

Shmanners 488: Shmannerversary

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["Shmanners 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 okay.

Travis: Happy anniversary.

Teresa: No, Shmannerversary.

Travis: Aaah—[coughs]

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: It's our 10-year Shmannerversary.

Teresa: Mm-hm.

Travis: Part of this, and we'll talk about it later, is like our favorite episodes and stuff like that. And I was going back through, and I'm not gonna lie to you, we've done almost 500 episodes. I believe this will be our 490th, something like that.

Teresa: So close. We'll have another celebration soon.

Travis: That as I was going back through I was like, we did an episode on that?!

Teresa: I know, right?

Travis: Oh! Ah! I can't—ah! I can't believe we talked about that, that's awesome. Ah, I can't wait to listen to that one. I bet we were really interesting.

Teresa: [laughs] Well, yes, I bet we were.

Travis: I bet we were!

Teresa: So, let's... let's talk a little bit about when we first started. So, I remember—

Travis: The year—

Teresa: Ahem, no.

Travis: Oh.

Teresa: We had actually just—

Travis: Ancient Egypt.

Teresa: We had moved—

Travis: That's just usually where history starts.

Teresa: That is usually where we start. We had moved to LA, right?

Travis: Yeah?

Teresa: And you and your brothers were doing The Adventure Zone and My

Brother, My Brother and Me.

Travis: I've heard of them, yes.

Teresa: And I think that we were at... we were at Max Fun headquarters at the time. Which is a new building now, they're not in the same building.

Travis: That's true. Used to be in—I don't—I think it's called American Concrete Building or something like that. But it has this weird, wavy, kind of like concrete pattern on the outside.

Teresa: Yeah, it did.

Travis: That was very recognizable. And if you know what it looks like, you'll see it in a lot of like music videos and TV shows.

Teresa: Mm-hm.

Travis: Because you can like see it through the windows on the inside, and it's really interesting, so people use it a lot. There's a lot of like studio space in there and everything.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: It's not important to this story, except that it was cool.

Teresa: We were there, and you were doing something. I think you were on... were you on Jordan, Jesse, Go maybe?

Travis: Probably. I've done that show a bunch. They might as well change it to Jordan, Jesse and Travis, Go.

Teresa: [titters] And Jesse said, "Why don't you two do a podcast?" And we were like, "What would we do?" But it—

Travis: I don't think we said it like that.

Teresa: [titters] I mean, maybe?

Travis: I think the idea for the podcast came from Justin?

Teresa: Right, but Jesse was the one who was like, "You guys should do one."

Travis: Yes, but like the topic—

Teresa: Yes, yes.

Travis: Justin was like, "Well, you know how like we do Sawbones because like Sydnee is like a medical, you know, expert."

Teresa: Mm-hm.

Travis: Teresa knows all this stuff about like manners and etiquette and history and stuff. Which, to be fair, he might have just meant more than the McElroy brothers do, which is not hard to accomplish. But you do know a lot about it, and it's something you were very interested in. But I think it translated to like, "She's more polite than us." And he said, "So you guys could do something like that." And I think he also suggested the name Shmanners.

Teresa: Really? I don't know.

Travis: We went back and forth also on how to spell it.

Teresa: Yes, we did. Was there a C in there? Was there not a C in there?

Travis: And I thought it looked like sch-manners with a C, because like "school." So we went with S-H, which also seemed easier to spell. And then, for years now, it's—people will often just put that C in there.

Teresa: Yeah. It's all right.

Travis: Now I feel the need every time we do a promo code for an ad, to spell it.

Teresa: Mm-hm.

Travis: Even though it's our show, so you would hope—

Teresa: Right.

Travis: That listeners know. But I don't assume anything, you know?

Teresa: So—

Travis: People misspell MBMBaM all the time, and it's the letters.

Teresa: So you did your—from your podcast book, your now famous, "Let's just try one."

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Explain how that works.

Travis: So, the first My Brother, My Brother and Me we recorded. At that point, Justin and Griffin had been doing the Joystiq game podcast—Joystiq... I think it was just called The Joystiq Podcast. And so, they had experience doing it, and I had never done a podcast before. So, for the first My Brother, My Brother and Me, I was very nervous.

Teresa: Mm-hm.

Travis: And Justin was like, "Well, let's just do like a test recording and see how it goes." And I was like, "Oh, okay." And then like we finished the first recording and he was like, "Okay, great, so we'll publish that as our first episode." And I was like, "*What?*"

Teresa: *Huh?*

Travis: So then, I tricked you the same way.

