

## Not Your Mother's Library Transcript

### Episode 11: Mamma Mia! and More Musicals

(Brief intro music)

Rachel: Hello, and welcome to Not Your Mother's Library, a readers' advisory podcast from the Oak Creek Public Library. I'm Rachel, and once again since Melody's departure I am without a co-host. This is where you would stick a crying-face emoji. Luckily for everyone, though, today we have a brand new guest! This is most excellent, truly, because we are going to be talking about musicals, and I do not have any sort of expertise in that area. So, to balance the episode out with a more professional perspective, I would like to welcome to the podcast Oak Creek Library's very own Technical Services Librarian! Would you like to introduce yourself?

Joanne: Hello, everyone. I am a new guest! Hooray! (laughs)

Rachel: Yeah!

Joanne: So, I am the Technical Services Librarian here at the Oak Creek Library. My name is Joanne. I graduated from Carroll University with a degree in music, which was super helpful for libraries. Not so much.

Rachel: (laughs)

Joanne: And then went to UW-Milwaukee to get my masters in library science, and I've been working in public libraries ever since. I've always had a love of music since I've been in a child. My mom is actually a church organist, and so I think that's where I get it from.

Rachel: Wow, yeah.

Joanne: I used to play piano—I did about 10 years and then quit. (laughs) So, I might be able to read some sheet music but probably not very well. But the...mainly, what I was going for at Carroll was singing, so. I've been in four choirs at one time.

Rachel: Dang!

Joanne: So, that was pretty intensive, and that was in high school, actually. So, there you go.

Rachel: Starting young. (laughs)

Joanne: (laughs) So...and then even when I was at college, too, I was in—I think—three choirs at one time, so. I even quit my first job—cashiering at Pick 'n' Save.

Rachel: Fancy!

Joanne: (laughs) Because I had too many choral engagements. (laughs) In high school!

Rachel: (laughs) Wow. Not a lot of people can say that.

Joanne: Yes we—In December at Pius—we would go for...it would be a week, and we would go out every single day and have performances at, like, nursing homes and churches and...

Rachel: Very cool.

Joanne: So...but it meant I had no other additional free time, so...so I quit!

Rachel and Joanne: (laughs)

Joanne. My job. (laughs) So, there you go. As far as li...going back...bringing it back to library land. My parents used to live on the north side of Milwaukee, and the closest library to us was actually Villard. We used to always get VHS tapes of musicals from that library. Villard had, like, the most awesome VHS tape collection back in the day. Makes me sad that that's not happening anymore.

Rachel: Aw.

Joanne: But what are you going to do? (laughs) And so that's actually how I came to really love musicals was checking out lots of musicals and watching them all the time. My favorite musical star—favorite movie musical star, I should be more specific—is Deanna Durbin. Not a lot of people have really...

Rachel: I have not heard of her. (laughs)

Joanne: Yeah. (laughs) Have heard of her, like, at all. Well, the thing with Deanna Durbin is she did, like, 10 to 13 movies and then dropped out of the biz. So, she was done at that point. She moved to France and lived her life. And she actually just died a couple years ago. She was, you know, one of many musical stars like...Doris Day is another one.

Rachel: Yeah, just recently.

Joanne: That just recently passed away and was in her nineties, and it was the same thing with Deanna Durbin that she was in her...like, she was 92, I think, when she passed away, so... I actually have a tattoo—that's the only tattoo that I have (laughs)—on my ankle of the sheet music, kind of, of one of my favorite songs that she does is "Can't Help Singing," and so I have the words of that on my tattoo. And then I have 'DD', the initials for Deanna Durbin.

Rachel: So, a true fan.

Joanne: Yes! (laughs) So.

Rachel: Wow. When did you get the tattoo?

Joanne: That was probably seven years ago. It's been a hot minute.

Rachel and Joanne: (laughs)

Joanne: And I will never ever get one ever again. (laughs) Cuz it hurt!

Rachel: Painful experience, I'm sure. (laughs)

Joanne: Yeah, it kind of felt like a steak knife being, like, dragged through my skin, sort of.

Rachel: Oh, dear! Yeah, I've been contemplating getting one, but that is putting me off, so...

Joanne: Yeah. So, that's me spiel.

Rachel: I am already pretty impressed by your experience. We are discussing all of this today because, last year, Joanne created a very cool program called Musical Sing-along Nights. If you haven't been before...well, stick around, because we will definitely get into it later in the episode.

