

Tough Pigs Yearbook 2013



The Yearbook... Again! (The Biography)

compiled by Ryan Roe

Hey, Tough Friends! We sure did talk about stuff in 2013, didn't we? Throughout the year, the Tough Pigs forum once again proved to be the internet's #1 destination for witty, erudite discussion on all kinds of topics, from Ernie and Bert to Miss Mousey. You know, the really important stuff. And of course, we got more giddy and excited as the year went on and we found out more and more about the new Muppet movie, which started out as *The Muppets... Again!* and then finally became *Muppets Most Wanted*.

Quoted threads are arranged here in chronological order, accompanied by a notation as to who nominated each one. At the back of the yearbook you'll find the world's most helpful index, or at least one of the world's most helpful indices. Indexes? Hey, spellcheck says both of those are correct! How about that?

ALSO: I didn't include it here because it consisted entirely of images that would have made this document enormous, but one of the most fun threads of the year was "The Most Interesting Muppeteer in the World." That ended up becoming a Tough Pigs article, which you should definitely read, and which [you can find here](#). Or you can read the whole thread [here](#).

Special thanks to everyone who nominated posts, as well as everyone who posted on the forum in 2013. Each of you truly is the Muppets' Most Wanted! Whatever that means.

JANUARY

[Kermits in Santa hats and stuff](#)

1/3/2013 | 14917.5-20

Erik

Interesting, little-known fact: "Over the River and Through the Woods" is a Thanksgiving song, not a Christmas one.

Ken

Which you can sing along to in A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving.

Staci

That would require knowing the lyrics beyond the first line.

Martha

This is off the top of my head, so it may not be perfect, but it's well beyond the first line:

Over the river and through the woods,
To grandmother's house we go!
The horse knows the way to carry the sleigh
Through the white and drifted sno-ow!

Over the river and through the woods,
Oh how the wind does blow!
It stings the toes and bites the nose
As over the fields we go!

I know that at some point (elementary school?), I knew at least one more verse...I think it ends with "Hurrah for the pumpkin pie!"

Erik

I found the complete lyrics:

Over the river, and through the wood,
To Grandfather's house we go;
the horse knows the way to carry the sleigh
through the white and drifted snow.

Over the river, and through the wood,
to Grandfather's house away!
We would not stop for doll or top,
for 'tis Thanksgiving Day.

[And then Erik posts four more verses...]

Isha

Those are not the lyrics I grew up with. But Hurrah for the fun!

Erik

It was written in 1844, so that's over a hundred and fifty years to mutate.

Isha

When I was your age song lyrics only had two eyes! And they didn't have the ability to breathe under water!

....

sorry.

[*Martha*]

[Who Owns What - THE BOOK](#)

1/5/2013 | 14937.12-14

Ian

Because [this](#) wasn't enough to even make the assumption that Disney owns, say, *O' Brown Ears Is Back*?

Scott

Little known fact: the rights to that album were bought by Michael Jackson's bones.

[The weirdest Sesame Street record](#)

1/7/13 | 14941.2-20

Evan G

RYAN, YOU NEVER TOLD US WHAT HAS ONE HORN AND GIVES US MILK.

I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN GO ON WITHOUT KNOWING THAT ALL-IMPORTANT TRUTH.

...

Is it a milk truck?

Ryan R

I was waiting for someone to ask!

It is, in fact, a milk truck. Little Bird's initial guess of "Half a cow" is incorrect.

Evan G

Half a cow is particularly gruesome, and also probably unproductive.

Ryan R

Plus you'd be out of luck if you ever wanted a glass of whole milk.

(Cue crazed laughter from Susan and Gordon.)

Erik

But you can still get half and half.

[Statler, Waldorf and the Muppets Troupe](#)

1/8/2013 | 14943.1-33

Mat

This is probably going to sound really stupid, but it has been bugging me for quite some time now.

What exactly is Statler and Waldorf's connection to the Muppets?

You could tell me they're two old men who go to and hate every show, but I'm honestly wondering. Are they actually a part of the troupe themselves, playing two old men who go to and hate every show? In canon, I mean, not "Well, they ARE Muppet characters" I mean in the universe of The Muppets, are they part of the troupe.

They have been on stage a few times in The Muppet Show, played parts in the movies and specials that were adaptations of things (a major part in Christmas Carol), make real life appearances to promote Muppet related stuff, and, the most damning of all, were in the crowd of despondent Muppets when Kermit was giving his rousing speech after the telethon went under. The fact that Statler and Waldorf are in the movies at all, since we're supposed to see the Muppets as actors making a movie, makes me think they're actually all part of the show. If there were two geezers who came to every performance I put on and hated them, I sure as hell wouldn't let them in my movie!

So what do you guys think? All part of the show, or am I just overthinking it?

Joe

You're totally overthinking it, which is more than okay.

I always assumed that they weren't part of the troupe during the Muppet Show days. The movies (with the exception of the newest one) didn't seem to take place in the same universe, so I saw them as actors, just like the rest of the Muppets (which I guess makes them part of a "troupe" just as much as the collection of inanimate puppets in the Workshop make up the cast).

(Working from memory on this part.) But then there was the Muppet Show Comic Book where Statler and Waldorf disappear and Kermit gets all worried because they're curmudgeonly, but still part of the family. Which, I guess would make them a part of the troupe, but only after years of attending the show.

Anyway, now I'm overthinking it. And that's okay.

Jamie

I always felt that Statler and Waldorf were retired vaudevillian performers who held some sort of arrangement with the J.P. Grosse and Muppet Theatre and had way too much idle time on their hands. That they're a part of the group peripherally. Maybe even benefactors. But that's just my fiction.

Dan!, Esq.

That's always been in my head as well. They were old performers from the theatre's early days, who retain a box because of their connection to the place. They miss the old days and aren't sure what to make of the new kids and their weird acts, but at the same time they hold a fondness to them that keeps them coming back.

Mike C

There are times when they actually do connect to the Muppets' numbers. Once when Fozzie sang "Wotcher Knocked 'Em in the Old Kent Road." Another time when Piggy sang "My Old Man." That speaks to the era of music that they appreciate.

You also have to factor in that they're natural born critics, and they themselves feel like they'd be nothing without something to criticize. The Muppets are just convenient targets. A characterization that's stayed with them even in their modern incarnations is that they on occasion point out the flaws in their own judgement. My favorite line has always been:

Statler: They just don't make the old songs anymore.

Waldorf: No, they only make new ones.

I think that speaks a lot to their relationship to the show: They seek to understand it but are too set in their old ways to appreciate it. The frequent visits to the Muppet show have become part of their habitual routine as a strange way of affirming their relevance, and the Muppets are just wary enough to make it worth it for them.

Ryan R

Statler and Waldorf can't help themselves from heckling The Muppet Show because they're old and cranky, but they must have some affection for the Muppets. So they follow them around like groupies, and every time they tape a new special or movie, Kermit sees them hanging around the set and gives them a part onscreen.

Peter Savieri

I've always seen the Muppets as primarily FAMILY and secondarily TROUPE. It's like Kermit's nurturing and friendly nature, and desire to "make millions of people happy" has attracted this band of misfits and once they're all together, they need a purpose in life and a way to make a meagre living. They really only have two viable choices... 1) rent themselves out as sponges and dish-cloths or 2) put on a puppet show.

My feeling is that Statler and Waldorf are attracted to the group because of this family aspect. They're lonely old Muppets who would otherwise be retired and telling half-distracted jokes and half-remembered stories of the good old days by a fire in a retirement lodge someplace (as in Sex and

Violence). They find purpose in abusing the Muppets, which is actually just to mask that they actually relish the company.

Just as in most families, they're the members that are loved in a broad sense but who communicate that love through antagonism. They won't ever leave because they've found the place they belong, but they won't ever stop ragging on the other Muppets either, because that gives them a sense of pride and superiority, and saves them from feeling washed up.

So I guess by my appraisal they're part of the Muppet family, but they're in opposition to the Muppet troupe. They belong, but as a counterpoint.

Danny

Thinking about Mat's question within the narrative universe -- are they Muppet-troupe "actors" playing Statler and Waldorf, or are they really just curmudgeons who heckle the show -- I've always thought of them as "real" rather than "actors".

I think the beginning of TMM sets it up -- they arrive on the studio to heckle the movie, and the guard lets them in. Nobody's given them a script and told them what to say; they just show up and interrupt. Even in "The Muppets" when they've got an exposition-driven scene, I think they're just showing up and making jokes -- and if that happens to be plot-exposition, then they'll make fun of that too.

I also think Miss Piggy is real. I think a lot of things are real.

Mike C

I felt odd during that plot exposition scene. Statler and Waldorf were never really used in that way before. For a moment, I doubted the movie for it. Thankfully everything else turned out okay.

Danny

I guess you could've stood up and heckled during that scene, to complete the circle and heal the world again.

[Doctor Who \(spoilers\)](#)

1/15/2013 | 10405.1721-24

Cathy

I've tried to watch Law & Order UK a few times and man, that is one boring show. Apparently the crime scene in the UK is really dull. Maybe that's why they keep basing so many of their shows on Jack the Ripper.

Ryan R

How does the "cong-cong" sound with an British accent?

Cathy

More like a "eh-herm, beg your pardon, don't mean to interrupt, but alas, this part of the telly programme is rather important, so you may want to pay closer attention to the things we've just said.

Thank you very much for your attention to the matter, I'll let you get back to your biscuits and tea now. Oh my, look at that will you? It seems I've spoken right over the programme and now we're back to the adverts. Quite sorry. Quite sorry indeed."

[Joe, Matt S, Tom]

[Hi, I'm new](#)

1/15/2013 | 14949.42

Carolyn

I actually enjoy having people who have different opinions and values than me on my [Facebook] feed. It gives me a false sense of being less insulated from the world. While I sit in a tiny cube all day staring at a glowing box.

[Isha's Little Piggie](#)

1/15/2013 | 14767.48

Isha

Thanks er'body!

The name is pronounced Eff-Rah-een. But if yer's gonna Americanize it I prefer Eff-ren over Eef-ren.

I don't know why I'm typing with a funny accent but there you go.

[Amy]

[ToughPigs Art](#)

1/17/2013 | 11227.452-53

Julia

Ooooh, these are great! I've never seen any of them except for the one that's muptiple sketches of Kermit!

Jenny

"Muptiple" is one of my favorite typos ever.

[Who Owns What - THE BOOK](#)

1/18/2013 | 14937.40-41

Ian

Disney should buy Sesame Workshop just so they can release The Best of Kermit on Sesame Street on DVD!

Anthony

Disney's long-time goal!

[Who Owns What - THE BOOK](#)

1/19/2013 | 14937.46-51

Andrew Leal

My favorite is the sheet of Henson's Muppet "in development" projects before the sale, some of which we knew about, some of which astounded me, especially the treatment for "Muppet 1776" which I'd love to read if it ever escapes or survived.

Kieran M

It's a shame we didn't get that Stephen Schwartz movie as I bet the songs would have been good!

I hadn't realised Billy Bunny's Sing-Along was retained. That seems odd to me!!!

Andrew Leal

They've been keeping plans for "Billy Bunny's Unstrung Possibility Shop of Dinosaurs with Neil Patrick Harris" very hush hush.

[Yahoo: The green skinny muppet dude?](#)

1/23/2013 | 14939.13-17

Mike C

Given all the fire and brimstone scenes in Fraggle Rock, you could also assume every fraggle is red and black.

Kim McF

Er, what?

Mike C

Because you know, Fraggles often get that scary red-light effect put on them.

Kim McF

I repeat: er, what?

Mike C

Boober is cool.

Erik

I think we all agree that *The Muppets... Again* isn't a good title, and they'll need to come up with a real one before it's released. But what should they name it?

I suggest *The Muppets Underwater*.

Joe

Muppets 2 the Max

Anthony

Muppets Bustin' Out All Over

Matthew

The Adventures of Ray Liotta with Muppets and Rocky Gervis and Mr. Scrooge.

Kenny

The Great Muppet Caper...Again

Ken

Not the Cheapest Muppet Movie Ever Made.

Matthew

Perhaps *Again With the Muppets?* You'd Think They'd Have Enough Movies By Now. But No! Once Again, Here They Are, Singing and Dancing and Making Jokes. Eh, I Suppose it Could Be Worse. We Could Have Gotten a John Carter Sequel.

Ken

How about *Frank Oz Didn't Want to Be In This One Either?*

Ryan R

The Muppets Without Jason Segel

2 Muppets 2 Furious

The Muppets Have a Jolly Good Time in London, Pip-Pip

Inglourious Muppits

Walter: Muppets Part II

Isha

Personally I like this "...again" concept. I hope it catches on in other franchises.

I'd particularly love to see *Bourne...Again*

Matt

I can't wait for 2017's "The Muppets... Again... Again."

Fozzie's First "Wocka"

1/26/2013 | 14938.27-35

Ken

The first album says, "Greetings! Kermit the Frog here", in his intro to Green.

(I remember when it was "Green", before it was "Bein' Green".)

Joe

I don't think I was aware of that. It's even weirder when you think about the fact that everyone incorrectly refers to it as "It's Not Easy Bein' Green". Pretty soon, people will just list out all the lyrics in the song and think that's the title.

Brad D

My favorite Kermit song is "Someday we'll find it the rainbow connection the lovers the dreamers and me."

Ken

The last song on Side 1:

<http://www.discogs.com/viewimages?release=1630247>

Joe

Is it possible that they just called it "Green" because they couldn't fit both words?

Ken

No, because it's that way on the LP's back cover, and on the 45.



Sometime in 1971, it was changed, because the 1st edition of the Sesame Street Songbook has "Bein'", and then the reissue of the first LP on Sesame Street Records in 1974 has it that way, too.

Joe

I guess it wasn't easy being a song called "Green".

[Cracked](#)

1/27/2013 | 12075.125-26

Peter Savieri

I find it strange that everyone refers to Bowie's crotch in Labyrinth as a cod piece. He might be wearing something to keep it all in order, but face it world, that's his penis.

Hoggle had to face it every day.

[The Random Thread of Randomness](#)

1/28/13 | 9511.9335-40

Scott

Hi, I am Teddy. This year I am 7 years old. I have no eyes and blood around on my face. I was dead. If you don't post this to at least 12 pictures of your photo, I'll come to your House at midnight and I'll hide under your bed. When you are sleeping, I'll kill you. You do not believe me? Case 1: Patty Buckles get this e-mail. But she doesn't believe it. Well, foolish Patty. When she is sleeping, her TV started flickering, switch on and off. Now she's not with us anymore. Haha Patty, Ha Ha! You don't want to be like Patty, right? Case 2: George m. Simon hated it, but he didn't want to die that night. He sent 4 pictures. Not enough of you! George?. Now, George is in a coma. We don't know whether he's going to wake up. Ha Ha, Ha Ha! Now, you want to be like George? Case 3: Valarie Tyler got this e-mail. Just like the other e-mail, or the like. And only 7 images to be posted. And, that night, when she was taking a bath under the shower, Valarie has seen a bloody figure in the mirror. She had the biggest fear of his life. Well, Valarie received a large scar will follow her forever and throughout the rest of her. Case 4: Derek Minse is a smart person. He signed up to 12 images. Later that day, he had found a \$ 100 checks on the ground. He was promoted to Office Manager in his job and girlfriend of Derek has agreed to marry him. Now, he and his wife are living happily ever after. They have two beautiful children. This post over at least 12 pictures or you will face the consequences. 0 pictures-You will die tonight! 1-6 pictures-you will hurt! 7-11 images-you'll get the greatest fear of your life! 12 and under-equipped and will have good luck! Do what Teddy says go! Hurry up, you must post to 12 pictures before midnight!!

Ryan R

???????

Also: ?

Scott

Every once in a while, go to a Facebook page with millions of followers and look at a post that's a few days old. You find the most fascinating shit. It's the new spam folder.

Ryan R

I've said it before: The internet is WEIRD.

[The awesome pictures thread](#)

1/29/13 | 11848.2172-73

Jenny

I kept forgetting to post this, my dad took it a little while before Christmas.



It looks like some kind of filter going on, but no, Willow whipped her head around as the shutter was closing.

Ryan R

Willow? Whipping her hair back and forth? That sounds vaguely familiar...

[Carolyn, Michal]

Ryan R

Have you ever had a line of dialogue from something pop into your head, but you can't quite place what it's from? Kind of like getting a song stuck in your head and not being able to identify it.

A few days ago, my inner brain heard Kermit say, meekly, "I hate this part." The context being that something unpleasant is happening in some production, and Kermit knew the scene was coming and dreading it. I thought maybe it was from The Muppet Movie, because he's occasionally aware that it's a movie, but then I watched the movie, and that's not it. Maybe it's one of the early TV specials?

Anyone?

Jog

Could it be the Jim Henson Hour? Where all the lights suddenly drop out for a horror skit with Fozzie, and Kermit says "I hate this part..." right before a monstrous hand comes out of a TV screen ("Bean? Is that you?") and drags Kermit inside.

Ryan R

That's it!

Thanks, it was really starting to get under my skin.

Ceris

Wow. That's just impressive.

Ryan R

I have always depended on the encyclopedia-like brains of Muppet fans.

