



The Mystery Science Theater 3000 Amazing Colossal Episode Guide

By Trace Beaulieu, Paul Chaplin, Jim Mallon, Kevin Murphy, Michael J. Nelson, Mary Jo Pehl

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What is the mystery of Mystery Science Theater 3000?

You may have asked yourself, "What the heck are these talking shadows doing in the corner of my TV screen, riffing away with plucky--and hilarious--abandon in the face of some really bad movies?" Or something similar. The answer, my friend, is right in this here official, 100%-MST3K-sanctioned book.

Or maybe you know all about the adventures of Joel, Mike, and the 'bots in the not-too distant future. Then you can skip those pages. Really. We won't tell. You still need this book. Because it's got more cool stuff from the writers and performers of MST3K.

More of what you'll find in the *Mystery Science Theater 3000 Amazing Colossal Episode Guide*

- * More than 120 synopses of the more than 120 episodes of the Peabody Award-winning show
- * More fascinating, outrageous facts and tidbits about the making of each episode
- * More photos than your average issue of *Tiger Beat*
- * More of the most disgusting things ever seen on-screen by the MST3K writers
- * More than 49 (50, to be exact) of the most obscure wisecracks
- * More quizzes, worksheets, and a ten-step plan to help you gain control of your finances and your life (well, not really...)

- * More about your Area and what it can do for you
- * More Beverly Garland! Miles and Miles O'Keefe!
- * And much, much more!

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

At last, the honest-Injun, 100%-*MST3K*-sanctioned guide to the 120 episodes of this extremely cool, Peabody Award-winning show. Contains multitudinous synopses, tidbits, photos, wisecracks, and descriptions of some of the most disgusting things ever seen on screen by the *MST3K* writers. You know you want it, so get it while it's hot!

From the Inside Flap

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(NOTE: During the sweltering summer of 1993, after numerous requests by Comedy Central, we hand-picked thirty of our best shows and converted them into two-part, one-hour episodes. The result of our work was *The Mystery Science Theater Hour*, hosted by Mike Nelson as the affable "Your Host," which Mike so beautifully describes below.)

As the host of *The Mystery Science Theater Hour*, people approach me all the time and say, "Excuse me, where are the bathrooms?" (You see, it's just this kind of joke writing that makes *MST3K* the Peabody

Award-winning show that it is). Actually, people want to know who that annoying old host is and why, why in heaven's name did we choose him? Well the secret's out--I'm proud to say that annoying old host is me! Okay, it's not actually a secret. My name's been in the credits as the host since the beginning, it's just that no one ever watched that far. But I kid *The Mystery Science Theater Hour*.

The idea for the Host of the *MST3K60m* was born out of the writers' deep and enduring love for a cloying, tweedy, septuagenarian by the name of Jack Perkins. Jack is, of course, your warm and affable tour guide through the sun-dappled libraries and the impossibly ladder-cluttered back stages of the cable channel A&E. He is a perfectly tailored, impeccably manicured, impossibly dignified old bird, whose on-screen mien suggests an inconceivably rich family and social life. The plangent tones of his voice seem to interact with the complex surfaces of an ox-blood wing-tip, the sound diffusing and abffusing, becoming ever more engaging, more amiable, invitingly sagacious. Jack is all soft tweed, supple leather, and a whiff of peaty single-malt.

Do not get the impression that Jack is stuffy. Far from it. Jack is equally comfortable enthusing on Blue Man Group as Gainsborough's *Blue Boy*. His knowledge of entertainment is vast, his love for it, illimitable.

I met Jack Perkins in 1991 outside the Universal Hilton in Los Angeles. He couldn't have been warmer as he asked me in essence, "Who are you, and what do you want from me?" I told him I had impersonated him on a television show. He told me he had never seen or heard of our show. I explained it. He nodded and looked at his watch. I walked away feeling like a boob. Jack walked away and continued weaving the rich, varied tapestry of his endlessly fascinating life. I imagine he discussed *American Buffalo* with David Mamet over biscotti and strong coffee. I had a couple of Ice beers and fell asleep in front of *Bloodsport III* in my hotel room.

Well, we may not be able to share in life's rich bounty with quite the same *joie de vivre* as Mister Perkins, but we sure as heck can make fun of him on our puppet show. Jack doesn't have a puppet show. Poor dumb clod. *Hey Perkins, right here, pal!! HAAAAA!!! Stupid idiot. Hey Perkins, I like your crappy restaurant chain, you stupid jerk!! Haa haa haaaaaa!!! Dumb bastard.*

Sorry.

I hope I my little lucubration on our thought process regarding the selection of a host for the *Mystery Science Theatre Hour* has been helpful. Now if I could take a moment and explain the make-up procedure.

I would arrive at the Channel 11 studio in Golden Valley *14 hours before the scheduled start!* But all the doors were locked and I wasn't scheduled to start make-up for another 9 hours. So I'd go back home and go to sleep. I did this every time we shot, which was six times over a couple of months. I would then return to the studio where I would be barred entrance until, with enough identification and a dozen or so phone calls, they established my identity and I was grudgingly allowed to pass.

Crack make-up artist Crist Ballas and crack other make-up artist Glen would begin by applying a thick, highly toxic coat of naphtha right to my face, with special attention to the nostrils and mucus membranes in the mouth. Crist claimed it was make-up, but I knew.

Then he would get his specially designed Stinky Glue out of the refrigerator where he had it chilling so it was more uncomfortable. Tacky layers of this were then applied directly to my hair until the mistake was discovered and scissors and petroleum distillates were used to extract it. It was re-applied to the perimeter of my huge, expressionless face and a bald cap was put in place. It was discovered early on that my body is a

thermal wonder, able to produce 300,000 BTU's consistently. This played hell with the bald cap, causing unwanted wrinkles, so it was anchored further down my back (right above my calves) and held in place with several bottles of Stinky Glue. If I lost concentration, my head would snap back alarmingly and union stage hands were hired at great expense to return my head to its normal position.

With the bald cap in place, Crist and Glen were free to begin applying more class-A carcinogens to my face and neck. Rubbery smelling make-ups and pungent suspensions were daubed, blotted and brushed on. Foul unguents and mephitic salves were poured into my ears and eyes. Latex things were adhered to me. Finally, I *was* the host.

I was also very hot. My head was hermetically sealed and I was wearing a thick wool suit. It was the middle of summer and fire hydrants were melting. Luckily, the shoots were only 12 hours long. But we got a lunch break. It was very difficult to eat with all that make-up on, and one afternoon, while eating a chewy hoagie, I discovered I was also masticating my crepe-hair mustache.

But finally the end would come. Getting the make-up off was relatively easy. It was simply pulled off, taking most of my hair with it. The remainder was melted with copious amounts of citrus degreaser (this is absolutely true) that was scooped onto my face and left to sit for 20 minutes. Mmmm. At days end, my face and back were hairless, red and stinging. But we had done our puppet show proud.

Looking back on the *MST3K60m*, I remember the good times. The hot, stinky, sweaty, poisonous and sore times. I hope that's how you remember them, too.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Eric Campanelli:

Do you have favorite book? In case you have, what is your favorite's book? Publication is very important thing for us to find out everything in the world. Each book has different aim as well as goal; it means that guide has different type. Some people truly feel enjoy to spend their time to read a book. They are really reading whatever they have because their hobby is actually reading a book. How about the person who don't like reading a book? Sometime, particular person feel need book once they found difficult problem or even exercise. Well, probably you will need this The Mystery Science Theater 3000 Amazing Colossal Episode Guide.

James Smith:

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Richard Haley:

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