

EPISODE 21: "AN URBAN GRAFFITI MURAL...A BARBERSHOP GROUP...A DATE FARM"

Bob: Boy, nothing beats a trip to the community center...board games, ping pong, pool, foosball, all for free!

John: Yeah, this brings me back to my childhood. After school, the community center was always our first choice to hang out.

Melody: I liked the community centers in Wisconsin better. They had frozen custard machines!

Bob: Frozen custard machines, for free? I think we should move there.

Melody: Trust me, it's not worth the winter weather.

Bob: The winter weather there can't be any worse than here.

Melody: Uh, yeah it can. What do you consider cold?

Bob: Oh, maybe when it gets down to like 40.

Melody: Well, in January, the high there's like 30 degrees.

(Meanwhile)

Dan: This building is pretty old. I think the design is quite nice.

Marcy: (mockingly) The design is quite nice. Bruh, get a life.

Dan: So your definition of a life is listening to "We Will Rock You" on repeat for 15 hours a day? Roasted.

Gary: Get your head back in the game, Marce!

(Gary and Tomas, and Penny and Marcy are playing 2v2 ping-pong)

Penny: Marcy, you keep hitting the ball out of bounds. Play more smooth.

Marcy: Define "smooth."

Tomas: Bro I learned that word like a year ago.

Marcy: I mean I know the word, but like, in context -

(Marcy hits a ball that hits Gary in a certain area)

Gary: OW!

Marcy: Oops, my bad. (Note: she is being sincere)

Gary: Alright, game over. Let's do something else.

Penny: How about the bulletin board?

Gary: Sure. I don't think a bulletin board has ever hit anyone in the groin.

Penny: Want me to look that up?

Marcy: Impulse control, Penny.

Penny: Says the person who hit a ping-pong ball into-

Marcy: Let's just stop talking about that. Let's see what's up. Spanish lessons...

Tomas: I can give those for free.

Marcy: Guitar lessons...

Gary: I can give those for free.

Marcy: Tutors?

Penny: My job.

Marcy: Oh, hey, what's this? A fair...let's tell the boring tall people!

Gary: Boring tall people! I'm gonna use that.

Marcy: I got it from *you*.

Gary: Huh, I don't remember that.

(They go over to the parents)

Penny: Hey, boring tall people!

Marcy: Shhh.

Gary: (elbows her) Don't say that out loud!

Tomas: (to the camera) These kids are *different*.

Bob: (to the kids) What's up?

Marcy: There's something cool on the bulletin board over there.

(they go over)

Gary: It appears to be a fair of sorts.

Bob: I like fairs.

Caroline: It looks like there's some writing at the top that's blocked by an ad for Gisuppe's plumbing.

Bob: Eh, it probably doesn't matter.

John: It *could* matter.

Tomas: Yeah, what if it says "Senior citizens' fair" or something?

Bob: Let's just cross our hearts and hope for the best.

Caroline: You mean cross our fingers?

Bob: I'm not an English professor.

Melody: When's the fair?

Marcy: This Saturday.

Melody: Alright, I think we can make it.

Caroline: I think we can make it too.

Bob: Yeah, I was going to go to the alcohol store, but I guess I've got room in my schedule.

John: Nice! Then it's a date. Dan, are you going to come with the rest of us?

Dan: For once, yes.

(that Saturday, they meet in the parking lot)

Bob: Hey, it's the Smiths!

John: Good to see you, friend!

(Bob and John pat each other on the backs)

Gary: Hey, Marcy, isn't the Smiths the name of a band?

Marcy: Oh yeah. Not a good band, though. Especially not their frontman, Morrissey. Morrissey sucks.

Zak: Who?

Gary: Hey, you brought Zak!

Penny: Hi, Zak!

Marcy: Oh yeah, I asked my family if we could bring him because I thought he might enjoy this.

Zak: A crowd means more eyes on my cartoons!

Gary: ...Interesting motivation. But cool!

Marcy: He's got some killer material today.

Zak: Yeah, wanna see?

(Gary and Penny look. They burst into laughter)

Penny: That's great, Zak!

Gary: You never let us down!

Tomas: Let me see.

