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(Begin part 2 of transcript)

During the following 3 minute section, I was switching cassettes in my camcorder. I set my digital still camera into movie mode to record this portion, which it did flawlessly. However, it has much more limited audio capabilities and the soundtrack was significantly muffled. I have done my best to transcribe this section accurately. As well, it was very difficult to hear the questions posed by the audience throughout, although Mike repeated most of the questions verbatim. When I could, I have written the questions as posed. Enjoy.

M: Thankyou, yes.

Guy in audience: I have a 2 part question.

M: One part only, no, it can be 2 parts.

Guy in audience: (question unintelligible.)

M: I'm gonna ask it again, I wanna do it Phil Donahue style. (Mike gets down and lunges hanging off the stage holding the microphone. The guy comes up to the mic.)

Guy in audience: (unintelligible), and what is the next book you're gonna write?

M: (Now lying on the stage.) What was my inspiration for Death Rat? (unintelligible.) (Standing up.) Up, ok, stop doing that. Actually Death Rat came about, this book, my last novel. I wrote that, I had the idea, to have the writers of Mystery Science Theater help me, and we'd write a book in like, two weeks, and then we'd hire an actor to pretend that he wrote it, and then have him travel around and do the circuit. And my theory was, even if it's just, a moderately crappy book, we could just have some guy to do it, we could sell it, and we could pull this great coup over on everyone. But the guys on Mystery Science didn't want to do it because, yknow, they didn't want to go to jail with me. So, when I was done I thought I could just write a story of that, and so I did. So they missed out on all that cash. And the next book that I'm going to write, I actually have some coming out. It's a series of, I worked with some artists, and we do this wacky, wacky art and I've sortof done this text for the art, and it's called Happy Kitty Bunny Pony: A Saccarrhin Mouthful of Supercute. It's actually a giftbook that you could regift. And that comes out in April, and then there's 2 that are more following later on in the year. And then I'm also working on a non-fiction book, which is top secret, and if I mentioned it, I'd have to kill every one you, and that gets extremely messy. Thankyou. Anyone else? Yes, you, sir in the middle.

Guy in audience (Matt Wilson): Yea, I'm not a, sure if I'm here in the right time or place. What time is the Sure Success Through Real Estate Conference?

(At this point, my regular video camera is once again recording.)

M: Alright, get your ass up here. (Mike takes a boxing stance.) (yells something off mic.) Make your little real estate jokes and then don't come up here... He's actually coming up here... He's actually coming up here.

(Matt gets onto stage.)

Mike: Ahh! (Mike flees behind the curtain with Matt in pursuit. They emerge a moment later. Mike reapproaches the podium.) As, as Frank would say, "I'll harm you." Oh, we have fun. Yes, anyone else, with a real question, jackass. Yes, sir, you.

Guy in audience: Are you working on any new TV pilots?

Mike: Am I working on any new TV pilots, was the question. Yes. Thankyou very much. Well, possibly TV projects, maybe DVD projects, direct to DVD projects, which is a great way to get stuff out there. I've done some DVD's for Legend films, they're doing some colorized, I did Night of the Living Dead, and Carnival of Souls, and a Three Stooges thing. Some of the guys from, Kevin Murphy, from Mystery Science, and Bill Corbett, we did, kinda extra material for a Three Stooges disc which should be out sometime soon. Yep. Guess I'll talk to you later then. OH! Yes, there's a question over there, yes.

Guy in audience: Is there ever a chance of Mystery (unintelligable) getting back together?

Mike: Did you just hear the last question? Oh, new episodes of Mystery Science Theater. Maybe. It's probably slim. There's so much, as they say in Hollywood, there's so much hair on the deal, man. With all the movies having to be, rights being purchased and all that. It's worse than it was when we were doing the show. In fact, when we started the show, they didn't even bother to secure the rights. For like the entire first season. We only found out about that later, that Comedy Central was saying 'Oh yea, yea, we secured the rights.' But they never did. Yes?

Guy in audience: After years of watching Joe Don Baker films, have you ever gotten a chance to find out what's he made of?

Mike: Joe Don Baker?

Guy in audience: Yea.

