

Shmanners 344: Car Shows

Published February 10, 2023

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[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're listening to *Shmanners*.

Teresa: It's extraordinary etiquette.

Travis: For ordinary occasions. Hello, my dove.

Teresa: Hello, dear.

Travis: How are you?

Teresa: I'm doing okay. How are you?

Travis: Um, doing pretty good. Uh, just woke up from a 20-minute nap.

Teresa: Power nap.

Travis: Second 20-minute nap of the day. Had a 20-minute nap, did a recording.

Teresa: Double power.

Travis: And then I had another 20-minute nap, and now I'm doing another recording.

Teresa: Yeah. Well.

Travis: Gotta charge the batteries sometimes.

Teresa: That's right.

Travis: The ha-ha batteries.

Teresa: [through soft laughter] Power up. Power up your comedy batteries.

Travis: I call them ha-ha batteries, thank you very much.

Teresa: [laughing]

Travis: Double ha's, they are.

Teresa: Oh, okay.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: H-A's H-A's.

Travis: Sure.

Teresa: Instead of, like, double A's.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Yeah. That was the joke you were making.

Travis: Yeah. That it's fine. I like how you explained it.

Teresa: [laughing]

Travis: And really spelled it out and made it funnier in that way. Thank you. Ah.

Teresa: [laughing loudly] Oh, no.

Travis: So, now we're talking—today, we're talking about one of my favorite activities.

Teresa: Oh, really?

Travis: Topics, you know I'm a real gearhead.

Teresa: Oh!

Travis: I love, uh, changing my own oil.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Um, I like oiling my brake pads. No, that's bad. That would be bad.

Teresa: [through laughter] That's not what you do, you know?

Travis: Oiling my fan belt.

Teresa: No.

Travis: Polishing my rims?

Teresa: Mmm.

Travis: Um, I—

Teresa: That's dirty.

Travis: I like to... put the windshield wipers sometimes go the other way.

Teresa: [laughing]

Travis: Put 'em on and flip them upside down.

Teresa: We're not talking about car maintenance, good or bad.

Travis: Oh, thank God.

Teresa: Just car shows.

Travis: Oh, this is, like, car shows like—okay, is this, like, car auction shows? Or is this, like, you go, and a bunch of people are parked, like, cool cars in, like, a big parking lot, and you just walk around all, "Ah."

Teresa: [laughing] Oh, what a way to spend an afternoon.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Oh!

Travis: Oh, look! That's a car. Hm.

Teresa: Well, sort of. There definitely are auction shows out there, but I'm going to give a little history of car shows.

Travis: 'Cause really, my only context for the auction one—

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: ... is occasionally your dad—

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: ... where it's usually on, like, a, um, a Thanksgiving-esque holiday.

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: Uh, something like *Myth Busters* will be on in ten episodes.

Teresa: Or *Top Gear*?

Travis: And it will be, like, ten episodes in a row—

Teresa: Yep.

Travis: ... before your mom goes, “Something else, please.”

Teresa: Yeah, something else, please.

Travis: And so, then your dad’s like, “Ah, I know exactly what my wife wants to watch, a car auction.”

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: And then he’ll, like, flip to that, and it’s like, “I don’t think that was it, Mike.”

Teresa: Nuh-uh.

Travis: But watching car auctions, I have realized I have no context. For one—

Teresa: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

Travis: ... how much cars are worth.

Teresa: Right.

Travis: And two, what each car is. I’m like, “That one looks cool.” And he’s like, “What are you talking about?” And I’m like, “Well, I just think it would be expensive.” And he’s like, “That’s just somebody’s Honda.” And I’m like, “Cool.”

Teresa: Okay. Right.

Travis: Okay, cool. Got it.

Teresa: And so, I mean, definitely, a car show is a public exhibition of current or classic automobile models, debuts, concept cars, or out-of-production classics. The event is usually attended by mainly automotive reps or dealers, or journalists. But there are also plenty that are just open to the public and car enthusiasts. Um, so, like, it's a great way for, say, like, car manufacturers and producers—

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Teresa: ... to create, you know, PR. And also advertise new products and promote their brand. There are a big five they have of car shows. And they are generally held—

Travis: Trucks! Vans!

