

## [Transcript] SmartLess / "Matthew Rhys"

Sorry that you guys caught me off guard. I was just talking to Jason's wig maker and he had said that they don't make the hair that Jason uses for the wig anymore because it's a synthetic thing and it has to do with because they use a certain petroleum component to it, blah, blah, blah, blah. Anyway, the point is if you see Jason on the street, just please say, hey man, your natural hair looks great. It's an all new smartless.

Are you guys excited? I'm excited. Do you know what I'm talking about?

I think, are you talking about our, we're on the TV?

Yeah, on the, with the, the doc.

We're gonna be on TV, I told my whole family.

It's smart on the road.

It's smart on the road.

On Max.

On Max, that new platform, yes.

Yeah, yes.

Should we do, should we, should we watch it together?

Let's watch it together.

That would be super fun.

Oh God, that's not a bad idea.

I'm really excited.

I'm excited for people to.

See Will Ferrell.

It sounds weird to say.

Well, yeah, I'm excited for people to see, well, we have so many great guests.

Yeah, say some of the guests.

We have Will Ferrell.

Will starts it off though, doesn't he?

Will starts it off.

Then we have Conan.

Yeah, and Kevin Hart.

Letterman.

Hang on, hang on.

Then we have Letterman.

Then we have AOC with special appearance by, can we mention that Bradley makes a special appearance.

Bradley Cooper comes in, changes the light for us.

And then we go to Chicago.

We have Andy Richter and Jeff Tweedy from Wilco.

Mark Cuban.

Mark Cuban.

And then Matty Damon.

Matt Damon, the Matt Damon.

Yeah, a Turtle, Quirtle, Whirtle, Perennial Third Place Finisher, Matt Damon.

**[Transcript] SmartLess / "Matthew Rhys"**

And then one of the biggest guests of the entire tour is Tracy from Wisconsin.  
Tracy from Wisconsin.  
And then we have Tracy from Wisconsin.  
Guys.  
Tracy, Sean's sister.  
My sister.  
Oh, Sean's sister makes an incredible appearance.  
Yeah, that's really good.  
And doesn't your mother's right eye makes an appearance as well.  
I mean, your mother's eye makes an appearance too.  
It's all true.  
By the way, it's all true.  
And you can see it.  
Get it?  
Yeah.  
On Max, SmartLess on the road.  
Check it out.  
I'm glad you asked because I don't think they get it.  
And then, by the way, we come back to LA.  
And then we end here with Kimmel.  
With Kimmel and Kevin Hart.  
I mean, we get to have, what a soft landing to come back and have our good buddy, Jimmy Kimmel.  
And then Jan makes an appearance and guy, I mean.  
And then what's the final meal of the whole thing?  
Oh yeah.  
We're over at Shawnee's house for some.  
Oh, and we go to Shawnee's, right?  
Was it spaghetti and meatballs?  
Sloppy Joe's.  
We use sloppy Joe's.  
Sloppy Joe's.  
I made sloppy Joe's.  
Sloppy Joe's scratch for you guys.  
Yeah.  
It's all in the dock.  
It's all in the dock.  
Are we watching it at your house?  
Yeah.  
Let's watch it.  
Let's watch it.  
We'll watch it on Max.  
It's kind of so fun.

**[Transcript] SmartLess / "Matthew Rhys"**

I think, I hope people like who knows, but.  
We hope.  
It looks real good too.  
Sam Jones did a great job directing it.  
It looks real handsome.  
It's black and white.  
I hope people like, it's why it's May 23rd, right?  
May 23rd on Max.  
Okay.  
I have a crazy story that happened.  
I told Will, I said I was going to save it  
to tell you today.  
You have some pre-show pattern?  
Yeah.  
You know, Shawn, go ahead.  
No, this is crazy.  
Shawn, what have you prepared?  
I have prepared this.  
This happened.  
By the way, Dante and Reba is peeking and prepared.  
There's somebody preparing something  
in the kitchen behind you.  
Yeah.  
Scott is going to make me some tea right now.  
Okay.  
Tea.  
Whoa, whoa, whoa.  
Are you fasting?  
He's on Broadway, man.  
He's on Broadway.  
I'm on the Broadway.  
Oh, to keep your pipes nice and lubricated.  
Mm-hmm.  
Well, it is one o'clock there.  
What was for lunch today?  
I just had a, a, a, I had a, what's it called?  
Like a Kaiser roll with egg and cheese and a little bacon.  
I had, what do they call it?  
Like a foot long sub.  
Kaiser roll.  
Kaiser.  
Yeah.  
Where do you have to go to get that?  
Like a bread shop.

Downstairs.

Downstairs.

Zabars, Kaiser.

Zabars is a Jewish deli.

We live right near it.

And then there's a cafe and they don't do bagels with egg.

You'd think they would do bagels

because they sell bagels in the store part,

but not the cafe part, which is really crazy.

You gotta go full Kaiser.

Yeah.

All right.

All right.

So this is the story.

This is crazy.

This is going to blow your mind.

I think it blew my mind.

So the show takes place in 1958 backstage at the Tonight Show.

Oskar Levant is the guest on the Tonight Show that night.

The other guest, which we never see,

we only reference a lot, is Jane Mansfield.

Sure.

Okay.

Who was, you know, this big star back in the 50s.

Marilyn Monroe, Jane Mansfield, very similar.

So Mariska Hargitay.

You know Mariska Hargitay?

I do.

Yeah.

She's the star of the SVU thing.

Oh, thanks, Scotty.

Oh, thanks, Scotty.

Thanks, Scotty.

He just made me tea.

So she's the star of this show for like 20 some years, right?

So I'm, so she's like, I'm outside of your theater.

Come out.

And I'm like, oh my God, I came out,

and I saw her hug, said hello, we took a photo, we're done.

And she goes, and somebody in the show whispers in my ear,

her mom is Jane Mansfield.

I go, wait a minute.

What?

Yeah, whoa.

Mariska Hargitay's mom.  
I go, your mom is Jane Mansfield.  
I go, do you know that we reference your mom  
in this show over and over again?  
Did your mom know Oskar Levant?  
She's like, I don't, I don't know.  
You know, unfortunately she was very young when her mom died.  
So then we go back and we say her buys.  
I go back in the theater  
and I forgot, I texted her, I go, by the way,  
your mom made her Broadway debut in this theater  
that we're working in right now.  
Wow.  
Isn't that crazy?  
Crazy, crazy, yeah.  
So did you at least offer her tickets to the show?  
No, she's gotta pay for those.  
Yeah, yeah.  
I mean, you can give her access to the house.  
I can get her, I can get her.  
Her dad, her dad was Mickey Hargitay,  
who was like a bodybuilder guy from Hungary.  
How do you know that?  
I know that.  
She just Googled it.  
I knew that before and...  
Wait, why do you know vague Hungarian bodybuilders?  
Look, do you want to see my magazine collection or not?  
No, I don't want to see your search history.  
I do, I actually do.  
I read somebody in my search history the other day.  
It was such a bonkers all over the map.  
The weird, I go here,  
do you want to know what I've been searching up  
for the last 24 hours?  
And it was just the weirdest, stupidest stuff.  
I want to say just because I want to be,  
and I don't want to bring it down,  
but I got to be honest about where I'm at,  
if that's okay today, and then we can switch gears.  
Is that okay?  
Yes, of course it is.  
It's very real.  
Do you want me to say?

**[Transcript] SmartLess / "Matthew Rhys"**

Do you want me to describe it?  
My oldest friend in the world, Jeremy, passed away.  
And I loved him so much.  
Oh, well, I'm so sorry.  
And yeah, you just found out yesterday, yeah?  
Yeah.  
And I fucking...  
Oh, God, I'm so sorry.  
And I just got to be honest about it  
because it's what's going on in my head.  
And I just wanted to say that I just,  
I love the guy so much.  
And it's so, Jason and I were talking today this morning  
and it's funny, we always get surprised  
when people then you say,  
it's such a surprise, such a shock.  
And we know that the deal is  
that everybody's going to die in some way.  
Yeah, we're here for five minutes.  
And he passed suddenly, well?  
You know, the last few weeks  
kind of came out of nowhere, certainly,  
but then he finally passed.  
And I'm happy he did.  
He was, you know, obviously he was in a lot of pain.  
And I'm just thinking about his family  
and all of them and I've known them forever  
and his daughter and his wife and his parents,  
who my parents knew and our great-grandparents  
knew each other.  
Our families are intertwined for generations.  
So Jeremy was up in Toronto?  
He was in Toronto, yeah.  
And he was one of the great guys.  
He's a, I always say he's a first ballot Hall of Famer,  
just a great guy.  
You could always rely on him and I miss him.  
And, you know, you never,  
and I was just thinking this morning  
and I was taking the kids to school  
and it was just thinking like,  
oh man, hug the people you love.  
Tell them as much as you can.  
And if you're thinking about somebody, call them.