Teresa: Yeah, mm-hm, mm-hm. I remember we were sitting in the upstairs of our apartment in the valley.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: And—

Travis: Van Nuys?

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Is that where we were? Yeah.

Teresa: Yeah, in Van Nuys. And Buttercup was doing her normal thing where she stands on the—she stood on the couch and put her front paws up at the top of the couch, so she could look out the window.

Travis: Mm-hm.

Teresa: She was out—she was looking out the window like the whole time we were recording.

Travis: She just wanted to escape our podcast.

Teresa: [chuckles]

Travis: She was like, "Oh, shut up!" I also remember it was Jesse who was like, "You guys should do like a little joke as like a cold open before the intro music." And that lasted a really long time!

Teresa: It really did.

Travis: Until it reached a point where it was like, I can't think of any more jokes.

Teresa: [laughs] Ever. You've completely run dry of jokes.

Travis: It started to be the thing I was most nervous about, was like, will I be able to think of a joke for this one? Ah, no!

Teresa: [chuckles] Turns out we didn't need the joke.

Travis: No, I make plenty of stupid jokes throughout the episode itself.

Teresa: And let's see, so now we've been through two kids, right?

Travis: What?!

Teresa: Two whole kids!

Travis: No!

Teresa: And a cross-country move.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: A second cross-country move. The first one to LA, before podcast.

Travis: That was before the podcast, BP, yeah.

Teresa: BP. [laughs] And then the second one, during podcast?

Travis: Oh, we'll get to that! Because that has to do with our first live show.

Teresa: Oh! Okay.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Okay, great. And now, two kids and almost 500 episodes.

Travis: And still our first marriage.

Teresa: Oh! Yeah.

Travis: If we have a second marriage, it'll be to each other again, which will be weird. Can you double marry? Like, or does that—and then on the—

Teresa: I think you have to get divorced, and then you can—

Travis: No, we can marry more? Mary Moore.

Teresa: Mary Moore. [chuckles]

Travis: Mary Tyler Moore.

Teresa: Maybe.

Travis: We'll exchange some organs this time.

Teresa: *Ew.*

Travis: And then I think if we get married a third time, I think it's actually square. I think that's four, like because it just doubles again. You know what I mean? And so it's a Fibonacci sequence of marriages. And then the next one will be eight, and then 16. And eventually, I think we'll just be melded into one person like that Alison Brie and Dave Franco movie. I haven't seen it. I think it's *Romantics*? It's not. [chuckles] I know the summary of it, it's not romantic, don't watch it if—

Teresa: You were talking to me, and I kind of like checked out—

Travis: No, I know, I watched.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: And you know, I figured 10 years in, I would just keep talking and see if you check back in.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Like a revolving sushi restaurant, you'd come back around. And here you are!

Teresa: Okay. So, you said—you talked about our first live show. Let's talk about that before we talk about the additions to our show. So, our first live show?

Travis: Our first live show, the subject was pregnancy.

Teresa: Oh, because I was probably pregnant.

Travis: You were. And so were Rachel and Griffin. They had announced—

Teresa: Just Rachel. She was actually the one pregnant.

Travis: You just said we were?!

Teresa: Okay, fine.

Travis: So...

Teresa: [laughs] I think this is maybe—

Travis: I know how it works. As you specified, we have two kids. I understand that you didn't carry one and I carried the other one.

Teresa: I think this is one of those things where like I get to say "we—"

Travis: But I don't?!

Teresa: But you don't. [laughs]

Travis: Yeah, you did it all. It's your fault. Is that better?

Teresa: [chuckles]

Travis: So, Rachel was pregnant and Griffin was there.

Teresa: [chuckles]

Travis: For at least part of it, I think.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: So, we did pregnancy. At the time, you were 16 weeks pregnant. And this was, if I did the math right, we recorded it in May of 2016, and published it in June of 2016. It was at the Lincoln Theater, not Lincoln Center, in Washington D.C. And that was May. So then August is when we moved and lived in Huntington for like a month and a half, while we filmed the My Brother, My Brother and Me TV show.

Teresa: Yeah!

Travis: Yeah. So, I don't know if in May we would have had everything boxed up, but we were headed that way. And then, so, we filmed the My Brother, My Brother and Me TV show through September, and then moved to Cincinnati like October 7th or something. And then like two weeks later had Bebe.

Teresa: Bebe was born!

Travis: Yeah! Surprising everybody.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: Made a bold entrance.

Teresa: I was very surprised.

Travis: Yeah, a bold entrance, I—like, I didn't even have all the furniture built yet. She wasn't supposed to come for another two weeks.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Anyway, so she was born. But really, the podcast is our first baby.

