

## Shmanners: Tippi Hedren, Part 2

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**Travis:** Hey, folks. Real quick, before we get started, wanna let you know that there's a big chunk of this episode where we talk about a movie that Tippi Hedren helped make and was in, that involves some like animal attack stories. So if that's something—like animals attacking humans. If that's something that you do not want to listen to for any reason, feel free to skip this one, and find another episode that you enjoy. Thanks so much, and here's the episode!

["Shmanners Intro Theme" by brentalfloss 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 all right.

**Travis:** Hot out there!

**Teresa:** It's so hot.

**Travis:** Hot out there!

**Teresa:** The children, they do not want to play outside.

**Travis:** Oh my god. I asked them to sit outside for five minutes yesterday—

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** While we waited for something to finish. And you would have thought I was like asking Bebe to like fight a monster, or like wrestle some—

**Teresa:** Just now, I said, "Hey, why don't you guys play outside for a little bit while it's still cool?" And they said, "It is not cool, mom, it's 85 degrees outside. The Alexa told us." [chuckles]

**Travis:** Why did we teach them about weather?

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Ugh... [sings] 'The dog days of summer.' Okay.

**Teresa:** Yeah.

**Travis:** So, it's part two.

**Teresa:** Yes.

**Travis:** Of Tippi Hedren.

**Teresa:** Yes.

**Travis:** Tipperson Hedren, her full name.

**Teresa:** Hm... no.

**Travis:** Tippiany.

**Teresa:** No.

**Travis:** Tip... let me think...

**Teresa:** Are you really asking me or are you just gonna mix stuff up?

**Travis:** No, I remember that Tippi was... was it Swedish for like baby?

**Teresa:** So, 'tippi' is 'little girl' in Swedish.

**Travis:** Right.

**Teresa:** Her actual birth certificate—

**Travis:** I got the Swedish part, though, right?

**Teresa:** Yeah! Yeah. Her actual birth name is Natalie K. Hedren.

**Travis:** Okay. I bet people called her Tippi, though.

**Teresa:** I don't think that they do.

**Travis:** I would have!

**Teresa:** She's still alive, by the way.

**Travis:** Wait.

**Teresa:** Yes.

**Travis:** Wait.

**Teresa:** Yes.

**Travis:** Is it... oh my god.

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** I wasn't prepared for this. Because normally, when we do a biography, the big reveal for me is that they're dead.

**Teresa:** [chuckles] Is that they're dead.

**Travis:** And I... I don't know how to handle that we're talking about someone who's still alive!

**Teresa:** She turned to 95 in January.

**Travis:** Oh my gosh! Okay... okay... Ms. Hedren, if you're listening—

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** I'm gonna try to not make jokes anymore. I'm sorry I said Tippany. I'm so sorry, I didn't—I didn't know!

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** I didn't that you—*ah!* Okay, so...

**Teresa:** [chuckles] Are you done?

**Travis:** I am done, yes.

**Teresa:** Okay. Yeah, she's still alive. She is no longer giving interviews because, unfortunately, she has begun to succumb to dementia.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** But her last interview, I believe, was in 2018.

**Travis:** [gasps] *Heh.*

**Teresa:** But you know, she's still kicking.

**Travis:** 95 years old? Okay... All right, so I think when we left off, if I remember correctly, she went on safari? Or went to another country and had experiences with animals—

**Teresa:** Mozambique.

**Travis:** Mozambique.

**Teresa:** Yes. Yes.

**Travis:** And changed her whole deal.

**Teresa:** Yes. She was inspired, it would seem, in Mozambique.

**Travis:** Okay?

**Teresa:** But listeners, if you—if you didn't hear part one, I encourage you—

**Travis:** What are you doing?

**Teresa:** What?

**Travis:** What are you doing, listeners, if you didn't hear part one.

**Teresa:** [chuckles] I encourage you to go back.

**Travis:** You're gonna be so lost.

**Teresa:** Because we talked about her... you know, she's just a Hollywood icon. And she's one of the few people to work both with Alfred Hitchcock, famously, and Charlie Chaplin, right? She had a kind of... like, what I—what I want to say, not that she didn't want to be an actress, I mean, she—

**Travis:** It was not—it was not her life goal.

**Teresa:** Yes.

**Travis:** It was a thing that she more or less kind of fell into.

**Teresa:** What does—I want to say clandestine. What does that mean, clandestine?

**Travis:** No. Clandestine is like, secret.

**Teresa:** Oh, okay.

**Travis:** What are you trying to find?

**Teresa:** I'm trying to find something that you kind of like stumble into.

**Travis:** Coincidence?

**Teresa:** Maybe?

**Travis:** It was a was a confluence of events.

**Teresa:** There we go, maybe that's what I'm looking for.

**Travis:** Yeah. That led to her being a *very famous* actor, very successful actor, for a brief amount of time, until it was more or less ruined by Alfred Hitchcock being a huge turd.