(Tomas sees Zak's cartoon)

Tomas: That's not funny.

Zak: Uh oh, difficult customer. What kind of stuff do you think is funny?

Marcy: Nothing. He's a humorless robot.

Tomas: Hey, it's just my opinion.

(They walk in)

Bob: Hey, this looks like a lot of fun. They've got food, music - hmm, I don't see any rides, but I'm sure they're around here somewhere. But first I'm going to hit the food.

Caroline: How predictable.

Bob: Hey, I didn't have lunch. I was saving room.

Melody: Yeah, so were we, so we'll probably eat first too.

John: Yup. Looks like quite the menu.

Bob: Yeah, they hit all the fair food marks.

Caroline: What are you thinking of getting, Bob?

Bob: Funnel cake.

Caroline: Also pretty predictable.

Gary: I'll come with you, Dad.

John: Funnel cake isn't usually on my menu, but I'll give some leeway and try some myself.

(Bob, Gary and John walk off)

Melody: I'm not into funnel cake.

Caroline: Neither am I.

Penny: (to Marcy, Zak, Tomas and Dan) What are you guys going to get?

Marcy: I'm heavily considering the fried mac and cheese bites.

Zak: Yeah, those look succulent.

Penny: Ew, I'm not coming with. I prefer to call those things "ruined" mac and cheese "abominations."

Tomas: I don't know what that tastes like, but I don't think I want to.

Marcy: Suit yourself. Guess it'll just be the two of us, Zak.

Penny: (Whispers) Don't tell Gary.

Dan: I'm not really hungry. I'm gonna explore. (Walks off)

Melody: Tomas, look, it's churros and tacquitos!

Tomas: Mom, I'm not interested in that at all. I don't like Mexican food, remember? Honduran food and Mexican food are different.

Melody: Oh yeah, sorry for assuming.

Tomas: It's cool, takes a while for people to remember. Anyways, what are you going to get, Mom?

Melody: Well, since they don't have cheese curds here I think the pretzels are my best bet.

Tomas: That sounds alright.

Penny: I'll come too.

Caroline: So will I.

(Back with Bob, Gary and John)

Bob: (chewing) This funnel cake is a little doughy for me.

John: (sees car) What? A restored car? I've got to check that out!

(John rushes off. Some people in strange costumes with dyed hair come up to Gary)

Cosplayer 1: Heyyyy, I see your shirt there!

(Gary's shirt: "SCIENCE IS REAL, BUT I PREFER FANTASY")

Cosplayer 1: You prefer fantasy, eh? What would you say to cosplaying with us?

Gary: Sorry, but I don't think I'm interested in cosplaying with strangers.

Cosplayer 1: Well we're inviting you to join our Cosplay Club!

Cosplayer 2: Older teens and young adults welcome.

Bob: Sorry, buds, my son doesn't want to affiliate with you freaky-haired freaks!

(Bob and Gary walk away)

Gary: Thanks for saving me from those weirdos. But it's not the hair that bothered me. Marcy's thinking of dying hers blue.

Bob: Well tell her not to.

Gary: Why would I do that?

Bob: 'Cause-

Gary: Why do you think those people were being so pushy? And why were they trying to get me to join their club?

Bob: Wait - I think I know! Maybe this funfair is a *club fair* in disguise!

Gary: Oh yeah, that might've been in the words we couldn't read on the flier.

Bob: We've gotta be careful.

Artsy Lady: Hey, would you like to join our Underappreciated Artists Appreciation club? Right now we're having a series, "Off-Key or Prophetic?" This week we're doing Yoko Ono, and next week we're doing Squidward Tentacles!

Bob: No sirree Bob!

(Meanwhile, with Marcy and Zak)

Zak: Mister, would you like to see a cartoon?

Marcy: It's free because it's priceless!

Random Guy: (chuckles) Sure, but I hope the cartoon is better than that joke. (sees the cartoon) Hey, that's pretty good! Do you two have your eyes on any clubs?

Zak: Not really.

Marcy: Yeah, we haven't really been looking for clubs.

Random Guy: I think there's a manga book club over there if you're into manga.

Marcy: Maybe...

Zak: I'm not.

Random Guy: Well, I wish you luck!

