

Shmanners 493: Oscars Part 1

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[theme music plays]

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

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

Travis: And you're listening to Shmanners.

Teresa: It's extraordinary etiquette...

Travis: For ordinary occasions. Hello, my dove.

Teresa: Hello, dear.

Travis: How are you?

Teresa: I'm *alright*. I'm better now.

Travis: Yeah, me too. I was sick last week. Sorry there was no episode.

Teresa: You were sick, *and* the kids were sick.

Travis: The kids were sick for 97 days.

Teresa: No, just five. Five to eight.

Travis: Five to eight days, somewhere in there. And *luckily* I didn't get sick until like they were coming down, you know? And so it wasn't *so* bad. But then they definitely didn't take care of me the way I took care of them.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: What's even the point? I gotta wait until I'm like 90 for my kids to take care of me? *Gross*.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Hold on real quick. Before we continue, I'm gonna open this envelope here.

Teresa: Oh!

Travis: And the winner for best wife... Teresa McElroy!

Teresa: Aww. I'd like to thank the Academy.

Travis: Aww. That's great.

Teresa: We're talking about the Oscars. Do you remember when we lived in LA? Let me set the scene.

Travis: The year was 1943.

Teresa: No. No, it was like 2007.

Travis: No.

Teresa: No, 17. 2017?

Travis: No. Also no.

Teresa: Before that.

Travis: No, we lived in LA in 2014 and 2015.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: We only lived there two years.

Teresa: That's true. But we *did* do a weekly trivia event at a bar.

Travis: That's true.

Teresa: And one was at a Tuesday. So it was a Sunday night.

Travis: It was a Sunday night.

Teresa: One Sunday night, we go.

Travis: And the place was always packed. Important to note.

Teresa: And it was *empty*. It was just us and the bartender.

Travis: And they even had work lights on, kind of deal. And we're like, "Oh, what's going on?"

Teresa: "Are you guys closed? Like, are you open?"

He's like, "Well, I mean, we're open, but nobody's here."

And we're like, "Yeah, but why?"

And he pointed up to the TV and he said, "The Oscars."

We're like, "Oh."

Travis: And it's Los Angeles. And we're like, "Oh, right." I didn't realize it was such like, I don't know, a city-wide holiday.

Teresa: Yeah. I guess I kind of assumed that it would be like the Super Bowl where if you can't go, you watch it with your friends. Maybe people were having home Oscars parties, and not *bar* Oscars parties?

Travis: That's the thing. It's still— At the time, it was one of those things where it clicked and was like, “Oh, man, we're so foolish. We didn't even think about it.” But now, I still look back on it, and think... So they just— So they just didn't do the thing? Just the assumption of like, everyone's gone. I don't know, man. It's still wild to me.

Teresa: It feels kind of weird.

Travis: Like, I live in a city where we have two, or three at this point, Major League sports teams that people deeply care about. And even then, even if God forbid, somehow the Bengals made it in the Super Bowl, or the Reds made it to the World Series, I can't imagine they would be like, “Yeah, but *nothing's* happening tonight.” If anything, it would be, “We're having events at this place for this thing.”

Teresa: Exactly.

Travis: But then the guy turned it on, and it was the year Alan Rickman died. And it made Teresa sob uncontrollably for like an hour.

Teresa: I did. I sobbed a lot. I think I'd also been drinking. [laughs]

Travis: Well, yeah. You'd had some wine, and you were in your feelings, as they say.

Teresa: As they say.

Travis: I have no feelings, because I'm all burned out. Just a big—

Teresa: Even then? Even then, you were all burned out?

Travis: Since I was five years old, I used them all up.

Teresa: [laughs] So, okay, the Academy Awards this year on March 15th, which is kind of late for the Academy Awards, by the way.

Travis: They had to get a few movies in there at the end. They had to squeeze a few good ones in.

Teresa: Yeah, you think so?

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: And there's a reason why all of the ritzy people refer to the Oscars as the most important award show, or the only awards that matter. I mean, people do. That's what people say. Did you hear about this? [laughs]

Travis: Well, I'm trying to think of other award shows. The three that come to mind are the Oscars, the Grammys and the Tonys. And I know that Tonys is a regional award show.

Teresa: Tonys a regional award show.

Travis: It's like, you're on Broadway or not? I don't know what to tell you, man.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: There's like, a six-by-four square block radius of the Earth where this matters.

