

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,500
From the Alex Trebek

2
00:00:01,500 --> 00:00:02,700
Stage at Sony

3
00:00:02,700 --> 00:00:03,990
Pictures Studios,

4
00:00:04,170 --> 00:00:07,860
this is Inside Jeopardy!

5
00:00:08,940 --> 00:00:12,420
Hello and welcome back to Inside
Jeopardy!, your exclusive and official

6
00:00:12,420 --> 00:00:16,290
podcast destination for all things
happening in the world of Jeopardy1.

7
00:00:16,740 --> 00:00:21,150
I'm Sarah Foss, and today I
am joined by 13 Game Jeopardy

8
00:00:21,150 --> 00:00:24,150
super champion Ray Lalonde.

9
00:00:24,540 --> 00:00:26,340
Ray, welcome to Inside Jeopardy.

10
00:00:26,490 --> 00:00:27,150
My pleasure.

11
00:00:27,150 --> 00:00:27,990
Great, great to be here.

12
00:00:28,575 --> 00:00:33,495
Well, what has it been like in the
past few months since becoming, oh,

13
00:00:33,500 --> 00:00:36,435

you know, a 13 game jeopardy champion?

14

00:00:36,644 --> 00:00:36,915

There

15

00:00:36,915 --> 00:00:38,894

was a whole bunch of stuff that happened.

16

00:00:38,894 --> 00:00:40,125

I mean, it was all wonderful.

17

00:00:40,545 --> 00:00:45,495

Uh, it started off sort of as coming
back and setting up viewing parties

18

00:00:45,500 --> 00:00:49,125

and stuff and then, you know,
people at work, people in my life.

19

00:00:49,695 --> 00:00:52,185

But not being able to say,
oh, this is going to go on.

20

00:00:52,650 --> 00:00:55,530

So the first ring party, you know,
it was a big surprise at the end.

21

00:00:55,650 --> 00:00:56,160

You won.

22

00:00:56,160 --> 00:00:56,670

Oh my God.

23

00:00:57,450 --> 00:00:58,950

And yeah, so keep tuning in.

24

00:00:58,950 --> 00:01:01,590

And then as it went on, I
would get these phone calls.

25

00:01:01,890 --> 00:01:03,240

I can't believe you're still doing this.

26

00:01:03,790 --> 00:01:03,910

I.

27

00:01:04,019 --> 00:01:04,710

Over and over again.

28

00:01:04,710 --> 00:01:06,990

'cause he's been on for a couple weeks then, you know, that was kind

29

00:01:06,990 --> 00:01:07,050

of

30

00:01:07,050 --> 00:01:07,410

fun.

31

00:01:07,830 --> 00:01:13,050

Well, I remember reaching out to Mattea at a certain point and saying, you

32

00:01:13,050 --> 00:01:18,900

know what, you're gonna have a fellow Canadian super champ, so just be on

33

00:01:18,900 --> 00:01:21,030

the lookout between you and Mattea.

34

00:01:21,120 --> 00:01:23,160

You two have made Canada proud, I would say.

35

00:01:23,205 --> 00:01:23,895

A lot of

36

00:01:23,895 --> 00:01:24,524

attention.

37

00:01:24,645 --> 00:01:26,235

Yeah, it was actually quite fun.

38

00:01:26,414 --> 00:01:30,315
Um, I did get a lot of like local
news, radio, tv, the papers.

39
00:01:30,705 --> 00:01:32,595
I was surprised that there
was so much attention.

40
00:01:32,625 --> 00:01:36,525
I thought, you know, Matea had stolen
all that thunder by being so great

41
00:01:36,914 --> 00:01:38,325
and I was just like another one.

42
00:01:38,655 --> 00:01:40,695
But I know people were
still very happy about it.

43
00:01:40,695 --> 00:01:41,384
So that was great.

44
00:01:41,445 --> 00:01:45,285
One of the wonderful things is that
I'm not originally from Toronto.

45
00:01:45,285 --> 00:01:48,525
I actually grew up in Northern Ontario
in a small city called Thunder Bay,

46
00:01:49,275 --> 00:01:51,225
and I hadn't lived there for 40 years.

47
00:01:52,005 --> 00:01:55,155
I was a huge story up there
because people remembered.

48
00:01:55,710 --> 00:01:59,160
And I heard from people that lived up
there that still have friends and family.

49
00:01:59,550 --> 00:02:02,910
Uh, I was on the news like every

night that, oh, race back on the,

50

00:02:02,910 --> 00:02:04,139

uh, on the Jeopardy thing, right?

51

00:02:04,145 --> 00:02:04,350

Right.

52

00:02:04,350 --> 00:02:05,550

Hometown hero.

53

00:02:05,880 --> 00:02:09,570

And I had, you know, calls and emails and dms from people I

54

00:02:09,574 --> 00:02:11,220

hadn't spoken to from forever.

55

00:02:11,490 --> 00:02:15,090

Just, you know, remember, you remember me from high school, from

56

00:02:15,095 --> 00:02:17,400

junior high, uh, saw you on tv.

57

00:02:17,400 --> 00:02:18,390

You looked the same.

58

00:02:18,450 --> 00:02:19,560

Like, oh, thanks for lying.

59

00:02:20,010 --> 00:02:22,470

Um, and uh, congratulations.

60

00:02:22,470 --> 00:02:23,040

You did great.

61

00:02:23,040 --> 00:02:24,150

We always knew you were smart.

62

00:02:24,180 --> 00:02:24,630

You know that.

63

00:02:25,200 --> 00:02:26,070

Really nice stuff.

64

00:02:26,355 --> 00:02:29,235

That's an interesting benefit
that you probably didn't think of.

65

00:02:29,295 --> 00:02:29,685

Oh no.

66

00:02:29,835 --> 00:02:32,385

When you sign up to come on a quiz
show, you're not thinking you're

67

00:02:32,385 --> 00:02:35,835

gonna be reunited with so many people
from, you know, your childhood.

