

3.10.25 Inside Jeopardy!

[00:00:00] From the Alex Trebek stage at Sony Picture Studios, this is Inside Jeopardy!

Sarah: Hello and welcome back to Inside Jeopardy, your exclusive and official podcast destination for all things happening in the world of Jeopardy. I'm Sarah Foss. I'm joined by the one and only Recently had a birthday. Michael Davies.

Michael: Wow. Yes, exactly. I am even older now. Uh, as, as, as we So Jeopardy! doesn't age you enough.

Sarah: Uh huh, exactly.

Michael: Yeah, even older now. Yeah, very excited. Um, I hope that you doing the introduction doesn't mean that we didn't all just hear the dulcet sounds of Johnny Gilbert on the axe. I'm hoping that still happened.

You

Sarah: may not have heard them here in the Alex Trebek stage, but they were here. They were, they were found. Okay. There's a lot

Michael: of jeopardy going on, Sarah.

Sarah: That is true. Well, first off, you know, we've just wrapped up the post season. It's been phenomenal. I think more than either of us could have expected. And so with that, we're going to fall into more of a monthly cadence with the [00:01:00] podcast, but don't worry.

We're still going to continue to bring you any special announcements, we'll have the great special interviews, so keep, keep on the social to see when each monthly podcast will land, but we've got to hit the road again, you know, the podcast is hitting the road like we do.

Michael: Yeah, big announcement, we're going to Washington D.

C.

Sarah: Dun dun dun!

Michael: Our nation's capital.

Sarah: Yes, we're going to take over Well, your

Michael: nation's capital, technically. Right,

Sarah: well you can claim it.

Michael: Yeah, not, not, yeah, I'm not a citizen.

Sarah: Okay. We want to

Michael: remain factual here on the program. All right. Well,

Sarah: we're going to go to my nation's capital. I'm going to bring Michael along as an honoured guest.

Michael: Permanent resident.

Sarah: And we're going to take over that city, pretty much, April 10th through the 12th. We're going to be visiting several colleges and universities. Then on the 11th, we're going to have our big event at the Lincoln Theatre. This is where Michael and I do the podcast. We have special guests, we can't tell you who they are yet, it's a bit of a surprise.

Ken Jennings will be there hosting the interactive game. And tickets will be on sale soon. So you want to keep checking [00:02:00] back to our website and also to our social channels because every event we've ever had with tickets, it sells out. So you'll want to stay tuned for that and make sure you know exactly when those tickets go on sale.

It's going to be a great event. There'll be regular ticket sales and also some VIP tickets. Special opportunity for that.

Michael: And something new for us with an Inside Jeopardy live event. Our entire event. are going to be culminating with a parade.

Sarah: Now,

Michael: it's not a Jeopardy parade. No, I could. We could figure that out.

The Jeopardy parade. We could figure that out and mark that in the future. It's going to be the Cherry Blossom Parade. And our own Ken Jennings is going to be the Grand Marshal.

Sarah: Yes, he will be co hosting. He'll be the Grand Marshal. So we're going to kind of culminate our big. visit with Ken on the parade route.

But it's good. I've seen the cherry

Michael: blossoms in D. C. before and that is an amazing thing to behold. Yeah,

Sarah: I'm hoping, we heard that the peak bloom is going to be end of March, so I'm hoping the blooms will stay for us. Will still be there by

Michael: April.

Sarah: Well, in J. A. T., believe it or not, we've finally reached the [00:03:00] end of P.

C. J. We have a winning team!

Michael: Yep.

Sarah: But we won't spoil it for you, just in case, you know, you haven't seen it yet. Yeah. We don't want to ruin it for those streamers who are a little late to the party. But we will have an interview, you and I did it, Michael, um, with the winning team right after. I remember it

Michael: well.

Sarah: They were crowned the champions and went home with that giant trophy. So we'll bring that to you on YouTube on March 17th.

Michael: Yeah, and look, PC, PCJ, I should say, you know, um, you know, streamers don't publish their ratings the whole time, unlike sort of regular television networks. Um, but the numbers we know have been sensational.

Thank you so much for everybody who's watched and, and tweeted about it and put on Insta and talked about it, uh, got on the Reddit and, and, and messaged about it. It is, um, It's really worked so well. We're waiting right now to hear

about a season two. And, uh, we know from just Everybody out there. We're going to have a way.