**[Transcript] SmartLess / "Matthew Rhys"**

Let them know.  
Just let them know you're thinking about them.  
You love them, how important they are to you.  
I love that.  
And I just wanted to say that  
because it's on my mind and I love you guys so much.  
We love you.  
We love you too.  
Yeah.  
Yeah, it's, you're right.  
It is this sort of like,  
we're always shocked that people die  
but everyone here is going to, everyone listening will.  
And it's like, it's a terrible thought  
and we somehow have managed this little device  
inside our head and our heart  
to kind of put it in a little box  
and keep it away and deal with it  
at near the end of our life.  
We just kind of pretend it's not ever gonna happen  
but it does and we just hope we use our time correctly.  
Yeah.  
Yeah, yeah, for sure.  
You know, I just did this,  
I just did this article, this interview  
and Jay, you were so kind.  
I just read it.  
You said such nice things about me and I appreciate it.  
I appreciate your generosity.  
And I said,  
I said, you know, if I can pull this thing off, great.  
If not, I'm still alive.  
Yeah.  
It's my quote, you know.  
Oh, about the play.  
So you're feeling bullish about the play.  
Yeah, it could suck, but at least I'm not dead.  
No, but the point is to your point,  
well, it's like, we're still, we're here, we're here.  
Right.  
We're here in, in.  
We're here, nothing matters other than our health  
and our people we love.  
And the people we love.

And, and I just, yeah, I wanted to say that,  
just say, Jared, we love you.  
And, and that's it.  
You know, I'm thinking about you, buddy.  
And, and I also know that he was,  
he was always so quick with a laugh  
and he loved to freaking laugh.  
This guy made me laugh.  
And so, I don't know, he would, he'd be like,  
great, we'll get you your guest.  
Yeah.  
You have a nice opportunity to give him a nice goodbye  
this weekend with all of those people you're talking about.  
And it'll be a wonderful thing for, for him to watch.  
That's right.  
You know, I mean, the, that's one of the good things  
about after we go, right?  
We get to what, like, it's a narcissist delight.  
You get to just pull up a chair and watch everybody say  
nice things about you.  
Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.  
I, I love that.  
At least that's my fantasy.  
I know.  
Well, it's one of your fantasies.  
Right.  
Just a big Jason session for a whole day.  
What are you eating?  
Right now?  
No, in that situation where you, where it doesn't matter  
anymore.  
It's just a super salty puff inducing things.  
Cause, you know, you can be as puffy as you want upstairs.  
Sure you can.  
Yeah.  
Turns out you can be as puffy as you want downstairs too.  
Well, actually you lose water weight almost instantaneously  
down there because you're always sweating.  
Yeah.  
Yeah.  
It's hot in here.  
Oh, where you're going.  
Yeah, you're going to get a lot of sweating going on.  
That's a good point.



**[Transcript] SmartLess / "Matthew Rhys"**

It's a constant fit to switch gears.

Sure.

You know, if we can, as much as we can to somebody who's not puffy, really?

No, this gentleman keeps it very tight in the best way.

I really lucky son of a, yeah, I know he really is.

He's got, this is a guy.

You want to talk about first ballot Hall of Famer.

This is the guy who's got it all.

I mean, easy.

When you got, when you got, when you got talent and good looks, forget about it.

When you got an easy way about you.

Oh boy.

For a freaking good.

This guy's done it everything.

He's been on the big screen.

He's been on the little screen.

He's been on the boards, you know, on stage, if you will.

Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

This guy's from the other side of the pond.

Uh-oh.

He's British.

Yeah, well, he's actually Welsh.

His first language is Welsh according to the internet.

He's a guy who's done so much and he's one of those guys who, like you just, every time you see him, you're like, oh, I love this guy.

Everything he does.

This is the way I feel.

You know, he was, for years, he was on, you knew him from brothers and sisters.

And then he was on the Americans forever.

And the thing I love about him, maybe the most is that he is partnered with one of my all-time favorite people, the delightful Kerry Russell guys.

It's the incredibly talented Matthew Reese.

Oh, Matthew.

Oh my God.

Yes, sir.

Look at him.

Look at him.

Is he gorgeous or what?

Look at this dash.

**[Transcript] SmartLess / "Matthew Rhys"**

Look at him.  
No water in that face at all.  
No, not for years.  
We have a fifth guest today.  
He just, he proved that the mustache was real.  
He pulled on it just to prove it.  
No, no, I'm just checking the glue.  
Listener, he's got a 30-pound mustache on  
and it's looking strong.  
Are you playing a motorcycle cop?  
No, I'm doing the Tom Selleck biopic.  
You could, you could welcome to smartless Matthew Reese.  
Matthew, you stud, good to see you.  
Thank you very much.  
That's the real terrifying moment, the reveal.  
I know.  
Because at the beginning I was like,  
is he talking about Ian McKellen?  
Who are they expecting?  
What is this?  
This is going to be okay.  
It's Taryn Edgerton, everyone.  
The real Welshman, who can say?  
You sure?  
Wow, it's so cool to meet you.  
I know, very, very cool.  
Thank you very much for having me on, Jen.  
This is a real pleasure.  
Matthew, I wish, we don't know each other well enough.  
We've crossed paths a few times  
because obviously Carrie and I are old friends  
and so we've met through Carrie  
and she's such a delightful person as you were well aware  
and then she's like, I just, I love the idea.  
I'm like, you're as good as the people you hang out with  
and the fact that you and Carrie together,  
I'm like, Matthew's a good guy.  
He's a great guy.  
I can just-  
No, I just, no, I took that idea  
and then I latched myself on together  
so that those around us would think the same thing.  
By the way, that's smart.  
That's smart living.

**[Transcript] SmartLess / "Matthew Rhys"**

How long did you guys do that show together?  
Was it five, six?  
It was six, it was six years.  
It was meant to be five  
and I think the poor children had kind of arced it for five  
and then FX went, you know what, let's do one more.  
And they went, what, what, what?  
We don't ask.  
That's nice.  
We had the opposite on over.  
That's a good sign on a show.  
We're talking, of course, about the Americans.  
Yeah, and Margo Martindale is a friend.  
And dear, dear Margo Martindale.  
Yeah.  
They were both reunited on Cocaine Bear recently.  
Yes, so Margo, and you did,  
you were in Cocaine Bear as well, come on.  
I muffled my way in, just looking after the kids in Ireland  
and reading the script and that first opening scene,  
I said, I was like, who's playing that guy?  
The guy who bangs his head and falls out the plane.  
She's like, what, who?  
I don't know.  
And then I said, I asked Elizabeth Banks.  
I said, I asked Banks, who's playing that part?  
So she texted Banks, oh, we haven't cast it yet.  
And I said, tell her I'll do it.  
I said, no, just ask her if I can do it.  
And she very kindly said, yes,  
you can come in and fall out of an airplane.  
By the way, what an absolute treat.  
So you're directing a movie  
and then you got a guy who's got like one scene, basically.  
And then you're like, Matthew Rees calls in.  
He's like, hey, can I just do this one scene?  
You're like, are you kidding?  
Yeah, she smelled the desperation on me.  
I was like, can I please get out of the house?  
I can't do another zoo or aquarium, please.  
Sean, is it true the rumor?  
Sorry, that's how you and Scott met, right?  
Didn't you put in the search for cocaine bear?  
And no, did I not hear that?

