

Tough Pigs Yearbook 2014



The World's Most Dangerous Yearbook

compiled by Ryan Roe

Greetings, Tough Friends! The year 2014 AD was an eventful one for Muppets and Muppet fans. We got a whole new movie (the one that didn't have Jason Segel), with a marketing push that seemed even bigger than the one for that last movie (the Jason Segel one). Which meant we actually stayed on topic in a lot of threads!

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 an index, which is guaranteed to not be very helpful at all. So that's something to look forward to.

Worth checking out: The "[Muppet Fan Confessions](#)" thread, in which many of us finally came clean about our unconventional opinions. There was too much of it to reproduce here in the yearbook, but you should definitely go read it [here](#). You'll be shocked to find out who dislikes which Muppet classic, and you'll have a great time highlighting spoiler text.

Special thanks to everyone who nominated posts, as well as everyone who posted on the forum in 2014. Each of you truly is the Muppets' Most Wanted! Whatever that means. (Did I say that in last year's yearbook? I certainly did, but I'm using it again because 2014 is the year the movie actually came out, and because you can't stop me!)

JANUARY

[The odd & awesome pictures thread](#)

[1/2/14 | 11848.2451-55](#)

Joe

Someone mashed together Jim and Frank's faces to make this abomination:



Grant

That's the guy who performs Kermit and Fozzie's Dad.

[Misread Thread Titles](#)

[1/3/14 | 9486.1761](#)

Martha

Great Muppeteer Drugs

Joe

Fozzie Bearijuana

Crazy Harryoin

Muppet Christmas Carol, starring Micocaine

Meth

Martha

Meth?

Joe

Funnier joke: Meth Piggy.

[Isha]

GMC and MTI on Blu-Ray

1/10/14 | 15285.83-102

Joe

Nice. I still need to get that. I went to yet another Best Buy, and they didn't have it in stock. I'll resort to Amazon eventually, but I'd much rather buy it at a brick-and-mortar store. Why is that so hard to do??

Matt Mtthwas

What is that so hard to do? Well because you're trying to shop for DVDs in a masonry store that is mainly focused on selling bricks and mortar. Try looking in a DVD-and-home-entertainment store as opposed to a brick-and-mortar store.

Joe

But I'm already there to buy groceries! It's called multitasking, Matt.

Matt Mtthwas

You buy groceries at a brick and mortar store? So you like eat bricks? Wow, I'd expect a Muppet monster to do that, not someone who simply runs a Muppet fansite - that's pretty hardcore.

Jes

Is there really a difference between buying it at Best Buy or on Amazon? I see where it counts if you are shopping in a small independently owned shop or even a franchise but I don't see the difference with Best Buy. It's another huge corporate monster- might as well go with Amazon and save (plus get what you want). ALSO- Amazon is known to be a huge employer with very good pay rates and benefits for employees so even if you don't see them, they are putting people to work.

Joe

Nope, no difference at all. Especially in a big city like New York. It was mostly me trying to fool myself into doing something nice for the economy.

Quinn

Unless you meant traveling to THE Amazon. River. And going to a small native village where they handcraft Blu-Ray discs out of mud and straw, and trading your American plastic goods for GMC and MTI on Blu-Ray? That would be great for their local economy.

Make sure it's Region 1.

New Mickey Mouse cartoons

1/11/14 | 15147.127-32

Mike C

New short: [Tapped out.](#)

Joe

That was fun. Though I wonder if they'll ever get back to those international-themed shorts.

Mike C

Well....They've already done France, Japan, China, Deutschland, and Italy.....They've got Canada, Latin America, and Africa to go.

Oh and Russia.

Joe

And that's all the countries there are!

Favorite Miss Piggy musical fantasy sequence

1/12/14 | 15493.7-24

Peter Savieri

I voted other - Her whole life is one gloriously delusional fantasy!

Ceris

Best. Answer!

However, I voted for TMM. Because of all the romantic shots in the montage and how incredible they both look. Also, I am filled with glee every time I think of Jim and Frank setting up and filming all of that glorious romance!

Peter Savieri

YES! Jim and Frank running toward each other on the grassy field set and doing their over-the-top embrace, and Jim running backwards with Kermit as the weight of Piggy's affection is felt!

Did I just say "The weight of Miss Piggy's affections is felt"? So true on so many levels.

Ceris

You did!

Good for you!

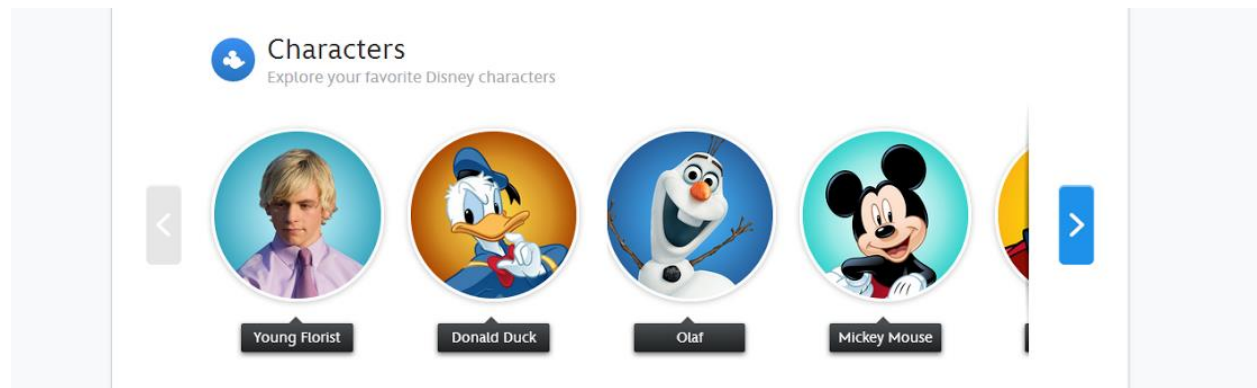
[Ceris, Max]

Muppets Most Wanted

1/12/14 | 14397.1374-76

Matt Mtthwas

The main page of Disney.com is spotlighting what's sure to be everybody's favorite break-out character from Muppets Most Wanted.



Matthew 88mph

OMG! Where can I buy my Young Florist plush? Or the Young Florist t-shirt? I gots to get my Young Florist fix!

Which Fraggles Are You?

1/13/14 | 15523.13-14

Robyn

Okay, I've thought long and hard about this: Lately I've mostly been a Boober, but was a Wembley for the longest time. I wish I were more of a Gobo and Red, and my sidebottom is Mokey.

So, Boober.

Anthony

"My Sidebottom is Mokey" is one of the nerdiest possible statements.

Bless you, Learn.

Muppets Most Wanted (potential spoilers)

1/16/14 | 14397.1411-13

Scott

[In response to the re-posting of an old article about rumored problems with the 2011 Muppet movie.]

Everything is terrible.

Matt Mtthwas

Everything is terrible.

Everything is bad.

I've got the whole wide world just making me mad.

Everything is awful, it's failing, a disgrace.

I can't seem to wipe this scowl off my face.

Life's a crappy song when there's no one by your side to sing along.

[Robyn]

Rowlf and Constantine plush

1/16/14 | 15533.9-25

Scott

It's so funny to see a Constantine toy before the movie even comes out. I wonder if Great Muppet Caper were made today, would there be a Fozzie's Dad toy?

Peter Savieri

HAha. Fozzie's dad plush. Was there ever a Palisades toy of him?

Scott

Man, I wish.

Ryan R

Dad spoke well of you too.

Scott

All I wanna do right now is watch The Great Muppet Caper.

Ryan R

That's all I ever want to do.

Colton

Quinn made a custom one



Kim McF

I wonder what their mother looked like. An orange, round-pupiled frog?

Mr. the Dan™

With a neck tie.

Colton

I don't know, something like this maybe



Robyn

I'm so pleased that this happened.

Which Muppet Should You Live In?

1/21/14 | 15542.1-19

Ryan R

Here's a twist on some recent personality quizzes that have been making the rounds:

<http://hudsonhongo.com/muppet/> [*Which Muppet Should You Actually Live In?*]

Jes

I GOT KERMIT!!!!

Julia

1. I got Miss Piggy.

2. This quiz was creepy.

Macy

I got Kermit. This was the most bizzare quiz I have ever taken.

Kim McF

It'd make more sense to make Thog an option. A family of four and their pet tauntaun could easily live inside his carcass.

Ryan R

So... everyone gets that this quiz is a joke, right?

Isha

Ryan. Internet quizzes are serious business.

Quinn

I got Kermit, and I'm glad I did. I feel so...accomplished. Like I actually did something I wanted to do.

Jes

Gee now that so many people got Kermit, I don't want to live in him anymore.

Kim McF

Yeah, the neighborhood's gone downhill lately.

Quinn

It's because of me, isn't it?

Jes

whistles and looks away

Muppets in Toyota Super Bowl Commercial

1/22/14 | 15541.19-22

Kim McF

I feel like I've missed something. Why is it now "the big game" instead of "The Super Bowl"?

Matthew 88mph

It's complicated, but the short version is that the NFL has a trademark on the phrase "Super Bowl," which it allows to be used only by businesses it's affiliated with. They typically pursue legal action against anyone else who uses it in public advertising, from high-end companies to non-profits.

Kim McF

Eesh. I thought it might be something like that. Oh well, I can't really blame them. They wouldn't want the term to become generic-ized the way aspirin, rollerblades, and jello (sic) have.

Robyn

After you fall on your roller blades it helps to take some aspirin and eat some jello, but don't forget to clean your cut with some Kleenex and put a band-aid on it.

[Scott]

Muppets in Toyota Super Bowl Commercial

1/22/14 | 15541.24-35

Robyn

I had no idea that the word claymation was trademarked, interesting.

Ryan R

I'm constantly using "stop-motion clay animation" when talking about such a production that's not technically Claymation. And then whoever I'm talking to is like, "That was some great claymation!" And I'm like, "Yep, it was some great stop-motion clay animation, all right!"

On the other hand, I say "Legos" instead of that company's preferred term "LEGO® brand recreational miniature construction blocks," so I suppose I'm some kind of hypocrite.

Quinn

*LEGO bricks, not blocks.

:D

Ryan R

Sorry. You're not going to tell them to sue me, are you?

Scott

No, but the NFL might sue you for using Super Bowl in this thread title.

Muppets in Toyota Super Bowl Commercial

1/22/14 | 15541.24-35

Scott

In other news, Toyota is vining about the Muppets:

<https://vine.co/v/MBpFwYZKbDn>

Quinn

Ve all vhine about zee Muppets, Scott. It's zee eenternet.

[Isha]

Walter and Constantine PVCs

1/26/14 | 15539.23-32

Jimmy M

When the Electric Mayhem mini and Sesame protos were on ebay for about \$1,500 each mini and \$3,000 each full size figure, there was also a great deal of self restraint, aided by the fact that I did not have anywhere near enough money. Leading, of course, to a fourth round of mourning.

Quinn

The Muppets have inspired much grief.

Jimmy M

I wonder what Walter would think if he realized the creation of his own PVC figure led to a statement like that.

Quinn

I'd tell him that he's on my watch.

Even though he's not.

Jimmy M

I was thinking recently I want a watch with Walter so when he finally meet I could tell him he's my hero. Then I decided it might be easier to just get a watch with a mirror on the back in case I meet any of the other Muppets, or anyone else who might be flattered to be featured on my watch.

Quinn

Oh, smart man.

Aw, I like Muppets.

Jimmy M

Quinn, you're my hero. You're on my watch.

Quinn

Awww buddy. I figured. I'm on lots of watches. My real name is 4.

[Matthew Soberman]

Tough Pigs Yearbook: 2013?

1/29/14 | 15556.1-8

Colton

When can we expect it? I know it's usually early to mid February (or it was last year, at least), but I'm impatient, dammit.

Ryan R

Here's when you can expect it: When it's finished.

But yeah, I'm working on it. It'll probably be ready before Muppets Most Wanted comes out.

Scott

How about now. Is it ready now?

Joe

Was it ready yesterday?

Ryan R

Yep, it was ready yesterday, but the internet was down so you all missed it. Too bad!

Erik

Thanks Obama!

Carolyn

Can I nominate a thread for the yearbook when it's about there being no yearbook? Yearbook!

Jes

No. No yearbook for you.

[Carolyn]

Quantum Leap and Back to the Future

1/31/14 | 6773.746-57

Joe

I think it'd be worth it just to hear a live orchestra playing the [*Back to the Future*] theme song.

Quinn

I just made an O face.

Joe

O for Orchestra?

Quinn

Ovulation.

Joe

Orangutan.

Quinn

Orville Reddenbacher.

Joe



Quinn

Orphans.

Joe



Quinn



Joe



[Max]

FEBRUARY

Miles & Carter stories

2/3/14 | 7711.1068

Quinn

Miles has a Valentine. And it's all been very sweet. I guess she's been leaving little presents on his desk each day, so he just went to the store and bought a bag of Hershey's Kisses so he can give her two or three each day. He just got home, and he's walking around the house whistling.

Ahhhh being smitten.

Ahhhh he's going to get his heart broken.

I much preferred being the heartbreaker.

Miles & Carter stories

2/3/14 | 7711.1069

Quinn

Oh, and here's the song Miles was singing about our dog, Lucky:

Lucky is a dog,

He's a chocolate lab,

Like a laboratory,

Where they research choccccccc
olate.

Which dogs shouldn't eat

Because it's poisonous

So Lucky

Don't eat

Chocolate.

Labs.

...he gets all of his talent from Melissa.

New Henson Publishing Division

2/10/14 | 15587.1-3

Ryan R

Huh.

[Link to a news article about the Jim Henson Company publishing a series of children's books called "Jim Henson's Sparkle Sisters."]

Anthony

Man, the Jim Henson Company is the opposite of Jim Henson. They never get anything done, and when they do it's derivative and terrible.

Ryan R

JIM HENSON'S DISNEY PRINCESSES!

[Quinn]

Another Threadless Muppet Contest

2/10/14 | 15436.80-83

Colton

Now Threadless is doing a contest themed around 90s Nickelodeon, and I really want to criticize all the designs TP-style. Because, so far, I can already find at least 10 designs I have a problem with, and it's only the 4th or 5th day

Joe

You should do that! And then you'll know... Oh yes, you'll know.

Colton

I already know, but I'm up to it.

The problem is that I have nowhere to post them

Joe

You'll just have to start your own '90s Nickelodeon fan site.

ToughPetes.

[Nick W]

Muppet sweepstakes on QVC

2/11/14 | 15588.5

Smig

Miss Piggy design a bag? What's it going to be? A silk purse made from her own ear? I mean, if the bag looks anything decent, you know she paid someone else to design it. And what would a pig decorate a bag with? Pork Rind-stones?

Erik

Is anyone starting to get the feeling that there's a Muppet movie coming out soon?

"Muppet" as a verb

2/12/14 | 15591.1-9

Scott

On their website for Muppets Most Wanted, Disney is using "Muppet" as a verb.

<http://muppets.disney.com/muppets-most-wanted/>

Is this the first it's been used that way? The UK and some other countries have used it as a mild insult for years, and there are cases where the Muppets have embraced this on official merchandise such as t-shirts, posters, and even books.

But, as a verb? I think this is a first.

Shane

I'm pretty sure I've seen the verb "Muppetize", but never just "Muppet."

Jes

Next they will be using 'text' as a verb...

(nobody does that!)

Kim McF

Verbing weirds language.

Joe

Verbing nouns is very adjective.

Jog



Jog



[Joe]

Muppets on Club Penguin

2/14/14 | 15559.17-20

Severin

Does Piggy have to do the karate chop in every single one of these ads/promotions?

Scott

She does. It's in her contract.

Severin

I didn't realize Orson Welles insisted on such.

