

Shmanners 410: Water Balloons

Published June 7th, 2024

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[theme music plays]

Travis: Hello, internet! I'm your husband host, Travis McElroy.

Teresa: And I'm your wife host, Teresa McElroy.

Travis: And you're listening to *Shmanners*.

Teresa: It's extraordinary etiquette...

Travis: For ordinary occasions. Hello my dove.

Teresa: Hello dear.

Travis: How are you?

Teresa: I'm alright, how are you?

Travis: I'm alright.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: End of banter.

Teresa: I'm all— [sings] "I'm all, I'm alright." [normal] Remember that song?

Travis: Now that's interesting 'cause I would've gone with [sings] "I'm alright!" [normal] the Kenny Loggin—

Teresa: Oh.

Travis: I hit the— my notes were way wrong.

Teresa: Really, that was bad.

Travis: Wait. [sings] "I'm alright."

Teresa: Oh.

Travis: That's what it's supposed to be.

Both: [sings] "Nobody have to worry 'bout me."

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: [sings] "Give me a fight!" [normal] Something like that, I don't know what notes I was doing, it was not that though.

Teresa: I don't know.

Travis: [sings] "I'm alright." [normal] I think I was going for that part.

Teresa: Oh.

Travis: Ugh, don't worry about it.

Teresa: Not me.

Travis: You— What?

Teresa: I was— That's not what I was gonna—

Travis: No, what was your song?

Teresa: No, "I'm Alright," by— isn't that Jodie Macena? [sings] "I'm all, I'm all, I'm alright."

Travis: I believe you. I don't know the song.

Teresa: Oh, okay.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Very country lite.

Travis: Very country lite. It's the suburbs.

Teresa: [chuckles]

Travis: Is that country lite? 'Cause it's not in the city, it's not in the country.

Teresa: Well so... I worked at a pool. I mean I've always worked at pools.

Travis: Always?

Teresa: Almost.

Travis: As a baby?

Teresa: No.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: But we had a neighborhood pool—

Travis: I wanna see the *Boss Baby* spin-off of *Baby Lifeguard*, *Lifeguard Baby*.

Teresa: [chuckles] We had a neighborhood pool growing up that played country music, and that's the only time, was during the summer, that I ever listened to country music. And I listened to a lot of country music.

Travis: Speaking of summer and outdoor activities! This week, we're talking about water balloons.

Teresa: We are.

Travis: And this is a very interesting— I've not pressed this topic, but like I've saved it for the show.

Teresa: Oh, okay.

Travis: I've saved it for here. Normally.

Teresa: Uh-huh.

Travis: On this show.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: When we talk about etiquette, manners, and stuff, we talk about like— You know, we've talked about thank you notes, we've talked about wedding traditions, we've talked about office like job interviews, right?

Teresa: Yeah. Yeah.

Travis: Water balloons.

Teresa: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

Travis: Is our next episode laser tag?

Teresa: I don't know.

Travis: Are we doing—

Teresa: Maybe.

Travis: We could do paintball. Actually, I'd be way into a paintball episode, but.

Teresa: There's something to be said about the rules of engagement.

Travis: Oh.

Teresa: It's important.

Travis: This is true.

Teresa: When we all buy into this game that we're playing, right? It's important that we all know the rules.

Travis: This is true.

Teresa: And what's gonna be expected of us.

Travis: Every year when I worked at Shakespeare Company, I don't know if they still do this, but there was a kind of inter-mural, inter-theatre water balloon event.

Teresa: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

Travis: And it was like the Noh Theatre, the Shakespeare Company, I believe Ensemble, definitely Playhouse... Maybe others, those are just the ones off the top of my head. And it would start with a water balloon toss competition.

Teresa: Right.

Travis: Where you would basically start two lines, standing right in front of each other, hand the balloon, take a step back, each person take a step back. And then you'd throw it, right? And the last team standing won. But that was only, really, the appetizer.

Teresa: You were trying not to break the balloon.

Travis: Correct, you were trying to catch the balloon, soft hands, right? And that team, you know, that— then whatever team that theatre belonged to, that theatre would win, right?

Teresa: Right.

