

Wonderful! 306: Helpful Jaws

Published December 20, 2023

[Listen here at themcelroy.family](https://themcelroy.family)

[theme music plays]

Rachel: Hi, this is Rachel McElroy.

Griffin: Hello, this is Griffin McElroy.

Rachel: And this is Wonderful!

Griffin: Time for a look back. We're always looking in front of us... for dangers. Always ready... to defend ourselves, and our home.

Rachel: And our troops.

Griffin: And our troops.

Rachel: How many people do you think just turned the podcast off because they realized it was a recap episode?

Griffin: No, people love this shit.

Rachel: Okay, good.

Griffin: 'Cause I don't know about you, I have forgotten most of the stuff we talked about this year until I went back through our list in order to highlight some of our favorite shit of 2023. And, um, man. It's— it's— what a wild year for a lot of different media categories, I would say.

Rachel: I wanted to ask, when you said "favorite... "

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: Do you mean, like, this was a favorite thing then and it's still a favorite thing now, or like this was the most fun to talk about?

Griffin: No, I— this— I mean, this is work. What we do here.

Rachel: [laughs] Uh-huh.

Griffin: I like doing the show with you a lot—

Rachel: Yeah. Oh, okay.

Griffin: 'Cause I get to, like, you know, shoot the shit with, like—

Rachel: I'm your work wife.

Griffin: You're my work wife, and I get to shoot the shit with, like, my best bud.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: But it is work, right? And so for me it's all about just, like, pure quality of the thing.

Rachel: Interesting. Mine are a lot, like, most fun to talk about.

Griffin: Interesting. Okay. It's good that we're sort of bringing different energies to this.

Rachel: Because for me it's like, I don't... and listeners probably have noticed this. I don't always bring a topic that is, like, my favorite thing, but it has a good story behind it that I really like.

Griffin: Okay, yes.

Rachel: So it becomes a favorite just by the kind of origin of it.

Griffin: I like that. Do you want to do a small wonder before we... get busy?

Rachel: Whoa, yeah! Yeah, we should.

Griffin: And then what would be wild is if we could incorporate that small wonder into the recap. Of just be like, "I really liked when we talked about... "

Rachel: Oh, did you include small wonders?

Griffin: Sometimes.

Rachel: Oh, see, I didn't.

Griffin: Oh, okay.

Rachel: Okay. We obviously didn't talk about this very much.

Griffin: That's fine!

Rachel: I think it's fine!

Griffin: That's fine!

Rachel: It's the spirit of the show!

Griffin: It's the spirit!

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I'm gonna say small wonder, uh... honestly, one of my top three Christmas movies now, uh, we watched yesterday, which was Spirited. Brand new, it just came out last year on the Apple TV platform. It's a movie musical featuring Will Ferrell, and Ryan Reynolds, and Octavia Spencer, and, uh, a bunch of incredible folks in that film. And it's just— it's fantastic.

Rachel: It really is. I feel like by being on the Apple TV platform there's probably a big chunk of people that haven't seen it.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: But it is... it is so funny, and the music is good, and the performances is great, and—

Griffin: The message of it is also good.

Rachel: It is, yeah!

Griffin: You think, like, there's not many more depths left to plumb in the, like, holiday movie, like, category. But I think that they do a very noble job of, uh,

talking about changing a person through the lens of A Christmas Carol. Just great. Just fantastic. Can't recommend it enough.

Rachel: Um, I am going to say for my small wonder, I'm going to say bath toys.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: Um, for whatever reason, small son has become more resistant to taking a bath, which I don't totally get, because it's not like we put him through some kind of rigorous cleansing process. But he, uh—it's been hard to get him in there, and so I went out and I got, like, a little bath toy that looks kind of like a water slide, and all of a sudden he's taken two baths in, like, four days, which is... [laughs]

Griffin: Pretty good, for us.

Rachel: Which is rare for him.

Griffin: He's... if you don't have kids, or even if you do and that sounds like not a lot of baths, kids don't make a lot of stink. They really don't.

Rachel: No, they don't, like— they don't sweat in a smelly way yet, you know?

Griffin: No. Not yet.

