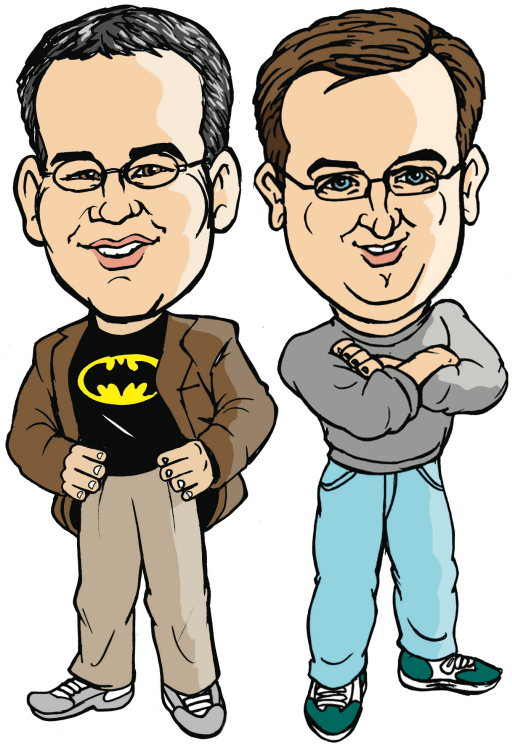


The Story of the first year of a Podcast

The first year of Too Old to Grow Up as told by Daytona24
(Arthur E. Levandoski)

Chapter One: Introduction

When you start listening to podcasts you quickly start to think “Hey I can do this”, but really you can't. At least not without some thought. If your going to do something worth while you've got to put some thought into it.



To say that I live a good life is a pretty factual statement, I don't live an extravagant life by any means but I feel like I live a life where I've accomplished what I've set out to accomplish. The one thing however that I would like to accomplish is some sort of media accomplishment, something that will live on long after I have. I remember a line from a Third Eye Blind song “will the song live on long after we do” I can say that I have written and even to a point performed and sang my own song, not that many people have heard it. It was in college and I wrote the lyrics to a song written by my roommate. In the last few years at work I've put words to a story drawn by a coworker. The book was my first foray in which many people actually received, read and hopefully have held onto.

Creating a podcast would be an all together new venture, beyond the blogs that I have written in (which no one besides myself probably ever read) this was something that hopefully would be heard by at least a few people.

Setting off to start a podcast was going to be an adventure, hopefully one that would reach at least a few people, maybe even change some lives in the meantime. But I'm getting ahead of myself.

Chapter Two: The Birth of a Podcast

Deciding to start a podcast is one thing, deciding to start a podcast with a friend is an entirely different thing. The good part is that you have someone to throw ideas around with and share the work and you get to actually talk to someone while you record the show which is good not only for yourself but also you listeners. The bad part is that much like a marriage everything goes through committee and sometimes you don't always get what you want. But thats not always a bad thing.

If it were up to me the podcast would have followed in the footsteps of my first blog and would have been called “The Digital Life”. The digital life would have been a tech podcast that probably would have been very boring, since at the current time there were many other digital blogs out there many doing it much better than we could possibly do. After a lengthly conversation we decided to create a podcast to talk about all the things we collected as kids and why we still collect them to this day.

This was certainly one of those situations when having a partner helped develop something better, what could have been a very boring podcast was getting ready to become a hopefully not very boring podcast. Actually naming the podcast came much quicker than actually developing what it would be about. It took Ken quite a bit of convincing me on the general ideas and topics we'd discuss, once we came to an agreement on what it was we were going to do it was time to brainstorm some ideas for a name. I'd love to say we had a list of names a mile long and it took us weeks to wittle them down to a select few but really there was like three names and we picked the one that sounded the best, Too Old to Grow Up. From the start it just sounded good to us, it captured everything the podcast would be about, and it had a nice little abbreviation that would become TOtGU!

You see some of us just never grow up, sure we get older but ever since I was a kid I always wondered when the day would come when I would trade in my comic books for the Wall Street Journal, that day never came. Sure there are plenty of “grown up” magazines I read but the ones I truly enjoy feature comics, toys and video games. So Ken and I thought there must be plenty of people out there that would love to kick back and reminisce with us as well as keep enjoying all the comics, toys and games some of us keep hidden away from our business partners. A group of adult guys and gals with full time jobs and families that have finally reached a point of being Too Old to Grow Up!

Chapter Three: Recording the Promo

By the time we got together to record our promo Ken had done quite a bit of research and development on the web site www.toooldtogrowup.com as well as getting an account ready on Libsyn.com for hosting the podcast when it was time to release it. Yet at this point we were still pretty far from actually launching our podcast, we had however decided on the date of March 25th.

What we did have to do is get a podcast promo ready to send out to Comic Geek Speak, where eventually would graciously allow us message board space for the Too Old to Grow Up discussion forums.

A trip to Radioshack got us most of the equipment we were going to need, a basic mixer a few cables, two microphones and some microphone stands and we were feeling quite professional. To actually record the podcast we decided to download the trial version of Podstation and we were pretty sure we'd be using Podstation to record the podcasts as we got going. We'd soon realize that Podstation wasn't going to work out well enough for us.

Prior to getting together to actually record the promo spot we had to write the promo spot. Thats where my amazing writing skills came into play, okay so it was more like I had some time on a Sunday afternoon while Ken was working and it just happened to be a good first draft promo. After some feedback and tweaking by Ken we had our promo spot written.

A few days later we got together on a Saturday evening to record the promo. This would be our first opportunity to hear what we were going to sound like. What an exciting time it was, it was the first time for me to set up the “studio” and for that extra touch I scattered some action figures around our recording area!

Ken finally got out of work and arrived at my house at which time we sat down for a quick read through of the script and got ready to record. I'd love to tell you our first take was perfect and that's the one you hear in the promo spot but that's not possible because you see I forgot to hit the record button. It was actually a very good take, one we probably would have used, instead we went on for a good 20

or 30 takes before we had one we were happy enough with to use.

From that point we started playing with some settings and such in Podstation to get the sound just right. It was around this time when we realized we were going to need something a little bit more for the show, we were finding it hard to do what we wanted to in Podstation and decided to use Audacity instead. Now nothing against Podstation and for the record we probably didn't give it a fair shake but for the money we were shelling out at the time Audacity was priced better, which to say it was FREE!

Interestingly enough we were quite surprised by how we sounded in the promo, sure its a little campy and funny when you really listen to it but overall we were pretty impressed. The biggest hurdle in starting a podcast is finding out how you sound to other people and asking yourself if in fact your okay with that. In fact you must be okay with how you sound because after you start producing your podcast you find yourself listening to your podcast, and if you don't like it can you really expect anyone else to?

Promo Spot
Art: I'm Daytona24

Ken: And I'm Logan MacLeod

Art: and this is Too Old to Grow Up, Live from the Toy Room in Scranton, Pennsylvania

Ken: Thats right and between the two of us we've got over 60 years of toys, comics, games and movies that we're ready to talk about and get your views as well.

Art: And we're gonna discuss it all, remembering the good old days, talking about whats happening now, and even looking ahead to whats coming up.

Ken: But not just news and reviews we'll talk about how its shapped our lives and find out whats its meant to you.

Art: Hey we may have 40 hour workweeks and our families but we've never threw out our toys and you'll still find us at the comic shop.

Ken: And we're not interested in Oscar classics, we're going to the movies to see super heroes, fantasy and sci fi!