Teresa: And they have off-Broadway, like— Don't they have off-Broadway categories?

Travis: Yeah, and regional theater nods.

Teresa: Yeah, but it's a regional award show. It is not like a national thing.

Travis: No. To be fair—

Teresa: And there's the Emmys, the TV Awards.

Travis: Yes, but I could see where, out of those— I mean, there's Golden Globes. There's BAFTAs. I know there's lots of other ones.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: But it does feel like, when you hear people talk about Golden Globes, a lot of the times it's like, "And that's a good indicator of how the Oscars will go."

Teresa: Right, exactly.

Travis: Like *this* is the Oscars' little brother. Yeah.

Teresa: Yeah. So this episode, we are going to talk about Oscars prep.

Travis: First, you got to cast the statues. Then, you got to paint the statues. I don't know where they're made up of.

Teresa: Not really about the statues. Okay, but about scoring and attending, like, one of the hottest tickets in show business. The Oscars are held at the Dolby Theatre, which is a five-level, 180,000 square foot venue with a 120-foot-wide stage and only 3,400 seats.

Travis: It's not nothing, but it's not like an arena.

Teresa: For example, here in Cincinnati, the Great American Ballpark has 43,500 seats. Madison Square Garden can seat 20,200 seats. So—

Travis: Ah, but there's a little bit of exclusivity to it, right?

Teresa: That's what it is. So you've got the nominees and their guests, directors, agents, big wigs, things like that, and various other stars. But you still need to be invited, and the tickets are non-transferable.

Travis: Do you have in there why they're called Oscars?

Teresa: No, please enlighten us.

Travis: I looked at that because I was like, "I think I remember this." So the actual name of the award is the Academy Award of Merit. And the anecdote, the reason they say it's called this, is because the Academy Librarian, later the executive director, Margaret Herrick, remarked in 1931 that the trophy resembled her uncle Oscar. And the nickname was officially adopted by the Academy in 1939.

Now, there's other theories. That's the anecdotal one, right? People are like, "That's why." The Hollywood columnist, Sidney Skolsky, is credited with using the term in print in 1934 to refer to Katharine Hepburn's first best actress win. Which, if you could do the math, would have been before then.

Teresa: Before then.

Travis: Or actually no, because it would have been *1931* that Margaret Herrick said this, and then it was printed in 1934, and then officially adopted in 1939. But there's other theories and stuff. But that's the one I like the best.

Teresa: So the answer is, *nobody knows*.

Travis: Well, it's probably the Margaret Herrick one.

Teresa: Maybe.

Travis: Yeah. No, that's probably it.

Teresa: [through laughter] Okay.

Travis: But who could say?

Teresa: Okay. So—

Travis: Another fun Oscars fact. I've never won one.

Teresa: No!

Teresa: I know it's hard to believe. I know.

Teresa: Me neither.

Travis: After all my work in Trolls. [laughs] In Trolls: World Tour, I still didn't get one.

Teresa: I know.

Travis: I know.

Teresa: It's a highway robbery.

Travis: Thank you.

Teresa: [giggles] Okay. So you usually have only a month and a half of prep, because the invitations go out late January, early February. Okay? And like I said, there's a little extra time *this* year. But usually, you only have maybe a few weeks to RSVP and secure your *ensemble* and get your glam together.

As far as being invited, obviously the nominees, right? And the presenters, those are usually two tickets each, right? So a nominee and then their date, or whoever they want to take, sometimes their mom or whatever. And then the presenter and whoever is with them, studio execs, other industry guests.

But even members of the Academy of Motion Pictures don't guarantee that they'll get an invitation, because there's over 10,000 members. There's no way that everybody could get to go, right? And the way that they do it is, all you can do is enter a lottery for a *chance* to buy tickets, if you're not the people that I mentioned already.

Travis: And you're not super fame-o.

Teresa: Well, sure.

Travis: I assume if you're a super fame-o star, and you're like, "I want to be there."

They'd be like, "Yes, of course. Front row."

Teresa: Yeah. But I mean, even if you're not nominated for anything, even if you're not attached to any projects or studios?

Travis: I'm talking *super* fame-o, right? There's got to be a level of famous where you are like, "I would like to attend the Oscars."

And they're not going to go. "All right. Put your name in the lottery," right? Like, I assume George Clooney gets to go if he wants to.

Teresa: I don't know. He's usually attached to something as an executive producer, whatever...

