

Eli. Hey folks! This is Eli, producer of Station Arcadia. Long time no see, huh? We recorded this Q&A shortly after the end of season 1, meaning, over a year ago, September 2021. But we wanted to wait to release it until closer to the start of Season 2, the production of which has been, and continues to be, a bit of a long process. But don't worry, season 2 will be kicking and screaming its way into the world before you know it.

Stay tuned for a release date announcement soon. And in the meantime, I hope you enjoy this Q&A!

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[INTRO MUSIC - SEASON 1]

ELI. Three, two, one!

[EVERYONE CLAPS]

JAYMES. Awesome!

CECIL. Awesome.

ELI. Ok cool. Let's get started!

CECIL. Yeah!

ELI. We've just been sort of chatting about Ace Attorney for a long time-

[EVERYONE LAUGHS]

JADE. Huzzah!

ELI. So we're gonna get this on track, this is our- Welcome everyone to our Q&A, our post-season-one Station Arcadia... Q&A. Oh my god.

JADE. Great.

CECIL. It's happening.

ELI. We made it! Uh, let's first just sort of go and introduce ourselves, so I am Eli, I'm one of the producers, I use they/them

pronouns, and I'm really excited to be here today! Um, we're in a call, I don't know if you guys are all... in the same order for me? Why don't we just... go around.

JAYMES. Do you wanna- you can just call people off, that's fine.

ELI. I'll just call people out, uh, ok. Why don't we do producers first, so we'll do Cecil next.

CECIL. Uh, hi, I'm C.V.V.M. I use- I don't know what pronouns are listed on the website but they/he works. I'm also very excited to be here! I can't believe we made it this far, that's so fun!

[EVERYONE CHEERS]

ELI. Ok, uh, Jaymes why don't you go next.

JAYMES. Hi, I'm JR Steele, or as most people know me as, Jaymes! I use he/him or they/them pronouns and I'm just happy to be included!

[JADE AND JAYMES LAUGH]

ELI. Ok Tovah, or they of many names...

TOVAH. Yeah, um, I am credited as Tovah but I've got a couple other ones underneath the belt that I'm not going to list off. I use they/them, uh, and, y'know gang, I'm just happy to be here.

[EVERYONE LAUGHS]

ELI. We can't- we can't all say this.

TOVAH. As soon as you two started saying- like as soon as you two repeated it, I was like, oh I know exactly what I'm going to say.

ELI. Uh, ok! And then, so that's sorta it for the crew that's on call here but we've also got two members of the cast so, Jade...

JADE. Hi! Uh- Oh shit, I almost forgot my name. Hi! My name is Jade Virginia and I voice Kass. I use they/them pronouns, and... it was really great to be here, I'm gonna- I'm gonna be leaving now, uh, this was great, thank you so much Station Arcadia.

ELI. You put in your appearance.

JAYMES. (*crosstalk*) Alright bye Jade, good to have you on!

JADE. No, I am very glad to be here.

ELI. Bye Jade forever!

JAYMES. We never hear Jade again.

ELI. No- that's it, there's a new voice actor for Kass. And we never mention it.

JADE. Ever.

ELI. There's no mention of the switch. Um. Ok, and then... Rae!

RAE. Ok hi! Um, my name is Rae Cameron, I am the voice actor of Axel Moore, I use she/they pronouns, and... y'know what, gang, I am just feeling glad, just so happy to be here tonight.

[EVERYONE LAUGHS]

TOVAH. (*crosstalk*) We're all just so happy.

JAYMES. (*crosstalk*) I'm so glad that we're all glad!

CECIL. (*crosstalk*) We're all just happy to be involved.

JAYMES. We're all glad to be here.

ELI. I'm so glad to be here! I'm - yeah!

JAYMES. I'm so excited.

ELI. So- this is thrilling. I'm sure- this is so much more fun for us right now then for anyone listening to this.

[EVERYONE AGREES]

JADE. Yup! Pretty much.

TOVAH. This is thrilling content we're producing right now, guys.

JAYMES. It is *absolutely* thrilling. I uh, I was so happy actually today cause I got to say "Oh, I'm recording a Q&A for my podcast today" and a person who didn't know me goes "(gasp) You have a podcast? Like a professional podcast?" and I'm like "Yes I do, very professional."

ELI. (*crosstalk*) I've been getting that a lot.

JAYMES. "We are professional podcasters." It's great. Lots of people have been asking me about Station Arcadia, it's wonderful.

JADE. Oh sorry, cause just I listen- oh uh- or I live in New York, um, I say "I have a podcast, I'm in a podcast!" and they're like "Great. What is it."

RAE. (*crosstalk*) "So do we..."

[EVERYONE LAUGHS]

TOVAH. I am so excited to like- cause tomorrow I'm going to visit my old poetry professor who I love so much, and when we were in the first rounds of the Audioverse Awards I was like "Oh I like have something I gotta [inaudible] some like podcast stuff" and he's like "You have a podcast?!" and I was like "Yeah it's this" and he's like "I'm gonna listen to it, I'm gonna go tell everyone else in the English department to listen to this. And to vote for you for the Audioverse Awards." I was like "Okay!"

CECIL. "Okay, sure!"

ELI. Today, today a new friend asked me, he- like I think I've mentioned my podcast a couple times, but he was like "So what do you talk about in your podcast?" and I was like "Oh honey... honey no..."

JADE. (*crosstalk*) Talk about!

JAYMES. (*crosstalk*) Isn't that the question. Oh hun...

TOVAH. It's just the b- just like- quote that like part of like the book club where they're talking about praxis versus like, theory.

ELI. I think he would actually get a kick out of that.

JAYMES. I, I have like multiple times like worn my Station Arcadia sweater- I got the first Station Arcadia sweater ever and I'm gonna brag about that until I die - but I was wearing my station arcadia sweater and the amount of times I've been asked "Is that Welcome to Night Vale?"

CECIL. I mean the logo...

JAYMES. My favourite, so good.

JADE. The eye iconography, I mean-

JAYMES. Be like, "Well, no, but if you like podcasts, and you like Welcome to Night Vale, you're gonna love Station Arcadia."

JADE. Yeah.

ELI. So today for our Q&A, we're going to be having C.V.V.M. read us questions, and then we're all just gonna kinda discuss them! None of us, except for C.V.V.M., have any idea what has been asked. So-

CECIL. I'm the only one who's seen the questions I think.

JADE. Bring it.

JAYMES. All powerful.

RAE. That's so scary.

JAYMES. All knowing.

ELI. So um. First of all, do we have any questions from patrons? I was pretty sure there was one...

CECIL. Yeah there is one! It's from Sera who uses she/her pronouns, uh, who is Claws of Fenrir, and she asks: How many stories tall is the Station?

[EVERYONE GOES "OOH"]

ELI. Ok. First of all, thank you for the question Sera, um-

TOVAH. I don't know enough how actual radio stations are like, structured, to answer.

CECIL. Yeah, how's a real radio station structured?

ELI. Doesn't matter, Station Arcadia is its own thing.

JAYMES. It's its own thing, we can do whatever we want.

ELI. How tall is it?

JAYMES. How tall IS it?

JADE. I've always imagined it like a one-story school that's like, super long. Like that was in my brain.

JAYMES. Yeah, interesting!

CECIL. In my head-

TOVAH. That's kind of like what I thought too. Sorry, you go, uh, C.V.V.M.

CECIL. In my head it's like 5 stories tall, but like 4 of those stories are like underground.

[EVERYONE GOES "OOH"]

TOVAH. See, see, at least have a couple stories underground because um, there's a very stupid pun that like doesn't have a lot of context outside, but is used in the discord server, which is the Tape Decks. Which is, um - here's some little lore tidbits that you might have picked up on, is that Arcadia is powered by a- basically the amount of supercomputer code but all put onto like, tapes, and so there are literal entire layers of the station that

are like server rooms except they're just like, tapes, and those are all at least the parts that are underground, so that's a whole thing that's going on.

JAYMES. How I have been picturing Station Arcadia, has been like, you know the, you know the big like spaceship in uh, WALL-E?

JADE. Oh, like the Axiom?

JAYMES. And you know how you have to like, go up and like get zoomed up and elevator to get to the captain's deck, that's where Kass is.

JADE. Oh shit!

CECIL. Oh my god.

RAE. So fun!

ELI. Okay!

JAYMES. That's my, that's my little headcanon for Station Arcadia.

TOVAH. *(while laughing)* We love to see it.

ELI. I think I've mostly been picture in just like, at least like a main story on the ground level, and probably a bit sprawling kind of like Jade said, and then definitely like a basement, but I don't think I was picturing anything really tall. Maybe - I think there's like a tower part to it, like in the, um, y'know like in the logo.

TOVAH. *(crosstalk)* It is a radio station.

ELI. It is a radio station. But I don't know if the actual *building* goes up that high, cause it's not that futuristic.

JAYMES. Yeah, true. I have also pictured it like the CN tower, uh, which is kinda funny and I think it's just 'cause of the logo design.

[LAUGHTER]

TOVAH. I love how Jaymes is just like, we're gonna slap a skyscraper on this island, and the rest of us are just like "yeah like a public school building", like-

[EVERYONE LAUGHS]

JAYMES. Nonononono- like, like, I'm saying slap the CN tower on top of like, the WALL-E space-ship.

JADE. Oh god.

JAYMES. That's what I'm saying. MASSIVE Station.

JADE. It's actually a McDonalds.

[LAUGHTER]

CECIL. The general consensus is there's no canonical height, except that Jaymes thinks it's really tall.

ELI. I think it's a Denny's, actually.

JAYMES. It's a Denny's! Axel lands in a Denny's parking lot, and is like "Hey guys".

ELI. It's an abandoned Canadian Target.

JADE. Oooh.

JAYMES. Wow that's very specific.

JADE. Spicy!

TOVAH. I love those vibes.

JAYMES. Real spicy.

ELI. It's cause I was walking around and I saw one of those Target spirals the other day, I'm in Canada so it was not a real Target.

TOVAH. Like one of the Target targets?

ELI. There was like an architecture thing... I don't actually know, my American friend was like "It's Target!" and I was like "What?".

JAYMES. I- I mean, the middle of the eye in the Station Arcadia logo does look like Target, so maybe it's a sign.

ELI. It's all coming together.

JAYMES. It's all coming together!

JADE. Target, sponsor us.

TOVAH. Sorry guys this is like end game spoilers we're doing right here, of we're going to reveal the Station is Target.

JAYMES. An abandoned Canadian Target. Dammit.

TOVAH. The other nations are actually just different department stores-

JAYMES. (*crosstalk*) Walmart!

TOVAH. -like the Empire is k-mart.

ELI. I would think the Empire... I think the Empire would be Costco.

JAYMES. Can Talsoria be Tescos?

ELI. I think the Gannon Islands could be Safeway. Do you guys have Safeway in America?

JAYMES. No.

TOVAH. We have a Safeway- I have a Safeway.

JAYMES. I don't have a Safeway.

TOVAH. Jaymes, you can see a Safeway when you come over here!

JAYMES. Ok, I'll come see a Safeway.

ELI. It's not that exciting, it's a grocery store.

TOVAH. (*crosstalk*) They're not exciting. It's a grocery store.

CECIL. Um, so, how about we move on to the next question...

JAYMES. Good idea.

ELI. Thank you Cecil!

TOVAH. Good idea.

CECIL. The next question is from Kat, who uses she/they pronouns, and they ask: What were your inspirations for the Queen of Port Azuriel? Which is episode eight-

JADE. Yesssss I love this episode.

CECIL. Which, I think I get to answer since I'm the writer of that episode?

