

Shmanners 448: Irish Pubs

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[theme song 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: [holding back laughter] It's extraordinary etiquette...

Travis: ... for ordinary occasions. Hello, my dove!

Teresa: Hello, dear.

Travis: Do you wanna tell the people at home what's so funny?

Teresa: No. [giggles]

Travis: Do you want me to tell 'em?

All morning, I've been saying, *Shmananners*. "Are you ready to record *Shmananners*? It's time to record *Shmananners*." And then Teresa was like, "You gotta stop it, or you're gonna mess it up on the show."

And I said "I'm never— I would never." And then I nailed it, and I said *Shmanners*.

Teresa: And you held eye contact [laughs] the entire time.

Travis: Yes, I did. To show you that I am a consummate professional; I would never say *Shmananners* on the show. That's just for us.

Teresa: [laughter growing]

Travis: That's our private— *Shmananners* is for us. Hi, everybody. It's the most wonderful time of the year.

Teresa: That's right! MaxFunDrive!

Travis: That's right! Now, maybe you're new. Maybe this is— uh, maybe you started listening to *Shmananners* in April—

Teresa: [gasps]

Travis: That was on purpose.

Teresa: [skeptical] Mm...

Travis: Not a mess-up.

Maybe you started listening to *Shmanners* last April, and this is your first time hearing about the MaxFunDrive. So here's how it works: Max Fun, the network that we're on, maximumfun.org, is hosts of the shows, the employees of the network own the network.

And every year, we come to you, and encourage you to consider becoming a Maximum Fun member by going to maximumfun.org/join and pledging a monthly amount of support, starting at just \$5 dollars a month. Uh, and there's higher levels than that, but it starts at just \$5 dollars a month.

And that goes to the shows that you listen to, and to keep the lights on over at the Network. So the majority of the money that you pledge goes to the shows you listen to; the rest goes over to them to pay their expenses, and to help the Network keep going.

And so this is our chance, for the next two weeks, to encourage you to go do that. Maximumfun.org...

Teresa: Like, right now.

Travis: Like right now, while you're thinking about it.

Teresa: Do it *right* now.

Travis: It's the reason there's an episode coming out today, on Monday. We normally come out Fridays, but we wanna make sure you're aware of the MaxFunDrive. We will *also* be putting out an episode this Friday and next Friday.

Teresa: And there's a lot of really great, awesome stuff that all of your favorite shows are doing for the FunDrive...

Travis: Correct.

Teresa: ... *and* there's really great, awesome stuff that *you* can also get as... you know, as a wonderful patron.

Travis: As a thank you for being a wonderful patron. I would say every year, the kind of biggest reward that's available is the bonus content archive.

Teresa: Oh, yeah.

Travis: Every year, the shows on Max Fun put out extra bonus content into a feed that is only available for Max Fun members. This year, Teresa and I did a *Shmanners* all about genie wish etiquette: the history of genies, what the rules seem to be, and how best to phrase your wish, so as not to get tricked by a genie.

Teresa: And that's an amazing addition for this year, but when you get the bonus feed, you get all of the bonuses from all the years.

Travis: All of it.

Teresa: So I think that— don't we have one about the King of Dudes?

Travis: We do— well, I know we have one about, uh, the fartist.

Teresa: The fartist, yes.

Travis: Yeah. I think the King of Dudes was main feed? There's a ton. There's a ton in there.

Um, this year, we also have *My Brother, My Brother and Me* did a *Hot Ones* audition, where my brothers and I ate progressively hotter chicken wings while asking each other intimate questions.

Teresa: [giggles]

Travis: Um, and hurt ourselves with food. So make sure you check that out: maximumfun.org.

If you are already a member, this is also the time where we encourage you to maybe consider upgrading your membership to the next level, or boosting it if you're not able to go to the next level, but you can give a little bit more. All of those things. We'll talk more about the rewards in a second.

But another reason we wanted to put out a show on Monday is it is Saint Patrick's day...

Teresa: Mm-hmm!

Travis: And our topic this week is Irish pubs.

Teresa: How fortuitous. [laughs]

Travis: It does work out, doesn't it?

So tell me, my love: tell me the history of the Irish pub.

Teresa: Certainly!

Travis: It started— I'm gonna guess. Can I guess where it started?

Teresa: Uh-huh.

Travis: Ireland? [snorts]

Teresa: [laughs] Yes.

Travis: It *would* be weird if the Irish pub started in, like, ancient Egypt.

Teresa: Yes, that would be strange.

Travis: Yes.