Rachel: Well, they do— I would say Henry does.

Griffin: Um... okay. I don't know why you have to put our son on blast like that.

Rachel: [laughs] Well, I'm just saying, like, Gus— it's rare that, like, he has a funk. But I feel like Henry has had a funk before.

Griffin: Once or twice, yes.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: But yes, I love playing with bath toys with Gus. It's very, very good. I don't know how he got so deep— he's really into water slides. Don't know why. He's not— I mean, I guess he likes slides a lot.

Rachel: That's the thing, right? I think one of those videos came up, and he's always been a big fan of slides, and then when you add the water element, the person goes very fast.

Griffin: So fast. Some of these— water slide technology has also come a long way.

Rachel: Yeah! The little platform drops out.

Griffin: The little platform drops out. That's fun. There's the— there's the, like, rings of light that you go through sometimes on some of these water slides that are, like, illuminated from within. That's cool shit, man.

Rachel: Can I ask you a question about water slides? [laughs]

Griffin: Uh-huh?

Rachel: Um, I do not have a lot of water slide experience, in that, um, I have ridden in tubes, but I've never, like, put my body flat on a water slide before. Doesn't a whole bunch of water get in your head? Like, ears, nose, mouth?

Griffin: Not especia— not a whole lot.

Rachel: It just seems like laying down in the water and then going very fast into more water would just send a bunch of... fluid into your orifices.

Griffin: So, what my issue is on a very fast water slide...

Rachel: Uh-huh.

Griffin: ... um, where the centrifugal forces are considerable, the fluid that reaches my head is my blood, and it makes me go to sleep, have a little nap. Have a little inside the water slide slide-y nap. A wet nap.

Rachel: That has to happen, like, every day.

Griffin: Someone just goes to sleep on a water slide because of how much blood gets in their head because of the g force?

Rachel: I have to assume!

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: It can't just have been you. [laughs quietly]

Griffin: It happened to me one time. And I— I didn't ride, uh, water slides for a while after that one.

Rachel: Of course! How scary! I can't imagine the experience of being a parent and your child arrives at the bottom passed out.

Griffin: Just a sleepy boy.

Rachel: That's terrible.

Griffin: Goodnight! Um, enough about me. 2023. Let's do it.

Rachel: [laughs] Okay.

Griffin: Let's get wild.

Rachel: Alright.

Griffin: Um, I want to... I have a pretty huge, like, bucket of stuff this year.

Rachel: Do you wanna— you want me to share the stats?

Griffin: Oh, I'd love to hear the stats. Yes, let's start with the stats.

Rachel: Okay. So, this is all from wonderful.fyi. It looks like we did exactly 100 topics.

Griffin: That's... wild.

Rachel: I mean, right? 'Cause, like, there's 52 weeks in a year.

Griffin: Yeah, I guess we're two weeks shy. Yeah, okay.

Rachel: We probably skipped two weeks. We do two an episode. Again, I didn't count small wonders.

Griffin: That's fine.

Rachel: The top category I saw— there was a tie.

Griffin: Has to be poetry, right?

Rachel: No.

Griffin: Oh, wow.

Rachel: Uh, I lumped any kind of game together. If it was like a video game or a board game or—

Griffin: Oh, I see.

Rachel: So there were ten games, and then ten food and beverage items.

Griffin: Wow!

Rachel: Uh-huh.

Griffin: See, I didn't pull a lot of food and beverage items off of my— off of my, uh, my calculations. I guess we did talk about games. I guess I did bring, like, the Resident Evil series, and JRPGs.

Rachel: You did Zelda.

Griffin: Zelda.

Rachel: You did Risk. You, uh— I did Twister.

Griffin: Yes. The JRPG of... physical games.

Rachel: [laughs] Uh-huh. Um, nine poets, so close.

Griffin: So pretty— yeah, pretty, pretty close. Some great fricking poets in there this year, man.

Rachel: Yeah! I thought about picking a favorite and I just couldn't do it. Like, I... I would say of the nine poets, seven of them were new to me this year.

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Rachel: Like, only two had I heard of before we started this year's episodes. So they're all so fresh I feel like I can't... I can't pick a favorite.