68

00:02:35,835 --> 00:02:37,035

That's really, really cool.

69

00:02:37,335 --> 00:02:37,395

Yeah.

70

00:02:37,400 --> 00:02:40,275

I actually had a friend who lives in
town, but I hadn't seen them in forever,

71

00:02:40,275 --> 00:02:44,355

not since, you know, started university
and he looked me up and we went out to a

72

00:02:44,355 --> 00:02:48,965

hockey game together and, uh, just caught
up after, you know, 30 some odd years.

73

00:02:49,425 --> 00:02:50,235

So that was

74

00:02:50,235 --> 00:02:50,595

great.

75

00:02:50,805 --> 00:02:53,175

Tell me about your Jeopardy journey.

76

00:02:53,175 --> 00:02:57,135

I know every champion has a different story, but you know, how long have

77

00:02:57,135 --> 00:02:58,575

you been trying to get on the show?

78

00:02:58,575 --> 00:03:01,935

What was the process like from when you first kind of had a dream

79

00:03:01,940 --> 00:03:05,445

to be a contestant to when you made it on the Alex Trebek stage?

80

00:03:05,895 --> 00:03:06,525

I think

81

00:03:06,555 --> 00:03:07,875

it's probably.

82

00:03:08,339 --> 00:03:10,019

I'm gonna say 20 years.

83

00:03:10,769 --> 00:03:13,230

It's the first time I actually applied to be on the show.

84

00:03:13,230 --> 00:03:15,750

And you know, it's the sort of thing, you take the test and you

85

00:03:15,750 --> 00:03:18,390

don't know, and sometimes they call you back and sometimes they don't.

86

00:03:18,869 --> 00:03:22,739

And so I think this is my third time getting called back, but I've probably

87

00:03:22,739 --> 00:03:24,810
taken the test, you know, 11, 12

88

00:03:24,815 --> 00:03:25,290
times.

89

00:03:25,645 --> 00:03:28,375
Were there times when you took
the test when you thought, Hmm,

90

00:03:28,405 --> 00:03:30,745
probably not my best performance?

91

00:03:31,045 --> 00:03:31,615
Oh, for sure.

92

00:03:31,765 --> 00:03:34,315
You know, because I think that's
something we always try to talk

93

00:03:34,315 --> 00:03:35,875
to prospective contestants about.

94

00:03:35,875 --> 00:03:35,965
Mm-hmm.

95

00:03:36,205 --> 00:03:37,525
It's just like watching the show.

96

00:03:37,795 --> 00:03:41,965
You can watch some nights and be,
oh yeah, I'm a Jeopardy champion,

97

00:03:41,970 --> 00:03:44,665
and other nights you might think
I gotta do a little more studying.

98

00:03:44,965 --> 00:03:47,875
I think it's the same with the

Anytime test, and that is why we

99

00:03:47,875 --> 00:03:51,205
encourage people to take it, you
know, over and over again, even if you

100

00:03:51,205 --> 00:03:52,555
don't get the call that first time.

101

00:03:52,885 --> 00:03:56,065
Definitely there've been times when
I've thought, okay, I aced this thing.

102

00:03:56,070 --> 00:04:00,805
I was so good, and there were times I
got, oh, maybe not this time, and yeah, so

103

00:04:00,810 --> 00:04:02,305
you just shake it off and you try again.

104

00:04:02,425 --> 00:04:02,605
So

105

00:04:02,605 --> 00:04:08,245
you get that call, you're officially
coming to Los Angeles, what do you do?

106

00:04:08,335 --> 00:04:12,565
You know, in those weeks leading up to
that, how do you wrap your head around it?

107

00:04:12,570 --> 00:04:14,845
Prepare, what was your process like?

108

00:04:15,195 --> 00:04:17,235
It actually went by pretty quick.

109

00:04:17,325 --> 00:04:19,365
Like I think it was, you know, it was
three or four weeks or something that

110

00:04:19,365 --> 00:04:22,395

I got ahead of time, and so I was making travel arrangements, hotels.

111

00:04:23,295 --> 00:04:25,844
Getting all your drycleaning done,
all the things you have to remember

112

00:04:25,844 --> 00:04:27,855
to, you know, you have to
bring a lot of wardrobe.

113

00:04:27,855 --> 00:04:28,275
Yes.

114

00:04:28,305 --> 00:04:28,725
Yeah.

115

00:04:28,815 --> 00:04:29,655
All that stuff.

116

00:04:30,015 --> 00:04:32,295
And, uh, yeah, so it
actually passed pretty quick.

117

00:04:32,295 --> 00:04:35,955
And then in, in spare time, you
do try and bone up on myself.

118

00:04:35,960 --> 00:04:37,125
It was state capital's.

119

00:04:37,130 --> 00:04:37,215
Mm-hmm.

120

00:04:37,545 --> 00:04:39,915
Uh, American history, you
know, that sort of thing.

121

00:04:39,915 --> 00:04:42,045
That's I'm not entirely strong at.

122

00:04:42,045 --> 00:04:43,995

But, uh, they do come up a lot.

123

00:04:44,505 --> 00:04:44,775

Although

124

00:04:44,775 --> 00:04:46,095

we do marvel at.

125

00:04:46,300 --> 00:04:51,280

The way Canadians know so much about
American history and American geography,

126

00:04:51,280 --> 00:04:53,230

it really is quite impressive.

127

00:04:53,230 --> 00:04:55,540

I don't know that it would be
the same if we reversed it.

128

00:04:56,230 --> 00:04:58,450

Well, I say it's, um,
you know, an elephant.

129

00:04:58,510 --> 00:05:01,605

Um, Sleeping next to the most,
like the most, pays a lot more

130

00:05:01,605 --> 00:05:02,865

attention to the elephant and vice

131

00:05:02,865 --> 00:05:03,195

versa.

