
Subject: Syfy President: "'MST3K' Is 1-Note; Did You Watch More Than 15/20 Minutes?"

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Fri, 18 Dec 2009 10:52:25 GMT

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Originally posted by: jason.cinema

I should have known that Dave Howe, Syfy President, was cut from the same cloth as his predecessor, Bonnie Hammer. All was typical corporate speak (count the 'you knows' in this article, BTW), but then you get near the end of the conference call when this question is asked.

<http://tvbythenumbers.com/2009/12/16/transcript-of-conference-call-with-syfy-president-dave-howe-keep-an-eye-out-for-sharktopus/36501>

[quote]Michael Hinman: And just one quick question too about Saturday movies because I didn't bring it up somebody else did. You know, has there ever been a thought about maybe bringing back Mystery Science Theater 3000 and just marrying the two together? That's just a joke, I'm just kidding. But I think...

Dave Howe: I think I brought Mystery Science Theater up. I mean it's been a while actually since anybody – I used to get it all the time, you know, MST3K because quite frankly that was the only thing people ever associated with the network. And they're, you know, those people that don't watch still think we've got MST3K on our – clearly we haven't the eight years I've been here.

We don't have any plans to bring it back. You know, we've talked about it in the past but not for four or five years. I think the thing about MST3K is – and I'll ask you the same question as I say to everybody else is did you actually watch more than about, you know, 15 or 20 minutes? It's one of those kind of one-note amusing things which I'm not sure is sustainable for any length of time or any period of time.

So I don't think it's anything that we would necessarily do again as an ongoing thing but, you know, we may do it as an event or as a, you know, one off special because I do think there's some nostalgia around it. And it was very funny.

Michael Hinman: Excellent. Well thanks Mr. Howe again.

Dave Howe: Thank you.

Jason
MST#16103

Subject: Re: Syfy President: "'MST3K' Is 1-Note; Did You Watch More Than 15/20 Minutes?"

Posted by [Chris \"Sampo\" Cornell](#) on Fri, 18 Dec 2009 13:06:40 GMT

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Subject: Re: Syfy President: "'MST3K' Is 1-Note; Did You Watch More Than 15/20 Minutes?" (CONFESSION TIME!)

Posted by [Doug Elrod](#) on Fri, 18 Dec 2009 16:07:46 GMT

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On Dec 18, 7:06 am, "Chris \"Sampo\" Cornell" <msa...@aol.com> wrote:

> In article

> <d9ab4635-961e-4097-8bf1-fb9efb7a6...@g1g2000pra.googlegroups.com>,

>> Dave Howe:

[snip]

>> I think the thing about

>> MST3K is - and I'll ask you the same question as I say to everybody

>> else is did you actually watch more than about, you know, 15 or 20

>> minutes? It's one of those kind of one-note amusing things which I'm

>> not sure is sustainable for any length of time or any period of time.

> To be fair, he's not wrong. He's basing this view on the network's own

> internal focus grouping, I'm guessing. I think, for the average member

> of the public, he's right.

I guess the time has finally come to admit that we actually just watched, at most, 15-20 minutes of the show. Of course, you yourself, as a "super-fan", are in the high 19+ minutes. But that stuff you said you knew about "Manos"? Through some cosmic coincidence, that just happened to be in the 17 seconds you saw, that one time.

Naturally, I saw a good deal less of the show. Double-digits, minutewise, which I guess puts me in the "cognoscenti" level.

-Doug Elrod (dre1@cornell.edu) ;-)

BTW, the recent two-part "Alice" on Syfy was actually pretty good.

How does *that* happen?

Subject: Re: Syfy President: "'MST3K' Is 1-Note; Did You Watch More Than 15/20 Minutes?" (CONFESSION TIME!)

Posted by [Judith](#) on Fri, 18 Dec 2009 21:51:23 GMT

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Subject: Re: Syfy President: "'MST3K' Is 1-Note; Did You Watch More Than 15/20 Minutes?" (CONFESSION TIME!)