Teresa: No, no, no.

Travis: No.

Teresa: No, the places.

Travis: Oh, okay.

Teresa: The big five of prestigious shows.

Travis: I'm glad you cut me off 'cause I was going to get to three, and then I didn't know...

Teresa: [laughing]

Travis: Trucks, vans, cars... Motorcycles? I don't know.

Teresa: Frankfurt, Geneva, Paris, Tokyo, and Detroit.

Travis: Yeah, that makes sense.

Teresa: Yeah. Um, and—

Travis: I'm actually—wait, say it again.

Teresa: Frankfort.

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Teresa: Geneva.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Paris.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Tokyo. Detroit.

Travis: The Paris one surprises me.

Teresa: Really?

Travis: Is France like a big car— I don't think— the other ones, I'm like, "Okay, I can see it."

Teresa: Well, so here's the thing, right? You will learn that the automobile, right, is not like a super old thing.

Travis: Sure.

Teresa: Um, so a lot of these started out at, like, fairs, right?

Travis: Oh, okay.

Teresa: And other kind of like technology shows.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: So, Paris makes more sense in that way. It may not be, like, a huge, like, motor city, right? Like Detroit.

Travis: Yes.

Teresa: But—

Travis: As far as a gathering of people. Yeah, makes complete sense.

Teresa: Exactly. Exactly.

Travis: So, these are, like, more like expositions, right? And we'll get to it in a second, but when you talked about—

Teresa: Sure.

Travis: ... like drilling up— drumming up PR, and like showing stuff off—

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: ... what it honestly reminded me of was E3, the video game expo.

Teresa: Yeah!

Travis: Yeah, seems a lot like that.

Teresa: A lot of the ones in America— in the U.S., are referred to as car meets, and a lot of these used to take place along the old Route 66. Right?

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Teresa: And some of the biggest ones in the U.S. are in L.A., Las Vegas, again, San Francisco, and Chicago.

Travis: Makes sense.

Teresa: And some of these events— in fact, an event can cycle through different, like, iterations— like certain cars only, right? So, like, it might be British-made cars or Chevys, or—

Travis: Cars named Frank.

Teresa: No.

Travis: Oh.

Teresa: Or, like, even a whole genre of cars, like, low riders, right?

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: And you can pretty much if you're interested in either a genre of car or a particular make and model of car, you can find a car show to go to to look at this kind of stuff.

Travis: Do they do haunted cars only?

Teresa: Mmm.

Travis: I bet there's a— I bet there's been a spooky car show where it's just like, "Something bad happened in this car. Check it out! Hop in!" [pause] You don't think so?

Teresa: No.

Travis: That's the cars I want. I want to buy haunted cars.

Teresa: You want to go find haunted cars.

Travis: I'm not gonna sit in them, though. I'm not dumb.

Teresa: Mmm. Hearses?

Travis: No.

Teresa: I bet there's a hearse show.

Travis: By the time— by the time the body gets to the hearse, the ghost is already attached to a house. I would say a hearse is maybe the *least* haunted of cars.

Teresa: Uh—

Travis: Unless an accident happens to the person driving the hearse.

Teresa: [laughing]

Travis: The ghost is not going to attach to the hearse. Come on! That's just— that's 101.

Teresa: Sure.

Travis: Just basic stuff.

Teresa: So, the first organized motor shows specifically, right? Before— you were talking about, like, trade expos—

Travis: Sure.

Teresa: ... and world fairs, and things like that, right?

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Teresa: And, of course, these showcased newest and, you know, latest and greatest technological— technological, is what I meant to say—

Travis: Sure.

Teresa: ... uh, innovations. But the first organized motor show was in Paris in 1898. Um, and—

Travis: That's earlier than I would've guessed.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Yeah. So— and it was so successful that over 100 years later, it is still hailed as one of the most important car shows in the world.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: And, of course, inspired by the Parisian exhibition, the first major auto show in North America was held not even two years later, in 1900, at Madison's Square Gardens.

Travis: A lot of keeping up with the Jones's.

Teresa: Oh, we definitely do that here. And so this was sponsored by The Automobile Club of America. Which is—

Travis: In Paris?

