower.  
[laughs]

**Teresa:** [laughs] And then every rock concert seemed to pave the way for the next one, right? Woodstock, Coachella, Bonnaroo, South by Southwest, um, and, you know, benefit concerts like Concert for Bangladesh and Live Aid and Farm Aid—

**Travis:** [simultaneously] Farm Aid, Live Aid.

**Teresa:** —and all that kind of stuff, right? It just made it so that... it became the experience of the music.

**Travis:** I have another question for you, and this is a question that I would also pose to our audience, and you can tweet at us @shmannerscast. What is a concert that is unavailable to you now for whatever reason, but there is no, like, "Oh, they might get back together." Like, it is unavailable. That if you could, like, go back in time to see a band or a performer do a concert, that's the one you would do? I can answer mine.

**Teresa:** Okay.

**Travis:** It's Prince.

**Teresa:** Ohh.

**Travis:** If I could see—if I could see Prince perform, like... I—I—I think about Prince's Superbowl Halftime show literally all the time, and I get chills every time I think about it. There is a—if you wanna see something amazing, uh, Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, the—the, like, dedication to George Harrison, they do "While My Guitar Gently Weeps." And it's, like, Tom Petty and, like, all these amazing, like, musicians. And there's Prince, right? Who's not singing during the entire song, and kind of back in the shadows. And then at the end for, like, the last two minutes, just plays [emphatically] the greatest guitar solo I have ever seen. Like, to the point where it's—it's one of my go-to, like, "Oh, do you wanna see a person at the top of their craft? Watch this."

And if I could go back in time and see Prince perform, I would in a heartbeat.

**Teresa:** That would be awesome. Um, like all things, these—

**Travis:** Wait, but what about you?

**Teresa:** Oh. Michael Jackson. Right?

**Travis:** Yeah, I bet that's incre—you know, not to speak about morals or anything, but I bet it's an incredible concert.

**Teresa:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Bet it's an incredible concert. And, I mean, listen. I think The Beatles are up there, right?

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm.

**Travis:** I think The Beatles when they were, like, the British Invasion and everyone screaming and, like, losing their mind and passing out, right?

**Teresa:** Yeah.

**Travis:** I think that that's the one I'd be at. Because, like, the energy of that I bet is like... like, you can't replicate that.

**Teresa:** Absolutely.

**Travis:** Same with, like, Elvis. But still, Prince, top of the list.

**Teresa:** Top of the list. Um, and you start to see these parallel lines start to move further and further apart when you start getting into big concerts, and then smaller venues, right? Um, and the smaller venue kind of veers into punk rock, right?

**Travis:** Yeah, I was gonna say. Yep.

**Teresa:** And grunge, and things like that. And then the bigger venue starts moving into not just rock and roll—

**Travis:** But pop and—

**Teresa:** —but pop, right? And, like—

**Travis:** There—there were—

**Teresa:** —Motown dancing and stuff.

**Travis:** —it's a response to—it's a response to each other, right?

**Teresa:** Right.

**Travis:** 'Cause, like, when you see the—those big concerts and everything, it starts to feel like, you know, the negative way to view that is like selling out, right?

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm.

**Travis:** And when you're doing the smaller shows, it's intimate. We're there together. This is a shared [unintelligible]. [through gritted teeth] We don't answer to anybody! [normally] Yeah, but you're also having to drive yourself everywhere and, like, pay for your own gas, so.

**Teresa:** Yeah. Um, and let's—let's take a second to talk a little bit about punk. Uh, it was entirely different, because of the energy of the crowd. Um, it was pretty aggressive, we'll say. Um, it could often be angry, but it was just so in—

**Travis:** Passionate.

**Teresa:** Passionate, and high energy, uh, that fans and bands of the high speed music began to refer to the type of dancing they did as mashing.

**Travis:** Uh-huh.

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm. Not, you know, dancing exactly, but kind of just like—it's almost like human pinball, right?

