

Shmanners 506: Oscars 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.

Travis: The night sky is dark, for all the stars are here. And also, an eldritch being has come to Earth and erased all the stars in the sky. But mostly, it's because all the stars are here. It's Oscars night.

Teresa: Oh, I was worried. I was like, I don't know where you're going with this.

Travis: You've never heard somebody say, like...

Teresa: It was not our normal intro banter. I was like, it's been pretty rainy, but what?

Travis: You've never heard someone say, like, "The sky is dark because all the stars are here"?

Teresa: No. [laughs] Sorry.

Travis: I feel like that's... Here's the thing. Sometimes—

Teresa: I think that's more a reflection of me than it is on you.

Travis: Yeah, but sometimes there are these things, and I don't think this is unique to me, in your life, where you're like, "This is a common thing that everybody knows about."

And then I'll say it. And sometimes I think, is this something that's only something me and my brothers know about? And I don't know.

Teresa: [laughs] It's a real swan to John moment.

Travis: I feel like "The night sky is dark because all the stars are here" is like, either somebody said it once and it's really well known, or someone has said that version of things at award shows a lot.

Teresa: Oh, maybe. Sorry.

Travis: It's okay. No, I know that you have never watched television or movies or anything.

Teresa: That's not true. I've watched a very small section of highly curated television and movies.

Travis: Yeah, this is true. Yeah, you've watched all the shows that exist that don't make you feel awkward and anxious and uncomfortable while you watch them.

Teresa: [laughs] Yes.

Travis: There's, like, one and a half, one and a half Mike Schur shows that you've been able to watch.

Teresa: Plus cartoons.

Travis: Plus cartoons. Cartoons have never made you feel awkward?

Teresa: No, that's not true. They have made me feel awkward, and I have quickly turned them off.

Travis: Okay. Well, that's going to do it for us this week, folks.

Teresa: [laughs] No, but we, you are correct. We are talking about the stars, the celebrities, they're just like us, in our Oscars...

Travis: No, they're way better than us. Are you kidding me?

Teresa: ...part two.

Travis: They've been touched by the muse. They've been allowed to create art. What have we done that's so great down here on the ground? We're like little ants. They tower above us like eldritch beings.

Teresa: But sometimes [crosstalk]—

Travis: I'm going to reference eldritch beings a third time on this show—

Teresa: —their own groceries.

Travis: —and it will make you laugh. Like Cthulhu. Cthulhu is an eldritch horror.

Teresa: Oh. Okay.

Travis: That's another thing I know about that you don't know about. eldritch horrors. Okay. We're going to do a whole show. We should do, like, a special episode that's, like, how to interact with eldritch beings so that you don't—

Teresa: You should. [laughs]

Travis: By myself? You wouldn't join me for that?

Teresa: I would watch you do it.

Travis: That's not how the nature of this show works!

Teresa: [laughs] No, what I'm saying is—

Travis: One of us must present!

Teresa: What I'm saying is I want you to present it. I don't want to present it.

Travis: Okay. Well, when you say you watch me do it, I don't do that to you. We don't spend the whole time—

Teresa: Yes you do!

Travis: You don't talk and I just sit there silently staring at you. You know that, right?

Teresa: [laughs] But I fulfill the teacher role, and I want you to teach it. I don't want to...

Travis: Well, then you would say "I'll chat with you about it, but I want you to—" Not "I'll watch you do it."

Teresa: I just don't want you to make me do it.

Travis: That's fair. [pause] I said that's fair!

Teresa: Okay. Okay.

Travis: Don't give me that look!

Teresa: Okay. Let's do this show, now. This one.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: So, last time we made it up until, like, the night before. So, the Saturday night before the Sunday show, right? And so here's, here's what you would—

Travis: Don't freeze your shoes. That's one of the things I remember.

Teresa: Yes, we said don't freeze your shoes.

Travis: There's a lot of other stuff I remember. That one popped in my head.

Teresa: One of the last things I said was it'd be prudent to get a hotel room very close to the Dolby Theater, right? Because traffic is something that we do not want to be at the mercy of.

