

Shmanners: Texas Guinan Part 2

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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. Why are you—

Travis: Do you wanna—

Teresa: Looking at me like that? [chuckles]

Travis: Do you wanna tell the people what you were doing while I was syncing up—

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: And like getting everything ready? And I look over at you, and what were you doing?

Teresa: Practicing.

Travis: Practicing what?

Teresa: How to pronounce this person's name.

Travis: What you don't know, because I got—I got the third-person perspective, is it's like when you watch somebody, and maybe they're a little high, and like they've said a word too many times—

Teresa: [chuckles]

Travis: And it's lost meaning to them and they're starting to be like, "Cloud. *Cloud*. Cloud!"

Teresa: [chuckles]

Travis: That's what I was watching you do, but just with your mouth. And it was really cute. And I looked at you—

Teresa: [chuckles]

Travis: And you immediately stopped and started laughing.

Teresa: [chuckles]

Travis: And it's just—you're adorable.

Teresa: Well, thank you.

Travis: You're welcome.

Teresa: Okay, what I was practicing is Texas' last name. We're doing part two.

Travis: Texas Tech.

Teresa: Guinan.

Travis: Gwi—yes.

Teresa: Guinan.

Travis: With a liquid U.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: A diphthong, if you will.

Teresa: So not 'gynen,' like I said last time.

Travis: I almost accidentally tried to explain diphthongs to our kids.

Teresa: Oh, no.

Travis: And I caught myself.

Teresa: Oh, no.

Travis: *Ah!* I caught myself.

Teresa: Yeah. [chuckles]

Travis: Every so often, because they're like, you know, reading and writing and stuff now—

Teresa: Yes, yes.

Travis: And they'll be like, "Why is there a U in there? Why is there this extra A?" And I almost was like, "Ah, because it changes the s—" And I was like, no, because this will be the next hour and a half.

Teresa: Mm-hm.

Travis: "But what about this word? Does this word have it? Tell me about this word. Is this one?"

Teresa: "Why don't all the words have it?"

Travis: This one has an—is the E. And it's like, you know what? Now is not the time. It's not like I'm trying to keep the information away from my children, there's just time to deploy it. And sometimes you get this like

spider sense of like, oh, no, they're trying to trap me in this. Because they're trying to distract me from their homework.

Teresa: Mm-hm.

Travis: And trying to make me explain diphthongs. How do they know I love talking about diphthongs?

Teresa: [chuckles]

Travis: Maybe because it sounds like a fashion trend from the '90s that they would sell at Victoria's Secret. I don't know.

Teresa: Maybe.

Travis: But it's actually when two letters are together, or even one letter, and it goes from just making its simple sound to making a prolonged sound. And now I can't think of a good one.

Teresa: And it usually moves from one sound to the next.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Like koi fish. Koi.

Travis: Yes! Thank you. Or coffee.

Teresa: [chuckles] I suppose. Okay, so Guinan—

Travis: When we last left off.

Teresa: We did it. We did it. When we last left off, she was starting her own speakeasy.

Travis: Yes. Do you think it's easy to start your own speakeasy, or it speak hard?

Teresa: *Woah.* She had a partner—

Travis: I don't have a lot to offer—

Teresa: She had a partner—

Travis: You know, I don't have a lot to offer. Not just to the show, but to you. You have so much going for you. And occasionally words sound like other words, and you can replace other words, and that's all I have.

Teresa: Her friend, Larry—remember Larry?

Travis: You didn't disagree with that?

Teresa: No.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: [laughs] Her friend Larry and Texas, they were tight and they were starting up all these speakeasies everywhere, right?

Travis: One of the things that My Brother, My Brother and Me has ruined for me—there's so many, god. But there are names now that when someone says sounds like that person is not real, they just needed a name, and needed a—because Larry—and I know there are people named Larry. I know that they're real. But when you say her friend Larry, it sounds like she didn't have a friend.

Teresa: Oh?

Travis: She just told— "Yeah, it's me and my friend... Larry." Because for me, I always use Derek. I use Derek a lot.

Teresa: Okay.

Travis: And I know that there are real Dereks, but I always say like, "I—Derek!" I don't know why, that's my—anyways.