Travis: But then, as soon as the last balloon broke, warfare.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: Right? Where really this was the main event, where we had just like coolers and bags and buckets full of water balloons, and like super soakers and everything stashed away in our different little bases.

And then as soon as that happened, everybody's chuckin' water balloons at each other, and hittin' each other with super soakers and water sprayers, and having just a grand old time.

Teresa: You know what I liked about that? I really liked that you guys did it in a parking lot. Because I think that... grass and water balloons, you have less chance of like the rebound, right? You can't pick a water balloon

up off the grass, they pop almost immediately. But if you hit a nice smooth spot on the concrete.

Travis: Yeah, I guess. Right.

Teresa: I mean impact is different.

Travis: But impact is different, yeah.

Teresa: Right right right right.

Travis: You could bounce on the concrete and it would stay.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: I see what you're saying.

Teresa: But also, easier to clean up. All those little tiny pieces of plastic.

Travis: You also have to regul— Which I'm sure you'll get into this, but you have to have regulations about what kind of balloons you use.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Indeed. Yes.

Travis: So let's get to the history of water balloons, I guess?

Teresa: Yeah! Well balloons. Let's start with balloons in general.

Travis: It all started when Shrek inflated a toad.

Teresa: [chuckles]

Travis: And then Fiona did a snake, and they said, "Wait a minute, there's something here."

Teresa: Noooo. We have evidence of balloons dating back to the beginning of the 1800s.

Travis: That's way farther back than I would've guessed.

Teresa: Well, but they're not made of the same thing that they are today, right?

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: So they were made out of like animal bladders.

Travis: That's what I was gonna guess!

Teresa: Yeah. Pig—

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Pig bladder balloons were very common. But you know, there were other animal options.

Travis: Sure.

Teresa: There's a direct quote from *The Swiss Family Robinson*, which was written in 1813, referencing another animal whose insides were frequently used. Jack says, "Pappa, can't you make me a balloon with this piece of whale entrail?"

Travis: Whale.

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: I was gonna make a joke about how an elephant bladder balloon would be gigantic, but now I'm thinking whale entrails, think of the balloon animals you could make with a single whale intestine.

Teresa: Mm.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Indeed, right. And these balloons weren't water balloons, but they—

Travis: Were gross.

Teresa: Well yes, but they were often filled with water in order to make their shape, right? Because—

Travis: Like one of those water weenies kinda deal?

Teresa: Yeah, a little bit.

Travis: Kinda like that.

Teresa: A little bit.

Travis: For those listeners who don't know, that's not a weird thing. That's a toy that like you try to hold, and because of the shape of it and the liquid inside it keeps going fwoop! Fwoop! Trying to slip out of your hand.

Teresa: [chuckles] Makes it keep slippin' around.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: It's like a tube. It's an in— It's a continuous tube.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: So you could fill them with water and turn into the, like, it could be turned into just a regular ball, right? But there are sources claiming that they were made into the earliest balloon animals.

Travis: Can I tell you? I'm just sittin' here thinking if I got hit by a water balloon.

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: And found out it was the bladder of an animal.

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: I'd be so upset.

Teresa: They were cleaned and dried.

Travis: I'm sure they were baby, but that doesn't change the fact that I just got hit in the face with a water-filled animal bladder.

Teresa: You should never hit people in the face.

Travis: Okay, but you know what I mean. You know what I mean. I get smacked with a pig's bladder.

Teresa: I think—

Travis: And it's like, "Aw, you got me!" and they're like, "Also."

Teresa: It would—

Travis: "Fun fact; that's an animal bladder."

Teresa: Well if you were a product of the time, I mean, I don't think you would blink twice. It's just something that we're not used to today.

Travis: Yeah. They shouldn't have been used to it then.

Teresa: And it's important if you were going to— It's important if you're going to use an animal, you should use all of it, so I think that's important too.

Travis: I guess that's true. I guess they weren't just goin' for the bladder.

Teresa: No.

Travis: And then like, "And that's all we needed."

Teresa: These were byproducts.

Travis: Oh, okay. Leftovers, yeah.

Teresa: Uses for the byproducts.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: In 1824, a rubber balloon was invented by Michael Faraday.

Travis: Wait. The dude who made the Faraday cage?

