

MBMBaM 780: Face 2 Face: Good Will Horsing

Published on September 16th, 2025

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Intro (Clint): The McElroy brothers are not experts!

[audience cheers]

Intro (Clint): And their advice should never be followed! Travis insists he's a... *sexpert*... [shudders] *eh*... But if there's a degree on his wall, I haven't seen it. Also, this show isn't for kids, which I mention only so the babies out there know how cool they are for listening. What's up, you cool baby?!

[audience cheers]

[theme song "My Life is Better with You" by Montaigne plays]

Justin: Hello, and welcome to My Brother, My Brother and Me, an advice show for the modren era. I'm your oldest brother, Justin McElroy.

[audience cheers]

Travis: What's up, Trav Nation?! I'm your middlest brother, Travis 'Big Dog Woof-Woof Vroom-Vroom' McElroy!

Audience: [cheers and chants] Woof! Woof! Woof! Woof! Woof!

Travis: Still scary.

Griffin: What's up, Trav Nation? It's me, your sweet baby brother, 30 Under 30, media luminary, Griffin 'Built Ford Tough' McElroy!

[audience cheers]

Griffin: And I am absolutely busting out of this teenager's Halloween costume.

Justin: Yeah, this has been kind of an ongoing narrative. Somehow, Griffin's costume has shrunk.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: And it is—it is just getting worse and worse for him.

Griffin: We have two more live MBMBaMs, and then I think I'm just gonna like fuckin' Lou Ferrigno my way out of this thing on stage.

Travis: I'm riding high today, ready to do a great show.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: Because today, my oldest brother and I, along with Rachel and Amanda, who helped put on our live shows, went and did a VR adventure where we fought some goblins and skellingtons and spiders and stuff.

Justin: It's true.

[audience cheers]

Travis: And it absolutely ruled! Unfortunately, Griffin couldn't be there, because he decided to have kids.

Justin: [chuckles] What a loser.

Griffin: Today! [titters]

Justin: Today.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Big announcement. [laughs]

[audience chuckles]

Griffin: Done it again!

Justin: I just wish Griffin could somehow experience it, Travis.

Travis: Oh my god, Justin, good news, we have video from it.

Justin: Oh, excellent, can we see—

Griffin: I cannot wait to see this.

[video excerpt off the gang playing laser tag plays]

Rachel: What? Why am I bloody?

Amanda: Get it! Get it off my face!

Rachel: Oh...

Justin: [titters]

Griffin: Shit, guys! What is this?!

[dramatic string instrument music and the sound of glass breaking]

Travis [in the excerpt]: Oh, no!

Amanda: Oh, come on!

Justin [in the excerpt]: Ah!

Justin: [titters]

Justin [in the excerpt]: Okay...

Griffin: Whoa!

Justin [in the excerpt]: Okay. Okay. Okay! [yells out] *Whoa!*

Justin: Yeah, I got killed there. That's me getting killed by a big axe. If I was really in this situation, I would die. [chuckles] Many times over.

Griffin: Wow!

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: You guys look so inactive! There we go.

Justin: Yeah, now we're going. Look, we're surrounded! Look how—

Travis: Yeah, look at me!

Justin: Tough, we look. [chuckles]

Griffin: The most nonchalant fantasy heroes of all time.

Justin: Well, Travis told us he could—he figured out he could hurt guys just by wiggling it, so he started wiggling it more.

Travis: Please, you have to say "wiggle his sword," you can't just say "wiggling it."

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: That video—

[video ends]

[**audience** cheers]

Travis: That video does not show the moment where I attempted to jump back from getting hit by a swinging axe, and fully just went over a crouched down Amanda. Like, she was half of a schoolyard bully pushed scenario.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Justin: [laughs]

[audience laughs]

Griffin: You guys looked even cooler in the real-life footage than in the video game footage.

Justin: Yeah, somehow, right?

Travis: And Griffin, let me tell you, the sweatiest I've ever been in my entire life.

Griffin: Not surprising even a little bit.

Justin: Yeah, the lady came in afterwards with a towel, and I was almost—"Please, let me. I will go clean my own equipment, thank you so much. You shouldn't have to do this." [chuckles]

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: This is an advice show.

[audience cheers]

Justin: And we are going to take your questions and turn them alchemy-like into wisdom.

Travis: But first!

Griffin: Fuck.

Justin: Oh my god. Really?

Griffin: [laughs]

[audience cheers]

Travis: Papa's got a brand new game! Let's see it, Paul!

Griffin: Oh, shit!

[audience cheers]

[jovial, circus-like segment theme music plays]

Travis: Welcome, everybody, to Portmanwhoa! The hottest new game show! With your host, Travis McElroy! That's me!

Justin: Okay, sorry—

Griffin: Can we stop the music?

Justin: Can we stop this?

Griffin: Stop the music.

Justin: First of all, I hate this. He's been playing this game backstage with us. I hate to ruin it for you, but it's called—he's been calling it Zero Degrees to Natalie Portman. And basically, he just says "go," and then you have to say Natalie Portman. It's not—

Griffin: As fast as you can.

Justin: Yeah, as fast you can. It's like—

Griffin: You don't even have to name a Natalie Portman movie, you just say—

Justin: You just have to say Natalie Portman.

Griffin: So, it's not gonna be—

Travis: If you guys don't like it, why do you keep saying Natalie Portman so quick?

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: Because I don't want to lose! I mean, I don't wanna lose?

Griffin: I don't wanna lose, yeah.

Travis: Exactly! No—

Griffin: As is always the case, Travis, your games are not my favorite games, but I will kick as much ass at them as I possibly can.

Travis: The original name—

Justin: Go!

Travis: The name of this game was actually Sometimes Words Sound Like Other Words, the game.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: But that did not test well.

Griffin: No. It can also—

Travis: So we changed it.

Griffin: Unlike this. [chuckles] Which was universally beloved.

Travis: This got a hundred percent test rate with myself.

Griffin: Yeah, great.

[audience chuckles]

Travis: I am going to give you the clue.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And you're going to give me the portmanteau I am describing.

Griffin: All right.

Justin: This is just your dirty games, but not dirty. This is like Work of Fart, but not dirty.

Travis: I'm evolving as an artist!

Griffin: [chuckles]

[audience chuckles]

Justin: Don't you mean as a fartist?

Griffin: No, Travis, there—

Travis: That's—no!

Griffin: Justin, don't tempt—

Travis: [yells out] Don't! Don't! That's puerile and beneath me! This is Portmanwhoa!

Justin: "I'm evolving as an artist." [chuckles] Getting worse.

Travis: Grow up.

[audience chuckles]

Justin: Okay, you're right, you're right, you're right. Portmanwhoa, classy.

Travis: All right.

Griffin: [titters]

Travis: Your first clue.

Griffin: Yeah?

Travis: What they would have called the park if Walt had written Mickey and friends to be pickup artists?

Griffin: Walt Jizzney World? No, this isn't—

[a negative buzzer sounds]

Griffin: No, this is not Work of Fart!

[audience chuckles]

Griffin: It's not Work of Fart, and I'm really sorry, because it's probably not Walt Jizzney World?

Travis: It's not—no.

[a negative buzzer sounds]

Travis: Thank you.

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: Don't fuckin' buzz me, Paul?!

[audience laughs]

Justin: [laughs] Wait, so is it a—

Griffin: Better be careful, Justin, Paul's gonna fucking buzz you!

Justin: [chuckles] On your own podcast, Griffin? That doesn't sound right?

Travis: This is my game show, not your podcast.

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: Okay, great, man. Great energy. [chuckles]

[audience chuckles]

Griffin: Okay, what they would have called the park if it was for pickup artists instead of about Mickey Mouse?

Travis: No, Mickey and friends were pickup artists, but yes.

Griffin: God damn it...

Justin: Mystery Land?

[a negative buzzer sounds]

Travis: It's a portmanteau?!

Griffin: Yeah, man, I—the... I gotta tell you, Trav, Work of Fart was a lot cleaner.

[audience chuckles]

Travis: I'm gonna say it, and you're gonna be like, "Travis, you're actually a genius. That's great."

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: [titters] Okay.

Travis: Do you want to hear the answer?

Justin: Is the answer, Travis, "You're actually a genius, that's great." Because I can get out ahead of that.

Travis: No, the answer is Rizzney World!

Griffin: Rizzney World, okay.

[audience cheers]

Griffin: You don't have to give him the correct answer. Like, he made the game, so like...

[audience chuckles]

Griffin: They don't throw a fuckin' parade for Ken Jennings every time he says what the answer is on Jeopardy, you know what I mean?

