Tough Pigs Yearbook 2015



the yearbook.

compiled by Ryan Roe

Greetings, Tough Friends!

It's time once again to look back and find out what the smartest, most erudite, and nerdiest Muppet fans on the internet were talking about over the past year. Sometimes we talked about new Muppet things, like the brand-new TV show *The Muppets*. Sometimes we talk about old Muppet things, like everything before the TV show *The Muppets*. And sometimes we make the same jokes we've been making since 2001.

Quoted threads are arranged here in chronological order, accompanied by a notation as to who nominated each one where applicable. 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.

Special thanks to everyone who nominated posts, as well as everyone who posted on the forum in 2015.



Muppet Family Christmas

1/2/15 | 14902.22-30

Matthew Soberman

In the opening, Emily Bear says she's spending Christmas in Malibu. And in most attempts to establish a Muppet canon, the Muppets are based in Hollywood, right? And Malibu's not far from Hollywood. So what if Emily was secretly planning to lie on the beach and catch some rays...and visit her son and his friends (and Statler and Waldorf, as she says they spend every Christmas together)! Which makes her "what the--" funnier, in my opinion.

I...should really get some sleep.

Kenny

She didn't know her son was coming! She rented out the place to the old man and his dog, and she was headin' to Malibu. And it wasn't just her son who showed up, it was her son and all his coworkers! And the Sesame Street gang!

I think she handled the situation pretty well. I would've been pissed. Even if Jim Henson was in the kitchen washing my dishes. How'd he get in, by the way?

Matthew Soberman

That's simple. Given that Kermit, Ernie, Waldorf, and the like were already there, he just stood up.

Jessica

Crawled in through the Fraggle-hole? Travelled by map? Snuck in the back door while everyone was out the front welcoming Miss Piggy?

Grant

Snuck in with the rest of the relatives at Thanksgiving and hid in the laundry till Christmas?

Tom

He slipped on the icy patch early on, and it took him until the end of the special to finally wake up.

[Erik]

Random Muppet Thoughts

1/6/15 | 15397.835-39

Isha

When MTI first came out I listened to the soundtrack before seeing the movie. Shiver my timbers really shivered my timbers, as I remember cheering and bouncing about that they had indeed recaptured the Muppet magic.

As far as sailing for adventure goes, I was very disappointed that Mr. Bimbo was not played by Tim Curry, because I had interpreted Fozzie's line in that song to be a direct response to the line sung prior.

Ryan R

I go back and forth on whether that's intended to be the case. It seems like maybe Fozzie/Trelawney heard Long John Silver singing, and mistook it for Mr. Bimbo singing. But then I usually think, "But could he really be that stupid?" And then I usually remember that he's talking to his finger.

Carolyn

I personally don't think Fozzie even heard Long John singing.

Ryan R

What does your finger think?

Kim McF

"Red rum. Red rum."

[Erik]

Muppet central problems?

1/7/15 | 16139.23-43

Joe

I don't quite get the "What if..." stuff, but I totally understand the urge to make lists. When I was younger, I used to make lists of superheroes that I thought would make good teams. And Anthony and I have made plenty of lists casting actors as superheroes or ToughPigs members as Muppets or whatever.

Jes

Which Muppet do I get to beeeeee?

Joe

You are Big Bird's Uncle Slim.

Jessica

It's worse on forums where people have large signatures, and a one-word reply can take up half the screen.... though at least most forum-software lets you block signatures if you want.

Ryan R

And that's why we don't do signatures here!

Joe

That's good. My signature is just an X.

Ryan R

So your posts would look like this?



Joe

Yes, I remember saying that.

Where we at? 1/19/15 | 10718.2257-61

Julia

I vaguely alluded to something Muppety happening last Friday, and then proceeded to post a strew of photos of me and Tough Pigs own Matt Wilkie hanging out in LA/Disneyland.

In case you haven't had the pleasure yet, hanging out with fellow Tough Pigs is awesome.

Matt Wilkie

Especially if one of the ToughPigs involved is Julia! She's one fun son-of-a-gun!

Joe

That is so incredibly awesome. I love it when ToughPigs brings cool people together. Although I'm very upset that I wasn't there too. HA-RUMPHHHHH.

Julia

BUT YOU WERE THERE, JOE.



(This uploaded much smaller than it was supposed to... Boo Delphi.)

Joe

Ah, of course! It was right after I got my foot amputated.

[Robyn]

Bechdel Testing the Muppets

1/20/15 | 16121.30-46

Kim McF

The conversation between two women has to be about something other than a man. They could be talking about their children, couldn't they? The way I see it, if said children happen to be male, that wouldn't cause it to flunk the test. And I don't think it wouldn't matter if the children, or child, was someone else's; a male child is not a man.

The point being, Big Bird is not a man, he's a little boy. A big little boy.

Jes

(psssst... he's a bird)

Scott

I agree. **He** is a bird, despite some people mistaking him for a female.

Ryan R

Like this:



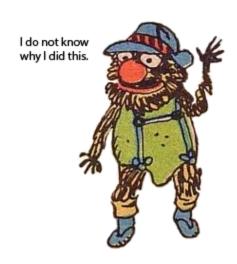
Carolyn

The Mad-Go-Round. Hilarious.

Ryan R

Isn't that just like Oscar? Or... whoever that ball of fur inside that trash can might be.

Scott



Ryan R

I do not know either, but I'm glad you did.

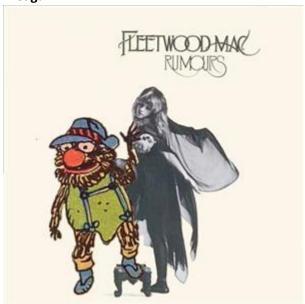
Also, something about seeing that pose and that hat made me think of this:



Joe



Meagan



Carolyn

Yes. This.

Yearbook to all the German Scarecrow Grovers.

And now Scott knows why he did this.

Jes

I don't get it.

I mean, I like it, but I don't get it.

[Carolyn]

The Random Thread of Randomness

1/21/15 | 9511.10504-13

Beth

Today at the library, I told a patron on the phone that his books had no renewals left. He replied something that sounded like, "Oh well, I guess Indiana Jones."

A quick check of my captioned phone revealed the words "Oh well, I guess I better get it done."

However, I prefer my version and have decided to adopt it as my catchphrase.

I could have used it yesterday. Coworker: "The fire alarm is going off. Evacuate the building!"

Beth: (who cannot hear the fire alarm): "Oh well, I guess Indiana Jones!"

Matthew Soberman

Indiana Jones and the Fire Alarm is Going Off

Beth

Indiana Jones and is it time to go home yet

Colton

Indiana Jones andreally? this thing again?

Erik

Indiana Jones and the Eternally Returning Meme

Mike (

Indiana Jones and I literally can't come up with anything anymore!

Joe

Indiana Jones and the... uh... thing. Words and stuff.

Scott

Indiana Jones and the Word Salad

Ryan R

I dread this joke returning as much as I dread another Indiana Jones movie.

Scott

Indiana Jones and the Returning Dread of Dread

Isha

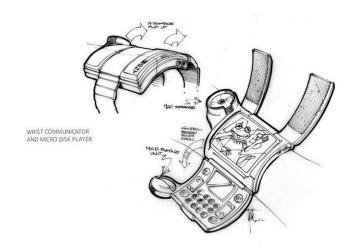
Indiana Jones and oh. well. I guess Indiana Jones.

Quantum Leap and Back to the Future

1/21/15 | 6773.809-12

Matthew Soberman

Edward Eyth, who worked on the 2015 designs for Back to the Future Part II, has posted some of his concept art for the movie on his website, and I figured some folks around here might get a kick out of this:



As it turns out, he would later work for the Jim Henson Company on projects like *Muppets Tonight, Mopatop's Shop*, and *Kermit's Swamp Years*.

Joe

Does that mean we're getting new Muppet content in 2015?

Matthew Soberman

Yeah, just turn on your wrist communicator and put in your micro disc of *The Muppets Talk About Blood Types*.

Random Muppet Thoughts

1/22/15 | 15397.904-08

Scott

The Muppet Babies puppets were rebuilt for a 2003 convention exhibit. Where they previously smaller than that? (I can't think of another photo of them in scale to a human or some other familiar object for reference)



Anthony

Is that Randy Jackson?

Matt Mtthwas

Yeah, you know, I still think he was a weird choice to play nanny in the live-action in the reboot.

Music stuck in your head Right Now

1/23/15 | 9639.3416-23

Isha

Today I kept singing Happy Together by the Turtles, and my brain kept randomly inserting Matt Wilke into the lyrics.

It worked really well.

Ryan R

I Matt Wilkie lovin' nobody but you! Matt Wilkie life! When Matt Wilkie, baby the skies'll be blue Matt Wilkie life!

Isha

Me and you
And Matt Wilke
No matter how you toss the dice it's Matt Wilke
The only one for me is you
And Matt Wilke
So happy together!

Matthew Soberman

Matt Wilkie Matt Wilkie Matt Wilkie Matt Wil! kie Matt Wilkie! Matt Wilkie Matt Wilkie Matt Wilkie Matt Wil! kie Matt Wilkie!

Matt Wilkie

I'm just absolutely floored. Matt Wilkie. Matt Wilkie, everyone.

Tough Pigs dreams

1/28/15 | 9244.1879-83

Ryan R

Last night I dreamed that Joe and I suddenly remembered we had to host another Sesame Street Muppet Vault, so we rushed to the venue, but we didn't have prizes to give out or trivia questions prepared. We emptied our pockets and bags for prizes, and ended up with stuff like a carton of chocolate milk and a tiny toy sword. Instead of trivia, we spontaneously came up with Sesame Street quotes and asked people to fill in the blanks. At one point all I could think of was the Two-Headed Monster, so I said, "Fill in the blank: 'Ah bwergee buh dubba ______." The answer was "cooperation."

les

Why do I feel like you have better stuff than that in your pockets and bags?

Ryan R

Well, I did have a Snickers, but I ate it. And an umbrella, but Joe ate that.

Joe

To be fair, I thought it was one of those candy canes filled with M&Ms.

[Erik]

Marvel Movies

1/28/15 | 14440.488-90

Julia

The best part of the Fantastic Four film will be Michael B. Jordan, hands down.

Joe

Michael B. Jordan is the best.

Matt Wilkie

I loved him in Space B. Jam

Ghostbusters

1/29/15 | 14647.66-71

Ryan R

I do wish they wouldn't just keep remaking everything. I think this is a great cast, and I can't imagine that it won't be better than Ghostbusters 3: Dan Aykroyd and Ernie Hudson Run Around Wishing They Were Younger would have been. But I'd be just as happy to see these actresses in a concept where they played ghost-hunters or demon-catchers or alien-grabbers that wasn't called Ghostbusters. But I guess not as many people would buy tickets to that as they will for a movie that has the same name as the movie they liked when they were 10 years old.

Jes

Make. New. Stuff.

Joe

Make. New. St(ay-P)uff.

[Scott]



Big Bird for marriage equality?

2/4/15 | 16174.1-12

Peter Savieri

So I was watching a TV documentary from the year 2000 on Sesame St. One I'd never seen, as it wouldn't have played on Australian television, and Sonia Manzano is describing how the writers evolve the human characters in step with events in the wider world and their own lives. As examples she mentions how feminism inspired them to give Maria a job as a construction worker, and how when Sonia became pregnant and got married in real life, the show had Maria do the same. I knew all this, but I don't think I'd ever actually seen the wedding scene itself... So when the documentary cuts to the wedding, vows and rings are exchanged... and then... I'm sorry, I'm actually laughing almost too hard to type!

And then Big Bird yells what? What did he erm... SAY? Well it rhymes with "say"... Was that what it sounded like? I know it can't be but I WISH IT WAS!!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HAm4UIb0Eyw#t=14m20s

Joe

!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Peter Savieri

I'm absolutely dreading someone will have a logical explanation for this.

Rvan R

You mean the fact that Big Bird is saying "Yay?"

But now I'm curious: Is it common practice in Australia to yell out "GAY!" at special occasions?

Peter Savieri

Not really. I mean, people yell out GAY sometimes out of homophobia or as a substitute for HEY THAT'S STUPID (which is sitll pretty much homophobia) but it's more that Big Bird is ACTUALLY yelling GAY at the wedding. I mean, I know he's probably saying YAY or something, but the actual sound that comes out is unmistakably G-A-Y.

I'm so amused I could kiss a man!

Matt Mtthwas

http://youtu.be/wfZ_yiCEn1s

Peter Savieri

OMG now I get it. Big Bird's quoting Community!

Rob

Big Bird preempted quoting Ken Jeong on Community by about twenty five years as a subliminal message in favour of marriage equality. That's so delightfully confusing that I think I need to go kiss a fella before my head explodes.

Peter Savieri

My head explodes when I kiss a fella.

[Peter Savieri]

Henson Company Debit Cards

2/5/15 | 16177.1-21

Joe

For some reason, now you can get prepaid debit cards with a picture from Fraggle Rock, Labyrinth, Farscape, or The Dark Crystal on it. For money spending.

Scott

SPEND DEM SKRUMPZ!

Matthew Soberman

Might you be able to finance a Skrump-prime mortgage with it?

Joe

Can't a Skrump peep a little credit card debt?

[Shane, Tom]

Muppets .. Toots Thielman .. Billy Joel

2/6/15 | 16162.3-5

Isha

In the movie "do the alphabet" big bird suggests that baby bear should pretend he's billy joel. Because of this my 2 year old has started announcing "I'M BILLY JOEL!"

Ken

Well, as long as your 2-year-old doesn't start shouting things at you like, "I don't care what you say anymore, this is my life!"

Isha

Me: He took ALL of his toys out.

Tag: Efrain, go pick up your toys please.

2yo: I'm Billy Joel!

Me: Did you know that Billy Joel is famous for cleaning up his toys? He is really good at filling his toy box.

2yo looks skeptical.

Me: AND singing the alphabet. He is really good at singing the alphabet, right?

2yo: Right!

Tag: Billy Joel, alphabet singer and toy box filler.

2yo cleans up his toys.

The Random Thread of Randomness

2/10/15 | 9511.10536-37

Lara

Totes watch Markiplier play Five Nights. It's amazing.

Carolyn

I think I understood one of those words...

Funko's Sesame Street Pop!

2/11/15 | 16183.1-

Chris

We have a sneak peak at Funko's Sesame Street Pop! figures before their Toy Fair debut!

http://muppet-stuff.blogspot.com/2015/02/funkos-sesame-pop-sneak-peak.html

[Figure lineup includes Grover, Super Grover, Bert, Ernie, Cookie Monster, Oscar Grover, Elmo, The Count, Snuffy and Big Bird.]

Scott

Wow, Zoe, Prairie, Abby, and Rosita look so great!

Isha

They had to leave room for two Grovers.

[Scott]

Tough Pigs dreams

2/16/15 | 9244.1886-97

Robyn

I dreamt that I was watching an interview with Leslie Carrara-Rudolph but her voice was actually a deep throaty smokers voice. She also had black hair and her hat was a very dark shade of blue, her personality was very mellow and dark too. So she was pretty much just the opposite of what you normally see. It just wasn't right.

Meagan

That's interesting. I had a dream a few years ago that I met Steve Whitmire but he was sad and depressing and bald. Like yours, pretty much the opposite of what you'd expect.

Robyn

A bald Steve? That would be more like a nightmare! Next someone is going to dream that Frank Oz likes to walk around doing Piggy's voice for anyone he meets.

Anthony

And that he goes to the store and doesn't buy a can of beans!

Ryan R

How many cans of beans do you suppose Frank Oz buys in a week? One to five? Five to ten? Ten to twenty? More than 50?