[EVERYONE AGREES]

CECIL. Um, ok. So, it was inspired by a book series that I *adored* in 8th grade, which is the Mike [Matt] Cruse series by Kenneth Oppel. And I binge-read the shit out of those and most people I talk to have never heard of them, but I just, loved them and I haven't read them in ages but I still love them, *so much*. So, it's pretty heavily edited from the original version, but that's- that's the inspiration for that episode.

ELI. All I know about Kenneth Oppel is he wrote those books about the bats, like you know Silverwings?

CECIL. I have those books.

[EVERYONE STARTS TALKING, THEN STOPS]

JAYMES. Oh wow, all of us started talking, that's ok. Uh I was just going to say- I personally, not to pick favourites, but I *love* episode eight. Episode eight has been one of my favourites for a while.

JADE. Oh yeah.

TOVAH. Not to pick favourites, but episode eight is one of my favourites. It's like a combination of- I like how the episode is like structured differently than the other ones, in the fact that it is like, diary entries and stuff, and I also- I loved Jade's delivery of the final entry.

[EVERYONE AGREES]

CECIL. Jade's performance was so good.

JAYMES. It made it- I got chills, it was incredible. Just everything about that episode came together so nicely, and the story is so like, intriguing, and it's like that good level of like, almost haunting, but interesting, and it's not quite horror but it like borderlines... it's very good. I really really like it.

ELI. The bit at the end where Jade like, where you start laughing because of the like...

TOVAH. Hypoxia.

ELI. The whole episode it's been saying like "Oh, the laughing means you're getting the altitude sickness," and you start doing it at the end, and it's like- so good.

JAYMES. Which, that's another thing is the science in it, just the- like- all of the content of the science and how that works.

ELI & JADE. (*sagely*) Science.

CECIL. Quote un-quote.

TOVAH. Our sci-fi science.

ELI. Yeah... don't... take it as fact, necessarily.

TOVAH. Don't. No, obviously airships don't actually exist, but that's also one of the ones where, in Hardizan, I felt like that episode particularly cashed in on the like steampunk technology aspect of it? I felt like other ones, like, were a little bit more in the criticism of industrialization and like other things like that, but sometimes for steampunk... you just gotta throw your

people onto a big flying ship, and put them in a fucked up situation.

JADE. I actually have a funny story about the laughing...

TOVAH. Uh-huh?

JADE. I remember, when we were discussing the episode, I think I suggested at one point, I was like- should I like, laugh? And you guys were like yeah, like just give it a shot, like do a couple different takes of it. So I was like, ok cool. So I was trying it out, and my partner was like sitting in the room with me being very quiet and very good. And, uh- *(laughs)* I was like, this doesn't feel right, like I feel like I'm not being fucked up enough. Or- can I say fuck in this?

[EVERYONE AGREES THEY CAN]

JADE. Oh great, awesome. Ok. So, I was like, I feel like it's not fucked up enough, I feel like it needs to be more... Like, crazy. So he literally got up, came over to me, took my sides, and just started like shaking me, and tickling me, and I started laughing, and he's like "Yeah, just do that".

[EVERYONE LAUGHS]

CECIL. I mean if it works it works.

JADE. So that's how it happened.

JAYMES. It did work! I loved it.

JADE. I'm glad.

JAYMES. Yeah I got chills while editing, it was great.

ELI. Can I just add one more bit about the inspiration for the episode, which is just for the title, um-

TOVAH. Yeah!

ELI. Uh, well Cecil wanted to have it be the name of the ship, um. But we couldn't really decide what the name of the ship was, so

for the longest time it was just like in square brackets, like [NAME OF SHIP] - Episode Eight. Um. And we thought of so many things and none of them worked, and in the end, I... when I was a kid I took the boat, the ferry, the BC ferry, the Queen of Nanaimo a lot. And that went between the gulf islands, so.. I would vacation up there. Uh, and so that's where the name the Queen of Port Azuriel came in, because a lot of those ship names would always be the Queen of something or other, like the Queen of Nanaimo, the Queen of Victoria.

JADE. That's dope.

ELI. I don't know where Port Azuriel came from, I think Azuriel was C.V.V.M.'s idea, but. That's what it was! Just a little throwback. And the Queen of Nanaimo doesn't run anymore, so just a little throwback.

[EVERY CHIMES IN WITH "AWW" AND "THAT'S NICE"]

JADE. Like an honorarium.

CECIL. Uh, let's move on to the next question! This is from Sapphic Nerd, who uses she/they. Do you have a map for the world of Station Arcadia? Either physically planned out or in your mind?

[LAUGHTER]

TOVAH. We do! It is on... you can find it somewhere on our Twitter, I know we've posted it there. We also have several iterations of the map stored in the Google Drive where we keep like, all of our outlines and scripts and worldbuilding documents. That's all in there. I know at one point we posted the *first version* of the map that we drew-

[LAUGHTER]

TOVAH. -because the version we have currently we used an RPG map maker to make it, so it looks like it could be a map, but the first one we did was done in Google Draw, which is like MS Paint but somehow worse, and the Empire looks like a right lung, it looks like a lung, and that's the best I can describe it.

JAYMES. Well, we also have a globe don't we, we have a globe GIF, of i think the old one.

CECIL. I think we have a globe somewhere.

JADE. Oh!

ELI. I don't think we've posted that, have we posted that anywhere?

JAYMES. It's very cool.

TOVAH. I don't know. We have a version of a Talsorian map which is more detailed than anything we've posted, which is a division of all of the districts within the cities...

JAYMES. And I think we do have an Empire map with Clercourt and Surrigen and like all of the individual areas of the Empire, in like a big sort of area, so we can see where things are.

ELI. We should really put those on our website, I think we've been talking about it. It's gonna happen at some point, so if you're listening to this it may or may not be up at that point? I'm going to try to remember, we'll probably have like a little media page.

JAYMES. *(laughing)* Oh my god!

ELI. Yeah I posted- for those just listening to the episode, I posted the Map 1.0 in the chat and it's *so bad*.

JAYMES. I love the Gannon Islands, the Gannon Islands are just four little circles in the corner, and the mountains in Talsoria are like these big old swooping lines... I love it. I love the overlapping lines of Proteus Island. It's so good.

JADE. No this is gorgeous.

JAYMES. Bright colours.

TOVAH. Honestly, we never should have updated.

JAYMES. I think the bright pink definitely fits the Empire.

[LAUGHTER]

CECIL. So yes we do have a map, and I believe it's posted on our social media.

ELI. It is, but you'd probably have to scroll way down... if you go onto our Tumblr and you search like "map" it might come up.

JAYMES. SD we are going to be reposting a bunch of stuff, soon, so it might pop up again. '

ELI. It probably will.

TOVAH. So keep an eye out for that map repost if you don't want to go do your own internet sleuthing. But it does exist, we have posted it, and...

ELI. Eventually it'll be on the website.

TOVAH. Eventually it'll be on the website.

JAYMES. It'll be easier to find.

TOVAH. There are also, like, locations that we have made up that are not on the map. One of which I will say from the Empire, I won't say what the deal with this place is, but it's one of the major cities kind of, which is Bunker Hill, that is not placed on the map, but it is a thing that exists. There are a couple of major locations that don't exist on the map.

JAYMES. Yeah.

ELI. And a lot a lot of minor ones, you've just gotta assume that all the spaces in between are filled with little towns and cities that didn't make it onto the World map.

JAYMES. Yeah, if any like small towns and cities are mentioned that are kind of one-off things we probably have not put it on the map.

ELI. Though maybe!

JAYMES. We might!

ELI. Sometimes we do mention one-off cities and it's actually a big city in Talsoria, you know.

JAYMES. Right, well, and usually, you know, if we do mention that, then it probably will be mentioned again. But- yeah, small cities, probably not.

ELI. Anyways, long stories short. Map: Yes.

JAYMES. Map yes.

CECIL. Ok. Next question, which is from Ali who uses they/them, and they asked: which cast member would you say are the most and least like their characters?

[JADE LAUGHS]

TOVAH. Oooh...

ELI. Well first of all, you two, do you guys- how much do you guys think you're like your characters? A lot, not at all, certain aspects? Did we type-cast you?

JADE. Uh... Rae you can go first.

RAE. No! I would very much like you to go first cause I would like to think about this.

JADE. Oh, uh thank you. So... Kass... Kass. I would say we are probably like 80% alike in terms of just like um... being kind of all over the place, with attention and um, making decisions without thinking about the long-term consequences, in general. Biting off more than we can chew, I think that's definitely a big part of Kass's personality and some of mine... I mean, kind of just being sad and gay. I mean, I'm fine! Hold on, wait, I'm fine!

[EVERYONE LAUGHS]

JADE. It's just being... being y'know, a little sad and a little gay!

ELI. Going through it sometimes!

JADE. Yeah! Like we all do.

ELI. I think it's definitely accurate to say that Kass is going through it sometimes.

JADE. Sometimes.

CECIL. Kass is going through it...

ELI. Yeah... I think Kass has just sort of a lot kinda going on, and a lot that they're still trying to... y'know like, when you're like in a really intense situation and you've got a lot going on and you don't really realise it cause it's all going down so fast, and then as soon as you're in a safe place and things are actually kind of going ok now, and then you're realising "Oh that was fucked up".

JADE. Yup.

ELI. "That was also fucked up! Holy shit-" and you're just tryna like process this, so I feel like that's been - y'know Kass has been at the STation for just over a year now, and I feel like that has been Kass's year, is like, one, sort of settling into "Okay, this place is ok" but also just like... "Hold on what happened, what has my entire life been".

JAYMES. (*crosstalk*) Yeah... just looking back at stuff and going woah...

ELI. Dealing with having lived in a cyberpunk dystopia and then not anymore?

JAYMES. And seeing like that cyberpunk dystopia also from an outside perspective.

JADE. Totally disillusioned with it. And- you can edit this out if you don't want to keep it in but I just want to say: Every time I think of Kass now I just think of that tiktok audio that's like, "They took my fucking eyes, piglet!"

[LAUGHTER]

RAE. Oh my god.

ELI. No, we're keeping that in.

JADE. Oh great, awesome.

JAYMES. What about Rae?

TOVAH. Yeah Rae!

RAE. So, here's the thing. I love Axel. She's a- she's a peach. Um, now I do, I feel like I relate to her in the way where I make decisions without thinking them through very well, and then I'm so casual when they don't go as planned, I'm like "this isn't that big of a deal" so- uh. I really look up to her go-getter attitude. But- I don't know. I think she's fun, I think she's to the point. I don't know! I- I think the idea of just like going out on an island and owning a fishing shop, I think that she has the right idea with that. I think that is somewhere I'd like to be in the next thirty years.

JADE. You definitely give off the vibe of someone who's just going to fuck off and go do something else.

[EVERYONE AGREES]

JAYMES. Just relax!

JADE. And I love that.

RAE. If I could just like have one person that I talk to- that's fine. That is fine.

JAYMES. Valid! Entirely valid.

RAE. I don't need connections.

ELI. I think that could definitely be Axel.

RAE. Right?

JADE. Definitely spot on.

TOVAH. Should I answer for Asphodel?

ELI. I was just about to say, yeah, we have other voice actors-

TOVAH. Asphodel was a recurring character in season one, and uh-mm, might be more again in season two-

[EVERYONE GOES "OOH"]

TOVAH. So I guess I'll say for- what I'm like versus her in season one since that's what's now. I- hmm. I like to think I'm not too much like Asphodel, because I like to think- um. I'm not, *(sigh)* you know...

ELI. A bitch?

TOVAH. A bitch, yeah, but I do somewhat relate to, this is like something I like to think comes through in Axel, in the final scene that Asphel and Ax-adel have to- hold on a minute.

[EVERYONE LAUGHS]

TOVAH. AX-el and AS-phodel have together.