**[Transcript] SmartLess / "Matthew Rhys"**

No, I think technically it was cocaine cub, wasn't it?  
It was cocaine cub, yeah.  
It was the prequel that they haven't done yet.  
Oh, Scotty.  
Oh, Scotty, if he only knew.  
So you do cocaine, and of course I don't want to just gloss over the delightful Margo Martindale, whom we all adore.  
Oh yeah, she's the greatest.  
No one can swear like Margo Martindale.  
I mean, she should have a kind of course at NYU, like swearing for film and television, because no one can swear like her.  
And no one can get their ire up quicker and then get to swearing over like something that seems trivial.  
We did the show together, the Millers, and she'd be like, can you believe they just did this read and I got to fucking remember this fucking thing and they want to shoot this afternoon.  
She's like, Jesus, what?  
Yeah.  
She said, if one very famous actor who's in our show, she went, can you fucking hear the way he breathes?  
I went, I went, well, before then, no, I haven't actually, but I can hear it now.  
You brought it up.  
I'll work with her.  
So Jason, you don't want to work with Margo Martindale.  
Jason, you will so fall in love with Margo Martindale.  
You won't be able to contain yourself.  
Guys, am I right?  
Yeah, she's the greatest.  
She's absolutely gold.  
Now tell me, Welsh is a language.  
Is that what I heard you say, Will?  
Oh my God.  
First of all.  
Wait, so it's not English?  
Yeah, ready for the letters.  
It's not English.  
It's much older than English.  
It's one of the oldest in Europe.  
So let's start there.  
So I just want to say, so Matthew, you are,

**[Transcript] SmartLess / "Matthew Rhys"**

it says that your first language was Welsh.

Is that true?

It is.

It is.

I grew up speaking Welsh, so the whole family speak Welsh.

But isn't Welsh just English with an accent?

I don't understand.

Yes, basically.

We just, what we do is try and adopt such a harsh accent.

No one really understands the English of speaking.

No, no, no, no, no.

He's putting you on.

So I've spent some time in Cardiff,

which is where you're from, yeah, Matthew?

It is.

What were you doing there?

I was filming there a few years ago,

and I remember we had this.

What were you driving?

I had, I was going to say, the driver I had

when I was working on that show, you know the guy.

Jerry Lockett?

Yes, Jerry Lockett.

Oh, the Lockett rocket.

Yeah, the famous Jerry Lockett.

What do you mean, driver?

What are you talking about?

You had a Rolls-Royce.

That's what I was trying to bait you to.

Didn't somebody loan you?

No, they loaned me a Bentley when

I was in London, I was drove around for a few weeks.

I know, it's a long story.

Right side drive.

Wait, did you drive yourself in this Bentley?

Yeah, I did, I did.

I drove myself.

Right side drive?

Sure did.

Oh my God.

And then I drove up to Ricky's to Jervis's house

in London, because I was going to have,

going to his house to have just a visit.

Who are you?

**[Transcript] SmartLess / "Matthew Rhys"**

And I called him, and I said, I'm outside,  
and he came out, and he saw me in the spent land,  
and I go, where can I park this thing around here?  
And he was like, Jesus fucking Christ, look it.  
It wasn't mine, it was literally,  
I don't drive a Bentley, that was why I made a point.  
Anyway, so you're from Cardiff, we know Jerry Lockett,  
we've got Jerry out there,  
and we know that he's listening, we love you Jerry,  
so we know who you do.  
Rocket Lockett.  
How are you?  
And I knew that you guys knew each other,  
because he was always like, do you know Matthew Reese?  
And I was like, I do, I do a little bit,  
because I know Kerry, he says, yeah, Matthew's from here,  
and he's so proud of you, and all the Welsh  
are so proud of Matthew for what you've done.  
I think there's, because it's only three million,  
it was three and a half million.  
That's all of, that's all of Canada, isn't it?  
What?  
First of all.  
What is the population of Canada now?  
30, 30, 39.  
Oh, okay.  
You missed it by a zero.  
10%.  
Yeah, so anyone who's Welsh and has done anything,  
even if they haven't done anything,  
we're just inherently proud for a country  
the size of Connecticut, which I'm talking about.  
Two of them are named Bale,  
and one of them is named Reese.  
Yes, that's it.  
So, Christian, Gareth, Bale, and Matthew Reese.  
Well, there's also Hopkins, you also got Hopkins.  
Oh, yeah, you do.  
Yeah, and in Burton, obviously.  
There are a bunch.  
So wait, I don't know anything about you,  
and I know you, I'm a fan of you,  
but I don't know anybody.  
Did you, so were you one of those people

**[Transcript] SmartLess / "Matthew Rhys"**

that grew up in the theater and stuff as a kid,  
and you're like, oh my God, if I can go to America, wow.

We're gonna get to that, Sean, that's exactly right.

She's right in the middle of a story.

He's telling a story, so we grew up in part of it.

What story about a Rolls Royce and a Bentley?

Speaking Welsh is his first language.

Oh, go, say something Welsh.

Landing the plane on that.

Okay, sorry, go ahead.

Go ahead, Matthew, and...

Sean, check your chat, please.

So talk about, no, but growing up speaking Welsh,  
you guys spoke Welsh at home, yeah?

We did, we did.

And in Wales, there's a great reverence for performing arts,  
and there's a kind of an ancient tradition,

dates, it's pre-Christian,

whereby everyone congregates,

when the old days, everyone would congregate,

and then you would sing competitively,

or cite poetry, or anything of that ilk, basically,

and it's very modern these days,

but twice a year, all the children of Wales will gather,

and it's a competition now,

but you're very much encouraged to get on stage,

and in some form, art form, or another,

and compete for your school, or your county, or whatever.

Oh, wow.

So, yeah, so from a very early age,

you're kind of kicked onto a stage, whether you want to.

Really?

Yeah, yeah.

And now, a word from our sponsor.

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over My Dead Body is back for a fourth season, Gone Hunting.

This newest season covers the story of Mike Williams.

It was Mike's sixth wedding anniversary,

when he set off on a hunting trip

into the gator-infested swamps of North Florida.

He figured he'd be back in time

to take his wife Denise out to celebrate,

but he never came back.

## [Transcript] SmartLess / "Matthew Rhys"

Friends and loved ones feared he met his fate  
through bad luck and a group of hungry alligators,  
leaving his young family behind,  
except that's not what happened at all.  
And after 17 years, a kidnapping,  
and the uncovering of a secret love triangle,  
the truth would finally be revealed.  
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In the first part of the 20th century,  
the Hilton family had a lock on the hotel industry  
by offering upscale service at a modest price.  
The company was expanding fast  
and buying up iconic properties across the country,  
like the Plaza and the Waldorf Astoria,  
but their unchallenged rise wouldn't last.  
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decides to pivot from restaurants to hospitality,  
and he's after Hilton's business,  
developing modern hotels across the world,  
but both the Hilton and Marriott families  
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in finding a successor.  
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the host of Wondery's show, Business Wars.  
We go deep into some of the biggest corporate rivalries  
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earn a race to expand globally  
and secure the loyalty of fickle customers.  
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All right, back to the show.  
So you grew up, you're speaking well,  
obviously you speak English as well.  
They speak both there.  
The signage and stuff in Wales is delightful.  
It's one in English and one in Welsh.



And it's tough to read.  
It's a hot bed of contention, yeah.  
What's the distance between English and Welsh?  
I mean, I have absolutely no idea  
what it sounds like, what it looks like.  
Yeah, we can talk a little bit in Welsh  
just so we can hear it.  
I'll just get on.  
One of the oldest poems in Welsh is about 600 BC,  
and it just says,  
It's Lord of the Rings, the elves.  
It's how the elves speak in Lord of the Rings.  
Yes, we'll talk in based elfish on Welsh.  
Oh, I just made that up, is that true?  
Oh, yes it is, yeah.  
Wow, are you kidding me?  
I mean, I'm a 54-year-old man  
that is not living in a cave.  
Why have I never, ever heard Welsh spoken?  
It's a golden cave, let's be honest.  
Yes, it's a beautiful cave.  
I've heard tell.  
Let's be clear.  
One cave, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight,  
seven, eight, seven, eight, seven, eight, seven, eight,  
one cave to bind us all.  
What, I don't understand how that's gone by me.  
Why do?  
Well, I think, I think, listen,  
I don't want to get into on the English bashing soapbox,  
but the English, you know, if we're gonna,  
we'll do a quick history, the English did their best  
to kind of eradicate all the Celtic languages  
for the Scots, the Irish, the Welsh, the Cornish,  
you know, they weren't too Celtic friendly.  
So there was a lot of stamping out of the language  
in the culture.  
Wow.  
Was it influenced by folks more Northern?  
Like, was there a Viking influence  
to all of those Celtic languages?  
I mean, there's the great evolutionist, Germanic based,  
and then, you know, I think the Celtoi  
were a Spanish tribe initially,

**[Transcript] SmartLess / "Matthew Rhys"**

and they, you know, then the Gauls got involved  
and amalgamated, and then they set up Camp in Britain,  
and then the Romans came.

We're all such babies here in America.

Well, you don't learn any, even if you did pay attention,  
you know, even if you did in America go to school,  
not on a massage bus, you learned history.

How dare you?

You learned history.

But at least in Canada, we had to take British history,  
so we knew, we were always studying  
the fucking battle of Culloden and all that shit.