We had a lot of applications this last year. It's going to be insane this year because so many people feel [00:04:00] like this is the jeopardy that they can play.

Sarah: Yeah, so PCJ season two. But for now, we're just going to see what happens. I think we're so impressed that there's so many Viewers who don't actually watch the traditional Jeopardy show, but are finding pop culture Jeopardy.

Michael: Yeah, I think that's true of all of our different variants, you know, the crossover even between Jeopardy and Celebrity Jeopardy isn't huge in terms of the crossover viewers and certainly with pop culture Jeopardy, we found a a newer, often much younger audience found audiences all over the world for the program.

So, um, just really excited about that extension of our brand.

Sarah: Well, also in Jeopardy! airtime this Wednesday, the last of the quarterfinals for Celebrity Jeopardy! Another exciting lineup for that. Omar J. Dorsey, Mina Kimes, and Fortune Feimster. And then of course, the JIT. You know, the JIT completed or concluded in two games.

It's the first time one of our postseason tournaments has finished [00:05:00] in the minimum Amount, ever since we started these shifting scales of, you know, three to seven games, or two to four, this one actually ended in two. We're gonna highlight those games coming up, but that means that last Friday we went back to regular jeopardy.

So you got to see the return of LoRa Fota and um. There's just, it's an exciting time to be at Jeopardy.

Michael: Hey, look, let's just congratulate super villain Matt Amodio for winning the JIT. We can't, uh, yes, he might have, uh, finished it and ended it too quickly in true super villain style. Right, yes. But amazing to see Matt come back to this stage yet again and, uh, and do such a phenomenal job in JIT.

Which, you know, I should say for the people who work at Jeopardy, um, you know, in many ways is like, it's the homecoming. It is sort of like the, the, the,

the brand of this show that I think people who work at the program enjoy the most. It's a very different atmosphere on the stage. It's elite level Jeopardy.

The competition is so fierce, but the, the camaraderie is so high.

Sarah: And you and I had a chance to talk with Matt [00:06:00] right after he had his first tournament victory, which we were surprised to know that after all this, first time he ever won a tournament. Yep. So that is on YouTube if you haven't had a chance to listen to it yet.

Make sure to take a listen. Always a good talk with Matt Amodio. And now, let's go back to the world of what happened last week. We kicked off the week with our second semi final featuring Matt Amodio, Luigi de Guzman, and Emily Sanz. Wow! This was a great game by all three players. Luigi took an early lead and was in control for most of the game, but then Matt went all in on both daily doubles in Double Jeopardy to take the lead.

Which he maintained heading into final. Matt was the only correct player in final and he secured that spot into the finals.

Michael: Yeah, talk about elite level Jeopardy. Um, you know, Luigi, who had knocked out Amy, uh, earlier in the competition. Emily, wow, what a fantastic player she is. But Matt comes through and really, really makes it work.

He joked on X, I [00:07:00] can still hear the clicking of Luigi's buzzer next to me on the Jeopardy! stage. He and Emily were relentless.

Sarah: Yeah, well, Ken caught up with the players after the game. Let's hear how Matt was feeling after that.

Ken: Well, Matt, uh, those daily doubles really kept your head above water in the second round.

Yeah,

yeah, uh, it doesn't feel good wagering that much, uh, especially a lot of times, especially with your life on the line, uh, but I think the game theory optimal thing, if you know more than 50 percent of them, is to do it. So, here I am.

Ken: I mean, just to be clear, your life is not literally My game

show life.

Like

Ken: Luigi and Emily are not getting taken to a farm upstate after I don't ever leave! Laughter Um, but yes, you're fighting for your JIT life at the moment. Which is really the only life that matters. Laughter Luigi, you had a particularly strong game against top notch competition. Fifty attempts on the buzzer.

Is it a little easier when it's the daily doubles that kind of, uh, that kind of [00:08:00] change the flow of a game? Because it's the part of the game that has the most luck.

You know what, Ken? I don't think anything's easy about this. But, I think I was saying backstage at some point, the best you can hope for is to be within the noise.

When things get quiet, either way, things get a little weird. But when you're within the noise, you feel like you've still got a puncher's chance.