Joanne: Woohoo!

Rachel: In the meantime, let's open things up a bit with a teaser—Joanne, I believe you're going to tell us a little bit about a popular musical called...

Joanne: (sings) Mamma Mia! here we go again! (talking) Okay, sorry.

Rachel: (laughs) I thought it was great!

Joanne: It's "Mamma Mia!," just the first one. (laughs)

Rachel: That was so good!

Joanne: It's kind of misleading, because "Here We Go Again" is...

Rachel and Joanne: The second one.

Joanne: So, we're just doing "Mamma Mia!"—that's it. Okay. (laughs) So, "Mamma Mia!" is an awesome movie musical. I love it. It's set on a colorful Greek island, which...I love Greece. I love everything about it. (laughs) So...

Rachel: Sunny country.

Joanne: It is. It is so beautiful. In my dream of dreams that's definitely where I would vacation to. Anyway, so it's about a young woman who is about to be married, and she discovers that one of three possible men could be her father. And so she doesn't know who it is, and her mother doesn't know who it is, either. So, it's kind of this interesting thing. So, it's actually based on the songs of ABBA, which is a Swedish pop slash dance group, if you don't know who that is. If you live...

Rachel: Who doesn't know who ABBA is?

Joanne: If you've been living under a rock, maybe. There you go. They were very active from 1972 to 1982 and were—and probably are—one of the most popular international pop groups of all time. They topped the charts again and again in Europe, North and South America, and Australia. So...and it's...I love ABBA music. I really do, so. So, it's kind of this great combination of just awesome songs from ABBA and then really great performances from Meryl Streep and Amanda Seyfried. Or Saifried—I don't know how you want to pronounce it. There you go. (laughs) But I love...I love both of them, you know, as the mother-daughter team in this. I think they're really, you know, convincing and it's...and especially in the second movie—spoilers—it gets very poignant and, you know, very...it made me cry, so.

Rachel: Aw. That's a good marker for an emotional film. Yeah.

Joanne: Yes, so...

Rachel: And, you know, I do know their names. I don't know their musical backgrounds, though, but obviously they're pretty famous Hollywood actors.

Joanne: Yes, and actually Meryl Streep does have a background in singing.

Rachel: Does she? Okay. Yeah.

Joanne: So, it's not super, you know, far stretched [sic] to do this.

Rachel: Yeah, you know, it's my understanding that there is some contention when it comes to movie musicals, namely when casting Hollywood actors as opposed to professional vocalists in lead roles. I remember this being a huge issue when "Les Mis" came out—the motion picture version. Hugh Jackman and Anne Hathaway—who are both in that movie—have a big theater background, but Russel Crowe does not. (laughs)

Joanne: Which, I have to say, I love Hugh Jackman. I would marry Hugh Jackman in a second if I could. (laughs)

Rachel: Just put that in there. (laughs)

Joanne: But he...and it's kind of funny. You know, I have to say this segue, because he actually was...starred in the movie musical "Oklahoma!"

Rachel: Right.

Joanne: Which I own, haha! (laughs) And what's interesting about that is he went from doing "Oklahoma!" and, you know, being a, you know, very fresh-faced and cute and whatever to "X-Men."

Rachel: Really? That soon, huh?

Joanne: Yep, that was, like, the very next jump was becoming Wolverine.

Rachel: See, that's where I know him from, yeah.

Joanne: (laughs) So, yeah, I think it's kind of crazy how that...that transition in my opinion, but I think he's a really good singer, so. I feel with movie musicals...I mean, it's more about the actors, you know. That's...that's really what's drawing people in. So, you want to see Meryl Streep and Hugh Jackman and Anne Hathaway and, you know, Russel Crowe or, you know, whoever.

Rachel: Mhm. It's a common casting practice. I mean, they draw the crowd.

Joanne: Yeah, I mean if it was a Broadway, like, musical that I would be seeing in the theater then I would probably expect a higher level or higher quality of singing. So, even though, like in "Mamma Mia!" Pierce Brosnan obviously is not a singer—but I also love Pierce Brosnan. (laughs) But I'm okay with it because, you know, it's the movie. That's, you know, why I wanted to see it, because he was in it, as well.

Rachel: Sure, yeah.

Joanne: So, I'm fine with, you know, not having, you know, all...like, very professionally trained musicians in these movies.

Rachel: And other examples include...like, there's Gerard—Gered? Gerard?—Butler.

