

## **Sawbones 81: Medical TV Part 1**

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### **Intro (Clint McElroy):**

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

[theme music plays]

### **Sydnee:**

Hello everybody and welcome to Sawbones, a Marital Tour of Misguided Medicine. I'm your co-host Sydnee McElroy.

### **Justin:**

And I am your other co-host Justin McElroy.

### **Sydnee:**

So, Justin.

### **Justin:**

Yes.

### **Sydnee:**

I understand that for this week's episode, for this very special episode, you decided to research a medical topic.

### **Justin:**

Yes. I told you I would do this. Max Fun Drive is, uh, is here and I thought as a special treat that I could step out of my typical role as sort of the dumb one to, uh...

### **Sydnee:**

[laughs]

**Justin:**

...show you, sort of, my medical expertise and I can kind of stretch my legs from that perspective.

**Sydnee:**

And Justin was very insistent that he understood how to research a medical, "medical..."

**Justin:**

Yep.

**Sydnee:**

...topic.

**Justin:**

Yes.

**Sydnee:**

And that he would do a good job.

**Justin:**

A great job, that is what I said, thank you.

**Sydnee:**

Be very thorough...

**Justin:**

Pretty sure I said a great job.

**Sydnee:**

...and that his lack of any background...

**Justin:**

Eh. Ehh.

**Sydnee:**

...in the medical field would not in any way hinder him from completing this task.

**Justin:**

Right, yes. Correct.

**Sydney:**

So were you... I mean, did you do this? Did you—

**Justin:**

I did. I did. And to say, you know, to say that I have zero medical background is not fair. I watched, uh, every episode of Scrubs and I watched most of House. And so I have a little bit of medical background.

**Sydney:**

Well, I mean, clearly we all know that that's— I mean, medical TV shows hardly qualify as like a, you know, medical background or like...

**Justin:**

Well, they qualify—

**Sydney:**

Medical in any real way. I mean, they're entertainment—

**Justin:**

They qualify when the topic you decided to talk about is medical TV shows. Then they qualify very nicely, thank you.

**Sydney:**

Wait, the research you did was into medical TV shows?

**Justin:**

Yes, we are gonna explore the— Here's how, here's how rich the vein of this was. You know, how sometimes you rush through like whatever, syphilis or another medical disorder in like one...

**Sydney:**

I rush through?

**Justin:**

...in one episode? I actually am, uh, I am, this is a two parter. I don't know when I'll do the second part, but I feel like, uh, the, the proper history of my medical television should be split up into pre-ER and post-ER, so that is sort of what I have done here.

**Sydnee:**

So the medical topic you've done is television.

**Justin:**

Is television, correct. That's correct. Now Sydnee...

**Sydnee:**

[sighs]

**Justin:**

...here's the way I'm thinking that we can work this. I'm gonna tell you about some of the landmark medical TV shows and you can kind of tell me how closely that sort of feels to your day to day.

**Sydnee:**

Okay.

**Justin:**

Does that sound good?

**Sydnee:**

I have an inkling of how this is going to go.

**Justin:**

The very first, uh, the very first, um, medical television show was called City Hospital. Uh, it was, uh, not very focused on procedures. It was more about the lives of the people, uh, in the hospital.

**Sydnee:**

When was this now?

**Justin:**

1953.

**Sydnee:**

Oh, my gosh.

**Justin:**

I know. Uh, so the City Hospital was sort of the staging for drama. Here's a notable thing about City Hospital, during rehearsal, uh, in, uh, 1953, a man ran into the studio, shattered a picture over the head of one of the actors and stabbed a camera operator. And that caused the cancellation of the episode that was supposed to be on that night.

**Sydnee:**

But they were fine.

**Justin:**

They were fine—

**Sydnee:**

Cause they were in a City Hospital!

**Justin:**

Uh, great. Um, after that was a show called the Doctors, which was another sort of, it was sort of anthology, uh, series also in '53. Then in '54, '56, um, we really have the first show that focuses on medical procedures. Okay?

**Sydnee:**

Okay.

**Justin:**

It's, uh, called Medic and it ran for two years in '54 and '56. They, uh, the episodes were narrated by Richard Boone who was playing a guy named Dr. Konrad Steiner.

**Sydnee:**

Konrad Steiner.

**Justin:**

Konrad Steiner.

**Sydnee:**

That's a cool doctor.

**Justin:**

Who sometimes, uh, appeared in the stories.

**Sydnee:**

I also see here that Konrad is spelled with a K.

**Justin:**

Uh, yeah. Konrad is, uh, so, you know, he's working outside the lines. Um, 1961, we have, I think what you could consider the first sort of like big hit for, uh, for medical TV. And this is in... This is, I think, probably the first name that some people may have actually heard, uh, is Dr. Kildare.

**Sydnee:**

I've heard that name.

**Justin:**

Heard the name.

**Sydnee:**

I know nothing. That's it.

**Justin:**

Kind of a long running—

**Sydnee:**

That's a show. That's all I know.

**Justin:**

Kind of a long running character, series of films, uh, based on the life of, uh, based on Dr. Kildare, Kildare who was played by Richard Chamberlain who went on to be in the Thornbirds and, uh, a few other series. Um...

**Sydnee:**

Was he dreamy? Is that his thing?

**Justin:**

He was a teen heartthrob, actually.

**Sydnee:**

Okay.

**Justin:**

When he was playing, uh, Kildare who was, uh, working in a fictional large metropolitan hospital while trying to learn his profession. Now, Sydnee.

**Sydnee:**

Was he a resident?

**Justin:**

Yeah, he was a resident. Um, when you were a resident, did you have a lot of time to look, to uh, focus on your dreaminess?

**Sydnee:**

Are you saying I didn't look dreamy?

**Justin:**

I thought you always looked dreamy...

**Sydnee:**

At some point in our marriage...

**Justin:**

I just didn't know how much...

**Sydnee:**

Was there some time where you thought I looked kind of like I was phoning it in or?

**Justin:**

No, dear. I was just curious if there was time when you had to put work into it, cuz it never seemed like it to me.

**Sydnee:**

[laughs] You know, uh, yeah. In residency when you have, when you have pulled a 24 hour call shift and then there's always some extra hours for you to, like, finish up all your work or do more work or whatever else is required. Uh, and you've been there all night sleeping in the hospital, it's weird how gross... and you've been awake a lot of the time, so it's not like that sleep grossness, you know?

**Justin:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

When you wake up and you're all like kind of sweaty and yucky from sleep, I don't know.

**Justin:**

More like in your brain grossness.

**Sydnee:**

And like, I would— Like I'd wash my face so many times and I felt like it was never not greasy. And they described it in a book that I love, um, The House of God, which is a book about residency. They describe it as the— You feel smelly and green after a call shift. That's exactly how you feel. So, no, I didn't feel very heartthrobbly.

**Justin:**

We got another heart throb, uh, here in the form of Ben Casey. A lot of good names. Don't you think? A lot of great names.