Teresa: Yeah. That guy.

Travis: Okay. Probably not at the same time though.

Teresa: 1824.

Travis: Yah know, here's what I'll say though. Not that wild of a leap. 'Cause he was working a lot with electricity.

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: Right? And he, I think it was Faraday's law of induction, right. So if you're dealing with electricity, you would have to think about insulation, right? And rubber is an amazing insulator for electricity.

Teresa: Sure. You— It's reported that he was working with hydrogen at the time.

Travis: Uh-huh.

Teresa: And he needed a way to contain the gas so it could be studied. The balloon was born—

Travis: Like—

Teresa: — by cutting two sheets of rubber and pressing the edges together, and rubbing the inside of the device with flour to prevent opposite sides from joining together.

Travis: Can I tell you perhaps even more important than any of this. He was born in 1791, in a place called Newington Butts!

Teresa: [laughs] Yeah. Anyway.

Travis: He also invented electrolysis.

Teresa: Faraday wrote in the *Quarterly*—

Travis: The electric transformer, the electric generator, the electric motor.

Teresa: Mm-hmm. Lots of stuff. He wrote in the *Quarterly Journal of Science* later that year that the... I'm going to try my best.

"The caoutchouc, which is an unvulcanized type of natural rubber, is exceedingly elastic. Bags made of it had been expanded by having air forced into them until it was quite transparent. And when expanded by hydrogen, they were so light as to form balloons with considerable ascending power."

Travis: Amazing.

Teresa: So this is a pretty discovery, right?

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Rubber balloons are very helpful when it comes to the study and containment of gases. Also very affordable. And in— later that year, after Faraday invented the scientific balloon, a rubber manufacturer named Thomas Hancock released a do it yourself toy balloon kit.

Travis: There you go.

Teresa: Consisting of a rubber solution and a condensing syringe.

Travis: Amazing.

Teresa: Vulcanized toy balloons, meaning ones that aren't affected by temperature changes, were created in 1847 by a man named J G Ingram, and in the years following, the balloon has been used for everything from military defense, medical treatment, meteorology, and also, you know, sprucin' up birthday parties.

Travis: Yeah. Indeed. Indeed. And probably scaring birds, I'd have to imagine.

Teresa: Sure, yeah. Yeah, pretty good. But—

Travis: Did you ever do that thing as a kid where you tied a note to a balloon and like let it go? And see where it goes? You ever do that?

Teresa: No.

Travis: Oh my god, my brothers and I used to do that all the time when we were kids.

Teresa: Really?

Travis: And like put a note that was like, "If found, please return to this," 'cause we wanted to see where it went. And it only happened once.

Teresa: Oh really?

Travis: But a dude found it and brought it, and he'd found it like a hundred miles away, while like on a trip, and luckily he was like from our hometown, so he just dropped it off when he got back. And I think I was like eight at the time, lost my mind.

Teresa: Neat.

Travis: I was so excited.

Teresa: You shouldn't release balloons into the atmosphere.

Travis: Well I know that now. It's important to note, it was 1991, I was a child.

Teresa: [chuckles] So, in a similar vein, water balloons appeared around 1950, by a man named Edgar Ellington, who was trying to actually solve a different problem. Trench foot.

Travis: Okay, what— Okay.

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Mm-hmm. So, if you don't know what trench foot is, it is a condition, also known as "immersion foot syndrome." Which is caused by prolonged exposure of feet to damp, unsanitary, and cold conditions.

Travis: So like if you're working in a trench, and there's water— standing water in the bottom, and your feet are getting soaked constantly.

Teresa: Constantly, right. So it got its name from soldiers in World War I who would be fighting in water-logged trenches.

Travis: Uh-huh.

Teresa: And so what happens is your feet start to itch and tingle, then they turn bright red. Or! They could conversely turn pale and clammy, as the blood vessels begin to narrow and contract, right?

Travis: No good. Okay.

Teresa: Then you start to swell, and in severe cases, the foot can almost double in size.

Travis: Oh no.

Teresa: Then, once you do eventually dry off and rewarm your feet, the pain of the blood flow returning can be excruciating. Your feet become overly sensitive to touch, or even temperature. And complications can lead to infection, sepsis, and eventual... demise.