**Teresa:** For a while, you're right. It was more or less ruined.

**Travis:** Well, I mean, definitely the trajectory was ruined.

**Teresa:** Yes, yes.

**Travis:** Like even if she was able to get back to a career—

**Teresa:** Mm-hm.

**Travis:** The amount, it's—we can't even fathom what success she might have had, had she not been blackballed by Alfred Hitchcock after she stopped working with him for being an immense turd.

**Teresa:** Not her, he was an immense turd.

**Travis:** Yes, correct.

**Teresa:** Yes.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** Yes. I mean, she did still continue to act. She did television. She did, I mean, like, she... she's quoted as saying that she had a guest star role on the Bold and the Beautiful, and that was one of her favorite roles.

**Travis:** Oh, good for her.

**Teresa:** She did a bunch of movies, specifically with her daughter, Melanie. Anyway, so, okay, it is wonderful to visit a place and be so odd and inspired that you get what you may decide is kind of like your life goal.

**Travis:** Your calling.

**Teresa:** Your calling from it, right. And definitely, I would say that this trip to Mozambique resulted in one of the like... what am I—

**Travis:** Turning points?

**Teresa:** I'm at a real loss for words today.

**Travis:** Listen—

**Teresa:** And I don't know exactly why.

**Travis:** It's hot! Your brain is a fried egg.

**Teresa:** [chuckles]

**Travis:** This is your brain. This is your brain when it's hot. Any questions?

**Teresa:** One of the touchstones of her life—

**Travis:** There we go.

**Teresa:** Let's say, she and her husband, Noel Marshall, were visiting the reserve in Mozambique. And they were charmed by the lions. They became completely devoted—

**Travis:** Like mesmerized?

**Teresa:** I guess so.

**Travis:** Like the lion's eyes started—

**Teresa:** Like hypnotized them.

**Travis:** Spinning in swirls and they were like, "Whatever you want."

**Teresa:** They became completely devoted to the cause of preserving and protecting the lions of Africa.

**Travis:** I bet—listen, you know I love animals. I think animals not only deserve protection, but unfortunately, need protection in a lot of circumstances. I bet it feels real cool to know that you're a protector of lions.

**Teresa:** Yeah, totally.

**Travis:** Right? If it's like, "Oh, you know a lion? I guard them." Ah, that's so cool! Lion guard!

**Teresa:** Ooh! That's a movie, I think.

**Travis:** That's a TV show.

**Teresa:** Ah.

**Travis:** Including Shujaa Punja.

**Teresa:** Oh, yeah!

**Travis:** With—yeah—

**Teresa:** Christopher Jackson—

**Travis:** [sings] 'Shujaa pa—' It's so good.



**Teresa:** [chuckles]

**Travis:** One of the best songs ever written.

**Teresa:** And sung very well by Chris Jackson.

**Travis:** Oh my god, so good.

**Teresa:** Anyway, in the '70s, large cats in Africa were in danger. Their numbers were plummeting because of hunting and industrialization. And even those that lived in captivity were like kept in poor conditions.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** Right? So even though they lived, it was not great. And so, on the game reserve that they were on, they came across an old building that a pride of lions had turned into their home. And this was like the—

**Travis:** A fixer-upper.

**Teresa:** [chuckles]

**Travis:** "Chip and Joanna Gaines are working with a pride of lions."

**Teresa:** This was their inspiration to make a movie about lions.

**Travis:** Ooh?

**Teresa:** And they decided that all the proceeds from the movie would go toward improving the lives of the big cats in captivity. And they were going to—they were like, "Let's make a movie about scientists that live in harmony with big cats. And they keep them in their own home in order to protect them from hunters."

**Travis:** Can I tell you about—

**Teresa:** "It could be a comedy dealing with the hijinks that ensue with the family that comes to visit him and his lion-filled house."