Justin: [chuckles]

[audience chuckles]

Justin: Technically, he says what the question is, but yeah.

Griffin: Damn it...

[an affirmative bell sounds]

Travis: Get him.

[audience chuckles]

Travis: Second Portmanwhoa.

Griffin: Yeah...

[audience chuckles]

Travis: Three podcasting brothers—

Griffin: Hey.

Travis: Release a boxed pasta dish.

Griffin: *Whew...* release a boxed pasta dish?

Travis: A pasta dish! In a box.

Justin: A box—

Travis: That you can make for dinner!

Griffin: Ham boy... ham-boy-ger...

[a negative buzzer sounds]

Griffin: *Don't...*

[audience laughs]

Justin: My Brother, My Brother and macaroni and cheese, and me.

Travis: No.

[a negative buzzer sounds]

Griffin: Kraft McElbrother and...

Justin: [titters]

Travis: Oh, you were close!

Griffin: Kraft?

Travis: No.

Griffin: Fuck.

Justin: [chuckles]

[a negative buzzer sounds]

Griffin: [yells out] *Stop it!*

[audience laughs]

Griffin: McElbrony and cheese?

Travis: Judges?

[an affirmative bell sounds]

Travis: Yes, we'll give it to you!

[audience cheers]

Travis: McElbrony and cheese!

Justin: McElbrony and cheese is like a third—

Griffin: That's literally exactly what I said?

Justin: No, no, Travis said McElroni?

Travis: McElbrony!

Justin: You put in "bro," and put in another one. That's like a third joke in there, Griffin.

Griffin: Awesome!

Justin: Yeah, man.

Griffin: I'm so good at this game, thank god.

[audience chuckles]

Travis: Our final Portmanwhoa. Are you ready?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Pleasuring oneself at top speed!

[a lady in the audience laughs hysterically]

Griffin: Fasturbating. [chuckles]

[an affirmative bell sounds]

Griffin: That sucks.

Travis: Yeah!

[audience cheers]

Travis: Griffin wins!

Justin: Does he? I mean, does he?

[an affirmative bell sounds three times]

[audience cheers]

Travis: Thank you! That's been Portmanwhoa!

Griffin: Awesome.

Travis: With your host, Travis McElroy!

[audience cheers]

Justin: In...

Griffin: No notes.

Justin: No notes. "In 2024, I finally discovered the difference between garbanzo beans and chickpeas. This information is so funny to me that I need to tell everyone I know. The problem is, in order for that difference to really hit home, the conversation needs to come up organically. There are friends I have been waiting a full year to tell, and no matter how many times I throw garbanzo beans and chickpeas into a conversation, they never

wonder aloud what the difference is. How can I get people to ask me this question more often, in a way that feels natural?"

[audience chuckles]

Justin: And that's from Bean Bud, in Austin.

Griffin: Are you—are you here?

Bean Bud: [yells out] *Whoo!*

Griffin: Hello.

[audience chuckles]

Justin: I don't know the difference.

Griffin: Oh, well... I'll tell you. One's beans, one's peas.

[audience chuckles]

Travis: I don't trust that.

Griffin: [chuckles] No?

Travis: Sometimes they call things things that aren't things. Peanuts? No. They're legumes.

Griffin: [chuckles]

[audience chuckles]

Griffin: I don't think anyone colloquially sort of calls them legumes.

Justin: We talked backstage about how much it would delight us to, not for jokes, but just kind of wonder aloud what the difference is.

Griffin: [laughs]

[audience chuckles]

Justin: Just to really torture you. I don't know why. It's the perfect opportunity, and I'm not gonna ask.

Travis: I assume garbanzo beans are inherently cooler? Like when you see one, you're like, "Ooh!"

Griffin: But that has a more fun—person who asked this question, would you feel comfortable coming up to the—we have a microphone, and usually we wait 'til the end of the show to do audience questions.

Justin: But it does feel—

[audience cheers]

Griffin: Hold on, wait, wait, wait—

Justin: It feels a little bit like if we don't—

Griffin: If you don't want to do it, just remain silent.

Travis: No, here they come!

Justin: Completely fine.

Griffin: Are you coming down? Okay, kick-ass.

[audience cheers]

Travis: Now—

Justin: Okay, now wait! No, no, wait. Now wait. Hello, what is your name? If you feel comfortable, give us your name.

Jesse: Hello. My name is Jesse.

Travis: Hi, Jesse! I'm gonna set you up. You ready?

Justin: No, wait.

Travis: So—

Justin: Now, wait, you—don't set Jesse up. Here's the thing—

Travis: They asked—they said they wanted the question?

Justin: No, but just—no, but we have to be talking about it, and Jesse's got to find the window, right?

Travis: You're right, you're right, you're right.

[audience chuckles]

Justin: So... okay, so we're going to be talking—Jesse, you'll know it when it comes, but you've got to be able to—okay?

Griffin: Don't miss the window, too, because we—I swear to god, we are three straight, white men, we will talk right over—

Justin: Okay.

[audience laughs]

Justin: Trav—

Travis: Yeah—

Justin: This—

Griffin: You have to work really hard—

Travis: Yeah, Derrick?

Griffin: To get a word in here.

Travis: I got it, I got it.

Justin: Yeah, can you just—can you just—

Travis: Yeah, Justin?

Justin: Can—

Travis: Justin, she... then she left me.

[audience chuckles]

Justin: Sad as—

Travis: She said it was over.

Justin: Sad as that is, this hummus is delicious. [chuckles]

[audience laughs]

Justin: I can't tell, though, if it's chickpeas or garbanzo beans.

Travis: Basically the same thing, right?

Griffin: Yeah, there's no difference. It's basically a homonym, and that's the truth of the matter. Anyway, next conversation subject.

Travis: Yeah, I'm getting divorced!

[audience chuckles]

Justin: So—

Jesse: Actually, I can tell you the difference.

Justin: Wait, *what*?

Travis: Wait, between getting divorced and not getting divorced?

Justin: No. [chuckles]

[audience laughs]

Griffin: What kind of lonely life—

Justin: Some—no, wait! No, do you remember a few minutes ago when we were talking about hummus? I think Jesse's referencing that, instead of your divorce!

Travis: Oh.

Justin: Which is clearly what we're talking about now!

Travis: Yeah, I'm just trying to open up!

Griffin: Jesse, read the fuckin' room!

[audience laughs]

Justin: All right, Trav—

Travis: No! But now I do need to know! Because this is what mine and Denise's major fight was about.

[audience chuckles]

Travis: The difference between garbanzo beans and chickpeas.

Justin: Travis, I told you, you're just torturing yourself at this point, man! It doesn't matter what the difference.

Travis: It does matter, Justin! It matters to me!

Justin: Go ahead, Jesse, he can take it. [chuckles]

[audience chuckles]

Jesse: The difference is, I wouldn't pay to have a garbanzo bean on my face.

[audience exclaims, laughs and cheers]

Travis: Well!

[an affirmative bell sounds twice]

Travis: That's gonna do it for us!

Griffin: Jesse, if we—Jesse, if we had known...

[audience laughs]

Griffin: That what you were going to do would be the funniest thing that's going to happen here tonight, we honestly probably would not have invited you to the microphone.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: We definitely—

Justin: We would have kept that for ourselves.

Travis: We have 62 more minutes of show to do!

Griffin: We would not have put it at the top of the show, Jesse. That was fucking entrapment!

[audience laughs]

Travis: Jesse! You didn't put the pun—this wasn't an audience question that was submitted! You didn't put the punch line in there. You were just gonna have these three dingleberries talk about garbanzo beans—

Justin: Jesse gave us all the clues! We walked right into Jesse's trap. Jesse gave us all the clues; we just sprang it! The perfect premise, like one of those locked room mysteries, like, "How is Jesse gonna get out of this one?!"

Griffin: Jesse... I did—Jesse...

[audience chuckles]

Griffin: I didn't, I couldn't understand backstage why this would be such a—get so stuck in your crawl.

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: Why you would be waiting on fuckin' tinter hooks to illuminate what the difference is between these two. But now I absolutely and definitely and totally get it.

Travis: I'm a 41-year-old person who has been making comedy on the internet and existing on the internet for many years. And I don't know what it says about my level of naivete that when I saw this, I thought, the difference was he really interesting.

[audience chuckles]

Griffin: Jesse, do you—just by a show of cheer, do you feel like you've gotten it out of your system now, though?