Travis: Can you not just go along with me enough to believe that I'm probably right, that they wouldn't say to George Clooney, "Yeah, put your name in the hopper along with everybody else"?

Teresa: But isn't it also really nice to think that the stars are just like us, and they have to get their name pulled in a lottery?

Travis: I'd love to think that. But you and I both know that's not true. George Clooney and I are not the same.

Teresa: [giggles] I suppose you're right. Okay, so for the premise of this podcast, we're going to say that you and I have scored premium

tickets to be the very first presenters of the best adapted podcast award. Okay. So that means that these beautiful—

Travis: It's probably Critical Role. Does that count?

Teresa: Maybe?

Travis: That's a streaming. Let me think. I'm trying to think of podcasts that have been adapted to something. Maybe Lore? Maybe Lore would get one. I know they got an adaptation. [gasps] Adventure Zone, because we made a graphic novel, would that count? I don't think graphic novels can win Oscars.

Teresa: No, I don't think so. Motion picture.

Travis: Yeah. Well, if you flip the book fast enough.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: That got you? Yeah?

Teresa: Yes. Okay, so it would be a beautiful, like embossed, heavily-papered invitation, right? That would arrive in. Like I say, it would be non-transferable. So we couldn't give these away to anybody. And so we have about a month to prepare. Let's go over a checklist for prepping.

About a month ahead, prep begins for your beauty regimes, right? And they suggest that you do any intensive skincare about a month out, because you'll need to heal, right? Specialized treatments from dermatologists, laser treatments, specifically.

Travis: Getting a third eyeball put in.

Teresa: Well, I mean, only if it's in vogue.

Travis: Someone has to *start* it. Sometimes, you have to be the first person to get a cosmetic eyeball installed in the middle of your forehead. You know what I mean? That's just traditional wisdom. Because you're someone with vision.

Teresa: [forced] Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha. Not not as good as the other one.

Travis: I know.

Teresa: Plastic surgeons in Beverly Hills recommend that people getting Botox or filler need to get it about a month before the Oscars, because Botox needs a few weeks to kind of like kick in and settle, and fillers, although immediately visible, there might be bruising or swelling or whatever that you make sure that you don't want to have on the carpet.

Travis: I don't need any of these, by the way, because I'm inherently beautiful.

Teresa: Of course.

Travis: As are most people.

Teresa: People of all genders enjoy getting these kind of facial enhancements before being on the red carpet.

Travis: No, listen. I would get my hair re-dyed. I'm getting a manicure, maybe a pedicure. Maybe I'll have my dogs out at the Oscars. I don't know. I'm just saying, I don't need fillers. I got big, beautiful lips and powerful cheeks and a forehead for days. [laughs]

Teresa: [laughs] Beverly Hills doctors estimate that 60 to 70 percent of people in Hollywood rely on some sort of injections or invasive facial treatment to perfect their red carpet face. Renée Rouleau—

Travis: I can't stress enough that here at Shmanners, we're not like advocating for this. We're just telling you what happens.

Teresa: Yeah. I'm giving you the stats. Renée Rouleau, who is an Austin-based esthetician who works with people like Demi Lovato...

Travis: Yes, I've heard of Demi Lovato. I prefer a full Lovato.

Teresa: Hehhh. You're on fire.

Travis: No. No, I'm not.

Teresa: [laughs] She says that a lot of clients take a more natural approach, things like getting lots of rest, drinking water, exercise. They also advise to stay away from alcohol during the last few weeks, up into the red carpet, because it can cause a general kind of puffiness. Right? And so things like clean livin', they say, is good for— It's good for your skin.

Next, we want to talk about outfits, okay? Where you get your fancy duds really depends on your star power. Right? And if you have any already existing relationship with fashion brands. For example, Margot Robbie was under contract with Chanel from 2018 to November of 2022. So whenever she had a huge red carpet moment, including when she was nominated in 2018 and 2020, she was walking in Chanel attire.

Travis: Hence the, "Who are you wearing?"

Teresa: Yes, exactly. And this is not uncommon. Plenty of celebrities have brand deals, and it doesn't have to be as big as Chanel, right? But it's kind of like a walking advertisement for these companies. And obviously the bigger the star, the more clout it gives your brand.