JADE. You're accidentally creating ship names.

[LOTS OF "OH NO!" GROANS]

TOVAH. This is how my brain works, it sucks. But, this kind of like, building up the kinda persona of a cold bitch, and it's definitely true to some degree in Asphodel, but she also deals with stuff with her mom, of like having this constant pressure being put on her to like not be the one that fucks up their public image as a family, and I think that that is something I think- my mom is *not* as bad as Hayyacynth Russel, I'm not saying my mom's as bad as Hayyacynth Russel, but my mom also does not like to show her feelings to people, because she likes people to think that she doesn't have feelings even though she's like "I have them all the time I just don't want people to think I do," and so I - this is something I have sometimes inherited from my mom of like- oh, I'm going to act kind of mean and a little bit cold so people don't think I care even though I do so much.

ELI. I think Asphodel is- I mean, she's kind of an asshole and she's passive aggressive and all that, but she's got- she's got some depth, she's dealing with some shit.

CECIL. She's got things going on.

ELI. We might see more of Asphodel in season 2 for better or for worse.

JADE. Ooh.

JAYMES. Uh, I for one would like to say that I think I'm 100% like ERIS. I *am* a robot, and an AI, and I'm fake.

CECIL. Jaymes is a robot confirmed.

JAYMES. I am a robot.

TOVAH. And you communicate entirely through whistles.

JAYMES. I- yes. This is- I have a translator on right now, this is not actually my voice.

JADE. You're whistling so fast.

JAYMES. I actually communicate entirely in morse code.

CECIL. Your translator is so good, oh my god!

RAE. Yeah, this is crazy!

JAYMES. Thank you so much, thank you.

ELI. Jaymes, Jaymes Jaymes Jaymes you are forgetting your most important character-

JAYMES. I am!

ELI. Which is the one Russian security guard!

JAYMES. The one Russian security guard who gets punched in the face.

ELI. Who gets punched in the face by Kyreese!

TOVAH. This is somewhat off topic but can I tell a story about the auditions.

ELI & JADE. Yeah.

JAYMES. Oh gosh, not this one, please, please spare me, I'm gonna cry.

TOVAH. Is it actually ok if I-

JAYMES. No, tell this story, I love this story.

TOVAH. So, when we were doing auditions we had the crew audition as well, like if the crew wanted a part they also had to audition, and so they had to go through the monologues, and we had that thing where we're like, uh, say if you can do any accents and if you can, just like, add something onto the end of a sentence of you doing that accent to prove that you can, and Jaymes misunderstood this. So I sat down to listen to the audition and I hear Jaymes's just like, regular voice and I'm listening to him and I'm like yup, this sound like Jaymes, loving it so far, and then like, sentence ends and next sentence he's suddenly Russian.

[LAUGHTER]

ELI. Like in the monologue, within one monologue.

TOVAH. In the middle of the monologue, the monologue isn't over yet. And then that happens again, but suddenly he's American.

CECIL. I remember listening to that.

JAYMES. So I was just- I was talking in a British accent and then I suddenly switch and *(with Russian accent)* I'm suddenly doing this accent like halfway through *(with American accent)* and then I'm like, American and I don't even know what I'm doing anymore.

TOVAH. I got whiplash from that, anyways.

JAYMES. It was great, it was very fun.

TOVAH. That was off-topic, but we said Russian security guard, and- we also affectionately refer to it as Russian Jaymes and American Jaymes.

JAYMES. Affectionately!

TOVAH. Then I started thinking about Russian Jaymes and I was like ah.. That audition.

JAYMES. American Jaymes is not affectionate. American Jaymes is derogatory.

ELI. Yes, absolutely. I- what the fuck is American Jaymes.

JAYMES. What is an American Jaymes. Nobody likes to hear it. Nobody wants to hear it.

JADE. American... Derogatory.

JAYMES. *(American accent)* Everybody's ears has to- has to listen to American Jaymes at least some point in their life.. and this is that point for some people.

CECIL. I hate it.

JADE. This is a hate crime.

RAE. This is wrong! This is a hate crime against.. us.

CECIL. *(crosstalk)* Yeah this is a hate crime Jaymes.

JADE. *(crosstalk)* Us, your cast!

ELI. And the listeners! You would do this to our listeners? Anyways-

[EVERYONE CHIMES IN A DISAPPOINTED "WOW"]

TOVAH. We should do next question, is that what we're saying, or...?

CECIL. Uh, yes, let's move on to the next question.

ELI. Wait wait, one more thing! Cecil how much do you- Cecil how much do you think you are like Stitch from the book club?

CECIL. Not at all!

[EVERYONE LAUGHS]

CECIL. Um, Stitch is like, from my understanding is like a very extroverted person, and albeit in 7th grade I did have a YouTube channel...

JADE. Oh.

TOVAH. Nice!

ELI. Stitch is the vlogger of the group, so.

CECIL. Yeah, so Stitch is a vlogger and I did have a youtube channel for a little bit but... aside from that? No. Nothing like Stitch.

TOVAH. I like to think that Stitch does their livestreams, and also does like v-tuber stuff on the side.

CECIL & ELI. Ok, next question now.

CECIL. Uh, the next question is from Raven, who uses she/they, and they have 3 questions!

JADE & ELI. Oooh!

CECIL. The first one- I'll just, I'll say one and then we can answer it and I'll move on to the next one. So they say: "Where would you live if you had to choose between Talsoria, Hardizan, and The Empire?" So everyone's favourite Gannon Islands is not a choice.

JADE. Dammit! God dammit.

JAYMES. I love that the Gannon islands is *purposefully excluded* cause the Gannon Islands is probably the most stable community to live in.

TOVAH. I mean every other place is just like- their ecosystem? Even if you ignore the fact that like, the Gannon Islands government system is better, in it's current state than the other ones, everyone else's ecosystem is also just like fucked to hell.

[EVERYONE AGREES]

ELI. I'm going to say I would like to live in Talsoria because I think I could handle the really fast-paced Talsoria life, and like- I'm a city person. I think I could... I think I could deal with it. And I have red hair, so I think I would fit in.

JADE. There you go!

CECIL. I think I would go with... the Empire, which is... an interesting choice but it's just because-

TOVAH. It is!

CECIL. Listen. I am disabled, and I have sensory processing issues. So, I think my best option for like, survival, is just like, be a nurse in the Empire.

JADE. That's pretty good!

[EVERYONE AGREES]

JAYMES. I think personally, for me, I'm a steampunk, I'm a Victorian England type guy, so I gotta say Hardizan, I also - I think that if this is included in this question at all, um, if Station Arcadia exists and the people in the word exist, I'd hit up Charlie so quickly and be like "Hey man, get me into your revolution, I am a part of it, I am down-"

TOVAH. Uh, slightly illegal mutual aid group.

JAYMES. Slightly illegal mutual aid group, sorry, I forgot they don't have a revolution yet.

CECIL. Yet.

JADE. Yet

ELI. Ooooh spoilers, yet!

JAYMES. They don't have a revolution. They don't have a revolution, they have a slightly illegal mutual aid group.

RAE. Oh, so slick.

ELI. We're keeping that in.

JAYMES. Audio editing! No, okay.

ELI. No no no.

JAYMES. That's on you guys, if you want to spoiler things now.

TOVAH. Honestly, I think I would also go Empire, for the same reasons as Cecil, in the fact that I'm very disabled. Um, I would not be able to handle the uh, like, manual labour in Hardizan because of my chronic pain, I wouldn't be able to handle the overstimulation of Talsoria, I'm just gonna like, go to the Empire, I'll do something there, I don't know what, and y'know what, if I die I die. At least it's not usually of starvation.

[EVERYONE LAUGHS SADLY]

ELI. Depends what country you're from, I think some of them probably have food shortages, but we haven't gotten into that.

TOVAH. Yeahhhh a couple of them. The Empire socio-political and agricultural scape is just like, constantly shifting.

JAYMES. Yes.

JADE. I would actually probably also live in Hardizan, because steampunk vibes. And I know I would probably die, I know I'd be in some horrible factory accident, I know, I know, but if I just had the shot of being on an airship crew-

[EVERYONE AGREES]

JADE. That would be it. I just wanna walk out on the bridge and listen to music, that would be fucking dope.

TOVAH. Like be the offical bard or something.

JADE. Yeah, oh my god. And like imagine an airship with like a radio and you could just like jam out tunes. That'd be cool.

ELI. And like I think Hardizan does have music, I think we've talked before about the possibility of people from Hardizan trafficking physical instruments into Talsoria, um, and that concept is just-

JAYMES. Very cool.

JADE. Very cool.

ELI. Like trafficking banjos.

JAYMES. Oh my gosh banjo trafficking.

TOVAH. Besides the Gannon Islands, I would say Hardizan is probably the country that has the most physical instruments, and people who would know how to play a guitar.

JAYMES. I think the Empire would contest that though.

TOVAH. The Empire... the Empire , this is something that we have inside that worldbuilding revamp, is that they like music but it's usually really hard to get a venue for things, and there isn't a lot of great places to get resources to learn how to do the things, so they like music, but it's like-

ELI. I think they have a lot of singing. Like in the trenches you have singing.

JAYMES. And also, like-

[CLAPS RHYTHMICALLY]

JAYMES. (cont) less string instruments.

JADE. Percussion.

ELI. Rae, where would you like to live?

RAE. I think, now listen, I don't like a lot of noise, but Talsoria- gosh, with all the colours, the lights, its just-

JADE. And the fashion!

RAE. Exactly! And I love new technology. I just think it would be such an exciting place to live. Now listen, great is not the word I would describe.

TOVAH. None of these places are great places to live.

ELI. I do enjoy actually food for instance, I would miss that.

RAE. Oh for sure! But if it's all I ever knew.

JADE. I could definitely see you being an influencer, and hitting that sweet two weeks of fame, and just fading into rich obscurity.

ELI. I would watch your vlogs as a Talsorian citizen I think.

RAE. What a nice little compliment.

CECIL. Yeah, Raven's next question was: "What has been the most unexpected part of making a podcast?"

[SILENCE]

CECIL. Which- [laughs]

JADE. Making a podcast.

JAYMES. Making the podcast.

ELI. Wasn't expecting it!

TOVAH. For me, this is something, this is a slightly personal thing, but it's that people care about the things that I write, like people feel emotions about the things that I write. I remember going into the tag and somebody was like, talking about how the themes of the show, and how the episode was done, how it had an emotional effect on them. And I was like, heh, I wrote that!

CECIL. I'm not gonna lie, when I was reading through these questions, and reading through the comments people left, I did start crying.

JAYMES. Oh yeah, I've read a couple of things where people have commented on certain lines from a segment in the episodes or something, and I'll like look at it and be like oh my god, that's my line, I did that!

CECIL. I think just the impact that this has on people is what's most unexpected to me.

JAYMES. Yes. I think for me it's the amount of people that I've met, I know so many people now, I have never had this big of a social circle before.

JADE. Yeah podcasting will do that to you. It's a whole community.

TOVAH. Networking babeyyy.

JAYMES. It's awesome, I love it.

JADE. Everybody knows everybody.

JAYMES. Yes, they seriously do, it's such a - for such a big community it is such a small community. Like, I have met so many people through podcasting, and like, I honestly would not have most of the friends that I do if not for the one discord server that Station Arcadia started on, and also Station Arcadia.

CECIL. Oh my god right?

TOVAH. Yeah that's when we met!

JAYMES. It is! You are one of the first people I met. You and Cecil are two of the first people that I ever met online. So. That's kinda cool.

CECIL. I'm honoured.

JADE. Friendship. That was unexpected.

CECIL. Friendship!

ELI. Voice actors in the chat, do you have any, anything that was surprising to you about this process? Or I can go first if you're still thinking.