**Sydnee:**

What did Ben Casey do?

**Justin:**



Ben Casey was on from '61 to '66, starred Vince Edwards as a medical doctor named Ben Casey, who is a young intense but idealistic surgeon at County General Hospital.

**Sydnee:**

Isn't that every TV doctor?

**Justin:**

Yes, but not every TV doctor develops a romantic relationship with, uh, a patient who had just emerged from a coma after 13 years as did, uh, Jane Hancock as played by Stella Stevens.

**Sydnee:**

Doesn't that happen all the time on soap operas?

**Justin:**

Yes, but—

**Sydnee:**

That's what I feel like.

**Justin:**

But Ben Casey was not a soap opera, it was just Ben Casey doing his thing.

**Sydnee:**

Falling in love with patients.

**Justin:**

Falling in love with patients that...

**Sydnee:**

That's—

**Justin:**

...just came out of a coma. That's great though. That's a good look, cuz like that's like think about all the movies that you can, that they missed that you can watch together. You can be an expert on, there's whole swaths of presidents that they can— You can catch 'em up on.

**Sydnee:**

For any medical students who are listening, that's an ethical violation. You should not have a romantic relationship with your patient. There's a question on your boards that I just answered for you.

**Justin:**

Agree to disagree. So, uh, one place where I bet that rule was not held to was The Doctors. Not the Doctors, the Doctors that are on now, but The Doctors, the old-timey The Doctors that ran from '63 to 1982.

**Sydnee:**

How was that on that long and I've never heard of it?

**Justin:**

Well, there were 5,280 episodes produced, which should tell you that it was a, uh, it was a soap opera, so.

**Sydnee:**

Oh, okay.

**Justin:**

Yeah. Um.

**Sydnee:**

And it ended the year before I was born, so.

**Justin:**

It ended the year before you were born. So yeah, uh, there were, uh, the 5000th episode aired in November, 1981. So about a year after I was born. So I did not recall this one either. This is not even on my...

**Sydnee:**

You weren't watching this when you were...

**Justin:**

No. Um, no, this is, this was not, uh, in my sphere of awareness. Uh, here's one, a fact, factoid for you about The Doctors. It was set in Hope Memorial

Hospital in the fictional Madison that was just located somewhere in New England. It featured a young Alec Baldwin in a recurring role. And uh, there was a spinoff called the Nurses also.

**Sydnee:**

Okay. Was now, this was when he was dreamy and not funny?

**Justin:**

Yes. This was pretty funny...

**Sydnee:**

During when he was...

**Justin:**

Mid dreamy...

**Sydnee:**

Young...

**Justin:**

Alec Baldwin.

**Sydnee:**

And it seems like a lot of these shows that you're talking about seem to focus a lot more on the doctors and not so much on, like, the medicine. Is that fair to say?

**Justin:**

Yes. I think that that's very fair to say. A lot of soap operas, um, uh...

**Sydnee:**

Which it's nice that people we lead these exciting romantic lives as doctors. That's not really true.

**Justin:**

Not a lot like that.

**Sydnee:**

We're working all the time. We don't have a lot of time for this kind of passion.

**Justin:**

Now Syd, we come to a real heavy hitter. Welcome to the fray, same year premier as The Doctors, but still hanging in there, General Hospital.

**Sydnee:**

That is crazy.

**Justin:**

Isn't that wild? General Hospital is the third longest running scripted series currently in production on the planet.

**Sydnee:**

That's wild.

**Justin:**

Uh, the Archers and Coronation Street, both UK shows...

**Sydnee:**

Are the longest?

**Justin:**

Are the longest.

**Sydnee:**

That's what I was about to ask you. What are the longest?

**Justin:**

Archers and Coronation Street, uh, are, have been running for longer, but uh, yeah, General Hospital is the third longest running series and the longest currently in production. Uh, it has had sort of a tumultuous, uh, up and down. And now I think episodes are just streaming of General Hospital. Like you can just get...

**Sydnee:**

You know, I've never watched a single episode.

**Justin:**

I bet it's pretty hard to, like, get on board.

**Sydnee:**

I would think. I mean, unless you wanna like be a completist and go back to 1963, like the first episodes.

**Justin:**

Right. Um, I wonder if it's like comic books and—

**Sydnee:**

I'm gonna quit my job and just do that.

**Justin:**

And do that. Do they reset the universe? Do they like, do they like re-relaunch the universe at some point? Wipe the continuity?

**Sydnee:**

I don't know. I... 'Cause I mean, I used to jump in and out of All my Children...

**Justin:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

...when I was younger and they— I found you couldn't do that.

**Justin:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

But if you missed a little bit, you were really lost.

**Justin:**

Uh, now the... Probably the biggest mainstream like cross over for General Hospital, like the thing that, uh, if you're to point to something that that

most people would know it for is, uh, Luke and Laura, have you ever heard them referenced?

**Sydnee:**

Yeah, I've heard of Luke and Laura.

**Justin:**

They're a super couple, which is actually a soap opera terminology. Uh, Luke and Laura are so, uh, so like, um, omnipresent in sphere of soap operas, they're actually just usually abbreviated to L & L, uh, on soap opera forums because Luke and Laura is like such a touch touchstone.

**Sydnee:**

Okay. Okay. Wait, how many soap opera forums...

**Justin:**

All of them.

**Sydnee:**

Are you...

**Justin:**

All of them Sydnee.

**Sydnee:**

Do you? Is this what you do all day?

**Justin:**

No stone unturned, pro research courtesy of your husband.

**Sydnee:**

I've—

**Justin:**

Secret gift? Lighter under a bushel the whole time? Who knew he was so thorough and smart? We got a winner on our hands folks.

**Sydnee:**

I see. I never quite understood what you do, like as a job...

**Justin:**

Sure, sure.

**Sydnee:**

...on the internet and so...

**Justin:**

You and grandpa Dan.

**Sydnee:**

So maybe I finally uncovered it. You spend your whole day on soap opera forums. Does your boss know this?

**Justin:**

No. He doesn't know anything. Now here's my favorite bit of trivia about General Hospital. Uh, the Luke from Luke and Laura fame was played by Anthony Geary, who most of you will remember as Philo the, uh, mad scientist from UHF, huge departure for Anthony Geary. He was really excited that they didn't want him to play a heightened version of Luke from, uh, from General Hospital. Almost didn't take the audition because he'd been shot down so many times. Um, but, uh, yeah, Anthony Geary from, uh, General Hospital was, uh, Philo in UHF.

**Sydnee:**

As, as most of you or as five of you will remember.

**Justin:**

Okay. All right, there. Um...

**Sydnee:**

There were also some cool people on that show sometimes, right?

**Justin:**

Yeah—

**Sydnee:**

I remember when James Franco—

**Justin:**

James Franco was on it, Elizabeth Taylor was a guest star, Roseanne Barr was a guest star. Um...

**Sydnee:**

That's a weird list that you just made.