Travis: I would like to just pause for a second to recommend. And I mean, it's outdated at this point, but it's still incredibly interesting. There's a book called *Celebrity Inc.* that I learned about from the Decoder Ring podcast about like, it's all the ways that celebrities make money that don't include making movies and making albums and, you know, the stuff that they make. And it's stuff like that, with brand deals and like selling the rights to like paparazzi photos and celebrity scents for, you know, perfumes and colognes. And it's *fascinating*.

Teresa: And with Instagram and TikTok nowadays, you can make it even more broadly, right? With other brand deals, things like I've seen some of my favorite celebs pose with Sonic or whatever, right? The hamburgers and stuff.

Travis: They love that blue hedgehog!

Teresa: No, the hamburgers!

Travis: Oh, sure.

Teresa: The foods.

Travis: He usually eats chili dogs, though, but—

Teresa: Oh, okay.

Travis: How has that brand partnership never happened?

Teresa: Really?

Travis: Put some chili dogs on the menu at Sonic. Partner with Sonic the hedgehog.

Teresa: I think that there's chili dogs on the menu.

Travis: No, but I'm saying have them have a co-branded thing, right?

Teresa: Maybe it's just too on-the-nose.

Travis: Oh, do you think that they're competing all the time for like, "But we're Sonic!"

"No, *we're* Sonic!"

Teresa: [laughs] They're competing for brand recognition?

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: I don't know.

Travis: I bet Sonic the Hedgehog people are worried that he would seem like he's their mascot.

Teresa: *Oh!*

Travis: You know what I mean? It's like, "Oh, we got him."

Teresa: [laughs] And award season is generally when people start to get these offers for brand partnerships. Some of them will have custom clothing made. Others will pull sample sizes from runway collections, or other collections like that, and then you would have to return those. And things that have been worn on the red carpet will then be used in trunk shows, or returned to the collection.

Travis: If I got to go to the Oscars and walk the red carpet, I would get like a custom-made rhinestone done jacket. Well, you know, very nice jacket with a rhinestone peacock on the back.

Teresa: Ooh, lovely!

Travis: Wouldn't that be cool?

Teresa: That would be cool.

Travis: And like in kind of a Western style. I think that'd be cool.

Teresa: Well, we'll have to talk about dress code a little later, because that may not be appropriate. And if you don't get a brand deal, there are always stylists looking to connect with lesser-known brands or gown rental, quote, "fashion libraries," right? Where you can find formal wear that you can kind of... will be reminiscent of other styles. Or the idea that this is part of the brand, say that I'm renting from this place, because that also lends the star a kind of sustainability angle, right?

Travis: I take it back. If I was going to walk the red carpet at the Oscars, I would buy – because I'm sure it still exists somewhere, and I'd pay top dollar for this – the screen-used costume from the 1990s Billy Zane movie, *The Phantom*, complete with the mask and everything, and the rings. And I would wear that.

Teresa: That seems, again, a kind of a Grammys kind of outfit. There is an actual dress code to the Oscars.

Travis: Wow. Okay, if I wore the Phantom suit and also, like, a nice tuxedo over it, could they stop me then?

Teresa: I guess not. [laughs]

Travis: And then if there were trouble, don't worry, the Phantom's here. The ghost who walks.

Teresa: So obviously, there is a *lot* of clothing in the world, right? And a lot of these dresses become iconic, especially vintage gowns and such like that, but they are often just worn once and then put away in some kind of, I don't know, like I said, these libraries of storage of gowns that will never see the light of day again.

Travis: What's the opposite of sustainable?

Teresa: Wasteful.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: And so, what people are doing more and more nowadays is they *are* going into these libraries and finding things that other celebrities have worn. If you'll recall at the Met Gala, Kim Kardashian famously wore Marilyn Monroe's Happy Birthday Mr. President dress, right? That was one of those moments.

Travis: Yes. Kim Kardashian, a pillar of sustainability.

Teresa: I know. That's one side of that coin. The other side is that people say that she ruined that dress, because she had a different body type.

Travis: She's done a lot of things, one might say.

Teresa: But the idea is, when you wear something that someone has famously worn before, you kind of evoke the spirit of that, right?

Travis: Like wearing the Phantom costume.

Teresa: [holding back laughter] Like wearing the Phantom costume. Or people like Jamie Lee Curtis, who famously wore some very beautiful pieces in the '90s. She started to bring a lot of those back. She wears the same thing, which I think is really cool.

Let's talk about the dress code.

Travis: Let's. But first, a word from another Max Fun show.

[theme music plays]

Travis: And we're back. The dress code.

Teresa: The dress code hasn't really changed since 1968, when it was set by Edith Head.