**Travis:** Right, right. It's—it's—it's—[laughs quietly] it's—a good way to think about it is the way that, like, uh, atoms when they start getting hot, right? Will bounce off each other, and that's where the heat comes from, right? The friction of them bouncing. And that is what a mosh pit looks like. It literally looks like atoms becoming agitated and hotter and hotter as they bounce off of each other.

**Teresa:** And, uh, legend has it that moshing was coined by Bad Brains' lead singer, H. R., who invented the term because his fans misunderstood his Jamaican accent when he tried to say "mash."

**Travis:** There you go. Love it.

**Teresa:** Awesome. Um—

**Travis:** And my favorite dance? The Monster Mosh.

**Teresa:** Hmm.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** Nice. [laughs quietly] Uh, so we're up into the 80's with more, like, hardcore music, with, like, thrash bands, like Megadeath and Slayer and—

**Travis:** Anthrax?

**Teresa:** Anthrax, yeah, uh-huh. Which even released a song called "Caught in a Mosh." Uh, which really made mosh pits mainstream and international, right? Um, and we can't talk about it—we can't talk about grunge bands—

**Travis:** Without Nirvana.

**Teresa:** —without Nirvana. The legendary lead singer, Kurt Cobain, was known to hurl himself off the stage into a dense crowd of fans as they continued singing, or he was playing guitar.

**Travis:** Crowdsurfing.

**Teresa:** Yes, and that was when crowdsurfing was born!

**Travis:** Once again, it's that intimate, like, connection with the audience, you know?

**Teresa:** Right. And you could never—he could never have done that at, like, a big stadium show. It would've have to have been a fairly more intimate venue.

**Travis:** What you see now to try to replicate that in a lot of, like, stadium shows, those big venues. They will build the stage so that there is, like, a jutting out at the front, right? Like, that it goes into the audience, so they can, like, walk down and, like, touch people's hands in a very, uhhh... reminiscent of perhaps the Christ figure...

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** ... uh, way. "Touch the hem of my garment" kind of moment. But you have that where they have to, like, manufacture that kind of intimacy with the audience. Yeah.

**Teresa:** Um, so another thing about rock and roll, about the grunge scene, moshing, thrash bands, things like that, is it has this kind of pendulum swing that we often talk about in *Shmanners* where it is a rebellion, right? From the norm. And so people who feel outside of society might gravitate towards that. But then it becomes so popular that the rest of society follows, right? We saw this with, like, beards, uh, if you remember that one.

**Travis:** Look at ZZ Top.

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** I mean, literally. The—literally—

**Teresa:** No, yeah.

**Travis:** —ZZ Top's beards were a, like, symbol of rebellion, right? Of, like, "We're outside of the norm, baby!"

**Teresa:** So there has been a kind of push back now. Being, like, "Well, this isn't real rock music 'cause it's westernized and it's, like, capitalization, and—and capitalism," and all that kind of stuff, right? Because so far the genre has moved to be so popular that now, quote, "Is it even a rebellion if we do this? If everybody's doing it?"

**Travis:** Well, you know, the thing is, is, like—the thing about any kind of art form, which obviously music is—any kind of art form, there is always a bleeding edge, right?

**Teresa:** Totally.

**Travis:** You're always moving forward. And the chances are, right? The things that are rebellion, part of it, we don't know. Right? But the other side of it is that... ugh. Not to—not to wax philosophical for a moment. But radio and the distribution of art, of music, is so wildly different these days, right? Because when you talk about, like, records and radio play, right? And jukeboxes and everything, at that point, the ability, one, to make it, was a lot smaller, right? Because there was just less avenues to go down. But it also meant that it was a reaction to what people wanted. Right?

**Teresa:** Right.

**Travis:** Because it didn't make sense to record a record and publish it and do all that if no one was buying it.

**Teresa:** Right.

**Travis:** And nowadays, right? There are so many different ways to inflate those numbers and to, like—"Oh, okay. Well, no one's—"

**Teresa:** And you can even self-publish on the internet.

**Travis:** Well, so that's the two different things, right?

**Teresa:** Right.

**Travis:** Is because you have self-publishing, and avenues where you can make music, right? That people want. Because if people aren't buying it, you don't make music. But then you have music over here, right? Where it's just like, "Well, we're gonna play this so many times and play it in commercials, and it's gonna be in this movie that everyone's watching, and so even if people don't like it, it'll be stuck in their heads. And then we can, like, play it on the radio enough it'll be stuck in their heads that they'll buy it, right? And they'll listen to it. And it won't matter if they like it or not. They're just so exposed to it it will be popular.