Travis: Wow. Okay, can I make a guess about what he was trying to do?

Teresa: Sure.

Travis: He was trying to create like a rubberized sock.

Teresa: Exactly!

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: So that it would keep the water off your foot.

Teresa: That's right.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: So the waterproof sock he was trying to make was— He was taking a normal kind of like knitted sock.

Travis: Uh-huh.

Teresa: And coating it with latex.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Trying to make the sock waterproof, and prevent moisture from creeping in, right?

Travis: Right.

Teresa: I think... I mean, it's a gr— it's a good idea, but that also means moisture can't get out.

Travis: Correct.

Teresa: So any moisture that gets— that even like if you sweat.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: It's stuck against your body. Anyway.

Travis: Also, then you're wearing a very thick wool knitted sock. Like it's not— Yeah.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: There were problems, right?

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: So the first problem was the latex coating made the socks difficult to put on.

Travis: Yes.

Teresa: And then... wearing them for a long time.

Travis: Very squeaky.

Teresa: [chuckles] But it ripped them.

Travis: Oh.

Teresa: Because the stress, it couldn't handle the flexion, right?

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: So he tried to slowly heat the sock, so that it would be less rigid, right? Which made it easier to put on, but... that made the rubber thinner, so then it wasn't waterproof anymore. [chuckles]

Travis: Uh-huh.

Teresa: And in trying to fill the sock with water to see where the leaking happened, he became very frustrated, and the story goes that he threw the sock, causing a magnificent crash and explosion. Of water, not of like fire.

Travis: That was the first water balloon.

Teresa: And that was the first water balloon.

Travis: Oh my goodness gracious, okay. That's very exciting, and I look forward to hearing more, but first, how about a word from some other MaxFun shows?

Teresa: Alright.

[transition theme music plays]

Sequoia Holmes: I'm Sequoia Holmes, culturist and host of the *Black People Love Paramore* podcast. Contrary to the title, it is not a podcast about the band Paramore.

Each episode I, along with one guest cohost, dissect one pop culture topic that mainstream media doesn't associate with Black people, but we know that we like. Tune in every Thursday to the podcast that's dedicated to helping Black people feel more seen. Here on MaximumFun.

Rachel: I'm Yucky Jessica.

Griffin: I'm Chud Crudsworth.

Rachel: And this is—

Both: [simultaneously] – *Terrible!*

Griffin: A podcast where we talk about things we hate that are awful!

Rachel: Today we're discussing *Wonderful!* a podcast on the MaximumFun network?

Griffin: Hosts Rachel and Griffin McElroy, a real-life married couple.

Rachel: Yuck!

Griffin: Discuss a wide range of topics; music, video games, poetry, snacks.

Rachel: But I hate all that stuff!

Griffin: I know you do, Yucky Jessica.

Rachel: It comes out every Wednesday, the worst day of the week, wherever you download your podcasts.

Griffin: For our next topic, we're talking Theoda the baby hippo from the Cincinnati zoo.

Rachel: I hate this little hippo.

[pause]

Travis: Okay, so dude just got mad, threw a sock, water balloon.

Teresa: [chuckles] Exactly.

Travis: Okay. Anger plus sock equals water balloon.

Teresa: I guess so. Necessity is the mother of invention, I guess, but—

Travis: Uhhh, I don't know— Hey babe, can I just say? I don't think that's what that means, because I don't think he was like, "I have to create a water balloon."

Teresa: [chuckles] No listen, you didn't let me finish.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: You interrupted me.

Travis: I'd never do that, I'm so sorry.

Teresa: But in this case, if you fail, sell it to somebody else.

Travis: I think failure can also be the mother of invention. I think that that's what *MythBusters* taught me.

Teresa: [chuckles]

Travis: Is that failure can lead to invention.

Teresa: So he marketed this water balloon to children, instead of curing trench foot.

Travis: I bet that's true of a lot of children's toys.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: Like Silly Putty is a very similar thing.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: Where it was created to like clean wallpaper, I think. 'Cause it, you know, when you use like gas lamps and indoor... like you had indoor fireplaces and stuff, you know to heat places, you would get really sooty wallpaper.