**Justin:**

How— Let me ask you this Sydnee, how... Within the hospital, how, like, soapy does it get? How, how often are there like dramas that are playing out before your eyes?

**Sydnee:**

Well, I will say this, it's everybody is there a lot. So you kind of have this, like, concentrated little microcosm and people are sleeping there all the time. And like, we spend more time at work than home when we are in residency, I think you would attest to that. So it does, you are kind of all up in each other's business.

**Justin:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

So I don't know that the kind of plots you see on and soap operas are actually happening, but there is a lot of drama just cuz everybody tends to know everything about everybody else and you're bored cuz you're there all the time. And so what else do you have to talk about?

**Justin:**

Gotcha.

**Sydnee:**

So there is a lot of gossip that goes on, I will say.

**Justin:**



Uh, another huge touchstone in the medical, um, the medical field, uh, not the medical field, the medical TV field.

**Sydnee:**

Definitely not, definitely not the medical field.

**Justin:**

Uh, so, uh, 1969 to 1976 is Marcus Welby, M.D. Uh, uh, I don't know why I feel the need to read descriptions of these shows like I'm, uh, I don't know, doing the intro to Burke's Law, but like Marcus Welby, M.D. starred Robert Young as a family practitioner with a kind bedside manner. James Brolin, as the younger doctor he often worked with. Now, uh, Marcus Welby, M.D. had sort of a twist on the regular formula were like the old guy is sort of straight laced. Uh, and, and the young guy comes in with his brushed new techniques.

**Sydnee:**

Sure.

**Justin:**

And, and, and rocks the boat. Uh, but in the world of Marcus Welby, M.D, the, uh, older guy was sort of like off his rocker. He had a boat, he was a widower. He was like, he had unconventional bedside manner and James Brolin was sort of more buttoned up and uh, straight-laced and, and the two of them sort of clashed. Um...

**Sydnee:**

Most of us kindly family practitioners are, are, you know, secretly loose cannons, I think.

**Justin:**

Which, well, let me ask you this. What is actually... Like, would you say that generally speaking, the older doctors, like not older doctors, but nonresidents, the attending physicians and up hew more closely to, like, procedure or would you say it's the younger doctors that are more?

**Sydnee:**

No, I think the younger doctors do. I think that once you've been in practice longer, the more experience you have with it, the more comfortable you are... I don't wanna say breaking rules because when it comes to like medical, you know, standard of care, we don't break rules, but when it comes to things like bedside manner and the way that you approach different problems, once you've had more experience, I think you do feel comfortable kind of deviating a little bit, and being a little looser with it. Whereas, uh, I'd say that the younger doctors probably just to be on the safe side until they, until they kind of get their feet, you know, their sea legs.

**Justin:**

Now, here's an interesting, um, here's an interesting, uh, fact about Marcus Welby, M.D. Uh, twice it ran a foul of, uh, gay activists and, and keep in mind, this is like early '70s, right? '73, they had a showed episode called The Other Martin Loring, about a middle aged man who Welby advised to resist his homosexual impulses. The, uh, the Gay Activist Alliance started picketing. And then the next year there was an episode called the Outrage that sparked nationwide demonstrations because the story of a teenage student being sexually assaulted by his male teacher, conflated homosexuality with pedophilia.

**Sydnee:**

Oh.

**Justin:**

That's Marcus Welby, M.D. Now here is— This is really interesting, right? So this spark protests. People were, uh, gay activists and, uh, other groups were, were really pissed off about this because it's it... That sucks. Uh, seven sponsors refused by advertising time. 17 television network affiliates refused to air the episode. And it's the first, uh, known instance of network affiliates, refusing to, uh, refusing a network episode in response to protest.

**Sydnee:**

Wow.

**Justin:**

Yeah. And—

**Sydnee:**

That's cool that they did that though.

**Justin:**

Yeah, it was, it was, it's not— And it's like, it's weird. It's like, I tend to think of— I think I tend to think of like, not just, like, gay rights, but like the sort of broader, you know, I feel like that tide has just recently turned. So it's interesting that like...

**Sydnee:**

That long ago...

**Justin:**

Corporations and that long ago would be listening to gay activists that's...

**Sydnee:**

Which is really cool cuz you have to imagine that that was— That the, their, their voice was much quieter at that time. And so it wasn't like they were responding to pressure from the majority who would stop watching their television shows and... You know what I mean?

**Justin:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

They were responding to the unrecognized minority at that time.

**Justin:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

So.

**Justin:**

It's pretty cool.

**Sydnee:**

That's really cool.

**Justin:**

Um, now, uh, now also they could have just been not willing to air in part because it's about pedophilia and it's a little hot topic for, for them at the time.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah. And not what I would call fun television.

**Justin:**

Not like good time television. Uh, the next show is more, is probably more of a historical footnote. I just thought the story of this show was so crazy that I had to share it. It's called Temperatures Rising, okay? It's about, um, uh, James Whitmore plays a no nonsense chief of medicine. Uh, and he was the boss of Cleavon Little, uh, who— These are both the actors of course. Uh, and Cleavon Little was an intern who was raised in, uh, and I'm quoting here, "the ghetto" and worked as a bookie at the hospital, uh, in addition to working as an intern. So like street smart, street smart...

**Sydnee:**

Sure.

**Justin:**

Cleavon Little clashed with the, uh, the upper echelon of administration.

**Sydnee:**

No, no, that happens all the time.

**Justin:**

That happens all the time so I figured...

**Sydnee:**

Yeah, mm-hmm.

**Justin:**

Okay. So here's the crazy thing. And I love that you could just, uh, do this, they ditched Whitmore after a season. Whitmore left, uh, and they ditched

the whole rest of the cast, except for Cleavon Little. They apparently loved that thread. That thread was cracking. The rest of the show was not so great. They brought in Paul Lynde to, uh, replace James Whitmore. Paul Lynde, fresh off the failure of The Paul Lynde Show, uh, was brought in as the new chief of medicine to replace James Whitmore. And they changed the name of it to the New Temperatures Rising Show. From Temperatures Rising to the New Temperatures Rising Show. I love that.

**Sydnee:**

Why didn't they— Why did they put "show" at the end?

**Justin:**

I, why did they put show at the end? Why did they have to say—

**Sydnee:**

Like, it's, I mean, clearly it's a show. You're...

**Justin:**

It's a show. I know it's a show. It didn't any longer than another eight episodes.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Justin:**

Uh, uh, yeah, so that's pretty, pretty wild. Temperature's Rising. Um, one more biggie before we have to take a break, Emergency! I'm sure you've heard of that one, right? Emergency!

**Sydnee:**

No.

**Justin:**

It's got an exclamation point. Now Emergency—

**Sydnee:**

I'm assuming this was about like emergency medicine?

**Justin:**

Yeah. And, and it's kind of cool actually, because it's not, um, I guess I had always thought of paramedics as like a thing that are... I mean, I've always known paramedics to be a big deal—

**Sydnee:**

Like to exist.

