

## Sawbones Episode 90: Medical TV [Part 2]

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

*Sawbones* is a show about medical history, and nothing 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 Medicines by The Taxpayers plays]

### **Justin:**

All right and welcome to *Sawbones*, a marital tour of misguided medicine. I'm your co-host Justin McElroy.

### **Sydnee:**

And I'm Sydnee McElroy.

### **Justin:**

Sydnee McElroy, what is today's topic?

### **Sydnee:**

Well, Justin, um... I don't know how to, I don't know how to break this to you.

### **Justin:**

Just, just put it out there, honey.

### **Sydnee:**

I'm... I'm... I know that we sat down to record our podcast and I waited until you started to tell you this, and that seems so strange.

### **Justin:**

Yeah, I kept saying, like, "what's the topic?" And you were like, "wink, wink... I got it." Is what you said.

**Sydnee:**

And, and that was because I didn't know how to tell you that I did not research anything. I have nothing. I don't have... I have nothing to tell you about. I don't have a topic.

**Justin:**

Why?

**Sydnee:**

Well, I've been really busy. Uh... we doctors have to renew our medical licenses, every couple of years.

**Justin:**

Mm-hmm [affirmative].

**Sydnee:**

And in order to do that, we have to prove that we know... things.

**Justin:**

And you're busy with that.

**Sydnee:**

Like, continuing medical education things. And I've been busy doing those things, so that I can legitimately renew my medical license and still be a doctor. As a result, uh... I know a lot about some modules on hypertension...

**Justin:**

Well...

**Sydnee:**

But not about anything funny.

**Justin:**

Well, worry not my dear, because good news. I am ready for this exact scenario.

**Sydnee:**

You're ready for something?

**Justin:**

The student will, once again-

**Sydnee:**

You were prepared?

**Justin:**

...Become the master, as I present to you my ongoing history of medical television in America.

**Sydnee:**

Aw, Justin. That means a lot to me, that you were prepared for this.

**Justin:**

Well-

**Sydnee:**

That you thought about me-

**Justin:**

Mm-hmm [affirmative].

**Sydnee:**

And how busy I've been.

**Justin:**

Yes.

**Sydnee:**

With the working Mom-Doctor.

**Justin:**

Yes, well-

**Sydnee:**

Doctor Mom.

**Justin:**

Doctor Mom. Worry not, because I am ready to regal you with more tales from the annals of medical TV.

I'll be honest, I was trying to be rarely comprehensive during Volume One, which got us as far as *ER*, but, um... After *ER* was on for a hundred years, uh...

**Sydnee:**

[laughs]

**Justin:**

There were a lot of TV shows about medicine all of a sudden.

**Sydnee:**

There have been a lot of TV... I mean, even just since I have been, kind of, in the medical world. There's been a lot of shows.

**Justin:**

So, this is in no way comprehensive, but I thought we talk a little bit more about, uh... some medical TV shows. And I was hoping, s- sort of, as we go, these premises get a little more outlandish. And you know, it used to be enough to just set a show in hospital, but after *ER* sort of like, did that... um... you had, you had to have a hook.

**Sydnee:**

Okay.

**Justin:**

So, I was wondering if you, as we go, if you could tell me about some of these hooks. And just like... does, does... you know, like how closely they mirror the actual world.

**Sydnee:**

I'm just gonna like, go ahead and say not.

**Justin:**

Not.

**Sydnee:**

Um... but we'll take `em one by one, I guess, as we go. But I'm gonna predict that.

**Justin:**

Yeah.

First up is *Becker*! I know you didn't watch *Becker*, nobody did.

**Sydnee:**

[laughs]

**Justin:**

But somehow it ran from 1998 to 2004. Starred Ted Danson, as John Becker, a, uh... a misanthropic doctor, uh... in New York, in the Bronx, specifically. Who, um... just bad to the bone. He is opinionated, according to Wikipedia, he is cheap, he smokes and he doesn't care what anybody else thinks. And he cares about his patients.

**Sydnee:**

This was on syndication all the time, right?

**Justin:**

Yeah, constantly.

**Sydnee:**

Like on TBS or something?

**Justin:**

Always.

**Sydnee:**

Wasn't it? It was just constantly on.

**Justin:**

One of those super stations.

**Sydnee:**

Right. I don't know anything about *Becker*, other than, I feel like there was a time period in my life when I could've turned on the television and at any given moment, *Becker* was on.

**Justin:**

And it's weird how quickly our national affair with *Becker* just sort of ended. Cause you can't find *Becker* now. Don't try.

**Sydnee:**

He sounds kind of like *House*, only before *House*.

**Justin:**

Don't get ahead of me.

**Sydnee:**

Oh, sorry.

**Justin:**

Next up is *LA Doctors*. 1998 to 1999. This is a short run about uh, four Los Angeles doctors, and it focuses on the problems with the American medical system back in 1998. The only reason I bring it up, it did not have a long run, but uh... One of the doctors was Cheryl Lee.

**Sydnee:**

Oh!

**Justin:**

You may remember her as, uh... Laura Palmer.

**Sydnee:**

From *Twin Peaks*.

**Justin:**

Yeah, in every episode of *LA Doctors*, she was wrapped in plastic.

**Sydnee:**

[laughs]

**Justin:**

And she somehow doled out medical care. Which is amazing.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah, now... you didn't watch this.

