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SPEAKERS

Beth Oljar, Mara Livezey, Dan Maggio, Matt Mio, Ph.D., Michael Jayson, Erin Bell, James Tubbs, Dave Chow, Professors, Production Element


- M** Matt Mio, Ph.D. 00:01
The University tower chimes ring in another session of Ask the Professor, the show in which you match wits with the University of Detroit Mercy professors in an unrehearsed session of questions and answers. I'm your host, Matt Mio, and let me introduce to you our panel for today. To my left, from the Department of Philosophy, it's Beth Oljar.
- B** Beth Oljar 00:19
Good to be here.
- M** Matt Mio, Ph.D. 00:20
What's going on Beth? Thanks again for the cool ornament. I think that that's something that we may have overlooked in the Mio family.
- B** Beth Oljar 00:27
Well, you know, it's easy to overlook these things, I think, when you're busy with other things, but I'm looking forward to Christmas.
- M** Matt Mio, Ph.D. 00:34
Yeah. I spent yesterday decorating my Christmas tree and listening to Joni Mitchell.
- D** Dave Chow 00:39


 Dave Snow 00:33
Aww


 Mara Livezey 00:39
Nice.


 Beth Oljar 00:39
Yeah. Awesome. And making cookies. That was the other thing I did yesterday. I was listening to "Court and Spark". I mean, just top - It's one of those perfect records. It's like Abbey Road. There's just no bad take.

 Matt Mio, Ph.D. 00:50
I'm thinking Fleetwood Mac made some pretty good albums.


 James Tubbs 00:53
Yes, they did.

 Beth Oljar 00:54
Yeah. RUMOURS.

 James Tubbs 00:58
RUMOURS was great

 Beth Oljar 00:59
Although, I'm not a huge - I mean, I think SONGBIRD is a beautiful song, but it's never really been one that I've wanted to play over and over. There are other songs of hers that I think are much better - or resonate more with our

 James Tubbs 01:13
Probably from Joni Mitchell, "Free Man In Paris" I would listen to again and again and "Help Me"

 Beth Oljar 01:19

Yeah, amazing.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 01:21

So Erin Bell is here from our Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning. Is there like a Bell family, like a, Christmas album that comes out at this time of year?

E Erin Bell 01:30

It's amazing. No, you know what we watched a lot of, we're more of like the pop culture Christmas folks. So if we've seen -

D Dave Chow 01:36

Like Rankin-Bass?

E Erin Bell 01:36

Yeah, we did little and we also did a little. I jokingly say Will Pharrell, I know his name is Will Ferrell.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 01:41

Sure.

E Erin Bell 01:41

And then we watched Deadpool - Because that's kind of a Christmas for me and -

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 01:45

Totally

E Erin Bell 01:45

And then (laughs) it's really bad. I'm like "Wait. How old are your kids, Erin?" And then we watched the Guardians Of The Galaxy. So. Yeah,

B Beth Oljar 01:55

There's some great 70's music in that movie

there's some great 70's music in that movie

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 01:55
It's pretty cute.

E Erin Bell 01:56
Yeah, I can dig that. And, uh, a small piece of Bell trivia - Oh, yeah, that was awesome, too. My mom was a DJ in the 80s and 90s and she had her own little business and so - you know, some of the some of the retro albums I can dig.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 02:11
That's cool.

E Erin Bell 02:12
I've got my vinyls.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 02:13
Hey, there are a lot of young people out there that collect vinyl now. They actually know more about it than the last generation.

B Beth Oljar 02:18
Collect it.

E Erin Bell 02:19
Yeah

M Mara Livezey 02:19
Super hipster.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 02:20
Yes. And the hipster himself. Dan Maggio is here, from the FIRST organization.

B Beth Oljar 02:27
Mr. Hip

D Dan Maggio 02:28
And actually, I got - because I'm sure you've noticed - my hair cut today at the Goodfellows on Woodward.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 02:33
and they were playing albums in there. They had the record player going. fOh my god, I'm looking at it like - "What is that?" But they had some like 70s albums on. It was great. It's a great little place. Oh yeah Very cool. I've never been there before. So maybe you'll inspire me to check it out. Well, my old place closed. you know; and I was kind of like lost wandering the streets looking for a new place and -

D Dave Chow 02:55
Well, go in to Barbershop as opposed to the streets. (The professors laugh)

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 02:59
Yeah. Those back alley haircuts - That's not for Dan.

B Beth Oljar 03:03
Well, the best thing about albums now is the cover art. So you can frame them. I mean, you can get frames and they fit perfectly - and I just keep the album right in there. It's like, I'm not probably going to play it anymore since I have the CD. But

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 03:17
Yeah, I regret giving away my first-run copy of Peter Gabriel's "SO".

M Mara Livezey 03:21
Oh

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 03:22

— It was a long time ago.

