

Wonderful 414: Bringing That Paul Schaffer Energy

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[theme music, "Money Won't Pay (feat. Augustus)" by Bo En plays]

Rachel: Hi, this is Rachel McElroy.

Griffin: Hello! This is Griffin McElroy!

Rachel: And this is Wonderful!

Griffin: Welcome to Wonderful! It's a podcast where we talk about things we like, that's good, that we're into. I don't know why I'm talking like I'm delivering like—like we're doing a class project.

Rachel: [chuckles] I know, you got real high there for a second.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah.

Rachel: [in a high-pitched voice] Welcome to Wonderful!

Griffin: So, Mrs. Jenkins, you've asked Rachel and I to—we're married, high school students, married to each other.

Rachel: [laughs] Two children.

Griffin: And here's our presentation on the gold rush, Californian gold rush of 1955.

[botch chuckle]

Griffin: It's one of the later gold rushes. So, thank you so much for listening to our show.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: I don't really have anything to say. I've recorded so many podcasts this week.

Rachel: I know, you sound very professional.

Griffin: I feel very professional, I just got off guesting another podcast that is very—that was like really professional. Like way, way, way more professional than ours.

Rachel: You know what I have noticed about our new setup?

Griffin: What's that?

Rachel: You can't put your feet up on the desk.

Griffin: I can't put my feet up on the desk. That does lend itself to a certain air of seriousness and professionalism.

Rachel: It changes your whole vibe.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: I would say like 100% of the time we recorded this podcast, you put your—

Griffin: I can try and do it on the piano?

Rachel: Your toesies up.

Griffin: Let me know what you think about this move, okay? So, I got—I put the—put the puppers up on the piano keys. That feels bad. I feel like I'm gonna break it, I'm gonna like knock it down. And this is a nice piano.

Rachel: Yeah, it's not great.

Griffin: I don't like—and I'm going to touch those with my fingers later.

Rachel: Have you taken advantage of the proximity of the piano yet?

Griffin: Oh, yeah, man! I'm jazzin' like Billy Joel, day in, day out.

Rachel: It's just, I listen to a lot of your programs, and I haven't heard like a piano interruption.

Griffin: A tinkle-tankle of those sweet white keys. I don't—I don't know how to play the other ones, the accidentals. Just the key of C is sort of my specialty. I gotta get these off here, I hate feeling that!

Rachel: But have you actually used the piano?

Griffin: Not even a little bit.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: Not even once a little bit.

Rachel: I really want you to. I really want that—

Griffin: Sure!

Rachel: Like Paul Shaffer energy from you.

Griffin: Babe! That's—I'll never be able to deliver that for you.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: Whatever fetish that I'm finding out about in real time here on the show—

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I'll never be able to deliver anything even remotely like Paul Shaffer energy.

Rachel: Okay...

Griffin: I could in a pinch maybe give you a little bit of Max Weinberg energy, but—

Rachel: Well, yeah, I mean, obviously. [chuckles]

Griffin: What's that supposed to mean?

Rachel: I'm just saying like Max Weinberg, he's different than Paul sh—Paul Shaffer has like a bit of like old, you know—

Griffin: Sex!

Rachel: Like vaudeville.

Griffin: Oh.

Rachel: No. [chuckles]

Griffin: I was just gonna say, he radiates sex.

Rachel: You understand that I appreciate men on a level that is not sexual, right?

Griffin: Not... I will say, not musical MCs of late-night talk shows.

Rachel: Okay. Well, anyway, Max Weinberg feels a little more like, I mean, he is also a little old timey.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: But just by the nature of playing the drums, it kind of like hips him up a little.

Griffin: Yeah, a little bit. Hey, do you have any Small Wonders to talk about before we get into the meat and potatoes of our program?

Rachel: The feeling you get after you know you don't have to go to the dentist again for a while.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: I had to go to the dentist today.

Griffin: Rub it in.

Rachel: They've got me on that like... four months thing? Which, I don't know if it's because I'm a certain age or if it's because our dentist is always trying to get a little more scratch out of me.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: But I just, I refuse to do four. I'm like really honed in on six. And so just thinking like I don't have to go back for six months.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Because I went today.

Griffin: Must be nice!

Rachel: It's a nice—you could go to the dentist? You could.

Griffin: *When?* When's a great time for me to go to the—with my demanding schedule and—

Rachel: Well, you're not gonna go to the dentist in April, but maybe May?

Griffin: May or June... let me think... yeah, at least August at the—at the very latest.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: I'm gonna say shorts day. Happy shorts day, everybody.

Rachel: Oh?

