

Tough Pigs Yearbook 2016



“The Muppets Nonetheless”

compiled by Ryan Roe

Hi there, Tough Friends!

Ah, how happy we were at the beginning of 2016. The Muppets had a TV show on the air (It was called *The Muppets*), and it had even gotten picked up for a full season! We had so much to talk about!

Then, before we even got to find out whether Miss Piggy ever ate her in-flight calzone, ABC cancelled the show. Then there was less to talk about. But true Muppet geeks are not the type to let a little thing like cancellation prevent them from having in-depth discussions, spouting brilliant witticisms, and making references to the Talking Houses. And so we carried on. This yearbook, then, is a document of just what we were carrying on about in 2016.

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 the world's most helpful index.

Special thanks to everyone who nominated posts, as well as everyone who posted on the forum in 2016! You all deserve in-flight calzones.

JANUARY

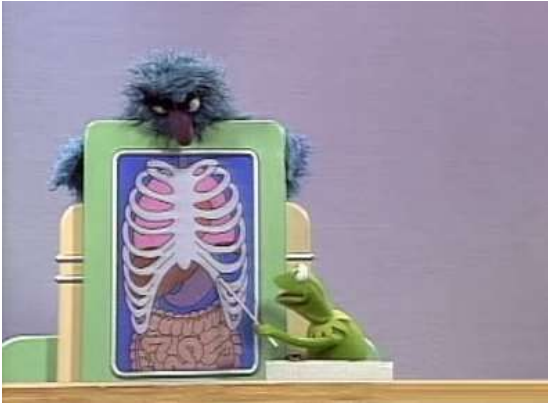
[The Humans of Sesame Street](#)

1/5/16 | 16637.3-11

Matt Mtthwas

[A Celebration of the Stars of Sesame Street Who Have Internal Organs](#)

Wow, what a misleading and clickbait-y article title! I was fully expecting a in-depth analysis of Herry Monster...



Ryan R

I KNEW SOMEBODY WAS GOING TO POST THIS!

I just thought it would be Andrew.

Matt Mtthwas

Well I'm just going to leave this here:

http://muppet.wikia.com/wiki/Muppets_who_have_internal_organs

It's only a matter of time before it becomes a legitimate link, right? Don't fail me now, Muppet Wiki-ers!

Andrew Leal

I am shocked, shocked to discover that to the best of our knowledge to date, there has never been a Muppet spleen.

Joe

"It's The Muppet Spleen! With our very special guest star: The Mechanical Filtration of Red Blood Cells!
YAAAAAAAY!!!!!"

Andrew Leal

"It's time to store up red pulp/bacteria, we'll fight/it's time to get visceral in the Muppet spleen tonight!"

Joe

"If you're a human spleen, take a break from the race,
Get some blood in your feet, and the skin on your face."

Anthony

They're still going ahead with that Avatar thing, huh?

Tom

The most interesting thing that Avatar Land could do is to let the audience members get hooked up to machines where they can control an actual Na'vi body.

Andrew Leal

The most probable thing to happen in Avatar Land is audience members get hooked up to machines so a Na'vi can tell them to buy a churro.

[ABC's "The Muppets"](#)

1/11/16 | 16253.1093-109

Joe

We would be willing to give Walter a regular column on ToughPigs, if only to help with the meta commentary.

Y'know, for the show.

Jes

Great idea! You should pitch it to the network in the style of Walter!

Joe

So I should attempt to throw myself over the electric fence surrounding the studio?

Jes

Well. Better make sure you're a puppet first...

Joe

...by throwing myself at an electric fence?

Jes

I might first try having someone stick their hand up my... ok, fence it is.

Scott

Puppet sleeve?

Jes

Yeah, I don't have one of those but Joe... well, he does bear a striking resemblance to Walter. Maybe we should ask Sarah?

Joe

Gettin' a little personal there, Jes.

Jes

Yeah, I've talked myself into a corner on this one. Kindly point me toward that fence and I will take one for the Pigs.

Scott

Right up the puppet sleeve.

Joe

Yearbook.

Jes

It's just like you to immortalize my shame lol.

[nominated by Joe]

[ABC's "The Muppets"](#)

1/12/16 | 16253.1114-26

Patrick M

By the way, when is the [yearbook] for 2015 coming?

Joe

That's a question for Ryan, though it usually takes him a little longer than 12 days for him to put it together.

Ryan R

I've been staying up all night every night of January, feverishly assembling the 2015 yearbook. Or possibly working on it for a few minutes at a time when I have a chance. But yeah, it's in progress.

Erik

So, next week then?

Ryan R

Yes, it will be in progress next week.

Jes

I can't even fathom what a tedious task it must be to put together the gosh darn yearbook. No pressure from me- and also can you leave out every place I made a fool of myself, thanks.

Ryan R

I hate to tell you this, but I'm working on a special section devoted to Jes Making a Fool of Herself.

But yeah, it takes a while, but I do it because I love this place. I've met some of my favorite people in this place, and even though people's assorted life developments alongside the rise of social media have slowed things down a bit, I continue to be entertained and enriched by the discussion here, Muppet-related or otherwise.

Say, that's pretty good. Maybe I'll nominate it for the yearbook.

[Telly Freakout Video](#)

1/15/16 | 16650.4

Robyn

The older I get the more I am becoming Telly.

[ABC's "The Muppets"](#)

1/17/16 | 16253.1003-1060

Joe

The Muppets has been nominated for its first award! A Peoples Choice Award for Favorite New TV Comedy!

<http://www.toughpigs.com/peoples-choice-nom/>

Vote now and stuff!

[Then, later...]

Joe

Looks like The Muppets lost to *Scream Queens*. Feh.

<http://www.peopleschoice.com/pca/awards/nominees/>

Matthew

#NotMyPeoples

Brad D

Peoples is peoples. No is buildings. Is tomatoes? Is peoples, is dancing, is music, is potatoes. #PeoplesIsPeoples

Matthew

Peoples is wrong. Is *Scream Queens*. Is Ryan Murphy, is man who couldn't end *Glee* at logical point. Is new Muppet show. Peoples want new *Muppet Show*, not new Muppet show. Not want to accept this series for what is.

#PeoplesIsNotMine

[The internet is weird](#)

1/18/16 | 16654.1-11

Ryan R

Huh, somebody made a Sesame Street wiki. And here's the episode guide for Episode 3796:

http://sesamest.wikia.com/wiki/Episode_3796

Hmm... "Tina Welcomes To Viewer to Sesame Street And Annouces Today On Sesame Street We Very My New Babysitter So C´mon Ready Or Not and Your Finger And Let´s Can Do It." I don't remember that ever happening on Sesame Street.

And who could forget this classic segment?



Shane

To quote Strong Bad: "*Oh, people with too much time on their hands...*"

Matt Mtthwas

Oh I wish someone would release "Sesame Street Shrek on the Farm" on DVD! They should also release [The Muppet Show Season 7](#), [Muppets Tonight Season 3](#), [Muppets at Disneyland](#) (but only if it's the extended cut!), and all those classic [Muppets Bloopisodes](#).

And did you know that there's [a new Muppet movie](#) coming out later this year based on The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy and the movie Marmaduke!!!

And who could forget the classic Elmo's World episodes about [Elks](#), [Manikins](#), [Trashcans](#), [Cartoon Network](#), and [Giraffe Limbo](#)?! Plus that time when [Dorothy imagined Elmo as Pat Sajak](#)!

Also does anyone have a clip of [the 2014 remake of "Fur"](#)?

The internet is weird.

Ken

Maybe I'll add some things that never existed, like:

The soundtrack album for Don't Eat the Pictures

The CD set Old School Vol. 3, which includes Sesame Street 2, Havin' Fun with Ernie and Bert, and Sesame Mucho

The double CD of Sesame Street Fever and Sesame Disco

The DVD set of The Complete First Season

But I'd feel bad if somebody tried to look for them.

Ryan R

On completely made-up wiki, you can add anything you can imagine. How many tracks do you suppose were on the classic album *Classic Love Ballads Sung by Prairie Dawn and Sam Kinison*?

Joe

Just one, but it's 47 minutes long.

[The internet is weird](#)**1/20/16 | 16654.12-16****Joe**

Amidst all of the news stories of rock icons passing away, someone wrote this ridiculous thing.

<http://waterfordwhispersnews.com/2016/01/20/rock-legend-animal-dies-aged-66/>

[A satirical "news" article about the death of Animal.]

Scott

(my favorite comments)...

He shaped my entire life. There will never be another like him. So talented and so young to be called to the timpani in the sky

My patience is WEARING THIN of all this death around us. Can the scissor sisters do a tribute ???

Animal was a "cymbal" of the 70's.

He's a PUPPET.

False Story. I will be watching Twitter and the Muppets.

Animal died when he went into the army.

This freaked me out, because Animal was created after Steve Mitchell who's a dear friend of mine.

OMG...awesome

FUNNY I THINK THIS IS FUCKING SICK, THE WORLD OF MUSIC HAS LOST GREATS IN RECENT WEEKS, SO LETS HAVE SOME CHEAP PUBLICITY , TYPICAL CHEAP SHOT BY DISNEY

He was kind of an a-hole. No one wants to talk about it. Ask his third wife or one of his 16 kids.

Snopes said this is a hoax!

IS THIS FOR REAL????...

I blame Obama.

Fuck you

Ryan R

"False Story. I will be watching Twitter and the Muppets."

Boy, you can't fool that person!

Also, how many different people was Animal based on?

Matt Wilkie

Only one. Terry Calhoun.

[Jim Henson's milk bottles?](#)

1/21/16 | 16657.1-29

Ryan R

Here's one of many articles about *Labyrinth* I've seen over the past week:

http://www.zimbio.com/Beyond+the+Box+Office/articles/IK_HPuuPNL0/20+Things+Never+Knew+Labyrinth

And it includes this: "During the Goblin Battle Scene, when Sarah and the gang opens the door to the Goblin Castle, you can see milk bottles near the door, a Henson trademark."

Where do you suppose that came from? Have I forgotten the memorable scene in *The Dark Crystal* where the milk-Garthim delivers some fresh bottles to the Skeksis' castle?

Shane



So, two Henson productions involving milk bottles. A trademark, I'd say!

Matt Mtthwas

[THREE!](#)

[A link to a Bert & Ernie sketch that includes a milk bottle.]

Ryan R

Okay, you've convinced me. It was definitely, absolutely Jim's trademark.

Andrew Leal

Look for the Cloverland Dairy Brand!

Actually, if a cow was just milling about in Jareth's palace, that would have been a Henson trademark (live or puppet, the man loved to use cows).

Scott

Herd of cows.

Jes

moooooooooooooooooooo

Shane

Is that gag worthy of a wiki page yet? They just did a variation of it in today's Sesame episode (using "herd of elephants" instead).

Ryan R

Oh, man. I thought about creating that page years ago, but never got around to it. I must have gotten distracted by a bunch of cows.

Erik

Herd of cows.

Ryan R

Oh, right. "Herd of cows" is what I meant to say. Thank you for correcting me.

Erik

You're welcome.

Ryan R

[insert laugh track]

[nominated by Matt Wilkie]

[ABC's "The Muppets"](#)

1/27/16 | 16253.1133-38

Ivan

You know, with Robin, I feel like if they just made the puppet slightly taller, they could just handwave away any age concerns. Just imply that he's a little older while not changing his character much. Just make it clear that no matter what his age, he's just naturally small. Not a birth defect, but just a fact of Robin's life. No matter his age, he's tiny. No wonder he was cast as Tiny Tim! I feel like they could use that whole idea to explain away why he no longer sounds like Jerry Nelson. Somewhere along the line, he hit the semi-immortal puppet frog equivalent of puberty, he got a growth spurt that's near impossible to notice (which I'd imagine him to be insanely proud of) and his voice changed.

Ryan R

That's an interesting idea about Robin. But if there's one thing the reactions to the new show have taught us, it's that people hate it when Muppets are in any way different from the way they remember them.

Ivan

Actually, if we've learned one thing about the show, it's that people are going to complain about perceived changes whether they actually exist or not! I mean, I'm sure there are "fans" out there who are outraged that Miss Piggy is no longer teaching kids how to spell numbers on "Open Sesame Street Place Park", or convinced that Jim's haunting whoever decided to let the adults meet Snuffy.

JIMMY HANSON WOULD BE ROLLING IN HIS GRAVE, BY GOLLY.

My point is that change is inevitable, and people complaining is inevitable, so as long as you're keeping the ethos of the Muppets intact, don't be too worried about changing things up.

That being said, I don't want a major role from Robin. Brief cameos would be nice, and if he's not too much in focus, you won't care much that he's had an offscreen puberty. If it's thrust in your face like a big new plot development, I can see more people being outraged because they're being told to notice it.

Matt Mtthwas

That's the one thing that frustrates me the most about a lot of criticisms of The Muppets (the TV show, and the movie, and the franchise as a whole).

It's not that people hate it when the Muppets are different from the way that they used to be (I understand criticizing change and wanting the characters to stay true to themselves)... it's that people hate it when the Muppets are different from the way that they remember that they used to be. And a lot of the time these people's memories are simply wrong or just misguided -- they misremember or overlook facts, they've based all their knowledge on just a limited selection of productions, or they're simply tainted by nostalgia or have selective memory of an idealistic notion of what the characters were.

Just recently I was discussing Scooter and his role on the new show with a friend. As the conversation progressed I realized that my friend's perception of who Scooter was (or should be) was way off the mark -- it was more of an amalgam of Walter from The Muppets and Milhouse from The Simpsons (with a little bit of the Muppet Babies version of Scooter tossed in). It's hard to reason with someone when their view of what the character should be is not grounded in who the character actually is.

It's just like the people who got mad that Kermit and Fozzie went to a bar in the new show... it's like they forgot that the two met in a bar in the first movie!

Joe

If there's one thing the reactions to the new show have taught us, it's that people will complain no matter what.

And look, here I am complaining about people complaining.

[Character birthdays](#)

1/28/16 | 16665.1-5

Ryan R

Hey, it's Ernie's birthday today. Happy birthday, Ernie, I guess. I know the characters have had birthdays for a while now... I remember seeing them in Sesame Street Magazine back in the day. But how do you suppose they decide when each character's birthday is? The writers decide? They throw a dart at a calendar? They ask the puppet?