JADE. Yeah I need a minute.

ELI. You also can just say you don't have an answer necessarily. It took me a second- I think there's a lot of things that I have appreciated about this process and learned, but I think honestly what's been most surprising to me, is that I have grown to like - to a certain extent - like doing social media posts. I did not think that was possible for me to like doing social media. But actually- uh, 'cause at the start I was mostly doing it by myself, but occasionally other people would post- but I was just having to *constantly* be thinking of ideas and I never could think of enough of them, and it sucked, and then we started doing weekly - me and Jaymes, do weekly social media meetings, we have for months now.

JAYMES. It's so much fun.

ELI. And we just sit down, we spend like 15 minutes talking about Ace Attorney or Falsettos, or I don't know some random shit-

JAYMES. Groundhog Day.

TOVAH. Groundhog Day!

ELI. Groundhog Day!

JADE. Oh no fuck me.

[GENERAL CHAOS]

ELI. Hold on, stop, stop. Ok, ok, ok Andy, we once did an *entire* week-

JAYMES. A whole week.

ELI. Of posts, a whole week, where every single post contained a reference to Groundhog Day the musical, just to see if you would notice.

JAYMES. And you *only* texted me on Monday of that week with squinty eyes and that's it. We were so disappointed.

ELI. We were so disappointed Tovah!

[LAUGHTER]

TOVAH. Here's the thing, I don't check Twitter too much... Twitter is like one of my least favourite things but then like I, you guys told me that and then I looked back and was like *these are really goood!*

JAYMES. They're fun.

TOVAH. Also we're talking about the musical not the movie.

JAYMES. Not the movie.

TOVAH. Fuck the movie. People listening to this episode, fuck Groundhog Day the movie, the musical's amazing.

JADE. Scandy!

TOVAH. Ok I'm done now.

JAYMES. Yup.

ELI. Ok, so that was my answer.

JADE. You go Rae, you go.

RAE. Ah! Ok cool. Um, so- something I didn't expect. So this is my first time being in a podcast, but it's also just the first time I've done voice acting as a whole, and just like, being recognized to any degree, is so fun. I love to go through the tags and I see Axel's name, and I'm like oh my god, that's me, I'm Axel. But also I recently got a follower on Tiktok and they DM-ed me and they're like "I know you from Station Arcadia!"

[EVERYONE GETS EXCITED]

RAE. That's insane! They followed me through there and I thought it was so so cool. It was- so cool, I'll have to find their @. It

was just so interesting. Anyways, so just like, being a person that is known from something is very very cool and I love to be a part of it.

JADE. Uh, I think - and this might sound dicey at first, but I gotta elaborate - I think what I wasn't expecting from making this podcast, was just how popular it got, like so fast. Like, you always hope when you start a project that it'll catch on and people will notice it, but I was *floored* by just how much there was going on. Like, the timing of it all and what we were doing and the writing, and the music, and it all just kinda fell into place. Having worked on podcasts in the past, and maybe they don't get off the ground just 'cause of life, or everyone has to kind of bow out because there's just too much going on, like it's really something to see a show reach this point where we can do a Q&A, and it's completely - it completely put me on my ass.

JAYMES. I have to agree.

JADE. So good job you guys. Fantastic.

JAYMES. It's incredible. Like I never- I joined this project and I was so excited to work in a big group of people, but like, gosh, when we started getting popular, like I'm still baffled by it.

TOVAH. We won- four?

JAYMES. Four.

TOVAH. Four Audioverse awards?

JAYMES. Four Audioverse awards. And I've already had people recognize, hey, that's Station Arcadia that you're wearing, I know that podcast, and I'm like *what?* You do?

ELI. Really?

JAYMES. Yeah!

ELI. Woah.

JAYMES. One of my friends actually that I met last year - we met because I had a Magnus Archives shirt on, and I said something

about, y'know, uh yeah, different podcast, Station Arcadia, bla bla bla, and they're like "Oh, Station Arcadia, I know that one!" And I'm like - I work on that one! It was very cool. It was very cool.

ELI. Oh my god. I gotta... have that happen. That's bucket list right there.

JAYMES. I have to agree with Jade, it's incredible how quickly this came off the ground. We did come at like a perfect time, I feel like we just got really really lucky, and we have a bunch of really dedicated people, so. I think it worked out.

CECIL. Part three, this is Raven's last question - thank you for these questions!

TOVAH. These are really good questions.

JAYMES. These are great.

TOVAH. Love these ones. They've all been good, but I'm just saying, I'm enjoying this.

CECIL. Um, her last question is: "What happened to Hattie after she boarded the train? It seems like there's more of the story that Kass didn't read." Um, Hattie is from Episode 25.

TOVAH. Ok, are you guys ready for this? Because we were writing this script, and so like I, creative director, I go through it and do things - this is especially for the last few ones- there was more written for that story, but when we gave it to the person we said "Do not finish this story." We said this story is going to end in a specific place and we're not going to hear the end of it. And the audience needs to feel that, and actually, they had written more of that, past that point, but I was like, we're gonna cut this too. We're gonna cut it at this point, where she gets on the train, and that is where we're going to stop it. So- I will say, you're not going to find out from this Q&A what happens to Hattie, because it was on purpose that we didn't tell you guys. But maybe we've also talked a little bit about the fact that Hattie's story will come around later again.

CECIL. Fun!

JADE. Ohh!

ELI. Yep, it might!

JADE. That's news to me.

ELI. No promises, no promises, but it might happen. And if not, um, if in the end we decide that we're not going to continue it in podcast, you'll probably see something on social media, or in patron.

TOVAH. If we don't continue in podcast, we will probably do like a "ah, Hattie update!"

ELI. That episode actually... yeah, that episode came about kind of last minute, cause we went through two writers for that and in the end we got Pascale on there, and this is again a little off topic but I do just really need to share this, which is that Pascale, um, is a wonderful writer and a good friend of mine and she's written two episodes for this podcast. So they wrote episode 14, the Pomegranate Society, and episode 25, Hattie's story. And we realised that, it just kind of seems like Kass hates Pascale's writing?

[JADE LAUGHS]

ELI. Because, the two episodes that they wrote were like- so we've got episode 14, which is the Pomegranate Society, and that's the one where Kass is reading the story about the orphanage in Talsoria, and because Kass went through the Pomegranate Society themselves, they're like, "What is this story? Doesn't everyone know this? This is boring as shit." Kass is like, "Normally I learn something from these stories but, guess not today! Welp, bit of a disappointment." And- I had to like, I apologised to Pascale. I'm like, "I'm so sorry." I wrote those Kass things and was like, "I promise, I love your writing." Um, and then I'm like "Pascale, can you write episode 25," and they do, and they do a wonderful job. And then I slide into the episode and I break up the story with Kass being like "Really? I'm having to say this bullcrap and I wanna listen to the election?"

[JADE LAUGHS]

JAYMES. So Pascale, we love you. Kass doesn't.

ELI. And again I was like "Pascale, it's good!"

TOVAH. It's good we promise!

JAYMES. They are brilliantly written though, I mean, Pascale's writing is very good.

ELI. Yes absolutely.

JAYMES. But yeah, look out for that story! Maybe.

TOVAH. Possibly, maybe.

JAYMES. And if- if we don't come around with that, yeah, we'll probably end up saying it later on in a different out of podcast thing, but we'll see.

ELI. Ok Cecil, next- is there another question for us?

CECIL. Yeah! The next question, the next one is from Glow who uses they/she pronouns. And their question is: "In this hypothetical, Station Arcadia is coming to screens. No set budget or time limits. What's a scene you'd like to see? The more ridiculous and over the top the better." Uh, they also said, "This podcast is brilliant and I'd like to thank everyone who had a hand in making it. Y'all are doing great."

[EVERYONE AWWWS AND THANKS THEM]

CECIL. But, Station Arcadia comes to screens, what scene do you NEED to be there.

JADE. Oh man...

ELI. I want *all* of episode 9.

JADE. YES. That is literally what I was gonna say. Episode 9 is just one episode of... um, oh god the- Black Mirror. And it's so delicious.

[AGREEMENT]

ELI. I want like the full - I wanna see that party with the full lighting and sounds-

TOVAH. Absolutely.

ELI. I want the murder scene. But like - I'm picturing the murder scene but like, there's like - Kiena- um, is it Keina or Kiena? I can't even remember.

JADE. Kiena.

TOVAH. Kiena.

ELI. Kiena, uh, I imagine probably has a penthouse suite. So we're right at the top of a tall building, windows like no one's business. And so you have this scene with these two people that look identical, one stabs the other, and it's all in front of this like-

TOVAH. Huge glass.

JAYMES. City skyline.

ELI. Landscape. This cyberpunk skyline.

JADE. It's like in view, like everybody's watching.

TOVAH. And like, not to get directorial about this, but also the fact that one wall is probably a big screen, and so the windows are reflecting this, so you can tell they're windows but they also look like screens in and of themselves.

JAYMES. Agree agree. I also - ok to add that, SD, who would you cast as Keina.

ELI. I don't know actors very well. I feel like I'm the wrong person to ask.

TOVAH. I am also the wrong person to ask about actors.

JADE. Well obviously Camila Cabello, after her *stunning* performance in Cinderella, I mean.

TOVAH. Um, I have two scenes that I would really like to see, and these are both ones that I had a major hand in writing, because, if you have seen my stuff outside of Station Arcadia but also within it, you know my bread and butter is emotional, mildly philosophical monologues where characters halfway reveal their feelings through like metaphors and stuff but it feels genuine? So, saying that, one, Teddy and Bluebell's scene in the closet together. 'Cause I really love picturing that, and the camera angles, and this would naturally be a space where you want to get closeups on the actor's face to like see their reactions to this, which is also why, if I'm doing a visual medium for this one, we gonna need to focus on actor reactions. And so like this scene, cause this whole scene was kind of my baby, I wrote this one. And then- I know I need to add another one, oh no, but then the Axel and Asphodel scene, where Axel says the fuck word. Cause that is our policy for the seasons, which is that we can use one bad word, and we have to chose the right place to put it. And we chose to give Axel the fuck in that one.

JAYMES. I genuinely forgot actually, that we did do that, and so while I was editing it I heard it and I gasped *out loud* at two in the morning! Out loud. Um, and it was very very good. I enjoyed that placement.

JADE. Honestly, honestly if- Rae if you could just do that whole scene in person, with the same inflections, that would be *sick*. That would be so good.

TOVAH. Doing that in cold read - I loved doing that scene in cold read with Rae, that was a very fun scene to do.

RAE. No no no, that script, the tension and the anxiety that Axel felt, I *felt* that, like it was hard to read, it was - it was very very intense, but anyways go on.

TOVAH. Very last one, is Kass's final monologue of the season.

JAYMES. Oh gosh yes!

RAE. Oh my gosh, oh yes, yes yes yes.

JADE. Oh Jesus.

ELI. I cried the first time I read that.

TOVAH. I wrote that at 10 at night, I wanna say, it was some late time at night, and I sent it to, I think it was SD, I sent it to SD, and I was like, "Does this seem too weird? Am I -"

ELI. Yeah ok, here's the thing, I'm sitting there- Tovah's like "I'm gonna try to do something for the end, I dunno if it'll be good," and they sent it to me like "Is this anything?". And I read - and I'm going into it with that being the premise, like "I don't know about this," and I'm like ok, I'll give it a look, we'll see how it goes. And I read it and I'm just like "what the fuck, what the fuck" and I just sort of start crying and I'm like how is that a question, what are you on??

JAYMES. Tovah is very good at sending things with the pretence of "It might not be good, I dunno, I'm just messing around," and then it's like amazing.