Griffin: I think the poem about the— the mom flushing the fish down the toilet, like silver— like coins.

Rachel: Yeah, that's recent. That's— that's Carrie Fountain.

Griffin: Carrie Fountain. That was a g— that was a fucking banger.

Rachel: You also liked the Franny Choi, like, what is it called? The... here, I can tell you because I have it pulled up. Uh, Unrequited Love Song for the Panopticon.

Griffin: Oh yeah!

Rachel: Do you remember? She wrote a poem to, like, AI, basically. [laughs]

Griffin: Yes!

Rachel: And then I have five music groups/artists.

Griffin: Okay. So I did pull this.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: Because I want to say... this year I was going through the list and I saw Petey on there, and I was like, "That's a huge one for me." I got real into Petey. Justin sent me a link to Don't Tell the Boys, which is a powerful anthem of male friendship, and I found that very empowering, and wonderful. And then I got to see Petey when he came to the 930 Club here in DC last month. Uh, and it was a fucking kickass show. I haven't been to a concert in forever and it was really nice. However... I think you brought my favorite music of the year.

Rachel: Oh, The Beths?

Griffin: The Beths. I...

Rachel: That was, like, the only artist I brought this year.

Griffin: Well, babe, you got it in one. The Beths.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: What a tremendous band.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: I have been listening to them, uh, so, so much this year. If our kids had not completely destroyed my Spotify algorithm—

Rachel: [sighs] I know.

Griffin: —I feel like The Beths would've gotten my number one spot, with a bullet.

Rachel: You know, maybe on our drive to Huntington we'll actually be able to listen to music we like.

Griffin: I would love that. I would love that.

Rachel: It would be incredible.

Griffin: Um, but yeah, man. Uh, there is a music video for one of their songs called Knees Deep where they all— I don't know if you've seen that one. You may have brought it. It's the one where they—

Rachel: Is it where they bungee jump?

Griffin: —where they all go bungee jumping.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: That is, like, good mood food for me, man.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: If I'm ever not feeling great, I watch that music video and it is— it just puts a little spring in my step. They did a Tiny Desk concert that was really good. I just— I'm wild about The Beths. So thank you.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Thank you for that.

Rachel: Was that it for music?

Griffin: Uh, yeah. Those were the two sort of big highlights for me.

Rachel: Uh, we also did, um, three songs, like, three discrete songs.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: You may remember Turn Down For What.

Griffin: Turn Down For What, yes.

Rachel: I love it.

Griffin: I also love Turn Down For What. It's, like, my f— it's like a really good one.

Rachel: Uh-huh. You know, that was also a song you brought.

Griffin: Oh, okay.

Rachel: Um, and what was the third one? Oh. And Stay, Lisa Loeb's Stay.

Griffin: Were all three of those mine?

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: Oh, wow. Okay.

Rachel: I can never, like, pick a song, because I don't typically have enough to say about it to make it, like, a segment. You know?

Griffin: Yeah, I think all of those have, like, a fun story, either behind their creation or the music video or, like— each one of those I feel like there was a lot to talk about, which is why I felt empowered to discuss them.

We kind of jumped over food. I did pull one food thing in my favorite lists.

Rachel: Okay, yes.

Griffin: Sort of really, uh, I don't know, characterized the year for me. And that was Chupa Chups. We have— I have eaten my weight in Chupa Chups this year.

Rachel: Do you have a secret stash again?

Griffin: I don't!

Rachel: What happened to the minis?

Griffin: I don't know.

Rachel: They've gotta be in the pantry somewhere. We got a bunch of, like, the little tiny, tiny ones.

Griffin: They don't do it for me. That's not enough for me.

Rachel: No?

Griffin: I need to eat four or five of those in order to even feel anything at all.

Rachel: [laughs] Okay.

Griffin: They're so small. I talked about the size of the Chupa Chup being a perfect lollipop size.

Rachel: Yeah. See, it's too much for me.

Griffin: That's— see, and that's where you and I differ.

Rachel: I get real impatient with lollipops. I like a Dum Dum actually, kind of like that size for me is good.