Mike: What's he made out of, yes, I found out. He is a, he's like a large latex sock, and he's filled with Oleo Margarine, it's slightly less viscous than normal margarine. That's fascinating, I never get that question but I (unintelligable.) Yea. Actually, y'know, he was at a hotel that we were at one time, after we had done several of his films, and, it was out in, in, where, Pasadena. We were staying at the same hotel, and we saw him waiting for his limo, and so we, we ran the other way. I'm serious, we heard that he was very angry. We just didn't want to be seen out in front of the hotel with Joe Don Baker, because then

your reputation's stained forever. 'Joe Don Baker was mad at you? What the hell could you ever do, y'know?' It doesn't do well for your life, so we avoided him. Yes, in the back there.

Guy in audience: Ok, 2 part question. What were your top 3 favorite worst movies, from the series, and what do your children think of your body of work?

Mike: Ok. I'll take the first part first. My, the favorite top 3 of Mystery Science?

Guy in audience: Yea.

(Note: This question is asked of every cast member, every single time they make a presentation, anywhere, I have never, ever, heard the same answer twice.)

Mike: Ok, I'm usually unprepared for this but I think I like Leech Woman, Horror of Party Beach, and The Girl In Gold Boots. Oh, and Space Mutiny. I like the way the square jawed guy screams. And I'll always have a fond place in my heart for The Brute Man. It's, it's an older episode, but in the middle of it there's, there's an old guy, who, for no reason, just goes insane with rage on his clerk. And, it's the only filming I could never get through, everybody thought it was just hilarious, and we broke down like 10 times, just, just trying to redo it. But, he, just out of nowhere, he just sortof 'I DON'T CARE ABOUT THE (unintelligable)' screams his line. It always made myself, and Bill Corbett and Trace Beaulieu laugh when people's main acting motivation was unmotivated rage. How is that? Why are you angry? So that's one of my favorites, alright. Yes.

Guy in audience (Jeff Zehnder, me): Where did the name Ponty Feeb come from?

Mike: He's asking about the name of the character in my novel Death Rat, Ponty Feeb. It's short for Pontious, it, it, it was, I don't know. I was supposed to be wacky. He was supposed to be a feeb, obviously, and Pontious was his parents attempt to give him a level of dignity which he would never attain. Does that make sense?

Jeff: (shrugs)

Mike: No. Ok. I tried. Yes?

Girl in audience: I have two dollars and 16 cents in my bank account, can I have one of your books to take with me?

Mike: I have like 11 dollars dollars, can I have your car? You want to hear the pathetic story? This isn't even my book (holds up a copy of Megacheese.) My luggage is being held captive by Northwest Airlines. And...

(audience sad noises)

Mike: I know, cause, and I went to the store today to find my book. And they didn't have it. But they had Kevin Murphy's book there. So I damned him to hell. So it's not even my book. Otherwise I would give you a book.

Girl in audience: You want to give it to me anyway?

Mike: Where's the, the guy who gave me the book? Where are you? Can she have it?

Guy in audience: No!

Mike: Well there, there's nothing, it's out of my hands. No. I have one more gift book for you, it's at my hotel. It's the Search For Bin Laden. I don't, don't need it anymore. I know that they haven't found him. Yes!

Guy in audience: What's the funniest, or the strangest thing that's ever happened to you during the run of MST, along the lines of Joe Don Baker stories? What the oddest thing?