B Beth Oljar 03:23

That's a good one.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 03:24

A long long time ago

D Dave Chow 03:25

When you could read liner notes.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 03:26

Jim Tubbs is here.

J James Tubbs 03:28

Hey, hey. From being an adjunct. Hello.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 03:31

Is that a good department?

J James Tubbs 03:32

Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah. The adjunct department is really nice.


M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 03:35


The adjunct department.


B Beth Oljar 03:36


And I bet you still have vinyl too.


J James Tubbs 03:39


 James Tubbs 03:39
Oh, I do. And I kept the turntable so that I could play the vinyl.

 Matt Mio, Ph.D. 03:43
That's awesome. That is awesome. I wonder what would happen if I pulled out a vinyl record and put it in front of my 10 year old. I wonder what he would say.


 Dave Chow 03:51
No, no. Do you remember when Kendra was here, and Jason showed her the 45 RPM adapter? She didn't know what it was.


 Beth Oljar 03:51
"What's that dad?"


 Matt Mio, Ph.D. 03:58
Oh, I do remember that.

 Dave Chow 03:59
So -Yeah, that was -

 Matt Mio, Ph.D. 04:00
Well, Kendra's not a spring chicken. I mean, she's not -

 James Tubbs 04:03
(laughs)

 Beth Oljar 04:04
Okay, we're not gonna repeat that.

 Matt Mio, Ph.D. 04:06
I mean it in the best possible way.

D Dave Chow 04:06
Oh, boy! Oh, boy.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 04:11
She's in her 40s. There, I said it.

J James Tubbs 04:13
She's wise.

B Beth Oljar 04:14
She's a spring chicken.

D Dave Chow 04:15
Yes.

D Dan Maggio 04:16
Thank God she's not in her 50's.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 04:18
Yes. Because that would be horrible.

B Beth Oljar 04:20
Yeah, because then you're an old hen. Take it from me.

M Mara Livezey 04:25
You're not even alive anymore at that point.

D Dave Chow 04:27
Ouch!

J James Tubbs 04:27
You haven't even gotten to my decade yet

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 04:31
Oh, my word.

D Dave Chow 04:33
Oh, well - As Kendra sues us for everything we have.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 04:36
Yes. That's right. She's in her office now. Like, I'm half expecting her to walk through the door.


D Dave Chow 04:39
Yeah. She's calling Geoffrey Fieger right about now.

J James Tubbs 04:40
(Laughs) Yeah. Taking notes on all of us. You, you and you - I want names.

B Beth Oljar 04:44
No, she'd walk in and say "Why aren't you using mathematics to guess my age?" Right? "Why don't you just figure it out?"

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 04:49
Yeah. No, seriously.

D Dave Chow 04:51
No. We would just do what Kendra would do. Somebody shoot high, somebody shoot low and we'd nailed it.



M

Matt Mio, Ph.D. 04:55

Yeah, exactly. So that's Dave Chow from the Department of Being With Us

D

Dave Chow 05:02

Pleasure to be here. Just don't mention me in the lawsuit, Kendra, please. Yeah, exactly. I just I find it fascinating to think about what kind of older technology a kid would recognize or not. So at the Mio family, for the holiday, we have this wonderful game called MINE THE GAP. And you have to have a team with a Boomer and X-er a Millennial and a Zoomer to be able to answer all the questions about all four of those generations. But the way the categories are broken down, this is the music category. So it's going to be an icon for that generation. Right? So what's interesting is, Emmett's playing with us, and by the way, did pretty good considering he's 10 years old,. But he recognized that it was a cassette tape. I'm like, "When have you ever seen a cassette tape?" And he's like "Read the question next to the tape?" And I'm like, "How did you know that's called a tape?" Like I mean, come on. You've never even seen one.

J

James Tubbs 05:51

Oh, I have a collection of them he can look through.

B

Beth Oljar 05:53

Exactly.

D

Dave Chow 05:54

Hey, come on. That was one of the best ways to impress a girl was to make a mixtape. I made quite a few.

M

Matt Mio, Ph.D. 06:00

I did too back in the day.

B

Beth Oljar 06:01

Yep. Let's see how many mixtapes did Mara Livezey from Chemistry and Biochemistry put together?

D

Dave Chow 06:07

Oh, come on.

M Mara Livezey 06:08
We burned CDs. Thank you very much. (laughs)

B Beth Oljar 06:12
I made mix CDs.

M Mara Livezey 06:13
Yeah

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 06:14
Yes. Actually, the music symbol for millennials is a CD. And for Zoomers, it's just a digital symbol. I

M Mara Livezey 06:21
t's like -

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 06:22
There is no media.

M Mara Livezey 06:23
There is none.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 06:23
Yeah.

