

Podcast: The Musical  
by

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INT. MID-20'S GUY APARTMENT - DAY

*Fanfare and music swells and crescendos as a bunch of bored-looking 20-somethings enter the sparsely decorated room.*

**OPENING THEME SONG**

Refrain

ENSEMBLE:

Comedy podcast

Verse 1 (The Shows).

*The ensemble breaks out into a choreographed dance while keeping their blank expressions from before.*

ENSEMBLE:

Comedy Bang! Bang! Wait... Don't Tell Me  
WTF and Monday Morning

You Made It Weird and Never Not Funny  
Guys We Fucked and Doug Loves Movies

Anna Faris is Unqualified  
By the Book and the Doughboys

Improv4Humans JV Club  
Lizard People Savage Love

Hollywood Handbook and Uhh Yeah Dude  
Walking the Room and SuperEgo

2 Dope Queens and The Bugle  
Who Charted? and Fitzdog Radio

My Dad Wrote a Porno and H3  
Off Book and James Bonding

Nerdist and Judge John Hodgman  
Nightvale and then Freakonomics

Crybabies and Womp It Up  
And Will You Accept This Rose

MBMBAM and Adventure Zone  
My Favorite Murder and Sawbones

SModcast  
Headgum  
Nerdist  
Maxfun

So much bullshit

To which we can listen

*Everything but a single guitar drops out and GRAHAM (20-something dude, probably has a beard) begins singing.*

Chorus 1

GRAHAM:

So many podcasts  
Such a limited audience  
I'll start one too!  
I see no flaw in that logic

*The loud fanfare returns, this time with the "Comedy Podcast" refrain from before on top.*

Verse 2 (The Hosts).

ENSEMBLE:

Ira Glass and Adam Corolla  
Kevin Smith and McElroy Brothers

Chris Hardwick and Scott Aukerman  
Todd Glass and Marc Maron

Pete Holmes and then Joe Rogan  
Jimmy Kimmel and Doug Benson

Ricky Gervais and Jesse Thorn  
Paul F. Tompkins and Jay Mohr

Lauren Lapkus and Matt Besser  
Tom Scharpling and Howard Kremer

Jessica St. Clair Lennon Parham  
Kevin Pollack and then Jon Gabrus

Tig Notaro and Sean Clements  
Hayes Davenport and John Hodgman

Julie Klausner Michael Ian Black  
Chelsea Peretti and Adam Scott

Erin Gibson Brian Safi  
Andrew Ti and Matt Gourley

Jason Mantzoukas Casey Wilson  
Jonah Ray and Dan Harmon

Headgum  
Feral  
MaxFun  
Earwolf

So many people  
To which we can listen

Chorus 2

GRAHAM:  
So many hosts  
With built-in audiences  
I'll start my own show!  
I'll be a famous podcaster

Join a network  
Quit my job  
Do little work  
Cash in on Patreon

ENSEMBLE:  
Make it big  
With this new show  
The first step  
On this well-worn road

GRAHAM:  
I bought a single mic  
Invited my friends  
I'll be laughing to the bank  
As my mid-20s ennui ends!

*The final chorus ends and the backup singers/dancers retreat to their phones on a couch - looking as nonplussed as ever.*

*Graham cozies up to the mic. Next to him are his friend ALEX ("the funny one") and JULIE (a real deal podcaster), both judging his every move.*

GRAHAM

Hi, hello Mr. Listener or Miss  
Podcast Fan ma'am. My name is  
Graham. Welcome to a podcast. So...  
Um - well, OK. What is a podcast? I  
guess that's a place to start.

*Everyone shifts uncomfortably. This is gonna be a long preamble.*

GRAHAM

You know those Brazilian  
restaurants where the guys walk  
around with skewered meats and you  
get them to slice off chunks of  
whatever you want? Podcasts are an  
audio version of that.

(beat)

Does that make sense?

*No one looks up from their phones.*

GRAHAM

Like the meat is the episodes and I'm the guy slicing off pieces of content? Hello? It's meat on-demand!! You motherfuckers.

*Still no response.*

GRAHAM

OK. Pretty devastating response. Pushing forward. The best part of a podcast is the beginning, where the host gets to do whatever he wants. The Preamble. Just a guy and the mic, baby! No safety nets. This is where I can get raw... Just say whatever interesting stuff comes to mind.