Justin: Wait, the anecdote has expanded, so you now have more on-roads, right? So now people just need to bring up podcasting or us, right? And then you could be like, actually—

Travis: Or embarrassing three cis white dudes!

Justin: Yeah, "Funny story about that, hold on one second! Yeah, I—"

Griffin: "What's the difference between that? And this is gonna seem like a tangent, but..."

Justin: Thank you so much, Jesse. Fantastic.

[audience cheers]

Justin: "I am 31 years old, and I just bought my first house with my partner. At our housewarming party, my sister gifted us a ten-foot trampoline, fulfilling a long-time dream of being an adult that has their own trampoline to use whenever they want. We love our trampoline, but I find that I am not jumping on it as often as I had wished, due to work or other adult type things that ruin fun. Brothers, how do I make sure that I get in time to bring back the childlike wonder to my life that I so crave?" That's from *Aspiring Aerial Adult*, in Austin, Texas.

Griffin: Are you here?

Aspiring Aerial Adult: [yells out] Yes, I am!

Griffin: You're up high, that's appropriate. That works.

Travis: I don't want to... I don't want to seem like a downer, but I think ten feet is too high for a trampoline to be.

Griffin: [laughs] Yeah!

Justin: Yeah, that doesn't seem safe—

Travis: That's very dangerous to me.

Justin: Or regulation, honestly.

Griffin: There's not a safe trampoline, guys, like—[chuckles] You can put one of those two inches off the ground, like, life finds a way.

[audience chuckles]

Justin: I guess that—now, Griffin, are you a trampoline fan, would you say?

Griffin: We have a trampoline at our house in D.C. and—

Travis: Hey, a smooth transition, Justin.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah. I call it a tramposition. [chuckles]

Griffin: That doesn't make any fuckin' sense! And it is cool, like the kids wear themselves out on it, which I really like. But they also want me to jump on it sometimes, and I don't know how to tell them that, as a 38-year-old man, like stuff is looser inside of me than it is in them. And that if I bounce up and down too much, I feel stuff shifting around inside, that is so hugely worrying, so troubling.

Justin: Yeah.

[audience chuckles]

Justin: Yeah, I could bounce the wrong way on a trampoline and it's just, that's it.

Griffin: Your stomach—

Justin: [chuckles] That's the ball game!

Griffin: Flips over like an old dog, and then that's...

[audience chuckles]

Griffin: That's a wrap on juice.

Justin: Yeah, one of the organs ends up in the wrong place, and that's it.

Griffin: It'll happen. It happens every day.

Travis: I think the solution to your problem is, if the adult things in your life keep getting in the way of trampoline time—

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Start to incorporate trampoline time into the adult things in your life. For example, important phone meeting or Zoom conversation? That could be done on a trampoline, easy.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: That's a powerful business intimidation tactic.

[audience chuckles]

Justin: Is the laptop like resting on the trampoline? Or what—

Griffin: You're popcorning—you're popcorning it, baby!

Justin: You're just popcorning it up like, [in varying volume] "Oh! One other thing, Derrick! And we gotta itemize!"

[audience chuckles]

Travis: A romantic evening with a partner? That could be done on a trampoline. Easy!

Griffin: How?

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Explain what you just said, because it doesn't sound right to me.

Travis: Coordination. [chuckles]

[audience chuckles]

Travis: Lots of practice.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And a willingness to embarrass yourself.

Griffin: That's cool, and important and grown up, Travis. Thanks for—

Travis: Thank you.

Griffin: Thanks for once again bringing—

Travis: But that's what romance is, isn't it?!

Griffin: Yeah. It's got its—it's got its ups and downs.

[audience laughs]

Justin: Oh, wow, yeah! Wow, we're doling out the high-fives tonight, man!

Travis: It's like a Paul Hollywood handshake, but it's a Travis high-five.

Griffin: [titters]

Justin: It's even more meaningful.

Travis: That's true.

Justin: Hey, we're all getting into some new stuff tonight, and I have a new segment that I would like to do for you guys.

Griffin: I'm excited to hear it, Juice.

Justin: It's brand-new, and to celebrate it, I made—I had some extra time today, and I started messing around with like Canva, and I tried to do an intro and outro for it. And I'd like to show you the intro for it, if I could.

Griffin: Fuck yeah, man, let's see it.

[dubstep music plays]

Griffin: Whoa... [laughs] Who is that?

Travis: That's Shaq. Whoa!

Justin: Hi, welcome to Shaq Watch. Welcome to Shaq Watch. I'm ace reporter, Justin McElroy.

[audience cheers]

Justin: I wanted to tell you guys about the latest and greatest in Shaq news, but there's honestly so much going on with Shaq right now that it actually is—

Travis: It's a great time to be Shaq!

Justin: It's a good—it's a great time to be Shaq, it's an even better time to be a Shaq fan. Let's check in on our first story, with the Shaq-a-licious XL gummies.

[audience cheers]

Travis: Those are his shoes?

Justin: Those are—no, Travis, those are gummies that look like Shaq's shoes. Are you kidding me right now with this?

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: This is why Shaq won't come on the show.

Travis: You're right.

Justin: [titters] It's because of garbage like this. No, Travis, those are gummies that are shaped like Shaq's shoes. They're a new addition to the Shaq-a-licious gummy line, and it's-brand new, like it's just coming out right now. They're a shoe based on Shaq's shoes, because he's also a shoe entrepreneur. We got three different flavors here; strawberry, mango and lime. And they're crafted to match O'Neal's appetite for bigger bites and bolder flavor. They're XL size, sneaker-shaped gummies, and they're a tribute to his larger than life personality and legendary shoe size of twenty-two!

Griffin: So, there's just three big gummies in that bag.

[audience chuckles]

Travis: Can I say, as a purveyor of portmanteaus—

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Shaq-a-licious tells me nothing about the quality.

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: Yeah, it tastes like Shaq!

Justin: Following its launch in 2024, Shaq-a-licious XL gummies became Hershey's number one launch of the year, with over eleven million units sold. The line—

[a couple of audience members cheer]

Justin: Yeah. The line, including these new sneaker-shaped gummies, was ideated, developed and taste tested by the big man himself.

Griffin: [titters]

[audience chuckles]

Travis: Developed? He was in the lab?!

Justin: Shaq-a-licious—

Travis: He was mixing it up?!

Justin: "Shaq-a-licious started with big ideas; make candy that's bold, fun and full of flavor. Now we're stepping it up with sneaker-shaped gummies and three wild new flavors for gummy lovers everywhere," said Shaquille O'Neal. "I've been a part of this from the start, from the flavors to the

shapes." Yes, Shaq has helped come up with the shapes, which to this point have included; a cactus, Shaq's face, a four-leaf clover, and now, three shoes.

Griffin: [laughs]

[audience chuckles]

Justin: Thank you, Shaq!

Travis: Not a not a Shaqtus?

Griffin: [laughs] Of all of those, I don't know why this is the one that's bumping for me, but why a cactus?

Justin: Because it's—

Travis: A Shaqtus!

Justin: Because it's a big cactus? And the big—

Travis: [yells out] Shaqtus!

Justin: The big Shaqtus, man.

Travis: Thank you.

Justin: Okay, next story! Don't worry about Shaq-a-Roni going away, guys, because Shaq-a-Roni is now on the menu forever.

Griffin: That's quite the promise, Shaquille O'Neal.

Justin: Shaquille O'Neal—

Travis: They couldn't get him a better sign?

Justin: It's official—

Travis: For the photo?

Justin: He made it himself! Shut up! Originally launched as a limited-time offering in the summer of 2020, the Shaq-a-Roni quickly became an item fans eagerly waited to enjoy year after year, thanks to its extra-large size, extra cheese and extra pepperoni. "The Shaq-a-Roni isn't just a pizza, it's a slam dunk," O'Neal said.

Griffin: [guffaws]

Justin: "I'm pumped. I'm pumped that it's now here to stay. It's big, it's delicious, and it brings people together, just like a pizza should!" To welcome Shaq-a-Roni to the Papa John's core menu, O'Neal is sending Shaq-a-Ronis to organizations supporting important causes. Hopefully, it's more of a coupon deal. [chuckles]

Griffin: [laughs]

[audience chuckles]

Justin: Instead of him taping them up in a box and mailing them to the Boys and Girls Club.

Travis: "Here's a hundred pizzas, to say thank you."

Griffin: The idea of it being eternally on the menu, I do have a problem with. One, it suggests that Papa John's will be around until the heat death of the universe.

[audience chuckles]

Griffin: Which seems like they've weathered too many storms to achieve that.