**Justin:**

No.

**Sydnee:**

You just researched it.

**Justin:**

Yeah, I just researched it.

**Sydnee:**

She's so good on *Twin Peaks*, I have to imagine she'd be great on anything.

**Justin:**

I bet she was great on *LA Doctors*, maybe something else let her down. Maybe it was the writing?

**Sydnee:**

She couldn't, she couldn't save the show, I guess.

**Justin:**

I've got another show to tell you about, Syd. It's called *Third Watch*. You know this one?

**Sydnee:**

I have heard of *Third Watch*.

**Justin:**

So, *Third Watch*-

**Sydnee:**

I didn't watch *Third Watch*.

**Justin:**

So, *Third Watch* is set in New York City, so, so far... New York, LA, New York. Keep it, keep it up Hollywood. You're getting there. Uh...

**Sydnee:**

There's some other places, Hollywood. There's a place here that I live. There's other places.

**Justin:**

This is a story about the New York City Police Department, the firefighters and paramedics of the New York City Fire Department, uh... And they worked... So, this is the weird thing about *Third Watch*... They worked in a fictional precinct during the 3 pm to 11 pm shift.

**Sydnee:**

Right.

**Justin:**

That's third watch, okay?

**Sydnee:**

Okay.

**Justin:**

Wouldn't fourth watch be the show you'd wanna see? Wouldn't the 11 to 7 be like, the show?

**Sydnee:**

You know, that's, it... I would think so, just from like, working in a hospital. It tends to be the, like from an ER perspective, not that I'm an ER doctor. But I've spent a lot of time in the ER through my years in the hospital. And I... that's when the exciting stuff happens, I would think, is the fourth, the fourth watch?

**Justin:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

Or is that the first watch?

**Justin:**

Whoa okay, so that would be... You know what?

**Sydnee:**

That's the first watch.

**Justin:**

That's the first watch! Okay.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Justin:**

Okay, then... first watch. That's even a better name!

**Sydnee:**

Yeah. Wouldn't you think first watch would be... What is happening that's so crazy at 3 pm?

**Justin:**

I don't know. It's like-



**Sydnee:**

[laugh]

**Justin:**

"Another guy was coming home from work, and he lost his shoe and nobody can find his shoe. And somebody stole his paper, on the subway."

**Sydnee:**

Who's up to shenanigans when they're like, watching the evening news-

**Justin:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

And preparing dinner... and like, at 11 you're not even, I mean if you are like, getting... if you're turnt?

**Justin:**

Turnt?

**Sydnee:**

If you're turnt, I don't, I don't think that you're particularly turnt at 11. Like you at least, like 1.

**Justin:**

*Gideon's Crossing* was a very short lived show in 2000, uh... Starring Andre Braugher, who's the uh... Who's the um... captain, police captain on *Brooklyn 99*.

**Sydnee:**

Oh okay, yeah.

**Justin:**

Uh... so the only... This is adapted from the work of a Jerome Groopman, who wrote a book called *The Measure of Our Days*. Um... I- I brought it up mainly because it was short lived, again, uh... trying to catch that *ER* heat, maybe? Uh, it premiered on October 10th, 2000, and ran for one season. The last episode aired on April 9th, 2001, and one episode, the last one, remain un-aired. Do you know how much you have to hate a TV show-

**Sydnee:**

[laughs]

**Justin:**

For a network to be like, "how many more we got? One?"

**Sydnee:**

"One?"

**Justin:**

"Cancel it."

**Sydnee:**

Can you imagine 10 people-

**Justin:**

Guarantee.

**Sydnee:**

In America, who found out that, that episode wasn't running, and were just, like... that was their week, maybe their month. They were devastated.

**Justin:**

Still a bustling fan community for *Gideon's Crossing*, I would imagine.

**Sydnee:**

Is there? There is for everything.

**Justin:**

I feel like there is for everything. Uh...

**Sydnee:**

Sure, sure.

**Justin:**

There certainly is for *Strong Medicine*. *Strong Medicine* is a, ah... a medical drama that aired on LifeTime. Now, if... I'm sure you saw commercials for this, because it was, they were constantly on.

**Sydnee:**

And, and you're assuming that I did because I watch LifeTime and that's television for women. Is that, is that what you just said?

**Justin:**

No, jus...

**Sydnee:**

Did you really just say that?

**Justin:**

No.

**Sydnee:**

Are you serious?

**Justin:**

No, because it was created by Whoopi Goldberg.

**Sydnee:**

Geez. Oh. Well and you know, you know what a Whoopi Goldberg...

**Justin:**

I know what a Whoopi head you are...

**Sydnee:**

... Fan I am.

**Justin:**

And I thought maybe...

**Sydnee:**

I follow everything she does...

**Justin:**

This was the highest rated, original drama, on basic cable, in... in 2001. It was about two doctors, one of which was like a, um... worked in uh, uh... clinic, for, for... uh... the poor. And another one worked in a, uh, uh... uh, uh... top like, hospital for like, uh... rich people. Rich, rich people. And she was a conservative person, and the other one, running the inner city clinic, was a liberal.

**Sydnee:**

And they were roommates, and one was really messy and one was like, really a neat freak.

**Justin:**

Well, sort of, actually. The boss tried to fuse their practices, and that's what this show was about for six years.

