

00:00:00	Music	Transition	Gentle, trilling music with a steady drumbeat plays under the dialogue.
00:00:01	Promo	Promo	Speaker: <i>Bullseye with Jesse Thorn</i> is a production of MaximumFun.org and is distributed by NPR.
00:00:14	Music	Transition	<i>[Music fades out.]</i> “Huddle Formation” from the album <i>Thunder, Lightning, Strike</i> by The Go! Team. A fast, upbeat, peppy song. Music plays as Jesse speaks, then fades out.
00:00:22	Jesse Thorn	Host	It’s <i>Bullseye</i> . I’m Jesse Thorn. Sometimes, the workday doesn’t go the way you thought it would. In fact, in showbusiness, it rarely does. That’s why we created this segment: The Craziest <i>[Censored]</i> Day of My Entire Career. And this time around, we’re joined by Marc Summers. Marc Summers has built an incredible career as a television host. He has hosted reality shows, cooking shows, talk shows, and—of course—game shows. If you’re the right age, you probably know him as the host of Nickelodeon’s <i>Double Dare</i> .
00:00:55	Sound Effect	Transition	Music swells and fades.
00:00:56	Clip	Clip	Music: High energy, brassy music. Wally: Maaarc Summers! <i>[The audience cheers.]</i> Marc Summers: Hi, Wally! Nice to see you at <i>Family Double Dare</i> here Nickelodeon in Florida and all those places! And we’re gonna have a good time here today. Now, what’d you say about me today? I have trouble hearing those things. Wally: Uh, ex-child actor from virtually every episode of <i>Leave It to Beaver</i> . Marc: That’s right. How’s this? <i>[in a nasally voice]</i> “Uuuuh, gee, Wally. I don’t know.” How’s that? Was that alright? Wally: Perfect! <i>[Laughs.]</i> Marc: Close enough, huh? That’s why I’m a gameshow host and not an actor. We have great teams, as always. They start off to my left. They are dressed in red, and they call themselves the Rubbles!
00:01:29	Sound Effect	Transition	<i>[Cheers.]</i> Music swells and fades.
00:01:30	Jesse	Host	Rarely will you find a man who has hosted as many television programs as the great Marc Summers. Literally dozens! And most recently, he has been encroaching on our territory. He’s gotten into podcasting. He just launched <i>Marc Summers Unwraps</i> . It’s a show where he talks with different entertainers about some of the stories that have shaped their careers. When we asked Marc to tell us about the craziest day of his entire career, it was the day he finally got the call to go on <i>The Tonight Show</i> . The other guest? Burt Reynolds. And it didn’t go as planned. I’ll let Marc take it from here.

00:02:09	Marc Summers	Guest	Hi, this is Marc Summers! And this is the craziest [censored] day of my career.
00:02:13	Music	Transition	Upbeat, jazzy piano.
00:02:20	Marc	Guest	It was my dream to be on <i>The Tonight Show</i> with Johnny Carson. I was obsessed with Johnny. I would come home from school and watch <i>Who Do You Trust</i> , the gameshow he was doing. And then, we he got <i>The Tonight Show</i> , I thought oh my god, this is gonna be unbelievable. And as a kid in Indiana with no talent but lots of passion for the entertainment industry, I find out that Johnny was a magician and I thought, "Well, if I learn magic, maybe that'll get me on <i>The Tonight Show</i> someday." So, I become a professional magician. I'm working The Magic Castle in Los Angeles, California. I become a regular at The Comedy Store in 1976. I couldn't even get an audition for <i>The Tonight Show</i> back when Johnny was doing it.
00:02:57	Clip	Clip	<p>Music: Dramatic, punchy music.</p> <p>Marc: On your mark. Get set! Go!</p> <p>[Cheers.]</p> <p>Marc: These two teams are tossing at targets, trying to be the first to stick partners with Velcro balls! Who's ever got the sharpest aim will win 20 bucks and control of the show! We're making bullseyes, would you know? <i>Double Dare!</i></p>
00:03:18	Marc	Guest	<p>Fast forward the tape, I was hosting four shows at the same time: a show called <i>Our Home</i>, a talk show on Lifetime, <i>Double Dare</i>, and <i>What Would You Do</i> on Nickelodeon, and a syndicated game show called <i>Pick Your Brain</i>. So, I do an interview for an hour with this producer from <i>The Tonight Show</i>. He calls my publicist and says, "We're gonna book them." Well, for the next year, I got bumped as they say. I was scheduled; they canceled me. I scheduled; they canceled me. So, I stopped telling people I was gonna do the show, 'cause I sounded like a liar. They finally booked me. The limo comes to pick me up at my house and drive me to the NBC facility.</p> <p>[Traffic sounds.]</p> <p>On the way there, on the Ventura freeway, the car gets a flat tire.</p> <p>[A loud pop and breaks squealing followed by traffic honking.]</p> <p>We're in the middle of the Ventura freeway, trying to change a tire or do we get another limo to pick me up? It was a nightmare. I arrived at <i>The Tonight Show</i> about 15 minutes before the show as to begin. Jay comes into the dressing room and apologizes 15 ways about, "I'm sorry about the last year being bumped, and I heard that you had a flat tire, but you're here and we're gonna do the show." They knew I did magic, and they wanted me to do a magic trick with Jay. That was key to them, at the time. So, in that process, I had to come up with a bunch of different things that Jay could do, and I wanted to do a card trick. And they told me that he couldn't do card tricks, because he didn't know the different suits. He called clubs puppy-dog tails.</p> <p>And they said, "It's probably not a good idea to use a card trick."</p>