Travis: And it's already bad in LA, let alone, oh my god, in, like, the Hollywood part of LA, getting around. I remember, like, Sunset. Is that where—yeah, Hollywood Boulevard, Sunset, whatever. In, like, after school, you know, the four o'clock, five o'clock area, you're moving, like, stoplight to stoplight. Maybe, like, you're getting to each stoplight in five minutes, 10 minutes. It's taking forever.

Teresa: We lived two places in LA. First we lived in Palms, which is between Venice and Culver City. And then we lived in Van Nuys, which is out in the valley.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Both ways, when we were trying to get to West Hollywood, when I was working in casting, it took an hour and a half.

Travis: But the thing is, it took an hour and a half the way all traffic was going, because I would take you, because we only had one car at the time. So I would drive you there, right? Take an hour and a half. But on my way home, 20 minutes, 25 minutes, maybe, because nobody was going the way I

was going, right? Nobody wakes up from paying for a house in West Hollywood and goes, "Time to go do my job in Van Nuys." Welcome to very small reference theater, here.

Teresa: [laughs] So we would have a hotel. We're presenters in this, remember? We're presenting Best Adapted Podcast, which is not a category, but one day it could be.

Travis: Yeah, it could be, it should be. Eventually we'll get to, like, Best Clay Animation Adaptation of a Podcast. There will be so many podcast awards that we're really going to get narrowed down.

Teresa: Really niche. Yeah, really niche. At 9 AM, we would get up and have breakfast and probably shower, because our glam squad would be here at probably close to, like, 10:30, right? Because even though the awards aren't till the afternoon, these hair and makeup artists have probably several clients that they'll be seeing throughout the day.

So they probably start even earlier than that. A 10:30 appointment for one hair, one makeup, and then we would switch, right? That would probably be their second appointment of the day, and probably have two more after that.

Travis: My goodness.

Teresa: Yeah, I know, but you want to really look your best. And, like, you would have practiced this, so you would know what it had looked like. We talked about that earlier. Kind of, like, nailing that whole thing down.

This isn't something you would want to leave to chance. You would have practiced it, and this person would come over and they would take care of the thing that you guys had already discussed.

Travis: They would have already put all of the makeup laid out onto some saran wrap, and then you'd run at it real hard face first.

Teresa: [laughs] That would be funny.

Travis: Boom, perfect.

Teresa: I would love that. After that's done, and that could take a couple hours, let's say we're at now, like, noon to one.

Travis: Now it's time for a big sandwich.

Teresa: Well, yeah, you would definitely want to eat something.

Travis: Oh, I thought I was joking.

Teresa: Something with both carbs and protein.

Travis: I was right!

Teresa: Yeah, because you would need long lasting energy to get you through the night.

Travis: You want, like, a six foot party sub.

Teresa: [laughs] Are you going to eat all that party sub?

Travis: Yeah, like a Shaggy and Scooby kind of moment, you know? Theirs are more six foot tall. I was thinking more six foot long. Imagine a six foot tall, six foot long sandwich.

Teresa: [laughs] A cube.

Travis: A wall of sandwich.

Teresa: [laughs] So you might be able to rest and relax a little bit while eating. Perhaps if you lied very still on a bed, you could maybe, like, take a nap.

Travis: Oh, you're like one of those, like, aristocrats in, like, the 1800s where you'd have to put a box around your hair so you don't mess it up,

yeah.

Teresa: Yeah, something like that. Yeah, that'd be fun. Okay. Because you need to get to the Dolby Theatre. We need to get to the Dolby Theatre by three. And I know that that—

Travis: The awards start at 3:30. You're out of there by 5:30, six o'clock?

Teresa: No, they start at 4 PM Pacific. So, 3—

Travis: Oh, for, like, the red carpet and stuff.

Teresa: Yes, gives us time for the red carpet.

Travis: I was going to say, I'm pretty sure that's not true, but maybe it is.