(beat)

Uhhhh...

(Another beat)

Shit. The on-demand meat thing was all I had prepared. How does Marc Maron make this look so easy? Should have thought of more to say.

Uhhhhh...

Yeah. Not a great start. OK. C'mon Graham. The Preamble. Just me and my voice. My thoughts. My perspective on life...

Uhhh...

*More voices appear on top of Graham's drawn-out "Uhhh", creating a lush 5-part harmony.*

## **THE PREAMBLE**

*Upbeat music plays as Graham relishes his special moment.*

### Verse 1

GRAHAM:

Yeah the preamble is a section just for the host  
To speak his mind and to start up the show  
It's so much fun to joke and riff  
On all the fucking cool things that I'm interested in

The preamble can be a great prelude

To get my future listeners in the mood  
 My comedic perspective will be on display  
 Just as soon as I can think of something funny to say

*The music drops out.*

GRAHAM  
 Like... Uhhh...

*His "Uhh" again serves as the foundation for a harmony.*

Chorus 1

GRAHAM:  
 I guess  
 I should  
 I should have brought some notes

ENSEMBLE:  
 Dead air, dead air  
 Preamble dead air

GRAHAM:  
 This is  
 A whole lot  
 Harder than it looks

ENSEMBLE:  
 Dead air, dead air  
 Preamble dead air

Verse 2

GRAHAM:  
 OK, here's a story, might be neat  
 One day I was walking down the street  
 A man at the light rolled down his window  
 He looked in my direction and he suddenly spoke

Problem was it was kind of a windy day  
 I couldn't quite hear what he was trying to say  
 That's the end of the story... Not very good  
 I should have brought some notes, yeah this is harder than  
 it looks

Chorus 2

I guess  
 I should  
 I should have brought some notes

Whoops  
 Oh well  
 Fuck it, start the show

I guess  
I should  
I should have thought ahead

Oops  
Oh well  
Fuck it, let's begin

*Graham and his buddy Alex begin talking. Their voices slowly fade in.*

ALEX

... So that's why they call filler dialogue "chuffah". Learned that from a movie blog.

GRAHAM

Tight, that's tight. Cool. This is exactly the kind of stuff I want on my show.

ALEX

Wait, are we recording?

GRAHAM

Yeah. Cold open. Why?

ALEX

Don't you need to welcome people to the show or something?

GRAHAM

This is how other shows do it. Lots of 'em have a soft start like this. I think it's supposed to sound more casual.

ALEX

Great plan, you sound casual as hell right now. For the listener at home, Graham somehow sweating through 2 shirts right now. Belly sweat and everything, this is true fear. Also, how will people know who I am?

GRAHAM

Shit, right. Am I allowed to swear?

ALEX

No idea, dude.

GRAHAM

I think I can do it now... Ladies and gentlemen, broils and gruels, you've seen him doing stand up at open mics all across town. You've seen him working near me at our terrible day job, it's the very funny Alex Georgie.

ALEX

Cool. Thanks.

GRAHAM

Do you want to start doing some of the bits you were telling me about?

ALEX

Jesus. You're supposed to lead me in so it sounds off the cuff! People will think I'm a big fuckin' phony now. Am I allow to swear?

GRAHAM

I'm not sure. But yeah, you're right. I'll edit this part here.

*Graham starts clapping and yelling, startling even the unflappable millennials on the couch.*

GRAHAM

EDIT POINT. CUT THIS PART HERE. DO IT GRAHAM. THANKS FUCKER.

ALEX

What the fuck?

GRAHAM

Oh, that's to remind me to cut that part out later. I'll see the volume spike in the waveform.

ALEX

Oh. OK.

GRAHAM

Yeah.

ALEX

Are we going again? Is this the show? Are most podcasts like this?

GRAHAM

Oh yeah... You bet they are...