Ken: I mean, honestly, it is tough to lose on Jeopardy, right? It's not a lot of fun to lose on Jeopardy. But I hope it's some consolation that, like, you all played amazing games.

You two played an amazing game against I guess Matt Amodio? I guess Matt Amodio, come on. It's not an easy draw,

right? An emerging game show villain.

Ken: Matt, what are you thinking about the finals? We already know you'll be playing against Roger Craig. Yes,

uh,

Ken: that sounds scary. Again, not the villain's take there.

Yes, it'll be fun. I, uh, playing this game is so much fun. I just love that I get to do it, uh, one or two more times at least.

Michael: Okay, moving on to Tuesday. for our last semi [00:09:00] final matchup between Raymond Goslow, Juveria Zahir, and Ray Lalonde. Raymond

and Juveria were tied heading into Double Jeopardy, but Raymond added 5,000 to his score on the first Daily Double.

Juveria then dropped 4,000 on the last Daily Double, allowing Raymond to take the lead into final. But Raymond was unable to come up with the correct response, and Juveria did the come from behind win and claimed. The last spot in the finals.

Sarah: Yeah, Juveria went on Reddit to say, My first episode in which I finished with zero dollars aired on May 8th, 2023, the same day that Masters premiered.

If you had told me that less than two years later, I would be on a stage with Matt Amodio and Roger Craig battling for a spot in Masters 3, I would have never believed it, but here we are. Thank you so much for watching and for all your kind messages. This has been the ride of a lifetime. And then I have to share Raymond's comment because he chimed in to say Javaria [00:10:00] played a brilliant and methodical game and earned every bit of her spot in the finals.

I'm honored to have met and competed against such a talented player and radiant person. There is no amount of money or fame that can replace the feeling of getting to hear her on the phone home to her kids that night and saying, yes, this means mommy gets to wear all those dresses. On TV too. It brings tears to my eyes.

Aw. As a mom, I love it. She of course has daughters the same age as mine and um, that was quite a win.

Michael: Yep. When it comes down to it, it's all about getting to wear those dresses. Well, you know, for some of our players love it, you know, and some of our producers

Sarah: Yeah. It's all about that.

Michael: That's so nice.

Sarah: Well, let's hear how the players were feeling after a very exciting game.

Ken: Raymond, you had a fantastic game after the Daily Double Miss by Juveria. You had a, you had a really, Really good. You had a solid lead, uh, over, you know, two of the best players in recent memory. Final, uh, you didn't love the category? What were you thinking?

I did like the category, which is why I bet to win.

So if I didn't like the category, I would have gone [00:11:00] for zero, which now, knowing now, wouldn't guarantee to win, actually.

Ken: Well, it was a fantastic game. I hope you don't fault yourself for that. 10,000. Well deserved for Ray and Raymond, uh, our, our twin Rays. Are you an honorary Ray now, uh,

J'Vera? I will, I, I am the president of the Ray LaLonde family.

So I'm a, I'm a Raystan. She's certainly a Ray of sunshine, that's for sure. Aww, look at that. Don't make me cry.

Ken: It didn't hit me until Raymond got the Mackenzie River clue that you two were probably dividing the loyalties of, of Canada. during this game. I

think everyone in Canada cheers for Ray when Ray came to my watch party. Um, Oh, people only cared about Ray. Like all of my daughter's friends were like, it's real along with Ray and Matea.

And like, I was just like Hannah's mom.

Ken: They probably wanted to get him to talk. Ray say something in that voice. That's that's why we have you back. I got to spend two days listening to Ray talk. Like i'm so [00:12:00] lucky. I want to go to a museum with Ray and just have him be the audio guide since he's such an art guy like He has a great voice for that, right?

Uh, come to Toronto, I would love to.

Ken: That's a lovely offer. Thank you so much for coming back. Well done to both of you. Great game. Javeria, we'll see you in the finals.

Sarah: And now, a quick word from our sponsor. When you think about businesses that are selling through the roof, like Aloe or Allbirds, sure, you think about a great product and brilliant marketing.