TOVAH. I usually don't say "I don't think it's gonna be good." I usually say "Is this weird? Is this too weird for people to pick up on?"

JAYMES. You do.

JADE. And then there's just emotions. And then it's just someone expressing their emotions and that's it.

JAYMES. But it's genuinely like good stuff, I remember when I edited that as well, cause I don't read a lot of these things before I edit them, unless it's like, the segments or some of the scripts and stuff, but I don't usually get to see these things before the voice actors give them to me. Well, SD gets them and then gives them to me. But the end of season one hit me so hard. And... yeah, I mean the same thing. It's brilliant, I love it, it's emotionally raw and it's a really really good end, and I had another "Oh my god we're making a podcast" moment, when I was editing that.

ELI. Can I add one more thing just to this question about the movie, cause we've kind of gotten off of that, but I was just thinking, the very end of Episode 17, cause the way, when I was writing that I pictured it a very cinematic way. and I sort of tried to capture that in-podcast, but I would love to see- cause like, it cuts back and forth between the different campfires, and you could kind of have them be mirrored in position, and like, showing the parallels in a visual medium as well, and then you could- yeah, you could do more obviously like, at the very end, I don't know how well it came through in podcast, but we- we were going back and forth between the Empire and the station and the very last chorus is them singing together, so you could do some sort of like... crossfade type thing and then also fade in different clips from Hardizan- like you could, as they're singing show a clip from Peaches and Charlie, biking home together, or of the fireworks from Talsoria, and Memorie and faer friends looking up at the sky, or like you could sort of layer it like that, because that's the effect that I wanted, which is like montage of all the different societies coming together. And then fade to black with the trumpet solo.

JADE. I think that and also the end of season one, I picture a montage of everyone going about their lives, I picture Axel talking into the radio with Kass, like saying the end monologue overhead, and like, something's coming, something is happening. And I picture it in my head all the time.

ELI. It's like the first trailer again!

[EVERYONE AGREES]

ELI. That's always what I imagine with the first trailer, where it's zooming up above, and the very end of the season mirrors that and we zoom back out as Kass talks!

JADE. Station Arcadia animated season when.

JAYMES. Not to be like Station Arcadia is such a good podcast, but Station Arcadia is such a good podcast.

TOVAH. Such a good podcast.

JAYMES. The cool thing is that I can say that cause I'm not the writer of the entire thing, I can complement everyone in that statement. I love that. I do want to say- I have so many scenes that I'd love to see, but my personal thing is that I don't see a lot of gay men in media, so I would really like the scene with Sorren and Finn in Episode 17, to be visualized, I think that would be wonderful. And yes that's my baby and that's the scene that I wrote and I love it very much.

JADE. It's such a good scene.

TOVAH. I remember reading that scene in voice call.

JAYMES. I cried, I literally cried, it was so good.

ELI. Them dancing in front of the fire, and I'm just imagined soft carpet, and the crackling fireplace, and the glasses of wine on a little wooden side table.

JAYMES. While I was soundscaping it, I just imagined Sorren sitting next to Finn and snuggling up against him, and it's a very cute scene and I would love to see it visually, it's one of my favourite scenes, so, yeah.

ELI. Before we move on, are there any other scenes that you guys-wanna get in, that you'd love to see?

CECIL. This is very weirdly specific, but I wanna see the scene where Kyreese punches the guard.

[EVERYONE AGREES]

JAYMES. Can I still play the guard?

TOVAH. You can still play the guard, babey. Of course.

TOVAH. And then everyone watching the movie will be like "Why did they let this twelve-year-old-

[LAUGHTER]

JAYMES. Yup.

CECIL. Um, alright. So, SD is just a little bit busy, and they'll be back in 10 or so minutes, so we're just gonna continue without them for now. This question is from Mikaela who uses she/they pronouns, and she asks: "What D&D class and corresponding subclass would the Arcadia residents, Kass, Jo, Lyssel and Z be?"

JADE. Yes! (*crosstalk*) can we also do Axel- yes. Absolutely.

TOVAH. (*crosstalk*) I think we also have to do Axel because we have Axel's voice actor in the - we will, so you'll get a little bonus.

CECIL. Sure we'll do Axel cause Rae's here. As a little bonus.

TOVAH. Um, I mean, I feel like Lyssel's gotta be an artificer, right?

CECIL. Oh for sure.

JADE. Yeah, definitely.

CECIL. I think Kass has to be a bard, just by- just by nature of her existence.

JAYMES. I like Kass bard yeah.

TOVAH. Like a lore bard, that class, college of lore?

JADE. I remember- I remember we talked about this, and it was between bard and warlock, because of the station, and how it communicates to Kass, but I do prefer bard, definitely.

JAYMES. Um, I feel like- hmm. The issue- I can't answer this very well, I'm afraid I'm not very familiar with the station residents myself, I need to meet them a little bit more.

CECIL. I'm gonna say Jo is to me, a wizard, just because of all of the like documentation and stuff, it feels very wizard to me.

TOVAH. Like order of the scribe wizard maybe if you want to get into subclass and that kinda thing.

CECIL. I don't know much about subclasses, but-

TOVAH. But like you get the vibes from order of the scribe.

CECIL. Just the name is vibes enough.

TOVAH. And then for Z- honestly? Like a fighter, right?

JAYMES. I was gonna say fighter as well.

TOVAH. I honestly actually, I'm would say- considered that all of them are decently high level in this situation, I think that Z mostly has fighter levels but has a couple of glamour bard levels.

CECIL. Oh my god.

JADE. Oh yeah.

TOVAH. Just like a few.

JADE. Can't keep that down. Uh, what about Marvin?

TOVAH. Marvin..

JAYMES. That's what I was wondering.. My guy Marvin.

TOVAH. I mean, the instinct is storm sorcerer.

JADE. Well yeah! That makes the most sense, definitely.

JAYMES. I actually- I don't know why, but I really like paladin Marvin. Just personally.

TOVAH. That's also pretty good.

JAYMES. I think that paladin Marvin would be really cute, with like a sage background?

CECIL. I get like tempest cleric vibes?

JAYMES. Ok, yeah, that's- gotta agree with this one.

TOVAH. Rae, do you have any opinions on Axel class?

RAE. Now listen, I- I don't know very much. I am the worst. And no, because, I have played D&D before, but I'm not super familiar with different classes and I don't know what would be appropriate for Axel!

JAYMES. What about, what about Axel as a druid?

TOVAH. I do like circle of the shore, or whatever.

JAYMES. Circle of the shore druid.

JADE. That actually makes sense, like going up to bat for the environment.

CECIL. Yeah, that's very druid.

TOVAH. But like druids also have that kinda hermit sometimes vibes, and it's like "Yeah, I'm gonna go out and try to help the environment, but y'all, I'd rather be fishing."

CECIL. Y'all I'd rather be fishing.

JAYMES. Yeah... are we forgetting anybody?

CECIL. I don't think so?

JAYMES. Jo, Lyssle, Z, Kass,

JADE. I mean the station is just a god.

TOVAH. Yeah, Arcadia herself is just a patron, or a god.

CECIL. I think that's everyone! So, the next question is from Jonathan who uses he/him pronouns, and his question is: "What did you start from when generating ideas for the podcast?"

JAYMES. That stream of text in the Mechanisms general.

TOVAH. So, the crew met in a Mechanisms discord, and I think how it started, some people were like hey, what if somebody from a steampunk and cyberpunk place met? And then we threw in dieselpunk and solarpunk, and somebody said "you could make a podcast out of this!"

CECIL. That was me! I said you can make a podcast out of that. And then I made the servers, and then we're here!

JAYMES. That's honestly one of the only reasons I ended up looking at it, cause I got so overwhelmed at that point by the Mechanisms server, and I had so many channels on mute actually, and the reason that I looked is because Cecil had said something and I was more friends with Cecil than anybody at that point. And I saw that Cecil had said you could make a podcast out of this, and I went, "I make a podcast!" and so I jumped on that bandwagon. But yeah no it was a little stream of text.

CECIL. It was just someone giving a random idea.

TOVAH. But then past that point...

JAYMES. Past that point it was a lot of meetings.

TOVAH. Once we had that, all of the societies going into one, then we had worldbuilding and character voice calls, where people would be like "I think it would be cool if this," and someone was like, "Oh that does sound cool," or maybe that causes some problems, maybe we want to go more like this. And so it was very much a collaborative effort.

CECIL. Lots of just long meetings of everyone talking about stuff.

JAYMES. Throwing spaghetti at the wall and seeing what sticks. I actually went through the character document and we had a lot of ideas for like - we had Kass very quickly. But we had a lot of different ideas for Kass that were very popular that didn't make it into the final thing. Or like, we had a bunch of ideas that were like, maybe this could work, maybe it couldn't, and then we ended up doing it. So that was super fun.

JADE. Care to share one of those early iterations?

TOVAH. We could pull open that document.

JAYMES. One thing that I did want to say that I really like about Kass that didn't actually end up making it into - at least season

one, is that we gave them the nickname "Kassie". And I really like the nickname, but we didn't end up keeping it.

JADE. Only one person calls Kass 'Kassie', and they are...

[JADE MAKES A LITTLE "DEAD" SOUND]

[OTHERS GASP AND LAUGH SADLY]

JADE. That's my headcanon.

JAYMES. Cries.

TOVAH. One of the other things, there were originally a lot more pitches for characters who would be at the station, and we had to cut on that severely.

CECIL. Originally it was going to be way bigger.

JAYMES. I found a couple of old characters from the station.

TOVAH. I was the one who put their foot down on the "Ok we need to cut some of these station characters and we can't keep making more."

JAYMES. I'm actually - I'm finessing two of the OG station characters for a story, hopefully, in the future, I'm very excited.

TOVAH. Uh, I think we got another question?

CECIL. Um, the next one is from Len who uses they/them-

JAYMES. Len!!

CECIL. They asked, "In terms of education slash general knowledge, how much do people from different places know about history, whether it's of the place they're from or other places?"

TOVAH. Oh, like in universe?

CECIL. In universe.

TOVAH. Ok. Y'all? Worldbuilding revamp master over here. I have a whole section on the docs for this. Um, historically, Gannon Islands probably has the best record of their history because for a period of time it was hard for them to record it in writing things, but they never really had a limit on oral tradition, so, they have a lot of passed down stories and stuff. Whereas in other places, they have gone through a *lot* of different propaganda and revisionism, so people tend to not know things. The Empire is one that comes to mind, they have a, um, public education system up to a certain point, but they are constantly, their books are constantly getting burned and replaced with new ones, as alliances change, and borders change, and like, "Oh these people have been bad the whole time, but now we're allies with them so actually they've been good the whole time, and we're getting rid of all the records of that," so the Gannon islands, while they have an iffy written record, they probably have the most accurate record of their history, due to this open oral tradition.

ELI. I think Talsoria-

CECIL. Oh, Eli's back!

ELI. I think people in Talsoria think they have a really good history.

TOVAH. Cause they can look things up.

ELI. They think that they are so worldly and they know all this shit, cause they like get education. They get like - ok, they probably have a class on Talsorian history, and it briefly touches on the Gannon Islands and Hardizan and the Empire, but they get *hugely* biased information. It's not very accurate, it doesn't go very deep or broad, but they probably think that - they're probably like "Oh, those ignorant people in the other countries, they don't know anything-" but really they're-

JADE. They think they're like better, they're above it.

CECIL. I think for the most part, people really don't know a lot about the continents outside of their own, it's just not something people like, learn about really.

JAYMES. Aside from I think the Gannon Islands

CECIL. Yeah the Gannon Islands the most, but even then...

ELI. Ehhh...

TOVAH. The Gannon Islands also...

ELI. I kind of disagree, I think they're pretty insular.