Griffin: Dum Dum's alright. Chupa Chups— the tiny Chupa Chups are just a fraction of a hair smaller than a Dum Dum, I think.

Rachel: I guess because neither of our sons have really ever finished a lollipop, like, the smaller the better. [laughs]

Griffin: That's a great point. The number of 10% eaten Chupa Chups that our two-year-old—

Rachel: Yeah. Oh, that must break your heart.

Griffin: Oh, every time. Every time. Especially when it's one of the good flavors, like the strawberries and cream, or the, uh, soda flavor. Ugh. Heartbreaking every time. Thank you, Chupa Chups. Got really into you this year.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Um, we gotta— it is wild to me that we haven't done TV.

Rachel: Yeah. So the next topic I have, like the next leaderboard is five TV shows.

Griffin: I could do... I could do a whole episode about the TV this year. I think this was a strong year for a few different types of things. I think it was a great year for games. Uh, talking about small wonders and games, I brought Baldur's Gate 3, which was phenomenal, The Legend of Zelda: Tears of the Kingdom, which was phenomenal. We are gonna be weighing those two when we record the Besties game of the year special, and I have no fucking idea which way it's gonna go down.

Rachel: Ooh, yeah.

Griffin: Did you get— was this the year you got into Stardew? Or was that last year?

[pause]

Rachel: Oh, man. I think it was this year.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: No...

Griffin: No, that must've been last year.

Rachel: No, it must've been last year.

Griffin: Anyway.

Rachel: Anyway.

Griffin: TV... was good as hell this year. It was so good this year. I have five scripted series on my list, including small wonders, and that is Our Flag Means Death season two, absolutely incredible. The Bear season two, absolutely incredible. Poker Face, Barry season four, and Scavengers Reign, which is one that I got into, and you did not, but is one of my favorite shows ever.

That's crazy. Then when we get into the unscripted category...

Rachel: Yes!

Griffin: Specifically from our friends in South Korea and Japan, it was a absolutely phenomenal year. The staples hit hard. Survivor, both seasons, fucking great.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Uh, Amazing Race? Fantastic. Great season, great characters, great times. Great oldies.

Rachel: Uh-huh. [laughs quietly]

Griffin: But then, like... Physical 100.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: So good. They are making a season two of that.

Rachel: Oh, good.

Griffin: I was googling all of these yesterday, like, for—

Rachel: It seems hard. I wonder if there'll be repeats, 'cause it seems hard to continue to find 100

Griffin: 100 strong people?

Rachel: [laughs] There's gotta be some returning members on that one.

Griffin: I like that. I like that. I hope that they, like, uh, superglue their shattered torso statues back together.

Rachel: Ohh, that's fun.

Griffin: That's fun. I like that. Uh, Love Village.

Rachel: Yes!

Griffin: Love Village, a fun twist on the sort of Terrace House format where a bunch of older folks find love while living in and remodeling a house together.

Rachel: I was crazy about that show.

Griffin: I was so wild about that show.

Rachel: It had everything! It was just like... it was— there was romance, there was just kind of reality living together stuff, there was, like, home renovation stuff? [laughs]

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: it was like— it was a bunch of genres, like, smushed together. I loved it.

Griffin: The two— the panel, the two people, Becky and—

Rachel: Yes, the panel!

Griffin: —uh, I can't remember the guy's name, but they were so, so good. Yeah.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Love Village. Loved that one. Want another season of that one on my desk pronto. Uh, similar vein, Love After Divorce. Divorcees living together, loving together, laughing together.

Rachel: Did we—

Griffin: We finished that bad boy.

Rachel: We did finish. Did we?

Griffin: We did!

[pause]

Rachel: Yes, yeah. 'Cause didn't... I'm trying to remember the outcome. Wasn't it, like—

Griffin: I mean, I'm not gonna spoil the outcome—

Rachel: [simultaneously] Yeah, I don't want to spoil it.

Griffin: —because our friends at home...

Rachel: But I think— there was a period of time where we kind of fell off. Like, after they leave their little vacation they, like, go out and live in the real world, and the show...

Griffin: It slows down a little bit at that point.