**Travis:** Can I tell you about my broken brain?

**Teresa:** Okay?

**Travis:** Anytime someone uses the phrase big cats, I know they're talking about like lions and tigers and stuff, but I just picture like huge house cats.

**Teresa:** Oh?

**Travis:** That are just like walking—like eight foot tall house cats that was like, "Yeah, these are my big cats." So, it's a hilarious comedy about a scientist who lives with lions.

**Teresa:** Mm-hm.

**Travis:** And then someone comes—very Dr. Doolittle—

**Teresa:** A little bit!

**Travis:** Feel. Yeah.

**Teresa:** Yeah. A little bit. You know, I think that this is—this is like a first pitch, right?

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** We've been there. We've talked about the kind of like... like spit balling and no bad ideas. And like, you know, things that happen late at night when you're like, "Oh, wouldn't that be great?" And I feel like that happens to a lot of people.

**Travis:** It does have that feeling of like—

**Teresa:** And then in the morning—

**Travis:** "Okay, great, so—"

**Teresa:** [chuckles]

**Travis:** "So, the scientist has lions."

"We get that."

"Okay, great. So, then somebody comes to visit."

"Okay. And then what—and so, what's the movie about?"

**Teresa:** Hilarity ensues.

**Travis:** No, but what—you can't just say hilarity ensues and you don't know what the hilarity is.

**Teresa:** [chuckles]

**Travis:** "No, you don't get it. It's funny because there's lions there."

"Yeah, but in what way?"

"Because he gets freaked out that there's lions there."

"Cool. And then what?"

**Teresa:** Anyway! This sounds like a first draft.

**Travis:** Yes.

**Teresa:** Right? Not to Noel and Tippi!

**Travis:** Oh, boy.

**Teresa:** They loved this idea so much that they just could not let it go. And the idea grew the more they talked about it. And they decided that although they would set this film in Africa, they were going to film it in California. They also—

**Travis:** Probably easier.

**Teresa:** Cast themselves in the movie.

**Travis:** Oh, always a good call!

**Teresa:** And Marshall directed the movie.

**Travis:** Oh, even better! Ah!

**Teresa:** And—

**Travis:** Look at all those green flags stretching out before us!

**Teresa:** They cast all their children in it as well!

**Travis:** Oh, cool, cool! It was a home movie!

**Teresa:** So, Noel's sons, John and Jerry Marshall and Tippi's daughter, Melanie Griffith—

**Travis:** Oh, Tippi Hedren's daughter is Melanie Griffith?

**Teresa:** Yeah, I said that, didn't I?

**Travis:** You probably did.

**Teresa:** Oh, okay.

**Travis:** Yeah... But that was like a week ago.

**Teresa:** Oh, okay.

**Travis:** You have to understand.

**Teresa:** I see—are all in the movie now. And originally—

**Travis:** They played the lions.

**Teresa:** No.

**Travis:** No...

**Teresa:** No. Originally, Tippi and Noel were going to, quote, 'rent Hollywood trained lions,' but there simply wasn't enough to support their vision for the film.

**Travis:** Oh, Teresa, I don't like where this is heading.

**Teresa:** They were gonna need many, many more lions—

**Travis:** Uh-huh?

**Teresa:** And other big cats.

**Travis:** Yeah?

**Teresa:** And so, they decided to start raising lions in their own home.

**Travis:** Oh, god. So the movie came to light. The movie—there's a home full of lions... and so they made a home full of lions!

**Teresa:** Yup.

**Travis:** Oh, no...

**Teresa:** Tippi and Marshall, who are in no way biologists or zookeepers or animal trainers—

**Travis:** Oh, god!

**Teresa:** Started raising, from young cubs, fully-grown lions in their suburban home, in Sherman Oaks, California.

**Travis:** Okay, listen. Okay, listen, listen. Do you know what this sounds like to me? This sounds like something our eight year old would propose to us alongside like, "I want to make a hoverboard out of a metal tube with burning wood chips in it. And let's get some baby lions. We'll raise them. Don't you see? Iff we raise them from birth, it'll be totally chill."