JAYMES. I agree, I think just because they tie into the Empire so much, but also, I think that's probably the only exception that comes to mind, and even then it's not very great, I mean they still are very within themselves, their own history.

ELI. I think that's one of the biggest flaws of the Gannon Islands as a whole, is that they are so- they are so insular.

TOVAH. And it's pretty - it's somewhat reasonable of them, because they've been through a lot of colonisation, but it's a little bit of doubling down to an unhealthy point. And like, demonizing people who are genuinely in need of help, like for example imperial refugees.

JADE. Can I ask- I know this is from the fans, but I'd just like to ask cause I'm curious now. Now we know that, um, all the countries don't interact, the continents don't interact with each other. If they did, if they decided to like, open up and do maybe like more trade, or communicate more, or- what have you. Do you think that would be better or worse, for the world.

JAYMES. I think at first it would be worse, and then going forward it would be better.

CECIL. I think it would be complete and absolute hell for a couple of years, maybe even a couple of decades.

JAYMES. (*crosstalk*) I think the transition period would be... absolute shit.

CECIL. The transition period's terrible. Once that's over? A noticeable improvement.

ELI. I agree, cause I think they all have very different technologies that would really benefit from each other.

JAYMES. I think that's true of any big change, even in our world. Like the transition period going from something massive to something else that's massive is going to be a terrible drop. And then once it actually settles, and once people are more comfortable and once generations pass- it's going, I mean yeah, it would be so beneficial.

JADE. I just realised- if all of the nations in Arcadia talked to each other, you would just have Earth, just our world.

[EVERYONE AGREES]

TOVAH. Except some people have airships, and other people have AI, it's bad.

JADE. I want an airship though!

JAYMES. Well, and then eventually, you know, things would spread and things would change, and more advancements would be made, and people would- still discriminate against each other I'm sure-

JADE. Hooray!

JAYMES. But it would be a lot more open, and a lot more - you know, a lot more diverse of a world.

ELI. I mean- even just, if you think about the amount of manpower that's going on in the world of Arcadia that's on completely useless shit, like all of the Empire infighting, but even all of the- we haven't touched on it too much, but the relationship between Talsoria and Hardizan is- so fraught. They're essentially in like a sort of cold war type like standoff, that we again didn't really touch on that much, but it's sorta mentioned, sorta hinted at, and like- if they just collaborated instead, it would be... just in terms of like-

JAYMES. Very beneficial

ELI. It would be so much more beneficial.

JADE. Dangerous

ELI. Dangerous, yeah, but also they wouldn't have to spend energy worrying about the other countries. They could just put that energy somewhere else.

TOVAH. Well, I've gotta go. Thank you, I hope y'all have a good time and also someone else needs to start recording the everything cause I'll be gone.

ELI. Oh, ok!

[EVERYONE SAYS GOODBYE]

CECIL. This one is from uh, Ellis, they use they/them pronouns. This question is directed at Jade, or any cast member with a large speaking role, so- Jade.

JADE. Yeahhhh!

ELI. I would say also Rae!

CECIL. Also Rae, fair, Axel is pretty prominent.

JADE. Rae's a main.

RAE. Hi!

CECIL. How many takes does a typical voice acting segment for an episode take? They also said, you guys do amazing work, keep it up.

[EVERYONE GOES AWWW]

CECIL. Thank you Ellis.

JADE. So.

JAYMES. I love that face.

JADE. It takes... one take. By the very beautiful grace of, um, the sound editors of this crew. I have been allowed probably the

easiest recording experience in terms of like, um, how to record. Cause for some podcasts you have to record *one line* per file.

[EVERYONE AUDIBLY SHUDDERS]

JADE. And that's just a fucking nightmare.

JAYMES. Which- that's hell on audio editors by the way. Why would you do that, don't do that.

JADE. Snd sometimes you record per page, and that's a little bit better but it's still not great, especially for people who talk as much as I do.

CECIL. Imagine you have a line that cuts off at the end of the page so you have to stop mid-line, like what?

JADE. Exactly, it just sucks. So what we do, is we record the *whole* episode, and then if I want to do a different take of a line, I just pause and then I say it again. So like, um, "You've been listening to Station Arcadia."

[PAUSE]

JADE. *(more energetic)* "You've been listening to Station Arcadia!"

[EVERYONE LAUGHS]

JADE. You just take a beat - but that's actually how you do it. It's the best way, I think.

JAYMES. It is.

ELI. And it works out cause it's also my favourite as a sound editor, like.

JAYMES. I was just gonna say- people who ask for- and I've had a couple of people send me this for Domestic Life of Anthony Todd. But a couple people have sent me, and it's only if they have three lines in the episode or something, but um, they'll send me individual audio files for each line. And that's fine if it's three lines. But Jade has the entire episode. If I had an audio

file for every *single line*, not only would the continuity just be - like, sorry Jade, but that would be terrible.

JADE. No you're right, that would be ass!

JADE. The continuity would be terrible, and it would sound so static and rehearsed. And also- so much storage space. Like that's just counter-intuitive, it's so much to download, it's so much to put in an Audacity file, like it's just not worth it.

JADE. So you podcasters, you young ones, don't fucking do that.

JAYMES. Don't do that. Just record one audio file... ultimately, ask your audio editor. Whatever makes it easier for them, do that. If they tell you that they want fifty audio files of each line, *fine*.

ELI. They're insane-

JAYMES. They're insane, but do it.

ELI. They're insane but do it.

JAYMES. But, yeah. If you are audio editing, it is so much easier with one file. It's just easier.

ELI. Rae on the other hand, what's your process like. 'Cause it's not quite the same as Jade's.

RAE. Yeah, I do record the same line several times, I keep it all in one audio file but I do record it several times, just to get different takes for everybody. But it is pretty similar to Jade in that I do record the entire episode in one.

JADE. It just makes it easy!

RAE. It does!

JADE. And there's like that brief moment of silence where like you're breathing and you're scrolling down the page to find your next place.

RAE. Exactly. And instead of just like - when I first started recording for the season, I would just completely erase my audio file and re-record everything so many times. And I was like - I don't have to do this, I'm sure they'll like some of this. But I was just so critical of myself.

JADE. Sometimes I would say like- "You've been listening to station arc- FUCK!" and just like - I'd have to erase that section of it. Like sometimes I keep it in for the bloopers, which will be coming out I'm excited for it.

JAYMES. The bloopers are fun.

CECIL. Ooh bloopers.

ELI. It's - got a lot of bloopers.

JAYMES. I actually was going over the bloopers today and that was very amusing. I had a great time with that. I will say though, something that I have been wanting to do, and will probably start doing in season 2, and you guys will hear this from me, don't worry. I'm going to go and- I'm essentially going to make the process a lot more like Jade's for everyone. I really want to limit the amount of re-dos we have to do just because of audio continuity and that sort of thing, but also because it's just a hassle to do re-dos, I mean, it's just a hassle for everyone involved. So the less you have to do them... y'know.

ELI. Yeah. And I suspect Jade you'll still see them, we'll try to get them to you quicker but- because you just say so many words.

JADE. I'm still gonna pronounce everything wrong.

JAYMES. You say a lot of words!

CECIL. You say so many words.

JAYMES. And y'know sometimes it's unavoidable, but yes I think that- eventually audio editors kind of find what works for them and go with that. But hopefully it's easier for-

ELI. So can I jump off of that for a sec-

JAYMES. Yes.

ELI. I don't want audio editors to get the wrong impression hearing this and think that what we do is that we have actors- by keeping it all in one file we're not having actors record the same thing- like they're whole lines in succession, multiple takes in a row, if that makes sense? Like, cause I hate that as an audio editor. Like if you say- say you have ten lines and you read lines one to ten, and then you pause and you read lines one to ten again, and then you pause-

JAYMES. Uh, yeah no.

CECIL. It's like an AAABBB pattern.

ELI. That is my pet peeve, I'm so sorry if you're an actor in Station Arcadia and you've done this, because- previously I've probably been very gentle to you in DMs, but I need you to know how much I hate this.

[EVERYONE LAUGHS]

JADE. The truth comes out.

ELI. Here's the thing: because the way I edit means that I- some actors, I tell actors to give me two to three takes in general, unless they're reading a whole monologue. Sometimes, some actors only give me one, and that's fine especially if they do good takes. And some do, and it works out totally fine, and if I haven't complained about it, it's probably not a problem. But- the way I'm editing is, I will go through and listen to the line, and I'll listen a little more, and I see "Oh, they moved on to the next line, ok! So they only gave me one take". And then I work with what I've got. And then I move on the second line and I do that. So if you send me a full audio file with lines one through ten, pause, lines one through ten, like that, it means I get to editing line ten and then I realise you've given me-

JAYMES. There's more takes!

ELI. Two more takes of each line! And I have to go in and re-do everything. Because at that point I don't want to just like, "Oh we'll just ignore all those other takes," I'm a perfectionist, I

need to make sure that I'm choosing the best take. But it doubles the work.

JAYMES. But also like - it's entirely not fair to like, y'know. I am somebody who, if you give me lines one through ten, lines one through ten, lines one through ten and I don't realise it, and then I get to the second pair of lines, I just ignore them! Unless there's one line where I was like "I really need them to re-do that," I honestly will just cut them out- and that's not anything against the actor, but I do feel it when I cut it out. I'm like, that is so much wasted time. Like, I wish that I had told them not to do that before they had wasted that time on that. And again, that's just - that's communication, that's just a communication error.

ELI. And meanwhile for me it's like I can't ignore a line, if you've sent me a line I've listened to it.

JADE. You have to, yeah.

JAYMES. So again, audio editing- it depends. It depends on the person.

ELI. Anyways, mini rant over I guess.

CECIL. So - let's move on to the next question. This is from Rad who uses she/they pronouns. If I do say so myself that's a rad name-

JAYMES. Hell yeah!

JADE. Rad!

CECIL. She said, "How do you guys go about making your podcast so inclusive? You guys just make it so natural and not forced at all or strange." Uh she also said, "I love this podcast oh my god."

JAYMES. 'Cause we're all gay.

CECIL. Yeah it's cause literally everyone involved is gay!

JAYMES. Thank you for enjoying our podcast, Rad.

RAE. Thank you Rad!

ELI. Yeah, I think it comes from a place- um. A lot of our sort of diversity is in terms of gender and sexuality, I'm not gonna- we don't really canonize the like- how any of our podcast characters look, so like, I would feel strange about saying that we're, as a blanket, great at diversity, cause mostly what we've been - if I say so myself- pretty good at is diversity specifically in terms of queer identities. And, y'know, in some other situations as well, we have some like disabled characters as well-

JAYMES. Very true.

ELI. But I think a lot of what it comes down to is, it doesn't feel forced because we're not doing it - a lot of it comes from a place of wanting to see ourselves represented. We have a lot of different writers which I think really helps, so you get a lot of different people's perspectives, it's not all written by one person- and that's- just- what comes from having lots of different writers, it's not like we've done anything really special in that count.

JAYMES. Well-

ELI. Like, if one person- well if one person is writing it, they can definitely- there's a lot that one person that do to try and include different perspectives, and to try and educate themselves, but it comes very naturally when you've got like six to ten writers, each with their own world view and everything.

CECIL. I think ultimately it just comes down to all of our writers being like, queer youths and young adults who just want to see themselves portrayed, so that's what they write.

JADE. This is the future babeyyy.

CECIL. This is the future, the future is gay!

JADE. Neopronouns, it's the future.

JAYMES. Neopronouns are so cool, and I'm so glad that we include them in our podcast. I think also a large part of- and I've thought about this quite a bit, but I think that a large part of

why our inclusivity does seem not forced, is that nobody is going against it in-world. And I think that's really important because in media, coming out stories is all of the gay media. And like, homophobia stories, and like, stories about "Well I just want to be transgender but my parents don't accept me." That's not the story we're telling.