Justin: That's an interesting point, Griffin. Here's another interesting point. Did you realize that until the end of his term, Shaquille O'Neal is currently the president of basketball?

[audience chuckles]

Justin: It's true!

Travis: Wait, wait, what?

Justin: Yes, Reebok—

Travis: I didn't know that was the position to be held, Justin!

Justin: Yes, in twenty—

Travis: I haven't been doing any effort towards campaigning!

Justin: Yes, unfortunately, in 2023, Reebok appointed Shaquille O'Neal to president of basketball. So, he has two more years at his term, by my math. Reebok, the iconic and irreverent sports culture brand, announced long-time brand partner and legendary hall of famer, Shaquille O'Neal, as the president of basketball.

Travis: Now, if Reebok didn't give the other brands the chance to weigh in, it's not a presidency so much as a dictatorship.

Justin: That's true.

Griffin: Yeah.

[audience chuckles]

Travis: He has been declared. This was a basketball coup.

Griffin: Yes. [titters]

Justin: "Throughout his epic 19-year career, O'Neal redefined the dominant big man role, tearing down backboards and racking—" They—I bet they hate that.

Griffin: Oh, for sure, man!

Justin: I bet they just hate the dickens out of that.

Griffin: Because they have to stop the game and everything.

Travis: Yeah, even if they keep extra ones around, which, only so many—

Griffin: Right.

Travis: At a certain point, it does take a while to change out.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Now, how is Shaq using his incredible power as the president of basketball in this partnership with Reebok, you ask? In one of the most unhinged things I've ever seen in my entire life, Paul, let's see the shoes!

Travis: Huh...

Griffin: What is—

Travis: Wait—

Griffin: What's go—

Travis: What?

Griffin: Hold on—

Travis: Wait.

Griffin: Hold on! Hold on! Hold on!

Travis: Wait. What's going on in the bottom there?

Griffin: Guys—

Justin: I'm gonna tell you.

Griffin: My eyes keep darting around to different incredible details.

Justin: Right.

Griffin: Right now, I'm stuck on the sneaker?

Justin: In 1992, Pepsi partnered with Shaquille O'Neal and Reebok for the first time, a celebration of the man who was taking Orlando and the league by storm. Fast forward thirty-two years, and Shaq is as buzzy as ever, recently showing—

Travis: What?

Justin: Love to Pepsi Minis with '90s icon, Skee-Lo, and having his magic number thirty-two raised to the rafters last week. Big Diesel continues to be at the center of sports culture. Now, Pepsi is collaborating with Shaq on the Pepsi 'Sneak'er custom—[chuckles]

Griffin: [titters]

Justin: I don't know, man! Pepsi 'Sneak'er, custom-built Reebok Pump Shaq's Attaq, courtesy of the—

Travis: That's too many words!

Griffin: That's a lot of words, man!

Justin: Curd—I'm not done, okay? The name of it is—Pepsi is collaborating with Shaq on the Pepsi 'Sneak'er custom-built Reebok Pump Shaq Attaqs, courtesy of the Shoe Surgeon!

Griffin: [laughs] Yeah, I don't—I don't want anyone off the street cutting secret Pepsi holes into my shoes.

Justin: These—

Griffin: I need someone who went to shoe medical school for 12 years.

Justin: These—

Travis: "Doctor, Doctor! What's wrong with my spine?"

"Well, let me see the bottom of your feet. This has happened a lot lately. Yup!"

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: "There it is! Another Pepsi can."

Justin: These aren't just another pair of custom kicks, though, these are size twenty-two Rebooks. They're tailor-made for the larger than life Shaq, who loves Pepsi Mini so much, he wanted a 'sneak'er be able to bring them with him to enjoy wherever he goes!

Travis: Okay...

[audience chuckles]

Justin: So, with a—

Griffin: If you try to board an airplane with one of these on your feet...

Travis: All—here's the thing, this solves a problem that doesn't exist. How to get a can of Pepsi somewhere.

Griffin: Right.

Travis: What it creates is a multitude of potential issues. There are so many things on the ground that would puncture a Pepsi can on the bottom of my shoe.

Griffin: Sure.

Travis: And the idea of suddenly taking a step and *ptshh*! Just Pepsi spraying all around me, as I explained, "Listen, I was trying to sneak a can of Pepsi in the bottom of my shoe."

Justin: It's—

Travis: "Yes, I will go straight to prison. Thank you so much."

Griffin: Is it a platform situation? Or like an internal high-heel—because the Pepsi is where foot traditionally goes.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: Well, this is the thing, he has a size twenty-two foot, because the middle of it's concaved. And all the extra foot went out to the sides.

Griffin: Right.

Justin: With the help of the Shoe Surgeon, an original pair of Reebok Pump Shaq Attaqs has been retrofitted to fit a full Pepsi Mini can—

Griffin: Is this a news story about one pair of shoes?

[audience chuckles]

Justin: No! It's a feat only possible due to the mammoth-sized twenty-two shoe. The Pepsi 'sneak'er allows Shaq to tote around—

Travis: They just keep saying the Shoe Surgeon, by the way! And not giving any details as to what that could possibly mean.

Justin: If you—okay, listen, Trav, if you don't know who this Shoe Surgeon is going in, they are not gonna be able to make you care about it right now.
[chuckles]

[audience chuckles]

Justin: The Pepsi sneaker allows Shaq to tote around a Pepsi Mini can, so that he can enjoy a crisp and refreshing sip of Pepsi or Pepsi zero sugar whenever the urge arises. Guys—

Travis: Is he unaware of pockets?!

[audience chuckles]

Justin: If I fuckin' saw Shaquille O'Neal, and we were just talking and he's like, "Hold on a second, old chap."

[audience chuckles]

Justin: And he like pops up his leg on top of his knee, and he's like *ctsk-ss!*

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And that's the opening of the shoe, that's just a shoe. And then there's another *ctsk-ss!* That's the can.

Griffin: That's cool! That's cool!

Travis: Because it's pump action and he has to release the air.

Justin: Yeah, he has to—

Griffin: That's coo, that you think that's the sound that that would make after walking around on your soda can all day.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: And not *ch-bfv-bdj!* "Oh, god!"

[audience chuckles]

Justin: An additional twenty-two shoes will be available for fans to cop this week via a one-time Pepsi sweepstakes. Some of Shoe Surgeon's key features include; Reeboks iconic pump has been turned into the Pepsi globe, the colorway features Pepsi color palette. "Pepsi has been a core part of my career since the moment I joined the NBA," says Shaquille O'Neal, president of basketball at Reebok. That's what he's listed as. "My partnership—"

Travis: It should probably be like an Irish accent, because it's like O'Neal?

[audience chuckles]

Justin: That would be... I... "My partnership with Pepsi means—" It's more like me now. "Means so much to me, because we're always out here having fun, innovating, bringing the noise. Now I'm pumped that I never have to be without my Pepsi Mini cans." I think it really sucks that they put this press release out, and not have one picture of Shaquille O'Neal holding a Pepsi Mini. I'm fucking furious.

Griffin: Yeah, absolutely! [chuckles]

Justin: Paul, I need our best people on this to see if you can find me an image of Shaquille O'Neal holding a Pepsi Mini, like me playing dollhouse with my kids.

[audience chuckles]

Justin: Please. No, actually, Paul, don't waste your time with that, because we have to move on to our next story. This one, Paul, I just wanna Shaq Watch the time. As part of Shaq Watch, I want to Shaq Watch the time. [chuckles] Shaq got pushed into a Christmas tree.

[audience chuckles]

[video excerpt plays]

Kenny Smith: Shaq, don't cheat. Don't cheat, Shaq.

Shaquille O'Neal: Yeah, don't cheat.

Justin: [chuckles]

[video ends]

Griffin: Do you just live Shaq—watching Shaw get pushed into a CHristmas tree?

Justin: Yeah, so I put it in the Shaq Watch—

Griffin: Yeah, no, it's great. We should have a button on our stage, anytime we do a live show, we can press when the energy starts to [flag??].

Justin: And you get to see—

[audience chuckles]

Travis: Can I also point out, Shaq-a-Claus, once again!

Justin: Yeah, he can't be stopped. And last Shaq Watch story... do we have the image, Paul, of the—[chuckles]

[audience chuckles]

Justin: Invicta is working with Shaquille O'Neal for a multi-year, multi-platform deal on his own line of watches!

Travis: Can I tell you what's—

Griffin: It says it right on the tin, man, that's great.

Travis: What's freakin' my bean, Justin?

Justin: What is it, Trav?

Travis: That watch looks big on Shaq.