**Justin:**

Like to exist, right?

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Justin:**

Um, uh, but the creation of Paramedics, uh, in California, at least, governor Ronald Reagan at the time signed, uh, the Wedsworth-Townsend Act, which allowed the creation of Paramedic units. And it was actually that like thing that kicked off Emergency, which is about two specially trained firefighters who formed squad 40, 51, part of a, uh, it was part of the field of paramedics, which was like, just getting started at this time period.

**Sydnee:**

Huh.

**Justin:**

The Wedsworth-Townsend Act was '70 I believe. And then emergency started in '72. The first episode of Emergency was actually called the Wedsworth-Townsend Act, which is, uh, it actually made me think that like, Paramedics might be an interesting episode at some point because I kind of thought they were always a thing. But apparently that was, that this is a fairly recent development...

**Sydnee:**

That is fairly recent...

**Justin:**

Of paramedics. So...

**Sydnee:**

And an actual medical topic.

**Justin:**

Yeah. Which would be a nice change of pace...

**Sydnee:**

[laughs]

**Justin:**

For this one, I assume. Um, so they, uh, Emergency was sort of an medical mixed with, like, action adventure. As you can imagine, you know, at the time the idea of paramedics seemed very, I guess, romantic. So it wasn't just like showing up at a fat person's house to carve them out. It was like, you know, there's a rock slide and like paramedics are there to save the day. It's an emergency! Uh.

**Sydnee:**

But they would do that too.

**Justin:**

What?

**Sydnee:**

I mean, they do that too.

**Justin:**

They do that too. I'm saying it's like not, I think we have probably a more realistic— I, listen, don't get me wrong. I think paramedics are crazy and rad. Like, and, and I know you have the hugest amount of respect for what...

**Sydnee:**

Absolutely.

**Justin:**

...paramedics do.

**Sydnee:**

Absolutely.

**Justin:**

Um, but like, I, I just think it's funny that like this new idea, we were so smitten with that, we just assumed that there are these adventurers, these medical adventurers waiting in a moment's notice to jump into a burning building.

**Sydnee:**

And it is a good— It is a good point to make that, um, I've told Justin this before, you know, I have taken some courses in, like, wilderness medicine and stuff. So if I were to see a car accident and there was nobody there, I would probably stop and, and lend a hand. I think most doctors would, um, most people would hopefully, uh, but if the paramedics are already there, they don't need me. Uh, it, it may seem like I would have more training because I went to medical school and residency and all that stuff. No, no in the field and that kind of situation, you want a paramedic calling the shots. You don't want a doctor running around, messing with stuff. So just FYI.

**Justin:**

Spinoffs. Oh, oh, also I should mention in Emergency, they passed— Almost sort of like a Law and Order vibe. They passed off to a hospital that had its own recurring staff. So it was like...

**Sydnee:**

Okay.

**Justin:**

You followed them through. Yeah. Um, uh, Emergency was spun off from Adam 12, which itself was spun off from Dragnet, which is kind of a, um...

**Sydnee:**

I watched Dragnet.

**Justin:**



Yeah. I remember it, connective tissue. Speaking of spinoffs, Emergency had a spinoff. It was an animated series called Emergency +4, where teens helped out the, uh, people from Emergency.

**Sydnee:**

And that's...

**Justin:**

That's not a joke, that's real.

**Sydnee:**

That's totally okay. Like we usually do that in the...

**Justin:**

You do this?

**Sydnee:**

...medical field...

**Justin:**

Enlist teens?

**Sydnee:**

Just grab random teenagers and like, say, "Hey, put pressure on this. Don't let them bleed to death." And that kind of thing. Like they just, they wander around, outside the hospital and we grab 'em whenever we need 'em.

**Justin:**

Uh, folks, I wanted to, to take a quick break here, Sydnee, if I could, uh...

**Sydnee:**

I'll allow it.

**Justin:**

Thank you. Um, and you know what, I've been talking a lot, but, uh, this is our second week of the Max Fun Drive, Syd. And, uh, every year, we're part of the Maximum Fun network. As you know, every year, uh, we come to you hat in hand and say, "If you like the stuff that the network is doing, if you

like the stuff Sawbones is doing, um, we would really appreciate it if you could pledge to support us and keep those shows going." You know, they're not, uh, free, uh, our, we have to take time out of working to do 'em and, and we have to take time to edit them and then cost for equipment and hosting and all that stuff.

And just a, a little bit of cash from you, um, can help to keep those shows, uh, going, um, the benefits are, of course, that you keep more, uh, shows coming. Uh, we've had such a great, uh, response to, uh, the drive this year. We actually passed our initial goal and we have a new goal of 4,000 new and upgrading members. Um, and if we get that, every show is gonna put out, uh, two bonus episodes, two more bonus episodes, uh, throughout the year, so that's pretty exciting. Now...

**Sydnee:**

And I'll actually take care of those. I won't, you know, I won't—

**Justin:**

Bonus episodes, you say? Yes, bonus episodes. Sydnee, if I pledge just \$5 a month to the Max Fun drive, by going to [maximumfun.org/donate](http://maximumfun.org/donate), what do I get out of that? What do I get from me?

**Sydnee:**

You get all this exclusive bonus content that we've been talking about.

**Justin:**

Uh, like what, what kind of stuff? What could they expect from Sawbones? There's two bonus episodes from Sawbones that they get last year's and this year's. Do you remember what last year's was?

**Sydnee:**

Last year's we talked about things, medical things that we're doing now that we think in a 100 years, people will, Sydnee and Justin in the future will laugh about.

**Justin:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

And, uh, this year...

**Justin:**

In the great departure.

**Sydnee:**

This year, we did a, uh, so we narrated the final episode of Two and a Half Men.

**Justin:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

And you can download that...

**Justin:**

Commentary track that you can watch...

**Sydnee:**

Listen right along.

**Justin:**

Listen right along, uh...

**Sydnee:**

If you're a fan of that show or not.

**Justin:**

We had some people who actually took that trip, took the ride, bought their ticket, took their ride.

**Sydnee:**

I think, I think people enjoy it.

**Justin:**

Went on a journey.

**Sydnee:**

It's different. It's a departure from our typical...

**Justin:**

If you donate \$10 a month, you're gonna get that stuff but you're also going to get a drive exclusive tote bag. \$20 a month you get the tote bag and the bonus episodes, which the bonus episodes aren't just Sawbones folks, you get over 50 hours of bonus content, videos, songs. My Brother, My Brother and Me is another show that I'm on. We've got like seven bonus episodes in there. Um, there there's a ton of content.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah. So there's tons of stuff. Secret stuff.

**Justin:**

Secrets. At 20 bucks a month, you're gonna get a mobile device charger, collapsible water bottle, antibacterial wipes, and, uh, little plastic pilot wings, all with the Max Fun logo. It's the inflight power pack. And if you can pledge \$35 a month, you get all of that stuff. The tote bag, the power pack, the bonus content, and you get a pair of Rocket engraved shot glasses with Max Fun logo on.