132

00:05:03,345 --> 00:05:04,245

That makes sense.

133

00:05:04,665 --> 00:05:08,955

So when you were first on the show,
day one, you're introduced as a scenic

134

00:05:09,045 --> 00:05:14,175

artist from Toronto, Ontario, Canada,

the lights are on, you're about to

135

00:05:14,175 --> 00:05:20,295
play Jeopardy, and before you know it,
You are declared a Jeopardy champion.

136

00:05:20,355 --> 00:05:22,575
You know, there's only one
time in your life when you hear

137

00:05:22,575 --> 00:05:23,925
that for the very first time.

138

00:05:23,925 --> 00:05:25,215
What was that moment like for

139

00:05:25,215 --> 00:05:25,515
you?

140

00:05:26,085 --> 00:05:27,825
Shocking and surreal.

141

00:05:28,005 --> 00:05:31,785
Um, I think at that point it was later on
in the afternoon, in the taping, uh, day.

142

00:05:32,265 --> 00:05:36,225
And so I've been wired since,
you know, the night before.

143

00:05:36,555 --> 00:05:37,995
Really like everybody else there.

144

00:05:38,675 --> 00:05:40,354
So I was pretty much in shock.

145

00:05:40,354 --> 00:05:41,525
I think can't even notice it.

146

00:05:41,555 --> 00:05:42,905
You didn't have much reaction.

147

00:05:42,995 --> 00:05:43,925
I can't even believe it.

148

00:05:44,180 --> 00:05:44,405
You know?

149

00:05:44,905 --> 00:05:45,255
Right.

150

00:05:45,485 --> 00:05:48,185
And yeah, and then it happened
again, and then mercifully the

151

00:05:48,185 --> 00:05:51,094
day was over and I got to go home
and kind of come to terms with it.

152

00:05:51,094 --> 00:05:51,935
But, uh, yeah.

153

00:05:51,935 --> 00:05:52,354
Wow.

154

00:05:52,354 --> 00:05:52,414
I.

155

00:05:52,695 --> 00:05:53,924
Yeah, it's a long day.

156

00:05:53,924 --> 00:05:57,344
I mean, you guys are, are there
early, obviously there's the briefing,

157

00:05:57,344 --> 00:06:00,465
there's the rehearsal, and then the
waiting game of whether you'll be in

158

00:06:00,465 --> 00:06:03,044
the first game or the second game, the
third, the fourth, or even the fifth.

159

00:06:03,104 --> 00:06:03,195
Mm-hmm.

160
00:06:03,495 --> 00:06:06,854
So you come back and you know you're
gonna be in the first game, at

161
00:06:06,854 --> 00:06:09,135
least for your second appearance.

162
00:06:09,340 --> 00:06:12,969
But that's five games in a row
that you then have to play.

163
00:06:13,030 --> 00:06:16,479
Talk about the stamina that
that takes to really, you know,

164
00:06:16,539 --> 00:06:17,919
do it over and over again.

165
00:06:17,919 --> 00:06:21,489
All of us at home get a full day to
recover from our Jeopardy outing.

166
00:06:21,489 --> 00:06:23,590
You have just about 20 to 30 minutes.

167
00:06:24,039 --> 00:06:24,250
It

168
00:06:24,250 --> 00:06:28,929
is a long day, and I think you
understand these chess champions

169
00:06:28,934 --> 00:06:31,599
that have to concentrate for hours
and hours on end, and then at the

170
00:06:31,604 --> 00:06:32,710
end of the day, they're exhausted.

171

00:06:32,830 --> 00:06:32,919
Mm-hmm.

172
00:06:33,250 --> 00:06:35,979
It's very much like that at the
end of that day, the second day.

173
00:06:36,205 --> 00:06:36,895
For sure.

174
00:06:36,895 --> 00:06:40,555
I went home, I think I ate, so
went to the hotel, I ate something.

175
00:06:40,794 --> 00:06:41,875
I think I went right to bed.

176
00:06:41,905 --> 00:06:43,284
It was, couldn't have been eight 30.

177
00:06:45,025 --> 00:06:46,255
It was just okay.

178
00:06:46,284 --> 00:06:46,734
Boom.

179
00:06:46,914 --> 00:06:48,594
And uh, wake up the next day.

180
00:06:48,745 --> 00:06:50,995
Actually, it's something I've
been very conscious of in

181
00:06:50,995 --> 00:06:52,255
getting ready to come back.

182
00:06:52,575 --> 00:06:56,925
Is, uh, I've been sort of trying to
incorporate a certain amount of aerobics

183
00:06:56,925 --> 00:07:01,125
into my schedule, uh, just because, you

know, I'm, that's gonna be a valuable

184

00:07:01,125 --> 00:07:03,585
thing to have during a, a taping session.

185

00:07:03,825 --> 00:07:04,035
Yeah.

186

00:07:04,040 --> 00:07:06,945
So many of our champions, they
talk about their stretches.

187

00:07:06,945 --> 00:07:10,845
They do, you know, James holds sour
is known to do a lot of stretching

188

00:07:10,875 --> 00:07:14,445
because not only the physical
challenge, the mental challenge.

189

00:07:14,445 --> 00:07:15,195
So I think mm-hmm.

190

00:07:15,585 --> 00:07:19,215
Any kind of preparation you can do in
any of those areas will go a long way.

191

00:07:19,635 --> 00:07:20,265
Absolutely.

192

00:07:20,265 --> 00:07:23,685
And then, you know, meditation as well,
just to be able to clear your mind

193

00:07:23,685 --> 00:07:26,594
and just sort of focus on the next
thing in front of you, as you know,

194

00:07:26,594 --> 00:07:29,205
which, uh, ordinary, uh, run of things.

195

00:07:29,210 --> 00:07:31,965

You don't, you let yourself
get pretty cloudy and up in

196

00:07:31,965 --> 00:07:32,924
that stage, that's not a good

197

00:07:32,924 --> 00:07:33,195
thing.

