

[Transcript] No Such Thing As A Fish / 489: No Such Thing As A Quiet Whitsuntide

Hi everyone, welcome to this week's episode of No Such Things as a Fish, where we were joined in the Soho Theatre London by the incredible Sally Phillips. Now a lot of you will be excited by that, I'm sure because Sally has been on the podcast a couple of times now and she is so funny. She is just one of us really. She loves doing the research, she loves facts. Just for anyone who doesn't know who Sally is, she is basically the doyeard of British comedy over the last however many years. She was in Smack the Pony, she was in Alan Partridge, she played the Prime Minister of Finland in Veep. I mean she's been in everything. You know who Sally Phillips is. You're really going to enjoy this show. I don't really have much more to say, so I might as well quickly say don't forget to join Club Fish. If you want to, go to notionsthingsasfish.com slash patreon or notionsthingsasfish.com slash Apple if you want to do that. Loads of bonus material, ad free episodes, all sorts of stuff on there. A few weeks ago we gave away a cabbage patch doll and actually that reminds me, once you've listened to this show do go on to our various social medias because you will be able to see a couple of props that were used in this show. I'm sure we'll post them up so definitely go and check those out because they're absolutely brilliant. Look, I don't want to use your penny more of your time. I'm just going to say, on with a podcast.

Oh, nice. Hello and welcome to another episode and no such thing as a fair show. This is a weekly podcast this week coming to you live from Soho Theatre. My name is Dan Schreiber. I am sitting here with James Harkin, Andrew Hunter Murray and Sally Phillips. And once again we have gathered around the microphones with our four favorite facts from the last seven days and in no particular order here we go. Starting with fact number one and that is Sally. So I was entranced by the Finnish hobby horse championships that was doing the round on Twitter and also I was in Finland when they were being held, unfortunately didn't make it. But my fact is that the world's best hobby horse jumper can jump high enough to theoretically clear the first two jumps in the Grand National. It's amazing how many of you saw it? The hobby horse championships, it's mainly girls between 11 and 18. You can't afford a real horse. The girls are horribly bullied by their compatriots for being into it. There was a film called Hobby Horse Revolution, 2019. It's a big thing. Once you look into it, and it is some boys but many girls and some adult women, but I think that's a bit strange. They often go into Woodland and do it in secret. So they don't give away their moves? No, so they don't get attacked. Most people make their own hobby horses because a pro hobby horse costs about 300 euros. We're talking about the stick with the head of the horse. So it's the realism that's the expansiveness, is it? Or is it like Nimbus 2000? I don't know. But my partner and I, because we knew this was live and we love the show very much, this afternoon spent a full 15 minutes each making everyone a hobby horse. What? No way. What? Oh my God. What? So, Andy, for the people who can't see this, for the people who can't see this, bad luck because it's indescribable. It is incredible. This is amazing. Yours does look a tiny bit like a bad date night, girls. Mine is, it's a very colourful sock, which is stuffed and it has a mop hair and some eyes. And yeah, I love it. Thank you so much. Mine is ultra realistic, I would say. This is a horse. Yeah, mine slightly looks like he ran out of materials and gave up. Yours is very cool. That's very kind of like space horse. Mine is very space like a glam rock, sort of, this hair is like very Led Zeppelin from the year 3000. I did that one, I'm quite pleased with that one. And this one's made out of bandages of plantar and it's got radishes

for
eyes. Oh, wow. This is incredible. Thank you. Well, I thought, I mean, I kind of thought we could
maybe
have a go, but that would be too embarrassing, wouldn't it? Well, maybe we should get the audience
to
have a go, do a bit of dressage. Because what would happen is there was loads of different
discipline. Everyone's putting it down, don't make me do it, don't make me do it, I'm a geek, I don't
like
physical action. Yeah, they do show jumping, they do puissance, which is the only time you're
allowed
to run at a jump with, you're allowed to run at it rather than canter. And yeah, that is the one
where they've jumped a whole Peter Dinklage for four foot seven inches, seven inches, but there's
also, you know, show jumping, they do the international is 80 centimeters, the jumps. Yeah. But the
fins so dominate that their jumps are one meter, 10 centimeters. Wow. So 10,000 hobby horses in
Finland. That's incredible. But it's spreading. It's a reason I don't know. But there's a reason
it hasn't got further or that it's got quite far. It has actually got quite, it's got so much
further than you'd think. It's all the Nordic nations, Canada, Ukraine. Yeah, yeah, it's in so
many places, but sometimes it's Northern, isn't it? It's quite a North, Northern Europe and Canada,
like places we have long dark nights with not much else to do. Yeah, yeah, yeah. Well, you say that,
you say that, but I mean, at least they're nice to the horses in the Nordic nations, whereas
our pretend horses have a dark, dark history. Right. I'm talking about the, none of you came
across it, the Padstow, Obi-Wan. Oh, the Obi-Wan. Yeah, but the scariest one is in Wales. In Wales,
they use real horse skulls on a stick. Really? Yeah. This isn't real. This isn't teenage girls
doing it though, is it? Well, the video I saw. It's like ghost horse. Elderly man, go with some friends,
goes, goes to the door of someone's house and then sings quite a scary song. Yeah. In Welsh,
and if you cannot finish the song inside the house, they force their way in. Okay. And there's a lot
of chasing girls with horses. It's quite, it's all sort of strange folk rituals, isn't it? Very strange
folk rituals. There are loads of these rituals. Yeah, it's all over the place. Okay, there's the,
there's, you said Padstow, which is another one. There's the Hoden horse in Canada. Did you see
the Padstow? Did you look at that online? It doesn't look, I mean, it's really bizarre. It looks
like a grand piano. Oh, really? But with a tail and a thing sticking out the front, then they sort
of rock it. Yeah, they're kind of a bit rich. Very strange. Is this, is this where the pantomime
horse comes from? No. Because these are really weird, sort of ritual fertility things. Yeah, no.
It's nothing to do with the pantomime horse. No, nothing to do with pantomime horse.
Well, no, it's really strange. It's the Lord of Mist rules. So it's the spirit of,
well, that, that's what Google told me. I'm being, I'm talking like I've got. What is the
pantomime horse, but a kind of, you know, that's a sort of misrule thing, isn't it? You know,
it's unnatural, it's weird. Yes, so. Who's in the front? Who's in the back? Yeah. No, no, no, no.
You would get on really well with Kate Beckinsale. Did you see this? She travels with a pantomime
horse everywhere. She does. And she reckons it's like really good. Well, it kind of calms her down
as she's stressed. Wait, sorry, with, with people in it? Well, does she? Like an emotional support
animal. She brings the costume around. And then if she's got a bit of downtime, then she'll get
in it and she'll find someone else to get in it with her. And it's just a nice way of calming down,
relaxing and. Yes, very normal. I think the biggest problem on the sort of a PR level is that no

