

## Shmanners 374: Pool Parties

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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? [laughs] Well, you're listening to Shmanners.

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

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

**Teresa:** Hello, dear.

**Travis:** Occasionally what? What do I do?

**Teresa:** Occasionally you try and mix things up and it throws me off.

**Travis:** Maybe I've just been doing it wrong the whole time, and I'm trying to find the right way to do it. You ever think about that?

**Teresa:** No.

**Travis:** No.

**Teresa:** I saw a TikTok where...

**Travis:** A Tikkety Tok?

**Teresa:** [laughs] Where Dan Levy was like, "Catherine O'Hara would do it differently every take. Every single take would be different and amazing."

**Travis:** "David."

**Teresa:** And I'm, like—I don't have that kind of creative, uh, brain inside my body right now. I can't imagine it.

**Travis:** Well, I'll tell you. This was, um—that, I think, is the true skill—

**Teresa:** Relating to you, of course, doing things differently every time.

**Travis:** Well, when we did the My Brother, My Brother, and Me show, which is... maybe the entire breadth of my television experience—we'd do, you know, a five minute opening or whatever, scene. And then JD would be like, "Okay, do it again."

And Justin and Griffin and I were like, "What?" [laughs] 'Cause, like, we were making it up as we went. "What do you mean, do it again? What? What are you ta—" we simply could not do it.

But I've heard a similar thing for Matt Perry on What We Do in the Shadows, that a lot of the Lazslo Cravensworth stuff is he says, like, because it's shot in such a documentary style, he's like, "If I feel like they're not paying enough attention to me, if I feel like either the actor or the camerapeople aren't looking at me, I'll just say a word in a weird way."

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** That's a very Travis McElroy thing to do.

**Teresa:** I don't think that's what I heard about doing things when I was, like, learning to act for film and television, where they said "Do it the same." But then all of these great actors, you hear that they do weird stuff.

**Travis:** Well, I—

**Teresa:** I guess you have to be a great actor first and then people put up with that. Right?

**Travis:** I don't know. Or you, like, create a brand for yourself, like Matthew Perry and Catherine O'Hara have, where it's just like, when we hire them it's

because we want them to do that thing. You know what I mean? Anyways, none of that...

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** ... is what this episode is about.

**Teresa:** Yeah, you're right. That was a very MBMBaM open, wasn't it?

**Travis:** No, that was too coherent for My Brother, My Brother, My—

**Teresa:** [simultaneously] Too—oh, okay.

**Travis:** —My Brother, My Brother, and Me, for the layman.

**Teresa:** But not yet shmannerly.

**Travis:** Not—yes. Not a My Brother, My Brother, and Me. Not yet a woman. Is that it?

**Teresa:** [laughs] Something like that.

**Travis:** Okay, well, we're talking about pools.

**Teresa:** We are, because here in the states, Labor Day weekend marks the end of most pools. Now, some home pools... listen, you can keep your own pool open as long as you want, but—

**Travis:** I bet there are people in, like, Florida and Texas keep it open all year round. I say that, but here it is, like, September 6th, and it's, like, 90... 8000 degrees outside.

**Teresa:** [laughs] Close to that, close to that number.

**Travis:** Might as well be walking on the sun, one might say.

**Teresa:** So, uh, I think a lot of municipal pools are probably closed, but certain—I guess if you have community pools and you can keep 'em staffed, why not keep it open?

**Travis:** Or like a swimming hole?

**Teresa:** When it's hot. Yes.

**Travis:** The old swimming hole, for swimming. Fishing. Learning about love.

**Teresa:** We are going to cover specifically pool parties, because we've already pools and beaches here on Shmanners, way, way—