Teresa: No.

Travis: Oh.

Teresa: No, the one in Madison Square Gardens.

Travis: Okay, that makes a lot more sense. Okay. Is it AAA?

Teresa: Well, yeah! You got that! I didn't even ask the question!

Travis: Well, there's not a lot of automobile associations that I associate.

Teresa: Well, I said, "Automobile Club of America."

Travis: Yeah, but I was able to put two and two together.

Teresa: Okay. So, the American Automobile Association is a conglomerate of auto clubs, okay? So, um, it joined with— The Automobile Club of America joined with eight other independent auto clubs to form The American Automobile Association.

Travis: I see. I'm sorry that I ruined the game by being so smart.

Teresa: Uh, that's okay.

Travis: I know I'm too smart and perfect.

Teresa: Maybe I gave you the answer telepathically.

Travis: Okay, don't take it away from me, though.

Teresa: [giggling]

Travis: Like, I apologized. You don't have to—

Teresa: No, I'm— I'm not saying that. I'm just saying it was a team—

Travis: You said you gave me the answer. I didn't know it.

Teresa: It was a team win, is what I'm saying.

Travis: No, but that takes something away. You understand that when I win with someone as a team, that takes something away from me.

Teresa: No, it doesn't.

Travis: [sighs heavily] That's why most of the time when I'm doing an escape room, I make everyone sit down on the floor.

Teresa: [bursts out laughing]

Travis: And I only call people up one by one when I need help. You know that.

Teresa: [continues laughing]

Travis: And I calculate how much time they helped, so I can still say, "I still would've won."

Teresa: Okay. [chuckles]

Travis: You *know* that about me.

Teresa: [laughs] Dear listeners, that's not true. He's a highly collaborative escape room participant.

Travis: Artist. [chuckles]

Teresa: [through laughter] Artist. [normally] Okay. All right. So, the early auto industry was filled with, like, tiny, small companies, right? And even, like, the first ones— there were 69 of them.

Travis: Nice.

Teresa: None of them are still around today.

Travis: Really?

Teresa: The ones that showed in the first show in New York City.

Travis: Okay. So, this was before Ford.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Or no. Not before Ford. It was before— it was not one of the original showcased at that car show.

Travis: Okay. Now I gotcha.

Teresa: So, two different things. Apples, oranges here. And the interesting thing about this first car show in Madison Square Garden is that you would only see a few cars powered by gasoline. They still hadn't decided what they were going to power their— all the cars with.

Travis: Hmm.

Teresa: Kinda like 8-tracks and cassettes.

Travis: Mmm. There were still some powered by wishes!

Teresa: [giggles]

Travis: They didn't go very far.

Teresa: Steam or electricity.

Travis: Oh. What? A car powered by electricity?

Teresa: An electric car!

Travis: Who? What?

Teresa: How— how dare they!

Travis: That's bananas.

Teresa: And so, some of the brands included, uh, Locomobile—

Travis: By the way, sad that that's not still a brand.

Teresa: I know, right?

Travis: I would love it if someone was like, "Is that a Toyota?" And I'm like, "No, it's a Locomobile."

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: That's a good name. Ugh.

Teresa: Uh, Winton is another one.

Travis: Uh-huh.

Teresa: And Oldsmobile, which at the time was its own independent brand.

Travis: Okay. I was going to say—

Teresa: GM wasn't formed yet.

Travis: ... I think you can still get an Oldsmobile somewhere.

Teresa: No, no. GM wasn't formed yet.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Speaking of these cars, um, a car in 1900 could set you back anywhere from 280 dollars to 4,000 dollars, which, you know, you adjust that for inflation because the average annual wage at the time was about 600 dollars. So, that's like 10,000 dollars in today's money.

Travis: Wait. Sorry. Hold on. Say that again.

Teresa: Okay. Say it again. Cars ranged from 280 to 4,000.

Travis: Okay. 280, uh, 1900, right?

Teresa: No. I know that it's going to be about 10,000 dollars.

Travis: For the car.

Teresa: For the car. This 280.

Travis: How much were people getting paid?

Teresa: 600. About 20 grand.