**Teresa:** Man.

**Travis:** Yeah, right? And it's—it—that's why I think that when we talk about the rebellion part of it, I think it's—the rebellion of rock music right now, or music in general, is those people who are self publishing, is those people who, like, record their thing, not for commercialization and not for that but because, like, this is the music they wanted to make, and this is the music that people are listening to, right? And I think ...interestingly, I think we see a lot of bands and musicians and stuff getting big breaks on TikTok now?

**Teresa:** Yeah!

**Travis:** Right? Because there are songs that get—like, that make some kind of connection with people, and it gets used a lot, right? And I'm sure that there's a way to over-inflate that and manufacture that if you have enough money. But I think that you see a lot of bands getting big on social media platforms now. Anyways.

**Teresa:** Anyways.

**Travis:** It's very different.

**Teresa:** Hey, here's the thing. Rock concerts, concerts in general, music is a big money-making thing.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** But... if you like it, that's great!

**Travis:** Put a ring on it.

**Teresa:** Don't—don't let anyone take away the joy. What is it—cha—you chase—

**Travis:** Chase your bliss?

**Teresa:** Chase your bliss, that's it.

**Travis:** Yeah, I will say right off the bat, just so long as we're talking about music, uh, don't gatekeep music, right? Don't judge other people's music, right? It's—like, listen. You have probably figured it out from me listing the concerts I've been to. Uh, my music taste varies between, I would say, slightly rock punk, right? Slightly pop rock, and a 70-year-old woman. Right?

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Like, that is... I get it, right? I don't know that the bands I listen to are cool, but gosh darn it they make me happy to listen to. And don't take away someone else's happiness because they listen to a band that you don't think is good. That's not how that works. And simultaneously, don't take away someone's happiness if they enjoy a band that you think you enjoy more than them. That's also not how it works.

Let's answer some questions.

**Teresa:** I—first—

**Travis:** What?

**Teresa:** —I wanna quote Jack Black, in the critically acclaimed film classic, *School of Rock*.

**Travis:** Okay.



**Teresa:** "For those about to rock, we salute you."

**Travis:** I don't think he coined that. I think that that—okay, it's not important.

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Um, okay. This is the big one. Are you ready?

**Teresa:** Yes.

**Travis:** Rod asks:

"Singing along. Yea or nay?"

Let me start off by saying a story.

**Teresa:** Okay.

**Travis:** So, we went and saw Mike Doughty. Um, Mike Doughty, formerly of Soul Co—

**Teresa:** Ahh, yeah. I do remember that.

**Travis:** Yeah. Formerly of Soul Coughing. Uh, now a solo, Mike Doughty. His album, *Haughty Melodic*, had a huge impact on me and my brothers. So we went and saw this concert, and in the middle of it, right? Mike Doughty is, like, between songs, right? Getting ready to start another song. This guy starts walking down the center aisle, like, raising his hand and waving wildly to get Mike Doughty's attention. And finally Mike Doughty looked up and he was like, "Yes?"

And the guy was like, "Uh, hey man, sorry to interrupt, but I have an important question for someone who's here."

And Mike Doughty goes, "No. No! Sit back down!"

And the guy, like, looked at him. And Mike Doughty said, "There's a way to do this. There's a way that this is done. And this is not it!"

Like, and here's the thing. He's absolutely correct, and the thing is, is, like, his point that he then went on say is like, "Listen, man. Everybody here is having a shared experience, right? And you are making everyone's experience about you

without asking, without consent, right? You are doing—like, no. Go sit back down."

And the guy went and sat back down. And listen, on some level I feel bad for the guy, right? But on the other level, what Mike Doughty said is correct, right?

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm.