Joanne: Gerard.

Rachel: In “Phantom of the Opera”, which is...I love that movie. I thought he did a great job. He’s not trained at all to be a singer. There’s Johnny Depp in “Sweeney Todd,” Emma Watson in “Beauty and the Beast,” Ewan McGregor and Nicole Kidman in “Moulin Rouge!” ...I mean, huge names! Honestly, I’ve never had a good enough ear to tell the difference between a professional singer in these movies and someone who is just trained, like, six months beforehand to take on a roll, okay?

Joanne: (laughs)

Rachel: I thought all the actors I just mentioned did a great job in their films, so I guess I’m just a target demographic with that. You can’t hear a difference, yourself? You have a huge background in music. Do they do a good enough job?

Joanne: I mean, you can tell a difference, for sure. So, you know, people like...Kristin Chenoweth is another, and she had, like, experience though more in music, kind of like Meryl Streep, and even more...I mean, she’s sung on Broadway, though. I mean, that’s...so, that she actually is trained in that. And you can tell a difference when it’s, you know, Kristin Chenoweth versus, you know, Russel Crowe. (laughs)

Rachel: Poor Russel Crowe. We’re really throwing him under the bridge.

Joanne: We are. Sorry! (laughs)

Rachel: He’s...he’s just...he’s not great in “Les Mis,” is he? Let’s be honest. He tried, but not very hard. (laughs) He phoned it in.

Joanne: So, yeah, you can tell a difference. I mean, you know, the magic of autotune nowadays means that it’s not as significant a difference as it used to be.

Rachel: Okay. That’s a good point. Yeah.

Joanne: So, if it sounds like dead cats, they can tweak it a little, you know? (laughs)

Rachel: (laughs) Oh, dear.

Joanne: So...but yeah. Like I said, I think it’s just more about the person—you know—the actual person performing in these movie musicals and not necessarily their skills in the singing part of it. If they have the skills that’s kind of an additional just bonus.

Rachel: Yeah, there you go. And look: when “Mamma Mia!” first came out in 2008, I went and saw it in Rosebud Cinema in Tosa—which I’m sure plenty of our listeners have been to before.

Joanne: Mhm, myself included.

Rachel: There we go! I remember it being very, very crowded, which just points toward how popular it was, and that’s lasted to this day. I mean, there is a sequel that came out pretty recently, so...

Joanne: Yeah, I mean there’s 10 years gap between the first movie and the second movie. I mean, it’s rare that you have such a large gap in between, you know, the original and the sequel.

Rachel: And it has mostly the same actors, I believe.

Joanne: It has all of the same actors. (laughs)

Rachel: There you go! Yeah!

Joanne: So...including Cher! Whaaa!

Rachel: What! (laughs)

Joanne: Yeah, Cher's in the second one, not in the first one.

Rachel: And, more importantly, it is going to feature during this month's Musical Sing-along Night! Do you want to talk a bit about that?

Joanne: Of course I do, Rachel.

Rachel: (laughs)

Joanne: So, as Rachel mentioned, the Musical Sing-along Nights is something that I started in May of 2019—around about that time—and it's just something that is obviously as you can tell as I'm talking about it near and dear to my heart. And so it's something that I love doing, and I thought why not make it into a program that's...you know, other people can enjoy? So, the first Wednesday of every month we're doing a...one movie musical every single month. It's going to be in the Multi-purpose Room of the Oak Creek Library. So, it's in that main lobby area. The doors open at 5:30 p.m. and the movie starts at 6:00 p.m., and then it just goes long as...however long the movie is. So, I've had people request "Fiddler on the Roof" which means that it would last until, like, 9:30.

Rachel: Oh.

Joanne: We'll see if we ever do that one. (laughs) Personally, that's practically my bedtime, so...

Rachel: (laughs) Same.

Joanne: So, the other nice thing is that Jimmy Johns is actually providing the subs.

Rachel: Oh, awesome.

Joanne: So, thank you to Jimmy Johns!

Rachel: That's the local store here in Oak Creek, right?

Joanne: Yes, exactly. And then we are also getting popcorn from Guardian Credit Union, which is fantastic.

Rachel: Yeah. Got to have popcorn at the movies.

Joanne: Yes. So, there's subs, there's chips, popcorn, beverages are provided. I also do themed raffle prizes at the end of the night, so if you stay until the very end of the movie then I actually raffle off two prizes that are themed towards the actual movie.