Justin: Yeah, think about that for a second.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: The tendons in his arm are actually stretching so badly right now. It's thirty-five pounds, he's doing everything he can to keep it aloft.

Travis: I'm trying to imagine how that would translate to my own dainty wrist.

Justin: Thanks for this week's Shaq Watch.

Griffin: Thank you... to you?

[audience cheers]

Justin: "My girlfriend is determined to teach me how to swim. I'm not interested in learning."

[audience chuckles]

Justin: "She used to be a swimmer, and even worked as a swim instructor for a while, so she thinks she can teach me. But I swear, I sink like a rock anytime I get in the water. How can I convince her that I don't need to learn how to swim, and that I just want to lounge by the side of the pool?" And that's from Dry Land Dweller, in Dallas.

Griffin: Are you here?

Audience Member 1: [yells] *Whoo!*

Audience Member 2: [yells] No!

[audience laughs]

Griffin: I've... we've been doing this for a long time. I have never heard two people shout in response to that question, and one of them go, "No!"

[audience laughs]

Justin: What on God's green Earth?

[audience chuckles]

Travis: What the fuck is happening?

[audience chuckles]

Justin: Okay—

Travis: Are you—

Justin: No, I wanna—

Travis: A throat singer?

Justin: I want to try it again, okay? And just the one would be grand. Are you here? Hi.

Griffin: Hi.

[audience chuckles]

Justin: Hi, hello. [titters]

Griffin: [laughs] Tough to come back from that moment. Give us a moment to process.

Justin: I love to float around. I love to splash around. So, this is a little bit hard for you to relate to. But I can't remember a time when I didn't float. I've always been very floaty. It's, I don't—and that's my privilege, you know what I mean? And I've never really checked it.

Travis: Justin was born floating and he'll die floating!

Justin: You know, we are born knowing how to swim. It's one of the best baby facts. You chuck a baby in there and he'll figure it out. Until a point—

Griffin: No way! Don't chuck a baby in there!

Travis: Justin, no!

Justin: I'm not saying you should, obviously. We do have an intro just for that. Even though dad is kind of turning it into a bit of a one act play, and we maybe need to like bring it back a little bit.

Travis: Yeah, emphasized the "Travis says he's a sexpert" thing in a way that made me uncomfortable.

Justin: Yeah, we don't need to turn it into a whole Noël Coward thing, man. We can just go ahead and say the intro. You know?

Travis: This is very personal for me, because Teresa was a lifeguard and swimming instructor for many years. And I... am not great at swimming. Good enough, I would say, to survive.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: In the day-to-day scenarios I find myself in.

Griffin: I don't think I've swummed with you in forever, man.

Travis: I don't care for it. There's many things I can do that other people can't.

Griffin: [titters] Sure.

Travis: It's fine. I'm better at cross-stitch than Teresa is, and you don't hear me making a big deal about it!

Griffin: [chuckles] Yeah, but okay, but wait, if Teresa falls into a cross-stitching store, she won't die.

Justin: Yes! Thank you, Griffin, thank you.

Griffin: There is a certain safety concern where that that information will not become immediately life or death important for your life.

Travis: When I was about 19, Justin and I went white water rafting with some of our friends. I went under the water. I've never been good at holding my—like holding my breath underwater without holding my nose. I went under water, it starts to go up in my nose. I'm going—all tossed around. And you know what thought crossed my mind? "Well, this is death."

Griffin: Yeah. [chuckles]

[audience chuckles]

Travis: I was at peace, Griffin!

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: I was fine!

Griffin: That—

Travis: I wasn't struggling! And then a powerful hand reached down! It was my older brother, Justin, who grabbed the back of my life jacket! Which was *ineffective*. And pulled me back basically up onto the boat!

Justin: I—

Travis: And I learned then, Griffin, that I might not know how to swim, but other people will save me, and I better just rest on that.

Justin: Yeah, he didn't learn the wrong lesson, to be fair. [chuckles] Yeah, I don't think he got the—

Griffin: And you gave Justin a great gift in giving him his own Schlitterbahn hero moment.

[audience cheers]

Travis: All I'm saying is, if you fall in the water, there's always gonna be someone else there to save you.

Justin: Not true at all. Demonstrably untrue. A lot of bad advice getting bandied about here this evening.

Travis: Throw your babies in the water, throw yourself in afterwards!

Justin: Go, you gotta—

Travis: You're gonna be fine!

Justin: Yeah. You gotta be careful with this podcast, it's often incorrect. A lot of people will want to forget that. "Once a month, the restaurant I work for hires a professional knife sharpener. I'm a college student, and obviously, I can't hire my own professional knife sharpener, so I need to figure out a way to get my—all my personal lives into work without anyone noticing. Also, how should I transport the aforementioned loose knives?" That's from Dull in Dallas. Are you here?

Dull in Dallas: [yells out] *Whoo!*

Justin: Okay, so—

Griffin: All right.

[audience cheers]

Justin: You—

Griffin: Can I interest you in some Charles Barkley knife shoes? [chuckles]

[audience chuckles]

Griffin: They're special shoes Charles Barkley made, where you can fit 13 knives into them.

[audience chuckles]

Justin: To remember his great—[chuckles] his—

Travis: But then what do you do the 14th, Griffin?!

Griffin: The four—oh, are there 14 knives? You carry that one in your hands. And people will look at you and say, "I'm scared." And you say, "Wait until you find out about my 13 knife shoes."

[audience chuckles]

Travis: "How are you a juggling?"

Justin: I actually think exfiltrating the knives is harder than getting them in, right? Because like how do you explain to the knife sharper like, "I'll put this one in this bag, over here. Here, let me hold on to those—"

Travis: "Let me wet my beak with some of these sharp knives." [chuckles]

Justin: Do you think, just out of politeness, you would just—you wouldn't put all of them in at once, right? They would be like in a groove, sharpening, and you could just kind of like slide one of your knives in when they're not really paying attention. [chuckles]

Travis: "One for them, one for me. [chuckles] Them—"

Griffin: I also—

Travis: "No, you don't understand, I gotta wet my beat."

Griffin: I also, I know that working with dull knives is more dangerous than sharp knives, but I do think that smuggling dull knives in a big bag is probably safer than smuggling a big bag of very, very sharp knives.

Travis: You're gonna need a big hunk of cork!

Griffin: Ooh...

Justin: Trav, do you know how to do the thing where you run the knife along the stick? You know, the stick to—

Travis: Yeah! The strop!

Justin: Yeah, do you know how to do that?

Travis: The old Sweeney Todd, as we call it in the business!

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: God, I hope that's not the vibe of the person who comes into your place and be like, "*Eh!*"

Travis: Hey, Griffin? If you were good enough at sharpening knives that you were getting paid to do it, you don't think you're bringing a little of that heat in there?

Griffin: Have you ever gotten a knife sharp—I've gotten a knife sharpened by professional, here in Austin, at I think the Mueller Farmer's Market on Sundays.

[audience cheers]

Griffin: There is someone who will sharpen your knives. And we would go for other stuff, and obviously not knife sharpening. But after a while I was like, yeah, I guess the knives are getting a little dull. Brought it in. I felt like I was in like fuckin' Skyrim, guys! It was so cool!

Travis: You know, as they're sharpening and they say like, "The curve of the blade, like a lover." You know that kind of vibe?

Griffin: Yeah, yeah, yeah. "Hold RT for a power attack against the Goblin King—" Yeah.

[audience chuckles]

Travis: "The Goblin King like a lover!"

Griffin: [chuckles] Yes!

[audience laughs]

Justin: I... you know, you may not be able to afford a professional knife sharpener, but perhaps you go to the professional knife sharpener and you

say, "Hello. I don't have the money to pay you, but if you are willing to take me as an apprentice, I will work underneath you and I will learn your ways."

Travis: "My heart is pure."

Justin: "My heart is pure." And then you go to your boss like, "Hey, fuck this dude. He's charging a hundred bucks an hour. I will undercut him 20 bucks, no problem. You bump my pay up a little bit, like five percent a year? I'm a professional knife sharpener for you, okay?"

Travis: "Okay, but also, boss, not yet, because I did just start the apprenticeship. Don't, hey, don't tell him—"

Justin: "Don't get rid of him yet, because I do need to learn all the tricks of the trade."

Travis: "And when you see me coming with him, act like you don't know me, okay?" [chuckles]

Griffin: The knife sharpener's not gonna complain about all the extra work, because you know the knife sharpener takes all those extra metal scrapings home to make bonus knives.