And so they were like, "Oh, we'll use Silly Putty—" Oh, well they didn't call it Silly Putty at the time. And they created this polymer to like clean it and they were like, "Oh cool." And then kids were like, "Actually."

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: "I'm gonna use that to make Charlie Brown stretched out." And they were like, "Oh okay, cool."

Teresa: He marketed them as water grenades, but changed the name to water balloons to like make it a little bit less aggressive.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Yeah. And so, they became exceedingly popular, especially during the summer months, and kids and grownups alike loved 'em. And they began to be engineered, at this point, with one purpose in mind, right? So they needed to be sturdy enough to hold the water, but thin enough that they'd explode on impact.

Travis: You know, this makes a lot of sense too, because I think not only is... you know necessity, failure, whatever. Is timing.

Teresa: Mm.

Travis: 'Cause if we're talking about the 1950s.

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: Right? Then you have a lot of kids whose parents, specifically I think at this point fathers, had been in World War II. And would tell them stories and this was, I mean not to bring it back to this, but a very like... toxic kind of thing of like, "Real men go to war, and do— and fight, and do this thing," right?

And so then you have these kids who have been told all these stories about like war and trenches and foxholes and bombing and all this stuff. And you're like, "Now, here are things that you can throw like grenades, and they explode when they hit. And like you can do pretend warfare with them."

Teresa: I mean I definitely think it was part of the marketing.

Travis: Yeah. I've watched a lot of like 50s and 60— My dad really loved like old commercials when I was a kid, and that was one of the things he would like buy at conventions is like VHS tapes of just collections of old commercials.

And I remember watching 'em, even when I was like 14 or 15, being like, "These are wicked violent!" And they— Toys, a lot of the marketing was like, "Feels like real war!"

Teresa: [chuckles]

Travis: And it's like, "Whoa man! Wild dude! Can I have an Easy Bake Oven please?"

Teresa: Yes please.

Travis: "That's what I'd rather have, thank you very much."

Teresa: But over the past 70 years or so, the toy community have made some incredible advancements—

Travis: Oh my god, yeah.

Teresa: — in water balloon technologies.

Travis: There's that one that looks like a weird octopus thing.

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: That you just like screw on, and it does like 80 of them at once.

Teresa: Yup yup, there's the water balloon launchers and like slingshot type deals, right? Catapults. There are, you know, there are different shapes that you can get now.

There's no longer just the circular form. Some companies even make reusable water balloons, you know, minimizing the environmental impact, and clean up easier.

Travis: I've seen that kind of like a sponge kind of material.

Teresa: Oh sure.

Travis: Where it like soaks in the water.

Teresa: Yeah but no, they actually have like spherical water balloons that... They have a very loose seal around the outside, so if they get squished at all, then it pops.

Travis: Huh. Science.

Teresa: But you can reuse it all the time.

Travis: It's incredible.

Teresa: Specifically, Zuru toys launched their product Bunch O Balloons in 2014.

Travis: Is that the weird octopus one?

Teresa: That's the hundred water balloons that fill in 60 seconds.

Travis: For when just war breaks out all of a sudden, I guess?

Teresa: I guess. [chuckles] I guess?

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: There's also a really cool yo-yo type balloon used in Japan. I mean it's not really for like fights or whatever, but it's extremely popular at festivals, and so they're like—

It's a small, round, colorful balloon, and it's used— They use just a little bit of water, and it's got a long string. And then you can kind of like yo-yo bounce it from your fingers.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Pretty cool.

Travis: Pretty cool indeed. I wanna get to like the etiquette of it though, 'cause we already said like, "Don't hit 'em in the face."

Teresa: Right.

Travis: And also will say this, just this is both strategic and ettiqua— etti— etiquettic.

Teresa: What?

Travis: It's strategic and etiquettic.

Teresa: Okay. [chuckles]

Travis: Where you don't wanna underfill the balloons.

Teresa: Sure.

Travis: Right? Because one, it won't break. But two, if it doesn't break, it's just hitting somebody in the face with a water-filled balloon. The breaking reduces like the impact of getting smacked in the face by a thing.

Teresa: Mm.