Teresa: Ah.

Travis: Aah. Not really. If Bebe, if you're listening to this someday, that's not true.

Teresa: [titters] Yeah, so, that was our first—our first live show. And we would—we would go on to have many live shows while she was an infant.

Travis: That's true.

Teresa: What is your favorite live show that we've done?

Travis: I think my favorite is when we did an episode about pizza in Chicago.

Teresa: [gasps] Hah! What?!

Travis: What?!

Teresa: We did not talk about this beforehand, and that's my favorite episode!

Travis: Yeah?!

Teresa: Yes!

Travis: It was a great crowd. I always like especially live shows when we have what is seeming to be a very kind of, I don't know, light topic.

Teresa: Uh-huh.

Travis: That then it's just like fun to talk about, you know? And it's also one of those things, I think some of our best episodes, to me, are ones where I know a lot of surface level stuff about it. And then you bring like history and definitions and etiquette to it and I'm like, "Well, I didn't know that."

[both chuckle]

Travis: I made a pretty bold claim, thinking I knew the answer to that, and then you're like, "Well, no, actually." And I'm like, "Oh, okay, okay."

Teresa: I loved that episode. I loved the—just the crowd was totally with us on that episode.

Travis: Well, when you bring up pizza in Chicago.

Teresa: In Chicago! And I mean, we talked about the different types of pizza, about the etiquette of eating pizza in Chicago. It was amazing.

Travis: It was great.

Teresa: It was really, really awesome. And I still, to this day, think that Chicago style deep dish pizza is a casserole. [titters]

Travis: Bold. A bold statement.

Teresa: I mean...

Travis: I'm not going to alienate anyone.

Teresa: No, I said—

Travis: Except when I say that thin crust, crispy is the best to me. It lets me just inhale the pizza.

[both chuckle]

Travis: In a very like "let's do this, go," kind of way. But I don't savor anything in life.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: I'm always go-go-go like a shark. That's me. I'm a shark. You know? Always moving, can't sleep. I'm afraid of orcas, or whatever.

Teresa: [titters] Everyone is afraid of orcas. They're terrible.

Travis: Even other orcas?

Teresa: I think so.

Travis: Okay, yeah.

Teresa: But I said that deep dish pizza was a casserole, and the crowd was incredulous at first, but I think I won them over.

Travis: Yeah, but you also think that cheesecake isn't cake, so that's fine.

Teresa: It's a custard.

Travis: You can be wrong about things and beautiful and amazing at the same time.

Teresa: Okay. Anyway, so... we've been through a lot of things, but we have got an addition to our team to talk about. We want to talk about Alex.

Travis: Who?

Teresa: Alex is our writer and researcher.

Travis: Doesn't ring any bell—no, of course I'm kidding!

Teresa: And she would like to let everyone know—

Travis: That our kids like her better than us?

Teresa: Well, yeah, but—

Travis: Yeah. Not in the like love kind of way, but it's in an excitement kind of way. I think—

Teresa: Yeah, they, when she is here, working in the office, they drop their things from school and run straight to Alex to tell her the parts about their day.

Travis: Yes.

Teresa: And to like play with her sticker collection and like—

Travis: Well, it's also because Alex spins them around in her office chair.

Teresa: Yeah, that's true.

Travis: And I think like, "Oh, yeah! We get to go to the Alex Carnival."
Which is great.

Teresa: [chuckles] 1She started writing for us March 6th, 2019. And her first episode was researcher for the makeup episode.

Travis: Oh, that was a good one.

Teresa: And since then, she has written 337 episodes of Shmanners. Which means that Alex has been here for 68% of the show's lifespan.

Travis: Almost 69. Nice.

Teresa: Ah, nice. So, her average episode is 3280 words, and by that logic, she has written over 1,105,000 for Shmanners.

Travis: We should do like a Shmanners encyclopedia. A Shmancyclopedia.

Teresa: We should. Now—

Travis: And make just all the money. That's what people want, big, huge—

Teresa: Money.

Travis: One-million-word long books about etiquette! It's gonna be a best-seller!

Teresa: Well, but the minimum length for a novel is like 50,000 words, so that's like 22 novels.

Travis: We could write—we could write the next great etiquette-based novel about like Shmanly, who's just trying to figure out etiquette. And also—

Teresa: TM, TM, TM.

Travis: Yeah, they're a vampire.

Teresa: Oh?

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: They're a vampire?

Travis: They're a vampire, so they've lived through all the decades that we talk about.