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matter how you try and spin it, it always sounds nuts when you say the thing you're actually doing with hobby horsing. Like I found a quote from someone who said, people assume that it's a game or that we are more or less crazy, said Chairwoman of the Finnish Stick Horse Enthusiasts Association.

You're never going to make it past the description, are you? It's a, it's a hard thing, but it sounds like an amazing, I genuinely think, you know, people always talk about at the Olympics, like, why not have someone in the 100 meters who's just a citizen who's just running alongside and you can really see how fast they're going. Having a 12 year old girl at the Grand National make the first two and just stack it head first until the third. That would be amazing. Actually, imagine you had a pantomime horse, the fastest pantomime horse in the world, and they are in the 100 meters. You know it's a person, right? Well, two people and they're in the 100 meters in the first ever Olympics. Where do you think they would finish? Oh, in the first ever Olympics, 100 meters race, you've got the two fastest current pantomime horse people. Where would they finish in the race? Because people did run a bit slower, didn't they, in the first Olympics? Yeah, but they didn't have a pantomime horse costume on. Why? Well, the first Olympics, that was Greece. Oh no, sorry, in 1996,

the first modern Olympics. Right, first modern Olympics. Just shoes were less good then and they hadn't, you know. Maybe someone died in the in the right race. Okay. Honestly, it's just a straight up question. I'm going to say bronze. I'm going to say bronze, but no, no, I'm going to say silver and bronze because they count as two people. Very clever. I'm going to say gold. No, well, Dan is right. They would have got silver. The fastest is 12.045 seconds for 100 meters and that wouldn't quite have gotten gold in the first Olympics, but it would have been the second place. Does the nose of the person in the back of the pantomime horse have to get over the line? No, no, okay. Okay. Just that's amazing. Can I go back to hobby horsing? Just because it's one fact I'm just so desperate to share. Yeah. One of the rules of the hobby horse competition is that only stallions and mares can take part and geldings are banned.

Gelding? Gelding being a muted young horse. Where are the testicles on this thing? Well, that's what I mean. That's what I mean. Well, exactly. That's bizarre, isn't it? But that's in the rules. That's amazing. Incredible. Pantomime horses. I mean, that is the worst ever job. I mean, have you ever done that? No, I've never done that. I've never done that. I've never done that. There were some pantomimes that sometimes use real horses, because John Barrowman was thrown 20 foot off by one. They supposedly trained horse, they threw him off in Glasgow in 2013. And there was a Paul O'Grady always used to tell a story about being in a panto with a trained horse that he had to get into bed with him. He used to follow him around. He was playing the fairy godmother in Cinderella. He used to follow him around the stage with a massive erection. And he couldn't say anything because there was loads and loads of kids. And they're all going, it's behind you.

Oh, wow. Good grief. That's pretty good. Here's the thing about real horses now. Yeah. If you, I don't think we've said this before, if you frown at a horse and then go away and then come back, it will remember and be a bit more...

James is doing some stunt work for the people listening at home.

It'll remember that you frowned at him. It'll remember that you frowned.

But also if you smile at a horse and then go away, it will think, oh, there he is.

The horse remembers you frowned. How is it then passing that data on?