Tom

We all love Frank, but someone really needs to speak to him about his bean can buying problem.

Joe

I think it's okay. Frank and his beans go together like... FRANKS AND BEANS.

Anthony

FRANKS AND NORTHERNS.

Isha

Frank and Northern Beans.

Misread Thread Titles

2/20/15 | 9486.1971-72

Abigail

Red Fraggle is here + Current TV Watching = Red Fraggle is Watching

Meagan



The Snuffy Awards: Muppet Fan Award Show

2/20/15 | 16168.44-47

Erik

How did you guys get Constantine?!? You'd need Disney's permission for that.

Ryan R

In Soviet Russia, Constantine gets you!

[Scott]

Snuggle Bear didn't break a world record

2/27/15 | 16192.6-11

Anthony

Was Kermit Love ever a full-time Henson employee though? I think he just did freelance work.

Joe

That's a great question, to which I do not know the answer.

Erik

Then what use are you, Joe?

Joe

I make good mimosas?

Jes

Since when?

Joe

I took a correspondence course.



<u>Little Muppet Monsters - Unaired Episode</u>

3/1/15 | 16199.12-24

Shane

Awesome finds indeed! I'd wanted to see that Little Mermaid stuff, but not to the degree of rarer things. They're really not good looking. The theme is catchy at least. And surprisingly (and oddly), one of the songs from the second episode actually was re-purposed in a Sesame Street video in the 90's.

Garrett

What song was that?

Shane

Sebastian's song about telling the truth was reused in Sesame's "Telling the Truth" video. One of the verses is re-written, but the rest is pretty much the same.

Ryan R

Wow, great catch. Do you know who wrote it?

Scott

http://muppet.wikia.com/wiki/The Truth

Rvan R

And there you have it. Assuming the person who created that page was telling the truth.

Scott

According to the history, it was Shane, and he's usually trustworthy.



Shane

I also cease to exist come Christmas morn.

[Matthew Soberman]

Renting Right Now

3/9/15 | 12808.1053-55

Erik

Saw Calvary with Brendan Gleeson this weekend. It jumps back and forth between quirky and not-quirky, and generally I like quirky, but the jumping put me off a bit.

Anthony

That's awesome that Brendan Gleeson came over to watch it with you.

Erik

Yeah, he's a really nice guy.

This Little Piggy

3/12/15 | 16226.1-5

Isha

I can't sleep, so here are some stories.

Thanks to a story book in which Oscar has eight yucchy sneakers, Efrain used to use that as Oscar's name as in:

"Dere's Big Bird and Elmo and YOCCHY NEEKERS and Grover!"

He eventually figured is out and now calls him "Oker." But it was fun while it lasted.

But then! Last week, even though he knows that his name is "Count" and he can say that just fine, he randomly started reffering to him as "Yucky Candles." It lacks the drama of YOCCHY NEEKERS but it's no less hilarious.

Isha

The other day we were walking down the road and passed a ChowChow. Efrain said "Look at that dog!" And I said, "He's very big and hairy." And Efrain replied, "Like Snuffanupagus!"

Isha

We were at a friend's house and Efrain found Tales of a Sixth Grade Muppet. He brought it to me and exclaimed, "Look, Mami"

I said, "Oh, it has Muppets!"

"Read it!"

I explained that it is a book for bigger boys and he would just have to look at it. He pointed to Rizzo on the cover and said "Who's that guy?"

"That's Rizzo." And then I added "He's a rat."

"He's not a rat," he says.

"Yes he is! He's a rat!"

"No, he's not a rat!"

"...I'm pretty sure he's a rat."

"HE'S NOT A RAT MAMI!!"

(Warning tone) "Efrain..."

"He's not a rat please, Mami."

"OK, then what is he?"

"He's a Muppet." (Duh, Mami, I could imagine him saying.)

"Oh. Of course. He's a Muppet."

"Like in the movie, Muppet Carrots, remember?"

"You are right, he is in the Muppet Carrot* movie."

Isha

*Muppet Carrots is what he calls The Muppet Christmas Carol.

Ryan R

I strongly approve of this thread. Also, I bet after all these years the Count has a few yucky candles in his castle.

Disney Jr. interstitials, Muppet Moments

3/17/15 | 16033.17

Dan!, Esq.

I kind of figured there was something about to be released, what with the random, unannounced appearances and quickie holiday videos out there. 6 seconds of Kermit wishing Happy St. Patrick's Day is sure to keep the characters thriving for years to come.

Disney Jr. interstitials, Muppet Moments

3/17/15 | 16033.23-27

Joe

Another video popped up online with a real example of how these things will look.

http://www.toughpigs.com/disneyjr/

No shocker: They're pretty awful!

Shane

Poorly edited, sure. I'll wait and see a final product before judging fully.

Joe

Yeah, the editing is part of the problem. But also the stuff they chose to keep. Here's a dramatic interpretation of how these videos look:

INTERIOR, DAY. PEPE AND A KID ARE IN A NON-DESCRIPT ROOM, AND ARE THE SAME HEIGHT FOR SOME REASON.

PEPE - What kind of food do you like?

KID - Um. Carrots.

PEPE - Carrots.

KID - Yeah.

PEPE - Yeah.

KID - Also apples.

PEPE - Yeah, carrots.

END SCENE

Delphi forum promos

3/18/15 | 3907.3422-28

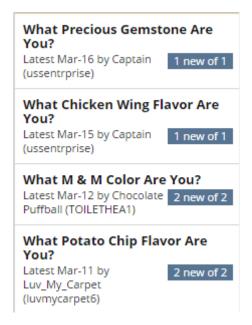
Matthew Soberman

Umm...does this constitute a turf war?

Which Muppet Character Are You? Take This Quiz And Find Out.. -In Ryan's Slightly Off Kilter Hangout

Meagan

Following the link led me to these other highly important quizzes



Ryan R

What food dye are you? What snake are you? What bulletin board are you? What day in July are you? What piece of paper are you? What fingernail are you? What building in Dubai are you? What jump

rope are you? What freckle on my nose are you? What high-pitched squeal are you? What method of execution are you?

Kim McF

I honestly didn't know I was any of those things.

Ryan R

Oh, you are. You're one of each of those things. Don't you want to tell all your friends on Facebook which one you are?

Jes

I love it when you get mouthy.

Ryan R

What mouth are you?

Disney Jr. interstitials, Muppet Moments

3/20/15 | 16033.64-90

Rob

Out of curiosity I had a look to see what the Muppet Central forum had to say about these. It seems to have been derailed into a few members calling Toughpigs the worst most cynical Muppet fans in the world. It certainly makes for an, um, interesting read.

Anthony

Classic Muppet Central!

Rob

Was there some past incident I'm not aware of that caused a general resentment of Toughpigs to some MC users rather than just a general difference in tone between the two sites?

Not wishing to stir the shit I'm just very curious.

Anthony

Well, Tough Pigs (or the forum, at least) started out as Danny's attempt to provide a forum for more indepth adult conversation than what MC allowed. And from the beginning, a lot of people at MC viewed that as "Oh, the Tough Pigs are cynical, grumpy, and too-cool-for-school." Meanwhile, the surplus of stupid idiots who frequent MC caused a lot of us here to view MC as a board full of stupid idiots.

Joe

I also love the irony of people complaining on a Muppet fan forum that the people on the other Muppet fan forum complain too much.

Jamie

Long story short- TP has always been a refuge for people escaping the aggressively kid-friendly restrictions of MC. That's the rub. It serves as the necessary G-rated forum and many of the comments reflect that. That's the most graceful way to say it. Geez, it took me ten minutes to figure out how to write that!

Jes

Jamie said it better but what you have to understand is that Phil (the MC owner) insisted on keeping a 'tight grin squeaky clean we love everything and never say anything even remotely controversial or critical about Muppets' corporate flavor over there. Danny started TP to get real and have adult conversation which sometimes might include a complaint or two. And two roads thus diverged in the Muppet woods...

Andrew Leal

And I took the road less Fraggled by.

Matthew Soberman

I took the road with Mr. Scrooge.

Andrew Leal

MR. SCROOGE IS NOT AN OPTION IN ROBERT FROST'S MUPPET ROAD SPECIAL (1989)!

This Little Piggy 3/21/15 | 16226.30-43

Isha

I was all set to buy Grover's Own Alphabet, when my kid pitched a screaming fit in the store and I had to haul him out of there without anything. And now I am sad that I don't have 26 varying shapes of Grover.

Robyn

Was the screaming because of Grover?: (I hope you go back and buy it anyway!

Isha

No, it was because I wouldn't let him eat an entire donut. My bad for letting him have any donut at all, but I learned the lesson on that one.

In happier news, he sang the entire SS theme song this morning on his way to the potty. Magic carpet ride not included.

Ken

"A whole new world..."

Robyn

MY first thought was, why would he break into Steppenwolf in the middle of Sesame Street?

Ken

Well, I was going to write a geeky post about how her son wouldn't have known about the magic carpet ride section of the Sesame Street Theme unless he had heard the theme as it's appeared on several vinyl or CD releases, since it was never performed on the show unless you count the test show that's on DVD where Bob sings the whole thing, or unless she had a copy of the sheet music. (Was that one sentence?)

But then I thought that would be boring, and then my brain free-associated to Aladdin.

Ryan R

Good thing you didn't write that geeky post!

SAVIERI TAKES MANHATTAN

3/23/15 | 16224.18-21

Peter Savieri

Heyyy! Sorry I haven't responded to the most sensational messages on this thread about me getting off a plane and standing and sitting and walking and talking in New York in May. I'm finally back online after my laptop and other tech all decided to die right before I flew from Australia to this fine ol' US of A. Thanks, kismet. Kudos, fate. I knew I could count on you both!

Ryan R

Welcome to this continent!

Peter Savieri

Fanks m8! It's great to be in-continent!!

Ready Player One

3/26/15 | 16245.14-18

Mike C

I'm still on chapter 2.

Ryan R

You have until the movie comes out to finish reading. I recommend chapter 3 next.

Mike C

Very popular choice...

Erik

Conformist!

Mike C

Piffle. I read MacBeth backwards. So glad everyone was okay in the end...

[Tom]

Random Muppet Thoughts

3/28/15 | 15397.965-69

Matthew Soberman

I'm in Maryland for a family wedding, and the soap in my hotel room looks like the Dark Crystal. The manufacturer is called Thann, which even sounds like it came out of the movie.

Carolyn

This?



Ryan RShard sold separately.

Ken

Heal the crystal, Matthew!

Matthew Soberman

I called the front desk, but they demanded a trial by stone.

Muppet Fan Confessions

3/30/15 | 15653.273-74

Jes

I did head over to vote for FrogFan76 and Constantine [in the Muppet Madness tournament] yesterday... but I only voted twice, not 288* times!

*hope I did the math right

Kim McF

288 times? That's two gross for me.

YouTube vids

3/30/15 | 10888.2172-74

Ryan R

This week in Muppet lip-syncing videos, Gonzo does Digital Underground's "The Humpty Dance."

http://www.slate.com/blogs/browbeat/2015/03/30/gonzo from the muppets performs the humpty dance video.html

Evan G

At this rate, I expect that eventually we will have one of these videos for each Muppet and Henson character and a song of every genre.

And when we hit "Bobut From Aliens in the Family Lip-Syncs to Sufjan Stevens" we can all sleep easy at night.

[Matthew Soberman]

Ryan R

Here's a Muppet question there's probably no way to get an accurate answer for: Which Muppet performer has logged the most hours puppeteering in front of the cameras?

Jerry Nelson is the first name that comes to mind, given the sheer volume of productions he worked on over so many years. But Caroll Spinney's been on Sesame Street for 45 seasons, including several where Big Bird and Oscar had a greater presence in the street scenes than any other Muppets. Marty Robinson has also been all over Sesame Street for decades. Frank Oz's Muppet career goes way back, but his post-Muppet Show output is relatively light. Steve Whitmire and Dave Goelz would likely be near the top of the list, but Dave's done almost no Sesame Street and Steve's mostly been limited to Ernie. Then there's the question of whether Jim Henson's hours of commercials and industrial and meeting films count...

Am I forgetting any other likely contenders?

Anthony

Kevin Clash? His version of Elmo was everywhere for about 20 years, plus various other characters and projects, including Clifford being the host of a TV show for 22 episodes.

Ryan R

Oh yeah, he's definitely up there for Elmo alone. And he did a lot of other Muppet projects in the 80s in addition to a ton of Sesame Street.

Julia

I'd think Steve. He joined a bit later than some of the other original performers, but he's logged in so much time with all the Muppet / Sesame / Fraggle productions, plus all the interviews he's done with Kermit over the years as well.

Carolyn

Are you only talking about performers who played lead characters playing those characters? Because there are a few guys that seem to always be there, even if we don't hear them, like Bill and Peter and even Tyler, but I actually would guess Kevin for that same reason. He was a wrangler for years and always had his hand in things even if Elmo or Clifford weren't around. Jerry has to be up there, though, having played so many characters across productions.

Isha

"always had his hand in things"

I laughed.



Do you ever wonder if you've run into another tough pig?

4/1/15 | 16238.34-39

Matt Wilkie

So guess who just happened to run into a traveling Aussie last night? I'll let Mr. Savieri tell his side of the tale, but I was at my day job at a movie theatre last night and did a quadruple-take before I said, "Excuse me, are you Peter?" It was, in fact, Peter. And we got to meet and say hello and make plans to make plans to hang out. Fun times!

Ryan R

Holy crap! It's like Muppet fans are drawn to each other through some cosmic force of nature! It's like... it's like we're all rainbow connected.

Matt Wilkie

We found it!!!

Matthew Soberman



Elmost 4/2/15 | 16252.1-6

Peter Savieri

Elmost

Can this be a word now please?

Feel free to donate definitions below.

Max Stein

I Elmost had a phenomenally successful and famous Sesame Street character, but then I decided he was too "cutesy" so I handed him off to one of the younger puppeteers...

Matt Mtthwas

Elmost, not to be confused with Elmoist (which is when you have a slightly wet or damp Elmo).



Matthew Soberman

I wasn't sure how to tie my shoes, so I watched a video on my computer. - Elmo

I wasn't sure how to tie my shoes, so I watched a video on my computer and asked Mr. Noodle. - Elmoer

I wasn't sure how to tie my shoes, so I watched a video on my computer, asked Mr. Noodle and a baby, saw my fish imagine me in cowboy boots, and then sang the shoelace song. - Elmost

Peter Savieri

LOLMOST!

Random Muppet Thoughts

4/13/15 | 15397.974-78

Robyn

Do you ever think Jerry was a little sad that he didn't get his own verse in J Friends? Also, I like to think that Jim actually did bring jam to the set to share with everyone.

Anthony

J-Jerry, playin' Herry

Ryan R

Shares a jug of juice with Fran Brill, who's Prairie J, Joe jeans and his jelly beans Well, let's sing a song about J!

Jes

Jessica Jeffries loves this!

Muppet TV show on ABC in 2015

4/6/15 | 16253.45-52

Erik

If Skeeter were dating a Muppet, who would it be?

Anthony

Lew Zealand.

Joe

The conductor with a balloon for a head.

Mike C

Joy Buzzer from the Jim Henson special.

Shane

Blue Whatnot #3.

Joe

Jean-Dodd van Clamme.

Kim McF

Lydia the Tattooed Lady.

Mr. the Dan©™

Definitely Zondra.

[Erik]

Terry Calhoun: Creator of Sesame Street

4/6/15 | 15784.99-129

Isha

I have recently discovered <u>this thread</u> from way back, and I'm personally and professionally happy to have started it.