Teresa: So—

Travis: Aliens. [laughs]

Teresa: [laughs] So the thing about Irish pubs, right, is it feels almost like a stereotype, but it isn't, because it's absolutely true.

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Teresa: The Irish, they have pubs, and they have had pubs for a *very* long time.

Travis: Like 20 years.

Teresa: Longer.

Travis: What? 25?

Teresa: Longer than that.

Travis: What could be longer than 25 years?

Teresa: The tradition of gathering in pubs traces all the way back to the late 700s, beginning in the viking age in Ireland.

Travis: Get out of the town.

Teresa: So the vikings introduced lots of things to the Emerald Isle. You know, and partying is one of the cool things that vikings did a lot. Um...

Travis: I mean, varying degrees of how that party went - maybe for the people of the town that they were, you know, ransacking - weren't cool, though.

Teresa: I mean, I'm not talking about that kind of party.

Travis: Oh, okay.

Teresa: I'm talking about the kind of, like, almost religious kind of, um...

Travis: Fervor?

Teresa: ... penchant, indeed, of partying. Indeed, Norsemen believed alcohol to be a sacred beverage. In fact, some of their most popular folktales tell of the god Odin's quest to steal magical mead.

Travis: Sure.

Teresa: And it is said to grant anyone who drank it enormous intelligence and cunning. Uh...

Travis: Not what *I* think of when I think of getting drunk, but sure!

Teresa: But this is magical mead.

Travis: Oh, of course!

Teresa: Uh, drinking ceremonies were used in weddings, and for meetings, and for holidays, and even just, like, everyday meals, kind of like— so there would be celebrations including drink that were as small as, like, everyday prayer before you eat kind of thing, and then also for big feasts and stuff.

Travis: This is a thing that we find a lot when we do episodes that involve alcohol. Because oftentimes, it's easy for the puritanical past and... [mumbling softly] eh, present... [speaking normally] of America to sometimes just blend so deeply into the weave of the way we think about things...

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: ... that you forget that in basically— well, in most Anglo cultures especially, but in a lot of cultures throughout the world, drinking was so ingrained in festivities, in ceremonies, in— I mean, we've talked before about, like, small beer, and this idea of like, for a long time, it wasn't safe to drink water.

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: And so alcohol, because of the processes you would go through to make beer and stuff, that's what you drank with meals. Because it was safer, right? And so it feels like in American culture, especially with Prohibition and stuff like that...

Teresa: Certainly.

Travis: ... and that still having a lot of fingerprints throughout, it is kind of a shameful thing. Of like, "Yeah, you do it, but... be cool," you know? Versus these cultures where, "Oh, man, yeah, somebody is— we're having a religious ceremony; it's time to break it out." "Oh, we're celebrating this thing." "We're proud of our drinking culture." "We're *proud* of the things that are associated with it."

Teresa: Right. So around the 10th century, this is when we start to see evidence of communal drinking halls popping up across Ireland. And, I mean, they weren't *fancy*; it was usually someone operating a kind of, like, public house, right? So they would do it in, like...

Travis: A "pub," if you will.

Teresa: Indeed. In their parlor, or the first floor of their home, they would open up and serve drinks, right?

Travis: We've talked about this a little bit, too, when we were talking about coffee houses and everything...

Teresa: Mm-hmm!

Travis: ... that like, bars as we think about it now, it was a much more utilitarian idea, especially when everybody was so separate from each other.

Teresa: Sure.

Travis: Right? That it was like, "This is a chance to get together in one place."

Teresa: So you're talking about social strata, separate?

Travis: Well, no. I mean, like, literally by distance. You know, you might be on a farm...

Teresa: Oh, okay.

Travis: ... and not see your neighbors, you know, unless you were to come into town, meet up at a place, and be like, "Hey, how's everything going? What's new?" You know, "What's the news?" A place to share that kind of community thing...

Teresa: Sure.

Travis: ... and have a meeting place, you know?

Teresa: So these "public houses," like I mentioned, were shortened to the word "pub" that we call them today. And also, a lot of people would rent out their spare room for more income, right, and that's why a lot of public houses also have the word "inn" in their name.

Travis: Mm.

Teresa: Right? Such as the Ha'Penny Bridge Inn in Dublin. So of course, you could get mead there, right?

Travis: Sure.

Teresa: But also, like you said, people gathered together to discuss news, and share stories, and hang out. It's this "third space" that we hear a lot about today that people are missing, right? You got home, you got work... and you got the pub! That's...

Travis and Teresa: [simultaneously] ... the third place.