Exactly. So it's bizarre. It's which eye it looks at you with.
So horses look at negative or threatening sides with their left eye and positive ones with their right eye. Really?
So if you come back, you know what the horse thinks of you, depending on which eye it looks at you with. That's really interesting.
So horses understand human facial expressions. Yeah.
Yeah. It's interesting because a lot of animals, if you smile at them, they'll see the teeth and they think you're being aggressive, for instance.
Right. So interesting. It's like most comedians.
Yeah.
Do you know that it was illegal to dress up as a horse in Scotland in the 7th century? Really?
In fact, it was forbidden for any man to dress as a horse or a wild beast and dance anti-clockwise during January.
Yeah. It was demonic.
Well, that's the thing about dressing up as an animal was to let your demonic side out.
Yeah. Yeah, absolutely.
It was seen as very anti-Catholic and stuff.
St Augustine wrote that anyone carrying on that most filthy practice of dressing like a horse should be punished most severely.
Oh, wow.
But as soon as the 1st of February hits, knock yourself out.
We're doing No Horse January this year again.
That's fine.
Stop the podcast.
Stop the podcast.
Hi, everyone. We'd like to let you know that this week we are sponsored by LinkedIn Jobs.
That's right. You all know LinkedIn.
It is the number one destination to go on, to talk about your business world, your working life, and make new connections with people out there.
But also with LinkedIn Jobs, it is now the perfect place to find people for your business.
Yeah. All of the best people who might work for your business are going to be on LinkedIn, so we're better to go.
There's no point going to a town hall square and just shouting out, who wants to come and work for my business?
You're probably not going to find the right people.
You need to go where the talent is.
That's right. And it makes it super easy for you to find the person that you're looking for.

So if I was trying to hire, let's say, a fourth member of Fish,
I would have many simple tools
enabled to make my decision better and easier,
like screening questions, like, James, hello, tell me,
do you have a great fact that might be relevant to our show?
Actually, yeah, I do have a fact.
The fact is more of a question.
Who are we replacing?
You look for the candidates with the right skills.
That's an example of a bad answer.
James would not have been hired as a result in this situation.
And that means that you can screen them properly
and work out if they've got the right skills and experience
and quickly prioritize who you want to get into your business.
That's right. And if you would like to post your job right now,
you can do so for free by going to LinkedIn, that's L-I-N-K-E-D-I-N dot com slash fish.
That's right. So go to LinkedIn dot com slash fish,
and you are going to be able to post that job ad for free terms and conditions apply.
OK, I'm going to the town hall square to see if anyone needs to imply a new researcher.
On with the podcast.
On with the show.
OK, it is time for fact number two.
And that is my fact.
My fact this week is that this June of 2023,
the six millionth, six hundred and sixty six thousand six hundred and sixty sixth English
language Wikipedia article was created and that page was an entry for Satan Con.
Yeah, you've got to imagine obviously that they were aiming to land that,
but that's really hard, right?
So Satan Con being is that like Comic Con, but with devils?
Pretty much. Yeah, it's set up by the Satanic Temple,
who are a nontheistic organization, and they have this annual convention.
It was in Boston this year.
It was on April 28th, which is my birthday.
So that's very exciting.
Congratulations.
Thank you very much.
It's quite it's quite new Satan Con.
Yeah, it's only been held twice, I think.
And this year, like, so this year was in Boston at the Boston Marriott Hotel.
So good on the Marriott because you would think,
oh, maybe there'll be a reputational concern if we host Satan Con.
But they said, no, you come and have the conference here.
And I think that's really good.
Because they know, but the first one got lots of placards

and it got lots of protests outside Satan Con 1,
in 2022, denouncing Satan and this sort of thing,
even though the Satanic Temple, they don't believe in Satan.

They don't.

They say they lie.

That's the point.

Wow.

That is the point of Satan.

Yeah, really good point.

Yeah.

Oh, that's worry.

No, really good point.

Yeah.

They do run Satan afterschool clubs.

And I was thinking for my kids.

Even if they don't believe in Satan,
they're not helping themselves by calling themselves
the Satanic Temple, are they?

No, they're sort of more of a free speech organization, really.

That's what they say, Andy.

But no, you're right.

It's all such a good point.

You're being sucked in.

Oh, God, I've fallen right for it.

Satan, Prince of Lies.

That's his name.

Why did I get this pentagram tattooed on my back?

They use the proper Latin greeting for,
instead of saying hail Satan, who they don't believe in.

I'm really on the temple side.

They say ave satana.

What's that mean?

Hail Satan.

Yeah.

But it scans the same as have a banana,
which I really like, ave satana.

That's how you can remember it.

Yeah, yeah.

I like it.

Yeah, I think they're good.

Oh, do you?

Yeah, they're kind of rationalistic.

Well, there's a few of them around, aren't there,
who claim to not be interested in Satan

but are called the Church of Satan or whatever.

Yeah.

And a lot of them are like just trying to take the piss out of the government, out of the church, out of all that kind of stuff.

In lockdown, I started presenting a religious program on Sunday mornings called Sunday Morning Live.

And we, under the BBC, had to interview every religion that's recognised as a religion.

So I didn't actually do it, but they interview the Satanists.

Really?

After...

Is that like a proper religion then in the UK?

Yeah.

All right.

Yeah, Wiccan.

Wicca, yeah.

And the lady who came, I didn't talk to her, actually, but she came, she'd been up all night.

Doing what?

In the woods with her horse?

Having satanic sex in the woods.

Basically, yeah.

And the big issue for Sunday Morning Live was that she wasn't wearing a bra and you could see really, see her nipples really, really clearly.

Oh, wait, was it radio or TV?

TV.

Or three of the TV.

So it's like, how are we going to...

Why would that story be relevant

if it was radio and TV?

How are we going to gaffotate the way she snips us?

Wow.

So the Wiccan thing is a bit different, yeah.

Was she satanic?

Like, did you feel that she was pushing the Satan?

I didn't particularly talk to her.

No, I didn't...

I think they did...

Yeah, no, I didn't think so.