Travis: It's another reason the balloons need to be thin enough to break.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: 'Cause if I just get like a regular old balloon and fill it up a little bit and hit you with it.

Teresa: It hurts.

Travis: It do— It's not great. It's not great. So what other, aside from—

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: — don't underfill. What is some other etiquette?

Teresa: Well like I said earlier, you need to know what the rules of engagement are, right? Are we doing a friendly toss? Like you talked about with the theatres.

Are you trying to keep the balloon from popping? Or is it kind of a pall mall, anything goes, we all have our own buckets and we're throwing it at everyone, right?

Travis: Higgledy piggledy.

Teresa: Higgledy piggledy. We need to make sure that we all know the rules. And so... with that, you have to make sure that the rules are age appropriate, right? So if you have a bunch of older kids, right?

That kind of mania, every person for themselves might work really well, right? But if you have a mixed group of ages, you might need to form teams, you might need to have bases where—

Travis: And if anyone breaks the rules, water balloon firing squad.

Teresa: [chuckles] Probably not.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Probably not that.

Travis: That's fair.

Teresa: But as long as everyone knows the rules of how we're gonna do it, and follows the rules, then—

Travis: Or else water balloon court marshal!

Teresa: [chuckles] It's probably— It's gonna be a pretty good time for everyone, right? You mentioned that you guys sometimes brought like super soakers or whatever too, and I am against the kind of pressurized water gun.

Travis: This was all grown-ups, I wanna stress.

Teresa: It was all— It—

Travis: This—

Teresa & Travis: [simultaneously] – all grownups.

Teresa: It was all grownups, but for children, I don't like those kind of like those pumping kind of pressurized ones.

Travis: Now I do like the one where you have to like draw in water.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: And then like push it out yourself.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: That's fine. And along those lines, making sure everyone follows the rules, I think it's important that you have a supervisor or a referee, right? Someone who seems to be impartial looking out for, like I said, if there are younger children participating, making sure that everyone is following the rules of engagements.

Travis: I also think, and I don't know if you have that in there, but... I think that the difference between a game and bullying, much like in a snowball event.

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: Is both sides being aware that the event is about to happen, prepared for it, and consenting to it.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: Because if you just bring a bucket of water balloons down and surprise a kid, and start nailing `em with water balloons, that's called bullying.

Teresa: Yes, don't do that.

Travis: If you say, "Hey, tomorrow, do you wanna have a water balloon fight? And we could do like high noon, water balloon fight, and you bring as many water balloons as you want, I'll bring as many water balloons as I want, we'll meet here." Now it's like a game that you're playing.

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: Big difference.

Teresa: Agreed, agreed. Also, you shouldn't throw water balloons at objects. You don't wanna damage property.

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Teresa: It's different if you're throwing it at people and like you miss, right? It lands in the bushes, that's fine. But there's actually examples of people like doing water balloon pranks on the internet, trying to like drop them on cars and stuff.

Travis: Don't do that.

Teresa: And breaking windshields.

Travis: Yeah, don't do that.

Teresa: Don't do that.

Travis: Even if you don't break a windshield and it just breaks on the car, and they're like driving. You run the risk of like a surprise accident, and don't do this. Along the same lines, don't throw at animals.

Teresa: Yes, agreed.

Travis: Don't throw at animals. They didn't consent to this. They didn't engage in this.

Teresa: Agreed. You should also probably have designated like filling times. You could take a break to refill, or you can have someone on your team be the refiller, and like kind of like, you know, swap out if you want.

Travis: If I was the parent and I was running the event, I think I would be like, "Here's like each— There's four teams. Each team gets a bucket of 100 balloons or whatever. When those are done..."

Teresa: When you're done, you're done.

Travis: "Those are done," right?

Teresa: [chuckles] But it's also good etiquette to help prep, right? So one person filling all those balloons could take a very long time. So many hands—

Travis: Not with the Zuru multiple balloon filler.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: 60 seconds, a hundred balloons; that's extreeeeme!

Teresa: Many hands make light work.

Travis: Sure.

Teresa: So offer to help.