Justin: I can't—

[audience chuckles]

Justin: I cannot imagine how much extra paprika the professional knife sharpener is putting on the sandwich to make it look like you need to pay someone to come and sharpen your knives for you. [chuckles] There must be a whole presentation about it that makes it seem worthwhile.

Travis: If I was a professional knife sharpener, and I worked for a restaurant, I would get a really convincing disguise.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: And then I would show up at that restaurant every day, and just really abuse that knife as hard as I could. Just like have my own stone I'd try to cut up, and then be like, "This needs to be sharpened!" And sneak away. Because that's good business.

Griffin: It would be great to have any kind of practical skill at all.

Travis: Yeah.

[theme music plays]

Travis: Hi, everyone. We may sound a little bit different to you, because we're coming from a magical space, a cyber space. A Squarespace, if you will!

Griffin: We're on—we're on stage in San Antonio.

Travis: Yeah, but people don't need to—Griffin! They don't need to—

Griffin: There's never been a better time to start using online. And Squarespace is the diving board you can use to get your face wet in the—in the water—

Justin: What?

Griffin: In the water of it. Don't jump in—

Travis: Can I tell you—

Griffin: Don't jump in—don't say, "I'm gonna take a back seat on these ads," and then jump in! Don't wave your hand in front of your face like it's a fart smell!

Travis: Can I tell you, sometimes, Griffin, it's really hard to be the first one to speak. We all sat here for—silence, and I was like, "We're in cyberspace." And you were like, "No, that's dumb." And then you started saying your thing. And then you said, "Get your—use the diving board of Squarespace to get your face wet."

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: For the record, I was not, I was—

Griffin: And then Justin made a fart smell... sound.

Justin: [chuckles] I wasn't making a "pee-yew" waving away, that was a wafting. I was enjoying it.

Travis: No, that was a definite wave away.

Griffin: It makes me so angry, because every time I listen to—

Justin: Like uncorked a fine vintage.

Griffin: When I listen to other podcasts, their ads are all like direct experience.

Justin: Normal, yeah.

Griffin: And we've used Squarespace to make so many websites.

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: And it is easy to make things that look like you know what you're doing.

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: We could speak for hours about that, of our direct experience, and yet, we don't.

Justin: Yes, but we've done—but we—

Travis: Because I'm afraid to be that vulnerable, Griffin! To talk about how important Squarespace is to me!

Justin: We've explained so many times how great Squarespace is, and how all the different templates are great. I think the best, most important thing we could do for Squarespace now is show how supportive they are of artists. Which is what every time—like, that's what I'm trying to do. I'm trying to do art. And when Squarespace pays for it, that shows people that it's a company that supports art!

Griffin: It doesn't say this in the ad copy, but they should put, "We are single handedly keeping My Brother, My Brother and Me, the podcast, afloat."

Travis: That's true.

Justin: Thank you.

Griffin: That's huge for us.

Travis: So, head to squarespace.com/mybrother for a free trial, and when you're ready to launch, use offer code "MyBrother," all one word, to save ten percent off your first purchase of a website or domain! Please, they have been so supportive. It's time to give something back.

Griffin: At the airport, to fly out here, my young son wanted to play a tornado game on his iPad. And I'm not going to say the name of it, for reasons that'll be clear later, but he wanted the—he wanted the poop tornado skin, but to do that, you had to either play or get a VIP membership for six dollars a week.

Travis: A week?!

Griffin: A week, for the poop tornado. And I was like, "Yeah, I'll remember to cancel that." Folks, I'm telling you right now, I'm not gonna remember to cancel that. And that's why I depend on Rocket Money to catch the—all the six dollars a week poop tornadoes that my four-year-old son sneaks—

Justin: "Did you—Justin, did you really want to spend ninety-nine dollars a week on Fidget Spin Poop Challenge?" No, I don't, I don't.

Griffin: I do not. Thank you so much, Rocket Money. I'm glad someone's paying attention to this stuff, because I simply don't have the bandwidth.

Justin: Rock—I don't know who taught the kids the screen time password, but it wasn't Rocket Money.

Griffin: No.

Travis: And Rocket Money, if you're listening, might I suggest a feature where, when I sign up for one of those games for my kids, and I'm looking at the button, you just know it and text me like, "Hey, it's Rocket Money. I got you."

Griffin: "Don't worry."

Travis: "Don't worry, man, go ahead and click the button. It says seven days, I'm gonna remind you in six days. Don't worry about it."

Griffin: "He'll be bored of the poop tornado in fifteen minutes, and then I'm gonna hit you up." Rocket Money doesn't just help you find and cancel your unwanted subscriptions. They do do that, and they do it really well.

Travis: Doo-doo.

Griffin: Thank you. And they do monitor your spending as well, and they can help you lower your bills, so you can grow your savings. It shows you all your expenses, all in one place, including all the subscriptions to fart piano and fart tornado you forgot about.

Justin: [titters]

Griffin: And Rocket Money is going to help you cancel all of those.

Travis: Does the fart tornado come from playing fart piano too much and too fast?

Griffin: Yes...

Travis: [chortles]

Griffin: Rocket Money's five million members have saved a total of five hundred million dollars in canceled subscriptions, with members saving up to seven hundred and forty dollars a year when they use all the app's premium features. Cancel your unwanted subscriptions and reach your financial goals faster with Rocket Money. Go to rocketmoney.com/mybrother today. That's rocketmoney.com/mybrother. One last time, rocketmoney.com/mybrother.

[break]

Mike: Do you guys want to try and do this promo with British accents?

Ify: Yeah, yeah, of course.

Sierra: Okay, let's do it.

Mike: Okay, Ify, you go.

Ify: [spoofing a British accent] Oi, bruv, this is TV Chef Fantasy League—

Sierra: [laughs]

Mike: [copying Ify] "Fantasy league!"

Sierre: "Fantasy league."

Mike: Okay, Sierra.

Sierra: [spoofing a British accent] We take cooking competition shows and treat them like fantasy spots.

Mike: Like a newscast! Very posh.

Ify: Yeah, fancy.

Sierra: [chuckles]

Mike: [spoofing a British accent] Right now, we're doing the Great British Bake Off. Or the Great British Baking Show, if you're listening from the US.

Sierra: Ooh, that was really soothing.

Ify: Yeah, you chose like a prim and proper—

Mike: Thank you.

Ify: Downton Abbey.

Mike: Thank you. Okay, Ify, I think you have the best accent. Do you want to take us home?

Ify: [spoofing a British accent] Subscribe to TV Chef Fantasy League, on maximumfun.org, and wherever you get your podcasts.

Sierra: [chuckles]

Ify: Better than my Boston one.

[break]

Ellen: Hi, everybody! It's Ellen Weatherford.

Christian: And Christian Weatherford.

Ellen: People say not to judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree.

Christian: But we can judge a snake by its ability to fly, or a spider by its ability to dive.

Ellen: Or a dung beetle by its ability to navigate with the starlight of the Milky Way galaxy.

Christian: On Just the Zoo of Us, we rate our favorite animals out of ten in the categories of physical effectiveness, behavioral ingenuity, and, of course, aesthetics.

Ellen: Guest experts like biologists, ecologists, musicians, comedians and more join us to share their unique insights into the animal kingdom.

Christian: Listen with the whole family on maximumfun.org, or wherever you get your podcasts.

[break]

Griffin: All right.

[audience cheers]

Griffin: We are going to call some folks down to the microphone! You should know where it is at. It's where Jesse lit our asses up earlier in the show. If we don't call you down, please don't come to the microphone. Hello. Angle the mic down and just talk right—

Travis: And if you want to give us your name and, if you want to, your pronouns, and then give us your one sentence question.

Griffin: Or more sentences, you don't have to do just one.

Justin: Lots of sentences.

Griffin: Hello.

Alyssa: Hi! My name is Alyssa. She/her.

Justin: Hi, Alyssa!

Griffin: Hi, Alyssa.

Alyssa: [giggles] So, my question is, how do I get my scientist colleague to unban horses from his research lab?

Justin: Okay.

[audience chuckles]

Griffin: So, obviously, a list of this one—this one—we have a heuristic set up on our email account to flag most horse-based content.

Alyssa: Of course! Yes, of course.

Griffin: So, you're gonna need to explain to us, one, what kind of science is being performed here—

Justin: We, honestly, can I be honest with you? We're not gonna be able to help with this one. We are just kind of curious why the horses got banned in the first place.

Travis: Yes, thank you!