Teresa: By the 1600s, there were nearly 1,200 pubs in Dublin alone.

Travis: Whoa!

Teresa: Which is hilarious, because there were only about 4,000 families living in the city in that period. [chuckles]

Travis: So, like, three-and-a-half people per pub.

Teresa: [laughing] I guess. I have to admit that probably some of them were more popular than others.

And so, what we have during that century is the idea of licensing, right? In 1635, pubs began to be officially licensed. This will come into play several centuries later, but it's a way of kind of, like, establishing legitimacy to a pub...

Travis: Sure.

Teresa: ... and, you know...

Travis: Safety?

Teresa: Safety, sure...

Travis: In the drinks? Or is it just like, "Yeah, this is a real place"? "This isn't just some dude's basement where he's gonna serve you a beer and charge you \$20 dollars"?

Teresa: Yes. When you license something, you are able to regulate it a little more, right?

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: And what we have during this part of the history is the idea of the place for the everyman to go. Because you had, say, if you were more high-ranking, there were clubs and gambling halls. But you had to have—

Travis: Clubs like gentlemen's clubs and stuff.

Teresa: Right.

Travis: Not like...

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: ... a club that you would go and dance at.

Teresa: Right, yes.

Travis: Okay. Not a dance hall.

Teresa: Not a dance club.

Travis: But more of, like, a gentlemen's club, where you would sit and, you know, gamble.

Teresa: Although they would hold balls there. But you—

Travis: Sure. But different dancing than what we'd think of today.

Teresa: Right, yes.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Right, right. So you have clubs, and you had gambling halls; most of those require subscriptions. So you have to pay kind of, like, dues, right?

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: And then the pub is where the working class could convene without a subscription. And so, like, every—

Travis: Without membership, yeah.

Teresa: Yeah, without a membership. And the social status, financial status, was so revered that in 1735, there was a act passed called “Drink on Credit to Servants.”

Travis: What?

Teresa: The “Drink on Credit to Servants Act” made it so that owners couldn’t—

Travis: That— hey, can I just say, as far as branding goes: clear...

Teresa: Very clear.

Travis: ... concise. This wasn’t called, like, the “Freedom to—” you know, the “Freedom of Enjoyment Act.” Right there, it says on the name exactly what it is. Thank you for that. More of that.

Teresa: Mm-hmm. Uh, it says that owners couldn’t collect on an unpaid bar tab for a servant or a poor person. That doesn’t mean that they get to drink for free.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: It just means that you need to offer credit.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Um, so, like you said, the pub has been through its kind of pendulum swing of being the place where everybody goes, to the place where only bad people go, to the place where we can all go, to like...

Travis: Where everybody knows your name?

Teresa: Yep, sure. Sure. And one of those things that you mentioned as well: we had Prohibition in the United States, and during the 1800s we had the temperance movement.

Travis: Okay. In Europe, yes.

Hey, can we jump back to the part where I said, "Everybody knows your name," and a place where everybody can go?

Because you know a place everybody can go? Maximumfun.org/join!

Teresa: [laughs] I thought you were gonna make me sing the *Cheers* theme song.

Travis: I would never make you sing.

So everybody is welcome in maximumfun.org. You can go to maximumfun.org/join right now, and choose the level that you are comfortable supporting at. Like we said, at just \$5 dollars a month, you are able to get hundreds and hundreds of hours of bonus content. It's everything from, like, the last 15 years, basically.

Days. Literal days of content, at this point. There's video stuff in there; there's, you know, podcasts you're not gonna hear anywhere else. There's so much *My Brother, My Brother and Me* content...

Teresa: Oh, yeah.

Travis: We have been with the Network so long... there's so much *My Brother, My Brother and Me* content.

Teresa: I think it's also a great opportunity to maybe, like, dip your toe in a show that you haven't heard before.

Travis: Sure.

Teresa: The bonus content is a fun place to do that.

Travis: Um, the *Adventure Zone* bonus content this year is our third “Charlieverse,” which is where Justin’s daughter Charlie has come up with a one-shot dungeon that he takes me and Griffin and Dad through. Dad and Griffin and I play teenagers who have had weird things happen to them all their life, and now we’re going to a special school to find out why.

Teresa: Oh! [giggles]

Travis: Yeah. There were rooms submitted by Bebe, and Dot, and Henry, and some of Charlie’s friends, and it’s... absolutely wild. Um, and so you could check that out. But there’s so much— like I said, something for everybody. Something you’re gonna enjoy.