**Travis:** Is that when you go to a concert, it is a weird mixture of a personal experience and a shared experience.

**Teresa:** Sure.

**Travis:** Right? Of, like, yeah, you're there, and you should enjoy that concert. You should have your time. But also, everyone else is trying to do the same thing, right? And I think that we will come back to that a lot as we answer some of these questions. So, singing.

**Teresa:** Singing. Uh, the first thing I would say is read the room, right?

**Travis:** Yes, absolutely.

**Teresa:** If it is like that Mike Doughty concert where we were all sitting quietly-ish—I mean, there was a little bit of chit-chat. It was more of kind of, like... more of a theatrical experience than it was like a Taylor Swift show, right? Where it's a stadium thing, and, you know, everybody is so far away, and there's Jumbotrons, and all kind of stuff. Right?

Um, and if you find yourself feeling like you might be the only one singing, probably take it down a notch. And I'm not telling you not to enjoy yourself, but this is just not the time to break out your, you know... break out your pipes and Broadway belt it all, you know?

**Travis:** There are two different ways to do it.

**Teresa:** You can kind of, like, whisper it, mouth it—like, you're not in your car.

**Travis:** Yeah. There's—I think there's two different ways to do it, where there's the people who... are so moved by the emotion that they start, like, singing along. And then there are people who are singing along like they want the lead singer to go, "You know what? Why don't you get up here!"

**Teresa:** [laughs] Yeah.

**Travis:** Um, and, you know, a counterpoint to that story, we also when we were at that Moody Blues concert, in the middle of "Nights in White Satin," a guy in the front row got down on one knee and proposed. And she said yes, right? And it wasn't like, "Look at us, everybody. Look at us." He just did it. And the band saw that and they, like, gestured to them as they sang. They put a spotlight on it. The drummer, like, gave him his drumsticks afterwards. Some other guy tried to grab the drumsticks like it was a giveaway.

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** The drummer pulled them back and went, "No!" And gave 'em to the guy, right? But, like—

**Teresa:** But he didn't hijack the show, is really what it is.

**Travis:** Correct. If you—and nobody asked about this, but if this is something you would like to do, propose and have it be, like, a shared group experience, first thing to do is, like, ask the venue. I mean, if you have a way, like, tweet at the, you know, band or singer or, like, if they have an email address or something. But the best way is probably to ask the venue to ask the performer if that is okay, and if they say no, do not do it. Right? Because, like, don't hijack the experience, as you said.

This is from Jenner.

"If you have a great spot in the pit and have to go to the bathroom, is your friend allowed to save your spot?" So this probably means, like, standing room in the pit, yeah.

**Teresa:** Um... I don't—I don't know exactly how if you're standing someone would... like, just spread—

**Travis:** Elbows out, yeah.

**Teresa:** [laughs] Elbows out, just kind of, like, spread themselves a little bit? But, like, if you attained that spot because you came in early, or you had that, like, standing room ticket, or whatever it is, if you... leave to go to the bathroom, I think that it is okay for your friend to then make room for you to return.

**Travis:** Yeah. I mean, uh—so Becky and Adam also asked about, like, moving through the crowd. And the thing is is, like, there will be people who side-eye you, right? But that is about them—right? *Manners* and *Shmanners* isn't about, like, making it so no one's ever off-put by your actions ever.

**Teresa:** Right.

**Travis:** 'Cause you can't manage someone else's experience. There will be people who are like, "Ugh." Right? Is it okay to get back to your spot? Yeah, [laughs] absolutely. Right? Like, you were there. You had to go to the bathroom, a basic human function, and you wanted to come back. Absolutely. It make take you some time.

**Teresa:** Yeah.

**Travis:** I mean, you go to the bar and to the bathroom and to the merch stand or whatever at your own peril.

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm.

**Travis:** Right? Because where there are not saved seats, right? There's no guarantee that you'll be able to get back to that place. I—I would recommend in this case, especially if it was, like, you and one friend, to see if they would just go with you, right? And then the two of you find a place again later, right?

**Teresa:** Right. And I think that there's—there's a kind of, like—there's the mentality of, "I can push my way to the front!" Right?