**Sydnee:**

That does not make any sense.

**Justin:**

It's about their conflicts. I thought it would have been more interesting if the inner city doctor was a conservative, and the one running the fancy, wealthy person clinic was a liberal. Wouldn't that be more interesting?

**Sydnee:**

That is a more interesting premise, but also I think, less believable, I would say, from my perspective.

**Justin:**

Well... fair enough. Maybe. Maybe you're right.

**Sydnee:**

I dunno. I- I- I think I'm a liberal, and I do-, I would not, uh... work somewhere that didn't take like, Medicaid, for instance.

**Justin:**

You wanna get hung up on believability, Sydnee...

**Sydnee:**

[laughs] I always do, that's the only reason doctors watch medical TV shows. Any doctor will tell you this, so that we can complai- complain about stuff. [laughs]

**Justin:**

Yeah. You wanna talk about believability, let's talk about Doctor Billy Ray Cyrus. Excuse me? Yes, *Doc*, 2001 to 2004, starred Billy Ray Cyrus, Miley's Dad, as Doctor Clint "Doc" Cassidy.

**Sydnee:**

Hold, hold on. Is Billy Ray Cyrus officially just Miley's Dad now?

**Justin:**

Miley...

**Sydnee:**

Is that...

**Justin:**

Well, he can't be Doc anymore, cause that ended in 2004.

**Sydnee:**

[laughs] No...

**Justin:**

Achy, breaky, was even before that, so what do you want?

**Sydnee:**

I'm in the, see, I think that, that's a generational divide. We're of the generation that, there's Billy Ray Cyrus, and his daughter, Miley Cyrus. And then I think there's this whole other generation now, who's like, you know... Miley's Dad.

**Justin:**

Um... I think you're probably right. But I think those checks still cash, and I think Billy's fine with that.

**Sydnee:**

[laughs]

**Justin:**

So, the reason I- eh... We're gonna start getting into a theme here, it is, uh, pretty great. And I wanted, uh... this is the first instance of it. For small TV shows, that didn't have much of a following, you can tell that some engaged fans, who maybe don't do a lot of writing, have taken it upon themselves to fill out the Wikipedia entries...

**Sydnee:**

[laughs]

**Justin:**

For se... Stop reading ahead.

**Sydnee:**

Sorry.

**Justin:**

I can see you reading ahead. Have taken it upon themselves to sta... to, to fill out the Wikipedia entries for some of these. So, some of them are... You're looking at it again. I can... Yeah, I can tell, I'm looking right atcha.

**Sydnee:**

I'm just listening! Staring vaguely in that direction.

**Justin:**

Stare at anything else.

**Sydnee:**

Okay. I'm gonna look at our daughter on this camera. She's still sleeping.

**Justin:**

So, *Doc* was about a Montana doctor who moved to New York, to work at the Westbury Clinic, a medical center next to the local hospital.

**Sydnee:**

[laugh] Wait, where was he from?

**Justin:**

Uh, Montana.

**Sydnee:**

Hannah Montana?

**Justin:**

Yeah. Okay.

**Sydnee:**

Sorry.

**Justin:**

So, he left Montana to be with his girlfriend, Samantha. Now, here comes the Wikipedia quote, "Clint li- Clint breaks up with her in the pilot, because she and he are from two different worlds. Clint has a love for God and people, making him a popular doctor at the office. He often likes to insert little bits of wisdom from Montana, into the clinic team's activity. It is mentioned in some episodes, that Clint's parents died when he was young.

He was taken in by his hometown doctor, Doc Johanson. This adoption leads to Clint's love of medicine. He is the show's main character."

**Sydnee:**

[laughs]

**Justin:**

[laughs] Okay?

**Sydnee:**

You know what I like? If he is not the show's main character, that was a lot of backstory...

**Justin:**

Rich backstory, right?

**Sydnee:**

This is a character you see for 30 seconds in episode three, but we really want you to know, because it seems like an important character.

**Justin:**

There's a... that's a long exposition scene, right there.

**Sydnee:**

[laughs]

**Justin:**

Uh... that show was probably great. *Nip Tuck* was, uh... Ran from 2003 to 2010, about two plastic surgeons, uh... It was set in Miami for a while, and then later, um... in, in, in Hollywood.

**Sydnee:**

And it was very popular, it seemed.

**Justin:**

Yes. A lot of people enjoyed *Nip Tuck*. The reason I wanna bring it up, is cause it was created by Ryan Murphy, who after the show, went on to create *Glee* and *American Horror Story*.

**Sydnee:**

And I enjoy both of those programs.

**Justin:**

Yes. So maybe you'd like *Nip Tuck*.

**Sydnee:**

Probably not.

**Justin:**

Probably not. Los... Hollywood plastic surgeons, doesn't sound like your cup of tea.

**Sydnee:**

No, no... I think that's a... a very far end of the spectrum, from family practice in Huntington West Virginia.

**Justin:**

Fair enough, fair enough. Um... Syd, uh... this next one makes me, ah-so angry. That I'm hoping that, uh, uh... you can help, help me with it?

**Sydnee:**

Okay.

**Justin:**

*Doctor Vegas, 2004.*

**Sydnee:**

I don't, I don't know anything about that.

**Justin:**

Exactly! You don't.