Teresa: Larry Jerry Garry Gergich.

Travis: Yeah! Maybe that's it. Parks and Rec might have broken it for me.

Teresa: Yeah. Anyway. So, it seemed as though she would open one club, right? And by the time the police caught on and shut her down, she'd have another one that she could just like walk to. There'd be another one.
[chuckles]

Travis: Oh my god, that's the dream, isn't it?

Teresa: I know, right? [chuckles]

Travis: Just walking distant—I bet you're not worried about like—well, obviously I was about to say like health inspectors, but it's a speakeasy, so probably not.

Teresa: Probably not.

Travis: But like when someone's like, "Hey, I don't know if the infrastructure of this place is a good buy for like a long-standing business." And you're like, "Don't worry! I also bought the building six doors down." And they're like, "What?" And like, "This one's going to be open for about three weeks!" That's ideal. What if they just kept moving back and forth between two locations?

Teresa: Ah.

Travis: And the cops were like, "Ah! They're at the other one this time!"

Teresa: Ah!

Travis: "*Aah*, we'll try again tomorrow."

Teresa: But it seems as though her most popular nightclub was the 300 Club. Which—

Travis: Take that, Disney.

Teresa: Was—

Travis: They only have 33.

Teresa: That's true. Which was at 151 West 54th Street, which she opened in January of 1926.

Travis: Do you have any ideas to why it was called the 300 Club, or is that just a cool name?

Teresa: I think it's just a cool name?

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: I'm not sure.

Travis: It is!

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: I mean, it's evocative.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: Because everybody else out here keeping it 100.

Teresa: We keep it—

Travis: Texas—

Teresa: 300.

Travis: 300.

Teresa: That's right.

Travis: That's three times better.

Teresa: And opening night, the event? Celebrity marriages.

Travis: What?

Teresa: Yes. So, it hosted the ceremony for actress and tabloid darling Wilda Bennett and Argentine cabaret dancer Abraham 'Pepe' de Albuero.

Travis: Good for both of them.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Knowing nothing else about it except the descriptions you just gave, fun.

Teresa: Very fun. They, I mean, I think that that's a pretty good opening night, right?

Travis: I'm saying other people are having trivia nights, karaoke nights, and Texas is like, celebrity marriage.

Teresa: That's right. Other VIPs who frequented her clubs were celebrities like the jazz singer Al Jolson.

Travis: Mm-hm. I think he was in the first like pic—movie with sound?

Teresa: A Star is Born.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Yeah. Famous opera sopranos Scottish Mary Garden and American Geraldine Farrar.

Travis: Cool names.

Teresa: I know, right? George Gershwin! Recognize that one—

Travis: Oh! I know him!

Teresa: Right?

Travis: Yeah!

Teresa: And Mae West.

Travis: I know her.

Teresa: Yeah. Not only a client, but a personal friend.

Travis: Oh, that tracks 1000%!

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Mae West, who I think we talked about before of like getting in trouble for her shenanigans.

Teresa: Yeah, exactly. They seem like birds of a feather.

Travis: I bet they got together and they're like, "How in trouble were you this week?"

Teresa: [chuckles]

Travis: "Aah! I can beat that."

Teresa: And also, the Prince of Wales.

Travis: The blue whale was there?

Teresa: No...

Travis: No, sorry, that's the king of whales.

Teresa: Anyway. [chuckles] Legendary boxer Jack Dempsey also came.

Travis: Oh! Yeah!

Teresa: He had his own cocktail dedicated to himself—

Travis: Was it about being left handed?

Teresa: No. I mean—

Travis: I think Jack Dempsey was famously a southpaw, if I remember correctly.

Teresa: But that had nothing—

Travis: But he was like a—

Teresa: To do with his cocktail.

Travis: No, but he was like a heavyweight champ for many years. Oh, once again, if I'm remembering correctly.

Teresa: It was apple brandy, gin, grenadine and a spritz of absinthe.

Travis: Okay, can I just say, this is something that I think, at least in the US, when it comes to cocktail culture—

Teresa: Mm-hm.