Rachel: The show moves a little bit slower, so we kind of... were slow on the ending. But we did— you're right, we did finish it.

Griffin: Um, The Traitors I believe debuted this year. Fucking great, great. Uh, Alan Cumming just, uh, bringing everything, everything I needed and didn't know that I needed. Uh, a clever game of deception. And it was like the, uh— it was the Mole sort of reboot that I always wanted, because the Mole reboot that came out last year was pretty godawful.

Rachel: Yeah, it was bad.

Griffin: Um... then we get Siren: Survive the Island.

Rachel: Wow, yeah.

Griffin: That was the capture the flag survival game featuring teams of women from six different professions. Uh, that one absolutely slaps ass. Then we get New World, which is probably my favorite of the set. It's probably one of my favorite reality shows I've ever watched with the six Korean sort of, uh, variety show performers living on an island together.

Rachel: Reality shows... maybe specifically in this country follow kind of a formula, in that usually by episode two you know everything they're gonna do.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: And that show, every episode was just like a complete surprise.

Griffin: Just super fun games, super funny people.

Rachel: People really committed. Like, there's a bunch of fantastical elements and they all just went with it, you know?

Griffin: Yeah. It is a— I think it represents a new genre of show. And I think you could probably say that about a couple of the shows on this list. Um, like Physical 100 I think did the sort of battle royale style thing better, and maybe even a bit more ethically than other reality shows have attempted to do in the post Squid Games era.

Uh, we did not watch the... well, we watched one challenge of the— episode of the Challenge Squid Game didn't we? And it was not... didn't necessarily...

Rachel: Yeah... yeah.

Griffin: But Physical 100 was absolutely dope like that. Siren: Survive the Island was so ambitious and impeccably made. And The New World was just entertaining. Every moment of it was just nonstop entertainment.

So, like, it is wild to me, all of those came out this year.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: All of those. Most— almost all of those, brand new shows, firing on all cylinders. It was a tremendous year for this genre of TV that you and I are, I think, pretty well versed in at this point.

Rachel: Yeah. No, you know what? I don't— we— it's not common for us to see a lot of movies, um, just having children like we do. But I don't think we really saw that many movies this year.

Griffin: No. We... sure didn't? I'm trying to remember any— we just went and saw Trolls 3.

Rachel: We saw the Barbie movie.

Griffin: We saw the Barbie movie. I saw Oppenheimer by myself.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Barbie was great. Didn't care for Oppenheimer too terrible much.

Rachel: Didn't you see something with your family when you were on tour?

Griffin: Probably. Probably.

Rachel: Okay. [laughs]

Griffin: I definitely had a 4DX theater-going experience this year.

Rachel: Was it a Fast movie?

Griffin: I don't think it was a Fast movie, no.

Rachel: No.

Griffin: But it couldn't have been a slow movie.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: So I'm not sure.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: But yeah. Not— yeah. I feel like movies— we fell off of movies this— we had to take a break from movies, because TVs was so good!

Rachel: It was very good.

Griffin: I think TV was so good this year!

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: The Barry finale? Fuckin'... Fork— Forks? Epi— uh, episode eight, season two of The Bear, Forks? The best, maybe, television episode ever?

Rachel: Yeah. Yeah.

Griffin: Feast of Seven Fishes episode? There's so much good TV out there, man!

Um... so yeah. That was TV for me.

Rachel: The only other category I have where I lumped a bunch of things together... uh, I have four characters.

Griffin: Oh. Okay.

Rachel: Uh, we talked about MC Skat Kat.

Griffin: Oh my god!

Rachel: Which that's what I'm talking about when I say, like, it's not like—

Griffin: Not your favorite thing.

Rachel: No. Like, I love MC Skat Kat, but that was fun to talk about.

Griffin: That was the world's first... marketing-based OC. That was the world's first...

Rachel: [laughs] Uh-huh?

Griffin: Well, I guess you could say that about, like, the mascot, right? Like, was the Noid the world's first marketing-based OC? But this was the first, I think, transmedia, cross-platform, full-court press marketing original character. And, um, I'm absolutely obsessed with his lineage and history.

Rachel: Uh, you talked about Grimace.