198

00:07:33,614 --> 00:07:34,905
No, certainly not.

199

00:07:35,354 --> 00:07:41,054
So you leave us, after two days,
you get to go back to Canada and you

200

00:07:41,054 --> 00:07:44,174
have this secret, you know, you've
won all these games on jeopardy.

201

00:07:44,174 --> 00:07:44,745
You can't really.

202

00:07:44,760 --> 00:07:49,349
Tell anybody about it and you go
back to your normal life, but life

203

00:07:49,349 --> 00:07:51,690
has changed in a huge way for you.

204

00:07:52,020 --> 00:07:53,190
What's that like?

205

00:07:53,789 --> 00:07:56,219
Yeah, it's like walking around
with a really great secret.

206

00:07:56,460 --> 00:07:59,099
You know, just before Christmas,
something cool is gonna happen.

207

00:07:59,099 --> 00:08:01,050

You guys don't know about
it yet, but here it comes.

208
00:08:01,800 --> 00:08:02,039
Yeah.

209
00:08:02,039 --> 00:08:05,599
So that was, and you know, I don't
think I hid the smile too much.

210
00:08:06,840 --> 00:08:07,859
Walking around with that.

211
00:08:07,859 --> 00:08:11,669
And of course my boss knew because he had
to gimme the time off to come back again.

212
00:08:11,669 --> 00:08:11,789
Sure.

213
00:08:12,359 --> 00:08:15,810
And so at that point, you know, I've
been down, I've gone back again.

214
00:08:16,380 --> 00:08:17,669
You can put two and two together.

215
00:08:17,669 --> 00:08:18,690
Oh, you did pretty well.

216
00:08:19,530 --> 00:08:23,309
So yeah, you're not just going to
Los Angeles for a tourist trip,

217
00:08:23,309 --> 00:08:26,280
you're going back to Jeopardy,
which is always a good sign.

218
00:08:26,969 --> 00:08:28,260
Now you're not allowed to tell.

219
00:08:28,260 --> 00:08:31,500

A lot of people I have to know, was your twin brother?

220

00:08:31,865 --> 00:08:36,155
Who you had let us know at one point was in the same Jeopardy audition process.

221

00:08:36,395 --> 00:08:37,804
Was he in on the Secret?

222

00:08:37,804 --> 00:08:40,804
Did he know just how well you were doing while it was happening?

223

00:08:41,044 --> 00:08:42,525
I spoke to him actually while I was down.

224

00:08:42,635 --> 00:08:46,245
I called him from the hotel, so he knew some of it and I.

225

00:08:46,305 --> 00:08:51,345
Um, some of 'em, I have a very big family and, uh, so everybody knew something and

226

00:08:51,345 --> 00:08:54,645
so they knew it had been on and they knew that it had been more than one game, but

227

00:08:54,650 --> 00:08:57,555
I don't think I actually let everything out of the bag until it actually

228

00:08:57,555 --> 00:08:57,945
happened.

229

00:08:58,485 --> 00:08:58,875
All right.

230

00:08:58,880 --> 00:09:01,605
Now, any update on getting him on jeopardy?

231

00:09:01,605 --> 00:09:02,865
Do we know how he's doing?

232

00:09:02,865 --> 00:09:03,765
Is he in the pool?

233

00:09:04,215 --> 00:09:05,325
I don't know that.

234

00:09:05,355 --> 00:09:05,385
Okay.

235

00:09:05,385 --> 00:09:08,175
I mean, I think I would've heard if
they'd called him and said, sure.

236

00:09:08,175 --> 00:09:10,125
You know, let's do the,
uh, the audition and.

237

00:09:10,980 --> 00:09:11,490
The interview.

238

00:09:11,490 --> 00:09:13,830
So I'm assuming that hasn't
happened for him yet.

239

00:09:13,830 --> 00:09:15,630
So, uh, you know, still, fingers crossed,

240

00:09:16,080 --> 00:09:17,010
fingers crossed.

241

00:09:17,010 --> 00:09:21,120
I mean, if he's as good a leland as this
one, then we're in for another great.

242

00:09:21,615 --> 00:09:22,335
Champion.

243

00:09:22,425 --> 00:09:23,685

He's a pretty smart guy.

244

00:09:23,835 --> 00:09:24,315
Yes, he is.

245

00:09:24,465 --> 00:09:27,315
I think at one point you said
he was the smartest sibling.

246

00:09:27,315 --> 00:09:28,215
Was that accurate?

247

00:09:28,215 --> 00:09:28,815
Did I remember

248

00:09:28,815 --> 00:09:29,055
that?

249

00:09:29,145 --> 00:09:30,885
I would've said he was smarter than I am.

250

00:09:30,945 --> 00:09:31,275
Okay.

251

00:09:31,305 --> 00:09:32,985
Um, I have some smart brothers.

252

00:09:32,985 --> 00:09:36,555
I mean, Ron is uh, a PhD, but
so are two of my other brothers.

253

00:09:36,585 --> 00:09:37,185
Wow.

254

00:09:37,245 --> 00:09:37,635
So,

255

00:09:37,755 --> 00:09:38,085
yeah.

256

00:09:38,145 --> 00:09:39,975

What did your parents do?

257

00:09:39,975 --> 00:09:40,875

My goodness.

258

00:09:40,875 --> 00:09:42,045

I want some tips.

259

00:09:42,375 --> 00:09:42,645

My

260

00:09:42,645 --> 00:09:44,865

mom took us to the library

pretty much every weekend.

261

00:09:44,915 --> 00:09:48,755

And we would come back with a stack of books and that was always encouraged.

262

00:09:48,844 --> 00:09:52,324

We always had stuff around the house that was interesting and hobbies and whatever.

263

00:09:52,324 --> 00:09:56,464

But, uh, yeah, we're very much, uh, you know, encouraged to pursue our

264

00:09:56,464 --> 00:09:57,094

interests.