(Random Guy walks on)

Zak: What was he talking about?

Marcy: Maybe this is really an activity fair.

Zak: Either way, I'll share on.

(Woman walks by)

Zak: Hello, would you like to see a cartoon?

Marcy: It's complimentary because it's legendary!

Random Woman: Absolutely, I'll take a look! (sees the cartoon) The fourth panel's hilarious, but the art blows me away! Say, I'm from the Lucky Moon cafe. We're inviting artistic teen voices to spray-paint a new mural on the side of the building. Would either of you be interested?

Zak: For sure!

Marcy: ...I'll join.

Random Woman: Great! Here's the info. (Hands them a pamphlet)

Marcy: (after she walks away) It's not exactly my thing, but I'm sure it'll be better with a friend.

(Meanwhile with Penny, Tomas, Melody and Caroline)

Tomas: I think these pretzels are much better than the small ones.

Penny: Who doesn't?

Melody: I think they have too much mustard and too little cheese.

Caroline: That's funny, I think the opposite.

(A woman walks up to them)

RW 2: Enjoying the pretzels?

Melody: Yep.

Penny: Very much.

RW 2: Well, they were made by our local bakery at Sunny Meadow Farms.

Melody: Say, that's not related to the mental hospital, right?

RW 2: Um...no?

Melody: Good. Well, that's cool.

RW 2: Yeah. What's even cooler is that we're currently having a fundraiser. We're harvesting dates, making pastries with them, and donating the proceeds to the blind. We call it the "Blind Date Committee." (laughs) I admit it's not great for a serious subject,



but we're trying to get more volunteers since hardly anyone is helping us. Say, would you like to volunteer?

Penny: Sure, I like volunteering.

Tomas: So do I. Count me in!

Melody: I used to volunteer in a field. I'll do it!

Caroline: I don't have anything else planned, why not?

RW 2: Great! Can you help Monday thru Wednesday from 3 to 7?

Caroline: Um...

Melody: Sure! (whispers to Caroline) Right?

(Caroline shrugs)

RW 2: Great! See you then!

Penny: That's a lot of time, but guess it's for a good cause. Plus, if I ever need service hours for something...

(Back to Gary and Bob)

Club Advertiser 1: Want to join the Falls Church Birdwatching Society?

Bob: No!

Club Advertiser 2: Want to check out the Model Posh Club? Tea and crumpets every Friday!

Bob: No!

(Two barbershop guys come up to them. Begin a musical number, with a rhythm and rhyming dialogue.)

Both guys(harmonizing): Do you like to sing?

Bob: Yeah I do.

Gary: Me too.

Both guys (harmonizing): Do you want to make the ladies swoon?

Bob: I'm married.

Gary: I do!

Both guys (harmonizing): Why don't you come and see our lovely little barbershop workshop?

Bob: Well, usually I don't like attempts to suck me into things, my dears, but I can't resist a harmony, it's music to my ears!

Gary: I shed a tear!

Both guys (harmonizing): Our group is called the Falls Notes! You don't need experience, don't need to be the GOAT!

Bob: You get my vote!

Both guys (harmonizing): Now we just want to ask you one little thing, can you *sing*? (Guy 1 does a low note and Guy 2 does a high note)

Guy 1: (in a normal voice) Sing a few bars for us, son.

Gary: (sings) Well she was just seventeen, you know what I mean-

Guy 1: Great! Now let's hear it from the big guy.

Bob: What?

Guy 2: Big as in "older."

Bob: Oh, alright. Here goes nothing! (sings, very off-key) I was tryin' to forget you, now I'm dyin' to forget you-

Guy 1: (makes a "so-so" gesture)

Guy 2: (whispers) We need more people. (out loud) Alright, you both made the cut! Here's our rehearsal schedule. (hands them papers) Three months from now we'll be playing the Tinner Hill Music Festival!

Bob: Nice! I've been there twice!

Announcer: The fair will be wrapping up in 15 minutes!

Bob: Guess we should regroup.

(When the families are back together)

Bob: Well, Caroline, Gary and I have decided to do a barbershop workshop!

Caroline: Why are you learning about haircuts? You're bald.

Bob: No, like the music!