**Travis:** And swimming holes.

**Teresa:** And swimming holes. But pools and beaches specifically, way back, June 23rd, 2016.

**Travis:** We were so young then!

**Teresa:** We were.

**Travis:** We hadn't even had our first child yet!

**Teresa:** Oh, you're right, yeah.

**Travis:** We were still full of dreams and hopes and... we slept good.

**Teresa:** Um, but it's been a long time, and we haven't been sleeping well... for six years. So—

**Travis:** At least! Yeah.

**Teresa:** [laughs] So we're gonna go back. We're gonna do a little bit, just kind of rehash it a bit.

**Travis:** Now, you grew up, uh, quite the swimmer.

**Teresa:** Yes.

**Travis:** Did swim team, started, like, lifeguarding and swim coaching when you were, uh, a teenager.

**Teresa:** Indeed.

**Travis:** So have you been—is pool parties a part of that? Like, were you going to pool parties often?

**Teresa:** Constantly, yes. Constantly. Um, a swim team, every party is a pool party, because you do it at the pool.

**Travis:** Ah.

**Teresa:** Um, and—

**Travis:** I thought that was more like "We take the pool wherever we—in our hearts... "

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** "It's always a pool wherever we are."

**Teresa:** No. And then when you work at a pool... I suppose there definitely are times where I'm like, "Ugh, I don't wanna be here anymore ever."

But, you know, you—on your day off, you, if you are the boss, you get to bring all your friends in and have a party. [laughs]

**Travis:** Now, I also know—I also know that at least at one of the places you worked there was, like, a birthday room.

**Teresa:** Yes, mm-hmm.

**Travis:** Right? So you must've had to lifeguard quite a few pool parties as well.

**Teresa:** Yep. That was for younger children. Um, and—

**Travis:** Gross.

**Teresa:** And, uh, lifeguarding a pool party is interesting, because, um... there should be more adults in the water.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** Is what I'm gonna say.

**Travis:** That's a thing in general, right? Where, like, "Ugh, there's an adult being—" even if it's just, like, an older child being paid to be here. "I'm out!" [laughs] Okay, so let's talk about pools. Pools were invented...

**Teresa:** Okay—

**Travis:** ... in 500 BCE.

**Teresa:** No?

**Travis:** Yeah, you don't know.

**Teresa:** No, further b—

**Travis:** Oh.

**Teresa:** Further. Further, way back.

**Travis:** 2500 BCE.

**Teresa:** So very close. 2600 BCE...

**Travis:** Oh, you know what? We're gonna count it.

**Teresa:** ... is when the first known swimming pool, known as the Great Baths of Mohenjo Daro, or simply the Great Bath.

**Travis:** Okay, yeah. 'Cause they would bathe. They'd take the waters and bathe and stuff, right?

**Teresa:** Yeah, it's in Pakistan, and it's an archaeological site. It was made out of brick and gypsum, and it was constructed within the Indus civilization there, in what is now southern Pakistan.

**Travis:** Have you—I know you've seen the videos where it's like, "These two guys dug out a pool—"

**Teresa:** Oh yeah.

**Travis:** "—in the jungle [unintelligible]."

**Teresa:** No they didn't. [wheezes]

**Travis:** I can't—I can't dissuade Bebe from the idea that it's all real.

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** I'm like, "Bud, that's not how that works. They just—they took water and dirt and mixed it together, and rubbed it on the walls, and you think that that's waterproof? That's not how that works, buddy! That's just mud!"

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Mud washes awa—I don't know how to tell you this.

**Teresa:** Yeah. Oh, babes. Um, so the pool itself has stairs and benches and a deck and, like—

**Travis:** Pretty nice.

**Teresa:** It looks party ready. Well, not now. But it—

**Travis:** [simultaneously] Not anymore, yeah.

**Teresa:** It would have been party ready. [laughs quietly] But it was also probably more likely used for religious ceremonies. But who knows? Maybe they did have parties.

**Travis:** Yeah, it could be both. There's some fun religious ceremonies.

**Teresa:** Yep, definitely. Um—

**Travis:** I can't think of any off the top of my head but I bet they exist.

**Teresa:** I mean, fun for whom?

**Travis:** That's a good question.

**Teresa:** Uh, the ancient Greeks and Romans as we know also loved—

**Travis:** They loved baths!

**Teresa:** They loved their pools.

**Travis:** They loved to bathe.

**Teresa:** Um, in the 6th century BCE, both societies had palaestrae, which were large, open court spaces with, you know, areas for wrestling and various other sports, among which were pools and swimming.