Teresa: Oh, okay, yes.

Travis: Yeah, but also, vampires are hot. People love vampires.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: Oh, and is there a werewolf mixed up in there? Yeah, absolutely. And an alien? I'm talking about zombies.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: I'm realizing now.

Teresa: Well, so I do—I do want to caveat that I don't read the entirety of Alex's episodes—

Travis: And I don't read.

Teresa: On every show. And you don't read. I do read through it before I do the show. And so, I have appreciated all of her words.

Travis: I don't read it ahead of time. This is important. There are some, right? Like idioms episodes, ask Shmanners, that I read beforehand.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: But I don't want to pretend to be stupid. I want to actually be stupid.

Teresa: [chuckles] You're a method actor.

Travis: I'm a method actor, I take my stupidity very seriously. So, when you're presenting stuff to me, I don't want to have to pretend like, "*What?* It was that—" So anytime you've ever heard me just be wildly wrong about a thing, when you're like, "When do you think this was or who do you think did this?" And I'm like, "Boom, Attila the Hun." And you're like, "No, it was 300 years before that." And I'm like, "Oh, okay." That's all real stupid, baby. 100% purebred stupid.

Teresa: Yay.

Travis: Yay! Hey! Let's take a quick break.

Teresa: Okay.

Travis: And let's have a word from another Max Fun show!

[theme music plays]

Dan: The Flop House is a podcast where we watch a bad movie, and then we talk about it.

Elliott: Robert Shaw in *Jaws*, and they're trying to figure out how to get rid of the Ghoulies. And he scratches his nails and he says, "I'll get you, ghoulie."

Dan: He's just standing above the toilet with a harpoon. [chuckles]

Elliott: [chuckles]

Dan: No, I was just looking forward to you going through the other ways in which *Wild Wild West* is historically inaccurate.

Stuart: You know how much movies cost nowadays, when you add in your popped corn and your bagel bites, and your cheese fritters?

Elliott: You can't go wrong with a Henry Cavil mustache. Here at Henry Cavil Mustaches, the only supplier!

Stuart: [laughs]

Dan: The Flop House. New episodes every Saturday. Find it at maximumfun.org.

[break]

Kirk: Say you like video games, and who doesn't?

Maddy: I mean, some people probably don't.

Kirk: Okay, but a lot of people do. So, say you're one of those people, and you don't really have anyone to talk to about the games that you like.

Jason: Well, you should get some better friends.

Kirk: Yes, you could get some better friends, but you could also listen to Triple Click. A weekly podcast about video games, hosted by me, Kirk Hamilton.

Maddy: Me, Maddy Myers.

Jason: And me, Jason Schreier. We talk about new releases, old classics, industry news, and whatever, really.

Maddy: We'll show you new things to love about games, and maybe even help you find new friends to talk to about them.

Kirk: Triple Click, it's kind of like we're your friends. Find us at maximumfun.org, or wherever you get your podcasts.

[break]

Travis: We're back!

Teresa: We're back! Okay. And so, like I said, I don't read the entirety of Alex's episodes on air. Because I kind of like paraphrase the way that she talks and—

Travis: Yeah, you want to put it in your own words.

Teresa: Yeah, I put it in my own words, but I definitely appreciate all of the fact finding, and especially for the idioms episodes.

Travis: Well, I appreciate, there are many, many times, Alex knows we don't do a verbatim, she will write in comments and jokes, basically, for you—

Teresa: Just for us!

Travis: Yeah, for you, really.

Teresa: [chuckles]

Travis: Because I don't read it. So Alex will like put in parenthesis like, "I think that this is dog water," or whatever. You know, "This is messed up!" Just for you to be like, this is how Alex feels about this.

Teresa: Well, speaking about the idioms, right? We have our next idioms episode slated for later this year, and that will be our 20th idiom episode.

Travis: It's one of my favorites.

Teresa: It is our favorite recurring segment.

Travis: One of the like discussion points we have for this is like favorite episodes.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: And also like what are some things you learned, you know, from the episodes that we've done. And the idioms episodes are on both lists for me. Like the one—anytime I mention to people like, "On Shmanners, we'll do idioms episodes. And it's wild, there's some more—" And they're like, "Like what?" And the one I always quote is cat in a bag.

Teresa: Yes!

Travis: You know, let the cat out of the bag.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: Where I talk about, so it's about suckling pigs and saying like, "I'm selling you a suckling pig." And if you open the bag—and they were unscrupulous. And actually, it was like a cat in there. And the cat would jump out and you're like, "This isn't a suckling pig!" And it's like, oh, well, you let the cat out of the bag and revealed the secret. And like, that's the one I always like go to of like, and that's where it comes from!