Matt Mtthwas

They ask a baby.



Ryan R

When is the baby's birthday?

Mike C

Oh, not too long ago.

[Episode #13 - "Got Silk?"](#)

1/31/16 | 16671.2-3

Julia

Any speculations on the episode's name?

Evan G

1. It's fashion-themed, which means it'll be a Deadly/Piggy spotlight.

2. It's sponsored by WhiteWaveFoods and exists to promote their milk substitute. Big Mean Carl spends 20 minutes extolling the benefits of replacing dairy milk with soy-based beverages and drinks several gallons of Silk at a time.

[nominated by Matthew]

FEBRUARY

[Random Muppet Thoughts](#)

2/9/16 | 15397.1146-49

Ryan R

You know how Caroll Spinney appears at all those screenings of I Am Big Bird? It would be hilarious if he brought his duffel bag onstage during the Q&A and said, "I think I have somebody here who wants to say hello," and everyone in the audience got excited, and then he pulled out Granny Fanny Nesselrode.

Anthony

Grumpf Fand Nuggleman is not a good Muppet. Nobody cares about her.

Joe

It would be funnier if he brought out his gym shorts.

Ryan R

And then all the fans would line up for a once-in-a-lifetime photo op with Caroll Spinney and his gym shorts!

[nominated by Matthew Soberman]

[Episode #12 - "A Tail of Two Piggies"](#)

2/10/16 | 16663.35-40

Jes

Yeah, well my DVR let me down last night!

Ryan R

Did it cut off the end? It did look like the show ran over the 9:00 mark.

Jes

It didn't record it at all- some politics stuff messed it up. Looks like On Demand it will be complete with commercials.

Ryan R

Yay, commercials!

Evan G

I love commercials, especially commercials for the sponsors of ABC's The Muppets.

Companies that sponsor ABC's The Muppets are the best companies of all, and I enjoy their commercials as much as I enjoy episodes of television programs not sponsored by the sponsors of ABC's The Muppets. I will happily watch these commercials and then go to my local store to purchase these products.

Ryan R

I'm sure everyone here agrees with you! The people here between the ages of 18 and 49 especially agree with you!

[Episode #13 - "Got Silk?"](#)

2/10/16 | 16671.14-16

Ivan

The "Pizza" spelling gag works when you say it, but it doesn't translate well into text form like episode synopses.

That being said, I like to think that Pache/Pizza changes the spelling of his name on a weekly basis to stay relevant. :P

Joe

Well it's working. We're talking about him, aren't we?

Ivan

I'd say touché, but I'm spelling it touzza this week.

[nominated by Matthew Soberman]

[Episode #14 - "Little Green Lie"](#)

2/12/16 | 16680.12-17

Rob

Is it possible that the episode might not have a celebrity guest?

Scott

The press release said guests TBA. Not sure if they're keeping it a secret, or they're just not ready to announce.

Ryan R

Or the guest is Barack Obama!

It's probably not Barack Obama.

Joe

Since Camilla is in the episode, maybe the special guest is B'gawk Obama.

[nominated by Ivan]

[VCR Alert: Kermit on Disneyland special](#)

2/17/16 | 16694.5-9

Brad D

<http://youtu.be/d3i6psaDYcQ>

[The video is "Tori Kelly and Kermit the Frog Sing 'Rainbow Connection' - Disneyland 60 Sneak Peek"]

Julia

How the heck is Tori Kelly?

Erik

Well, she's doing a song with Kermit, so I think she's feeling pretty good.

Julia

Oh good. That's nice to know she's doing well.

[Final Two Episodes to Air Back-to-Back](#)

2/17/16 | 16690.9-17

Peter Savieri

OMG I just got my thrills from typing "The Muppets should do an EPISODE..."

The Muppets are on TV again! Gotta pinch myself sometimes to acknowledge what a loooonnnnggggg road back it's been. Man I hope it lasts for a while at least.

Ryan R

From your fingertips to ABC's ears...

Peter Savieri

I just replied with a bunch of animal and multiracial praying hands emojis... which Delphi translated into a bunch of question marks because Delphi hasn't heard of emojis because Delphi is from an alternate universe where the internet is *bull emoji* *poop emoji*

Ryan R

Or because Delphi lives in 2003.

Jes

Like a fine wine!

guzzle guzzle

Ivan

Muppet fans drinking alcohol!? Jim Henson would roll over in his grave! Time to send a vicious scathing letter to ABC to try rectify this awful awful mistake!! Adult Muppet fans are just too adult! WHAT HAPPENED TO THE FAMILY FRIENDLY MUPPET FANS!?!?

...

actually sips a brandy as we speak oh hey, Delphi supports text size changes. Truly we are in a golden age.

Episode #13 - "Got Silk?"

2/17/16 | 16671.60-64

Jes

Is it weird that I've never heard of Pinkberry? I thought they made it up!

Ryan R

What?! Next you'll be telling me you've never gone shopping for clothes at Aisselle.

Jes

Uh. Well. No.

Ryan R

That's okay. As far as I know, Aisselle isn't a real store. I just made it up, after looking up the French word for "armpit."

Episode #13 - "Got Silk?"

2/18/16 | 16671.71-74

Ryan R

Hey, have we seen this guy before?



I thought he was holding a broom, but now I'm not sure what that thing is. I'm also wondering this is one of those things where he's supposed to look like a real person from the crew or something like that. Actually, he kind of looks like Burl Ives.

Joe

I noticed him... I'm guessing he's a Muppet caricature of Randall Einhorn.



Ryan R

A-ha! I think you got it.

I wonder where Randall Einhorn was coming from on the elevator.

Joe

Probably a different floor.

[ABC's "The Muppets"](#)

2/21/16 | 16253.1206-240

Doug

I watched the first four episodes and then I stopped. I laughed a lot, but I felt the show was missing a certain Muppet-ness. I enjoyed the crumpet commercial far more than anything I've seen in the first four episodes.

I've spent so much time watching and reading things only because they have the right name slapped on the cover, regardless of the quality inside. I'm at a point in my life where I'm ready to cut loose the media that I don't enjoy.

However, knowing that the showrunner has changed and after skimming "12 Reasons..." I'm considering giving the show a second chance.

Jes

I don't want to sound hostile but I honestly don't understand how any "Muppet fan" wouldn't be watching the show, even if it had/has flaws. It's Muppets. On prime time television again.

Ryan R

I've been surprised to hear a few longtime fans report that they stopped watching. My instinct was to be shocked -- exactly because how could you not watch a Muppet thing? But I've come to realize that some people who really love the Muppets love them in such a way that they'd rather not watch them on TV than watch them in a show they perceive as untrue to the characters. I've mostly enjoyed the show from the beginning, so I didn't have to face that choice.

But I've wondered what it would take for a Muppet production to be so appalling that I wouldn't watch it. Pornographic sex scenes would probably do it.

Jes

Yeah, that's where I'm coming from. I mean, sure maybe the new show isn't precisely what people wanted but it's still Muppets on tv! A huge win for fans. I just don't think that even with some flaws or whatever that it is sooo bad that fans would have to turn it off. I just don't understand that. You raise an interesting question though- it would make a great poll. Muppet porn, would be a real turn-off for me too. I also really disliked the Gaga thing, but I just skimmed through it anyway, out of Muppet fan obligation.

Ryan R

I can't totally speak for these people, but I think that was part of their issue -- it was on TV, but it didn't feel like Muppets. Whereas to you and me, maybe it felt like the Muppets figuring out what their new show was going to be, but the Muppets nonetheless. And it feels more like the Muppets every week.

Jes

Hmm, well this is why I can't understand it. It felt like Muppets to me. Maybe not totally how we wanted it, maybe not like 1980 Muppets, maybe not the highest supreme version of Muppets, but still, definitely Muppets. I would think fans would want to be part of that, to watch along, if only to document where it goes wrong if that is what happens. I guess we can just chalk it up to 'different strokes'.

Ryan R

Yeah, I'm right there with you. But I'd encourage any of our smart, attractive fellow Muppet fans who may be less enthusiastic about The Muppets to chime in if they're seeing this!

Joe

You and I run a Muppet fan site, so we have that added sense of responsibility to our Muppet viewing.

That said, without ToughPigs, I think I'd lose interest in a weekly Muppet production if the quality was as low as, say, Studio DC. If the Muppets don't bring me joy, I couldn't handle revisiting it week-to-week.

Anthony

I've been less enthusiastic about it as its gone on, even as I recognize that it has improved since the break. It's okay - I laugh at least a couple of times per episode - but I keep wondering how I would like it if it was just a regular sitcom starring people. And the answer is that I probably would have given up by now.

It doesn't remind me of other Muppet stuff, and that's fine. I don't expect to like it as much as TMS. But man, I wish I could say I liked it more than Go On or Up All Night or any number of middling sitcoms that I watched because I liked the actors involved.

Mitchell

Honestly I can't imagine not watching/supporting any project the Muppets put out. Even if it was Studio DC-level dreadful, I would feel the need to stand behind them as the ship goes down.

In the beginning of the series, I was a bit uneven about how I felt about the show, but I just really wanted the characters to succeed in primetime. If it meant switching a few things around, then I was willing to support that. But for my own enjoyment, I'm glad Kristin Newman stepped in for the season's final episodes.

Matt Mtthwas

The series has not been my 100% perfect "dream show" not every episode has been 100% "Muppet perfection" (I've said things like I wish Piggy was bit nicer, I wish the Muppets showed more joy towards their jobs, I wish there were more female characters, I wish there was more musical numbers, I wish we saw Fozzie drive a Studebaker instead of a convertible, I wish Walter and Thog show up, I wish Tom Hanks guest starred,...and I could go on and on with "critiques" and "criticisms" and "suggestions") but despite the show not being totally "perfect," I've never found it unenjoyable or unwatchable.

So yes, there were things that weren't right and things that would make me love it more and make the show even better and more Muppety (and I'm glad the producers are adjusting things to do just that)... but even at its "worst" I never found the show horrible.

I understand that the show might not make every Muppet fan enthusiastic enough to cancel their plans every Tuesday night to stay home and watch it live that night, but I don't understand a Muppet fan that feel so dissatisfied with the show and disinterested by it to just never watch it. It might not be the Muppets #1 best production of all time, but it's far from being the worse and (in my opinion) far from being totally unenjoyable and unwatchable.

Tom

The argument "You need to watch this every week just because it's the Muppets" is an argument that doesn't hold any water for me. It's like when I had some respectful disagreements with The Phantom Menace, and a lot of people were like, "How dare you? It's Star Wars! You have to like it because it's Star Wars! If you don't like it, then you're not a true Star Wars fan!"

Mind you, no one on this forum is being aggressive like that. Everyone is being very polite and eloquent. And certainly, M15 is not as bad as The Phantom Menace. But that was when I learned that just because something shared a name with other things that I like, that didn't mean that I had to like the new things equally just because they happened to share that name.

I've seen brief glimpses of the show that I hoped for. I thought for certain that the Christmas episode meant a strong shift in that direction. As it is, it's been more of a slight, incremental shift. It seems like the writers still feel the need to compete with the raunchy Robot Chicken parodies of themselves. "Hey, Pepe implied that he had sex with the girl in the cab!" "Hey, Pepe's schmoozing with the women at the pool! I bet he's going to have sex with them, too!"

While the TMS Muppets aren't supposed to be Sesame Street characters, it feels like it's simply done for shock value, without a really strong gag or a punchline to justify it.

Of course, Chip and Uncle Deadly are great, and if they start getting used in more productions because of this, I think that this alone will justify the existence of this show. But I find myself anxiously awaiting the announced Pigs in Space videos, and seeing what other online stuff will become available, and not really caring about what's going to happen on the next episode of the series.

I don't want to say too much bad about it, because I'm glad that other people are enjoying it, and I don't want to spoil the fun for them. But thanks for asking the opinion of people like me! Not everyone dislikes the Muppets in general or thinks that this series is DOOOOOOMED! just because it doesn't excite us very much.

Ryan R

The Phantom Menace is an interesting comparison. I did eventually admit that that movie wasn't very good... but I still saw it in the theater multiple times and I own it on DVD! There may be no hope for me.

Ryan R

I must have willfully forgotten about [the Muppet calendar *Titanic* parody] "Toomanic." Fate Swing-set?! Fate Swing-set?!

Anthony

Why not just "Kate Pigslet"?!

Ryan R

Right? Or Kate Hamlet, or Kate Omelet, or... anything else, really.

Joe

FATE SWING-SET IS THE GREATEST CHARACTER PUN EVER.

It says everything you could ever hope to say with a Titanic spoof.

It raises the question of destiny, and our place in history. It also allows us to relive our youth via the playgrounds of our dreams. It also has an unnecessary hyphen to remind us of what's really important in life.

FATE. SWING. DASH. SET.

Evan G

The hyphen is necessary so you know it's not Kate Swings-Et. So people don't say "Kate Swings the French Word for 'And?'" What does that mean? I have stopped appreciating this 90s-era Muppets parody calendar completely because I can't understand this pun."

Joe

I totally remember when we referred to things as "'90s-era" in the '90s.

Evan G

You gotta ensure that your 90s-era Muppet film parody calendar has the longevity to appeal to people making critical commentary twenty years later, sheesh.

Matt Mtthwas

And that is exactly why Jim Henson never made any 90-era Muppet film parody calendars in the 1970s!

MARCH

[Current TV Watching](#)

3/2/16 | 15096.850-51

Erik

WTF!?!

I turned on my TV last night to watch Fresh Off the Boat and it was preempted by some doll-wiggling show.