Teresa: And this is something that I think is worth bringing up. It starts the afternoon. It's like a whole day event. Living in Pacific time zone, we think of it more of like an evening, right? The evening drags on for several hours.

But for these people who are there, it's an all day thing, because they start the awards at four. And so at 2:20 is probably when we would do any, like, final get ready stuff, which includes, because we've been lounging probably in very luxurious hotel robes...

Travis: Well, sure.

Teresa: ...Finally getting dressed and putting on jewelry and, like, reapplying lipstick or doing, like, a final powder for any kind of shine. And so then, we made sure that our hotel was less than a mile away, so that even with traffic, once we got into the limo, we would be able to get there on time.

We get into the limo around 2:30, and then at three o'clock, they would open up the door and we would step out onto the carpet.

Travis: The flash bulbs are going off. They're saying, "Mr. McElroy, Mr.

McElroy, look over here!"

And I'm going, "Oh, hey, how you guys doing?" Twirling my mustache, that kind of stuff.

Teresa: I want to take this moment to talk a little bit about that carpet. What color is it?

Travis: It's red?

Teresa: Hmm, is it?

Travis: I knew it was a trick question, but I don't know what else it would be.

Teresa: The exact color was revealed by the LA Times in 2022 as burgundy. Because...

Travis: Yeah, but "Walk the burgundy carpet" doesn't have the same kind of thing. You know?

Teresa: It's not a true red, okay? It's a less intense color than true red, because red is actually very harsh on people's skin tones, right? And burgundy looks better behind people of all kind of skin tones.

Travis: Okay. One time in college, there was a kid named Zach. He was on our dorm floor. And he was having a real rough time, and he was telling his roommate that he just felt like, you know, he didn't really have any friends, he wasn't really fitting in. And he went home for the weekend.

And so over the weekend, this was my sophomore year, all the dudes on my dorm floor dismantled some of our, like, closet doors and everything. And, like, I'm sure we got in trouble for this. I don't remember this part, but basically turned his dorm room bed into a fort, into a castle. And, like, built, attached the doors around the outside of it, and made, like, iron-on t-shirts with, like, his face on 'em that said different things.

Like, I think my t-shirt said "Zach is for lovers" with a picture of his face on it, and we all had these different things. And then we stole the red floor mats from the entryway of the dorms that you would, like, wipe your feet on, and made, like, a red carpet leading from the door of the dorm room, like, floor to his room.

And we put Tupperware containers filled with water like a moat around the outside, and little flags with his face on it around the fort bed that we made him when he got back, and surprised him with it, and he was very happy.

Teresa: He felt appreciated by all this?

Travis: Yeah, he loved it! We made him a fort! Who doesn't want a fort? What are you talking about? You thought he'd be upset to get a fort with a moat and t-shirts with his face that were like "Zach is for lovers"? "Zach is for—"

Teresa: It seems like what you made him was a mess.

Travis: I mean, I'm sure we had to clean it up.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: What's wild is I know we had an RA that floor—I remember the face of everybody who, like, lived on that wing of the dorm floor with me. I could not even begin to tell you who the RA was. We were in trouble a lot. Our dorm floor was on probation a lot. Anyhoo.

Teresa: Because you did things like this, like steal college property.

Travis: Also, one time we put up a table in front of the psychology building with a sign that said "Please donate for beer money." We were sophomores, mind you, so 19 at the time, with an empty jug, and we filled it up. We got in trouble for that too. We made a lot of money though.

Teresa: Oh, okay. I mean, you didn't bully anybody into giving you money.

Travis: No!

Teresa: Basically begging.

Travis: Yeah, but we were throwing a "We're off probation" party because we'd just gotten off probation, and we got back on probation.

Teresa: Mm-hmm. Just like that movie Animal House.

Travis: A little bit, except just a dorm floor, and we were not that funny or cool.

Teresa: [laughs] Anyway, so the carpet, the exact shade is called Academy Red, and it is the actual property of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. The precise—

Travis: I should hope it's their carpet. They don't have to rent it every year or borrow it from a cousin.