Um, they were available for exercise, but also social gathering places for ancient peoples to enjoy.

**Travis:** AKA party. Now, they weren't ancient at the time, right?

**Teresa:** No.

**Travis:** Or are you saying old people?

**Teresa:** Some of 'em were. But all—all of the people then—

**Travis:** But it wasn't like this pool—only if you're ancient.



**Teresa:** I'm putting on the ancient label to them.

**Travis:** 'Cause they probably didn't call themselves ancient people at the time.

**Teresa:** Probably not.

**Travis:** They weren't like, "Hey, you know what? There'll probably be a people a long time after us. We should start referring to ourselves as, like, ancient Greece, ancient Rome, right?"

**Teresa:** The OGs?

**Travis:** Yeah. Do you think that ancient Greece was like, "We're ancient Greece."

And Rome was like, "Aww, man! We were gonna—ugh."

**Teresa:** No, I don't. Um, these gathering places, extremely, extremely popular. Can you imagine? And around 600 BCE, even more public baths started popping up, and this is when Plato, the philosopher, uh—

**Travis:** And the modeling clay.

**Teresa:** Mmm... starts talking—a mo—what?

**Travis:** Play-Doh.

**Teresa:** Yeah... that's a weak joke. Really weak.

**Travis:** Listen, I—I—I've never claimed otherwise!

**Teresa:** Started teaching the importance of teaching children to swim. Um, and so then Grecian society continued to develop, and more and more pools began popping up. And the idea of the private pool became a status symbol.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** Ancient Romans in particular loved to construct big, elaborate pools to showcase wealth and status. Around the first century BCE, there was this dude, Gaius Maecenas, perhaps? Who built a pool so extravagant it went down in history.

**Travis:** Oh, what?

**Teresa:** He brought in, um, a very well-known architect. Um, and he paid him handsomely. Being one of Augustus Caesar's, like, main dudes, he had a lot of money to throw at this pool. And so he ordered it to have waterfalls, and gardens, and terraces, and villas.

**Travis:** Wait, a—a villa at the pool?

**Teresa:** Yep, mm-hmm. The pool has its own villa. The pool house, as you might say.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** Several of those. And the most impressive part was that this pool was heated.

**Travis:** Ooh la la.

**Teresa:** Yeah! Not the same way that we would heat things today, but if you've ever watched one of those dating shows where they have the hot tub out in the woods, where it's like the fire underneath, they just basically boil themselves, that's the way that they did it. They built a fire underneath the bottom of the pool

**Travis:** Okay. I don't like that. That does feel too close to like, "I'm making Travis stew!"

**Teresa:** That's what I think every time I see those dating shows where they have the hot tub in the woods.

**Travis:** Yeah. There's gotta be some kind of... 'cause, like, don't just touch the bottom, I guess! [crosstalk] hot.

**Teresa:** I guess.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** I don't know. I don't know. But this was thousands of years before electricity, right?

**Travis:** Sure.

**Teresa:** Um, and so that was the only way that they could do it.

**Travis:** Hmm.

**Teresa:** To make it heated.

**Travis:** To boil themselves.

**Teresa:** To boil themselves. Um, so then, let's jump forward, okay? Because pools didn't really change much until about the 1800s, when they moved indoors.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** So the pool used to have a villa. Now the villa has a pool inside.

**Travis:** Ugh. Good job. Great job.

**Teresa:** In London, these were called—

**Travis:** [bad British accent?] London!

**Teresa:** Yeah, "[bad British accent?] London," they were called swimming clubs. And they were popular community spaces, as were the baths, right? We've talked about going to cleanse yourself in the waters, maybe going to Bath to... take the baths.

**Travis:** You mean to the place, Bath.

**Teresa:** Yes.

**Travis:** Okay, you didn't hit it with a big enough capital letter—

**Teresa:** [simultaneously] Sorry.

**Travis:** —when you said it, so it more of just like—it sounded like instead of saying, like, "I'm gonna take a shower," "I'm gonna take a bath," like, "I'm going to bath."