Travis: But women are allowed to wear pants, right? I guess that would have been in the '60s. Women were allowed to wear pants in the '60s.

Teresa: Mm, that's not really what her dress code says. Pants are not really considered formal wear for female-presenting people.

Travis: [gasps] *What?*

Teresa: But there have been people who have kind of, if you'll pardon the pun, *skirted* the line.

Travis: Love it.

Teresa: By wearing trousers and then a kind of over-skirt or a longer coat or something over top.

Travis: Uh-huh.

Teresa: If you don't know who Edith Head is...

Travis: And I don't.

Teresa: She's very iconic, and you may not even know that you know her. Everything that Grace Kelly wore in *Rear Window* was designed by her. Every gown in *White Christmas* was designed by her.

Travis: She designed the costumes for The Incredibles.

Teresa: That's it.

Travis: Really?

Teresa: It is. Edna Mode is based on Edith Head.

Travis: I was joking! I was joking.

Teresa: And you didn't even know it. I knew it. [laughs]

Travis: Oh, my goodness. I'm smarter than I thought!

Teresa: Maybe we'll do an episode on her. That would be pretty cool.

Travis: On Edna Mode? That'd be incredible. Aah?

Teresa: Edith Head.

Travis: Oh, okay.

Teresa: Yeah. So here is the memo that she sent out in 1968.

"We in the Academy are delighted to know that you will appear at our 40th awards presentation telecast on Monday, April 8th. However, so many questions have been asked about the style of dress expected on stage. Actresses are requested to wear formal evening gowns either maxi or floor length, preferably pastel shades, since the setting is very formal and done entirely in white and gold."

Travis: Pause real quick. I'm going to show a little bit of ignorance. What's maxi mean?

Teresa: Not quite floor length. So not touching the ground, but the maximum amount that a skirt can be without touching the ground.

Travis: Got it. Okay.

Teresa: "As you know, long dresses are more graceful on stage and on camera on this type of background."

Travis: And it saves time for them sweeping the stage, because the dresses take care of that for you.

Teresa: [laughs] "The Academy feels that the dignity of this traditional affair with our 40th anniversary deserves formal dress. Men are expected to wear white tie with conventional formal evening accessories." And then she goes on to say that she can be reached for individual questions.

Travis: Probably not still now, though, right?

Teresa: No, not still now.

Travis: I mean, maybe via Ouija board.

[pause]

Teresa: [laughs] All right. So as I was saying... [laughs]

Travis: I wasn't even sure about saying it halfway through. I really lost steam on it. I don't know anything about her. Maybe she's so deeply beloved that was highly offensive. I don't know!

Teresa: [laughs] Okay. So white tie is fancier than black tie. Okay? It means tails for tuxes, right? Which I think that they have gone a little away from, just because at this point, especially in the United States, tails are really considered kind of old fashioned. But it does need to be *very* fancy.

Travis: The problem is, and this is true not just when it comes to like tuxedos and stuff, but especially with tuxedos. When you're talking about like tails and like, what is traditionally considered white tie, it's so samey for that look.

Teresa: That's true.

Travis: Where I feel like with dresses and stuff, there's so many more options where you get to talk about the cut, the print, you know, the

style. What are the sleeves like, right? All of these things. And it's like, "And here's... tuxedo." Well.

Teresa: Right. And at this point, I feel like one of the ways that a lot of tuxedos can be told apart is by the accessories, right? The hats, the pocket squares, canes, gloves, ascots, things like that, right?

Travis: Yeah. But if you saw people wearing that at a red carpet, you would be like, "What year is it?"

Teresa: I mean, at least it would be a look, right?

Travis: It would be a look, but not if *everybody* was doing it.

Teresa: Right. Hats are not really in vogue at the moment. But—

Travis: Monocles are back in a big way, though.

Teresa: Are they?

Travis: No.

Teresa: No? [laughs] Shut up!

Travis: I said it with confidence, though.

Teresa: You really did! But you do see more and more looks online of people being like, playing with color, playing with fabric, playing with drapery, even in maybe more traditionally men's styles. It's getting there. It's okay. It's great.

Travis: I'm just saying, I'd love to see, just in general, men's style kind of go back to like more of a not necessarily '70s look, but a '70s sense of play with like, "I don't know, where are we going to put the waistline? What is this pattern going to be made of? What's the cut? How long is this one? How short is this one?" Right? I missed that. It was a good time in men's fashion that was ruined by homophobia.