Travis: We have allowed gendering to creep into so many things it shouldn't belong in—*everything*. But especially like cocktails, of like if you describe that on a menu now, right? It would be like, oh, can I just have like, you know, a whiskey, right? That was a cocktail made for the heavyweight champion boxer, and of like—and I bet he was like, "This is delicious." [chuckles]

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: "I love this."

Teresa: It sounds delicious. We've got apple, we've got grenadine, which is made from pomegranates, but it tastes kind of cherry, right?

Travis: I bet the apple and like the licorice and the absinthe—

Teresa: And a little—

Travis: Went so good together.

Teresa: I bet that they did.

Travis: Yeah!

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: I wonder if there's like an aniseed apple pie kind of thing?

Teresa: Hm!

Travis: I mean, I like licorice, though, so maybe I'm biased.

Teresa: You do. Yeah.

Travis: I like to punish myself with food!

Teresa: [chuckles] So, she didn't only perform in her nightclubs, right? She was splitting her time between Chicago, Hollywood and New York City, and picking up, you know, connections wherever she went because everybody wanted to hang out with her. So, she would tell people that she met to, "Pay me a visit if you're ever in New York," right?

Travis: Mm-hm. "Why don't you come up and see me sometime?"

Teresa: "Why don't you come up and see me sometime?" That's definitely a Mae West, isn't it?

Travis: Yeah!

Teresa: Yeah, definitely. And so, people wanted to be around her. She was also famous for her uncanny ability to get away with the most obvious violations of the Volstead Act.

Travis: Can I just say once again, this—I'm reminded a lot when we do, especially like 1920s biographies, of like people like to think that people like Kim Kardashian and stuff invented the like they're famous for being famous kind of thing.

Teresa: Oh, yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Travis: And it's like, guys, no, people have been doing—Beau Brummell was famous for being famous, you know what I mean? It's not like he was do— [chuckles] he wasn't contributing much.

Teresa: He was—

Travis: Right?

Teresa: Tying cravats.

Travis: It's been going for hundreds of years of this idea of like, "Oh, why is this person famous?" Well, look at 'em.

Teresa: Look at 'em.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Look what they're doing. What do you mean? They're everywhere! "Yeah, but why are they everywhere?" Because they're everywhere! Everybody wants to know 'em, because everybody knows 'em!

Teresa: An article in the New Yorker at the time read, "There is one woman who gets away with vulgarity, and that, of course, is Texas Guinan. The club is terrible. It is rowdy. It is vulgar. It is—" I'm not quite sure what this word is, mundaline?

Travis: Eh-eh?

Teresa: I don't know. It is—

Travis: Spell it?

Teresa: M-U-N-D-A-L-I-N-E.

Travis: Mundaline? I don't know.

Teresa: I've never heard that word before.

Travis: No! It almost is like mundane, but that wouldn't fit—yeah, I don't know.

Teresa: "It is terrifically vital. At any rate, the place after two o'clock is always jammed to the doors. Oh, it is a tough and terrible place. Everyone should go at least once in a lifetime."

Travis: There you go.

Teresa: That's it, right? Terrible, but you should do it. This is kind of like when you eat something or smell something foul and you're like, "Ah, this is awful. Now you smell it. You eat it." [chuckles]

Travis: Okay, M-U-N-D-E-L—

Teresa: D-A-L.

Travis: D-A-L. Because I was going to say, that's a village in Illinois, and I don't think that's it.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: D-A-L-I-N-E?

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: Okay, it's not the vi—it's not the village in Illinois.

Teresa: See? This is—this is crazy, right? Anyway, she—

Travis: I don't think it's a word!

Teresa: You don't—you—maybe it's not in use anymore?

Travis: It's not coming up in the search at all! I think it's a misprint, because it only pulls up mundane.

Teresa: Anyway—

Travis: So, I guess it's not our fault.

Teresa: [chuckles] Here's the thing, right? She made all of her crimes feel like safe and glamorous, right?

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Because people didn't seem to worry about breaking the law while she was around, because she was like, "Eh, it's fine. We'll take care of it. It's okay, that's not your problem. You come here, you come in and drink my bathtub gin."