**Teresa:** [laughs] Sorry, no. Bath. Where there's—

**Travis:** I'm going to Bath.

**Teresa:** —ancient—

**Travis:** Bath.

**Teresa:** —ancient—ancient springs. And then they put the pool around it. They built the pool there so you could go in it.

**Travis:** It is way easier to build a pool where water already is.

**Teresa:** Yes.

**Travis:** Just a... little pro tip from me to you. Like, building a pool in the ocean? Easy. You just gotta put a ring of stuff around it, and boom.

**Teresa:** Totally.

**Travis:** Pool.

**Teresa:** And there are pools in Australia that do that.

**Travis:** I knew it.

**Teresa:** Did that.

**Teresa:** Um, I don't know particularly if they still do, but around this time, uh, the late 1800s, when the Olympic games were renewed, people started getting an interest in actual, like, swimming again, instead of just, like, sitting in...

**Travis:** Soaking.

**Teresa:** ... in the waters. Right?

**Travis:** That's what I prefer to do. I miss that. We need more seats in pools. I sit down in a pool, "Oh, this is comfortable." Then I see somebody doing, like, you know, they're doing laps or whatever and making me feel bad. Ugh.

**Teresa:** Um, like I said, outdoor pools in places like Australia, they were filled with seawater, so people could enjoy the ocean during times when it might've been too dangerous to swim in the actual ocean.

**Travis:** Hmm, yeah. When Poseidon was angry.

**Teresa:** Around this same time—Poseidon?

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** Oh, yeah, sorry. [laughs quietly]

**Travis:** It's okay, babe. Uh, apparently I'm just about two minutes ahead of you. It's weird to have a lag when we're sitting in the same room.

**Teresa:** [laughs] It's just that in order to get through a lot of these shows, I have to pick and choose when I'm actually listening to you.

**Travis:** I, I get it. I have to pick and choose when I'm actually listening to you.

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Most of the time I am, though, because I respect you.

**Teresa:** But you really got me with Poseidon.

**Travis:** Yeah, I got you good.

**Teresa:** Yeah, it got me.

**Travis:** Do you need a minute? Let's take a minute... and hear a word from another Max Fun show.

[theme music plays]

[music plays]

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[music and ad end]

**Travis:** Okay. So the year... I don't remember where we were. But it was something like late 1800s, pools moved indoors, everybody's sitting in pools, back to swimming. And then...

**Teresa:** Well, I've told you about some pools around the world, but I need to highlight one here in the states.

**Travis:** Here in the states?

**Teresa:** It is touted as the most luxurious stateside pool...

**Travis:** [gasps]

**Teresa:** At the Biltmore in Asheville, North Caroline. The Biltmore is a massive estate belonging to—

**Travis:** [simultaneously] Yeah, I was gonna say, I think I've seen this.

**Teresa:** —George Vanderbilt II, grandson of notorious railroad tycoon, Cornelius Vanderbilt.

**Travis:** And it's not Biltmore?

**Teresa:** That's what it's called. It's called Biltmore.

**Travis:** Biltmore, okay. Got it.

**Teresa:** Like Vanderbilt. Biltmore.

**Travis:** And he built more.

**Teresa:** He built more. He really—he really did. Uh, the square footage of this estate is... 178,926 square feet.

**Travis:** That seems like a lot.

**Teresa:** It is a lot. The indoor swimming pool holds 70,000 gallons.

**Travis:** Now, my aquarium holds 60,000 gall—

**Teresa:** Nope.

**Travis:** —no, 60 gallons.

**Teresa:** Yep.

**Travis:** Okay. That's pretty big.

**Teresa:** It is... it is an extra-large, probably Olympic size swimming pool. Amazing. Um, inside. And so at a time, this was 1895, when most homes didn't have indoor plumbing or electricity, the Biltmore had both.

**Travis:** They had an electrified pool.

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Watch out!