**Travis:** Right.

**Teresa:** And nobody—that's not cool. Don't do that.

**Travis:** No, you wanna flow like water.

**Teresa:** [laughs] So if you want to be in the front, and there is, like, standing room, non-ticketed space, unassigned seats in the front, you gotta do the work. You gotta show up early enough to get there, right?

**Travis:** Get there early, right.

**Teresa:** You got to—if you—

**Travis:** Bring a stadium pal that you could pee in while you're just standing there. No, don't do that. Don't do that.

**Teresa:** [laughs] Uh, you have to be prepared to stand your ground if you don't want people to get in front of you, but you have to be there to do it. If you show up five minutes before the show starts and it's—you're now in standing room only in the back, don't push your way to the front. Those people got there, and they prepared for that. You came here late, so this is where you are now.

**Travis:** Um, I—I will give you a life lesson learned from one Mr. Daniel Tiger, one of Bebe's favorites. "Enjoy the 'wow' that's happening now." And by that I mean don't be so focused on trying to get the quote, unquote, "best spot" or whatever, that you are not enjoying the concert you are at. Um, because, you know... I went and saw Harvey Danger in concert with my brothers, and it wasn't about where we were standing, and it wasn't about, like, were we comfortable or did we get nudged from time to time. Like, was it hot and sweaty?

Yes, of course it was. Right? But it was one of the greatest concerts I've ever been to, because the experience of it was so, like, magical, of being there with my brothers. This was, like, their farewell tour, and they played for, like, four hours, and it was amazing, right? And if I had spent that time being hung up on, like, "Do I have the best view possible? Am I as close as I could be? Oh, that person gave me the stink eye." Right? Like, that's just gonna take away from all of that.

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm.

**Travis:** Um, one more question here. This is from Matthew.

"What is appropriate in the post-show meet and greet? How do I be me and not scare the artist?"

**Teresa:** I think it has to do with setup, right? If this is, like, VIP into the green room type thing, you just gotta be cool. Be chill.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** Um, and, you know, remember that these artists and performers are people.

**Travis:** Correct.

**Teresa:** So talk to them as you would talk to a person. I think that it's great to let people know how much their music means to you, right? Like, if you got to meet Mike Doughty—

**Travis:** Which I did, yes.

**Teresa:** Which you did. I think it's wonderful for an artist to hear that their art has touched you.

**Travis:** Right.

**Teresa:** That is one part of a conversation. That is not the dominant conversation, right?

**Travis:** Correct.

**Teresa:** So if you have just one thing to say, say it, and then hang. But if you have a lot of things to say, I would say, plan out kind of, like, a little—a little thing that is more like a paragraph and less like a dissertation.

**Travis:** So, my advice is, it's three steps.

**Teresa:** Okay.

**Travis:** The greet, the ask, and the exit.

**Teresa:** Yes, and this is set up wonderfully by you *MBMBaM* boys when you do this, in kind of like receiving line style.

**Travis:** Right. So, if you are in a receiving line style especially, right? The greet is, "Hi, my name is Travis." Or whatever you wanna say, right? "Hi." The greeting.

The ask: "I was just wondering if you would sign this. I was just wondering if we could get a picture. I just wanted to tell you." What is it that you want out of this experience, right? That's the ask.

And then the exit is when that ask part is done, you say, "Thank you so much. I really appreciate it. Have a great day." Or whatever.

**Teresa:** Or "Great show, I loved it."

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** Any of that stuff.

**Travis:** And then you get out. Because the thing is is as much as it is about the intimacy and the connection, that is not your moment, right? There is not—you are not going to impress them so much that they become your best friend, especially in a meet and greet line. Right? Especially if it's, like, after a show. They're probably tired, um, and, you know, they're doing this—they want to connect with people or they wouldn't be there. Um, but much as it is an individual experience and a shared experience, there's probably other people in line behind you. There's other people in front. Right? So it is about what you want out of this experience, and not what you can give them?

Um, that said, if you have fun things to give people, I love getting stuff from people.