Mr. the Dan©™

I'm sad that she isn't on FB anymore to add more insight into all of her accomplishments. I can only imagine all the great things she's doing now. (Rumor has it she's bringing back Gumby!!!)

Ryan R

Oh, I didn't even realize, but it looks like you're right... She's left Facebook. I wonder where she went.

Joe

She left Facebook? After she created the whole website? Weird.

Ryan R

Perhaps she decided her work here was done.

Nick Moreau

Whoa, all her comments on past posts were deleted! I tried looking again at the apple sauce post, it's like she was never there.

Ryan R

Could it all have been a weird joke? Or did we... imagine her?

Jes

It was a group delusion...

Nick Moreau



Jes

whhyyyyyyyyy

(I shot JR)

Jimmy M

(Terry Calhoun shot JR)

Kim McF

Terry Calhoun killed Laura Palmer.

Kieran M

Terry Calhoun stole the cookies from the cookie jar.

Ivan

I assume this was after she let the dogs out?

Calhoun has her finger in every pie. Well, it makes sense, she DID invent pies, after all.

Kieran M

Yeah, but before she was the leader of the club that's made for you and me.

Ivan

I can't wait to get my photo with the Terry walkarounds at Calhoun World.

Kieran M

Remember to look for the "Hidden Terrys".

There's a great one at the entrance to Terry's Calhounian Adventure!

Ivan

I spotted one near the Pirates of the Calhoun. Of course, I heard she was proud to have suggested and promoted high-seas piracy all those years ago.

Kieran M

There are several in Calhoun Eo. Terry doesn't like to brag about it, but she taught Michael Jackson how to moonwalk for that movie.

Ivan

Calhounwalker?

Kieran M

Love that movie!

Did you know: Terry Calhoun changed the laws of gravity so they sway like they do in the Smooth Calhounal video?

Ivan

Well, if anyone could, she could. After all, she invented, promoted the laws of gravity.

Fun fact though. Unlike Billie Jean, Terry Calhoun was, in fact, Michael Jackson's lover.

Kieran M

Speaking of Billie Jean, Terry Calhoun invented the sport Tennis (originally called Terry's) and coached Billie Jean King to her 39 Grand Slam titles.

Ivan

You know what I'd like to see? I'd like to see Terry do one of those Great Muppet Survey things on Muppet Mindset. I'm legitimately interested to see how many characters she would take credit for.

I imagine it being like this.: "My personal favourite character is the Count, as it reminds me of my childhood in Mesopotamia, where I invented the numeral."

Billboard Article About Muppets

4/8/15 | 16258.1-6

Ken

I didn't know if the guys wanted to write an article about this article about the Muppets like they've done with other articles about other articles about the Muppets, but I found this on Billboard.com this morning.

http://www.billboard.com/articles/columns/pop-shop/6524131/top-10-muppet-music-videos

Ryan R

So what you're saying is, this is an article?

What a weird list... All those fan-made lip-sync videos and then the one real "Bohemian Rhapsody" video.

Ken

Yeah, I saw the headline about "The Top 10 Muppet Music Videos", and I didn't know why they mixed real ones with fake ones.

Erik

Any list without "Fuck the Pain Away" by Peaches is an incomplete list.

Kim McF

Fuck the pain away, Worries for another day, Whether straight or gay, Down at Fraggle Rock!

[Erik]

Henson's reviving Gumby

4/9/15 | 16259.6-8

Mike C

My cynicism is tingling:

Company founded by creator of Sesame Street, Muppets and Fraggle Rock - Sesame Street and Muppets + series created by individual who did all the classical work completely on his own and kept it in the family x a bit of CG = djebwebfblsdlfedbghjhmflfl........

Ryan R

Equals your cat walking on your keyboard?

Mike C

Actually, I think that was my cat walking on my brain while I was typing on my keyboard. >.o

People You Meet on Sesame YouTube videos

4/13/15 | 16263.1-18

Ryan R

Because I enjoy good things, I often watch Sesame Street videos on YouTube. Because I enjoy wasting my time, I also often read the comments. After a while, you start to notice that the same types of commenters pop up over and over again, so I've assembled a handy guide:

http://www.toughpigs.com/the-people-that-you-meet-each-day-on-sesame-street-youtube-videos/

Scott

bert is inspector gadget cartoon

Anthony

Man, you said it!

Ryan R

My best guess on that one is that the commenter thought Bert's voice sounded like that of Inspector Gadget. I have no other guesses, considering at no point in the video do helicopter blades sprout out of Bert's head.

Grant

I think the only one you missed is the Request Guy.

e.g. "Next can you upload the one where Bert took Ernestine to the park, or the one where Deena and Pearl had a surprise party for Wanda Cousteau, or the one where Chicago the Lion ate Roosevelt Franklin?", etc.

Henson's reviving Gumby

4/13/15 | 16259

Mike C

[Art] Clokey was once a joint-owner of Davey and Goliath, but as far back as the early 2000s, the Lutheran Church was solely in charge of distributing episodes. Clokey was attempting a revival of all his old projects at the time. This was about the time "Gumby: The Movie" was released direct to video. The church wanted to join Clokey in reviving D&G, but they didn't have the funding for the new series. They attempted to raise it by licensing out the characters, but Mountain Dew was the only company that bit, resulting in this little oddity:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RaDxcVPxB3g

Tom

I remember being surprised about Davey using the word "hosed" in that commercial, since I thought that was a vulgar expression. I just Googled it to see if it was, and I found a long and fascinating discussion where people tried to get to the bottom of it. (Interestingly, the conversation is started over the exact some commercial!) There seems to be no definitive conclusion, with some people passionately certain that the phrase is vulgar while others convinced that it isn't. At least I don't feel bad for not being sure now.

http://boards.straightdope.com/sdmb/showthread.php?t=530574

Ryan R

I clearly remember him saying "We got hosed," but I never thought it was vulgar. Irreverent, maybe. The origins in stealing gas by siphoning it with a hose sounds plausible to me.

Tom

Yeah, that's a very plausible meaning for "hosed," unlike, say, "suck," which probably only has the one meaning.

Mike C

I've heard "suck" in a lot of kid friendly contexts.

Tom

I've heard characters say it in supposedly family-friendly movies, but I don't think that means it has a cleaner meaning in those contexts, any more than Elliott calling his brother "p---- breath" in E.T. was clean.

The Mountain Dew thing seemed more surprising because 1) it's a commercial, and commercials tend to try to avoid controversy, and 2) D&G has such a specifically religious background. But in that case, they were probably thinking of the "siphoning gas" meaning.

Mike C

ET was Pre PG13 wan't it?

Tom

Yeah, but that doesn't change the meaning of "suck," even if it's used in a kids' movie. (Not E.T., but other ones.)

I suppose that some people have forgotten the meaning as it's gone into widespread use, but I don't think that another definition exists.

Mike C

there was also an early '90s trick of saying "suck" followed by a specific item being sucked. i.e. "This sucks tune-up grade ignition fluid." One of my favorite 90's cartoons Earthworm Jim got away with it by, in lieu of the word, made use of the phrase "suckage most foul."

Erik

I'd been using and hearing "suck" for a long time before it occurred to me that it might have sexual connotations. I think at this point it is so divorced from its origin that we could treat it as a fairly clean word.

Ryan R

I started saying it in 2nd grade because I heard my friends say it. I had no idea what it meant. It was just a thing to say. Then I think my mom explained it to me, so I stopped saying it.

Until I was about 13 or so. And I occasionally use it today.

Nobody tell my mom.

Jes

I guess I think of it as a fairly clean word unless I hear a kid or young teen saying it and then I cringe and regret my past language choices.

Carolyn

Also, the phrase "Go suck an egg" has been common for some time. I believe implying the person is a weasel?

Ryan R

That one I definitely learned from the Dick Tracy movie. All my friends said it a lot that summer.

Jessica

Well this conversation has added another entry to my list of "terms I didn't realise had gross origins"...:[

Though "sucks" seems to make sense in a clean way. Like being pulled down, stuck... emotionally dragged-down... a "sinking feeling"?

Tom

Interesting thought. I do wonder, though, does it matter if if the hearer receives the original intent? Is the speaker absolved because he or she didn't take the time to find out what they were saying? And if it doesn't have its original meaning anymore, then if someone says, "Work sucks," and an intelligent kid asks the speaker, "What does it suck?" -- what would be the answer?

Erik

"Suck" is an intransitive verb here and doesn't take an object. So it doesn't suck something, it just sucks.

Meagan

It's never even crossed my mind that it would have any inappropriate historical definition. I've always just assumed it was just an expression and never looked into it's origins. If a kid asked me that, I'd say just that: it's just an expression.

Also, this reminds me of when I was in fifth grade and I would say "I'm screwed" when referring to homework I didn't do or a test I didn't study for. Multiple classmates pointed out on differing occasions the connotations behind that, but while I did know they existed, it felt like a completely different phrase to me and continued to say it. To me that's like saying "heck" instead of "hell" or something along those lines.

Tom

Interesting. Of course, in the case of "heck," you're actually substituting a sound. "Screwed" isn't substituting anything.

No, I'm not picking on your 5th-grade self. :) It's just interesting to discuss how people think through these things.

Mind you, I know that some people don't even like "heck," and to me, not allowing that is going overboard. So, go figure.

Meagan

Well you could make the argument that "screwed" is replacing a word (as my classmates did) but not as directly as "heck" and "hell". It is interesting to see where people draw the line with these things and at what age things change.

Ryan R

I definitely think "screwed" falls into the substitution category.

This stuff has also reminded me that I went through a childhood phase of saying "Jeez!" a lot, while my brother became fond of saying "What the--?" Our parents weren't so amused by those either.

Isha

I remember being a kid and my Dad telling me that Geez was short for Jesus, and I remember being offended that he would even think that way.

Carolyn

Jiminy Crickets!

lan

I love how far these tangents have gone. Really says a lot about how the thread topic is perceived.

Isha

Muffins for everyone!

Mike C

Well come on, it's about Henson reviving Gumby. Dude's made of clay. Anyone with a handful of green clay and some free time can revive him.

Or, if anyone has Eddie Murphy and a foam rubber suit...

Carolyn

Cheese and Crackers!

Andrew Leal

Right, just as at that age you assume "Jeepers" is merely a line in a Louis Armstrong song and something little kids in 1960s cartoons (and/or Theodore Cleaver) say.

I was more of a "Sheesh" person myself.

Isha

Oh no, what is jeepers actually?? Are there any noises which do not carry harsh connotations?

Andrew Leal

Apparently "Jeepers Creepers" (later shortened to Jeepers) was a euphemism for Jesus Christ... but mostly just an expression of shock and surprise by 1930s cartoon characters and the protagonists of factory-churned out "kids investigate a mysterious house" books, and so on. Moreso than "Geez," however euphemistic intent seems to have been secondary, so it became more like "Gee whiz" (which you will be pleased to learn was never designed to replace *any* profanity or religious exclamation).

Isha

Gee Whiz, I never thought about that!

Andrew Leal

Golly!

Isha

Gawrsh.

Andrew Leal

Leapin' lizards!

Joe

The heck you say.

Andrew Leal

Ah, shuckins...

Isha

I just realized that Jiminy Cricket fits the same criteria. That's a 75 year old Disney joke that I just got.

Tom

It's interesting that J.C. functions as Pinocchio's conscience, which seems to make the whole thing a spiritual parable. But they probably didn't think about it that much. As you said, it was likely just a joke, like naming the character Gee Whilikers.

Andrew Leal

I wish this wasn't true, but in the 1980s, Filmation did PINOCCHIO AND THE EMPEROR OF THE NIGHT, and the cricket (voiced by Don Knotts) was named... Gee Willikers.

The Random Thread of Randomness

4/13/15 | 9511.10619-23

Macy

There's this kid in my homeschool band program who has blonde, poofy hair, and a couple weeks ago he wore a white Hawaiian shirt with pineapples and some sort of trees on it. He looked like a human Wembley Fraggle.

Robyn

My first thought was, is he single? Are you single? Do you look like Lou Fraggle?

Anthony

"Do you look like Lou Fraggle?" is the greatest question one human being has ever asked another.

[Joe]

Tough Pigs dreams

4/14/15 | 9244.1898

Matthew Soberman

So I had a strange and awesome Muppet-related dream last night.

I dreamt that Kirk Thatcher needed people to watch the new Muppet show pilot and give their feedback, and I was hoping he'd ask me, but he picked Joe and Ryan instead. I was bummed for a while, but I figured that I was still working my way up the fandom ladder and one day people would come to me for their Muppet fan-related needs. So I took my mind off the task by volunteering at the Museum of the Moving Image, where I was getting a promotional t-shirt from The Newsroom ready for display, which had been damaged and was just repaired, but the curator said the repairs only made it worse, which is when I remembered that the shirt was still being sold at the HBO Store in Manhattan. At that point, the Museum of the Moving Image somehow transformed into a ToughPigs Museum, with artifacts from the various people who have written for ToughPigs. The only artifact I remember was a press pass from Major League Baseball that belonged to Julia, but she quit not long after starting her job as a baseball writer.

So I leave the museum, and as I exit, a limousine barrels towards me and pulls up in front of me. The door opens, and who's inside? None other than Kirk Thatcher, who extends his hand to me and says, "the Muppets need you." It seems that while he was with Joe and Ryan, he asked if they knew anyone who could help him, and they both repeatedly told him to find me. So I got in the front of the limo, which had gas and brake pedals on both the driver and the passenger side. He said that he uses it when filming, and he can use it if he makes a movie set in the UK.

And then I woke up.

Orange is the New Black

4/15/15 | 16267

Scott

Okay, Sesame Street... Orange Is the New Black has been filming next door to you for three years. Where's our spoof?

Jes

Oscar is the New Orange?

(that's all I got)

Julia

Oscar is the Old Orange?

Jes

Orange is the Old Oscar.

Shane

Fuzzy and Blue (and Orange is the New Black)

[Julia]

Muppet TV show on ABC in 2015

4/20/15 | 16253.95-107

Carolyn

Muppets are for babies!

If Muppets are for babies, give me some diapers and a pacifier.

Or... forget I said that.

Joe

If Muppets are for babies, then who are Muppet Babies for?

Carolyn

Muppet Babies are the only Muppet thing ever.

Ryan R

Correct. They are younger, re-imagined versions of nothing.

Matthew Soberman

Remember when they created grownup versions of the Muppet Babies for Little Muppet Monsters, only to be cancelled after three episodes? I thought the puppet versions deserved their own spinoff, but now we'll never know.

Joe

Grown-up Muppet Babies? Lemme see...

Muppet Adults
We're putting on a show
Muppet Adults
We hope it doesn't blow
When your theater's kinda weird and you had a guest star
Just close your eyes and make believe and you get Jamie Farr

I like emceeing
I want a lead role
I love fart shoes
IN CONTROL
I've got my clapboard
I don't exist
I still play the piano
I have a mole on my wrist (ha)
I torture my assistant
Mee mee mee meee!
Is everything all right in here?
Yes, J.P.

Muppet Adults
We're putting on a show
Muppet Adults
We hope it doesn't blow

Muppet Muppet Muppet Adults Adults Adults Adults
Please watch our show.

Nope, it'll never work.

Ryan R

Nice work. Produced by an animated baby version of Lord Lew Grade, I hope! And now that I think about it, it wouldn't be that difficult to caricature him as a baby...





Muppet TV show on ABC in 2015

4/26/15 | 16253.203-13

Brian Knatchbull

Cool new look at ABC's 'the muppets.' title card!



Shane

I suppose this time it really is "The Muppets...Again!

[Rob]

Guys, I figured out what's missing from the title card!