Griffin: [sighs] Yeah.

Rachel: Grimace really blew up this year.

Griffin: He did, in a lot of ways that I don't really appreciate, if I'm being completely honest.

Rachel: Yeah. The whole evil Grimace thing, it feels strange to me.

Griffin: It feels strange to me. It's one thing if TikTok wants to get its hands on Grimace and make him to be a scary killer guy. It's another thing for Grimace to then show up in a bunch of kids YouTube videos as a scary monster. And in Roblox as a scary killer named Grimace.

I hate that, because the youths... must be protected.

Rachel: Uh-huh. [laughs quietly]

Griffin: And be able to make their own decisions about Grimace.

Rachel: Yeah, I like that. No, I agree with you. Like, I don't— don't tell me that he's evil. Let me decide. [laughs quietly]

Griffin: Let me decide if Grimace is evil. Like, of all the McDonaldland characters, I think he's the least... evil of them.

Rachel: Wow, interesting!

Griffin: If I turn a corner in a dark alley—

Rachel: But what did— what did Fry Girl ever do to you?

Griffin: Fry Gir— who— I don't know who Fry Girl is.

Rachel: It was like a bird? Uh...

Griffin: Birdie, I think, was...

Rachel: Oh, was that her name?

Griffin: Yeah. Not Fry Girl.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: There were Fry Guys. Those were the little Koosh ball lookin' fellas.

Rachel: Okay, okay.

Griffin: If I saw one of those in a dark alley, no thanks. If I saw Birdie, no thanks. If I saw *Ronald*?! In a dark alley? No thanks. But Grimace is just like, "Oh hey!"

Rachel: Yeah, I'm okay.

Griffin: But then he kills people with his milkshake? Fucking grow up, America!

Rachel: [laughs] Um, I brought the Charmin Bears, which was very contentious.

Griffin: Was it?

Rachel: Got a lot of backlash on that. Well, because people found that, you know... it was kind of like I discussed earlier, in that nobody really believed that I loved these bears. Um, which, you know, I don't. I don't have, like, a little picture of the bears on my fridge, you know?

Griffin: I think it's— I think—

Rachel: But I enjoy the fact that they exist and that somebody used them for this purpose.

Griffin: Yes. I do—

Rachel: I enjoy the story of the bears.

Griffin: I think that your inclusion of the Charmin Bears and their great works in this program...

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: ... really speaks to your growth as a mother of two...

Rachel: [laughs] No, that's true.

Griffin: ... pretty poop— poop and butt-focused boys.

Rachel: Yes. Yes.

Griffin: It is a— it is a, you know... uh, a gross stereotype. If you got little boys, they're gonna talk about poops and butts and farts a lot.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: But it's that for a reason, because it is true, that's exactly what they do pretty much around the clock. And I do— I think that Rachel— I think that 2015 Rachel never would even think twice about the Charmin Bears.

Rachel: No, that's true. That's true.

Griffin: I'm glad the Char—

Rachel: So that's growth, you think?

Griffin: I think that's growth.

Rachel: Okay. [laughs] Good.

Griffin: Growth doesn't have to mean good, right?

Rachel: Okay. No, I like that. You're right, you're right.

Griffin: Like— like black mold grows. You know what I mean?

Rachel: Yeah. Yeah.

Griffin: Let's take a brief break, and then we'll wrap— wrap up the year.

Rachel: Well, no, remember what we say?

Griffin: Oh, yeah, I forget. Let's st— steal you away. Let's steal you outta here.

Rachel: [laughs] Let's steal you outta here.

[ad break]

[Star Trek comm noise]

Speaker 1: Last week, *The Greatest Generation*, the comedy podcast about old Star Trek TV shows like *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, *Deep Space Nine*, and *Voyager*, just had its 500th episode!

Speaker 2: And *Greatest Trek*, the podcast about the new Star Trek shows like *Strange New Worlds*, *Lower Decks*, and *Discovery*, just had its 250th episode.

Speaker 1: So whether you have a task that's roughly 750 hours long, or you want to learn about some of the production techniques that go into making one of the greatest franchises in television history, you should give us a try either way!