Mike: The oddest thing that ever happened to me. Well it was fairly early on in our run, where someone mailed us his bloody molars. That was fairly odd. And, he didn't explain it, just, 'I thought you might enjoy these.' I, for a moment I actually wondered, 'Is this the guy from my debt collection days.' It's like a sign that he's coming. Well that was one. There's Kevin Murphy, if I can steal one of his stories, cause I was there and saw it, it was quite, quite hilarious. We had heard, through like Robin Williams agent, called, and said 'Robin's been talking you guys up, and he wants Barry Levinson, the director, that's doing his next film, and he needs odd characters, so I told Barry all about you guys, and Barry's gonna check out the show, and he loved it, and he's gonna call you guys, to be, y'know, maybe be in his next film in bit parts.' So we're at the Emmy Awards, and I'm with Kevin. Kevin comes up to me and goes, 'Hey, hey, hey! There's Barry Levinson. I'm gonna go talk to him.' Oh, that's great, maybe he'll offer you the role. So he goes and he breaks into this conversation with Barry Levinson and I can't hear it, but I can just see, that Kevin's going, y'know, just talking very animatedly, and suddenly his face is just turning red. And I see Barry Levinson going (shakes head), no, no. And the guy just kinda turns his back fully around to Kevin. And Kevin slinks back to me and he says, 'The guy had no idea who I was,' he said. 'I felt like I was suddenly in the middle of my conversation I just started going 'roof, roof' And he said, 'You're on what show?' and there are puppets. 'Puppets?' Puppets, he said. Barry, Barry Levinson, he just, just dismissed him with disgust, and then that was the answer. Needless to say, we we're never in the next Barry Levinson film. Yes!

Guy in audience: What were some of the better films of 2004?

Mike: Some of the better films of 2004? Do they make any, anymore? (To audience) What was out that was good?

Girl in audience: Incredibles, The Incredibles.

Mike: Yea, The Incredibles was pretty good.

Guy in audience: Shaun of the Dead

Mike: I haven't seen that yet.

Guy in the audience: Hero.

Mike: What about that Sideways movie? Did you see that?

Audience: Yea.

Mike: I hated that. What was the point? No, it was kinda funny, but I expected more out of that film and I didn't get it. Lets see, what else? I liked...

Girl in audience: The Day After Tomorrow.

Audience: No. (groans)

Mike: Day After Tomorrow? Is that the freezing the earth one? Oh, my god, that was, I had to take my son. My son desperately wanted to see that. He's 11 years old, so I took him to see Day After Tomorrow. I now hate my son. I have no son. No, it was punishing. Did you actually like it?

Girl in audience: No.

Mike: Oh. And there must have been others that I liked.

Guy in audience: Hero.

Mike: Oh, Spiderman 2, I liked that quite a bit. That's the first comic book movie that I've ever even come close to liking. Just a little tidbit for you.

Guy in audience: I Heart Huckabees.

Mike: What?

Guy in audience: I Heart Huckabees.

Mike: Ok, you've gotta lay off the pot. Plus, you're sunk so far down in your chair, we're going to have to get the Jaws of Life to get you out of there. Course, you're so stoned you'll just slide out of the bottom no problem. You are, and he's not denying it at all. 'Dude, let's wake-and-bake and go see Nelson.' That's what I would have done. Yes, you?

Guy in audience: Will you be doing any more syrup ads?

(This one took about 2 seconds to register for Mike. Only about a dozen people in the audience even got it.)

Mike: (laughs) It's Greg, right?

Greg: Yes.

Mike: How are you Greg? How are you enjoying your books? Good. No more plans to do syrup ads. I assume you're referring to Timmy Big Hands, our short-lived website. Yes, no more of those. Yes, in the back? Two guys, next to each other, either one of 'em. Fight it out.

Guy in audience: Where did you find Manos: Hands of Fate? One more, can you take it back?