M Mara Livezey 06:24
I remember getting my first CD player/MP3 player. And I was like, "Whoa, what is an mp3?" And now, who even cares? Just stream your music.

B Beth Oljar 06:35
I remember getting my first CD player/MP3 player. And I was like, "Whoa, what is an mp3?" And now, who even cares? Just stream your music.

I have never downloaded music from the internet ever.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 06:38
Interesting.

M Mara Livezey 06:39
Ah. You're not familiar with Limewire than, I bet.

D Dave Chow 06:42
Or if you want, you know, like, I remember when I first moved to Berkley, you could go to the Berkley Library. They've got amazing pop music,

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 06:48
Folks, This is a program where you can send us questions regarding anything. Yeah, some MP3 trivia would actually be kind of cool. If you stump the panel, you win one of our prizes. You can send us the questions in a number of ways. Email us at ATP@UDMercy.edu. Find us on Facebook and Instagram, or listen on your favorite smart speaker by asking it to play Ask The Professor at University of Detroit Mercy. We're still embroiled in the holiday season here. "Dear professors: Even as our family is preparing for Thanksgiving, we've taken a few moments of our time to come up with contributions to your annual holiday shows. Sadly, it's only a paltry 10 questions as opposed to our 20-plus. We're still busy coming up at the next batch of Imponderables". So I think you know that this is - "Enjoy the holidays. As always, warmest greetings from Valencia, California, Frank Burroughs". What is the correlation with a small German town of Lauscha and Christmas? L. A. U. S. C. H A.

D Dave Chow 07:47
Birthplace of St. Nicholas?

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 07:49
No.

J James Tubbs 07:49
Is that where Silent Night was written?

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 07:51

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 07:51
No, that's a good guess, I would say.

M Mara Livezey 07:53
Where the first Christmas tree was ever decorated.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 07:55
Getting closer.

B Beth Oljar 07:56
Where "O Tannenbaum" was written?

D Dave Chow 07:56
Oh!

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 07:56
You're getting closer. Mmm. 16th century it says

J James Tubbs 08:02
Where Martin Luther did something?

D Dave Chow 08:04
I beg your pardon. (The professors laugh)

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 08:05
At least incidentally. That's true. Because, you know, the tradition says that after Luther tacked is 95 Theses that the stars shone through the trees in the forest.

J James Tubbs 08:17
He was walking in the woods and he got the idea of putting candles on the branches.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 08:21
Yeah, that's exactly right. Now ,that's not what it says here.

D Dave Chow 08:23
Oh.

E Erin Bell 08:24
(laughs)

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 08:24
That's close as we can be, as far as I'm concerned. That was the place where the modern day blown glass ornament for a tree was first made.

P Professors 08:30
Oh! Ooh!

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 08:32
That's - I mean, you got to have the tree decorated.

D Dave Chow 08:34
Darn those glassblowers

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 08:35
Exactly.

B Beth Oljar 08:36
So, "Stop selling indulgences to pay for St. Peter's Basilica and put candles on your tree". That's what he -

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 08:44

Seriously.

J James Tubbs 08:46
"And give your money to me."

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 08:47
Yes

B Beth Oljar 08:47
That's right.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 08:48
Yes. This is a good piece of trivia - for one of my top five movies of all time.

D Dave Chow 08:54
Uh-oh

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 08:54
For the movie Home Alone, they earned two Oscar nominations. What were they for?

D Dan Maggio 08:59
Uh, music?

B Beth Oljar 08:59
I've actually never seen that movie.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 09:01
They were both for music! But what were they specifically?

D Dave Chow 09:05

Who did the soundtrack?

D

Dan Maggio 09:06

Uh, best soundtrack? (Laughs)

M

Matt Mio, Ph.D. 09:09

Well, we need to get a little more specific. One of them was for best score.

M

Mara Livezey 09:14

Okay.

M

Matt Mio, Ph.D. 09:15

And the other one was for -

D

Dan Maggio 09:16

Best original song?

M

Matt Mio, Ph.D. 09:17

The best song. Yeah.

D

Dave Chow 09:19

Was it like Danny Elfman?

M

Matt Mio, Ph.D. 09:20

No, absolutely not. It's your old friend Johnny Williams,.

E

Erin Bell 09:24

Johnny Williams? (laughs)

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 09:26

One of the best original scores that immediately invokes what the movie is about. And Candles In The Window is like an overnight brand new Christmas carol. It's like one of the most beautiful songs ever.

B Beth Oljar 09:38

I have never seen HOME ALONE.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 09:39

Oh my word!

D Dave Chow 09:40

Beth!

B Beth Oljar 09:42

I know.

M Mara Livezey 09:43

Do it tonight.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 09:45

Beth, I know enough about you to know that you will at least chortle 10 times during that movie. When you see Joe Pesci get punished -

B Beth Oljar 09:53

Now, I'll have to watch it just so I can keep track of the number of times I chortle.