Matthew

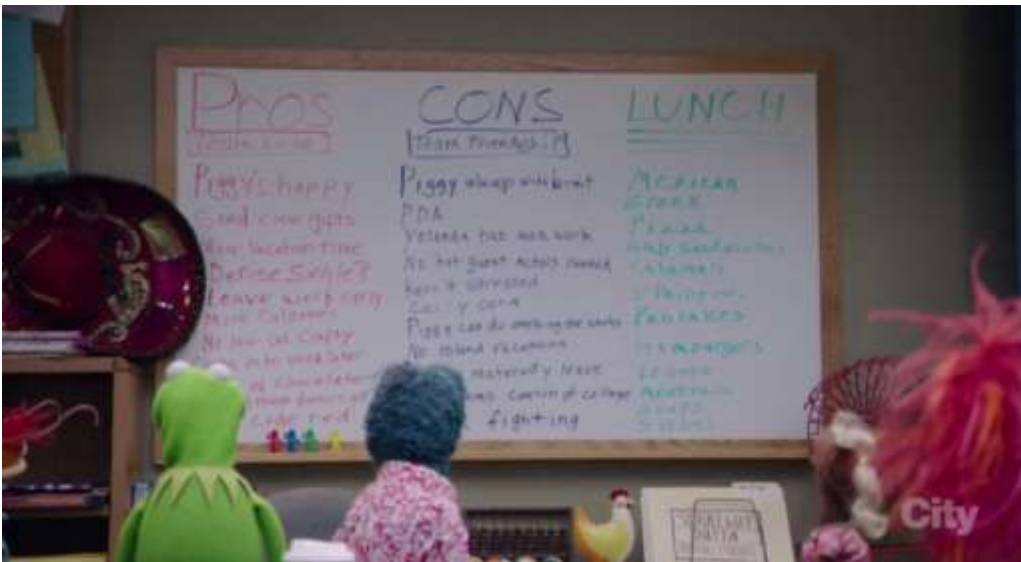
Fresh Off the Boat is doooooooooomed!

[The odd & awesome pictures thread](#)

3/2/16 | 11848.2995-3003

Joe

I got this screenshot so I could better read the stuff on the whiteboard in the season finale of The Muppets, and take a look at the folder on the bottom right! Great Easter egg.



Anthony

I can make out "Straight Outta," but the second line is a blur.

"Reason Staders"?

Scott



Ryan R

It looks like "Straight Outta Henson Studios."

Joe

Yep, that's what I read.

Matt Wilkie

I can humbly confirm that I saw this folder up close and that is indeed what it said.

Ryan R

Can you humbly confirm that you stole the folder?

Matt Wilkie

I can neither humbly confirm nor humbly deny the existence of that folder in my apartment.

[Donald Trump = Pa Gorg?](#)

3/15/16 | 16717.1-4

Ryan R

This just hit me. The bluster, the hubris, the passion for getting rid of [Fraggles] despite not bothering to understand their point of view. I think Donald Trump is basing his persona on early Pa Gorg from Fraggles Rock.

Pa has better hair, though LOLLOLOLOLOLOL

Joe

You should write a ToughPigs article about that!

I've made the Junior Gorg/George W. Bush comparison in the past.

Ryan R

Does that mean Donald Trump is George W. Bush's real dad?

Could it be...???

Joe

THIS MAKES TOO MUCH SENSE.

[YouTube vids](#)

3/16/16 | 10888.2226-27

Erik

I want someone to take the audio from a Mr. Noodle bit and put it over a bunch of clips of Bill Irwin's bad guy character from Sleepy Hollow.

Anthony

Spoilers for The Green Mile:

When I first saw the part where Michael Jeter dies a horrifying, painful death because he didn't get a sponge on his head to lessen the impact of the electric chair, I said "Silly Mr. Noodle! That's not how you do it!" out loud.

My wife was *not* amused.

[Cookie Monster in new iPhone ad](#)

3/17/16 | 16719.13-16

Deidre

My Mom calls me all excited: "Cookie Monster has this commercial on TV and it's SO FUNNY! He eats the spoon and he says 'Me Hungry For Cookie' You gotta see it!!!"

I told her, no worries, I'm sure Tough Pigs will post it. And I asked "What's the commercial for?" and My Mom replies, "I don't know... some computer thing, maybe?"

Erik

Hey Siri, what's the Cookie Monster commercial for?

Ryan R

Waits for someone to ask their iPhone that question.

Erik

I'd do it, but all I've got is this muffin.

[nominated by Erik]

[Random Muppet Thoughts](#)

3/20/16 | 15397.1184-87

Grant

So tonight my wife and I were watching MAD MEN on Netflix. At one point, Don said "I was divorced," to which Megan said "Now you're not."

And my wife and I, without even looking at each other, both simultaneously said out loud, "The rhyming song, the rhyming song."

Max

Weirdly, I find this incredibly romantic.

Ryan R

Lately I've noticed a lot of online sharing of Jim Henson quotes. Which is great... Except some of them aren't Jim Henson quotes. So today on the website I'm ranting and rambling about it:

<http://www.toughpigs.com/jim-henson-didnt-say-that/>

Matthew

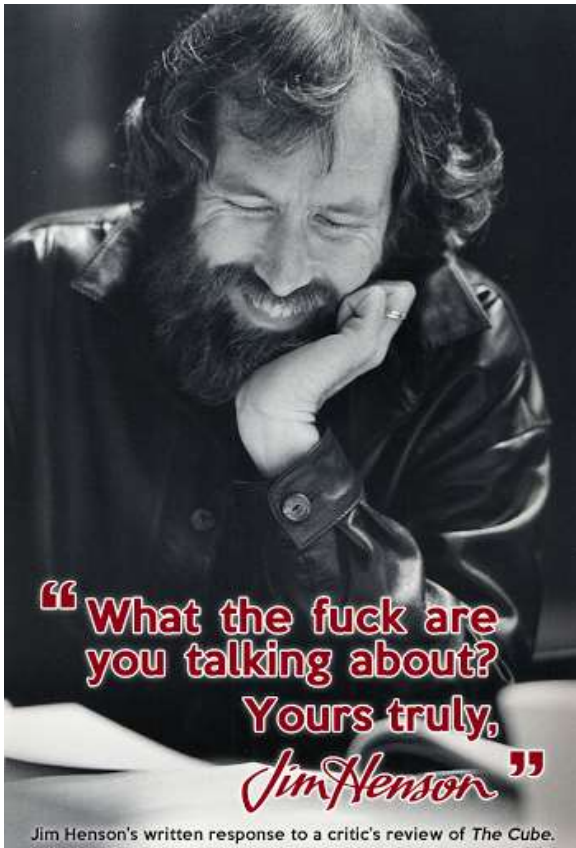


Rob

And yet I can't find any memes with the famous Jim quote;

"Dear Mr Dionne,
What the fuck are you talking about?"

Matt Mtthwas



Tom

Having read this article, I now want to create a meme where "Life's like a movie" is attributed to Frank Oz and has a picture of Gonzo.

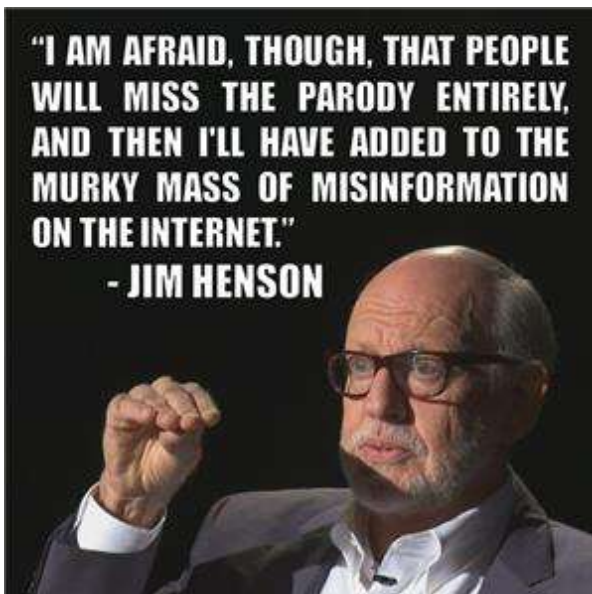
Ryan R

Do it! I'd be curious to see how far it might spread.

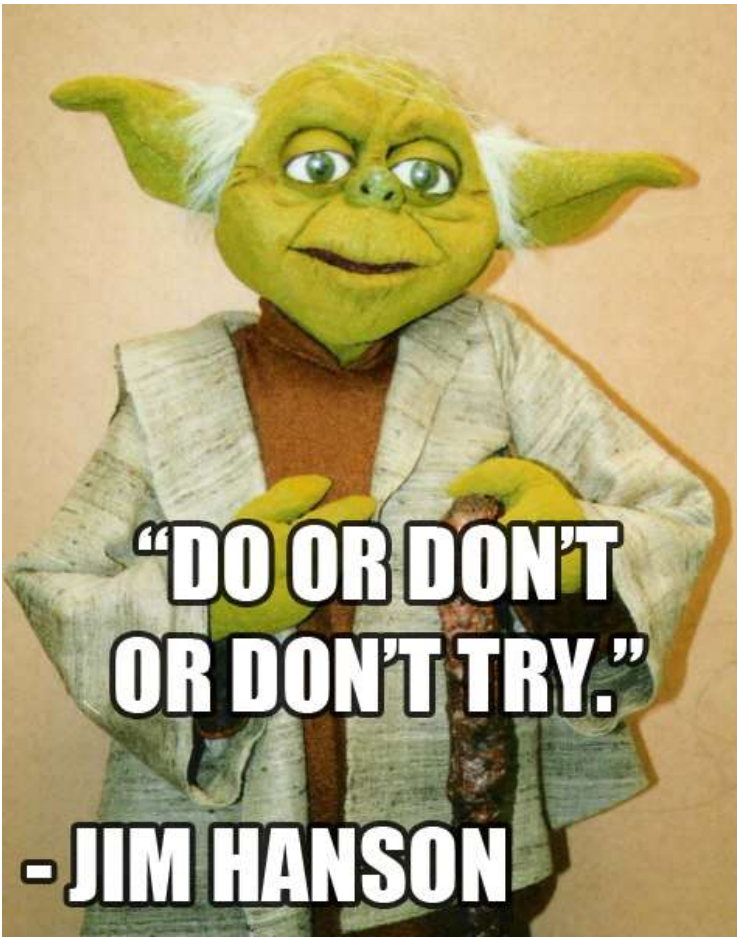
Tom

I am afraid, though, that people will miss the parody entirely, and then I'll have added to the murky mass of misinformation on the Internet.

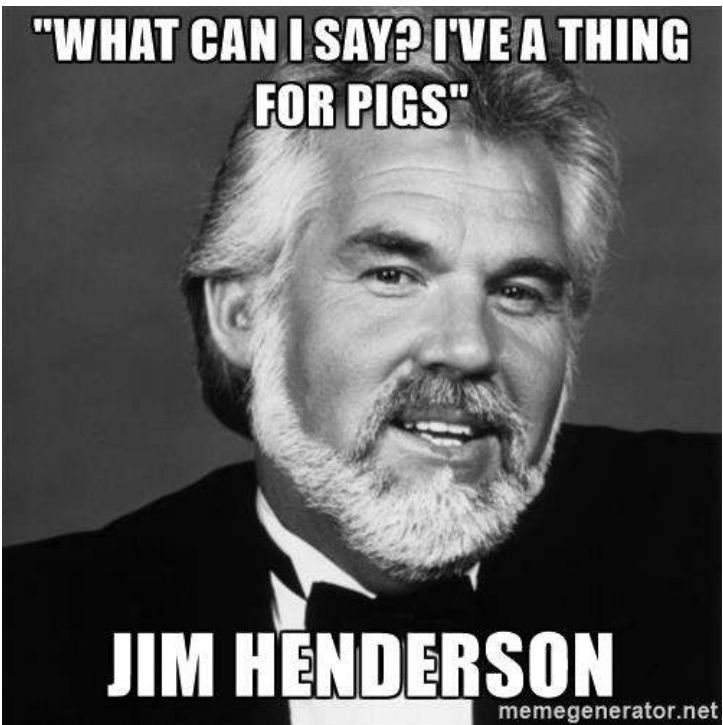
Matt Mtthwas



Joe



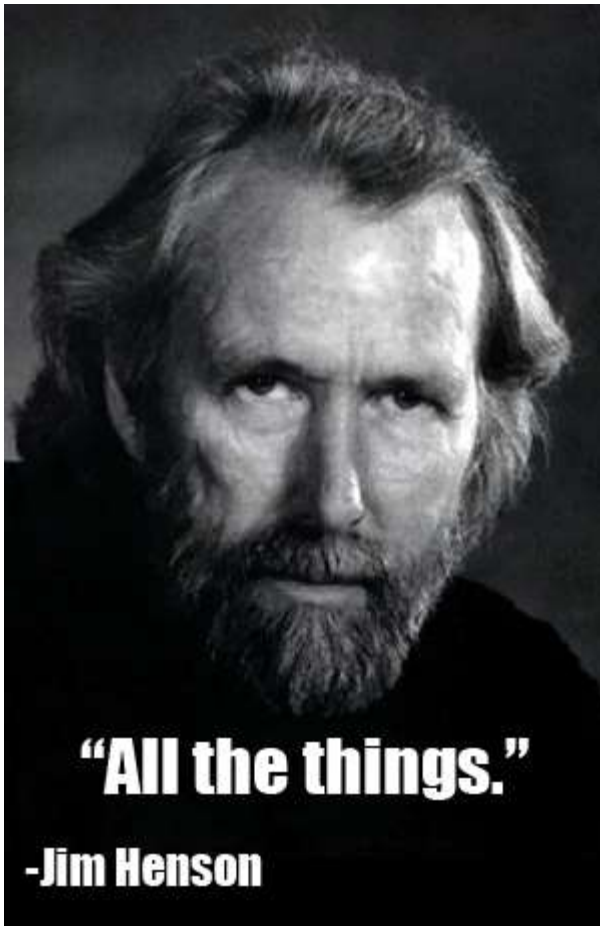
Rob



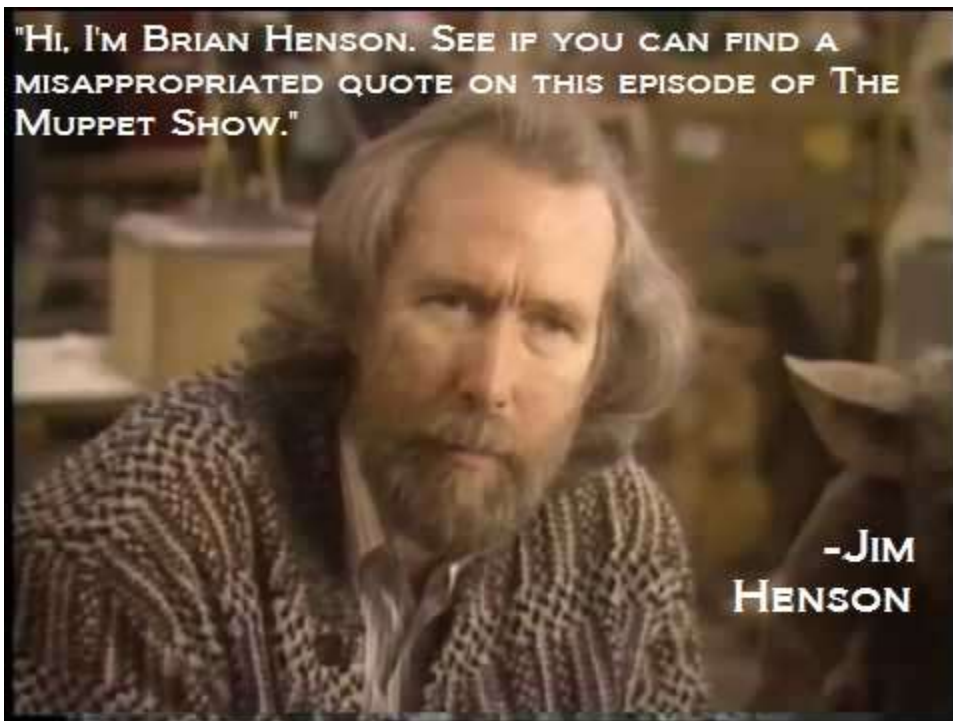
Jes

He said all the things.