Travis: Okay. So, it doesn't matter what the thing is. A single car could cost half of a year's wages.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: Or it could cost, like, seven years' wages.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: That's what's important. Don't worry—

Teresa: Sorry, listeners. That was kind of like roundabout. Apologies.
[chuckles softly]

Travis: Well, cause when you say, "The car was like 10,000 dollars." I'm like, "Yeah, there's a lot of cars now in the 10,000—"

Teresa: No, in today— it would have been 10,000 dollars in today's money.

Travis: Yes.

Teresa: But most people are only taking home 20,000.

Travis: See, that, I think, is the more important thing.

Teresa: Okay.

Travis: Cars were—could get pricey.

Teresa: Indeed. Um, so, at this first car show, um, they had to charge a pretty steep admission price. And it was unclear whether or not this would be as successful in Madison Square Garden as it was in Paris. But lucky for auto manufacturers, Americans *love* cars!

Travis: Crazy— give me a Locomobile any day of the week.

Teresa: And they were lining up to pay that 50-cent admission.

Travis: 50 cents!

Teresa: Which at the time would have been like 20 dollars per ticket today.

Travis: Okay. So— I— I think 20 dollars to go to an exhibition, that still doesn't feel like that much.

Teresa: I don't know.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Um, a banana. What can it be? 10 dollars?

Travis: What's that from?

Teresa: Isn't that from, uh, *Arrested Development*?

Travis: Oh, sure.

Teresa: [laughing] We're— maybe it's not telepathic. We don't seem to be on the same wavelength today.

Travis: No, I think I'm reading your mind, and you're not reading mine is the problem.

Teresa: Oh, is that it? Yeah.

Travis: Maybe one of us is telepathic, and the other one isn't.

Teresa: [giggling] So, uh, a whopping 48,000 people attended this show.

Travis: And what would that be in today's people? [chuckles]

Teresa: [bursts out laughing] Still 48,000.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: That's a good one. Good job! You deserve a pat on the back for that one.

Travis: Thank you very much.

Teresa: And the thing that was really cool about this first one was they had organized the vendors around a track, so you could actually— if the vendors wanted you to, you could actually, like, take a spin in the car.

Travis: Oh, that's cool.

Teresa: But, I mean, the next time, that was totally gone because there are way too many vendors and people.

Travis: Well, so you probably shouldn't be driving cars, I mean, that much inside. I doubt it was well-ventilated in 1900.

Teresa: No, it definitely wasn't, but they didn't— they didn't pay any mind to that.

Travis: Yeah. Also, I bet gasoline, super expensive back then. Or not at all. Who knows? [laughs lightly]

Teresa: [bursts out laughing]

Travis: I'm so excited to learn more about car shows, but first, how about a word from other Max Fun shows?

[theme music plays]

[various animal sounds]

Carrie: Oh, Ross.

Ross: Yeah.

Carrie: Oh, I'm glad I found you in line.

Ross: These clouds are really freaking me out.

Carrie: I hate having to stand in line, and, boy, what a line!

Ross: These giraffes do not smell good.

Carrie: No, they do not, and they have such short necks.

Ross: But I'm here, and we need to get on this Ark.

Carrie: You gotta get on the Ark.

Ross: Yeah.

Carrie: It's about to rain. God is about to destroy humanity. Hey! Oh, sorry, sorry, sorry! Are you Noah?

Ross: Yeah, I know we look like humans, but we're actually— we're podcasters.

Carrie: Yes. Totally. We are podcasters. So, it's different.

Ross: Have you heard of *Oh No, Ross and Carrie*?

Carrie: We investigate spirituality, claims of the paranormal, stuff like that.

Ross: And you have a boat and say the world's gonna end, so it seemed like something for us to check out.

Carrie: We would *love* to be on the boat.

Ross: We came two by two.

Carrie: What do you think?

[upbeat music plays]

Ross: *Oh No, Ross and Carrie!* Available on Maximumfun.org.

[music ends]

Dave: Oh my gosh, hi! I'm Dave Holmes, host of the pop-culture trivia podcast *Troubled Waters*. On *Troubled Waters*, we play games like motivational speeches. It goes a little like this, "Riley, give us an improvised motivational speech. Why people should listen and subscribe to *Troubled Waters*."