Art: So join us weekly and feel like a kid again on the Too Old to Grow Up podcast

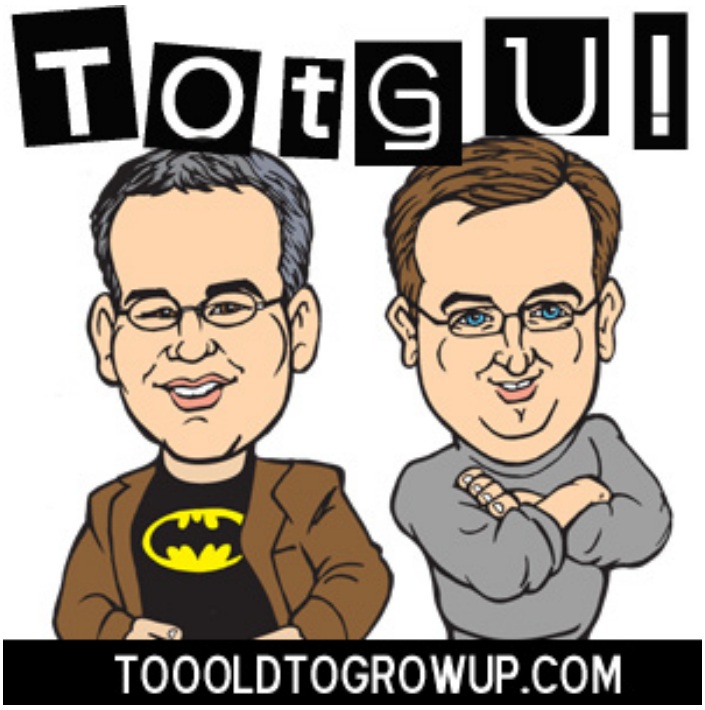
Ken: Then head to www.toooldtogrowup.com, share your stories and tell us what you think.

Art: Too Old to Grow Up, becuase you haven't grow up yet...

Ken: Why start now!

Chapter Four: Starting with a Two Parter (Episodes 1 & 2)

Although we were still a ways off from releasing the first episode we were anxious to get started recording the podcast. Perhaps the anxiousness was that of seeing if in fact we'd be able to pull this off. Sitting down to record a promo for a podcast is one thing, it was short and more importantly scripted, sitting down to record a half hour worth of material that was interesting was going to be something more entirely.



We decided for the first two episodes that we would set the tone by taking a look back, introducting ourselves through a way that would also allow our listeners (hopefully) a way to look back on themselves as well. We focused on toys, comics, video games, movies, cartoons and television for the first two episodes. Early on we decided that in order to keep people interest and not bore them do death we'd keep our episodes to 30 minutes, since there was a lot of material to cover in the show a two parter was recorded. I must say that early on in discussion I was slightly against recording episodes ahead of time since I wanted to keep a feeling of the present time within each episode, keeping it timely. The first episode was going to be an exception because we wanted to make sure we had enough time to record the episode and get it to sound right before we put it out for all to hear, what that came with was the second episode also being recorded very early. The concept of recording episodes not only early but out of sequence was something I got used to quickly as the next few recordings would not only be early but way out of sequence. Turns out that if you want to create the best product you can you learn to adjust very quickly.

Surprisingly the recordings for the first two episodes went very well, we had rather interesting discussions and for the most part kept things rolling along nicely. After recording the first episode we'd

learn about editing our material as to not burden the listener to having to listen to the recording exactly as it was and instead getting to listen to it in a much smoother manner.

Lucky for those out in listener land as although things went pretty well there were some interesting moments probably better left out of the podcast. Most of them centered around mistakes and comments that were made but the funnier moments came first when Ken launched into a rather lengthy coughing fit and my comments afterward.
Yet nothing was more graciously handled by us than the fact that after seven minutes into the second episode recording I realized that I (yes me) forgot to turn my microphone on, reminiscent of the promo recording. Although we felt it necessary to let our listeners know exactly what we did, it was just too funny to not tell. It was soon after this that Ken began taking on control of the recordings as well as post production and I began more prominently focusing on pre production and planning.

Once the episode launched we received some positive feedback on that which we were most nervous about, the sound quality of the recording and if in fact people would find us interesting. They did and many people started downloading episode one, we were surprised to say the least.

Chapter Five: Our First Guest (Episode 5)

With two episodes finished we were set for at least two weeks, the good part about that was we had a little bit of time to plan upcoming episodes. At this point we've got something to talk about to people who were asking us what our podcast was going to be about, also at this point I started to talk to my friend Aaron about the show. Aaron was a little bit perturbed since we had talked about starting a podcast quite some time ago. The truth is that Aaron and I could have had a great podcast but it would have centered around conversations that we had at lunch, ones that we never thought we would have, and most likely introducing a microphone into the lunch room would change the energy those conversations had plus it would have to happen in the workplace and there was too much to overcome.

In any case I talked Aaron into coming on the show. We were planning to do a show dedicated to music and it would be a great fit for him. Aaron goes to a lot more concerts than I do but we have similar interests in music, and Ken's music discussion was going to be quite different, Ken agreed with me about having him on the show and he would then become the first guest of Too Old to Grow Up!

Now keep in mind at this point Ken and I were pretty excited to get back together for our second recording session so much so that knowing our upcoming schedules we planned to do not one, not two but three episodes in a row! The main reason for this was that number one we had to get episode three recorded but we wanted to get Aaron on the show and schedules were not working out, also for episode nine I wanted to get my friend Jeff on the show and it seemed this would be an opportune time to get everyone together.

Aaron was a little nervous coming into the recording session, he didn't know what to expect other than what I was telling him, truth is neither Ken nor I knew what to expect either, we were just hoping for the best. If you've listened to the episode you can hear that Aaron starts out rather slow but gradually becomes more comfortable as the episode goes on, turns out it was a really good idea to have him on as our first guest, and it was fun being joined by a third person, it really gave the show something different. Of course it was going to be different in about three weeks, we wanted to make sure people knew who we were before we started adding additional guests to the show.

The funniest part about the episode was that we threw the Pick of the Week at Aaron like throwing him to the wolves, he quickly jumped in by picking Too Old to Grow up The Podcast as his pick of the week, we didn't really think it fitted and it got edited out in before the show aired, the best part is that we never really thank or say goodbye to Aaron in the episode!

What we did find out is that he had a great time doing the show and was the first of our guests to say he'd be more than happy to come back, we figured if people enjoyed being on the show that people were enjoying listening to the show and that couldn't be all that bad.

Chapter Six: Feeling the Pressure (Episode 3)

As can be told by the way I'm writing this our episodes were not recorded in order, on the day that we recored episode three we also recored episodes five and nine as well. Episode three recorded right smack dab in the middle of five and nine. Up to this point this could be considered our fourth recorded episode since we had completed one and two at this point and just wrapped up five, episode three was a return episode for Ken and I. Sure we just sat down for an episode but that had a guest star in it and it would also not air for another two episodes.

With an unexpected amount of people downloading the show for some reason there seemed at least to me somewhat of a pressure to make sure that episode three was a good episode. Sure Ken kept telling me all we had to do was create good content and the rest would fall into place but that didn't really help. I put quite a bit of preparation into episode three which would focus on the upcoming summer movies, of course mostly those revolving around comic book heroes and such. This was an episode also that would take us out of our general theme of going back in time and keep things relatively in the present, it would also set up many of the future episodes that would come for the summer.

I'll just say that this was a difficult episode for me to get through, there were many pauses during the recording for one reason or another, whether it was for a concern that the we weren't recording or a question of content. During the episode our second guest for episode nine arrived and started conversing with our other guest and through the rather non sound proof walls of our “recording studio” it seemed all I could hear was the muffled conversation taking place on the other side of the wall. After struggling to keep focus on the show and away from what was being conversed I had to pause and ask our guests to please keep it down or move their discussion elsewhere. Wow talk about letting the show go too your head! In all seriousness it was a kind request to our guests as we made them wait for us, of course there was a reason they were waiting anyway but that's a discussion for the next part.

Although upon listening to the episode I would realize that I was VERY excited about many of the movies to arrive during the summer it did resolve to a good episode despite my troubles during recording. This would also be the time when we realized the joys and troubles of editing, the good editing helped keep the episode together yet as Ken decided to re recored his pick under different

circumstances a change was noted in the show (albeit a small one).

All in all episode three became a solid follow up to our first two episodes, although the two other episodes recorded that day would be much better, but thats not a bad thing.