**2 GUYS CHATTING**

*This is some real man's man rock and roll. Lots of cool hard rock poses from the backup singers/dancers.*

Verse 1

ALEX AND GRAHAM:

2 guys chatting it's the best format  
It's the only way to go when you start a podcast

2 guys talking, what more could you want?  
Think of all the possibilities of one-on-one

Prechorus

ALEX AND GRAHAM:

I interview you or you interview me  
Or we both can talk about different things

Chorus

ENSEMBLE:

2 guys

GRAHAM:

2 guys chat

ENSEMBLE:

2 guys

ALEX:

Can't go wrong with that

GRAHAM:

We have the same perspective

ALEX:

So we both agree

ALEX AND GRAHAM:

I love to be conversing with a guy like me

Verse 2

ALEX AND GRAHAM:

All our convos are so damn funny  
Record 'em add an ad and make some extra money

We'll riff in perfect harmony

ALEX: You'll set up my bits

GRAHAM: You'll share this in a tweet

A pair of pals havin' a ball

BFFs who've said nothing at all

Prechorus

ALEX AND GRAHAM:  
Face-to-face and bro-to-bro  
Back-to-back to play a guitar solo

*Graham and Alex stand back-to-back and begin shredding a double guitar solo.*

*They go out of sync for a moment. The music stops while they argue, then we quickly jump back into the chorus.*

Chorus

ENSEMBLE:  
2 guys

GRAHAM:  
A dude duet

ENSEMBLE:  
2 guys

ALEX:  
About as creative as it gets

GRAHAM:  
We have the same perspective

ALEX:  
So we both agree

ALEX AND GRAHAM:  
Now that's what I call motherfuckin' podcasting

*They high five as the song hits its final note.*

*We return to Alex and Graham's strained convo.*

GRAHAM

OK I'll set you up now. So, Alex. I heard you took a trip to Van Nuys recently?

ALEX

Oh are we going now? Jesus, OK.  
(Begins his standup bit)  
So yeah I was driving my van in Van Nuys the other day.

GRAHAM

Uh huh...

ALEX

And I got a little lost. So I asked  
a lady where I was. She said "Van  
Nuys", and I said "I know the van  
is nice lady, but where am I?"

GRAHAM

Nice, that's great stuff.

ALEX

Yeah, kind of a humorous  
interaction.

GRAHAM

So. Tell me about your secret pain.

ALEX

Huh?

*Sad music begins playing.*

GRAHAM

You know, whatever fucked you up  
enough to make you want to do  
comedy?

ALEX

Ooohhhh I see.. Well...

### **TEARS OF A CLOWN**

*Imagine the saddest music a well-off 20-something white guy  
can possibly muster.*

#### Verse 1

ALEX:

For my art...  
I guess I never talked about what's  
In my heart  
It feels a little strange  
but I guess that all this pain  
Had its start

At school  
All the kids would point and call me  
A tool  
I pledged that I would  
Make 'em laugh with things I could  
Control

Regret  
 When I was in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade  
 I shit (my pants)  
 Half my gym class saw  
 and I had to call my mom  
 Collect

*Graham enters, backed by loud rock music. The ensemble wildly stomps around on stage.*

Chorus 1

GRAHAM:  
 Pardon me but we need to take an ad break  
 ENSEMBLE:  
 Ad break, ad break, ad break

GRAHAM:  
 Please shut the fuck up we need a commercial  
 ENSEMBLE:  
 Squarespace, Squarespace dot com

GRAHAM:  
 An ad for a product that's way too pricey  
 ENSEMBLE:  
 Business, Business, Business

GRAHAM:  
 Sorry to interrupt, back to your life's pain  
 ENSEMBLE:  
 Ad break, ad break, comic's pain

Verse 2

GRAHAM:  
 Hey  
 Your honesty was really  
 Great  
 Love the dramatic pause  
 Before revealing all your flaws...  
 I relate

Fine  
 I'd like to tell a story  
 Of mine  
 I guess it all began  
 When I was a young man  
 In 2009

My folks they split up  
 I packed all my stuff  
 I said out loud  
 "I'm gonna do something with myself"

Then I heard a show  
 It was kind of like radio  
 But it was on the net  
 And I knew what was next

Chorus 2

ALEX:  
 Pardon me but I need to plug my show  
 ENSEMBLE:  
 Show plug, show plug, show plug

ALEX:  
 It's at an open mic and you all should show up  
 ENSEMBLE:  
 Show plug, show plug, show plug