[Meagan]

2015 Hallmark Ornament - Miss Piggy

4/27/15 | 16285.1-10

Joe

Miss Piggy will be this year's Muppet ornament from Hallmark!

http://www.toughpigs.com/piggy-ornament/

Peter Savieri

I'm actually quite into that. NOt a huge fan of platinum Piggy, but this is done well.

Joe

You could always add a little paint to her hair! Once you buy it, Hallmark can't tell you what you can't do with it!

Ummm... maybe there should be some rules for what you can't do with the Piggy ornament.

[Chris]

Matt Wilkie

Something I'd like to state for the record and possibly regret later: I'd be on board with a human series regular playing Fozzie's girlfriend. While I - and most people here, I'm guessing - would prefer a new lead female puppet character, if it's not a "special guest star" who appears for a while and disappears, I think the pairing of a human and a Muppet in a real, loving, committed, continuous relationship is a new spin we've never seen before and has potential. But that's only if they're not going to give a very capable female Muppeteer a new, dynamic female main character. I'll rally for that long before a human/Muppet pairing.

Jessica

I feel that a human wouldn't be a good idea. Firstly - would it look too odd? If this is going to be played as a serious relationship, would it work in a serious scene or would it jar and break suspension-of-disbelief.

More importantly, perhaps, if it's going to be a long-term thing... Muppets are timeless and ageless; humans are not. The dynamic can't be the same forty years later, and if the actress can't/won't continue to work with them then she can't be replaced without changing the character too.

Matt Wilkie

It doesn't have to last forever. I'd actually be very interested in seeing Fozzie grow and develop as a character who goes through a break-up eventually just as much as I'd like to see him be in a committed relationship. There's a lot of new territory to cover in those types of stories and great fodder for a show like the one being proposed. When the actress is done, that's fine. They break up and Fozzie carries on knowing that he is capable of being loved and a new confidence will rise from that. But a whole season or two of Fozzie navigating a grown-up relationship is exciting to me.

As far as the look of it, I'm totally on board. Muppets have flirted with human beings from time immemorial, and this is just the next logical-yet-never-taken step. If a pig can fall in love with a frog, why not a human and a bear?

Joe

Do you believe in interspecies dating?

Matt Wilkie

Well, I've dated some un-bear-able men before, if that's what you mean.

Wheel of Fortune

4/29/15 | 16289.1-10

Jes

Did I hear that The Muppets are going to be on Wheel of Fortune? I mean, I think I heard that-like in Piggy's voice in a short little commercial, I'm telling you.

Julia

Is Wheel of Fortune actually still on the air?

YE_, THE _H_W I_ _TILL _N THE AIR.

Matthew Soberman

Did you leave out a particular vowel in the hopes someone will make a reference to a certain Sesame Street song?

Ryan R

N_, THAT WASN'T INTENTI_NAL.

Matthew Soberman

N_ J_KING? Y_U C_ULD'VE F__LED ME.

Joe

I'd like to solve the puzzle.

ROSA PARKS AND RECREATION.



The Muppet Vault

5/1/15 | 12962.876-82

Joe

Our next Muppet Vault will be over Memorial Day weekend, on May 24th. Aptly titled "Miss Piggy's Moi-morial Day Parade"!

Jes

Great title!

loe

Credit for the title goes to Mr. Ryan the Roe!

Rvan R

As does the blame if anyone thinks it's disrespectful to turn Memorial Day into a pun about a singing pig!

Icha

I thought about it. I forgave you.

Ryan R

Thanks. I figure we can't cheapen the day any more than Walmart's Memorial Day sales on vacuum cleaners already have.

Isha

Those sales suck.

[Erik]

Happy Birthday, Peter Savieri!

5/3/15 | 16291.9-10

Meagan

Happy birthday, Peter!
I hope you're day was great, and sweeter
Than soda by the liter.

I'm sorry my rhymes are so bad, But they're all I really had...

Awaiting The Muppet Show Season 4 DVDs

5/5/15 | 11714.363-69

Scott

With a new Muppet television series very close to happening, what do you think the chances are that we'll ever get the rest of The Muppet Show on DVD?

My thoughts are that they wouldn't put out a DVD of an old show while they're promoting a new show, but I'm probably completely wrong.

Joe

Well, we know they wouldn't put out a DVD of an old show while promoting a new movie. Or its sequel.

Matt Wilkie

They're doing a sequel?

Joe

They're back by popular demand!

Ryan R

Come on, everybody, wish you had DVDs in your hand!

Andrew Leal

Rights issues, as usual. The Shields and Yarnell people play hardball.

Joe

Yes, but their hardball is invisible.

Wheel of Fortune

5/4/15 | 16289.15-30

Julia

I'm honestly surprised! I knew Jeopardy was still on, but I haven't seen an episode of Wheel of Fortune since I was a little kid visiting my grandma's house. Man, that show was always playing on her TV. That and Everybody Loves Raymond. Good times.

Isha

My Grandma also watched Everybody Loves Raymond all the time.

Julia

Must be a grandma thing.

Isha

Grandmas Love Raymond

Julia

Everybody Loves Grandmas

Joe

Grandmas Love Grandmas

Erik

Sorry, that sounds like a very interesting Craigslist ad.

Joe

Oh, you're not sorry at all!

Erik

No, I'm not.

I Am Big Bird: Caroll Spinney film

5/5/15 | 14351.213-20

Joe

Speak of the devil, my t-shirt just got here. And yeah... not quite what I'd hoped for when I bought it. I was hoping for something more like a crew t-shirt.

Also, it's weird that the Big Bird shirt doesn't have Big Bird on it.

Jes

I wish the shirt wasn't white.

loe

You can fix that with a little paint.

Ryan R

Or wash it with a pair of purple underwear.

Jes

It should be yellow, come on!

Ryan R

Oh, of course. In that case, wash it with a banana.

Buzzfeed

5/7/15 | 16189.53-56

Lara

Dude *I* had a crush on Gina. Or maybe I wanted to be her. Or both. No bullshit there.

Jes

(can't stand Gina, myself... she talks down to the Muppets, especially Telly)

Joe

Maybe it's because Telly's so short.

Jes

Haha yeah you're funny.

Awaiting The Muppet Show Season 4 DVDs

5/8/15 | 11714.373-75

Tom

Oh, man, I would LOVE it if Shout Factory released Seasons 4 and 5! They do great stuff. :)

lan

Sadly, I've heard Disney doesn't license out DVD rights to properties like the Muppets.

Dan!, Esq.



My Live Chat on My YouTube Channel

5/11/15 | 16304.1-3

Patrick ILikeFozzie

Hello, Muppet fans!

I have a YouTube channel called The Muppet Fan. On that YouTube channel, I am doing a live chat on May 13th, 2015, from 4:00 PM-5:00 PM (Eastern time).

Carolyn

Link?

Joe



[Shane]

Happy 60th Sam and Friends!

5/12/15 | 16301.6-11

Andrew Leal

It's nice to remember Harry the Hipster. I'm half afraid they'll bring him back with thick-rimmed glasses and drinking Pabst Blue Ribbon and talking about how he watches 80s movies ironically.

Peter Savieri

Haha. Hipsters are so emBARISTAing.

Ivan

I award you two Wockas and my own personal "Good Grief".

But seriously. Harry's such a hipster that he was a hipster BEFORE hipsters were hipsters.

hipster.

Andrew Leal

To my mind, though, those kinds of hipsters aren't real hipsters, who were hep anyway, if you're hip to it, dig?

Scott

I think that's the most hipster thing I've ever heard you say.

Dark Crystal 2

5/14/15 | 9126.81-87

Scott

A new name has popped up as someone who was going to direct this that I hadn't heard before. New, as in it's new to me (and, presumably, us, because I didn't see it anywhere on the wiki article which I think has fairly comprehensively covered the [non]-development of this project over the last almost decade), and not a "new" development at all -- this project is still very much dead.

Shane Abbess, an indie director making the press rounds for his latest film, spoke about why he left the project (which, again, is funny because I don't think anyone knew he was on it), "When I quit The Dark Crystal it was because I'd fallen in love with Jim's handwritten notes on what his sequel idea was. All I wanted to do, for the fans and for myself, was shoot his version of the film. But nobody gave a shit about what Jim Henson wanted."[9]

http://www.theguardian.com/film/2015/may/14/shane-abbess-infini-film-marks-return-of-aussie-science-fictions-prodigal-son

So, there's that. Just passing it along. Nothing else to see here.

I will say though, that I'd very much like to have some throw-pillows made up with "nobody gave a shit about what Jim Henson wanted" embroidered on them.

Matt Mtthwas

Oh, those would be a nice compliment to the "What the fuck are you talking about? Yours truly, Jim Henson" throw I'm having made up.

Peter Savieri

I really really really want something with that quote on it. Some bedlinnen.

I also want to say the word haberdashery. But only because I want to say the word haberdashery.

Dark Crystal 2 5/15/15 | 9126.88-93

Peter Savieri

It's sad if Jim's notes are being ignored by whomever is holding the purse strings on Dark Crystal 2. I can imagine with old and impressionistic notes (if that's the nature of them) there's room for new structure or subplots, or shifting events around, but ignoring Jim's notes completely does not bode well for the project.

Andrew Leal

Jim's note: "Don't try to make a Dark Crystal sequel, it will just get bogged down. Instead do an innovative musical with live capybaras." *accompanied by Jim's doodle of dancing capybaras in individual costume*

Peter Savieri

Makes total sense.

Because you wouldn't try to fit multiple capybaras in one costume because "capybaras man" is not a thing.

Andrew Leal

They just get uncomfortable and sad. And nobody wants a sad capybara. Multiple sad capybaras are sadder than... well, than some of the press releases about the Dark Crystal sequel. *percussionist capybara does a rimshot*

Joe

What's going on? Am I having a stroke?

[Lara]

Fan art 5/14/15 | 10834.1372-90

Joe



Erik

I'm not sure what it is about that, but it looks more like Spamela than Piggy.

Scott

I agree. It doesn't look like Piggy.

But I'm glad someone made the attempt. I like the artwork.

I shall now run a Piggy Carter fanart contest and the winner gets a Spam sandwich.

Ryan R

You might have more luck if you say the winner doesn't have to eat the Spam sandwich...

Erik

Better than a Spa'am sandwich.

Ivan

Haven't you heard? They're rebranding all Spam cans as "Denise" now. I have no idea why.

Ryan R

Well, there's egg and bacon; egg, sausage, and bacon; egg and Denise; egg, bacon, and Denise; Denise, bacon, sausage, and Denise; Denise, egg, Denise, Denise, bacon and Denise...

Awaiting The Muppet Show Season 4 DVDs

5/20/15 | 11714.382-84

Matt Mtthwas

Wow, that [article] really puts things in perspective.

"We can put a man on the moon, but we can't put all five seasons of "The Muppet Show" on DVD?!?"
Brilliant!

Scott

Thanks, Obama.

Ryan R

Yeah, man. I just don't understand why he won't give up the rights to "When the Bloom Is on the Sage."

Fake Feminism 5/20/15 | 16314.18-44

Julia

Fun fact: I was told about all this before I ever heard All About That Bass, and to this day I've never listened to it.

Isha

I heard this song once at a gym. I was too occupied to listen to the lyrics. I thought it was actually about the bass.

Ryan R

It's about the bass, only the bass is not actually the bass.

Joe

The dog is not the bass! The bass is the bass, you bass!

Jes

Joe let the dogs out!

(who, who, who, who, who)

Joe

You are all about those Baha Men.

Ryan R

Which Baha Man is your favorite?

Jes

Who are the Baha Men?

(who, who, who, who)

Tough Pigs Visits the New Sesame Set

5/27/15 | 16324.26-29

Matt Mtthwas

Ok, and now that we've settled on where the Amazing Mumford's castle is located, can we move on to discussing the location of Herbert Birdsfoot's home in relation to Harvey Kneeslapper's apartment?

Mike C

Ohhhh....*heeheehee* would you in fact like to *chortlechortle* Would you like to.....C.....Harvey Kneeslapper's apartment!?!?

Joe

Do you think that's how he picks up women?



have you ever confused a muppet voice?

6/1/15 | 16328.12-13

Mike C

My worst one is I thought Pops sang the Muppet Show version of "Time in a Bottle" when really it's a scientist who keeps growing younger.

But then there's the issue of Pops being listed as the singer of "I'm my own Grandpa," but not the doorman Pops, the Pops that sings with the jug band.

Joe

Pops was a very common baby name around the turn of the century.

Lack of Female Muppets

6/3/15 | 16302.102

Scott

All I want is a new female Muppet who...

isn't performed by a dude (Piggy, Janice)

isn't an existing character's girlfriend (Camilla, Janice, Denise, Wanda)

isn't a female version of an existing character (Yolanda, Jill, Skeeter)

isn't a stereotype (Spamela, Gladys)

is actually a character girls can look up to (so, not Piggy; more in line with Roger Langridge and Amy Mebberson's Skeeter)

So... bring back Winny or Hilda, I guess?? Kidding mostly; a new character makes the most sense. Another possibility I'd consider: recast Janice, make her more independent from Floyd, and give her more to do. But that might feel too much like an "affirmative action" move by some.

Are my requirements unreasonable? I don't think so. I think it's perfectly reasonable actually, when you consider how many male characters fit the criteria with ease.

Do we have other requirements?

Dan!, Esq.

Not unreasonable at all. Personally, I think that they have enough developed or mostly developed male characters and/or male looking physical puppets to draw from that any new characters that they want to see stick around should be female.

Skeeter really is a no-brainer. Though she doesn't fit all of those things, she'd be a great addition, have a built-in strong personality, and would likely have instant acceptance from the fanbase who grew up with Muppet Babies.

I would have liked Janice to have been handed to a female. She doesn't have the drag recognition of Piggy, so it's not something that feels like it should stay with a male. Outside of widening the performer pool, and recognizing that David hasn't gotten a lot of chance to sing with her, Richard had a vocal range that seems higher and more skilled in terms of singing.

Jamie

The Muppets were very much the Monty Python of the puppet world, but I agree that times have changed and they could use a little more balance. Any decision has to be about what's funny and what works. The Muppets haven't really had much chance to grow outside of their iconic roots. The new show offers that opportunity and I bet they'll try a few things out. One of those things should be more female Muppets performed by women. This dependency wasn't likely a personal one before, but it would be one if they didn't try to remedy it now. I suspect Disney would love to have a new marketable female Muppet on the team. New characters keep the dynamics fresh anyway. My personal hope is that it not be Skeeter because I don't believe she exists outside the Babies' universe. I'm probably in the minority here, but that's the sort of cynical character I hope they avoid. (runs and hides)

Ryan R

How about Skeeter alongside another character or two?

Another thing I've been thinking is that a brand-new new female character doesn't even have to be performed by one of the veteran Muppet performers. There are a lot more up-and-coming and aspiring female puppeteers now than there were in the Muppet Show days or even the Muppets Tonight days, so they shouldn't have a problem finding new talent.

Jamie

Skeeter's not a real Muppet to me. LOL!

But seriously, I always felt she represented a cynical solution to the Muppets' lack of female characters. I think the writers and performers can and should do better than that. The best character develop organically. Audiences don't seem to respond to "hip" characters that are arbitrarily wedged into prominent positions...cough....Clifford....

Scott

Did you read Skeeter's run in the comics? She was handled terrifically.

Iamia

Actually, that was the one of the very few things about the comics I didn't like. (runs and hides again)

Joe

I wouldn't say that Skeeter was written to be "hip", just unique. Clifford, yes. And one of those Pixar rules for writing clearly states that a character should never be described as "cool". That's not a real thing, unless you're Poochie.