**Teresa:** That was the idea. They thought that if they raised these lions as if they were giant house cats, that there would be a less likelihood of them mauling—

**Travis:** Less.

**Teresa:** Cast and crew.

**Travis:** Not none. [titters]

**Teresa:** Not none. And you'll find out—

**Travis:** Oh, god.

**Teresa:** Much more than none. [titters]

**Travis:** Ah, no! Who could have seen this coming? Okay, wait, before—I need a break.

**Teresa:** Okay?

**Travis:** How about I thank you note for a sponsor.

[theme music plays]

**Travis:** Hey, do you like tea?

**Teresa:** I do.

**Travis:** I do too! What's your favorite tea?

**Teresa:** Hm... I like—

**Travis:** What kind of tea?

**Teresa:** I like an—

**Travis:** You don't have to—

**Teresa:** I like an iced tea nowadays, because they're so—it's so hot. I like an iced tea. I like a sweet iced tea.

**Travis:** I enjoy chai.

**Teresa:** Oh, yeah.

**Travis:** I like a powerful green tea, a gunpowder green tea.

**Teresa:** Mhm!

**Travis:** Which also just feels cool to say.

**Teresa:** [chuckles]

**Travis:** And you know.... you know what kind of experience I like with tea?

**Teresa:** Is it a... Teasperience?

**Travis:** It is a Teasperience! Listen, if you haven't tried Teasperience, you're missing out. Teasperience is dedicated to premium, loose-leaf teas that'll have you sipping in style. Whether you're starting your tea journey or you've been brewing for years, you're going to find it at Teasperience. They have so many different varieties, so many different—not just varieties, but like levels of caffeine, different types—anything you're looking for. They sent us a pack of a bunch of different teas, and I have yet to find a clunker in that box. They've all been amazing. And I feel like now I have—you know, that scene in Scott Pilgrim vs. the World where—

**Teresa:** Yeah! The whole thing—yeah.

**Travis:** Ramona is just listing it off.

**Teresa:** Yeah.

**Travis:** That's what I feel like now. And it makes me feel like Ramona Flowers, and it's all I've ever wanted.

**Teresa:** [chuckles]

**Travis:** Right? So—

**Teresa:** A whole cabinet full of tea.

**Travis:** It's amazing. So, you need to go check out Teasperience. You need to find out what they have. Because like I said, premium teas, loose-leaf blends for best taste and quality. There's something for everyone. And if you're ready to experience premium tea like never before, head over to [teasperience.com](https://teasperience.com). That's T-E-A-S-P-E-R-I-E-N-C-E.com, and use code Shmanners, S-H-M-A-N-N-E-R-S, to get 15% off your first order. Go now, [teasperience.com](https://teasperience.com), and use code Shamnners to get 15% off your first order.

**Teresa:** Oh, and have a tea party!

**Travis:** Oh my gosh, yes. Even if it's a tea party of one, you're worth it.

[break]

**Alex:** Hello, this is Alex.

**Katie:** Hello! This is Katie.

**Alex:** We host Secretly Incredibly Fascinating, and this week, we released our 250<sup>th</sup> episode.

**Katie:** Two hundred and fifty-ty-ty-ty-ty-ty...

**Alex:** [chuckles] Every episode stands on its own.

**Katie:** And every episode is about a seemingly ordinary topic.

**Alex:** We reveal the history and the science of stuff like salt and clouds and your computer mouse.

**Katie:** And episode 250 is about the word hello!



**Alex:** Hello!

**Katie:** You know that word, you're ready to go!

**Alex:** So, let us say hello to you. Find Secretly Incredibly Fascinating at [maximumfun.org](http://maximumfun.org).

[break]

**Ben:** Hi! Is this Brennan?

**Brennan:** This is Brennan.

**Ben:** This is Ben Harrison. I'm the host of The Greatest Generation and Greatest Trek, along with my buddy Adam, on Maximum Fun. I am calling because you, Brennan, have been named Maximum Fun's member of the month!

**Brennan:** Oh my god, I'm so honored to be the Max Fun member of the month.

**Ben:** As member of the month, you'll be getting a gift card to the Max Fun store, a special member of the month bumper sticker, and a special priority parking spot at the Max Fun headquarters in Los Angeles, California, just for you. That's a perk that I don't even get as a host of shows on the network.

**Brennan:** This all sounds fantastic. I'm gonna have to figure out a way to use that parking spot.

**Ben:** [chuckles] Brennan, you have to do it. Just to rub it in my face alone. Have a great day and... live long and prosper. [laughs] I don't know how to do this.