D Dave Chow 09:57

And Daniel Stern - You'll lose it.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 10:00

Oh, it's beautiful. It's beautiful. In what year... uh, we get this one every year, but it's good to

Oh, it's beautiful. It's beautiful. In what year - uh, we get this one every year, but it's good to remind ourselves - In what year the federal government of the United States declared that Christmas was going to be a federal holiday - because it is.

D Dave Chow 10:13
This is where we need our spring chicken Kendra to come in

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 10:16
Yes

D Dan Maggio 10:17
1922

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 10:18
No, it was just after the Civil War. That's the best clue I can give- 1870. Yes. We got that taken off.

J James Tubbs 10:22
1870

B Beth Oljar 10:28
Is that supposed to make everybody feel better about Reconstruction?

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 10:31
Uh, I - something.

E Erin Bell 10:33
Happy holidays. Have some cookies.

B Beth Oljar 10:35
(Laughs) That's right.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 10:36
Jimmy Stewart's portrayal of George Bailey in It's A Wonderful Life was nominated for an Oscar but didn't win. Which actor beat him out in 1946?

B Beth Oljar 10:46
Humphrey Bogart

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 10:46
No, I feel like I can tell you the movie. It's from The Best Years Of Our Lives.

J James Tubbs 10:52
Oh.

B Beth Oljar 10:53
It's not Burt Lancaster, is it?

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 10:55
The initials are F.M. Fredric March. Very well done. Christmas cacti , it's a beautiful plant, are native to what country on planet Earth?

B Beth Oljar 10:57
Fredric March.

J James Tubbs 11:06
Mexico?

D Dan Maggio 11:06
Australia?

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 11:07



No, neither of those.



Dan Maggio 11:09

Well, wherever they're from, I can't get mine to grow.



Beth Oljar 11:12

Can we get a continent?



Matt Mio, Ph.D. 11:12

South America.



Dave Chow 11:14

Brazil



Matt Mio, Ph.D. 11:15

It's Brazil is what it says. That's pretty cool



Dan Maggio 11:21

So, while we're talking about it, can somebody tell me what's the trick to get them to bloom?



Matt Mio, Ph.D. 11:25

You have to talk to my mom.



Dan Maggio 11:26

Not that I can't Google it. But -



Matt Mio, Ph.D. 11:28

She sort of like gets them going all year. They are gorgeous!



Dan Maggio 11:30

D Dan Maggio 11:32
I've seen people with hundreds of flowers. I'm like, mine is stubborn.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 11:36
I know. You got to give it a present. You've got to get it involved-

D Dan Maggio 11:39
I talk to it.. I am nice to it.

E Erin Bell 11:42
I have one I inherited from my grandma, it's about 48 years old.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 11:46
Seriously?

E Erin Bell 11:47
It's beautiful. I don't do much. You know what I do? I go around picking up all the cups that my kids have left behind. And that's how I water my plants.

D Dave Chow 11:56
Wait a minute. So your plant is like a trash can?

E Erin Bell 11:59
(Laughs) Yeah, pretty much.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 12:00
Professors - Who, according to popular tradition, we're talking about the year 1223.

J James Tubbs 12:06
Oh, yeah. Like it was yesterday,

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 12:08
According to popular tradition made nativity scenes a thing? Who was it?

B Beth Oljar 12:13
Thomas Aquinas?

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 12:14
It's a good guess.

B Beth Oljar 12:15
But wrong

E Erin Bell 12:16
A saint.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 12:17
It was a saint.

B Beth Oljar 12:17
Thomas Aquinas was a saint.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 12:18
He was a saint too. Yeah. f

D Dave Chow 12:22
I'm thinking like -

J James Tubbs 12:23
Peter Abelard

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 12:24
No.

B Beth Oljar 12:25
So, It's not a philosopher

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 12:28
Well, um, depending on - I mean, he didn't do a lot of writings, but he was pretty philosophical with his relationship to nature Saint Francis? Saint Francis. Yeah. And if you would like an eye-opening trip into the rabbit hole on the internet, then you will go and check out a lot of cultural blocks, as well as individual countries across the world have very specific characters that appear in their nativity scenes. And some of them, I'm just going to let you know, are terrifying. Some of them are actually quite vulgar in what would be Western society. There's one country where you have to put a red dragon as part of what's going on because it represents Revelation and what's coming in the future.

B Beth Oljar 13:13
It could just be Wales, but -

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 13:14
Yep, exactly. It's weird stuff. It's weird stuff. Uh, sadly, what is the highest grossing Christmas movie of all time? This movie was released in 2018.

M Mara Livezey 13:23
2018?

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 13:27
Yeah,

B Beth Oljar 13:30
Then I have no idea.