So, I said, “Well, there’s this trick called ‘cut and restored tie’.”

And they went, “Oh, that’s fantastic! Why don’t you do that?”

So, that was what the gimmick—the plan was, was I was going to cut and restore Jay’s tie in part of the process of my appearance on the show. Well, they had booked Burt Reynolds on the program. And the night before, Jay just started going after Burt. Burt was on a book tour; he’d written this book, and he chose to write this book and—you know—comment about his life from his point of view. And remember, there’s always the opposing point of view. He was going through the divorce, and he was—I guess the term I would use is surly. He was not a happy man while he was there. You could see it on his face, if you go back. If you wanna google this whole thing and—you know—just put Marc Summers, Burt Reynolds *Tonight Show* appearance. It all is there.

And by the way, I’m hoping this is the last time I ever have to tell this story, because there are debates on a weekly basis. Still! You know, almost 30 years later, that the whole thing was set up. And I’m here to tell you, it was 100% adlib, nothing was set up.

00:05:43 Clip Clip

Music: Bright, brassy music.

Announcer: From the NBC studios in Burbank, California, *The Tonight Show* with Jay Leno! Featuring *[inaudible]* of *The Tonight Show* Band. And now, Jaaaay Leno!

00:06:00 Marc Guest

[Cheers and applause.]

So, flash forward the tape. We are now on day of. Jay’s in the middle of his monologue, and Burt comes out—unbeknownst to Jay and me—and is so angry with what Jay has been saying about him, he gets a pair of scissors and cuts Jay’s tie. And I’m running to the producers backstage and going, “Now what do you want me to do? Okay? The tie was cut, and now I don’t have a trick.”

And they said, “Well, come up with something.”

I said, “I didn’t bring any other props. I could do a card trick.”

“Jay can’t do a card trick.”

“Oh, okay. Well, maybe we won’t do anything. Maybe we won’t have time.” And that’s kind of where we left it. I didn’t like—of course, I didn’t know where I stood about trying to cut a tie that had already been cut or trying to do a card trick where he didn’t know the suits.

00:06:42 Clip Clip

Jay Leno: Please welcome Marc Summers, ladies and gentlemen!

Music: Upbeat rock.

00:06:49 Marc Guest

[Cheers.]

It’s scary to hear that music and introduced by the host of *The Tonight Show*. You come through that curtain, and it’s like—you know—in your head, it’s like, “What the hell am I doing here?” kind of situation. But it’s also the moment I waited for for my entire life. So, I was excited, prepared, just thrilled to be there. And of course, I

shake Burt's hand and sit down, and Jay starts asking me questions about the shows I was doing. 'Cause the clip they showed before I came out was me in a thing called the pie pod from *What Would You Do?* And I was getting, you know, pied—as people did on a regular basis on most of my shows back in the Nickelodeon days.

And Jay said, you know, do you like doing that stuff? Do you—you know. And we started talking about pies, and the whole process. And I was leaning towards Jay, because Jay was the host and Burt had his three segments. And he made some comment about, "I'm only talking to a back," that—you know, he wanted me to talk to him as well as Jay. Well, my job was to talk to Jay, not to you, Burt. And so, I turned around and said, "No, I can talk to you." And I said to him, you know, "I used to be on your show all the time—*Win, Lose, or Draw.*"

And he said, "Funny, I don't remember." And then, we began to talk about being a neatness fanatic.

00:08:03 Clip Clip

Marc: We have, uh, an obstacle course.

Burt: Who told you you were a neatness freak?

Marc: Told me?

[Laughter.]

Burt: Yeah. I just said it 'cause your back is to me, and I was just talking to a back.

Marc: No, no. I can talk to you too, Burt.