Scott

He was a kinky chap.

The Random Thread of Randomness

2/14/14 | 9511.9990

Quinn

It's normal for me to share this bag of tortilla chips with my dog, right? Like, for breakfast?

Random Muppet Thoughts

2/15/14 | 15397.144-56

Severin

I love Elmo, but...is it just me, or is he kind of an arsehole sometimes? Referring to Learning to Share, Be a Good Sport, not sharing his blanket with Zoe in Grouchland, etc. Hell, he's like the jerk boyfriend Zoe's

better off without but can't leave him because she doesn't know where else to go. No, I don't know why I'm thinking about this either.

Shane

I know there's someone on the MC Forums who'd agree with me, but those aren't moments of Elmo being a jerk necessarily - they're him being an actual character with actual flaws and actual emotions and not a character just talking about feet or the beach for 15 minutes.

Matt Mtthwas

He's 3½, what do you expect? As the father of a 3½, I can personally attest, they can be arseholes from time to time.

Ryan R

We're all arseholes every now and then. For storytelling purposes, characters have to be jerks sometimes so they can learn valuable lessons and be less jerky.

Quinn

I have yet to learn how not to be a jerk. It must take some of our characters longer than others.

Ryan R

Maybe you need to have a long talk with Gordon or Maria about your behavior. They could probably talk some sense into you. And then do a take to the camera when you said something funny.

Quinn

If anyone could talk some sense into me, it would be Gordon and/or Maria.

Julie Andrews One Step Into Spring DVD

2/16/14 | 14982.26-32

Anthony

Well, someone listed a copy of this on Amazon Marketplace for \$2800, if you happen to have that lying around.

http://www.amazon.com/gp/offer-listing/B00B999DLS/ref=dp_olp_new_mbc?ie=UTF8&condition=new

Joe

"+\$3.99 shipping"

Meagan

That much for shipping?? Well that's just ridiculous.

Ryan R

I'll split it with you if you want. I'll pay \$20, and you can pay \$2,779.99.

Joe

+\$3.99 shipping.

Ryan R

There was a thread on reddit on the loss of John Henson, and a user named mojo4mydojo posted this bizarre story:

http://www.reddit.com/r/movies/comments/1y0kvs/john_henson_son_of_the_muppets_creator_jim_henson/cfgknyg

Met him on the set of Muppets of Oz - nice, likable guy. He had some amazing, nearly unbelievable stories of his times as a professional mascot, including his time as the coca-cola polar bear mascot, an olympic mascot at the France games and a major anecdote of going to CIA headquarters in Langley for what he thought was going to be a traumatized children's party as Sweetums that turned out to be anything but - instead he was involved in some weird experiment that further traumatized them.

Basically after an amazing top secret-like tour he was dressed as Sweetums and put into a plain white room (no decorations or anything party-like at all). In a couple of minutes a lab coat pushed in this young little boy (no older than 5) and closed the door. The boy started freaking out, clawing at the door. Sweetums stayed in the other corner, mirroring the boy's fear (puppeteer strategy) and when the boy didn't calm down, the lab coat took him out and a couple minutes later the process was repeated with another boy. All John could think was 'What the Fuck is going on?' Greatest/oddest story ever - he was obviously still affected by it then.

Could this possibly be true? Probably not, but has anyone ever heard anything like it?

Scott

I could tell you, but then I'd have to kill you.

Isha

Like, a party for traumatized children?

Ryan R

That's what it sounds like. A party for kids who were traumatized by something or other. By why would the CIA be hosting that?

Joe

The moral of the story is: If the CIA invites you to a party, you should probably just stay home.

Quinn

Also, Mormons.

Our parties suck.

Erik

The Russian who won the Olympic snowboard halfpipe event is famous for his "YOLO flip". During the opening ceremonies, Matt Lauer (or maybe it was Meredith Vieira) mentioned that and then explained

for the audience what YOLO meant. I was astounded that they thought there were people out there who didn't already know that.

Ryan R

There are people watching the Olympics who don't know what YOLO means... The elderly. You know, those who have L'ed a lot longer than the rest of us.

Jes

Have I mentioned how much I really hate the term YOLO? It's such a farce. In truth, you only DIE once, you live every day. It's so concerning how people have adopted it as an excuse to do anything and everything. Drugs? Sure, YOLO. Sleep around? Sure, YOLO. <insert anything reckless & stupid here> YOLO!

Ryan R

I'm right there with you. I also hate the sound of the "word" YOLO. Yo-lo. It just sends an unpleasant shiver down my spine. So does "BOGO." I guess I just hate four-letter acronyms used as words where the second and fourth letters are O.

Jes

How do you feel about yo-yos?

Scott

They have their ups and downs.

[Joe]

Muppets in Toyota Super Bowl Commercial

2/17/14 | 15541.218-20

Anthony

Do we consider Sweetums to be an ogre in general? I always thought he was just a regular monster who played an ogre in The Frog Prince.

Isha

He has layers.

Kim McF

He's like an onion. He smells bad, and he makes you cry...

Is this really necessary?

2/17/14 | 15601.1-28

Jes

Seriously, Disney?!



Joe

What are you so upset about? Disney putting their watermark on the pictures?

Jes

Yeah

Joe

Got it. I'll try and be more upset about that the next time I see it.

Matt Mtthwas

Yes, it is necessary. Disney must adequately assert copyright on their intellectual property or else risk losing claim or control of it. Don't be mad at Disney, be mad at US copyright law.

Jes

You're probably overstating my reaction when you use the word 'mad'. But yes, I know you're correct. Just wish it could still say 'Henson'.

Quinn

But if it still said "Henson," we wouldn't be seeing any new Muppet anything. Which means we wouldn't see it at all.

Ryan R

It might not be a complete lack of new Muppet stuff. We might be seeing the direct-to-DVD release *Kermit's Swamp Years 4: Kermit and His Friends Go to College and Goggles and Croaker Join a Fraternity*.

Joe



Ryan R

What happened to Croaker and Blotch's legs?!?!

(Nice work!)

Joe

Sorry, next time I'll Photoshop John Kennedy's and Bill Barretta's arms into the picture.

Scott

"Puppets existing below the waist automatically implies that they're having sex with each other." - Sesame Workshop

Kim McF

I knew there had to be a reason I give my puppets complete bodies.

[Jes, Robyn]

[Muppets Most Wanted \(potential spoilers\)](#)

[2/17/14 | 14397.1597](#)

Erik

I'm serious guys, I'm really starting to get the feeling that there's a new Muppet movie coming out soon.

[Kermit and Bruce Willis](#)

[2/18/14 | 15604.1-6](#)

Grant

I just realized... Kermit and Bruce Willis are the same age.

They were both born in March 1955.

Far out.

Ryan R

It's so fascinating now seeing the original Bruce Willis, before he had a collar and flippers.

Scott

There will always be folks who insist that Bruce Willis first became a frog in The Frog Prince, just because it's easier to remember that way.

Dan!, Esq.

Yippie Ki-yay, Mother Frogger!

[Peter Savieri]

The Random Thread of Randomness

2/19/14 | 9511.9996-99

Ryan R

Can a Skrump peep out a little TV?

Anthony

NO.

Ryan R

Dang.

Anthony

I hate you.

[Joe]

Worst. Muppet. Ever.

2/22/14 | 15611.36-67

Ray

So what do you think of Bobby Benson not having a cigarette anymore?

Erik

It's the 21st century. He's probably on the patch now.

Matt Mtthwas

The patch? More like the Cabbage Patch... like where he gets all those creepy looking babies from.
Wocka wocka!

Wait...where does he get all those babies? What is his relation to these children? Where do the babies come from?

Worst. Muppet. Ever.

2/25/14 | 15611.69-80

Joe

This is far from "Worst Muppet Ever", but still worth mentioning here.

The Statler and Waldorf Academy Awards article that Ryan posted earlier today got me thinking: I haven't really enjoyed Statler and Waldorf in a long, long time. Other than a few rare appearances, I don't think I've laughed at anything they've done since Muppet Christmas Carol. In the Muppet Show days, their jokes were a lot more nuanced and varied, and now they've been reduced to saying that things are bad and then laughing at their own jokes every single time.

Anyone else feel that way? Or am I alone? So very, very alone.

Scott

They can be hit or miss. I recently rewatched their surprise appearance on Jimmy Fallon with Jason Segel when they were still trying to get the movie made. I laughed at those jokes.

And I think I laughed at a couple of the jokes they made at the Policeman's Ball.

I guess I'm having a hard time remembering other examples of recent S&W jokes.

Joe

They all went like this:

Waldorf: Did you like that thing?

Statler: No, it was a bad thing!

Both: DOH HO HO HO HO!!!

Ryan R

They have been unfunny more often than they've been funny in recent years. It must be hard to keep coming up with heckles for them. I think most of the ones on the YouTube videos were pretty solid, but a lot of times these days they're pretty repetitive.

And yeah, they're not supposed to do the "DOHHH-HO-HO!" thing every time. They did it a lot on The Muppet Show, but not for every joke. It's one of those things like Yoda's backward-speak where people remember them for it, so they think they have to do it all the time.

Rob

There was a funny, and probably ad libbed, joke in the Just For Laughs live show.

They made a joke, that I can't quite remember the wording of, but it had something to do with Abe Lincoln being lucky to have been shot as it meant he wouldn't have to endure the rest of the show. When the audience react slightly shocked to this Statler (?) responds with;

"What? Too soon?"

Matt Mtthwas

I think all the fans of From the Balcony would disagree with you.

Joe

I will send them both condolence cards.

Matt Mtthwas

Both? I didn't know there were that many! DOH HO HO HO HO!!!

Joe

You're killing me, Matt.

Mtthwas

You know what's killing me? Having to watch this show. DOH HO HO HO HO!!!

Joe

Now cut that out!

Mtthwas

Cut it out? That's a great idea! Let's cut out of here before this bit gets as old and tired as we are! DOH HO HO HO HO!!!

Muppet/Marvel TeeFury

2/25/14 | 15625.2-11

Quinn

Oh, man...I just bought from them last week (a Rosie the Riveter/LEGO mashup)...but how can I NOT???

Kim McF

Sam shirt MINE.

Quinn

iwantthesamshirt

Joe

I just bought the Sam shirt!

Quinn

butmelissascaresmewithbillsandshit

Isha

I thought that said 'butmelissacarriesmyballsandshit'

Quinn

inherpurse

Quinn

PURSE.

Happy Birthday, Ryan!

2/27/14 | 15631.10-12

Anthony

Congratulations! You made it! You are now the same age Jesus Christ was when he was crucified.

Isha

Oh, the Jesus year. Live it up, cuz at least you're not gonna hang on a cross!

Nick Wheatley

Hallmark couldn't have put it any better.

Muppets Most Wanted

2/27/14 | 14397.1692-93

Quinn

Oh, I love that opening song.

...I was also on YouTube a lot for work today, and multiple times saw a 30 second ad for MMW that had a lot of stuff I've never seen before. Including spoilery stuff that I didn't want to see. So be careful on YouTube for the next few weeks. I assume the ads were coming up because of all my Muppet-licking.

Quinn

MUPPET-LIKING.

LIKING.

Creature Shop Challenge

2/28/14 | 15386.18-20

Robyn

I really hope this airs on the Space channel here in Canadia land!

Isha

The Space Channel?

I think you mean *Canerdia* Land.

Robyn

Hey, don't be knock our TV stations! At least it isn't spelled "Cpayse"! But yes, it's just called "Space" but I needed to make it clear that this is a TV station. Otherwise people might think we watch TV by looking through a telescope.

MARCH

Random Muppet Thoughts

3/2/14 | 15397.214-18

Quinn

Today we were watching The Muppets (2011) and Miles was doing some voice chasing. He asked "does the guy who does Fozzie also do Big Bird?" so I started listing off all of the characters that Eric Jacobson performs. He said "Dad, you can just say Frank Oz. I know." And I said, "well buddy....Frank Oz doesn't..." "IS HE DEAD? DON'T TELL ME HE'S DEAD, I CAN'T TAKE IT!!"

It's only been recently that he's really understood that Jim Henson is gone, and Richard, and then with Jerry passing, I'm afraid he just kind of expects it. So when I told him no, Frank was just retired, there was visible relief.

Miles and Carter are in an interesting boat, growing up in a household that celebrates the classic Muppets, but in the midst of a Muppet revival that has characters recast but becoming prominent. Part of him still trying to wrap his head around Miss Piggy being performed by a man at all.

Julia

Sounds like someone's doing an awesome job raising his kids.

Muppets in the operating room?

3/4/14 | 15645.1-14

Ryan R

Slightly misleading headline: "Edmonton surgeon brings Muppets into operating room."

<http://metronews.ca/news/edmonton/961433/edmonton-surgeon-brings-muppets-into-operating-room/>

[Article about a surgeon who made training videos featuring FAO Schwarz Muppet Whatnot puppets.]

Max

Makes me think of Veterinarian's Hospital.

Ryan R

The continuing stoory of a quack who made some training videos.

Matthew 88mph

"Tune in next week, when you'll hear Doctor Ryan say..."

Kieran M

"Of course surgeons are wealthy - they always take their cut!"

Lara

Aw I thought this was a topic posted by someone wanting to know what the sketch they remembered with Muppets in an operating room.

Ryan R

Yeah, it was like... there was this dog Muppet, and he was the doctor, and there were these two nurses, and I think one of them was a pig, and the other one was sort of like a Valley Girl or maybe a hippie... and they kept doing all these terrible puns... Does anyone know the sketch I'm talking about?

Joe

Trianglebob Trianglepants?

Nick Wheatley

Bear on Patrol?

Matt Mtthwas

The Talking Houses?

Joe

These guys?



Matthew 88mph

The original 1975 clip of "Fur?"

Matt Mtthwas

Brian Henson's Johnny Bravo Mamas?

Sam's Feet Colour

3/5/14 | 15654.5-17

Quinn

I almost ALMOST voted for "his feet should never be shown," because part of me feels that way about all Muppets except for Kermit, because you saw his feet in the opening credits of every Muppet Show, and saw him sitting on top of walls on Sesame Street as much as you saw him behind them. Most other Muppets' feet kinda freak me out.

Robyn

That reminds me. I don't actually like to see Muppet feet either, well I don't like to see them walk or dance. It gives me the willies.

...Willy!

Kieran M

Seeing a full-body Muppet walk is like watching a baby who's just learnt to walk - you know by rights that it's physically possible, but it still looks wrong!

Quinn

That whole "Doin' the Pigeon" dance, or Kermit and Fozzie dancing in The Muppet Movie....

Heebie. Jeebies.

Robyn

I'm so happy that I'm not alone in this! I've been hiding these feelings for so long, and now others have come forward.

Quinn

I feel like we should be in the confessional.

Ryan R

Can you elaborate on that? I've seen people express an aversion to seeing Muppets' legs, and I'm fairly mystified by it. I always think it's cool to see their feet, just like it's cool when they do anything puppets aren't actually able to do. On the one hand, it's part of what makes them seem alive, and on the other hand, it's part of what's so impressive about the Muppet people's dedication to nothing being impossible.

Or maybe I secretly have the weirdest kind of foot fetish.

Quinn

I wouldn't presume to speak for others who are horrified at Muppet legs, but for me it's something like when their legs clearly shouldn't be supporting that weight, like when Kermit is standing, or Bert Doin' the Pigeon (really he's the most egregious example)...or when instead of having joints in the right part of their legs, Bert's pants make an S-curve or something.

I have the same issues with the Gawky Birds. There's no skeletal support for them.

A big part of it though is that it's just jarring to see characters who you always see from the waist up, suddenly having legs. Like if we ever saw Muppet Babies' Nanny's face. I kinda don't want to, because the legs and voice are the whole character.