Chapter Seven: Our First Interview (Episode 9)

For someone who was not only against doing episodes ahead of time but also about recording multiple episodes in a single session here I was scheduling three episodes in a day in only our second actual recording session. In planning the episodes I knew that a great episode would have to include World of Warcraft, how could we not have an episode that featured the greatest MMORPG. Being a Warcraft player in a casual guild and having a friend who was a hardcore raider in a much more complex guild I knew that we'd have a good episode if we looked at Warcraft from both sides. I brought in Jim who was the guild master for our "casual" guild and Jeff who was involved in a much more "hardcore" guild, for our Warcraft: Casual vs Hardcore episode.

This episode would end up being our first actual "interview" episode, although episode five which was recorded earlier and would air much sooner would feature our first guest, we'd bring on two guests for episode nine. While Jim and Jeff would be the first time we had two guests it would be both Ken and my first shot at actual interviewing, something that would come quickly into play out in the "field" so to speak and prepare us for our next interview for episode seven.

We thought at the time with episode nine hitting about 50 minutes before editing it would be our longest running episode, we were after all trying to keep the episodes under 30 minutes. We were wrong of course as not only episode four but six would go past the 30 minute average and four was well over an hour!

Once again both while Jeff did have a good time, it was Jim who said he'd love to join us again for another episode. This was pretty good feedback especially since it had been such a long day. As I mentioned earlier there was a bit of waiting and rescheduling of the days episodes since Jeff (who as I mentioned was the hardcore player) was off raiding Karahzan in Warcraft for the morning.

With three episodes recorded it was a long day, but we had a great time and so did our guests and thats all that mattered.

Chapter Eight: The iTunes Effect

About a week before we sat down to record episodes 5, 3 and 9 we launched the podcast and submitted it to iTunes. If I can attribute our early success to anything its getting listed on iTunes! I remember that Sunday night getting the email stating that our podcast was accepted and would soon show up in the iTunes directory. It was sometime Monday afternoon that we started showing up of all places on the main page of new audio podcasts, over the next week we would see episode one get over 700 downloads! Now maybe that may not sound like a lot to some people but for two guys who were excited to know that 3 or 4 people from the message boards were listing (people who were not family or friends) we were thrilled that all these people were choosing our podcast to download. Ken and I both spent the following week checking our Libsyn stats page to see how many people were downloading the show, in its first week episode one peaked on Easter day 2008 with 112 downloads for the day. By this time we were above 1,000 total downloads and just a mere two days away from posting episode two.

As excited as we were that episode one was doing so well we knew the big test would be how many downloads episode two would get, by the following week we were retaining just under half of what we got in episode one and it was steadily climbing. We figured at that point if a third of those people were actually listening we were flying high.

Chapter Nine: A Special Collectors Edition (Episode 4)

So when we recorded Episode nine we thought wow, that was a long episode, then we got to episode four (or at least the recording of episode four). Episode four would be the first episode where Ken would be heading to a comic sale at Wild Pigs (which I am sure is wrong) and would hopefully be bringing back some material with him. The idea was to use the show as a recap of the trip but we felt we needed a bit more. Yet Ken was figuring he was going to go to the sale, get some material and/ or interviews and we could tie out the episode, but he wasn't really figuring a lot of material. It was his first time "out in the field" so I was preparing to cover the rest of the episode. Trying to make sense of the sale coverage in the show I figured we would cover what we collected in general, the what how and why of collecting, Ken agreed and the plan was in place!

Well it seemed Ken came back with a lot of material so we figured we would have a discussion for about fifteen minutes or so and add in the interviews and such. Well when we finished our discussion we realized we had not only gone beyond our 30 minutes but hit somewhere around 40 or 50, and we still had about 20 minutes or so of interviews that would need to be included. Episode four would end up being one hour and fifteen minutes, we asked our listeners to get comfortable and enjoy the show.

The show discussion was actually really good and we were pretty pleased with it, a lot of the interviews were of members of the CGS Forums so it really was a pretty good homage to fellow forum members, all in all a really good show. What it did was become the first show we also got to test out our recorders and such out in the field and see how it was going to turn out in the show. It worked quite well. At this point with episode four all set to go we now had episodes one, two, three, four, five and nine recorded and ready to go and within just this short time frame we've had a two part episode, an interview episode, a special guest on an episode and interviews outside of our recording studio, all this and we really weren't even four episodes old yet! In any case with episode four in the bag that meant I at least was going to get two weeks off, since episode five was already done and six was focused on the New York Comic Con (which I wasn't going to) it was time to sit back and relax, which if you know me just doesn't happen.

Chapter Ten: The Trouble with Keeping Stats

A short aside with five episodes now out for all to hear after episode four's release we saw what was our first dip in stats. Up to the point that episode four was released the first three episodes all reached at least 1,000 downloads, all reaching that level prior to the next release, this was not the case with episode four. By the time episode five was released episode four was stuck around 800, by no means a number to shake a stick at, but it left us with some questions, like what was wrong?

Sure our numbers were still doing well and as we found out we were doing much better than some of the other podcasts out there. Perhaps it was the fallback on early success, we got out of the gates MUCH stronger than we could have imagined.

My struggle with the numbers was enforced strongly by the upcoming episode six of which I was not planned to be a part of as it was our New York Comic Con episode, something I would not be attending. Yet with a strong lineup of episodes ahead and quite frankly a lot of fun as well, with a decent amount of listeners still in hand we continued on, with a goal to make the show the best we could.

This was also a time in which I became much more conscious of my activity and participation on the Comic Geek Speak message boards. I was trying to make a name for myself and of course the podcast, and doing what I could to keep the stats at bay.

Chapter Eleven: New York Comic Con, Skype! (Episode 6)

As episode six was rolling around Ken was headed to the New York Comic Con, the initial plan for the episode was to let Ken handle it and I was getting the week off. Sure it wasn't the plan I was the most happy with but since I wasn't going to the show and the time between his return and the show being posted didn't really give us time to get together there really wasn't much choice.

When you're just starting a podcast its not real easy to say sure I won't be in an episode, especially so early on and I'll admit it was causing me a bit of anxiety. The show was expanding what I was doing rather quickly but there were some things like the Wild Pigs sale and the New York Comic Con that I just wasn't prepared to go to (these things would soon change but not soon enough) so of course I just wasn't a part of them. But I got over it, and was interested to see how the show would turn out.

So Ken arrived home on Sunday and called me and said “I can't do the show by myself” well let me tell you that I hadn't been that excited to do a show since before we started doing the show. I was not prepared to do the show at all but really wanted to do a show and here we were getting ready to do the New York Comic Con recap.

The most interesting thing about this show was that we were not going to get together to do it, just six episodes in and we were already going to attempt to use Skype. We did a quick test of a new Skype recording program Ken had a demo for and planned to get back together shortly to recored the episode. As it turns out things worked well for us and along with some interviews that he had done at the Con we had a nice episode to put out on Tuesday.

I'll give him credit, he had a short amount of time, a Skype recording to deal with and interviews to edit through and put in the show and less than a day to do it all. The episode was up late on Monday but still out in time. Up to this point with everything we did to get the show out I quickly became very proud of episode six.

Chapter Twelve: Wait This isn't my Podcast? (Alternate Reality Episode 137)

Since we started up Too Old to Grow Up! I've started to listen to a lot more podcasts and participate more on the CGS forums. Because of this I've gotten to know some people a bit more and I've been introduced to quite a bit of interesting and well done podcasts. One podcast in particular was Alternate Reality, which uses the Ustream service to record their shows live each Monday then release three during the week. On the Monday after we recorded episode six I didn't have much going on so I decided to check out Alternate Reality's live recording. As I started listening they were wrapping up their first show and looking for a topic and guests for their second, since I just began using Skype the night before I was eligible for participation and the guys welcomed me to join them on episode 137 which spotlighted cartoons.

It was a big change being on a show that was being recorded live with people listening and also being on a show that although after the live feed went through editing I would not have any say in that editing process. What I will say is I had a really good time being a guest on someone else's show. I didn't have a lot of time to prepare so a lot of it was off the cuff and for not welcoming them to their own show otherwise what came out of my mouth was rather intelligent.