Griffin: Today's the day that I get new shorts in the mail. Every time it gets warm out, I say—all my shorts have holes in 'em, because I ride these fuckin' things down *hard*.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: And I need new shorts, I usually do a bulk purchase from a trusted brand. And I buy a bunch of new shorts.

Rachel: Have your shorts arrived or are they going to?

Griffin: They arrived today. I got the notification while I was recording this—

Rachel: They're out for delivery?

Griffin: Oh, they're out, they're here, they're at the house.

Rachel: Oh.

Griffin: I could be wearing 'em right now, but we didn't have time.

Rachel: Are you gonna do a fashion show later?

Griffin: Do you want me to?

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah, I'll do a shorts fashion show for you.

Rachel: Could you do it as Paul Shaffer? [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah, I think I could! I think I could get that energy going. It would be a stretch. He wears a lot of shorts, right, on the show?

Rachel: No, none at all.

Griffin: No, not at all.

Rachel: No, I was doing what in comedy they call a callback.

Griffin: Okay. That's—do they usually do it right after the thing?

Rachel: [chuckles] Yeah, I'm pretty sure.

Griffin: [chuckles] See, when I went to Groundlings, they said the—they said, "Let it ripen."

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: But maybe that's how they did it at—I know you did some UCB stuff.

Rachel: No, I did not.

Griffin: No, I knew that you wouldn't let that stand.

Rachel: Neither of us have.

Griffin: No, neither of us have any professional—

Rachel: Let's be honest—

Griffin: If you can believe it! No professional improv training for either of us.

Rachel: [chuckles] You know, I want our lovers' podcast to be a podcast of honesty.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And I don't want anyone to think that they can't trust our word.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: So—

Griffin: Like any improv person like, the reason they're able to think of stuff so fast is because they lie so much, because that's all improv is, is joke lying.

Rachel: No, I'm just saying that you briefly gave the impression that we had taken some kind of improv classes, which is a very believable thing that a lot of people do. [chuckles]

Griffin: Absolutely it is. For sure.

Rachel: So I wanted to make clear like, no, we have not. Your brother, Travis, has!

Griffin: Yeah, that's true. You've just activated the tracking on that camera.

Rachel: Oh, because I gestured?

Griffin: This is a fun—yeah, it follows hand gestures. So, when you like raised your hand like that, it was like, "Damn, Rachel must really want me to zoom in on her—on her—"

Rachel: Have I not gestured until now?

Griffin: You have not gestured, you sit stone still! Like a statue at a shrine.

Rachel: Like a news broadcaster.

Griffin: Like a news broadcaster would. I go first this week.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: I just want to give a heads up that if you're driving a car or—in public, the topic I'm bringing today is a song that is going to make you want to just like absolutely just freak out and—

Rachel: Oh, you did music last week too?

Griffin: Do martial arts. Yeah, well, this week the music I'm doing is different from the music I brought last week, because the music I'm bringing this week is, I believe it was the first techno song I ever heard—

Rachel: Okay. [chuckles]

Griffin: That really awakened me to the power of the genre. It is a song that I didn't listen to for maybe two decades after my first sort of exposure, until it became a sort of staple arena jam for many sports clubs, including the St. Louis Blues. That song is Techno Syndrome, better known as the Mortal Kombat theme song.

Rachel: Oh?

Griffin: By The Immortals. If you're confused about which song I'm talking about, it's the one where the guy screams "Mortal Kombat" over and over and over in it.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: That's the mnemonic device—

Rachel: I thought you were going to try and bring Darude again, and I'm pretty sure you already have.

Griffin: [sings, spoofing "Sandstorm" by Darude] Pa-pa-pa-pa-pa! Have I? I don't think I brought Darude Sandstorm, but I reserve every right to do so.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: I'll probably space it out a bit from Techno Syndrome, just to like—

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: You know, because they are thematically quite similar.

Rachel: Are there more words to that song?

Griffin: Yes, there's a, [in a deepened voice] "Test your might!"

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: And then there's, "Liu Kang!" They say the name of all of the guys.

Rachel: Oh, okay.

Griffin: If you've not heard this song, joke's on you, you have, you clown. Take it back.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: Take back the lies, because here's a little bit of Techno Syndrome. You know it. You love it.

[*"Techno Syndrome (Mortal Kombat) by The Immortals*]

Griffin: Do you know the song? It's the one that's like [sings, spoofing *"Techno Syndrome (Mortal Kombat) by The Immortals*] Peh-peh-peh, peh-peh-peh! Peh-peh-peh, peh-peh-peh!

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: Yeah—

Griffin: I didn't send it to you because I assumed you—

Rachel: No, I do.