265

00:09:57,125 --> 00:10:01,985

So not a PhD for you, but you go into scenic artistry.

266

00:10:02,224 --> 00:10:03,605

How did that career path happen

267

00:10:03,605 --> 00:10:03,995

for you?

268

00:10:04,265 --> 00:10:06,964

By accident as, um, many do.

269

00:10:07,055 --> 00:10:07,415

Yes.

270

00:10:07,474 --> 00:10:10,084

I was actually working in renovations and construction.

271

00:10:10,380 --> 00:10:15,990

But in, in a lot of the decor of arts and I was working with a fellow who,

272

00:10:16,050 --> 00:10:20,430

uh, ended up working for a commercial company and they were doing a commercial

273

00:10:20,435 --> 00:10:24,720

for feral rushe chocolate, and it was a European ballroom and there was gilding

274

00:10:24,725 --> 00:10:29,340

and marbling, and it was just sort of, you know, luxurious decor for this thing.

275

00:10:29,730 --> 00:10:33,000

And they needed somebody to come in and 'cause they were way behind with

276

00:10:33,000 --> 00:10:36,630

the construction and somebody who could come in and do marbling and

277

00:10:36,630 --> 00:10:40,830

gilding and all the various crafty things, uh, which I had sort of made,

278

00:10:40,830 --> 00:10:42,570

especially of at that point in my career.

279

00:10:42,870 --> 00:10:47,400

And it was, okay, come in for five days in a row, work every hour that God

280
00:10:47,405 --> 00:10:49,620
gives you and uh, make a bunch of money.

281
00:10:50,190 --> 00:10:52,050
And I went in, I had a really good time.

282
00:10:52,620 --> 00:10:55,050
And then they kept on calling me
back for other projects and all

283
00:10:55,050 --> 00:10:57,540
of a sudden it was like, we don't
have a foreman for this next thing.

284
00:10:57,540 --> 00:11:01,020
Would you like to be a our employee
and, and, and run this job for us?

285
00:11:01,020 --> 00:11:02,550
And yes, I would.

286
00:11:02,670 --> 00:11:05,550
And so I gave up my other career
and sort of went into that.

287
00:11:05,550 --> 00:11:06,960
And from there I went into television and

288
00:11:06,960 --> 00:11:07,350
movies.

289
00:11:07,530 --> 00:11:10,920
Well, I know when you came to the
Alex Beck stage, our set designers

290
00:11:10,920 --> 00:11:14,100
were very happy that you said, you
know, our set was, it was durable,

291
00:11:14,100 --> 00:11:16,410
the podium was very solid, well made.

292

00:11:16,410 --> 00:11:17,490
You were impressed.

293

00:11:17,820 --> 00:11:20,850
I'm sure we'll be getting a
new set in the coming years.

294

00:11:20,850 --> 00:11:21,330
Anything you.

295

00:11:21,460 --> 00:11:24,640
See, you know, just from an outside
perspective, anything you see as,

296

00:11:24,640 --> 00:11:26,080
uh, what we need on the Jeopardy set

297

00:11:26,350 --> 00:11:27,280
as an improvement?

298

00:11:27,280 --> 00:11:28,000
Um, I don't know.

299

00:11:28,000 --> 00:11:29,800
I mean, it looked very
nice when I was up there.

300

00:11:29,800 --> 00:11:32,620
I mean, even in person, you
know, sometimes in person TV

301

00:11:32,620 --> 00:11:33,790
things don't look terrific.

302

00:11:34,150 --> 00:11:37,750
Um, but it was very, you know, polished
and shiny and everything was in, in its.

303

00:11:37,760 --> 00:11:38,030
Place.

304

00:11:38,030 --> 00:11:40,189
So, uh, yeah, no criticisms here.

305
00:11:40,280 --> 00:11:40,640
All right.

306
00:11:40,640 --> 00:11:43,939
Well we know you're coming back to
see it, and I have to ask, you know,

307
00:11:43,939 --> 00:11:47,900
that's one of the great things when you
do win that fifth game, not that the

308
00:11:47,905 --> 00:11:51,920
rest isn't exciting, it is, but you do
have that guarantee that you will be

309
00:11:51,920 --> 00:11:53,750
back for the tournament of champions.

310
00:11:53,900 --> 00:11:53,990
Mm-hmm.

311
00:11:54,235 --> 00:11:57,230
So when you do leave, you
know that you're coming back.

312
00:11:57,230 --> 00:12:01,400
What's that feeling like to know that you
haven't played your last game of jeopardy?

313
00:12:01,860 --> 00:12:02,670
Well, that's lovely.

314
00:12:02,730 --> 00:12:05,850
As I said down at the time, it was
such a wonderful experience I had

315
00:12:05,850 --> 00:12:07,260
down there with all the people there.

316

00:12:07,680 --> 00:12:11,970
Um, everybody I met, it was just
wall to wall niceness from everyone.

317
00:12:12,090 --> 00:12:14,820
And so, uh, it couldn't have
been a better experience.

318
00:12:14,820 --> 00:12:18,030
So the opportunity to have that happen
to you again, I mean, that's just

319
00:12:18,030 --> 00:12:18,360
great.

320
00:12:18,360 --> 00:12:21,780
Well, and you came in kind of
mid-season, so you had seen.

321
00:12:22,110 --> 00:12:26,130
Some of the super champs and
you know, then you saw Ben

322
00:12:26,130 --> 00:12:27,690
and Hannah after yourself.

323
00:12:27,690 --> 00:12:27,780
Mm-hmm.

324
00:12:28,020 --> 00:12:31,620
So as you're kind of starting to
see the, the Tournament of Champions

325
00:12:31,620 --> 00:12:34,830
field take place, what's going
through your mind as you're seeing

326
00:12:34,830 --> 00:12:36,540
these other competitors kind of line

327
00:12:36,540 --> 00:12:36,810
up?