**Sydnee:**

So very cool.

**Justin:**

Very, very cool stuff. Uh, uh, we need you to help our network keep going. You are the reason we've been able to grow. You're the reason we're able to do more live shows. You're the reason that we can take time out of, out of our week, um, and away from our baby. It's usually...

**Sydnee:**

Do you know how hard that is for me?

**Justin:**

Do you know how hard that is for us? Do you know what toll that takes on her? You're robbing her childhood years? Uh, and you can pay us back for that by going to MaxFun— Not that there's any price that would— MaximumFun.org/donate is the address you go to.

**Sydnee:**

So go to the address. If you can, uh, sign up, become a member, donate. And if you're already member, think about upgrading.

**Justin:**

Why not? Do you like it more? Do you like it more?

**Sydnee:**

Hopefully.

**Justin:**

You listen to more shows in the network?

**Sydnee:**

At least you don't like it less.

**Justin:**

You don't like it less.

**Sydnee:**

And there's inflation.

**Justin:**

And think about inflation. And we have a baby now and we didn't last year. So think about that. Think about that. Okay. So Syd, uh, one more time that address, give it to me.

**Sydnee:**

MaximumFun.org/donate.

**Justin:**

Now I'm gonna take a little break so you can tell me about MASH, which ran from 1972.

**Sydnee:**

MASH is the best television show it's ever been on television!

**Justin:**

Okay.

**Sydnee:**

What else do you wanna know?

**Justin:**

What was it? What was MASH?

**Sydnee:**

MASH was a TV series that ran from 1972 till 1983, the year that I was born. So it ended as I began. So I like to think of myself as the spinoff from MASH.

**Justin:**

[laughs]

**Sydnee:**

Um, MASH was a wonderful television show set during the Korean war. And it was about a mobile army surgical hospital. So like doctors, surgeons on the front lines of the Korean war, um, taking care of our fighting men and women. And the best thing about the show is Alan Alda, Hawkeye Pierce, who is a surgeon, but he's, you know, you kind of talked about like people who are not status quo, like doctors...

**Justin:**

Right.

**Sydnee:**

Who are kind of against the grain, you know, not, not all buttoned up. And he was, I think probably the epitome of that. Um, the show was also kind of politically outspoken. It was, it was about taking care of our soldiers, but also it was an anti-war kind of message. I think you could get a lot— It was a lot more commentary on Vietnam, although it was not set there. And it's funny and it's moving and it's beautiful and everybody should watch all of it.

**Justin:**

And some of it's on MASH now, uh, now MASH had a few spinoffs. It had AfterMASH, which is a pretty good name, honestly, kind of sounds like aftermath. Yeah, it's pretty good. Uh, which did not, uh, go very well. It had, uh, a pilot, a produced pilot that wasn't picked up by any networks called, you know this?

**Sydnee:**

No.

**Justin:**

Walter. It's about Radar...

**Sydnee:**

Oh, about Radar...

**Justin:**

...joining a police force.

**Sydnee:**

Little Radar. He was called Radar because he could hear the helicopters before anybody else.

**Justin:**

Okay.

**Sydnee:**

When the, when the choppers came in with the...

**Justin:**

Sure.

**Sydnee:**

...patients that they had to take care of. It's a great show guys—

**Justin:**

Now the most successful...

**Sydnee:**

Stop listening to this and watch it now.

**Justin:**

The most, uh, successful spinoff from MASH was Trapper John, M.D, which was actually set in the more modern era, right? So it was set in '79 when it actually started, which was 28 or 30 some years after the events of MASH. And it starred Pernell Roberts as Trapper John, M.D. Now Syd, who was Trapper John, M.D?

**Sydnee:**

Trapper John was one of the other surgeons that worked with Hawkeye in the MASH unit.

**Justin:**

Interesting thing...

**Sydnee:**

Another jokester, you know.

**Justin:**

Another genre interesting about Trapper John, the M.D. the show, uh, the character was played by Pernell Roberts who actually ended up playing him for like six years, seven years, which is about twice as long as the original actor who played Trapper John.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah. Cuz Trapper John left and, uh, BJ Hunnicutt took his place.

**Justin:**

Yeah. And now Trapper John actually was in MASH the movie that it was based...

**Sydnee:**

Yes.

**Justin:**



... the TV series was based on, in addition to the novel. Um, and, and Elliot Gould was Trapper John in the movie.

**Sydnee:**

And I'm just gonna say that the movie, this is gonna be blasphemy for some people, is not nearly as good as the TV show. So there it is. Sorry.

**Justin:**

Ooh, dropping bombs. Now from your favorite care, uh, topic in this episode to my favorite topic in this episode, St. Elsewhere. I've never watched St. Elsewhere.

**Sydnee:**

Me neither.

**Justin:**

Don't get me wrong. It was a, um, it was gritty, kind of a black comedy vibe, uh, but, but more realistic than a lot of these shows. Um, and it's sort of inextricably linked with Hill Street Blues, just sort of the cops version of St. Elsewhere. Now these two shows were important from, um, a TV perspective because they were the two shows that really integrated the idea of multi-threaded stories. A lot of these...

**Sydnee:**

Mm-hmm.

**Justin:**

...series, uh, to this point had been focused on a single thread, you know, and maybe a B story, similar to a Sitcom.

**Sydnee:**

Sure.

**Justin:**

Where you have your A and your B story. Um, St. Elsewhere and Hill Street Blues, uh, had a multi-threaded narrative that sometimes would go over episodes. And they really laid the groundwork for not only medical shows like ER and Chicago Hope, but like, you can make the argument that shows

like The Sopranos, for example, uh, most of our modern dramas, like, would not look the same way they do without the St. Elsewhere, uh, and Hill Street Blues.

**Sydnee:**

That's really interesting.

**Justin:**

But the most important thing about Hill Street Blues is, or St. Elsewhere rather, don't read ahead, Sydnee. You're gonna spoil it.

**Sydnee:**

Sorry. I have been.

**Justin:**

St. Else—

**Sydnee:**

I'm really excited.

**Justin:**

Okay. St. Elsewhere, because, uh, do you know how St. Elsewhere ended?

**Sydnee:**

Uh...

**Justin:**

You probably would have, even if you hadn't read ahead.

**Sydnee:**

Yes. No, I... I've, I've heard of the ending. So the whole show really was something that was imagined by a young man with autism, correct?

**Justin:**

Correct. Looking in a Snow Globe, last episode turns out the entire thing had been happening in his mind, or at least that's the impression that you're given.

**Sydnee:**

Right.

**Justin:**

But, but Sydnee, stop looking at the screen. Look at me, cuz I don't want you to read ahead. It's so good.

**Sydnee:**

Okay.

**Justin:**

So St. uh, St. Elsewhere had been, um, a dream in this child's mind.

**Sydnee:**

Right.

**Justin:**

Fine. Big twist. Right? But because of this single decision, St. Elsewhere willed a huge portion of TV history out of existence.