Mike: It's too late, it's been unleashed, I can't take it back. Manos was kind of a find, y'know, they send you these boxes of their worst stuff, obviously, because that's what they would ask for. And I remember we started watching that film screening, and usually within 10 minutes we'd say yes or no, and that one, Frank Coniff and I, and it was Paul Chaplin, sat watching that thing going, "We can't do this movie." And then it was up to 15 minutes and we were still watching, but, but we can't do it. We can't air this thing. They wouldn't allow it, there's laws. And then like half-an-hour, "There's no way we're doing this film." And we watched the whole thing and we said, "Oh, we have to do this movie." And, so then we had to talk the other guys into it. So we sat them down for a screening. 'Alright, you ready? Great, it's called Manos: The Hands of Fate.' And someone would point out right away, 'So, Hands: The Hands of Fate.' 'Right! You'll love it.' And it was just hilarious watching the exact same reaction, "We can't do this film. Are you guys insane? I mean, we can't put this on the air. We'll have to..." And then they said, "Oh, we have to do this movie." So that's how it came about, and the network, they never said a peep about it, and it was kind of one of the first movies that became, we got more feedback on that than we'd ever gotten. To this day though, my wife, Bridget, whose also on the show, can't, that movie just scares her, she won't watch it. She won't be in the room with it. So she had to write it, she was actually traumatized by that movie. I think she thought Torgo was real. She's get's susceptible. That's how it came about, and for a while, shortly after that, I went into a computer store to buy a new Mac And all, every Mac in the place had a screensaver of Torgo going across the screen. And I thought, this just can't be, I mean come on. This must be the Torgo from a different movie. So I checked it out, and it was, for a short time it was like, a commercial screensaver that someone put on, you could have the sun shine... or Torgo! And, and it was of course, a nerdy computer clerk who put it on there, "Oh dude! You're the guy, from the Torgo thing! Yea!" It's fame was maybe about that big. (Mike puts his fingers together.) Anyone else, yes?

Girl in the audience: Out of all the movies, and all the shorts, that you've done for your show, what is your favorite character?

Mike: Favorite character within the films themselves? I would have to say, although my mind could be changed, but I've always liked the guy from Girl in Gold Boots who they keep calling 'The Kid,' when he's like 60 years old. 'No look young man!' But he has that sort of cheeky way of talking, y'think he could break a 20? What sort of clown are you? So, he was supposed to be a tough guy, I've always kinda liked him. What's that?

Guy in audience: Looks like Casey Kasem.

Mike: Casey Kasem, yes. Help me. Yes! You in the back.

Girl in audience: (unintelligible) Are you aware of the existence of the Trumpy Fan Club? And if so are you a member there?

Mike: I am not aware of the Trumpy Fan Club. But Trumpy, you're magic, I know that. No, I'm not a member, but is there, how would I sign up? Is there a sign up sheet out in the hall or anything like that?

Girl in audience: I don't know. I found it, very, very, very accidentally.

Mike: You're the founder aren't you. And suddenly you felt deep shame over everyone. Oh, it exists, well, I'll have to join. It's not really one of my favorite movies but, I could work up an enthusiasm. Yes, anyone else. Sir, in the back?

Guy in the audience: What did you think of Gigli?

Mike: I, I couldn't. I have a bunch of guys that I go out with to see the worst movie going, many of us do. That was out, making the rounds, and we sent out the emails, 'Guys, time to go to Gigli.' No one would answer the call. We just couldn't, because the previous movie, I don't remember what it was but, well take for instance, we went, Van Helsing. And I talked the guys into it, 'Come on we've gotta see the worst, I mean, Van Helsing. And y'know we're in, we're happy, we're talking. We got our snacks and we sit down, and 5 minutes into it, my friend Bob, whose a large, potent man, and I realize, he's just staring at the side of my head. The look of just insane rage on his face. And so I was careful, Gigli, I didn't want to put that out there. 'Let's go to Gigli.' It's, you'd never live it down. So I did not see it. Is it as good as they say? Did anyone see it? Oh, ok, good. Yes!

Girl in audience: Is there in existence a museum (unintelligible) An MST3K museum, where the robots live or anything? (unintelligible)

Mike: Asking about the robots, and whether they'd be in a museum, or anything. There are no plans. I mean, I know there are people who build their own and everything. I honestly don't know where they are right now. I know that there were several that were made, and auctioned off, that were on the show, we had them on the show the last season and then they were auctioned to people on ebay, I believe.

Guy in audience: (unintelligible)

Mike: Yes? Why did you interrupt me sir?

Guy in audience: I just wanted to say for a time, that South Carolina at the Planet Hollywood there they had Crow from the movie.

Mike: Really?

Guy in audience: Yea. (uintelligable.)