Burt: Thank you.

Jay: Watch out, he's got scissors.

Marc: He's got—he's got scissors!

[Laughter and scattered boos.]

Burt: No, I was just wondering who told you that? Because—

Marc: My wife tells me that often.

Burt: She says, "Good morning. You're a neatness freak."

Marc: I'm still married, as a matter of fact.

Burt: Yes, well, you—

00:08:23 Marc Guest

[Shouts of surprise.]

Now, the entire audience did one of those *[crescendoing]* "ooooh!" kind of things. And he had a mug of water, which he dumped on my crotch. I tried to reciprocate with a glass of water. He straight-armed me. The cup went into my face. I thought he broke a tooth, and now there's water all over me.

00:08:43	Clip	Clip	<p>Marc: Burt Reynolds just threw water on me! Did you notice that, folks?</p> <p><i>[Laughter and applause.]</i></p> <p>Burt: And you'll treasure it later.</p> <p>Marc: Don't touch me.</p> <p>Burt: Sorry.</p>
00:08:50	Marc	Guest	<p><i>[Laughter.]</i></p> <p>I was not intimidated by him in any way, shape, or form. But you know, he was trying to prove that he was the boss, I think. And I wasn't gonna stand for that. So, when I leaned over to Jay as that cup went into my face and the water was all over, Jay said, "Welcome to late night TV." At which point, the audience—you know—kind of made some noises. And Burt was leaning back sort of disrespectfully on the couch, and I picked up another cup of water that was on a little table in front of me, and I tossed it on him. Okay. Now, what all the folks who have watched this thing don't know is, when I did that I got a standing ovation from the audience. They thought that was fantastic that I was reciprocating with what happened to me back to the—you know, so-called movie star.</p>
00:09:40	Clip	Clip	<p><i>[Laughter.]</i></p> <p>Burt: You know, I don't mind that. Because I deserved it.</p> <p>Marc: You deserved it?!</p> <p>Burt: I deserved it. I did it to you. I deserved it.</p> <p>Marc: No, that's okay.</p>
00:09:48	Marc	Guest	<p>Burt: You know, that's the kind of guy I am. But now, it was sort of 50/50. And the question always comes up online when people have debates with me, it had to be set up. Why were there pies? If you go back and look at the video, you see Jay lean towards the camera and say, "Get the pies." The pies were backstage, but in a different area. So, it takes a few seconds for them to hurry to get the whipped cream, the plates, and bring them around. These were things they were talking about doing in my segment. They were squashed and not put in until Burt and I kind of got into an argument. And the next thing I know, there were two pies that were brought out.</p>
00:10:23	Music	Transition	<p>Robust, staccato brass.</p>
00:10:27	Marc	Guest	<p>So, now when the pies comes out, Burt and I go back-to-back. Now, if you notice, he's trying to reach underneath and grab my jacket so that I don't get too far away.</p>
00:10:38	Clip	Clip	<p><i>[Cheering and applause and wild laughter.]</i></p> <p>Music: A drumroll.</p>
00:10:47	Marc	Guest	<p>Jay: Alright, ready?! At the count of three! One! Two! Three! We count to three and then turn around. And if you notice, he straight-arms me with that pie like you could not believe. He was—</p>

he was trying to hurt me. No question about it. And he got me really well. I got him okay. He didn't think I was going to get him at all. I think he was trying to take me out. But I did get him as well. And they handed me another pie, and we were both gonna go after Jay. And here's the turning point. Johnny would've taken that pie. That would've been the thing to do. It should have been the close of the segment. But Jay, being the wuss that he is, ran towards the band and tried to get away, which he did. And then, it was the end of the segment. He said, "Oh, folks, I'm sorry. We're out of time." And then, we tried to go after him and get him on the back a little bit.

So, at one point, you also see Burt hug me. And he whispers in my ear—I don't know if I ever said this on an interview, "I only did that because I really like you." Okay? Now, two seconds before that, you wouldn't think he liked me at all. But that was what he said is I only did it 'cause I really like you.

00:11:50 Music Transition
00:11:53 Marc Guest

Bright, upbeat, brassy music.

I mean, I'm somewhat amazed as to what has just happened. And once again, in my mind, none of it was planned. And I'm trying to figure out, you know, how did this happen? Did I motivate it? Did he motivate it? Did Jay not take charge enough? What just happened? But if you go back, in my opinion Burt was a bully. He wouldn't let me do my six minutes; he kept interrupting me. And when I dared to come back to him and say that line—and what I said to him, "by the way I'm still married," that was my point to say cool it, man. This is my segment. Shut the hell up. Okay? But he didn't take to that. I had to continue to defend my territory.