Joe



Matthew



Kenny Durkin

I was surfing YouTube and saw this video of Harlan Ellison. Say what you want about the cranky ol' guy, he knows how to decorate his house. Look over his left shoulder.



The video is here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L173DhnS85M>

I wonder what the story is behind this.

Joe

It sure looks pretty close!



Ryan R

Wow. What a weird find. Maybe he actually uses it to plunge his toilet.

Joe

I hope not. Because the living room would be a weird place to keep a used plunger.

Peter Savieri

That was cute for both ornamental and just mental reasons.

Erik

Aww, that movie that's coming out today, that I hoped would be good, is getting horrible reviews. So I won't go and see it.

I'm talking, of course, about My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2.

Anthony

Why such a lazy title? Is there even a wedding in it? Why didn't they call it My Big Fat Greek Anniversary or something?!

Joe

According to Wikipedia, "Toula and Ian are facing marital problems while also having to deal with yet another Greek wedding - this time, even bigger and fatter."

So yeah. Fatter wedding.

Erik

I believe their daughter is getting married in this one.

Matthew

According to the trailer, it's actually her parents. Apparently, the priest never signed their marriage certificate, meaning they were never technically married.

Anthony

Man.

That sounds terrible.

Matthew

More terrible than Ian using guns, even though he's expressed disdain for them in decades of comics canon?

Or the last movie, where Toula snapped General Zod's neck, even though she has a no-kill code?

This is why I'm not seeing Bigman v. Fatman: Dawn of Greekness.

Ryan R

It's pretty standard for sequel titles to add the appropriate number to the end of the original movie title, isn't it? Why didn't they call The Godfather Part II "The Godfather & Son?" Why didn't they call Back to the Future Part II "To the Future For the First Time, Then Then to the Present, Then Back to the Past?" Why didn't they call Lethal Weapon 3 "Lethal Weapon and Also Joe Pesci?"

Anthony

Yeah, but none of those titles refer to a specific event like this one.

Julia

I can't figure out, for the life of me, why it isn't called My Bigger, Fatter, Greeker Wedding.

Matthew

Personally, I would've gone with 2 Fat 2 Greek.

Erik

My Big Fat Greek Wedding Again?

Julia

My Big Fat Greek Wedding

2 Fat 2 Greek

My Big Fat Wedding: Greek Drift

Fat & Greek

Greek Family

Fat & Greek 6

Greek 7

Fat 8

Jimmy M

Greek Wedding Most Wanted

Jes

Greek Wedding... Again

Oh somebody already said that duh.

Joe

Greek Wedding... Again... Again.

Jimmy M

Greek Wedding Underwater

[nominated by Tom]

APRIL

Current TV Watching

4/5/16 | 15096.868-77

Ryan R

I keep meaning to watch [*Crazy Ex-Girlfriend*], and I keep forgetting. The concept sounds delightful. Have you seen any indication that it will show up on Netflix?

Erik

That's one of those new-fangled streaming thingies, right?

I remember they put the first half of the season on Hulu while the show was on its break, I guess so people could catch up with the show. No idea if they'll put the whole season up at some point.

Ryan R

Well, I guess I have some time until the next season starts. I'll wait and see if the whole series shows up somewhere. Maybe I'll also sing a song about waiting.

Mr. the Dan

Most of the CW shows go to Netflix a month or so before the new season starts. So I'd look for it there around August or so.

Ryan R

There's the informed (or informed-sounding) answer I was looking for. Thanks!

Mr. the Dan

Oops! Looks like I spoke too soon! I didn't realize that their deal had ended. Not sure what the status of it is now, but I'm sure it will show up on some platform if they don't renew their deal.

<http://variety.com/2016/digital/news/netflix-in-talks-to-renew-the-cw-deal-with-warner-bros-cbs-1201683318/>

Ryan R

Bah. Now my song will be a sad ballad.

Joe

A sad ballad is still better than a bad salad.

Ryan R

A sad ballad makes you cry tons. A bad salad has no croutons.

Joe

I hate you.

The Muppet Vault

4/7/16 | 12962.945-48

Scott

It's a goddamned shame that Bear didn't become a bigger celebrity.

Ryan R

He's in my top five favorite Muppet bears, for sure.

Joe

5. Fozzie's Mom

4. Bear

3. Bobo

2. Fozzie's Cousin

1. Billy the Bear

Ryan R

Aw, poor Jake.

[Disney World Muppet rumors & news](#)

4/8/16 | 16575.60-61

Joe

It's worth mentioning that the Muppets Courtyard and the Hall of Presidents are in two different theme parks (Hollywood Studios and Magic Kingdom), so it's not that far fetched to think they might do more than one Muppet thing.

Jimmy M

And maybe Animal can become the new spokesperson for Animal Kingdom. He just walks around wearing a crown, points at things, and says "Animal Kingdom!" ANIMAL KINGDOM!"

"Animal Kingdom?"

[Bechdel Testing the Muppets](#)

4/9/16 | 16121.61-73

Matt Mtthwas

An interesting study with cool interactive graphs:

<http://polygraph.cool/films/>

...sadly no Muppet films seem to have been included.

Max

The Great Muppet Caper is there! 60-90% male dialogue, unsurprisingly.

Matt Mtthwas

And a majority of the "female" dialogue is actually a man playing a lady pig. But, hey, at least Diana Rigg got some lines!

Joe

Well, her plot exposition had to go *somewhere*.

[*nominated by Joe*]

[Bechdel Testing the Muppets](#)

4/11/16 | 16121.62-78

Brad D

A cool thing that I just noticed: all of the new Muppet characters introduced in the first season of The Muppets were female (Denise, Debbie, Alynda, Carla, Gloria). Not a single new male Muppet.

Joe

Gloria is a male penguin, but it's still a good point.

Scott

We haven't established Gloria's gender yet. Piggy uses male pronouns, while Uncle Deadly uses female pronouns.

Ryan R

I don't understand why they wouldn't just let Gloria be female. They know people have (politely) complained about the dearth of female Muppets, so why create a funny new character named after a woman and make it a boy?

Joe

I think it's kind of funny that Piggy adopted a male penguin and named it after the only Spanish person she could think of, despite it being a female name. But after that joke is over and done, it doesn't make much sense anymore.

Andrew Leal

We'll know for sure when the baby penguin is older, if Gloria Estefan lays an egg. Or has an urge to nest on an egg, in which case Gloria Estefan is male. "Gloria Estefan, you've been sitting there for over a month relying on your own incubated fat! And that's not the first time I've said *that*."

[nominated by Abigail]

[The Tough Pigs Yearbook 2015 is here!](#)

4/13/16 | 16750.7-21

Jes

And that index.... *swoon*.

Ryan R

Swoon?

Jes

2. to enter a state of hysterical rapture or ecstasy

Ryan R

So the index was so good it made you enter a state of hysterical rapture or ecstasy?

That must be some index!

Jes

Since when can you not take a compliment?

Ryan R

I can take it! I just couldn't tell what I was supposed to get from "swoon." But thanks for reading the index!

Do you think this will make it into the 2016 yearbook?

Jes

I love the index! It's my favorite part. But I doubt this conversation will make it into next year's YB... it's just not that funny.

Ryan R

Quick, post an amusing picture!

Jes



Ryan R

I haven't seen that particular shot before! Is that a puppeteer head I see in the corner?

Also, I wonder how many years J.P. Grosse spent with that same cigar between his fingers.

Jes

It's funny that it comes up under shutterstock. I mean, funny odd, not funny haha yearbook funny.

Erik

Yearbook!

[nominated by Erik]

[The Tough Pigs Yearbook 2015 is here!](#)

4/13/16 | 16750.23-24

Erik

I'm sort of disappointed the "Stop the presses"/Facebook trending topics meme didn't have more legs.

Ryan R



[ABC's "The Muppets"](#)

4/15/16 | 16253.1256-69

Scott

Piggy wasn't very physically violent this season, was she? Other than kicking Fozzie in the side of the head with her high heel in a promo, I can't think of any karate chops or swings she took at anyone. She got a little pushy with Reese Witherspoon though, I think.

Grant

She karate chopped a plank of wood, but that's all I can think of.

Jessica

I read an interview somewhere (fairly early on) that they were deliberately avoiding the characters' usual "trademarks".

Scott

Yeah, I suppose "No Karate Chopping For Piggy" fits right in line with the "No Chickens" and "No Singing Food" rules they set up at the beginning.

Andrew Leal

"No Charles Aznavour."

Joe

Finally, an explanation for the lack of Talking Houses.

[The odd & awesome pictures thread](#)

4/15/16 | 11848.3018-19

Joe



Ryan R

"Waiter, waiter, there's a frog in my tea!"

"That's none of my business."

[nominated by Shane]

Ryan R

Hey Joe, do you remember why this exists? I sure don't.



Joe

It's familiar... where'd you find it?

Ryan R

I was searching for something else in the ToughPigs.com media library. You uploaded it in 2014. Maybe it was cold outside and I said my ears were frozen?

Joe

Found it:

<http://forums.delphiforums.com/toughpigs/messages/?msg=9750.1966>

Jes

You guessed it- it was the ears thing! And also, I can't believe you didn't remember it because it was nominated for the EARBOOK, ba dum bum!

cymbal crash

Ryan R

Aw, but for some reason it didn't get into the 2014 Earbook. How did I miss that one?

Jes

Quick! Make a joke and it could have a shot for the 2016 version!

HAHAHA

Andrew Leal

I have a new favorite:

"Michael Bublé: Photo Shows Singer Eating Corn on the Cob"

"Would you like to see Michael Bublé eat corn in a movie with George Wendt?"

Scott

That almost sounds like a sample from Ryan's epic "What Are People Searching For That Brings Them To Tough Pigs" articles.

Ryan R

michael buble corn

michael buble eating corn

michael buble corn on the cob

lola falana naked pics

Scott

michael buble corn feet

michael buble eating corn feet

michael buble corn on the cob feet

lola falana naked pics feet

Joe

michael buble corn feet on wheels

michael buble eating corn feet on wheels

michael buble corn on the cob feet on wheels

lola falana naked pics feet on wheels

[nominated by Erik]

[The Muppets \(2011\) poster](#)

Joe

Okay. So.

I was visiting Ryan and Staci the other day, and they have the poster from The Muppets framed in their living room with a light box frame that makes the whole thing glow. So I spent a little time pondering over it, and I found a weird inconsistency.

First, here's the poster (link to larger version [here](#)):



Between Animal and Beaker on the right side, there's Janice. No doubt about that. On the left side, behind Bunsen and sort of in Fozzie's armpit is what looks like Janice, but is likely Janos the Moopet. Makes sense. But a little lower, behind the Snowths, it looks like there's another Janice! The tattooed arm below it suggests to me that it might be Janos again. Do you think they accidentally doubled-up on the characters? And we're only noticing now, five years later??

A few other, less interesting things: Everyone from the Electric Mayhem is represented except Floyd. Pepe is wearing a suit, which (I believe) he hasn't worn since It's a Very Merry Muppet Christmas. There's some sort of Monster/Frackle behind Bunsen's head (on the left) that I can't identify. There's something that looks like a leather jacket between Jason Segel's legs (yikes), but I'm not sure who it would belong to. And I'm still annoyed at the fact that they're mixing old and new photography (just look at the two different chicken builds).

But yeah. Three Janices. That's a lot of Janice.

Scott

But yeah, definitely two Janooes. Unless one is an even more extreme version of The Moopets.

I also can't identify the things you point out. But also, what is the brown thing behind Lew?

Ryan R

Great observations all! Including stuff I hadn't noticed on the poster in my own living room.

I had never tallied all the Moopets on the poster before, but it's totally weird that there are Janooocs in two places. If Janooce is a corrupted doppelganger of Janice, what's the corrupted doppelganger of Janooce? Joonarnce?

Floyd must have overslept and didn't make it to the photo session.

This poster was fun, but I still wish they had taken new photos of all the Muppets together for the recent movies.

John

To me it looks like there is one of the Muppet crocodiles between Bunsen's head and Jason's hand. There is also a patch of green fur below the croc's mouth which I think belongs to a separate character. It looks to light to be Droop, but I wonder if it could be Mahna Mahna jammed in the crowd? The Snowths are there, so it would make sense he would be, but that is just a guess. On the other side of the poster to the right of Lew in the corner there are two different shades of brown tufts of fur of a character (s) who were out of frame. The bottom looks like it could be Afghan Hound and the top Quongo? It does seem a bit odd they would have a goodly number of minor characters and forget Floyd. Maybe he's taking the picture?

Abigail

What's weirding me out is Kermoot's legless torso down by Mary's feet.

Joe

Yes, also how Lew Zealand just sort of... ends.