Teresa: I think it's very descriptive, right? And it is like the epitome of idiom, meaning something a long, long time ago, that was actually the thing that it was about. And now today that we use it for so many different things.

Travis: Well, and also, the thing about idioms episodes, it's not a specific like idiom that I learned, so much as like the number of times an idiom will come on the show and I'm like, I didn't even think of that as an idiom. It's so common and pervasive—

Teresa: Exactly.

Travis: That it's just a part of my language without ever thinking that it meant something else at some point.

Teresa: Mm-hm.

Travis: And like that—

Teresa: I think that's one of the things that makes learning a new language so difficult.

Travis: Oh, yeah, especially English.

Teresa: Because you can learn vocabulary, you can learn sentence structure, but until you speak with someone who has known that language their entire life, you do not understand what they mean when they're talking. Because idioms are such a huge like human thing, and every language and every culture has their own idioms.

Travis: Though, I—to slightly go off topic for a second, but I find this talking to our children and teaching them—

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: Where like they will ask us like, "What does this word mean?" And usually, if it is a word like... I'm trying to think of a good example, but like, "perseverance," right? These things that describe—

Teresa: Sure.

Travis: The quality you have of this thing. And it's so hard because you're like, "It's how much you persevere."

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: It's like, I know that that doesn't help! I know that this has not answered your question.

Teresa: Defining the word with the word.

Travis: Yes, but it's like, there are so many words where it's like, this word refers to how much of this word you have.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: And I'm like, yeah, no, I know. I know that this isn't helpful, but it's the best I've got.

Teresa: Second to that, I think that my favorite recurring segment that we haven't... I'm not gonna say recurring segment, I'm gonna say theme.

Travis: Series.

Teresa: Series that we had was the wedding series.

Travis: Yes, I enjoyed those as well.

Teresa: I love that, and I love that we still get really great ask Shmanners questions that bring up weddings occasionally.

Travis: Well, it's just, it's a huge like social event and like etiquette minefield.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Especially considering it's also one of those where it's like culturally, religion... just even like societally different on so—in so many places, so many levels, just depending on where you're having it, where your partner's from, where your partner's family is from, what they want to do. All of these things of like there's so many factors to consider in it.

Teresa: Right.

Travis: I also, one of my favorite series, it was a three-episode arc, was Prohibition.

Teresa: Yeah, that was a good one.

Travis: Where we talked about—because it's like, I realized doing that—because I knew about prohibition, you know, from like school and probably PBS, if I'm being honest.

Teresa: [chuckles]

Travis: Support public broadcasting. But also, like there was so much in that that connected to me of like, oh, so this is because of prohibition, and

this thing is because—like these things that wouldn't exist, mostly bad, if it wasn't for prohibition, right?

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Like, I think it was income tax or sales tax or something where it's like, yeah, to make up for the money that was coming in from alcohol sales to the government, they had to institute this tax because of that. And it was like, they should have just kept selling alcohol then!

Teresa: They should have just kept selling alcohol.

Travis: Because then they started selling alcohol again, and didn't take that tax away, I noticed. *Hm!*

Teresa: Hm... Here are some more recurring characters. We've got the Industrial Revolution, another big touch point in American and European history. Abraham Lincoln comes up a lot.

Travis: You know, who comes up a lot-a lot-a lot? Queen Victoria, baby!

Teresa: Yeah. Definitely Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth I came up a lot.

Travis: We have done five episodes just about Queen Victoria.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: Because we did Victoria and Albert, and then another Victoria and Albert like two years later going more in depth on it. And then I think another three-episode arc that was like just about the biography of Queen Victoria.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: And that's not because we don't have ideas for episodes, folks. It's because, one, Queen Victoria is maybe, I would say, one of the biggest influencers of history.

Teresa: Her reign was just so long—

Travis: And impactful! Like during—

Teresa: And impactful and—

Travis: It was during a span of time where was, like, everything she did started ripples that changed stuff. And like people—there's photographs coming into play, there's like the ability to spread news. Not to mention, and it's bad, but she was like a huge colonizer, right?

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: So it's like her influence then spread to all these other corners of the globe. And obviously, that sucks, but also, it just increased that just her... behaviors, traditions, things that she started doing, really spread very quickly.

Teresa: Yeah. Teddy Roosevelt comes up a lot. Dorothy Parker comes up a lot. The phrase that the Alex says she's currently trademarking, "the great Christian rebrand."