We’ve also got live streams happening basically every weekday for these two weeks, including this Friday. I’m gonna do an office tour of ev— all the plants and fish and weird collectables in my office. I promise to clean first...

Teresa: Alright!

Travis: ... so there we go.

Teresa: I mean, maybe that’s not what the people wanna see.

Travis: Oh, hey, there.

Teresa: Maybe they want— [giggles] Maybe they wanna see the real, raw Travis McElroy office.

Travis: Gross.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: At \$10 dollars a month, you get all of the bonus content, but you also get to pick a pin, an enamel pin designed by Tom Deja of Bossman Graphics. Um, there’s a *My Brother, My Brother and Me* “Trav Nation” pin, there’s a *TAZ* “Stop Calling Me Baby” pin; there’s a bunch of stuff.

But I really like the *Shmanners* pin this year. It's a monster truck painted with teacups and flowers, which we talked about in our Prohibition episode. Um, and you can get that. You can see all of those over at maximumfun.org.

Um, at \$20 dollars a month, there's a beach towel or Max Fun rocket logo, plus the pin, plus the bonus content. And there's levels higher than that, if you choose to support at a higher level with even more rewards. But the thing that we ask is that you consider becoming a member at whatever level you can.

Uh, these shows— you know, we say at the end of every episode, like, "Thank you to our editor, thank you to our researcher," so... we wouldn't be able to have those people if it wasn't for the support that we get from Max Fun members.

So we *would not* be able to do this show without the Max Fun member support that we get every year. It allows us to pay Alex for her work, pay Rachel for her work, and make this our job that we put these out. And we've been doing *Shmanners* for a while now, and that's all thanks to the people who support us every year and every month in the MaxFunDrive.

And it is a very unique setup that Max Fun does. I've looked at a ton of other networks over the years, just talking to people who are on other networks, and saying, like, "What's it like where you are?"

And to have this thing where, one, we own the shows that we make, but two, we are not beholden to advertisers the way that other people are... We are not constantly, like, on the grind to squeeze every penny out of advertisers we can.

Teresa: And it also gives us the opportunity to only advertise people that we *choose* to.

Travis: Correct. And that we make the shows that we wanna make, that we think people will like, and think about audience as far as, like, making a show for the people who like the show instead of "How can we get as many people in the door as possible?"

And that is a unique and very fortunate position to be in that we wouldn't be able to do without Max Fun, and without you guys as members. So MaxFunDrive is also special to me, because it's a chance for us to say thank you, and just think about all the things we get to do, all of the art we're able to make - which feels so gross to say, 'cause I don't feel like an artist, but thank you.

Um...

Teresa: Do you feel like a fartist?

Travis: Yes, I do.

Teresa: [giggles]

Travis: But we're able to say thank you for your support. Year over year, it really means a lot to us. So if you are a member, thank you. Maybe consider upgrading or boosting your membership this year. If you're not a member, please go to maximumfun.org/join now while you're thinking about it, and consider becoming a member!

Okay. Back to the show.

Teresa: Alright. So we left off in the 1800s, when the temperance movement swept across Europe.

Travis: And I'm just gonna say, boo!

Teresa: [giggles]

Travis: Now, here's the thing: if it was a moderation movement...

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: ... I— yeah! Cool, man! If it was a mindfulness movement, yeah! But that's not what they were looking for! None of these temperance people were like, "Hey, just slow it down," "Hey, maybe just a couple of drinks, and then call it a night." They were just— they were about *banning* things. And I

don't— I'm not for that, when it comes to things like... of the— you know, like... fun.

Teresa: I think— I agree with you, but I also think that the reason that the temperance movement, I think, was so attractive, especially to women at the time, is that there weren't the kind of social services and safety nets that we have today in a lot of places.

And so the idea that, yes, the pub was a place for people to get together, and camaraderie, and enjoy themselves after a long day. It also became... a place where people were able to hurt themselves, and their families.

Travis: Well, this is a thing we talked about in the Prohibition episode, too, and that we've talked about in a bunch of different things. Where when I talk about... "boo," right, as what happens with social issues, there are the people who are affected by it who are looking for help and need the actual problem to be addressed...

Teresa: Right.

Travis: ... and then there are people who capitalize on that problem to make it a quote, unquote "moral crusade" that is really about them gaining power, and manipulating that fear and concern to scare people into supporting whatever campaign they're doing, without actually addressing the underlying concern.

So when you talk about, you know, that the women at this time didn't have a lot of social services, didn't have ways of getting help when they needed it when they were in situations where they needed help... Instead of addressing that and the underlying problems that would lead to these issues, they said, "Follow me, and I'll ban alcohol."