Rachel: How neat.

Joanne: So, it's...yeah, it's a nice...I love getting things together for it. It's kind of a cute little thing.

Rachel: I can attest to that. I have seen Joanne running around in the back being like, "Quick, give me ideas for what to give as a prize!"

Joanne and Rachel: (laughs)

Joanne: Yes, please! (laughs)

Rachel: Some of them are harder to figure out than others, but you've been pretty good with it.

Joanne: Yes, one of the upcoming ones—"Newsies"—is a little bit hard to figure out, you know, what would really fit.

Rachel: Challenging.

Joanne: But I think we figured something out that people will like, so...so it's...and it's little things, you know. It's not anything crazy, and sometimes it's just, you know, a little candy and, you know, whatever. But I think it just adds a nice little touch to the program, so something fun.

Rachel: And a 'thank you' to patrons for coming.

Joanne: Yes, mhm. And kids get excited, you know, when they come to the movies and they see that, you know, they can win these prizes. They're very excited about it.

Rachel: So, the program is for all ages.

Joanne: It is. However, children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult. That's our rules of the library.

Rachel: That's true, yes.

Joanne: So, you don't have to register for this at all. It's just drop in. So, whatever ones that you want to come to you're more than welcome. I recently had somebody ask about, like, the lyrics and if we print the lyrics or how that kind of works. So, I don't print the lyrics. Typically, what I do is play the movie and then I either play the sing-along edition... So, like for "Frozen" there's a sing-along edition, of course, because it's so well known now and everybody loves the songs—"Let it Go," et cetera. (laughs)

Rachel: Now you've got it stuck in my head!

Joanne: I apologize. So, sometimes I play the sing-along editions. Otherwise, if they don't have a sing-along edition, then I have the captions, and so those are on at the bottom of the screen, so then people can sing along with that.

Rachel: And kind of up-to-date as if you were doing a sing-along or karaoke, I guess.

Joanne: Yes, exactly. So...so I don't have anything printed, but it is on the screen so that you can, you know, sing along. Because I don't know the words to every single song in every single musical. That would be crazy.

Rachel: And we are saving the trees that way, right?

Joanne: (laughs) So, basically that's the gist of it. You can always check the library's website. So, if you go to [oakcreeklibrary.org/events](http://oakcreeklibrary.org/events), then you'll be able to see the various events that we have going on in the library. There's a lot of cool things, but you will also be able to see the movie musicals on there every single month. And each time it is listed in the events calendar it'll also show the ratings and all of that kind of stuff, because some of the musicals are aimed towards younger children. So, like "Frozen" and

“Moana” I did, for example. Some of them are fam...for family—so “Music Man,” “Mary Poppins,” “Newsies”—and then some of them are probably for more of an adult audience. So, “Singing in the Rain” I did, “Pajama Game” is one that’s going to be coming up.

Rachel: Kind of nostalgic. Right. Makes sense.

Joanne: Yes, yeah. So, it’s not like they’re...none of them are rated R or anything like that. (laughs)

Rachel: Are there any rated-R musicals?

Joanne: Maybe “Hedwig and the Angry Inch?”

Rachel: Never even heard of it, but I want to see it.

Joanne: Yeah, it’s interesting, so...

Rachel and Joanne: (laughs)

Joanne: And “Rocky Horror Picture Show” is not rated R, I don’t think.

Rachel: Oh, yeah. It might...maybe “Rocky Horror” should be. I don’t...I love that musical. I wouldn’t want to bar it from any ages, but you should discern for yourself if you think your kids should see it.

Joanne: I mean...yeah. It’s more just the sexually inappropriate-ness of it, really is...what’s the issue.

Rachel: It’s not really violent.

Joanne: No, but in our culture violence is, you know, more tolerated than anything (whispers) having to do with sex.

Rachel: Definitely. Oh, yeah.

Joanne: Shh! (laughs)

Rachel: Very taboo! Didn’t know we were getting into this on the podcast, but I like it!

Joanne: Yeah, I know, it’s very...totally different, and I could go on and on and on. But I won’t. (laughs) So, basically, the point is make sure that the movie—if you’re planning on bringing younger children—is something that you think would be appropriate for them.

Rachel: On that note, I did think it would be kind of fun to talk about some of our favorite musicals—the ones that we have memorized all the songs for—maybe even some of the choreography. Huh? Huh?