Riley: I look around this ad, and I see a lot of potential to listen to comedians such as Jackie Johnson and Josh Gondelman, and they *need* you

to get out there and listen to them attempt to figure out sound rebus clues or determine if something is a *Game of Thrones* character or a city in Wales.

Dave: I have chills. I'm gonna give you 15 points. [bell sounds] All that and so much more on *Troubled Waters*. Find it on Maximumfun.org or wherever you choose to listen to podcasts.

[ad ends]

Travis: Okay, we're back. We're still in 1900.

Teresa: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. We're gonna fast forward a little bit because, you know, car shows increasing in popularity.

Travis: Sure.

Teresa: So much so that in 1936—

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Teresa: ... GM created its own traveling show dubbed "The Parade of Progress." So, not only cars but also new equipment like microwave ovens, and televisions, and things like that, right?

Travis: Hmm.

Teresa: And it included— up to three years later included, future liners, which was a fleet of 12 buses with displays inside with folding panels.

Travis: Whoo!

Teresa: So, then World War Two.

Travis: Can I tell you before we get to World War Two, which I bet is going to be fun? Um, there's nothing I loved more as a child than when a, like,

camper van or bus or something set up with a display inside would, like, roll up to school. And it was always very dramatic things.

I remember one that was like, uh, a fire simulator of like, "There's smoke, and we gotta crawl below it and get out." But it was like you step inside, and you're like, "It's like I'm in a house, but it's a bus! But I'm in a house!" And it made me sit in it, and I was like, "It's filling with smoke! How great!" And it always made me happy.

Teresa: [laughing] What fun. What a fun thing because the smoke was great for you, right? [chuckles]

Travis: No, but I think I was just a young buy-in to the tiny home idea.

Teresa: Oh, okay.

Travis: And I was like, "What? A house in a bus? Get out."

Teresa: All right.

Travis: Get out of here, you wizard!

Teresa: Um, so, after World War II, um, especially in the United States, these, like, giant car shows kind of fell out of favor. They were still going strong. Going strong in Europe. Frankfurt was one of, like, the world's largest motor shows at the time. But General Motors, specifically, began to hold fewer in-person shows to devote advertising to national programming, right?

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Teresa: So, this is when the car show became, like, what my dad watches on TV.

Travis: Yes. And it also makes a lot of sense, right? Because you had to think of when you're doing the car shows, even if it's a big thing in, like, Madison Square Garden, right?

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: It still is either the people you can get to come or newspapers you can get to cover it, or magazines, I guess you could get to cover it with photo spreads. Whereas if you can advertise cars on TV and, I guess, on radio, right?

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: Then it's like you're getting to way more people. I guess the thing you're missing out on until we get to a TV in everybody's home is that, like, flash and like, "Oh, that car's so pretty" kind of feeling.

Teresa: Yeah. I'm reminded a lot of the scene in the first *Captain America* movie where they're, like, walking around the boardwalk, and they see, um, Tony with his— not Tony, it was—

Teresa and Travis: [simultaneously] Tony's dad.

Travis: Yeah. It's, uh, Howard Stark.

Teresa: Yeah. With, like, his new flashy car, and everyone's like, "Ooh, and ah," and stuff like that.

Travis: I do remember that.

Teresa: Yeah. So then, um, by now, every municipality or, you know, car club could throw its own show, right?

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: They knew what to do. There were enough cars on the road. People had, you know, time on their hands and, especially after World War Two, had a little more money to spend on things like cars.

Travis: You know, I also bet that the difference between the popularity of them, or, like, people throwing them in America—

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: ... versus Europe, is, like, in America, the necessity for cars is, like, pretty universal. There's a couple of cities in America that invested enough in public transit and, like, infrastructure in that way.

Teresa: Yeah, and walkability and stuff like that.

Travis: Yeah, but in most cities, and just to get to work, you know, is sometimes a 20-minute, 30-minute thing. Where Europe is one: a much smaller, except unless you count Russia, um, and then you could hypothetically walk a lot easier. So, they probably had to sell cars harder to people. Where in America was, like, "I have to get a car." So, it's like, I'm already interested. And now it's just making sure they're interested in the one you're selling.