**Brennan:** That works. I will do my best to live long and prosper.

**Ad Read:** Become a Max Fun member now at [maximumfun.org/join](http://maximumfun.org/join).

[break]

**Travis:** Okay, now we're back.

**Teresa:** We're back!

**Travis:** To the lions in the house, with their children...

**Teresa:** Right.

**Travis:** [sighs] Hah...

**Teresa:** So—

**Travis:** Tippi!

**Teresa:** So, here's the thing—

**Travis:** [in a deep voice] "Tippi!"

**Teresa:** There—

**Travis:** "Why did you bring all these lions into my house?!"

**Teresa:** Tippi was into it, and you'll find that Noel was super into it.

**Travis:** I bet! I don't think you—I don't think you half—like are half into bringing lions into your suburban home. I don't think you're like, "Eh, I don't know, I could take it or leave it." I think you're either fully committed or you're fully against it.

**Teresa:** There is a, quote, 'at home' shoot for Life magazine that consists of beautiful family portraits living alongside these animals, right? So like, the photographer makes it look like it's like a paradise, right? So like, that there's this giant lion named Neil. And Neil looks like—

**Travis:** So—sorry. Sorry. Noel had a lion named Neil?

**Teresa:** Neil.

**Travis:** I but that was so confusing when you called for one and the wrong one would come. Ugh.

**Teresa:** He looks like a giant house cat, right? He's bothering Noel in his office. He's lounging in bed with Melanie Griffith. He's hanging out at the pool with Tippi. Like, it is very '70s fever dream.

**Travis:** Uh-huh.

**Teresa:** Kind of picturesque, right? But the neighbors started to get antsy.

**Travis:** Uh-huh. Yeah. Yeah!

**Teresa:** About—

**Travis:** Can you imagine? Can you imagine?

**Teresa:** A literal pride of lions in your neighborhood?

**Travis:** Yeah, *dude*.

**Teresa:** So, Tippi realized that this was probably not the best idea. Not the way to make friends in the neighborhood, really. So, she would eventually buy property and open up what she called the Shambhala Reserve. Which is still going, by the way. But back to the reason for the lions. The lions were raised for a film named Roar, and it took eleven—

**Travis:** On the nose.

**Teresa:** Eleven years to make.

**Travis:** Boy.

**Teresa:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Take that, James Cameron. Eleven—how long did it make—take you to make Avatar, huh? It's no Roar. Okay, go on. [titters]

**Teresa:** Five years of that were just to complete the photography. So they were filming—they were filming for *five years*.

**Travis:** I have to imagine, it's hard to get the shot when you're dealing with lions, especially not Hollywood trained lions.

**Teresa:** I know. I know.

**Travis:** Trying to get 'em on their marks. You gotta figure out craft services.

**Teresa:** Mm-hm.

**Travis:** Ugh.

**Teresa:** When principal photography began in 1976, the animal cast involved 137 lions, tigers, leopards, cougars and jaguars. A small—

**Travis:** That's too many! Hey—

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** That's too many!

**Teresa:** Yup. A small herd of sheep—

**Travis:** I would—if I saw five lions in a movie I'd be like, that's a lot of lions. And then you get to 137?

**Teresa:** Of all of those together.

**Travis:** Too many!

**Teresa:** An innumerable amount of ostriches, flamingos, storks and black swans. And a 10,000 pound bull elephant named Timbo.

**Travis:** This is a mistake.

**Teresa:** Yes.

**Travis:** A very—

**Teresa:** Yes, it is.

**Travis:** I have to imagine, expensive and dangerous mistake.

**Teresa:** The couple's son, John Marshall, who was interviewed after the entire ordeal, said, "I remember being like, 'Why do we have tigers? Tigers aren't in Africa. Or what about these mountain lions? They're from North America.' And everyone just told me those were stupid questions."  
[chuckles]

**Travis:** I—hey, history will show.

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** History will show these were not stupid questions. I—in fact, if anything, you didn't go far enough. Why do we have any of this?

**Teresa:** It wouldn't have happened under my watch. I mean, this whole thing wouldn't have happened under my watch. But I don't think that it is hard to assume that mauling occurred frequently.

**Travis:** Yeah. There are more maulings than teens in the '80s and '90s. You know what I mean? Because they go to the mall, is what I mean.

**Teresa:** Here are a few that I would like to explain—

**Travis:** Before we get to the maulings, I'm—

**Teresa:** Okay?

**Travis:** I also just remembered that this was supposedly to raise money.

**Teresa:** Mm-hm.

**Travis:** To help lions.

**Teresa:** Mm-hm.

**Travis:** It had to be incredibly expensive!

**Teresa:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Like... Tippi?! Okay. So the—let's get to these hilarious maulings.