Caroline: You joined an adult contemporary group?

Bob: What?

Caroline: That's what they play in barbershops.

Bob: Barbershop harmony...you don't know what it is? You're not that much younger than me, gosh!

Caroline: Oh wait, I think my parents listened to that. So you're going to sing harmonies?

Bob: Yeah, fancy ones too.

Marcy: Are you going to practice?

Bob: Why do you ask?

Marcy: Because the first time I came over-

Bob: Oh yeah, *that*. Yeah, my rock career was kind of cringeworthy looking back on it. This music's more...civilized. No room for out-of-control singing here. In fact, if this goes well, maybe I'll try to make a solo album and reinvent myself as a crooner.

Melody: I don't think that'll bring you much success if that's what you're looking for.

Bob: I don't know...I heard it's "in-"

Tomas: In what?

Zak: I think it's in the *Fallout* games.

Marcy: Oh yeah, those games are good!

Gary: Yeah, my favorite one is -

Bob: By "in" I meant apparently it's had a resurgence in popularity, *particularly with girls*.

Penny: What are you talking about?

Marcy: I don't think I've ever heard anyone in my classes talk about barbershop.

Penny: Neither have I.

Bob: You just don't know the right people. Anyway, enough about me. What did you guys do?

Caroline: (gesturing at Melody, Penny and Tomas) The four of us got involved with a date-picking thing.

Bob: Date picking? Niiiiiice! I wish I got in *that*! Gary and Marcy should be your chemistry standard.

Penny: No, Dad, we mean the *fruit*.

Caroline: We're picking dates at a local farm for a bakery.

Bob: Ohhhhhh, nevermind.

Gary: What about you, Marce?

Marcy: Zak and I are gonna join a group of "artistic teen voices" to spray-paint a mural. Even though I've never spray-painted before.

Zak: I hope I'm allowed to spray-paint my cartoon characters.

Bob: Spray-painting? That's for hooligans! Well, Gary did say you were going to dye your hair blue.

Marcy: Well, I'm also considering pink, or orange...

Bob: Aren't you happy with blond?

Marcy: Whoever heard of a blond rockstar?

Gary: Well, Blondie.

Marcy: She's too new wave for my taste.

Melody: Stevie Nicks.

Marcy: ...

Bob: How about you, John?

John: I'm on a collaborative car restoring project. And you, Dan?

Dan: I don't know what you guys were doing, I just hit the high striker, played Whack-A-Mole and did bumper cars.

Tomas: There are rides here?

Dan: Yeah, just in the back.

Janitor: Alright, quit loiterin', we've gotta clean up.

(That Monday, Gary, Penny and Marcy are standing around outside)

Gary: Well, it's time for our first barbershop practice, so I'd better head out.

Marcy: Yeah, I've also got to get to the mural making thing.

Penny: Yeah, and we're going to pick dates now also.

Marcy: Well, that works out.

(At the first barbershop practice)

Leader: Hello, my name is Barry Barber and I'll help you to experience the joys of singing barbershop!

Gary: Is that a stage name?

Leader: Yes. My real name is Cooper Chord.

Gary: Cool.

Leader: So first, to get a point of reference, does anyone already know any barbershop groups?

Participant 1: Um...Frank Sinatra?

Leader: He was a solo singer. Barbershop refers to a harmonizing group.

Participant 2: Imagine Dragons?

Leader: What?

Participant 2: I dunno, they were the first group that came to mind.

Leader: Okay...anyone else?

Participant 3: The Beach Boys? They sang great harmonies.

Leader: That's true! Though they aren't barbershop, they're a great place to start learning harmonies. Anyone got a Beach Boys song they like?

Participant 4: "Kokomo!"

Participant 5: Oh yeah, "Kokomo"'s a good one.

Participant 6: Played ad nauseam when I was a kid.

Leader: Anyone else?

Gary: How about "Wouldn't It Be Nice?"

Leader: Sure! Let's see if we can learn that, before I show you some real barbershop classics. First off, does anyone know how to figure out what key it's in?

Participant 2: You mean like "lowkey" or "highkey"?

Leader: No, I mean like A, B, C, D, E, F, G.