Speaker 2: *The Greatest Generation* and *Greatest Trek*: the best-reviewed, most-listened-to Star Trek podcast in the world. They're on Maximum Fun.

[Star Trek comm noise]

[music plays]

Cameron: Cameron Esposito here, comedian and host of *Queery*. Every week, I get to interview someone amazing from the LGBTQIA+ community. Some Queeros. I chat with them about their lives, loves, careers, and more.

I've talked to, you know, giant celebs. Trixie Mattel, Lena Waithe, Tegan and Sara Quin, but also astronauts, reverends, nurses. It's funny, gets deep, and hopefully it makes you feel like you're part of something. Join me every Monday on Maximum Fun to listen to Queery with Cameron Esposito.

[music and ad end]

Rachel: Uh, so the fourth one— we're talking about characters.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: And I felt like you might bristle at this, but I was trying to decide whether or not the Mothman could be called a character.

Griffin: I think so.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: Insofar as, like, Bigfoot is a character, or, you know, um... yeah, I don't know. I mean, it is mythology. He has been a character in things, including the hit Richard Gere movie The Mothman Prophecies.

Rachel: [laughs] Uh-huh.

Griffin: Um... although I don't think you ever actually see the Mothman in The Mothman Prophecies, which is pretty strange if you ask me. He's a pretty iconic looking...

Rachel: Wow. It's like Jaws, right? You're just— you're waiting to see, you're waiting to see it.

Griffin: Yeah, except that the Mothman's not quite Jaws.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Because this would be like if Jaws popped up from the water and was like... "[loud, gravelly voice] Your boat's extended warranty is expiring! Agh!"

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: And then went back down. "[loud, gravelly voice] There's some rocks up ahead! Agh!"

Rachel: That would be very useful.

Griffin: That would be cool. Helpful Jaws.

Rachel: Uh-huh. [laughs] Um... so then everything else we talked about is just kind of like grab bag. Like, the science-y stuff I really liked, I talked about olfactometers. You know, that, like, smell device.

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Rachel: I talked about smell dating.

Griffin: You had a very stink...

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: ... focused... year.

Rachel: I had a stink heavy year, uh-huh.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Yeah. I mean—

Griffin: What do you think that's about?

[pause]

Rachel: I think when you get to a certain point in recording a podcast about things you like... [laughs]

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: You start thinking about, like, what do I like to look at, and what do I like to do?

Griffin: What do I taste?

Rachel: What do I like to listen to?

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: What do I like to eat?

Griffin: Yeah. What do I like to touch?

Rachel: What do I like to touch? What do I like to smell?

Griffin: But you don't do stink that much, do you?

Rachel: Now I do.

Griffin: Now you do stink.

Rachel: [laughs] That's where I'm at. I imagine— I can't even— actually, no. I can't even imagine what we will be talking about a year from now.

Griffin: We'll be talking about, like, get the nanomach— well, we talked— 14 different nanomachine... discussions. That was in there.

Rachel: [laughs] We're gonna talk about our new hologram butler.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: That would be ineffective. I don't know what a hologram butler would be able to do.

Rachel: Well, he would tell us when our warranty was expiring.

Griffin: Yeah, but it would be like all the social discomfort of having a sort of stranger in your home with you with none of the, like, actual, like, services that a butler provides.

Rachel: Yeah. Man, the boys would just punch him all the time.

Griffin: They would try. They would pass right through him. Do you know what I mean? Like, he's a hologram.

Rachel: Yeah. Yeah, that's true.

Griffin: Why would they punch him? Why do you think our beautiful, precious boys would punch?

Rachel: I mean, you've seen what they do with stuffed animals.

Griffin: Yeah, but this would be a man! They don't punch men.

Rachel: But it's a hologram.

Griffin: So that— so it— I— yeah, I guess.

Rachel: They would know it's not real and there are no repercussions, and so they would go for it, is what I'm saying.

Griffin: They would just— okay.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Should we do that? Just get some...

Rachel: [laughs] No, because you need the impact. As an adult you need the impact for satisfaction.

Griffin: And he wouldn't, like... [sighs] Is he able to react to us? Would he be like, "Ha ha ha, excellent haymaker, Master Henry."