So sure while my co host was at home slaving over the computer to get our episode out on time I was off having fun being a guest on another podcast. However what surprised him more was that it was in fact me who got on another show before him! Yet I was still trying to make a name for myself since he was a bit more popular from over a thousand message board posts and call ins and mentions on other shows up to this point. In any case in was more exposure for the show, and for both of us that's what mattered the most.



Chapter Thirteen: Recording at the Comic Shop (Episode Seven)

So if your going to do a podcast that pretty much revolves around comics you have to have a comic book shop that you frequent right? Right. What seemed like just yesterday but in fact was probably about three or four years at that point I had started making pretty regular trips to Comics on the Green in Scranton, PA as my comic book shop of choice. It was close to home and work and most importantly had great comics at great prices with great service. The owner of the shop Dave Romeo was one of those people that had a surprising knack for not only knowing people but knowing everyones name and for someone who didn't work on any type of commission this was pretty impressive to me. While discounts, pull lists and whatnot are surely nothing new in the comics industry this type of service impressed me from a retail standpoint and going to the comic shop became a weekly ritual for me that I really looked forward to. So when Ken and I decided to do the podcast and I started coming up with show ideas we knew we were going to ask Dave for an interview before we even sat down to recored our promo.

As a matter of fact I think I even asked Dave very early on before we really had anything for him to listen to, even at that point he graciously accepted the invitation. It wasn't going to be until episode seven that we were going to interview him to tie in with Free Comic Book Day. Time seemed to pass right along though because before we knew it we were at episode seven and it was time to do our first real interview outside the normal studio and with someone who we felt ranked a bit higher than our friends joining us at my house.

The fun thing about this episode is that we were going to record it at the shop on a Sunday before it opened, and the tough thing about this episode was just the same. We knew going into this that his time was valuable and we certainly had to get in, do the show and get out before it was time to open up. Ken and I had a plan, everything was pretty much set in the bag and we were going to be set up and ready to go as fast as possible. Needless to say we learned two things, one that we need to get faster at setting up and two that our iMic really wasn't working as well as we hoped it would with Vista. But you learn as you go and before long we were ready to recored the episode.

As with all of our guest episodes Dave recorded our intro and the three of us had a pretty good time

discussing how he got into comics and the business, the comics industry and of course Free Comic Book Day. It's really a testimate to us and our show when people tell us they had a good time during the recording and Dave did. Of course we stayed afterwards to do some shopping and perhaps in honor of the Death of Superman discussion in the episode, I purchased the comic afterwards.

Chapter Fourteen: I am Iron Man (Episode Eight)

I am Iron Man, its repeated three times during the episode, one of those is the coolest line from a super hero movie up to the point of Iron Man's release. I guess if you haven't seen the Iron Man movie and you're reading this stop and go see the movie then come back. Okay you're with me now, good. Samuel L. Jackson ending out the Iron Man movie after the credits was awesome and it was a perfect way to end our podcast for the Iron Man movie, it wasn't easy to get and we debated adding it but it worked in the end. As a matter of fact up to this point the Iron Man episode was my favorite opening and closing for our episodes, but it was also the first major debate. We had an idea to use the toy Iron Man to help introduce the episode and we recorded it that way, also on top of that I had cut an opening music track using Black Sabbath's Iron Man song which also said the phrase “I am Iron Man” in the opening. Ken began putting the episode together and sent me two files, one with it and one without the toy, his choice was to not use the toy and I had to fight to keep it in, in the end I fought hard enough and he kept it in, for the most part I believe the distraction of adding the line from the movie to the end of the episode helped change his mind. In any case I'm happy with it and the fact that we reiterate that yes this is the I am Iron Man movie episode.

Going back to episode three for a moment that was our summer movie preview episode but it wasn't until episode nine where we actually went to our first summer movie and it couldn't have been a better movie than Iron Man. While its nice to check your stats to see how many people are listening to your show and try to gage its success by that what you find out is that you determine how successful your doing by how much fun you're having. We had a plan for this episode to all go to Free Comic Book Day, then go see Iron Man then head back and record the show, we made sure to buy an additional microphone and get everything all set for the day, then the day came upon us. Sometimes you build something up and wonder if it will happen in that way, this fine Saturday did not turn out that way, Jim was to join us and he came down with a cold, he didn't join us at all, Carl was to join us with his son but unfortunately his son got a little sick that day, although he did join us for Free Comic Book Day and the movie he did not join us for the show. So we headed out on our day with the goal of hopefully filling one of the two spots for guest we just lost.

Although I had to twist his arm I was able to convince my brother in law Dave to join us on the show,

sure he was nervous but aren't they all. The episode was structured around Free Comic Book day and a few things that Dave hadn't really prepared for so it was a little tough for him. Its also tough to bring some people in if they're not ready to jump into the conversation and since he didn't really partake in the opening segments of the show once we got to the part he was going to talk with us about it took him a little longer to get rolling. But after all is said and done they all want to come back and join us again and Dave was no different.

The conversation was good and we covered a lot of topics between Free Comic Book Day and Iron Man, since we didn't want to just give people our review of Iron Man we outlined the show so we'd get a little history of Iron Man along with some of his struggles and challenges plus for good measure we talked about the animated movie and the demo that just hit Xbox Live.

This show would really set the tone for what we had planned for the rest of the summer and thankfully it worked out well. It gave us a lot to look forward to for the next few months. However with the good comes the bad and soon after the episodes release I'd have to face the bad head on.

Chapter Fifteen: Criticism

They say let the good times roll but what happens when the good times come to a grinding halt? When you start to produce your podcast you hope that everyone will love it and no one will think it sucks or have a problem with it. For the most part people will probably tell you that you're doing well, positive feedback will probably come early, but its the criticism that you need to pay attention to later on.

Lets keep in mind I'm not talking blatant negative feedback, those people that may say your show sucks will not help you move forward, but when you receive a little negative feedback from the people that actually listen to you don't toss it aside. Of course we are talking about podcasting here and for most of us podcasting is a hobby, there are not many sponsors, corporate bigwigs or bosses other than ourselves that need to tell us what and what not to do, so why should you really care? Well you should care because these are the people that spend their time with your show and if they really have something to say you should at least take it into consideration.

One thing very early on that you should REALLY pay attention to is sound quality, whenever someone tells you about your sound quality good or bad LISTEN, it's ironic isn't it, listen to what they say about your sound quality. Although you will most likely listen to your show before you put it out you may fall into two categories, you either put out your show and don't care about static etc and it sounds however it sounds or your in the category that you'll hear static and problems with your sound quality that dogs and cats will never hear. Sound quality for us was the first thing we had to get over, early on we got some good feedback that our show was pretty well put together and SOUNDED good, well to say the least we were surprised because we weren't happy with our early quality. Of course sometimes people need to know why it may not sound great. Within the first ten shows we did our first Skype recording and it didn't sound that great, I had to explain to a friend what was going on and that in fact it was something we had to deal with but would be working hard to make better.

After the Iron Man show was released I had to deal with a few criticisms that I liked and didn't like. We have a certain way we like to develop our shows, we like to integrate yesterday into today, so in doing the Iron Man show the fact that we didn't review the movie till well into the episode was something I was told we shouldn't do, but for my defense it was that everyone was doing an Iron Man review show, giving background and including other facets of Iron Man was our way of separating

from the crowd. This was what our show was about and it wasn't something I was willing to change. In my defense the person that was telling me this actually referenced parts of the show that he didn't even realize he “got” but it made me feel good since I knew I did my job.

In this certain case of criticism I'm listening to a person that isn't a “geek” but listened to the show because of who I was and how we made it interesting, we were getting him to want to hear about things he wasn't exposed to but through our way of doing the show it kept his interest. This was of particular interest to me since I felt if we could get people from outside our world to like to listen to the show then we must be doing something right. One thing that came up was our “namedroppping” of sort , its one of the things that we do quite a bit on our show in reference to other shows or people we know, that's our homage to the people that listen and it was one thing we weren't willing to change.