Travis: Oh, yeah!

Teresa: That comes up a lot.

Travis: It does come up a lot. Once again, another colonizing influence, the great Christian rebrand. Also, our patron saint, Emily Post.

Teresa: Emily Post, yes! She comes up a lot. We've done a couple of really great episodes about her. That's another really good one. We recorded that first Emily Post like biography, tribute, almost, in Huntington, while you were filming your TV show.

Travis: Really?

Teresa: Yeah! In the dining room of that house that we were renting.

Travis: Yeah!

Teresa: In—

Travis: That was right across the river in Guyandotte?

Teresa: No chill...

Travis: Chillicothe?

Teresa: Chillicothe.

Travis: Maybe. From John Mahaffey. Thank you, John Mahaffey, for letting us live there.

Teresa: Thank you, John.

Travis: Our cat and our dog enjoyed the three weeks that we stayed there.

Teresa: [chuckles] That was a really good episode.

Travis: That was a really good episode! It's wild to me, biographies are another one that are one of my favorite. One, because like it's fun to like very much take history and like personalize it, personify it to a person. But also like, we do a lot of episodes where it's like, they do not teach you about this person in school, and they have had a huge impact on things. Or this person was absolutely wild, and if kids learned about history in this way—like, it's a thing throughout life—one of the episodes we did was Joshua Norton, the first emperor of America.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: Which was a thing I learned about when I was in high school and have been fascinated by ever since. The story of this man who lost all of his money due to a bad investment, disappeared for a short time, and when he came back was like, "I'm the emperor of America." And yeah, and everybody in San Francisco where he lived was like, "Okay, cool! We love this guy!"

Teresa: [chuckles]

Travis: And like, just so many things like that. And like, I heard that story when I was in high school and I was like, I'm fascinated by this. Same with Evander Wall, the king of dudes, was another one of my favorite episodes. Of just this guy, this dude, who was like so... fanciful and so bougie. And like, he got his title, I believe, from changing his clothes the most amount of times during a single party, to different outfits. And by the end he was like worn out and sweaty and exhausted, but victorious. And it's like, yeah, man, he had a lot of free time, I guess.

Teresa: You also taught me about The Fartist.

Travis: The Fartist. Le Pétomane?

Teresa: Mm-hm.

Travis: *Oh*, I remembered it. Yes, who could do symphonies and impressions with his farts.

Teresa: Mm-hm.

Travis: Classic. That was a, I think, a Max Fun bonus episode.

Teresa: I think so.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: So, if you're not a member of Max Fun, you should go and do that so that you can listen to all of our bonus episodes. I wonder if we counted our bonus episodes in the 500?

Travis: No, probably not.

Teresa: I don't think so.

Travis: If we've done it 10 years, then we're probably at like 499 at this point. But bonus episodes are just that, bonuses.

Teresa: So, I would like to share Alex's favorite memory of the shows. Her favorite memory of working on the show was the first time that she heard herself thanked on air.

Travis: Aw.

Teresa: So, she was having a work meeting with Alice, who is another one of the—

Travis: It's our business person!

Teresa: The employees here.

Travis: She's the business half of my brain, and also one of my best friends. But I... this is a big reveal for a 10-year episode, I have ADHD.

Teresa: Oh, no!

Travis: I've never—

Teresa: Whatever are we gonna do?!

Travis: Yeah, I've never spoken about it publicly.

Teresa: [chuckles]

Travis: My doctors told me that I have ADHD, and someday I will die. And I don't think they're connected, but I don't know that they're not connected.

Teresa: *Mm-hm.*

Travis: I do make a lot of dangerous choices because of my ADHD, so who knows?

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: But so, Alex—Alice... I've tried to get 'em to change their names so many times.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Because it's Alex and Alice.

Teresa: Wouldn't that be just so much more convenient for you?

Travis: I know! If one of 'em was like Susan. Susan! Su—[sings] "That girl is Susan." ADHD is fun. Anyways.

Teresa: [chuckles]

Travis: Alice like keeps everything on track and like is the co-founder of Champion's Grove with me.

Teresa: Mm-hm.

Travis: And was like—helped co-run like CUSS with me and stuff like that. So...

Teresa: Yeah. So—

Travis: We don't always thank her, but we couldn't do it without Alice either.

Teresa: They were at a coffee shop, and Alex was like, "Wouldn't it be cool if I got credited on air?" And Alice was like, "Alex, they're doing that."

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: "They do that."

Travis: "Do you mean the show about etiquette that our first episode was thank you notes? That one? Yeah, you get thanked."