Teresa: No, the color.

Travis: What?

Teresa: The color.

Travis: Oh, okay.

Teresa: The color is an exact mix that is guarded, because the show's organizers fear that people may try to copy it for clout for their own events. Right?

Travis: Oh, yeah, I can see that.

Teresa: "This red carpet is the same as the Academy Awards red carpet," but you can't do that, because it's a heavily guarded secret.

Travis: That's funny, because I'm in my head battling between who would really care, and also there would be people who would really care.

Like if someone said to me, "We have a red carpet like the Academy Awards," I'd be like, ooh, fancy. And if someone said, "We went to great lengths and spared no expense to get the exact same shade as their red carpet," I'd be like, well, that seems silly. But there would definitely be people who would be like, "Oh my God, perfect. Here's an extra bajillion dollars."

Teresa: [laughs] The carpet itself in front of the theater is 900 feet long, where the physical walk may be short, but lots of celebrities hit the carpet at least an hour early for photos and media interviews. It can take hours to complete, depending upon how famous you are, you know, how many people want to talk to you.

Travis: And how many that want to stop you. I mean, because that's the thing is you don't really walk it. You walk, stop, pose, turn, answer a question in, like, segments, you know, as you go down. So it's like—

Teresa: Oh, yes, I forgot that you were on the red carpet for the opening of Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville.

Travis: I'm going to stop you there. It was a blue carpet, because it was the ocean.

Teresa: Okay.

Travis: Thank you. It was the blue carpet. And yes, we did work the red carpet, but I've also been on red carpets before, you know. Never, like, to the scale of the Oscars, mind you. But, like, I've gone to, like, industry parties where there's been red carpets. I've been to things—

Teresa: Step and repeats they call them.

Travis: Yes. I once—thank God for them—went on one with Cristela Alonzo and Alison Becker. And I was a young, foolish man of 30-something, 28 or

29, and went on my first one. And they were there, because I think it was right after Bubble from Max Fun, and we were all there together. And I was like, "I don't know what to do." And they walked me through real quick.

'Cause, like, we're in line to get there. Like, "Pose like this. Put your foot like this. Stand like this. Turn your shoulders a little bit."

And I was like, "Thank you very much." And it went great.

Teresa: Great! You may—

Travis: And Eliza Skinner was there too. The three of them helped me through. I knew there was a third one.

Teresa: That's wonderful. There's even an audience for the red carpet, a crowd of 735 seats known affectionately as the bleachers, which is available for the people who actually make all the glitz and glamour possible: the fans.

For a long time, it was actually first come, first serve. And so people would camp out, right? But now they don't do that anymore, because local businesses and pedestrians complained, because there was a lot of congestion on the sidewalks. And people are still going places and doing things other than the Oscars, even though in LA it may not feel that way.

So now it's a mix of lotteries, and then promotions and contests, and family members of the attendees. There is a very tight security check, like, super tight, to the point where, like, full identification down to a social security number. Like, I don't think that you have to get fingerprinted, but it is, like, serious like that.

Travis: And listen, that makes so much sense when you think about what a magnet for, like, obsession this would be, right? Where you're like, not only is, like, one celebrity that might have some people that are that obsessed with them that would do something wild there, all of them are here. And we're putting a lottery up to be near them.

Yeah, man. Especially I bet when it was first come, first serve, it was even more like, okay, we're gonna just go ahead and say no to the first 50 people.

Teresa: [laughs] Because they're too hungry for it.

Travis: They've been here for three weeks.

Teresa: They want it too badly. Something must be wrong with them.

Travis: You guys head on home.

Teresa: So then you get a badge and a ticket, and the privilege to check in at 9:30 AM to wait to see the stars arrive around three. That's a long day, too.

Travis: So bring some fruit snacks or something.

Teresa: Indeed, but oftentimes there are people who assist with keeping the bleachers entertained. Oscars sponsors sometimes provide swag bags and snacks, sunglasses, magazines.

Travis: Do they send out any warm up comedians, like they do at, like, talk shows and...?