328
00:12:37,080 --> 00:12:41,100
I'm thinking I'm gonna have to work
very hard to stay up with these people.

329
00:12:41,100 --> 00:12:43,350
They're very, very bright
and very, very fast.

330
00:12:43,950 --> 00:12:44,940
Very impressive.

331
00:12:45,000 --> 00:12:45,900
All of them really.

332
00:12:45,900 --> 00:12:48,000
I've been Hannah for sure, Chris.

333
00:12:48,030 --> 00:12:48,090
Wow.

334
00:12:49,125 --> 00:12:52,995
You know, so even to be in that field
is, uh, I think I'm over my head a

335
00:12:52,995 --> 00:12:54,795
bit, but I'm gonna put on a good show.

336
00:12:54,800 --> 00:12:56,175
I'll try in my best anyway.

337
00:12:56,295 --> 00:12:56,535
Well,

338
00:12:56,535 --> 00:12:59,204
the good thing about the Tournament
of Champions, I think, from a

339
00:12:59,209 --> 00:13:02,954
contestant perspective is that, you
know, if you make it to the finals,

340

00:13:03,015 --> 00:13:04,454
you know you have a little more time.

341
00:13:04,454 --> 00:13:04,515
I.

342
00:13:04,515 --> 00:13:09,205
You have that first to three wins, so
it's not the two game total point of fair.

343
00:13:09,595 --> 00:13:14,035
And at least contestants have told
us that they really like that style.

344
00:13:14,040 --> 00:13:15,925
For the finale, what
do you think about it?

345
00:13:16,075 --> 00:13:17,185
Oh, sure, because the pressure's

346
00:13:17,215 --> 00:13:17,375
off.

347
00:13:17,595 --> 00:13:19,055
You know, if you have one bad day.

348
00:13:19,815 --> 00:13:23,655
It's not the end of your world when you go
out there, you can take a few more risks.

349
00:13:23,655 --> 00:13:25,935
You can bet a little bit bigger
on that daily double, because

350
00:13:26,295 --> 00:13:29,175
even if you, you know, it ends
up, you're not gonna get that day.

351
00:13:29,415 --> 00:13:29,625
Sure.

352

00:13:29,625 --> 00:13:30,795
You've got two more days to catch

353
00:13:30,795 --> 00:13:31,185
it up.

354
00:13:31,305 --> 00:13:35,355
Now, talking about pressure, our
Tournament of Champions winner is

355
00:13:35,355 --> 00:13:38,115
now guaranteed a spot in Masters.

356
00:13:38,115 --> 00:13:41,685
So you win the T O C, then
you're headed to prime time.

357
00:13:42,360 --> 00:13:46,440
What's it like to think about that
opportunity and getting to compete against

358
00:13:46,440 --> 00:13:48,090
some of the other Jeopardy masters?

359
00:13:48,750 --> 00:13:49,260
Well, I think

360
00:13:49,260 --> 00:13:50,820
that'd be getting ahead
of myself, to be honest.

361
00:13:51,185 --> 00:13:51,300
Okay.

362
00:13:51,330 --> 00:13:51,990
Okay.

363
00:13:52,080 --> 00:13:55,890
You know, I mean, one step at a time,
if I get, you know, through the, uh,

364
00:13:56,190 --> 00:13:59,880

the Tournament of Champions, that'll
be probably the greatest thing ever.

365

00:14:00,360 --> 00:14:03,240

And then, you know, masters
would be a thing after that.

366

00:14:03,240 --> 00:14:06,840

But, uh, just even to be a
Tournament of Champions champion,

367

00:14:06,840 --> 00:14:08,190

I mean, the bragging rights alone.

368

00:14:08,490 --> 00:14:08,850

Right.

369

00:14:08,850 --> 00:14:08,910

You.

370

00:14:09,750 --> 00:14:13,680

I know incredible as if it's not enough
of an elite club to be a Jeopardy

371

00:14:13,680 --> 00:14:17,400

champion, then to be a Jeopardy Super
champion, but to win the Tournament of

372

00:14:17,400 --> 00:14:22,170

Champions, I can't imagine what that
feeling is like, and obviously only a

373

00:14:22,170 --> 00:14:24,120

few dozen know what that feeling is like.

374

00:14:24,150 --> 00:14:24,240

Mm-hmm.

375

00:14:24,870 --> 00:14:29,099

So now that you know the Tournament
of Champions is happening, is it

376

00:14:29,099 --> 00:14:30,780
better to have more time to prepare?

377
00:14:30,780 --> 00:14:32,069
Is it a disadvantage?

378
00:14:32,069 --> 00:14:35,640
How does that waiting game
play into everything for you?

379
00:14:35,920 --> 00:14:37,569
Well, there are two
things happening there.

380
00:14:37,569 --> 00:14:40,329
I mean, it is a bit more time for
me to bone up on a bunch of things,

381
00:14:40,329 --> 00:14:44,800
have a few more experiences, you
know, strengthen my weaknesses, but

382
00:14:44,800 --> 00:14:46,630
at the same time, I'm getting older.

383
00:14:47,500 --> 00:14:51,280
So, you know, so I gotta be
cognizant of the fact that I

384
00:14:51,285 --> 00:14:54,430
have to take care of myself and
stay in as good a shape as I can.

385
00:14:54,710 --> 00:14:56,240
I'm being a little facetious, you know?

386
00:14:56,240 --> 00:14:56,600
I

387
00:14:56,600 --> 00:14:56,930
love it.

388

00:14:56,990 --> 00:14:58,260
A little Sam Buty esque.

389
00:14:58,490 --> 00:14:58,550
I

390
00:14:58,550 --> 00:14:59,030
like it.

391
00:14:59,030 --> 00:15:03,080
And Sam is a wonderful example of, you
know, you're never, and I hear this on

392
00:15:03,500 --> 00:15:06,890
people talking about if I was only a
little younger, I could go on the show.