[Kermit & Piggy sing "New York, New York"](#)**4/26/16 | 16768.1-6****Lucas**

Recently I was visiting NYC for the first time. I thoroughly enjoyed it, but when I tried to find this clip of Kermit & Piggy singing "New York, New York" I couldn't remember who they sang it with, and I couldn't find it anywhere on YouTube. Anyone know what I'm talking about?

Scott

It sounds like you're thinking of Merv Griffin.

Jes

I miss the days when this phrase was more common.

Ryan R

You could always make it more common. If someone says, "What's the name of that actress on Game of Thrones?" you can say, "It sounds like you're thinking of Merv Griffin."

Or if you overhear someone on the street say, "There's this new restaurant that's supposed to be really good, I just can't remember what it's called..." you can say, "It sounds like you're thinking of Merv Griffin."

Or if you're on Who Wants to Be a Millionaire and you're up to the \$1,000,000 question and the host asks you, "Which Beatle sang lead on Yellow Submarine: John, Paul, George or Ringo?" you can say, "It sounds like you're thinking of Merv Griffin." Try it!

Jes

I'm going to give that excellent idea a try and will get back to you with results in 1979, I mean soon!

MAY

[30 Years of the Muppets 30th Anniversary](#)

5/3/16 | 16774.21-29

Grant

My favourite memory about this special isn't even from the special itself. I had the special on video, taped off television. Once when I was watching it (and I was really little), I looked at the VCR, and it occurred to me that I knew what PLAY, PAUSE, and STOP did, but I didn't know what RECORD did. So I pressed it to find out. My dad dove for the VCR to stop the recording, but not before a couple of seconds of a football game were recorded over the special. So from then on, whenever I watched "Celebration of 30 Years", in the middle of "Couldn't We Ride", we got "...and Bernie Kosar goes out for a pass!"

Ryan R

I did the same thing with The Great Muppet Caper taped from TV! But for me, it was this weird educational (?) show with a little girl talking to a sentient Victrola record player that was teaching her about music. It came somewhere in the first scene in Lady Holiday's office. I've often wondered what the heck that show was (and why I decided it would be a good time to try my hand at using the record button).

Anthony

You guys! This is why you gotta take off the little plastic tab after you're done recording your show!

Ryan R

Why didn't you tell me that when I was five years old?

Anthony

That's what you get for expecting advice from a one-year-old.

[nominated by Jes]

[Those other Muppet action figures](#)

5/3/16 | 16773.3-19

Jimmy M

Mine are at my parents' house. I have all of the regular versions and most of the exclusives. My backstage set is next to a theatre playset I made out of a printer box.

Jimmy M

I was able to find some pictures of my collection on my computer:

Balcony:



Stage and Orchestra:



Backstage:



The playset itself is made out of a printer box and the balcony was a butter container. The other playsets are on a shelf to the side. They all fit on the stage. I think the dimensions are pretty great - maybe once I get my figures back I will recreate using adult materials. Or keep as is.

Ryan R

Nice! That's the second-best use for a butter container I've ever heard of, coming in just after "containing butter."

ABC's "The Muppets" (2015-2016)

5/13/16 | 16253.1311-16

[After the show got cancelled...]

Matthew

So if I may let sadness give way to anger for just a quick rant...

As I'm reading more and more reactions to the show's cancellation, one recurring comment is really starting to tick me off...

"Disney should stop goofing around and just remake The Muppet Show. No new title, no new format, just The Muppet Show. That's all we want to see."

Now I like to think I'm a pretty open-minded guy, but that has to be one of the stupidest ideas I've heard.

First off, I'll be blunt: the primetime variety show is practically dead. Neil Patrick Harris' variety show was cancelled by New Year's. While I love the talents involved, and I do intend to watch the show, I don't think Maya Rudolph and Martin Short will fare much better. Networks are trying to get the "YouTube" moments. What they didn't realize is that if people want YouTube moments, they'll just go to YouTube. Variety shows, in their purest form, were designed to have "a little something for everyone." Now everyone can get their something wherever and whenever they want, whatever it is. Secondly, this show has ghosts, in more ways than one. The comparisons to Jim's era seem to finally be dying down, but reviving the show Jim Henson was famous for creating would only bring the heat on them again. If you think the criticism of The Muppets was bad, this would be much worse. People will always say "the original was better." Which leads me into my third point: part of the reason for The Muppet Show's success was that it came out in the golden age of variety shows. It was the best of a crowded era, and that's what made it stand out. Now, there's nothing to stand out from.

Now don't get me wrong: nostalgia can be a great creative tool: it's how we got stuff like Grease and Back to the Future. But lately, I'm seeing a disturbing trend of lazy nostalgia. Instead of letting the past influence the creative works of today, studios seem content with letting the past take over completely. Forgive me, but I'd rather see the next Muppet Show, not the last one. That's why I've loved what we've seen in the last five years (minus the Lady Gaga special, of course). We're seeing the Muppets in fresh new ways and fun, engaging productions. Reviving The Muppet Show would be the signal that the powers that be have given up. It may be what people want, but as a recent Muppet movie taught us, what we want may not always be what we need.

As far as I'm concerned, The Muppet Show ended in 1981. I'd like to see it stay that way.

Rant over. Carry about your business. As for me, I'm going to sleep.

Anthony

The other thing is that TMS premiered at exactly the right time to skewer the variety format. Even in 1976, they were on their way out. The (other) last successful one in the US, Donny & Marie, premiered that same year. It was a corny format on its last legs, which made it the perfect vehicle for the Muppets to make a bunch of jokes about how their format is corny and their material stinks.

Now that I think of it, they could have done something similar with the mockumentary format, but outside of that one joke from Gonzo in the pilot they played it straight.

Ryan R

You are correct, and I've been saying the same thing for a long time now. The Muppet Show was great. It was a wonderful, beautiful TV show. But I don't think most of these people who are saying "Do the old format!" would actually watch an identical show in the year 2016. Also: The Muppet Show was made by a group of creative people who mostly no longer work with the Muppets. A new generation of creatives should be allowed to be... creative. Instead of copying and pasting from an old thing.

Dan!, Esq.

I'm a bit on the fence. The mass audience want to watch the Muppets acting like the Muppets and performing. Variety shows aren't dead, they've evolved...to me, late night is the new variety and are out Muppeting the Muppets. The most successful versions of recent work allowed them to do this, the first film with them returning to the theatre, the youtube variety content. The new show spent a few too many episodes with the characters isolated from each other or at odds. A show with the Muppets should be joyful and a natural fit for viral content. This format didn't really allow for that.

What is disappointing to me is that the Muppets gets canceled, while shows that it out performed "The Real O'Neils" and Dr. Ken, are picked up for a second season.

I was hopeful but skeptical at them landing at ABC. Granted, it's a Disney owned network, but they've mistreated and shuffled the brand around before. Given the way they rushed the show into production, and the uptick in critical reaction to the changes as the show went on, I thought they'd give it more time to build. Oh well. Here's hoping that someone else gives the shot, I just worry that this run has hurt that possibility.

I don't think copying and pasting from an old thing or doing what's been done is all that bad. The Muppet show lasted 5 years. A show like the Simpsons has survived doing the same thing for 20+. Edit to add that Sesame Street has had characters doing nearly the same thing for nearly 50.

[ABC's "The Muppets" \(2015-2016\)](#)

5/14/16 | 16253.1332

Matthew

Well, that's the one thing we can be heartened by: at least it ran longer than Little Muppet Monsters.

[Funko's Sesame Street Pop!](#)

5/15/16 | 16183.24-47

Ivan

I enjoy collecting Funko Pop!, but I've always thought their black, beady eyes looked weird on Muppet characters. I think someone ought to custom paint all the Muppets released so far, or create eye decals you can attach to the figures. What do you guys think?





Jes

Now do one of Orange Oscar and give him Joe glasses.

Joe

Jes.

WTF.

Also, hi.

Jes

There, there. Once he adds the glasses you'll see...

Ryan R

I don't have a problem with the black eyes, but I can see why people are weirded out.

Joe

Ditto, the black eyes don't bother me. I actually like that the toys are way off model, yet still recognizable.

Jes

... as JOE.

Joe

What is even happening.

Jes



Joe

whut.

Jes

Let the fans decide....



Joe

I don't understand any of this.

Ryan R

Okay, sure. But when are you going to sing "I Love Trash?"

Joe

When I'm dead in the ground.

Jes

Come on, Joe. It's not an insult. The Funko Orange Oscar just reminds me of you. IN A GOOD WAY. And when you state it like that, I hope I never hear you sing I Love Trash.

Joe

I know you didn't mean it as an insult. I just don't see it.

Jes

Well. People sometimes tell me I look like that angry conservative female reporter on that one channel sometimes and I don't see it but I just have to go with it... and as far as I know there is no Funko Pop figure to back them up!

Joe

Yikes, I'd much rather look like a grouch than a Fox News reporter.

Ryan R

What's the difference? HAW HAW.

[ABC's "The Muppets" \(2015-2016\)](#)

5/17/16 | 16253.1358-82

Ryan R

Also, a lot of internet entertainment news writers tended to reduce or misrepresent what was actually happening on the show. Like "On the new Muppet show, the band smokes pot!" And yes, it's clear to anyone with the ability to interpret jokes that that's what was implied, but the way people talked about it made it seem like there were scenes of Dr. Teeth sucking on a joint airing on television.

Joe

Funny, I thought it would've been this guy.



Anthony

Ryan's favorite image.

Ryan R

I was about to reply to this, but I think I'll wait until 4:20.

Nicholas Joseph Teixeira

In response to that weed reference, I mean coming from a show that thrived in the 70s? I really don't get it. Even in The Muppet Movie, Animal says, "Can you baggie that?" Clear reference to drugs

Joe

I'm... not sure that's a thing that happened.

Nicholas Joseph Teixeira

Haha, yes it did, Joe, haha! Haha I'm guilty of smoking weed and watching The Muppet Show, but I don't think I made this one up. I mean, I know I am also guilty of hearing strange lyrics of songs haha and it's Animal, so it sounds strange, but on my DVD I remember the subtitle read, "(Can you baggie that?)" Anyways you can't deny "Can You Picture That?" definitely has to do with The Doors of Perception and expanding your mind, no?

Scott

"Can you baggie that" is not a thing Animal says, but I can see why the unpaid interns who do captioning for things like this might have heard it that way.

Joe

I know the scene you're talking about. I am 1900% sure that Animal doesn't say "Can you baggie that".

Ryan R

I'm afraid those Muppet Movie subtitles are not a reliable representation of the dialogue and lyrics. They also have Animal saying "Chugga chugga" when he's really saying "Showdown, showdown." And of course the infamous Gonzo lyric "We can hold onto young..."

On the other hand, Animal and the gang are totally the type to smoke substances that come in baggies. It had just never been implied quite so clearly before.

Nicholas Joseph Teixeira

Haha well whoever is responsible it is written on the DVD, and that's what I and many others have always heard! Anyways, there's no denying the song can easily be interpreted about it

[nominated by Jes]

[The odd & awesome pictures thread](#)

5/23/16 | 11848.3049-50

Joe



Robyn

It must be hot in there. Sometimes you gotta take your skin off to cool down.

[Pizza Rizzo restaurant at WDW?](#)

5/23/16 | 16795.1-11

Joe

According to the latest rumors, the Muppet restaurant at Walt Disney World may be "Pizza Rizzo", a Rizzo the Rat-owned pizza parlor.

Robyn

I'm going to complain if the rats serve. I think they'd do much better if they cooked in the back.

Ryan R

What if they have human waiters wearing rat masks?

Jes

No, gross. Real rats or bust.

[The Random Thread of Randomness](#)

5/25/16 | 9511.10759-62

Joe

Something that's been on my mind lately:

In *The Great Muppet Caper*, it's established that bears wear hats, but Kermit and Fozzie look like twins when they're both wearing hats. The first time they make that joke, Kermit is wearing his news reporter hat, and Fozzie has taken his off. So, in that scene, does Kermit look like a bear and Fozzie like a frog?

Ryan R

Whoa!

Well, Fozzie always wears his hat, whereas Kermit takes his off for much of the movie. But it never occurred to me that Fozzie takes his off at such a crucial moment. I don't know what to think!

Joe

These are the things that keep me up at night.

Shane

Those Murphy Beds will do that to ya.

JUNE

[Misread Thread Titles](#)

6/2/16 | 9486.2072-78

Matthew

Julia's Greenroom

Julia

YUP. I've already misread it as "Julia's Greenroom" a ton of times.

Ryan R

What would be the theme of your Netflix puppet show?

Julia

I feel like it'd be a spin off of Jurassic Park wherein a scientist version of myself tries to resurrect dinosaurs from their DNA, but something goes wrong and they come out as super cute dinosaur puppets. Then the show's about me trying to teach them how to behave and act like real dinosaurs, but they're too fascinated with the modern world.

Ryan R

Ha! Well, ask a silly question, get a... no, wait. That sounds like a pretty fun premise for a kids' TV show.

The Greenroom, of course, would be your high-tech science lab, which the super-cute dinosaurs would frequently escape from. And maybe you were missing some pieces of their DNA, so you tried filling in the gaps with DNA from... puppies? Kittens? Precocious children? Teddy bears?

Julia

Knowing me, probably puppies. I should have guessed dogs would someday be my downfall.

[eBay](#)

6/8/16 | 16805.1-5

Mr. the Dan™

I'm pretty sure we already had a thread for eBay, but I didn't find it. Anyway how did I miss out on this??????

[link to impressive lot of old behind-the-scenes photos from the production of The Muppet Show]

Scott

Sweet Jesus.

I... I'm really sad we didn't get that.

Ryan R

Maybe the Henson Legacy or the Henson Company grabbed it. They probably keep an eye out for things like that.

Scott

Great. So I guess we'll start seeing these show up online at some point.



[Muppet Tsum Tsums](#)

6/8/16 | 16806.1-17

Joe

Muppet Tsum Tsums are coming soon! Starting with Miss Piggy.

<http://www.toughpigs.com/piggy-tsum-tsums/>

Ryan R

I was kind of startled to see that so many people seem to know what these are, and to be excited about this. I guess it'll go on the same collector's shelf as the Pook-a-looz, Itty Bittys, Funko Pops, and Vinylmations.

Mr. the Dan™

I'll only buy one if there is a Mildred Huxtetter.

Ryan R

I find that hard to believe.

If they made a Mildred, you'd want at least two.