Teresa: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. And so now, a lot of car shows— so, like, not only do you have car shows being put on by specific brands, you can go to car shows where the cars are adjudicated. Also, like, neighborhood car shows, which are usually, like, classic cars.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: You almost always have to register beforehand because when you make a car show, you want to try to have a good variety, and not just like six of the same car, right?

Travis: And it does normally, uh, unless I'm mistaken, but my vibe is that there has to be *something* unique about your car, right? I wouldn't be able to be, like, "Yeah, and this is my 2017, uh, Subaru."

Teresa: [laughing]

Travis: I really like the color green. I've seen a lot of these. And every time I see another one, I'm like, "That's my car!" You know what I mean?" Anyways, uh, I should have gotten it washed before I came here. I'm realizing this now. Please don't write in the dirt on the hood; thank you very much.

Teresa: [giggling]

Travis: Uh, no, don't look inside. It's full of, like, empty, like, applesauce pouches and stuff. Don't worry about it.

Teresa: [bursts out laughing loudly] Well, I mean, I guess if the, you know, the forest green Subaru of 2017, if you were having a Subaru show, maybe, right? And if ours was in really great condition. It's not. [laughing]

Travis: Uh, no. [laughing] All right, let's jump back to, I think, at one point, Lilly chewed through [through laughter] one of the seatbelts in the back. It's got some stuff going on. It's well-loved that car.

Teresa: So, um—

Travis: It is my favorite car I've ever driven.

Teresa: Car shows today are a lot less, I wouldn't say "popular," but I would say "prolific."

Travis: Yes.

Teresa: They're kind of like special events. There's not, like, a car show every Saturday type deal, right? Especially because of, you know, internet marketing, right? If you— if you are looking for a car to buy, there's other ways than just going to a show to see what a car is like, right?

Travis: Well, also, I mean, I bet the scale of, like, auto malls and auto lots is so much bigger now—

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: ... than it was back in, like, you know, the 40s and the 30s.

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: So, now it's, like, oh, if you're the type of person that just likes and wants to walk around and look at cars and see what cars are new—

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: ... just go down to, like, the dealership, and you can check it out there.

Teresa: That's kind of a high-pressure situation, though.

Travis: Well, not if you look poor like I do.

Teresa: Oh, okay.

Travis: [chuckles] On a daily basis. "Nah, he's got purple hair. Don't do any—

Teresa: No, no, no.

Travis: "He's some kind of man-child. He's not going to buy a car today. Don't worry about it."

Teresa: So, if you listeners, Travis, are interested in going to a car show—

Travis: I'm not!

Teresa: Okay, but act like you are.

Travis: I am!

Teresa: [laughing] How should one behave? First of all, do not— do *not* touch anything without permission. A lot of these cars are either old, right? Or they are somebody's baby.

Travis: Yeah, they're very precious.

Teresa: They're very precious, so you should not touch without permission. My dad, who I spoke about earlier, has been to several car shows. He's a Corvette enthusiast. And his suggestion was, if you are going to go look at a car, you should even take your watch off and put it in your pocket and turn your belt to the side so that your belt buckle isn't out in front. Because should you inadvertently graze a car, that is— that is very bad.

Travis: Mm.

Teresa: And you don't want to accidentally even scratch or maim a car that way.

Travis: So, take off my metal gauntlets as well.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: No metal gauntlets, or you wear a lot of rings.

Travis: That is true. I do wear a lot of rings.

Teresa: So, you might want to take those off.

Travis: Any boots with big spikes on them.

Teresa: Sure.

Travis: Probably want to be avoided.

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: Spiky knee pads. Spiky elbow pads.

Teresa: Anything with spikes.

Travis: If your Shredder, just stay away.

Teresa: [giggles]

Travis: Get— you are just asking for trouble if you're Shredder.

Teresa: But it is always encouraged to speak to the owners of the car. Um, because it seems that they really like it. [chuckles] So, they will talk about it a lot, a lot, a lot.

Travis: I mean, they're there for people to notice their cars, right?

Teresa: Exactly.

Travis: They put their car on display, so if there's an aspect of it that you like or something like, "Oh, I really like the way that you've redone this." Or, "I really like this thing." I think you could say it.

