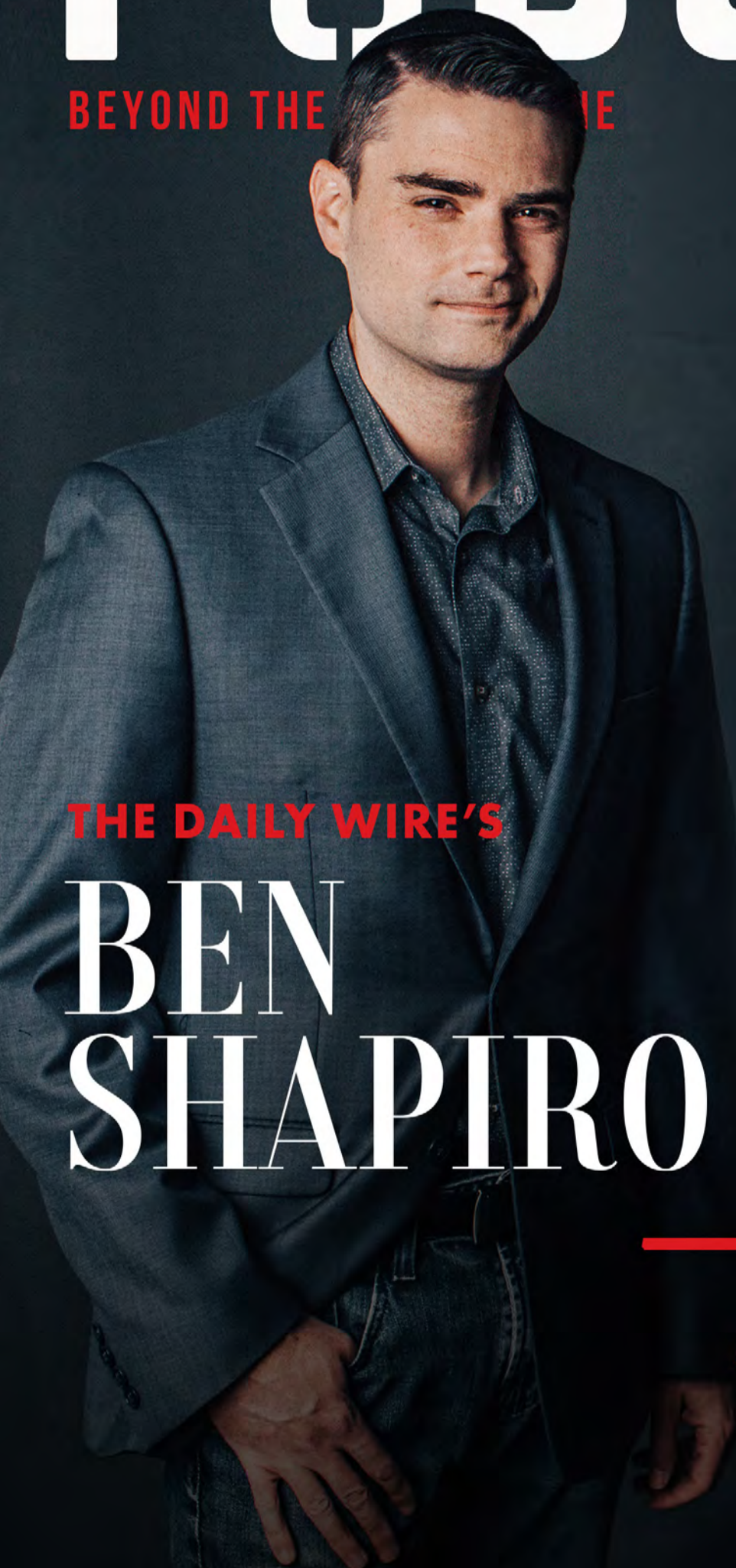


PODCAST[®] MAGAZINE

BEYOND THE MEGAPHONE



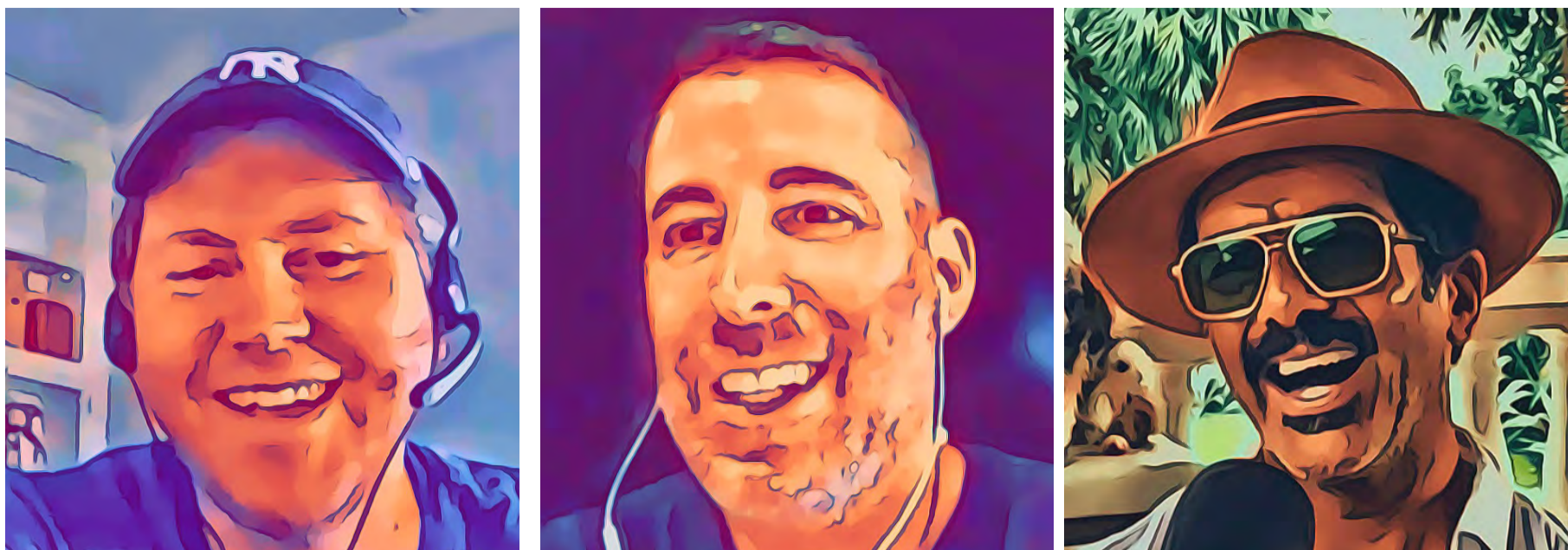
THE DAILY WIRE'S

BEN SHAPIRO



JEREMY BOREING

OPINIONATED, NOISY, AND
HAVING A GOOD TIME



AN EDUCATION ON HOW TO BUST SOMEONE'S CHOPS

3 Friends Take Their Hilarious Discussions Public With *FTS: Friends Talking Shop*

Have you ever been sitting around with your friends talking about what you may feel are inane topics and laughing so hard that you think, “*Hey, this could be a podcast?*”

Well, that’s exactly what three friends named Dave, Josh, and Omar (*pictured above, left to right*) thought.

Guess what? They actually did turn their chatter into a podcast for everyone to enjoy—*The FTS: Friends Talk Shop* podcast.

As most will point out, the “S” can stand for more than “Shop,” but fans of the show are probably reminded of countless

conversations they have had with their own closest friends each time they listen in.

To that point, Josh says, “*What you hear on the podcast is what you would be exposed to if you had dinner or drinks with us. That’s kinda how it started. Years ago, either Dave or Omar said, ‘We should record this!’*”

“*I talk on the phone a lot for my work,*” Omar adds. “*A lot of it is usually me laughing at my own jokes. My conversations with Josh and Dave result in a lot of humor. On other calls, there was humor, but not banter. The banter was the genesis for this.*”

As you would expect, with three hosts comes three different ideas for producing a podcast. “Josh, of course, wanted to plan out exactly what it needed to be before we did anything,” Omar explains. “And Dave, the voice of reason, said, ‘Let’s just start recording, and we’ll see where it goes.’ That brought us to where we are now.”

Even within those comments, you can hear the subtle shots only close friends can take at one another without someone getting upset. That said, one could argue that instead of being a comedy podcast, it could be required education for the socially awkward on how to properly “bust someone’s chops.”

“Busting each other’s chops is a completely natural conversation,” Josh explains. “We don’t prep anything. We don’t have workshop calls or conversations prior to recording.”

“I don’t think we begin an episode ready to go after each other, though,” Dave chimes in. “I think we’re naturally curious. We have lots of stories that just happen to us. When we come together, we are eager to share them.”