Teresa: And even though people *do* break the dress code— For example, Florence Pugh wore, in 2023, an off-white Valentino gown that opened to the front to reveal micro shorts. Right? So like I was saying, there was kind of a pants element to the gown. But here's the thing. The image is so tightly cultivated that if you *don't* follow the dress code, you probably won't get as much media coverage. You won't be put into, like, those best dress, worst dress lists. You probably just won't even be shown on TV.

Travis: And if you're going for that...

Teresa: Yeah. If you're going to be seen, you want to be seen, right?

Travis: Yeah. You want to CNBC.

Teresa: What?

Travis: What?

Teresa: Anyway, so a few weeks out from the Oscars, you would want to make sure that you got things fitted and tailored, right? Because you do want to make sure that it fits you impeccably. And you would want to sort out your accessories. Things like jewels, right? And shoes. And I don't know, if you wanted to wear...

Travis: Ritual daggers.

Teresa: [laughs] If you wanted to. I don't know if they allow those sort of things on red carpets. But like I was saying, pocket squares and different ties and...

Travis: Monocles.

Teresa: Monocles. Hats, canes. Who knows?

Travis: Bionicles. If you want to bring a Lego Bionicle with you, go for it. You're going to have to keep it hidden for the red carpet, but you can play with it in your seat. They can't stop you.

Teresa: [laughs] Jewels are famously loaned out by the very large jewelry companies, brands like Cartier and Tiffany and Henry Winston. Most people will borrow the jewelry and then return it to the collection after it's been worn on the red carpet. Jewelry especially is kind of like shopping at a museum, right? Because these things go back so far. They keep very well, obviously, because they're made out of metal and gems.

Travis: It'd be weird if metal and gems got moldy.

Teresa: It would be weird. I would say, "Well, how are you keeping those?"

Travis: Yeah, what happened?

Teresa: Yeah. So it can really offer a beautiful window into classic Hollywood, for example. Lady Gaga in 2019 wore a black Alexander McQueen gown. And I mean, it was pretty tame for someone who's worn a meat dress, right? But the thing about her look was the legendary 128.54 karat Tiffany Diamond, valued at 30 million dollars.

This canary yellow diamond had only been worn by three people in history. And the last person who wore it before Lady Gaga was Audrey Hepburn.

Travis: Oh, I've heard of her.

Teresa: You have. I think that you have. Another famous jewel was worn in 2006 by Keira Knightley.

Travis: I bet it'd be really embarrassing if you were wearing that Tiffany Diamond and then spilled soup on yourself.

Teresa: Oh, it has its own entourage.

Travis: Oh, I imagine!

Teresa: Lady Gaga, I believe I read an interview where she talked about how there was security just for the jewel, to make sure that nothing happened. Like I said, in 2006, Keira Knightley wore a 1960s Bulgari necklace. It was an intricate 18-karat yellow gold choker detailed with sapphires, emeralds, and rubies.

Travis: And it gave a plus one to attack, which was really impressive.

Teresa: I suppose. But what I was going to say is the person who owned it before her was a literal princess.

Travis: Jasmine.

Teresa: No, a princess of Iran. And so like... maybe Jasmine? That's the right area of the world, right? [chuckles]

Travis: I don't know! She's not real, baby. I was joking.

Teresa: I know. [through laughter] Anyway.

Travis: This isn't an Edna Mode situation. Jasmine ain't real.

Teresa: There are people who wear their own jewelry. Elizabeth Taylor, famously...

Travis: Yes. That makes complete sense, yes.

Teresa: Yes, had an enormous jewelry collection. In 1982, Liberace performed at the Oscars wearing a beautiful ring that was gifted to him by Baron Hilton of Hilton hotels.

Travis: Yes. Once again, makes complete sense.

Teresa: It was an 18-karat gold miniature piano detailed with 260 diamonds, and was accurately movable where the piano lid moved up and down.

Travis: Get out!

Teresa: And so he wore that to perform at the Oscars.

Travis: Yeah, okay. That tracks as well.

Teresa: Yeah, of course he did. Of course he did. And so if you don't get these big brand deals like you're an enormous star, people have worn all sorts of labels. All sorts of different jewelry. People like Zendaya, right? Have worn things from H&M or whatever, right? And made them look *fabulous*. So there are lots of options to choose from.

Shoes, next. Again, similarly sourced.