It's my logic, it can be flawed if it wants to.

Anthony

"I have the same issues with the Gawky Birds. There's no skeletal support for them."

This is my favorite statement in the 2014 yearbook.

Anthony

So this weekend I finally found a chunk of time to devote to reading *Jim Henson: The Biography*, and I've accompanied it by putting a bunch of random Muppet stuff on the TV. So far that's included *Tales of the Tinkerdee*, some *Sesame Street: Old School*, and the disc 2 of TMS season 3. Yesterday afternoon I decided to watch *The Dark Crystal* when I got to that chapter.

And gang, I realized that I enjoy that movie a whole lot more than I thought I did. For one thing, this was the second time I've watched it within a year, which has never happened before. Roz and I watched it this past summer, as part of a double feature with *The Black Cauldron*. That movie is so crummy that it makes almost anything look good in comparison.

But watching it last night, I got more immersed in it than I have in the past. I still think the story is pretty weak, and I wish the lead characters were more engaging (although Kira is better than Jen just by virtue of being able to fly), but I couldn't stop thinking about how impressive it is that the movie exists at all. It's a live-action movie where nearly everything we see on screen is artificial. Some of the locations are real, of course, but there are no humans and most of the sets are man-made as well. I found myself continually saying "That's so rad!" and "Unreal" about things like the the Garthim and the Landstriders and Aughra's observatory. There's just so much going on, and it's all so pretty to look at.

I used to watch that movie and think "What a waste. Think of all the time Jim devoted to this boring garbage that could have been spent on Muppet stuff instead." But now I'm glad it exists. It's such a unique and singular film that I can't imagine being made at any other time by any other creative team.

Has anyone else had their feelings towards it change?

Quinn

I have yet to watch it with the boys. It'll be interesting to see what they think. I've kind of been in the same boat as you, although I've always admired the artistic skill that went into the design and development and execution...I'm just not the biggest fan of fantasy to begin with, and the gelflings freaked me out more than the skeksis do. Skekses? Anyway. I should watch that with whatstheirnames soon.

Meagan

That's exactly how I feel. I wish I loved the movie, because it's so beautiful artistically speaking. But the script just isn't there, and I don't care about the characters. I think Kathy Mullen said it well in the TP interview with her when she said Jim didn't build a script, he built a world. And then from there they figured out a script. That's just not a solid way to make a movie.

And yeah, there's something about the gelflings that weird me out more than the Skekses. Maybe it's the fact that they look so close to humans.

Anthony

Uncanny Valley!

Quinn

I was thinking "uncanny valley" when I was writing whatever I said about them. Their creepiness. And maybe that's it. I wasn't sure if that term would apply to gelflings. But I don't like em.

There's something about their voices too...a mismatch between character and voice more pronounced than with the other characters in the movie. Augra (I'm spelling names wrong, but I don't want to look them up) the Skekses, the Not Skekses Lumpier Wise Things....their voices all seemed organic and part of the characters, where Jen and Kira seem like they were recorded in the studio, and don't sync as well.

I may be crazy.

Meagan

Exactly. I've always kind of felt that way. Going to Disney World a lot as a kid, I always liked the audio animatronic animals, but the people, while cool to look at, have always weirded me out. Maybe that's why I feel the same way about the Carousel of Progress as I do about The Dark Crystal. I want to like them, but I don't really...

Ryan R

When single shines the triple sun, there's a great, big, beautiful tomorrow!

Matt Mtthwas

"Ah, well that's progress for you, folks. What's progress? Progress is the end of the world... or the beginning. Hm!"

[Matt Soberman]

Muppets Most Wanted

3/6/14 | 14397.1764-69

Joe

Four new parody posters for the new movie! Featuring James Bond, Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy, and Face/Off spoofs.

<http://www.toughpigs.com/kermit-bond/>

Anthony

I hate that Constantine-doing-Dr.-Evil thing so much. I'd like both of those posters he's on a lot more if he wasn't doing that.

Ryan R

How much would you pay to get Constantine to stop doing that?

One meellion dollars?

LAWL

Anthony

Thanks for using "LAWL"!

The Muppets - Muppets and sexism

3/10/14 | 15666.1-60

Ryan R

It sounds like there's more to be said about this beyond the Toyota thread, so here's a separate thread.

I think it's a good discussion to have, and something that's good to think about. As Dan pointed out, there are many examples from decades past of Muppets lusting after human guest stars (usually male Muppets and female guest stars -- mostly because of the unbalanced ratio of characters). Those things might feel a little uncomfortable to watch now, like Kermit telling Piggy how excited he is to meet Linda Ronstadt because "She is one foxy lady!" But I bet I'm not the only one who sort of says, "Well, that's the way it was back then" and moves on.

But it's true that it's more noticeable in more modern Muppet productions, now that we're living in a more enlightened era. My biggest problem with Muppets Tonight is the obviously male-written stuff that probably shouldn't have even happened in the 90s: Rizzo calling for all the guys to come watch Michelle Pfeiffer take her robe off, the crew of the Swinetrek tripping over themselves to be Vendela's personal slave, David Hoggselhoff jumping on Spamela by way of demonstrating a phony life-saving technique.

And then there's the even more recent stuff we've been talking about, including Rowlf ogling the ice cream lady, and about 90% of what Pepe does. So: Are these gags ever harmless? Does a line exist that they should never cross? The other thread has me thinking about this stuff a lot, so I encourage anyone who has anything resembling an opinion to chime in.

Dan!, Esq.

I've been thinking a lot about it since last night myself. I think that initially, folks were shocked to see it from the Muppets. My point was mainly pointing out that it wasn't anything new. Even from Rowlf, who we've never seen much interaction with guest stars, has a song largely based on his feelings toward the opposite sex. I think there is a difference between what he did here and the kind of schtick Pepe relies on, which is much more blatant in what he is referring to. The instances you mentioned with Rizzo and Hoggselhoff are great examples too. For me, it's the context and intent. I'm not made uncomfortable by Kermit thinking that Linda Ronstadt is foxy, because he establishes that he has a crush on her, which she reciprocates. It doesn't mean that he lusts after her or implies that she's an object to him, he just happens to think she is good looking. The character's represent adults, and for better or worse, attraction is part of being an adult.

I guess my questions is...Is it possible to have one without the other, or are we now in an era where any implication of attraction or mention of beauty by the characters must be considered lascivious? My opinion was that it does not. I was more offended by the idea that that opinion couldn't be expressed without being scolded.

So I guess my questions are....Is it wrong for a character in a Muppet production to think another character is pretty or beautiful or to portray attraction of any kind? Should Wayne and Wanda be allowed to make out when the light go out in The Muppets? Should Miss Piggy be accompanied by scantily clad male models or be appearing in ads with professional models who represent a media image of beauty?

Rob

I'll probably have to think about this a bit more (and have only skimmed through the Toyota thread so forgive me if I'm a little ignorant of some of the ideas already discussed there) but my initial reaction is that context is everything and it all depends on who we are being encouraged to see as the butt of the joke.

For example with Pepe I would suggest that we are expected to see him as a failed lothario. The humour is meant to come from his delusions as to how he sees himself and how he comes across to others. In VMX his lusting over Rachel Bitterman doesn't seem sexist as she is the one manipulating him. Of course the more that it becomes a part of his stick the less he is called up on it and it becomes slightly more problematic.

It's been a long while since I've seen Muppets Tonight but at the time it seemed to me that Bay Of Pigs Watch was a send up of the casual sexism of Baywatch. Whether or not it was successful in that is probably a matter for more debate.

Max

This is a great thread. My two hurried cents - Sexism in the Muppets, for me, is not just when "male" Muppets find females attractive, but things like female Muppet characters so rarely being in major roles, or having agency. Janice, for example, is so great - why doesn't she do and say more? And Miss Piggy, whew, don't get me started. EVERYONE wants to talk to me about Miss Piggy. Some people tell me she's an incredible feminist role model, while others tell me she's embarrassingly anti-feminist. Kermit does treat her pretty badly sometimes, and she puts up with it. And why does Annie Sue have to be mere foil for Piggy; why can't she be her own character? And Miss Mousey, don't get me started.

So thinking about and defining sexism in the Muppets more broadly, is what I would throw into this thread before hurrying back to work.

Rob

I would be more inclined to see Piggy as a feminist character in that at her best she is three dimensional. Flawed but fabulous.

As for Kermit sometimes treating her badly I think that was addressed very well in The Muppets. Piggy is fed up with Kermit's refusal to commit so she takes off to Paris and makes a new and successful life for herself. Kermit has to admit that he is the one who misses and needs her before she is willing to resume the relationship.

I also thought that the Me Party song had a pretty positive message.

Julia

I'm with you, Max. When it comes to sexism in the Muppets I feel like that has more to do with the lack of female performers/characters around.

I actually have never had too much of a problem with the Muppets flirting with their female guest stars. After all, every time a male guest star was on their show, Miss Piggy was all over him as well. At least, I never had a problem with it on The Muppet Show. There were more than a couple schticks on Muppets Tonight that made me raise an eyebrow (both with female guest stars and Spamela). The latest Toyota commercial irked me a bit, but not a ton. And I've actually never minded Pepe's infatuation with girls. That's his thing. I can deal with it.

But yeah, the fact that we don't have more female characters in the forefront is a little disheartening. The only new female character we've gotten in the last ten years is Miss Poogy.

It's actually kind of a coincidence that this topic has come up, since it's the first discussion topic Lara and I tackle on our first podcast episode of Frog Kissin' (Which should be out later this week). I don't want to

delve too much into what we say on the show, but we did agree that Sesame Street does a wonderful job representing both male and female characters, Fraggle Rock does a pretty decent job, whereas the Muppets has always been considerably lacking in female representation.

And I've always seen Miss Piggy as a feminist character. She's strong and independent, but not afraid to be sensitive and vulnerable. She's always been a strong character in my eyes.

Dan!, Esq.

The Muppet Show was a product of their time, that is for sure. I'll throw the SNL Gorch sketches as well. The show didn't last long enough to address the issue, so it was corrected through the Fraggles and Sesame. Janice is a great point, in two of the movies, she's used as a character addressing her own sexuality in secret until the others quiet down. Also, Piggy. Yes on both counts! I ended up discussing a bit of this topic with some friends this evening, in terms of addressing attraction in films and characters that are considered geared towards families. Nobody would argue that the female character in Frozen making googly eyes at a Prince meant that he was objectified, but you could certainly see it that way. An interesting point brought up with Piggy, was her standing as a drag/gay icon. She's not just a feminist icon. So when she is carried in by a group of scantily clad men, who is she appealing to...the ladies in the audience, or are the Muppets once again parading sexuality for the fellas?

Carolyn

I know it is possible for male-run entertainment to contain stronger female characters, and for it to treat females like individuals. So it's disappointing when this troupe of talented men fails in that task.

Peter Savieri

I think there's a line between sexy humour and sexist humour. We can't eliminate flirtation or innuendo because of other issues, like the way female characters are written (how do they respond to the attention, as mindless objects or as strong and opinionated women?) or the imbalance of male Muppet characters vs female muppet characters, leading to most of these sorts of jokes being directed at women (no out gay muppets yet, though there is that theatre director pig and possibly scooter... oh and if Gladys wasn't a bit of a bitter Lesbian, then my gaydar is kaput!).

Flirtation is one of the most charming and beautiful thing human beings do. Obviously mutual respect is ideally at the centre of all interactions, but we shouldn't throw out the sexual just because it presents demeaning possibilities. It's about balance and the complexity of the rest of the writing. I LOVE the flirty innuendo stuff in the original show. The 70s was cooler and more progressive in many ways than our current PC era, I think. I often feel political correctness is just another mask for conservatism. I'd prefer to let everything in conceptually, and encourage complexity, respect and balance, rather than screening out this or that element in case it offends.

Dan!, Esq.

I wish I had your way with words. Thanks for better articulating the point I was trying to reach in the differences between flirtation and objectification. Saying they are one and the same simplifies them in a way that is simply isn't accurate.

I'm willing to give the Muppets a little slack for the lack of females for the time being, because they had the same problem with Sesame Street at the time. They haven't had the same amount of time to try out and develop new characters. It's been enough of a challenge getting old fans to embrace Walter, so

they can't suddenly have a giant new collection of lady Muppets. In some ways, I think maybe Walter could have been written as a girl, if only to address that since he's sticking around. Another option would be to start by further developing the existing female characters, as well as to start developing new ones to use when they get the chance.

Muppets Most Wanted (potential spoilers)

3/11/14 | 14397.1831-69

Joe

I haven't watched this yet, but Miss Piggy and the Swedish Chef did something in this video!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E9qqKaYz4bk>

Shane

Man, it's almost like they have a new movie coming out or something.

Erik

I know, right?

Muppets and sexism

3/12/14 | 15666.21-23

Kieran M

Could you imagine the meltdown that would happen if Scooter came out?

I think it would be great, but it might break the internet.

Peter Savieri

Didn't Scooter already come out in Very Merry Muppet Christmas Movie's world without Kermit? When he dances in a go-go cage in S&M gear at Joan Cusack's club? I mean I know for some reason they were implying that was a negative life direction for him, but come ON, Scooter was just using the alt universe as an excuse to get dooowwwwn.

Very Merry indeed! You know another word for Merry? Starts with G and ends in homosexual.

Muppets and sexism

3/12/14 | 15666.22-45

Dan!, Esq.

Just once, I'd like to submit a post without missing a type. Shiiiiit.

Jes

Think you meant 'typo' there, buddy.

Dan!, Esq.

I loathe you.

...

Not really.

Jes

I think you meant I 'love' you, there, buddy....

Dan!, Esq.

I DID!

Muppet Fan Confessions

3/13/14 | 15653.103-20 in reply to 15653.20

jamie

Everyone knows my Muppet fan confession that I abhor the Muppet Babies and feel that they helped destroy the brand for years to come. I also hate it when someone breaks into the Muppet Babies themesong after the word "Muppet" is mentioned. (However, I admit to liking the idea as a kid and the first season was kind of fun until it was clear they were just going to keep doing more of the same.) Oh, and Skeeter is the devil.

Anthony

Before I highlighted for spoilers, my prediction was that the devil was going to turn out to be Brian Henson.

Ryan R

"Hi, I'm Brian Henson. Someday the world will kneel before the power of my evil might. See if you can spot the Mark of the Beast on my forehead in this episode of The Muppet Show."

Anthony

The Mark of the Best has never been anywhere near Brian Henson.

Ryan R

Thanks for catching that typo. You are smartass.

Joe

And then you fixed the typo so now Anthony's joke doesn't make sense?? For shame.

Ryan R

Yes I did, but then I left in a reference to it in my follow-up post so it would still make sense. Don't worry; I have everything figured out.

No I don't.

Joe

Going the extra length to avoid a typo! I can respect that.

Matthew 88mph

"Hi, I'm Brian Henson. In this thread of the ToughPigs forum, Ryan originally said "Mark of the Best" when he meant to say "Mark of the Beast." And then he tried to edit his mistake, which rendered Anthony's joke pointless. See if you can spot any other typos and flubs in this thread of the ToughPigs forum. Also, Cthulhu fhtagn."

Muppets Most Wanted

3/18/14 | 14397.1910

Shane

My mom sent me an article about the movie and asked me if I knew about the new Muppet - Vladamir. She tries.

Everyone's making Muppet lists

3/20/14 | 15693.1-3

Ryan R

The internet loves lists, and there's a new Muppet movie, which means lots of Muppet lists. And what do most of them have in common? They're not very well-written!

For example...