**Sydnee:**

And it only existed in 2004?

**Justin:**

It only existed in 2004.

**Sydnee:**

Unless that was the title of the show? *Doctor Vegas, 2004*. [laughs] This, they were predicting how long the show would last.

**Justin:**



It was actually, it was actually filmed in 1977...

**Sydnee:**

[laughs]

**Justin:**

It's got a futuristic, cybernetic doctor.

**Sydnee:**

Doctor Vegas!

**Justin:**

[robot voice] "Doctor Vegas. Uh, uh... My ocular implants are failing, Doctor Vegas."

**Sydnee:**

That's actually what they call me at work.

**Justin:**

[laughs]

**Sydnee:**

Cause I'm so cool...

**Justin:**

And you love the ponies.

**Sydnee:**

And I wear, I wear these shades. And like, I'm constantly like, liftin em up, and being like, ohhhh yeah!

**Justin:**

Oh yeah!

**Sydnee:**

And they're like, Doctor Vegas, she's at it again.

**Justin:**

Bar bow bow...

**Sydnee:**

[laughs]

**Justin:**

Um... so *Doctor Vegas* is about a doctor who had a Harvard Medical Degree, but he was last in his class. So he ended up as the in house physician at a Vegas hotel/casino. Um, but he still, you know... he's still a doctor.

**Sydnee:**

Do they have those?

**Justin:**

They, there... there... this one does.

**Sydnee:**

Is that, no... I mean seriously. Do you know? Is that like a normal thing?

**Justin:**

Wouldn't that be like in the ad, like... "our own in house physician."

**Sydnee:**

What does that say about your casino?

**Justin:**

Yeah. That we- that you need that.

**Sydnee:**

That you need one. Is it like, our buffets are so expansive, we have our own in house physician? Or like, we will give you so many free drinks?

**Justin:**

We have someone to treat the sores, uh... on the buttocks of old ladies from Florida, who've sat on the slot machine for ten hours a day.

**Sydnee:**

Or is this like, if we catch you counting cards and we beat the crap out of you, don't worry?

**Justin:**

Um, it start, uh, uh... so there was Doctor Vegas and then there was Tommy, who was the hotel's manager, uh... played by Joe Pantoliano , and

who was also a hypochondriac. Uh... and the doctor, Doctor Billy Grant, gets help from a nurse practitioner, and um...

**Sydnee:**

Whoa, whoa, whoa...

**Justin:**

Blah, blah, blah, blah.

**Sydnee:**

Wait. He is a doctor at a casino?

**Justin:**

Doctor Casino can't handle the patient load. [laughs]

**Sydnee:**

No, he needs help. He gets his own nurse practitioner to help him out.

**Justin:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

To be a doctor at a casino.

**Justin:**

It was broadcast for five episodes, and Sydnee... this is what makes me so angry. It starred Mr. Rob Low, and this is the show that he left *West Wing* for...

**Sydnee:**

No...

**Justin:**

And now you know the rest of the story.

**Sydnee:**

Oh...

**Justin:**

Yeah. Handle that.

**Sydnee:**

That's so... that's heartbreaking.

**Justin:**

I know, that's why I left the twist at the end.

**Sydnee:**

And there was only, there were only five episodes? Why did they...

**Justin:**

Five episodes!

**Sydnee:**

*West Wing* would have taken him back, why didn't he go back?

**Justin:**

He probably could've gone back, but he was too proud.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah and, what... y- y- you know what? That's... the idea that Rob Low would be last in his class, is also completely unbelievable.

**Justin:**

Yeah, he could've charmed his way to the middle tier, at least.

**Sydnee:**

Well no, Sam Seaborn is a genius.

**Justin:**

Yeah but you know that's a character, right?

**Sydnee:**

I'm sorry?

**Justin:**

The other thing that, to consider, is that this career path... whatever it may have been, lead... still lead him to *Parks Recreation*. So, maybe if he hadn't done *Doctor Vegas*, butterfly flapped it's wings, monsoon in China, you know, that kind of thing.

**Sydnee:**

I guess that's a good way to look at it.

**Justin:**

It is a good way to look at it. Another-

**Sydnee:**

I am glad that show existed, just now that I know that show existed. That's crazy, and I also wanna find out if casino's have their own doctor, cause I mean... maybe I'm looking for a career change?

**Justin:**

*House.*

**Sydnee:**

I enjoyed that show.

**Justin:**

*House* was a great show, or would've been a completely great show, had it ended a few years earlier. *House* is about, it was sort of, basically like, a *Sherlock Holmes* riff, you could say.

**Sydnee:**

Yes.

**Justin:**

A riff on *Sherlock Holmes*, about a guy who's, who's played by Hugh Laurie, who's a real miserable so and so, and uh... but he was also a genius and he was like an internal medicine specialist, is that right?

**Sydnee:**

Eh... he was a diagnostician, and I think that's... okay, lets start with that, about *House*. [laughs]

**Justin:**

Okay.

**Sydnee:**

There are lots of things, um... *House* was on for a while.

**Justin:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

And as a result, I think that, I have heard probably every criticism, from like my colleagues and other people, you know, in medicine. That you could level at *House*. So, it was vulnerable to that.

**Justin:**

Right.