Griffin: Know *"Techno Syndrome—"*

Rachel: I mean, honestly, you saying that they say *Mortal Kombat* really loud was all I needed to like get right in it.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah, it's a guy screaming Mortal Kombat.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And then they say the seven playable characters of the original Mortal Kombat game. So, The Immortals is the group that created this band. It is a side project of a Belgian electronic music group, two musicians, Praga Khan and Olivier Adams. Very good names. They were part of a Belgian EDM group called Lords of Acid, that is apparently of some renown in the genre over—

Rachel: Yeah, I feel like I've heard of that.

Griffin: I don't I—I don't think I have. It didn't sound familiar to me, but it sounded familiar to the people working at Midway Games in the early '90s, the developers of Mortal Kombat. Because they reached out to the Lords of Acid to get them to create an album inspired by the video game Mortal Kombat, to be released alongside the home version of the game in 1994. I was too young to like remember Mortal Kombat being released in home settings. I was also probably too young to play it.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: I don't think we had Mortal Kombat in our house until, you know, we were considerably older.

Rachel: Well, and Mortal Kombat was one of those games that really set off the sirens for a lot of watchdog groups.

Griffin: Oh, it was the game, right? Like you get into—

Rachel: This is a game where you're punching and kicking, and the whole focus is beating somebody up and—

Griffin: Yeah! I used to know this gospel, but like now my memory's a bit foggy, because I haven't worked in the industry in a while. But I think it was sort of the impetus for the ESRB, the Electronic Safety—

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Safe...

Rachel: Ratings Board?

Griffin: Entertainment Safety Ratings—I forget. But I think it came up around as a sort of compromise for like, okay, we'll allow you to make games where lizard men can spit acid on people to melt them into bones. That's actually Reptile, I don't think was in Mortal Kombat 1, but anyway.

Rachel: [chuckles] I can see your parents really like facing a dilemma over that game.

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Rachel: You know? Because obviously you were a video game household.

Griffin: Yeah, absolutely.

Rachel: But that one got a lot of heat.

Griffin: It did get quite a bit of heat for its—I mean, it featured a sort of... not mo-cap, you wouldn't describe how they captured the fighters as mo-cap, but it was like pictures of the guys. So that when they died, it did seem kind of, I don't know, more gruesome, I guess. There was a huge to-do about it, but that's not what we're talking about today.

Today we're talking about Techno Syndrome, by the Lords of Acid, under the working name The Immortals. It's the same dudes, so I don't know why they didn't just make the Mortal Kombat album as the Lords of Acid. Maybe they thought it wasn't going to be well-received, and so they could sort of file it away, "We don't know who those Immortals guys are."

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Joke's on them, though, it was hugely, very, very, very popular. So, Midway gives copies of the game to the Lords of Acid, and samples from the game's sort of library of sound effects. And the brief was to write a song for each of the seven playable characters, plus one for Goro, the boss fight of Mortal Kombat 1, and then a couple of additional themes.

One of those additional themes is Techno Syndrome, which was actually written solo by Olivier Adams, while Praga Khan was traveling to meet with his record label. What rules about that anecdote that I found out about today while researching this, is that it does really give one an idea of the timeline that Techno Syndrome and perhaps the entire Mortal Kombat album was written.

That a guy went to a meeting and missed out on the creation of the most sort of popular song that has lived on and just sort of become a staple at sports events across the world. It was a monster hit when the album came out, especially once it was sort of included in the Mortal Kombat movie, that came out in 1995, which earned it a lot of sort of radio play time, and I think got it sort of adopted into the jock jam pantheon.

Rachel: What was that movie about?

Griffin: The Mortal Kombat movie?

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: I'm so glad you asked. It was largely about Liu Kang, and he ends up going from Earthrealm to the Netherrealm, which is sort of where the bad guys in Mortal Kombat live.

Rachel: Uh-huh.

Griffin: This is a gross oversimplification of the plot and sort of like, I don't know, ethical compass of the Mortal Kombat franchise. But then, yeah, he has to fight in Netherrealm. And if you win the Mortal Kombat tournament, then you get power. And so, Johnny Cage is there, and Sonya Blade is there. I don't think Jax is there yet. Raiden is there, absolutely, he's doing his

thing. Shang Tsung, you know, sucking people's souls out. I think Shang Tsung kills Liu Kang's brother, so it's also like a revenge thing.

Rachel: Mm-hm.

Griffin: But Goro shows up, Johnny Cage has to fight him on a mountaintop, and yeah, it kicks ass.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: Is that what—did you ask me if it kicked ass?

Rachel: [chuckles] No.

Griffin: Because it does. No, it's not a great flick. It was better, I would say significantly, than the follow-up, which I'm not going to be able to remember the name of, but it was like Mortal Kombat: Annihilation, maybe? It was not a great flick.