Teresa: Absolutely. And along that line, a very well-meaning car enthusiast may attempt to talk your ear off. So, maybe have an array of polite ways [chuckles] to get out of that conversation in case you're feeling trapped.

Travis: Got it.

Teresa: It's important not to compare cars or be critical of the displays. Another one from my dad; he said, "If you don't have something nice to say, don't say anything at all."

Travis: That's good advice across the board.

Teresa: It is! Because again, they come to these shows because they're very proud of their vehicles. And, you know, talking— even if you're comparing one saying, "Well, the 58 was better than the 56" and all this kind of stuff, right? It's still— it's kind of like insulting someone to their face about the things that they love.

Travis: A no-no.

Teresa: We don't do that.

Travis: No, we don't do that. You should never insult someone to their face, period. Always do it behind their back. No.

Teresa: [through laugh] No!

Travis: But also, so much of that is, like, subjective taste too.

Teresa: Absolutely.

Travis: Which is another thing, and the other reason I wouldn't do it is, like, I have no idea. It might be to me I look at a car, and I'm like, "That car is kinda ugly." And it's like that car was incredibly rare and difficult to find in this condition. And so, like, anybody who actually knows about it knows how, like, impressive and cool that car is.

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: And I, a fool, would be like, "Yeah, but it's kind of boxy." You know what I mean?

Teresa: [laughing]

Travis: So, like, what am I going to do? I'm not going to open myself up to look like a fool. I would just go," Mm. Ahh!"

Teresa: Oh, yes.

Travis: And then I'd walk away. [chuckles] Or run away, as the case may be depending on how much attention I just got, going, "Oh."

Teresa: [laughing] Um, a lot of these are outdoor events, and encourage, like, family-friendly events often occur— in concurrence with maybe, like, a festival or a street fair, right? Um, so, please do bring your children or your pets if that's allowed. But keep them away from the cars. Again, touching is a no-no.

I actually went to a vintage, like, market event when we were living in LA, and there was a car there that you were allowed to touch. There was a person who was charging, I think, like 20 to 50 bucks for people wearing their, like, vintage apparel to sit on the bonnet of the car and take pictures. So, that is something different. I mean, you could definitely touch it with your butt.

Travis: Now, I will say this. Um, you've just made me think about the fact that even if you don't go to car shows, if you're someone who regularly goes to comic book and pop-culture conventions—

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: ... these rules you might find useful when, for example, oftentimes I've been to recently, they will have a Baby, which is the beautiful black car from, uh, *Supernatural* on display.

Teresa: Mm.

Travis: Or like Ecto-1, which is the *Ghostbusters* car. There—

Teresa: Or the Delorean.

Travis: Or the Delorean or something like that. The *Jurassic Park* jeep, right? And so, all these rules still apply. I will also say 'cause you mentioned, uh, stuff not to do to the car, right?

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: Like, be careful of scratching it. I will also say if you're at an outdoor event and you are someone who smokes or vapes, which you shouldn't. Just take care of your body. It's the only one you got. But making sure that one, you're not blowing smoke into the car as you're, like, looking into it.

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: And two, if you have, like, a cigarette in your hand, don't, like, lean into the car window to look inside holding that cigarette.

Teresa: Absolutely.

Travis: That's a recipe for disaster.

Teresa: Yeah. Um, so then, also, make sure that you do your best to support and respect the local businesses that likely made the car show happen. And so, you know, even if it's not something that you're interested in, you can always show gratitude to the people who organized the event, and especially if the show is for charity.

Travis: You should also make sure you know what the, like, photography and video policy is—

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: ... of the thing. Um, because I think the assumption would be they want us to take pictures of the car, but that might not always be the case.

Teresa: You might have to pay for it—

Travis: Right.

Teresa: ... like the person at the vintage fair.

Travis: Exactly. Exactly.

Teresa: So, if you are showcasing a car, um, I think that you probably already know a lot of this etiquette. Um, but I would like to say that it is not appropriate to burn rubber while you are pulling in or out. Or revving your engine is also not appropriate. You know, it's an event where people are gathered around, and it's, you know, it's not cool.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: It smells bad. It's a loud noise. Be considerate. Um, and then make sure—

Travis: I would also say along those lines, once again, another, like, "know the vibe" of, like, blasting super loud music because some shows are about, like, speaker set-ups within cars.