**Teresa:** Melanie walked off set at one point saying that she, quote, "Didn't want to wind up with half a face."

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** And shockingly, came back to set and almost immediately got mauled. And Noel left that scene in the final cut of the film.

**Travis:** Noel?! And they kept going...

**Teresa:** They kept going.

**Travis:** Listen—

**Teresa:** A lion put his entire mouth around John Marshall's head, and flat out refused to let go. It took six men 20 minutes to get him free. John got 56 stitches in his head, and then came back to production two days later. Noel also left that scene in the film. [chuckles]

**Travis:** It's not like a kid who gets their head stuck in the railing of a fence?

**Teresa:** It does seem like that.

**Travis:** Like, was the lion just passively like, "Uh-uh!" Like, "No, let go of the boy."

"Ah-nah." Like—

**Teresa:** I mean, Noel got his own back in the way because he himself—

**Travis:** A lion stole his identity and ruined his credit.

**Teresa:** Being the writer, director and star of the film, he had his own injuries to prove it. By the end of production, he had been bitten so many times that he was hospitalized with gangrene for six months. And also had to have his leg basically reconstructed when a lion clamped his teeth into his leg and drug him around the set.

**Travis:** Oh my...

**Teresa:** You know, I—it is not lost on me, the fact that these people thought that they were doing something so great that they were able to withstand all of this. Because it would have been me—wouldn't have been me. I would have been like, absolutely not. Never returned.

**Travis:** The word that comes to mind, and it is a massive understatement, but the word that comes to mind is misguided.

**Teresa:** Mm-hm.

**Travis:** Right? Of like, hey, man, I have an idea. If you want to raise money for these lions, just do any other movie. Just do a movie.

**Teresa:** Yeah.

**Travis:** It doesn't have to be a movie with a hundred—

**Teresa:** And give that money to the lions.

**Travis:** And then give that money.

**Teresa:** Yeah.

**Travis:** To the lions. The lions don't care if the movie is about lions. Lions don't care.

**Teresa:** Yup.

**Travis:** Or do a beautiful documentary about lions in their natural habitat and how they should be protected and left alone. Not this, though.

**Teresa:** Not this. They were doing okay, until... oh?

**Travis:** Okay—

**Teresa:** Relatively.

**Travis:** By how bad it could be, I guess?

**Teresa:** Production-wise.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** They were filming in Soledad Canyon, which is 50 miles outside of Los Angeles. But it's also a really great place to be burned in a wildfire or to be washed away in a flood. There's a—there's a lot of those things that happen there. And so, the producers of Roar were lucky to—lucky? Lucky enough to experience both.

**Travis:** At what point do you cancel a thing you're doing?

**Teresa:** I don't know. It took 11 years, so you think that somebody within there thought, "Let's just can it?"

**Travis:** Yeah...

**Teresa:** A flood ripped through the canyon during production that took out film equipment, washed away the set, led to three lions escaping and wandering around the canyon. There were also enough rough edits and completed cuts of part of the film on location, but not after the flood, which cost them thousands, if not millions of dollars in damages.

**Travis:** Okay...

**Teresa:** Tippi, remember Tippi?



**Travis:** I do. Yes, I recall Tippi.

**Teresa:** The lions were not the main point of contention for her.

**Travis:** Okay?

**Teresa:** Timbo the elephant, they really didn't get along.

**Travis:** Oh, okay? Was it political?

**Teresa:** I don't know. I don't know. But elephants are typically quite docile, but they're, you know, they're also enormous and heavy. And like—

**Travis:** They never forget a grudge.

**Teresa:** They don't really seem to care about things that get in their way.

**Travis:** Yeah, that's true. Yeah. Uh-huh.

**Teresa:** Why go around it when you can go through it?

**Travis:** Yeah, that's the elephant way. That's what I was taught when I was raised by elephants.

**Teresa:** Mm-hm.

**Travis:** Did I ever tell you about that?

**Teresa:** Yeah, mm-hm.

**Travis:** Yeah, we'll talk about it later.

**Teresa:** Mm-hm. Mm-hm. Timbo not only threw Tipi from him while she was riding him, but also crushed Tippi's leg between his tusk and his trunk.