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And now, back to Inside Jeopardy! Heading into Wednesday, Matt, Roger and Juveria took the stage for day one of the finals. And this was a tight game between Matt and Roger. Matt took the lead in Double Jeopardy! thanks to a 6,600 True Daily Double. But then Roger doubled up on the last Daily Double to close the gap.

Matt managed to take a good, but not insurmountable lead heading into final. All three players were correct, and so Matt gets that all important first win of the tournament.

Michael: Yeah, and I think that really was an important first win. You know, I think I've said this, uh, before on Inside Jeopardy, is getting to watch Roger play.

I mean, Javeria, we know how amazing she is at this game. We've seen her a lot. I'd never got to see Roger play. You had, um, a [00:14:00] Trebek era. Uh, of the program, but wow, a stone cold killer behind the contestant lecterns, like an amazing, amazing player, and Matt really brought it, 40 attempts, 73 percent accuracy on the buzzer, 27 correct responses for his final score of 45,601 in a final.

Uh, that's the second highest score of the season.

Sarah: Yeah, that really says something. In the post game, Ken also pointed out that Juveria had 47 attempts, so actually more attempts than Matt. And she said, you know, it's one of those things where there was so much I knew, but then when I could finally get in, it would be on something that I didn't know.

didn't know, but maybe get all the bad stuff out of the first game and focus on the next one. Another comical moment in this game was the recent movies for 400. This beloved bear gets a terrifying makeover in the 2023 horror film, subtitled Blood and Honey. Obviously, Juveria responded. Who is cocaine bear?

Michael: Yeah.

Sarah: Yeah, but [00:15:00] then Ken joked, of course, Winnie the Pooh now in the public domain, although I'm sure Cocaine Bear is having some sort of crazy adventures with as well, and Matt said Winnie the Pooh

Michael: Yeah, we'll see. He had to have all the honey. Okay, on Thursday, our players returned for day two of the finals, and it was an excellent game from all three players.

It was a close Jeopardy round, but Juveria went all in on the first daily double in Double Jeopardy for the lead, which he was able to protect heading into final, with Matt close behind in second place. It was a triple stumper final, and a savvy small wager from Matt. gave him the win to become our JIT champion in the minimum of two games.

Sarah: We just, we wanted it to be stretched out a little more, but happy for Matt. Little easter egg for you in this game. In final, right as the think music starts, if you look closely, you can see that Juveria accidentally started to write Her Final Jeopardy response on the telestrator with a marker. You know, we give all the players a marker in case their [00:16:00] telestrator doesn't work so they can write that on paper.

So then she quickly, you know, put the cap back on and grabbed the correct stylus. But I love it. Even the best champions. You know, Final Jeopardy is stressful, so it happens, even to the greats.

Michael: Yeah, absolutely. Talking of the greats in their interviews on this show, Matt thanked his girlfriend for being his comedy writer, Javeria thanked her husband for all the support, but Roger of course thanked his wife, Julia Collins, another Jeopardy great, the best thing that's ever happened to me,

Sarah: he

Michael: said.

I

Sarah: like to think we, we made that happen. A little, we have a little piece in it, the Jeopardy, the Jeopardy romance, alive and well. Ken caught up with Matt after the big win. Let's take a listen.

Ken: So Matt, it was actually Michael Davies who pointed out to me right before the interview that we had some Jeopardy tournament winners here and

then we had Super Champ Matt Amodeo, who I had forgotten to not have a tournament win to his credit.

I know, I know, uh, lots of disappointed fans in the Amodeo household in the recent tournaments. Is

Ken: that where most of your fans are? In your own home? [00:17:00] Yeah, I think it's close to a hundred percent. No. Uh, but was this something that had been weighing on you? Were you thinking, I could get a tournament win here?

Yeah,

you know, I didn't Peak in high school life wise. And so I don't like the idea of peaking early. Uh, and I think my jeopardy career had up to this point. Uh, and so now it's nice to have this.

Ken: Well, winning in straight sets is very impressive, especially against You know, two of the great Jeopardy!

players of their eras, Roger Craig and Juveria Zahir. This game, once again, so close. Forty five attempts on the buzzer for Roger and Juveria. Forty one for you, Matt. They were, uh, a little ahead of you again. But you had better accuracy. Nineteen correct responses to eighteen and then fifteen. Uh, Juveria in the lead thanks to that daily double.