Rachel: Mm-hm...

Griffin: We'll watch it someday.

Rachel: No.

Griffin: We'll watch it someday?

Rachel: No...

Griffin: You can't say no to someday? It could be any day.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: I also didn't know this—well, I feel like I knew this in a deep recess of my mind. I remember very clearly a commercial coming out in '94, '95, and this was back when there was only TV to watch, sort of, so you had to watch all the commercials, so they, I feel like, were a little bit stickier than the commercials of today. And this commercial was for the release date of

Mortal Kombat being announced, someday in September '94. And all the commercial was, and you could do this in the '90s, was just sort of a group of young people running through the streets of like a sepia-toned big city.

Rachel: Oh?

Griffin: And every once in a while, one of those like young folks would just put their hands up in the air and shout, "Mortal Kombat!"

Rachel: Yeah, I do remember that.

Griffin: Do you remember this commercial?

Rachel: I do remember that.

Griffin: It's called Mortal Monday, was the name of the commercial.

Rachel: Oh.

Griffin: And that's all it was, just—and then they run into a big group and everybody's celebrating, because now Mortal Kombat's here. It's on SNES, it's on Genesis, it's on Game Gear, it's on Game Boy. Everyone's fuckin' partying.

Rachel: That was a time period—because wasn't that around the same time that Surge was popular?

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Rachel: And the whole thing with Surge was it was like a bunch of people running.

Griffin: Yeah. This was like a thing that I've seen in commercials for lots of different—like the new Sega Dreamcast. It's just people running through the street like, "Dreamcast!" And that could all—

Rachel: Yeah. [chuckles]

Griffin: That's all you needed for the commercial. One of the guys in the commercial who lifts his arms up and shouts is an actor named Kyle Wyatt, who is the shout of Mortal Kombat that they just took from the commercial—

Rachel: Oh!

Griffin: And used in the song. He's the Mortal Kombat guy, who screamed Mortal Kombat. What an incredible fucking IMDb credit. What an incredible first line on your—on your LinkedIn, don't you think? "I'm the Mortal Kombat yell from Techno Syndrome."

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: I don't know, it's just wild to me that you could be a featured extra in a Mortal Kombat commercial and then become one of the most famous vocal samples in techno music history.

Rachel: I don't imagine he really profited off that, though?

Griffin: I don't think so, but he has gotten some more work since then in some pretty—

Rachel: Just yelling different things?

Griffin: Just yelling different—well, okay, so, the song is—became sort of the Mortal Kombat theme song, right? Like it has been featured in, I'm pretty sure, like every mainline Mortal Kombat game, with some sort of remix or another.

It's just become like—it wasn't originally intended to be the theme song to Mortal Kombat, as much as it was accompanying the home version of the game in this like conceptual Mortal Kombat album. But that is kind of what has happened, it's been remixed a lot. My favorite remix is by Anamanaguchi, one of my favorite sort of chip tunes, rock and roll bands.

They did a version of the song for the Netflix animated Scott Pilgrim series, Scott Pilgrim Takes Off, which basically takes the beat of Techno Syndrome, but says names of characters from Scott Pilgrim in lieu of Mortal Kombat

characters. And they actually hired Kyle Wyatt to do the voice in that sort of cover of the song, which is very good.

Rachel: Oh, that's nice.

Griffin: Here's—I'll play a little bit of the Scott Pilgrim version, too.

[The Scott Pilgrim remix of "Techno Syndrome" plays]

Griffin: Anyway, that's Techno Syndrome. It just fucking shreds, man. Like, I still get excited to hear its true—

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: I think they played it every Blue's home game. Usually in a stressful—

Rachel: Is it like a power play? Or...

Griffin: Yeah, I think it is a power play jam. I think it is—I think that is actually what they reserve it for most of the time.

Rachel: That's what I was thinking maybe you pulled it from.

Griffin: Yeah. It's just so strong and it's just like, I don't know, man, inauspicious beginnings for this side project that this like pretty successful techno band to do. And then created just a—just a timeless classic that has persevered for over 30 years now. Good on you, Techno Syndrome. The little engine that could. It gets me so hype every time. Can I steal you away?

Rachel: Yes.

[theme music plays]

[ad break]

Griffin: What have you brought?

Rachel: Are you ready?

Griffin: Yes, I'm so ready.

Rachel: My topic—and if you got jealous of Paul Schaeffer, I am a little nervous about this topic.

Griffin: Uh-oh! Uh-oh! Uh-oh!

Rachel: But it is a celebration of over 50 years of sexy foxes in film and TV.

Griffin: Okay, so, do you want to talk about sort of what has inspired this bit?