**Travis:** Uh-huh.

**Teresa:** Resulting in needing skin grafts, and her also contracting gangrene, and landing her in the hospital—

**Travis:** How many cases of gangrene before you cancel a Hollywood movie shoot? Because for me, it's one.

**Teresa:** [laughs] Well, you can—you can see it in the final cut, because Noel left that in too.

**Travis:** Noel! Noel... Noel?!

**Teresa:** Yeah. Overall, 70 members of the cast and crew wound up with serious injuries. And the movie that Noel Marshall said that he could make in six months with three million dollars turned into a five year long financial and physical hell that cost seventeen million dollars. [chuckles]

**Travis:** That was what year?

**Teresa:** Well—

**Travis:** Like the 1970s?

**Teresa:** The '70s. It was—it was released in the '80s.

**Travis:** Boy howdy.

**Teresa:** Because it took 11 years to finish it from first start to—

**Travis:** Yeah. Uh-huh.

**Teresa:** Released in 1981.

**Travis:** And you said it ended up costing seventeen million?

**Teresa:** Seventeen million dollars.

**Travis:** Okay. I'm gonna do some quick conversion here... Okay, yeah, no, 141 million dollars. So, imagine 141 million dollar movie... *now*. Okay, cool.

**Teresa:** And all of this carnage, a measly two million dollar return at the box office.

**Travis:** Uh-huh, yeah! Yeah. Uh-huh.

**Teresa:** Yeah. It didn't even get released in North America until 2015, which was a re-release by film enthusiasts, who treated the film as a documentary on how *not* to make a movie.

**Travis:** Yeah. Oh my goodness gracious.

**Teresa:** Yeah. At the time when it was made, it was billed as a comedy. But people who have seen it reflect on the fact that it plays much more like a thriller.

**Travis:** Yeah!

**Teresa:** I think that—

**Travis:** A comedy of terrors!

**Teresa:** [shudders] Uh-ah... And Noel Marshall didn't make any other movies. I think—

**Travis:** He made one too many!

**Teresa:** Yeah.

**Travis:** One might say.

**Teresa:** Yeah. Yeah. And his—I think that—I think that people's trust in him was kind of shattered with this excursion.

**Travis:** Definitely his children's trust in him.

**Teresa:** Certainly. After shooting wrapped, Tippi felt passionate about the potential for humans to build real relationships with animals. She even wrote

a book called The Cats of Shambala, which she told her side of the story of while filming Roar. But she didn't give Noel a second chance, like she did the cats. They divorced after the movie came out. So, 1982.

**Travis:** Cool. Okay.

**Teresa:** Yeah. So, let's talk about post Roar.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** She created the Shambala Reserve, which, like I said, 40 miles outside of Los Angeles. And she wanted it to be a sanctuary for large cats, and elephants too, and all that kind of stuff. Any animals that needed homes after the exotic animal trade, right? Had ripped them from their habitats. In 1983, she also founded a non-profit organization to fund the estate named the Roar Foundation. [titters]

**Travis:** Mm-hm. Okay. Can I just say, maybe what it should have been in the first place.

**Teresa:** Mm-hm!

**Travis:** A foundation to help instead of a movie starring 137 big cats.

**Teresa:** Yes.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** And so, she took whatever film or television jobs that she liked and used the money to fund her Roar Foundation, wanting to improve the quality of life for the rescued animals, which I think is good.

**Travis:** Absolutely wonderful, especially at that time in Hollywood, when there wasn't nearly enough protections for the animals that were, one, being brought in as pets, which they shouldn't have been, and two, being used in film and television. And the idea of like, well, they've aged out of it, or it didn't work out, or the TV show or whatever movie they were brought in for wrapped, and now what do we do with them?

**Teresa:** Right.

**Travis:** I imagine it was a very necessary and helpful thing to have this kind of foundation and reserve to be like, "We will re-home them, they wouldn't know how to survive, you know, so we'll take care of them here." That kind of thing.

**Teresa:** Absolutely.

**Travis:** I could see where that was a huge—like, hugely beneficial for the animals.

**Teresa:** Certainly. And like I said earlier, she continued to work all throughout the '80s and '90s. She appeared in *Tales from the Darkside*, *Heart to Heart*, *Pacific Heights*, with Michael Keaton, the new *Alfred Hitchcock Presents*, which was in 1985, I guess. And interestingly, in the episode that she's in, she plays a waitress who berates a customer for taking too long to eat her lunch, and the customer she harasses is played by Melanie Griffith.