Posted by [Chris \"Sampo\&q](#) on Sat, 19 Dec 2009 19:50:44 GMT

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In article <JUJU-B26B8F.16512318122009@free.teranews.com>,
Judith <JUJU@withouta.net> wrote:

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>> watched, at most, 15-20 minutes of the show. Of course, you yourself,
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>> BTW, the recent two-part "Alice" on Syfy was actually pretty good.

>> How does *that* happen?

>

> I'm with Doug here. I own recordings of all the eps from Season 2-10
> and I never watch more than 15 minutes of any of them. I'm getting
> older now and occasionally I'll absent-mindedly watch the *same* 15
> minutes the next time. But now I'm getting worried that I'm getting too
> uppity and am watching more than Sampo. I think I'd better cut it down
> to single digits...

>

> Judith

I admit it. At the 21 minute mark, I change to the nearest "According to Jim" rerun I can find.

Sampo (feels good to get that off my chest)

Subject: Re: Syfy President: "'MST3K' Is 1-Note; Did You Watch More Than 15/20 Minutes?"

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Sat, 19 Dec 2009 23:24:13 GMT

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Subject: Re: Syfy President: "'MST3K' Is 1-Note; Did You Watch More Than 15/20 Minutes?" (CONFESSION TIME!)

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Sun, 20 Dec 2009 03:38:27 GMT

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Originally posted by: Bill Livingston

Previously on "Scare Tactics", Chris \"Sampo\" Cornell wrote:

> Judith <JUJU@withouta.net> wrote:

>>> I guess the time has finally come to admit that we actually just
>>> watched, at most, 15-20 minutes of the show. Of course, you yourself,
>>> as a "super-fan", are in the high 19+ minutes. But that stuff you
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Wow, I guess I can finally admit that I watch with an egg timer set to
precisely 17.5 minutes. I always strive to be extremelt average.

> I admit it. At the 21 minute mark, I change to the nearest "According to
> Jim" rerun I can find.

Now you're just being elitist. You should immediately seek out the
nearest "Maury" or "Dr. Phil".

> Sampo (feels good to get that off my chest)

Bill L.

Here, apply this ointment as needed.

Subject: Re: Syfy President: "'MST3K' Is 1-Note; Did You Watch More Than 15/20
Minutes?" (CONFESSION TIME!)

Posted by [Doug Elrod](#) on Sun, 20 Dec 2009 04:56:57 GMT

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On Dec 19, 9:38 pm, Bill Livingston <bil...@hiwaay.net> wrote:

> Previously on "Scare Tactics", Chris \"Sampo\" Cornell wrote:
> Wow, I guess I can finally admit that I watch with an egg timer set to
> precisely 17.5 minutes. I always strive to be extremelt average.

Ah, my favorite Denny's hot sandwich! (Warning: NEVER get the extremelt well-done!)

>> I admit it. At the 21 minute mark, I change to the nearest "According to
>> Jim" rerun I can find.

Is there an "According to Jim: The Best Smoked Meats" episode?
Because you can't go wrong getting advice from JIM!

> Now you're just being elitist. You should immediately seek out the
> nearest "Maury" or "Dr. Phil".

You've just been declared the father of your own children! How do you
feel about that?

>> Sampo (feels good to get that off my chest)

By the time you lifted the TV *off* your chest, your lungs were aching
for air! (But, obviously, it's the surest way to "20-Minute Pecs"!)

> Bill L.
> Here, apply this ointment as needed.

Do you have any unguent? I think I feel an unguent-alleviating
condition coming on....

-Doug Elrod (dre1@cornell.edu) :-)
Enjoy the aroma of seasonal unguents (where appropriate)!

Subject: Re: Syfy President: "'MST3K' Is 1-Note; Did You Watch More Than 15/20
Minutes?"