I don't know what happened, but it sounds like whatever spell she put on you is just suddenly kicked in.

Honestly, I'm a bit, I'm a bit scared of witches and satans.

Yeah.

So is David Bowie, so it's fine.

He was once exercised.

He got someone to do spells of protection.

All right.

Well, he used to collect his urine in little bottles,
kind of like how Hugh Hefner did,
because he was worried that witches were going to steal them
and do black magic on them.

Oh, no.

Bowie went to all of it.

What do you mean?

He can't have collected all of his urine in bottles to prevent theft.

Because that's such a big thing.

Because that's such an unsustainable...

I mean, I know he was rich.

I know he was like a wealthy guy.

If someone had enough money for jars to sustain
every passing of urine in his belly...

Imagine how much it would fetch now.

And I absolutely would buy some of it.

Oh, yeah, yeah, of course.

But I also think, like, if you just piss it down the toilet,
that's probably safer than keeping it in bottles in your house.

It's so much safer.

Yeah.

Yeah, it must be, right?

Because once you've got it in bottles, people...

No, but you're forgetting about filming trailers.

Because...

Oh, yeah.

Yeah, in filming, because there was a...

I think I might have made this up.

But I feel like there was an issue of people going to Justin Timberlake's
filming trailer and trying to steal his turrets out of him.

Oh, because it's held in a tank.

Yeah, yeah, of course, yeah.

Did I dream that?

That would be so worrying if I did.

I feel that was a thing, though.

And what were they going to do with it?

Were they going to clone it?

eBay?

All right.

No, no, just use it and use it for spells, I guess.

Was his...

We've got to remember that this is a guy who was so coked off his head that he was collecting in his own piss in bottles.

I don't think there was logic to his reasoning.

I think he just was scared of a...

Right, okay.

But there is a whole thing of collecting, you know, hair stuff, isn't there?

Well, yeah, I mean, so that's a thing.

The Yoko Ono used to be seen as someone that potentially...

You know, she had an album called Yes, I Am a Witch,

because she was presented as someone who might be a witch.

And she bought a single mustache hair off of Salvador Dali.

She paid him for it, and he sent it over in a box.

And years later, it was revealed by the partner of Salvador Dali that he was so scared that she was going to use it for witchcraft that he ended up sending a painted bit of blade of grass that he picked from his lawn.

But she never noticed, according to the story.

But he was petrified that Yoko Ono would do that.

Yeah, well, there was the whole satanic panic, wasn't there?

Was it 70s and 80s?

Were they thought McDonalds were haunted?

Possessed?

McDonalds?

No, the whole satanic panic, where McDonalds got a letter from a woman in Ohio asking why the owner, Ray Crock, was a financial supporter of the Church of Satan.

And it was a rumor that just spread...

She said she'd seen him on the Phil Donahue show saying he supported the Church of Satan.

And he hadn't said that.

But she told her pastor, and her pastor put it in the church's newsletter, which was called Moments of Sunshine.

And very quickly, that spread across America via church newsletters.

Wow.

So McDonalds had to send executives out to these churches with sworn statements insisting that Crock never said those things.

It was a real panic, wasn't it?

And the expert on it these days is a guy called Dr. David Frankfurter.

And what he thinks is it was basically like a sort of a loop where you would have these evangelical Christians saying, this is happening.

And then people are using hypnotic regression techniques

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to try and remember things that they supposedly suppressed in their lives. And then really what they would do is kind of say what the hypnotists wanted them to say. You just had this kind of feedback loop that eventually there was, you know, in theory, in some of the newspapers they were saying there were thousands of these satanists around America doing this.

Yeah.

Um, I've got a fact for you.

Okay.

In 2021, in the UK, more babies were named Lucifer than Nigel.

Do you have the numbers?

Do we know how many?

15 Lucifers.

Yeah.

No more than two Nigels.

No.

Yeah.

Oh, my word.

It doesn't appear on the list.

You know that thing where if there are under three, they don't say how many there are.

And do we think that it's because Nigel is associated with evil these days?

Did you come across a thing of 666, though?

Yeah.

So I'd always thought that 666, the number of the beast, was about the number of perfection being seven, and so six being imperfection.

That's what I thought it was.

But then today, I discovered that there's a thing called isosephi, which is letters equivalent to numbers.

And apparently this was very, very common in 1st and 2nd century CE.

So you would quite often refer to people with a number.

So a joke was, by Seatonius, a calculation knew Nero his mother slew.

And in this case, the emperor Nero equals 1005, which is the same value as the phrase his mother slew.

And apparently most people think if you say 666, it stands for Caesar Nero.

So in some early versions of the Bible, in Revelations from Revelations 13, the Latin version has the numbers being 616.

Right.

And that's because in Latin, Nero is 616, not 666.

And the reason we think that is because Revelation was written by very early Christians, it's one of the earliest of the New Testament books.

And really, they were just being persecuted by Nero.