**Teresa:** I mean, they did have—



**Travis:** Fulla eels!

**Teresa:** Uh—eels?

**Travis:** Like electric eels.

**Teresa:** Ohhh.

**Travis:** That's how they got the power.

**Teresa:** No. Not... close.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** No, not close at all. [laughs]

**Travis:** They had a bunch of servants running on treadmills.

**Teresa:** Uh, it had—the pool had a dome ceiling, it had archways, and it had underwater lights.

**Travis:** Ooh.

**Teresa:** Hmm, ooh la la. Um, and so of course—

**Travis:** But it was indoors!

**Teresa:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Why would you need—just turn on over water lights.

**Teresa:** I don't know.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** Because opulence, that's why.

**Travis:** I guess, yeah.

**Teresa:** If you can built it, you can have it.

**Travis:** I love the idea that, like, the Vanderbilts were worried, like, "People are gonna come see our 70,000, you know, gallon pool and be like, 'Yeah, but where are the lights?'"

**Teresa:** The one thing that really hadn't caught up to this innovation...

**Travis:** Chlorine?

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

**Travis:** Yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah, why. We kind of—I was gonna mention it a couple times now.

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Because, like, when we're talking about people going and taking a bath in, like, ancient Rome and stuff... I bet that water—I bet they used a lot of perfumes and oils and stuff on it, so I bet it had a weird, like, film on top.

**Teresa:** Well, if you have a natural spring source, right? You can kind of just let more water in and kind of pull more water out, right? Continual kind of refilling of the water.

**Travis:** I mean, I guess, unless you drain it completely and then refill it though, like, your bacteria and stuff multiplies.

**Teresa:** And that's what you have—basically they had to do.

**Travis:** Ugh.

**Teresa:** Um, and so since then, obvs, it's been drained and properly sanitized. So if you want to tour the estate, you won't be trapped in a room with stagnant water. But, you know... nowadays we can build it with pumps.

**Travis:** Do you ever watch the, like, "This pool has sat here for, like, you know, three years and it's gross and we're gonna clean it" videos?

**Teresa:** Oh yeah. Yeah, I've seen those.

**Travis:** I love those.

**Teresa:** I love that. I love the part when they throw the chlorine tablets in there, and then they cut, and then the next day it's—you can see the bottom.

**Travis:** Yeah. You've done that a lot too, with chlorine and stuff, 'cause you worked at the pool and stuff.

**Teresa:** Oh yeah. Yeah.

**Travis:** It seems like magic to me.

**Teresa:** It... isn't. It's—it's chemistry.

**Travis:** I know. I—listen. I said "seems like."

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** I know it's not ma—hey, listen. I know I can be pretty goofy sometimes. I know chlorine isn't magical. I said it seems like magic to me.

**Teresa:** Okay, you're right. You did say that. Um, okay. So... uh, lucky for other people, though, you didn't have to go to the Biltmore estate to swim. In the 1800s, they started building, like, community pools. Right? 1868 the Cabot Street Bath in Boston was opened. Um, and again, not really for, like, swimming as in racing or exercising, but bathing, strolling, sitting. You know, all the kind of stuff you love to do in a pool.

**Travis:** Soaking.

**Teresa:** Um, but it was—

**Travis:** Just being there.

**Teresa:** But it was built to serve a neighborhood where most people could not afford to have a bath in their home, right? 1907, the Racquet Club of Philadelphia built the US's first above ground swimming pool, designed specifically for leisure.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** And before 1910, the only way to clean the water, like we said, was to completely drain it, but this also was when—the pool is above the ground, you can a lot easier cycle the water through. You can attach a pump. You can do all kinds of things, 'cause you don't have to dig. Right?

**Travis:** Yeah. I can't—I am just surprised it took 'em that long.

**Teresa:** I know.

**Travis:** It kind of feels like the other way would go fir—where they were like, "We'll just put a big tub up here." And then later somebody was like, "What if we buried it? Then we wouldn't have to build a deck around it."

"Hmm, interesting!"

**Teresa:** I guess it's—you're kind of limited by materials, right? I guess you could built a cement pool.

**Travis:** Yeah, but by this point they had water tower things that would, like, hold water. They could've figured it out.

**Teresa:** Okay. Well—

**Travis:** Barrels hold water! They—you could've made a—a pool the same way you make a barrel! It wouldn't have been good.