Jog

Actually my brain's more like a Poob.

[*Michal*]

Dan!, Esq.

<http://www.bleedingcool.com/2013/01/30/the-muppets-again-to-feature-classic-songs-as-well-as-new/>

[*The article quotes one of the producers of the new Muppet movie saying the film will include some classic Muppet songs.*]

This was posted to FB by TP as well, but thought I'd tag it here. I'm hoping the classic songs are bits from TMS and not from the films. I can see them using classic bits if they use another show on the road. I go back and forth on how I feel about falling back on old stuff instead of doing original content,

because I don't see Jim doing that in films. Sure, we had some retreads in tv specials and the like, but the films were always new.

Not gonna lie though, I wouldn't mind seeing Kermit singing Bein' Green on the big screen, and today's kids haven't experienced him singing that song, what with him not being on Sesame anymore.

Jog

You know what would be awesome? If one of the classics were "When Love is Gone". As sung by some completely unknown human who's only been in the movie for thirty seconds before singing it.

I'm also keeping my hopes up for "Rat Scat", "Gotta Get Out of Kansas" and "Dancing in the Street" (to be played over the montage of the Muppets cleaning up the old Happiness Hotel.)

FEBRUARY

[Delphi forum promos](#)

2/1/2013 | 3907.3337-38

Grant

Origin of Pudding

You might be surprised how far back pudding dates!

-In The Pudding Forum

Robyn

I heard that Pudding is quite the charmer, I think he's been dating since he was 12 or so.

[Michal]

[Jim Henson biography for grown-ups](#)

2/2/2013 | 12920.45-55

Brad D

The biography by Brian Jay Jones has a title...

"Jim Henson: The Biography"

Ken

I hope they call the audiobook:

"Jim Henson: The Audiobook"

Matthew

And if there's a movie made out of this:

"Jim Henson: The Biography: The Movie"

Joe

And if the Jim Henson Company produces it, they can call it:

"Jim Henson's Jim Henson: The Biography: The Movie"

Scott

And if there's a sequel:

"Jim Henson's Jim Henson: The Biography: The Movie...Again"

Brad D

I can't wait to read:

"Jim Henson's Jim Henson: The Biography: The Movie...Again: The Junior Novelization"

Anthony

I can't wait to read:

"Jim Henson's Jim Henson: The Biography: The Movie...Again: The Junior Novelization: Only the Back Cover Because I'm Lazy."

Joe

I can't wait to read the blurb on the back of the book that says,

"I can't wait to read: "Jim Henson's Jim Henson: The Biography: The Movie...Again: The Junior Novelization: Only the Back Cover Because I'm Lazy." "

Matt

I really can't wait to read the eventual in-depth review on the website:

"ToughPigs Book Review: The Blurb on the Back of the Book that says, 'I can't wait to read Jim Henson's Jim Henson: The Biography: The Movie...Again: The Junior Novelization: Only the Back Cover Because I'm Lazy.'" by Joe Hennes

Dan!, Esq.

I can't wait to see the film adaption of the novelization of Joe's review...

Tyler Perry Presents: ToughPigs Book Review: The Blurb on the Back of the Book that says, 'I can't wait to read Jim Henson's Jim Henson: The Biography: The Movie...Again: The Junior Novelization: Only the Back Cover Because I'm Lazy.'" by Joe Hennes: Based on the Novel "Pig" by Sapphire

Joe

And then maybe we'll get the behind-the-scenes look at the movie in:

Tyler Perry Presents: ToughPigs Book Review: The Blurb on the Back of the Book that says, 'I can't wait to read Jim Henson's Jim Henson: The Biography: The Movie...Again: The Junior Novelization: Only the Back Cover Because I'm Lazy.'" by Joe Hennes: Based on the Novel "Pig" by Sapphire: The E! True Hollywood Story

Matt

I'll wait for the Saturday morning cartoon:

Jim Henson's Tyler Perry Presents: ToughPigs Book Review: The Blurb on the Back of the Book that says, 'I can't wait to read Jim Henson's Jim Henson: The Biography: The Movie...Again: The Junior Novelization: Only the Back Cover Because I'm Lazy.'" by Joe Hennes: Based on the Novel "Pig" by Sapphire: The E! True Hollywood Story Babies.

Matthew

I'll wait until Disney buys this up in the next Muppet deal, so I can watch

Disney's Jim Henson's Tyler Perry Presents: ToughPigs Book Review: The Blurb on the Back of the Book that says, 'I can't wait to read Jim Henson's Jim Henson: The Biography: The Movie...Again: The Junior Novelization: Only the Back Cover Because I'm Lazy.'" by Joe Hennes: Based on the Novel "Pig" by Sapphire: The E! True Hollywood Story Babies.

Matt

They should go register the domain before someone else snags it:

www.disneysjimhensonstyperperrypresentstoughpigsbookreviewtheblurbonthebackofthebookthatsaysicantwaittoreadjimhensonsjimhensonthebiographythemovieagainthejuniorovelizationonlythebackcoverbecauseimlazybyjoehennesbasedonthenovelpigbysapphirethee!truehollywoodstorybabies.com

[Scott]

[The Muppets... Again](#)

2/7/2013 | 14397.556

Matt

What if everyone in the movie sees Constantine as a dead ringer for Kermit, but he's actually just a bear without a hat on.

[Scott]

[The Muppet Show on Spotify...](#)

2/7/2013 | 14983.3-4

Mr. the Dan

I don't think I've ever heard Pachalafaka outside of TMS.

Ryan R

You should take a trip to Turkey. They whisper it all over the place.

[Scott]

[Where we at?](#)

2/8/13 | 10718.1576-83

Julia

I feel like I now need to buy a Vinylmation Lew Zealand and carry him around with me while I'm there. Then I can take pictures of him in certain places. It'd be Lew Zealand in New Zealand!

Joe

I think it's sad that you'd have to bring a Vinylmation, if only because it means there isn't much other Lew Zealand merch out there. I guess there's the Palisades toy, but good luck finding that.

Ryan R

<http://www.ebay.com/itm/Muppet-show-Palisades-Lew-Zealand-Muppets-S3-figure-/230660356789>

Only \$59.99!

Ken

It would be cheaper to get an Ernie figure and put a mustache on it.

Scott



=



[Miles & Carter stories](#)

2/10/13 | 7711.1027-29

Quinn

So last week as Miles and I were alone, driving home from some kind of expedition, we had The Talk. While driving, so we wouldn't have to make eye contact. It went a little something like this:

QUINN: So...you want to have an uncomfortable conversation?

MILES: ...sure? I guess?

QUINN: Oh good, because we are. I mean, you're in 5th grade, and you're ten, you're almost eleven! So um...you know where babies come from, right?

MILES: Yes. Kind of.

QUINN: Yeah, so a stork comes, and they're flying, and they're really big, right? And they can carry these babies in baskets or something in their beaks, and--

MILES: Daaad!!

QUINN: *deep breath* Okay. So...you know what sex is, right?

MILES: Yes. Kind of.

QUINN: Well, when a man and woman love each other, and they're married, the man put his penis

MILES: *urk*

QUINN: ...into the woman's vagina...

MILES: WHAT???

QUINN: The man puts his penis into her vagina--

MILES: WHAT???

QUINN: Okay. You know what a penis is, yes?

MILES: Duh. But what's a Bagina?

QUINN: *snort* a VVVVagina is... (fast forward a bit...we've arrived home and are parking the car in the driveway) ...and that's where babies come from!

MILES: I'm going to barf.

QUINN: So...do you think Carter knows this stuff?

MILES: Definitely not.

QUINN: Oh. Well, probably don't talk with him about it yet.

MILES: I'm never going to talk to anyone about this, ever!

QUINN: Oh, good. Well...was it better to talk about this in the car? Or should we have talked about it at the dinner table? Or with Mom? Or maybe at church? Or...

MILES: *exits car*

QUINN: *imagines George W. Bush MISSION ACCOMPLISHED banner in head*

Martha

Dude.

This is why you're my favorite.

Quinn

Because of sex.

Got it.

[Toy Fair 2012?](#)

2/11/2013 | 14990.8-12

Kieran M

I went to trade fair in the UK last week and there was very little to report.

Enesco had some new figurines and clocks and there was a company selling Kermit masks. Other than that all I saw were few stationery items that have been around for a while...

Erik

So the stationery was stationary?

[Happy Birthday, Jog!](#)

2/12/13 | 14977.17-19

Jog

I can't possibly let this decade pass without another evening of falafel and philosophy!

Michal

They're best taken together. We shall have another evening of falafelosophy.

Jog

Absolutely, otherwise we'd suffer from the lack of falaphilosophy. Ever seen a falaphilosopher suffer?

[Muppets Most Wanted](#)

2/19/13 | 14397.609-621

Rob

I genuinely love that there is a place on the internet where you can have in depth, intelligent discussions about Miss Piggy's hair and eyes.

Quinn

And at times, her calves. And that dimple in each knee. And...

Ryan R

Are you about to start singing?

[The Tough Pigs 2012 yearbook is here!](#)

2/19/2013 | 15005.25

Quinn

I can never find my pants when I need them.

[The Random Thread of Randomness](#)

2/19/13 | 9511.9384-90

Emileigh

Are the Salem Witch Trials unknown? I used them as a connection and no one else knew what I was talking about...

Quinn

I know them. But I *am* very old.

"Morrrrrre....weight!!!"

Emileigh

They were biased right...like enough to write an essay on...?

Quinn

Yes, there was a large amount of bias.

Both for and against Martha's relatives.

Because they don't leave Massachusetts much.

And then they die.

THEY DIE!!!

Emileigh

and thats why I don't think New Jerseys so bad

[Quinn]

[The Muppets... Again](#)

2/21/13 | 14397.650-58

Ryan R

I was gonna say, I'd take the fluffier Fozzie over pear-headed Fozzie any day. But mostly I'm just always amazed at the subset of the fan community who can tell when little things change like a characters eyes are further apart, or whatever. I wouldn't have been able to correctly identify the recent changes to Gonzo if you had offered me a million dollars and a bag of Skittles for it.

Erik

What if I offered a million dollars and two bags of Skittles?

Ryan R

I would wonder where you got the million dollars.

Dan!, Esq.

Give him a million dollars and he'll tell you.

[*Erik*]

[Baby Bear's doll: America is ruined](#)

2/22/13 | 15014.1-5

Ryan R

This rambling blogger is crazy enough to get its own thread.

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/thoughtlife/2013/02/the-gospel-is-for-baby-bear-on-sesame-street-and-gender-confusion/>

Basically, this guy found out about an episode of Sesame Street where Baby Bear learns that it's okay for a boy to have a doll, and decided it constitutes "unbiblical and socially disastrous teaching on sexuality and gender."

I read the whole piece, but I can't really find his reason for why boys shouldn't play with dolls, other than "that's girl stuff."

Erik

Nobody tell this guy that Baby bear is Jewish.

Jog

Nobody tell this guy that 90% of the Sesame cast consists of men playing with dolls.

[*Matthew*]

[Everyone Should Date a Gonzo](#)

2/22/13 | 14995.34-42

Isha

I advocate for dating someone of a different character type. Everyone needs balance in their lives.

Mat

Dating a Grover could certainly add a little spice to your life. Plus, you'll never have to worry about him being unemployed!

Quinn

I'd hate to have Grover bring dinner to the table every night...

Mat

Probably would be best you don't ask him to drive you anywhere either.

Or help you work out.

Or sell you anything.

Or do anything at all.

I take it back, nobody should date a Grover.

Isha

But he's so loveable!

Matt Wilkie

And he is cute, too!

Isha

and fuzzy.

and blue.

Quinn

And orange!

Mat

And the Monster at the end of this thread.

(He's so embarrassed.)

[Ray]

[Baby Bear's doll: America is ruined](#)

2/23/13 | 15014.12-13

Ray

When I read the title, I thought there was a new Baby Bear doll that was going to destroy America. I have never liked Baby Bear, so it totally made sense to me.

Matthew

"Bewawe my wath, Amewica! Fow I am the bwinger of the Apocawypse!"

Little did we know Hero Guy was one of the four Horsemen.

[Sometimes I forget the Muppets are funny](#)

2/25/13 | 15015.3-4

Mike C

You didn't mention that those Eskimos are also pigs.

Ryan R

That's a terrible thing to say about Eskimos, Mike.

[*Matthew*]

[Where we at?](#)

2/27/13 | 10718.1605-18

Beth

Today I was at the library circulation desk, and I said to Brianna, "Look, a man with a bobcat on his shoulder just came in to the library."

She turned around just as he turned a corner, out of sight, and she must have thought I was insane.

But there WAS a bobcat. My eighth grade teacher's DSIL is a wildlife expert of some kind, he does a program for us every summer. He just dropped by with a bobcat for fun and giggles.

It was quite a break in routine. I even got to pet the bobcat.

Joe

My college's mascot is the bobcat. But seeing one in real life still sounds terrifying.

GO BOBCATS!

Beth

It was so sweet! It was a young one, and it chewed on my fingers.

Cathy

Totally read that as "chewed off my fingers," which would not have been nearly as sweet.

Beth

I wouldn't be nearly as calm about that.

Matt Wilkie

Or typing nearly as well.

Quinn

wnag skl yiou mewazbn?

ityoewd thuwa ikth myh jknuklesa!~

(What do you mean?)

(I typed this with my knuckles!)

[*Martha*]

[Muppet Babies Plush](#)

2/27/13 | 14987.11-17

Carolyn

Yeah, I think I went through a few poorly thought-out purges in my time. Sometimes I'm not even sure I had those adorable Bear in the Big Blue House finger puppets.

Edit: Gah! Now I really wish I hadn't given those away: [*Carolyn links to eBay, where a seller is unloading those finger puppets for big bucks.*]

Cathy

Don't look back, Carolyn. Don't ever look back.

Quinn

LOOK BACK, CAROLYN!! LOOK BAAAACK!!!

Ryan R

Given the subject matter, I read that in Tutter's voice. It was pretty funny.

Quinn

I used to do a pretty good Tutter. I'd have to practice.

Cathy

How did Tutter feel about that?

Quinn

Nervous. High-strung. Twitchy.

Basically, a meth addict.

[*Carolyn, Martha*]

[The Muppets... Again](#)

2/27/13 | 14397.670-89

Rob

I was just reading the new issue of Empire magazine (with Iron Man 3 on the cover) and there's a short interview with James Bobin on the set of The Muppets... Again! When asked about filming in London he says;

"There's a real sense that the Muppets belong here. In fact we've hired a woman called Louise Gold, who was the only female puppeteer on the original Muppet Show, and we've revived one of her characters, Annie Sue, who was Piggy's rival, a pig that's obsessed with Piggy, and who Piggy doesn't like."

Louise Gold. Annie Sue. If that's not big news for us Muppet geeks then I don't know what is.

Erik

Louise Gold, who was the only female puppeteer on the original Muppet Show

The other big news was that Kathy Mullen was a man.

Jog

So were Eren Ozker, Fran Brill, Cynthia Adler, Karen Prell and Betsy Baytos.

Matthew

And that Richard Hunt was just two anthropomorphic squirrels standing on top of each other in a trenchcoat.

[Michal]

Happy Birthday, Ryan!!!

2/28/13 | 15018.19-24

Cathy

There is no part of me that doubts that you really have had your eye on a tomato slicer for a while.

Ryan R

The turkey sandwiches I make myself for lunch ascend from goodness to greatness when I add a slice of tomato. To my everlasting grief, my clumsy, imperfect human hands have frustrated my attempts to produce slices of uniform thickness.

I experienced a faint glimmer of hope when I included "Something I can use to slice tomatoes for sandwiches" on my Christmas list. But alas and alack! The vegetable slicer I received from a well-meaning gift-giver was insufficient for the desired task of creating satisfying sandwiches.

My spirits rose again when I discovered an ingeniously designed contraption on Amazon that had been created for the very purpose of slicing tomatoes, and I added it to my Wish List posthaste. It gave me great joy this week to receive a box from Amazon containing the very object I had pinned my hopes on. Could this be the answer to my sandwich prayers?

I'll post again soon to let you know if it cuts tomatoes good.

Anthony

Happy Bert-day!

Because you are Bert.

Happy Birthday, Ryan!!!

2/28/13 | 15018.43-46

Martha

Casey is also anti-mushroom, though that may be the ONLY food he's anti.

Quinn

Well then I'm in good company.

I can convince him to be anti other foods. I mean, I liked mac and cheese when I was his age. Before...well, you know. The Dairy Accident.

Martha

Did it involve your dairy air?

Quinn

I wish.