Abigail

Huh. I've seen those around, but I didn't know that's what they were called. I couldn't even begin to imagine what this thread was about when I clicked on it.

Jes

I thought it was either going to be about a delicious petit four type dessert or a way to relieve heartburn.

Ryan R

Can we all agree to retire the tradition of saying "Bless you" when somebody sneezes? It's pretty weird and unnecessary. People sneeze all the time. People also cough all the time, but we don't say "Honor unto you" when they cough. And then when you sneeze and somebody says it to you, you feel obligated to say thank you. Thank you for saying words after I sneezed involuntarily.

I'm over "Bless you."

Jes

I also dislike it for all of the reasons you mention plus a few more. For instance, if you don't say 'bless you', then you seem rude. So when somebody sneezes over and over again, it becomes a part time job. ALSO, I'm tired of having to shout 'bless you' into the next office or cubicle at work. We're not even in the same room! And stop saying 'bless you' from the other room when I sneeze. What are you, some kind of sneeze stalker? Enough. Stop listening to me. I also hate how when somebody sneezes in a crowd and like ten peopleglom on with the 'bless you'. Seriously? How much blessing does one sneezer need?

Joe

I don't mind when people say "Bless you" or whatever after a sneeze. What I hate is when you don't say "Bless you" and people get offended. What the crap is that all about.

Jes

Yup! Like, you just sneezed on me and I'm the rude one here?

Ryan R

Right! Some people even get passive-aggressive and say "Bless me."

Seinfeld had that thing about saying "You are SO good-looking!" instead, but I'd rather we just not say anything, ever again. Also, at some point I read about a guy who said "You are SO good-looking" to a co-worker and she reported him for sexual harassment because she didn't get the Seinfeld reference, so that's no good.

Erik

I say gesundheit.

Ryan R

I used to always say that, but somehow I got out of the habit. Maybe if I got back to that I would feel less bitter about it.

Robyn

For me it's such a knee jerk reaction to say "bless you" I can't not do it when someone sneezes. Not that I think it should be said, I just can't help myself. My husband always sneezes at least 5 times in a row, when we were first together I'd say it for each one, but now I just say, "Bless you many times"

My in-laws decided when my oldest was a baby that you also need to say bless you after a cough, and they are still doing it almost 11 years later! It's nuts.

Jes

So tonight at a business mixer, someone nearby me sneezed and before I knew it, I had said 'bless you' not once, but TWICE because this person sneezed two times! I am a traitor to our cause and I'm deeply ashamed. I need a 12 step program.

Beth

potato potato potato potato

Joe

I say potato, you say potato potato potato potato.

Ryan R

I say potato potato potato potato, you say potato potato potato potato potato potato potato potato.

Joe

Just a few more potatoes and we can solve this hunger crisis.

Scott



Beth

French fries for all!

Joe

Well then we'd better start stocking up on ketchup.

Tomato tomato tomato tomato.

[Who wins the owl show?](#)

6/17/16 | 16811.1-19

Ryan R

If there was such a thing as owl shows (like dog shows), who would win?

RESULTS:

Hoots from Sesame Street - 19 votes (54%)

Zelda Rose's singing owl from The Muppet Show - 11 votes (31%)

Jareth as an owl from Labyrinth - 5 votes (14%)

Joe

I always liked the puppet used for Zelda Rose's owl. I'm not sure, but I think it's the same one seen in Emmet Otter's Jug Band Christmas.

Ryan R

Who?

Joe

He's on first.

Robyn

I went with Hoots. Put Down the Duckie just wouldn't be the same if it was sung by like, Little Bird.

Matthew

I just want to say, without an ounce of sarcasm, that given all the horrific news of the last week and the sadness, anger, and frustration I've felt, I'm so glad we can have fun here talking about owls. You guys are the best. I don't say that often enough.

That being said, I also cast my vote for Hoots. While I may be able to sing "Underground" from memory with a little prodding, I'm almost certain I would have no difficulty remembering every word of "Put Down the Duckie." (Celebrity impressions not included.)

Macy

Hoots is the reason I became a saxophone player. So I have to vote for Hoots.

Julia

I started learning saxophone when I was eleven (and gave up one year later) because of Lisa Simpson.

Ryan R

I grew a blue beehive hairdo because of Marge Simpson.

Joe

I became a centenarian because of Mr. Burns.

Matthew

I became senile because of Grandpa.

Are you the mailman?

[None of Kermit's Business meme](#)

6/21/16 | 16818.6-25

[People are calling Kermit "Tea Lizard" on Twitter, which has something to do with the meme of Kermit inspired by that Lipton commercial, and it's all part of... You know what? It's impossible to explain.]

Colton

Oh, Kermit



Kermit the Frog
@KermitTheFrog

Follow

Don't you hate when you get mistaken for someone you're not? Kermit #TeaFrog > #TeaLizard #ButThatsNoneOfMyBusiness #PutSomeRespeckOnMyName

RETWEETS
5,214

LIKES
6,453



12:04 PM - 21 Jun 2016

96 5.2K 6.5K

Ryan R

I'm glad they didn't let this pass by without a comment from Kermit. That would have been a missed opportuni-tea.

Jes

Haha you're the funniest.

Joe

That is totally his business.

Jes

Wait, haha you're funny too.

Eric

Anyone see this post from LeBron?

<https://www.instagram.com/p/BG5Byk7iTGF/?taken-by=kingjames>



Scott

Where was all the celebrity Kermit fandom when their show was getting cancelled?

Jes

That's the weird part. The meme users don't seem to be muppet 'fans', rather they see Kermit as some sort of highfalutin, table talking tea lizard who they semi-relate to.

Scott

That's my feeling as well. The number of people crazy over Kermit memes appear to outnumber those who want to see Kermit make millions of people happy. If there were a TV show that just flashed racy Kermit memes on the screen for 21 minutes, it probably would have been renewed for a second season.

Ryan R

I've been thinking about this a lot since yesterday. If everyone who has tweeted, retweeted or commented on the subject of #TeaLizard had watched The Muppets, the ratings would have been considerably better. But most of these people probably don't have any interest in sitting for half an hour to watch a Muppet TV show anyway.

Scott

what the actual goddamned fuck.....



Jes

I probably have to follow that now...

Scott

You are part of the problem.

Ryan R

I keep seeing those "Share a Coke and a Song" bottles and cans with lyrics on them... About a third of the time I don't even know what song they're quoting, but it gave me an idea:



Lara

YOU'VE never seen Heathers?!

It's good. I think you'll really like it.

Also it's where the line "I love my dead gay son!" comes from too.

Also now it's a musical but I haven't heard it yet.

Ryan R

Yeah, I recognized a couple lines that I realized I had heard quoted before. Like the one about the chainsaw.

Erik

Yes, the, um, chainsaw-related quote.

Ryan R

I can't tell if you're acknowledging that the quote is obscene or implying the quote isn't well-known.

Julia

I'm guessing obscene, considering I haven't seen the film but I 100% know what the quote is.

Erik

Yeah, I was going for the obscene angle. But I guess that angle was too obtuse.

Matthew

That was acute joke.

[nominated by Matthew Soberman]

[April & May Forum Stats](#)

6/26/16 | 16803.15-19

Lara

Woohoo! I love this place so much I just need to remember to actually check in more than once every several months. :/

Ryan R

Yeah, dude. Where you been?

Lara

Oh, you know, around.

Ryan R

Around? Around? Around? Around? How about over, under, and through?

Matthew

Near!

FAAAAAAAAAAAAAARR!!!

[Muppet Show Guest Star Salaries?](#)

6/27/16 | 16824.1-47

Ken

I hope this isn't a weird question, but watching Johnny Carson every night made me think of something. Has anybody ever been able to find out how much the guest stars on The Muppet Show were paid? I was wondering because they had everybody from rock stars, to movie stars, to Broadway stars, and some people were hot when they were on, and some were, well, I don't want to say "has-beens", but people like Teresa Brewer and Jaye P. Morgan hadn't had a hit record since the 1950's, although I'm sure they were still considered famous to people from that generation. So I was wondering if anybody knew that. I mean, did they pay Charles Aznavour the same as Elton John?

Jog

Jim Henson's Biography has the answer!

Most guest stars were paid a flat rate of €3500 (not too much, even in those days). Most of the show's budget went into designs and production.

I guess some of the more prominent guests like Mr. Nurejev got paid more?

Jes

Cool news! So what's 3500€ in American money dollars?

Ryan R

Google says €3500 is \$3,874.15 in US Dollars. Blah blah blah, inflation, blah blah.

Jog

Whoop. That happened to be a Euro sign where a dollar sign should be. It's \$3500. (I wonder if the guest stars were paid in dollars or British pounds... or Koozbanian Fnirds...)

Euros didn't exist back in 1976; they were introduced 25 years later, when we got to spend them on Palisades figures for the 25th anniversary.

Ryan R

How many euros would you estimate you spent on the Palisades figures?

Jog

Hmm... Enough for Lou Rawls to spend four hours on the set of the Muppet Show? I got all of 'em before I ran my own household, so I got to spend quite a lot of money on them; the international shipping fees made them even more expensive... Got 'em all on display now. I think I have 80 of 'em?

Ryan R

80! I'm sure Lou Rawls would be impressed by your collection.

Jog

Lou Rawls may have gotten a gold record for "You'll Never Find Another Love Like Mine", and he may have sung with the actual Dr. Teeth, but he never owned a Wizard World Dr. Teeth figure.

Joe

Oh man, but what if he did???

What if he did, Jog????

Jog

If he did and he got it off eBay, it would have cost him all of his Muppet Show salary.

Collectors are weird, man.

Ryan R

I just checked to see if Lou Rawls lived long enough that it would have been possible for him to own a Wizard World Dr. Teeth. And he did live long enough!

So... now we have that information.

Jog

I just did the same thing! Seems like he could have owned a Palisades Super Grover, even.

Andrew Leal

Man, I love the idea of Lou Rawls posing with his Palisades Grover.

JULY

Things People Say About Muppeteer Photo

7/5/16 | 16833.13-19

Colton

Also, no, Bert and Ernie do not have those dudes' hands up their butts. They are puppets. They do not exist below the waist. If anything, those dudes' hands are their butts

Scott

I never really understood the "they don't exist below the waist" thing.



Ryan R

Most of the time they don't exist below the waist in real life, but it's still understood that their entire bodies are there off-camera. A scene filmed with a puppet that cuts off at the waist might still include them walking around using their feet. Sometimes we even hear the sound effects of their footsteps. So yeah, it's not quite accurate. But that phrasing originates with Gary Knell's attempt at brushing off questions about Bert & Ernie's sexuality, doesn't it? He was using it mostly to emphasize that they don't have sex parts.

Scott

Yeah. We've discussed the Knell quote here (which has been re-iterated by Steve and Eric, on occasion). I still think it's a really disingenuous way of dealing with a character's sexuality.

Matthew

So I think the point we're trying to make is that all Sesame Street characters are eunuchs. Got it.

The Random Thread of Randomness

7/7/16 | 9511.10827-20

Macy

I was looking for something in the App Store and found a game where you shoot Kermit.

So, that's a thing that exists. <https://appsto.re/us/ZC1e1.i>

Shane

From Snake Walker Enterprises

Macy

Sponsored by Doc Hopper's French Fried Frog Legs.

[nominated by Scott]

[Pizza Rizzo restaurant at WDW?](#)

7/16/16 | 16795.44-46

Matthew

Oh, I completely forgot to mention that I really like the logo art. It's very reminiscent of the art you see on pizza boxes around New York.

Shane

Surely leading to an age-old debate as to which Original PizzaRizzo is the original Original PizzaRizzo.

Matthew

Well there's PizzeRizzo, Original PizzeRizzo, Famous PizzeRizzo, Original Famous PizzeRizzo, Famous Original PizzeRizzo, Original Quality PizzeRizzo....

[Harry Potter \(Ryan's first time\)](#)

7/18/16 | 16844.6-13

Ryan R

Also, in the first two books they're all obsessed with how many points each house has. I think that only came up once in Goblet of Fire, and Staci has told me she thinks it's completely forgotten by the last book.

Joe

Right!? Who gives a crap about the House Cup when we could die any minute??

I guess the same could be said of anything. Unless we're not planning on ever dying.

Abigail



Anthony

Classic Hagrid.

[None of Kermit's Business meme](#)

7/22/16 | 16818.37

Matthew

"Jes likes the Tea Lizard meme so much, she's decided to create a new meme inspired by Ryan Roe. Now Facebook is flooded with pictures of _____."

Jes

lol- that cereal he likes so much he stockpiled it... help me out here, Ryan...

Ohs?

Krispy Somethings?

Ryan R

Yep, Krispy Somethings! Filled with ingredients! Tastes like whatever!

[The Muppet Madness Tournament \(2010\)](#)

7/23/16 | 12580.356-57

Randomrowlf

Yay! Miss Piggy went down! And Gonzo was third! But wheres Rowlf in all this?

Joe

Replying to a six-year-old thread? You truly live up to your screen name.

[nominated by Julia]

[New Sesame on HBO first, then PBS](#)

7/25/16 | 16434.256-69

Shane

Anyone who doesn't get HBO: the new season will begin airing on PBS on September 12. They won't be airing in the same order as HBO, however, just a random one.

Matthew

Thank goodness I have HBO. I couldn't imagine watching the episodes out of order. Dammit, I need to know what letter comes after Q!

Matt Mtthwas

Some may tell you Q is followed by R, S, T, U, and V... while others insist that Q should always be followed by U.

We as country are somewhat divided on this issue.

[How you know you're a true Muppet fan...](#)

7/26/16 | 16858.1-3

Jes

... when your Facebook 'memories' reveal three posts wishing Bert a happy birthday.

Ryan R

How many of them said "Happy Bertday?"

Jes

I WISH I'D THOUGHT OF THAT.

Meagan

"I am Jim Henson's children's book"

As in "I, Meagan, am Jim Henson's children's book"

Joe

So, which children's book are you?

Meagan

Believe it or not, I am actually Cheryl Henson's hand-me-down first edition copy of "Goodnight Moon".

AUGUST

[The odd & awesome pictures thread](#)

8/12/16 | 11848.3084-91

Scott

[to Jes]

Doing some wiki'ing, came across this, and it made me think of you.