So, two things happened the next day, one of which—Jay calls me at home and goes, [*pitching his voice up to impersonate Leno*] "Hey, wait, what—what—what the hell was that? What's going on between you and Burt?"

And I said, "Look, man. It's my one shot on *The Tonight Show* that I'd always hoped for, and I wasn't gonna let this man ruin it." And I treated him, once again, like he was a heckler at The Comedy Store, and I wasn't gonna let him take my place. Well, Steve Bender, who's a very famous producer-director, had a lot to do with Elvis's revival in his career and was a friend of mine, and I was working on a project with him. And the next day, I went to his house. And he said, "You know, I know Burt's publicist. Would you like me to call him and see what Burt thought of the segment?" And so, I said yeah. So, he calls the publicist, and Burt's comment was I was a bottom-feeder of showbusiness, and I didn't show the movie star any respect. That was his line. [*Laughs.*]

So, you know. I never met Reynolds ever again. Sadly, he passed away. And you know, when he did, I was getting a million phone calls from every news source you can imagine: what was my feeling about Burt's passing? And I only said positive things, because I felt sorry for him. The guy was the number one box office star in the world for five years, and from what I understand, when he passed away somehow most of that money disappeared. But it's something that never goes away. Once again, almost 30 years ago is when it happened: October of '94. And pretty much not a day goes by that somebody doesn't wanna bring it up on social media, have a

00:14:18	Music	Transition	disagreement/argument with me about it all being set up, or just walking down the streets of any major city, people wanna talk about it 'cause if you didn't see it live, certainly you've seen it online.
00:14:20	Marc	Guest	Easy piano. You try and relive the moment in your head; you almost don't remember what it was really like, 'cause it goes by so quickly. I still—I got that suit that I wore that night dry cleaned. It still sits in my closet, and every now and then, I look at it and think about, wow, if that suit could talk what would it say? <i>[Laughs.]</i> To the experience that it went through. It's sad that it happened the way it did, but on the same token, it never goes away. And there's a little thing in our industry called residuals, and I think it's shown all over the world, and checks come to my home on a regular basis. So, from that perspective, that ain't bad either. <i>[Chuckles.]</i>
00:14:59	Jesse	Host	Marc Summers on the craziest <i>[censored]</i> day of his entire career: <i>The Tonight Show</i> with Mr. Burt Reynolds. You can catch Marc on his new podcast, <i>Marc Summers Unwraps</i> . It is a great show. Recent guests have included Al Roker, Lea DeLaria, and Anthony Ramos. You can catch that show wherever you get your podcasts, as they say.

And speaking of wherever you get your podcasts, if you're interested in more Burt Reynolds themed podcasting, well, good news! My aforementioned former cohost and current cohost and comedy partner, Jordan Morris, and I have a new podcast called *Stache Rules Everything Around Me* for stream. It recaps the filmography of Mr. Burt Reynolds. The first episode up in the feed for our show, *Jordan, Jesse, Go!*, so you can listen to it there. The other five episodes are now in the bonus content feed for members of Maximum Fun. That includes, by the way, an episode recapping the film *Smokey and the Bandit 2*, with our friend and the bestselling author of *Eat, Pray, Love*: Elizabeth Gilbert. So, if you've ever wanted to hear Liz Gilbert talk about perhaps the least essential film ever made, *Smokey and the Bandit 2*—well, now's your chance.

00:16:22	Music	Transition	Chiming synth with light vocalizations and a steady beat.
00:16:26	Jesse	Host	That's the end of another episode of <i>Bullseye</i> . <i>Bullseye</i> , created from the homes of me and the staff of Maximum Fun, in and around greater Los Angeles, California. Here at my house, my son just got <i>NBA 2K</i> for our PlayStation, and my wife beat me.

Our show is produced by speaking into microphones. Our senior producer is Kevin Ferguson. Our producers are Jesus Ambrosio and Richard Robey. Our production fellows at Maximum Fun are Tabatha Myers and Bryanna Paz. We get booking help from Mara Davis. Our interstitial music comes from DJW, also known as Dan Wally. Our theme music at the top of the show is by the great band The Go! Team. The song is "Huddle Formation". Our thanks to The Go! Team. And thanks to their label, Memphis Industries.

00:17:31	Promo	Promo	<i>Bullseye</i> is also on YouTube, Twitter, and Facebook. You can find us in all of those places. Give us a follow. We will share with you all of our interviews. And I think that's about it. Just remember: all great radio hosts have a signature signoff. Speaker: <i>Bullseye with Jesse Thorn</i> is a production of MaximumFun.org and is distributed by NPR.
----------	-------	-------	---

[Music fades out.]