Cinema Blend's Top 25 Muppet Characters Ranked: <http://www.cinemablend.com/new/Top-25-Muppet-Characters-Ranked-28058.html>

Wired's 12 Most Depressing Muppet Moments Ever: <http://www.wired.com/underwire/2014/03/dark-muppets/#slide-id-484101>

i09's 12 Worst Muppets Ever: <http://io9.com/the-12-worst-muppets-ever-1548092545>

Joe

Snuffy and Beauregard as some of the worst Muppets ever??? i09 is full of crappo.

Ryan R

Right?

Also there's this: "I have no idea what Jim Henson was thinking when he made Clifford the star of Muppets Tonight." Jim was probably thinking, "I have been dead for six years."

[Joe, Ken, Scott]

Muppets Most Wanted

3/20/14 | 14397.1916-36

Scott

Janice joins the MMW marketing blitz.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vz2tZ7SdapU>

Nicholas Joseph Teixeira

Is that gum in Janice's mouth?

Mr. the Dan^{©™}

It's her uvula.

Nicholas Joseph Teixeira

lol has that always been hanging out there?

Scott

Pretty much. Although, there'd been some discussion about whether or not she lost it for awhile, but it may just have been that it wasn't visible.

Dan!, Esq.

I think they've made it much larger and more bulbous. It looks awkward.

Ryan R

Did it maybe used to be attached to the inside of her mouth, so it didn't dangle like that?

This is why I love being part of the Muppet fan community. We talk about important topics like Muppet uvulas.

Meagan

I've noticed it more now, and i think they've made it bigger and that it's closer to the middle of her mouth than the back. And yes, this is a very important topic that requires serious deliberation.

Kim McF

I remember wondering about Janice's uvula, and how it affected the shape of the inside of her mouth, when I watched the show in its original run. I imagined that instead of the V shaped tip & bottom palate that the inside of her mouth was shaped more like a bell jar. Which makes no practical sense; it just shows that it gives a pretty effective illusion of space in her mouth.

And, yeah, it was a bit obtrusive in that interview. I found myself wishing the inside of her mouth wasn't so well-lit.

It'll behoove ya to take care of your uvula!

Muppets Most Wanted

3/24/14 | 14397.1939-43

Ryan R

I loved all the stuff with the puppets doing things they can't actually do. It still throws me off not to see arm rods, though. I miss them.

Joe

Lucky for you, you can still see all the arm rods you want in their talk show appearances! Apparently it's harder to CGI them out when they're filming live.

Ryan R

Yeah, that's comforting every time. And it must be harder and less financially feasible to remove them during those appearances... which also explains why Jimmy Fallon has arm rods.

Joe

Yes, but Questlove is a live-hand character.

[Meagan]

The Muppet Vault

3/24/14 | 12962.706-12

Joe

Announcing the next Muppet Vault, which will be Comedy-themed! It's something Ryan and I have wanted to do for a long time, spotlighting some of our favorite funny Muppet moments, guest stars, and random TV appearances and stuff. Basically, it'll be comedy gold.

Scott

Next Muppet Vault: Muppet Themed!

Ryan R

Nah, the next one after "Comedy" will be "Tragedy." It will consist entirely of The Muppets' Wizard of Oz.

Scott

And... BOOM goes the dynamite!

Muppets Most Wanted: Reviews & Opinions

3/24/14 | 15671.203-05

Joe

You know what would have helped us with this Walter thing? If we knew what his new role with the Muppet troupe was. Is he Kermit's personal assistant? Is he their dedicated whistler? Is he in charge of Public Relations?

Likewise, I would've been happy seeing, say, Mildred stitching up a costume, or Link applying someone's makeup, if only to justify why Kermit invited them on their tour.

Ryan R

I like the idea of Walter as the PR guy. I can imagine him writing an excessively positive press release about how amazing the Muppets' newest show is going to be because they're the Muppets and they're the best entertainers in the world.

Questioning every character's role could be a slippery slope, though. Why is '80s Robot still around? Why is Behemoth/Gene there? What does Afghan Hound do?

Joe

Obviously, Afghan Hound is in charge of ordering pizza.

Muppets Most Wanted box office

3/24/14 | 15695.55-52

awkward andrew

Ok, so opening weekend may have been disappointing, but Disney does not seem to mind that much. They are confident the movie will gain ground over spring break and are fine enough with boasting that it is the best in their genre right now.

Joe

Where are you seeing these comments from Disney?

awkward andrew

The spring break one came from the Hollywood reporter article linked to on the forum, and if you click around on the front page of their website enough, you can see them calling it "the number 1 comedy in America".

Ian

They may say stuff like that, but really they're just one step closer to only releasing Pixar, Marvel, and Star Wars movies. Bob Iger will not tolerate even minor blunders.

Ryan R

Have you talked to Bob Iger today?

Scott

I have. He wants his bottle opener back. Also, he told me to tell you to say hi to Shirley for him.

Erik

The Muppets are doomed! DOOMED!

DOOMED!

Ryan R

Yep. I heard Disney is loading all the puppets onto a barge, setting it on fire, and setting it adrift in the middle of the ocean.

awkward andrew

Disney MUST still believe in the Muppets if they're running commercials like this.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T3RA55_VY64

Erik

Nope, sorry, they're doomed. DOOMED!

awkward andrew

OK, I'm sorry, but why is everyone in this MUPPET FAN FORUM already declaring the movie is doomed? I'd expect this from the general media, but not you people, especially when there is evidence that Disney still cares and the movie will probably still break even.

Ryan R

I'm pretty sure Erik is being funny. He's a funny guy.

Some of the fans seem to be taking a weird almost-pleasure in being miserable over the perceived failure of this movie, and speculating about how finished the Muppets are because Disney is furious or whatever. But yes, this is not a productive way to talk about it. The opening weekend was disappointing, sure, but we can talk about that without jumping to the conclusion that the franchise is dead forever.

So some of us have taken to being silly about the doom-saying.

Erik

They're doomed.

DOOMED!

Muppet Fan Confessions

3/24/14 | 15653.171

Emma

Janice's hair looks like spaghetti and it makes me hungry.

The Muppet Vault

3/25/14 | 12962.713-20

Max

Sure, you'd have to throw some funny bits in there, but it would be interesting to brainstorm what a more sad or heartfelt Vault would look like. I'd include Statler and Waldorf's "It Was a Very Good Year".

Matthew 88mph

Playing "I'm So Blue" and "Saying Goodbye" would be mandatory.

Though I will say, at the Gonzo-themed Vault a couple of months ago, they showed the Lola Falana episode of TMS, and there was nary a dry eye in the house when they got to Gonzo singing "My Way."

Julia

Basically play "My Way", "The Wishing Song", and "I'm Going to Go Back There Someday" and Gonzo can make anyone cry.

Joe

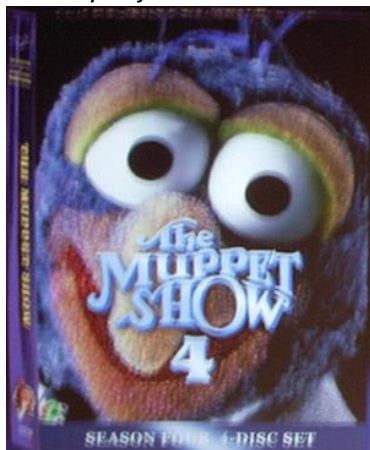
And we'd have to show that horribly depressing Polaroid commercial.

Ryan R

No one wants a picture of Gonzo's face.

Scott

I think you just discovered what the season 4 hold-up is.



Anthony

Roz and I went to the Center for Puppetry Arts in Atlanta today, and a thought occurred to me while touring the museum and looking at all of the beautiful old marionettes and shadow puppets and so on -

They put their Miss Piggy poser and Charlie Muskrat and Harvey Beaver right out in front with the puppets from the Lion King stage musical, because when people in the US think about puppets, they think of the Muppets first. That's what people come to see. Puppetry is an esoteric, odd art form for weird nerds, and somehow the Muppets were allowed to become a thing that everyone has heard of. When I told co-workers that I was going to see MMW, at worst they chuckled and shook their heads because it's weird for a childless adult to go see Muppet stuff.

But they all know who Kermit the Frog is. Every one of them. Obviously there have been other famous puppets (Madame's in the museum too, and it was nice to see her!), but none have come close to their level of recognizability, at least here in the US.

It's easy to sit around and complain that the Muppets are past their prime, or that MMW isn't being as well-received as it should be. But man, it's remarkable that the Muppets got to be a cultural phenomenon in the first place.

I'm just really, really happy about it right now.

Peter Savieri

I'd say their impact is more like a soft thud. Unless their eyes hit something, then it's a thud-click.

[Mike C]

Severin

So, when Muppets Take Manhattan was released, did we start a thread asking if a rat flirting with Brooke Shields was offensive?

Matthew 88mph

No, we actually debated the morality of shoving Jell-O down our pants.

The consensus was it was only immoral if it was orange-flavored.

APRIL

Fraggle Rock String Dolls

4/3/14 | 15734.1-9

Joe

Fraggle Rock string dolls are a thing you can buy now!

<http://www.toughpigs.com/fraggle-string/>

Robyn

I like Boober, but I feel like Red and Wembley were knitting by dear old Grandma who wanted to make their grandchild a toy from that show they like but poor Gran doesn't have very good eyesight, and also isn't quite sure what Fraggles are.

Peter Savieri

They're cute!

Wait what does cute mean again?

Muppets Take Manhattan filming locations

4/3/14 | 15733.1-17

Ryan R

This nifty blog post by The Bowery Boys identifies filming locations from The Muppets Take Manhattan and provides some cool historical notes. Just how crime-riddled was Port Authority while the Muppets were living in bus lockers there?

<http://theboweryboys.blogspot.com/2014/03/the-real-muppets-take-manhattan-21.html>

Peter Savieri

Pete's is a McDonalds...? hurrumph

Isha

McPeoples is McPeoples.

Ryan R

And when McPeople reproduce, they have...



[Robyn]

Muppets Take Manhattan filming locations

4/3/14 | 15733.2-25

Joe

Wow! I learned so much just now. I love that Gonzo's water skiing show was filmed at the same park where Tom Hanks wished he was big.

Matt Wilkie

Which movie was that in?

Matthew 88mph

Captain Phillips. He wishes he was big so he could fight the Somali pirates

Funniest Muppet things?

4/4/14 | 15731.29-33

Ray

The Ernie and Bert pyramid sketch has to be one of my favorite Muppet scenes ever. I didn't watch much Sesame Street when I was little, but I frequently watched my copy of The Best of Ernie and Bert that I still have, and it has always cracked me up.

Meagan

See, to me that sketch belongs under "Most terrifying muppet things"

Matthew 88mph

I don't know why everyone says this is terrifying. I loved this sketch as a kid.

Anthony

Several reasons:

My innate claustrophobia. The idea of being in a pyramid was a scary enough place to start.

A statue coming to life. As a kid I was always worried about being attacked by my seemingly-innocent surroundings (I have a very vivid memory of a dream in which my bean bag chair turned into a gorilla and attacked me. True story.)

The fact that the statue looks like Ernie. Like a living reflection, sent straight from Hell to kill him and take his place. (Another true story about me: I can't stand to have a mirror in my bedroom, because my own image moving in the dark freaks me out. This sketch might very well be part of why.)

Worst of all, his best friend doesn't believe him. Ernie's in a dark, dimly lit, lonely box of a room, and there's a Hell beast with his face on it coming to life and messing with his head. He's on the edge of insanity, and he can't even count on his best friend to pull him back from the brink. People say Ernie is mean to Bert, but he's never done anything half as cruel as Bert's cold, willful ignorance in Ernie's hour of need.

It's the absolute worst. Nothing on TV has ever scared me quite like it. Ernie and Bert were my trusted TV pals, and they betrayed that trust by locking me in a small space with a living statue who drives Ernie insane. I'm completely serious about every word up there. To this day, it chills my bones to even think about it.

Scott

That might be the best thing I've ever read on this forum.

Fraggle Rock movie

4/4/14 | 8499.362-71

Scott

So, Brian Henson is saying that the Fraggle Rock movie is still happening.

<http://variety.com/2014/tv/news/brian-henson-on-his-new-reality-show-the-fraggle-rock-movie-and-more-1201146308/>

In other news, Brian Henson is adorable.

Joe

I like that the immediate response to someone saying that the Fraggle Rock movie is happening is, "Oh honey... that's just adorable."

You keep on thinking that, Brian Henson.

Scott

Maybe no one's told him yet.

Cathy

Oooh! I can't wait for the press release!

Mr. the Dan™

I thought it came out a few years ago?

Ryan R

Yeah, but that was before they joined forces with another studio, fired the writer, hired a new writer, fired that writer, hired new writers, and zzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzz

Mr. the Dan™

Some white-out should take care of that.

Kenny

And a Dark Crystal movie. And a Farscape movie. In fairness, he is adorable on the new reality show.

Scott

And a new Emmett Otter movie! And a new Jim Henson Hour movie! And a new Lighthouse Island movie! And... um, lessee... what else of my dad's do we have kicking around here?

[Anthony]

Muppets Most Wanted box office

4/9/14 | 15695.190-91

Joe

Speaking of that Young Florist, I just wanna say how disappointed I was with that scene. Kermit could've

gotten into the Tower of London in any number of entertaining ways, but he just snuck in behind some flowers. Then Fozzie says that he was like James Bond. But he was neither spy-like nor so far in the other direction that Fozzie's comment could've been taken as ironic.

I wonder if there was something else in the script that had Kermit putting on a disguise or scaling the wall or using the Vulcan neck pinch to get in.

Kieran M

Perhaps he got Danny Trejo to distract him by dressing as Fozzie and saying Wocka Wocka causing him to be so disorientated that he spun a vase of flowers in the air?

[Carolyn]

Random Muppet Thoughts

4/9/14 | 15397.331-33

KRichard76

When I was at school this kid used to call me a "Muppet." (In the UK the term "Muppet" is by some people regarded as derogatory) which was the context from this kid, my response to this teasing/light bullying was to say to this kid who'd torment me: "That's a compliment." He didn't like that one bit :)

Isha

That reminds me of the time I developed a two-year crush on a boy after he told me my hair looked like a Fraggles'.

Constantine's Future

4/9/14 | 15735.27-35

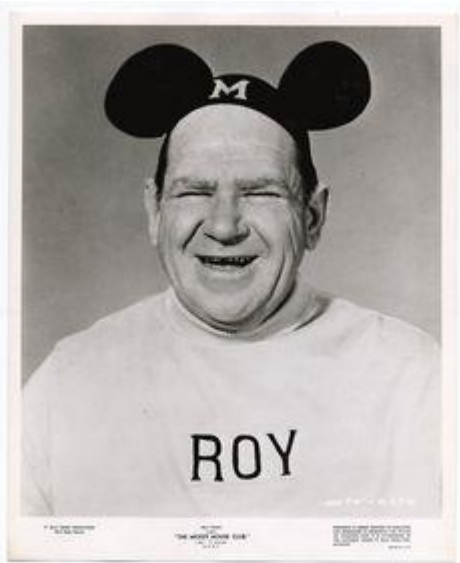
Scott

What would happen if Constantine, Kermoot, Kermit the Pig, Kismet the Toad, and Roy all met?

Joe

Who the hell is Roy?

Ryan R



Joe

This guy?



Scott

Roy. You know... Roy!

Joe

Who the hell is Roy???

[Rob]

Tough Pigs dreams

4/12/14 | 9244.1819-22

Julia

I had a dream last night about Ty Burrell. Let's just say he thoroughly interrogated me.

Isha

Oh my Oh my.

Oh my.

Scott

Is it true about his badge?

Julia

It's not the size of the badge that matters.

Random Muppet Thoughts

4/20/14 | 15397.378

Isha

Why are there so many covers of the Rainbow Connection playing on Pandora?

This is the same song sung in different voices. The lyrics are one and the same.