M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 13:31
It wasn't even that good. Just -

D Dave Chow 13:34
Polar Express.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 13:35
No.

E Erin Bell 13:35
That was a pretty good one.

B Beth Oljar 13:36
Yeah, that's a good one That's older though.

D Dave Chow 13:38
Yeah, just in 2018 that it was released.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 13:42
Yeah. When you hear it, you're gonna be like, "Oh, dear God."

J James Tubbs 13:43
That was just before COVID

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 13:45
Yeah, just before COVID. It was an animated feature that starred Benedict Cumberbatch.

M Mara Livezey 13:54
(Laughs) What?

- B** Beth Oljar 13:56
Was it a remake of Grinch"
- M** Matt Mio, Ph.D. 13:57
It was e remake of The Grinch. \$512 million worldwide.
- D** Dan Maggio 14:01
That's not exactly fair, because ticket prices are so much more expensive, that of course the more likely -
- J** James Tubbs 14:08
Yeah, I think they ought to account by the number of tickets sold.
- B** Beth Oljar 14:11
By just doing the number of tickets?
- D** Dan Maggio 14:16
Without looking at gross sales.
- M** Matt Mio, Ph.D. 14:18
I will rewrite the question. What is the highest grossing Christmas movie of all time - by the only metric that matters, number of dollars.
- D** Dan Maggio 14:28
(laughs)
- M** Matt Mio, Ph.D. 14:29
How about this one,
- B** Beth Oljar 14:30
So he was the voice of the Grinch the Grinch?

So he was the voice of the Grinch, the Grinch.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 14:31

He was the voice of the Grinch.

B Beth Oljar 14:32

Well, that could be worth seeing.

J James Tubbs 14:34

Yeah, he'd be a pretty good Grinch.

D Dan Maggio 14:36

Because if you took - You see, I'm still on this. If you took Home Alone for example, and you were to release it this year at these ticket prices. You'd probably thoroughly outpace that number

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 14:48

totally. Teddy Eccles supplied the voice to this famous Christmas animated character -

J James Tubbs 14:54

Rudolph?

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 14:55

Who did he portray?

D Dave Chow 14:56

Oh, um Little Drummer Boy,

B Beth Oljar 14:56

It wasn't Rudolph.

- M** Matt Mio, Ph.D. 14:58
The Little Drummer Boy. Yeah. that's right.
- D** Dave Chow 15:00
The little scowling lad.
- M** Matt Mio, Ph.D. 15:02
That's right.
- D** Dave Chow 15:03
Angry child that he was.
- M** Matt Mio, Ph.D. 15:05
Let's see. Who supplied the voice to Leon the Snowman in the Christmas movie Elf? A Will Ferrell movie
- E** Erin Bell 15:12
Yes. A Will Ferrell movie.
- M** Matt Mio, Ph.D. 15:14
Yes. Leon the snowman.
- E** Erin Bell 15:17
Isn't it one of the folks from the - like - classics?
- B** Beth Oljar 15:22
I haven't seen Elf either.
- E** Erin Bell 15:23
They look like - They look the same.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 15:25
Yeah,

E Erin Bell 15:26
I have no idea.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 15:27
It says it's Leon Redbone.

E Erin Bell 15:29
Oh, of course. Yeah, good questions. Family Burroughs. Thanks again. For those. That's totally cool.

P Production Element 15:39
(Ask The Professor FLASHBACK: Christmas 1998)

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 16:18
We'll move on to another set here.

D Dave Chow 16:32
Excellent.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 16:33
As we sort of hit the halfway point. "Dear professors: It's that time of the season that I know if I want my questions read on the air, it had better be holiday themes. So here's my annual contribution. This year I've decided to put the emphasis on the jolly one himself, Santa Claus. 12 questions for your show. May you and the ATP crew have a wonderful holiday season ahead. Sincerely our good friend Amber Hubley.

J James Tubbs 16:55
Well, Happy Holidays to you too.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 16:58
Yes. Who played Santa in the 1983 movie Trading Places?

D Dave Chow 17:04
Oh

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 17:04
Famous Saturday Night Live performer. **Dan Ackroyd**. Absolutely, it was Dan Ackroyd. Yep. Which Santa Claus movie netted it's Santa Claus an Academy Award for Supporting Actor?

D Dan Maggio 17:06
Dan Ackroyd.

J James Tubbs 17:07
Miracle On 34th Street.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 17:18
The Orig.. Yes. Edmund Gwenn. Yep. In the Oscar winner role. On the 2001 TV special Call Me Claus, who played Santa?

D Dave Chow 17:30
Huh?

D Dan Maggio 17:30
Huh?

E Erin Bell 17:33
(Laughs)



M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 17:33
I sort of don't know how to help here.