Verse 3

*Alex and Graham sing overlapping melodies.*

GRAHAM: Don't interrupt my spiel  
 ALEX: C'mon...  
 GRAHAM: I've got stories to tell  
 ALEX: Give me a fucking break, I'll out-sad you any day  
 GRAHAM: Squarespace dot com  
 ALEX: I got tons

GRAHAM: I'll play your game  
 ALEX: Yeah?  
 GRAHAM: I got tons of artist pain  
 ALEX: My dad was pretty aloof and I once lost a tooth...  
 GRAHAM: Use our online code  
 ALEX: ... Eating cake

ALEX: On Christmas Eve...  
 GRAHAM: Go on...  
 ALEX: I got stung by a bee  
 GRAHAM: Once my brother trapped me in a pile of laundry  
 ALEX: Come see me  
 GRAHAM: For an hour

ALEX: I'll get more laughs than you  
 GRAHAM: Nope  
 ALEX: 'Cause comedy equals truth  
 GRAHAM: All my jokes work cause my heart is filled with hurt  
 ALEX: Doing comedy for free  
 GRAHAM: So fuck you

Chorus 3

ALEX:  
 See my open mic in a comedy club  
 ENSEMBLE:

Show plug, show plug, show plug

GRAHAM:

Sponsor my show, I don't know how to do this

ENSEMBLE:

Ad break, ad break, ad break

ALEX AND GRAHAM:

Give us money so you can validate us

ENSEMBLE:

Ad break, show plug, ad break

ALEX AND GRAHAM:

We'd love to get paid to talk about our sadness

ENSEMBLE:

Ad break, show plug, comedians and sadness

*Graham looks over at his guest after all the ad commotion settles down. She hasn't been enjoying much of the proceedings, but she's looking especially annoyed now.*

GRAHAM

Cool ad break. Now for those Squarespace checks to come rolling in. Now we can finally get to our very important guest.

*Julie sits up, ready to be introduced.*

ALEX

You don't actually have sponsors, right? You just said companies you heard on other shows hoping you'd somehow get paid? That's obviously not how it works.

GRAHAM

How does it work?

ALEX

Point taken.

GRAHAM

What do you think about "point taken" as a catchphrase? I'm looking for a thing to say a lot and put on t-shirts.

ALEX

What if you said "GRINDIN'" a bunch? I think that'd be good branding.

*Julie audibly sighs and shifts in her chair.*

GRAHAM

Oh, right. OK. Podcast listeners...  
Ladies and BrettGelmans... We gave  
a real treat of a guest for you.

ALEX

This is exciting. No idea how you  
managed to swing this.

JULIE

Thank you for having me, guys.

GRAHAM

Really sorry, just one more second.  
I wanna finish this intro. It felt  
like I was starting to get on a  
roll.

JULIE

Sure.

ALEX

(To Graham)

Jesus Christ, man.

*Julie rolls her eyes - hard.*

### **PODCAST JAIL**

*Julie's pain is underscored by some good old fashioned  
prison blues.*

#### Verse 1

GRAHAM:

We got a guest  
She'll be on soon

She can't talk  
Until she's introduced

ALEX:

Does this make you feel big?  
A power thing for you?

Make comedians wait  
To do the thing they do

#### Chorus 1

JULIE:

Podcast jail, oh podcast jail  
I'm in my own personal podcast hell

I can't riff, I can't speak  
They locked me up in podcast jail and threw away the key

Verse 2

*Julie plays some good old fashioned prison blues harmonica over the second verse.*

GRAHAM AND ALEX:  
Podcast listeners  
Please don't turn this off

You'll be pumped to hear  
The guest we got

GRAHAM:  
I'll read her whole bio  
So listeners can guess

Oh shit she looks pissed

ENSEMBLE:  
Let's get to our guest

Chorus 2

ENSEMBLE:  
Julie Thomas, Julie Thomas  
She actually has her own real podcast

*Julie tries to join in with the ensemble.*

GRAHAM  
So sorry, just 2 more seconds to  
finish your intro.

*We hear Julie angrily singing in her head.*

JULIE:  
Podcast jail, oh podcast jail  
I'm in my own personal podcast hell

I can't riff, I can't speak  
They locked me up in podcast jail and threw away the key

GRAHAM  
Right. So yeah, our guest this week  
is Julie Thomas from the popular  
podcast Pod People.