You must have felt relieved.

Yes, I did. You know, um, Part of you lose your first game and you always think do I belong you do I belong at second chance to belong at? Champions wildcard do I really see

Ken: after all you've done the imposter syndrome still kicks on and

then you look over and then it's [00:18:00] you know Two of the great players who have ever played this and then you, I guess, but them, and, uh, and I'm, I'm mom from Whitby, but I, you know, to be able to come back from that last game and show what I can do and be brave for my girls.

Um, I, when they watch they'll, I think they'll, they're going to be proud.

Ken: It was a great game. They have every reason to be proud. It was such a pleasure to have all three of you back and all of the jet players, the quarter finalists on up to the finals. This has been a lot of fun for me and for all of us.

Congratulations to three of you on your success. And, uh, Matt, well done. We'll see you at Masters again.

Sarah: All right. Well, the jet was done, and so it was time to return for the first time in nearly 10 weeks to regular Jeopardy! Welcoming back our reigning champion, who had been waiting in the wings, Laura Fata, going up against Omar Abu Rial and Roger Gauman. Laura quickly took the lead in double Jeopardy! and maintained [00:19:00] it heading into final.

It was a triple stumper, and with a minimal wager Laura pulls off an eighth victory.

Michael: My word. Uh, and after, uh, such a long wait as well.

Sarah: Yeah, I think it was worth the wait, she would say. This show featured a category, uh, Secret Service Protection, and the clues were presented by Sterling K. Brown. Of course, he is a part of the hit show, Paradise, already renewed for a season two.

So great to sit down with him and have us give us some clues into the interesting history of the Secret Service, not exactly a real life look at what's happening today, but it was, uh, historical, and I loved it.

Michael: Uh, we also witnessed a great Celebrity Jeopardy! game last Wednesday in primetime between Sean Gunn, Darcy Carden, and Sherry Kohler.

Sean just dominated in this game, though, with 39 correct responses. Of course, there's an extra triple jeopardy round there. Yes. And two daily doubles. He entered Final Jeopardy! with 22, 100 and a runaway win.

Sarah: Yeah, one thing that [00:20:00] happened during this game, Darcy's buzzer broke during the triple jeopardy.

This is something I don't think I've ever seen happen. I don't want to say that it broke in terms of she was ringing in and not able to get in, but actually the red part of the buzzer came off. This is, this is a Jeopardy! first. Do not worry, we have plenty of extra buzzers on hand. We were able to replace that.

It didn't impact her gameplay. And then Sherry actually revealed to Ken that, you know, she thought Alex was a hottie. And Ken joked, I'm sorry, I cannot compete with the mustache and everything. And Sherry said, Ken? You're also a dime piece.

Michael: Wow. I've heard a lot of things about Ken. I'm just speechless with that one.

Dime piece was never, was never what I thought. I must say, after, uh, uh, we take the show, I started listening to Darcy's, uh, podcast. She does a, a game show, quiz show podcast, which is, which is pretty excellent. You should check that out.

Sarah: All right. Well, Sean is headed to the semifinals, and now it is time for our host chat [00:21:00] with Ken.

An audience member asked him, as your legendary run went on, did you ever feel like you were never going to lose?

Ken: I like that you said it was legendary. More questions about me should have the word legendary. Everybody, everybody take note. That really gets on my good side. Uh, it was kind of the opposite.

Like, I kind of felt like every day was guaranteed to be the last one, because I was like, what is even happening here. This seems so improbable, especially to me, like there's no way this is going to continue. This for sure is the game. And then it kept not being the game. When it finally happened, I was like, okay, there it is.

Like, but I had to wait a few months.

Sarah: He always talks about the day after he ended up finally losing, but it didn't hit him until, like, the next morning was like, Oh, they're playing Jeopardy without me.

Michael: Well, that wraps up our show. Thank you to our listeners and viewers for tuning in each week. We're gonna be back in April.

As we begin our new monthly cadence on Inside Jeopardy! and we hope you join us then. Make sure to follow along on all of our socials so stay [00:22:00] up to date with all things Inside Jeopardy!

Sarah: And for those of you in DC, we'll see you next month.

Ken: We're so glad you're here. Stick around and click that subscribe button so you see all our latest videos.