D Dave Chow 17:34
We all have this Herschel Walker at a debate look on us right about now.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 17:40
Gosh, I don't even know how to begin. So the initials are W G. And I'm looking in a very, very decided Star Trek The Next Generation direction.

D Dan Maggio 17:50
W what?

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 17:52
WG

D Dan Maggio 17:53
Oh

D Dave Chow 17:54
Walter. William. Wally.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 17:59
This is an interesting experiment in bias. So it was Whoopi Goldberg.

E Erin Bell 18:04
Oh! Whoopi Goldberg!

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 18:09
She played Lucy Collins, who was - in the show - about to become the next Santa Claus. So, yeah.

D Dave Chow 18:14
Oh, okay.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 18:15
This is also a real interesting kick in the teeth. You know, we had the Hocus Pocus sequel come out right before Halloween this year. And my wife's obsessed also with the original, which was tenderly dropped on the world by the Disney Corporation in June, if you remember correctly. What month in 1947 was the world debut of the original Miracle on 34th Street? It wasn't December.

D Dave Chow 18:39
Oh, June, July.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 18:40
No.

J James Tubbs 18:41
March

B Beth Oljar 18:42
April,

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 18:43
It says here it was May 2 - because that's a good time to release a movie about Christmas. That's just so odd.

E Erin Bell 18:43
May

M Mara Livezey 18:52
I'm always thinking about Christmas. Thank you very much.

D Dave Chow 18:54
In July I'm doing Christmas ads.

D Dan Maggio 18:56
I'm not anti Christmas, that's for sure.

B Beth Oljar 18:58
No, you're not. I know this. The only person who likes Christmas ornaments as much as I do,

D Dan Maggio 19:04
I do.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 19:07
According to people who keep this data because it's important - question mark, Do boys or girls tend to have longer lists for Santa?

D Dan Maggio 19:16
Boys


M Mara Livezey 19:16
Boys


M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 19:17
It says here, It's girls.


B Beth Oljar 19:20
Girls

M Mara Livezey 19:20


 Mara Livezey 19:20
Yeah,


 Beth Oljar 19:21
Just - you know - the number of Barbies


 Mara Livezey 19:22
We know what we want. What can I say?


 Matt Mio, Ph.D. 19:25
The number of accessories


 Dave Chow 19:26
I just want real estate. It's easier. One size fits all.

 Matt Mio, Ph.D. 19:29
You know what I want? 10s and 20s

 James Tubbs 19:32
and 50s now. And Bitcoin.

 Matt Mio, Ph.D. 19:34
Oh, of course.

 Beth Oljar 19:34
If it's easier.

 Matt Mio, Ph.D. 19:38
I love it.



B Beth Oljar 19:39
"I just want my fair share"

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 19:41
What US state renamed one of its town Santa Claus?

J James Tubbs 19:45
North Dakota?

D Dave Chow 19:46
Yeah, wasn't it just like Arizona or something like that?

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 19:48
It was a really big deal because they were getting letters in the US Post. This would have been post World War II, and the city decided to put itself on the map by changing its name. I don't remember what its original name was. But it was like Exberg or something like that.

J James Tubbs 20:00
Minnesota?

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 20:01
No, it's a Midwestern state. The Hoosier State,

B Beth Oljar 20:05
Indiana,

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 20:06
Indiana. Yeah. There was a city in Georgia with the name Santa Claus since then and an uninhabited town in Arizona - because that's important.

J James Tubbs 20:14
And how would you get Hell?

And hey, we've got Hell

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 20:16
Yeah,

B Beth Oljar 20:16
Yeah. That's right, we've got Hell.

J James Tubbs 20:18
That freezes over regularly.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 20:20
Absolutely. Absolutely. In the 1938 comic radio play, "The Plot to Overthrow Christmas" -

D Dave Chow 20:28
What?

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 20:28
where Santa Claus foils a Mephistopheles plot; how does Santa Claus beat the assassin sent to kill him?

B Beth Oljar 20:37
The reindeer crush him.

D Dan Maggio 20:38
With presents?

B Beth Oljar 20:40
That'd be cool.



M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 20:41
I don't even know how to begin this

M Mara Livezey 20:44
Their stomach bursts from eating too many cookies.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 20:48
That's for at least partial denial Elves with knives. All of the things you've given are on the level of absurdity of the sentence that I'm about to read.

J James Tubbs 20:57
He buries them in gifts.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 20:59
He gives the Roman Emperor Nero, recruited by Mephistopheles to be that assassin, a Stradivarius violin, therefore fulfilling in his Christmas fantasy.

D Dave Chow 21:10
So, Nero was hired Hitman?

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 21:12
Nero was a hired Hitman to kill Santa.