Justin: I'm gonna be honest. Like, I just kind of want to hear how the horses got banned. [chuckles]

Alyssa: That is completely fair. We are psychologists. [chuckles]

Griffin: Not what I was expecting, Alyssa, at all! I thought you were gonna say like, "We're equine biologists of some sort."

Travis: Let Alyssa talk.

Justin: Please.

Alyssa: [chuckles] So, I'm not—he's here with me, by the way.

Justin: Okay.

Travis: Hey, unban horses! Done. Now go on.

[audience laughs]

Justin: Now, what happened?

Alyssa: [laughs]

Travis: [yells out] I said do it!

Griffin: [laughs]

[audience laughs]

Justin: [chuckles] Okay, sorry, I need to hear what happened to get horses banned. Please, go ahead.

[pause]

Justin: No, okay, go ahead.

Alyssa: [laughs]

Travis: We'll meet after the show!

Justin: It's not in the podcast.

Travis: Outside!

Justin: Go ahead.

[audience chuckles]

Justin: Please stop, Travis. I just want to hear, please.

Alyssa: I think it was a series of events, but I think the—

Justin: Impossible.

Alyssa: Instigating factor was, we got into a discussion about horse video games.

Justin: Okay?

Alyssa: And I—

Travis: Video games for horses.

Justin: Did you bring a horse into the lab?

Alyssa: No.

Justin: Oh, okay.

Griffin: Aw, man.

Alyssa: But I mean, I want to now?

Griffin: Aw, man!

Justin: Man...

Alyssa: [chuckles] We got into a discussion about horse video games, and I won an argument that Red Dead Redemption 2 is a horse game.

Griffin: Absolutely, it's a horse game, yeah.

Alyssa: Yes! Thank you. Thank you.

[audience cheers]

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: Sure, sure, sure.

Alyssa: And I think it made him so upset that he just—he just had to ban horses. We can't talk about horses—

Justin: Okay, so you're not saying that physical, actual horses are banned. You're saying that like you can't talk about horses?

Alyssa: We can't talk about horses. Horses—

Justin: Well, I don't—I don't care about that?

Alyssa: Listen! This is—

Griffin: [laughs]

[audience laughs]

Griffin: Alyssa, I care a lot—

Justin: I thought you had a horse there!

Alyssa: I want to bring a horse in, but I can't now, and I think—

Travis: Is it a second-floor lab?

Alyssa: It is—it is a... on the fourth floor.

Travis: Then hey—

Justin: *Fourth floor?!*

Travis: [yells out] Hey, then you're not allowed to bring horses in there!

Justin: You can't bring horses on the fourth floor anywhere! Horses talk about four floors the way that we talk about genies. You know, like they don't believe in them. It's like a magical thing they heard from a friend. Fourth floor!

Travis: There's no method of getting the horse up there—

Justin: We—

Travis: That the horse would enjoy!

Griffin: Alyssa?

Alyssa: We have large elevators. We can—we can do it.

Travis: So, you're telling me you'd put a horse—

Griffin: Wait, don't—no! No! No! The scientists who ban horses can't be like, "We have a freight elevator. We could get a fuckin' horse in there if we wanted to."

[audience chuckles]

Travis: Here's what I'm saying—

Justin: You're not in a podcast! History has forgotten your perspective.
[chuckles]

Travis: You might have an elevator large enough for a horse, but there is no amount of arguing you could do that would convince me that if you put a horse on an elevator, and once it started going, the horse would think, "Yeah, I'm fine with this."

Griffin: Yeah, "This is great. I'm going—"

Travis: "This is not a weird experience at all for me!"

Griffin: "Sorry, which way am I going? Up?! That's crazy. I've never gone up before."

Justin: [chuckles] "I didn't even know there was an up!"

Alyssa: That's fair, but I mean, horses deserve to have careers in STEM as well.

Griffin: Yeah, but Alyssa—

Travis: Yeah! We sent a horse to college! We get it!

Justin: Yeah! Don't lecture us about horses in education.

Griffin: Alyssa, I apologize if we lashed out at you.

Alyssa: [chuckles]

Griffin: There was much discussion backstage of just like, how did a horse get in there? And how many Erlenmeyer flasks did they trample beneath their mighty hooves?

Justin: So, I'm sorry—

Travis: Maybe it was a thing where the horse walked up to the blackboard where there was a problem that your partner couldn't solve. And then the horse did it, and then went back to being a janitor. And they were like, "Holy shit! This—it's Good Will Horsing, is the movie I'm working on."

Justin: Okay.

Travis: And—

Griffin: Sure...

[audience chuckles]

Justin: So, if we had known it was on the fourth floor, we would have never taken this question.

[audience laughs]

Justin: Because obviously, you can't have a horse on the fourth floor. I hope you understand. Thank you so much for your time. Did that help?

Alyssa: Maybe.

Justin: Yes! Okay! Fair enough! I'll take it!

Griffin: Yeah, no, I mean, Justin was right then.

Justin: Thank you so much!

Griffin: Thank you, Alyssa.

Justin: Thank you, thank you, thank you, Alyssa.

[audience cheers]

Griffin: Hello?

Nora: Hello! I'm Nora, she/her pronouns.

Griffin: Hi, Nora.

Justin: Hi, Nora, how can we help?

Nora: At what point do I tell my mom that it took me ten years to finish college, not four?

Justin: Okay, I would suggest that you are already working at a six-year deficit, right?

[audience chuckles]

Justin: The clock is definitely ticking. Because we are six years behind the time when this news would need to get delivered, right?

Travis: How long has it been since you actually graduated college?

Nora: One year.

Travis: So that's seven years—

Justin: Seven years.

Travis: Total. What does your mom think you were doing for that extra six years?

[audience chuckles]

Nora: Working?

Travis: But you weren't working?

Nora: I was working, yes.

Justin: Okay?

Travis: Huh.

Justin: Well, that's no problem? Were you working on a surprise gift degree for your mom in secret? Like, that's why you couldn't tell her? Like at Christmas, when you can't tell your parents the pottery you're making, because it's a surprise gift? Was this degree maybe a surprise gift for your mom?

Griffin: I don't think they let you go to college for someone else?

Justin: It's just—Griffin, it's just an idea, man.

Griffin: [laughs] How did this—how did this become a ruse that you—was there a juncture—

Justin: Yeah, what happened?

Griffin: Where you were like—they were like, "Hey, congratulations." And you were like, "Oh, fuck... thanks?" And then for seven years, you just kind of had to spin those plates?

Nora: [chuckles] So, I was supposed to graduate in December of 2018.

Travis: Uh-huh?

Nora: But I walked in May of 2018, because they don't have graduations in December.

Travis: Sure?

Nora: So, and then I didn't graduate in December of 2018. My whole family went to this graduation ceremony. [chuckles]

Justin: Oh my god.

Travis: No, wait, hold on.

Justin: Did you walk?

Nora: I walked. [chuckles]

Justin: Oh, that's good! That's way better!

Travis: Hey, guess what, Nora? You did graduate.

Justin: Yeah, Nora, I...

[audience cheers]

Justin: I don't know how to tell you this, but like—and this is something I feel like we as a culture do not talk about. Going to a graduation ceremony for someone else is the most self-sacrificial thing you can do for another human being.

[audience chuckles]

Justin: I would rather go to a funeral or a wedding, or anything, than a—graduation? You know how long it's gonna take? *Nobody knows.*

Griffin: Yeah.

[audience chuckles]

Griffin: Because at—

Travis: And unlike a wedding, I don't know most of the people it centers on!

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Justin: They pull into hour three, and you're still there. And you know when they're gonna stop? When they get to Z-Z-Z! That's when.

Griffin: [chuckles] Yeah, and at funerals, they don't make you watch them bury like two hundred other people first.

[audience chuckles]

Justin: Two hundred strangers, and one person you give a shit about, honestly!

Travis: And they say like, "Don't cry until we get to the end, so that we kind of cry for everyone all together."

Justin: I had to go to Rileigh's law school graduation. Eh, double dip much? I went and saw you graduate college, pal. [chuckles] Come on.

Travis: So, what's—

Justin: You've gotta choose!

Travis: Was it a thing where you needed like one more credit, and then you just said, "I'll get to it after the next leap year and a half" Or—

Justin: What was the last—what was like—was there one dangling thing? For me, it was Spanish. I failed Spanish and I had to go to college for five years.

Nora: [titters] Yeah, I had one credit left, and—

Travis: And it took, Nora, sorry—

Justin: No, hold on, hold on—

Nora: One class, one class, sorry. [titters]

Justin: What's—what is—what's the last credit?