Rachel: Maybe in the same way that, like, Siri does, you know? Like, "I'm not gonna play your game."

Griffin: I don't think I wanna punch the holobutler.

Rachel: Okay. [laughs]

Griffin: I'm not sure I want anyone to punch the holobutler.

Rachel: I'm not making you. [laughs]

Griffin: Okay. Thank you.

Rachel: You don't have to. Oh, you know what? I also talked about scratch and sniff.

Griffin: Jeez, Rach.

Rachel: I know. Or you did?

Griffin: No. I don't think that's possible. I think that was you.

Rachel: Okay. Okay.

Griffin: That feels like a Rachel topic.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: Um... although, gosh, who knows? It's been so long. I think that's all we have prepared. Anything else about... 2023? In— in review? I know you didn't do the small wonders, but is there anything else we discussed that sticks out that didn't make the, uh, the list?

Rachel: Wait, that we didn't discuss or we did discuss?

Griffin: I guess that we didn't discuss.

Rachel: Oh. I mean, I would've brought it. [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah, that's a fair point. You left no stone unturned! What am I thinking?

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: If you had a pearl, you would present it to the audience.

Rachel: Uh-huh, yes.

Griffin: That's a good point. That's a good point. Um... well, here's looking forward to 2024. Hopefully we will get even more good TV, new Chupa Chup varieties, um... the— a new Beths album, maybe. More poets. More... characters.

Rachel: Yeah, yeah. I will say, a lot of what you and I do is return to favorites of our youth too, so...

Griffin: That is true.

Rachel: So we don't need 2024 to do all the work for us.

Griffin: No, no, no. Although maybe 2024'll Hamburglar... year. Maybe 2024 will be the Hamburglar year.

Rachel: [laughs quietly] I think it's gonna be hard to say Hamburglar over and over again.

Griffin: Hambor— hamborgalor.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Hamborgalor.

Rachel: Uh-huh?

Griffin: Hamburglar.

Rachel: [laughs]

[pause]

Griffin: Anyway, thanks so much for listening to our show all year round.

Rachel: Do you have any listener submissions, or are we not gonna do that?

Griffin: I don't. I didn't pull any for this one. Um, but, uh, again, we do—

Rachel: Yeah, that's something I can talk about, actually! I am glad for the return of listener submissions.

Griffin: Yes, me too. Uh, wonderfulpodcast@gmail.com. Still not getting a ton of submissions in, so if you want to shoot us an email with a one or two sentence description of what your wonderful thing is, and then when we come back next year— 'cause we are not going to have a new episode out next week— then we will, uh, consider it, maybe put it at the end of the show here.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Um, thank you so much for listening. Thank you to Bo En and Augustus for the use of our theme song, Money Won't Pay. You can find a link to that in the episode description. Thank you to Maximum Fun for having us on the network! Go to Maximumfun.org. Check out all the great shows that they have over there. You're gonna find something you love, I guarantee it.

You can still watch the Candlenights video on demand.

Rachel: Oh, you can? I was gonna say, I wonder if you can still get in there.

Griffin: Yes. For the next, like, week and a half you can do so, if you go to bit.ly/candlenights2023, you can watch it on demand. It's almost two hours long. We have a bunch of funny bits from, uh, pretty much the whole fam in there. And it was a true delight and joy to watch it with everyone else, and sort of chat about it, and it always gets me in the Christmas spirit.

Rachel: Me too.

Griffin: Um, so... um, I think that's it, though. Please have a good rest of your year. Good holiday. Um, stay—

Rachel: Or if you already had your holiday, I hope it was good.

Griffin: Yes. Hopefully you have some time off of whatever your life demands of you to recharge and rejuvenate. And...

Rachel: And renew.

Griffin: And renew. And we will see you... rejuvenated and renewed...

Rachel: And recharged.

Griffin: ... and recharged and re... placed.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: And replaced, like the ship of Theseus, next year, in 2024. So long. Farewell.

Rachel: [laughs]

[theme music plays]

[chord]

Maximum Fun.

A worker-owned network...

Of artist-owned shows...

Supported directly by you.