Posted by [Ken McElhaney](#) on Sun, 20 Dec 2009 20:53:28 GMT

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On Dec 18, 7:06 am, "Chris \"Sampo\" Cornell" <msa...@aol.com> wrote:

> In article
> <d9ab4635-961e-4097-8bf1-fb9efb7a6...@g1g2000pra.googlegroups.com>,
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>
> "jason.cinema" <jason.cin...@gmail.com> wrote:
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>> it. And it was very funny.
>
>> Michael Hinman: Excellent. Well thanks Mr. Howe again.
>
>> Dave Howe: Thank you.
>
>> Jason
>> MST#16103
>
> To be fair, he's not wrong. He's basing this view on the network's own
> internal focus grouping, I'm guessing. I think, for the average member
> of the public, he's right. I've been saying for a while that, 10 years
> later, MST3K is the most fondly remembered TV show that nobody
> (statistically anyway) actually watched. The fan base that watched full
> episodes and never missed it is, and always has been, a mile wide and an
> inch deep. Ask a random stranger about the show, remind them about the
> silhouettes and the puppets, and a light of recognition will dawn, a
> smile will break on their face and they'll say "Yeah, I loved that
> show!" But then, you need to drill deeper. Ask them "Tell me about your
> favorite episode. What were the characters' names?" It's at that point

- > that they will sheepishly admit that they saw it once, for 20 minutes,
- > while at a friend's house. They laughed, they liked it, but for most of
- > the general public it was never destination television. It's the same
- > thing that Grammercy found out when the focus grouped the movie, and
- > that's why the final product is 70 minutes long.
- > The right people will get it. And there have never really been enough of
- > the right people for this niche concept to achieve mainstream-level
- > popularity. It's just very fortunate for us fans that so many other
- > delivery methods have emerged that allow the concept to flourish at
- > niche level.

And I agree. If you look at the "success" of Rifftrax and CT, it's still a small audience comparative to what Scyfy (or whatever it calls itself now) expects from an original program.

A better question though, is why should the Rifftrax group go back to Scyfy? After all they seem to be enjoying enough success (i.e. monetary income) from Rifftrax with no network to hassle with. Seems to me that they are avoiding a lot of extra work for a little extra money (if that).

Hammer made a mistake lo, these ten years ago and everyone has gone their own way since. A "one-time" MST3K special? Well, if it consisted of interviews and old footage I could see that happening. Anything else? Probably not.

Ken

Subject: Re: Syfy President: "'MST3K' Is 1-Note; Did You Watch More Than 15/20 Minutes?" (CONFESSION TIME!)

Posted by [Jim Ellwanger](#) on Mon, 21 Dec 2009 03:16:05 GMT

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In article

<12b3457b-0741-47ff-a684-a5a2e23dbbe9@o28g2000yqh.googlegroups.com>,

Doug Elrod <dre1@cornell.edu> wrote:

- > Because you can't go wrong getting advice from JIM!

Taking this completely out of context, I agree wholeheartedly with this sentiment.

(And my advice is to ignore the comments of Mister Network Suit Who Comcast Will Probably Fire Once They Take Over, because they just don't matter. Instead, spend your energy laughing at your "MST3K" DVDs and tapes, plus the works currently being produced by Rifftrax and/or Cinematic Titanic. Thank you, won't you?)

--

Jim Ellwanger <usenet@ellwanger.tv>

<<http://www.ellwanger.tv>> welcomes you daily.

"The days turn into nights; at night, you hear the trains."

Subject: Re: Syfy President: "'MST3K' Is 1-Note; Did You Watch More Than 15/20 Minutes?"

Posted by [George Johnson](#) on Mon, 21 Dec 2009 05:37:48 GMT

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Subject: Re: Syfy President: "'MST3K' Is 1-Note; Did You Watch More Than 15/20 Minutes?"

Posted by [Judith](#) on Mon, 21 Dec 2009 21:41:36 GMT

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