CECIL. That was something we intentionally decided to not include in our world in any sense.

JAYMES. We have spoken very outworldly in meetings and in stuff like this, that being gay, or having a different gender identity or being disabled, or having some sort of oddity that would be strange in our world, that's not the conflict. There are so many greater conflicts in Station Arcadia than what someone choses to identify as.

CECIL. Like being different will never be the conflict.

JAYMES. It's not. There is so much more to that world, and ultimately, it shouldn't be a conflict in our world, and that's what a lot of us believe, because that's just our day to day life. There's no question about respecting somebody for what they're asking you to refer to them as, or like, how they were born or that sort of thing. And I think that's a lot of the reason why our representation is so casual, and is so, you know, inclusive, is because it's just not an issue, it's a normal thing. And a lot of times people who are different are villainized in media, and are put down in media. Even if it's a story about, you know, like coming out and being yourself and that sort of thing, there's still a level of "this is wrong" in those stories. And in Station Arcadia it's not.

ELI. I think there's definitely a place for those stories.

JAYMES. There is absolutely.

ELI. Cause those are also experiences that people have in the real world and want to see represented.

JAYMES. Yeah for sure.

JADE. Oh absolutely.

JAYMES. But there aren't enough of stories where it just exists.

CECIL. Like sometimes you just want people to be queer and have that not be like, the central focus of the story, or the central conflict, or what they are all about. You just want it to be like "Yeah I'm gay, and also I'm robbing a bank." Or whatever.

JAYMES. No I mean- we've had our Love Simon, and we've had our Wild(e), and we've had- sort of stories about being gay and coming through it and that sort of thing.

CECIL. But then we have stories like the art faire where it's like, yeah they're not heterosexual cis people, but that's actually not relevant to the story.

JAYMES. And I mean, there's a love story, with Peaches and Charlie where they just kind of fall in love and that's how it goes.

ELI. Yeah. Jade, what were you saying?

JADE. I think a problem just with like, pop culture in terms of representing us as people, is that they don't! Because it's- a lot of it is introducing the cis straight world into our culture, and the only way that they can sympathise is by showing people like us in our lowest states, and our most tragic states. So what's wonderful about Station Arcadia and what I think it kind of achieves better than a lot of other podcast out there, is that, like you said, the tragedy is not being yourself, the tragedy is that the world is on fucking fire. And everyone is trying to figure out how to deal with it. The tragedy is not that- the difficulty isn't, y'know, a gay person is forbidden from loving someone, is that there are cows going fucking crazy, and they need to be stopped! So yeah, I think that pop culture hasn't quite gotten it yet. In terms of-

ELI. I also think that Station Arcadia doesn't hold anyone's hand, um, when it comes to queer identities. I have several people in my extended family have caught on that I'm doing a podcast, including my grandparents, and I remember when they learned this and I just went "aw fuck!" 'Cause they listened to it! They listened - my grandparents, and my uncle, and I think one of my cousins, sat down and listened to the first episode together. And I was

dismayed to hear this, um, not because they're not wonderful people, but because I know that Station Arcadia is- I don't want to say it's not for them, because I think it could be for anybody, but also they were left really confused. Partly cause if you've never listened to an audio drama before, you need to understand that you're not gonna-

JADE. It's a little weird.

ELI. Yeah, it's a little bit different. But also, like, at no point do we stop and go "Here's what neopronouns are," y'know, it's right into the deep end. And I think that's kind of nice. Cause if someone's walking into it and they don't know what neopronouns are they hear that, they go "Huh? What? Hol- Ok, guess that's a thing." Like, it doesn't-

JAYMES. Cause you have to keep up with the story, you just have to keep going.

ELI. You do.

CECIL. So you don't necessarily have time to nitpick that kind of thing.

JAYMES. Well, and that's something about worldbuilding- I mean even just storytelling. When you're creating a world, you're essentially telling the audience "This is what's happening, I will give you the information that it exists, and through context you have to keep up." And the cool thing is that, the thing about our worldbuilding in terms of neopronouns is that we use earth-ly neopronouns, I mean we use neopronouns that real people use. We use sexualities that real people use, and identities that real people use. But- yeah, it's like reading Lord of the Rings for the first time, you have to learn what a hobbit is, y'know, you have to pick it up through context. J.R.R. Tolkien doesn't just sit you down and go-

ELI. He does though. Here's the thing- he totally-

JAYMES. Does he?

ELI. Jaymes, I love you but you picked the wrong example cause the first four chapters of Lord of the Rings are J.R.R. Tolkien going

"Here's what a hobbit is and here's the genealogy of every single hobbit," like literally, and it's so fucking boring.

JAYMES. No that's fair. Lemme see if I can figure something different out.

JADE. What's something that just kind of fucks you right up, right from the get go.

JAYMES. Yeah... oh! I know. Six of Crows. Six of Crows just throws you right in and it's so confusing, it is incredibly confusing, and they're like, here are all these *words*-

JADE. It's like all Dutch, for some reason.

JAYMES. Yes it's all Dutch! And like - like here's some names, and they're weird, and you don't know how to pronounce them, and we're just gonna give you these and just, here's the world. And once you read it, like, it's brilliant, it's so well done, and the universe is so cool.

JADE. I love Six of Crows.

JAYMES. She just kind of throws you in! It's one of my favourite-my favourite modern book. I say modern because the Great Gatsby is my favourite book of all time.

ELI. It really helps that when we were planning Station Arcadia we were just so caught up in having this cool idea and wanting to see ourselves represented that we weren't like, "What's going to be a good story that's approachable to everyone including my grandparents." It was just "I wanna tell this story" and then it was six months down the line that I realised it wasn't really approachable to my grandparents and at that point it's fine, and it doesn't need to be.

JADE. It's ok!

JAYMES. Well, and also, yeah, I mean a similar thing happened to me with Domestic Life, is that I made this podcast the same exact way, and was like, "I'm just going to make a character which switches names every day!" And then my grandparents listened to it and were like wait, is this the same person? And I'm like yes,

they switch their names and pronouns every day! And that's confusing, to- and I didn't even realise! But that's something that we do in Station Arcadia as well, where we're just like "This is the pronouns they use, and that's fine." It does really just throw people in and I do think that's a massive reason why we're... good at representation?

JADE. Sorry, I just want to add one more thing about it because there is an opposite end to this conversation, and it's sometimes when people of our community make something, and it is with the intention of making it like, LGBT, sometimes that is focused on a bit too much, and it sometimes will take away from the story itself. Like, I worked on a podcast, like, one of the very first podcasts I ever worked on, it never got aired, but it was like "Who's my character? What's my character about? What are the other characters?" and they're like "Well this one's poly, and this one has neopronouns," and I was like "That's so cool! What else about them is there?" and they were like "Uh... they're like a medic... one's like a captain," so like, I think there is the balance, and the balance is just let it-

JAYMES. Just write people!

CECIL. Just let it exist.

JAYMES. Just let it happen. And try not to fixate on it too much, because when you fixate on it, that's when the story just becomes bogged down, and it will unfortunately read as performative, when that's obviously not what you want to do with it.

JAYMES. And on that note, I hear a lot of times people will just be like "Oh I really like this media!" and I'll go "Oh, why? Can you tell me about a character you like?" and they'll be like "They're a lesbian!" and I'm like "Oh that's really cool! What else about them?" and they're like "Well, I mean, I guess she's like fine... but she's a lesbian," and I'm like ok, you're not selling me on the story. Like, as much as I love lesbians, it doesn't interest me.

ELI. I always include it as the kicker. I'm like, here's the story, I go into the whole detail, and then they're like wavering, and they're like, on the fence, and I'm like "and also, these

great characters I just told you in depth? THEY'RE LESBIANS!" and then they're like "ahhh."

CECIL. Yeah.

JAYMES. That's what it should be.

JADE. Quite literally the Station Arcadia like, hook. At the very end- also it's queer.

ELI. At the very, yeah.

JAYMES. That's exactly it. Is that, this is our world, this is what we're doing, this why our podcast is interesting, also, it's queer.

JADE. As a bonus! As a little treat.

ELI. Alright, Cecil, do we have more?

CECIL. Yes, we have one more question, and it's from Caspian, who uses moon/it/star/vine/forest and he pronouns, which I think are very fun, I love those.

ELI. Oh my god, cool pronouns!

JAYMES. So cool!

RAE. Oh my god.

JADE. That's hot!

CECIL. Um, moon apologized for using a lot of pronouns, which I don't think is something to apologise for, I just wanna say.

[EVERYONE AGREES]

JAYMES. No! Not at all! I was going to say Caspian is an amazing name, and then you said the pronouns and I'm like-

RAE. I'm swooning

JAYMES. - "oh my gosh! Oh my goodness."

CECIL. So star's question is: "What other medias were inspirations for Station Arcadia, and what tips would you give to someone creating their own sci-fi dystopian story?"

JADE. This is perfect.

ELI. Ok.

RAE. So good.

CECIL. Moon also said, "Thank you so much for creating such an amazing podcast, I happy stim every time I listen to a new episode since there are so few pieces of media that use neopronouns without issue, or are just so unapologetically queer. It's really refreshing, thank you."

[EVERYONE GOES AWW]

JAYMES. Caspian I love you-

CECIL. Yeah me too!

JAYMES. -I love you so much.

CECIL. It made me so happy to read that.

JAYMES. That's a wonderful final question too this is- so good.

JADE. Yeah thank you so much.

JAYMES. Thank you.

CECIL. So what other media inspires Station Arcadia.

ELI. So there's two parts to that question, yeah, what media inspires it and then wh- I'm so sad that Tovah isn't here, cause I know they could go off-

JAYMES. I know, Tovah would like, *talk* about this.

CECIL. Tovah would have loved this question.

JAYMES. Maybe we can get them to record a response, later on, just for this.

ELI. That's dangerous, it'll be like fifteen minutes. But you know what, it'll be fifteen minutes and we'll love every minute of it, so.

JAYMES. We'll love every second of it.

ELI. Oh my god, I don't even know.

CECIL. I think we took a lot of inspiration just from real world stuff that's going on, like real world cultures, real world technological advancements, like no actual media, just like, the actual world.

ELI. Yeah.

JAYMES. Well-

ELI. Also media.

CECIL. There's definitely some media.

JAYMES. I do have a couple of personal influences. But I know for Episode 3 in particular there was a water crisis type thing we were referencing, which kind of formed the basis of...

ELI. Oh yeah, that was based on... I wrote an essay about that! You can- if you go to our website, if you go to the episode three webpage, there's a link at the top and you can read the essay I wrote about how episode three relates to very real water crises in- as it relates to dams in Indigenous communities in Canada. I did my best with that- that was like a year ago, so I don't know if there is more information that is now missing from it, but you know, that's a good jumping off point if you want to know how episode three is *distressingly* related to real life. It's like, I didn't make any shit up, that story is just, y'know. It's actually worse in real life.

JAYMES. Yeah. It's- that's something we did hold hands a little bit on, but on purpose.

JADE. There's a lot of real life influence involved.

ELI. Methyl mercury poisoning is not made up, it's a real thing that results from freshwater dams and affects real people in Canada and across the world.

JAYMES. So a lot of inspiration for this podcast is real world issues!

ELI. And I linked some sources at the bottom, and I'm like, looking at them now, and they're all like- I linked Wikipedia, and like, the New York Times, so it's not like a research paper.

JAYMES. An essay essay. But it's pretty good though, I have read through it, and it's fairly educational. But as always, I mean, if you look up anything online, and you read something online, go look into it! A hundred other places. If you're interested, go look into, don't just take one person's word for it.