Teresa: Right. And what we really need was social services, and healthcare, and rights for women, and things like that, right?

Travis: Exactly.

Teresa: Okay.

But pubs were used to sticking around and changing with the times, and at this point, this was when we start to see spirit groceries.

Travis: Excuse?

Teresa: Markets...

Travis: Ghost—

Teresa: Markets—

Travis: Ghost groceries?

Teresa: No, no. Markets where you could do your shopping, and if you just so *happened* to buy some alcohol while you were there...

Travis: Whoopsie.

Teresa: ... that was just part of the groceries that you were purchasing.

Travis: Well, they do that at Kroger now!

Teresa: They do that in Kroger, now.

Travis: They have a bar in the Kroger! You could get a cup of beer, while—they do that at the Jungle Jim's! The Jingle Jim's got a bar in it!

Teresa: Mm!

Travis: They do that now!

Teresa: I know, right?

Travis: I wish they called them Spirit Halloween groceries.

Teresa: [laughs]

In fact, if you go to a bar or a pub, and you see alcohol-lined shelving, right, behind the bar? That is when this particular thing starts to be commonplace. Before that, they might've had taps, where— that you could see, right? But most spirits and things were kept *under* the bar to be readily available. But the shelving behind the bar was more to display the *groceries* that were available.

Travis: Okay!

Teresa: Yeah, right? Did you hear my— did you hear my—

Travis: I did. I did caught that.

Teresa: *Groceries.*

Travis: *Groceries.*

Teresa: Right. And so this slick rebranding did keep pubs alive through those years. And, you know, also, barkeeps had to take up other jobs, if the pub wasn't doing too well. There— [chuckles] Alex points out that there were some barkeeps who began to work as undertakers, advertising that you could buy a beer and a coffin, in the saddest one-stop shop I've ever heard of.

Travis: I mean, here's the thing. If you're gonna be buying a coffin...

Teresa: Maybe you need beer.

Travis: ... does it make it sadder to have beer there, or is it better?

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: You know what I mean? If there's ever a time— if it's ever Miller time...

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: ... then perhaps it is when you have to pick out a coffin [chuckles] for someone.

Teresa: Anyway—

Travis: Especially if you're picking out your own.

Teresa: Oof...

Travis: Which I do wanna do ahead of time. I don't want you picking out—I've *seen* the way you shop. You go— you—

Teresa: [bursts out laughing]

Travis: You shop very reasonably. You're not gonna get me a coffin with bells and whistles.

Teresa: I don't wanna talk about this, but you *are* j—

Travis: I'm just saying I want bells and whistles!

Teresa: You're just burying it in the ground! Anyway... Anyway—

Travis: *You're* burying...

Teresa: [giggles]

Travis: ... *me* in the ground. I want a diamond-encrusted—

Teresa: Let— stop! Stop. [chuckles]

Travis: I don't want *any* worms gettin' in.

Teresa: [sighs] Alright. So the temperance movement...

Travis: It's okay. I'm never gonna die, so it's just a joke, folks. Don't worry.

Teresa: Great, great. Just a joke.

... did eventually pass. But there are some other things that pubs had to weather throughout the years. For instance, the Catholic Church was *very* interested in the mid-20th century in attempting to keep unmarried men and women from canoodling. And one way that they did this were, uh... they were talking about dance halls that had sprung up were these dens of sin, right?

Travis: Ugh.

Teresa: So live music was something that they started to try and convince the public was immoral.

Travis: Musi— live music?

Teresa: Live music.

Travis: Yeah. Well, if I've learned anything from *Footloose*, it's that dancing is *not* a crime.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: Yeah. [rhythmically] Yeah. Yeah, yeah.

[normally] Dancing doesn't always make you do nasties; look at the Book of Ecclesiastes.

Teresa: But...

Travis: Did I mention that in our last episode, too?

Teresa: You did! I think that you did.

Travis: Why is that in my brain?

Teresa: But here's the thing, right? Dance halls were not licensed places, right? So although you would have live music and maybe, I don't know, punch and wine or whatever, available at a *dance hall*... pubs *were* licensed.

So they were able to have live music, and nobody could tell them not to, right?

So again, the pub becomes the central third space in the culture. Because you could listen to your music, you could dance, maybe you could get groceries, you could hang out with your neighbor. Like, all that kind of stuff, right?

Travis: So even weathering all of this stuff is actually making them more centralized, making them *more* important to the thing.

Teresa: Absolutely. Yep.