393
00:15:06,890 --> 00:15:06,950
I.

394
00:15:07,290 --> 00:15:09,870
And I think Sam's just a wonderful
example of you're never too old

395
00:15:09,870 --> 00:15:12,359
to be really, really good at
this because he was wonderful.

396
00:15:12,449 --> 00:15:12,780
Yeah.

397
00:15:12,780 --> 00:15:17,219
And his stats, you know, Sam often
sells himself a little short, but

398
00:15:17,224 --> 00:15:19,410
his stats, they speak for themselves.

399
00:15:19,415 --> 00:15:20,670
He is a, he was so fast.

400
00:15:20,670 --> 00:15:23,189

Fantastic, fantastic player.

401

00:15:23,640 --> 00:15:26,219

I have to ask you a few questions from Buzzy Cohen.

402

00:15:26,219 --> 00:15:30,270

He's not here with us today, but he has kind of his two go-to questions.

403

00:15:30,630 --> 00:15:32,280

What is your lunch order?

404

00:15:32,464 --> 00:15:35,615

When you come to the Sony lot, what do you like to order to make sure

405

00:15:35,615 --> 00:15:37,564

you're playing at your peak level?

406

00:15:37,985 --> 00:15:41,435

Well, it was more about convenience, uh, because we're, you know, going

407

00:15:41,435 --> 00:15:44,314

back to the parking garage and sitting down with those little tin tables.

408

00:15:44,344 --> 00:15:44,615

Yes.

409

00:15:44,675 --> 00:15:46,204

But when I was there mm-hmm.

410

00:15:46,285 --> 00:15:50,135

I tended to get handhelds because I was something easy to, you know, carry around

411

00:15:50,135 --> 00:15:52,285

and eat and maybe some fries with that.

412

00:15:52,344 --> 00:15:56,975

So I think I've got chicken sandwiches,
but, um, yeah, for choice, maybe a chicken

413

00:15:56,975 --> 00:15:57,485
salad.

414

00:15:57,485 --> 00:15:57,545
I.

415

00:15:57,810 --> 00:15:58,230
Okay.

416

00:15:58,350 --> 00:15:59,939
And what's your thought on caffeine?

417

00:15:59,939 --> 00:16:00,660
What are you thinking?

418

00:16:00,660 --> 00:16:01,650
Highly caffeinated.

419

00:16:01,650 --> 00:16:02,640
Oh, definitely caffeine,

420

00:16:02,640 --> 00:16:02,670
not caffeinated.

421

00:16:02,670 --> 00:16:02,950
Okay.

422

00:16:03,380 --> 00:16:07,439
Yeah, I'm not good with caffeine sort of
post-lunch, but at lunch I'm fine with it.

423

00:16:07,500 --> 00:16:07,770
Okay.

424

00:16:07,890 --> 00:16:11,160
And every time I was down there,
I think I had, uh, one of those

425

00:16:11,160 --> 00:16:12,390
little frappuccino bottles.

426
00:16:12,810 --> 00:16:17,489
I have one in my bag for the break in the morning, and then I have one with lunch.

427
00:16:17,729 --> 00:16:19,530
All right, well planned out.

428
00:16:20,010 --> 00:16:22,260
You had some pretty impressive stats.

429
00:16:22,290 --> 00:16:25,680
Uh, \$386,400 in winnings.

430
00:16:26,010 --> 00:16:30,689
Average score over 28,004 runaways, final jeopardy.

431
00:16:30,694 --> 00:16:33,060
You were correct in 12 of 14.

432
00:16:33,869 --> 00:16:37,229
Those are pretty impressive, but I have to know for you, what is your

433
00:16:37,229 --> 00:16:41,910
jeopardy, stat, or accomplishment that you are most proud of, would you say?

434
00:16:42,449 --> 00:16:42,660
Well, I

435
00:16:42,660 --> 00:16:46,380
actually, I, I read somewhere that, uh, it was actually a very rare

436
00:16:46,380 --> 00:16:48,449
thing to get 10 questions in a row.

437
00:16:48,750 --> 00:16:49,829

Bang, bang, bang, bang, bang.

438

00:16:50,130 --> 00:16:53,670

And I'd done that a couple of times,
apparently mean I, once again, I'm

439

00:16:53,675 --> 00:16:54,990

playing the game, I don't even know.

440

00:16:55,350 --> 00:16:57,990

And, uh, apparently this is
a fairly unique thing to do.

441

00:16:57,990 --> 00:16:59,790

So anything I can do to stand out.

442

00:16:59,819 --> 00:17:00,150

Sure.

443

00:17:00,600 --> 00:17:00,780

Well,

444

00:17:00,810 --> 00:17:02,579

congratulations on that.

445

00:17:02,910 --> 00:17:06,569

You know, when you look back
on the whole experience so far,

446

00:17:06,930 --> 00:17:09,000

is there a highlight for you?

447

00:17:09,645 --> 00:17:11,115

It's one big highlight.

448

00:17:11,175 --> 00:17:12,255

Every game was different.

449

00:17:12,255 --> 00:17:15,285

Every game was just a different
type of thrill, you know,

450
00:17:15,315 --> 00:17:16,725
winning the fifth game for sure.

451
00:17:16,725 --> 00:17:18,135
Sure that was okay.

452
00:17:18,135 --> 00:17:18,435
Wow.

453
00:17:18,435 --> 00:17:20,534
I did this, you know, and
then I got to come back.

454
00:17:20,534 --> 00:17:21,254
So that was lovely.

455
00:17:21,405 --> 00:17:24,194
And then, you know, a lot of the things
that happened happened afterwards.

456
00:17:24,254 --> 00:17:28,725
People on the street, uh, people
in in gatherings would come up and

457
00:17:28,784 --> 00:17:32,415
just congratulations, you know, and
they're Canadians that are very polite.