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: Because I know what has inspired this bit. I bet the listeners at home who've been to the movies recently probably know what inspired this bit.

Rachel: We went to see Super Mario Galaxy.

Griffin: The Super Mario Galaxy Movie.

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: Super Mario Galaxy is the video game upon which it is loosely based. [snickers sarcastically]

Rachel: This is why our children are the way they are.

Griffin: This is how they ended up the way they did, and I know, and I'm so sorry.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I felt myself doing it like by the second word of that interruption—

Rachel: Yeah, but then you were in—

Griffin: And I was not committed.

Rachel: In that film is Star Fox.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: Which I don't have a lot of familiarity with.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: I actually forgot to look up like the time period that Star Fox hit the scene.

Griffin: I mean, it was SNES, so it would probably be like '94, '95, somewhere around there.

Rachel: Okay. And when we left the film, Griffin and I were talking about, again, another charismatic fox on the big screen.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And I was like, you know, there's been a lot of those, so I decided for this week to really kind of go through them.

Griffin: The history of hot foxes.

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: Okay. Yeah!

Rachel: Beginning, of course, with the one that rings true for everyone, which is Robin Hood, 1973.

Griffin: That's where it all kind of started, huh?

Rachel: Mm-hm, Disney film.

Griffin: Yeah. There's probably writing from like, you know, members of the—of the furry community about why—it feels like, to me, as an outside observer, the fox from Robin Hood has received an outsized amount of attention from those who are maybe not inherently part of the furry community. And I don't know why that is.

Rachel: Some of it is the voice acting.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: So, I looked up, I was like, who's the guy that did Robin Hood's voice? And they said he was like an actual like theater, like stage-trained actor.

Griffin: Yeah. I mean, I think a lot of it is also Robin Hood, too, right? Like Robin Hood's a—that's a—that's a sexy idea.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Is a gentleman thief—

Rachel: Yeah, like he's kind of mischievous, but he's also like very loyal and like, you know, very like altruistic and—

Griffin: But also super hot!

Rachel: But super hot.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Yeah. And then the other one, more recent ones, Fantastic Mr. Fox.

Griffin: That's interesting. I don't know that I would—I don't know—

Rachel: I mean, it's George Clooney that voices it.

Griffin: I guess that's—yeah. Yeah, yeah.

Rachel: Which is part of it. Again, like a really kind of like, you know, clever, charming, which I get like is kind of the whole—the fox—the whole fox thing.

Griffin: But yeah, you anthropomorphize foxes with that sort of, I don't know, with that behavior. Not you. I'm not saying you, Rachel, do that.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I'm saying everyone kind of does that.

Rachel: Zootopia.

Griffin: Oh, sure.

Rachel: That's Jason Bateman plays Nick Wilde in Zootopia.

Griffin: That one's interesting, because I feel like a lot of people, when they do Zootopia, it's not just a single fixation on the—on the fox character, Nick Wilde?

Rachel: Nick Wilde, yeah.

Griffin: As much as it is like Nick Wilde and Judy Hopps.

Rachel: Oh, okay?

Griffin: Like as a sweet union type thing.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: I don't know, I'm—I shouldn't speak authoritatively on that matter.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: But it seems like, again, that's, from the outside perspective, what's—

Rachel: I just like—I mean, I like a troublemaker, but big heart.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: You know? And there's something about the performance, like the vocal performance, that's kind of flirtatious.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: You know? Some maybe less considered ones that I wanted to bring up, Slylock Fox.

Griffin: The detective from the funny paper.

Rachel: [chuckles] Yes.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: I saw a list on Medium—

Griffin: What did he look like? Let me look at a pic of Slylock Fox.

Rachel: I mean—

Griffin: I haven't really—

Rachel: He's not like a dreamboat, but he's like, you know, he's trim, he's smart.

Griffin: You love that.

Rachel: You know, he is... curious.

Griffin: No, this man is not—no, he doesn't have it going on. I'm so sorry, babe.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: No way. His feet are ridiculous. He's got these big, big Krusty the Clown feet. Huge.

Rachel: Well, now I have to look him up again, because I don't remember seeing that. But then I didn't look at his feet immediately the way you did. [chuckles]

Griffin: That's immediately where my mind went, for sure.

Rachel: Let me see. Slylock Fox...

Griffin: He's got this little mouse on, and the mouse has a derby hat. And the mouse is riding around on his tail, it's like, come on, Slylock.

Rachel: I think he's cute?

Griffin: All right.

Rachel: I'm just saying, if I existed in that world—

Griffin: Yeah, and you were an anthropomorphized animal humanoid sort of—

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: I don't know. I just—he's worth mentioning. Also in this list, there was an article on Medium that was like—wait, let me get the title right, because the title really drew me in. "The five most attractive male foxes." [chuckles]

Griffin: Okay?