Jamie

Ha! Poochie.

I didn't really see Skeeter as unique. Her design was lifted from Scooter and her personality was the same standard "girl power" character that all the 80's cartoons were pushing at the time. She was created with good intentions, but she didn't really have any distinct characteristics that set her apart

from that stereotype. I guess a lot of that stems from the fact that she didn't have the benefit of a puppet history or a performer to give her that needed spark.

Even though Miss Piggy received that feminist award, I think there's an opening for another strong Muppet female character with a different, non-diva personality. It's just important that it happens organically. The best characters happen that way. Miss Piggy started in the chorus and Pepe started as a background character while poor Seymour faded away.

Isha

I don't understand why people are so dismissive of Zoe. She may introduced after Elmo, but she is not Elmo with a wig. She has a distinct face, voice, and her own personality. She can be stubborn, is very opinionated, and she can be vulnerable and confused. I like to see her paired with Telly. Telly worries in a way that is over the top, but Zoe worries in a way that reminds me of my own insecurities. I like to think telly feels thus way too because he is so gentle and reassuring with her, like a big brother.

Also, while Elmo likes to remind people that he is only three and a half, Zoe actually feels like she is three and a half. And on top of all of that she works as a friend to any Muppet. I love her.

Ryan R

I'd have to think about it, but I might consider Zoe the third-most-underrated Sesame Street Muppet. I do think they figured her out a bit more after her "Hey look, it's a girl monster!" debut.

Andrew Leal

That actually reminds me.

"Sesame Street" has struggled specifically with female *Muppets* (Zoe was *conceived* by committee originally, but developed through Fran Brill and the writers into a really great character who I enjoy on her own), although as we've also noted, Rosita and Prairie Dawn worked (Betty Lou has suffered from being a name and a design more than a character; in books like "I Want to Be President," it works).

But the human characters? There were early articles about their portrayals and campaigns, and now we have Maria, Leela (who I love)... even the anti-Gina brigade may admit she's become a fairly full character. Susan has become a reduced presence, sadly, but still, in the past there were also Buffy, Linda, Olivia.... When they *did* have relationships with male characters, it didn't define them. Olivia was Gordon's sister, but her role wasn't Gordon's Sister (and I doubt anyone would call Maria "Luis' Wife"; early Susan was mostly written that way, which was the reason for giving her occupations, hobbies, and skills beyond just being the street mother).

Maybe the Muppet people really need to be thinking more along those lines.

Ryan R

I think that's one reason the producers took so long to notice the deficiency of female Muppets on the show. They had a lot of well-written female characters, but they were almost all humans.

Dan!, Esq.

It was also based on performers. Sesame Street didn't hire puppeteers, they hired the Muppets...just Jim and his work buddies.

That's a good point too. Any female Muppets they wrote would probably be performed by men anyway... like Rodeo Rosie, Granny Fanny Nesselrode, or the early Clementine and Grundgetta.

Matt Mtthwas

I think a lot of it has to do with the source of new characters -- either (a) from the writers or (b) from the performers.

- A) There have been many characters over the years created by the writers (or by the producers, etc.). The only real substantial ones from recent years that I can think of that have been added in this way to the Muppets universe are Walter and Constantine (both of which had reasons for being male... one was a Muppet version of the man Jason Segel... the other was a doppelganger to the male Kermit). I wish the writers would write more female characters and then cast female performers to bring them to life (adding some female performers to the set and the troupe would help with the second source of characters).
- B) Many characters come and evolve from the performers a one-shot or incidental background character that grows into a full recurring character. Sadly, right now all of the core Muppets performers are male. So if they're doing a production or an appearance they have Steve, Eric, Dave, Bill, Matt David, and Peter on the set... if they need an incidental monster or rat, or frog, or salesperson, one of those guys is going to perform it. Chances are they are going to play it as male unless they really have a reason it make it female (like it's someone's girlfriend or mother; or its a parody of an existing female or a joke relies on it being female). Maybe they'll play around on the set with the puppets, and upstage each other, and the character and personality will evolve and develop (either on camera or off camera) and the character become a breakout star (look at so many of original characters Bill Barretta has -- Pepe, Johnny, Bobo, Carl, Gene, Bubba, etc. -- that have joined in recent years; they all grew from Bill... who is a guy who thusly creates mainly guy characters).

Sesame Street has had characters come from the writers (such as Abby and Zoe) and from the performers (such as Murray). When creating new characters (whether Muppet or human) Sesame Workshop will purposefully seek out diversity (setting out to introduce female or Hispanic characters) but the also have break-out characters that just evolve on the set from the performers. And since they have female performers on the call-sheet, some of the one-shot or incidental characters get a better chance of becoming female. Plus unlike the Muppets, Sesame Street is introducing new characters much more frequently (I can only really name a handful of post-Muppet Show characters that have stuck around... and mostly it's due to the performers Bill/Steve/Kevin being being the driving forces behind their longevity not the writers). But when you only have the same group male performers regularly on set it becomes somewhat of a self-fulfilling prophecy -- you can write a female character and have her performed, but that female character won't grow beyond a one-shot if a solid performer isn't always around to make her grow and stick.

Julia

I never thought about that, how the background characters will most likely always inherently be male (unless otherwise specified) due to the fact that the majority of performers are male. Ugh.

They're usually a hodgepodge of serious news stories and ridiculous nonsense about celebrities. I've mostly managed to train myself not to click on them.

Like today. Was anyone really wondering why Seinfeld killed off Susan? It would have been too weird for George to be married, and it was funny to kill a seemingly important character by having her lick too many envelopes. The internet is silly sometimes.

Joe

Elizabeth Olsen: Actress Photographed as Wind Catches Dress at Miu Miu Fashion Show in Paris

BREAKING NEWS: WE GOT TO SEE SOME PANTIES!

Ryan R

Stop the presses!

Joe







Ryan R
This is so dumb I had to do it:







[Joe, Max]

The Talking Houses

6/9/15 | 16340.1-11

Ryan R

As lame as their jokes were, I have a soft spot for the Talking Houses from the first season of The Muppet Show. As Joe and I have been planning our upcoming "Best of The Muppet Show" Muppet Vault, we jokingly talked about including them... but then we realized there was no reason not to, as they are genuinely some of our favorite things from that season, if in a twisted way.

I wonder what became of the puppets. I've been surprised in recent years to learn from interviews with Henson Company and Jim Henson Legacy people how many old, decaying puppets they've kept from the

old days. Maybe some of the Houses are still in a box somewhere. I bet my friend would be interested in seeing them. He loves old things. Oh, is he a historian? No, a museum. (*Laugh track*)

Dan!, Esq.

Since the new show is supposed to follow the character's life outside of production, perhaps now is the time to bring them back.

Rob

Yeah. I've always wanted to know where the talking houses live.

Ryan R

Ha! I would love it if there was a shot of Kermit pulling his car into his driveway, and the house next door was one of the Talking Houses.

Joe



Ryan R

I can only assume that the Talking House will tell a joke with Kermit's house after Kermit goes inside.

Joe

Kermit goes inside his house

NEIGHBORING HOUSE: Have you got a frog in your throat?

KERMIT'S HOUSE: No, I'm a building.

[Shane]

If they gave a prize for being mean the winner would be... [POLL]

6/18/15 | 16362.1-22

Isha

If they gave a prize for being mean the winner would be...

John Tartaglia - 9 votes (24%)

Oscar the Grouch - 3 votes (8%)

Big Mean Carl - 5 votes (14%)

Constantine - 9 votes (24%)

Wander McMooch - 11 votes (30%)

Mr. the Dan©™

Karen Prell.

Isha

I knew I was forgetting someone!

Mike C

I thought we were at a consensus that Karen Prell is the meanest woman in the world.

Erik

Yeah, without Karen Prell this poll is completely invalid.

Matthew Soberman

I'm going to sound like an idiot (since when don't I?), but what's the origin of this joke?

Carolyn

I wanna say Danny started it after MuppetFest. Karen Prell was maybe the sweetest, most open and outgoing person there. She even wore a silly Red Fraggle hat. So it was incongruous and humorous to call her the meanest person alive.

Ryan R

Here's the explanation, from Danny's writeup of MuppetFest -- specifically, day 2, part 3, entitled "Karen Prell Is the Meanest Woman Alive":

http://www.toughpigs.com/my-week-with-muppetfest-day-2-3/

In fact, Karen is so happy and warm and loving on stage that at dinner, Kynan and I decide to spread the rumor that she's incredibly mean in person. We tell people that on the autograph line, Karen kicked Kynan under the table, then poked him in the eyes with her Red hat. And then later, we saw her biting the heads off Doozers and just throwing them away. It was horrible. Nobody

has any idea what we're talking about. Anyway, her new name is Karen "Ice Queen" Prell. Pass it on.

Carolyn

There we go.

I think I mentioned this in the Lessons Learned thread, but Karen was at the premiere of that short film. I asked if she had worked on the shoot, and she said that she had just helped out wherever she could. Like painting scenery or whatever. I just love that she is still so close with the Frouds and is such a friendly and generous person that she would travel to Portland to help out on a relatively small film shoot and then come again for the premiere.

SO MEAN!

Ivan

I heard once that Jim Henson was so mean that Rowlf bit him.

Thankfully Frank Oz was there to calm everyone down and form a peace circle.

Hand to God 6/22/15 | 16363.2-7

Ryan R

It seems to have gotten some good reviews. I've considered going, but I haven't gotten as far as looking at ticket prices. (Cool story, right?)

Joe

Yes. Now tell it again, but this time as bumblebee lawyer in the 1920s American south.

Ryan R

Well now, ah have conzzzidered gettin' drezzzed up and goin' to that thar show, but what with defendin' Charlie Drone in that big zzztolen honey case, ah haven't gotten azzz far azzz looking at ticket pricezzz.

Isha

Y'all so weird.

AV Club: Diana Rigg talks GMC 6/23/15 | 16366.4-5

Julia

UM WHY HAD IT NEVER OCCURRED TO ME UNTIL RIGHT JUST NOW THAT LADY HOLIDAY IS ALSO OLENNA TYRELL???

Shane

Olenna Tyrell is a pig?

[Joe]

Those were some dark times for kid-friendly movies. When I was a kid, I'd visit my aunt for a week during the summer, and once we had already gone to see whatever big Disney release was out, she'd have to scour the movie listings for anything else that was appropriate. (See also: *Puss in Boots* starring Christopher Walken.)

Carolyn

He got himself a snappy pair of BOOTS.

Ryan R

Does he say that in the movie? And should I revisit it with adult eyes?

Carolyn

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

50 seconds in. I love this movie. I love pretty much all of these: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cannon Movie Tales#Titles

Ryan R

I marked that Watch Later! And I just realized that the Frog Prince movie I've had a vague memory of for much of my life just might be the Cannon one.

Carolyn

I think the majority of the Cannon Tales are available on DVD. I like their Sleeping Beauty a lot. They kinda feel like community theater with celebrities.

Ryan R

So, kind of like Shelley Duvall's Faerie Tale Theater? I checked a lot of those out from the library back in the day.

Isha

We had Shelley Duvalls's Bedtime stories on laser disc!

Ryan R

I don't know if I ever saw those. I saw a few of her Tall Tales and Legends series. Basically, Shelley Duvall dedicated much of the 80s and 90s to telling us stories.

Which makes me think of this great thing:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t1hiRERFOIY

Myuacc1 Inc.

Ahem, can we PLEASE get back on topic?

Ryan R

...Do we know you?

Isha

Look out! It's the Gumby police!

Thank you for that.

Henson something Gumby.

Ryan R

Hello, I'm Henson's Gumby Hello, I'm Henson's Gumby Hello, I'm Henson's Gumby Hello-hello-hello, I'm Henson's Gumby

Hen-Hen-Hen-Hen-Hen-Henson's Gumby, Gumby, Gumby Hen-Hen-Hen-Hen-Hen-Henson's Gumby, Gumby, Gumby

Isha

Hi, I'm Brian Henson. See if you can spot Gumby in this muffin of a thread!

Julia



Robvn

I'd like to yearbook all of this, but that's not really Gumby related.

Maybe Gumby can yearbook it? Is that allowed?

Andrew Leal

He can walk into any Yearbook, with his pony pal Pokey too.

Matt Wilkie

Posted this on Facebook but I thought it might get a decent reaction here too:

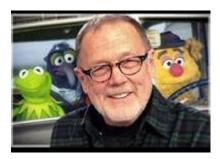
Relationship Goals:



Squad Goals:



Dave Goelz:





Marvel Movies 7/1/15 | 14440.563-64

Rob

Is nobody at Marvel Studios aware that the correct word for "Ant-Man" is "Uncle"?

Ryan R

Ha!

That makes me wonder if they've ever done a story where Spider-Man's Aunt May discovers Pym Particles and becomes Ant-Aunt.

MuppetVision DisneyLand

7/6/15 | 16039.115-126

Joe

First Disneyland, and now Walt Disney World's Muppet*Vision 3D show will likely be closing. Blurgh.

http://www.toughpigs.com/mvision-wdw-close/

Meagan

Nooooooooooooooooo

I hate everything.

Disneyphilip

Pay no attention to that rumor! That Slashfilm article is nothing but full of lies. >:(

Slashfilm is just one of those sites that takes rumors and everything else and tries to pass them off as news and done deals when they're not.

Muppet Vision IS NOT leaving Florida. The area of the park surrounding it will become the Muppet Studios.

Ryan R

What's your source for that?

Scott

Wow, that's really exciting! Muppet Studios is gonna be awesome with rides and sand castles in the sand and real live muppets who will braid your hair! I can't wait!

Andrew Leal

I hear Fozzie Bear will personally serve your churros.

Mr. the Dan©™

I hear Terry Calhoun is in talks to design the new area of the park.

[Jimmy M]

The odd & awesome pictures thread

7/8/15 | 11848.2837-41

Scott

I don't know why I did this. I'm so sorry.



Carolyn

He probably forgot all about them too.

Ryan R

HA! That's a classic! Do Forgetful's mommies have names, or are they just Anything Mommies?

Joe

They used to know their names, but then... you know.

Scott

Their entry doesn't say, but... well, everyone already made forgetful jokes.

Hooper's staff

7/13/15 | 16391.1-16

Ryan R

It occurred to me recently that Alan is coming close to matching the longest tenure of an employee of Hooper's Store.

David didn't own the store the whole time he was on the show, but according to Muppet Wiki, he was working there as of 1971. So he worked there for about 18 years. Alan has owned the store since 1998, which puts him around 17 years. If he sticks around, he'll pass David pretty soon.

Mr. Hooper himself would be next with about 13 years, and then Gina and Mr. Handford both worked there for 9 years. On the other end of the scale, Natalie Portman only worked there for one day -- what kind of work ethic is that?

Shane

It was an exchange program. Natilie did one episode, and Kermit appeared in one of her movies.

Matt Wilkie

God I loved him in "V for Vendetta."

Ken

How did you come up with 13 years? Were you only counting 1969-1982? I always thought that since we know he never finished high school until he went back to get his GED, maybe he had to go to work in the store during the Depression to help his family. So maybe he was working for someone else in the store, and at some point he gave it his own name. That's always been the backstory in my mind, anyway.

Ryan R

Yeah, I meant on the show. I'm not counting time we don't see.

Although it's a mildly interesting thought... Have we ever seen what Sesame Street looked like in, say, 1939? Or 1949? What was in the Fix-it Shop's spot way back then? There was that Sesame Gulch book that took place in the old west, but it was more of a reimagining or Elseworlds than actual history.

Yay, we're nerds!