Travis: Well, that's what she was selling, right? It's not just the speakeasy experience, because it's not like those were rare.

Teresa: Right.

Travis: Right? But more of like, almost like a... like someone would have now, right? Where they would open a bar that's like speakeasy-themed. And it's like, there's nothing illegal about this whatsoever, you're going to be totally fine here. Right? This illusion. But it's like the reverse of that where it's like, we're telling you everything is fine, even though it is actually illegal.

Teresa: Yes. There was also some mafia stuff.

Travis: You know!

Teresa: You know. Many of these clubs that operated in New York were bankrolled by organized crime. And hers, you know, was no different. She had to cater to that clientele. You have to kind of like use their services and pay for their services to keep their services from interrupting your services kind of thing, right?

Travis: Well, I mean, there's a reason that like prohibition and organized crime are so closely linked, right? Because it is basically that like we—booze, no more! And then people were like, "Hey, we know where to get booze. We can get you booze. And if you pay us, we'll also make sure no one bothers you about the booze that we give you."

Teresa: Exactly. It's so funny because she was like endearingly fabulous, right? And she would kind of take advantage of that in the way of like, she was famous for calling people suckers.

Travis: Right.

Teresa: Right? But people really flocked to her. And so like—

Travis: It's like those restaurants where they're mean to you.

Teresa: Oh! It is.

Travis: And everyone's like, "How fun!" And it's like, okay, but they are being mean to you. And it's like, "Yeah, but in a playful way." And it's like, listen, I've worked in food service before. [chuckles]

Teresa: [chuckles]

Travis: There are some people that I would have loved to do that.

Teresa: One of the favorite things that keeps coming up is the fact that she was raided so many times. And she just can't—

Travis: Raided?

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Okay. Not like on Yelp.

Teresa: No. [chuckles]

Travis: She wasn't raided.

Teresa: Raided, like FBI raids.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Yes. For instance, once during a raid, she got the band to play the Prisoner's Song as people were actively getting arrested. [chuckles] And once they came to put her in a paddy wagon and she remarked, "Again? Can't I ride in a cab this time?" Right? The cops, they thought that she was hilarious. They were laughing at her as they were taking her in, right?

Travis: "Ah! This one's great. Let's arrest her again next week."

Teresa: You couldn't stop the party because Texas was the party.

Travis: Yeah, sure.

Teresa: This came in handy.

Travis: I bet!

Teresa: During the last week of June in 1928, US Attorney General Mabel Walker Wildenbrandt ordered a crackdown on the New York City speakeasies. And in a massive outpour of raids, over 100 people were arrested and indicted by a federal grand jury. Texas was one of them.

Travis: Oh? I thought you were going to say, but not Texas.

Teresa: Not Texas, no—

Travis: She got away!

Teresa: She was one of 'em. She made national headlines, was facing two years in prison and a \$10,000 fine for "maintaining a public nuisance."

Travis: Sure. But hey, "maintaining" I think there implies a level of responsibility. You're doing a great job maintaining—

Teresa: [chuckles]

Travis: But like—I'm maintaining a garden, right? I'm maintaining a business. I'm maintaining a public nuisance.

Teresa: Exactly.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: So, picture it. It's like something out of Chicago, the musical.

Travis: Yeah, that's exactly what I was thinking.

Teresa: 1929, the courtroom is packed. There are photographers—

Travis: Abuzz with energy. Flashballs, *pshw-pshw-pshw*.

Teresa: That's right. And the perfect platinum blonde with a radiant smile shows up to court in her best jewels and furs. She's got a movie star personality.

Travis: [sings] 'When she come from down in Texas!' Right, yeah.

Teresa: Exactly. Exactly. And so, she takes the stand, and the prosecutor tells the jury, "Miss Guinan's particular function was to make whoopie."

Travis: Ooh.

Teresa: "She made everybody feel at home in a jovial way. There was entertainment, the silliest of songs and jokes, and the thumbing of noses at the law. The exhibitions of whoopie were going on while the guests of the establishment were getting thoroughly in the spirit of the occasion, thanks to the liquor that they obtained."

Travis: This is the prosecutor, right?

Teresa: Exactly.