Rachel: One mentioned on there which I thought was funny was Swiper, from Dora the Explorer. [laughs]

Griffin: Swiper, no, swiping is interesting.

Rachel: Well, there's going to be apparently like a live action? And Benicio del Toro is going to be the voice of Swiper.

Griffin: Of Swiper, yeah.

Rachel: So, it's possible.

Griffin: Yeah, I mean, there's—

Rachel: I mean, that's gonna be a contender.

Griffin: Yeah. Doesn't even really matter what Swiper looks like in that, it's gonna—it's probably going to be pretty—I mean, Benicio del Toro has one of the greatest voices that God has granted to a human being.

Rachel: Yes. And then I didn't even think about this until I like found a list on Wikipedia of like famous foxes. [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: But Fink, from Wild Robot.

Griffin: Oh, yeah, sure!

Rachel: Like the fox friend of, you know, the robot.

Griffin: The robot from The Wild Robot. Yeah! And that's Pedro Pascal, I think, does the voice?

Rachel: Yeah. Yeah.

Griffin: Which is the most surprising name I've ever seen in an end credits where I was like, who is that? Who is that doing that voice?

Rachel: I know, I know, same.

Griffin: Really, really, god, that movie rules, man.

Rachel: It's so good.

Griffin: I will watch it every single time it is like—our kids put it on the TV.

Rachel: Our boys do not really enjoy watching a movie start to finish.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And so we have like maybe a handful that we get to watch maybe more than twice, and that is one of them.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And it's—

Griffin: So good.

Rachel: Although we do have to fast forward through any like perilous part.

Griffin: Yeah, there's a few—yeah, there's a few. [chuckles]

Rachel: So, just so you know that I'm not saying all foxes—

Griffin: Okay?

Rachel: I want to give you some foxes that don't make the list.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: Bravo Fox from Zoobilee Zoo. You remember him?

Griffin: I mean, no. I don't—how do you spell Zoobilee Zoo?

Rachel: I mean, I think how you would think? [chuckles] Z-O-O-B-I-L-E-E, like Jubilee.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: But Zoobilee.

Griffin: Oh, yeah! No way, Bravo Fox!

Rachel: No. No.

Griffin: What's go—no way, Bravo Fox! Holy crap!

Rachel: No. I mean, they weren't trying to make him the heartthrob.

Griffin: No, clearly not.

Rachel: I would say if there had to be a heartthrob in Zoobilee Zoo, oh, it was the bear maybe?

Griffin: My love, this show was on before I was alive.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: I know Ben Vereen was on it, and that's about all I know about Zoobilee Zoo.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: I thought Zoobilee Zoo was one word. I didn't understand that it was—

Rachel: Oh, no.

Griffin: The zoo, and I guess a town called Zoobilee.

Rachel: This was like 1986 to '87.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: So, this is like definitely before you were conscious.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Rachel: Freddy from Fox and the Hound, which again, this enters kind of a childlike area.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Where it's like, you're not supposed to romanticize them.

Griffin: No. Same—Tails, same reason.

Rachel: Tails.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Same.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Also, Crazy Red from Animal Crossing. [chuckles]

Griffin: No, well, that's just because he's like, he's really screwing you over. Like most of the—like how can you—

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Love is based on trust. Hot is based on trust. And if I can't trust... if I can't trust, you can't hot.

Rachel: You say that, but I just said earlier how I like kind of the mischievous—

Griffin: I guess that Nick Wilde—

Rachel: Nature—

Griffin: Is a famous stinker, huh?

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah. That's interesting.

Rachel: Yeah, I don't know.

Griffin: The dichotomy.

Rachel: I would just say that Crazy Red, like they didn't like put their back into like giving him a like a charming—

Griffin: A hot.

Rachel: Charming—

Griffin: Hot figure, hot face. Whatever it is that they do, it's ineffable, isn't it?

Rachel: Mm-hm.

Griffin: I mean, a lot of these foxes are extremely effable, but—

Rachel: [laughs] I will say, I mean, did you have feelings about Maid Marian in Robin Hood? Because she was like a real like stunner too.

Griffin: No, I mean, I didn't see Robin Hood for a while. But if you were to ask me about Lola Bunny, then the answer is like, you know, some thoughts—

Rachel: Will you pull up a picture—

Griffin: And feeling—

Rachel: Of Maid Marian right now?

Griffin: Yeah, I mean, I got one up right now. And yeah, I mean, she's—

Rachel: She's quite beautiful.