Joanne: Yeah. No. (laughs)

Rachel: Okay. (laughs)

Joanne: Not a dancer by any means. Don’t got the moves. (laughs) The songs yes, there are some that I definitely know almost all the songs for.

Rachel: There we go. “Rocky Horror” was one for me, definitely.

Joanne: Yes, mhm. And this question...I’ve had this question from a lot of people, actually, that...because they know that I love movies and, specifically, musicals. And they always ask me, well, what’s your

favorite musical? Some...one of my family members just asked me this over Christmas. And it's, like, ooo, this is a hard question because I personally own 125 musicals on DVD.

Rachel: Oh, wow!

Joanne: And a couple on VHS tape, because they aren't available on DVD, so... (laughs)

Rachel: Wow. I don't know what to say!

Joanne: So, yeah, it's just really hard for me to choose.

Rachel: I bet.

Joanne: And sometimes it depends on my mood, you know. Sometimes, you know, I'm more upbeat or whatever so maybe "Mamma Mia!" is my favorite because it has more upbeat songs and, you know, et cetera. But I think the one that I usually go back to is "Thoroughly Modern Millie." It's starring Julie Andrews, and she's a flapper, kind of, in the 1920s. So, it's just a very cute kind of random, cheeky film.

Rachel: It's hard for me to see that, because I think "Julie Andrews" and I think sophisticated lady, so...

Joanne: I mean, in one of the movies she posed...she was topless.

Rachel: Oh!

Joanne: So, she's...she's not always a nun. (laughs)

Rachel: Julie! Julie! Don't say it's so!

Joanne: Sorry to ruin...to pop the bubble for you.

Rachel: Is that one rated R? (laughs)

Joanne: I don't think it is. She might have pasties, maybe is the reason why. But moving on. (laughs) So, yeah. So, it's actually...she's really good in...I mean, she's good in pretty much everything she does.

Rachel: Yeah, that's true.

Joanne: But in "Thoroughly Modern Millie" I really like it, and my favorite line from it is, (shouts) "Soy sauce!"

Rachel: So, if you guys want to figure out what the heck that means, watch "Thoroughly Modern Millie!" (laughs)

Joanne: I'll give you a tip just so you're not like, 'What the hell?'. (laughs) In one scene someone gets something spilled on their dress, and Julie Andrews is like, 'Oh, I know a remedy for this! Soy sauce!' So, they go in the house or wherever, and then she comes back out and her entire front of her fancy, white flapper dress is just coated in, like, soy sauce. And so she just puts her hands up to the sky and, 'Soy sauce!' So, it's fantastic.

Rachel: I kind of want to see it now.

Joanne: Yeah. It's cute. So...and it's funny because it's not even so much that I love all the songs from there—although there are some great songs in there—it's more Julie Andrews's performance in it that I

really like it. And it's kind of quirky, so that's what I like about it. Other than that, "Three Smart Girls" is another one, and that's one of the first movies that Deanna Durbin really starred in and then was popular enough even that they did a sequel called "Three Smart Girls Grow Up." It's very...all of Deanna Durbin's movies are, you know, kind of old fashioned and wholesome. There's only a couple—maybe two—that are not, so...

Rachel: Do you like the sequel?

Joanne: Yes. It's not as good as they original, and...and...

Rachel: Can be said for most sequels, I think.

Joanne: So, I wouldn't rank it, you know, higher up in her list of, you know, movies that she did, but...but it's still, you know, (whispers) it's not bad. Let's see...another one would be "Bye Bye Birdie."

Rachel: I've heard of that one.

Joanne: Yes. It is probably one of the first ones that people will actually recognize that I'm talking about. (laughs) Because it has Ann...

Rachel: You obscurest!

Joanne: I know, I really am. That's what happens when you get really into it. So, it stars Ann Margaret—classic—and Dick Van Dyke—also a classic. Who is still alive.

Rachel: Somehow.

Joanne: It's all of these musicals. Anybody who starred in a musical is...

Rachel: You've got you be fit! You've got to have the lung capacity... (laughs)

Joanne: Apparently living to a crazy age. So, I mean, I loved him in the "Night in the Museum" movies. Not going to lie, he was super adorable.

Rachel: It's "Mary Poppins" for me. That horrible accent.

Joanne: Yes, I've heard that, you know, English people are kind of offended by Van Dyke's version of an English person, so...but, you know, he could dance, kind of, and he was funny.