Travis: And so instead of undoing the pub kind of culture, it's strengthening it.

Teresa: Yes. Well, the Catholic Church at this point wasn't attempting to undo the pub culture. They made the dance hall—

Travis: Yeah, but I'm saying, going through temperance...

Teresa: Oh, sure.

Travis: ... made it so like, "Yeah, now you can get your groceries here." And like, even making it so like they have to have second jobs. It's like, "Okay, cool. I also sell goods here that I make now, and— oh, you like music and you can't get it at the dance floor? We have music here, now."

Teresa: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

Um, also, you could go to this place for some privacy, as well. Um, you— I mean, you have your home, right? But it was a safer place than seeking out private entertainments other places, if you know what I mean. Um...

Travis: You mean like dates?

Teresa: Dates. Sure.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Maybe clandestine dates?

Teresa: Dates. And I'm not saying that that is where— that something that the pub was famous for, but you did— especially if you were a woman, you were able to go to the pub, and be able to exist in privacy, right?

Travis: You had public privacy.

Teresa: Public privacy.

Travis: Yes.

Teresa: That's right. And there is a very adorable place within most pubs called "the snug."

Travis: Excuse?

Teresa: It is—

Travis: One mo'? Say again?

Teresa: Well— [laughs]

Travis: The snug?

Teresa: The snug. So it's kind of like a room within the pub.

Travis: Uh-huh.

Teresa: Usually, like, with— it actually has walls, and a ceiling, and a door, and it might have windows that are usually kind of, like, foggy...

Travis: Oh! I'm picturing it. I know exactly what you're talking about.

Teresa: ... or stained glass... Right, yeah.

Travis: Yes.

Teresa: There would be a couple tables and chairs in there, and this could be where you were allowed to have your public privacy in the pub. And especially women who might not be safe outside of the snug could find relative safety in public.

Travis: Okay!

Teresa: Pretty cool, right?

Travis: I'm picturing it now, because like, I— we've both been to Ireland and Irish-style pubs, I guess— Irish pubs.

Teresa: All across the world.

Travis: And there—

Teresa: I mean, I haven't been in ones all across the world.

Travis: Yes.

Teresa: But there are them all across the world.

Travis: And there's always, like, some walls with stained glass...

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: ... or like frosted windows that they— and I've always just thought, like, "Yeah, it's just the style of it." And now it's like, "Well, no, that style comes from a practicality thing." *That's* the snug!

Teresa: Yes! Um, so you could be safe in there and enjoy your little drink in peace. It could be used for meetings that maybe it was too loud outside for. Um, you know, and if you're James Joyce, maybe you like to write... little letters to your wife, in relative privacy. People like—

Travis: I— can I tell you this real quick?

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: I'm not James Joyce; I'm Travis McElroy.

Teresa: You're not.

Travis: No, we've met before.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: Yeah, I'm Travi— I'm not James Joyce.

Teresa: Samuel Beckett also really liked...

Travis: I'm not Samuel Beckett, either!

Teresa: ... to write in the snug. Okay.

Travis: [laughs] That— we can all agree that's a fun— "Samuel Beckett liked to write in the snug..."

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: ... feels like the kind of sentence you say where it's just like, "I'm testing out all the sounds in one sentence." So it's like, "Yeah, can we test out the microphones?"

"Yeah, you got it. 'Samuel Beckett likes to write in the snug.'"

Teresa: [rising laughter]

Travis: "Yeah, everything sounds good. Yeah, it's coming through clear."

Teresa: Like I said, pubs exist— Irish pubs especially exist all around the world.

Here's a little song by The High Kings, um, that pokes fun at that subject. It's called, "The Irish Pub Song," and it goes: "They've got one in Honolulu, they've got one in Moscow too. They've got four of them in Sydney, and a couple in Kathmandu. So whether you sing or pull a pint, you'll always have a job. 'Cause wherever you go around the world, you'll find an Irish pub."

Travis: Nice. Hey, you know what else you can get around the world? Max Fun Shows.

Teresa: Whoo!

Travis: I actually don't know if we're available everywhere, but I know we have a lot of listeners around the world, so thank you to everybody. Um, a couple options I wanted to remind people of before we move onto anything else.

One, maybe you've never become a member because the idea of monthly memberships isn't something you're into. There *is* an option that you can just do a one-time payment. So instead of \$5 dollars a month, if you wanted to just do \$60 at your membership, boom. You got it.