Well, is the Empire still stamped down your throat  
in Canada?

Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah, of course.

I mean, I don't, I haven't lived there in 30 years,  
so I, I'm not sure.

This is a guy who reads World War II books on the can,  
going to bed, and it's not as bad as Justin Thoreau,  
who will watch World War II documentaries  
through the face hole of a massage table on his iPhone.

Okay, that's, he takes it to a new level,  
this lust for World War II.

And he lines it just for comfort and stuff,  
he lines it with his discarded sleeves,  
just to protect his face.

Just to pat the ring.

So Matthew, so you're in, you're, what,  
you're sort of 17 and you go to Rada.

Yeah, yeah, one to the ones, yeah, one to Rada.  
Rada, the Academy of Dramatic Art in London,  
which is the pre-eminent classical acting school  
in the world.

That's what I tell everyone.

Yeah.

I was told my parents, they allow me to go.

It's like everybody who goes to Rada, they'll tell you,  
in the same way with everybody who's ever gone to Oxford,  
make sure to let that be known.

Yes, we'll drop it in.

They're all called, you walk in and they've left,  
the on-a-boards are still up in the foyers.

So like, you know, has Peter O'Toole and Antioch Hopkins.  
It's incredible.

I did a summer course there years ago.  
Did you?  
1987.  
Yeah, yeah, yeah.  
The Shakespeare?  
Yeah, I did the whole thing for a few years there.  
Yeah.  
Come on.  
At Rada, at Rada.  
How was that?  
It was amazing, man.  
What did you do?  
You seemed so dumb.  
It was amazing.  
Is there a lot of pressure when you go to a school  
like that to make it?  
I mean, obviously you did, but I mean,  
is there, just sort of culturally, do you feel there?  
Like, oh my God, okay, so I'm in Rada now.  
I gotta maintain our batting average of,  
or is there a lot of people that go there  
and then go into other fields?  
Is that more common?  
It is, it is.  
It's a very small intake.  
There's only 30 to each year, 15 men, 15 women.  
Every year.  
Yeah, yeah.  
So it's very small.  
So you feel the pressure immediately.  
That's small.  
Did they do it on a bus?  
Yes, like a massage bus.  
Yeah, it just kind of goes around to Piccadilly Circus.  
We have 30 on the massage bus comfortably.  
That's what I heard.  
And then you guys stop for lunch at Jinkies on Ventura,  
right?  
That's a reading at the Bodie Tree.  
But it's very exclusive,  
but here you are, you're a kid from Cardiff.  
Were you the only Welsh person in your year?  
Yes, I was, I was.  
I had a friend who was a year older

and then Michael Sheen had just come through  
and kind of blazed a trail  
and was kind of, you know,  
setting the West End on fire.  
So there was this, you know,  
there was the flag of Wales is the dragon.  
So there was a kind of a dragon firmly stamped  
as to, you know, the Welsh resurging again.  
But, you know, like Anthony Hopkins  
was the chairman of the board at the time.  
So he beat it in and out  
and he'd just done Shadowlands.  
So, you know, there was this great air that, you know,  
anything was possible really.  
I think one of the things that the Welsh and Wales  
suffer from enormously is small person syndrome.  
And at that time, there was just this little bubble  
of a few Welsh people doing incredibly well.  
Catherine Zito is bursting to the ranks.  
So I was there at this renaissance  
when anything felt possible.  
You know what my question is going to be.  
I can ask it now or later.  
Did you ever forget a line on stage?  
What's your favorite theater story, Matthew?  
Yeah, because you got to have one or two.  
Yes, I have quite a few, in fact.  
No, but when I was,  
because I was doing theater for the first,  
well, five years solidly.  
And then at 25, I thought I got the role  
that was going to change my life and my career.  
It didn't.  
But I got to play Benjamin Braddock  
in the stage adaptation of The Graduate  
with Kathleen Turner as my Mrs. Robinson.  
Wow.  
And to me, it was the first real introduction to Hollywood,  
because I'd never experienced anything like it in every sense.  
Like, P.A.'s, and I was like, what's a P.A.?  
Who has a P.A.?  
It was just incredible.  
Anyway, fast forward, we're halfway through the run.  
It got a little, you know, there were a few bed romantics

**[Transcript] SmartLess / "Matthew Rhys"**

in the production.

And there's one moment where I jump in bed  
and we're simulating sex.

And I have to kind of plunge my face between her legs  
as if I'm pleasuring her.

Or she did have the, you know, the obligatory kind of,  
you know, flesh-toned underwear on.

But anyway, I had a streaming head cold.

Sure.

And being the malicious vindictive type that I am,  
I wouldn't let the understudy go on.

So I went on and I had my nose is just streaming.

My nose is streaming and I couldn't,

I didn't want to kind of sniff heavily during, you know,  
during dialogue.

So I'm doing this.

Yeah, and I go, oh, I know what I'll do.

I'll just clear my nose in that quiet moment  
when I'm between, I know, and I didn't think.

So I jumped in and I'm between Ms. Turner's legs  
and I just went and inhaled deeply  
and her cover's kind of shot up.

And she's looking down at me like, what the fuck?  
What the fuck are you doing?

And I was like, oh, no, no, I'm not sniffing, I'm not sniffing.

I have a cold, I have a cold, I'm not sniffing you.

You're not trying to whine out.

No, no.

My God, no way.

Yes, I always live with this deep regret of that moment.

That and when someone, there was a paparazzi photo,  
when the moment she took off her robe.

And this paparazzi photographer stood up and photographed her  
and a big flash went off, I know.

And I looked at her on stage in this moment  
and I was like, oh, we should stop.

And she came in with the next line.

And I always remember thinking,  
regardless that she was a consumer professional,

I'm going to come in with the next line, I'm going to carry on.

I bitterly regret in that moment not stopping the production  
because the next day, in a tabloid newspaper,  
there was a huge photograph of, yeah, yeah.

I was ashamed.

**[Transcript] SmartLess / "Matthew Rhys"**

I was ashamed. Oh, my God.  
Well, you know, but it was.  
The tabloid in the headline just said,  
Welshman, you know, just fucking cowers under pressure.  
Yes, yes, yes, spineless Welshman does nothing.  
We'll leave it to the English tabloids to say that.  
I love that. Oh, my God.  
So Matthew, so you did, as you said, you did,  
did you play another great Welshman?  
You played Dylan Thomas, didn't you?  
I did. At one point?  
I did.  
Yes.  
Oh, my God, she feels so long ago.  
About 12 years ago now.  
Yeah.  
He had this incredible moment.  
The poet Dylan Thomas had this incredible moment in his life  
where he was having an affair, that part was played by Keira  
Knightley and Cernan Miller was playing my wife.  
And Killian Murphy is the husband of Keira Knightley.  
And this is all true, that he burst in on Dylan Thomas  
with a machine gun because he was doing the Second War.  
He came in with a machine gun.  
He opened fire.  
And then missed everyone and took out a grenade,  
pulled the pin, and the grenade didn't go off.  
And it was that story that we told in The Age of Love.  
Yeah, it was an unbelievable story that he survived  
and then tragically drank himself to death.  
Wow, talk about the worst assassin you could ever imagine.  
Yes, and I was talking to Killian about it, I was like,  
but you're a commando, you're a trained commando.  
Do you want to play this part?  
So you do not live in Wales, correct?  
I do not, no.  
I now live in Leafy Brooklyn.  
Yeah, so you live in Brooklyn, but you come over,  
you do theatre, as you say, for basically five years,  
and then you move over to America to do what?  
What was the first thing that brought you over?  
The first thing I did, I was doing a play,  
I was actually doing a two-hander at the Royal Court  
with Paul Bettaney called One More Wasted Year,