Travis: Okay, I was going to say! This is kind of sounding like a defense, but except for when you're like, "Oh, the law. But they were having fun!"

Teresa: And that's exactly how the jury felt, too. They were like, "This sounds awesome, you guys." [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah, "That sounds great, man! You really did—" "No, but I'm telling you, she—her job was to make it fun for everybody while they drank booze and made fun of the cops!" And they're like, "Yeah!"

Teresa: Yeah!

Travis: Stop selling! Yeah.

Teresa: [laughs] "We're into it!"

Travis: "Yeah, man. Deal made!"

Teresa: She is quoted under oath saying, "I never drank a drop and I never sold a drop. I had no idea what was in those glasses." The prosecution says, "Well, you didn't think it was tea, did you?" Guinan replies, "I wouldn't know. I only drink coffee."

Travis: It's a good line. Also perjury, but—

Teresa: No. She was notoriously sober.

Travis: No, no, no, I mean the part where she said she didn't know what was in the glasses.

Teresa: Oh! Well, she wasn't drinking? Like I said, she was—

Travis: Okay, but she ran the business, right? It's not like somebody was delivering barrels and she was like, "Ah! Not my place to ask."

Teresa: Her line was that she only sold ginger ale, and it wasn't her job to be on the lookout for every ne'er-do-well bringing in a hip flask.

Travis: Okay, but you know that's not true, right?

Teresa: I know that's not true—

Travis: You're buying in—

Teresa: But that's what she said?

Travis: I know! And that's perjury!

Teresa: [chortles]

Travis: [yells out] My point stands! We don't think that's the truth! And she was under oath!

Teresa: [chuckles]

Travis: Why are you defending her?!

Teresa: I'm just saying.

Travis: I'm not saying I hope she went to prison, I'm just acknowledging the fact that she perjured herself. [chuckles]

Teresa: Well, it turns out the prosecution were literally getting tanked at her clubs, so like—

Travis: So, they weren't doing their best job—

Teresa: I don't know if they weren't doing their best job, but they were guilty too! Everybody was guilty!

Travis: Yeah!

Teresa: Everybody's breaking the law and nobody cares, because it's a terrible law.

Travis: That's kind of the takeaway from prohibition.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: That there were like three people who cared. And unfortunately, they had some power and influence. And everybody else went, "Okay... fine."

Teresa: Nobody seemed to be able to take them seriously, because it was revealed by their own evidence that the prosecution was able to bring Texas in because they had conducted "undercover" work at her club themselves. Tons of "undercover" work.

Travis: "We were diligent!"

Teresa: Federal agent James Elway was revealed to not only have gone to the club they busted her at, but he was a regular. He had spent lavishly time and time again at Texas' clubs, entertaining friends and family and guests constantly, on the government's dime.

Travis: Well, all right. Okay. We're going to take a quick break for a word from another Max Fun show.

Teresa: [chuckles]

Travis: We'll be right back!

[theme music plays]

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[break]

Ella: Hey, Alexis.

Alexis: Hey, Ella!

Ella: What animal has the most teeth?

Alexis: I would guess a shark.

Ella: A snail.

Alexis: No, snails don't have teeth?

Ella: They have thousands! And they are freaky looking.

Alexis: No, I don't want that to be true, okay?

Ella: [chuckles]

Alexis: Did you know that the hippocampus in your brain is named after the half horse, half fish sea creature found in Greek mythology?

Ella: I didn't know that, but we're meant to be doing animal trivia, and hippocampus isn't a real animal.

Alexis: Well, that doesn't matter on Comfort Creatures.

Ella: You're right, it doesn't matter at all. [chuckles]

Alexis: Comfort Creatures is a cozy show for lovers of animals of all shapes and sizes, real and unreal.

Ella: If that sounds like your cup of tea, then join us every Thursday for new episodes on maximumfun.org!

[break]

Travis: So, then she retired to a quiet cabin.

Teresa: No.

Travis: No.

Teresa: No, no, no.

Travis: A cottage by the sea.

Teresa: So, the all-male jury acquitted her—

Travis: Uh-huh.

Teresa: After only deliberating for an hour and four minutes.