Mike: Well why didn't you answer the question then? I'm kidding, thanks for your help. Planet Hollywood! They have them. I know that there was, in fact, we did a dedication for several Planet Hollywood at the time that the feature film came out. How many people have seen the feature film? Wow, that's quite a bit, I think that doubles the audience there. But, it was the sad little promotional tours where they sent, like we started off in New York at the Planet Hollywood there. Demi Moore was gonna drop by and see us yknow. Didn't quite work out. And that was kindof a nice dedication. There were a lot of people there, not a ton of them knew the show, it was a fun festive event. And then promotional tours went on and then we were in like, Indianapolis, giving away the Crow, and there's like one guy trying to eat his chicken wings in there, "What the hell is that!?" Y'know. Tour kinda went downhill after that.

And we knew the movie wasn't going to open for a wider audience when we called the studio and said, 'can we talk to the guy who was in charge of promotion?' "Uhh, he just nipped out for a sandwich." And we never spoke to him again. So, we knew the movie was just kind of doomed at that point. So there are a few, that's the long answer, there's a few at Planet Hollywood's here and there, but no museum that I know of. Although I've been to the Barbara Streisand museum in San Francisco, has anyone else? It is the gayest thing you'll ever see in your life. A friend of mine knows the curator, and it was just the super gayest romp I've ever had in my life. The guy is serious about it. I mean, he's got like a really bad wax statue of Babs and everything. So, I hope that helps. Yes? You sir. With the hat.

Guy in the audience: I was wondering your opinion on Cabin Fever.

Mike: The actual condition of Cabin Fever? The film Cabin Fever. I don't know. Could you give me a short synopsis?

Guy in the audience: You don't want to know.

Mike: Sortof makes this whole question moot now doesn't it? Fair enough. Keep wearing that hat. Yes, you sir, in the back? No, you, don't look around, it's you, yes.

Guy in the audience: Do you have a favorite character that you played in the first five seasons, before you became host?

Mike: Favorite character that I played? I liked Michael Feinstein, and also Morrissey was kinda fun. And of course Torgo, although Torgo was very very hot. My knees got very very hot.

Guy in the audience: Your piano playing was awesome.

Mike: Oh, thank you. Yes sir. I'll do, say two more questions, and then if anyone wants anything signed or anything, I'll be available. So, yes, go ahead.

Guy in the audience: Obviously you know a lot of bad movies. So what spurred you to

pick the movies for the show? I mean (unintelligible) anything happens?

Mike: Yes, so how does the selection process of bad movies go. Well it normally went, we would get, y'know, boxes and boxes of films. We'd sift through em and we could just choose in 10 seconds whether it was a no, but the yes took a little long. And then after that, we'd number them 1 through 10 of our priorities, and then always and everytime we would get number 10 only. The worst one, the one that, "We can't do this film but, if we were absolutely forced to do this film we could do this film." And that would be the one that was picked. Because the ones we wanted tended to be a little more expensive, and they just didn't... And some of the film companies, for whatever reason, just didn't want to give up rights to some movie. They thought that like, The Mole People was going to really, really kill, in the new internet environment, man, we're going to make billions off of it. And they just wouldn't sell it. It was always tough to get them, and it was always very heartbreaking. Except once! Only one time in history, we picked a movie that we couldn't, we just couldn't get through it. We realized we'd made a mistake. And we were going to approach Comedy Central and say, "We cant, we can't do it. I know that we probably just should, but we can't." I don't remember, it was some really lame dinosaur movie, but it just was very talky. And we were, really in the middle of this meeting about to talk about how we could approach them and they called and said, "Well, bad news, we lost the rights to your film." So we, did not have to go to them, and luckily, just the writing stopped. It was the happiest day of my life. And final question goes to you.

Guy in the audience: How was the experience of doing Diabolik?

Mike: How was the experience of doing Diabolik? It was, it was fun. It was a lot of fun. It was, yknow, a tough time to see the show come to an end., but we all knew that we couldn't do this thing forever. Towards the end, we really really were getting really good at doing the movies, we really enjoyed it. We worked as hard as we possibly could and really enjoyed the people. So, it was a little bit sad. But, most of the people still live around me, come to my house for dinner. So, it was very enjoyable. And thats that! So I want to thank you very much. Once again my thanks to the Yatch Club and the University, and to the What-The-Hell-Con?! And may you all say, 'What the hell?'

(Mike leaves the stage.)

(The final applause.)

(1:23:03 mark)