However, one of the key elements of humor in *FTS: Friends Talking Shop* is that none of the hosts are shy about calling BS on the others. “We all share

a healthy amount of skepticism,” Dave points out. “As soon as we hear something we suspect is untrue, we instantly jump on each other. ‘Prove it.’ ‘Verify that.’ ‘I don’t believe you.’ And that takes us down the rabbit hole. We end up busting each other’s chops more when someone says something ridiculous.”

Not surprisingly, diving into the rabbit hole tends to produce much more humor than the surface-level conversation. This

is especially true when taking that dive comes naturally to all three hosts.

“That’s exactly it,” Josh responds to that specific point. “All three of us listen to a lot of other podcasts. There are really good ones, but there are also some that just feel scripted or forced.

We didn’t want that. We just wanted something completely unstructured and conversational, so listeners could be like flies on the wall in typical conversations we have. That was the idea.”

“We were having lunch in Arizona once, just the three of us,” Dave remembers. “We had a conversation, and it was just like the podcast. I thought, ‘What a great time!’ The podcast makes that happen once a week.”

“At the end of the day, we’re just trying to enjoy ourselves without getting canceled,”

“What you hear on the podcast is what you would be exposed to if you had dinner or drinks with us.”

Omar jokes, which induced a laugh probably not too different than what listeners regularly hear on the podcast.

The humor also comes from their blunt honesty. That was clear early in episode two, when they posed the following “Would You Rather” question:

Would you rather have your favorite professional sports team win, or your kid’s team win? The answer was overwhelmingly for the former.

“We had that conversation long ago,” admits Dave. “If I’m really honest, I want the Packers to win more than just about anyone else. And I don’t even know these people on a personal basis! That’s reality. I realized that I found kindred spirits because Josh and Omar feel the same way.”

*“I don’t like anyone else’s kids!” Josh exclaims. “My daughter grew up taking dance. That dance recital was a friggin’ nightmare. It was three-and-a-half hours. I got five minutes to watch my daughter, and the rest of the time, I had to watch other kids dance who I don’t give a sh*t about.”*

Those parents who find that insulting are clearly not the target listener for *FTS: Friends Talking Shop*.

“We’re honest,” Dave says bluntly.

That also speaks to the free-flowing nature of the show.

While the podcast isn’t scripted, Josh has been preparing for it for a while, even if it



JOSH

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SMARTLESS

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OMAR

listens to



CONAN O'BRIEN NEEDS A FRIEND

Deeper, unboundedly playful, and free from FCC regulations, *Conan O'Brien Needs a Friend* is a weekly opportunity for Conan to hang out with the people he enjoys most and perhaps find some real friendship along the way.



was unbeknownst to him. *“I have always kept a list of things I’ve experienced,”* he explains. *“Things I’ve noticed, or thought were funny, unusual, or weird. So, I already had a starter list of content. I just never talked about it.”*

But in true unscripted fashion, even that list gets put aside. *“Once we got started with the podcast,”* Josh continues, *“I started noticing sh*t all the time. Things happen, and I have to talk about it that week. All three of us are pretty observant. Others may just brush an incident aside, but for us, it just festers, and we have to talk about it.”*

“I have a theory on this,” Dave pontificates. *“Josh will prepare for his topic four months in advance because he is expected to be funny most of the time. So, he needs to have material. I will come up with things during the week that I think will be good for the podcast. And Omar will come up with something two seconds before we ask the question.”*

“That happens sometimes,” Omar admits with a laugh. *“And sometimes, when I bring up less-than-well-thought-out topics, the other guys have to bring me back to the thread of the conversation.”*

“We all lead different lives,” Josh explains. *“Omar, specifically... more so than Dave and me. We are both married with kids, but Omar lives a single-bachelor life. He’s an eccentric guy. He does very well, and he lives in this bubble. My sister is an avid listener, and she says, ‘Some of Omar’s topics are just not relatable.’ And I say, ‘That’s a good thing.’ I like to knock him down a few pegs, though. When he has a bad meal at some four-star restaurant and he’s gotta complain about it, I’m like, ‘Are you serious? Let’s come back down to Earth.’ His little bubble works for us.”*

“I represent the liberal elites,” Omar shares, which brings about yet more laughter. *“I’m out of touch. Don’t ask me how much a carton of milk costs. I don’t know.”*

While being in the *FTS* bubble isn’t for everyone, for many, it is right where they need to be. If you want a legitimate laugh produced by three friends who can both take and give out a lot of crap, *FTS: Friends Talking Shop* is for you. 🎧



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