The biggest surprise to me was that of having guests on our shows. My feeling is that its fun to bring other people into the mix but it was never our intention to bring people in all the time. When we planned the first couple of shows it didn't seem like we had a lot of guests, in looking back we had quite a few guests in a short period of time. It was one thing that we decided we were going to keep a better pulse on, its fun to bring people into the show, but it was refreshing for me to hear that people really wanted to listen to us and our views.

The last thing we needed to deal with was one or the other of us either talking too much or not enough. Its easy for someone to dominate a show from week to week and its not always the same person. I take on the role often of the person in charge or moving the show along and often in doing that become a question asker, Logan likes to talk and often becomes the question answerer so moving ahead it was another thing we would keep and eye on.

In any case we felt the show would be better if we at least kept things in the back of our mind that our listeners would give us. What we would find out in just the next recording was that a guest would drop out (solving one issue) and to our surprise a topic we thought might not do well did really well, but I'm getting ahead of myself.

Chapter Sixteen: Comics Podcast Network

So we had nine shows wrapped up and by this time I've been working towards trying to get signed up as a member of the Comics Podcast Network, we weren't sure but someone had said you needed to have ten shows completed. Of course anyone who knows me knows that patience is not one of my virtues so of course I started around episode seven or so! A few weeks went by and I'd been in touch with those that lead up the CPN but we hadn't been signed up yet, then right before episode ten I received the email notification that we were all set and ready to go. We were the newest member of the Comics Podcast Network, www.comicspodcasts.com

Becoming a part of Comics Podcast Network was very important to us, although first and foremost we became a part of the Comic Geek Speak forums it was sort of a badge of honor for us to be a part of CPN. Of course this is where all the podcasts that we were joining the ranks of where already calling a second home and it was more or less a confirmation of sorts that we were on our way to becoming an accepted podcast especially in the comics podcast community.

So for what was to be our tenth episode we were able to declare that we were now a member of the Comics Podcast Network, we couldn't have been happier.



Chapter Seventeen: The Wrestling Show (Episode Ten)

The wrestling show was up to this point the oddest show that we had done to date, and the farthest stretch as well. The origin of the episode came from my invitation to attend a wrestling event to be put on by the WWC (World Wresting Coalition) which was an up and coming wrestling organization in the Scranton/ Wilkes Barre area. The kicker came when I knew that I would get to meet wrestling legend Nikolai Volkolf. I asked Ken if I should try to get a promo spot from Nikolai and he agreed it would be a good idea, with the promo and the wrestling event to come I started thinking of the wrestling of olden days and the wrestling episode was born.

One of my good friends Larry attended the WWC event with me and since he was a huge wrestling fan I asked him to join us for the show, we had gotten pretty good and bringing in good guests and I figured he'd bring a lot to the table. Well turns out he didn't bring anything to the table since the day he was to be on the show he was stuck out of town at a wedding rehearsal. With the bulk of our show out of town it was a good thing I had spent the last day or two watching some old WWF wrestle mania documentarys, it also gave me a reason to watch some Hulk Hogan's Rock and Wrestling cartoons that I had bought awhile ago.

When we sat down to record the episode it went pretty smooth and I actually got to use a line made famous by The Rock on Ken which of course made the show funny for me, it was a pretty good discussion and we both realized that we seemed to remember more than we anticipated, it also gave us an opportunity to throw out some really bad impressions of wrestlers. When we were done we felt we had a good episode and hoped that it wouldn't turn off our listeners too much.

This was going to be our tenth episode and we questioned whether it was the right choice, sure it had what would be our first celebrity promo but it was as I mentioned the farthest from our base of comics, games, toys, movies and cartoons. So with anticipation we released the episode into the wild and waited. What would happen next we were not anticipating.

The wrestling show would go on to be up to this point the most popular show we released, our message boards came alive with comments of how it took people back and how much they enjoyed hearing about the good old days. Along with the episode we had our first major contest where we gave away

an autographed photo of Nikolai Volkolf, and in turn we had a listener sign up for the CGS forums to request to be entered into the contest. Thankfully for him he was the winner of the contest, when I sent out the autographed photo I got the address and was sending it to Canada! We had a listener in Canada!

That week I would go to the comic shop and still there they were talking about the wrestling show and how cool it was that we got Nikolai to do the program, people were still talking about the show. What I realized at this point is that we were doing a good job of creating a nice mix of topics and that we were staying true to what Too Old to Grow Up! Was all about and that was to have fun in as many ways as we could.



Chapter Eighteen: A Female Perspective (Episode Fifteen)

Up till now the first fourteen episodes have been strictly guys only in what would appear to be a guys only podcast, now it was never really meant to be that way of course but thats the way it was going. That would all change with the recording for episode fifteen, when we would bring in Amy to talk about the Pixar movies. When we did our summer movie preview we knew we weren't going to get to all the movies we would want to see during the summer and Wall-E was one of those movies that we figured was going to be on that want to see but won't list. For me I pretty much knew I'd be picking up Wall-E most likely on Blu-ray come the fall so I was okay with that. Yet there was an episode that we wanted to do which would focus on the movies of Pixar and of course tieing it to the release of Wall-E only seemed natural. If I knew anyone who would be a great guest for a movie about Pixar which is so closely related to Disney it was Amy, when I asked her she kindly agreed to join us, as of this writing we have recorded the episode a few weeks ago and she is anxiously awaiting the release of her episode which will be the next released episode.

In preparation for this episode I watched The Pixar Story which I recorded I believe off of Starz, it was a very interesting story and gave me quite a bit of talking points for the show, there was actually quite a bit of preparation involved with this episode and quite a bit of paper was used to print out pages upon pages of Pixar movie notes, Ken of course as he declares in the episode did very little if any preparation for the episode whatsoever. I felt like that was partially my fault as this was the week that we were coming off of the criticism and I'm pretty sure I mentioned that he talked too much, so I think he decided to talk very little this time on purpose, he would say otherwise!

Having Amy join us brought up a funny point as one podcast that Ken listened to in particular Half Hour Wasted had an Amy the Girl who came on the show from time to time. When we were developing our show, and even through the shows early episodes Ken used Half Hour Wasted as a baseline for our show (to a point). Now I say this because it was ironic that the first girl we would have on our show would actually be named Amy! Sure we threw around the idea of pulling the joke and calling her Amy the Girl, however we decided against it. Our Amy was very much like us, yet very much not like us, she was a geek, but only when it pertained to Disney.

There was a lot to cover in this show, and this was one episode that we actually weren't going to cover

the actual movie that we were building up to, yet Pixar had a lot of movies already release and we planned to cover them all.

As much fun as the preparation for the episode was the discussion was just as good, we covered it all including the history, the Pixar shorts and every movie that was released. From Toy Story to Rattatulie we spent a little bit of time on each movie talking about what we did and didn't like and of course adding in the witty banter in between. The best part of that witty banter came when Amy flat out challenges Ken during a discussion about broken homes in Disney movies, a discussion that I clearly stayed out of but completely enjoyed listening too.

The episode ran about an hour and was going to feature a pretty cool intro and outro which at this point we were getting pretty good at picking out and enjoying producing the intros and outros. In the end Amy had a blast (as most of our guests do) and began to eagerly await the release. For us it was going to be a way to expand our listeners (of course she would tell her friends and families) and perhaps let some of our female listeners know that we hadn't forgotten about them.

Chapter Nineteen: Fortune and Glory (Episode Eleven)

It had been over 20 years since the last time an Indiana Jones movie hit the big screen so you can imagine how excited we were that in our first year of our podcast we would be able to do our Indiana Jones episode and cover a brand new Indy movie to boot.

At this point we were the second movie into a very busy movie viewing summer, we kicked it off with Iron Man but it was great that we only had to wait a short time to see Indy (there was a much longer wait till July to see The Dark Knight, which of course I really wanted to see!). For this movie once again Dave and Carl joined us for the movie, but this time would be a little different for Carl since he was going to join us for this episode after missing the Iron Man show. He would also get to bring his son with him to see Indy as he was unable to bring him to see Iron Man. Dave would go to the movie with us but decided against being a recurring guest on the show with this movie.