Travis: And that was only because it was a half hour walk to the room and a half hour back.

Teresa: [chortles] I think you're right. She left the courthouse. She told the papers she was going to throw a party to celebrate.

Travis: Yeah. Yeah.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Tracks. 100%. You don't get out of that and then go, "You know what? I think I've really learned my lesson. I'm going to turn it all around."

Teresa: "That's right. I'm going straight. The straight and narrow."

Travis: "You know what? Now that you mention it, I do think this was wrong."

Teresa: [laughs] So, she continued to thrive in the speakeasy business until the stock market crashed.

Travis: It did what?!

Teresa: I know...

Travis: This is the first time hearing about this! 1929?

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: What happened really was it wasn't that people didn't want to drink anymore, because they definitely did—

Travis: Oh, yeah.

Teresa: They turned to drinking at home because they couldn't afford the five dollar cover charge.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Yeah. And so, she got out of the business, because people couldn't afford to come to our clubs anymore. She went back to performing, not as a movie star, but as a cabaret star.

Travis: Well yeah, I mean, it's what she has a ton of experience now at this point. I mean, she has experience as a movie star too, but she's been really building these muscles, you know?

Teresa: Exactly.

Travis: Of hosting.

Teresa: She decided to take her talented collection of nightclub performers to Europe, to see if there was money there. I mean—

Travis: I think, I think there might be money in Europe.

Teresa: Yes. Turns out Scotland Yard would not let her off the boat.

Travis: Get out of the town.

Teresa: They were bought—

Travis: Can I just say? And you know, I'm someone who lives in fear of getting in trouble.

Teresa: Mm-hm.

Travis: Especially like my number one anxiety is, oh, I'm going to do this process wrong and someone's going to yell at me. But there is a part of me that if I, especially on a boat, traveled to Europe, and Scotland Yard was standing on the dock like arms crossed—

Teresa: [chuckles]

Travis: Like, "No, go back." I would be a little flattered. A little flattered.

Teresa: [chuckles] They were barred from disembarking, claiming that they viewed Texas as a "undesirable alien."

Travis: Oh! Okay, so this is a big plot twist, she was from space.

Teresa: No. No, no, no.

Travis: But you just said—

Teresa: You know what I mean!

Travis: I do. Can I just say, we've done the JoCo Cruise a couple of times, and the people I really feel sorry for now are like the crew, because they need that turnover time on the boat, you know? They disembark, they gotta clean up everything. Now here's Texas and her crew just like, "I guess we're still here."

Teresa: "I guess we're still here." They—

Travis: And they're like, "Well, can we vacuum around?" [chuckles]

Teresa: They were like, "Okay, well, we don't need you, England. We're going to go to Paris." And guess what—

Travis: Why didn't they do that—oh, wait.

Teresa: They wouldn't let 'em off in Paris either!

Travis: Oh, no! Paris Yard stopped them too? The Gendarmes? Is that—no!

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Is the Gendarmes in France?

Teresa: I don't know what they call their police force, but yeah, they wouldn't let 'em off.

Travis: French Canadian Mounties.

Teresa: [chuckles] No. They were barred for performing—

Travis: Gendarmes might be Switzerland.

Teresa: They were barred from performing in Paris, for the simple reason that they didn't have French work visas.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: I mean—

Travis: Okay!

Teresa: So, in her defense—

Travis: I don't know why I'm so affronted by that. Like, ugh, this again. [chuckles]

Teresa: In her defense, I think that if they had been let off the boat in England, they probably would have had the time to be able to apply for French work visas. But because they weren't allowed to get off and they went to Paris then, they probably just didn't think about it. They weren't allowed to work, but they did let them eventually get off the boat as kind of like tourists, right? But they quickly realized that even though they were still tourists, they were going to try and do the shows anyway, right? Because—

Travis: Well, sure.

Teresa: This is Texas and she was like, "I get to do whatever I want," basically.

Travis: I bet there were a lot of conversations leading up to them like letting her in, where they're like, "But you really can't work." And she's like, "Oh, I won't." And they're like, "Okay, but the way that you said that—"

Teresa: Mm-hm.

Travis: "We're just letting you know, like we want you to come and visit, we like tourists, but you can't perform."