JULIE  
Hi.



ALEX

A good example of an actually good show.

GRAHAM

Julie, it's a real pleasure to have you on this piece of shit podcast.

JULIE

That certainly was a thorough intro. And by "thorough" I mean painfully long of course.

ALEX

Henry David Thorough.

*Everyone ignores Alex.*

GRAHAM

So I'm curious about the business side of podcasting. How much money can you make with a podcast these days?

JULIE

(Laughs)... Oh... You're not joking. That's the tricky thing about podcasts. There's not a whole lot of money to go around.

GRAHAM

(Laughs)... Oh... You're not joking either. What about if you have a bunch of fans? How can I get some of those?

JULIE

Podcasts are a lot more involved than they might seem. The good ones take some effort.

GRAHAM

This is terrible news. Dammit. What kind of effort are we talking here?

JULIE

Well...

### **PODCASTING TIPS**

*Julie channels her inner Mary Poppins to teach these guys how to not be terrible.*

Verse 1

JULIE:  
OK...

First things first you gotta sit up straight  
You gotta open your mouth and enunciate

Plant your feet right on the ground  
Open your damn diaphragm and make a sound

Chorus

ENSEMBLE:  
They're the podcast rules  
You gotta obey

If you wanna have a halfway decent  
Show some day

Verse 2

JULIE:  
This next one mostly pertains to me  
But when you have a guest, address her please

It really sucks to sit in Podcast Jail  
And not get introduced 'cause of a long-ass derail

Maybe buy another mic and sound gear  
It's no fun to listen to a 'cast you can't hear

One more thing, I'm sorry to say  
You might be disappointed if you're thinking you'll get paid

*The music gets sad.*

GRAHAM

Shit... Really? OK but what  
about... Uhhh... How do they...

Verse 3

JULIE:  
OK...

Money comes from ads and ads come from sponsors  
Sponsors look at listens to reach the biggest audience

*More sad music.*

GRAHAM

What about uh... Patreon? Bitcoin??  
Fuck.

JULIE:

Sorry to be blunt but I sat here for so long  
It's fine to have fun but your priorities are wrong

If you like what you do, you should do more  
You want fame and money, this ain't what you're looking for

Persistence is key, successful folks will tell you  
Put in the work to be what you aspire to

Chorus 2

JULIE:

You want to create  
I think that's great, I'd like to cheer you on

But hey, for god's sake  
Buy another mic and a thing to stand it on

ENSEMBLE:

We're face-to-face, talking away  
On a single mic taped to a Swiffer broom

Lots of Febreze spray, Ikea duvet  
Three adults talking in a guy's gross room

JULIE: Podcast rules

GRAHAM: Ikea duvet

ENSEMBLE: Single mic taped to a Swiffer broom

ALEX: Guy's gross room

JULIE: You gotta obey

ENSEMBLE: If you wanna have a halfway decent show someday

*Julie's point finally makes it through to Graham.*

GRAHAM

Fuck, my podcast sucks. Doesn't it?

JULIE

Well...

*No one wants to come right out and say it... except Alex.*

ALEX

Didn't you hear her? You did all  
the stuff she said not to do. Not  
even my "Van Nuys" joke can save  
this train wreck.

GRAHAM

Why didn't I even clean my fucking  
room?

ALEX

That sentence is the closest to fucking this room has been in a long time.

GRAHAM

I think I understand that joke and I don't like it.

ALEX

Is this a good time to plug a show I'm doing this weekend? I need to bring 5 people to get stage time.

JULIE

Oh no... Bringer shows are a whole other can of worms.

ALEX

Maybe one of your listeners will want to come. When does this air?

GRAHAM

March 17<sup>th</sup>.

ALEX

Fuck. Dammit. Why did I come on this stupid show.

JULIE

Yikes, it sounds like we all hit our act 2 "All Is Lost Moment."

GRAHAM

You know, I was thinking. I spend more time listening to podcasters in a single day than I do talking to real people in a whole week. It got me think--

*Alex shifts and bumps the mic. The sound begins cutting out while Graham tries to fix it.*

GRAHAM

Ale--what d-- w....sound like fucking dubstep. Maybe if...