Rachel: (laughs)

Joanne: So, there was that. Let's see...and then another one would be "Silk Stockings" which is probably not rated the best by most people. (laughs) And it's a weird kind of premise of a movie set in Paris, and then this Russian woman comes and her...so, she's played by Cyd Charisse.

Rachel: Oh, wow. Yeah. Phenomenal dancer.

Joanne: Yes, she actually was a ballerina before she started starring in actual movies. For those of you who may not be as familiar with her, she was in "Singing in the Rain." She was the lady in the green dress with the super long legs. That was...that's Cyd Charisse, so... So, of course, obviously there's dancing, and Fred Astaire costars with her.

Rachel: I have to watch this movie right now.

Joanne: So, there you go. So...and...but it's, yeah, she does a Russian accent and it's not super great.

Rachel and Joanne: (laughs)

Joanne: But it's more of the songs...

Rachel: What's with the accents in these movie musicals?

Joanne: I...yeah, I don't know. (laughs) So, it's more the songs that I like, and the dancing—obviously—is, you know, phenomenal.

Rachel: Now, you say you don't know the choreo, but I bet if you tried really hard you could do the ones from that film.

Joanne: I mean, the scene that pops up the most in my mind is when she decides to give in to kind of the capitalism, and so rather than dressing in her brown, plain garb she decides to get all fancy. So, there's a scene where she is, like, taking off her clothes in a very, you know, non-sexy way. We'll put it that way. Very PG way.

Rachel: (laughs) Uh-huh.

Joanne: And then she's putting on silk stockings, and so she's laying on the bed and putting on the silk stockings, and then she has, like, this fancy slip that she puts on, and jewelry and bracelets, and you know. So, it's the whole...and a fancy hat, and you know, fancy high-heeled shoes, and so it's a whole thing, which I'm pretty sure is where they got the name "Silk Stockings." There's that. And then as far as favorite animated children's musical, "Mulan" is actually one of my favorites.

Rachel: Ah, and they are now making that into a live action movie coming out this year, I believe.

Joanne: I think it is, yes.

Rachel: I've seen the trailer and it looks surprisingly good.

Joanne: Yeah, I...I mean, I have mixed feelings about the live action ones.

Rachel: Yeah, it's hard to capture the whimsy of animation in the same way.

Joanne: Yeah, and I'm also really tired of Hollywood doing the exact same things over, and over, and over.

Rachel: I think we could all agree there.

Joanne: And over again!

Rachel: (laughs)

Joanne: (laughs) So...but the reason I love "Mulan" is the songs. I mean, the songs are so fantastic.

Rachel: And iconic.

Joanne: So, I mean...and there's times, you know, where she's singing I, like, start crying. I mean, it's just crazy. So... (laughs) The more poignant scenes, not the crazier ones.

Rachel: I've noticed with musicals the more I cry the more I like the musical. I don't know if that's a weird character trait or if it just means the story's really touching, but yeah. There you have it.

Joanne: I think...I think the latter, that it's just more touching. More...strikes kind of a more personal tone. Maybe there's some aspect of it that, you know, really resonates with you. So, that's what I would vote. (laughs)

Rachel: Speaking of musicals that resonate with me, on my list I have "Jesus Christ Superstar," which is actually a rock opera by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice. It tells the story of Jesus's eventual crucifixion, and the original film adaption which came out in, what, the '70s?

Joanne: Yeah, I think so. It's a very '70s version of it. (laughs)

Rachel: Oh yeah, it's fairly dated, but I love it all the same. It stars Carl Anderson in the role of Judas, and he has the most sublime voice. It's unbelievable.

Joanne: Yes. Yeah, it's true, he does. It's probably the best Judas in any film that I've seen, for sure. Yeah, that's definitely a classic. "Jesus Christ Superstar."

Rachel: And just fun to say!

Joanne: And I've seen so many different versions of it.

Rachel: Oh, yeah?

Joanne: So, even my high school put it on when I was there. I didn't...wasn't in it, sadly, but there you go.

Rachel: Your schedule was chockfull. (laughs)

Joanne: I actually, oddly, only performed in on musical ever in my entire life so far.

Rachel: And that was?

Joanne: "The Whiz."

Rachel: I haven't heard of it. (laughs) Sorry!

Joanne: (laughs) It's pretty sad that that is the one that I was actually in.

Rachel: I'm sure you were great in it.

Joanne: Well, so...for those of you who don't know, "The Whiz" is "The Wizard of Oz."