Joe

Sesame Street in the 1800s:



Sesame Street in 18,000,000 BC:



Ryan R

I'll buy the caveman one. Do we know for sure that the western one actually takes place in the same physical spot as Sesame Street? Like Kermit talking to George Washington's father, it could be a remote location.

Joe

I like the idea that "Sesame Gulch" eventually evolved into "Sesame Street".

Of course, a New York City neighborhood wouldn't have looked like an old west town or a cave in any given time period.

Ryan R

Good point. Maybe "Sesame" is the name of a Native American tribe that once lived there... in the days when herds of Snuffleupaguses could still be found roaming the hills everywhere, before most of them migrated to Canada in search of some good cabbage.

Matt Wilkie

Holy guacamole, I've never realized how much I want to see all these time periods until right now. I might write a letter to Joey Mazzarino and request it.

Ryan R

Industrial Revolution Sesame Street, with the cityscape backdrop full of factory smokestacks! 1940s Sesame Street, with 123 Sesame covered in ads for war bonds!

Matt Wilkie

1925 Prohibition-Era Sesame Street with Hooper's Speakeasy!

The password to get in is ABC-DEF-GHI-JKL-MNOP-QR-STUV-WXYZ.

[Max]

Muppet Vault Trivia & Drinks Archive

7/14/15 | 15159.87-89

Ryan R

Trivia, Round 1:

Easy: What's the name of the saxophone player in the Electric Mayhem?

Erik

It's... uh... uh...

Joe

Uh oh. Erik skipped a groove again.

ABC's "The Muppets" (2015-)

7/27/15 | 16253.613-18

Julia

I agree about Fozzie never really having a relationship before. The only example I can think that comes close is Beth in Muppets Take Manhattan (which wasn't so much a relationship as Fozzie feeling super awkward). I like Fozzie getting a bit of the spotlight outside of the core Muppet group!

Joe

Also that time he almost had, uh... tea with Raquel Welch.

Matt Wilkie

Tea & A

Erik

Tea & a what?

Joe

Tea and a haircut.

Two bits.

ABC's "The Muppets" (2015-)

7/27/15 | 16253.619-23

Smig

Does anyone realize they've ACTUALLY USED NEW PHOTOS instead of the stock pictures we've been getting the past twenty-odd years?

Joe

YES! Thank freakin' Frog.

Patrick M.

Well they did have new photo puppet photos for the 2011 movie release.

Joe

So, the Muppets get new photos taken every 4 years. Like a Presidential portrait.

Mike C

Except for Kermit, he has a portrait of his attic where his head slowly becomes more and more rounded.

[Grant]

Maria Week! 7/29/15 | 16406.8-13

Shane

I've been meaning to make a collage of her takes to the camera. I think now I might.

Ryan R

If you do that, I will give you a very hearty handshake.

Shane



Ryan RConsider your hand heartily shaken!

Marvel Movies 7/31/15 | 14440.576-78

Matthew Soberman

Maybe this last-minute casting change will make Fantastic Four more enjoyable...



Based on what we've heard and seen so far, that would be a better movie. There's been so much about how this movie is going to emphasize how, for the members of the team, getting super powers totally sucks. Like, apparently it's going to be awful and they're all going to hate it. That's not what any of the best Fantastic Four stories are about. It's exciting that they have powers. It allows them to go on all kinds of far-flung adventures. The only one unhappy with the change is Ben Grimm, and that's just because his transformation included physically becoming a rock monster.

But with Elmo in the movie, there would be no scenes of everyone being angsty and miserable as the press has teased. Elmo would keep singing and playing games and giggling, making it impossible for everyone to brood. He'd probably find funny uses for his powers. He's replacing Reed Richards in this shot, right? So just picture how funny Elmo would look with his arms all stretched five feet above his head.

The movie wouldn't be about pain. It would be about fun. Which is really what a Fantastic Four movie should be about. In summary: I know the predictable reaction to something like is to say "I would SO see that movie!" But in this case, I really, really would.

Matthew Soberman

Well-said. All Elmo would want to do is help people, and when you boil it down, that's what most good superhero stories are about.

Though I think the origin story might be a bit different:

"Guess what Elmo's thinking about today!"

opens door, cosmic rays flood the room

"Cosmic rays! You know, cosmic rays! Hahaha!"

AUGUST

The odd & awesome pictures thread

8/1/15 | 11848.2848-51

Shane

In an alternate universe:



Ivan
In that vein...



Bugs Bunny's 75th

8/5/15 | 16409.6-7

Nick Moreau

Canada is issuing collector coins, believe it or not.

http://www.mint.ca/store/dyn/looneytunes/index en.html?lang=en CA&rcmeid=van LooneyTunes

Joe

I choose not to believe it.

Kermit and Piggy officially break up

8/5/15 | 16420.20-42

Julia

I brought this up on my facebook status just now, but I find it so weird that the people who seem to care the most about the Piggy/Kermit split are causal Muppet fans.

I think, because we (being the people on Muppet forums/boards/sites) have known for a while now that this was coming for the show, we were sort of prepped and not taken by surprise. But yeah, I had one friend who wrote a big, long thing about how disappointed Jim Henson would be if he were still alive. It's weird how that seems to be people's number one go to reason to be upset. I mean, Piggy and Kermit had a lot of rough patches while Jim was still alive. Is it so hard to believe that, if he had lived longer and created more films/shows, that Miss Piggy and Kermit wouldn't have split up for similar reasons like this show? I could totally see him doing that.

Anyway, I do like how this news has been trending for so long on Facebook. The studio obviously did it to garner some attention for their new show, and it seems to be doing exactly that.

Tom

Yeah. It's funny -- all of TMS is about how Kermit has no interest in being a relationship with Piggy. He once fired her for telling a false story to the tabloids about them being together. And yet people keep saying that Jim Henson would never have wanted them to break up. I think if Jim were around, he'd find that reaction rather funny.

Joe

Here's a question: If Jim was still alive and making these decisions himself, would the internet trolls be saying, "Jim is ruining the Muppets" instead?

Ryan R

I guarantee you some people would be saying that. "I used to love the Muppets but Jim Henson ran out of good ideas years ago" and like that.

Joe

Yep. And that saddens my heart.

Ryan R

People are going to say that about any artist who sticks around long enough, though. It doesn't matter whether it's true or not. The only thing fans love more than praising the thing they love is complaining about it.

Erik

Man, Ryan's posts used to be so great, but now they suck. What happened?

Patrick M

This picture almost brings a joy full tear to my eye!



Ivan

I'd have the same reaction if I wasn't perplexed, horrified and intrigued by the guy hovering over Frank's shoulder.

Patrick M

He's probably just trying to photo bomb Dave and Frank. Thankfully photoshop could probably fix it.

Joe

There. I fixed it.



Jessica



[Ivan]

The Random Thread of Randomness

8/7/15 | 9511.10654-57

Macy

My eight-year-old brother: "If you are what you eat, then if I ate your shirt I would be a fabric Kermit laying on the floor."

Ryan R

That's unexpectedly poetic.

Erik

But completely wrong.

He'd be a fabric Kermit *lying* on the floor.

Ken

But a fabric Camilla could be laying on the floor.

Random Muppet Thoughts

8/7/15 | 15397.1045

Andrew Leal

Charles Dickens actually owned a rutabaga patterned shirt, but he saved it for pub crawls with Wilkie Collins.

Muppet Dramatic Readings

8/12/15 | 16432.1-4

Shane

Disney just put out a video featuring Bunsen and Beaker doing a dramatic reading of "A Pirate's Life for Me":

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1c7vKzj3ZFM

Odd mix, wouldn't you say? Why not a Muppet song?

Mike C

Corporate synergy.

I was also half-hoping for Beaker to only chime in for the last word of the chorus.

Scott



Patrick

Disney should make a Muppet Meeting Film for new employees featuring Leo, Kermit, Darth Vader, Thor and Mickey Mouse explaining corporate synergy!



Jim Henson's old house for sale

8/13/15 | 16433.1-11

Ryan R

The old Henson home in Bedford, New York is on the market for \$1.2 million:

http://nypost.com/2015/08/12/former-upstate-home-of-muppet-meister-jim-henson-for-sale/

Let's buy it and have Tough Pigs pizza parties there!

Joe

It's what Jim would've wanted.

Lara

Hey if 12,000 of us pitched in a hundred bucks we could do it. Or 24 million people for just a nickle each.

Mr. the Dan©™

It could be like a timeshare!

Joe

Everyone gets five minutes at Jim's house!

Ryan R

I call dibs on Wednesday, June 27th, 2018, between 2:20 and 2:25 PM!

Help with Sam & Friends clip

8/25/15 | 16444.2-13

Carolyn

The first part sounded a little like Doris Day, but the second part seems to indicate it's from a novelty/comedy record, which I don't know much about. Does Andrew know?

Andrew Leal

Andrew does not know the answer, but Andrew is pleased that Carolyn reached the same conclusion. Andrew will now ask a baby.

Carolyn

Babies love old novelty records.

Andrew Leal

They're great for teething.

Ken

SEPTEMBER

Disney's big reveal: Muppet performers!

Sep-3 | 16446.11-13

Joe

I recently saw this news bit boasting the photo of Kermit and Piggy's actual breakup. It's pretty awesome.

http://www.people.com/article/miss-piggy-kermit-breakup-photo-muppets

Jessica

Great photo. Interesting that they've had to get an extra person to hold the edge of Piggy's skirt steady.

It's kind of weird that they used it in what is otherwise a "genuine celebrity breakup!" article though. I guess that's just the level of willing disbelief we're on...?

Matt Wilkie

I like when they use their "ages" based on when they were created like that makes it a real age. Because if so, this article is about: Kermit the Frog, 60; Miss Piggy, 41; and Denise, 5 months.

Denise is the Worst

9/3/15 | 16452.1-25

Joe

Today on ToughPigs, I wrote a very serious article about how Denise is the worst and will inevitably ruin the Muppets.

http://www.toughpigs.com/denise/

Quinn

This is one of my favorite things written about the new series. I even liked it and shared it and junk.

AND JUNK, Joe.

Yeah. Like that.

loe

ACHIEVEMENT UNLOCKED!

Ryan R

This particular achievement is called "Quinn's Junk."

Quinn

One of the great things about TP is that I can be gone for a few decades, come back around, and my junk is unlocked within a few hours.

And for people just meeting me, I'm sorry.

Also, you're welcome.

[Ceris]

Random Muppet Thoughts

Sep-7 | 15397.1063-64

Ryan R

I've taken to using "hugga wugga" as a curse word. Like, something happens at work that's really frustrating and I'll go "Ah, hugga wugga!" I don't know when it started, but so far no one has heard me, or if they have they haven't responded by singing "You Are My Sunshine."

Patrick M

Has smoke been shooting out of your nose when this happens? Because you might be coming down with a case of S.M.S.S (surreal Muppet show sketch). Other symptoms include legs turning into pinwheels and or body turning into a dancing slinky whenever Al Hirt's Java comes on. Most doctors suggest putting a lime in a coconut and mixing it all up as a treatment option for S.M.S.S., although be aware that side effects include your bedroom turning into an African jungle.

[Grant]

Denise is the Worst

Sep-8 | 16452.22-37

Jes

So yesterday Emileigh and I were talking about the Muppet show coming out soon on television and the topic turned to Denise and she was like, 'yeah, everyone is saying how beautiful she is' and I was like, 'woah, wait, who is everyone saying this because that is NOT what I've been hearing' and she was like, 'oh well on TumbIr and (other places teenagers congregate online) people are saying how she is so much hotter than Piggy and how they feel bad for Piggy because Kermit's next is so much prettier' and stuff like that and I was like *MIND BLOWN* can't wait to report this to the Muppet community.

Ryan R

Yeah, that's interesting. Sometimes it's easy to forget the kinds of people who comment on things on the pop culture websites I read are not necessarily representative of the population at large. I'm sure there millions of people who are vaguely aware of the new show, but have no idea who Denise is.

Quinn

Vaguely aware of a new Muppet show. That's progress.

Grant

Well, I'd miss the old swamp, but -- still. Millions of people vaguely aware. Hmm.

Judge Everything

Sep-9 | 8892.7366-77

Carolyn

Supporting the Arts: 8

Quinn

I also really wanted to support a corn dog.

Joe

Q: What else supports a corn dog?

A: A stick!

Quinn

That joke: 10

Joe

I missed a career of being the world's greatest popsicle stick joke writer.

Quinn

It was a high bar to begin with, Joe. You never would have made it in this industry.



Ryan R

A few things.

First of all, am I missing something with the foot joke? Is it just that "toe happy" kind of sounds like "so happy," or is there something more going on? I'm trying to give them the benefit of the doubt.

Next, you can tell the bed joke is a good one because they had to spell out the punchline. That's always a sign of great comedy.

Finally, why would a thread go to school? Also, a school bus takes you to school. If it's taking the "spool bus," wouldn't it be attending "spool?"

Carolyn

Popsicle stick joke analysis: 8

Erik

Whoa, whoa! Maybe you should start with Bazooka Joe jokes and work your way up from there.

http://www.buzzfeed.com/billypeltzer/all-50-bazooka-joe-comic-strips-ecuv

Anthony

I can't believe there were only 50 of those things.

Joe

And yet none of them reveal how Bazooka Joe lost his eye.

[Quinn]

Muppet Vault Trivia & Drinks Archive

Sep-9 | 15159.103-106

Quinn

Someday I'll write something way too long about [Muppet Treasure Island]. After Jim's death and the decidedly somber A Muppet Christmas Carol, it was upbeat, it was fun, it had funny moments. I still would have rather had a non-adaptation. There were things that bugged me about it then and now, but I'd still watch that over several other post-Jim Muppet movies/specials/productions.

Ryan R

If it's long enough to be an article, feel free to send it to Ryan-at-ToughPigs-dot-com for possible publication on a major Muppet fan site!

Quinn

All of my thoughts are long enough to be articl

ABC's "The Muppets" (2015-)

Sep 9 | 16253.794-817

Scott

Bobo has a daughter? I didn't see that one coming. It's exactly the kind of thing I can see some fans getting butthurt over, but I'm looking forward to.

Quinn

I didn't even think the Muppets had fans who would get butthurt over things. And then I remembered the internet.

Joe

The fans can get butthurt, but the Muppets can't. They don't exist below the waist.

Ryan R

I would just like to take this opportunity to express how much I hate the word "butthurt." Your mileage may vary. Thank you for your time.

Joe

Would you say that "butthurt" makes you butthurt?

No, I imagine you wouldn't.

Ryan R

Hmph.

Jes

Yes! I also hate it. What does it even mean? It's confusing, unlike 'pain in the ass' which seems to be something totally different.

Carolyn

Yeah, the implications of the word make me very uncomfortable. Though that's probably kinda the point.

Joe

Butthurt is just a pain in the ass.

Jes

No, I don't think so-I mean it sounds like it but is it? A pain in the ass seems different to me.

Joe

Please elaborate on the difference between posterior sensations.

les

Ok well I think of pain in the ass as when something is annoying, tedious, not necessarily seriously harmful but just seriously irritating. Butthurt seems like when someone is (annoyingly?) upset about something in a (childish?) specific way. Maybe it's what comes after getting one's panties in a bunch?

Quinn

I also don't like the term "butthurt." When I used it earlier, it's probably only the second time I've ever used it. I apologize for offending everyone's delicate sensibilities.

(realizing that you probably weren't offended, just getting say, buttchafed over the term butthurt)

Jes

Haha, I didn't even take note of who said 'butthurt' in the first place, was mostly just chiming in with the crowd... and now I feel all butthurt about being a butthurt baby.

Quinn

I really don't like that term, Jes.