Nora: I had to take US history. [chuckles]

Travis: Oh! I can see why you wouldn't want to engage in that during that time period!

Griffin: Yeah, yeah, yeah, for sure.

Justin: Yeah, I don't blame you.

Travis: Yeah, 2018 to now.

Griffin: [laughs] That is very much like the snakes at the pet shop in Pee-wee's Big Adventure, of like, ugh, US history, I'll get to you, I'll get to you.

Travis: "It's gonna get easier, right?! There's gonna be a time where—" No!

Griffin: No! Was there—how often did this—how often did you feel like you had to lie about sort of your... your collegiate experience, while talking to your—to your mother?

Nora: Whenever she was around, when people asked me why I came to Austin. [titters]

Griffin: Okay, that seems like something that would come up from time to time, yeah. Well, it's not an issue now, right?

Nora: No, she still doesn't know.

Travis: Hey, guess what, Nora? Oh! Off the hook! It doesn't matter!

Nora: [chuckles]

Travis: You don't ever have to tell her! It's done! She was there when you graduated!

Justin: Just play the—

Travis: This is never gonna come up again. You're off the hook! Tell her on her deathbed!

[audience exclaims and laughs]

Justin: Listen... listen, what you gotta do is play this podcast for her. She's gonna be laughing so hard.

Griffin: Yeah, bustin' up.

Justin: When we get to this part, it's gonna be like—

Travis: And starstruck.

Justin: Yeah, she's gonna be starstruck—

Griffin: Does she like Shaq?

[audience laughs]

Justin: Not a big Shaq fan. Loves Jesse, though.

Griffin: [chuckles] Whoa? Wild.

Justin: Tuned in for Jesse earlier in the show.

Griffin: Alyssa, I think you're in the clear. I think you're fine. I think you could bring it up like a, "And by the way, I didn't even graduate back then."

Travis: "You remember!"

Griffin: "Not an issue."

Justin: Yeah, "You mentioned it in passing."

Griffin: Yeah, no problem.

Travis: "You remember!"

Justin: "I thought I told you?" Does that help?

Nora: So, yes, it does, because I—apparently, I should casually gaslight her?

Justin: No, no, no!

Griffin: No! God, no—

Justin: Absolutely not.

Griffin: When you put it that way—

[audience laughs]

Travis: It's actually called—Nora, it's called Shaqlighting now.

[audience exclaims and chuckles]

Justin: No, we don't—he hates that.

Travis: He took—he took it over!

Justin: He asked that we not do that. Does that help?

Nora: It does, thank you.

Griffin: Thank you so much, Nora.

[audience cheers]

Griffin: Hello.

Justin: Hello!

Carson: Hello.

Griffin: Hi!

Carson: I'm Carson, she/her pronouns. And my—

Griffin: Hi, Carson.

Justin: Hi, Carson.

Carson: Question is, how do I break a streetlight without going to jail?

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah.

Carson: [chuckles]

Justin: So—

Travis: We had some... debate about this.

Justin: Yeah, so we kind of just want to know why you wanted to break a streetlight, Carson?

[audience chuckles]

Carson: So, it's in front of our house.

Justin: Uh-huh?

Carson: And we've lived there for three years. My husband's up in the balcony, way up there.

Justin: Hey, how's it going?

Griffin: What's up?

Carson: That's Will. And—

Travis: I thought you meant lived in the balcony of your house. Sorry!

[audience laughs]

Travis: I missed—

Griffin: He's up there—

Travis: A few words there, I think!

Griffin: [chuckles] "He stares at the streetlight like a moth all day and night."

Carson: [laughs]

Travis: "He lives on the balcony. He knows what he did."

Griffin: "He keeps reaching for it, and I'm like, 'No, it's hot. You'll fall. Don't.'"

Carson: This is why I need it broken. [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah, he just loves this streetlight. So, is it a nuisance streetlight?

Carson: It is like a sun in front of our house. And we had to get blackout curtains for the entire front of our house, and it's still hard to sleep. There was one month that it was broken, and it was the best month of my life. [chuckles]

[audience chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: But what about all the crimes that you will be subjected to when there is darkness surrounding your home? [chuckles]

Griffin: Don't worry—

Justin: You're gonna make yourself a massive target?

Griffin: You got the—

Justin: I mean, that's definitely the house I'm going to. The one that broke out their own streetlight?

[audience laughs]

Justin: Yeah! I doubt they got ADT, man!

Griffin: Are you under the protective umbrella of a moon tower? Because that's gonna cover you from any ne'er do wells. As long as the moon tower is illuminated.

Travis: You don't need to break it.

Griffin: Okay?

Travis: You need to shimmy up there with some reflectors. You're going to shape the way the light shines.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Into a perfect spotlight.

Griffin: Yeah. Fuck—

Travis: On your front porch, that there's like—

Griffin: Okay

Travis: No crime here. But not your windows.

Justin: Okay, Carson, I have two questions. Is it illegal to throw rocks, yes or no?

Carson: No?

Justin: Okay, is it illegal to make mistakes, yes or no?

[audience laughs]

Carson: [laughs] No. No, it's not illegal.

Justin: Okay, so, it seems like you could, if you threw enough rocks for fun, you might eventually make a mistake. That is, we've all agreed, perfectly legal.

Griffin: Okay—

[audience laughs]

Carson: Thank you.

Griffin: All right, I am a—I am a police officer trotting up to your house on a big—

Justin: I sat through a law school graduation for three hours, folks—

Griffin: Sure.

Justin: I know my ways around the law, okay?

Griffin: I just want to hear, Justin, if an officer does pull up and is like, "Hey, we've had reports that you've been throwing a hundred rocks out of your—"

Justin: "I'm talking to you!"

Carson: [chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles]

[audience chuckles]

Audience Member: [yells out] *Whoo!*

Justin: Whoo!

[audience cheers]

Justin: "I don't know who threw the rock!"

Travis: You could also just—

Justin: "Carson didn't throw the rock!"

Travis: Wait, are you Carson's lawyer now?

Justin: Yeah, no, I'm near—I'm across the street like, "I don't know who threw it! Wasn't Carson!"

Travis: Yeah! Make everybody on the street throw a rock! And nobody can pin it on anyone.

Justin: "I am Caratacus!"

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: "I threw the stone! I, Mrs. McGinty, threw it!"

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: "We all hate the light!"

Travis: Just shimmy up there and put in a lower wattage bulb?

Justin: [chuckles] That's nice, Carson.

Travis: Yeah, just put like a forty watt up there. It's got a little bit of light, but not too much.

Justin: Put in one of those smart bulbs.

Travis: Yeah! There you go! You can change it! Change the color from your house!

Justin: That way—that way your house can get robbed in a nice Christmasy light.

Travis: Oh! And everyone in the neighborhood can be like, "Oh, looks like they're watching a scary movie tonight."

Justin: No, "I hear screaming from that house, for Halloween?"
"No, that's just Carson getting robbed again."

Carson: [laughs]

[audience chuckles]

Justin: Carson, does that help?

Carson: That helps.

Griffin: Thank you so much, Carson!

Travis: Yay!

[audience cheers]

Travis: Hey, everybody.

Griffin: Hey... thank you all so, so—again, thank you for coming to see us. Thank you to the Paramount, once again, for having us. It's a genuine honor to be back here. Thank you to Paul and Amanda and Rachel, and—

Travis: And thank you to Wonderful! Rachel McElroy and Griffin McElroy.

[audience cheers]

Griffin: Thank you.

Travis: Thank you to our dad, Clint.

Griffin: Thank you to our dad, Clint, who is right now watching our kids back at the hotel, because he's a sweet man and a great grandpa.

Travis: And thank you to John Barlow for this amazing poster—

Griffin: This rad poster.

Travis: Making us look cool.

Griffin: We signed some of 'em. Again, I do believe we are sold out of the Paul Sabourin Memorial Canned Food Drive challenge coins, but you can still donate some money to the Hope Food Pantry Austin out in the lobby. Thank you to Montaigne for the use of our theme song, My Life is Better with You.

[audience cheers]

Griffin: It is a great track, and—

Travis: I've got a fear here.

Griffin: Yeah, I would love for you to read this final Fear, here in Twenty Thunder Drive.

Travis: "This year, I will be faster than my fear that any of the Minions will be killed off in future movies."

Justin: My name is Justin McElroy! [chuckles]

Travis: I'm Travis McElroy!

Griffin: I'm Griffin McElroy!

Justin: This has been My Brother, My Brother and Me. Please kiss your dad square on the lips!

[theme song "My Life is Better with You" by Montaigne plays]

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