Griffin: She's a lovely fox lady.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And... yeah, absolutely. Lola is, I think, my generation's sort of—

Rachel: Yeah, no, that makes sense.

Griffin: Onboarding—

Rachel: And I mean, 1973, like not exactly my generation.

Griffin: No, no, no.

Rachel: But that was a time period where like having a VHS collection of Disney movies like came with having a child.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Those are the foxes. 50 years of foxes. Most attractive.

Griffin: It's so interesting. It's genuinely interesting to me in a—in a... I don't know, sociological way, I guess?

Rachel: I mean, if you think about like fox in the henhouse, right? Like—

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Like foxes in general are supposed to be like, they're kind of dangerous, but they're also very smart.

Griffin: I guess so.

Rachel: And so when they're like in film, usually they're playing this role of like a con man, kind of.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: You know? And—

Griffin: But do people—I don't know that people feel the same way about like humanoid lion characters in—

Rachel: No, true. But that I think is, you know, if they're going to do something like kind of like cunning, they're going to do like a fox.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: You know, whereas a lion—

Griffin: It's the cu—it's not just the danger, it's like a cunning da—a big rhino probably isn't like winning a lot of, you know, horny contests—

Rachel: I think some people were into—

Griffin: Well, except for the horn.

Rachel: Into Mufasa, for sure.

Griffin: Well, that's interesting, because I was—

Rachel: And adult Simba.

Griffin: I wasn't even thinking about Lion King, because that's like—those are lions. Like, those are lions.

Rachel: What are you thinking of?

Griffin: The mayor from Zootopia. The like big JK Simmons lion—

Rachel: Oh?

Griffin: Like, I don't know, there's probably—

Rachel: You don't get to know—

Griffin: But there's some—I—there is a—there is crossover—I know a lot of people who feel this way about the Fox from Robin Hood.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: About Nick Wilde. And it seems to me like there is a certain crossover appeal here that, I don't know, I just find very interesting, because I don't know why it's just this thing. I don't know why it's sort of this—this avenue is very, very specific.

Rachel: Yeah. I mean, if you think about like a Disney prince—

Griffin: Sure.

Rachel: Typically, they're pretty straight and narrow.

Griffin: Right?

Rachel: You know? They're like—they're like virtuous, they're like, you know, focused on right and wrong.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: They don't usually get a lot of like funny lines, you know? I will say like it's happened more recently, like Flynn from Tangled.

Griffin: Sure.

Rachel: Right. Pretty charming.

Griffin: No Fox DNA.

Rachel: No Fox DNA.

Griffin: Purely human.

Rachel: But like if he were played by a fox, I'd be like, yup, that's right.
[chuckles]

Griffin: If Tangled was all animals, and he was a fox, you would be like, for sure.

Rachel: For sure.

Griffin: You would definitely—

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Give him that. Yeah, interesting. I'm glad—I'm glad that—

Rachel: I wanted to open up the conversation—

Griffin: Sure.

Rachel: You know, I think at this point in our relationship, it's important for us to be entirely honest with each other about—

Griffin: Yes, absolutely.

Rachel: You know, what we're into.

Griffin: Babe, I'm—I've been doing this a long time. I no longer have it in me to yuck a yum. If you have a yum, I'm like so excited for you.

Rachel: Mm-hm.

Griffin: As long as your yum doesn't hurt anybody, there will never ever be any yucking here. And that goes for all of our listeners, too. As long as your yum isn't doing harm, who are we to yuck it? I'm more interested in it, and glad for you to have something that makes—

Rachel: Was there a fox in Hoppers?

Griffin: Was there a fox in Hoppers? Not that I can think of.

Rachel: Seems like there would be.

Griffin: Seems like there would be. But I can't—

Rachel: It wasn't on my list.

Griffin: No.

Rachel: That doesn't mean, you know, it's very—

Griffin: That one walks the line! Because now we're talking about humans inside of animal suits and—

Rachel: Well, just in like very specific cases.

Griffin: Yeah, I guess that's true. Anyway, thank you so much for listening to our show.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: Do you want to know what our friends at home are talking about?

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: Here's Kelton who says, "I am an academic studying niche topics and my most recent Small Wonder is discovering other people's notes and underlines in the books I ferret out in the most tucked away shelves of the university library. These unsanctioned annotations sometimes make me notice passages I might have otherwise overlooked, and are a nice reminder that over the past several decades other nerds have also found value in the strange hidden books I traverse labyrinthine library basements to discover."

Rachel: Ah...

Griffin: A lot of really fun words in there that I had to sort of swing off of.

Rachel: I love libraries so much.

Griffin: I never really, I don't know, had a subject I studied or a project that I had to prepare that required this kind of deep dive—

Rachel: Did you go to the library at Marshall?