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Um, and if it is more of like—

**Teresa:** We love—you particularly love local treats.

**Travis:** I do.

**Teresa:** Uh, love handmade art [crosstalk] things.

**Travis:** I also like magnets.

**Teresa:** And magnets.

**Travis:** Just as a rule, I like magnets. Um, but also, like, if it's more of a, like, "We're hanging out in a room all together," wait for your opportunity. Right? To talk to the person. Um, because, like, what you don't want to do is be, like, the hovering over someone else's shoulder while they're talking to, and you're kind of, like, goalkeeping to jump in as soon as its done. Like, play it a little bit cooler than that. And then go over and say, like, "Hey!" Uh, once again, the greet, the ask, the exit.

"Hey, my name is Travis. I just wanted to say how much I enjoyed the show. Can I grab an autograph real quick? Thank you so much. Pleasure," or whatever. If they ask you questions, that's great. You know what I mean? Like, "Oh—" and if you wanna say, like, "I drove 14 hours to be here and it was totally worth it, thank you so much." Right? Like, that kind of thing.

But... the, like, "I am about to start a conversation with this person that's going to lead to a lifelong friendship." That is a level of pressure on the situation that is going to make it rough. So just play it cool, hotshot! I believe in you.

And I also wanna say thank you to everybody for coming and listening to this episode and joining us. We sure hope you enjoyed it. If you did, go tell some friends!

**Teresa:** Yeah!

**Travis:** Go on the Twitters, the TikToks, the Instas Gram, and tell them, like, "Hey. Go check out this episode on rock concerts. It was wonderful. Listen to all these cool bands that Travis has gotten to see. He's totally a cool dude, and we can all agree on it!"

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Uh, we also wanna say thank you to Maximumfun.org, our podcast home. Uh, go check out all the other amazing shows there. We wanna say thank you to the other McElroys, I guess? I don't know why I phrased it like that, but thank you, other McElroys.

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** You can go to [mcelroy.family](http://mcelroy.family) to check out all the other McElroy shows there. Uh, go check out our new merch! Well, it's not new merch.

**Teresa:** The last week to get the pin of the month.

**Travis:** That is true! Uh, that is the Gooshie Wolves pin, which benefits the Innocence Project, which exonerates the wrongfully convicted through DNA testing, and reforms the criminal justice system to prevent future injustice. Um, and the "It's Trash" sticker, a green stoneware with a TAZ logo, and a *Besties* shirt. Uh, go check all those out. And if you're listening to this once August has



started, there's probably gonna be some new stuff there, including a new pin of the month that I think is really great.

**Teresa:** Ooh!

**Travis:** Uh, Teresa and I are gonna be at Dragon Con this year, so if you're planning on going to Dragon Con, maybe we'll see you there!

**Teresa:** Yeah!

**Travis:** And you can practice your greeting, your ask, and your exit. What else, Teresa?

**Teresa:** We always thank Brent "brentalfloss" Black for writing our theme music, which is available as a ringtone where those are found. Thank you to Kayla M. Wasil for our Twitter thumbnail art, which is where we got all of the listener questions for this topic, @shmannerstcast. Um, also thank you to Bruja Betty Pinup Photography for the cover picture of our fan-run Facebook group, *Shmanners Fanners*. Go ahead and join that group if you love to get or give excellent advice from other fans!

Um, I also wanna say, keep sending in those topics. Keep sending in your idioms, it's comin' up soon! Another idiom ep.

**Travis:** Oooh!

**Teresa:** And you can send those suggestions to shmanners... cast@gmail.com.

**Travis:** There it is.

**Teresa:** I blanked for a second.

**Travis:** Uh, did we thank Alex?

**Teresa:** No we didn't, but we are now.

**Travis:** Yeah. Thank you, Alex. We couldn't do it without you, and thank you to everybody who supports us through Max Fun so that we can pay Alex what she's worth! And that's gonna do it for us. Join us again next week!

**Teresa:** No RSVP required!

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

**Teresa:** Manners, *Shmanners*. [pause] Get it.

[theme music plays]

[chord]

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