[Peter Savieri]

MARCH

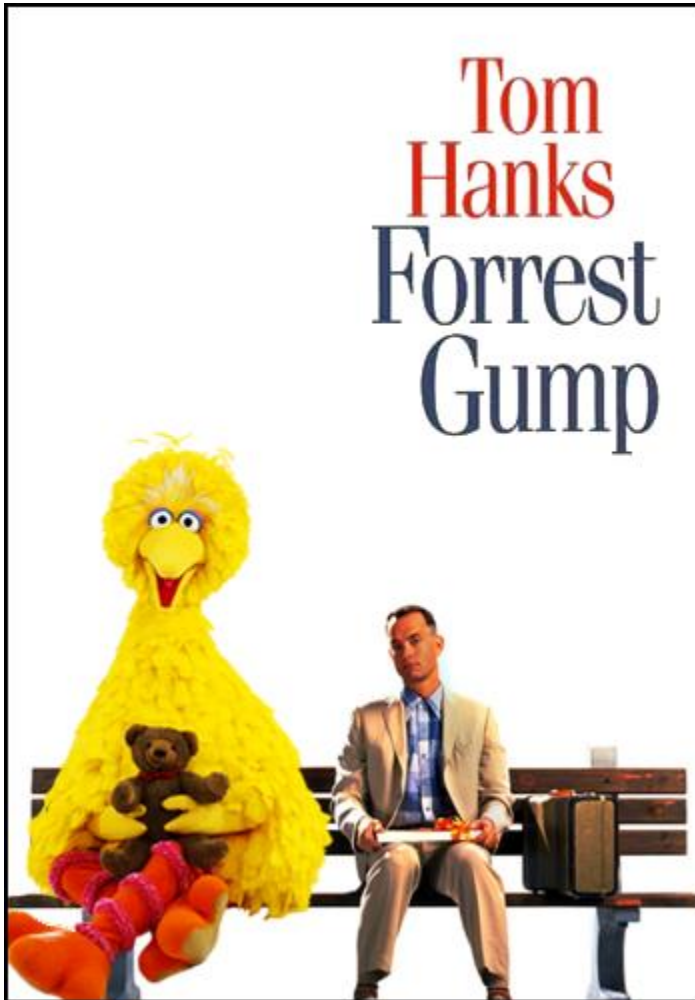
[2013 Academy Awards](#)

3/1/13 | 14946.71-73

Joe

So, I have it confirmed that Tom Hanks appeared on Sesame Street in a sketch from season 24 where he's waiting for the bus with Big Bird (not Snuffy, like I mistakenly remembered). I'm still working on finding video or a screenshot.

Matt



[Muppets on Good Luck Charlie 4/28](#)

3/6/13 | 15029.4-6

Anthony

Good Luck Charlie is not a great show, but I do appreciate that it lacks a Big Dumb Gimmick like so many

Disney Channel shows have. No "These kids live in a fancy hotel" or "These kids all star on a TV variety show." It's just about a family.

Scott

Does Disney Channel have a "These kids all live in poverty" show?

Anthony

Yes. That Disney Channel classic *The Wire: Season 4*.

Kermit's Rainbow Connection Questions

3/6/13 | 15030.2-11

Matt

In the opening line of "The Rainbow Connection" - the one that goes "**why are there so many songs about rainbows and what's on the other side**" - is Kermit asking a single question about rainbow songs or is he contemplating two different questions?

A single question about rainbow songs:

Kermit is asking: "Why are there so many songs dealing with the subject of rainbows and that which is on the other side of rainbows?"

Two independent questions (one about rainbow songs and one about the other side of rainbows):

Kermit is asking: "Question #1: Why are there so many songs about rainbows? And question #2: what is on the other side of rainbows?"

John Scalzi recently published a blog post about the issue (and analyzing comma placement):

<http://whatever.scalzi.com/2013/03/03/>

I found the question of what Kermit is questioning in the lyrics interesting, and wanted to get some opinions from other Muppet fans who probably enjoy analyzing (and over-analyzing) such matters.

Anthony

Toughpigs just missed its chance to ask Paul Williams!

(Also, I think it's one question. "Why does Dorothy ask what's over the rainbow?" basically.)

Martha

LET'S ASK A BABY!

[Scott]

[Big Bird & Michelle Obama in PSAs](#)

3/6/13 | 15011.4-5

Erik

Is anyone going to tell her that that's just a guy in a suit?

Joe

Yeah, but so's her husband.

BOOM, roasted!

[*Peter Savieri*]

[One Billion Views = new Count song](#)

3/6/13 | 14996.42-46

Smig

That was a beautiful Video. Matt learned from the Master well. One disappointment, though- WHERE WAS THE THUNDER AND LIGHTING AT THE END? C'mon, Sesame Workshop, this is THE COUNT, we're talking about!

Scott

The thunder and lightening was actually generated by Jerry himself. Matt needs to work his way into the role before he can summon such feats.

[Delphi ads](#)

3/6/13 | 15032.1-11

Erik

There's this ad here on Delphi which is telling me that 3 people have unfriended me. And I want to know who they are. Are any of you them?

Michal

I'm not one of those 3 people who unfriended you. I'm one of the thirty-five others.

I jest. I don't un-befriend people unless it's been so long that I have no idea who they are or how I know them.

And I keep getting ads for portable dance floors. Am I the only one?

Erik

Wait, who are you again?

Michal

I'm not sure, but I think I feel like an egg.

[*Michal*]

[new Doozers series](#)

3/7/13 | 11675.95-100

Joe

Brian just alerted me to the fact that the Jim Henson Company has removed the video from YouTube. Sorry, slow clickers!

Quinn

I read that as Brian Henson texting you and telling you that the video's been taken down.

Because your life is so charmed.

Joe

Man, I wish I got texts from Brian Henson. With weird emoticons and stuff.

Ryan R

"hi im brian henson. see if u can spot any weird emoticons in this episode of the muppet show {;-#D"

[Quinn]

[Dad & cute kid sing "Mahna Mahna"](#)

3/7/13 | 15013.8-9

Martha

I have been trying for months to get Casey to sing "Mahna Mahna" with me, to no avail.

This morning, we were in the car, and I said, "Hey Casey! Mahna Mahna!"

And from the backseat, a little voice piped up, "Doo doo!"

Proud mumma moment.

Joe

Are you sure he wasn't just warning you about a full diaper?

[The Muppets... Again](#)

3/7/13 | 14397.773-82

Scott

The description provided by the producer at [CinemaBlend](#) got me thinking that a Muppet version of It's a Mad Mad Mad Mad World would be awesome.

Ryan R

I always thought they should do something like that in the comics. Instead of all those fairy tale

adaptations, I wanted to see something like Crazy Muppet Race Across the Country. But a movie would be even better. I can easily see Sweetums destroying a gas station, Jonathan Winters-style.

And now it occurs to me that Sweetums pretty much did the same thing with Taminella's hideout in his first-ever appearance, in The Frog Prince. Therefore, Sweetums is based on Jonathan Winters.

Joe

Or is Jonathan Winters based on Sweetums???

Yes. Yes he is.

Ryan R

Little-known fact: Jonathan Winters's eyes used to light up.

Joe

Littler known fact: Sweetums was considered for the role of "Mearth from Earth".

Scott

Littlest known fact: Sweetums was once a nickname for Jonathan.

Dan!, Esq.

Littlester known fact: Jonathan was once a nickname for Sweetums.

Joe

Man. These facts are fucking tiny.

Ryan R

Miniscule fact: Jonathan Winters not name, Jonathan Winters job.

[Jenny]

[Tough Pigs dreams](#)

3/8/13 | 9244.1649-54

Julia

I just googled "how much do Oscar tickets cost?" and, unless you get chosen as a seat filler, you have to actually be invited to the Oscars in order to get tickets.

So I guess this means I'll have to get back to work on some of those screenplays now.

Joe

We could be the next Damon/Affleck!

Julia

You can be Affleck. You already have the beard.

Matt Wilkie

Jennifer Garner?

[Joe]

[Muppeteers are Brad and Angelina](#)

3/8/13 | 15036.1-8

Ryan R

From The Sun. I love how they didn't even bother to find out the puppeteers' names.

<http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/showbiz/bizarre/4830656/kermit-the-frog-and-miss-piggy-handlers-like-brad-pitt-and-angelina-jolie.html>

***KERMIT** and **MISS PIGGY** have always been Hollywood A-listers.*

*But The Muppets aren't the only divas – their puppeteers are regarded as the **BRAD PITT** and **ANGELINA JOLIE** of their industry.*

They have their own Winnebago and chauffeur-driven car and food requests.

A source said: "The puppeteers are big stars in their own right. The movie has a big budget so bosses can more than cater for their demands."

A personal masseuse has been allocated to each puppeteer to ensure they don't get cramp in their hands.

The Muppets... Again! is currently being shot in London and is scheduled for release next year.

***RICKY GERVAIS** is also starring in the movie. If he had known a masseuse was on hand he might have requested one.*

Dan!, Esq.

I love that they reference one Winnebago amongst them and a masseuse makes them Brad and Angelina. What a ridiculous article.

Isha

No it makes sense. They are stunningly good looking/pretty scruffy and a herd of children follows them around everywhere.

Mat

They go on about how important the puppeteers are.... yet don't name a single one. That figures.

Joe

Yeah, I wish they'd give credit to their performers: Jon Cryer and Nancy Pelosi.

Ryan R

Cryer plays Miss Piggy, right?

Matt Josephs

Cryer didn't perform Piggy until around 2001 when Matthew Broderick retired from the role.

Matthew

I still can't get used to Ashton Kutcher's Floyd. It just doesn't sound the same as when Charlie Sheen performed it.

Matt Josephs

I heard that Angus T. Jones is wanting to quit his role as Pepe because he thinks the character is "too adult". While I respect his decision, I can't think of anyone that could possibly replace him.

Matthew

At least it's not like they're working for "Two and a Half Men." I hear the show's star, Bill Barretta, is a real pain.

Tom

Bill Barretta was the previous star until he went off the deep end. Now, of course, it's John Tartaglia.

Matt Josephs

Anyone remember when Bill's dad, Richard Hunt, played the President of the United States on The West Wing?

[*Martha*]

Mike C

The worst part about it: No Skrumps.

Matthew

"No Skrumps" is my favorite TLC song.

Anthony

A Skrump is a guy who wants some treats
And is also known as a homie.

Muppeteers are Brad and Angelina**3/12/13 | 15036.35****Rob**

I've always felt that Angelina Jolie reminds me of a 1940s animator's idea of what a femme-fatale fish might look like in some sea-creature based parody of an Al Capone-esque movie.

I think I might mean that as a compliment.

"My Best Friends Call Me Susan"**3/13/13 | 15039.1-12****Matt**

Dr. Loretta Long (Susan on Sesame Street) is putting together a book and wants your stories and memories of watching her on Sesame Street.

<http://callmesusan.webs.com/>

Peter Savieri

That's such a lovely project, and such a clever, apt title.

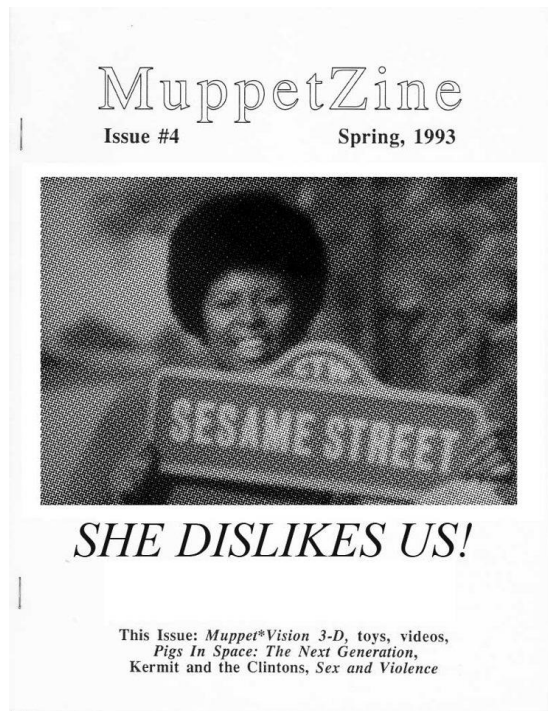
Nick Moreau

Many of you may not remember, but 20 years ago, she wrote "I Am Not Susan", which caused lots of controversy among fans, perceiving her to be rejecting the role. This book will actually start with a forward written by Dr. Long, as Susan, questioning the title of the new book, deeming it "highly illogical".

Scott

Nobody wants to play a Vulcan on TV anymore.

Nick Moreau



Muppets Most Wanted

3/15/13 | 14397.802-13

Joe

Awesome, awesome news.

The hilarious British comedian Peter Serafinowicz will be in the new Muppet movie!

Rob

That is fantastic news. I think he's brilliant.

That said I didn't know he was particularly well known in the US.

Ian

Well, Disney did cast Ricky Gervais like he still had box office potential.

Scott

Spoiler: that's also why they hired Boppity.

[February Forum Stats](#)

3/19/13 | 15034.60-63

Isha

He where did you Mormon anyways? We ran into lots of Mormons o'er to Europe in those days and my parents were always chatty because they have Mormon friends. Would have been funny if you were one of them. I distinctly remember a long conversation in a gift shop in Austria that was sooooo boring omg we could have been skiing.

Quinn

I Mormoned in Central/Western Germany. Centered in Frankfurt, down south as far as Freiburg/Strassbourg, north as far as Kassel, east to Aschaffenburg, and then over to the French border. But not across it. Damn Maginot Line.

Isha

We were in Germany together! <3

I'm going to pretend I saw you.

Quinn

You were probably too young to flirt with.

How was your mom holding up in 1993?

Isha

I really don't know how to answer that. I'll go with "well."

[Wreck-It Ralph](#)

3/19/13 | 14533.100-114

Kim McF

King Candy sounded, to me, like Ed Wynn.

Quinn

....which I just had to look up, because I'm not as cinematically literate as y'all, but yes. You're right.

...and I looked Ed Wynn up on IMDB, and one of his credits is in The Diary of Anne Frank. And now I'm laughing at completely inappropriate things.

Matthew

You needn't worry, I'm laughing, too. Mainly because I have a twisted image in my head of poor Anne Frank and her family hiding from one of the most horrific genocides in human history in the attic, while all the while Ed Wynn is floating up there singing "I Love to Laugh" from Mary Poppins.

And I think I just forfeited my Jew-card.

Quinn

You get cards????

Mormons just get more scripture to read.

And underwear.

Matthew

Actually, the males get something else that's thankfully done quickly after birth when we don't remember anything, or else the psychological scarring would decimate the number of Jews worldwide.

And there's usually some whitefish or tuna salad afterward, which makes it slightly more comfortable for the witnesses.

Quinn

Oh yeah, I had that done too. But not until I was in my early twenties. With toenail clippers.

Ryan R

Why would you even say such a thing??? Unless it's true. In which case I feel much sorrier for you than I do for myself having just read it.

Quinn

Um.

Carolyn

Were they your toenail clippers, or did they belong to a licensed surgeon?

Quinn

They were in the glove compartment.

Tom

This is honestly the best discussion of Wreck-It Ralph I could ask for. :)

Isha

Yeah, Quinn wrecked it and I ralphed.

[Isha]

[Judge Everything](#)

3/19/13 | 8892.6826-29

Ryan R

Homemade egg salad sandwiches: 9

The time it takes to make egg salad vs. just throwing together a peanut butter and jelly: 3

Robyn

This is why my sons have a peanut butter* and jam sandwich 3 days a week and an egg salad sandwich maybe twice a month.

*It's actually called Wow Butter, because kids can't bring real nut to school.

Isha

So, what do they do for Parent/Teacher conferences?

Robyn

Well, we all have to take a test at the beginning of the year. Sadly I didn't pass the nutty test, when I go to pick up the kids from school I have to stand back off the property.

[Beth]

[The Random Thread of Randomness](#)**3/20/13 | 9511.9448****Isha**

So there is a Puerto Rican breakfast food called 'funche' which is made with cornmeal. My brother Lex made it for the first time but he used BLUE cornmeal instead of everyday yellow. And then he sent me this little tune which has made my day:

Funche and blue~! 🎵

That's right, it's funche and blue~! 🎵

It's just the way the corn grew, 🎵

Love eating funche and blue~ 🎵

[Martha]

[February Forum Stats](#)**3/21/13 | 15034.65-72****Martha**

I think I can guarantee I won't be in the top ten next month.

Ryan R

Because you're going on vacation to Kookamunga?

Erik

It's spelled Cucumonga.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rancho_Cucamonga,_California

Ryan R

Sure, Cucumonga is spelled that way. But I was talking about Kookamunga. I just hope Martha bought her ticket to the correct location!

[Scott]

Marjory the Snow Heap

3/24/13 | 15051.1-4

Martha

This is in the woods in back of my house, facing my kitchen window. No one piled the snow this way, and the photo has not been retouched.



Isha

This blanket of snow is a blanket of woe!

[Joe]

APRIL

Jim Henson Bio Pic Back On Track?

4/2/13 | 15057.13-18

Jog

My concern is that Jim's real life is not much of a story. He made movies and then he died. No conflict, no character arc. Why bother making that into a biopic, with or without untrue drama (alcoholism, divorce problems, etc.) added?

Scott

It should be a buddy movie in which Jim and Bernie Brillstein crash parties, hang out at nightclubs and travel to exotic locales.

Peter Savieri

JIM'S WEEKEND AT BERNIE'S

Them dudes is totes cray cray!

[Scott]

One Billion Views = new Count song

4/3/13 | 14996.77-82

Emileigh

I don't think I'll ever really be satisfied with the new Count's voice..I still like the old one the best and this one just doesn't sit right with me...