ELI. Actually click on all the sources.

JAYMES. Use Station Arcadia as starting point and look in!

JADE. What were some of the fictual... fictual, holy shit. Fictional influences- I'm a voice actor - what are some of the fictional influences that went into this, cause I feel like there's a million, I feel like there's literally a million.

ELI. There really are.

CECIL. Oh yeah. Like... there's... ok. Nevermind. It's like there's some game- that I feel like the game is just called Cyberpunk and then a year?

JAYMES. 2077 I believe it is.

JADE. The Keanu Reeves one?

JAYMES. I don't know if we actually took any influence from that.

CECIL. I don't know... I feel like that influenced Talsoria...

JAYMES. We've mentioned it. Well, the name is from R. Talsorian games.

CECIL. The name is definitely a reference, which they *did* notice.

ELI. They- yeah, they did a cyberpunk RPG, which is fantastic. Better than the video game...

JAYMES. But I don't think we actually took any inspiration directly from the game, other than the cyberpunk aspect of it, which, cyberpunk is y'know, an entire genre. I know some people have said - have asked about Penumbra Podcast, actually Tovah have mentioned that they have not partaken in penumbra-ing podcasts-

JADE. (*crosstalk*) Penumbra my beloved.

JAYMES. But Tovah actually writes the Empire. And so I actually, for the small bits of Eempire that I wrote, I was thinking a little bit Penumbra, I had a couple of other things too, but Tovah primarily writes the Empire, and so I want to say Penumbra, while a very good podcast, did not directly inspire the Empire in specific. There's little inspirations everywhere- the Sorren and Finn scene that I talked about earlier is actually a headcanon that I have for- I'm obsessed with Sherlock Holmes, but- a Sherlock and John scene that I've had in my mind from like, 10th grade, I've had that in my head forever. Um, but a lot of my personal influences are like, Sherlock Holmes, and Magnus Archives I'm sure influenced some of us in some aspects.

CECIL. Yeah, I feel like each writer has their own sort of inspirations, and since everyone was working together to build the world, it's just kind of a mishmash of inspirations from like, a ton of different places.

JAYMES. It's quite beautiful! It is quite beautiful.

ELI. I think if you talk to different writers for each episode you'd get different answers, like for me personally it's such a hard one to answer, cause mostly when I write it's based on little snippets of personal experience more than media. Like, there's this bit in episode twenty where the little kids are playing in the woods, and it's lifted straight from my childhood. Y'know, like that's just me playing with my brother in the forest.

JAYMES. I'm exactly the same, I actually can think of um... the bit where Axel is talking to her mum is something that I was really wanting to tell my mum, and I actually did after I wrote the episode, but that was something I was thinking about telling my mum and I did afterwards. So a lot of real life influences as well, and I find myself writing my day to day conversations into Station Arcadia sometimes.

CECIL. There's just tons of different inspiration.

ELI. I think we would be remiss though if we didn't name Welcome to Night Vale as a big inspiration. It's a radio- it's set in a radio story.

JADE. The queen! Literally *the*.

JAYMES. I mean, and Welcome to Night Vale is the queer podcast, and I know for a lot of people it was their first podcast.

CECIL. It was the first podcast I listened to.

RAE. Mine too!

JADE. Yup, mine as well.

JAYMES. I mean it was the first time that I saw- like, gay men in media, what? I was like- that's representation in a different media than like, fanart? And fandom pages?

ELI. I was literally talking about this at the dinner table today with my friends, where I was saying like, I went into Welcome to Night Vale thinking- I had heard that it was queer, and I was like, "Ok so there's going to be a side character in episode fifty."

JAYMES. Right!

ELI. And then I go into - you go into episode one and Cecil's like-

CECIL. (*crosstalk*) and it's Cecil swooning over Carlos.

ELI. "There's this man, I've never met him in my life but I'm gonna marry him."

JAYMES. Yes. And that was insane.

JADE. I think if you take Welcome to Night Vale and you literally just fast forward to the present with Station Arcadia, it's almost like Station Arcadia is an homage, or like, really a showing of just how far we've come.

ELI. I totally agree.

JADE. In, in podcast media and in general. Like especially podcast media, 'cause Welcome to Night Vale was Carlos and Cecil, and that like carried everyone and then more podcasts got more and more, and I really do think Station Arcadia is like a culmination of just this explosion of beautifully organic LGBT stuff. And it's just wonderful, it's wonderfully here. Like you listen to the first episode of that, and the first episode of Station Arcadia, and it's like *fuck* dude, we've come so far.

JAYMES. Yeah. I genuinely do think that Station Arcadia is a beautiful mosaic of everyone's personal experiences and influences, and media that we were all obsessed with in middle school, and podcasts we've all been obsessed with these past couple of years, and y'know, that sort of thing. It is truly just a love song, to everything that we all love, like all our writers and everything? It really is.

ELI. It's a work of- it's a work of- it's a passion project. It really is.

CECIL. It really is.

ELI. In the most literal sense, because we're not like... doing this professionally. What's the second half of the question?

CECIL. The second part of Caspian's question, forest asks "What are some tips you would give to someone creating their own sci-fi dystopian story?"

JAYMES. Worldbuild! Worldbuild the hell out of it! Do all your worldbuilding, make your dollhouse, and then make dolls to play in it with.

CECIL. Having a concrete world is so helpful cause when you're writing things it's like, it's so easy 'cause the whole world is there, you don't really need to think about it? 'Cause a lot of it is figured out. And then it leaves - the way we did it with Station Arcadia at least, I find- there's all these little nooks and crannies that can just be filled by writing an episode. So you're like, hmm, I wonder how they deal with this thing, I guess that's what I'll write my episode about.

JAYMES. Yeah! I mean once you start worldbuilding and you get to a point where you have to start going in depth, those are your episodes.

CECIL. Those are your episodes.

JAYMES. Like, those are the things that you want to clarify and that's- yeah, that's where you want to do it.

CECIL. So just start worldbuilding. And the thing is- it's your world, you can change it however much you want.

JAYMES. You can make fake science, if you want, you can be like "Oh yeah, water? Doesn't freeze.

CECIL. Here's my two pieces of advice. One: just start. It doesn't matter how bad it is, just start. Two is, and I said this in the Domestic Life Q&A too, is you can just stop doing it. If something comes up in life and you get overwhelmed, or you don't like where it's doing, or for whatever reason you need a break, you can just stop.

ELI. I would definitely though, depending on what role of the production you're in... you need to communicate well with people before you stop doing things because-

CECIL. Yes. If it's just a one man project, then-

JAYMES. Right, yeah one man project.

ELI. If it's just a one-man project, but if you're doing it with other people at *all*, don't ghost them...

CECIL. If you're doing it with other people, *please communicate*.

JAYMES. Please god, please communicate.

JADE. Also- I don't know if this person is writing a podcast or if they're just creating a sci-fi fictional fantasy world, but like, if you are making it into a podcast, and I guess this goes for anyone who is, such a big thing, and this is from a voice actor's perspective, is: if you just let the actors play, a little bit, on your ideas, on the character, you might get something you would have never thought of, and honestly might make or break your story.

CECIL. Just let em have fun!

JADE. Yeah! It's like, let them go wild and you reel them back if you need to, but y'know in terms of working with actors, they may not write or direct or what have you, but they are going to be embodying the characters and essentially taking on the roles of the people who live in this world. Maybe they have some ideas, that you should give a shot.

JAYMES. Absolutely! And I think that's true for- especially actors, I mean actors should be able to play with characters, regardless I think that's a really good point, and it isn't said enough - but if you're working on any project, especially if you're creating a new world or something that doesn't exist, you're taking a blank slate and you're making something on it. Don't get stuck to your idea. And I think that - your idea is so good, and other people can make that better. If you're willing to let other people mess with your idea, you will get something so much better than you originally would come up with. And that's something that I've found to be true most of the time. Not all the time - there's always, you know, but most of the time.

ELI. I feel like, paradoxically, it actually helps if you have confidence in your ideas before you let other people mess with them.

JADE. Yeah.

JAYMES. Yeah, no I agree.

ELI. Because if you're kind of insecure, you're not going to want to let people say "What if we do this, what if we do that."

JADE. 'Cause then it's like, "Aw shit, my idea was shit in the first place."

ELI. Yeah that too, and also then you one, either shut out everything because you're like, "Ah, I don't know, I'm just gonna stick with what I got," or you agree to everything.

CECIL. And then you end up letting go of parts of your world that you really wanted.

JAYMES. There's a good balance!

ELI. You need to be confident in your abilities as a writer and producer, and feel confident enough to accept, essentially, constructive criticism or other ideas, without feeling like it's an attack on you.

JAYMES. 100%, yeah.

CECIL. Be confident in your eyes- ideas, not your eyes, be confident in your ideas but be open to constructive criticism.

JAYMES. There's something - there's actually a TED Talk and it's called "how not to take things personally" and it doesn't apply to podcasts. Um, it can, and that's why I'm bringing it up. But it's about just in general, in day to day life, y'know if somebody cancels plans on you, or if somebody says something- it's an exercise in how not to take things personally. And I've found that since I listened to it at least, I've been able to see criticism as a genuine attempt to make my art the best it can be, and not an attack on my creative ideas. And I think that it's really import as a creative to know how to take criticism. And taking criticism is something that they always talk about, but it really is not taking it personally in a negative way. It's- genuinely, if somebody is giving you good, constructive criticism, they are genuinely trying to make your art better, and I think that, sometimes it can fall flat and sometimes it doesn't work out, but

a lot of times it is really really cool to share minds with somebody. Whether it be an actor or a fellow writer. I mean, however much sway they have over the story, it's really cool to listen to people's ideas and see what kind of things you can play around with. Especially in sci-fi, I mean sci-fi is just so fun to mess around with.

JADE. Boundless really.

CECIL. Sci-fi is so fun cause you can just say "Uh yeah, it worked. It worked because it did."

JADE. Yup.

JAYMES. It's very fun. Cool!

ELI. Alright, so I guess that's it for the Q&A!

CECIL. Yeah! That's all the questions!

ELI. Well thank you so much to everyone who sent in questions, thank you!

[EVERYONE SAYS THANK YOU]

CECIL. Thank you for your questions, thank you for your kind words.

ELI. Thank you for listening!

JAYMES. We're so glad you're liking our podcast.

RAE. Woo!

JAYMES. We can't wait to do more, ot give you more things to ask us about.

ELI. Yes... it's gonna be a while but I *promise* it's gonna be worth the wait. Season two...

CECIL. It's gonna be so worth the wait.

ELI. It's gonna be better than season one, and it's gonna be so good.

JAYMES. Heck yeah!

ELI. Alright! And, yeah. Thank you Rae and Jade for joining us.

RAE. Thank you!

CECIL. Yeah, thank you for being here.

JADE. Thank you! For hiring us!

RAE. Right, exactly.

JADE. No but thank you guys so much.

ELI. Yeah, no worries! And while I'm thanking people, thank you Cecil also for organizing the questions.

[EVERYONE SAYS THANK YOU]

JAYMES. And thank you everyone who's listening right now! For listening to our podcast!

CECIL. Thank you everyone for doing everything.

JAYMES. Just thank you, for existing and being you, we appreciate your existence, it is very important to us. You, listening to this.

ELI. So important.

JAYMES. You right now. Love you. You're incredible.

ELI. Mwah.

JAYMES. Mwah.

ELI. Uh, ok!

JAYMES. Can we all do a "Bye!" can we do one of those?

JADE. Yeah like let's all say like a bye.

ELI. Alright. Three, two, one??

[EVERYONE LETS OUT A LONG "BYE"]

[OUTRO MUSIC PLAYS]

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