Travis: Comfortable flats.

Teresa: No, not usually. Similarly sourced from brand deals or stylists, right? Depending on your outfit.

And here is the thing. Many stylists tell you it is essential to get your shoes as early as possible, so that you can break them in. Both heels and dress shoes are notoriously uncomfortable. They look beautiful. They show off the leg marvelously, but they are not everyday shoes.

Travis: Do you think I'd be able to wear, like would I be allowed to wear, a really nice pair of black cowboy boots?

Teresa: Hmm. Yeah, I mean, especially if they were designer, right? If you could be like, "This is part of the ensemble from this designer."

Travis: Yeah. I mean, I've got my Western cut. If I could get a Nudie suit, I don't even know if they still make those. But like, that's what Buck Owens always wore. And get it embroidered with, you know, peacocks and some really nice designer black leather boots.

Teresa: That'd be cool. That'd be a look.

Travis: Yeah. Hey, Oscars, if you're listening, my DMs are open.

Teresa: [laughs] People recommend things like foot sprays, right? Again, Margot Robbie said that she got through all of the heels that she wore on her Barbie press tour with Still Standing foot spray, which is a combination of menthol, Arnica, aloe, vitamin E, tea tree oil. It's kind of like anti-inflammatories for your feet.

Because even if you break in a pair of shoes, standing in these uncomfortable shoes is really hard on your feet. And you really shouldn't wear them for more than 20 minutes at a time, new shoes like this, because it can contribute to nerve damage. And swelling, obviously, and pain, and bunions, and things like that.

Travis: At what point do you think they change, right? Because once you're inside and you're sitting down, who knows, right?

Teresa: It's true. But here's the thing about those shoes. If you have been standing in them for so long, walking around in them, and you take them off, the odds that you'll be able to get them back on are very slim. Because if you take them off and your feet have swollen, yeah. Are swollen, have swelled?

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Anyway, you might not be able to get them back on. And we've seen people—

Travis: But you've already done the red carpet, right?

Teresa: Yeah, but what if you are a presenter or a nominee?

Travis: If I'm in a floor-length dress, nobody's going to know what shoes I'm wearing.

Teresa: Who was it that famously, like, carried her shoes up with her? Some awards show.

Travis: Sounds like something Amy Poehler or Tina Fey would do.

Teresa: No.

Travis: Or Kathryn Hahn?

Teresa: I can't remember. The internet will know.

So like, you got to be careful about that. And insoles are probably the best thing that you can do for your feet for some of those shoes. But some of the things that you *do not* need to do, do not buy a size up. That is something that has gone around where like, "Oh, you want to buy your shoes bigger, so that when your feet swell..." No, no. That will—

Travis: Seems like a good way to get blisters.

Teresa: Or it will make you trip. Like I said—

Travis: I guess a size down would also do blisters. But anyway, any circumstance where the shoe is moving around too much, it's rubbing against the skin, it's going to cause blisters.

Teresa: It went around on the internet a while ago that you should freeze a bag of water inside your shoes to kind of stretch them out. Like,

pre-stretch them. That's not good for them, either. Again, another trick that we've seen is to tape your third and fourth toe together. Something about the nerves and stability. It's not true. Don't do that. It could cause nerve damage.

So, you know, get some insoles, break in your shoes and, you know, just try and sit [holding back laughter] as much as you can, all night.

Travis: Palanquins. How about these, man? More of that on the red carpet. Just burly people carrying you on a chair, a big plank, they carry you down.

Teresa: I think Lady Gaga has done that. Remember the egg?

Travis: That's what I'm saying. This is a look.

Teresa: It is a look.

Travis: More palanquins.

Teresa: You'll obviously want to get your hair done. Again, most stylists recommend at least a month out, just in case something doesn't look right, or you need to, like, if you wanted to get your hair re-purpled.

Travis: A month out?

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: By the time I get there, my hair's grown out. It's not good! I'll get my hair cut a little bit every day.

Teresa: [laughs] Just a little snip.

Travis: Just a little bit every day.

Teresa: But you don't want to leave it til the last minute, is what I'm saying. How long do you think? You could probably do a week out for you, right? And it would still look pretty similar to your cut for a week?

Travis: Yeah, I'd want to do a week anyways.

Teresa: You just don't want to do it that day.