Erik

When did you get so old and cynical?

Emileigh

the day twinkies went out of production

Matthew

A lot of us lost our innocence that day.

Emileigh

Yes 'twas a dark day indeed

[The episode where everyone's named Oscar](#)

4/6/13 | 15070.1-9

Nick Moreau

I'm so glad that Cornell University Presidential Fellow and English Literature [Professor Daniel Schwarz](#) reminded me of the episode of Sesame Street where everyone's named Oscar. Boy, that was a funny episode!

You all remember it, right? You know, the one where everyone was named Oscar!

Ryan R

I'm not sure I understand any of this, but over the course of 4,000-plus episodes, I wouldn't be surprised if there had been one where everyone's name is Oscar.

Jog

Oh yeah, I remember crying when that episode was on. What end music was used? And how did it go?

Grant

Not Convincing Enough, Jog. You Didn't Capitalize Every Word.

Ryan R

And if they ever remake the episode, which AM monsters should be in it?

Joe

Oscar, Oscar, Oscar, and Oscar, of course!

Ryan R

Right. Specifically: Lavender Live Hand Oscar, Fat Blue Horn-Headed Oscar, Purple Pointy-Nosed Oscar, and Orange Oscar.

Jog

Rubber Oscar, you're the one...

[What are you reading?](#)

4/8/13 | 10331.1567-73

Anthony

I posted this on Facebook and Twitter, so many all interested parties saw it there, but I just got the idea to read a biography of every US President. Does anyone have any suggestions?

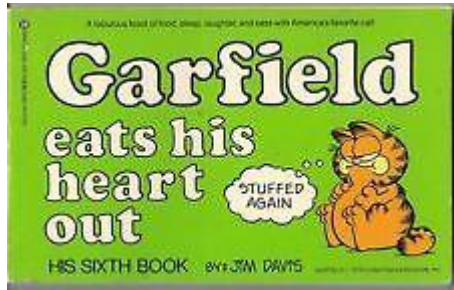
Cathy

I suggest *Destiny of the Republic* by Candice Millard for your Garfield book.

<http://www.randomhouse.com/book/114423/destiny-of-the-republic-by-candice-millard>

Martha

I am giggling, because this is what I pictured when you said "Garfield book":



Ryan R

Garfield Eats His Heart Out is okay, but it never reaches the heights of character development and intrigue of *Garfield Chews the Fat* or *Garfield Throws His Weight Around*, although to be fair, it is far better than *Garfield Brings Home the Bacon* and *Garfield Is a Big Fat Guy*.

[Matthew]

[Sesame Street Blog](#)

4/9/13 | 15076.17-20

Matt

Confession: As a child, I would often imitate Don Music and would bang my head against the keys of the piano in a mock fit of frustration. I never got hurt, my family loved it, and it remains one of my favorite childhood memories. It's sad that future generations won't be able to experience the oeuvre of Don Music because of children like me.

Isha

Way to ruin it for everyone.

Matt

Sorry, I tried to imitate a lot of the behavior I saw on Sesame Street... almost broke my nose trying to honk it like a Honker.

And who could forget the year I almost ruined Thanksgiving by tumbling down the stairs dressed as a baker carrying seven pumpkin pies.

[Matthew]

Rachael

Walt Disney Acquires 'Labyrinth' Pitch

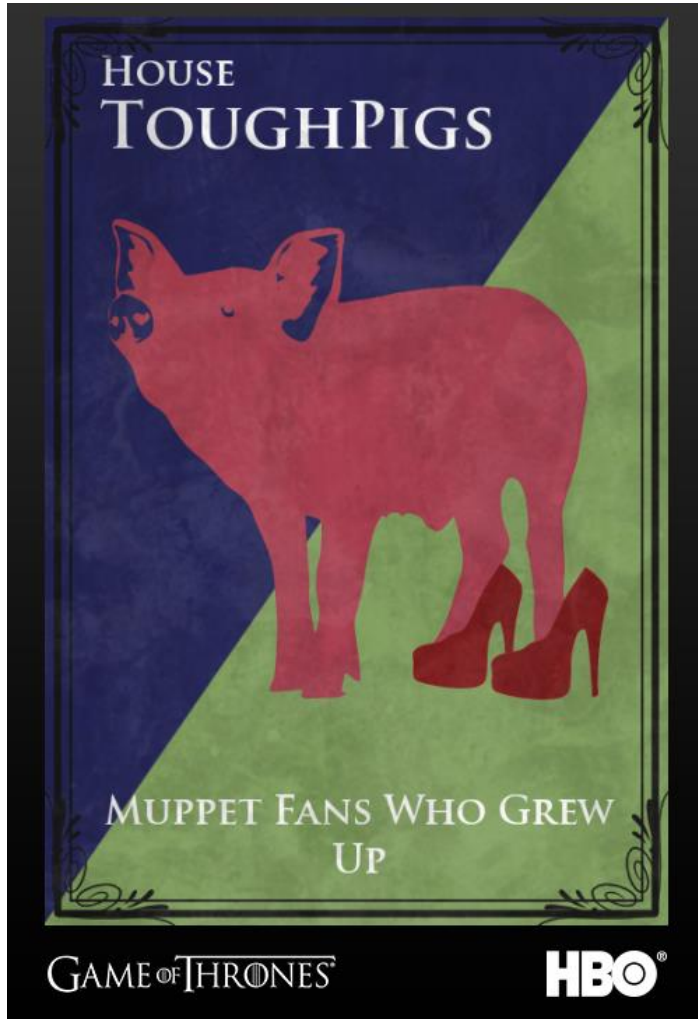
EXCLUSIVE: Walt Disney Pictures has acquired Labyrinth, a pitch by Larry Brenner for an action/adventure story about the journey of the mythical princess who must enter the complex and dangerous Labyrinth to save her father. Brenner was discovered after making the finals of the Final Draft Big Break script contest. That led to him setting up Bethlehem at Universal and Roth Films, with Cedric Nicolas-Troyan attached to direct. The script landed him on the 2011 Black List, and he most recently adapted Angelology for Sony Pictures and Overbrook Entertainment. Labyrinth will be produced by Jim Whitaker, whose Whitaker Entertainment executives Elizabeth Ingold and Adam Borba helped develop the pitch. Brenner is repped by Resolution, Magnet Management and Stone, Meyer, Genow, Smelkinson & Binder.

The title and the basic plot outline are almost identical to the 1986 film - it's just a case of find and replace 'brother' with 'father.' They better distinguish this film from the JHC flick in some major way, otherwise they'll have free reign to release the lawyers.

Matt



Joe



Scott

Wow, you can almost tell what religion that pig is.

Joe

Probably whichever religion that bans pork.

Scott

So, the old gods or the new?

Joe

Meet the new boss, same as the old boss.

Scott



Joe



Scott



Joe



Scott



Joe



Scott



Anthony



Joe



Matthew



Anthony



Scott



Joe



Scott



Joe



[Joe]

[The Random Thread of Randomness](#)

4/14/13 | 9511.9475-76

Isha

Know what's tough?

Pigs.

Julia

Know what, pigs?

Tough.

MAY

[The time Pierce Brosnan ate fire](#)

5/3/13 | 15115.1-8

Ryan R

Pierce Brosnan talks about doing his fire-eating trick on Muppets Tonight, and what went wrong:

http://www.contactmusic.com/news/pierce-brosnan-impressed-muppets-with-fire-eating-talents_3641901

Movie star Pierce Brosnan never thought he'd ever have the need to show off his fire eating skills professionally until he was invited to appear on The Muppet Show.

The former James Bond studied the circus art at theatre school in his youth just because he thought the class would help him meet attractive women and he was thrilled when Tv bosses suggested he show off his party trick during one of the Muppets' final Tv variety shows.

He says, "I did The Muppets... after I did the first James Bond movie, and they said, 'We'd like you to be on the show. Do you sing or dance?' and I said, 'No, but I used to do a fire eating act...' and so we incorporated this into the show... I blew fire."

The rehearsal went well but then a prop master suggested he try the scene again with a different fuel, and Brosnan was left with a scorched mouth.

The actor recalls, "I did the take but it was like rocket fuel and it came right back into my mouth... It's on YouTube I think, and you see this blue flame and it just goes right back into my mouth."

Cathy

Was the Prop Master trying to kill him? Because it sounds like the Prop Master was trying to kill him.

Isha

Perhaps the prop master was an agent from the future sent to prevent Pierce Brosnan from ever singing in a movie musical.

Only he failed.

Cathy

Maybe he was a Bond villain!

Ryan R

All those convoluted attempts to kill Bond... All this time, they could have just incapacitated him by getting him to set his own mouth on fire.

Beth

Because that wouldn't be convoluted at all!

Matt

He seems to tell the same story every 9 years or so:

<http://www.contactmusic.com/news-article/brosnan.s.fire.eating-disaster>

Jog

Gonzo fiddles while Pierce burns?

[Beth]

Where we at?

5/3/13 | 10718.1649-64

Beth

I am intoxicated. But not enough to be amusing. HI!

Isha

Beth! You used to be such a nice girl!

Beth

Yeah, but now I am bitter, angry and corrupt. I eat small children for breakfast.

Isha

Woah. You used to be such a - oh wait we did that already.

Beth

Heaven forbid that we ever repeat a punch line around here.

Matthew

I voted for Mr. Scrooge.

Beth

But alas, your vote was eaten by Kevin the Goat.

Isha

There is no Mister Scrooge in Martha's Closet!!!

Matthew

But is there a Mr. Scrooge in Martha's 1987 hair?

Beth

Is there Martha's 1987 hair on Donald Duck is a Bug?

Isha

Does Donald Duck as a Bug wear Lucky Overalls?

Matthew

Does Floaty McFloaterson wear Lucky Overalls?

Beth

Does Floaty McFloaterson love Julie Herschbaum?

[*Martha, Michal*]

[Remember when the stage caved in when...](#)

5/5/13 | 15117.1

Robyn

Remember when the stage caved in when you were rocking out?

Yes



21 votes (62%)

No



13 votes (38%)

[Where we at?](#)

5/5/13 | 10718.1661-74

Messages 1661 through 1662 were Deleted

Isha

Woah. What transpired between the last post and this one?

Julia

Answer: I was drunk and wrote a long sentimental entry about Tough Pigs. Then deleted it. Then wrote something else. Then deleted that as well.

Beth

You had a busy night.

Joe

Aw, I'm sorry we had to miss out on that.

Julia

I may have it saved (and by may I mean I did). But it's very rambley, and basically me just being super emotional on way too many levels. Not sure if it's worth sharing, because most of it is stuff I've already expressed in my TP appreciation blog entries I've done (except it gets kind of personal at certain points).

I'm surprised by how good my spelling is though.

Julia

Here's a line from it:

"You are the friends who sent me socks when I thought the world ignored the fact that I really wanted socks."

Beth

That made me snort.

I think there should be a poem with that line in it.

You are the friends
who sent me socks
when I thought the world
ignored the fact
that I really wanted socks.

I was alone
but was warmed
by the socks
the lovely socks
which you sent
to me in my loneliness.

I was glad for
the socks
the lovely socks
But
I could have used
many more socks
after
I jumped in those puddles.

For alas
the socks became wet
and I was alone

again
in wet socks.

[YouTube vids](#)

5/7/13 | 10888.2063-68

Joe

Hilarious Star Trek nerdy video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WPkByAkAdZs>

Julia

My appreciation of Leonard Nimoy just sky rocketed.

Joe

All the way to Vulcan??

Julia

No, all the way to Dagobah!

(I don't know much about Star Trek, so I had to crossover to another fandom.)

Matthew

Mine skyrocketed all the way to Koozebane. And then it made stops at Melmac, Gallifrey, Ork, Transylvania, Druidia, and the Planet of the Apes. And then I realized it was a round trip. The bastards, they made it a round trip.

[Joe]

[2013 Academy Awards](#)

5/8/13 | 14946.77-78

Erik

I've finally seen all of the Oscar nominated movies that I'm interested in seeing (sorry Les Miz), and I think the best of the bunch was Lincoln. Silver Linings Playbook was also very good.

Isha

I watched Les Mis for you. You were underwhelmed.

[Robyn]

[Where we at?](#)

5/10/13 | 10718.1698-1710

Carolyn

Quitting can be a good career move!

Isha

Yes, I once got a raise that way. And a second t-shirt and a new hat.

Carolyn

I want a hat!!

Joe

I want a raise!

Right off the pavement.

Cathy

I want a new drug!

Joe

I want my MTV!

Cathy

I want YOU to want ME!

Ryan R

I want a feast. I want a bean feast!

[*Michal*]

[Tommy Hilfiger's Muppet clothing](#)

5/11/13 | 15127.1-21

Rob

I was walking past the Hilfiger store on my way to work yesterday morning and noticed that they had a big Muppet window display. Not really wanting to go into the store itself (I'm not sure their clothing is really aimed at me) I decided to look online. Personally I think the designs are pretty crappy and way too expensive especially for children's clothing but if anyone is curious you can see them here;

<http://eu.tommy.com/Muppets/8400005301,default,sc.html>

Carolyn

Kermit is the preppiest!

Mike C

Hey, the frog likes collars.

[*Matt Wilkie*]

Cathy

The future is now, Beth!

<http://www.npr.org/blogs/alltechconsidered/2013/05/12/183218751/new-closed-captioning-glasses-help-deaf-go-out-to-the-movies>

Beth

I think I just peed myself.

Beth

And just in time for the new Muppet movie!

Matthew

For some reason, I combined these last two posts into one sentence.

"I think I just peed myself, and just in time for the new Muppet movie!"

That phrase could not make me happier.

Beth

Diapers for everyone!

[*Robyn*]

[Elmo the Musical](#)

5/20/13 | 14723.49-51

Ryan R

Back when Elmo the Musical first premiered on the show, I started collecting comments on the Sesame Facebook page for a TP article. I never got around to writing it, but some of these are worth sharing:

Rosemary: IF THERE'S NOT GOING TO BE NO ELMO'S WORLD MY SON AND I WILL NOT BE WATCHING EVER AGAIN! That was my son's favorite part of the show and was always so happy when the song came on. I feel like this is something is not broke why fix it!!! I watched Elmo Musical today and I was very disappointed it was not good at all. I was looking forward to some new Elmo's World. My son loves when the computer says Elmo got email...sad and disappointed!

Shauna: my 3 year old daughter sobbed the entire time the new elmo segment played. thanks.

Caitlyn: My 10 month old won't even look at the tv anymore she used to just watch elmos world and I started recording the new season but I'm not happy because there's too much going on in elmo the musical. Its even confusing to me. I love sesame street but I'm very dad and also we had no warning about this.

Kim: Elmo's Musical was a big fat FAIL

Nadine: I agree, the Elmo SUCKED!! My daughter loves Elmo and she didn't watch it. Bring back Elmo's world!

Rosanne: I was open to change, but the new segment is just baffling. Is it supposed to be educational? Musical? What on earth is going on? Very disappointed. It was just a nonstop barrage of nonsensical activity. Even Elmo didn't look like he was having fun!

Renee: booooooooooooo "Elmo the MUSICAL"we miss Elmos world! really Elmo talks to a curtain? really???

Sarah: My daughter (3) has been in tears the last few days after Sesame because "Elmo's World" has not been on. It is her favorite thing in the world! She misses Dorothy and Mr. Noodle. While I can appreciate a change in format, little ones do not. They thrive on routine and what they come to know and expect. Please bring back Elmo's World.

Rachel: I always thought Elmo was geared towards the younger viewers but the counting and shapes are a little fast paced for a 2 yr old. I'm in my late 20's and I could barely keep up.

Chlöe: PENIS

Ryan R

Man, kids are crybabies.

Joe

That Chlöe is so eloquent.

[Grover Monster: Master Manipulator](#)

5/23/13 | 15146.6

Peter Savieri

I'll always feel for Grover's side of the conflict. Even if he IS taking some sort of passive aggressive revenge. I mean, could anyone really sympathise with whingey Mr Johnson?

There's a reason he's called Mr Johnson. What a d*ck.

[Quantum Leap and Back to the Future](#)

5/30/13 | 6773.642-44

Ryan R

I've been watching my way through the series on Netflix, but I started on Hulu Plus because for some reason Netflix doesn't have the first three episodes.

Scott

Oh, cool! I didn't know it had come back to Netflix. I guess they flip-flop back and forth between the streaming providers. Which is why I wish Amazon would get it so I can just buy them and have them, not worrying about the next time they fall out of rotation.

Ryan R

Yeah, that would be ideal. I guess the show is fated to keep leaping from one streaming provider to another, hoping each time that the next leap will be the leap home.

[*sha*]

JUNE

[The new big gray Continue button](#)

6/5/13 | 15168.11-12

Ryan R

But yeah, I don't get it. The new button is just change for change's sake, and I have never once found myself wishing I could share a forum post on Facebook or Twitter. And what's with all these smartphones, anyway? And why do movies have to be in 3-D? And why are there so many flavors of Triscuits? Bah!

Robyn

Brought to you by: 82 year old Ryan.