**Sydnee:**

How so?

**Justin:**

Because characters from St. Elsewhere crossed over onto other series. So St. Elsewhere, uh, characters from St. Elsewhere appeared on, for example, Homicide. Okay?

**Sydnee:**

Okay.

**Justin:**

So Homicide, uh, by extension, we must conclude to place inside a child's dream.

**Sydnee:**

Okay.

**Justin:**

John Munch from Homicide appeared on X-Files, Law & Order, Law & Order: SVU. Those are gone. Those are out. Those don't exist anymore in the child's dream.

**Sydnee:**

Which is a huge problem cuz X-Files is coming back.

**Justin:**

Yes. It's coming back inside a child's dream. Law & Order characters have appeared on Law & Order: Criminal Intent. That's gone. Uh, if you wanna count cartoons, X-Files characters have been on, uh, the Simpsons. So the Simpsons are inside a child's dream, but-

**Sydnee:**

That's fair. I mean that's okay.

**Justin:**

St. Elsewhere characters appeared on Cheers. Cheers, child's dream, Frazier, child's dream. Uh, where, where else did those cross over? Uh, Wings, Caroline in the City.

**Sydnee:**

Not Caroline in the City.

**Justin:**

You don't care about Caroline in the City, but Caroline in the City what's crossed over with Friends, Friends is gone.

**Sydnee:**

No.

**Justin:**

Which crossed out with Mad about You. Mad about You is gone. And that cross out with Seinfeld and The Dick Van Dyke Show. Gone, gone, gone. They're both gone and also see, elsewhere shares continuity with MASH.

**Sydnee:**

No!

**Justin:**

So MASH, after MASH, Trapper John, M.D, none of it happened.

**Sydnee:**

No!

**Justin:**

It's all inside a child's dream. St. Elsewhere. The, as I heard somebody put it, the only thing that has ever actually happened on TV is a child staring into a snow globe. Everything else has been his dream. I could go on, look in, look into this theory because it's freaking amazing. It's called the Tommy Westphall Universe. That's Westphall, P-H-A-L-L. The Tommy Westphall Universe is a theory that is pretty great. Now finally, Syd, we're gonna—

**Sydnee:**

I refuse to accept that.

**Justin:**

We're gonna...

**Sydnee:**

MASH is so real to me.

**Justin:**

We're gonna get to what everybody's been waiting for, E/R.

**Sydnee:**

E/R.

**Justin:**

E/R.

**Sydnee:**

Because it's the emergency room.

**Justin:**

Yes. Emergency room. So there's a show called E/R, do you know about E/R?  
E/R.

**Sydnee:**

I don't know, this is different.

**Justin:**

Stop reading ahead. That's not how it works.

**Sydnee:**

Well, no, I just realized the year.

**Justin:**

Stop looking at it.

**Sydnee:**

All right.

**Justin:**

This is my note. I don't do this to you. This is how it feels. Look at me. I worked very hard. Stop looking at the screen. E/R...

**Sydnee:**

Okay.

**Justin:**

1984 to '85. It was a sitcom that lasted for one year.

**Sydnee:**

No, I don't know about this.

**Justin:**

It starred, uh, Conchata Ferrell from, uh, uh, the, uh, she played a nurse called Thor and actually ended up thinking Conchata Ferrell's name was Thor for a very long time, including while we were recording our bonus episode, because Conchata Ferrell was the maid on Two and a Half Men. So that's why I thought her name was Thor.

**Sydnee:**

Okay. Okay.

**Justin:**

But, uh, the other crazy thing is that the show also included, uh, George Clooney in the cast. Uh, he was on another show called ER, as was Mary McDonald, slash— I mean most notably president Laura Rosalyn. Let's give her the respect she deserves.

**Sydnee:**

Okay, okay.

**Justin:**

Who was also on ER, so...

**Sydnee:**

That's weird.

**Justin:**

It's weird, right?

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Justin:**

Um, also has a really good theme song from Lou Rawls, very smooth, very, very enjoyable. ER, ran for, uh, it is based on a play of the same name.

**Sydnee:**

How would you do a play about an ER?

**Justin:**

I have no idea.

**Sydnee:**

I mean, was it set in an ER?

**Justin:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

...much ER was?

**Justin:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

Okay.

**Justin:**

Elliot Gould was—

**Sydnee:**

That would just be—

**Justin:**

The lead of ER.

**Sydnee:**

Okay. That would just be really difficult, I think, unless you're gonna like, like a lot of special effects. I mean, unless you don't have any patients, unless like nobody's sick. There's just doctors...

**Justin:**

Just waiting for people to show up.

**Sydnee:**

Hanging around the nurse's station talking, it's like a Sunday night.

**Justin:**

Okay. So we got a few more of these to get through. I know we're running along, but hey, it's a Max Fun Drive episode, who cares? Uh, 1989 to '93 Doogie Howser, M.D.



**Sydnee:**

Arguably the most realistic of all the...

**Justin:**

What?

**Sydnee:**

Doctor programs.

**Justin:**

There, uh, have been a real life Doogies recently. There's a man from Singapore that, uh...

**Sydnee:**

Really?

**Justin:**

Finished in, uh, by the time he was 18. Uh, another one, uh, 20 year old.

**Sydnee:**

You trying to blow up my spot?

**Justin:**

Yeah. I'm trying to blow up your spot.

**Sydnee:**

Are you saying that I didn't finish fast enough?

**Justin:**

Real life Doogies. Um, so tell me about, tell me what you know about Doogie Howser. That's pretty much the whole thing.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah. He was like a, like a 16 year old doctor.

**Justin:**

And it most importantly starred, and we forget about this sometimes.

**Sydnee:**

NPH.

**Justin:**

NPH.

**Sydnee:**

Neil Patrick Harris.

**Justin:**

Neil Patrick Harris. Um, uh, Neil Patrick Harris, uh, that's sort of his first, you know, obviously big thing that people knew him for.

**Sydnee:**

I would assume. Yeah.

**Justin:**

Literally for like a decade afterwards or so.

**Sydnee:**

Right.

**Justin:**

But it almost didn't happen. He was, uh, the first actor that the show staff found that could play, uh, a teenage doctor convincingly, but ABC didn't like him and, uh, they didn't want him, but Bochco, Steven Bochco is the creator of the show and like so many others, NYPD Blue and so many others. Um, his contract had a huge penalty they had to pay if the series, if it didn't go to series. So they had to go ahead and like go with Harris and when they did...

**Sydnee:**

Well, he was so right.

**Justin:**

He was so right. It was a huge reaction and...

**Sydnee:**

Because everybody loves NPH.

**Justin:**

And ABC green lit it cuz test screenings went so well.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Justin:**

Uh, here's another one that I don't don't know if you ever, did you ever watch Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman?

**Sydnee:**

You know, I never watched it, but...

**Justin:**

This is '93 to '98.