Star Wars

Sep-9 | 9516.1040-54

Tom

I'm torn about buying merchandise before the movie comes out. On the one hand, I once bought a Batman Returns T-shirt before the movie came out, and then after I saw it and didn't like it, I had to spend the rest of the summer being an advertisement for a movie that I didn't care for.

On the other hand, I didn't collect the Phantom Menace Pepsi cans when they were being released because of my previous bad experience, even though it was easy to do because our cafeteria at work

had a vending machine right there. I would get new ones and drink them, but then throw them away. But the cans were cool, and a set of those cans is even worth money these days. So I kind of wish I had held on to them after all.

Quinn

On "Force Friday" (which even I think was ridiculous) some friends on Twitter and Instagram were posting pictures from their 1999 collection--ten different Jar Jar Binks toys or whatever, with the hashtag #SeeTheMovieFirst, which made me laugh out loud. That's part of me being slow to buy stuff, but also...I don't need it the way I need other things. I don't mean like shoes for my offspring, I mean like...other LEGO or whatever. Knowing me, I'll end up getting something that represents Rey, Finn, Poe, BB-8, Captain Phasma, and Kylo Ren. Might be their LEGO versions (most likely), might be the 3.75" action figures. I can see getting Phasma and Finn and BB-8 in multiple iterations, just because I think their design is frigging awesome.

Tom

Heh. Yep, I totally get ya. :)

That "#SeeTheMovieFirst" bit is pretty funny. It's kind of how I feel about all the merchandise being released three months ahead of the movie. We're supposed to want to play with the toys because the characters are so awesome, but we haven't even met the characters yet. It's putting the proverbial cart before the horse.

But no arguments with anyone who feels differently. That's just how I feel.

But again, for the right thing, I could probably be talked into it. Particularly with the Phantom Menace Pepsi cans, I was already having pop from the vending machine anyway, it didn't cost me any extra money, and I already had them in hand. It would have cost me nothing to keep some pretty cool cans.

It's okay, though. My therapist said I should be over it in just a few more sessions.;)

I know what you mean about some merchandise being more important than others. If I were you and had a great LEGO collection already, then being able to add to it would be far more important to me than the action figures or anything else.

Ryan R

I wonder whether anyone who bought one of these Jar Jar candy things regretted it after seeing the movie... or if they all regretted it immediately after buying it:



Quinn

So wait. You don't like the term "butthurt" but it's okay to put that filth on the forum??

Ryan R

Sorry, are you getting Hutthurt about it?

How do you feel about Sam developing feelings for Janice?

Sep-11 | 16468.2-6

Kim McF

Sam and Janice? That's stupid. Sam + Sweetums = OTP!!

Ryan R

Knock, knock.

Who's there?

Sam and Janice.

Sam and Janice who?

Sam and Janice evening...

[Shane]

Random Muppet Thoughts

Sep-14 | 15397.1092-5

Shane

Today, before a little club panel we were hosting in a class, the subject of the new Muppet show came up. Me and another Muppet fan friend of my started getting a rise out of another friend of ours by asking him to name 5 Muppets. We said to rule out the obvious ones and I started rattling off a crazy list of random, obscure Muppet characters that were "obvious" (I don't recall correctly, but Thig and Muppaphones 1, 2, 3 and 5 were among them). He named "the two old guys." I immediately told him Pops and Professor Hastings didn't count.

I love when I get the chance to list off random Muppet things like that.

Scott

Incidentally, "Pops and Professor Hastings Don't Count" is the name of the 4th episode in the 1st season.

Ryan R

And it's 22 minutes of both of them sleeping.

David H

Ryan and Joe:

This is actually for everyone, but specifically to be passed along to the Cop and the Cow.

Every now and then, someone writes an article of libraries offering more than they used to. This one has includes a picture of Alfredo Fettuccine, the World's 13th greatest Chef, from the Cop & the Cow Christmas Special!

"These Public Libraries Are for Snowshoes and Ukuleles"

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/09/15/us/these-public-libraries-are-for-snowshoes-and-ukuleles.html

Ryan R

For a second I was unrealistically picturing a screen shot, with someone watching our video in a library. But hey, I'm glad someone is putting a Melissa & Doug chef puppet to good use!

Matt Mtthwas

Didn't you keep scrolling down?



New Jim Henson PBS Documentary

Sep-17 | 16422.54-60

Jes

I remember when I first started reconnecting with Muppet culture- I though I was the only adult who remembered Sesame Street and maybe there wouldn't be anyone else to talk to about it. And then I found Muppet Central and I was like, whoa, I don't know *anything* about Sesame Street compared to these people. But it was nice- you know it's nice to have a group to share those little things with.

Anthony

You know the joke in *It's a Very Murky Muddy Crudsmas Movie* where Kermit asks David Arquette "You're not from one of those Muppet internet fansites, are you?"

Roz told me that until we met, she always thought that was a joke about how obviously there's no such thing as Muppet fansites, because why would there be?

Robyn

I have come to realize that there is a fansite for EVERYTHING. My husband found a website the other day for licence plate nerds! Which led him to a site dedicated to highways.

Joe

Meanwhile, a license plate enthusiast somewhere is just discovering that there's a website devoted to the Muppets.

WEIRD.

The Random Thread of Randomness

Sep-17 | 9511.10702-05

Jennifer

I'm not sure I've ever read this thread but it seemed the appropriate place for this randomness. I was at homegoods yesterday and when I was leaving there was a bunch of throw blankets that were snuffleupagus colored. I of course had to go over and touch them and they are SOOOOFT! There were lots of different colors so if you want a muppety looking throw blanket, head over to homegoods...I'm thinking they might be good to make a costume out of. I think they were about \$20 but I couldn't really tell since there was only one with a price tag and they were so fuzzy and stuffed together it was hard to tell where one blanket ended and the other began.

Ryan R

The only problem is, when you call your grown-up friends to come over and see the blankets, they're not there anymore.

Jennifer

...the blankets or your friends? :)

I wasn't sure if you meant that the blankets would be getting up and doing something muppety or if your "grown-up" friends won't abide by awesome throw blankets:)

Ryan R

I was implying the blankets would wander off, like Snuffy used to wander off every time Big Bird tried to introduce him to his grown-up friends. That's what I was trying for, anyway, but perhaps it was a Snuffail-upagus.

Random Muppet Thoughts

Sep-18 | 15397.1096-97

Max Stein

Why is Kermit so mad about his Kermit The Frog tee shirt (not Kermit the Gorf, not Kermit the Forg, not Kermit the Grof) when he's already wearing one??

And why did I never wonder this before?

Ryan R

I didn't notice it until I watched the sketch as a grown-up. Theory: He's accumulating them until he has one for each day of the week.

ABC's "The Muppets" (2015-)

Sep-19 | 16253.902-03

Patrick M

Could you imagine the hissy fit these conservatives would have if the Koozebanian mating ritual sketch was done today? The two characters are blatantly having sex (mind you, Koozebanian sex is essentially running head first into your partner and exploding).

Scott

What you've described is not unlike sex on Earth.

"You've been listening to..." [POLL]

Sep-19 | 16478.1-22

Ryan R

"You've been listening to..."

"...music to hug frogs by." - 11 votes (42%)

"...music to hunt frogs by." - 15 votes (58%)

Ryan R

When Doc Hopper interrupts the radio broadcast after the gang picks up hitchhiking Miss Piggy, what does he say? Joe and I just now realized we've always had different ideas about what he says.

Evan G

It's gotta be "hunt." Because, like, that's what he's doing. The joke is that he's tuned into an incredibly apt radio station. Right?

Mr. the Dan©™

When I was younger I always heard is as "Help frogs by".

Scott

I always thought the joke was that he knows what's happening in their car. Doc isn't listening to music while he hunts, Kermit and Piggy hear it while they hug. Hence, music to hug frogs by.

Ryan R

I've always heard it as "hug," and Joe's always heard it as "hunt." "Hug" makes sense to me because it comes in right at the moment when Piggy is hugging Kermit. But it's true that Doc Hopper is hunting Kermit, and when it cuts to him he's sitting right next to Snake Walker, his frog hunter.

Jes

So is anyone else surprised by this? I should start a poll about it. I would have guessed you heard 'hunt' and Joe heard 'hug'.

Ryan R

Why, pray tell?

Jes

You're Bert and he's Ernie?

You're more cynical and he's more jolly?

Your name has four letters in it and his has three?

Joe

What is even happening.

Ryan R

I'm glad I'm not the only one who has no idea.

les

I'm just saying- that if I had to guess, I would have said that Ryan thought it was 'hunt frogs' and Joe thought it was 'hug frogs' instead of vice versa, that's all. If it makes you feel any better, I heard 'hunt'.

Ryan R

It doesn't make me feel better, because that's not the one I think it is! I want everyone to agree with meeeee!

Jes

Ok well I just meant that I *thought* YOU would be the one to agree with me, which is basically saying that you are like a twin brother to me.

Ryan R

Aww. Just like Kermit and Fozzie! In that movie! Where they're twins!

Jes

Wocka Wocka!

The odd & awesome pictures thread

Sep-24 | 11848.2925-26

Joe



Shane

Down at Fraggle

ROCK!!!

Ep. 1: Pig Girls Don't Cry

Sep-28 | 16482.119-31

Kieran M

Somebody on another (non-Muppet) forum I frequent just posted that they hated the new show and that everything that was wrong with it is what was right with Muppets Tonight.

I think this is a pretty controversial view and I wondered what others thought?

For me, Muppets Tonight got better the more they broke away from the studio and explored the characters' private lives so I can't quite understand that viewpoint. What do you guys think?

Ryan R

I like Muppets Tonight more than most people. It was funny, and often captured the "Let's put on a show... please!" spirit of The Muppet Show. The biggest problems -- not counting the prominence of new characters, which was part of its downfall but which I was okay with -- were the reluctance to let musical numbers play out and the tendency to go for easy, sexist jokes (see: everything Spamela ever did). It's too early yet to tell whether the latter will be a big problem on the new show, but I do wonder how often they'll let the Muppets sing.

And yeah, they were just figuring out how to make Muppets Tonight work really well when it got cancelled, and a big part of that was following the characters outside the studio. Some of my favorite things on the series are Beaker's Star Trek cruise and Kermit's date with Gilbert Gottfried. Neither of those was really exploring "private lives" like the new show promises to do, though.

Scott

Tune in tonight to see The Muppets sing in the new The Muppets show!

Ryan R

"Hi, I'm Brian Henson. See if you can spot some singing Muppets in this Muppets episode of the The Muppets show."

Joe

Muppets Tonight also had way too much groan-worthy humor. The Muppet Show managed to balance the puns and self-deprecation really well, but MT just made me think that they *couldn't* be funny anymore, so why not point out all the bad jokes (which was most of them)?

Ryan R

I think we tend to be more forgiving of jokes that don't work on The Muppet Show, because it's The Muppet Show. And if Muppets Tonight had stuck around longer, the total ratio of good jokes to bad jokes might have become more favorable.

Scott

I think that's accurate. If The Muppet Show were just season one... well, let's face it, we probably wouldn't be here. On this forum. We'd probably still be here on this planet, but who really knows?

Ryan R

Right. TV fans would reminisce about the time the Muppets tried doing a show, but it only lasted one season, and it had its moments.

And wow, all of us might never have met! Would we get flickers of recognition of the other reality when we crossed paths -- like if I saw Andrew commenting an animation website, or if you passed Martha or Smig in the Massachusetts Grocery Store? Would we get a funny feeling, catch a glimpse of Beaker-related conversations in our mind's eye, then promptly forget it all again? I don't know.

Joe

Anthony would be in a cage on Fear Factor! Justin T. has a dancing brick! The Ladies of Roe would be a Celtic dancing troupe! Scott would be a swollen-armed bouncer! Julia would steal your wallet in an alley! Tom would have a Jamaican accent!

[Tom]

Muppets vs. Muppet

Sep-29 | 11986.30-53

Scott

Here's an interesting one: in the credits for tonight's episode of M15, there's this...

Featuring "Muppets Show Theme" by JIM HENSON and SAMUEL POTTLE

It's possible that it's a typo (Andrea Detwiler's name was misspelled in the first episode), but could this be a conscious decision in the movement to convert Muppet to Muppets?

Featuring "Muppets Show Theme" by JIM HENSON and SAMUEL POTTLE

Joe

I get that Disney is trying to pluralize every Muppet mention, but that's not the name of the song! They are misusing quotation marks!

Ryan R

Maybe Disney has software that automatically replaces every use of the word "Muppet" with "Muppets." You think Kermit is your favorite Muppet? Wrong. From now on, Kermit is your favorite Muppets.

Jennifer

Lol, maybe this is like the LEGO vs legos debate. I know LEGO is supposed to describe something like LEGO bricks, but I can't help but say "Put away your legos before someone steps on them " My guess is whoever names these movies suffers from the same affliction.

Jessica

We always used "LEGO" as the name of the whole toy; a single brick would be "a piece of LEGO". "Legos" sounds weird to me.

Jennifer

You are correct, i just know many people say legos, including myself. I always think it sounds wrong after I've said it but it's too late. :)

Ryan R

"Legos" sounds more natural, but the company that makes them prefers that you call them "LEGO® brand recreational interlocking construction bricks." As in, "Ouch! I just stepped on some LEGO® brand recreational interlocking construction bricks!"

Jennifer

Lol! I know it's wrong but I'll stick with legos, but i draw the line there, no Muppets instead of Muppet!

loe

You buy a LEGO set. You have a handful of Legos. It sounds too weird to me to think of a collection of LEGO pieces as "a bunch of LEGO" or "all of that LEGO" or "my DeLorean made of LEGO".

Jessica

That's exactly how I would use it. "LEGO" is a plural/variable noun, like "sheep".

Jennifer

Doesn't this make you wish there were Muppet legos, or is that Muppets LEGO? Or Muppet LEGO? this is probably why it doesn't exist.

Scott

Look at all these Muppets Lego I have! There are many Muppets Lego here!

Joe

It's like "Surgeons General".

Scott

Misters Henson and Oz and their bag of Muppets Lego from the Surgeons General.

OCTOBER

ToughPigs & Henson Company - UNBOXING!

Oct-1 | 16491.33-35

Joe

Episode 3! In which we get a rare peek at Jim Henson's handwritten journals!

http://www.toughpigs.com/unboxing-notebooks/

Smig

All that stuff from his pockets! Too bad they couldn't save any lint!

Matt Mtthwas

Oh, there's no pesky pocket lint when you clean your clothing with Pat-Nit RX and then use Linit Fabric Finish.



Who are "The Muppets" for?

Oct-4 | 16489.31-35

Andrew Leal

My friend Harry (over fifty) insists that to him, Grover is a "new" Muppet.

Ken

I can see his point. I remember when they added Lips, and Beauregard, and Pops.

Scott

They ruined Jim Henson's vision when they added Beauregard.

Rvan R

Do you think he was rolling over in his office?

[Joe]

ABC's "The Muppets" (2015-)

Oct-14 | 16253.972-76

Ryan R

I forget, was Chip in the Muppets Character Encyclopedia?

Joe

According to the Wiki, he was not.

Ryan R

Ah yes, the wiki. It's the Muppets Character Encyclopedia Encyclopedia!

Erik

Is there an encyclopedia that lists Muppet character encyclopedia encyclopedias?

Scott

Yup.

http://muppet.wikia.com/wiki/Category:Non-fiction Books

ToughPigs & Henson Company - UNBOXING!

Oct-19 | 16491.69-77

Joe

Today's Unboxing! video is likely the most fun one of the series. Of course it is, because it's all about Thog!

http://www.toughpigs.com/unboxing-thog/

Smig

I'll say one thing.. the sweater looks great on Thog.