Carl is the same age roughly as Ken and I and he also brought with him the same type of passion for the Indy movies that we had, its no secret that we all enjoyed the movie and the three of us enjoyed very much talking about it. Carl was also the first guest on our show that was really a big fan of our show so it was a pretty big deal for him and it made it a lot of fun for us.

One thing that this episode was supposed to be was the first episode that we had our sound board up and running to add a new element to our show, sound clips loaded into the software like bullets in a gun. A gun that would end up not working at all. This was the problem with doing our testing at the same time as the show, when it doesn't work it delays your afternoon and on this particular afternoon I had a wedding to go to so we were really under the gun. It was quite disappointing to Ken because he was really looking forward to showing off all the clips he had prepared. Carl and I were a bit bummed but overall we had a fun time nonetheless. I had purchased new headphones to use and we made Carl bring his but it wasn't the end of the world.

When it came down to it Ken added a few of those clips in after the fact and it worked just as well. As time would tell if we would get the kinks worked out or not. For Carl this episode was his 15 minutes of fame so to speak, yet we still couldn't figure out how to get him on the CGS forums.

Chapter Twenty: The Three Amigos (Episode Thirteen)

One for each other and all for one! When we started planning for the podcast we knew we needed to get our friend Matt on the show at some point, in the beginning we even talked about him submitting a weekly segment, which of course hasn't happened yet. In any case we needed to figure out when and how we'd get him involved in the show, we knew the topic was going to revolve around Halo, big surprise there if you know Matt.

The big question was going to be the when and how we'd get him on the show, early on we were really only thinking about Skype but had no idea what we'd do or how we'd get it to work, so the logical thing was going to be to plan a trip out to see Matt. That opportunity came when we planned to attend Wizard World Philly. The idea was to go to Wizard World Philly and then head to Matt's for the night to hang out, of course we hoped Matt would come to Wizard World with us. Those plans fell through when I realized I was planning an event that would keep me at work on Saturday so we changed our plans to leave for Wizard World Saturday night, hang out at Matt's and then head to the show on Sunday.

We got to Matt's on Saturday night and after a quick bite to eat got right to the show, we made it look real official and impressive like we really knew what we were doing, I even brought the video camera to possibly film the podcast, in the end we left the video camera off.

The episode we'd record would focus on a few things including the games we'd played over the years, how we used Xbox Live to keep in touch and hang out, how much we played Halo (which was a lot) and finally the Sopranos video we shot with Matt a few years earlier as well as Matt's book “Chef for a Day”. Obviously we covered a lot and if you've heard the episode you know we had a lot of fun, Matt is very funny.

One thing that we got right with this episode was the soundboard, and as figured Ken had the soundboard loaded up with clips. The best part of this episode for me was when Matt called out Ken for setting himself up to use a bunch of clips from the soundboard! My problem with this show was that while the content was great and very funny for some reason recording at Matt's left us with an annoying audio problem through the whole show. Getting there audio wise but we were still learning.

Chapter Twenty-One: Road Trip (Episode Twelve)

When Ken went to New York I missed the trip, still don't know why, just didn't end up going. That would make our trip to Philadelphia to Wizard World Philly our first road trip, as mentioned in the last chapter that gave us an opportunity to meet up with Matt as well. Originally we were supposed to head to Philadelphia on Friday night to go to Wizard World on Saturday but as I would learn I was planning an event at work on that Saturday, good thing I learned that before we bought our tickets! Normally one would get upset that they had to work on a day they were planning a trip especially when that trip falls on a Saturday but not this time since my event at the mall was a meet and greet with Rupert Boneham from Survivor Pearl Islands and Survivor All-Stars. I'm a big Survivor fan so getting to meet Rupert was pretty cool for me, to top it off I got Rupert to record a promo for Episode twelve like I did with Nikolai and we got some Rupert autographs to give away on the show.



On Saturday when the event was over we were getting ready to head out to Philly, but it wasn't without its issues, not only were we getting a late start on the road but a late day storm plowed through leaving the floor at home wet (yeah I had to wipe that up before we left) and left all the MAC machines out of service so I was headed to a convention with no money!

Once we got on the road we were all set with a lot of our audio equipment as well as video equipment. One thing we planned to do was record in the car on the way down to get a little recording done as well

as test to see if it would work in case we needed to record in the car on the way home. After gathering up all the equipment for this high tech recording in the front seat of the car we ended up simply using the handheld recorder and passing it back and forth. The funniest part of the trip (now at least) was for me since after we stopped at the rest area and got back in the car I spent the second half of the trip wondering if I'd taken my camera out of the trunk when we stopped and in fact if I'd put it back! I did so thankfully that worked out, actually I'd never taken it out of the trunk in the first place.

The next day we traveled down to the Philadelphia Convention Center to Wizard World Philly, for my first convention it was a great experience. It was about as big as I expected it to be and a little less crazy which was great because you worry in the time you have you won't be able to see what you want. We were able to cover the convention, get some interviews, got a sketch or two, bought some stuff, went to a panel and came back with some free stuff, all in a day's work.

One thing that I realized I had to get much better at was balancing my equipment and my purchases. You get to a point where you simply can't enjoy the event when your concentrating on taking video and photos. Matt came with us and took some video for me so that helped out a bit, I brought the new camera and took plenty of photos.

At the end of the weekend we realized that we weren't going to be doing any recording in the car on the way home. Surprisingly it was Ken that mentioned to me that we were going to have to record when we got back to my house. Usually Ken is the one that's ready to just go home and I'm the one that want's to get things done, for me I was off the following day (actually I'd be off for the next two days with back pain!) but he had work bright and early in the morning.

We got everything all set up as soon as we returned home and actually as tired as we were recorded a pretty good episode. There wasn't a lot of planning involved in the show so it made it a bit more spontaneous than usual which made it pretty good. But hey I'm a bit biased. It would also be the first show where I would use my mic stand to give me a sort of mic boom which would lead to other things down the road. Slowly but surely we were becoming a full fledged recording studio of sorts.

Chapter Twenty Two: Hulk Smash (Episode Fourteen)

The Hulk episode landed on a great weekend, right smack dab between my birthday and father's day, we went to see Hulk on Saturday morning a little different than our usual Sunday mornings. In any case I'd gotten off to a good start for my birthday since I got the first two seasons of the Hulk television show, I was going to watch the first episode before the show but didn't get to finish it before we had to record. In preparation for the show Ken had watched Hulk, not sure why but he did, he does gather some weird things for show prep at this point with audio clips so he also managed to get the theme music for the old Hulk cartoon!

The movie was great, another summer hit for Marvel which of course made it real easy to do the episode, when your pumped about a movie and a character you can just talk so much better about it. I didn't really research too much into the comic as I did for Iron Man and the stories I did want to read I didn't get a chance to. Planet Hulk was one of those stories, of course in reading Skaar: Son of Hulk I pretty much ruined that for myself.

Although we had planned to bring in guests for each of our summer movie episodes we decided against it after Indy, not because our guests were bad because they weren't, we just wanted to get back to the two of us doing the show for awhile. You set up guests and when your planning shows it seems they are spread apart enough, then all of sudden you have episodes with people all the time. Having guests is not a bad thing especially when they're good guests but as a new show we were still figuring our way around a lot of things. Anyway getting back to the core seemed to work out.

This was about our third show with the mixer and the soundboard and we were getting a bit better at it, things were flowing a bit better and the sound quality was getting to be where we wanted it. We covered a lot in the episode from comics to television to movies old and new but the topics seemed to blend pretty well and it wasn't as structured as our Iron Man episode.

Our movie review episodes were something we wanted to do and pretty much needed to do but in the grand scheme of things they were not becoming our best episodes. Feedback wise we were seeing that shows like the wrestling show, the pixar special and others were doing much better. But thats all part of the planning, finding the good shows and topics, and making the rest as good as you can.