**Travis:** Well, there you go!

**Teresa:** Yeah, yeah. Her other endeavor, other than the lions, right? Is she wanted to do something to help women who were refugees from the Vietnam War.

**Travis:** Okay, cool.

**Teresa:** After the war ended in 1975, Hedren went to visit Hope Village, which was a Vietnamese refugee camp in Northern California. She was hoping to tour the place and help the women there find ways to support themselves and their families. Initially, she brought in seamstresses and typists to teach them job skills, but she didn't expect the women that she met to be infatuated with her nails. She had a very iconic set of nails, they were like a coral color. And so, she called Dusty, who was her personal manicurist, and flew her up to the camp several weekends in a row to teach a group of 20 women to become professional nail techs. And so, they would

practice on each other, or even on Tippi. And when they, quote, 'graduated from the program,' because it wasn't like a real school or whatever, it was like self-taught type stuff, Tippi proceeded to get them jobs all over Southern California. And so, now, so many of those women and the women that they have taught and employed have opened their own businesses that she is known as the godmother of the Vietnamese nail salon.

**Travis:** Oh, wow!

**Teresa:** Yeah.

**Travis:** So, it's very interesting to be like, here is a woman who had so many—was so beneficial to the world in a bunch of ways. And had like this one really bad idea. But other than that though, was great.

**Teresa:** Yeah.

**Travis:** *Is great.*

**Teresa:** Is great. Her last credited film role is in 2018. I think earlier I said that that was her last interview. But no, I mean, it was her last credited film role. And, you know, she had a pretty long career, right? She was a beautiful woman, a good talent. Largely untapped, right? Until she met Alfred Hitchcock. And I think that although he, you know, kind of puppeteered her—

**Travis:** Is a huge turd, yeah.

**Teresa:** And molded her in his own image, she came out from under that and had a really successful career.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** At the age of 88, she was the face of a Gucci campaign for their line of jewelry and timepieces. And you know, she also went on to write her own autobiography, Tippi: A Memoir, which came out in 2016. Today, it's estimated that 80% of the nail techs in California and 45% of the nail

technicians in America are Vietnamese, because of the community that Tippi had a hand in creating, right? So that—

**Travis:** Interesting.

**Teresa:** That kind of like family tree of those businesses largely traces back to that one refugee camp. And so like, I think that, like you said, there was—there were a couple of like rough patches—

**Travis:** Yeah! Yup, yup, yup, yup, yup!

**Teresa:** In there. But all in all, net positive, I think.

**Travis:** Yeah. And you know what? I want to say thank you to our researcher, Alex, without whom we could not do this episode. Thank you to our editor, Rachel, without whom we could not do this episode. And thank you to you for listening! We could do the episode without you, but what would—

**Teresa:** Hm, but I won't.

**Travis:** What would be the point?

**Teresa:** I won't. [titters]

**Travis:** What would be the point? We want to say thank you to everybody who came out to Columbus to see My Brother, My Brother and Me, and The Adventure Zone. Coming up next is Anaheim, we're doing My Brother, My Brother and Me there and an Adventure Zone: Dadlands, run by Brennan Lee Mulligan. And then on that same weekend, we'll be in Sacramento, doing another My Brother, My Brother and Me.

**Teresa:** Oh, I wanted to say that make sure when you get your tickets in Anaheim, that you are aware which show is the MBMBaM and which is the TAZ, because they recently got switched or something.

**Travis:** Yeah, we had to switch them because of a scheduling thing. And then there's a bunch of other shows coming up in a bunch of different

places. You can go to [bit.ly/mcelroytours](http://bit.ly/mcelroytours) to find out all the information. What else, Teresa?

**Teresa:** We always thank Brent 'Brental Floss' Black for writing our theme music, which is available as a ringtone, where those are found also. 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.

And as always, we are taking your topic submissions, your questions, your idioms. Hey, and if you want to recommend someone we should do a biography for, someone who has influenced culture in one way or another, you can send those to [shmannerscast@gmail.com](mailto:shmannerscast@gmail.com). And make sure that you say hi to Alex, because she reads every single one!

**Travis:** And that's going to do it for us. So join us again next week.

**Teresa:** No RSVP required.

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

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

["Shmanners Intro Theme" by brentalfloss plays]

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