**Sydnee:**

Um, *House* was what they called, a diag, a diagnostician. Now, as far as I know... that is not something that we have in the US. At least not something that I was privy to.

**Justin:**

There's probably some. Well, you have to imagine.

**Sydnee:**

Somebody, I... it's just not a, I mean, I don't... it, I think he must've done a residency in internal medicine, yes. But then, I don't know... there's no fellowship to become a diagnostician. Um, somebody... I made this comment once before, and I think somebody told me that, that is a specialty in Japan.

**Justin:**

Hm, interesting.

**Sydnee:**

But I don't know if that's true or not. I... somebody, I think that was like, tweeted that at me. But um... yeah, so as far as I know, that's not a real thing.

**Justin:**

But you still liked *House*?

**Sydnee:**

Yes. Because I, well... For a couple reasons. One, Hugh Laurie's great.

**Justin:**

Yeah he is great.

**Sydnee:**

He's great, and what's even greater, is I remember the first time I saw him on a TV interview, I think it was on like, *Ellen*.

**Justin:**

Mm-hmm [affirmative].

**Sydnee:**

And he, he is so pleasant.

**Justin:**

Yeah. And British.

**Sydnee:**

Yes. He's, he's so pleasant and British and he is not mean and American, like he is on the show.

**Justin:**

*House* is my go to example though, for like, the problem with American TV versus British TV. Where British TV will, is perfectly willing to end a show, like once it has run its course. Um, in most cases. And American TV will just keep going, until it's dead. Which means that people stop watching it, cause it gets bad. Or the people on it-

**Sydnee:**

It did.

**Justin:**

- get powerful enough that they could end the show. And *House* had a great ending. Like, at the end of season, I wanna say six... Uh, basically, the will they, won't they, couple of the show... kind of got together. And I know that that's not for everybody, but the, the... they, they... it was a beautiful ending that they found, to this show. And they just, and it just couldn't stop.

**Sydnee:**

Well, and *House*'s arc was good. Cause I mean, cause one of the things... so he's a curmudgeon, he's grumpy. He's very intelligent, but he is very egotistical, and you know...

**Justin:**

Right.

**Sydnee:**

Most people are vaguely familiar with the show. Uh, but he also has a drug habit.

**Justin:**

Right.

**Sydnee:**

And you keep waiting for him to either, basically, kill himself or get clean. They keep hinting that he's heading in one direction or the other. It's either a horrible collision or he's gonna be saved. And you finally think he's gonna, kinda get his, get it together... and it just keeps stringin' along.

**Justin:**

Yeah, it just keeps going.

**Sydnee:**

And it, it's too bad, cause they really did, they had some great medical mysteries. Each episode was kind of like a weird case, and it has become part of our vernacular, I'd say most of us in the medical world, patients say it too, a lot. Um, I'm a real *House* case, or this is a real *House* case. Uh, that has permeated the medical world. Um, so has uh, the... I, I... one of the things they say on *House* all the time, it's never lupus.

**Justin:**

It's never Lupus.

**Sydnee:**

We say that a lot. It is sometimes lupus, to be fair.

**Justin:**

[laughs]

**Sydnee:**

It is just not lupus as often as doctors think it is lupus.

**Justin:**

I have another, uh, big show for... to talk about, Sydnee. But first we gotta take a break and go to the billing department.

**Sydnee:**

Okay.



[ad break]

**Justin:**

Sydnee, I have two words for you.

**Sydnee:**

What are they?

**Justin:**

*Grey's Anatomy.*

**Sydnee:**

You know... I liked, okay... So, *Grey's Anatomy* was a show... You mind if I explain this?

**Justin:**

No. Just give me the quick pitch, cause we've got a lot of shows to get to.

**Sydnee:**

Okay... it was show about a, uh... a teaching hospital, a surgical residency, in Seattle. Um, and it was a... I liked it at first. It was a pretty good show. Um... it had a lot of interesting things that were true about residency, and like, kind of climbing the ladder. Being an intern and what that's like, and... but then there's a lot about like, romance and people like doin' it in the hospital. And...

**Justin:**

In every room.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah. And stuff like that just isn't happening. And also, and I think I said this in our last episode... scrubs never fit that well. Unless you get them fitted. Which you would if you were on television.

**Justin:**

Correct.

**Sydnee:**

Um, and most of us doctors just don't look like McDreamy or McSteamy or... McGriddle.

**Justin:**

[laughs] Oh, McGriddle...

**Sydnee:**

[laughs] Actually no, most of us do look like McGriddle. [laughs]

**Justin:**

My favorite doctor, McGriddle. Always solving the artery related cases.

**Sydnee:**

[laughs]

**Justin:**

Um... there was also a spin off, did you ever watch *Private Practice*? It ran for like six freaking years, too!

**Sydnee:**

I didn't!

**Justin:**

2007 to 2013.

**Sydnee:**

I didn't. I didn't because I didn't like Addison on *Grey's Anatomy*, so I didn't want to watch her spin off. [laughs]

**Justin:**

Addison, like, went to a seaside wellness center, or something.

**Sydnee:**

Sure.

**Justin:**

I don't know.

**Sydnee:**

Probably.

**Justin:**

What was Addison like?

**Sydnee:**

Well, that was Derek's ex-wife, you know...

**Justin:**

That doesn't tell me what she's like...