[Jes]

[X-Men](#)

6/9/13 | 13337.70-77

Mitchell

I was just at the filming for X-Men: Days of Future Past last week! It was pretty cool! I got to be really close to the set, and saw a lot of cool stuff. Saw Bryan Singer from a distance, but I was outside his empty trailer at one point.

From what I can tell from being on the set for that full-day shoot, this movie is going to be LEGENDARY.

Anthony

That's what Joe and Ryan said about Letters to Santa!

Ryan R

We never used that word!

Anthony

But you used it in spirit!

Robyn

Why did my eyes read this as "But you used to spit in it!"

Anthony

Because Letters to Santa spit into our souls.

[Robyn]

[Permanent Henson Museum in NYC](#)

6/12/13 | 15143.43

Smig

Would you call Karen Prell Red-handed?

[Disney Field-Tests Muppets Broadway Show](#)

6/13/13 | 15172.23-24

Dan!, Esq.

I'm shocked by the lack of MTM references and Scooter fists, thus...

Boffo Lenny, Socko Lenny.

Also, from what I've read, the test show involved unknowns, songs, dances, shootings...wait, no shootings.

I smell something.

Jog

Yeah, that's the one reason that has me worried about the show: the script still needs a lot of work. I still think there's something missing.

[Grant]

[Judge Everything](#)

6/17/13 | 8892.6928-30

Ken

Is Comic-Con becoming a national touring event? I always thought that there was only one in the world every year in San Diego, and now it seems like every state has one.

Joe

"Comic Con" is just shorthand for any comic book convention. The one in San Diego is technically "Comic Con International", the one in New York is the "New York Comic Con", and so on. They can be super tiny in hotel convention rooms or they can be huge in airplane hanger-sized centers.

Matt Wilkie

If you look closely, there might even be a Comic Con ... inside your heart.

[Cathy]

Robyn

Superman, helping kids with incarcerated parents.

Erik

Helping kids with incarcerating parents

Abigail

Helping kids with incinerated parents

Scott



Matthew

Actually, those are Luke's aunt and uncle. This would be him dealing with an incinerated parent.



[Joe, Cathy, Abigail, Scott]

[Fan-made Lego Doc Hopper](#)

6/24/13 | 15191.1-7

Ryan R

Spotted on Reddit...

http://www.flickr.com/photos/pepa_quin/9086619574/

(A fan-made Lego version of Doc Hopper and his french-fried frog legs restaurant.)

Smig

Looks like Boss Hogg.. Or is that Boss Frogg?

Mike C

Those LEGOS go on forever...

d.w. mckim

They should. It's a legocy.

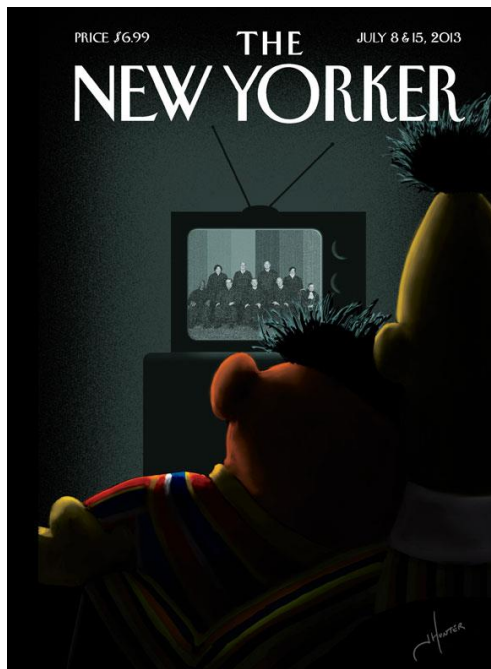
[Robyn, Matthew]

[The Bert and Ernie thing again](#)

6/28/13 | 15201.1-34

Ryan R

Noel MacNeal just tweeted this... Apparently it's next week's New Yorker cover.



I'm sure some pop culture news outlets will ask Sesame to comment on it... and they'll give the usual "they're puppets" response.

Scott

Sesame Workshop: our characters can't love one another.

Ryan R

Well, Bert and Ernie do love each other. I'm pretty sure they've even said as much. They're just not gay. But I wish Sesame could just go for it and introduce a gay couple on the show, whether Muppet or human, just to demonstrate that they don't have any problems with it, despite the standard PR answer about B&E. Maybe someday.

Nick Moreau

That might work.

I wish they'd also point out that Bert and Ernie were once dirty poor. I mean, they didn't have enough money to buy an empty box or a soap dish, for crying out loud! If they lived separately, they simply wouldn't be able to meet rent. They have two neighbours with no legally fixed address.

The may get on each other's nerves at times, but it's better than skid row.

Scott

This has been Sesame Workshop's canned answer on the matter:

They're puppets. They don't exist below the waist. They don't have a sexual orientation.

This is disingenuous to me. We know they're puppets. But they're also characters. Just like Louie and Mae, or Maria and Luis. Characters who have interests, arguments, loves, and flaws.

Sesame Workshop, if Bert and Ernie aren't gay, you get to say so. They're your characters. But don't insult our intelligence by dodging the issue. Just say it plainly. "Bert and Ernie love each other, but we've always written them more like Felix and Oscar than Mitchell and Cameron."

You can protect your characters from others using them to promote their interests, but you can't stop people from taking something away from the experience of knowing these characters and being inspired by them. That part of a character belongs to the audience, not you.

Dan!, Esq.

The fact that they do have other characters that exist below the waist who do clearly have kids and loves is a bit ridiculous. I think the problem is that they are trying to have it both ways, without offending anyone. That example is only one of many though. They have come out and said it before.

From the Wiki...

"Bert and Ernie, who've been on Sesame Street for 25 years, do not portray a gay couple, and there are no plans for them to do so in the future. They are puppets, not humans. Like all the Muppets created for

Sesame Street, they were designed to help educate preschoolers. Bert and Ernie are characters who help demonstrate to children that despite their differences, they can be good friends."

"Bert and Ernie are best friends. They were created to teach preschoolers that people can be good friends with those who are very different from themselves. Even though they are identified as male characters and possess many human traits and characteristics... they remain puppets, and do not have a sexual orientation. "

While yes, they say they are puppets, I've always felt that they cover the fact that they are simply best friends and not gay. To me, the puppets comment is to detail how ridiculous it is that they keep having to defend it.

Ryan R

I suppose "they're puppets" has been SW's way of trying make their answer seem definitive, but yeah, it really doesn't make sense. Puppets can be anything their creator decides they are. I'm just thinking it would be nice if they could say "Thanks for asking, but Ernie and Bert are not a gay couple -- but our new characters Reginald and Larry are." Just so it wouldn't sound as much like "Gay guys on Sesame Street? LOL, no way!" as the current statement.

As for this:

you can't stop people from taking something away from the experience of knowing these characters and being inspired by them. That part of a character belongs to the audience, not you.

An old discussion on this forum swayed my opinion on that some years ago. I think the general public should know that Bert and Ernie are officially not a couple, just as I think they should know Yoda is not a Muppet. But at this point, people are going to talk about them being a couple no matter what anyone says, so whatever. And I guess the New Yorker cover is more a joke than a serious statement, so we shouldn't get too worked up about it.

Jamie

I've always seen the reaction to the nature of Bert & Ernie's relationship as a true litmus test for tolerance.

Sesame Street's cast is rooted in abstract characters and personalities. It is up to the individual to see their lives reflected in the program. I'm sure Bert & Ernie to represent a couple to some kids with same-sex parents and that's okay. That doesn't mean that other families have to see it the same way. In fact, it's imperative that everyone have their own connections to the characters.

I remember hearing about some flippant, "What do you think?" response by Frank Oz that has led some to believe that the fellas are more than friends. However, it shouldn't be the place for Oz or Sesame Workshop to declare that to be true. It's unnecessary to define the extent of their friendship anyway. The most genuine response is that they are just puppets.

So, yeah. I really do like the New Yorker cover. It's subtle and tasteful and it speaks to me. I'm okay with those who respectfully disagree with me on that point. I'm just not okay when people get upset about it.

Why should it matter?

/my 2cents

Peter Savieri

It'll probably never go away. As much as it annoys me people need to make lifelong love between a couple of friends into a gay thing (it would be a sorrier world if straight men couldn't get along and live together), it's also real cute to me to think of them as gay.

Not sexy gay, mind you... did you know they're just puppets? Oh you did? Ok.

Mary A

Personally, I've always perceived Bert and Ernie as brothers. When I was a kid, all the evidence to the contrary just went completely over my head for whatever reason. As an adult, I'm aware of that evidence--e.g. Bert has a twin brother whom Ernie has never met. Nevertheless, on a subconscious/intuitive level, my original perception always wins out.

Of course, being brothers wouldn't preclude them from also being gay (I have two gay brothers myself), but one hopes it would prevent them from being a couple.

With that said, given the relative paucity of positive gay role models on television, I completely understand why LGBT individuals, couples, etc. would identify with Bert and Ernie. And while I try to be respectful of that interpretation, whenever I see something like that New Yorker cover, all I can think is, "Puppet incest! Ugh, creepy!"

So when the Workshop says things like, "They're puppets that don't have a sexual orientation," I think what they're trying to say, albeit in an awkward and confusing way, is that they don't want to invalidate any individual interpretations. Granted, it would be more helpful if they would just say that, but even that could get twisted unrecognizably in the media, so I'm willing to cut them a little slack.

Ceris

I would like to concur that the phrases of "they are just puppets" is very disingenuous.

I don't really remember how I viewed Bert & Ernie when I was younger. But to me they've always been a couple. A couple of friends. A very long lasting, supportive relationship between two male characters.

Who also happen to be very youthful. I don't know what age they are supposed to be, but like so many other characters on the Street, they don't age. And to me, that's more of a reason for them not to have sexual relations. They don't appear to be of an age where that would be a reality for them. They do appear to be of an age where they express likes, dislikes, appreciations and attractions for things a people. But they don't appear to have grown or matured or developed over the years. Whereas, the human characters can and do represent that. Hence those characters having relationships, marriages, families, etc.

It would be very powerful for Sesame to have some human relationships that represent more types of families, rather than avoiding the question year after year. If that happened, perhaps people would stop picking on these two felted characters with whom they happen to identify.

Mary A

I disagree that saying "they are puppets that do not have a sexual orientation" is disingenuous. I think it was an ineffective rhetorical choice, but it is the literal truth: Bert and Ernie are puppets, puppets are inanimate objects, and inanimate objects do not have sexual orientation. I think part of the confusion comes from the habit of using the words "puppet" and "character" interchangeably. Puppets, being inanimate objects, do not have sexual orientation. Characters, on the other hand, DO have sexual orientation, although the audience does not always need to be aware of what that orientation might be.

Instead of saying "Bert and Ernie are puppets that do not have a sexual orientation," I wish they had said, "Like approximately 1% of the population, Bert and Ernie's sexual orientation is asexual." Then they could explain how asexuality is a normal, but rare and often misunderstood, variant of human sexuality, and that there are people in the world--real live human beings who exist below the waist and everything--who identify as asexual.

I don't know if that would be more effective or seem less disingenuous, but at least it would be educational.

Staci

If Bert and Ernie ARE a couple, they are BRILLIANT for sleeping in separate beds. No covers-stealing!

[The Bert and Ernie thing again](#)

6/28/13 | 15201.12-15

Dan!, Esq.

They are clearly male characters, so saying they don't exist below the waste is really dumb. It also ignores the many instances in which they do exist below the waist.

Matthew

I totally get the point you're making, and I know you meant to say waist, but all I can think of is whether or not Oscar exists below the waste.

Joe



[Scott]

JULY

[Jason Segel at Comic-Con](#)

7/7/13 | 15222.2-13

Peter Savieri

If you go there, go pester him with Muppet questions like "Hey Jason, do you still wear that t-shirt with the illustration of Animal crying on it that Peter Savieri left for you at the production office after he painted the Miss Piggy portrait for your film?"

Nothing too specific. Just a suggestion...

Quinn

Are there pictures of that illustration?

And can you shave that into my chest hair? Because I just think the 3-D effect would add an extra...something. Hair, probably.

Also, nipples.

Or 1.6 nipples.

Joe

<http://www.toughpigs.com/toughpigs-art-muppet-tears/>

Quinn

Oh. Oh. Oh.

I remember.

And now I'm sad.

Thanks.

Peter Savieri

Sad? Chin up li'l fella. No more Quinn tears.

Quinn

Chins up, thank you very much. I want all of my chins to be happy.

Peter Savieri

Uhm... that's racist.

Quinn

Not if I want them to be happy....

Peter Savieri

Hmmmmm

Quinn

Don't tell me that I can't wish Those People (My Chins) to be happy.

Peter Savieri

3 words: Uncle Chin's Cabin.

[*Isha*]

[Contest: Write a Dark Crystal book](#)

7/8/13 | 15182.16

Andrew Leal

Hmm. DARK CRYSTAL isn't my favorite (I'm with Tom) and I never liked all the Skek-Ayukadoobydoo style naming and mumbo jumbo. But man, this could be my only chance to write DIARY OF A WIMPY CHAMBERLAIN.

[*Matthew*]

[D23 2013](#)

7/9/13 | 15185.5-6

Matthew

We have confirmation of our first official Muppet experience at the Expo!

Disney Consumer Products is holding a number of exhibits for their various new items, and one listed is What Makes a Puppet a Muppet?, "which will help fans learn what it takes to create a Muppets "plush" and then create your own."

Ken

"What Makes a Puppet a Muppet?"

A Disney copyright?

[*Scott*]

[Muppets Most Wanted merchandise](#)

7/12/13 | 15234.2-5

Quinn

I just purred. Out loud. At 5:57 AM.

Scott

I heard you from here.

Quinn

Morning, Tiger.

RRAOROWEORWROARARRRRRRR

That's kind of how it went.

Martha

You know, I wondered about the disturbance in the force that Friday. This explains it.

[*Beth*]

[Comic book fans](#)

7/15/13 | 9185.4505

Quinn

Patriarchy's the Worst.

I blame women.

[Wonder Woman](#)

7/17/13 | 10920.534-39

Scott

This is more like it. Way more like it.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x-4Fqejt83s>

[*A fan-made Wonder Woman film.*]

Tom

Awesome, awesome, AWESOME.

See, Hollywood? It's not that hard! How come a fan film can easily produce something that you claim is too difficult to be made into a feature? You second-guess and reject Joss Whedon, and greenlight David E. Kelley, who of course produces a train wreck?

Look at this! It's beautiful and awesome and SO simple to do right.

I hope the trained chimps at Warner Bros. see this and get a clue.

P.S. My apologies to trained chimps for the above statement.

Mike C

The trained chimps take no offense, and offer you a copy of the complete works of Shakespeare, volume one.

[Cathy]

[The Random Thread of Randomness](#)

7/18/13 | 9511.9688-95

Robyn

(We currently have 3 active threads with brackets in the title.)

Ryan R

(Do Canadians call these brackets? Here in the States we call them parentheses.) [So what do you call these?]

Robyn

I was always taught they were called brackets, but I'm sure us Canadians also call them parentheses . I also call [these] brackets.

Jes

I call foul on your brackets!

Robyn

Blame the District School Board of Niagara, they told me they were brackets.

Here they are round brackets.

Robyn

{What about braces?}

Erik

We call them "suspenders" in the US.

Kim McF

I had suspenders on my teeth for eight years.

[Erik]

[Music stuck in your head Right Now](#)

7/19/13 | 9639.3265-66

Macy

I've had the "Lime in the Coconut" song stuck in my head for a day or two now for some reason. Somebody help me, please!

Matthew

If you call me in the morning, I'll tell you what to do.

[*Martha*]

Superman

7/22/13 | 10368.1240-45

Mike C

Yeah, no. No numbers in the titles. Just do it the Indiana Jones way: Indiana Jones, and the thing of the thing. That way people know what they're getting out of the box.

Scott

Batman and the Temporary Tattoo

Joe

Batman: Out of the Box

Scott

And the prequel... Batman: Mint On Card

Joe

Batman: Used on eBay

[*Cathy*]

A man named Muppet

7/22/13-15249.13-22

Matt D

I hope they name the Royal Baby "Muppet"

Kim McF

I hope they name him "Goshposh."

Joe

I hope they name him "Humperdink".

Ryan R

I hope they name him ☿.

Joe

Prince the Artist Formerly Known as Prince?

Ryan R

Exactly! (The image showed up, right?)

Joe

Yep! I just needed to see the name typed out in full like that.

Ryan R

PTAFKAP for short.

Joe

P[♂] for really short.

[Misread Thread Titles](#)

7/28/13 | 9486.1676-78

Matt Wilkie

Everyone can guess what I keep misreading "Kitties" as, right? Like I don't need to type it out, do I? Okay, cool.

Ken

Kites?

AUGUST

[Happy Birthday, Martha!](#)

8/4/13 | 15270-30

Peter Savieri

So I guess my birthday present to you (aside from the poem) is a lot of rambling on about accents. Happy birthday!

Martha

Dude, I love talking accents. Best birthday present ever!

If you ever hit Boston, the Boston TPs will have to meet up with you so you can compare our accents.

Cathy

You Bostonians are weird.

WEIRD.

Ryan R

Hey, everyone, I think Cathy is Sam the Eagle!