Chapter Twenty Three: Pick of the Week (Alternate Reality Episode 160)

I had been twittering the day of my birthday and I got a twitter response from Jon from Alternate Reality, he was asking me to join them for their next recording session for the Pick of the Week episode. Of course I'm not one to turn down an invitation from Jon to be on one of my favorite podcasts so of course I said yes. It was for the pick of the week podcast as I mentioned, now one thing if you've ever listened to Alternate Reality is that especially Jon knows how to describe a comic in detail sometimes to the point where its actually more fun to listen to Jon tell the story then to read the story itself. The last time I was on the show was a bit impromptu and it was a topic I was relatively knowledgeable about (cartoons). This time I was going to need to not only pick a comic but read a couple comics and know how to describe them as well. By the way all this was going down on a week where I actually only got two comics and they were new books I was trying out, the week prior had been a pretty big week for me so I was pretty much tapped out! Jon advised me it was okay to pick from the week prior so I got to my reading and started getting ready for the show.

By this time Ken and I had about 15 shows under our belts as podcasters so I was pretty comfortable doing shows, but there was a big difference in doing our show and doing Alternate Reality, their show was recorded LIVE on U Stream in front of listeners. When we record our show if we mess up we just start over or fix it, not so in this case, plus I have no control over what goes on in the editing room before the actual podcast goes out. With that in mind I was really pretty nervous getting ready for the show and actually pretty nervous while I was on the show, but the guys have a great way of getting you into the show and the episode came out pretty darn good (but I'm biased).

Ken and I talked about the possibility of doing our show live or using something like Stick Em while recording the show, maybe someday, maybe for episode 50 or something, however with the way we've been going up to this point something is bound to happen a lot sooner than that for sure!

I'd like to thank Jon and Charlie again for having me on the show, its a ton of fun doing your own show and its even more fun to be on someone else's show, and they gave Too Old to Grow Up a lot of play while I was on, its just great for the community as a whole.

Chapter Twenty Four: Independence Day Movie Salute (Episode Sixteen)

The first episode that would revolve around a movie but that we weren't going to see the actual movie. Hancock was strange for me in that it seemed to pretty much come out of nowhere, after all the research I did for our summer movie preview I had no idea Hancock was coming out or what it was about. After figuring out that it was probably going to be a pretty interesting movie we realized that it was coming out before the 4th of July but would come out on the Tuesday that the episode would need to be out by, so obviously we weren't going to see and cover it. Yet we realized one thing, Will Smith was in it and Will Smith was quickly becoming Mr. 4th of July or the Will Smith Weekend as Ken dubbed it. So instead we thought we'd take a look back at prior year hit movies that came out and made a big splash on 4th of July weekend.

The week we were planning to record this episode I was going to be on vacation, starting my vacation actually. Although I wasn't really going anywhere so it didn't matter much but we thought we'd take the time and recored two episodes with the 4th of July holiday falling on Friday and figuring everyone would be busy on the weekend. Well it didn't quite work out for us, since we spent a good hour or so trying to figure out where the feedback was coming from yet again. For me this issue of setting up, testing and troubleshooting before each episode was getting pretty old, since its a time where I just kind of get to sit there and listen to Ken talk but he's never talking to me apparently? On top of that it was getting real fun always listening to Ken say how my computer was slow or not set up properly or why did I do something a particular way etc. The answers were always it is simply my computer and I get to set it up and do things the way I want to!

In any case we figured out what the problem was, our iMic cable was very simply stuck in between off and on for the easy explanation. At that point I determined it was no longer feasible to do the show at my house. We started out pretty small with just a few mics and a small mixer but now Ken had a bigger mixer, more mics, headsets, wireless equipment and much more, not to mention if he had his computer there'd be no bothering mine. It simply was taking up too much time setting up, testing and tearing down for the time to make sense for either of us. This also affected how the episodes came out, when you're ready to do an episode and then you spend all this time before the episode in a down state it really drags you down when you sit down to recored. I was constatnly questioning whether the shows were good or not.

Finally we did sit down to record the show, while I thought I was going to spend some time doing research and watching a few movies as they say time flies and you run out of time pretty quick. Yet thanks to FirstShowing.net I had a good chuck of information ready to go for the show.

The biggest thing that should be pointed out for this episode is the intro, it was clearly our longest intro ever at over 2 minutes. I spend a good amount of time listening to music and I'm always test driving music that may or may not make it into a show intro or outro. This was our summer movie show for a lack of better explanation and I was looking for something that would bring out that summer feel. I was trying very hard to implement All Summer Long by Kid Rock, it uses the Werewolves in London beat with a little Sweet Home Alabama thrown in, really cool music but the lyrics weren't really what I wanted for the show. Right around the time I was trying to cut something for the show Ken sent me his mix of clips and music for the intro, I will say that even now when I listen to the intro for that show I get chills. Whether he was trying to or not he hands down made the best intro yet for one of our shows and I credited him with due in the show.

We would also have our first voice mail, well our first real voice mail, played in this show from mdaddio (Mark from California) so that was pretty cool as well. In the end however it was the push for a change in location which would make this the last episode that we would recored at my house, by the time I talked to Ken an hour later the decision was already made and he got the okay from his wife, next week we would move to the new Too Old to Grow Up studio.

Chapter Twenty Five: A New Location (Episode Seventeen)

They say change is good and a new location can revive your interest, well we were only seventeen episodes in so its not like we were bored but if I said that the show really seemed to hit its stride with the change of venue I wouldn't be lying. I described our issues in the last chapter so I won't reiterate them here but for me a feeling of relaxation is probably what would start showing through the most. Sure its always easier for you to do something at your house and have someone else come to you but when they start messing around with your stuff and you are me it gets to you. I like Ken (obviously) but when it comes to Ken and stuff and Art and stuff we think so far apart its terrifying. Ken can be laid back and non concerned about everything, me I'm concerned about everything! I use my computers for ALOT so I like to know what's going on with them, Ken could care less. So yeah long story short when all the equipment is in his hands and I can really just show up and be handed a mic and hit record I'm a bit more relaxed.

For episode seventeen we kicked off our first in a relaxed series of Retro Gaming Look Backs and we started with the Sega Dreamcast. Although we had problems the prior week with recording we did manage to sit down and record a bunch of sound clips and it allowed me a chance to go back and play some Sega Dreamcast which was a total blast. Ken was too busy playing with the recording equipment to even try any of the games I played, oh well his loss! I decided to kick off the retro series with the Dreamcast because I felt it was the newest system to be considered retro and it was also in my mind the last great gaming system, sure there were awesome systems that would come later but the Dreamcast was the last system I really had some fun with.

You can really tell in the way I talk about the system and the games that I played that I spent some time with the Dreamcast and I really truly missed it, it was finished before it should have been. Yet I guess thats what the show is all about so it fit in perfectly.

Getting back to the sound clips I stated that we recorded the week prior although we didn't want to overwhelm the show with sound clips this episode would really give Ken a chance to spread his wings as it related to the sound board. The cool thing about the sound clips we would use it that they would immediately spark a memory for you if you were a big Dreamcast fan and some even if you weren't.

We started off the show with the boot sequence audio from the Dreamcast and immediately go into the "Let's get ready to Rumble" music from Ready 2 Rumble Boxing which was a launch game for the Dreamcast and one that I bought. However the funny thing is that normally laid back Ken actually told me we weren't going to use that because it had Michael Buffer's "Lets Get Ready to Rumble" sound clip all throughout it, he was really nervous about that one. Hey I figured if we were that popular I'd be more than happy to cease and desist!

Well as of this writing we've received no letters from Buffer or George Lucas since Ken also used a clip from the Phantom Menace in this episode! Among the other clips used were Soul Caliber and a bunch of great sound bytes from games like House of the Dead and Zombie Revenge!