Teresa: Maybe, yeah. It's not unheard of to also have, like, a small makeup session for fans or, like, pamperings, like hand massages or...

Travis: Oh, that's nice.

Teresa: ...aura readings and things like that.

Travis: Sure.

Teresa: Yeah, sure. Everybody needs a little something to do, right? And so then once everyone is there, you can stand there, sit there all day, and wait

for your favorite celebrity to show up.

Travis: But before they do, how about a word from another Max Fun show?

[ad break]

Travis: Okay, so we've arrived. We're there.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: We've walked the red carpet.

Teresa: Yes. And by the way, not all celebrities do walk the red carpet. Tina Fey, Steve Martin, Steven Spielberg, they are notorious for skipping the red carpet and going to the loading dock in the back to get in, because maybe they don't like being screamed at.

Travis: Well, yeah. I mean, that's the thing is, like, there's gotta be a level of celebrity that you are, right? Where it's like, we definitely want you to be here, but we also aren't gonna make you do anything you don't wanna do, right? But also, you aren't worried about maintaining a level of celebrity where you're like, even if I don't wanna do it I have to do it, right?

There's gotta be this sweet spot of, I am famous enough, but not so famous that I have to worry about staying as famous as I am. You know what I mean?

Teresa: Oh, sure. Or also, maybe you have, I don't know, you're nervous. Maybe if you were super nervous about maybe being nominated or receiving an award, you wouldn't wanna be out there and be inundated by fans. I can see that.

Travis: But it's also because the thing is, listen, I'm not saying this is a good thing or bad or whatever, no judgment, but the fact of the matter is, like, when you're a celebrity, being a celebrity is your job. And so the idea of being photographed on a red carpet, like we talked about in the last episode about, like, you make a brand deal with, like, the designer that you're

wearing the clothes or the brand that you're wearing the clothes of, right?

And it's like, there's also, like, kind of an ephemeral benefit and importance of when I am photographed on this red carpet at the Oscars and then that would get published somewhere, it will remind people that I am a celebrity that is important. So then when they see that I am in something, they're like, "Of course, that's a celebrity." You know? Like that kind of thing of, like, maintaining a certain level of celebrity is a celebrity's job, in a way.

Teresa: I also think that there are some celebrities that are intensely private, right? And that's part of their mystique. So maybe it would work in the other direction, if you don't walk the red carpet and you sneak in the back and that adds to the, kind of like I said, I said mystique already, but that's what I mean as well.

So at 3:50, 10 minutes till show, you want to get inside and get acquainted with the bathroom.

Travis: Sure, yeah.

Teresa: Should really go to the bathroom before the show starts. It's a beautiful theater. It's got, like, the red carpets and the swag and all that kind of stuff. And you wanna make sure that you are where you're supposed to be when the cameras are on you.

If you think about any time you've watched the Oscars on TV, there've been commercial breaks, right? Well, those commercial breaks are actually counted down at the Oscars. So, like, they turn up the lights or whatever for, let's say, two and a half minutes.

And that was when you could, like, say hello to your neighbors, or you can look at your program, or you can stand up and stretch your legs, or—

Travis: Do a Sudoku.

Teresa: I guess so. But, like, you want to be in your seat when you're supposed to be in your seat, because the whole thing is kind of a

performance.

Before you get there, you definitely want to use the bathroom. Now, anyone who is presenting or who is nominated has a easily accessible seat so that stagehands or whomever can come down and get to you and you won't have to, like, step over a bunch of people to get out.

Travis: That's why it always seems like they're right on the aisle. You know?

Teresa: Yeah, no. They do that on purpose.

Travis: You never see somebody, like, get an award and, like, stand up from the middle of a section and be like, "Oh, excuse me." They're, like, right there.

Teresa: Yeah, no, they do that on purpose so that you can easily get to where you need to go.

Travis: But everybody nominated against that. It's not just like, "Well, I noticed—I noticed that Doug's in the middle and I'm on the aisle! feeling pretty good."