Beth

Does that mean she has Frank Oz's hand up her.... oh, dear. That sounds uncomfortable.

On the plus side, maybe he'll do an interview with Tough Pigs now!

[*Martha*]

[Muppet Dog Clothing](#)

8/5/13 | 15026.36-37

Andrew Leal

This reminds me of some of the indignities to which our rabbit Carrots was subjected. Beyond naming him Carrots.

Ryan R

I suppose there are worse things than being named after a favorite food. I wouldn't mind if my parents had named me KFC Famous Bowl Roe.

[*Matthew*]

Julia



Matthew

Still beats The Adventures of Julia and Lew Zealand in Grouchland.

Julia



Anthony

So here's sci-fi novelist and Star Trek writer David Gerrold on why he thinks this is a shady endeavor.

<https://www.facebook.com/david.gerrold/posts/10201062858265973>

Also, I really want to hear the story he alludes to in the comments. It wouldn't surprise at all if he had some sort of interaction with JHC where they hired him for a job that went nowhere.

Scott

What are you talking about? The Henson Company makes only smart business decisions that they always follow through on.

Matthew

DEM SKRUMPS IS FINANCIALLY SOUND!!!

[My Muppets Show App](#)

8/10/13

Dan!, Esq.

I have a love hate relationship with the made up characters. On one hand, they are fun and look Muppetty. On the other hand, why? The characters that feel the most rewarding to get are the actual Muppets. Plus, with such a wealth of characters, what need is there for random no names to fill the stage. What is the point of making a character who looks kinda sorta like Sweetums when you can just use Sweetums?

Ryan R

But there's no existing Muppet character whose trademark is playing pots and pans! Or clapping. And I think Joe may be onto something about the multiple character thing... It would feel too strange if we got two Miss Piggys for our stage, but somehow it's fine to have two Durwoods.

Joe

There's never enough Durwoods.

Matt Wilkie

IT'S DARREN!!!

[Joe]

[Puppet storage racks](#)

8/14/13 | 15289.13-14

Kim McF

And on a totally unrelated note, last weekend my mother came over, and after I demoed my new puppets for her we watched Memento.

Ryan R

Or as Guy Pearce would tell it: Last weekend we watched Memento, and before that I demoed my new puppets for her, and before that my mother came over.

[*Kim McF*]

[The Muppet Movie on Blu-ray](#)

8/19/13 | 15138.140-41

Peter Savieri

53,289.

*hairs in Orson Welles' beard.

Joe

And 27,433 of them are named Rosebud.

[*Robyn*]

[Muppet Movie soundtrack rerelease](#)

8/20/13 | 15157.56-62

Dan!, Esq.

I highly doubt they would combine music. It's far more common with films due to costs and sales expectations.

Scott

I hope we get a CD that goes from The First Time It Happens to Shiver My Timbers. For the juxtaposed sexual connotation.

Ryan R

How about "Love Led Us Here: The Happiness Hotel?"

Dan!, Esq.

Couldn't We Ride and Boom Shakalaka?

Scott

Cabin Fever: Steppin Out With a Star

Matthew

Professional Pirate and Piggy's Fantasy

OHMYGOD! That's it! Tim Curry dubbed Nicky Holiday's singing voice!

[Tough Pigs dreams](#)**8/22/13 | 9244.1702-05****Scott**

Martin P. Robinson picked Marty Robinson up from the airport. Martin P. Robinson got in the drivers seat of a convertible, while Marty Robinson put his luggage in the trunk and hopped in the backseat. They drove away from the curb.

Julia

That's beautiful.

Carolyn

Before I realized what thread I'd clicked on I thought this was some sort of a word problem/riddle.

Ryan R

It's not a riddle. It's poetry.

[Isha]

[My Muppets Show App](#)**8/25/13 | 15179.178****Scott**

Every time I click on Kermit, he calls me a ho. But he's so pleasant about it!

Jog

I love that my CD collection finally looks "complete" now.



Of course I still need *John Denver and the Muppets*. And *Ol' Brown Ears* (who doesn't?). And both *Muppet Hits* volumes, but they're kinda represented on that 25 Years Anniversary CD.

Muppets Take Manhattan. Now there's one I FINALLY want a CD release of.

Joe

No CD collection will ever be complete without *Muppets Take Manhattan*.

Sigh.

Jog

True. But at least I've got "The Best of the Muppets, featuring The Worst of the Muppets and also Ashanti".

And "The Muppet Show: 25 Years Of Slapping The Same Stock Photo On Everything"

Joe

I know it's Snyder's movie in the end, but it really burns my britches to hear that Nolan was essentially ignored regarding such an important part of the movie. Yeah, Snyder gets his veto power and all, but why wouldn't you trust the guy who made The Dark Knight?

Scott

Ego.

Ryan R

Nah, Ego is a Marvel character.



Scott

Does he fight Mogo?

Ryan R

Wow, Ego vs. Mogo would make so much sense. I have to think some writer has pitched it before. Mogo would win.

Scott

Information you probably don't care about: Mogo is set to make his* video game debut this week in DC Universe Online.

* Do planets have a gender? Gaea is traditionally female.

Joe

If planets have gender, how do they mate?

Scott



Matt Wilkie

That's a Big Bang.

[Joe]

[Jim Henson biography for grown-ups](#)

8/29/13 | 12920.77-81

Kenny

Got my paws on a pre-copy (nyaaah!). Read a little Mon., a little Wed., and the rest over 10 hours today. And I love it too. Can't wait to get...the official copy, with the pictures and the cover and whatnot.

Ken

The book comes with a Whatnot?

Jog

Comme ça.



[Joe]

[Best way past a guard or receptionist?](#)

8/29/13 | 15314.1-17

Matt

The Muppets have great skills at getting past uncooperative gatekeepers -- from security guards to pushy receptionists. What's the best technique used by the Muppets to get past a guard or a receptionist?

Here are some Muppet tactics that immediately come to mind:

Use a fan to spread fur, feathers, and Muppet dander on Miss Tracy to see Lew Lord (as seen in The Muppet Movie).

Disguise as the Pizza Twins to get past Henderson the guard and gain access to the Mallory Gallery (as seen in The Great Muppet Caper).

Kermit's confident "Boffo-Socko" agent routine to get past the receptionist to see Leonard Winesop about Manhattan Melodies (as seen in The Muppets Take Manhattan).

Have Animal push over the turnstile and run to get past Quentin Fitzwaller and gain access to Disney World (as seen in The Muppets at Walt Disney World).

Use Muppet Lab's Muppet Labs Mind Mist and/or Invisibility Spray to get past the C.O.V.N.E.T. guards (as seen in Muppets From Space).

Simply encounter a hard-of-hearing security guard to gain access to Bitterman Bank and Development (as seen in It's a Very Merry Muppet Christmas Movie).

Have the guards close their eyes and say the magic words, "owah tafoo lyam," four times (as seen in The Muppets' Wizard of Oz).

Convince TSA Officer Meanie that he can get on Santa's "nice" list if he lets you through security (as seen in Letters to Santa: A Muppets Christmas).

Two words: Muppet Man (as seen in The Muppets).

Jog

If I were a Muppet, I'd either eat the receptionist, blow him up, or throw penguins at him.

[Ceris]

SEPTEMBER

Dark Crystal Perfume

9/3/13 | 15320.1-13

Joe

Yep, Skeksis-themed perfume is totally a thing now.

<http://www.toughpigs.com/skeksis-perfume/>

Meagan

Every time I watch The Dark Crystal (I'm up to a total of 1 time!), I think "Wow, those guys must smell really good"

Ken

I'd rather smell like a Gelfling or a Pod Person than a Skeksis.

Since Henson owns these puppets, they should do commercials for them. They could parody the Grover "Smell Like a Monster" skit, so you can "smell like a Skeksis".

Mary A

"Look at your evil counterpart, then look at me..."

Jog

"Anything is possible when your man smells like a Skeksis and not like a Mystic. I'm on a Landstrider."

Ryan R

They've also made Labyrinth perfume. So when do we get Storyteller perfume? I'd love a fragrance that smells like the Storyteller's dog, or one made of devil's feet, or one inspired by John Hurt's prosthetic nose.

Misread Thread Titles

9/3/13 | 9486.1865-89

Joe

Beaker Plays Piano Dressed as Rowlf

Ken

I want to hear Beaker sing "Cottleston Pie".

Ryan R

Just sing this out loud:

Mee-mee-mee, mee-mee-mee, mee-mee-mee mee

Mee mee mee mee-mee mee mee-mee mee

Mee mee mee mee-mee mee Mee mee-mee,
"Mee-mee-mee, mee-mee-mee, mee-mee-mee mee!"

Mee-mee-mee, mee-mee-mee, mee-mee-mee mee
Mee mee mee mee-mee, mee mee-mee mee Mee
Mee mee mee mee-mee mee mee mee-mee,
Mee-mee-mee, mee-mee-mee, mee-mee-mee mee-meeeeeee

(And so on.)

[*Robyn*]

New Fans and Old Fans

9/3/13 | 15288.34-41

Meagan

I babysit a 4 year old who calls every Sesame Street character "Elmo". I wore my Cookie Monster shirt, and he pointed at it saying "Elmo". He has a bib with Big Bird on it, and when I asked him who it was, he said "Elmo". I have yet to ask him about a Muppet Show character. Although if he can't differentiate between characters in the same show, I doubt he'll be able to tell a difference between puppets from different productions, especially since there are adults incapable of doing so.

Matthew

I wonder if he thinks the show is called "Elmo." It may be part of his confusion.

Meagan

I don't think so because if you say "Sesame Street", he'll know what you're talking about, but if you point to Ernie and say "Ernie", he'll pause and then point at it himself and say "Elmo". The moral of the story is we need more Bert and Ernie. And less Elmo.

Do it for the children.

Matt Wilkie

When my cousin was little, she called everybody on "Barney" Beebop, the yellow dinosaur. I tried to correct her once and her grandmother said "She can call them whatever she wants." Sometimes people just let kids be kids and let them grow up and learn things over time.

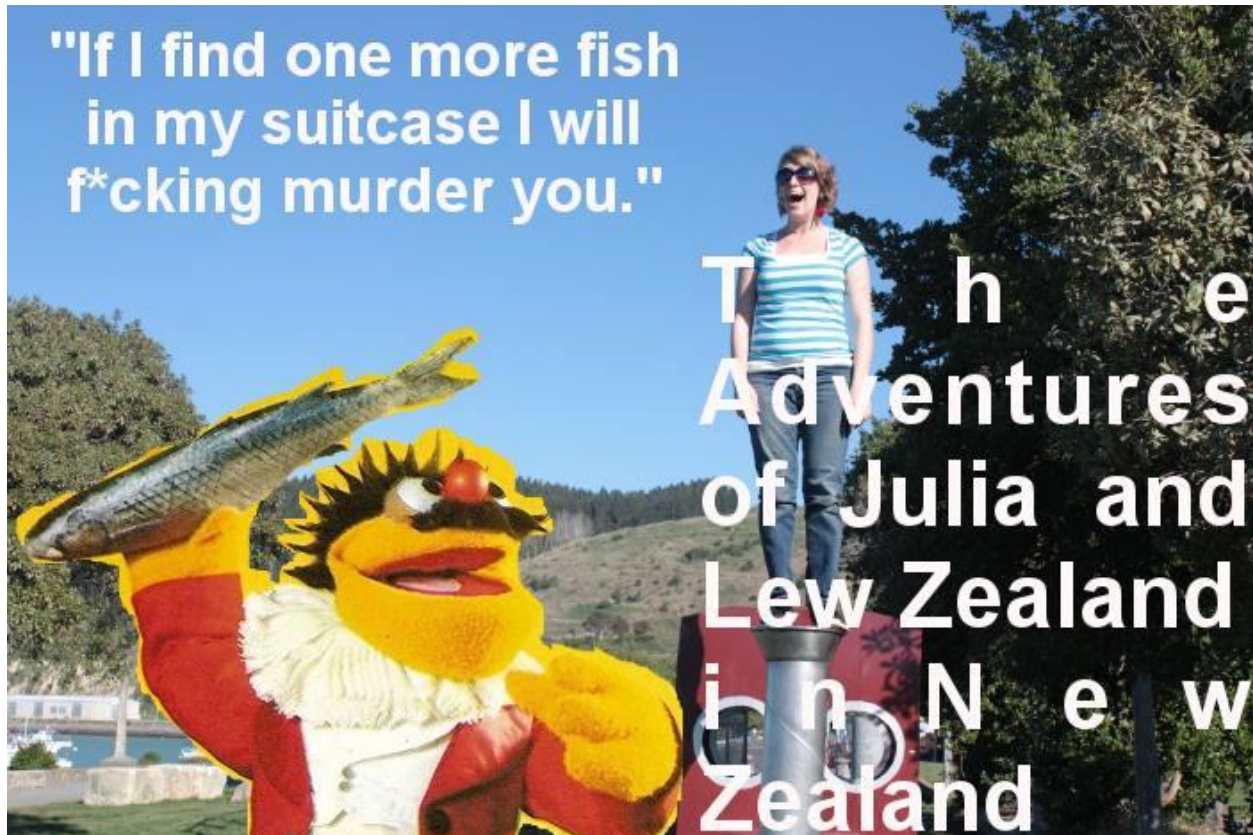
Meagan

The yellow dinosaur is actually BJ. Then the green one is Baby Bop.

Matt Wilkie

LET ME CALL THEM WHATEVER I WANT!

Julia



Anthony

You're so harsh with him. What did Lew Zealand ever do to you?

Mike C

He threw me away.....

....and then I came back to him.

[Abigail]

Tom

Funny enough, I just finished reading the official 40th anniversary book, and one page has a photo that's captioned, "An early Muppet called the Beautiful Day Monster," and it is honest to godness a picture of the early Cookie Monster with a mouthful of teeth.

I don't know how no one making an official book couldn't have caught such an obvious mistake.

Jog

Not just that. Neither Cookie Monster or Beautiful Day Monster appeared in Time Piece, like the caption says.

Ryan R

They must have been on the crew, then. Beautiful Day Monster smashed the cameras, and Cookie Monster ate the microphones.

Tom

I love the notion that Muppets work behind the scenes until (or unless) they become famous stars.

Maybe Professor Hastings works in Sesame Workshop's Research & Development department now.

[The Random Thread of Randomness](#)

9/9/13 | 9511.9790-9800

Anthony

Speaking of Norse mythology, that reminds me of a stupid joke I wrote the other day -

Knock knock.

Joe

Who's there?

Anthony

Thor

Joe

Thor who?

Anthony

Thoriginal 1975 clip of "Fur."

Joe

Knock Knock

Anthony

Who's there?

Joe

Om nom nom

Anthony

Om nom nom who?

Joe

Om nom nominated for the yearbook

Anthony

Nailed it!

[Joe, Meagan]

[Making of the Croonchy Stars Logo](#)

9/12/13 | 15329.1-9

Mat

I remember some time ago, I mentioned that a Graphic Design professor of mine designed the logo for the Croonchy Stars cereal.

There's actually a very interesting story behind the design of the box, which you'll see in these three articles. I don't know if you guys have seen these already given they were written back in 2011.

<http://pricednostalgia.com/2010/11/unmasking-the-designer-behind-the-muppets-swedish-chefs-croonchy-stars-cereal-box/>

<http://pricednostalgia.com/2011/01/stephen-longo-gives-an-inside-look-into-the-creation-of-the-muppets-croonchy-stars-swedish-chef-cereal-box/>

<http://pricednostalgia.com/2011/03/muppets-croonchy-stars-swedish-chef-cereal-box-logo-concept-art-inkings/>

Last Tuesday, Professor Longo showed us his concept sketches of the final logo that are shown in the third article, and told the story of how he designed it, and that he was given the silkscreen box that was used in the commercials, and still has it today.

He also mentioned that a collector came to him offering to buy the sketches for \$17,000, but he refused since he never gives away or throws out his concept work. One can only imagine how much the box must be worth.

Isha

Professor Longo creates Logos?

Did Longo make a Lego Logo? And for how much would a Longo Lego Logo go?

Mike C

Longo's Lego logo would go for gobs and gobs of golden gorgonzola.

Meagan

Longo's Lego Logo would at least go for a large lot of loot.

Mike C

A large lot of loot? Lies! All Lies!

Isha

Longo's mega lego logo is loco!

Mat

Well now I gotta ask if he's done anything for Lego. Thanks a lot guys.

Mike C

Lour Lelcome.

[Erik]

3 Matts

9/14/13 | 15335.1-33

Scott

I can't be the only one who's confused by having 3 Matts on the forum.

Matthew (matt88mph)

Matt (Mtthwas)

MattWilkie

And only one of you guys are on the cheat sheet:

<http://www.toughpigs.com/forummembers/>

Tell us about yourselves, Matts!

Mat (LimeTH)

I'm not a Matt. I'm a Mat. I feel special.

To reprise an earlier joke, all we need now is a Mattt and a Matttt.

Seriously, why even need the second T? It's redundant!

Matt Wilkie

And repetitive!

Matt Wilkie

And redundant!

Joe

And rutabaga!

Matt Wilkie

And a roomba!