Like I said, you can also boost, so it goes from \$5 to \$10, and \$10 to \$20. And maybe you're at \$10 now, and you're like, "I don't really wanna move up to \$20. I'm not ready for that yet." You can just boost your membership, and go up to like \$11 or \$12, right?

Even that much, right— it all matters, is what I'm saying. Every bit of support that you can give matters. Um, we are thankful and appreciative of everyone and everything that people are able to do to support us.

If you're already a member, this is a good time to share, you know, clips of stuff you love, comment on things, remind people that Max Fun is going on. Tell your friends to check out our streams. If you have a friend that you always listen to the show with, or you talk about the show with, ask them if they're a member yet.

There's lots of ways that you can help outside of monetarily, and we appreciate all of it.

Teresa: Yes, we do.

Travis: Um, one more time, maximumfun.org/join, go now. What are you waiting for?

Teresa: So let's do some Irish pub etiquette.

Travis: Yes, please.

Teresa: First of all, there isn't really a dress code. You can be— come as you are, right, to the Irish pub. You don't wanna look like you just rolled out of bed, but jeans and t-shirt is just fine.

Travis: Hey, maybe you do; that's fine.

Teresa: Listen, it's fine. It's a casual place.

Um, also, the drinking age in Ireland is 18, but oftentimes, younger people are allowed in, as long as they're chaperoned or at certain times of day. For instance, we have taken our children into a pub. Um...

Travis: Well, because oftentimes, these days, as we were talking about...

Teresa: Right.

Travis: ... about their kind of expanding thing, a lot of them are restaurants, too, right?

Teresa: Exactly.

Travis: A lot of them... Uh, especially if you're somewhere like Dublin, right?

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: It's a pub in the style, but it's expanded out to, like— they have a kids' menu, you know?

Teresa: Right, yeah. And so you should alwa— you can— you know, you can figure out how the pub handles underage patrons. You know, just talk to the bar staff, right? And a lot of places have websites nowadays.

Travis: A lot of places...

Travis and Teresa: [simultaneously] ... have websites...

Travis: ... nowadays. You're right, Teresa.

Teresa: [giggles] Sorry, I didn't mean to sound...

Travis: I agree. More and more, I find...

Teresa: ... [laughing] 80 years old.

Travis: These people with their websites.

Teresa: Anyway, when it comes to tipping, it works a little differently. Um, it's not expected, but it is *appreciated*, especially if you order something that's complicated, right?

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Or a whole round for, like, 10 to 15 people. Or if you order food, right? That takes more time, more effort. And when tipping, 10 to 15% is customary. On the subject of food...

Travis: I also find, by the way, with tipping, whenever I'm visiting a different country: ask.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: If you don't know.

Teresa: Totally.

Travis: I mean, at this point, there's so much international travel, you are not the first person to say, like, "And is tipping customary here, or what's the thing of that?" And you're gonna get a great explanation of it. It is not weird to ask.

Teresa: Yes. Um, and on the subject of food, you should try the pub food. I mean, especially places...

Travis: It's some of our favorite.

Teresa: Some of our favorites. You can find everything from Irish soda bread, to oysters are quite popular, Irish stew... you know, browse the menu while you wait for your drinks. There's some really great stuff to be had. Um...

Travis: You're not gonna get— why am I blanking on it? Why am I blanking on it? It's what people in America think of as, like, Saint Patrick's Day food. The meat... that goes with— what is it? Why can't I think of it?

Teresa: Corned beef and cabbage?

Travis: Yeah. Corned beef isn't as big a thing there...

Teresa: Right.

Travis: ... because that started here.

Teresa: Right.

Travis: You're mostly gonna get, like, big slabs of thick bacon. And rashers, they're great.

Teresa: Yes. So good. So here's one thing: I would say that if you go to an Irish pub, try and... order something that is what the local people would order, right?

Travis: Yeah!

Teresa: So maybe not a piña colada, right?

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: How about try a Guinness, or some Jameson, right? You could do that, or Murphy's, or Smithwick's, or any kind of, like, cider, or...

Travis: Try a Guinness cocktail.

Teresa: Oh, yeah!

Travis: There's so many good ones. Black and tan, all these different— my favorite one's called black velvet. And it's Guinness and, like, sparkling wine? Guinness and champagne?

Teresa: Ooh!

Travis: It's *so good*. It's one of my favorites.

Teresa: Delicious. And if you are hoping to drink something that maybe is like an Irish whiskey dropped inside a...

Travis: Yeah, don't.

Teresa: ... um, a stout, you might want to order a Dublin drop...

Travis: A Dublin drop! Ooh.