**Sydnee:**

And Derick is McDreamy...

**Justin:**

You're defining her by a man.

**Sydnee:**

And... well, no. But she like, came in and was interfering, and if you liked, you know... Initially if you liked Derek and Meredith together, then she was kind of in the way and you know, that was kind of it.

**Justin:**

The important thing is it gave work to my man, Tim Daily, as her love interest, so... that's all I care about. *Wings* is Tim Daily, back on TV.

Um, another show I wanna tell you about... *Royal Pains*. And I wanted to see if this is like a thing, that you know happens. Uh... it's about a, uh... an emergency room doctor who messes up and is wrong, or he is wrongly blamed. He doesn't mess up, there's a, there's a mistake of some sort, and he's blamed for a, a ah... patient who's important benefactor of his hospital. He was blamed for their death, and he gets fired. Um, which, um... that's kind of weird. But the weirder thing is, he goes to the Hamptons and becomes a doctor for hire. There's a word, there's a term for it... a um, like a... a concierge.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah. There, there are concierge doctors. That is a thing. Um, it's a, it's actually... more and more doctors are wanting to go into it because you basically, um... sometimes you don't even necessarily have to have office hours. You're just kind of at the beck and call of a bunch of people who can pay cash, someth... A lot of the time it's cash, I mean either insured or just cash in hand. Um, you could do it that way, and it, uh... the benefit is that some days you may not work. But then there may be other days where you're going to people's houses all the time.

**Justin:**

He ends up serving a very wealthy clientele and, but also... there's an underprivileged population, in... in this area, and he helps them, too. *Royal Pains*. It's been on since 2009.

**Sydnee:**

It's interesting, what with all the problems with, like, insurance can be such a hassle to deal with on the administrative end. There are more and more doctors who are looking at like, cash only models, and that would be one option, if you wanted to. Not for me, but maybe somebody else.

**Justin:**

Also, beginning in 2009, was *Nurse Jackie*, starring The Sopranos, Ede Falco, as a nurse who, uh... who liked herself some pills. She liked the occasional pill, occasional vic, occasional perco, as they say. *Nurse Jackie*.

**Sydnee:**

No, that is not what people say. They say, sets.

**Justin:**

Now, my... the thing I like about...

**Sydnee:**

Tab.

**Justin:**

Tab. The thing I like about *Nurse Jackie*, uh... soon after it premiered, uh... the New York State Nurses Association, decried the unethical behavior of the title character, and the detrimental impression regarding nurses, that such portrayal could happen in public. Stating, "in the first episode, Nurse Jackie is introduced as a substance abuser, who trades sex with the pharmacist for prescription drugs. She has no qualms about repeatedly violating the nursing code of ethics." Yes, correct, yes. That is right.

**Sydnee:**

And that one also, I would say, violate a lot of codes of ethics, and just general, like...

**Justin:**

Yeah, just like... You didn't need to tell us, that like, no no no.

**Sydnee:**

[laughs]

**Justin:**

"That is actually in violation of our code of ethics." Yeah, no kidding!

**Sydnee:**

You know what's funny, is... and I didn't watch *Nurse Jackie*, but um, you could level a lot of the same criticism at *House*, and I, I actually had a colleague once, who was talking about *House* and said, "this doctor on this show, shot..." It was actually a cadaver, and they were trying to prove, if you put, if you could put a... if you could get in an MRI if you had a bullet in you, what would happen. And so, to prove it, he shoots a cadaver and then they put it in the MRI. Anyway... and he said, "do you know how unethical it would be to do that?" Well, yeah.

**Justin:**

Yeah, very unethical.

**Sydnee:**

Uh-yeah, like it's a show. He's *House*.

**Justin:**

I had completely forgotten about this new, new, next show. But we did watch one or two of these *Off the Map*. Do you remember *Off the Map*?

**Sydnee:**

Yes!

**Justin:**

From the people that brought you *Grey's Anatomy*, came *Off the Map*, about a group of doctors in a remote South American village. Uh, each look, looking for their reason that brought them to medicine.

**Sydnee:**

And this was ridiculous, because uh, you know... it was supposed to like, entrance people, I think... with like, this is what it's like to do, um... you know, international medicine. And to go somewhere, like a developing country and work, where you don't have a lot of resources, and that kind of thing. And like, people are really amazed, like amazed with that, and it's like this romanticized thing. But, this was a place where there was like, this cool... Do you remember there's this like, cool bar...

**Justin:**

Yeah, there was like a cool bar...

**Sydnee:**

... island theme.

**Justin:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

Like a tiki bar, where everybody hung out and danced, and there were like, lots of white people also, by the way. I don't know... this, as someone who's done international medicine, this is not a fair representation of what we do.

**Justin:**

I am very upset that we stopped watching the show, which only aired for one season. Uh, here's just a quick whirlwind tour of some of the stars of *Off the Map*. Uh... Doctor Ben Keaton, is described as one of the worlds greatest humanitarians, but according to, uh... this is according to Mina and Lilly, who are two of the characters. Uh, he was married to a woman named Abby, and they had a daughter together, but then they died during an accident. How's your show going? So, that's sad, but then Brenner, another character who's name is a combination of breakfast and dinner, shows up on the show and she's like, no, no, no. I have a story that is worse than that. My fiancé was killed in a cycling accident, after I asked him to go out and get me some cereal. What? What??