Travis: Because then you have a week to, like, figure out exactly how to style it and brush it and everything, but not so long that it's grown out of the cut that you got. But I also have shorter hair. I think if I had longer hair, and it was like the difference between, you know, a half-inch growth isn't as noticeable when you have, like, you know, 16-inch-long hair. Then it probably is different. But for me, it would be very noticeable.

Teresa: So by two weeks out, you'll have your looks, your outfits, accessories, your beauty treatments done, as well as you will have consulted with your glam squad, right? To have the whole thing put together.

Travis: Now, it's time to start working on your acceptance speech.

Teresa: Not yet.

Travis: You want to thank Travis.

Teresa: Oh.

Travis: And thank God. But not in that order.

Teresa: Not in that order. Thank Travis for Travis. That's a deep cut.

Travis: Thank you!

Teresa: A week out, this is when you should really focus on hydration for your skincare, right? And drinking as much water as you can. Try not to do anything more than gentle exfoliation to smooth and brighten, because you would really hate to be red or peeling or whatever on the red carpet. Keep up with your Omega 3 fatty acids, antioxidants, no new foods or products or alcohol during the week before.

Travis: Because you don't want to have a reaction to something.

Teresa: Exactly. And *then* the day before, you have the rehearsal. The rehearsal is on Saturday because the show is on Sunday. All of the

entertainers and presenters get to the Dolby Theatre to do a little run through.

And it's not an exact replica, right? For one thing, every presenter is given fake envelopes because even they don't know who is going to win until the moment it happens. But also, they don't have audience members, right? Yeah. People aren't expected to show up and sit.

Travis: This is more like a cue-to-cue, right?

Teresa: Right. And famously, you'll see those pictures online of the headshots stacked on the seats, so that people know where they're going to sit. Like if you're going to do a little joke or whatever in your presentation, you want to know where, say, I don't know, Leonardo DiCaprio is sitting if the joke is a little rib at him, right?

Travis: Cue-to-cue, by the way. I just dropped that. It's a theater thing where instead of running the whole show, you're just going from lighting cues or sound cues or whatever. So you can make sure you have— It's more of a technical rehearsal than it is like an acting rehearsal.

Teresa: The only people who don't get to practice are the winners, right? Because they don't even know, and it would take forever for each nominee for every category to practice walking up. So the presenters get to practice, and they hand the statue to an actor stand-in.

Travis: Someone who's acting like an actor.

Teresa: Yeah, someone who's acting like an actor.

Travis: Whoa! Inception. It goes so deep.

Teresa: [laughs] Okay. So if we were doing our presenting, we would have been guided by a stagehand to walk all the way from either if we're coming from backstage or the green room or wherever, right? Maybe we're just standing in the wings. We would be guided to do our presentation, and practice reading from our teleprompter, and then escorted offstage as well. Once that rehearsal is over, we would go back and get a very good night's sleep for the big show of the Oscars tomorrow. And that's where we will stop for our part two next week!

Travis: Hey, everybody. Thank you so much for joining us. Thank you to Alexx, our researcher, without whom we could not do this show. This is like our acceptance speech!

Teresa: Is it?

Travis: Oh, my God, thank you.

Teresa: Oh, my God, thank you!

Travis: I was going to say, I wasn't ready for this. I should have written something down.

Teresa: It's something that we do every week, and yet it surprises us every time.

Travis: Oh, my God. I want to say thank you to Rachel and Gino, our editors, without whom we couldn't do this. And thank you, of course, to our audience, [tearfully] your love and support.

Teresa: [tearfully] We couldn't do it without you.

Travis: We couldn't do it without you. Thank you so much. Thank you to God, the God of podcasting.

Teresa: [laughs] I want to say thank you to Brent "brentalfloss" Black for writing our theme music, which is available as a ringtone where those are found. Thank you to Bruja Betty Pinup Photography for the cover picture of our fan-run Facebook group.

If any of our amazing fans would love to join that, they can, to give and get excellent advice from other Fanners. Always, we're thanking Alexx, but we're thanking *you* for sending in.

Travis: [sings a mumbling tune]

Oh no, they're playing us off!

Teresa: [laughs] Oh, no! For sending in your topic submissions, your questions, your idioms. Please continue to send those to shmannerstcast@gmail.com, and say hi to Alexx, because she reads every single one.

Travis: And that's going to do it for us, so join us again next week!

Teresa: No RSVP required!

Travis: You've been listening to Shmanners.

Teresa: Manners, Shmanners. Get it. [huffs]

[theme music plays]

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