**Sydnee:**

I was, I was once told that I looked like her, that I looked like Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman.

**Justin:**

I can see it. Um, Dr. Quinn was about a, uh, rich female physician from Boston. Uh, McKayla Quinn was her name. Most people called her Dr. Mike. She was sent to a wild west town of Colorado Springs to start own practice. She met, uh, a guy named Byron Sully who was a friend to the Cheyenne and a rugged outdoorsman.

That's literally what his character description says. I don't know. Um, and, uh, she had a midwife named Charlotte Cooper. Charlotte got bitten by a rattlesnake and died and left her three kids.

**Sydnee:**

Oh.

**Justin:**

To be looked after by, uh, Dr. Quinn. So it's about her, her indomitable spirit in Colorado, as she settles-

**Sydnee:**

I feel like I should watch this.

**Justin:**

In Colorado Springs.

**Sydnee:**

I feel like this movie or this show would like jive with me.

**Justin:**

Yeah. I think it was one of those ... It was a weird, uh, one weird thing about it is that the, uh, the demographics for this show started skewing up and up and up. It turned into sort of like the, the, uh, uh, Matlock of its time. Uh, and they tried to make it...

**Sydnee:**

Or Murder, She Wrote maybe.

**Justin:**

Or Murder, She Wrote if you like. Uh, and so they tried to make the sick scenes in the show darker, but nobody liked it and it got canceled. Uh, there are also a couple of TV movies after that. Uh, Chicago Hope. Did you watch Chicago Hope?

**Sydnee:**

Nope.

**Justin:**

Chicago Hope will probably in, in the annals of history always be resigned to, uh, being an also ran, um, because it aired literally the, uh, the Sunday before ER started.

**Sydnee:**

Oh, that's too bad.

**Justin:**

Uh, Chicago Hospital, similar in a lot of ways to, ER, had, uh, you know, the, the interweaving lives of the doctors, uh, on the show. Mandy Patinkin was the lead. He was a hotshot surgeon.

**Sydnee:**

Now, if only they could have just taken Mandy Patinkin and put him over on ER, so I could keep watching Mandy Patinkin.

**Justin:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

'Cause I do love him.

**Justin:**

That's the only problem. Um, also, uh, so he was a hotshot surgeon with emotional issues because, uh, his psych, his wife had a psychiatric condition and uh, made her drown their infant son. So...

**Sydnee:**

Oh, goodness.

**Justin:**

Sit down America, we've got...

**Sydnee:**

That's darker than ER.

**Justin:**

We got a TV show for you!

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Justin:**

And they both aired competing against each other for a few seasons [inaudible]. Uh, speaking of ER, oh, oh, uh, one other quick note, characters from Chicago Hope have appeared on Homicide: Life on the Street. So Chicago Hope didn't happen. It was inside, uh, a child's dream.

**Sydnee:**

Well, that's okay. I never watched it anyway. So.

**Justin:**

Uh, ER, uh, ran from 1994 to 2009.

**Sydnee:**

And this is not E/R.

**Justin:**

This is not slash E/R, E-dot-R-dot.

**Sydnee:**

Right. Or that's a period I think, uh, I think that's what we call it in the, in the punctuation circles. That's a period.

**Justin:**

Right. It ran for 15 season, 331 episodes. So many like it's, it's the longest running medical drama in American television history, no question. Uh, had so many like cast turnovers. And were there any like constants, Syd, that ran through the entire, like...

**Sydnee:**

From the very beginning?

**Justin:**

From the very beginning to the end? I mean it... Almost everybody took like time off, right? Noah Wyle...

**Sydnee:**

Noah Wyle eventually left.

**Justin:**

Yeah. I think...

**Sydnee:**

He was there a long time.

**Justin:**

Clooney was there for a while but he left, Juliana Margulies left.

**Sydnee:**

He left, yeah.

**Justin:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

Anthony Edwards left.

**Justin:**

Yeah. Um, I don't, I don't think anybody...

**Sydnee:**

Yeah, people came back later.

**Justin:**

Uh, Eric, um, the guy who did Kung Fu in the intro.

**Sydnee:**

I don't, maybe he, I don't know.

**Justin:**

He might, might have made it. Anyway...

**Sydnee:**

I don't know, I fell off after a while.

**Justin:**

What was the, what was E.R.?

**Sydnee:**

E.R. was a show about a bunch of docs and nurses who work in an emergency room. And again, I mean, it's about like the patients they took care of. And I think they always like to, I think ERs are good fodder for television shows because you get the sense that we see lots of crazy stuff in the emergency room, you know, because people come in the middle of the night with all kinds of bizarre problems that sometimes they've created for themselves.

And so it's funny. Well, it's not funny, but TV makes it funny. Um, but it was also about like the relationships, I think between the, the docs and the nurses and romance and drama and all that. And people with drug problems and people with alcoholism...

**Justin:**

It seemed the most realistic to me as an outsider. But I don't know if...

**Sydnee:**

I mean, I think my main problem with a lot of these shows is that it also shows the doctors as having, like, tons of free time. And they also at work seem to have lots of free time to just stop and have like conversations and fights and go do it in a closet. And there's not time like that at work, especially in an emergency room, you're much too busy to do that kind of thing.

**Justin:**

Uh, I wanted to make a quick, special mention. Uh, now I was gonna stop there, but uh, I wanted to talk briefly about Scrubs, which ran from 2001 to 2010, nine seasons. Uh, it was, uh, if you've never watched, it starred Zach Braff as— He started it out as an intern, uh, and then sort sort of rose up the ranks. He was an internal medicine regimen.

**Sydnee:**

Yes.

**Justin:**

Is that right?



**Sydnee:**

Yes. He was an internal medicine. Mm-hmm.

**Justin:**

Working at Sacred Heart. He had... It was sort of a, I would say MASH was a fairly close, like, comparison with the blend end of like drama and comedy.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Justin:**

Yeah. Um, and, uh, but it was a little more, I think it was, it was pretty much more whimsical. It had sort of like fantasy cutaways, not like you'd see on, um, Family Guy or what have you.

**Sydnee:**

Sure.

**Justin:**

Um, and, uh, but you said, and I thought this was really interesting. You said that, um, Scrubs was probably the closest to realistic...

**Sydnee:**

That was...

**Justin:**

In your experience.

**Sydnee:**

Now, I mean, again, glamorized television, like, everybody in the hospital does not look as hot as everybody on Scrubs, that kind of thing. But as far as the lives of the residents, how busy they were, how, um, how poor they were for a while, like living together and trying to make ends meet, uh, and then kind of some of the cliches about the different medical specialties and what it's like to be a resident.

And they have a lot of like medicine versus surgery kind of battles, that kind of stuff. I think a lot of that, they had somebody on the advising staff for this show who really knew what they were, really knew what they were talking about, who really knew how to speak doctor-resident language. I will say Scrubs, like not the TV show, the actual things we wear, the clothing garment, scrubs never fit as well as the scrubs do on those characters.