Travis: That's also included, by the way, and I'm sure you have this in there, but in clean up afterwards.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: Of like all those little balloon pieces that are left over. One, don't leave somebody's yard an absolute mess, or parking lot or whatever. But also two, you don't wanna risk like a bird eating them or an animal eating them, and getting injured, getting, you know, stuff stuck in their throat, getting sick.

Teresa: Exactly. A lot of balloons—

Travis: And it's littering.

Teresa: — on the market today are made from biodegradable materials. That doesn't mean that they biodegrade like instantly.

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Teresa: It will take a while.

Travis: Or safe for an animal to eat.

Teresa: Exactly, or make it safe for an animal to eat, so you should help clean up. And I think that it really helps to keep it to a specific location, like I talked about. Not like a neighborhood all out like—

Travis: No. Lika a parking lot.

Teresa: Yeah, like a parking lot.

Travis: An open area of a yard, something like that.

Teresa: Exactly, and then when everyone's done, everyone cleans up their mess. Like you said, never throw anybody— never throw at anybody's face. That's the moneymaker.

Travis: That's the moneymaker. There's a lot of stuff there that you don't wanna hit.

Teresa: That's right.

Travis: Eyeballs, noses, mouths, ears.

Teresa: Um—

Travis: Jewelry. Hold on, I gotta think of more stuff you don't wanna hit on a face.

Teresa: Oh.

Travis: Um, um.

Teresa: Glasses.

Travis: Glasses. Yeah, thank you.

Teresa: Also, we all agree when we participate in a water balloon fight that the people who are participating are the ones who've decided that they are going to get wet.

Travis: Yes.

Teresa: Right? We don't just throw water balloons at anybody without their consent about getting wet.

Travis: Along those same lines, and I think this is true if you're talking about snowballs or water balloons or paintball or anything like that, establish a signal that's like if you get hit in the eye on accident, or something where you need to like step out and you need a minute.

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: That makes it clear that you have become a non-combatant. And it's just like if you raise your hand straight up in the air, then it's like, "Okay, don't throw at that person, let them step off to the side."

'Cause, you know, even if somebody's like, "I wanna play a water balloon fight," right? Then you get into a position where it's like four people have kind of ganged up on this person, and they're getting really overwhelmed.

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: Right? And it's like, "Okay, cool," then they need to like step out and give 'em a moment. It's just a water balloon fight, the stakes are very low.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: Don't let the stakes get away from you.

Teresa: Also, it's probably outside, so you know, wear your sunscreen and appropriate clothing.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: And hydrate. Have fun.

Travis: Yeah, there you go. And hey, that's gonna do it. Have fun out there folks, but do hydrate. Wear sunscreen, hydrate, have fun, no matter what you're doing.

Teresa: [chuckles]

Travis: Even if you're inside all day.

Teresa: [chuckles]

Travis: The sun [sighs] can get you anywhere.

Teresa: [giggles]

Travis: [pants nervously] So, thank you so much. Thank you to our editor Rachel, without whom we could not do the show. Thank you to our researcher Alex, without whom we could not do the show.

Thank you to you for listening. We could do this show without you. But frankly, that would be weird. That would be really weird to do a podcast that you didn't release? I guess that's just called a journal.

Go check out bit.ly/mcelroytours for all of the places *My Brother, My Brother And Me* and *Adventure Zone* are going to be for the rest of 2000 Fungalore. 20-Fungalore, that's it.

Teresa: That's it.

Travis: [Bit.ly/mcelroytours](https://bit.ly/mcelroytours), and make sure you go check out mcelroymerch.com for all of our merch, and 10% of all merch sales for this month goes to Equality Florida, which is dedicated to securing full equality for Florida's LGBTQ+ community. What else, Teresa?

Teresa: We always thank Brent “Brentalfloss” Black for writing our theme music, which is available as a ringtone where those are found.

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.

As always, we are currently taking your topic submissions, your questions, your queries, your idioms. All that stuff, send it to shmannerstcast@gmail.com, and say hi to Alex, 'cause she reads every one.

Travis: And we should say, happy Pride Month, everybody.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: That is in all seriousness. If you're going to Pride events, especially outdoor Pride events, hydrate, sunscreen, have fun.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: There you go. Alright, 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: [in a posh voice] Manners shmanners. Get it.

[theme music plays]

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