458
00:17:32,415 --> 00:17:35,475
They kind of don't wanna come up,
but they ask permission first.

459
00:17:36,014 --> 00:17:36,675
And then, oh.

460
00:17:36,685 --> 00:17:40,615
I hate to bother you, but I saw you on
the show and I love what you did, and it

461
00:17:40,615 --> 00:17:42,235
was great, and we're really proud of you.

462

00:17:42,804 --> 00:17:46,705

Um, so just this little, you know,
burst of endorphins over and over

463

00:17:46,705 --> 00:17:47,845

again, and it's still happening.

464

00:17:47,845 --> 00:17:51,145

It happened this week a couple of times,
so it, you know, it's just a little

465

00:17:51,145 --> 00:17:54,774

benefit that you don't think you're gonna
get, but it's, you know, it just enhances

466

00:17:54,774 --> 00:17:56,995

your life in just a, a number of lovely

467

00:17:56,995 --> 00:17:57,385

ways.

468

00:17:57,915 --> 00:17:58,185

Yeah.

469

00:17:58,185 --> 00:18:00,375

It's one of those things if
someone's gonna recognize

470

00:18:00,375 --> 00:18:02,145

you on the street, wonderful.

471

00:18:02,145 --> 00:18:04,365

To be recognized as a Jeopardy champion.

472

00:18:04,365 --> 00:18:04,695

Right?

473

00:18:04,754 --> 00:18:05,045

Yeah.

474

00:18:05,535 --> 00:18:08,445

Well, at this point it's more
of a, I know you from somewhere.

475

00:18:08,605 --> 00:18:09,605
Ah, yes, yes.

476

00:18:09,605 --> 00:18:10,764
Because it was a while back.

477

00:18:11,264 --> 00:18:11,965
You watched Jeopardy.

478

00:18:12,075 --> 00:18:12,365
Yeah.

479

00:18:12,514 --> 00:18:12,805
Okay.

480

00:18:12,810 --> 00:18:13,785
Ah, there we go.

481

00:18:13,790 --> 00:18:14,325
Yeah.

482

00:18:14,325 --> 00:18:14,385
Yeah.

483

00:18:14,655 --> 00:18:17,355
There it's, I, I had that
for many years myself.

484

00:18:17,385 --> 00:18:17,745
Mm-hmm.

485

00:18:18,165 --> 00:18:18,345
Of course.

486

00:18:18,345 --> 00:18:19,185
I have to know what.

487

00:18:19,455 --> 00:18:23,535

Is the thing you're most excited
about, about coming back, you know,

488

00:18:23,535 --> 00:18:27,075
in the overall experience, like, I
can't wait to get back and, and do

489

00:18:27,075 --> 00:18:29,085
that or experience that or be a part

490

00:18:29,090 --> 00:18:29,445
of that.

491

00:18:29,595 --> 00:18:31,485
Well, obviously play
because I like playing.

492

00:18:31,485 --> 00:18:34,035
I really, you know, I think it's
show, when I was on that stage, I

493

00:18:34,040 --> 00:18:35,505
actually really enjoyed doing that.

494

00:18:35,505 --> 00:18:37,665
It's a, it's a heck of a rush.

495

00:18:37,815 --> 00:18:41,685
But also I think just being amongst, uh,
all these people I've been watching on

496

00:18:41,685 --> 00:18:46,635
TV now, uh, for months and months, Chris
and Ben, everybody just, uh, it'll be

497

00:18:46,635 --> 00:18:48,585
lovely just to get in that room with that.

498

00:18:48,590 --> 00:18:53,060
Group of people, amazing people,
and uh, just sort rub shoulders

499

00:18:53,060 --> 00:18:54,030
and get to know each other.

500
00:18:54,500 --> 00:18:55,990
Yeah, I'm really looking forward to that.

501
00:18:56,290 --> 00:18:57,560
And if I win, that'd be great.

502
00:18:57,774 --> 00:18:57,889
Well,

503
00:18:57,889 --> 00:19:01,730
that too, but I think just what you
said, you know, getting to be in that

504
00:19:01,730 --> 00:19:04,220
group is something really exciting.

505
00:19:04,490 --> 00:19:07,459
It's an exclusive club and
I think you'll have a lot of

506
00:19:07,490 --> 00:19:09,590
shared experiences to talk about.

507
00:19:09,620 --> 00:19:13,429
We cannot wait to welcome you back
for the Tournament of Champions.

508
00:19:13,429 --> 00:19:15,439
Thanks for joining us on the pod.

509
00:19:15,445 --> 00:19:16,429
Thank you for having me.

510
00:19:16,530 --> 00:19:17,179
Bye for now.

511
00:19:17,270 --> 00:19:18,020
Bye-bye for now.

512

00:19:18,840 --> 00:19:19,709
Well, there you have it.

513

00:19:19,709 --> 00:19:22,199
I even learned some new
things about Ray Leland.

514

00:19:22,199 --> 00:19:26,310
Looking forward to welcoming him back
to the Alex Trebek stage, and that

515

00:19:26,310 --> 00:19:28,379
brings us to the end of today's show.

516

00:19:28,679 --> 00:19:33,030
Join us next week for my
conversation with 21 Game Jeopardy

517

00:19:33,030 --> 00:19:36,000
Super champion Crisp Nulo.

518

00:19:36,270 --> 00:19:37,379
You won't wanna miss it.

519

00:19:37,649 --> 00:19:41,429
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520

00:19:41,429 --> 00:19:45,419
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521

00:19:45,425 --> 00:19:47,879
on YouTube, on TikTok, on thread.

522

00:19:48,405 --> 00:19:50,925
And on X, formerly known as Twitter.

523

00:19:51,314 --> 00:19:55,544
And send us your questions to
Inside Jeopardy podcast@gmail.com.

524

00:19:56,084 --> 00:19:56,865

We'll see you next week.