So they saw him as the devil.
But he was actually a good guy?
Well, I wouldn't go quite that far.
I mean, it depends what side you're on.
If you're on Nero's side, he's a great guy.
He used to drink an energy drink that was made by soaking roasted dung in vinegar.
Oh, but that's still how they that's that's Red Bull.
That is.
Well, that's Steven Seagal's energy drink.
Have you seen those adverts?
Oh, yeah.
They're unbelievable.
I've not seen the ads.
You've got to see the ads.
What are they called?
You've got to see the ads.
What's it called?
I can't remember.
I used to drink it all the time.
Yeah, I don't know why.
Why?
I went through a period.
Well, my local corner shop just stocked things like Marley's Mellow Mood,
which was a Bob Marley energy drink, but it was sort of an opposite.
A Bob Marley energy drink.
It was a sort of Bob Marley anti energy drink.
And it said on the side, whatever you do, don't drive a truck after two of these.
And the store, I just had all like the collection of every celebrity's weird, you know, it had a.
What's amazing, Dan, is that this was at the end of your street.
You would be the only person in the world who would buy this stuff.
Yeah, exactly.
They probably only they were like, oh, we accidentally ordered this one time.
Oh, it's selling every week for this one guy.
Let's keep getting it.
It was really powerful, his drink.
Yeah.
Yeah, the Steven Seagal one.
It's the most misogynistic act I've ever seen.
Oh, really?
He's not even bothered to turn up.
You just have to watch it.
OK, that wasn't on the can.
It's awful.
It's really, really.

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I can't believe I was the sole funder of that ad.
It is time for fact number three, and that is Andy.
My fact is that roughly 3% of our entire planet is called Jason.
How much is called Nigel?
I'm shrinking amounts.
Yeah, so this is an amazing.
OK, this is amazing, right?
Now, this is not 3% of all people on the planet are called Jason, right?
This is 3% of the earth itself is named Jason.
By whom?
By Jason, by geologists and seismologists.
So there is.
OK, this is a bit technical,
but there are these two mysterious,
sound like Dan when I read this out.
There are these mysterious structures inside the earth, right?
There are two of them, OK?
And they are these massive blobs.
They're called LLSVPs, large, low shear velocity provinces, right?
Now, there's one beneath Africa and there's one under the Pacific.
And that's obviously a very, you know, technical name for them.
And they're not very well known about.
They're not very well researched because they are where the mantle
of the earth meets the core of the earth, OK?
So the earth goes crust, not very much.
Mantle, quite a bit.
Core, quite a bit more.
And they're at the junction point between the mantle and the core.
So they're really hard to research.
And the researchers have named them Tuzo and Jason.
They are billions of years old and between them they are six.
Both blokes.
That's true.
They're named after two geological scientists.
So they are, yeah.
And we don't know what they are.
They might be, they might be offcuts from another planet,
which is exciting.
There's a theoretical planet called Thea from four and a half billion years ago
which might have crashed into earth and might have been subsumed.
That's possible.
Yeah, we don't know exactly what they are,
but they are incredible and they're there.
And this, I don't know why I'm having to justify their existence.

This is proper, I just spent 15 minutes talking about Satan.
These are real geological structures in the planet.
They're awesome.
No, yeah, it was wonderful.
Well, are you more excited?
In all honesty, it's because an eBay auction came up on my phone
saying you've got three minutes to bid.
So I suddenly was focused on that.
Are you joking?
Well, I didn't bid in the end.
How much was it for that swimming pool of David Bowie's bottled urine?
Are we saying that there's,
because the description I read is that it's,
there's mountains there that are taller than Mount Everest.
Yes, but what does that mean?
It's not the hollow earth we're talking about, right?
There's no space around the mountains.
It's just different rock that might have been this other mystery planet.
Yeah, and in fact, near Jason and Tuzo,
there are these enormous mega mountains
and they're at that junction point as well.
They are called ultra low velocity zones
and it's this weird boundary zone.
I did read something, I can't get my head around this.
Scientists claim that the gap between the core and the mantle
is bigger than the change between rock and air.
No, I can't understand that, but okay.
It's because of the high pressure, right?
Right, yeah, yeah, yeah.
That is amazing.
And they're only found because scientists
can track earthquakes through the earth
and you spot where the reverberations,
how long they take to get through the earth
and you can build up a profile very slowly and carefully
of what the different structures are based on how fast waves travel.
This is just news to me because last time I did Geography,
I was a child and I thought it was, then there was magma.
The mantle is much more fluid
and then there's an outer liquid core in it in a solid core.
So yeah.
There's space around Jason.
No, that was me saying that.
No space at all.

Yeah, no space at all.
That was down to saying the whole world.
So in what sense is Jason a mountain?
It's a different type of rock.
Like you've got the sort of quite liquid mantle
but you've got much more solid rock,
which is this Jason stuff.
Is that right?
That's right.
Yeah, yeah.
But I think it's really interesting
these are named after blokes
because actually quite a lot of this science
was done by women, right?
So a...
Sorry, did you say you were surprised?
Weird.
Yeah, it's so weird.
It's so against everything else that's happened in history.
It's bizarre.
One person, for instance, Inga Lehmann,
she was the first to work out that the earth had a solid core
and what it was, again,
it's like the vibrations going through the earth
and they realized there must have been a core there
because the vibrations would come after an earthquake
and then if you were exactly opposite the earthquake
you wouldn't see them
and so there must have been something liquid there
but actually she noticed that if you looked at seismographs
there were really, really tiny amounts of vibrations
so it wasn't completely dark
and what she realized was that this was because
there was also a solid core inside the liquid core
and but they all thought that, you know,
she must be wrong
and it must have been like a discrepancy in the seismographs
the seismographs must be wrong
because this woman can't possibly be right
that there's an extra core in there
but it turned out like in 1970
I think she was still alive
but we found out, yeah, we found out that it was true
Wow, amazing

[Transcript] No Such Thing As A Fish / 489: No Such Thing As A Quiet Whitsuntide

So I've got a couple of things on Jason Statham

Me too

I don't know, is it like a sandwich you got from your local shop?