**Teresa:** Okay.

**Travis:** I'm mad at you now.

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** We're having a fi—this is a fight now. Why didn't you make above ground pools sooner, Teresa?

**Teresa:** They past people did it, not me.

**Travis:** Well, it sounds like you're a big fan of their work! Sitting here talking about 'em.

**Teresa:** Now... sales of above ground pools skyrocketed after what major world event?

**Travis:** World War I?

**Teresa:** II.

**Travis:** II.

**Teresa:** World War II. [laughs]

**Travis:** I figured it was one of 'em.

**Teresa:** With the move out to the suburbs, right? Everybody had a yard. Anybody who could buy one could have an above ground pool.

**Travis:** And they didn't have to dig.

**Teresa:** And they didn't have to dig, yeah.

**Travis:** But that said, man, I've seen—I know we just keep referencing, like, TikToks and videos we watch, trying to seem hip. But I've seen ones of just, like, above ground pools basically just ripping up, like leaning on it the wrong way or whatever, a dog jumps in, and it's just like, fwoosh, all over the yard.

**Teresa:** This is the hazard, indeed. And so, pools became a symbol of status again in the US. So, like, Hollywood stars would host lavish gatherings around their pools, and socialites were photographed in magazines and—

**Travis:** This was a tanning... is cool era. Right?

**Teresa:** Yes, this is a tanning is cool era. But, like, more parties and pool parties specifically are cool.

**Travis:** Yeah. That makes sense coming out of, like, the 1920s, where I bet it was, like... uh, you know, "Look how pale I am. I have never had to work a day in my life" was very trendy. And then you move out to the suburbs and everybody has leisure time to, like, grill and, you know, sit by the pool or whatever, and now it's like, "Yeah. I have leisure time. Look how tan I am."

**Teresa:** I believe we have discussed this before.

**Travis:** Yeah. Tanning isn't cool. [laughs]

**Teresa:** Okay, so here are some things that you should keep in mind at your next pool party.

**Travis:** Don't run.

**Teresa:** O—yes. You are correct, sir. Don't run, 'cause you'll fall, and that concrete, it hurts.

**Travis:** And you can eat and get right in the pool. Don't eat in the pool, 'cause that's gross.

**Teresa:** Yeah. Probably not.

**Travis:** But you're not gonna get cramps. That's not real. [pause] Right?

**Teresa:** I mean, unless you're, like, an Olympic swimmer, probably not real.

**Travis:** Wait, if you're an Olympic swimmer you're gonna get cramps if you eat before you get in the pool?

**Teresa:** I have heard that it can upset your tummy, if you have eaten too much.

**Travis:** Oh, you mean 'cause you're swimming so hard. Like, you're doing Olympic swimming.

**Teresa:** [simultaneously] Yeah, stomach—stomach cramps.

**Travis:** Not like, there's something about Olympic swimmers that if they eat a hot dog and then they touch water, cramp right up.

**Teresa:** [laughs] No! No, if you're gonna swim a long time, like if you're swimming to race.

**Travis:** If I was gonna swim for a long time, it would hurt my tummy no matter what I've done. It would hurt my whole body.

**Teresa:** [simultaneously] Probably right, probably right.

**Travis:** Because I'd sink to the bottom. [wheezes]

**Teresa:** Um, but if you're gonna go to one, and hopefully this weekend you get out there because it is hot, hot, hot around here, you—it's probably more of a chill vibe, right? Um, so don't worry about, like, being fancy. Uh, do bring a swimsuit, and probably a cover-up.

**Travis:** If you want, yeah.

**Teresa:** If you want, or a t-shirt or something, because odds are you will have to go inside to use the bathroom, right? Bring a towel and sunscreen and, you know, talk to your host and figure out if you can bring, like, I don't know, punch or something.

Um, like you said, follow basic pool safety. That's no pushing or roughhousing. Don't run, don't dive in the shallow end, don't eat in the pool. Uh, basically if you've heard it in movies and TV where the lifeguard yells at you for something, just don't do that.