Participant 2: So no "H."

Leader: What?

Participant 2: You can't play a song in the key of "H."

Leader: Correct. (sighs) This is gonna be a long session.

Bob: Wait, Barry! *I've* sang this song loads of times! It's in F major with an intro in A, the tempo is 125, and there are 3-to-4 harmonies throughout the song, but there's layering in the recording.

(Barry's face lights up at Bob)

(Meanwhile, with Marcy and Zak)

Coordinator: I'm glad you all came here today to share your artistic voices with the community! How many of you have done spray-painting before?

(Everyone raises their hands except Zak and Marcy)

Coordinator: Great! If you're interested in more ways to showcase your talent, there's a whole "Graffiti for Good" program in the metro area. And, for the two of you that haven't, I'm sure someone else will be happy to help you learn!

(Kid walks up to Marcy and Zak)

Teddy: Hey, what's up? My name's Teddy.

Marcy: Hi.

Zak: Are you gonna teach us how to spray-paint?

Teddy: Yep. So, basically you just need to spray the paint.

Marcy: That sounds pretty easy.

Teddy: It is!

(As they spray paint the walls)

Teddy: So, what are you going to make?

Zak: I'm doing my cartoon characters.

Marcy: I'll do...I don't know...music notes?

Teddy: Cool! Did you know graffiti is one of the four elements of hip-hop?

Marcy: Interesting, but I'm more of a rock girl.

Teddy: I like rock! Do you know Electric Light Orchestra?

Marcy: Maybe a little. "Mr. Blue Sky," right?

Teddy: Yeah.

Marcy: They're too...formal for me.

Teddy: What do you mean "formal?"

Marcy: I'm not a big fan of strings in my rock music.

Teddy: I respect that.

(Meanwhile, with Caroline, Penny, Melody and Tomas)

Melody: I think I'm getting the hang of this!

Tomas: Yeah, it feels good to help out...but I'll definitely have to change my shoes after this.

Penny: Let's go! I've got a date!

Caroline: What are you talking about? We're supposed to stay until 7.

Penny: No, I mean "let's go" as in an expression of excitement, and "I've got a date," as in I just picked a really ripe looking date.

Caroline: Oh.

(Sped-up montage of them picking dates to bluegrass music. Featured is Caroline pulling out a bug spray that says "For garden use" and spraying it all over. Melody sighs and shakes her head at Caroline's action. Also, Penny pulls hard on a date, and the camera widens and it turns out Tomas is pulling on the same date. They exchange a look, but then it turns out they actually are pulling on two different dates.)

(Back to the barbershop lesson, the group is now singing "Sweet Adeline" perfectly.)

Leader: Bravissimo! (chuckles) No but really, that was a great rendition. Turns out you're really quick learners. (faces Bob) And I want to thank you, Bob. You did just as much teaching as I did. And though I wouldn't say you should quit your day job when it comes to singing -

(Bob sighs)

Leader: I'm also very grateful for your son. (turns to Gary) You're an incredible tenor.

(Gary beams)

Disgruntled Guy With A Nasally Voice: Hey! What about the rest of us? Seems pretty unprofessional to be singling people out in front of the group.

Leader: You're-you're all good too! Now, I think we'll be in tip-top shape by the time Tinner Hill rolls around! That'll be on June 8, so if you're interested in continuing, mark your calendars.

Bob: (thinking) I feel like Caroline will be mad at me about this for some reason...oh wait, that's the family trip! (out loud) Um, Barry, I don't think me and Gary will be able to make it on June 8. We'll be visiting Utah.

Leader: ...

(Montage of all the kids working on the mural to a hip-hop track that also features electric guitar. The mural is now finished, and the kids admire it)

Marcy: Wow, I'm surprised we were able to finish it.



Coordinator: We just managed to bring together a lot of artistic teens with a lot of creative energy.

(Another day, the date bake sale is hosted at the Lucky Moon cafe where people also admire the mural. Gary, Bob, and the two guys that got them to join the workshop provide background music. John pulls up in yet another restored car.)

Dan: If you live in the DC area and have a taste for fine blues and jazz, check out the Tinner Hill music festival, on the second Saturday of June every year!

THE END