**Justin:**

They looked like they had some tailored scrubs.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah. I would, I would give anything to have scrubs that looked like that on me.

**Justin:**

Um, I thought they always looked like that on you, sweetheart.

**Sydnee:**

Thank you, honey.

**Justin:**

Uh, uh, in interesting thing about Scrubs, if you bailed and this actually kind of sucks, uh, Scrubs had a fantastic series finale that just didn't happen to be the series finale because it was at the end of season eight.

**Sydnee:**

Yes.

**Justin:**

There was a big relaunch, actually, of Scrubs where they, uh, got rid of all the cast except for Zach Braff's friend, Donald Faison. Uh, that was not his name in the show. That's the actor that played in.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Justin:**

And John C. McGinley, uh, who was his sort of hard nosed uh, boss, uh, Dr. Cox. What was Donald Faison's name? Oh, I'm blanking. His friend? Turk!

**Sydnee:**

Yes.

**Justin:**

It was Turk.

**Sydnee:**

Yes.

**Justin:**

Uh, sorry. I watched literally every episode, we need to start...

**Sydnee:**

I know.

**Justin:**

...watching Scrubs again and that's a problem—

**Sydnee:**

We gotta go back and watch Scrubs again.

**Justin:**

They relaunched with a, a new class of interns in the ninth, uh, season. Um, Zach Braff was in 60 episodes, then he dipped...

**Sydnee:**

And the students.

**Justin:**

Yeah, yeah.

**Sydnee:**

This, they were teaching at the medical school...

**Justin:**

That's right, yeah, yeah, yeah.

**Sydnee:**

...and they had students this time, which would've been really interesting because, you know, and that's a question I have for you, Justin. Why are people so interested in shows about doctors?

**Justin:**

You think it's medical students where it's at?

**Sydnee:**

Well, I think that would've been an interest. I mean, who's making a show about medical students?

**Justin:**

Well, they are just reading all the time.

**Sydnee:**

Well, I mean, at first and then they're off wandering around the hospitals and it's crazy.

**Justin:**

And they're reading in the hospitals.

**Sydnee:**

No, but why does everybody wanna make shows about us?

**Justin:**

I don't know. I don't know.

**Sydnee:**

That was a general question.

**Justin:**

Oh, about doctors? Um, I think it's because there's, uh, so many obvious opportunities for drama, because I think it, uh, on the one hand, I think you're playing against the fact that doctors have, uh, and I think this has

shifted, but have classically sort of had a, a very revered place in society. And I think that that is always a center of captivation for people.

And I also think that like, honestly, the, for me, at least watching how much you know, and like, and I think that the medical education stuff that we covered last week, um, there is so much you have to learn that it, uh, I think it is kind of, like, fantastical a little bit.

Like it has an a bit of allure there because you just know so much about a specific topic. Also a lot of easy opportunities for drama in a hospital. People dying, people having babies, you know, that kind of thing.

**Sydnee:**

That's a good point. And I will say, I appreciate all these shows you've mentioned about doctors, because I think that they've made us a lot more interesting in the... Like, kind of in the public perception of us than maybe we actually are. Because I mean, that's the thing we really do have to spend a lot of time reading and studying and working. Um, so I appreciate shows like Scrubs for making us look a lot more fun.

**Justin:**

At some point, I, we will do the rest of medical TV history. There was just too much to talk about, cuz I like TV. Um, before we go though, uh, one, this is our last like, push. This is our last chance. Your last chance while you're listening to this show to donate to the Max Fun Drive and help support Sawbones. When you pledge, uh, an amount per month, 30% of that goes to help run, uh, the network. Helps to go run Maximum Fun administration.

Uh, we have a great team that helps sell ads and, and, and helps make sure we actually put out episodes every week. So, um, that's where that money goes. 70% of that is split up between the shows that you say you listen to, uh, when you sign up and it goes directly to those shows. You are directly supporting the shows you enjoy.

If you like Sawbones, if you say, "Hey, I like this a lot. I got something out of this." Kick us five bucks a month. You get, uh, a ton of exclusive bonus content. There's exclusive episodes of Sawbones as well as all the other Max Fun shows, videos, music, uh, there's a ton of stuff there, uh, that you get for pledging just five bucks a month. What if I wanna give more Syd?

**Sydnee:**

Well, if you wanna give \$10 a month, you get everything we just talked about, all that exclusive bonus content. Plus you get an exclusive tote bag for this drive. If you wanna give \$20 a month, you get, again, all that stuff we talked about plus the inflight power pack, which is a mobile device charger, collapsible water bottle, antibacterial wipes, and your very own little pair of pilot wings. And for 35 bucks a month, again, all this stuff we talked about, plus a pair of Rocket engraved shot glasses.

**Justin:**

Uh, the, the gifts go up from there. We've got the, uh, uh, at the \$100 level, uh, per month we have the inner circle, which is a monthly culture club where hosts of Max Fun will send you gifts, uh, that they really love. And, uh, \$200 a month you get free registration in Max Fun Con 2016. And those tickets sell out fast and that's, uh, a, a pricey ticket. So that's a big deal. Um...

**Sydnee:**

And for \$5,000, we'll give you Charlie.

**Justin:**

You can have our baby— No, no. You can't have her.

**Sydnee:**

No, you can't. That's not true. I would never give you Charlie, are you crazy?

**Justin:**

Are you a psychopath?

**Sydnee:**

Why did you even ask?

**Justin:**

If you're a current donor and you up your donation level, then you get the gifts we just mentioned. If you're giving us 10 bucks a month right now you up to 20, you get the inflight power pack, the drive exclusive tote bag and all the bonus content. No, no problem. So, uh, if you, if you've added some new shows, you're maybe in a better financial situation, whatever you can afford to kick in a bit more, we sure appreciate it. And it really, it really does

help us a lot. I mean, it, it helps, uh, to, we're— Everybody's super busy. We're raising an infant and it is a lot easier to justify taking a couple hours out of our week to make this show, knowing that we're actually helping...

**Sydnee:**

A few hours—

**Justin:**

For a financial future.

**Sydnee:**

Exactly. And a few hours away from my exciting life at the hospital where I am just having crazy romantic relationships with all the other hot doctors.

**Justin:**

Yeah. That's real.

**Sydnee:**

That's definitely what we do.

**Justin:**

Thanks to the Taxpayers for letting us use their song, Medicines. Thanks to you for listening. We'll be with you next... Well, let's just start calling it Wednesday. I think every... That feels good to everybody.

**Sydnee:**

Tuesday/Wednesday.

**Justin:**

We will be with you next Wednesday.

**Sydnee:**

It depends on how well Charlie sleeps at night, really.

**Justin:**

Uh, I'm Justin McElroy.

**Sydnee:**

I'm Sydnee McElroy.

**Justin:**

As always don't drill a hole in your head— Oh, I almost forgot,  
MaximumFun.org/donate. Now don't drill a hole in your head!

[theme music plays]

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Comedy and culture.  
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