Teresa: That would be a dead giveaway, wouldn't it? That'd be a dead giveaway. So then what we would do is, I already talked about the commercial breaks, but there is a lot that happens kind of behind the scenes while the show is not, like—while you're not on camera.

We are presenting, so the stagehands would come and get us and we would go backstage to walk out. Although the nominees, they usually stay in their seats until, you know, so they can do the split screen and everybody can go, "[gasps]"

Travis: And they can make their, like, "Oh, thank you," face.

Teresa: Oh, yes, yes, yes. When they're, as their nomination is read out, and then they can make their surprised face when they win.

So then we would go on stage to present our award, and one piece of etiquette advice given to presenters is that they want you to read from the teleprompter without showing that you're reading from the teleprompter. Because they want this kind of like—they want it to feel spontaneous, but nothing about it is supposed to be spontaneous, except the announcing of the winners, right? Because we talked about last time where the rehearsal has fake envelopes, don't get to read the real envelopes.

Those are kept hush-hush, under lock and key. And then once we would announce the winner of our category, they would come up and make their speech.

Apparently the first thing that people get asked when they are nominated is, how are you gonna write your speech? What are you gonna say in your speech? Think about your speech.

And I mean, it's not a long time that you're up there, especially when they wanna keep things moving. They gotta keep everything going. And they do a lot of awards not on television. They do some of them ahead of time. They do some of them—

Travis: But Best Adapted Podcast is definitely gonna be televised.

Teresa: Oh yes, oh yeah, prime time. Prime time, televised.

Travis: I assume that when people talk about writing things down, it's not like, "I've written a speech." It is, "I need to write down names of people that I would feel terrible if I didn't say their names out loud because I've only got, like, 45 seconds. And I wanna just be able to be like, Doug, Nicole, Sherry," right?

And read them real quick and make sure I don't forget anybody, so I don't stand there going "Uh, uh, uh," while the music's playing. It's not like I've written a passionate speech about what it means to be inspired. It's just like, "I've got, oh man, I have a lot of cousins. Okay, let's see, uh..."

Teresa: Right. So there are some speeches that have really kind of, like,

gone down in history. I think people can quote the Sally Field, right?

Travis: Yeah, "You love me."

Teresa: "You like me, you really like me."

Travis: [simultaneously] "You like me, you really like me." Yeah.

Teresa: Robin Williams, Shirley MacLaine, these people have done some really amazing speeches. But, I mean...

Travis: Roberta Benigni, who came down and, like, climbed over seats and stuff. Do you remember that? He might've been in the middle. That guy won and he climbed over seats and everything, "[singing] Making his way downtown, clowning 'round, won an Oscar, he's homebound. [humming]"

Teresa: I think that if you're not gonna make an amazing speech, you probably just don't wanna be, like, singled out for a bad speech. Here are some ideas of what not to do. Don't quote your own movie.

Travis: Oh yeah, cringe.

Teresa: James Cameron.

Travis: Did he quote Avatar or Titanic?

Teresa: I don't remember.

Travis: Probably—I hope it's Avatar. I hope he spoke in Na'vi. That would be amazing.

Teresa: [laughs] Try not to drop the F-bomb, Melissa Leo.

Travis: Yeah. Friends?

Teresa: What?

Travis: You can't say friends?

Teresa: No.

Travis: Film.

Teresa: Yes, that's...

Travis: Funky.

Teresa: That's definitely it. Or cry your way through your Best Actor acceptance speech after slapping the host.

Travis: What?

Teresa: Will Smith.

Travis: Oh yeah.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Well, I think part of that's worse than the other.

Teresa: Sure, sure. I'll give you that.

Travis: Okay, 'cause there's nothing wrong with crying. We all got big feelings sometimes. Don't slap.

Teresa: Don't slap. Don't do a hit.

Travis: Don't do a hit. That's right. It says it right here on this pillow.

Teresa: [laughs] It says it right here on this pillow.

Travis: Don't do a hit.