**Sydnee:**

Uh... like, a Mitch Leery death.

**Justin:**

[laughs]

**Sydnee:**

What?

**Justin:**

The classic Mitch Leery. *Dawson's Creek* spoilers everybody, sorry.

**Sydnee:**

Oh, I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

**Justin:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

We, we'll put at the beginning of this that there are *Dawson's Creek* spoilers in this episode of *Sawbones*. [laughs]

**Justin:**

What about Cole? Sydnee, let me tell you about Cole. He was once addicted to morphine and heroin, and consume, consumes candy to stay clean. This is an actual, again, visiting Wikipedia for this description. "When Cole and Menard must retrieve heroin to use as pain killers, he contemplates relapsing, carrying around a stash of heroin for a whole day, before coming clean to Ben, who then takes his heroin and gives him some more candy."

**Sydnee:**

Now, I didn't know... and I'm glad to know this now, as a physician... that all I have to do with my heroin addict patients is give them candy...

**Justin:**

It's the oral fixation.

**Sydnee:**

And they will be cool.

**Justin:**

That's all it is.

**Sydnee:**

I did, I didn't know it was that easy to kick the habit.

**Justin:**

*Emily Owens MD*, was one we watched. Now, that last show, *Off the Map*, included a doctor played by, uh... Miss, uh, Mamie Gummer, who, uh... is the daughter of Meryl Streep, which I think is pretty obvious, when you see her and see her perform. She was actually on another medical show after *Off the Map* went off the TV schedule, called *Emily Owens MD*. Which is about a, uh, medical student who joins, uh, a residency and she, she graduates from medical school and she feels like she's finally a grownup, and finds out she still has a little growin' up to do. At the Denver Memorial Hospital, uh... and her med school crush, Will Collins is also there.

**Sydnee:**

I actually kinda like that show.

**Justin:**

It was a pretty good show.

**Sydnee:**

It kinda, it was kinda neat. It was kinda, and I'm not, I dunno... it wasn't too far off.

**Justin:**

It was a little...

**Sydnee:**

Again, some of the medical stuff, but that's true for all these shows.

**Justin:**

Yeah. Um, *Mindy Project*, uh... is a uh, is a, is a show that is based, is a show by Mindy Kaling. Uh, who you know... from *The Office*. Uh, she created the show called *The Mindy Project*, um. The character, um... is an OBGYN, now I did not know this, but apparently it was inspired by her own mom, who was a, herself, an OBGYN. I thought that was interesting, I didn't know that.

**Sydnee:**

I didn't know that either. I wondered why she chose that.

**Justin:**

Yeah. That was, it was inspired by her mom. Okay... here's the, here's the next one... This is fantastic, *the Mob Doctor*. Now I know you've watched this [inaudible 00:31:39], I know you watched *the Mob Doctor*.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah. So, we watched one episode of *the Mob Doctor*, and we tweeted about it as we watched it, cause it was so terrible.

**Justin:**

It's about an actual doctor, who's brother is in debt to the mob, um... and she is working off her brothers debt by helping mob people, with like, bullet injuries.

**Sydnee:**

What injuries they get in the mob. And like also, by the way, going and giving insulin injections to the mob boss.



**Justin:**

To the mob boss. Yeah. It was...

**Sydnee:**

Because no one in his family could handle it?

**Justin:**

Yeah. It's just an insulin injection, I mean, just put it in.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah, like, I don't... Doctors don't, doctors don't typically go to people's houses to do that. Like, people do that, it's okay.

**Justin:**

On *Do No Harm*... now, *Do No Harm* only ran for, uh, uh... a season. Um, it was about a doctor, played by Steven Pasquale, who, uh... it was sort of a modern take on Jekyll and Hyde. Um, and every night, for 12 hours, he switched into an alternate evil personality, uh, that was named Ian Price. And, uh... uh, uh... apparently he used to keep it under wraps with some sort of pharmaceutical concoction, but, um... but, but... when he develops an immunity, his, his uh... his alternate ego comes out and starts trying to destroy his life. It is notable, perhaps for no other reason, than it, uh... co-starred, our friend, Lin Manuel Miranda, as Doctor Ruben Mercado, a clinical pharmacologist at, uh... and Doctor Cole's friend.

**Sydnee:**

I hear that's reason enough to watch it.

**Justin:**

That's reason enough to, uh... I mean, you, you, you could probably find the whole thing on, on DVD, I would imagine it's available there. Uh, uh... and you could go see Lin's show *Hamilton*, it's, it's open... it'll, it'll open next month, I think. We'll go see it. Um, uh... it's open to rave reviews and everybody loves it.

**Sydnee:**

It's a Broadway show.

**Justin:**

It's a Broadway show. It's great. Okay, um... okay. Sydnee, this next premise seems insane to me. It's called *Black Box*. It, again, ran for one season. Lot of not great luck for, uh... some of these shows. Uh, uh... but

you know, that's television, you know? Y-, y-, y- you try somethin', it works or it doesn't, with the audiences. Who can tell? We're not soothsayers here in the television industry. Um, not that I'm a part of it, but okay... Uh, okay, So, *Black Box* was about a famous neurologist who secretly had bipolar disorder and has been keeping that a secret from everybody, except her psychiatrist. Is that feasible in any way, shape or form, Sydnee?