J James Tubbs 21:14
Playing a Stratovarius

B Beth Oljar 21:16
Yeah, how could he have fantasized about a Stradivarius? I don't know. I just - Don't worry about it.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 21:21
Is the British tradition? Maybe you've heard this, maybe you have not

in the British tradition? Maybe you've heard this, maybe you have not.

- D** Dave Chow 21:25
Get your British on.
- M** Matt Mio, Ph.D. 21:26
After you write a letter to Father Christmas, you do not drop it into the mail. What do you do with it?
- J** James Tubbs 21:32
You stick it in the chimney?
- M** Matt Mio, Ph.D. 21:34
That's not what it says here
- D** Dan Maggio 21:35
That's what I was gonna say, burn it in the fireplace.
- M** Mara Livezey 21:38
Give it to a crow.
- B** Beth Oljar 21:39
Put it under your pillow?
- M** Matt Mio, Ph.D. 21:40
Oh! I'm so sorry. It's the bifocals. No. Yes, "They burn some of them but not all of them", it says, "hoping that a magical wind will blow the ashes to the North Pole" I'm sorry. I read the word as "bury" from the distance where I am and I was like "That's also kind of weird". Yeah, you bury the letter.
- D** Dave Chow 21:56
You bury it? Wait for decomposition.

B Beth Oljar 21:58
The gophers from Caddyshack.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 21:58
And then the moles - the magical moles - take them all the way to the North Pole. My apologies. Let's see, In the 1994 movie The Santa Clause. What's the name of the head elf?

M Mara Livezey 22:12
Oh, I should know this.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 22:13
You should know this. This is your generation.

M Mara Livezey 22:15
This is a classic. It's like something really mundane.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 22:19
Is this a Tim Allen movie. It's a Tim Allen movie. This actor is back playing this role in the new streaming fourth sequel..

M Mara Livezey 22:26
What does it start with?

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 22:27
Starts with the letter B

E Erin Bell 22:29
Brickle

—

B Beth Oljar 22:29
Bob

J James Tubbs 22:30
Belsnickel. (The professors laugh)

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 22:34
Hey, oh my gosh, that's so close.

M Mara Livezey 22:36
I know. It's really on the tip of my tongue. It's like Ber - something.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 22:40
It's Bernard

M Mara Livezey 22:41
Bernard. Classic.

J James Tubbs 22:44
Sounds like a great dane.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 22:45
He's a character actor with a real like straight delivery, you know, so that he can handle the fantasy element of that movie. It's a good movie. It's just a weird movie. That's all, you know. What beverage company was the first to use Santa Claus in their marketing?

J James Tubbs 22:59
Coke.

M Mara Livezey 22:59
Coca Cola

D Dave Chow 23:00
No, no, no, Was it A & W or RC or one of those

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 23:05
FYI, long before Coca Cola started using Santa in 1931, this company in 1915 was using him to advertise.

D Dan Maggio 23:14
a beverage?

D Dave Chow 23:14
Like - Dr. Pepper?

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 23:16
You know it's not going to be one that's going to roll off the tip of your tongue. It says White Rock Beverages.

J James Tubbs 23:21
I never heard of it.

D Dave Chow 23:23
I remember Haddon Sundblom was the one who created the character of Santa Claus for Coca Cola.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 23:28
In what year did NORAD start tracking Santa Clause as he flies across the United States?

J James Tubbs 23:34
1963? It was before. It was before. 58

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 23:38
I mean close. It says here 1955. It's gonna be Boomer generation, right?

B Beth Oljar 23:43
It's good to know that that's what NORAD is doing.

J James Tubbs 23:47
It's gonna be cold war generation.

B Beth Oljar 23:50
Exactly

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 23:51
Like some sort of, uh, what am I thinking, like horror movie or like modern, you know, espionage thriller. Like - "We plan our attack for the night they're distracted by telling kids about Santa". You know what I mean? Like - that's the way we'll evade NORAD's radar. One more here, in the poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas" What was Santa wearing? He was dressed

B Beth Oljar 24:15
All in red.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 24:16
Ahh - He was dressed all in -

D Dave Chow 24:18
Artesian lace. Oh!

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 24:20
No. It actually doesn't say a color, Beth. You're thinking like -

D Dave Chow 24:26
What, like a material?

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 24:28
It says fur. "Dressed all in fur from his head do his foot".

B Beth Oljar 24:32
Yeah

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 24:33
"And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot"

D Dave Chow 24:35
It keeps him warm, so -

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 24:37
Yeah, exactly. Pretty well done. professors. I gotta say that was pretty awesome.

D Dave Chow 24:41
We survived the holiday.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 24:42
Yeah, absolutely. So it's time for you know, we got a couple of minutes here left at the end of this episode. So we might as well do a little Christmas with regard to your Imponderable. Right. So what is your favorite Christmas movie to watch at this time of year? You can't let the season go by without seeing _____

D Dave Chow 24:58
Come on, Beth. It's DIEHARD. I no it. No?