No subtext implied. Probably.



Jes

I.. I don't know how to respond to this.

haha?

Scott

"haha?" is an adequate response.

But you can't not expect people from this forum to think of you when they come across a funny image of Sesame Street's favorite resident.

Jes

I don't know if I would go so far as to say that Fluffy is Sesame Street's favorite resident but sure, I see where you're coming from.

Oh and if you were trying to reference the person, well... see her face for my reaction.

Ryan R

Oscar's elephants are another example of those things I always took for granted as a little kid, but now I realize how funny and brilliantly weird they were. Oscar lives in a New York City trash can. But it has room for elephants, including one named Fluffy, but you only see her trunk because the rest of her is inside the trash can. Where did they come up with this stuff?

Scott

It's pretty clever. I wonder which came first: Fluffy, or multiple elephant trunks hanging out of the can.

Ryan R

Good question. I would guess they started with one elephant, but I really have nothing to back that up.

I had a vague memory of other elephants having had names, so I checked the wiki, and it mentions Sophie, Blitzen, and Schopenhauer.

Scott

That classic Sesame Street character, Schopenhauer.

C is for Calendar**8/16/16 | 16872.10-13****Smig**

I wish that Sesame workshop would do more ..eccentric...art styles in its projects these days..I'm kinda amazed they used Davis at all, considering the lambasting MAD gave SESAME STREET. But still, the cartooning and energy in this thing is amazing.

I doubt you'd see things like Gordon getting shot in the ass, Or Cookie making Ernie Cry, or Herry getting beanballed today. (Hell, even in the SS segments during the ICE CAPAPADES, Grover would bash Cookie's head in with a train smokestack.)

I'm not asking for all-out mayhem. I just wish the workshop would loosen up a bit.

Ryan R

I would love it if season 47 had an episode called "Grover Bashes Cookie's Head In with a Smokestack." I'm not sure what the curriculum goal would be, though. Anger management?

Matt Wilkie

It would definitely fit under STEAM though.

Bacon?**8/16/16 | 16875.1-4****Scott**

Work in progress:

muppet.wikia.com/wiki/Sandbox:Bacon

Joe

Sure, I'll have some.

Shane

No, Shakespeare.

Matthew

I wish I had a joke or a witty retort to go here.

I guess I'm out of bacon bits.

Joe

Super duper random question here.

Does anyone know of a Sesame Street sketch in which Grover is talking to someone named Sal? Possibly an off-screen character? I can vaguely remember him shouting "SAL!", but it's just as likely that I'm making it up.

Erik

I don't know, Sal isn't that funny of a name, so it's hard to imagine Oz using it.

Meagan

You don't think so? Not even in a vaudeville kind of way? Or in a Dick Van Dyke talking to Rose Marie kind of way?

Erik

I think you can have a funny character named Sal, or Sal can be a character in a funny story. But if you're just going to say a funny name, there are lots of names funnier than Sal.

Ryan R

I think there's a place for Sal on the list of funny names. Along with Kenny, Steve, Bob, and Banana Nose.

Erik

Banana Nose is funny, but not funny "ha-ha".

Joe

How do you feel about "Moldonado"?

Erik

Not funny on its own, but goes very well with Banana Nose. "Banana nose" is iambic, while "Moldonado" is trochaic, so there's a natural pause between the two parts of the name. If his last name was also iambic, like "MacGillicuddy", I think it would flow too easily.

Joe

Oh yes, it's much funnier now.

Erik

A friend of mine just told me that she owns MCC on laserdisc so that she can watch it with "When Love is Gone" in letterbox.

Anthony

That's the only laserdisc I own, and we got David Rudman and Dave Goelz to sign it.

Goelz signed the front as himself and Gonzo. Rudman had already signed it as himself only, on the back next to Peter Cratchit. When I asked him to do that, he said "Which one is Peter Cratchit? Did I play him?"

Joe

Classic Rudman.

Joe

It's hard to believe, but ToughPigs has officially been around for 15 years! Crazy!!! Like, seriously crazy. I feel old.

We'll be celebrating with a week's worth of articles, starting with this one:

MuppetZine is back! We uploaded the entire 20-issue series to ToughPigs for anyone and everyone to read.

Here's our announcement: <http://www.toughpigs.com/tp15-muppetzine/>

And here's where you can find the issues: <http://www.toughpigs.com/muppetzine/>

Erik

Just need to OCR those zines so the text can be searchable.

Joe

FYI, just OCR those JPGs to SSR the TXT and OMG the BBQ.

Ryan R

First you need to hack into the mainframe so you can zoom and enhance.

Joe

I tried, but I accidentally reversed the polarity.

Ryan R

Great, now there's a firewall on the database.

Joe

Don't make me use my cheat codes.

[VMX on DVD \(again\)](#)

8/30/16 | 16878.19-21

Tom

But since Universal doesn't own the characters, wouldn't that be less incentive instead of more?

Still, I suppose it doesn't matter that much. I don't know how many non-Muppet movies get endless re-releases. And I'm glad that studios still find value in releasing Muppet stuff.

Ian

I know if I had a Muppet license, I would milk it to the ground.

Scott



SEPTEMBER

[Sesame Street: Platinum All-Time FavoritesON VINYL!?'](#)

9/1/16 | 16892.1-6

Colton

(Warning: Not actually on this album)

Pssst
Hey, bud
Sssshhhhhh
Riiiiight

http://store.sesamestreet.org/Product.aspx?cp=21415_21456_21464&pc=6ELP001&utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=google-shopping&src=GPPC_PA_6ELP001&view_in=Mobile

How would you like to buy a record?
Circular and sweet
A pretty decent album
You could already get as MP3s
You can listen to pretty songs on it like so
Oh-ooooh
Oh-ooooh
Oh-ooooh
Isn't that catchy?

How would you like to buy a record
With millions of grooves
The music, it will play
As the needle moves
It will cost you just \$19.98

Ryan R
\$19.98?

Colton
Sshhhhh

Ryan R
\$19.98?

Colton
Riiiiight

So, buy the record, and take it home tonight

Now listen. When you buy this record, you get a bunch of Sesame songs. You get songs that have been released on vinyl before, and for no extra cost, you get the rare opportunity of owning great songs such as "Happy Tappin With Elmo", "Put Down the Duckie", and Lambaba" which have never been on vinyl before.

So would you like to buy a record?
Just take it for a spin
Take me up on my offer
I won't offer it again

So buy the record and take it home tonight
Don't ask any questions
Just buy the record and take it home tonight
You'll really love it

How has this been out for a year and we just now found it

[Misread Thread Titles](#)

9/8/16 | 9486.2101-02

Colton

ToughPigs Interviews Liam Neeson

Joe

We interviewed him about The Muppets Taken Manhattan.

[The odd & awesome pictures thread](#)

9/8/16 | 11848.3102-06

Scott



Erik

This looks shopped. I can tell from some of the pixels and from seeing quite a few shops in my time.

Macy

My friend told me today that I look like a Muppet. I couldn't get her to explain what that means.

Joe

Is it because you have googly eyes?

Ryan R

Is it because you have arm rods attached to your hands?

Macy

Possibly. Or maybe it has something to do with that weird guy who's always underneath me, controlling my every move?

Meagan

Don't look now, but...

whispers he's got a beard.

Joe

I couldn't help myself.



Ryan R

Nailed it!

Or as Sully would say: "..."

[Diamond Select Action Figures](#)

9/12/16 | 16662.117-21

Danny

I'm kind of having a problem in general with displaying the Diamond figures and pack-ins. So far, I have Kermit, Bean, Robin and Animal, and none of them can stand up on their own. I can move Bean's legs and have him sit down at least, but there doesn't seem to be anything to do with Robin except lean him up on something. I've seen photos of the figures standing up, which I assume is achieved by black magic. I promise I don't live on a slant or anything; the little feet on the figures just don't carry the weight.

Scott

Have you tried boiling the legs to reshape them? I remember doing that with my Palisades Kermit a long time ago. Quinn could probably provide better tips on customizing.

Jes

Fun story- twice I have tried to boil my contact lens cases to clean them and forgotten about them on the stove... until I smelled the plastic melting to the bottom of the pot.

Scott

I'll bet they had no problem sitting on their stool after that though.

[Sesame Street Humans Appreciation](#)

9/12/16 | 16908.2-3

Joe

Oh man, I got some serious SIRE from Gordon's toupeed report on rain.

Meagan

Do you ever hear a sentence and think "I wonder if anyone's ever said that before?"

[nominated by Joe]

[Labyrinth Coffee Table Book](#)

9/15/16 | 16775.5-10

Mr. the Dan©™

It's interesting that it's from the same publisher that also scrapped the Fraggles Rock book.

Nick Moreau

Perhaps we'd still have that book, if more people were obsessed with Gerald Parkes' crotch.

Ryan R

I blame the Fraggles Rock costume department.

Joe

Don't blame them, they have no reason to have experience in making pants.

[Where we at?](#)

9/19/16 | 10718.2377-79

Julia

Oh. I also slammed my finger and got it trapped in my car door earlier this week and had to have a doctor drill a hole in my fingernail to release the blood/pressure and now have a huge bandage on my finger which makes it very difficult to type.

That part of life has been not so good.

Ryan R

OW. I mean, congratulations on all the good changes, but OW. Feel free to make typos with your bandaged finger.

Julia

Tghankds Rrtyabn!

[Muppet Adult Coloring Book](#)

9/20/16 | 16894.19-22

Justin T.

It's an adult coloring book because of all the nudity right?

Joe

It depends on what colors you use.

Justin T.

50 Shades of Green

[nominated by Julia]

The Muppet Show: 40 Years Later Reviews

9/22/16 | 16915.12-19

Kieran M

For what it's worth, as a Brit it always bugs me that anniversaries don't use the original UK dates as they are technically the correct ones.

Joe

I get it, but we're an American-run fan site, and if Americans do one thing best, it's pretend that we're the only ones in the world that matter.



Scott

Not all episodes aired first in the UK.

From a crowdsourcing perspective, not many people seemed to care about the 40th anniversary of the UK premiere. When I posted about it, there were fewer than 100 likes, but when I posted about the US debut, there were over 800. This is most likely due to there being fewer followers in the UK, by extension of the fact that it's just a smaller population.

Also, not sure how either are "correct" since it was a British studio, but an American production company. There is no correct order to episodes of The Muppet Show as the UK, LA, and NY dates are all different. Not even the taping dates match up to the production dates. For example, the Gene Kelly episode was developed first in the fifth season (hence Henson's designation as episode 5x01), but it was the last episode shot.

Kieran M

I'm about to launch my own 40th anniversary celebration on The Muppet Mindset and I'll be using the ATV dates. As the original commissioner and financier of the show to me it seems right to use the show's home network, but I think as long as the dates used are consistent it doesn't really matter.

Scott

I'm looking forward to it!

I'll be launching my own celebration on the 40th anniversaries of the first full moon following the Czech debut of each episode.

[The Swedish Chef's Kitchen](#)**9/23/16 | 16918.1-2****Ken**

I was watching a bunch of Season 3 Muppet Show episodes straight through a while ago, and I noticed that the Swedish Chef's kitchen kept changing. Has anybody ever figured out how many kitchen sets there were?

Justin T.

I'd imagine most of them were condemned shortly after he tried cooking something.

[The Muppet Show transcripts](#)**9/24/16 | 16921.1-12****Scott**

Anyone interested in collaborating on transcribing episodes of The Muppet Show?

Joe

crickets

The crickets will do it.

Scott



Shane

Ah yes, the Chinese translation to "The Banana Sketch!"

Scott

Never heard of it.

Andrew Leal

It stings even harder in Chinese. (*That's* why Ernie has the banana in his ear. As a balm.)

Erik

Did somebody say, "Bomb"?

presses plunger

OCTOBER

[Ryan Got Married!](#)

10/9/16 | 16935.1-17

Joe

ToughPigs' own Ryan Roe got married last night! Like he's a responsible adult or something!

Congrats to Ryan and Staci!!!

Matthew

Somebody start a new thread

Somebody write some posts

Somebody congratulate one of our gracious hosts!

Somebody get some pics on the way

'Cause somebody just got married...yesterday!

Erik

Were there Muppets involved? I bet there were Muppets involved.

John

They did have the pig minister from the Marisa Berenson episode, but since he is not licensed in New York he was just a co-officiant.

[My Weeks with The Jim Henson Hour](#)

10/10/16 | 15754.309-10

Grant

Much is made in the articles of how the interactions between guest stars (on a monitor) and Muppets (in the bluescreen studio) were awkward because they had to be taped separately. But it occurred to me that it would have been relatively easy to preserve the spontaneity of face-to-face interaction, while still having the neat visual image of the guest star being on a monitor.

They could have shot the Muppet and the guest star side by side in the same bluescreen studio, but with a blue flat in between them with a monitor-sized hole in it. Allow me to demonstrate with this altered photograph of Jim Henson and John Cleese:



The final product would have looked just as good, and the human-Muppet interaction would have gotten its warmth and timing back. Plus, a guest star could reach out of the screen and bop Kermit on the nose, which is the kind of visual surprise that worked so well on that show.

Anthony

I love that idea. You should go back in time and pitch it!

[The odd & awesome pictures thread](#)

Oct-15 | 11848.3119

Shane

I just found a bunch of old stories I made around 2003, mostly based on stuff I watched on TV at the time and what I read on ToughPigs. This little "comic" made me laugh:



[Muppet Babies Reboot](#)

Oct-17 | 16941.15-24

Kieran M

I hate myself for saying it though, but I'm not sold on Bobbi. It's a hard argument to make because, y'know, Skeeter, but I wish they'd used an existing character for two reasons. First, I think part of the fun is seeing baby versions of characters we love and second, it sort of makes me feel like they could have just made this show with new characters in that case and the Muppets themselves are less important.

I feel awful for saying it.

Mr. the Dan©™

Why not just use Baby Mildred Huxtetter? Or baby lunch lady Gladys? Characters already established and love by 10 or maybe even a hundred people!

Kieran M

We're only one word away from Baby Bobby Benson.

Matt Wilkie

And his Fetus Band!

Kieran M

They sing such beautiful umbilical chords!