I've heard it too many times to thumbs-up it, yet that's what I think I must do.

Can't help but like it, The Rainbow connection, sung by random artists on Pandora. It's true.

Misread Thread Titles

4/25/14 | 9486.1867-71

Kim McF

Jim Henson's Tale of Salad

Nick Wheatley

Which goes best with The Cubed cheese.

Joe

Also Thyme Peas.

Matthew 88mph

Maybe a side of Yuca '68?

[Abigail]

Trial By Stone

4/27/14 | 15773.1-10

Joe

So, here's a random question.

I'm watching The Dark Crystal, and I realize that the Trial By Stone scene makes no sense. The Chamberlain and the General take turns whacking at this stone, and whoever breaks it gets to be the emperor. But the stone has already been hacked at when it pops out of the floor. So, was the original intent to break it? Or chip it? Or make it sing?

Matt Mtthwas

According to the books...

Trial by Stone is a ceremony used by the Skeksis to settle disputes debates and conflicts. The two competing Skeksis each attempt to break the ceremonial rock by striking it with a large sword. The Skeksis who is able to hack off the biggest chunk of the stone is declared the winner, and the loser is forced to forfeit his position in the Skeksis court.

The stone was created by the Skeksis in an attempt to create a crystal of their own, until they realized it would never match the original's power. The actions of the ceremony ceremoniously symbolize and mirror the shattering of the crystal.

In *The Dark Crystal*, after the death of Emperor, the Garthim-Master and the Chamberlain participate in a Trial by Stone in a fierce rivalry for the throne. The Garthim-Master emerges triumphant by chopping off the entire top half of the stone, shocking the rest of the court and leading the Chamberlain to be banished from the castle.

Joe

Wow, I wasn't expecting such a concise answer. Well done, Matt!

Ryan R

That is a good answer. Too bad they didn't explain it in the film. All they'd have to do is have one of the Skekses say, "Watch this! Whoever cuts off the largest chunk of the stone wins!" And then the Chamberlain could go, "I will cut off the largest chunk of the stone! MmmMMMMmm!" And then the other Skekses could slap him silly and tear off his robe and skip the Trial by Stone completely.

Joe

Yeah, but they'd have to fit all that dialog into their mouth movements after Jim thought it was a good idea to have them all speak a made-up language with no subtitles.

Matt Mtthwas

The film's original dialog just had the Skeksis chanting "Haakskeekah, Khrokon! Haakskeekah! Haakskeekah!" while the ceremony took place... I'm sure that wouldn't have made the whole thing any less confusing.

Ryan R

Confused viewer: "Haakskeekah, Haakskeekah? That doesn't make any sense! What's going on? Ohhh... Haakskeekah Khrokon? NOW I understand!"

[Nick W]

Muppets Most Wanted (potential spoilers)

4/27/14 | 14397.1992-96

Peter Savieri

You must all think I'm a big dumb-dumb for taking so long to see it and now I'm all newbie raving like "wow did you see that bit" and "I love it when the pig lady dances" and "the wind in the hair of the drummer beast, joke bear and little fan man in the freight train made me feel love".

Anyway. I adored it. I'll watch it way more than *The Muppets* and I didn't even have a painting in this one.

Erik

Sorry, but we have no idea what you're talking about. Was there a movie, or something?

Trial By Stone

4/29/14 | 15773.12-16

Peter Savieri

It used to be Trial By Stone Standing On Chairs.

Ryan R

Which was much more interesting than Trial by Stone Phillips.

Peter Savieri

Yep I googled him and knowing who he is added absolutely nothing to my life.

Ryan R

What if I had said "Trial by Emma Stone?"

Peter Savieri

Emma or Sharon. Or Blarney. These have added things to lives.

Muppets Most Wanted Soundtrack

4/29/14 | 15684.179-80

Matt Wilkie

My apologies if this has been brought up in this thread (I'm playing catch-up on threads), but I kind-of hate that there are lyrics on the soundtrack that aren't in the movie. My reasoning is this: There are now two versions of almost every song on the soundtrack. Let's say you and I are at a campfire and want to have a Muppet sing-a-long. We pick "We're Doing a Sequel." I've only seen the movie and never bought the soundtrack. You have bought it and loved it and studied it. Now we're technically singing two different songs and I've never heard the one you're singing. "Why are you talking about The Godfather 3?" I would ask. I get deleted scenes in movies, but once you change a song and put it on the big screen, those discarded lines should stay on the cutting room floor. Leave those in the demos that Brett sings but I don't like it as part of the official soundtrack

Jes

Nonono... love the extra lyrics. If you didn't buy the soundtrack, we probably shouldn't be at a campfire together anyway.

[Scott]

Nick Moreau



Robyn

Nope sorry Zoe, you do not need to gouge out your eyeballs to wear a crown.

[Jes]

Muppets Most Wanted DVD/Blu-ray

4/30/14 | 15765.3-8

Joe

We have a release date: August 5th!

No more details yet...

Scott

Radical, dude!

I hope it's got more Celine Dion.

Carolyn

You shut up!

Scott

You can tell me to shut up all you want, but my heart will go on.

Misread Thread Titles

4/30/14 9486.1873-74

Max

Trial By Jon Stone

Ryan R

Well, there's one I should have thought of in the thread.

MAY

Nick Stoller hints at new Muppet TV show

5/6/14 | 15782.15-30

Joe

I do wonder who out there would make a good showrunner. There aren't many producers with variety show experience anymore. Maybe one of the late night talk show people?

Rob

Perhaps the ideal showrunner could be anyone from the Muppet Central forum who has ever complained about anything in an overexcited manner.

As a bonus they could make themselves the special guest star every single week.

Joe

So... FrogFan76?

[Scott]

Alexander and the Terrible Henson movie

5/8/14 | 12917.38-41

Ian

Here's the trailer. It looks about as good as Good Boy!. Maybe worse.

[[Link to the trailer.](#)]

Ryan R

Also: We may have already said this is this very thread, but they're really setting themselves up by adapting a book with that title. Just imagine how many critics will use the headline "Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No-Good, Very Bad Movie -- and the Sequel Really Is Never Quite As Good! LOLLOL"

[Ian]

Terry Calhoun: Creator of Sesame Street

5/8/14 | 15784.1-13

Nick Moreau

Who the heck is Terry Calhoun? Every single post that Sesame Street makes on Facebook, there he is, bragging about his non-descript involvement in creating the series, and things like Sesame Street Magazine.

He's finally pushed people on the page too far... he reported a recent Sesame Bits comic as a copyright violation, even though Sesame Workshop created it. Another page fan, Mat Jones, called his bluff, and of course no reply.

The woman worked briefly at a variety of media outlets (according to her own FB profile), none of which were NET or WNDT/WNET/Thirteen. The profile lists her antiques shop, Fifth Estate, which does exist:

<http://www.angieslist.com/companylist/us/ma/boston/terry-seldon-calhoun-reviews-6221753.htm>

Is this person just delusional?

Ryan R

I hadn't noticed this person, but I just checked a few recent Facebook posts saw the comments. Terry seems to be a she rather than a he, but I have no idea what her deal is. Most of her comments are pretty much the same thing, saying how proud she is to have created the Sesame Street characters. Maybe she's just craving attention and Facebook likes? I don't know. The internet is full of unusual people... I'd avoid engaging with this one.

Scott

I once sat next to a 50-something-year-old woman at an Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum concert in Boston who claimed that her mother created Sesame Street. I said, "oh cool, you mom's Joan Ganz Cooney?" I can't remember her reply exactly but it was something like, "no the other one." I don't think she ever gave me a name.

This Calhoun character is from Boston, according to her Facebook. I wonder if it's the same person, or if every woman in her 70s goes around claiming she created Sesame Street.

I'm suddenly really looking forward to old age.

Ryan R

Maybe her mom was Lloyd Morrisett!

Matt Mtthwas

I do love her claim that Snuffy was originally created as a mix between a woolly mammoth and elephant in order to educate kids about evolution and extinction in a not threatening way.

Ryan R

Yeah, you know, like in all those episodes where Snuffy explains to Big Bird how natural selection works.

Grant

Oh wow, her Facebook page is a bottomless gold mine. She claims to have created or discovered just about everything ever. And all her posts are "news" she's made up. This is glorious.

Nick Moreau

On her page, as a comment on her own post about a Ukranian TV station not being a Ukraine TV station, she comments:

While I've loved having decades' old personal and professional connections with The Boston Pops I don't prefer Jason Alexander or his acting. I'm quite proud of my earlier ones with old friends/fellow musicians Arthur Fiedler, John Williams who was also my teacher.

Boy, she could pretty much be in the Connections section of every page on Muppet Wiki.

Does anyone live near Boston? Someone dearly has to go to this antique shop.

Scott

I well remember visiting that antique shop and remain proud to this day of creating Antiques Roadshow.

Anthony

Proud to have visited, seen that shop, antiques.

World of Muppet Crap: The Beaker Bra

5/15/14 | 15662.13-18

Ryan R

I almost bought those at Target recently, but decided against it, perhaps because they were too weird. I also saw this one, which is just as weird:



It's almost a ZZ Top parody? But then it's not quite because all three of them have beards.

Anthony

I think it's a Duck Dynasty parody.

Ryan R

Oh.

Well, I'm glad I didn't buy those then.

Scott

I wish I had the time to photoshop those onto a hairy-legged Jim Henson.

Joe



[Joe]

Twin towers in VMX?

5/23/14 | 15804.22-29

Joe

One of my college professors in a film class I took once said that there are never any accidents in a film, since they take so much time and effort to make and the director has so much creative control. Now, we all know that's not 100% true, but I still keep that in mind whenever I notice things like this in a movie.

Mitchell

Well, there are some mistakes. If you look at this website, you can find dozens of mistakes you can find in movies.

And if you're curious since we're on the topic, they have a page on VMX too:

<http://www.moviemistakes.com/film6746>

Joe

I was talking more about creative choices rather than continuity slips, but it's all kinda in the same doghouse in the end.

Jes

woof

Joe

Thank you for your contribution, Jes!

Also: Hi!

Jes

HIIII JOOOOOE!

Mitchell

I didn't know you could speak whale!

[Scott]

[Muppet Vault Trivia & Drinks Archive](#)

5/30/14 | 15159.45-50

Ryan R

And the drink special was the "Mahna Mahna." Ginger beer & whiskey, \$7.

Justin T

Sounds like a good drink. I may go mix myself a Mahna Mahna.

Ryan R

I think you should doo doo do doo that.

JUNE

The newest Tough Pigs yearbook is here!

6/10/14 | 15835.22-30

Ryan R

On a whim, I posted a link to the yearbook on Facebook, and my aunt Glenda read the whole thing and said we're hilarious. She's a pretty good judge of humor, so good job, everyone!

Kieran M

I nominate your aunt Glenda!

Colton

I nominate your nomination!

Joe

I nominate the next post in this thread.

Matthew 88mph

Pudding. See you in 2015!

[Joe]

New Fans and Old Fans

6/17/14 | 15288.104

Lara

It's kinda blowing my mind that there are fans here that I can hold actual conversations with who remember It's A Big Big World AS A KID. And who were born after Muppet Treasure Island. That's.... omg I'm old. That's it. I'm old. Let me hug you, you babbys. Give Nanny a kiss.

(For the record, I'm 29. Whoever points out I'm technically old enough to be their mother is getting stabbed in the chest.)

Jim and Jane Henson Building at O'Neill

6/18/14 | 15846.1-4

Joe

The O'Neill Puppetry Conference will be dedicating a new building to Jim and Jane Henson.

<http://www.toughpigs.com/oneill-henson/>

Beth

I will be dedicating the new house (wooden box) in my guinea pig cage to Jim and Jane Henson. You are all invited to the dedication ceremony. There will be green waffles.

Ryan R

Are the waffles for us, or just for the guinea pig?

Beth

For us! The guinea pig will be busy chewing on the Jim and Jane Henson Memorial Box.

1987 article on Jim & The Storyteller

6/20/14 | 15851.1-8

Ryan R

This was posted on Reddit recently... It's way over-written, but it's a neat look into Jim Henson's world in 1987 while he was working on The Storyteller:

<http://www.nytimes.com/1987/10/25/arts/television-mr-muppet-s-empire-is-thriving.html>

Peter Savieri

Oh my gawd the writing is soooo pretentioooooousss. I have to read it a half page at a time take a holiday in between.

Ryan R

"Muppet connoisseur Peter Savieri pores over the old New York Times article with the concentration and precision of a cuckoo clock maker attaching the final cuckoo to his masterpiece. When he finishes digesting the meal of words and punctuation, he sighs heavily and declares to all within the sound of his fingers dancing across the keys that it was, like, totally pretentious."

[Peter Savieri]

Terry Calhoun: Creator of Sesame Street

6/26/14 | 15784.15-18

Ryan R

Okay, I keep telling myself I shouldn't laugh at this person's comments, but sometimes they really seem like a joke. Like this one today, on a post with a recipe for "Baby Bear's Family Applesauce."

"so proud to have personally, professionally helped create such recipes or found iconic chefs to feature cooking on this show for decades"

Joe

I'm so glad that Terry Calhoun invented apples.

Matthew 88mph

I think it was Carl Sagan who said, "if you wish to make an apple from scratch, you must first invent Terry Calhoun."

[Matt Soberman]

Miranda

I'm currently reading two books: one for pleasure and one for school.

The one for school is "How to Read English Like a Professor", which basically dives into how to read into symbolism and similarities between stories and such like that. I find it interesting though, because I love language and reading.

For pleasure I am reading "Treasure Island" for the second time. I'm really doing it because I'm adapting it for the stage for my high school's blackbox theater. It is a really good book though, and I would totally recommend it! I will warn you now that it is a bit different than MTI. :)

Justin T

But not different enough to matter on the test I took in school. One of these days I'll go back and actually read it. But somehow I passed a test on it in school having only watched the Muppet movie.

I remember my parents being mad at me for not reading the book and saying "Well you liked the Muppet version." Of course I did. Anything is better with Gonzo.

Miranda

That's weird. I'm an absolute geek for Treasure Island, and I thought the movie was too different... but maybe not as much as I was making it out to be. :)

Ryan R

In college I took a "Literature to Film" class, and at the end of the semester we had to choose a book and its film adaptation and write a paper comparing them. I chose Treasure Island and Muppet Treasure Island. It was really easy to point out the differences, but I probably would have gotten a better grade if I had gone with something less silly. Most adaptations don't add a little man living in the finger of one of the major characters.

Joe

Right. Most.

Ryan R

Yeah, I was going to say "No other adaptations..." but then I remembered how Gregory Peck is constantly talking to his pinky in To Kill a Mockingbird.

[Matt Soberman]

JULY

Fifty Shades of Oatmeal

Jul-11 | 15876.1-11

Ryan R

I just saw a Facebook user post a complaint (on an unrelated post) on Sesame Street's Facebook page about a scene on the show where Bert was shown reading the book Fifty Shades of Oatmeal. I thought this was hilarious when I first saw it on the show... It's a joke that grown-ups will get that will go completely over kids' heads, and it even sounds exactly like a book Bert would read.

That Facebook comment was the first time I'd heard of anyone disapproving, so out of curiosity I did a search, and found this, an open letter from a mom who decided to stop watching Sesame Street when she saw that episode. She's concerned that her kid will do a Google image search for "Fifty Shades" and find pictures of naked people:

<http://thehulletthome.wordpress.com/2014/03/10/bye-bye-sesame-street/>

Is it customary for five- and six-year-olds to do Google image searches with no parental supervision? Is there really any likelihood that a kid would latch on to that one joke from the show and Google it? Sure, people Google things to find out more about them all the time -- for example, there was this one time when I Googled "Fifty Shades of Oatmeal" to see if anyone was complaining about it. But would a young kid do that? Why wouldn't the kid ask the parent what they're laughing at?