Because I was just looking into notable Jason's

because I thought that's the territory

Are you joking?

You?

I've got eight pages of dense geological data

Jason Statham is in Meg too

He's massive

Yeah, he is, he's incredible

So he was filming Expendables 3, I think it was

I've got this too

Have you got this amazing story, amazing story

We're literally going from the structure of the entire

all life, all of everything we've ever known

these amazing scientists

Yeah, sorry, the Expendables 3

Sorry, go on, yeah

You listen to this and tell me you're not amazed

He's in a car and he's doing a scene

and suddenly he needs to

He likes to do his own stunts, Jason

Loves to do his own stunts, Jason, doesn't he?

Yeah

And he needs to hit the brakes

because he needs to stop before there's a cliff

which drops 60 feet into the Black Sea

Gosh, 60 feet?

60 feet

That's nearly as much as the 2,000 miles of mantle

between the crust and the core

So the brakes fail, Statham's in the car

Oh no

And it goes off the cliff

This is a Hollywood film

He's plunging 60 feet into like just

A three ton stunt truck

A three ton stunt truck

Wait, he's sorry, he's driving the truck

He's driving the truck

He's driving the truck, we're not listening

And so then he should crash

Anyone else, any other of the Expendables

You put Stallone in there
You put Schwarzenegger
They would die in that moment, right?
Statham manages to leap out of the car
and successfully dive into the ocean
And then comes up and he's all okay
And why is he okay, Sally?
He's okay
Because before he became an actor
he was a competitive diver
Genuinely
And he's done a lot of free diving
and has got a lot of scuba experience
Exactly
But he was very, very good at diving
but not quite good enough to make the Olympic team
so he decided to branch out
Exactly
But he did represent Britain in the Commonwealth Games in 1990
Oh, so it's not like scuba diving, it's high board diving
High board diving
Which he used to practice in Crystal Palace
as a high board there
and they have a pool there
where Tom Daly would practice as well
And before Tom Daly, Jason Statham
He would be there
Yeah
That's really interesting
So Jason Statham
That's really interesting
because Jason Statham that means
might have been helpful
in the first attempt to dig down into
the Earth's mantle in 1961
So this was a thing called Project Mohole
Okay
It was an attempt to find the lower limit of the Earth's crust
which is very, very thick on land
and much thinner over the ocean
The USA was losing the space race in 1961
The Soviets were way ahead
And so the USA said
Why, well just dig instead

and we'll do better digging
and that'll be our new thing
Right
And so they tried to
they tried to get down beyond this thin layer of crust
where it meets the mantle
which is a point called the Mohovovich's discontinuity
It didn't work
So they went into the ocean
The weirdest thing was
that there was a ship
which was sent to do the drilling operation
and to keep it stable
in the same bit of the ocean
Their solution was
they fitted propellers all the way around the outside
and they just fired them all at the same time
That's brilliant
I know
It's pretty, that's very cool to me
They probably needed marine biologists
on the boat right
in order to do the science
I'm not falling for it
Because
They didn't need
Did you know
Jason Momoa
Absolutely not
Who became Aquaman later in his career
First studied marine biology
when he was at university
before transferring to wildlife biology
That is so interesting, Dad
Isn't it?
Thank you, yeah
Well they did have a kind of hero of
beginning with Jay
and Jay named Hero there
because John Steinbeck was present
of Mice and Men
John Steinbeck
Oh really?
Yeah, yeah

He was there kind of writing about it
But sadly it didn't work
Gosh, you weren't kidding
In the dressing room
he said I've got 15 minutes
brilliant material on Jason
There is a bit of advance this year
so this is quite sort of geeky now
but scientists have just extracted
a chunk of the mantle for the first time
and they were trying to work out
Of Earth's mantle?
Earth's mantle
Wow
We're trying to work out how to do it
Right
and they realised
they don't go to the mantle
go to where rock from the mantle
has been pushed above
its normal resting place
so they drilled into an underwater mountain
but like a normal underwater mountain
is in at the bottom of the
mid-Atlantic ridge
and they drilled in slightly sideways
and they have a core of mantle rock
which is a kilometre long
and they've extracted that core
and that'll allow them to study
all sorts of things about the deep Earth
So cool
That's incredible
Wow
All I've got going on here is
you could keep it on your mantle piece
I just can't join in with the science stuff really
Well Jason Statham
I do have a fact about Jason Statham
Oh look who goes crawling back to the other side
He fits very well
as in he would be a great action hero
even with his, you know, his human name
as in his name is a good name for an action hero

Right

So is it not his real name Jason Statham?

No it is his real name

as far as I know

but my point is that action heroes

tend to have names beginning with Jay

Oh yeah

James Bond

Jason Bourne

John Wick

Jack Reacher

John McLean

John James Rambo

Oh yeah

And there was a study, a brilliant study

by a writer at Slate

called Demetria Glace

or Glass

and she studied 2000 action movies

pretty much every modern western action movie

with a male sort of single everyman protagonist

A third of them had names beginning with Jay

Really?

Which is very unusual

Like very few villains

Do you know that the Earth is younger on the inside
than it is on the outside?