**[Transcript] SmartLess / "Matthew Rhys"**

and everyone called it One More Wasted Evening,  
because it wasn't good.  
My own family said as much, it was terrible.  
So they come backstage, what were they saying to you backstage?  
My uncle was the first person of the entire group,  
and they came in and he's an old sea captain, very salty,  
and he went, well, that was shit.  
Yeah.  
And I couldn't argue, I went, you're absolutely right.  
And then, yeah, Stephen Daldry,  
who was the artistic director at the time,  
and Prestonite came in, went,  
darlings, was it the play we need to see right now?  
Probably not.  
Should we go to a party?  
LAUGHTER  
That's hysterical.  
Wow, that's so hardcore.  
So you come over with Paul Bettaney, you do that.  
Sorry, yes.  
An American agent came to see the play and he said,  
do you want to come over for a pilot season?  
And I had no idea what it was.  
And I said yes, and then came to LA.  
And then the first audition he set me up with,  
it was Julie Tame was first movie Titus  
with Anthony Hopkins and Jessica Lange.  
And I just thought, oh, my God,  
Los Angeles is truly the Promised Land,  
where you just turn up and get these huge movies  
and everything's great.  
Yeah, you just sign up.  
And then I did that, yeah.  
And I shot that in Rome for six months  
and then I went back to LA and didn't get a job for a decade.  
So here's another time I'm going to,  
my career's going to be made and it was just like, eh, where?  
Yeah.  
Isn't that amazing?  
I love that feeling of like, yeah,  
it's going to be like this forever.  
Yeah, yeah.  
It's like the Klondike, I arrived,  
it was like the Klondike,

**[Transcript] SmartLess / "Matthew Rhys"**

where they throw you these scripts and go,  
this is being made for MGM with this as a lead.  
And you're like, oh my, and you're allowing me  
to audition for this?  
This is madness.  
All I have to do is get the part and I'm set for life.  
You never know anything.  
You really don't.  
I mean, look at us three morons.  
Like we've, each of us have had great success  
as I knock on wood.  
We're super grateful for it in our careers.  
But then, you know, this thing comes along,  
it's more successful than anything we've ever done.  
And it was just us three idiots chatting during COVID.  
Right.  
It was just madness.  
The world basically was saying,  
we don't want you guys to do the thing  
that you think that you're going to just...  
The things you're pre-professional at.  
Yeah, you can keep doing that a little bit if you want,  
but we just want you to be that you're,  
we want to hear your idiotic thoughts on stupid shit.  
Yeah.  
Just like, you know, wonder at the moment  
where Sean learns that Wales was, you know why,  
you know where Wales got its name, Sean?  
Where?  
You know, that's where they made the first harpoon.  
You know?  
That's not true.  
That's not true.  
It's not true.  
That's not true.  
Correct.  
But you bought it for a second.  
And that's what they tune into here.  
Because he'll fuck with me and he'll say something  
that's completely not true.  
And then he'll say something that's completely true.  
I never know what to believe.  
It's tough.  
I know.



**[Transcript] SmartLess / "Matthew Rhys"**

But wait a minute.

They did shoot Moby Dick in Wales with Gregory Peck.

And my grandfather worked on it.

Is that true?

Is that true?

Yeah.

Three large rubber whales.

And one of them, I know, they were just a great joke.

It's like they came to Wales.

And one of them sailed off into the Irish Sea,  
which I think is fantastic that there was this...

I have a whale that needs a rubber, but go ahead.

Hey-oh.

Ooh.

My grandfather caught Moby Dick,  
but there's a cue over it now.

Hey-oh.

Wait, wait, wait.

What did your grandfather do on that?

His friend, Edgar, was a carpenter.

And I think he kind of, they kind of helped out  
and I think in the framing of the whales.

I love that.

That's cool.

Wait, I want to ask about Carrie.

And I want to know, like, did you meet each other?

Because I'm an idiot.

I don't know.

Did you meet before Americans are on the set?

And how did that go?

And when did you know the sparks flew?

Just one question at a time.

We did, because I can get easily confused.

Because I loved Carrie.

I loved Carrie.

So do I.

We met quite a few years before the Americans  
in Rustic Canyon at a kickball party  
that Jennifer Gray hosted.

And I had no idea what kickball was.

Boy, all of that adds up, by the way.

Yes, yes.

How I just amble through life, bumping into the furniture  
and ending up going, how did I get here?

**[Transcript] SmartLess / "Matthew Rhys"**

How did this happen?  
And we were the last two to leave.  
We were in the parking lot  
and I was trying to open a bottle of beer for her  
with a key and failing.  
And I asked for her number then.  
And then, and that was all I can remember.  
She was moving to New York two days after that.  
On the Tuesday, it was a Sunday.  
And that's all I still remember.  
And then the road to the Americans was a long, crazy one.  
And then on the first day of fight training,  
I said to Carrie, I said,  
oh, we've met before, actually.  
She was like, no, no, we definitely haven't.  
I've said it's been years.  
He's been years at this point.  
And I said, yeah, yeah, we met before.  
We met at a kickball party in Rustic Canyon.  
She went, I know who you are.  
And you left me a message on my answering machine,  
a very drunken message.  
And I went, did I?  
I'm so sorry.  
I had no memory of leaving a long, rambling,  
incoherent drunken message,  
which is probably what she did.  
No, wait, did you really?  
Wait, can I be a super moron?  
Are you guys together?  
Yeah, yeah, yeah.  
Ah, okay.  
Wait, did you, so you got together,  
you started working together.  
You let them just bring up that they're just good friends.  
No, because they worked together  
on the Americans for six years.  
That's what I'm saying.  
That's what I was asking.  
That's great.  
But then, but during that,  
you guys fell in love, got married, had a kid?  
We did, yes.  
Yeah, but I want to know what happened.

**[Transcript] SmartLess / "Matthew Rhys"**

So she goes, okay, now I remember you.  
And then what?  
And then it was just a very, it was a very slow burn.  
The first season, you know,  
I think we were both going to be sworn off to that thing.  
We were going to go, I'm not going to do what everyone  
tells us never to do.  
I'm not going to do that.  
And then, but the beginning of the second season, it was.  
It was awesome.  
It was, it was, yeah.  
Okay, so now were the producers,  
did the producers take each of you aside individually  
and say, hey, this is, you're dealing with an asset here.  
Okay, everyone has jobs.  
If you guys go south, we have to shut the show down.  
Was it, were there conversations?  
No, no, they were very gracious about it.  
Cause I've had friends, I know I've had friends who,  
you know, who've had that conversation to sit down  
from the producers going, look,  
we've all been down here before.  
You guys are in your mid thirties now.  
You know, you're not 22.  
Right off the company.  
And they were very, yeah,  
they were very kind and gracious about it.  
Do you know, do you know the TV director, Tommy Slommie?  
Yeah, yeah.  
Yeah, so Slommie was directing the beginning  
of the second season and he has that kind of beautiful voice.  
But Kerry and I were having a, we were doing a sex scene  
and Slommie just goes, these two have been naked together  
before and then we just, it was like called out.  
Oh really?  
So at that point no one knew, but he could tell.  
And then there's a longer story as to how we got found out,  
which was just...  
We've got time.  
Well, Kerry got broken into.  
I was in the house at the time  
and the Robbers kind of grabbed my backpack,  
shoved it full of her stuff.  
You're in the house alone during a home invasion.

Yeah, yeah.

Wow.

We'll start there.

Well, so here's the other thing is it's early day  
and this is just a testament to my abject stupidity.

But with early days of our relationship.

And she wakes me up, she says, there's someone in the house  
and I go, no, there's not.

And then I just heard this voice.

Oh, shit.

And I remember thinking, in any logical moment,  
you'd go, let's lock ourselves in the bathroom,  
call 911.

And for some stupid reason,  
because it was very early days,

I thought, what I do next,  
she will judge me on for the rest of our lives.

What's that film?

Force Me Sure.

Force Me Sure.

When the avalanche comes and he just runs,  
he leaves his family behind.

Right, right.

I swear to God.

I was like, if I suggest to go into the bathroom,  
call 911, will she think me a coward?

Your relationship's over.

Yes.

I had all these weird things going through my head.

So what I do, she had a working fireplace  
in the bedroom.

So I picked up the poker and with not a stitch on me,  
I walked out to meet my fate.

Wow.

And we'll be right back after these messages.

Okay, so now we're back.

So now we're back.

So now you're, now you're...

So after eight months of treatment, yes.

I was fine.

No, I'm kidding.

So did you face to face with this fella?