Matthew

And a rumba!

Isha

Anne Arundel!

Meagan

And ranunculaceous! And recrudescence! And other words on this list of unusual words beginning with R!: <http://phrontistery.info/r.html>

Mat

And repetitive!

Joe

Uh.... RIPPATOTAPUS!

Ryan R

What, what, hmm?

New Fans and Old Fans

9/15/13 | 15288.54-55

Carolyn

My grandma thought Spongebob Squarepants (at least in beanie form) was a Muppet and got me one for Christmas once. "I know you like Muppets, so I got you a Squarepockets." I actually hated Spongebob at the time, but kept the beanie because...Grandma.

Colton



3 Matts

9/15/13 | 15335.12-15

Matt

Hi, Matt! You're a real person now! We should totally update the cheat sheet at some point, for those named Matt, and for those not named Matt.

Isha

I think we did that a little while back on a voluntary basis. Some people wanted to live in 2008 forever.

Scott

I have no memory of 2008. Is that the year the adults saw Snuffy?

Matthew

I think it's the year Elmo went to the bathroom.

Would you purchase a Steve Whitmire CD?

9/16/13 | 15337.10-11

Ceris

I hadn't even considered a narration CD or some sort of thing like that!

How about a narration of a short story that involved all sorts of characters (different voices) and included a song or two?

With the bell to tell us when to turn the page!

Meagan

A children's book version of Muppet Christmas Carol narrated by Steve Whitmire, in which he reprises his role of Betina (Belinda?) Cratchit, and "When Love is Gone" is omitted from the final release. With the phrase "Light the lamp, not the rat" prompting us to turn the page.

I'd read that.

Jareth Candles

9/19/13 | 15306.5

Lara

Blessed are those whom Jareth gives 13 hours.

Yea, tho I walk through the Bog of Eternal Stench, I shall fear no bubble. For thou art with me.

[Joe]

Julia

Today the husband of the couple we're currently lodging was driving us to New Plymouth, and after a long bout of silence in the car, out of the blue, he suddenly goes, "Mahna Mahna." I then proceed in scaring him shitless by screaming "DO DO DO DO DO" right back at him. He gave me a crazy look, to which my friend told him, "You don't understand. She really likes Muppets."

Joe

What the hell did he expect would happen when he said, "Mahna Mahna"???

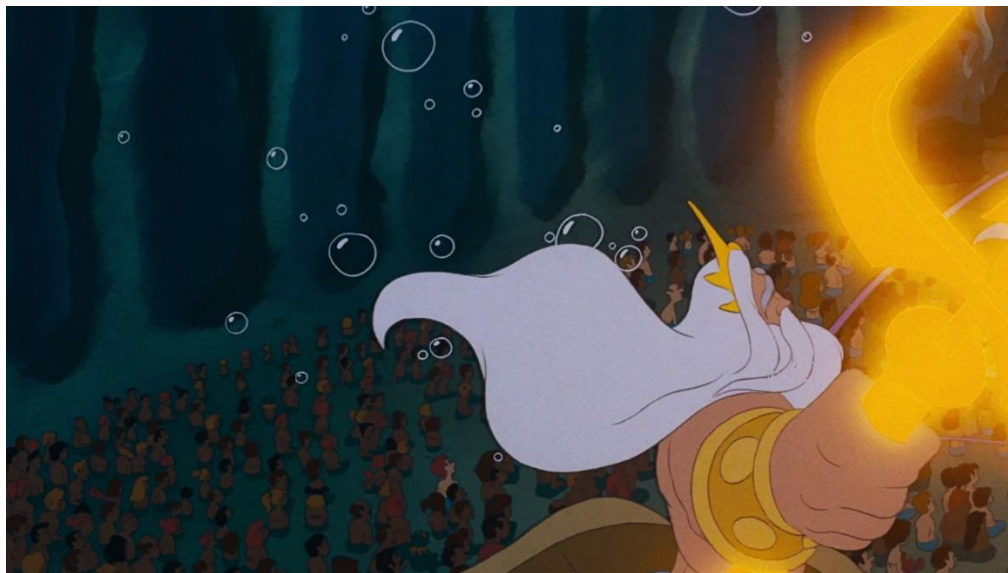
[The Little Mermaid cameo](#)

Justin T

I just came across an article on Yahoo that says that during King Triton's big entrance in the Disney film The Little Mermaid, there are cameos from Mickey, Donald, Goofy, and apparently Kermit the Frog. Has anyone ever noticed this before? I'm certainly going to pop in the DVD when I get home to see if I can spot him.

Scott

Oh, wow! It's true! I figured everyone knew about Mickey, Donald, and Goofy in that scene by now. But, here's a screenshot from the Blu-ray via disneyscreencaps.com and it's pretty clearly Kermit.



Ryan R

Wow is a good word for it! I have to wonder whose idea that was... Were they already talking about a possible sale of the Muppets to Disney when the movie was being made? It seems too early for it to have been widely known about...

Mike C

More likely it was a play on the fact that a sale's been in negotiations. Or it could have been an in-joke associated with the Mickey cameos. (Someone in the office said none of these characters could attend an underwater play, it's a shame we don't own Kermit the Frog.)

Scott

I'm guessing it's just an artist who likes Muppets. Not everything is about corporate synergy.

Ryan R

It's just funny that it's some Disney characters plus Kermit. Why not the Pillsbury Doughboy, or Popeye, or Garfield?

Scott

Because Kermit is better than those jerks, obviously.

[*Ceris*]

[Have you met another Tough Pig face to face?](#)

9/30/13 | 15361.29-31

Ken

Hey, who voted for "No, I don't want to meet anybody."?!

Matthew

I want to find out who and meet the hell out of them.

Julia

I have this vision of you hiding in their bushes and popping out at them one morning, thus shattering their dream of never meeting any of us.

[*Beth*]

OCTOBER

[\(Jurassic Park\) For Julia](#)

10/2/13 | 15071.43-46

Joe

If they remake Jurassic Park, I hope it stars these guys.



Ryan R

Man, Steven Spielberg loves dinosaurs. He produced We're Back and The Land Before Time, he made two Jurassic Park movies, and he directed Harrison Ford in Kingdom of the Crystal Skull.

[Joe]

[Truffle Shuffle Fraggles shirts](#)

10/3/13 | 15370.5-10

Robyn

A Fraggles Goonie crossover!?! Fraggles never say die!

Kim McF

Except Boober. He says die a lot.

Julia

I'd love a Goonies/Fraggle crossover. Gobo would definitely be Mikey and Red would be Mouth.

Joe

Large Marvin would be Chunk. Junior Gorg would be Sloth. Joey Pants would still be one of the Fratelli brothers.

Robyn

Junior would totally be Sloth! But instead of him wearing a Superman shirt it'd be a radish symbol.

Julia

Dear Henson Company, here is the plot of that Fraggle Rock movie we're always hearing about. You're welcome.

[Joe]

[Muppet character encyclopedia](#)**10/3/13 | 15368.26-28****Mitchell**

Does Jim Henson: The Biography cover all the works of Jim's life? I have yet to finish it, (still in the Sam & Friends era) I'm hoping it's not only Sesame and Fraggle stuff, which is what it was in the book trailer.

Ryan R

Strangely enough, most of The Biography's 600 pages are about Jim's 1960s commercials for Kraml milk.

[Tom]

[Mother Afraid of Muppets](#)**10/4/13 | 15373.1-9****Julia**

Huh.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2442334/Crippling-fear-MUPPETS-Automatonophobia-leaves-mother-37-struggling-buy-toys-daughter.html>

(Article about a lady in the UK who struggles with "a crippling fear of characters from The Muppets, Sesame Street and Fraggle Rock.")

Mr. the Dan

I wonder how she does with The Hoobs?

Joe

With a paralyzing case of fear and anxiety, probably.

Just like the rest of us.

Ryan R

How do you say "Oh, SNAP!" in Hoob language?

[Lara]

[The Random Thread of Randomness](#)

10/5/13 | 9511.9872

Robyn

I keep meaning to share this conversation I had with my 8 year old:

Robby: "Mom, what is a telemarketer?"

Me: "Someone who is trying to sell you something over the phone."

Robby: "Why doesn't Grover try to do that with Kermit?"

Then it turned into a whole discussion about what what we would do if Grover came to our house and tried to sell us items that we didn't need.

[New York Comic Con 2013](#)

10/5/13 | 15374.4-7

Jog

So do they sell Jim Henson's biography variants with you guys [Joe and Ryan] photoshopped on the cover at Comic Con? I want three, for randomness' sake.

Joe

I didn't even think of that. I might have to mock up a new dustjacket for mine...

Ryan R

Just draw us on the dust jacket you already have. I can loan you a crayon.

Robyn

This all seems pointless considering dust jackets wont be needed by 2015.

[Scott]

[August/September Forum Stats](#)

10/8/13 | 15378.10-11

Peter Savieri

I'm down by 11 in September!

Joe

I guess we didn't talk about Miss Piggy's ear placement much last month.

YOU SEXY MUPPET!

10/12/13 | 15390.1-34

Peter Savieri

I was going to call this thread TOUCHED BY A MUPPET to mirror the other thread TOUCHED BY A MUPPET FAN (which I first read in a saucy way, me being me... but I felt the same way about Touched By An Angel), then I decided to be serious and call it FORMATIVE SEXUAL MAGNETISM IN JIM HENSON'S CREATIONS, but since that made me totally lose my... um... enthusiasm... I just went with the title above.

PAGING DOCTOR FREUD!!!

Basically what I want to spark you all to do is look back on your experiences with Muppet or Creature Shop or any other Henson creations, and find those weird nebulous childhood impressions when you felt an odd spark of something from a character.

Now I'm not implying, or even hoping, that we all m*****d furiously to the Muppets. That thought grosses even ME out! I'm talking about those moments when something odd fires in your childhood brain, that doesn't yet have a context, but hints at a mysterious world.

Jareth's crotch in Labyrinth would be a perfect example if he was a puppet character, but as far as I know even his crotch was 100% Bowie, so a better example might be Lydia the Tattooed Lady or Hans My Hedgehog when he turns from animal to man (this fitting because he is played in part through puppetry/costume).

The connections between our childhood and adult selves are absolutely fascinating to me, and vital to us understanding ourselves and each other, so this sort of exploration can really unite the continuum of our formative years, I think. So as funny or weird as it may seem, I'd love to really go somewhere with this thread.

To an asylum, most likely...

I'll start with 3 realisations of my own (none of which, amazingly, involve Miss Piggy). They're all, coincidentally, from The Dark Crystal:

1 - I felt a sensual kinship with Jen when he was playing the panpipes nude. Like I wanted to be him in that situation particularly, or hang out with him in that garden and be all naked too. Not a sexual feeling, as I was a little kid, but a sort of conspiratorial thrill at the idea we could run around like that together and be so free in that natural world.

2 - I felt a weird sort of magnetism toward the Garthim Master, which I think was a mixture of a media variation of Stockholm Syndrome (feeling attracted to the scary force - like why people terrified of

horror films become horror fans later, and the characters that distressed them end up providing comfort), and an attraction to what my childhood gay brain recognised as the alpha male of the pack. He seemed strong and assertive, while the other Skeksis were more frail and mercurial.

3 - There was always something oddly intimate about the way Kira gasps and throws her head back when she's stabbed. I later realised it was the almost orgasmic sensuality of it. That combined with the violence of murder, another mysterious and powerful concept for a kid to process, made this moment strangely mesmerizing for little me.

Now it's your turn. Dig deep!

Robyn

I've been thinking it over, here's what I came up with.

1. As a kid I'd put a lot of thought into what male character I liked best on The Muppet Show, and really it was my way of figuring out what qualities I liked a man, for when I was old enough to be interested in dating and boys.

I realized pretty early on that I always go for someone who can make me laugh, or is maybe a little awkward and strange. I think see those as good qualities because of characters like Fozzie or Gonzo.

2. I had a major need to go on an adventure or some sort of quest. I think that had a lot to do with Labyrinth, I wanted to be Sarah, I wanted to experience a new place and travel into the unknown, and overcome some sort of challenge, and come out winning. That had a lot to do with not having an confidence in myself as a kid, I wanted to do something challenging to prove to myself that if I had to, I could do it.

Carolyn

Robbie from Dinosaurs is the very first thing that popped into my head.

Isha

I had a big crush on Robbie too. I especially liked the way he walked.

Also (I've never told anyone this before!) there was something both frightening and sexual to me about the episode of Fraggle Rock where Doc makes a plaster mold of himself for Mrs Ardath,

Carolyn

There used to be a fellow here named Byron who had quite a thing for Janice...

Peter Savieri

With her bedroom no-eyes, I'm not surprised.

Kim McF

I never had crushes on Muppets. I loved 'em as characters, but sexy? Well...let's just say that I imagined that Muppets liked Muppets.

I do remember seeing the Sly Stallone episode when I was a kid and being greatly amused by how Scooter reacted when Sly gave a boxing demo. He looked as crushed out as any of the girls, and it didn't occur to me to think of that as odd at all.

Ceris

So, I've been thinking about this for a bit, because I think there are a lot of these moments, but we don't necessarily recognize them because they touch such a deep place in ourselves that we just feel something and don't know what that something is.

So here goes...

1) Miss Piggy. I learned so much from her - subliminally. How to let a guy know you care. How to flirt, how to show vulnerability, how to apologize. All of that stuff. That passion was important and feeling appreciation for talent and beauty was a good thing and it didn't necessarily mean that you no longer loved your significant other. That flirting was a good thing and feeling good about yourself was something you needed to work at - every day.

2) What excitement for something felt like - in the pit of your stomach or whatever that place is. - From Bert & Ernie and whenever anyone made Kermit frustrated. The thrill of those perfect moments between Jim and Frank gave me a feeling that I didn't really understand until the fluttering nerves of that first romantic kiss. This is how I knew that pushing someone's buttons - out of love - can be a really enjoyable experience.

3) What real romance means. The wave of joy you feel when someone you care for returns those feelings is the sense that I always got when Piggy and Kermit had a fight and then had to make up. That idea that you could be angry with someone you loved, but then get over it, by talking or seeking forgiveness. It made total sense even though I didn't fully understand what was going on with those two. There was (and still is) always a physical and emotional response that I sensed when they had a moment. It's how you work on a relationship.

Add to that Janice & Floyd and Gonzo & Camilla. These couples never seem to have any real problems and they seem to match each other and support each other. Also, how cool Zoot seemed to be when Janice started dating Floyd instead of him. But, I'm actually not sure he noticed that at all.

Dave H

All so damn fascinating. I'll confess: When I was a wee young lad, becoming more and more curious about girls, I wanted to do my own study of what they looked like. I was four, so I had a very primitive understanding of human anatomy aside from my own, no internet, and very brief glances of images on HBO. So I decided to draw a girl au naturel. Problem was, I didn't really know any "developed" women aside from my grandmother, and that wasn't happening. So I used Miss Piggy as a model. I wish I still had the picture because in my memory it is a hot terrible mess. I ripped it up and threw it away after I

drew it because I didn't want to get in trouble. It wasn't sexual, it was an experiment, so once I realized I had no idea if I was even close, I threw it out!

[The Muppet Movie on Blu-ray](#)

10/15/13 | 15138.29-76

Scott

If anyone's on the fence as to whether or not they're going to upgrade to high definition, I put together a video comparing the DVD and Blu-ray.

<https://www.facebook.com/muppetwiki/posts/591202690921223>

Ryan R

Hey, Scott, the movie fans of Reddit have discovered your video. Some of them seem to think it's an official Disney thing:

http://www.reddit.com/r/movies/comments/1l3ty8/the_muppet_movie_has_one_of_the_better_dvd_to/

Scott

Oh, neat! It's interesting to hear people claiming that the DVD transfer has been tampered with in this comparison to make the Blu-ray look better. In fact, there was no conversion at all. Those are the straight-up VOB files directly from the disc.

Anyway, it's always nice to see things like this being shared. I guess I can wait for Disney to have the video taken down now ;P

Ryan R

Now a Redditor has just come right out and called your DVD comparison shots "Faked" and "Intentionally Crippled."

http://www.reddit.com/r/Muppets/comments/1o6hfy/the_muppet_movie_disney_bluray_vs_actual_dvd/

Just how many millions of dollars IS Disney paying you, Scott?

Scott

If I told you, I'd have to... cheat on my taxes.

Erik

So ladies, do you want to dress like a Skeksis or Gelfling?

<http://www.henson.com/jimsredbook/2013/10/17/10171982/>

[*Jim Henson's Red Book post about the Dark Crystal fashion line.*]

Julia

I should be a sexy Skeksis for Halloween.

Mr. the Dan

How about sexy Aughra?

Joe

So, just Aughra?

[My Week in Japan](#)

Scott

"Moppy reaches out with his left hand, which has a heart symbol on it. Elmo touches his hand to the mirror, and that means that they love each other."

These are the two best sentences I will read all week.

Ryan R

I'm pretty partial to "And now Moppy is here, and he's in your life, and there's nothing you can do about it."

Robyn

I was just about to post exact thing!

There is nothing I can do about it, but I don't really care because I like his style, man. He also lives in Japan so I don't really have to think about him ever again if I don't want to.