**Sydnee:**

It depends on what you're say... I mean, like... if you're, if you're medicate... if you're taking medication and you know, you're managing your bipolar disorder, it's totally feasible that nobody knows about that. If you're not taking medication and you're in the midst of like a severe manic episode, it would be hard to hide that. Which was, um, really well portrayed on, um... you know...

**Justin:**

Yeah, for sure.

**Sydnee:**

You know...

**Justin:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

*My So Called Life.*

**Justin:**

Oh my god.

**Sydnee:**

Claire Danes.

**Justin:**

Okay.

**Sydnee:**

Thank you.

**Justin:**

Okay, all right. Uh...

**Sydnee:**

No, not on *My So Called Life*. By Clare Danes, on...

**Justin:**

On...

**Sydnee:**

On... the show. [crosstalk 00:34:41].

**Justin:**

*Border Town?*

**Sydnee:**

[laughs] The show that we watched! We really watched it!

**Justin:**

We watched this one, um... the quick, the... you know.

**Sydnee:**

Really well, really well portrayed bipolar disorder. Really, in a manic episode, you can't hide it. People will know.

**Justin:**

Okay. Uh, *The Night Shift*... The name of that show is gonna come to me as soon as I stop recording. Uh, *The Night Shift* is one that we, uh, that we also uh... indulged in for a little bit. It's about, um, an overnight shift, so thank you. Finally realized that's where the heat is. Uh, it at the San Antonio Medical Center, when there's, uh... several doctors there who have like, ex-military training, or y- relations to the military. And it starred uh, the, the lead is Doctor TC Callaghan. Uh...

**Sydnee:**

Okay, Justin I'm gonna need to talk about this show and you're gonna need to hold Charlie so I can say it.

**Justin:**

Okay.

**Sydnee:**

Okay, handoff complete. This is the thing about *The Night Shift*. Being a doctor is fun, sometimes, and there are things we could do that... there are

things that we do that sometimes look and sound kind of cool, so like, I get that. But, here's the thing... we're not really that cool. You should never like, have a TV show about medicine, where the main character is sitting astride a motorcycle, among his colleagues, because we're just not that cool.

**Justin:**

Like, looking like a deleted scene from *Grease 2*.

**Sydnee:**

[laughs] That's not who we are.

**Justin:**

The refrain of *Cool Rider* begins.

**Sydnee:**

And if you work at a hospital, where everybody, after their shift is over, goes to the roof and drinks beer together... in the middle of the day or in the morning. Like it's a big party, like there's a cookout and you're drinking at work, um... that's a problem. There's a problem there. People are...

**Justin:**

You're physicians.

**Sydnee:**

Yes! Someone there has a problem and they need help.

**Justin:**

What if you got to the hospital-

**Sydnee:**

This is not what it's like to be a doctor.

**Justin:**

What if you got to the hospital at 8 am and as you're going in, you look up on the roof and see a bunch of doctors drinking beer. Is that, is this normal? "Oh yeah, every day they're out there. Every morning."

**Sydnee:**

No. I'm sorry. And it also makes it sound like what we do... I mean, it's, it's still... we're not... we're just people doin' a job. Just doin' our best.

**Justin:**

You put your ill fitting scrubs on, one leg at a time.

**Sydnee:**

That's all we are.

**Justin:**

Yup.

**Sydnee:**

There's nothing, the... we're not that cool. I wish we were.

**Justin:**

Want to end on a high note, Sydnee. *The Knick*. Tell me about *The Knick*. Cause I didn't watch it, it was too much for me.

**Sydnee:**

*The Knick* is a great show. Um, so... I've been watching it. It's set back in like the early 1900's, and it's at the Knickerbocker, which, that's the Knick. It's a hospital in New York. And um, it's really interesting.

It's about a lot of different things. Obviously the medical things of the time, it's a lot of the heroic era of medicine. So, when people were doing, kind of, crazy stuff, because they didn't understand things very well. Um, so you see a lot of crazy medicine, a lot of old stuff. A lot of stuff we talk about on the show. Like the story of Typhoid Mary, is on there. And then you also, uh, see a lot of interesting things about the time. Like, women's position, that time in history, and uh, race relations. And... it's a really cool show, and the first season just ended, so I would highly recommend watching it all, and then starting when the next one's out.

**Justin:**

Uh, so that's gonna do it for us for this [inaudible 00:37:47] history of TV medicine, that's gotten us, uh... to the, to the modern era. I want to thank the MaximumFun.org Network, for having us on, uh... they've got a ton of great shows, like *Wham Bam Pow*, uh... *Rendered*, uh... *Stop Podcasting Yourself*, *Jordan*, *Jesse*, *Go*, *Judge John Hodgeman*, um, uh... No matter what you're into, you're gonna find somethin that you like on, um, Maximum Fun. You can find those all at MaximimFun.org. And uh, that is gonna do it for us. Thanks to the Taxpayers, I should say. Thank you the Taxpayers for letting us use their song. *Medicines* as our intro and outro and that is gonna do it for us, folks. Until the next time that we have a medical issue to talk to you about. I'm Justin McElroy.

**Sydnee:**

I'm Sydnee McElroy.

**Justin:**

And as always, don't drill a hole in your head.

[theme music plays out]

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