Rachel: Oh sure!

Joanne: But the African-American version.

Rachel: Oh.

Joanne: So, it starred Michael Jackson and, like, Diana Ross and et cetera in the actual movie.

Rachel: Wow.

Joanne: So, you know, imagine a bunch of high schoolers trying to... (laughs) Trying to perform that.

Rachel: Get on that level.

Joanne: So, I was one of the do-wop girls.

Rachel and Joanne: (laughs)

Joanne: So, I was one of a group of—I think it was—six girls. So, we all dressed the same and then we were off to the side of the stage, and so the people would be singing the songs and we'd be...

Rachel: Shoo-woppin' do-woppin'.

Joanne: The do-wop background, basically. (laughs)

Rachel: A coveted role.

Joanne: Not much. (laughs) So, that was...yeah, that was a weird one.

Rachel. Well. Well, sharp left turn! My other favorite musical...

Joanne and Rachel: (laughs)

Rachel: Is one called "Across the Universe," and this is actually very similar to "Mamma Mia!" because they use ABBA, but "Across the Universe" uses the songs of The Beatles. The only downside of this one is that it is very, very long. (laughs) It looks amazing. I can't remember who the director was but they did a great job.

Joanne: Yes, I...it's been a while since I've seen that one, but it is...it is amazing.

Rachel: Yeah, the way they interweave the songs with the narrative. It always surprises me how creatives can do that so well.

Joanne: And once again it's, you know, just like if you love ABBA then you'll love "Mamma Mia", if you love The Beatles then you'll probably love "Across the Universe."

Rachel: Probably, yeah. Another one that is so close to my heart is "Dr. Horrible's Sing-along Blog."

Joanne: So, that's one I've never heard of before in my entire life.

Rachel: I'm going to make you watch it. It was written by Joss Whedon and company during the writer's strike in '07, and as is often the case with anything created by Whedon, it mixes satire and drama. So, Whedon did "Buffy the Vampire Slayer," "Firefly," "Dollhouse," one of the "Avengers" movies I think? The original "Avengers" movie. Yeah, in case you didn't know. There's some truth there for ya.

Joanne: Hm. All right.

Rachel: It is incredibly witty and tragic and Nathan Fillion is in it, so if for no other reason than that...watch it!

Joanne: Yes.

Rachel: (quickly) Also, Neil Patrick Harris and Felicia Day. So, you know.

Joanne: Hm, that's a decent cast right there.

Rachel: Yeah, uh-huh.

Joanne: So, yeah, I feel like I should know about it or maybe my husband knows about it because he is more of a fan of Joss Whedon stuff. So, like, "Firefly." But I just...it hasn't stumbled across me yet.

Rachel: It...I think it's maybe an hour and a half, probably shorter. It originally came out in three webisodes online for free because they were trying to stick it to the man of Hollywood.

Joanne: (laughs)

Rachel: I don't know if they did so successfully or not, but the movie is great, so if nothing else came out of that horrible time, at least that did.

Joanne: (snorts and laughs) Well, there you go.

Rachel: Another is "Matilda." So, this is based on a book of the same name by (pauses) Roald Dahl? Is that how you say his name?

Joanne: I think it's Row-ald, like you...

Rachel: Row-ald?

Joanne: Yeah.

Rachel: Sure.

Joanne: Emphasis on the first part of it.

Rachel: Row-ald Dahl.

Joanne: I think so.

Rachel: This musical features music and lyrics by Tim Minchin who is one of my personal favorite musicians. He is very quick with words, and the musical is stellar. And it's pretty much an all-kid cast apart from, obviously, the very few adult roles. If you've seen the movie it's fairly similar but a lot more musical! (laughs)

Joanne: Yeah, once again I don't know if that's one I've seen. I've seen "Matilda" the movie, like just the standalone movie, but I don't know if I've seen the musical version, so...

Rachel: It was on Broadway for a bit—won quite a few awards.

Joanne: Might have to check that one out.

Rachel: Yeah, and lastly I want to talk about a live-action fantasy musical TV series called "Galavant." It is fun and hilarious. The music was written by Alan Menkin—Mainkin?— and Glenn Slater of Disney musical fame. So, they wrote the lyrics and the music for "The Little Mermaid," "Aladdin," and others, which...it's charming. It is kind of an adult show, I would say. It's not rated R or anything, but there are some jokes that will probably go over your kids' heads.