So when you get to the mantle level of the Earth

Judas, Judas

That would be a good name for an action movie

A great action story

Yeah

Yeah

This is like Freaky Friday

So as we saw in the movie Interstellar

where when Matthew McConaughey is traveling out into space
gravity distorts time doesn't it?

And there's a reason that we say that

when astronauts are in space

they're almost time travelers

because they age differently

because time travels differently

if you were at the core of our planet

and that means then the core of our planet itself

[Transcript] No Such Thing As A Fish / 489: No Such Thing As A Quiet Whitsuntide

is traveling at a different time
so it's two and a half years younger
than the rest of our planet
because gravity is so intense down there
that it slowed down time
That's pretty cool
Whatever
Okay
Let me tell you one thing about geology
which will this will totally blow your mind
Oh yeah
So there's a place called the Heart Mountain
in Northwest America
and I'm talking quite a lot of millions of years ago
but at one stage that mountain moved 62 miles in half an hour
Really?
The entire mountain
What?
Isn't that amazing?
So there's a load of basically magma
there's a big sort of river of magma there
a load of water got into it
there was a massive explosion
and the entire mountain moved at 100 miles an hour
Oh my word
No
What happened?
An hour
We're talking millions of millions of millions of years ago
Oh this was the last year
You just go and ski and you're like oh my god
Are we there yet?
It's right here, fuck
Stop the podcast
Stop the podcast
Everyone this week's episode of Fish is sponsored by a babble
Babble is the greatest place to go if you want to learn a new language
so I'm going to take my wife to France in a couple of weeks
which she doesn't actually know yet
so hopefully she doesn't listen
if she doesn't listen to this show it's fine
but I might want to brush up on my French before I get there
and you know what babble is the perfect place to do it
That's right

Babble is your in-pocket ability to be able to do this
there are so many different ways that you can learn a language
so quickly so comfortably
there are 15 minute lessons that you can listen to
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or if you like learning through games
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in order to do it
and all of this has been created by over 150 language experts
so we're talking real people here
who are going to train you to have real world conversations
so that when James is in Paris with his wife
he can actually ask where the local Pokemon gym is
Absolutely
and right now Babble is offering our listeners three months for free
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That's right
so get on one of the 14 different languages available to you on Babble
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Babble language learning that works
Okay on with the podcast
On with the show
Okay it is time for our final fact of the show
and that is James
Okay my fact this week is that you could tell the social status
of an ancient Egyptian man by the colour of his condom
I mean surely you would have an inkling before you got to see
or it's a shock isn't it
You told me you were a pharaoh
It's bizarre isn't it
Yeah I mean this I've read this in a couple of places
one is an article in the Indian Journal of Urology called The Story of the Condom
one is from an article from the Egypt Museum
who have one of these very very old condoms
and basically they didn't use them for contraception
they used them to stop diseases
but they also an insect bite
but they also use them as an insignia of Rancor status

and it was just when I say condom
I think some of it might have been more like almost like cod piece
I mean like that
but they were used against diseases as well
so you know we can technically call them condoms
and they were made of linen
soaked in olive oil
okay and with different colours
the problem is of all the sauces
maybe you guys found this
but if all the sauces that I found
really good academic sauces
none of them told you what colour you're aiming for
so I don't know if red was a good one
or if blue was a good one
They've got Teuton Carmine's condom haven't they
Do they?
Yeah they do
Yes they do
linen soaked in olive oil
impregnated with his DNA
and it would tie around to his waist
right away
tied around his waist with string
but they didn't mention what colour it was
they didn't mention the colour
why are we not getting out of the colour system
sometimes the colours don't last
yeah right
okay gosh
that's very interesting
in the course of researching this
I read probably the weirdest thing I think I've ever read
which is in ancient Rome condoms
and by the way I haven't found a legit source
but it appears in so many
no it appears in so many places
they used to apparently an ancient Roman who was victorious
in a battle and had slain his opponent
would then make a condom out of the muscle of the opponent
oh don't be daft
source
well they did use to make condoms out of animal intestines and bladders in Rome
so it's not impossible

it's not impossible
feels a bit grizzly
feels a bit grizzly
it's sort of one of those facts I'd prefer
I'm just going to prefer not to believe
I know
the ancient Egyptians used to use crocodile dung as spermicide
did you
yeah
how would you use that
you would use
I don't want to think about it
why is no one sleeping with me
uncovered in crocodile shit
do you know that William Buckland
you know the naturals who ate everything
yeah
his kids had a hobby horse made out of a dead crocodile
wow
just to get done I don't know why that came into my head
yeah
but yeah
right
my friend Cindy used to have the crocodile that was used in crocodile dundee
as a like they had prop crocodiles
and as you went into her house
she had the prop crocodile
all pretty cool
from croc dundee
there's no more iconic prop
I think that you could get
was it a real crocodile
no no
was it a pretend crocodile
no I think it was a pretend crocodile
yeah
condoms just quickly
yeah
so the condoms of the 18th century were quite interesting
because that was the sort of getting towards modern condoms
but they're still very primitive
so they were made of sheep kaikum
okay
which is the powers that connect the small and the large intestine to each other