"Oh, I gotcha! Wink!"

"No, see, you just said 'wink.'"

Teresa: [chuckles] That's it. And it was in all the papers. The headlines read "Bar Texas Guinan from French visit, officials prohibit nightclub job as her gang fumes in the Harve Hotel." Right? So, everyone made it so that—

Travis: I just like the word "fumes" in—

Teresa: Fumes.

Travis: In a headline. Nice.

Teresa: So then, what did they do?

Travis: They performed.

Teresa: They tried to stage a show on their ship!

Travis: On—okay?

Teresa: On—so, instead of being in France, they were on the ship?

Travis: I still think that's in France. I'm not an expert on international waters, but I think if you're docked at France, you're in France.

Teresa: So, it didn't actually really work.

Travis: Oh, no way.

Teresa: Right? So they went back to the US, and they used the publicity for not being able to perform in Paris—

Travis: Mm-hm.

Teresa: And called the show "Too hot for Paris."

Travis: I knew it was going to be something like, "Too racy, they wouldn't let us in, it was too racy."

Teresa: Yup, "They wouldn't let us do it."

Travis: For Paris? Too racy for Paris? "And now we're—that—but that's where the Moulin Rouge is, and now we're doing it here?"

Teresa: I know, right?

Travis: You can't buy that kind of publicity!

Teresa: She told this to a newsreel on the way back, "I went 3000 miles to go to jail, when I could have gone to any of the best jails in New York City!"

Travis: Classic.

Teresa: Right.

Travis: Classic!

Teresa: Like many people who live very fast and very glorious lives, Texas Guinan died far younger than one would have expected. In 1933, she was on the road with the troop, right? They were performing at the Century of Progress World's Fair in Chicago. And Guinan was staying at the Congress Plaza Hotel. And this is an event in history that affected many people. There was an outbreak of amoebic dysentery.

Travis: Oh my god!

Teresa: And this disease would affect 900 fairgoers and kill 96 of them.

Travis: Wow!

Teresa: And—

Travis: Oh my gosh.

Teresa: Texas Guinan was one of those people. She got sick and never got better. Although she continued with the tour, she died in Vancouver after emergency surgery. She was only 49 years old, and passed away November 5th, 1933, one month before Prohibition was repealed.

Travis: Oh, they did it in her honor.

Teresa: [chuckles]

Travis: Well, I—okay—

Teresa: Not exactly, but—

Travis: On the one hand, right? Of course it's like she died very young. But also like, doesn't that track with like her sto—right?

Teresa: A little bit!

Travis: Like, all of it like, oh, yeah, no, she died as part of like a famous outbreak.

Teresa: Mm-hm.

Travis: Like a historic outbreak at a world's fair—like, yeah, larger than life, right? It's like wi—you know, I'm going to bring up Harry Houdini again, like I did, but he died on—

Teresa: You need to do this! You need to do a Houdini episode.

Travis: Yeah. Like he died on October 31st, right? He died on Halloween.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: And it's like so—it's so accurate that people are like, "I bet he faked his death," right?

Teresa: [chuckles]

Travis: And it's like, I don't know, man, maybe it's just a weird coincidence.

Teresa: Her ashes were returned to New York City and her funeral, surprising no one, was a huge party.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: 7500 people came out to pay tribute. And the procession alone was at least 500 cars long.

Travis: Wow! In 1933!

Teresa: I know. Her movies—

Travis: That was probably all the cars in New York!

Teresa: May—ah, probably no.

Travis: No...

Teresa: *No...*

Travis: *No...*

Teresa: Her movies are very rare, but she is still spoken of as a pioneer in the pre-haze code film industry.

Travis: Mm-hm.

Teresa: And absolutely a pioneer in the jazz age, right?

Travis: Why do you think there are people like Mae West, right? That are much more common like household names when we talk about these like sensational figures from that time, but I've never heard of Texas Guinan before now?

Teresa: Well, Mae West lived a lot longer. So—

Travis: So you think it's just she reached further into more documented—

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: You know, appearances and stuff?

Teresa: I think that's it. I think that more of her stuff survives.