Teresa: Anyway, can I have my pillow back? Thanks. Vanity Fair suggests that you, quote, "Be modest, quick and appreciative. And if you're going to transgress any of the imposed modesty, be so brilliant and pithy, nobody can accuse you of being in bad taste." And you obviously have to thank the boss.

Travis: God?

Teresa: No, Bruce Springsteen.

Travis: Oh, okay.

Teresa: No. The higher ups. You gotta give your thank yous to those. And I mean, I guess God could be the ultimate boss, if that's what you do.

Travis: The final boss.

Teresa: That's how you do.

Travis: The final person you have to defeat. Na, na, na, na, and then you're in there. "Now that I've won an Oscar, I've only got one thing left to accomplish. I'm gonna fist fight God. Bye, everybody."

Teresa: [laughs] That's a great speech.

Travis: I would make sure I would thank whoever's in the front row.

Teresa: Yeah? Just [crosstalk].

Travis: I would just pick out a celebrity that's there. Just pick out a celebrity and be like, "Glenn Close, I couldn't have done this without you."

And she's sitting there like, "Who is that? What did he win? How do I know him?"

Teresa: And by this point, you're probably ready for a snack break. Jimmy Kimmel made a thing when he hosted where he had put, like, juice boxes and pretzels under everybody's seats. There's usually something somewhere, but sometimes you have to kind of sneak your own snacks in. There have been—

Travis: You have to sneak them in?

Teresa: People have done that.

Travis: They won't let you bring in snacks?

Teresa: I don't think so.

Travis: They're trying to get them to spend at concessions.

Teresa: No, I think it's the handlers. Your handlers are probably like, "Oh, don't be seen with, I don't know, crackers."

Travis: I bet you do have to be really careful. I bet they all have them in Ziploc bags and stuff. So it's not like this person's seen eating M&Ms, and now you're giving M&Ms free product placement, right? But instead it's like, they were in an unmarked Ziploc bag and they'd scraped all the M's off, we can't be sure.

Teresa: [laughs] But once Best Picture is announced—

Travis: Just loose M&Ms in their tux pockets spilling down when they sat down. "Ahh, my Memems!"

Teresa: [laughs] All right. After—

Travis: That's off-brand M&Ms. Memems.

Teresa: Yes, I figured. Once Best Picture is announced, everybody claps and we're all done. And that's usually around 8 PM Pacific.

Travis: And now it's time for all the after parties.

Teresa: Exactly. There is an official Academy after party hosted.

Travis: Who goes to that?

Teresa: Well, you go there first.

Travis: Oh, okay.

Teresa: Hosted in the ballroom. And it has some very highly rated chefs offering champagnes, often chocolates in the shape of the Oscar statuettes. Oscar shaped smoked salmon with caviar is a fan favorite. And also, I guess, the chicken pot pie.

Travis: What part of it—is it an Oscar shaped pot pie?

Teresa: I don't think it's Oscar shaped, but it is pot pie. And you've been sitting there for a long time and probably very hungry.

Travis: I bet everything tastes real good at that point.

Teresa: I bet it does. I bet it really does. This is also where the winners can get the name plates of their awards engraved. Right there in the ballroom. There's the engraving station, a little stage with a guy doing the thing.

Travis: 'Cause they're not engraved beforehand. Another dead giveaway.

Teresa: Exactly, exactly.

Travis: Maybe they should engrave them beforehand, and then put strips of masking tape over it, so it's a reveal.

Teresa: [laughs] That would look really great on television.

Travis: "Ah, it's me."

Teresa: Next is the after after party. The actual hottest ticket in Hollywood is the Vanity Fair Oscar party. People do dramatic changes of cos—I wanna say outfit, not costume.

Travis: I mean, let's be honest.

Teresa: Hmm, costume. This is where there might be even more paparazzi, more people, like, taking pictures and waiting outside the venue or whatever.

Travis: They have a ball pit. It's pretty cool. They've got a karaoke machine set up.

Teresa: I mean, maybe.

Travis: Have a good time.