of the sheep
and they had to be treated
and there was a whole like nine step process to make a proper condom out of a sheep's thing
kaikum
and they were really scarce
they were very hard to come by
partly because butchers could not be bothered to collect
you know each sheep has one kaikum
so that's one potential condom per sheep
and it was just not worth collecting basically
so people would just use the sheep instead
oh my god
do you know the first condom in literature was
used by the wife of king minus of creed
who's called pacify
and she used it to stop herself being harmed by king minus's semen
because it contains scorpions and serpents
oh
yeah
maybe maybe we could just watch something tonight actually
maybe
let's let's watch another episode actually
think about it now
yeah
I discovered that there's a there's a condom making china called jizbon
which which is called jizbon because it's it's after james bond
no the name is bond jizbon
yeah
and in 2006 a german entrepreneur launched a spray on condom
did you come across that
yes
yeah but it was
yeah the phrasing was a bit unfortunate there
did you come across that
and it was stopped it was stopped sure by EU regulations
oh I read something slightly different about what stopped it
so he was called jan claus
clausa and he got the idea for it in a car wash
because he you know he was he was I don't know he must have been in the car
and it was just being spread and he thought oh maybe if I if you you know your penis is the car
as it were and you spray it from every angle with the latex then you have a perfectly fitted
condom right you know perfectly fitted every time and he got 30 men to test it
and apparently it had exclusively positive reviews it went really well
but the the drawbacks were that it was quite cold very cold to be just sprayed with this sort of

latex liquid and it takes two full minutes to dry to dry yeah
by which side is probably not the right size anymore
yeah it still ships internationally though
does it still not approved by the FDA oh no that's the galactic cap sorry
the galactic cap sorry that's just titchy titchy like a beanie for your penis
oh okay what like a hipster kind of like what leaving the shaft it's not been approved by the
FDA but it does ship internationally I don't know how it stays on I okay it's very exciting
um you mentioned China earlier with the James Bond thing I was reading about
ancient Chinese contraception and because in the early days there was you know there was a
story that tortoise shell in the same way that the beanie was used was kind of used for I know
it doesn't quite make sense and you can't get any further with it and and like full disclosure
the the article I got this from used the word dude a lot so I don't know how reliable this is
were you on the scientific journal rad monthly yeah yeah yeah yeah no no this was this because
it's weirdly it has sources but um it's saying that there used to be thing where you would you
were told to reserve ejaculation so that basically is with that you know coitus interrupters right
but the other thing that they said was to move the semen back into you basically so that was a
method that was taught so the method was as point of ejaculation was happening to press a thumb
against in between the scrotum and the anus and what it would do was my parents are in tonight
you're kidding this happens every time oh no okay right it's because you mentioned it in every show
we do so why do you stick your thumb so you put your thumb between your scrotum and your anus
and your push and then it's the idea is that it redirects the hokey-cokey with you
it redirects the semen to go up the spine through the chakras and into the brain is the idea
because sex because I'm sorry is there a tangible benefit to this procedure what's that you haven't
said because there's an idea that you're expelling something from your body which is energy and
unless you were receiving the other energy from the human that you're having sex with that was a
wasted energy so why not losing your you're losing your essence exactly again from somewhere that
says awesome a lot in the article and I don't know if it's legit but it seemed it seemed legit at the
time
I find that really scary that the penis can suck things suck things in I don't know if it can
yeah I mean they've got a problem people are stopping using them so we've got the highest
syphilis and gonorrhoea rates in the UK for years and years and there was a study done about
men who believe they're attractive who rate their attractiveness high are much less likely to use a
condom what really yeah well that explains why I've got three on right now
how'd you enjoy that one mr and mrs marie
and you can also use condoms as a bungee rope
short bungee they can take the weight of carlo mosca donnie oso who did a 30 meter bungee
jump using a string of 18 500 condoms which brand yeah yeah they didn't snap it took him
four months to tie them together slippery well that's what he said the condoms are slippery
whenever they tied a knot it would just slip out and the testing you'd have to do on that rope to
be confident of it yeah well you know what they used mathematical formulas to work out how strong
it would have to be so they worked out how many they would need using maths rather than using
like applied stuff right and but he did say he was 99 percent sure it would work but his stomach
was in the knot for a month before the jump but it worked and he did manage to do it that's
incredible

[Transcript] No Such Thing As A Fish / 489: No Such Thing As A Quiet Whitsuntide

yeah that is really cool you know trojan condoms in the states it's a brand in America um they have as part of because they've they've got a guy though who's like the the great you know the steve jobs of condoms basically like he came into the company he's innovated he's made them thinner than ever before you know that he's one of those guys who's just like constantly and so when they have an invention that's gone through the science side of it kind of like this bungee um then they have people who they have on their list 20 to 30 couples who are known as the bedroom panel and the condoms get given to them oh right so once or twice a month they'll get given a sort of new condom test design that twice a month the deviants it's a whole other world isn't it one for witsom tide one for mickleness and you're fine they're slightly smaller trojans aren't they apparently oh are they apparently yes well i read that on the internet today dude i also read like the flavors where just blew my mind okay what is a penis flavored condom are you sure you're wearing a condom yeah it's penis flavored okay that is it that is all of our facts if you'd like to get in contact with any of us about the things that we've said over the course of this podcast we can be found on our twitter account so i'm on at shriverland james hi james harkin andy at andrew huntrem at sally don't contact me we can also be found on our group account at no such thing or our website no such thing is afish.com you can find all the previous episodes there i just i'm getting shit fucking let's head there we get out of here goodbye