**Travis:** Sure.

**Teresa:** Don't—don't do that part.

**Travis:** How do we feel about splashing?

**Teresa:** Um... as long as everybody's into it.

**Travis:** Consensual splashing.

**Teresa:** Consensual splashing, yes. I think that would be fine.

**Travis:** Don't get super drunk and swim. That doesn't seem safe.

**Teresa:** You are correct, sir. Because being out in the pool you would think was hydrating. It's not.

**Travis:** Chemicals in there!

**Teresa:** It's dehydrating. So you feel intoxication faster. Um, and therefore you're not—you don't have the same kind of, like, wits and tolerance that you would have outside of the water.

**Travis:** That's how you end up seeing, like, dumb-os jumping off of, like, roof—like, you know, the garage into the pool at parties. Don't do that.

**Teresa:** Yeah, don't.

**Travis:** Don't do that. You know what ruins a party? ER a visits. An EMT having to come. Not fun!

**Teresa:** Indeed.

**Travis:** I'm a dad now! [laughs] Make safe choices.



**Teresa:** [laughs] At your pool parties, do be considerate. Um, you know, don't drip all over somebody's house. Lay your towel out to dry, don't, like, just leave it in a crumple, especially if it's not your towel.

Remember to drink plenty of water.

**Travis:** Not pool water.

**Teresa:** Not pool water. Don't drink the pool water. Your butt's been in there. And also chemicals. Don't drink that.

**Travis:** Yeah. And chemical butts.

**Teresa:** [laughs] But you can actually have a lot of fun at a pool party, even if you don't want to swim. I know that you oftentimes will dip in to cool off, and then you're done, right?

**Travis:** It's not my thing, yeah.

**Teresa:** Um, but lots of fun can be had at a pool party, even if you are not going to swim. You know, you can just...

**Travis:** Vibe.

**Teresa:** Vibe.

**Travis:** Just vibe and chill.

**Teresa:** What is it that you guys have? Surf the vibe? Is that this year?

**Travis:** Yeah. Yeah, it is.

**Teresa:** Yeah.

**Travis:** 20 Sun and Sea, Surf the Vibe. Yeah. Yeah, babe. That's... the year. Here it is, September, and you're—[sighs] [mumbling] It's 20 Sun and Sea, Surf the Vibe.

**Teresa:** If you want to host a pool party, you don't necessarily have to have your own pool, but you do need to have access to a pool, right? Like your community pool or something like that, right? Um, I would suggest having an extra stash of towels and sunscreen and bottled water. That's always appreciated by guests. And give everyone a tour when they arrive, even if it's not your pool. Make sure everyone knows where the locker rooms are, where the—maybe there's a concession stand. Let them know if there's, I don't know, an adult swim, if they have kids or whatever.

Um, and if it is your pool, uh, outline restroom, like, rules, right? Do you want people to put on shoes to come into the house? Do you want people to wear their towels in the house, cover-ups in the house? Whatever it is, right?

Make sure that your guests know what's expected of them, and then everyone will have a better time.

**Travis:** Um, if you are... whether you're throwing the party or you're attending the party, no glass containers!

**Teresa:** Indeed.

**Travis:** That can really ruin a pool. Uh, and hurt somebody, and all that stuff. So go with, like, cans, or plastic. Uh, same with, like, if you're using cups, you know. You want to use plastic cups, or aluminum cups, if you so desire. But yeah, avoid glass bottles, avoid glass glasses, stuff like that.

**Teresa:** Even ceramic and stuff. I had one time some—a lovely lifeguard friend of mine brought her coffee cup out onto the pool deck, and it did not fare well. Um, so yeah, don't do that either.

Um... as we said earlier, do make sure that people are appropriately supervised. Now, most adults can usually take care of themselves, especially in the shallow end. But if there are children around, please make sure that you have a designated adult watching the children, right? Because something can happen in the blink of an eye, and you want to make sure that, um, you know, a fun party is, like you said earlier, one that does not end up at the ER.

**Travis:** Yeah. You know what's fun? Following rules.

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Being safe.