It seems like a pretty major overreaction to me. But I'd be interested to see what actual parents think. (Although we're probably all biased in Sesame's favor around here.)

Shane

I'm not a Mom, for many reasons (being a guy is in the top 5), but I think it's kind of an over-reaction. Sure, a child could find something like "Fifty Shades of Gray" so easily because of how simple it is to pull up information these days.

But (again, not as a parent, so I don't know), wouldn't a parent have control of their young ones and the internet? If a child is kindergarden-age or younger, should they even be allowed to surf the web unsupervised? They'd never find anything about the reference if the parent is in control of the computer.

Sesame Street's done smutty references before. Desperate Houseplants? The innuendos in that are ridiculous.

Ryan R

Desperate Houseplants is a great example. I can only assume that lady has never seen it, or she would have stopped watching the show years ago.

Kim McF

Heh, I thought of that skit too. The thing is, jokes like these will go right over the kids' heads. There's

nothing on the screen that would make an innocent child think of anything more than dry houseplants and bad acting. It's the adult that brings the innuendo.

Robyn

A Parent steps up

Yes. This lady is being ridiculous. No, my 8 and 6 year old are only allowed to visit sites I know about, and can only do Google searches if I'm around (the 5 year old is too young for the computer). If my kids asked me why I was laughing at Fifty Shades of Oatmeal, I would flat out tell them they are making a joke about a book for grownups.

Peter Savieri

Oh boy, this again. The old "my child will learn that sex is a THING!!! A REAL THING!!!!
AAAARRRRRGGGHHHHHH!!!!!"

Sex is an intriguing stupid gross out joke to children, at best. Even if her kid googled Fifty Shades and found some suggestive or even explicit material, you'd hope A: She'd be there to supervise and answer questions in a light hearted yet cleverly dismissive way (or prevent the search altogether) and B: If the kid was searching it alone he/she would most likely laugh and be a little fascinated, then use it for social cache among his/her equally naive peers, and the teacher or guardian or parent can have an age-appropriate discussion about the subject from there.

Not many people seem to realise but sex is actually where children come from.

Max

THANK YOU.

Carolyn

I know! Of course I had to torture myself by scrolling to the comments and reading this:

I have felt this way about SS for around 10-16 years because they used Dr. Ruth as one of their regular guests. Just in case you don't know of Dr. Ruth she is a sex physiatrist. I decided that a person who talks about sex as a healthy activity (in all forms including homo and extramarital) was not someone who belonged on a children's show. So for that reason and several other hidden agendas that I noticed my children are not allowed to watch it either.

Talking about "sex as a healthy activity" is exactly the best concept of sex to grow up with! Also, has this woman had a constant string of toddlers for 10-16 years? I think she may be having sex without realizing it...

Random Muppet Thoughts

Jul-20 | 15397.557-58

Abigail

Has anyone else noticed how frequently kangaroos are offered as gifts in the Muppet world, especially in song form?

Fraggle Rock episode 304: The Grapes of Generosity-- In the song of the same title, Gobo says he'd give away a kangaroo to prove his generosity.

Bear in the Big Blue House episode 321: The Yard Sale-- Bear and Ojo sing the song "A Million Nickels", the first verse of which describes buying and donating a kangaroo for charity.

Muppets Most Wanted-- "You want a kangaroo? I'll give it to you!"

Maybe kangaroos are the fourth greatest gift that can ever be given.

Ryan R

Now that is a great observation. I'm giving you two kangaroos for that.

Random Muppet Thoughts

Jul-21 | 15397.559-62

Carolyn

No idea where to put this, but I am fascinated that this discussion seems to be continuing on one of my YouTube videos. I thought it was just one nut job, but now it's at least three!

ruth rachel

I feel Henson was a threat to the money machine owned by dizzneee- Henson also revealed the demonic satanists in The Witches and in The Dark Crystal. A big no-no in Hollywood. He let the evil out of the bag for those to see who were paying attention. Then somehow he contracted a strange "virus" and dropped dead in his early 50's. Maybe he didn't want to sell out to satan like so many do-I enjoyed his honesty and creativity. Now his son is also dead at only age 48....?

Robyn

Oh, these people must be so much fun at parties!

Two-Headed Monster plush

Jul-29 | 15901.1-4

Joe

I posted this on Facebook/Twitter/Tumblr, but I forgot to share it here.

These guys will only be available at Sesame Place. But I'm investigating to see where else you'll be able to get one if you don't happen to live anywhere near Langhorn, PA. This is news to me: There is an online Sesame Place store! 2HM isn't there yet, but they do have the other exclusive plush like Murray, Telly, and Baby Bear!

Robyn

WA NT

WA NT

WA NT

WA NT

WANT!

AUGUST

Sesame Street on YouTube

Aug-1 | 9145.1218-29

Joe

That time Telly punched a penguin and then went to jail.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FRufm4u6QiE>

Ben

Why did Telly need his moms towel? Does he not have one?

Joe

I'd imagine that even his own towel is owned by his mother.

Anthony

I'm not going to do anything except watch this for the rest of my life.

Ryan R

How did the penguin get the costume in the first place?

On the other hand, it's probably good for kids to learn that violence is never the best solution and has consequences. Someday we'll have a president who chooses not to go to war with another nation, and when people ask why, that president will say, "Because I don't want to go to jail like when Telly punched a penguin, of course!"

Also, I'm waiting for Jes to show up here and complain about Gina.

Jes

Yes, here I am. He maybe should have hit her instead.

Ryan R

Thanks for not disappointing me.

Jes

Hi, Ryan!!!

Ryan R

Hi, Gina!

I mean, Jes. Hi, Jes. Sorry about that.

Jes

(██████████)*

*black like Gina's heart.

My Weeks with The Jim Henson Hour

Aug-4 | 15754.302

Smig

Bootsie and Brad. They thought THAT was rad? I must say EGAD! They're totally bad. Those sketches were sad. I feel we've been had! Now, dammit, I'm mad! And more than a tad! Least they're not a fad. Of that I am glad. Good thing they didn't have a lad! Imagine Brad as a Dad? What a cad! Not much more to add.

Random Muppet Thoughts

Aug-4 | 15397.590-91

Anthony

Roz's friend Merrie and her 6-year-old son Eddie were just over here. When Eddie saw our Muppets Yahtzee (shaped like Kermit's head), he yelled "Croaker!"

Because he watches Kermit's Swamp Years all the time, and Croaker is his favorite, and he thinks all Muppet frogs are Croaker.

That's an actual thing that I just witnessed.

Ryan R

I love Croaker's Swamp Years!

Just wait until he sees Muppets Most Wanted, in which Croaker's evil twin Croaker plots to destroy the Muppets.

VCR Alert: The Muppets on The View

Aug-5 | 15910.2-3

Nick Moreau

New character idea: Walter Walters, a life-long fan of asking people what tree they'd be.

Shane

Walter Walters...while George Burns.

VCR Alert: The Muppets on The View

Aug-7 | 15910.9-13

Nick

I'm fairly new to these forums, and I'm always so confused with the 3 digit acronyms used here. I've figured out the major movies... but the specials and TV movies still confuse me, even though I own them all on DVD. I had to Google "Muppets LTS" to figure that one out... :-P

Ryan R

You'll learn them in time. We tend to use the same ones over and over:

LTS = A Muppets Christmas: Letters to Santa

MFS = Muppets From Space

M11 = The Muppets (2011 film)

VMX or VMC or laVMMCM or MCM or VMMCM or laVMMCMCMVMCMIMCMMHAM = It's a Very Merry Muppet Christmas Movie

FTB = Follow That Bird

FTB = Statler and Waldorf From the Balcony

MUW = Muppets Underwater

MES = Muppets Enjoying a Soufflé

KSY = Kermit's Swamp Years

KLW = Kermit Learns Windows

KUB = Kermit's Blithering Boondoggles

*EMSP97*52-26P = Elmo's World*

Joe

SCUBA = Self Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus

B = The Jim Henson Hour: Storyteller: Greek Myths: Just the Parts with the Dog

|=:^)> = Uncle Sam

Matthew 88mph

Don't forget our covert assassination network: Hungarian Intelligence, Justified Elimination Service.

Joe

That took me far too long to get. But: HA!!!!

Ryan R

I'm still waiting for you-know-who to get it.

Matthew 88mph

Fake Ryan wouldn't wait, bro.

Jes

That's RIGHT, only REAL RYAN would wait... also: Fake Ryan may or may not have hired Matt to ...

gulp... ELIMINATE ME!!!

ePic War VI

Aug-17 15897.212-16

Anthony

My wife and I were just talking the other day about how it seems like Gonzo and Fozzie are best friends, but they never really did anything together without Kermit, so really it's more like they're Kermit's two best friends who probably get along fine.

Ryan R

If Kermit got up from the table at a restaurant to use the restroom, would Fozzie and Gonzo have that awkward silence where they tried to come up with stuff to say to each other? "So, uh... are you, uh, working on any new jokes?"

[Matt Wilkie]

The Random Thread of Randomness

Aug-19 | 9511.10191-92

Shane

I found this high school doodle I made of Beautiful Day Monster as a rabbi:



Why? I dunno. Must have been more interesting than whatever class I was in.

Joe

Hanukkah is eight beautiful days and beautiful nights.



Dear Nephew Gobo,

Today I have learned about a strange custom of the Silly Creatures. They dump buckets of ice water on themselves to cure disease in others. I'm not sure how it works, but one of them requested I join in, and your Uncle Matt is never one to back down from a challen--

WAUUUGH! That was COLD! I'm soaked, and it's hard to write on a wet postcard. Still, if this can somehow cure someone else, it's worth it.

Love,

Your Uncle Traveling Matt.

P.S. I am supposed to tag three others to participate in this ritual. Well then, I challenge The Count, Phraggle, and CharlieTheOwl.

SEPTEMBER

[The Random Thread of Randomness](#)

Sep-8 | 9511.10236-37

Shane

A Snapchat doodle I made:



Matthew 88mph

Nailed it.

[Muppets Most Wanted: Reviews & Opinions](#)

Sep-8 | 15671.372-74

[In a discussion about ranking all the Muppet movies...]

Chris

1. The Muppets Take Manhattan
2. The Muppet Movie
3. The Muppet Christmas Carol
4. The Great Muppet Caper
5. Labyrinth
6. The Muppets
7. The Dark Crystal
8. Muppets Most Wanted
9. Follow That Bird
10. Muppets from Space

11. Muppet Treasure Island
12. It's a Very Merry Muppet Christmas Movie
13. Muppets' Wizard of Oz
14. Mirrormask
15. Elmo in Grouchland
16. Kermit's Swamp Years

This was a VERY hard list to pull together. I feel that the first 9 are almost equal, after that is where I feel the quality begins to fall then it's a steep decline towards Kermit's Swamp Years.

Matt Wilkie

Now we're adding "Mirrormask" to the lists? Where will it end?? What are we even ranking anymore???

1. The Great Muppet Caper
2. The Muppet Movie
3. Follow That Bird
4. Muppets Most Wanted
5. The Muppets
6. The Muppets Take Manhattan
7. The Muppet Christmas Carol
8. A Muppet Family Christmas
9. Emmet Otter's Jug-Band Christmas
10. It's a Very Merry Muppet Christmas Movie
11. A Muppets Christmas: Letters to Santa
12. Will Vinton's A Claymation Christmas Celebration
13. Labyrinth
14. The Dark Crystal
15. Muppets from Space
16. Muppet Treasure Island
17. Howard the Duck
18. Muppets' Wizard of Oz
19. Muppet*Vision 3D
20. That one scene in Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium
21. Elmo in Grouchland
22. Kermit's Swamp Years
23. Sing Along, Dance Along, Do Along
24. Mirrormask
25. Gigli

Muppets on AGT

Sep-11 | 15946.19-26

Ceris

Your reference to "counter-Kermit" is right on the money.

Constantine has constantly felt to me like a rejuvenation of the subversive nature that the Muppets used to embrace. He can say and do just about anything he wants. He also is anti-muppets, specifically the candy coated version of the Muppets and I really enjoy that.

Constantine should have joined the judges table and given some feedback - his brand.

jamie

So glad I'm not the only one who sees that. I kind of feel like Pepe was that for the 90's. I hope they allow Constantine to continue with the gang.

Ryan R

They'd have to do something to distinguish him from Kermit. People get confused easily. Maybe if he always wore a hat?

Joe

But then he'd look like a bear.

[Scott]

Sesame Street on The Tonight Show

Sep-12 | 15961.4-9

Carolyn

Oh my, the YouTube comments section...("Feels incomplete without Bert, Ernie, and Count Chocula?")

Actually, I realized after reading the first comment thread ("Where was Kermit the frog?") that I don't actually know what the arrangement is between Disney and Sesame when it comes to Mr. The Frog. They seem to be allowed to release older Kermit material, but not to produce Kermit merchandise. Is Kermit "allowed" to appear on the street these days? I know that Steve is too busy to even perform Ernie very often, but would he even be allowed to perform Kermit on the show in theory?

Also, is there a wiki page that lays out how the show format has changed over the years? I'm not even sure I know what segments they have now.

Matthew 88mph

From how I've understood it, Sesame's allowed to use existing Kermit clips, but they're not allowed to create new ones. So it's okay to have Kermit on a DVD, but they can't create any new material for it.

Shane

I don't understand why they can't get Kermit to be a "guest star" and do a "celebrity" bit.

Joe

Most guest stars are not owned by a major corporation.

Jes

Ha, are you sure about that?

Ryan R

Wait a minute... Kermit was writing with his right hand! Everyone knows Kermit is left-handed. This clip is terrible!

Meagan

Maybe he's ambidextrous.

Matt Wilkie

I'd give my right arm to be ambidextrous.

Smig

Ambidextrous? He's a frog! If anything, he's amphibdextrous!

[Kim, Ceris]

Tom

Susan is indeed the Doctor's granddaughter, but her parents (the Doctor's kids) have never been seen or mentioned. Another good question is why she has the name Susan when other people from the Doctor's home planet assume titles (the Doctor, the Master, the Rani) or they have impressive, non-Earth sounding names (Omega, Rassilon). "Susan Foreman" could arguably be a pseudonym so that she can pass herself off at school, but then why would the Doctor call her Susan in private? Why would everyone continue to call her Susan when they visit other times and planets if that wasn't her real name? No answers are forthcoming, but it's fun to think about.

Erik

Susan is actually a very popular name on many planets.

Ryan R

I hope the new Star Wars movie has two different characters named Susan, and they're always getting confused. Like Luke Skywalker says, "Hey Susan, can you help me with these power converters?" and both Susans turn around, so he has to be like, "Not you, Susan, I just meant Susan."

[Matt Wilkie]

Justin T

So my life got really chaotic the last couple of weeks. We had been without a PE Teacher this year, and I somehow got that duty at my school where I'm already teaching American History, Civics, Psychology, Sociology, Free Enterprise, and Career Readiness. I took on Health and two sections of PE. Luckily, it's an online school, so this is just monitoring students' progress and putting grades in a book.

Matt Wilkie

How do you take PE classes online?

Robyn

I have visions of Justin watching the students run laps around their living rooms via webcam.

Sesame exhibit at New York Library

Sep-19 | 15889.23-26

Shane

I'll be going in just a few hours, super excited! Gonna take so many pictures with whatever puppets I can.

Erik

You'll probably have more success if you take the pictures with a camera.

[Erik, Abigail]

Sesame Needle Drop: Sesame Street 1

Sep-22 | 15974.2

Matt Wilkie

"Is the dad in the picture wearing a collar and tie over his bare skin?"

And a hat! That's called Yogi Bearing, all the kids are doing it nowadays. It's the newest craze!