Teresa: Yeah, so she ran to the bathroom and held the phone up to her ear and listened to the episode she'd written about gloves.

Travis: Mm-hm, yeah.

Teresa: And then—

Travis: I love—we need to do more accessory episodes. I love those.

Teresa: Those are great, those are fun. We did fans and gloves and watches.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: And handkerchiefs.

Travis: And makeup and heels I think we've done?

Teresa: Yeah, we've done heels as well, yeah, very cool. And so, since then, she's written over 300 episodes, and we thank her every single time.

Travis: Another one of my favorites that I also think I learned a lot from was cowboy poetry.

Teresa: Oh, that was a good one.

Travis: That was a thing—until we did that episode, I didn't even know that was a thing. And then as we're talking about it you see like, oh, yeah, where seldom is heard a discouraging word. And it's like, yeah, man, this is cowboy poetry, and this is the thing. And it's this whole art form that you didn't know anything about. I also, just because it's fun for us and it's not a thing we normally get to do, is I really like the Shmidgerton episodes where we talk about—

Teresa: Oh yeah! That's coming back.

Travis: Yeah, Shmidgerton season one—

Teresa: It's gonna—it's gonna drop—

Travis: Two and Two-B.

Teresa: Next month, I think.

Travis: And we get to do Shmidgerton three, talking about your favorite season.

Teresa: Yeah, my favorite—

Travis: And then pretty soon, pretty soon, my boy, Benedict, is gonna get his season. How's it gonna go? I don't know! Maybe I'll hate it. We'll see!

Teresa: Mm-hm!

Travis: Isn't that the fun of liking a TV show?

Teresa: Indeed!

Travis: Let's see, I have wrote down a bunch of ones that I learned about, sommeliers was a really—

Teresa: Mm-hm, that was a good one.

Travis: Because I had no idea how grueling becoming a sommelier is.

Teresa: And that led to our whiskey episodes as well.

Travis: Yes. The Sarah Winchester episode, I think—

Teresa: Oh, yeah.

Travis: Especially when you talk about a story where it's like, yeah, you know about the Winchester Mystery House. We know all about it! I've heard all about it! And then like go one layer deeper and it's actually like, no, actually, it's pretty messed up that everybody thinks that that is the true story. Where it's like, no, that's a very fun—so like, when we—

Teresa: It's a fun story to tell parties, but—

Travis: My girl—our girls are very interested in like weird stuff from time to time. I mean, they're my kids.

Teresa: Mm-hm.

Travis: And so, they watch like videos of the Winchester Mystery House, and we explained to them like, "So, there is like the ghost story version and there's the true version. And we're going to tell you both of those, so that you—it's like, ah, that's like kind of the ghost story fun version. And like here's the true one, that's important that you know that this is the true one."

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Because I think you can enjoy both things, as long as you know. It's like I like both the book *The Count of Monte Cristo*, and the movie *The Count of Monte Cristo*, starring Guy Pearce and Jim Caviezel, which is wildly different—

Teresa: Wildly different.

Travis: From the book! I can like both things, and know that one of them's true.

Teresa: [chuckles]

Travis: You know, one of them is the real version and one of them's like, "Yeah, but imagine if..." I also, I wrote down a bunch here. The Mr. Rogers and Bob Ross episodes I think are wonderfully—

Teresa: Oh!

Travis: I got choked up during both of those when we did 'em.

Teresa: Those came at a really good time. We really needed the uplifting of those episodes. I was very happy to discuss that with you and our viewers.

Travis: And I think they were both live episodes as well.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: I remember, I think that Bob Ross one was at the... what used to be the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville.

Teresa: Mm-hm.

Travis: What was that theater called? I'm looking because the bag that I got from that theater is right there, and I can't see the name on it, and I'm so mad. Can you go look at that bag and tell me what's on that bag?

Teresa: Oh, okay.

Travis: Thank you. It feels so rude to not give the actual name of it. The Ryman! The Ryman Auditorium. Oh my god. That's also where I think we did the first Hootenanny.

Teresa: Oh, really?

Travis: Yeah. Because we got to sing on the stage for the Ryman Auditorium, which was wonderful and fun.

Teresa: Hootenanny, that is part of the TAZ universe.

Travis: Yeah. But I think have only been done as live shows.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Because they involve us singing.

Teresa: Singing live together.

Travis: What are we looking forward to in the next year?

Teresa: Well, you said Shmidgerton. I'm definitely looking forward to that.

Travis: Yeah. We should do other—like, there are so many etiquette like theme—people—hey, if you're listening... and if you're not listening, how would you hear me?