Shane

That's the kind of thing that belongs in the new exhibits. Or back in Thog's closet so he won't catch cold this winter.

Scott

Is that why we haven't seen him since The Muppets? They rebuilt him, but he's been too cold to make more than one appearance.

NOVEMBER

Episode #7 - "Pig's in a Blackout"

Nov-3 | 16534.19

Andrew Leal

Pig's in a blackout? Two bits.

[Erik]

The next blonde white chick [POLL]

Nov-5 | 16543.1-7

Scott

Who should be the next blonde, white chick to appear on ABC's The Muppets?

Carrie Underwood - 7 votes (22%)

Amanda Seyfried - 6 votes (19%)

Charlize Theron - 7 votes (22%)

Kate Hudson - 4 votes (12%)

Scarlett Johansson - 8 votes (25%)

Joe



Ryan R

Can I vote for Elsa from Frozen? Like the air conditioning breaks down in the studio so she shows up and makes it cold and then it gets too cold and there's snow everywhere and Rizzo and Pepe and Gonzo throw snowballs at each other and Carl drinks a lot of hot chocolate and Fozzie slips on the icy patch and Statler and Waldorf sing "Baby It's Cold Inside" and Piggy wears a furry hat.

That's my vote.

Julia

I mean. The answer is pretty obvious, right?

I'm pretty sure that blonde, white chick would be amazing on the show. Just saying.

Ryan R

And the whole episode would be about her hanging out with Scooter at Disneyland?

Julia

Gonzo can come too.

Star Wars

Nov-6 | 9516.1094-106

Joe

Also, here's something that maybe the bigger Star Wars nerds can explain to me. Is she still "Princess Leia"? If her entire planet is gone, then does she get to keep her royal title? And if so, shouldn't she be a queen by now?

Tom

As a hardcore Star Wars fan, I've occasionally tried to find a clear answer to this question without avail. In Empire, Han calls Leia names like "Princess" and "Your Worshipfulness," but it's clear he's goading her. (He's a bit nicer to her in Jedi.) Luke just calls her "Leia," like a friend (or family). And, if I recall correctly, Threepio actually refers to her in the sequels as "Mistress Leia"--implying that she doesn't have the title of princess anymore, so he's just calling her the equivalent of "ma'am."

But I haven't researched this exhaustively, either, so if someone pointed out some contradiction that I had missed, I would believe them.

Joe

If Star Wars is good for anything, it's picking away at every little detail for accuracy and backstory.

Mike C

Princess leia: hairspray or mousse?

Joe

THE FORCE.

Mike C

mind blowndry

Questions which have baffled mankind...

Nov-10 | 16551.1-57

Brad D

Muppet fans often inquisitive and are generally smart, but there are still lots unanswerable questions out there. This is a place to post those big questions (either serious or silly) that simply have us baffled. Maybe someday we'll find the answers... or maybe not.

Questions which have baffled mankind throughout the ages...

Can the frog tap dance? (the answer is: hit it!)

Why are there so many songs about rainbows?

What's the name of that song?

How do you get to Sesame Street?

What is Gonzo?

Why do Statler and Waldorf come when it's "like some kind of torture to have to watch the show"?

How did Sweetums appear in the Muppet's movie about how they all met if he didn't catch up to them until right after they finished screening it?

How does Hooper's Store stay in business when they just seem to give away free birdseed milkshakes all the time?

What is the fourth greatest gift (after children, ice cream, and laughter)?

How does Colonel Thomas Blood's ancient locket deactivate the crown jewels' modern security system?

Will seasons 4 and 5 of The Muppet Show ever be released on DVD?

What color are their hands now?

Matt Mtthwas

What's the banana sketch?

Does anyone have a clip of the original 1975 version of "Fur"?

What are the names of the two old guys in the balcony?

Joe

Why the come out then?

Ryan R

Answer: Jim Henson Bros. rule.

Matthew Soberman

How does she do that?

Joe

Yeth?

Matt Mtthwas

Kelly?

Scott

Did I ever get Warrick's email?

Matt Mtthwas

What's the deal with Kermit's pointy jester collar?

Ken

Are Ernie and Bert children or adults?

If they're children, where are their parents?

If they're adults, how are they living in an apartment building when they don't have jobs?

Ivan

Up until very recently, Sesame Street's economy was funded by viewers like you.

In regards to the whole birdseed milkshake thing, it's a little known fact that PBS stands for "Plenty o' Bird Seed".

Brad D

In addition to the economy of Sesame Street, I've always wandered about who's actually supervising all the children on the street? I know that there are friendly neighborhood adults (like Alan and Leela) who are usually around the area and do keep an eye on the children, but Elmo is 3-years old and he just wanders down a New York City street to the laundromat unaccompanied by any adult. Where are his parents? Shouldn't he have a parent or caregiver or someone responsible for him? He's 3!!!

Robyn

How come Elmo's dad looks like a retired porn star?

Joe

I think the more important question is: How does a guy who's covered in red fur shave and style a brown mustache?

Mr. the Dan©™

Exactly who is Uncle Deadly an uncle to? Does he have actual nieces and nephews?

Joe

And if Kermit is Robin's nephew, who are Robin's parents?

lan

Should Disney sell The Muppets alongside the Saban/Fox Family library, its stake in A&E Networks, Touchstone Pictures, and the character rights to Doug?

Erik

Why would they sell all that to Doug? Why would Doug want them? And who is this Doug person?

The next blonde white chick

Nov-10 | 16543.34-42

Joe

Mindy Kaling is confirmed!

http://www.toughpigs.com/mindy-kaling/

Mr. the Dan©™

And it looks like Christma....I mean...the holidays are being celebrated at Up Late. Starbucks for everyone!!!

Matt Mtthwas

Finally we'll have some seasonal Muppet stuff to watch in December!!! The Muppets Valentine's Show is great and all, but Christmas seems so much more obvious for a special... I'm surprised the Muppets haven't done a Christmas thing before.

Joe

I know, right?? I mean, enough with the Hanukkah specials already!

Matthew Soberman

Pardon me, some of us enjoy watching the Swedish Chef serve matzah balls with a tennis racket. It's not Hanukkah until the family sings "When Oil is Gone!"

Random Muppet Thoughts

Nov-18 | 15397.1115-20

Ryan R

There sure are a lot of people who think Bunsen Honeydew's assistant's name is Beeker. Are people not familiar with beakers from science and stuff?

Joe

I always assumed it was because people are most familiar with the "Meep" sound, and unconsciously transfer the spelling over.

Mr. the Dan©™

I've heard people call him "Meeper". I hate those people.

Ryan R

I've seen that too. I mean, it sounds like the sound he makes... but the Swedish Chef's name isn't "Bork Bork."

Matt Mtthwas

What?!? That's not his name? Next you're going to tell me their names aren't Hi-ho the Frog, Moi Kissy, Wocka Bear, H'okay the King Prawn, and the band's dummer...WOMAN!

Oh, and who could forget the two old guys in the balcony: D'oh and Ho-ho.

Shane

My second grade teacher referred to Statler and Waldorf as:



Misread Thread Titles

Nov-19 | 9486.2062

ScottSwedish Chef reactor



[Robyn]

Judge Everything

Nov-20 | 8892.7400-05

Jes

Business luncheon: 7

Directly followed by grueling two hour meeting: 2

Realizing the facilitator's voice is quite Kermit-esque: 9

Realizing you can probably never tell her: 0

Ryan R

A woman with a Kermit voice? Was it Jill? Hmmm...

Jes

Ha,no it's actually the Dean of the Business School at a university lol!

Joe

Wow, Jill's a Dean of the Business School? Good for her.

Ryan R

Her promotion was quite a thrill, Gil.

[Jes]



ABC's "The Muppets" (2015-)

Dec-3 | 16253.1030-41

Grant

Imagine that eleven years ago, when the Disney sale first happened, someone had told us, "There will be a new Muppet TV show in 2015, and three obscure old characters will come back in a big way."

We would never in a million years have guessed Uncle Deadly, Yolanda, and Chip.

Ryan R

Who would you have guessed? Vicki? Hilda? George the janitor?

Grant

I'd have guessed Leon, Taminella, and Fleet Scribbler.

Joe

My money was on Kermit the Gorf, Kermit the Forg, and Kermit the Grof.

Brad D

I was hoping we'd see Les, Lee, and Warren back in a big way. Maybe in season 2.

Matthew Soberman

My money was on Tom, Dick, and Harry, but I guess they'll just let any Phil, Terence, and Michael be on this show.

loe

I would've settled for 3/4 of the Talking Houses.

Matthew Soberman

Where's the fourth one? At the doctor's?

Brad D

She's got the shingles.

Matthew Soberman

cue howling laughter from Joe and Ryan

Joe

[Erik]

10 years of Muppet Wiki!

Dec-5 | 16590.1-10

Scott

I honestly can't believe we've been working on this project for 10 years now. It's crazy.

As the place we were all hanging out 10 years ago, Tough Pigs has had a special relationship with the wiki. It's very strange and wonderful to think of how far we've all come: as a community, as a wiki, as a resource for people who work on the Muppets, and as a destination for delight at the immense amount of information and oddities that can be found within.

Thanks everyone for your support and collaboration over the years. Every day I feel proud of what we've built:)

Ryan R

So... Is it finished yet?

Scott

Well, we started printing it out on our 1st anniversary, but it wasn't finished by the time we go to our 2nd anniversary, so we cancelled the print task. We get further and further behind every year.

Joe

Amazing. Congrats to you guys! May we never forget those immortal words, "Fozzie Bear is a bear."

Matt Mtthwas

Part of me hopes that someone immediately slapped a "[citation needed]" note on there.

...and then I hope someone came and sourced that statement with a footnote saying: "1. He wears a hat."

That's the type of thing I'd expect from those Muppet Wiki folks. :)

Merry Quizmas Dec-10 | 16598.1-19

Joe

Two Muppets make an appearance in this clever Christmas quiz: http://merryquizmas.com/

I got 51/60! Not bad!

Jes

I'm embarrassed that I kept trying to put Paddington Bear in where Emmett Otter was the answer. Emileigh got it right away but me, no. I'll understand if everyone wants me to hand in my fan card.

Ryan R

You don't have to hand in your fan card, but you do have to punch a hole in your washtub.

Joe

Pa would've handed in his fan card.

[Julia]

Turing test Piggy?

Dec-10 | 16601.1-14

Nick Moreau

I searched the forum, and there doesn't seem to have been mention that Miss Piggy is doing three times weekly Facebook Messenger chats, separate from the weekly Twitter chats with characters. (Loved Big Mean Carl's chat tonight.)

I was wondering about the logistics of private Facebook Messenger chats. Tons of people, lots of back and forth potential, how do you get so many writers?

Turns out that Disney Interactive has actually got an AI that does these chats. I presume some still has to review the messages, to ensure its not spitting out garbage, but wow:

http://www.disneyinteractive.com/news/miss-piggy-gives-her-fans-a-unique-chance-to-chat-one-on-one-with-the-hottest-star-in-show-biz/

Has anyone tried this? The Twitter chats are very well written, very in character, but how good can an AI even be?

Nick Moreau

So, that happened. Miss Piggy does really try and push you from monologue to monologue. If you say something that tries to change the subject, or she doesn't understand, she'll just sort of ignore and press on.

Matt Mtthwas

Well then it seems like they've captured her character perfectly.

[Matt Wilkie]

Nah, Elmo Didn't Ruin Sesame Street

Dec-14 16606.1-3

Ryan R

Last week, the website Kotaku ran an article called "How Elmo Ruined Sesame Street." I happen to think Elmo is a pretty okay fellow, so I wrote a response:

http://www.toughpigs.com/nah-elmo-didnt-ruin-sesame-street/

Nick Moreau

Sorry, I couldn't get past the idea of "Harvey Kneeslapper's World".



Ryan R

Did I wanna C that? I say, did I wanna C that?

Yes. Yes, I did.

Christmas Carol lovefest

Dec-16 | 10843.290-94

Ryan R

Of course, Christmas Carol is not for everyone. This parent tells how the movie gave his son a crippling fear of ghosts:

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/parenting/wp/2015/12/16/why-we-wont-be-watching-the-muppets-christmas-carol-with-my-son-this-holiday-season-hint-ghosts/

Shane

I guess they shouldn't watch The Ghost of Faffner Hall either.

Because it's mediocre.

Christmas Carol lovefest

Dec-16 | 10843.290-93

Ryan R

Also: Ugh, who names their son "Zephyr?"

Jes

A Red Hot Chili Pepper?

Ryan R

Oh yeah? Which one? Is it Flea? Is the kid's name Zephyr Flea?

Jes

Yup! And the other two as well. They all named their kids Zephyr. And then they wrote a song about it.

Christmas Carol lovefest

Dec-21 | 10843.299-312

Ryan R

Here are three guys talking about Muppet Christmas Carol... Their names are Brian Henson, Steve Whitmire, and Dave Goelz:

http://www.theguardian.com/culture/2015/dec/21/how-we-made-the-muppet-christmas-carol

Erik

Sorry, not ringing any bells.

Ryan R

Brian Henson is the kid who says "Three peas?!" in the counting film from Sesame Street. Dave Goelz is the guy who voices Figment at Epcot. Steve Whitmire is a guy who likes lions and has cool hair.

Erik

Oh, the "three peas" kid! I remember him.

Matthew Soberman

Isn't Brian Henson the guy who filmed all those introductions about his dad and The Muppet Show? Frankly, I think that was a load of bull. My dad loves The Muppet Show too, and you don't see anyone asking me to film introductions for it. Who does Brian Henson think he is?

Ryan R

Oh, I forgot to mention, he's also a puppeteer. He was the taxi driver in The Christmas Toy.

Erik

You mean like Richard Hunt in The Great Muppet Caper?

Matt Mtthwas

No, like the guy on the big tricycle in The Great Muppet Caper.

40th Anniversary of 1975 Clip of "Fur!"

Dec-23 | 16623.1-13

David H

This year, we've enjoyed the anniversaries of events directly or indirectly related to the Muppets. (As well as ones we just plain like.) The last few months alone have given us items presented years ago in numbers divisible by 5.

So, we would be remiss not to recognize this day in 2015 as being the 40th anniversary of, wait for it, the original 1975 clip of "Fur!" That's right, "Fur!" Written by David Axlerod and Sam Pottle, the influential "Fur" was broadcast on December 23, 1975, marking its place in television history.

How will you be celebrating this original event?

All facts verified by Muppet Wiki.

Erik

Well, if I had it I'd watch it.

Does anyone have this clip?

Ken

Was there more than one version of Fur?

Tom

This is a running joke. There was an eccentric poster who visited the forum ages ago, insisting that the original TV version of "Fur" was different than all the later versions (that may be the case) and impatiently asking everyone if they had a VHS copy of the original. A YouTube clip of "Fur" wouldn't do; it had to be a copy videotaped off of TV in 1975.

Of course, in 1975, very few people had VHS tapes and recorders, and those that did probably weren't recording a show for preschoolers in the hopes that someday one of the clips would turn out to be really rare.

So every so often, someone makes a joke about: "Hey, do you have the 1975 clip of 'Fur'?":)

Ryan R

Hooray! Thank you for bringing this to the attention of the world. I'm really surprised Sesame Workshop didn't release a special 40th anniversary Blu-ray release of the original 1975 clip of "Fur," with commentary by Stuie Monster.

David H

Getting the Aristocrats back together for the commentary might pose such a challenge. The light blue one is now a good sport about interviews. He may be tired of saying, "No, I'm not Maurice Monster, people make that mistake all the time," but has since made peace with his past.

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