**Teresa:** Being safe. Have some shade. Don't get sunburn.

**Travis:** Come on.

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Take care of yourself. You have work tomorrow. Come on. Make good choices. Drink lots of water! It's okay to drink. Don't drink and drive. That's good party etiquette no matter what. Um, make sure to drink some water. Don't drink on an empty stomach. Come on! Come on, be safe, have fun. It's me, the cool dad.

**Teresa:** [laughs] The cool dad. Does the—what does the cool dad think about peeing in the pool?

**Travis:** Cool dad? Hmm...

**Teresa:** Hmm?

**Travis:** Cool dad says peeing in the ocean is fine. Don't pee in the pool.

**Teresa:** Yes, agreed. Peeing in the ocean's okay because that's where the fish pee. But in the pool, it's, uh—it's a parts per million game. I understand that. Listen, between you and me, I know. But if everybody thinks it's okay to pee in the pool, that skyrockets real fast. [laughs]

**Travis:** Have you ever seen—once again, we're gonna reference another video—but the video of the guy, I think it's a comic, talking about, like, why—like, a guy, you know, hanging out with your friends in the pool, and the water gets warm near you and you realize your friend pees, and everybody's like, "Aww, man! Not cool. Come on, bud."

And then it moves on. But now imagine he got up out of the pool, stood on the side of the pool, and then peed into the pool. You'd never talk to that guy again.

**Teresa:** [laughs] You never would.

**Travis:** Same action. Different results.

**Teresa:** Oh boy. I have one final thing I want to talk about. Now, when people talk about swimming, they often talk about swimming attire. And we've talked about historical swimming attire, but I would like to just reiterate that you don't... ever have to tell everyone to dress differently than the way that they're dressed.

**Travis:** Yes, correct.

**Teresa:** Everyone has their own idea of what they want to put on their body, and we don't comment on it, and we can do what we want, right?

**Travis:** Yes.

**Teresa:** Listeners. So, um, we don't police swimwear. It can be a very deep and emotional thing for some people, and you never know what kind of battles somebody has fought. Um, maybe the person in the skimpy bikini had some sort of body before, and never felt like they could wear that, and now they feel healed and they want to wear the skimpy bikini. You should let them do that.

Same thing with the person who maybe wants to swim in their t-shirt, or be even more covered up, in a—what do they call it? A burkini?

**Travis:** I mean, at this point, I almost always, at the beach or the pool or whatever, I have, like, a rash guard shirt kind of thing. Uh, because I take, like, skin cancer and stuff very seriously. My mom passed away from melanoma, and so, like, sunscreen is, you know, isn't always good enough for me, and I prefer to have something that covers, like, my arms and my chest and my back and stuff.

**Teresa:** That's right, so everybody wears what they want to wear, and we don't tell them what to do.

**Travis:** And I wear slacks.

**Teresa:** It's not shmannerly.

**Travis:** And cowboy boots.

**Teresa:** What? No.

**Travis:** When I go swimming.

**Teresa:** I've never seen you wear cowboy boots to go swimming.

**Travis:** Well, I don't swim that often. Alright, everybody. Thank you so much. That's gonna do it for us. Make sure you go to [mcelroymerch.com](http://mcelroymerch.com). It is September. It's a new month, so we got a lot of new stuff there. You can also go to [mcelroy.family](http://mcelroy.family) to check out all of our upcoming appearances and all of the information there.

What else, Tere—oh! Thank you to our researcher, Alexx, without whom we would not be able to make this show. Thank you to our editor, Rachel, without whom we could not make this show. And thank you to you for listening. We could make this show without you, but why?

What else, Teresa?

**Teresa:** Thank you to Brent "brentalfloss" Black for writing our theme music, which is available as a ringtone where those are found. 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 and get excellent advice from other fans, go ahead and join that group today.

Also, please continue submitting your topic and suggestions and questions. We love them, and Alexx reads every single one. You can send those to [shmannerscast@gmail.com](mailto:shmannerscast@gmail.com).

**Travis:** And that's gonna do it for us, so join us again next week.

**Teresa:** No RSVP required!

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

**Teresa:** Manners, Shmanners. Get it?

[theme music plays]

[chord]

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