No, because what I did was,

I think what most people do is you turn the light on

and they run straight away.  
So I heard them kind of run  
and they ran out the front door.  
Oh, thank God.  
I know, I know.  
Jesus.  
So you do this and now Carrie thinks  
that you're her hero.  
I wouldn't go that far.  
Or did she think you were stupid  
for chasing after the guy?  
Yeah, basically, yeah.  
She was locked in the bathroom.  
Yeah, waiting for you.  
Yeah, then seven cops turn up and they start,  
they clock her and they're like looking,  
I have no idea who I am, but they're looking at her.  
And then all of a sudden the DA were like,  
they catch them and the DA said,  
oh, I tell you what, we would love to return  
your belongings on set with a photographer  
to Carrie, if that's okay.  
And she's like, she wasn't wild about the idea.  
Try to put her on.  
No, no, no, because the DA was retiring that year,  
wanted kind of a, you know, hero ending.  
So the NYPD come on set with a photographer  
and then they're holding up my bag.  
And Yedid, one of the young PAs went,  
wait, that's not Carrie's bag, that's Matthew's bag.  
And as I'm running, trying to go, shut the fuck up.  
And that's how the crew kind of found out.  
No, wow.  
So arbitrary, that's crazy.  
There's a lot to go through just for the big reveal.  
Wow, that's kind of cool.  
So then this guy managed to grab a few things  
before he went running.  
He did, he did, he did.  
And when I saw the picture of him when he was arrested,  
I said, oh, I said, look, there's a picture of the guy  
they caught him.  
I said, look, he's been cuffed by two little tiny cops.  
She said, they're not tiny.

And I saw this, oh my, and I saw the size of him.  
He could have turned me into a kebab with that poker  
and done what he wanted.  
I wouldn't have had a...  
Now, did you have any sort of war cry  
as you turned on the light?  
Was there any sort of...  
No, you're going, hey bear, hey bear.  
Yeah.  
Yeah.  
Any of that?  
No, no, as much as that, as much as I was...  
I have a poker.  
Yeah, yeah.  
As much as I love that moment in Gladiator  
and all the Celts kind of attack the Romans.  
And I always think, you know, if it came to it,  
that's how I'd react.  
I couldn't move my legs.  
Oh my God.  
Don't make me come down there.  
Yes, yes, I'm classically trained, you know.  
I've done fencing.  
Totally naked.  
Yes, let's get this going.  
Yeah.  
And we will be right back.  
And now back to the show.  
All right, so you and Kerry have a child.  
That's a boy or a girl?  
He's a boy, he's a boy.  
Kerry has two older ones, so there's three, you know,  
there's three in the house who outnumber us.  
And what are the ages of all three?  
15, 11 and six.  
15, 11 and six.  
Then the 15 and 11 are boy-girl?  
Boy-girl, so it goes boy-girl-boy.  
Boy-girl-boy.  
Yeah.  
And how are you liking being a dad?  
I love it.  
You love it?  
I do love it.

**[Transcript] SmartLess / "Matthew Rhys"**

It's the madness that I love.  
It's when it's, and it's most...  
The small stuff irks you, but when it's catastrophic,  
it's brilliant.  
When those mornings when the wheels so royally come off,  
that's when I can sit back and go,  
oh, this is just brilliant.  
Who's the more patient one with the chaos?  
Is it you or her?  
Her, her.  
Yeah.  
Chaos I'm fine with, but manners,  
like, rudeness, I don't tolerate.  
That's when I...  
No, me neither.  
No, that's what I got.  
How old are yours now, Jason?  
I got 16 and 11, two girls.  
Oh, wow.  
And I'm totally permissive and the guy that plays around  
and I don't have to really be the disciplinarian,  
but if it's the rudeness, if it's stuff like that,  
and I just like the switch gets thrown.  
Yeah, same.  
Same.  
I pick and choose my moments.  
Yeah, the chaos is great.  
Yeah, rudeness.  
Yeah, we've got 14, 12,  
and then my partner, she's a five-year-old,  
and then we have an almost three-year-old.  
Oh, wow.  
All boys.  
All boys.  
No way.  
Yeah.  
You've almost got the hockey team.  
Almost got the team, and it's the fuck,  
and it is, sometimes it is absolute,  
just abject chaos.  
Like just...  
How do you like it?  
I love it.  
The chaos.

It's great.

Yeah, I love it.

I don't know, I just wouldn't have it any other way.

I embrace it, it's fun.

Same thing, they're all nice kids,  
and everybody has good manners and stuff.

That's one of the things, but I love it, man.

I love it when it just gets absolute,  
sometimes when you get into the witching hour,  
sort of near bedtime,  
and it gets fucking buggers.

How about the complications, Matthew,  
of travel and stuff,  
since you guys are both very active in your careers,  
and your kids are now deeply entrenched in school,  
and having that sort of social and academic continuity,  
like you can't really pick them up  
and take them places with you  
as much as you want, I'll bet, right?

How do you guys manage that?

Is it easy or tough?

It is tough.

I mean, we try and live by this ridiculous rule  
where one of us works, one of us doesn't,  
and the kids stay at school, but it's just...

That never works out, right?

Because somebody gets a great, great call,  
and you just can't say no, but this is your turn, and...

Yeah, this is what happened last year,  
and grandma came in, and the kids ate sugar for six holidays.  
They loved it.

I think that my sort of view on it always is,  
is that you have this idea of how you want it to go,  
so you say one of us is gonna work,  
whatever that thing is,  
and you try to set those parameters,  
and you try to get as close to it as you can,  
and you have to be flexible and allow yourself to,  
you know, that there are gonna be moments  
when it's just pure chaos, and...

And the truth is, kids are so incredibly resilient,  
like they don't know any different, you know?

I grew up in a house where my mom was a stewardess  
for Pan Am or flight attendants.



She was gone two weeks of every month.  
That was just normal to me, you know?  
Just had my mom half the time,  
and that was just normal.  
Yeah, not a big deal.  
I had my dad, no, right.  
So Matthew's gonna love this story.  
No, no, yeah, go.  
So it starts with a Chevy Pontiac,  
the engine turning on.  
Yeah, and it ends with a peel out,  
yeah, just a peel out, and it's real.  
And a sort of a distant kind of,  
fuck you! Fuck you all, fuck all you all!  
Mama!  
John, this isn't true, is it?  
Yeah, it's true.  
My dad left us five.  
And he's left his mom to keep an eye on all of them.  
All right.  
And I stress and I.  
His mother has one eye.  
And I stress and I.  
Matthew, it's brilliantly tragic.  
You have to laugh.  
It's fine, yeah.  
It's the only thing we have to do.  
We have to laugh at our misfortunes, because...  
But wait, I'm gonna ask you a weird question,  
only because you're wearing a black t-shirt.  
Yeah.  
And I've seen a lot of photos of you  
and stuff like where you seem very kind of fat,  
like you're into fashion when you have to be.  
Like I know nothing, like I'm terrible,  
but like you're probably like Will,  
you're probably like Will where you're like,  
I like to look good when I even go to the store,  
I like to look good when I go out in public.  
Like is that, it seems like a lot of effort.  
Oh no, no.  
If you truly knew me, it's...  
Kelly said the other day,  
because I have these beaten up car hearts

and I wear usually just the same black t-shirt every day.  
And even Kelly's like,  
you've got to change for the school run.  
You've worn the same thing for...  
It's now months.  
Right.  
And my car hearts are really beaten up  
and there was this...  
What's cards?  
Car hearts.  
Sorry, it's the way I'm saying it.  
It's a brand, clothing brand.  
Oh, our hearts.  
It's like all the carpenters, car hearts,  
yeah, all the carpenters wear them  
and they're real worker guys.  
And I wear them into the ground because it looks so terrible,  
that there was...  
I was standing in school pickup in the line  
and this mother kind of looked at me like,  
Travis and she went,  
what is it you do?  
And I went...  
Oh.  
I went, oh, I'm actually an actor.  
And she went, oh, oh, it's like,  
I was like, why are you masquerading  
as someone who works for a living?  
Well, you have your uniform.  
Well, it's like Jason always gets the question  
when they see him, they always say,  
what time's your tea time?  
Right, isn't that the question that hits most of the day?  
Well, when I wear this little outfit, it's clear.  
You know what I do get a lot?  
Is do you color your hair?  
And now recently, because of this film  
where I play in a guy in 1985,  
they think it's a wig, just a full blown wig  
that I'm wearing.  
Yeah.  
I'm looking forward to that immensely.  
No one thinks that my hair is the right,  
is the real color.