Teresa: ... or an Irish slammer...

Travis: There we go.

Teresa: ... or something like that. Instead of what it might be called around here.

Travis: Also, I'm just gonna say this, since it's Saint Patrick's Day. I know this isn't a Saint Patrick's Day episode, but let's loop it in. If you want to go

out and get blotto, right, you wanna go out and get drunk, that's fine. That's your choice; assumedly, you're an adult.

Don't use Ireland or any claims to distant, distant heritage as a veiled excuse to go— it's offensive. Don't do that. Right? Also, be responsible. Act like you've been there before. It's probably gonna be a different vibe...

Teresa: Right, yeah.

Travis: ... if you're visiting a village of, like, 1,000 people.

Teresa: Speaking of the vibe, the vibe for Irish pubs, especially in those villages, is: talk to people.

Travis: Yes.

Teresa: Socialize. Um, you know, don't be afraid to engage in conversations with other people, and know that unlike here in the states, where we have a tendency to be more... [hesitantly] solitary...?

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: It's a social event. In Ireland, in the UK, this is where people come to be together, and to argue, and to debate, and, you know, don't feel...

Travis: Disgust.

Teresa: ... disgust!

Travis: Yes.

Teresa: *Exactly.*

Travis: Maybe don't take so easy offense— don't go into an Irish pub looking for a fight. How about that, huh?

Teresa: Sure! But you might see one.

Travis: Yeah! Hey, listen— you might see a fight *anywhere*.

Teresa: That's true.

Travis: You might see a fight with parents picking kids up at daycare.

Teresa: [giggles]

Travis: Right? It could happen anywhere. But don't go in being like, "I'm gonna fight an old Irish man tonight." [laughs] Maybe don't do that.

Teresa: And, you know, if you're asked to move, maybe you're in somebody's— a regular seat, just be cool. Right? There are the regulars that, if you go and visit a place, they have their— the way that they do things. You know... It's a delicate ecosystem.

Travis: The last thing I'll say is, people - no matter where you are, no matter what culture, no matter where you're visiting, any of those things - people are not tourist attractions.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: So when you go into these pubs— if you're visiting anywhere, right, but if you're visiting an Irish village or whatever, and you go into a pub, I'm sure it's gonna be cool. It's different than what you're used to, right, you're gonna see people there just living their lives. They're not a display. Right? Come on. People aren't tourist attractions.

Hey, but you know what is an attraction? Maximumfun.org/join.

Teresa: Mm!

Travis: You should go check it out now, while you're thinking about it. Don't wait, and make sure to follow @themcelroyfamily on Instagram. We're gonna be putting up announcements, livestream stuff.

We've got bonus goals, uh, for each step of the way. When we hit 2,000 new and upgrading Max Fun members overall, me and my brothers are going to do a "Six Thumbs, One Heart" stream playing the Star Road levels of *Mario*.

And "Six Thumbs, One Heart," in case you don't know, is where me and my brothers share one controller, and I think with *Mario*, it's one of us is movement, one of us is jump, and one of us is action, but all at the same time. And it's chaotic.

Teresa: [giggles]

Travis: But we have other goals, as we move up through the Max Fun new and upgrading members. There's lots of other stuff. Even if you're just curious to see what it's about, maximumfun.org/join. Go check it out now, and thank you. Thank you for supporting us, thank you for sharing our show with people, thank you for submitting all the stuff you do to make this show possible.

Thank you to our editor, Rachel, without whom we would not be able to make this show. Thank you to Alex, our researcher, without whom we would not be able to make this show. Thank you to you for listening and supporting; without that, we wouldn't be able to have any of that other stuff, or this show, or whatever. I'd probably be working at an office, getting yelled at constantly...

Teresa: [chuckles]

Travis: ... because I'm so befuddled, dropping papers everywhere. "Oh, I burned the coffee again!" You get it.

What else, Teresa?

Teresa: We also want to say thank you to Brent "brentalfloss" Black for writing our theme song, 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 taking topic submissions, and questions, and idioms. Send those to shmannerscast@gmail.com, and say hi to Alex, 'cause she reads every single one.

Travis: This Friday, by the way, the episode we're doing, we're gonna talk about *Bridgerton*, season 2 in episodes that we are titling "Shmidgerton." Um, so if you wanna check out "Shmidgerton, Season 2," that'll be this Friday.

Um, and that's gonna do it for us! So join us again Friday.

Teresa: No RSVP required!

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

Teresa: Manners, *Shmanners*. Get it.

[theme song plays]

[acoustic guitar sting]

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