In the end the new venue topped with an episode that I was really pumped to do and I actually didn't ask Ken this time "so was that a good episode?" as I was normally getting in the habit of doing. If I were to look at stats at this point it was one of our lesser downloaded episodes but we got some good feedback on it, it really didn't matter we were going to trudge on with them especially since I planned the Genesis show for the next one. Whether or not people wanted to hear us talk about video games we were going to give it to them!

Chapter Twenty Six: Another Part 1 of 2 (Episode Eighteen)

It started out as four weeks of Batman, covering all venues of Batman including comics, television, movies, toys, games and more. As Ken would mention and I would agree, did we really want to submit our listeners to four weeks of Batman and to top it all off it wouldn't even be a Batman month since there was going to be five weeks in July! So over time I would get better at developing show topics and we'd thin it down to two weeks. We really felt we'd need the two weeks so that we could give the new movie its total due, eventually we'd be right.

Even without the new movie to cover we'd still have a lot of material to get through so we'd decide that we would also not cover Batman Begins or Gotham Nights, of course the latter was because I hadn't gotten a chance to see it yet! The intro music was originally going to be the theme from the Adam West Batman show but after some thought we somehow decided against it for some reason. Leading up to the Batman excitement however I started listening to the soundtrack to Batman done by Prince and realized that this was the music that we were going to need to use for the show intro and outro, it ended up working quite well.

One thing that struck me at the beginning of the show was Ken's decision to call it "I'm the Goddamned Batman", when he recorded the intro he gave me a look like I was going to stop him or say something, you know what sometimes when its Ken you just have to roll with it and let him go so that's what I decided to do in this moment!

As stated we would cover a lot in this show and it was our second show in the new recording studio at Ken's house and our second two part episode. Truthfully I'll be honest as I'm writing this chapter and recounting episode eighteen I can't remember a whole lot. Perhaps it was because it was just a good solid episode or perhaps it was because really all it was really was just a way for us to get to the meat and potatoes that would be episode nineteen, our coverage of one of the best movies of all time.

Chapter Twenty Seven: The Dark Knight (Episode Nineteen)

Wow what can I say about The Dark Knight episode, first off as I've stated in the show itself I am a Batman fan through and through, biased as biased can be. With that said as of this writing and quite frankly I can't see it changing, The Dark Knight is possibly my favorite movie of all time. Okay now we can move on.

The biggest change for this episode was the we were planning to not only cover The Dark Knight but Batman Begins and the at the time recently released Gotham Knights, we would cover neither in any kind of depth because we were simply not ready for the force of nature that would be The Dark Knight. While we would still touch on Batman Begins as we worked our way through our discussion of The Dark Knight we would very briefly touch on Gotham Knights. Of course later this would be a disappointment to us since we'd get a voicemail from a listener that hoped to hear more on both Begins and Gotham Knights in the next episode. Even the best plans sometimes don't work out and as much as I planned for this two parter it didn't work out as well as planned. Originally we were going to give the entire episode to the movie review but since the previous episode was going to run long we decided to add more to it, oh well maybe next time. The episode was of course still a great show for us and it continued the new feel of the show since we moved to Ken's house.

Everyone would of course cover The Dark Knight in their upcoming podcasts for the next month, who wouldn't of course. The would pretty much mark the end of movie episodes for us, sure we had Clone Wars show coming up and maybe The Punisher special but you can't top The Dark Knight and of course no other movie got or would get a two parter. In the next week or so I would return to see The Dark Knight for a second time, something I never do in the theater, I just had to see it again that bad.

Yet as great as The Dark Knight was and as fun as doing another two parter was for us it was the next show that was going to once again grow Too Old to Grow Up into something even bigger and better for us. Just nineteen episodes in Too Old to Grow Up was going to get shaken up yet again, but in a good way!

Chapter Twenty Eight: Weird Al Tribute Show (Episode Twenty)

I wish I could say I've been a Weird Al fan right from the beginning but I wasn't, you see there was a certain artist that went by the name of Michael Jackson that was being made fun of by Weird Al. Of course at the time we didn't consider it a tribute to be parodied by Weird Al as we do today, in any case I'd get over the fact that Weird Al was parodying Michael Jackson and pretty much wear out the cassette tape for In 3-D and become a Weird Al fan for many years to come.

As much of a fan that I was I never really thought that I'd actually go to a concert to see Weird Al play his music live, he was after all a novelty musician and not really someone I'd want pay hard earned money to go see, after all I had the music and music videos to enjoy anytime and that should be plenty. Without the show I'm not sure that would ever have changed but I am sure glad it did. Not long after we began recording episodes of Too Old to Grow Up! it was announced that Weird Al would be making an appearance at the Scranton Cultural Center in Scranton Pa, a perfect opportunity to go to a concert without having to deal with major traffic and hassles which have mostly kept me from continuing to go to concerts these days. Ken wasn't really on board at first, I had to bargain with him, one that seemed pretty good in his favor at the time and would quickly turn to my favor. I simply told him you drive when we go to Wizard World and the CGS Super Show and I'll buy your ticket, seemed like a good deal, until gas prices went through the roof!

In any case we were going to see Weird Al in concert and we were going to cover it on the show, for awhile there was almost a chance to maybe get a bumper or interview or maybe some autographs to give out on the show, why, well because we scored backstage passes to meet Weird Al! When I sent Ken a message to tell him in fact we were going to meet Weird Al he didn't believe me, after all it was only a day before the show when we found out.

After was was a great show we got to meet the legend himself for a very brief time, Weird Al was pretty quiet despite what was just a highly energetic show but he seemed pretty genuinely nice which was really cool to see. Looking back on the early days of Weird Al and the fact that I used to listen to Weird Al cassette tapes while cutting the grass in the summer at home it was a pretty "weird" experience but one that I'd remember for a long time to come.



For all the excitement that this show would be for us it was also a landmark episode for us, episode twenty. Not only would it mark our twentieth podcast but our very first Stickam show, essentially putting Too Old to Grow Up! live on the Internet. It was kind of a last minute thing but we were slightly prepared for it, the show on Stickam had some video glips of Weird Al thrown in where we anticipated putting audio clips on the podcast, for the most part we'd edit out the video clips and put back in the audio clips before the show would be available for download.

It was actually alot of fun putting the show on Stickam and we actually had two or three listeners come into the Stickam chat to check us out, I was not prepared for anyone to show up so I missed out on the chat. After the show Ken and I talked at length about where this Stickam thing was going to go and soon we had much bigger plans for the next Stickam Live Video show!

In twenty weeks we continued to take Too Old to Grow Up! in places we never thought we'd go and the last thing I thought would be a live video show!

Chapter Twenty Nine: Listener Supported (Episode Twenty One)

Chapter Thirty: Stickam

Hello,
I read your recent blog post about you doing your podcast on Stickam. I thought I'd send you an email to see if you needed any help setting up.

I added you to our whitelist so when you are live with enough viewers you will appear on the front page of Stickam. Depending on what time you actually do your show we might even be able to feature you.

I would suggest going to your edit profile page - http://www.stickam.com/member/editProfile.do and click the My Stickam Account tab and change your category over to a channel other than social. Also fill out your calendar and check the apply to be featured box here - http://www.stickam.com/member/addCalendarEntry.do?method=show and you will appear in our Stream guide - http://www.stickam.com/streamGuide.do

Thanks for using Stickam,

Aaron Novak
Stickam Production Manager

The date as I write this is Wednesday, July 30, 2008 and I'm putting this in here because as I mentioned in chapter Twenty Eight we did our Weird Al show live on Stickam. Yesterday which would be Tuesday, July 29, 2008 I had a talk with Ken about ramping up the production value of our Stickam video and really trying to make it work. Which means that by the time we get around to our next episode after the week off we had between episodes twenty one and twenty two we'll probably have a new setup once again.

We are twenty three episodes into this podcast and have grown by leaps and bounds since the beginning, what an amazingly fun ride its been so far! Oh and by the way note that the guy says he read our recent blog post, while I will say that my original plan for the blog did not happen and Ken was right, I still use the blog from time to time to post news and stuff about our goings on. See and Ken said the blog would be useless, I guess we were both wrong!