[Matt Soberman]

In Theaters

Sep-23 | 14253.413-18

Anthony

I still haven't gone back and watched any of the 1968-1973 [*Planet of the Apes*] movies. I should do that before I become a dad.

Jes

Well you're a little too late for that because baby in belly = you're a dad!

Anthony

Point ceded.

I should watch some Planet of the Apes movies before I have a baby in my house who breathes air.

Jes

Exactly! Watch those apes while baby is still breathing amniotic fluid or whatever happens in there...

Joe

Babies are weird.

Jes

On the Chicken School episode today (in which Professor Bawkaw sp? conducts his first class of poultry college preparation), I noticed a smiling crab emblem on Chris' shirt. Sort of like the old Lacoste alligator emblems but larger and crabbier. So. What's up with that?

Joe

I'm not sure I understand the nature of your question.

Jes

He has a large smiling crab logo on his shirt. Why?

Joe

Hey, Chris doesn't question your wardrobe choices!

Jes

Come on! Is it a Sesame brand? It was clearly done on purpose. It's a regular shirt in every other respect. Why a crab? And it's smiling!

Dan!, Esq.

It could be a reference to an old sketch or animation, though I can't think of anything right off hand.

Jes

We'll keep thinking because Joe is being difficult about it.

Joe

What I think you meant to say is that I'm being...

puts on sunglasses

...crabby.

Ryan R

I caught the episode last night (at 9:00 PM on the PBS Kids channel, a timeslot clearly designed for us). I noticed the crab right away... I wondered if maybe they were just covering up an actual logo on the shirt. Kind of like how they cover up all electronic brand names on TVs on such with labels that say "NOLOGO."

Jes

Sure ok - to cover up an actual logo- that makes sense. But why wouldn't they just use a shirt without a logo?

Jes

This just in!

I saw another strange emblem on Chris' shirt yesterday. I *think* it was a turtle but I couldn't really tell. It was in the same place as the Crab and also appeared to be purposely placed on his shirt.

WHAT'S GOING ON???

Ryan R

It's obviously a coded message. Crab... turtle... be on the lookout for the third one, and let us know when you've cracked the code.

Jes

Well, I'm not sure it was a turtle... it *looked* like a turtle but it was hard to see because I'm getting old and it was 6:13am. It might have been a snail.

Ryan R

Fascinating! Of course "CRAB SNAIL" means something entirely different than "CRAB TURTLE." You'll want to be certain you're reading the symbols correctly before you act on any instructions they give you.

Jes

Today's symbol on Chris' shirt ... first we thought it was a watering can, then a blue beetle, but a got a pretty good glimpse of it at the end and it appeared to be a base crossed with two baseball bats.

SO PUT THAT IN YOUR SHIRT AND SMOKE IT

Ryan R

I see, I see... It still doesn't form a complete message, but please let me know if the next symbol is a smiley face or a sailboat. Then we might have reason to be concerned.

Jes

SO. I forgot to update you on Chris' shirts. Today, he did NOT have an emblem of any kind on his solid color shirt. BUT THE OTHER DAY- wearing a striped shirt- he had no emblem but there was a little clear spot where the emblems usually appear, and it made me think they meant to stick something on there and FORGOT. Or it FELL OFF. And if there was a blooper reel, it might be on the bottom of his SHOE.

The take-away lesson here is that Chris' striped shirts carry the emblem unless there is some sort of production fail but his plain shirts are PLAIN.

Terry Calhoun: Creator of Sesame Street

Sep-26 | 15784.51-61

Jes

Where can I find her?

Ryan R

Everywhere. She's friends with every notable figure and has a connection to every important or unimportant event that's ever happened, so if you look around, you're bound to run into her.

Also she says she's from Boston.

Colton

So it was really Terry Calhoun on the grassy knoll?

Anthony

So proud to have killed the President, covered it up for decades.

[Carolyn]

OCTOBER

The Random Thread of Randomness

Oct-5 | 9511.10270-89

Justin T

I ride to work in a carpool where I'm the only person that doesn't watch college football. I'm getting really good at faking it. Whenever someone asks me about a team, I reply by saying "Great coach, but they need to work on the defense." For whatever reason, that works for every team enough to send whoever asks me the question into a rant about how right I am while I can go back to ignoring them and playing on my phone.

Ryan R

Yeah, my co-workers know that whenever the conversation turns to sports, my only contribution will be "Go, sports team, go!"

Joe

I root for all the local boys!

The sports thing I actually say to people is, "I'm a fair weather fan, and I'm from Cleveland, so I never end up following sports". So now I just have to keep on hoping that Cleveland never gets good at anything, or else I may have to come up with a new fake sports thing to say.

Ryan R

And then there was the time the Spurs were playing the Cavaliers in the playoffs while we were roommates, but there was no danger of tension in our apartment because neither you (from Cleveland) or I (from San Antonio) knew about it until the games were over.

Joe

Oh, that reminds me, we are overdue for a fight about a sports.

Ryan R

The Spurs are the better basketball organization! Because they play in a city where I lived! The Cavaliers are much, much worse as a basketball team! Because they play in a city where I have never lived!

(Am I doing it right?)

Joe

One time I saw LeBron James on a magazine cover, therefore he makes more points than his competition! I'm pretty sure he's on our side!

Therefore!

Justin T

The funny thing about all of this is I do actually care about some sports, but not college sports, which sucks when you live in a town that is only ever focused on college sports.

Even stranger is that when I did an NCAA Tournament bracket last year with my friends, I won the challenge with my method of picking Wisconsin based solely on the fact that Alf sang the fight song for a few seconds in an episode one time.

Joe

This is what I just heard:

"I enjoy sports, but not the right sports. One time I played a sports game that is all about other people playing sports. Thankfully, I like Alf."

Justin T

You heard correctly.

New Fraggles comic coming from Boom!

Oct-7 | 15866.24-34

Kim McF

It seems that few writers and artists have a firm grasp of the Fraggles' level of technology. They live smack dab in the geographic middle of the stone age. Yet the comics contain things like professionally bound books, humanlike furniture, and manufactured items like pencils with erasers and tubes of paint. Yeesh!

Again, I'm willing to forgive stuff like that if the story is good.

Joe

The show was guilty of the same thing though. They made references to things all the time that Traveling Matt wouldn't recognize in the real world. Like you said, they hardly even use the wheel, but they still have other simple machines scattered throughout the Rock.

One silly explanation could be that the humans and the Gorgs have these things and then throw them away. And then Gobo finds them in Doc's trash can, or they're given to the Fraggles by the Trash Heap. Fraggles using pencils and chairs don't seem all that far fetched or uncharacteristic to me.

Kim McF

There were references to things they shouldn't have known about in songs, yes. How would Cantus know what a cowboy was, or Mokey a highway? I just shrug and say that they can stretch reality for the sake of song lyrics, as long as it's only words.

Yeah, it makes sense some things could have come to the Fraggles via Marjory. She gave Mokey a commercially-produced paintbrush that had somehow become magical and bossy. But I don't like seeing Fraggles using things as part of their regular life that make no sense, like a bed with a mattress and a frame, or paint with tubes. Fraggles Rock has a certain flavor, and part of that is their different versions of everyday items: gourds or jars of paints, Mokey's diary being bound with string, Gobo's gourd guitar. When I see tubes of paint I cringe. Might as well have Mokey write in a spiralbound notebook or let Gobo play a Miniature Gibson.

Kenny

Wembley sang he was "not afraid of big black cats." Yet, they didn't know what kind of creature Sprocket was. Or that frog.

Are Fraggles just familiar with cats? Is my question.

Jessica

They just seem to be able to sing about things they don't actually know. In the episode "Wembley's Egg" they call the birds 'tree creatures' when they're talking about them, but sing about 'birds' in the same episode.

Erik

Catch a tail by the tiger

Take the horns by the bull

A bird in need is a friend indeed

So pull the eyes over the wool.

Wait, what?!?

Random Muppet Thoughts

Oct-8 | 15397.667-68

Kieran M

My 7 year old nephew got really upset when he heard ebola had made it to the US because he thought it might get to Hollywood and The Muppets would catch it!!!

Anthony

Adorable and terrifying!

The Random Thread of Randomness

Oct-9 | 9511.10292-341

Robyn

Oh! I have a World Series story! I owned some special edition Coca Cola cans from when The Blue Jays won in 1992 and 1993. I don't own them anymore but I did at one point.

Ryan R

This is definitely my favorite World Series story.

Here's a similarly meaningful sports memorabilia story: Years ago, a friend of my family got her hands on a bunch of Spurs bobbleheads through her work, and offered them to us. I was like, "Sure, I'll take a bobblehead of this basketball player." More recently, I suddenly remembered that I had never taken that bobblehead out of the box, and it's still at my parents' house in pristine condition. In a conversation with my brother, I asked him how many millions of dollars he thought it might be worth now. And of course, it turns out my bobblehead guy never really amounted to much on the team and nobody cares about him, so it's most valuable as a paperweight.

Anthony

My favorite thing about that story is that the bobblehead is playing the role of "some random issue of X-Men with a foil cover" and your playing the role of "Someone who kept that for 20 years."

Ryan R

"[Old Thing No One Cares About] has to be worth something now, right? It's still [in the box/bagged and boarded]!"

But yeah, it is exactly the same. I'm sure that, as with comics, sports fans buy everything that comes out that appears collectible in the hopes that the value will go up. And then it never does on that stuff because all the other fans bought one too. I guess sports nuts and comic book geeks aren't that different... after all!

Anthony

No, they really aren't. I've probably told you before that when my brother Christopher talks about the differences between American League and National League baseball, it sounds exactly like me talking about the differences between DC and Marvel.

Ryan R

Right. And I may have mentioned that when my Uncle Norman impresses people by rattling off facts about old players' stats, it's not unlike when we nerds (attempt to) impress people by rattling off facts about popular characters over the years. Like the time Wolverine's adamantium skeleton was yanked out by Magneto, but he still managed to get all those RBIs in every game that season.

Very Merry Muppet Blu-ray

Oct-10 | 15900.16-21

Ian

They won't release the rest of DuckTales on DVD because it's not an "event".

Scott

I don't buy that "event" nonsense. Disney had two major Muppet events in the last three years and they didn't do shit for The Muppet Show.

Joe

Releasing seasons 4 and 5 on DVD is the event.

Meagan

It'll be the major event of 2030!

Matthew 88mph

"We're selling a season, we're finally back on DVD!

And maybe we can even get Muppets Tonight a season three!"

[Tom]

Ryan R

This sequence of events that just happened at work reminded me of the "sports fans are geeks" exchange in this thread:

"Can I ask who's the celebrity guest at your event?" I inquired.

"Oh, I don't remember his name," the client said. "He used to play for the Yankees. Riviera? Something starting with an M?"

"Hmm. Well, I'm not much of a sports fan myself," I said.

Five minutes later when I related this to my co-worker he was like "MARIANO RIVERA?! He's a legend! He's in the Hall of Fame!" He thought it was so crazy that neither the client or I knew the guy.

And I realized it was like if someone said to me, "I don't know, he's some puppeteer... Frank something? Really short last name?"

Julia

If you're passionate about anything and get worked up over finding out things about said subject, you're a geek. Sports fans and car lovers are humungous geeks.

Meagan

I've had quite a few conversations with people who've never heard of Jim Henson, and most every time I'm surprised by that. Maybe it's because I was raised with the Muppets and behind-the-scenes tapes, but to me that's like saying you've never heard of Walt Disney. I guess a lot of it has to do with what you individually are raised around and surrounded by, as well as your own selectivity of information.

Abigail

It gets worse-- I've talked with people my age who don't know what Kermit the Frog's name is!

Ryan R

My reaction to that:



Joe

It's right there on his mug!

Meagan



Joe

Man. That guy's got Kermit the Frog written all over his face.

Meagan

His mug, as it were.

Joe

PLOT TWIST!

[Robyn]

[The odd & awesome pictures thread](#)

Oct-17 | 11848.2687-91

Joe

NOPE.



Julia

This is the stuff of nightmares.

Robyn

I cannot look away. That tiny head.

Shane

I...I have nothing...

Meagan

This looks nothing like Bert, he's not wearing saddle shoes!

The Random Thread of Randomness

Oct-20 | 9511.10329

Macy

Earlier my younger brother started singing his own version of "The Banana Phone Song" called "Fozzie Phone". It basically went, "Wocka wocka wocka wocka wocka wocka wocka wocka FOZZIE PHONE" and then there was something about fart shoes. Made my day.

Matt Mtthwas

Do the Sesame Street Muppets ever refer to themselves as being Muppets? I know Kermit would say he's a Muppet, Fozzie and Gonzo wouldn't object to being called "Muppets" (even though they're also a bear and a whatever), and Walter is a Muppet (albeit a very manly Muppet). But the Sesame character usually don't refer to themselves as Muppets and just define themselves by species (monster, grouch, bird, fairy, snuffleupagus, etc.) or as simply being "a resident of Sesame Street." So while Scooter might admit that he's a Muppet, would Bert or Ernie ever say that they're Muppets?

Ryan R

Outside of the occasional joke in a talk show appearance, the Sesame Street characters are generally less self-aware than the Muppet Show guys. I wouldn't be shocked to find an example of a Sesame Street Muppet acknowledging his or her Muppethood, but I can't think of any.

Matt Mtthwas

Yeah, I agree that the Sesame characters are less self-aware. Thinking about it more, the Sesame characters are just "regular people" (or "regular monsters"), not part of a performance group. I also guess the word "Muppet" is also the name of the Muppets' act - the name of the performance troupe led by Kermit the Frog. So just as Paul McCartney might say he was a Beatle, Floyd Pepper would say he's a Muppet.

It's not necessarily their "species," it's their affiliation. Sam Eagle would say "I'm an eagle" and Sam Eagle would certainly say "I am an American," but if Sam Eagle were to say "I'm a Muppet" he doesn't mean "I'm a puppet created by Jim Henson," he means "I'm a member of the Muppets, a group of performers and weirdos").

I'm sure there are times (especially in live appearances or before the Disney/Sesame/Henson split) where the Sesame guys used the word Muppet to describe themselves, it's just interesting observation that it's more a behind-the-scenes term for Sesame.

Dan!, Esq.

It wasn't until the Segal film that Muppet was treated as some kind of separate species...which is what I actually think Frank and some of the other guys original took issue with. Up until then, they were frogs and dogs and chickens and whatever.

Joe

Funny, I didn't take it that way at all. If Muppets are a species, then wouldn't Gary know pretty quickly that he's not one? I saw it more as a frame of mind. Like, you'd have to be a Muppet to want to put on a show like The Muppet Show.

Jessica

My initial response to the original question was much the same as Matt's (in-universe The Muppets are a specific theatre troupe; out in boring reality the term can cover a wider variety of puppet characters) but actually I have further theorising along this line. It doesn't seem to me that muppets (lack of capitalisation is deliberate) are a separate species, but rather a mutation that can affect any species. (Could be genetic, but I like to think it's more magic-based. More on that later.) So the Muppets are

muppet frogs/dogs/chickens/whatevers - except the monsters, who I suspect come from Fraggle Rock or the more magical realms connected by it.

When I watched Fraggle Rock it occurred to me that Fraggles are basically Muppet design formalised into a species. Which gave me the idea - what if muppets occur by exposure to 'the magic'? Perhaps there are more muppets born in places where Fraggle-holes exist. And the effects of it are that the creatures become somewhat Fragglish - odd coloured skin, furry/feathery hair, a tendency to break out in song....

On a side note, I'm pretty sure there's a Fraggle-hole somewhere in the Muppet Theatre. Possibly the costume department, which would explain why most of the Fraggles' clothes don't seem to fit in with their overall technology level. Also I'm quite certain that Nigel-the-conductor is actually a Fraggles.