B Beth Oljar 25:03

It's either CHRISTMAS STORY or JOYEUX NOEL

J James Tubbs 25:08
That's a beautiful one. Yeah.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 25:12
And you said that's a war epic?

B Beth Oljar 25:14
Yeah, it's about the soldiers in World War I

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 25:16
That's right.

J James Tubbs 25:16
It's about the Christmas truce in December of 1914. They started singing back and forth to one another

B Beth Oljar 25:22
You get the Germans and the French and the British and so lots of subtitles and - but Diane Kruger is in it. She plays an opera singer.

J James Tubbs 25:32
Yeah, they actually came out and played football with one another on Christmas Day.

B Beth Oljar 25:36
And then of course, got upbraided by their respective governments for playing with the enemy.

J James Tubbs 25:41
"Back to war!"

M Mara Livezey 25:44
Back to murder.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 25:46
Very sad. Where else are we going with this question? A movie you can't let the season go by without seeing. The CHRISTMAS STORY house was for sale again this year.

J James Tubbs 25:52
Well, there's two. "It's a Wonderful Life" and "Christmas Story". Those are the two. "You'll shoot your eye out, kid".

D Dave Chow 26:02
I know. But isn't that one of those moves you can't even avoid it if you want to?

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 26:06
Oh, yeah, that's true.

D Dave Chow 26:07
It's on 24/7

D Dan Maggio 26:08
There's like a 1000 channels. It should be on

M Mara Livezey 26:10
100% - HOME ALONE.

P Professors 26:12
Oh, yeah

M Mara Livezey 26:16

I gotta watch it. Otherwise, it's not really Christmas.

J James Tubbs 26:18

Of course, you know, that's Jewish Christmas, going to a Chinese restaurant. Because in the early 20th century, the only thing that was the only thing that was open.

D Dave Chow 26:26

Trust me. I can not tell you how many Christmas days I worked.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 26:29

Of course,

D Dave Chow 26:29

You know, the amount of money that would flow into a Chinese restaurant - from the Jewish population in town was incredible. It was just always packed.

E Erin Bell 26:37

So do you like Christmas after that? Or do you like associated with - like, working all day.

D Dave Chow 26:40

No, it was a couple years I worked with my mom. So you know, she would work and I'd be in the kitchen. And you know, it was just fun. You know, we'd get how at like 2:30 in the morning. You know? It's okay. It's all good. Friends of mine have been telling me I should write the story about how we celebrate Chinese Canadian Christmas here in Detroit. Thanksgiving is the only day that Chinese restaurants close.

E Erin Bell 27:02

Yeah,

D Dave Chow 27:03

But over in Windsor. It's a regular day. So if you want to see like a gathering of the Chinese people, you go over to Windsor on Thanksgiving. And they are all there en masse. So. But anyway, as far as Christmas movies - Rankin Bass, I guess the all those little animated

cartoons. Dan, what about you? Well, Christmas Story is number one, but Peanuts.

P Professors 27:23
Yeah.

D Dan Maggio 27:26
By the way, I heard - traveling to Pennsylvania over Thanksgiving -Terry Gross did an old episode of - interview with Charles Schultz. He was sort of a curmudgeonee kind of guy. He wasn't particularly happy with where they may have wanted to go with his comic and -

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 27:46
Oh, it's true.

D Dan Maggio 27:47
So it was a surprising interview. I'd never heard him talk before. And so maybe I should just pay attention to his comics (laughs).

D Dave Chow 27:54
Yes. Minnesota


D Dan Maggio 27:55
Yeah, He seemed like a very humble, sort of Midwestern kind of guy.


M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 27:55
Professors. I'm so sorry. We've had a great holiday season and the time has come for me to say I'll see you in 2023. Mara.


M Mara Livezey 28:08
See ya in the New Year


M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 28:09
Dave

Bye


 Dave Chow 28:10
See ya


 Matt Mio, Ph.D. 28:10
Jim


 James Tubbs 28:11
Later


 Matt Mio, Ph.D. 28:12
Dan


 Dan Maggio 28:12
Merry Christmas

 Matt Mio, Ph.D. 28:13
Erin

 Erin Bell 28:14
Good bye

 Matt Mio, Ph.D. 28:14
and Beth

 Beth Oljar 28:15
Bye

 Matt Mio, Ph.D. 28:15

And now these words.



Michael Jayson 28:17

You can email Ask The Professor at ATP@UDMercy.edu, or visit the Ask the Professor Facebook page



Matt Mio, Ph.D. 28:27

Ask The Professor is produced and directed by Michael Jayson and Brian Maisonville. And our executive producer is Professor Jason Roche. Until next week. I'm your host, Matt Mio.