**[Transcript] SmartLess / "Matthew Rhys"**

Because you're lucky,  
because in your 70s, like you are,  
it's not true.  
It's unbelievable that a 70 year old would not have  
been doing hair.  
I have to admit that there have been,  
I've had a few people in the last year  
who have asked me, Jason, if you color your hair.  
Yeah, same.  
I tell everyone that you color your hair.  
It's just what it is.  
Yes.  
Son of a bitch.  
It was, yeah, it was during that moment.  
Do you remember, I don't know if you remember this,  
in the golden globes,  
as this sounds perversely pretentious,  
but it still makes me laugh.  
That kind of green, the virtual green room,  
if you remember, is you, me, Bob Odenkirk,  
Josh O'Connor,  
and then we were all waiting for Al Pacino  
to kind of pop up.  
Do you remember, into the virtual green room,  
and we're all waiting, we're all waiting,  
and then he pops up,  
because we're all at home during the pandemic,  
and he looks like a Bond villain,  
because he has like a small dog in his lap,  
and he's choking it.  
Yes, and we all sort of say,  
we all go, hi, hello, hi, hi, hi.  
And then there's silence,  
and then we kind of do a second round,  
while I go, hello, hi, no, nothing.  
And then I think you said,  
I don't think he can hear us.  
And then Pacino just goes, oh, I can hear you.  
Oh, boy.  
We all went, oh, oh.  
Just doesn't want to do the group hi.  
And then he said, I think he colors his hair.  
Yeah.  
Oh, this guy, oh, oh, hair color.

**[Transcript] SmartLess / "Matthew Rhys"**

Oh, Charlie.  
Hey, so, what's the problem, Charlie?  
Yeah, quick question for Jason.  
Why is the emblem,  
why is the person holding an umbrella?  
What is that?  
Oh, this is some silly golf sweater.  
Mary Poppins.  
What is that?  
It actually is a Mary Poppins.  
This is a, I believe this is an ATT thing, Willie.  
Yeah.  
From ATT?  
Yeah, this is one of the...  
From that swag room we went into?  
Free sweater.  
We have smartless golf stuff coming out soon.  
I love it.  
Oh, let's take the opportunity to do a merch tie-in show.  
It's really smart.  
What's it saying?  
Matthew, Matthew, can you commit right now  
to wearing smartless golf merch on the school run?  
My entire closet is mainly made up  
of clothes I've stolen from jobs.  
I jump by a thing.  
Well, we're going to send you some smartless golf swags  
with like some plus fours, right?  
For the golf pants.  
You know, you can wear that.  
Yeah.  
We were listening, I do want to say,  
your show gives us so much joy.  
And we were listening.  
Yes, it does.  
We were listening to it recently.  
And, well, I think you went to dinner with Sean at Jar  
and Sean, you were...  
Yeah, I was not invited.  
Yeah, well, we brought that up in the car.  
We were like, I wasn't Jason.  
Yeah, I never am.  
These guys have been all over the world together.  
Oh my gosh.

**[Transcript] SmartLess / "Matthew Rhys"**

I've never asked.  
I mean, they've been to Turkey.  
They've been to, where else guys?  
Yeah, we have.  
Where has your passports been stamped?  
Venice Italy, right?  
Venice Italy?  
You guys play golf every day.  
Okay, go ahead.  
That's different.  
So you did say that you were wearing Uggs.  
What are those kind of slipper Uggs for dinner?  
Is that right?  
Did I remember that right?  
Absolutely, yeah.  
And I said to Karen, see, it's fine.  
And she went, they live in LA.  
Right.  
She's right.  
Sean, that was you wearing the comfy shoes?  
Yeah, why not?  
He's been doing it for years.  
He's doing it for years.  
Who looks at your shoes?  
Nobody looks at your shoes in a dark restaurant.  
I would.  
And then I would choose to never come to dinner with you again.  
Cobblers around the world.  
Cobblers.  
Yeah.  
Listen, so Matthew, so now recently,  
in the last couple of years,  
you've partnered with our good friend, Mr. Downey Jr.  
Oh yeah, Perry Mason.  
Now that's a handsome looking show.  
Yeah, yeah, yeah.  
Talk to us a little bit about that.  
First of all, how that came about  
and what an absolute terror he is as an executive producer.  
Oh, this Downey.  
Oh my God.  
Oh my God.  
Just a story.  
He's been shacked.

Yells and screaming.  
Oh, what a screamer.  
He strikes people.  
Yes, yes, with a glove.  
Has a leather glove, a small gauntlet  
that he sometimes put a metal thimble in it  
just for the little, ah!  
Yeah, yeah.  
Oh Christ, he's here, he's here.  
He speaks so highly of you.  
How did that come, yeah, he loves you.  
Yeah, he does, he really does.  
Robert loves you and talked to us a little bit about,  
and Susan as well.  
Susan does not like, oh, she does.  
Well, yes.  
The great Susan, the brains of that duo.  
If I may.  
The wind beneath the wings and the brain in the head.  
Yeah, how did that come into your sort of,  
into your world, the Perry Mason project?  
I mean, I'm trying to think what year it was now  
because it was a while back where it was.  
Probably three, four years ago maybe?  
Yes, yes, yes, yes.  
And I always, this is how I'm like brainwashed.  
When my manager calls and he goes, you know,  
team down, he wanna talk to you about a reboot of Perry Mason.  
My first question was like, who's turned it down?  
Who's turned it down?  
Right, why does the Robert wanna do it?  
Yes, well, so that was, and I think he did.  
I think that was the whole point  
that Robert was supposed to do it.  
And it took him almost 10 years of development  
and it went through many, many, many guises of a TV film,  
a series, and I just think Robert never quite got there.  
So yeah, they reached out for a meeting  
which I was terrified about.  
And the brilliant Mr. Van Patten directed that?  
Oh my God, yeah, yeah, yeah, it was just a dream.  
By the way, I love that their company's called Team Downy,  
which is always fun to me.  
I think that's a great company name.

I've always been jealous of that,  
but I don't want Robert to know.  
I would have called it Touch Downy.  
Yeah, oh, that's good.  
That'd be good too, right?  
Yeah, it's fun.  
It's just like I'm looking to rename mine, Master Bateman,  
but it has not cleared.  
So Robert, so Team Downy reaches out  
and you go and you meet with these guys  
and you're like, did you know that it was gonna become this group?  
Like what was your first thought of it?  
Were you excited?  
Were you sort of skeptical?  
I mean, I was slightly skeptical,  
because I have, like, did you develop it with them  
or was it a script?  
Well, you're also carrying a bunch of pedigree  
out of the Americans, one, the Emmys.  
The Americans and brothers and sisters  
that you did for five years with our old buddy, Robbie Bates,  
my old friend.  
You did not want it to suck.  
No, no, but that was never in doubt,  
because, you know, I think when you saw Team Downy,  
you know, the writers on it, Tim Van Patten, HBO,  
it was kind of, it was straight of,  
I wasn't concerned that it wouldn't be of a certain caliber.  
If anything, you know, usually it stems  
from my own insecurities, how I can turn it  
into a catastrophe more than anything else.  
But I was very excited.  
I loved it.  
It was pitched as a one-off and they were like,  
look, we just want to do the origin story  
and that'll be it.  
And then, you know, halfway through, they were like,  
you know, it works pretty good.  
It looks good.  
We should think about doing this a little, you know,  
we should think about doing more of this.  
I did have that small reservation where I've done,  
where I kind of, you know, Perry Mason's still revered,  
where it was in the UK, it was huge.

And here also, there is a certain generation  
of an age group up that kind of go,  
no, no, no, you can't touch Mason, but you know,  
you have to leave that alone.  
And then a ton of people have no recollection  
of the show whatsoever.  
And that's what Susan said.  
She said, look, there's an entire,  
there are swathes of generations ready for a new Perry Mason.  
Yeah, we can do it.  
We can make it whatever we want.  
And where did you guys shoot that?  
In LA, they went back to the origin story in the books,  
which was 1930s LA, which to me was, you know,  
with Chinatown and everything else was such,  
was so alluring.  
And as a kid growing up watching old movies,  
I was like, oh my God, I get to wear a fedora in LA.  
And you do an American accent?  
Yeah, yeah.  
You get to wear a fedora in LA  
like everybody else in Venice, right?  
Or Los Feliz, yeah.  
As an actor, is the American accent a tough thing to do?  
And do you have like a phrase that clicks you right into  
the typical American sound that's sort of like a shortcut for you?  
No, there's no real shot.  
It's still, it's still a huge, it's like a, I say block.  
Like hamburger.  
I tell you what, oh yeah, I tell you what, killer.  
I went up to one of the writers early on in Perry Mason.  
I said, is there any chance we can change like murderer to killer?  
And he's like, you do realise you've signed on for Perry Mason?  
Right.  
Like you're going to be saying murderer a lot.  
And I was like, yeah, I hadn't quite thought that one through.  
That's a bit of an Achilles heel for me.  
That's a tough word to say.  
Yeah, like your batteries run out halfway through,  
you just go murderer, murderer, murderer.  
I was like, you say killer, what about suspect?  
Suspect would be great.  
Right, because the British accent would put an A-H on it, murderer.  
Murderer, murderer, murderer, murderer.