Travis: More pictures, more films, more—yeah.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: That makes sense.

Teresa: So, this was written by historian Peter Carlson. "She seldom arrived before midnight. By then, her Manhattan speakeasy was jammed with fans half-soused or fully-pickled, chanting Texas, Texas, Texas."

Travis: Half-soused or fully-pickled is such a good line. Way to go.

Teresa: "She would sashay in décolletage, decorated with pearls and a rose, diamond earrings, and bottle blonde platinum hair, framing a wide white grin. She'd perch atop the piano and bellow, "Hello, suckers!"

Travis: Amazing.

Teresa: The queen of the nightclubs. It was probably fun while it lasted, and it seemed that, I don't know, this all kind of seems like, you want to say it was all a good, wholesome fun, right?

Travis: I mean, it wasn't.

Teresa: It wasn't. But it sounds that way if you were writing—if you were writing the movie of her life, all of this stuff that kind of happened around her, but she didn't really get in trouble for it?

Travis: Well, now, but also, it's important to know, in this time before the internet, right? Of like the only thing we know about now are the stories that were fun to print.

Teresa: Sure.

Travis: Right? The individual like, "And yeah, this happened, but who wants to hear about that? That's sad. We're going to talk about how fun she was!" Right? I'm sure that it wasn't like, "Yeah, no, her clubs seem kind of dangerous and edgy, but it's totally safe and fun there." Right? And like, "Every time she went to prison, she was treated so well." Right? Like—

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: We don't know.

Teresa: We don't know.

Travis: Because nobody was like documenting anything on their phones, right? Or talking about it. So, it makes for a really good story.

Teresa: Yes, and I think that that is apropos, right? She had these really good stories, and her life turned out to be one of those really good stories, as far as we know.

Travis: Well, and I'm sure that was by design, right?

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: That she crafted it to be a really good story. And thank you for sharing this with us. Thank you to our researcher, Alexx, without whom we wouldn't be able to do the show. Thank you to our editors, Gino and Rachel, without whom we wouldn't be able to do the show. And thank you to you for listening, suckers! Ah! No, I'm just kidding. I'm so sorry. That felt terrible.

Teresa: [chuckles]

Travis: I felt so bad doing that. I'm so sorry. What else, Teresa?

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

Travis: Is that still true?! We haven't checked that in a while!

Teresa: Well, I mean, it's available? Do people buy ringtones anymore?

Travis: Is what I'm saying! Is it still avail—I don't know!

Teresa: Well—

Travis: We've been saying that for years! And I don't remember the last time I checked to make sure it was available as a ringtone wherever ringtones are found. Do people still do ringtones? Oh, no!

[both chuckle]

Teresa: We'd also like to thank Bruja Betty Pin-up Photography for the cover picture of our fan-run Facebook group, Shmanners Fanners, which does continue to exist.

Travis: Mm-hm.

Teresa: If you would love to give and get excellent advice from other fans, go ahead and join that group today. And as always, we are taking topic submissions for subjects, biographies, if you have idioms, send those in. Send those all to shmannerscast@gmail.com, and say hi to Alexx, who reads every single one.

Travis: Also, you've reminded me, we have a new logo. We have a new—

Teresa: Yes!

Travis: Like—

Teresa: We do!

Travis: Shmanners album art cover art. You can find it on the McElroy Family Instagram, designed by Dana Wagner. It features a cute deer and a beautiful dove, in Regency clothing. *Ah*, it's gorgeous, and I'm very proud of it, and everyone should go look at it and then comment like, "This is great! Way better than the Sawbones one." That's also in the same post. Don't do that. That's a joke.

Teresa: [chuckles]

Travis: Sawbones also has a new one, it's very Indiana Jones inspired and it's very cool, and I love it very much. They're both great, it's just I like mine better because it's ours, you know? Anyways! Thank you for joining us. Join us again next week!

Teresa: No RS—

Travis: No! That's not it. You've been listening to Shma—no. That's going to do it for us. Join us again next week.

Teresa: No RSVP required.

Travis: You've been listening to Shmanners.

Teresa: Manners, Shmanners, get it!

Travis: Eventually, I got it.

[theme music plays]

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