Teresa: [chuckles] How would you hear us?

Travis: Hey, since you're listening.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Email in if there's like period piece things or like, I don't know, things that are—you feel are like Bridgerton, right?

Teresa: Right.

Travis: Where it's all about the thing, right? We could do a whole thing on the Keira Knightley Pride and Prejudice.

Teresa: We totally could. I mean, I would love to get our listener submissions as far as like period movies and TV shows, where we could discuss like not just the actual show—

Travis: Yes.

Teresa: But the culture surrounding that—

Travis: Why it's—yeah.

Teresa: That time period and about like—I know that we've also talked in Bridgerton like the real things that would have been happening, and also the reason behind why they made a different choice for the show. And sometimes it's just like as small as they would have worn bonnets in Regency England, and especially this echelon of people would have worn bonnets. But bonnets are hard for TV because you can't see people's faces from every angle. [titters] You can basically only see them from straight on.

And so they made the choice not to have the people wear bonnets. And I think that that's fine, because it's like TV, right?

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: So, if our listeners have any submissions that they'd like to give us regarding those different kinds of like media that we could look and contrast and compare and talk about, that would be awesome.

Travis: I also would say like, just like I said, you know, Joshua Norton was the thing I heard about when I was in high school, and I've thought about it ever since. If there's a biography thing of like, "Hey, here is a person from my hometown who had this like huge impact," or this wild story or whatever, that nobody ever talks about, or a person from history that you feel needs to be discussed more, share those with us.

Teresa: Absolutely.

Travis: I love doing those episodes. And you know, we have the Ask Shmanners stuff, but if there's anything where it's like, "I've always wondered why, you know, cowboy boots," or whatever—we haven't actually done that episode. But if there's a thing where it's like, why did this become a thing—

Teresa: That was probably part of high heels, because I think that that has a lot to do with horseback riding.

Travis: Yeah, sure.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: But if there's a thing where you're like, why is this so commonplace now? The evolution of the purse, right?

Teresa: Ooh, yeah.

Travis: It's definitely something we could talk about. Stuff like that. I like doing those. And like I said, we've done 500 more or less episodes, and it's

not like we're running out of ideas so much as like, I know that there's things out there that we haven't talked about that we just haven't thought about, right? And so, just like we take submissions for idioms and Ask Shmanners and stuff like that, I'd love it if people shared other things of like, "Hey, I've always been curious about this." Or, "I know about this and it's wild." Please share it with us.

Teresa: Absolutely. And you can send those to Alex, so shmannerscast@gmail.com. And say hi to her, because she reads every single one!

Travis: Oh my gosh, we've smoothly transitioned into it, so let me also say, thank you to Alex, our researcher, without whom we could not do this episode. Or, for that matter, 68% of our current episodes. Thank you so much, Alex. We wouldn't be where we are right now without you. You know it, we brought Alex in, we were about to have Dot at that point and we were like, oh my god, two kids, and we want to keep working on this.

And Alex came in and made it all possible. So, thank you so much, Alex. Rachel, our editor, without whom we could not do this episode. Or, once again, all the episodes that she's worked on. If we sound listenable at all, I credit Rachel fully for that. Mostly because also, not just in the like post, but like with—we change setups and she was like, "Okay, great. Make sure the audio quality isn't bad." And I was like, "Ah, right-right-right."

Teresa: Right-right-right.

Travis: Yeah, you got it, you got it, you got it. So, thank you, Rachel. And thank you to you for listening—

Teresa: Well, we should also thank Tom now, because we're doing—

Travis: Oh, yeah, Tom—

Teresa: A video element.

Travis: Is working on video stuff, yeah. So, hopefully video stuff will be out soon, you'll get to see our beautiful faces. And thank you to you for

listening, it's been 10 years. Your support both in listening to the episodes during the Max Fun drives, sending stuff in, all of this stuff makes this show possible. We have so much fun doing it, and we hope you enjoy it, and we're just thankful that you're here.

Teresa: Thank you to Brent 'brentalfloss' Black for writing our theme music, which is available as a ringtone where those are found also. Also, thank you to Bruja Betty Pin-up Photography for the cover picture of our fan-run Facebook group, Shmanners Fanners. If you love to get excellent advice from other fans, go ahead and join that group today.

Travis: And that's gonna do it for us! So, join us for the next 10 years.

Teresa: Woo-hoo! No RSVP required.

Travis: You've been listening to Shmanners.

Teresa: Manners, Shmanners. Get it?

["Shmanners Theme" by brentalfloss plays]

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