Griffin: Oh, sure! All the time. But not—I didn't go in the fuckin' boneyard like they're talking about.

Rachel: Oh.

Griffin: I didn't have a—I didn't get out any sort of ancient books that I needed a bone folder to kind of crease my way through delicately.

Rachel: [chuckles] Campus libraries, like college campus libraries are always the best.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: They're just enormous and like—

Griffin: Treasure trove.

Rachel: And old usually.

Griffin: Yeah. Jody says, "My Small Wonder this week is modern anesthesia. I'm really glad I live at a time where I can be unconscious or locally numb for a surgical procedure." Yeah.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Small blessings.

Rachel: Yeah, of course.

Griffin: Absolutely. Gets the job done, and you get some of the best sleep of your life, I will say.

Rachel: When's the last time you were under anesthesia?

Griffin: Probably for my... gosh, probably from like my nose—my deviated septum surgery.

Rachel: Oh?

Griffin: They put me—they put me way under for that.

Rachel: Huh. Yeah, that would make sense.

Griffin: Yeah!

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah, for sure. No, I've only had it a couple times, once for the kidney stone surgery and then that time, and... it's really quite strange. I don't know that I like it as I'm like sort of slipping into it.

Rachel: Oh yeah, because you've never had your wisdom teeth out.

Griffin: I've never had my wisdom teeth out, no.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: But yeah, it's—but I'm glad it's there, because I would rather be asleep during that stuff—

Rachel: Of course.

Griffin: Than—

Rachel: You think it'll ever become commonplace enough that you'll get to do it in other times?

Griffin: That's interesting. Probably not. But it's—not in our lifetime—

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: But it's nice—like you have an app on your phone—

Rachel: Like a long flight.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: You know.

Griffin: You just turn off for a little bit.

Rachel: It's probably a little too dangerous.

Griffin: probably way too dangerous for that to be available to everyone.

Rachel: I'm basically describing Click, but instead of a remote, it's anesthesia.

Griffin: Yeah. Yeah, I feel like you maybe missed out on some of the core themes of Click.

Rachel: I didn't see Click.

Griffin: So you definitely missed out on all the themes of Click.

Rachel: [chuckles] Yeah.

Griffin: It's about parenthood, and not wanting to skip it. Hm. Interesting.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: Thanks to Bo En and Augustus—

Rachel: It wasn't like I want to be under anesthesia when, you know, my kid goes the doctor.

Griffin: No, but it's like your kids dance recital and you're like, "So boring. Click." He clicks through it. And now he's a grandpa and he's like, "No, I missed it." A little on the nose, Click. Thank you so much to Bo En and Augustus for the use of our theme song, "Money Won't Pay." You can find a link to that in the episode description. Thanks to Maximum Fun for having us on the network. Next week is the Max Fun Drive starting! For two weeks, we come, we put out a *bunch* of content!

Rachel: Uh-huh.

Griffin: A bunch of bonus content, a bunch of streaming stuff. And all of that stuff is gonna be available to you if you become a member of the Max Fun network over at maximumfun.org/join. I mean, all the shows and stuff, like we don't put the normal stuff behind a paywall or anything like that. But there's bonus content out the wazoo.

Rachel: Sometimes there's like challenge goals.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: I got a text from you earlier that was a little troubling.

Griffin: It was about one of the challenge goals.

Rachel: One of the challenge goal ideas that you had.

Griffin: Yes, no, I mean, I asked you if you wanted to frost your tips, and if we'd made enough—like if we got enough members. And then—

Rachel: I don't know what that means for me.

Griffin: I don't either. That's what I was saying, like I don't even know where your tips—

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: What your tips would be. Anyway, that'll be next week, and the

week after that, and we'll have a bunch of stuff coming your way. So, stay tuned for that. I'm very, very excited. We've done something very fun for Wonderful this year, corrected a wrong that has sat for far too long. And that's all I'll say about that. So, join us again next week, won't you, for Wonderful. And thank you for listening. And I—

Rachel: What was the thing that you said last week about—

Griffin: Death is only the beginning.

Rachel: Yeah!

Griffin: That's sort of a spoiler for what we did for our bonus content. That wasn't necessarily so much the—

Rachel: No, I was actually thinking of like "in thickness and in health."

Griffin: Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: Join us again next week on Wonderful. We'll be here, in thickness and in health. That sounds like if we did—

Rachel: No....

Griffin: We would need to do a fundamentally different podcast for that to be—

Rachel: [chuckles] Just like a different podcast.

Griffin: Yeah. Okay. Well, we'll figure it out.

Rachel: [chuckles]

[theme music, "Money Won't Pay (feat. Augustus)" by Bo En plays]

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