Andrew Leal

Ah, but Moppy will come for YOU! YOU CANNOT LEAVE THE MAGIC!

Colton

Moppy, Moppy be with you
Each morning, each evening too

For Moppy, Moppy invades every moment
And Elmo's friend circle too

Each day, fear all the Moppy you're given
Fear hand of love

For Moppy was created based on hopeful sales
See his face above

Moppy, Moppy be with you forever
And some more time too

For Moppy, Moppy will invade every moment
The shelf space of you

Each day, fear the great Moppy
Moppy, Moppy be with you each morning
Each evening too

For Moppy, Moppy invades every moment
Elmo's regime too

[*Andrew Leal*]

[There aren't a lot of girl Muppets](#)

10/17/13 | 15393.18-21

Ryan R

They don't need to try too hard to create a Female Character. They should just create a character. Come to think of it, is there any reason Walter couldn't have been a girl? They added a new Muppet to the lineup for the first time in years, and it was another dude.

Andrew Leal

They were worried that if he'd been female, there would have been too much sexual tension with Marvin Suggs to keep a PG rating.

Matt Wilkie

"I'd hit that." - Marvin Suggs

[*Matthew*]

[There aren't a lot of girl Muppets](#)

10/18/13 | 15393.31

Kim McF

Mice are smaller than rats.

Miss Mousie is much bigger than Yolanda Rat.

Therefore, either Miss Mousie is some kind of uber-rat,

Or we should dump both of them in pancake batter.

[Frog Kissin' - A Ladies' Muppet Podcast](#)

10/21/13 | 15352.68-74

Scott

Can you do a podcast without a mic? I know I'm getting old, but I think podcasts still rely on audio, yeah? Unless you're going to tap out your end of the conversation in morse code. Which... would be awesome.

Ryan R

Text-to-speech program? "HEL-LO-THIS-IS-JULY-A. I-LIKE-KER-MIT-THE-FORG." (Gotta watch those typos.)

Scott

I would just assume you were talking about [this guy](#).

Ryan R

Sure, but I figured they wouldn't be talking about him on the podcast until at least the third episode.

Joe

I WANT MY KERMIT THE FRROOOOOOG PODCAST!

[*Matthew*]

[Tough Pigs dreams](#)

10/25/13 | 9244.1714-17

Ryan R

Last night I dreamed that Cathy called me to tell me there was a spontaneous Tough Pigs party happening in Manhattan, at a restaurant called Paradise. It was at 50th Street and 9th Avenue, and I happened to be at 33rd Street and 8th Avenue, so I just started running uptown. On the way I thought about how "Paradise" kind of sounded like it could be the name of a strip club.

By the way, Google Maps tells me that 50th and 9th is actually the home of restaurants called Gossip, Hibernia, and Rice & Beans.

Julia

ToughPigs + restaurants = your last two dreams you've shared on here

Ryan R

Yeah, I noticed. What could it mean? Probably that I'm hungry.

Danny

Hooray! Now I have to go figure out what country to visit so I can write another article.

Ryan R

Go to Transylvania and look for the Count's castle!

Meagan

And the Amazing Mumford lives next door, so two birds with one stone.

[Scott]

Grant

I love it.

Hats shaped like cars that look like Elmo. That's insane.

"Oh look! Dorothy is imagining Elmo as a car-shaped hat!"

Colton

"Hi! Welcome to Elmo's World! Guess what Elmo's thinking about today! Car-shaped hats!

You know, car-shaped hats! Hahahahaha

Oh look, Dorothy's thinking about car-shaped hats too!

Dorothy has a question. How do you use a car-shaped hat?

Let's ask Mr. Noodle!

Mr. Noodle, how do you use a car-shaped hat?

[Mr. Noodle puts car-shaped hat on floor and pretends to drive it]

No, no, Mr. Noodle. A car-shaped hat isn't a car. That's silly.

[Mr. Noodle sits on car-shaped hat]

No, Mr. Noodle. You don't sit on car-shaped hats. That's what a chair is for.

[Mr. Noodle puts car-shaped hat on head]

Hehehehe! That Mr. Noodle! He's so silly!

[Computer alerts Elmo of email. Elmo chases computer or whatever. I haven't watched an Elmo's World segment in a while. Email opens]

Grover: Hello, Elmo. This is your lovable, furry, old pal Grover here. Filming live from Universal Studios Japan. The Japanese have a strange obsession with things shaped like other things. For example, I found this cute little car-shaped hat. See, it's a hat, but you could almost be fooled into thinking it was a car. As I was. Other than that obsession,Japan is a very strange place, Elmo.

Elmo: Wow, who knew? Elmo sure didn't. Hahahahahaha. Elmo has a question for you.

Is a car-shaped hat a car? [No]

Is a car-shaped hat a trombone? [No]

Is a car-shaped hat a hat? [Yes]

Hahahahaha.

Let's watch the Car-Shaped Hat channel.

"There once was a boy who wanted a car-shaped hat. Why? Because it was a hat shaped like a car. Who wouldn't want one of those? Anyways, he didn't do what his mommy told him to, so he didn't get a car-shaped hat."

"Next on The Car-Shaped Hat Channel: She's Just Not That Into Car-Shaped Hats"

Uh..... hahahahahaha.

Elmo still wants to know more about car-shaped hats. ELMO KNOWS! Elmo can ask a car-shaped hat!

[Elmo interviews car-shaped hat. CSH drops some car-shaped hat puns. Seriously guys, this is really hard to write.]

Oh look, Dorothy's imagining Elmo as a car-shaped hat!

[Blah blah blah]

[Music starts]

Car-shaped hats

Car-shaped hats

Ca-a-ar-shaped hats

Car-shaped hats

Ca-ar-shaped hats

That's Elmo's World!

Say goodbye, Dorothy

Say goodbye, Mr. Noodle

Say goodbye, Car-Shaped Hat!

Anthony

Impressive follow-through.

[*sha*]

NOVEMBER

[The Most Interesting Muppeteer in the World](#)

11/5/13 | 15422

In case you skipped the introduction to this yearbook (and if you did, you missed a real humdinger of an introduction!), "The Most Interesting Muppeteer in the World" was a super-fun thread devoted to turning Jerry Nelson into an internet meme in the style of Dos Equis' Most Interesting Man in the World. Some of the highlights of the thread made it into a Tough Pigs article, which [you can read here](#). Or you can read the original thread [here](#). And why wouldn't you?

[People are really gullible](#)

11/6/13 | 15423.1-11

Ryan R

I don't know anything about this website National Report. I guess it's yet another fake-news Onion wannabe? But it blows my mind how many commenters immediately believed this "story" about Big Bird coming out as transgender:

<http://nationalreport.net/big-bird-transgender/>

Mike C

It's easy to take something serious when it's not funny.

Peter Savieri

BULLSEYE!

Mike C

Thanks. Usually I get "Bull" combined with a slightly different word.

[Robbie Williams sang with Muppets?](#)

11/11/13 | 15429.3-4

Jimmy M

Camilla's eyes look a little off in that photo.

Peter Savieri

Maybe she's had a little work done. A little nip-n-cluck. A little chick-n-tuck...

[Delphi forum promos](#)

11/11/13 | 3907.3392-93

Matthew

World's Oldest Torah Found In Bologna

-World's Oldest Torah Found In Bologna. It's an amazing item and see where it was found.

I can't be the only one thinking someone found a religious artifact in their cold cuts.

Scott

I once found a rosary bead in a box of couscous.

[Ugly Muppets](#)

11/15/13 | 13891.66-68

Kenny Durkin

120 clams and they're yours.

http://www.ebay.com/itm/VTG-1978-HENSON-MUPPETS-CHRISTMAS-ORNAMENT-PAPER-MACHE-COLLECTION-Complete-OOAK-/181251925424?pt=LH_DefaultDomain_0&hash=item2a3374e5b0



Erik

If I had 120 clams, and I left them out in the sun for a week, they'd probably still look better than those ornaments.

[Muppet character encyclopedia](#)

11/21/13 | 15368.47-55

Colton

WE HAVE INSIDE SAMPLES.

Angel Marie

Young stars



First Date
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MUPPET FILE
First appearance: Ep102
Likes: rehen et he tiu
Dislikes: Series 1 Eps.2

YOU KNOW, THE OPENING IS CATCHY. SO IS MEASLES.

KISSY KISSY, KERMIE!

Anno tation here noAnno tation here

Anno tation here noAnno tation here

Anno tation here noAnno tation here

148

Angus McGonagle

Fowl Diva

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MUPPET FILE
First appearance: Ep102
Likes: rehen et he tiu
Dislikes: Series 1 Eps.2

YOU KNOW, THE OPENING IS CATCHY. SO IS MEASLES.

OCH AYE!

Anno tation here noAnno tation here

Anno tation here noAnno tation here

Anno tation here noAnno tation here

149

I was... not expecting Angus.... or Angel Marie

Afgan Hound

Young stars



Caption heading
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MUPPET FILE
First appearance: Ep102
Likes: rehen et he tiu
Dislikes: Series 1 Eps.2

YOU KNOW, THE OPENING IS CATCHY. SO IS MEASLES.

HIT THAT CRAZY

Anno tation here noAnno tation here

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10

Andy and Randy

Fowl Diva

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MUPPET FILE
First appearance: Ep102
Likes: rehen et he tiu
Dislikes: Series 1 Eps.2

YOU KNOW, THE OPENING IS CATCHY. SO IS MEASLES.

GNARLY TO THE MAX

Anno tation here noAnno tation here

Anno tation here noAnno tation here

11

Or Afgan(sic) Hound..... I saw Andy and Randy coming from a while away..... I've honestly never watched Muppets Tonight and haven't watched MCT in a long time..... Do they ever actually say "Gnarly to the max."

Jimmy M

I love those scenes when Angel Marie chases Kermit around going "Kissy Kissy Kermie." His rivalry with Miss Piggy for Kermit's affection is hands down my favorite part of Muppet Treasure Island.

Matthew

Especially when Afghan Hound is cheering him on, saying "Hit that, crazy!"

Jimmy M

Classic Afghan Hound.

[If not Gaga, then who?](#)

11/22/13 | 15446.1-6

Dan!, Esq.

With the various pros and cons, thoughts on predictability, appropriateness, etc. thrown around in the Gaga thread, thought I'd post another corny thread on who we do think would be a good fit for a special like this. Obviously a corny post, what with the hypotheticals, but I'm curious as to what people come up with.

Anthony

The whole gang from *The Voice* - Cee-Lo, Xtina, Nutsack, and Throatpunch.

[Cathy]

[Meredith Braun \(MCC's Belle\)](#)

11/23/13 | 15447.1-4

Joe

My girlfriend and I were watching Muppet Christmas Carol the other day, and we were wondering whatever became of the actress who played Belle. Apparently she's been really active in British theater, and she recently released her first album. I was kinda hoping (dreading?) that she'd include a cover of "When Love is Gone", but it turns out that her album has a cover of "Rainbow Connection" instead. And as a bonus track, a French version of "Rainbow Connection"! I listened to the previews of both on iTunes, and the French one is actually very lovely. I might buy that track.

<http://www.meredithbraun.com/>

Matt Wilkie

Funny enough, the last time I watched "Muppet Christmas Carol," I remarked that Belle reminded of your girlfriend, in an alternate-universe sort of way.

Joe

Sarah doesn't flare her nostrils nearly as much.

Matt Wilkie

Oooohhhhhhhhhhh buddy boy, but if she did!!

[Anthony]

[Muppets on One Direction YouTube thing](#)

11/25/13 | 15443.17-22

Jes

Harry is the favorite, come on.

Isha

The royal baby?

Jes

No the One Directioner

Anthony

(Harry hasn't been the Royal Baby for several decades now.)

Isha

(I was making a joke)

(about not knowing people's names)

(It was lame.)

(also when I hit first enter my post saved so I had to edit it.)

Anthony

(Oh.)

(And that's all I could say was oh.)

DECEMBER

[Happy Birthday, Ceris!](#)

12/6/13 | 15459.10-14

Peter Savieri

Happy birthday to Ceris
Your gift's on the terrace
We couldn't afford France
So the tickets are to some place we've never heard of called Peris.

Ceris

Nice. Very nice. I'll take tickets to Paris. Especially if Piggy can show me around.

Peter Savieri

Too bad you're going to PERIS! HAHAHAHAHAHappy birthday

Ceris

No wait.... Did you say PERIS?????

OMG!!!! I've ALWAYS WANTED to go there!

All expenses paid trip to Peris?

I can sit on a bench. I can make my own sandwich. I can do groceries....

Can't I?

Will any muppet, any at all, be there to show me around?

Peter Savieri

This Muppet has lived there for years. He runs a really awful bed and breakfast. Actually it's more of a shake-with-fear and vomit. But the views are nice.



[Joe]

[The awesome pictures thread](#)

12/15/13 | 11848.2426-28

Grant

Danny just uploaded this puzzle photo to the wiki, a scene from The Muppet Movie:



Look at Gonzo! Was this photographed between takes, when Dave Goelz was resting his arm, and nobody who approved it for a puzzle noticed?

Matthew

I think Gonzo dropped his contact lens.

Misread Thread Titles

12/15/13 | 9486.1741-45

[Ryan created a thread in the Fraggles Rock section of the forum about Doc's contentious relationship with Ned Shimmelfinney. The thread was called "Ned Shimmelfrenemy." Isha misread it as...]

Isha

Ned Shimmelfinney.

It took me two days to see what you did there.

Matt Wilkie

And I didn't notice it at all until you pointed it out just now.

Anthony

I didn't either!

Ryan R

Man, I don't know why I even bother coming up with these brilliant thread titles if no one's going to read them correctly.

[Isha]

My Muppets Show App

12/18/13 | 15179.534-50

Scott

I love 1880s Robot! I want a PVC of him for my desk or dashboard.

Jog

He's just so random. He doesn't belong on a ship, he's not even the (19)80's Robot from the movie, he doesn't look like anything invented in the 1800s (at least, I doubt that the first ever telephones or cameras had a lightup brain), and he's not a Muppet. And yet he's part of the sailor's choir. He's easily my favorite new character from the game. Him, and Durwood Clapper.

Scott

The idea seems to be that he's supposed to be a steampunk design. There's some reference to it in his description.

I'm not a full-on steampunk nut, but I do really enjoy that style.

Meagan

Excuse me, but he prefers "steamgentleman".

Scott

It's back to robot sensitivity training for me.

How did they do that?

12/26/13 | 15492.1-16

Jes

So maybe this has been asked and answered before but I am wondering how they managed to do the underwater puppetry in Emmet Otter. Does anyone know?

Erik

Emmet and Ma in the rowboat are remote controlled in the long shots. In the close shots, they could probably arrange it so the boat wasn't actually in the water, but just looked like it was, through a camera trick. Then the puppeteers could stay dry.

Grant

Yeah, for the closeup shots they had the boat right up against the edge of the water, comme ca:



Jes

Wow, thanks for sharing that! So cool!

Meagan

That's awesome! How have I never seen this picture before?

Peter Savieri

Puppeteering is just so cool. I'll never get over the wonder of that uncanny, almost metaphysical border between the puppeteer doing their thing and the character coming alive.

Meagan

I completely agree. It's like how I'm always interested in finding out how a magic trick or illusion is done. Some people say it ruins the fun, but for me it makes it better because it's so interesting. Also, it's not the technical things behind it that make it so much fun to watch, but the talent of the performers.

Peter Savieri

And the symbiosis. Like the point where the performer meets the puppet is them reaching into a parallel universe. Elaborately detailed raised sets around the puppets with raw wooden scaffold surrounding the performers increase the parallel universe effect to the power of wow.

Scott

Revealing the magic is where the magic is found.

[The Random Thread of Randomness](#)

12/28/13 | 9928-9

Matthew

Fun Fact: I once bought a used copy of Kermit's Swamp Years in the dying days of the Blockbuster near my dorm Sophomore year of college. I have yet to watch it.

Justin T

Not watching it is the best way to enjoy Kermit's Swamp Years.

[Muppets on One Direction YouTube thing](#)

12/30/13 | 15443.45-48

Julia

I don't think I've ever seen Peter Linz not smiling.

Except in Muppets from Space. Dude was not impressed when aliens didn't show up.

Robyn

This is very true, but that was him acting a role, so I maintain that he is the happiest man ever.

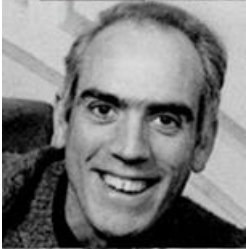
Kim McF

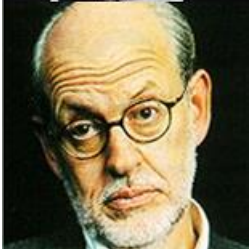
I went to high school with him (he was a grade ahead of me) and I've seen him since, at the Between The Lions roadshow and at Dragon*Con, and I can say that that grin is for real. He always seems to be having the time of his life. I think he's the only one who could give Karen Prell a run for her money in that department. ;)

Matt

It's simple really... as Peter and Karen and all the others have proven, working with the Muppets will put a smile on anyone's face...







...well almost.

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