Brad D

Yeah, the term Muppet has multiple meanings and levels.

You have non-Muppets (like some of the honorary Muppets or other humans, such as Gary when he reflects on his reflection) who are not Muppets (they aren't even puppets!) but could still get away with calling themselves Muppets (they're silly, imaginative characters that share in that dream of singing and dancing and making people happy).

And you have Muppets (like the Moopets or Constantine or Walter at the beginning of The Muppets) that are technically Muppets (Jim Henson's brand of puppet characters) but they aren't members of the Muppets and thus wouldn't call themselves Muppets.

So there are non-Muppet Muppets and there are Muppets who aren't Muppets.

You have the real-world brand of puppet characters originated by Jim Henson (a brand used by Disney, Sesame Workshop and on some other Henson properties such as Fraggle Rock for their puppets). You also have the name of a real-world puppet troupe or puppet act (led by Jim Henson and including Frank Oz, Jerry Juhl, Jerry Nelson and others who performed characters as "Jim Henson's Muppets"). You have a franchise name (the franchise created a TV show, The Muppet Show, and several movies, such as The Muppet Movie, and lots of merchandise and is now owned by Disney). You have the name of an in-universe performance troupe or family of characters (led by Kermit the Frog and includes frogs, dogs, chickens, bears, pigs and whatever; they put on a weekly vaudeville stage show and have starred in several movies). You have the name for an in-universe type of character or frame of mind. And you also have that British slang term too. It gets complicated as to what Muppet means and how it's being used.

[Grant]

Quinn

"Grand Moff Tarkin is a sexy mofo."

-something I just emailed a colleague.

Ryan R

Yeah, I hear the picture for his month in the Hunks of the Empire calendar was *hawt*.

[Matt Soberman]

NOVEMBER

The Random Thread of Randomness

Nov-1 | 9511.10374-77

Shane

Bob McGrath singing "Rainbow Connection":

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dwyusf7hkFY#t=14>

I had no idea this existed, but it's wonderful.

Julia

This just made my day. Bob McGrath could sing the phonebook and I'd be ecstatic.

Matthew 88mph

"Oh, who are the people in your area code, in your area code, in your area code, say, who are the people in your area code, they're the people you can call locally."

Celebs and Sesame Street: a gallery

Nov-4 | 16040.4-6

Brad D

I don't know where to put this [picture] on the wiki: is the Count kissing Ali Wentworth's neck or sucking her blood?

Scott

I think she's playing it as the latter, no question.

Kim McF

I think that she's trying to make it look like he's biting her neck. After all, when you look close at Antron fleece, it does sparkle a little.

[Scott]

Disneyland's Muppet Vision closed

Nov-5 | 16039.17-18

Jessica

Right now I have a mental vision of the "Frozen-themed show" turning out to be Miss Piggy in a spectacular Elsa costume.

Matt Mtthwas

For some reason that gave me an idea for a fun Disney theme park show (or an album or series of web videos or commercials or interstitials or something) -- the Muppets performing classic Disney songs/scenes.

Miss Piggy sings "Let It Go," Kermit does "When You Wish Upon a Star," Gonzo and Rizzo sing "Hakuna Matata," Fozzie does "You've Got a Friend in Me", Pepe sings "Under the Sea," Bobo does "The Bare Necessities," Bunsen and Beaker sing "Bibbidi-Bobbidi-Boo," Rowlf does "Zip-A-Dee-Doo-Dah," Scooter sings "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious," Camillia and the chickens cluck "It's a Small World," the Swedish Chef does "Be Our Guest," Walter sings "Give a Little Whistle," Dr. Teeth and the Electric Mayhem sing "Friend Like Me" or "I Wan'na Be Like You," Piggy does "Someday My Prince Will Come" and Kermit sings "Heigh-Ho"... the whole thing practically writes itself.

Get on it, cooperate synergy.

Pixar

Nov-6 | 12628.230-31

Julia

I am baffled. Toy Story 3 was the most perfect end to any trilogy. Why? Why???

Scott



Kermit 's TEDx Talk

Nov-7 | 16052.8-21

Lucas

Could someone please pass a memo to Steve Whitmire that saying "Your average, everyday, talking frog," mentioning/making jokes about being an amphibian and the jokes about Piggy makes his version of Kermit look spineless, especially when he's talking about Jim Henson?

Scott

Could someone please pass a memo to Steve Whitmire



Sent!

Ryan R

You sent that to his Prodigy address, right?

Scott

Yeah. He checks it from Hooper's Store.

Ryan R

What's their wi-fi password?

Joe

I bet Hooper's has free wifi. I mean, everything else seems to be free, so...

Ryan R

But maybe that's how they make their money. Sandwiches are free, but the wi-fi costs \$99 per minute.

Joe

Maybe that's why Elmo has to go all the way to Elmo's World to check his email.

Mike C

So then the inside of Elmo's head has free Wi-Fi....

Joe

Well, I wouldn't call having to spend time in Elmo's head free.

Grant

Ryan Dillon('s hand) gets paid to do it.

Mike C

Well, nothing in life is free, Joe. Elmo's head is member supported....

Joe

So is this guy's head.



If you think you can get away with this

Nov-13 | 16061.21-25

[A poll about how to finish the title phrase: "You've got another thing coming" or "You've got another think coming?"]

Ryan R

"Think" is holding its own, but so far "thing" is the clear favorite. I'm willing to accept that it may have started out as "think," but it's probably one of those times when the language evolved in a good way.

Carolyn

I think you're wrong!

Ryan R

Is your favorite member of the Fantastic Four "The Think?"

Carolyn

Naw, I always had more of a think for the stretchy guy.

[Jes]

Random Muppet Thoughts

Nov-17 | 15397.728-45

Shane

I've been showing my lady friend some Muppet stuff over the past few weeks.

She's a very grounded girl, so she has issues with Kermit and Fozzie being identical twins or Animal being able to wrestle alligators in a theater, yet doesn't question the idea of a talking frog and pig.

Ryan R

Did you explain to her the concept of jokes?

Jes

Jokes! I love those.

Shane

A typical situation goes as follows:

-Her: But they're not identical twins.

-Me: That's the joke.

-Her: But they're not identical twins.

-Me: That's the joke.

-Her: But they're not identical twins.

-Me: That's the joke.

Lather, rinse, repeat for a few minutes.

Ryan R

Wow. So what kinds of comedy things does she find funny?

Shane

She has a sense of humor. She mostly just does it to mess with me.

Ryan R

Whew. For a minute there, I was afraid we were going to have to stage an intervention.

Kim McF

Can we do one anyway? We don't have to intervene for a purpose, do we?

Ryan R

"Shane, we're here because we're your friends, and because... well, nothing, actually."

Funko Muppet Cupcakes Probably Cancelled

Nov-19 | 16072.8-9

Chris

Yep they actually made the others in the line.



Ryan R

Coming soon: Disney toys shaped like mushrooms, bananas, chicken cordon bleu, parfait, and bowls of cereal.

The Random Thread of Randomness**Nov-27 | 9511.10394-95****Macy**

I love the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, but I swear, if I hear another joke about it being my parade...

Meagan

I overslept and missed it :/ I'm sure you threw a lovely parade

(Do you throw parades?)

Matthew 88mph

So are you the one I complain to about the lack of a Kermit the Frog balloon this year?

The Random Thread of Randomness**Nov-28 | 9511.10402-10****Joe**

The Theme Park Tourist blog (which I read and enjoy very much) referred to ToughPigs as a site "I bet you've never heard of before".

<http://www.themeparktourist.com/features/20141126/29645/3-big-updates-disneyland-month-november-2014?page=1>

What the actual crap.

Carolyn

Tough Whatnow?

Ken

Tough Pugs. It's a website about mean little dogs.

Julia

I sure do love those Tough Figs. So hard to chew!

Matthew 88mph

As a performer, I've had my fair share of Tough Gigs.

Meagan

Everyone knows Tough Wigs are the highest quality hairpieces

Joe

I used to be a smoker, but I no longer Puff Cigs.

Scott



[Lara]

DECEMBER

Peter Pan is...

Dec-6 | 16094.12

Peter Savieri

He's a huge but completely compelling jerk. And that's coming from me, an absolute Wendy who's always falling for/having my heart broken by guys with Peter Pan syndrome. Which is outrageously common among the gays.

Wait, is this therapy? Or is that down the hall?

The Random Thread of Randomness

Dec-8 | 9511.10433-38

Robyn

Noam is currently playing hockey in the kitchen with our McDonald's Muppet hockey players. His team is named Niagara Bad Boys, and the 2 Kermit's, Miss Piggy, Animal and Fozzie are called The Russia Panthers (I have no idea where he got that from.)

ETA: Bert is now a goalie, so is a toy motorcycle. Ernie is a ref!

Anthony

All of that is wonderful. Are Noam Chomsky and Noam Mick on his team?

Robyn

Ha! No, I think those guys only jam together for their band.

Anthony

Understandable. Chomsky's a busy guy.

Ryan R

Yeah, he doesn't have time for kitchen hockey with a kid on some Monday night. That's when he's playing Ultimate Frisbee.

Misread Thread Titles

Dec-9 | 9486.1934-41

Julia

Everybody loves Carolyn!

Ryan R



Joe

omg is that real

Ryan R

Believe it or not, no, it's not real! I made it myself. But I spent about seven hours, using the most advanced professional photo manipulation software, so I can see how you might be fooled!

Carolyn

You know, I did get to visit the set of Everybody Loves Raymond back in the day. The catering staff seemed to like me a lot (they gave me a leftover pecan pie). Maybe there is an alternate reality where we staged a revolt and I took over. I do kinda do a Romano groan sometimes...

Sam I am...

Dec-12 | 16095.31

Isha

So I am at Kellie's house, and she has the entire Palisades collection and it is a thing of beauty to behold.

So Henry is showing Efrain the Muppets, and Efrain is saying "Who's that?" and Henry is telling him.

Well, he gets to Sam and Efrain says, "Who's that?" and Henry says, "That's Sam the AMERICAN Eagle."

Except Efrain didn't hear him, and asked again "Who's that?" so I said "That's Sam." and then I added, "The Eagle."

And Henry says, "It's Sam the AMERICAN Eagle. They are very precise when they say it."

So there you have it. Precision.

The Best Muppet Christmas Specials(?)

Dec-15 | 16101.2-4

Anthony

I love it!

I'm so glad that David and I both take the time to direct backhanded compliments at Pepe.

Ryan R

I love it too!

Even if I find Pepe more amusing in IAVMMCM than you do. I could take him or leave him in Gaga.

Anthony

I actually really do enjoy his stand-up act in *It's a Peppity Saucity Butt-Touch Time*.

[Isha]

The Random Thread of Randomness

Dec-15 | 9511.10440-43

Julia

Also: my three year ToughPigs anniversary was two days ago...!!

You guys are all awesome. Here's to more excellently Muppet-filled years with you all!

Anthony

Here here!

(Hear hear? I'm not sure)

Scott

Hear, hear. It's from *The Bible*.

Anthony

nods Heard of it. Heard of it.

[Matt Wilkie]

The Best Muppet Christmas Specials(?)

Dec-15 | 16101.12-14

Carolyn

I totally forgot that Fridge Day was on the list...I thought we weren't doing TV episodes? But if you were gonna do just one, that's a good one to choose. Come in and buy paint...

This article actually brings to light the fact that I actively dislike very few Muppet Christmas specials, and I think there is something to enjoy in just about all of them.

Joe

(Refrigerator Day wasn't on our original list. Evan was a latecomer to the game, so we gave him one of the leftovers.)

Ryan R

Leftovers feels appropriate for Refrigerator Day.

[Matt Wilkie]

The Best Muppet Christmas Specials(?)

Dec-16 | 16101.23-29

Severin

It always bugged/amused me that it's called Elmo Saves Christmas, yet he spends most of the special doing the opposite.

Ryan R

Suggested alternate title: Elmo Destroys Christmas, Then Rectifies His Mistake

Meagan

Elmo Ruins Then Saves Christmas

Jelly beans

Dec-16 | 16077.61-66

Isha

I recently started putting milk on cereal. After 32 years.

Joe

What were you putting your milk on before that?

Isha

My mustache.

Where we at?

Dec-17 | 10718.2244-53

Kim McF

You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch was sung by Boris Karloff.

Anthony

(You mean Thurl Ravenscroft.)

Kim McF

I didn't then, but I do now.

Ryan R

To remember, just picture Tony the Tiger singing it.

Joe

I can't. Is the Grinch a mean one, or is he GRRRRRRRREAT?

Ryan R

He's a grim grinning Grinch who's out to socialize.

Carolyn

I love nerds.

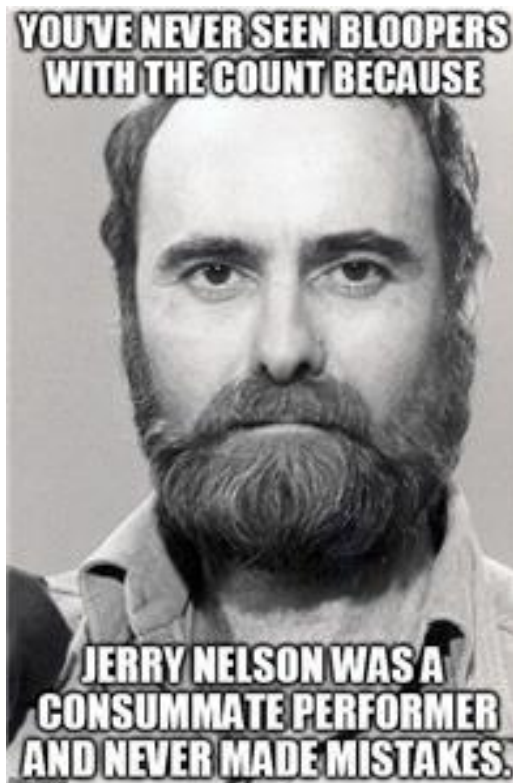
Shane

Outtakes from the online promos:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HvWgrp82qjA>

I don't think I've ever seen bloopers with the Count.

Brad D



Julia

Flipping the bird is not profanity. I mean, it's not very nice, but it's very different from swearing? Right?

Jes

I think flipping the bird definitely qualifies as profanity. But it's not 'swearing'.

Julia

For me profanity = crude vocabulary / verbal swearing, whereas flipping the middle finger = crude gesture.

Joe

Apparently profanity is "a profane act or utterance". So I guess the middle finger counts?

<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/profanity>

Julia

That's... really weird. But I learned something new today, I guess.

Jes

And when you hold up your ring finger as a joke it's 'pro-FUN-ity'!

Misread Thread Titles

Dec-19 | 9486.1944-96

Joe

Our Favorite Muppet Girls

Julia

I sure do think that Annie Sue is swell!

Anthony

ROSITA 4 LYFE

or

ROSITA PARA LA VIDA

The Random Thread of Randomness

Dec-24 | 9511.10454-57

Kim McF

Today I opened a box that was sent to my office. It contained a data CD with some documents produced under subpoena. Serious stuff, right? Well, you know how you sometimes run low on packing material and have to improvise by crumpling up paper, folding up a padded mailer envelope, etc? Whoever sent this CD packed the box with...feminine products. Maxi-pads, each in its little plastic package.

I stopped laughing about 15 minutes later.

Matt Wilkie

Whoever sent that sounds like a douche.

[Kim McF]

The Muppet Vault

Dec-29 | 12962.856-60

Joe

Ryan and I are extremely pleased to announce our next Muppet Vault. We're playing Lincoln Center!

Ryan R

Yay! I can't wait to meet Abraham Lincoln.

Shane

Do you think he'll make it through the whole show?

[Matt Soberman]

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