[Judge Everything](#)

Oct-27 | 8892.7417-22

Shane

Losing your cell phone on the bus: 1

Chasing said bus until you can stop it to look for it: 3

Not finding it: 1

Getting a call within the hour saying they found it: 10

Finding \$200 in the bus seat while searching for said phone: 200

Matt Wilkie

\$200?! That's mucho dinero! I hope you turned it in to the bus driver, or else the person-who-lost-it's day: -200

Shane

That unfortunately didn't occur to me while I was searching. I was just frantically looking and tried to get off the bus as quickly as possible to get back to my family, who was following behind.

Now I feel a twinge of guilt.

Matt Wilkie

If you remember the bus number, you can probably turn it in at a station, or another bus :)

Joe

I think what Matt's trying to say is that he lost \$200.

Over the summer, I found an iPad under a couch in a rental house. It had been there for something like 8 months (which is what it told us when I charged it). It was really difficult to decide what to do with it, as I have been wanting an iPad for a while, but someone obviously lost it. I ended up contacting the rental agency, and they told me that someone had contacted them about a lost iPad around the correct time. I put the iPad in the mail with the satisfaction of doing the right thing.

Doing the right thing: 10

Not having an iPad: 4

Not getting a thank-you note from the ungrateful people who just had their iPad returned: 0

Shane

So, what you're saying is...I should buy an iPad.

[Judge Everything](#)

Oct-28 | 8892.7426-29

Ryan R

Once I found \$10. In my coat pocket. Because I had left it there the previous winter. That was a nice gift from me to me.

Joe

I hope you turned it in to the proper authorities.

Ryan R

I did, if by "proper authorities" you mean Taco Bell.

[Talking Houses 2016 \(if only\)](#)

Oct-29 | 16952.1-7

Andrew Leal

There's been talk of whether one of the missteps for THE MUPPETS (2015) was the lack of new, possibly almost nearly edgy or just bafflingly disconcerting material featuring the Talking Houses.

Here's how it could have gone.

HOUSE 1: My neighbor keeps flashing me.

HOUSE 2: Is he a nudist?

HOUSE 1: No, he has solar panels.

HOUSE 1: My daughter won't stop chewing gum.

HOUSE 2: Does she have bad breath?

HOUSE 1: No, she's Wrigley Field.

HOUSE 1: My cousin will be on TV this week.

HOUSE 2: On ABC?

HOUSE 1: No, HGTV. They're flipping him. Because he's a drunk and can't stand straight!

HOUSE 1: My sister is full of hot air.

HOUSE 2: Wait, I got this one. Steam room or town hall?

HOUSE 3: Neither, she's a vape bar.

Ryan R

HOUSE 1: My friend is driving me crazy... He won't stop singing that "YMCA" song.

HOUSE 2: He's a big fan of the Village People, huh?

HOUSE 1: No, he's actually a YMCA.

HOUSE 2: Oh, okay. Now I understand.

Joe

HOUSE 1: I love that TV show starring Hugh Laurie.

HOUSE 2: Oh, you mean House?

HOUSE 1: Yes. And he is also a house.

Andrew Leal

HOUSE 1: My friend is getting a makeover.

HOUSE 2: So a complete redecoration and changes to roof tiles and other elements?

HOUSE 1: No, she's just wearing more mascara under the windows.

HOUSE 1:Someone rezone me, please.



NOVEMBER

Happy Birthday, Smig!

Nov-1 | 16958.1-2

Joe

It's Smig's birthday! Happy birthday, you talented sunnuvagun.

I drew you this picture of Cookie Monster being devoured by flames. I hope you enjoy.



Smig

Ah, Joe.. you know me so well.

Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade 2016

Nov-2 | 16955.8-13

Melissa Scopelitis

Plus I didn't know they REPEAT it again later in the day? I found this out for the first time a few years ago when my husband and I were visiting my mom in law in Virginia for Thanksgiving, and we weren't able to watch it in the morning (first time ever I missed it) but caught some of it later on in the day!?

Erik

You mean all the bands and floats and everything head back to the beginning and do the parade again? Now that's dedication!

Ryan R

Yep! They have to put all the floats in reverse and back them up along the whole parade route. It's terrible for traffic.

Dan!, Esq.

I'm hoping for an original rollicking number about Thanksgiving.

Ryan R

That would be great, actually. There just aren't enough songs about Thanksgiving.

Scott

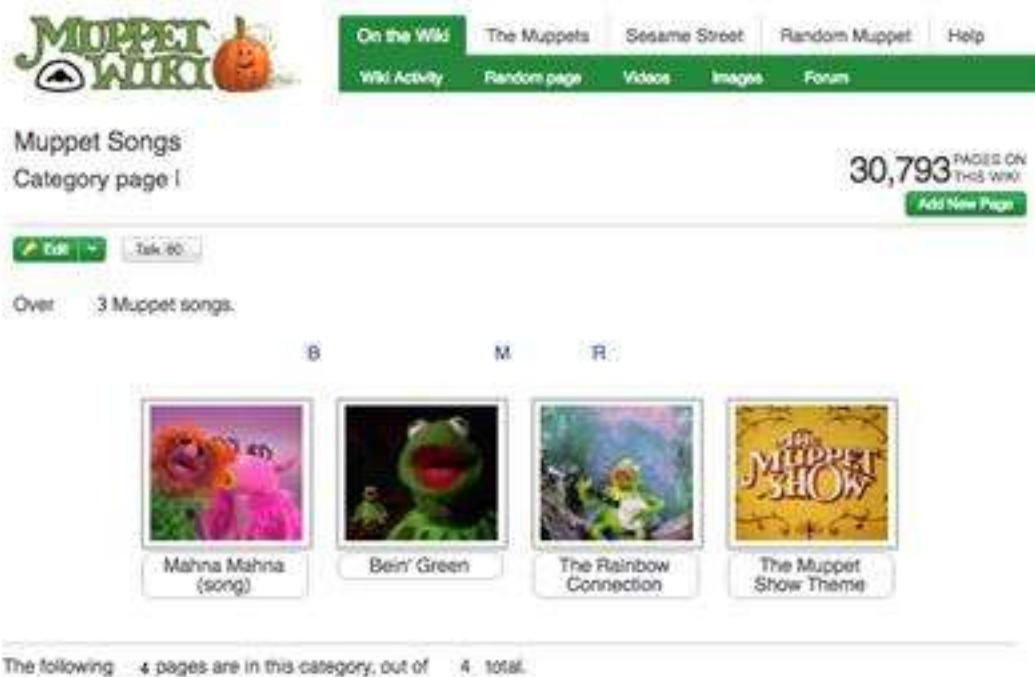
Maybe they could call it "Why Aren't There So Many Songs About Thanksgiving"

Dan!, Esq.

That's my thought too. I'd love to see something new instead of the predictable choices. Do we need another heartfelt rendition of Rainbow Connection? No, we don't.

Shane

It's too bad the Muppets only know 4 songs. It makes our Wiki category look so sparse:



Joe

The Henson Company and Archaia have announced that the long-rumored Dark Crystal sequel will be adapted into a 12-issue comic book miniseries.

<http://www.toughpigs.com/dark-crystal-comic/>

Erik

Let me know when the TPB comes out.

Joe

It'll be out in another time. Another world. In the age of wonder.

Jimmy M

The animation [in the *Cars 3* trailer] is insane with its photo realism.

Also, pretty sure Lightning McQueen is dead. (Probably not really, but the trailer sets it up that it could be and it would be a really dark twist!)

Shane

I hope he's not. The less I have to hear Larry the Cable Guy, the better.

Jimmy M

Ideally, Mater processes his grief through a mourning vow of silence.

Jessica

I also liked-but-won't-rewatch the first *Cars* movie. No interest in the others.

Something that bugged me was trying to make sense of the whole mechanism (for lack of a better word) of how the cars work as a species. Are they living creatures? Is there a manufacturing plant somewhere? It's been a long time since I watched it, but I think I felt like it was hard to work out the 'rules' of where the anthropomorphism and the "cars-are-not-humans" line is. It's just weird from a world-building perspective. (You're probably not supposed to look too hard at that idea.)

Julia

My biggest question has always been how do the cars reproduce.....

Shane

Assembly line?

Matthew

Back row of a drive-in movie?

Shane

In the *Cars* world, aren't all movies drive-ins?

Matt Wilkie

I have a semi-answer for this! There is a Pope-mobile in *Cars 2* (I've gathered, I've never watched it). Therefore, we can assume that Christianity exists in the *Cars* world. Hence, Jesus Christ existed in some form in their world - as Jesus Chrysler, perhaps? And if it holds true that their Jesus had the same origin story of our world's, he would've been immaculately conceived. And if cars can be conceived immaculately, we must hypothesize that they can be conceived in the regular way. In know, in the biblical sense. All that to say dem cars be fuckin'.

[*nominated by Shane*]

Emileigh

We've been waiting for them all morning....looks like they're not opening. Disappointing.

Shane

What broadcast were you watching? The normal, NBC one had a whole Muppet hullabaloo at the beginning.

Jes

GAH! I had the television on CBS not NBC. I think that's why we missed them. :-(Looks like 2016 is not my year to win Muppet Fan Mother of the Year.

Emileigh

Don't be so dramatic

eBay

Nov-29 | 16805.26-40

Mr. the Dan©™

Look what this douche bag did. Pretty sure this person stole [Smig's] artwork and is selling it.

[link to an item for sale on eBay with Smig's artwork]

Ryan R

I was about to encourage people to report this listing, but then I noticed it's being sold by "cs429," and CS are Chris Smigliano's initials.

Smig, the listing Dan linked to isn't you, is it?

Jes

If that eBayer is Smig, I'll eat my hat. Or... your hat, yeah your hat.

Ryan R

I'm 99% sure it's not after checking the other listings, but it's best to make sure. Their other sales items include old Mad magazines (could be Smig!) and Tinkerbell t-shirts for girls (less likely!).

Joe

It ships from Massachusetts, which is where Smig lives. It may be him afterall!

Mr. the Dan©™

I thought the same thing, but the person edited out the signature and it's from Brockton MA which is on the south shore. (I'm pretty sure he's north.)

Jes

BUT it says it comes from a NOT smoke-free/pet free home. I don't think Smig smokes and I don't the he has a pet!

Joe

Ah, good points.

Jes

UNLESS he has a smoking roommate with a poodle!

Smig

Thanks for pointing this out to me. I am NOT the seller , and this thing is being sold WITHOUT my permission. Feel free to report it.

Jes

Well. Ok.

Smig

I contacted the seller and made a civil request to remove the pic. If he DOESN'T comply I'll go full smoking poodle on him. But if anyone else wants to rip him a new one in the meantime, go ahead, I don't mind! :0)

Smig

The seller just contacted me and said he removed the listing.

Joe

Aw, I was looking forward to the smoking poodle.

DECEMBER

[A Muppet Family Christmas watchalong?](#)

Dec-10 | 16990.31-46

Robyn

We contemplated why Statler and Waldorf would even be there if Ma Bear was going to Malibu. Talked a little bit about Doc's comb-over and how it flaps when he's upset. The snowman and Fozzie have the same hat! I kept an icy patch count, though I lost track. We also wondered what Muppet puppeteer was playing when they had more than one of their main characters in the scene. Seeing Jim is always the highlight.

I learned that David Rudman is the voice of Piggy's photographer. Which now that it's been pointed out to me I can totally tell.

Anthony

Whoa, that was David Rudman? I'll have to listen for that next time. I can't hear him at all when I picture (audiolize?) that scene in my head.

Ryan R

I only realized it a few years ago. There's one line -- one of the exclamations like "Yes!" or "Beautiful!" -- where you can really hear it.

Joe

Also, everyone knows Baby Bear would make a great photographer.

Ryan R

Hmm. Does everyone know that?

Jes

That's so RYAN of you.

Ryan R

Saying that's very RYAN of me is extremely Jes of you.

Jes

It's why you love me.

(searches for That's So Raven photo to photoshop you into)

Ryan R

I'm 73% Ryan and 20% Raven.

Jessica

And what's the other 7%?

Ryan R

Chocolate chip cookies.

[Current TV Watching](#)

Dec-15 | 15096.1056-58

Matthew

So random observation: time travel seems to be very in this season on TV. Between being the basic premise of *Timeless*, and time travel arcs on both *Dirk Gently's Holistic Detective Agency* and *Ash vs. Evil Dead*, it just seems like there's more time travel on television these days.

Ryan R

Also the news. Because a lot of it is covering politicians who seem to be set on taking the country back to the dark ages.

[*nominated by Max*]

Tough Pigs dreams**Dec-21 | 9244.1925-29****Macy**

I don't know what the heck has been going on in my head lately, but last night was the second time I've dreamt about Cookie Monster buying something from my Etsy shop.

Robyn

Has a D. Rudman or F. Oz bought anything from you recently? Are you selling cookies?

Macy

Unfortunately, no and no. I'm not sure why Cookie Monster would want a knit mug cozy...

Beth

You need hot chocolate to go with all those cookies!

Ryan R

I'm more impressed that Cookie Monster can use a computer or device with those big fuzzy fingers of his.

Merry Christmas - Ho Ho Ho**Dec-28 | 16987.28-37****Julia**

Okay, kinda bummed Santa never responded to my poem.

Jes

At least it's still "unread" and not just ignored. Maybe something happened to Santa???

Joe

Y'know, 2016 has not been kind to beloved celebrities...

Julia

Yeah, I wouldn't put it past 2016 to do away with Santa. *shakes fist in the air*

Ryan R

Hey, none of that. When one Santa falls, another Santa rises to take his place. Didn't you see The Santa Clause?

Joe

I was surprised that that was sort of the plot behind Ernest Saves Christmas too.

Ryan R

Yeah! I was old enough not to worry about it by the time The Santa Clause came out, but I vaguely recall trying to reconcile different depictions of Santa in my head as a kid... Like, if Santa Claus the Movie says he basically became immortal when he became Santa, how come he's a regular guy who's ready to retire in Ernest Saves Christmas? I guess I figured it all out somehow.

Joe

I'm glad that the logic of Santa Claus isn't keeping you up nights anymore.

I mean, he sees you when you're sleeping, he knows when you're lying wide awake in bed in a cold sweat, paralyzed by the unknowingness of the magic of arctic elves.

[nominated by Jes]

INDEX

My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2, Mar 25

other things that are not *My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2*, various dates