*Graham and Alex argue as the mic cuts in and out, creating an instrumental break that does sound a bit like dubstep.*

GRAHAM

OK. I got it. No one fucking touch it. Boy, this all couldn't have gone much worse.

ALEX

Julie, do you have Paul F.  
Tompkins' number? Maybe he can help  
sort this out.

JULIE

You guys didn't learn much from  
this, huh?

GRAHAM

That's what I was going to say  
earlier, I think I did.

ALEX

GRINDIN'.

JULIE

As long as I maybe helped out one  
of you, that's my community service  
for today. I'll take it.

**OH WELL, WE HAD FUN ANYWAY**

*Graham approaches the mic to tell everyone what he's learned  
and to wrap this whole thing up.*

Chorus 1

GRAHAM:

Oh well,  
It didn't go my way

Oh well,  
We had fun anyway

Oh well,  
Learned a lesson today

Oh hell,  
Does anyone really find their place?

Verse 1

GRAHAM:

By the way, how do you  
Put your pod up on iTunes?

Do I just call, or what's the deal?  
Just kidding, I learned something here

This podcast should be for me  
 Making something good is the cure for my ennui

ALEX:  
 Cool, we learned lessons and had fun  
 Pissed I didn't get to do more shitty puns

Prechorus

JULIE:  
 We don't need another aimless chat  
 Or an introduction about your favorite cat  
 Don't care to hear what you thought about a movie  
 Or why your dad's neglect made you super funny

Don't care about your too-long anecdote  
 I don't understand your nonsense inside jokes  
 No more "yes ands" between you and your friends  
 We got plenty of those we don't need 'em again!

Chorus 2

ENSEMBLE:  
 Hey, hey

GRAHAM:  
 We had fun anyway  
 We hope you did too

ENSEMBLE:  
 Hey, hey

JULIE:  
 Yeah it was pretty OK  
 Sorry if I was rude

ENSEMBLE:  
 Hey, hey

GRAHAM:  
 Gonna put my heart in a thing  
 And see how I do

ALEX:  
 Now that's out  
 Of the way  
 I know what to do

I appreciate  
 What you say  
 But I have a different view...

*Alex belts out a brand new chorus. It takes a bit but the dancers and the cast start getting into the new vibe.*

Bridge

ALEX:  
Podcasts are for puns  
It's the best use of the medium

What do you call  
A sloppy dentist?  
"Accidental"  
Wow, puns are the greatest

Japan's history  
How do you sum it up?  
Samuraize...  
You "samurais" it... That's the pun

JULIE  
Ohhh, ok.

GRAHAM  
I think I get it.

GRAHAM:  
Double your "pleather"?  
Hey, that was fun

ALEX:  
You're getting the hang of it  
Now for more puns

JULIE:  
What's a snail's  
Least favorite bank?  
Wellsfargot

ALEX:  
Beautiful. Thanks.

To reiterate...

ENSEMBLE:  
Podcasts are for puns  
It's the best use of the medium

*The "Oh Well, We Had Fun Anyway" refrain combines with the  
"Comedy Podcast" melody for a climactic final chorus.*

Chorus 3

ENSEMBLE:  
Oh well  
We had fun anyway

GRAHAM:

Hey, hey  
I'll put my heart in a thing

JULIE:  
Yeah, yeah!  
Glad I could help you

ALEX:  
I'm just  
Thinking of more puns to do

ENSEMBLE:  
Hey hey  
We'll put our heart in a thing  
And see how we do

GRAHAM:  
Goodbye  
It was nice having you

JULIE:  
One last  
Tiny thing you need

Without it  
A podcast would be incomplete

Just end  
Walk off anticlimactically

ENSEMBLE:  
Like this?  
Is this OK?

*The music slowly fades until it's completely gone.*

JULIE  
Perfect. Yeah, just peter out.

ALEX  
Cool.

*Graham grabs his single page of notes and stands up.*

GRAHAM  
Thank you Julie. After all that, I  
still love podcasts somehow.

ALEX  
(As they all walk away)  
Get it, like the van is nice?  
Sounds like Van Nuys the city.