Teresa: Absolutely.

Travis: And it's, like, really awesome, [chuckles] frankly. To see, like, how loud or bassy or whatever you can get it to going. But not every show is.

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: And, like, you don't want to be the one car that's, like, kind of creating a lot of noise pollution for everyone around if that's not the vibe of the car show.

Teresa: Right. And, of course, the staff and the— if there's adjudicators or, you know, anyone who is putting together the event, hopefully, will let you know what kind of things are appropriate for the particular show. Um, and if it is your car, I know that we said don't touch things, right? For the people coming. Accidents happen.

You know, try and remember that, you know, humans make mistakes, so if someone does touch your car, maybe they didn't know. Maybe they just

need a, you know, a gentle correction. And it's not nice to yell at people. Let's not do that. So, keep your—

Travis: You can just say, "No touching, please."

Teresa: Yeah. Keep your buffing pad or your— like a— your microfiber cloth or whatever with you so that you can take care of that and not be a meanie about it.

Travis: Please don't touch my car, baby.

Teresa: [laughs lightly] Don't touch it.

Travis: I would really— Don't touch my car, child, please.

Teresa: This is another really great example of people who love things coming together to do the things and talk about the things that they love.

Travis: Yes.

Teresa: And it may not be your bag, and that's great. That's fine. You can still enjoy yourself at these events and let people love the things that they love. And that's what *Shmanners* are all about.

Travis: Indeed. All right, everybody. First, I want to say "thank you" to our researcher Alex, without whom we would not be able to make this show. I want to say "thank you" to our editor, Rachel, without whom we would not be able to make this show. And thank you to you for listening. If we made this show without you, it would feel pretty darn silly.

Teresa: [giggling]

Travis: So, thank you so much for listening. Thank you to you, Teresa, for being such a good host and letting me tag along.

Teresa: Thank you, Travis, for always being an excellent playmate.

Travis: Ah. Um, we just announced we're doing a *My Brother, My Brother, and Me* live and virtual show. What's that mean? Well, I know the virtual concept is new to you all.

Teresa: [laughing]

Travis: But, basically, it means that, uh, you can watch the show whenever through your computing system. Or even your telephone, if you can believe it. And that's our first—

Teresa: I like to watch mine through the telephone air played onto the TV.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: 'Cause it's a bigger screen.

Travis: Well, we're living in the 22nd century. I don't know what to tell you guys.

Teresa: [laughing softly]

Travis: But it's for *Twenty Sun and Sea*. We're pretty excited about it. It's going to be March 17th at 9:00 pm Eastern time. Tickets are only 10 dollars, and *Sawbones* is opening, so you get two shows for the price of one. And video on demand will be available for purchase for two weeks after the event, so there's no reason for you not to watch it. And that's at bit.ly/mbmbamvirtual. Go get that now.

Make sure you check out all the merch we got over at Mcelroymerch.com. We got some postcards from our newest *Adventure Zone* series, *Steeplechase*. We've got the 2022 *Candlenights* video on demand there. And 10% of all merch proceeds for this month will go to The Foundation for Black Women's Wellness, so go check that out at Mcelroymerch.com. 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. Check out, *KHAN!!! The Musical!* Also, thank you to Bruja Betty Pinup Photography for the cover picture of our fan-run Facebook group, *Shmanners* Fanners. If you love to give or get excellent advice from other fans, go ahead and join that group today.

Travis: Also, just to tie in a little book, MaxFunDrive is going to be coming up before you know it, and we’ve already recorded our bonus episode, and it was a *real* treat.

Teresa: It was so much fun.

Travis: I can’t wait to tell you guys about it and for you guys to get to listen to it for supporting MaxFun and supporting *Shmanners*. So, more information on that coming up soon.

Teresa: And we’re always taking topic suggestions. Email us at Shmannerscast@gmail.com. Make sure you say “Hi” to Alex ‘cause she reads every one.

Travis: And that’s going to do it for us, so join us again next week.

Teresa: No RSVP required.

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

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

[theme music plays]

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