Teresa: There's definitely a DJ.

Travis: There's foam, bubble party everywhere. Everybody's having a great time. Glow sticks on every table. I've been a couple times. All these things really happened.

Teresa: Oh, okay.

Travis: You can color right on the tablecloths. They don't get mad. You can throw your peanut shells right on the floor. You have a great time. I'm thinking of Texas Roadhouse.

Teresa: I think you're right.

Travis: Actually, I'm thinking of Texas Roadhouse. Sorry, everybody.

Teresa: Yeah, you're thinking of Texas Roadhouse. But there would

probably be—there's music, there's food, there's dancing, celebrating, elbow rubbing. And this is where a lot of the celebrities actually kind of, like, let loose.

Travis: Yeah, of course. They haven't eaten a lot. They've been really stressed out. One drink is gonna get them there, you know what I mean?

Teresa: And probably might stay out till two or three in the morning. Hopefully you got that hotel room for more than one night, so that you don't have to drive all the way.

Travis: Well, you definitely did, because you gotta check out—you wouldn't check out at 11, right? Because you gotta get ready in the morning. You would definitely have it overnight.

Teresa: That's a good point.

Travis: Because you also wouldn't be like, "Yeah, we're gonna check out, load all of our stuff in the limo and take it home?" No.

Teresa: Well, but you have people for that, I'm sure. We would have people. We would find people to do that.

Travis: Is it Bebe and Dot? We would make them take it home? I would say actually, if we were still living in LA and I got to go to the Oscars and I took you instead of Bebe or Dot, they would get mad.

Teresa: You think?

Travis: I think so.

Teresa: But you could only take one. There's usually just a plus one.

Travis: I don't think Dot would actually wanna go. She would be, here's what would happen.

Teresa: Okay.

Travis: If I took Bebe, Dot would be mad that I took Bebe, not that she wasn't going.

Teresa: Ah, yes.

Travis: If that makes sense. Because then we get to her and I'll be like, "Yeah, Dot, let's go."

And she'll go, "I don't wanna go. What are you talking about?"

Teresa: "I like to be at home on the couch."

Travis: "This is where I sit. This is, sorry, dad, this is where all of my stuff is."

And I appreciate that. I'm the same way.

Teresa: So we would go back to the hotel around two or three, and collapse into bed after our very, very long day at the Oscars.

Travis: Well, after we say our prayers and brush our teeth.

Teresa: I don't know if I would even brush my teeth. I would probably just take my gown off and lay face first. [laughs]

Travis: That's fair.

Teresa: Just flat on the bed.

Travis: But that's what we do every night.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: The kids are in bed, it's 8:02 PM. We just fall face first on the bed, wait until 10 o'clock when we're allowed to go to sleep.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Hey, thanks everybody for joining us. This was a fun episode. I like doing these, the kind of procedural walkthrough timeline stuff. It always makes me really happy.

Thank you to our researcher, Alexx, without whom we couldn't have done this episode. Thank you to our editors, Rachel and Gino, without whom we could not do this episode. Thank you to you for listening. You're our obsessed fans who waited three weeks to get these tickets and we could do it without you, but we wouldn't want to.

Teresa: No.

Travis: Cause you're, uh, cool. Not the obsessive part. I felt bad about that. You're not that. It's not true. I also wanted to say, speaking of award shows...

Teresa: Oh!

Travis: My Brother, My Brother, and Me has been nominated now five years in a row for the Best Ad Reads Award at the iHeartRadio Podcast Awards. And I'm gonna go and do a live take. Oh, we haven't won. Important to note, we haven't won for the last four years, and probably not this year either. But I'm gonna go and do an Instagram takeover for the McElroy Family Instagram.

So if you wanna see me in an award show on Monday, you can follow the McElroy Family Instagram and check that out. What else, Teresa?

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

And as always, we are taking your topic submissions, your questions, your idioms. Please send those to shmannerstcast@gmail.com, and say hi to Alexx, because she reads every single one.

Travis: And that's gonna 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?

[theme music plays]

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