**[Transcript] SmartLess / "Matthew Rhys"**

By the way, if you're going to live in America,  
you got to learn how to say murderer.

I mean, sorry.

No, that's not true.

Yeah.

You're going to say the most.

Jesus Christ.

Well, yeah, I mean now, so now you've got the second season of Perry Mason  
coming out, which is fantastic.

Would you never thought you'd do?

No.

And that was, that was delayed a bit, yeah?

With COVID perhaps?

It's hugely delayed because it's too soon to, you know,  
definitely, no, we're going to wait.

We're not going to, we're not going to shrink the show  
and make a smaller show of the first one.

We'll wait until we can make the same big show  
with hundreds of supporting artists and do it right.

Right, because there's a lot of background players  
in a lot of crowd scenes.

Yeah.

It's a massive production.

Oh my, it's a beast.

It's, there are those days I turn up on set and I go,

I don't even know how this works.

My brother-in-law was a tank commander in the British Army.

For most of his life.

And he said, it's all, it's like,

if you think about the logistics, they have to do,

it's insane, but he came on set one day and he went,

how does this work?

Right, yeah.

And he was just so shocked.

He goes, what amazes me, he said,

what amazes me is that so many components

have to come together in one tiny moment and be quiet.

He said it was, it sort of staggered him.

And he was like, he was like,

amazed at the cool sheets and everything.

It is.

When you watch, when you go to a,

when you go to a big film television set

and you watch all these people who are at the top of their game

**[Transcript] SmartLess / "Matthew Rhys"**

and they're seeing it, like you said,  
coming together in that moment where everything's  
got to be silent and everything's got to be great  
and you see it pulled off.

Sometimes it has the timing of something  
that has to happen in the shot.

Whatever it is, it is pretty amazing to watch  
how good these people are at what they do.

Yeah.

And filming in New York,  
which we obviously did the Americans,  
it's staggering that they get away with what they do  
in the kind of, like location department  
should be given flak jackets these days  
for the amount of abuse they just get  
from people who want to park, drive down the street,  
or, you know, enter a shop.

But how many times have you had that  
when you're shooting in New York on the street  
and then some, it's like pretty good.

And then like somewhere in the tech,  
you just hear somebody leaning out a window going,  
I want to be in the fucking movie.

Almost like, all right, let's go again.

If it says exterior night in the Americans,  
you know you're looping it.

You know you're ADRing it  
because you know there's someone shouting along the line.

There was this one time in Harlem I was doing a scene  
and it was like eight guys,

because I had to shout the scene,  
eight guys were shouting the exact same words  
along with me and the director said-

Because they've heard it so many times?

Yeah.

Matthew, we have taken up so much of your time.

My God, I just really-

What a pleasure.

We can talk to you forever.

Yeah, yeah.

In a real treat.

You're one of us.

You're one of us.

This has been a real treat.

**[Transcript] SmartLess / "Matthew Rhys"**

Sean, I can't wait to see the show.  
We're all coming to see it.  
We're very excited about it.  
Oh, that's so nice.  
Thank you.  
How are previews going?  
Really well, really exhausting,  
but thank you for asking.  
I walked down the street one day today,  
walked down the street to go get my little sandwich,  
my egg sandwich.  
Anakaiser roll.  
Anakaiser roll and this woman,  
this woman stopped me.  
She was really sweet,  
but this is how much energy was in her voice.  
She grabbed my arm.  
She goes, I saw your show last night.  
I go, yeah, thank you for coming.  
She goes, this is really good.  
And she's just fucking.  
Oh, I love New York.  
Oh.  
New York, undefeated.  
And that's it.  
I was like, yeah.  
She was very nice though.  
Last time I did a play,  
I was walking from the theater  
and this woman just shouted, you're an asshole.  
And I just went, I hope you saw the show.  
Yeah.  
That's not personal.  
Matthew, well, when we come to New York,  
I hope that we can grab a meal.  
You, me, and Carrie,  
and maybe one of these ding-dongs as well.  
That would be it.  
Let's go.  
Yes, please.  
Get Sean and Scotty and JB and we'll do it up.  
It'll be great to see you, man.  
Thank you for having me.  
This has been such a treat.

**[Transcript] SmartLess / "Matthew Rhys"**

Thank you, Matthew.  
And send all of our love to Carrie.  
I will.  
We adore her as well.  
And we adore you.  
You are, as Sean said,  
you're one of us.  
It's been such a pleasure, buddy.  
And a continued success.  
Perry Mason comes out.  
What's the release?  
It's...  
It's out now.  
Monday nights at nine.  
Yeah.  
Monday nights at nine.  
HBO Max, yeah.  
HBO.  
Congratulations, Matthew.  
Thank you.  
Congratulations to all the success, buddy.  
Thank you, guys.  
Thanks a million.  
Thanks for being here, buddy.  
Right, bye-bye.  
Have a good day.  
See you soon.  
Bye-bye.  
And you slam it shut.  
Now, there's a nice guy.  
Well, what's a nice guy like that being...  
How is he friends with you?  
Because that's the kind of...  
That's the ilk of people that I attract.  
You know what I mean?  
It's just like-minded people, birds of a feather,  
cool dudes.  
Charming.  
He knows how to carry on a conversation.  
Yeah, I know.  
I'm always impressed with guys like that  
who are just so relaxed.  
Yeah.  
Like...

Well, he's confident, you know?  
He's comfortable.  
You know, he's got his uniform,  
he's got his black t-shirt.  
He's not like you guys.  
He doesn't have an axe to grind.  
You know what I mean?  
He doesn't have something to prove all the time.  
He's not trying to prove anything  
with his fun tops that he wears, Sean.  
I'm a fun top.  
Now, listen.  
I know you are.  
Speaking of which, where's the cocaine bear?  
What's he fixing now?  
Huh?  
He's fixing something.  
Scotty, what are you making?  
What kind of sandwich?  
Yeah, you had a Turk sandwich.  
Oh, a Turk sandwich.  
Wait, what else is on it?  
What percentage of the day, what percentage of the day,  
hang on, what percentage of the day when you yell out,  
hey, Scotty, what are you doing?  
Is the answer, I'm making a sandwich.  
Well, usually it's for me.  
Making Sammies.  
That's what I mean.  
So what do we got on the turkey?  
So how do you like your turkey sandwich done, Sean?  
I ordered one yesterday for lunch.  
It was a turkey, avocado, lettuce, and extra, extra, extra mayo.  
Oh, and are we toasting the bread?  
No.  
Really?  
How about a light toast with a little snap on it?  
Just like a real soft thing there.  
Extra, do you literally say extra, extra, extra mayo?  
Yes, I always do, because they never put enough on it.  
You know what I like?  
I like it when you get one of those  
like sort of like an Italian, you know what I mean,  
with different cuts of meat, some cold cuts,

**[Transcript] SmartLess / "Matthew Rhys"**

lettuce, tomato, and get some oil and vinegar,  
get a little salt peps.  
Stuff it in there, stuff it in there.  
You know, by the way, it reminds me of what I was saying  
about the wearing the hats all around.  
I remember Thoreau went through a long phase.  
He was always wearing like hats and little pork pie hats  
and fedoras and stuff.  
And I remember Polar said to one day,  
you look fedorable and it just really killed us, yeah.  
Hey, what kind of hat do I have on today?  
You got one of those smart list merch hats.  
That's right.  
Wait, where do we get one of those?  
I started to interrupt, guys.  
It looks like Carrie Russell's entering the waiting room.  
She might just want to say hi.  
You want to just pop it.  
Put her on, put her on.  
Put Carrie on there.  
We're going to air it.  
There she is.  
There she is.  
If you can hear us, hello.  
We'll have to have her on.  
I will tell the boys they can't hear you right now  
because they're on the other system.  
You were fantastic.  
Thank you. Bye.  
Okay. Thanks for everything.  
Really appreciate it.  
Well done.  
I love that we just had a quick visual visit  
from Carrie Russell and Anne.  
We couldn't hear her, but we got to see her  
and she was there.  
She was probably with the kids, right, Sean?  
Yeah, she was probably with it.  
It's about time for pickup.  
Yeah, it's probably for nap time for our kids,  
which she would then sing.  
What would she sing to them if she was gonna put her kids  
in the bed, she'd probably sing like rock or co-  
Rock or co-

**[Transcript] SmartLess / "Matthew Rhys"**

Baby, baby, baby, baby.

Oh.

Jason hates when we go up.

He just pinches that voice off.

Bye.

Bye.

Bye.

Smart.

Less.

Smart.

Less.

Smart.

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