Joanne: (laughs)

Rachel: Hopefully.

Joanne: Yeah, right? You can always hope. That's...that's pretty much all kids' movies nowadays. There's always some stuff in there where it's like, nah, that's really for the parents that are stuck in the theaters watching this right now.

Rachel: Cartoons as well, right?

Joanne: For sure. Is it available on, like, streaming?

Rachel: I don't know...I imagine streaming it is. I know that it did come out on DVD, so I imagine if it's not available on Netflix or Hulu, probably Amazon Prime if nowhere else.

Joanne: Okay. Nice!

Rachel: Yeah, I know it was on Netflix last year but it might not still be the case as they constantly shuffle stuff out, so...

Joanne: As far as...so, this is kind of a stretch, talking about musical TV series, but in my brain—and because I love it so much—“Bob's Burgers” definitely falls within the frame. (laughs)

Rachel: (laughs) I knew she was going to sneak it in!

Joanne: I know! I love it! I'm a huge “Bob's Burgers” fan, as I'm wearing a “Bob's Burgers” lanyard for my badge right now for work. (laughs) So...because, I mean, practically every episode there's some song kind of built in there. Either Linda's singing a song—just some weird little snippet of a song... (laughs)

Rachel: You know what? I say it counts.

Joanne: I think it does. So...and then they have episodes that are more, you know, music-heavy, too, and you know, et cetera. So...but, yeah. “Bob's Burger's.” I'm going to...I'm going to claim it for 'musicals'. (laughs)

Rachel: You're doing a service.

Joanne: Right now, officially on the record. Check!

Rachel and Joanne: (laughs)

Rachel: Well, that is all we have time for. Be sure to check the show notes for information on everything we just talked about. Also, subscribe and rate the podcast if you like what you hear. If you don't like what you hear, you can also write us anyway. (quietly) If you want to make my day very sad.

Joanne: (laughs)

Rachel: You can reach us through the library's website or Facebook page. Be sure to use the #notyourmotherslibrary. Thank you for joining me on this adventure, Joanne!

Joanne: Well, thank you for having me and my wonderful, ramble-y kind of -ness.

Rachel: We would be so happy to have you back at some point in the future.

Joanne: Oh, definitely. Especially if it has more to do about musicals. (laughs) Cuz books: bleh!

Rachel: (laughs)

Joanne: Just kidding! (laughs)

Rachel: Says the librarian.

Joanne: I love books!

Rachel: I will be back next month with another guest and possibly a new co-host—maybe both. We'll be breaking the fourth wall. You'll see.

Joanne: Ooo, so exciting!

Rachel: As mentioned at the end of last episode, April is National Poetry Month, and we are accepting submissions! Send your poetry to us via Facebook Messenger, and we will read them on the podcast in April. Poems can be serious or silly. Let us know if you want them read anonymously, or else you can attach your name so that everyone can sing your praises until the end of time itself.

Joanne: Oh, that's...that's a big claim right there. "Until the end of time itself?"

Rachel: Hey, once it's on the Internet...

Joanne: I guess! It's true: it's there forevermore.

Rachel: Just be sure to tell us what you want at time of submission. Poems are due by March 1st—that's only a month away! What do you think, Joanne? Are you going to be submitting anything? Are you feeling brave? Competition is really thick, let me tell you. At time of recording we have a grand total of zero submissions.

Joanne: Ooo. Um. No. I'm not going to.

Rachel and Joanne: (laughs)

Joanne: Poetry, honestly, has never been a forte of mine or something that's close to my heart.

Rachel: You've never written any crappy poetry when you were a high schooler?

Joanne: Oh, I'm sure. Yes. But actually...

Rachel: Please. Please. Grace us with it.

Joanne; (laughs) Yeah, I'm sure I don't have any of it anymore. I was...I was more into short stories, writing, than actual poetry.

Rachel: Well, now we're going to have to do a short story podcast so that...

Joanne: Blegh. No.

Rachel: Okay. (laughs)

Joanne: For the good of the world outside of this room right now, you...no one wants to hear that.

Rachel: All right, again, any poems submitted to us via Facebook Messenger by March 1st have the chance to be read. Do not plagiarize, and try to keep it PG-rated because we reserve the right to not read your poem. If you submit your work, you are granting us permission to read, record, and post it online. Yay, the disclaimer is done! Until next time, happy reading! Bye!

Joanne: Bye!

(Brief outro music)