

Podcast: What If World

Episode: 086: [What if crabs could dance and super heroes lost their powers](#) and animals got them?

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Lyrics: What if kittens played the glockenspiel? And what if unicorns were real? What if you could fly or travel back in time? We welcome you to What If World. What If World. This is What If World.

Mr. Eric: Hey there folks, and welcome back to What If World, the show where your questions and ideas—

Miss Karen: Inspire off-the-cuff stories.

Mr. Eric: Oh, she beat me to it! I'm Mr. Eric, your host and today we're joined by—

Miss Karen: Miss Karen!

Mr. Eric: Yeah, Miss Karen, as some of you may know, is my wife and the reason why this show exists at all, that is, a fact.

Miss Karen: It's hard not to say, "My wife." But I did it anyway.

Mr. Eric: Yep, she did it. So let's get through that... [laughs.] We actually have two awesome questions that we're gonna play for you. The first is from a little girl named Coco.

Coco: Hello, my name's Coco. I like ponies and my what if world is what if crabs could dance? Thank you, bye!

Mr. Eric: Coco, thank you so much! What if crabs could dance? Okay, and you like ponies, so we've got to make sure that there's a pony in this episode for you. And we have one more question from Logan.

Logan: Hello, my name is Logan and I really like dinosaurs. And my what if question is what if superheroes lost their powers and animals got them? Bye!

Mr. Eric: Oh, Logan. I have often wondered that. I mean, would they even be super without their powers. Okay, we gotta make sure we squeeze in a dinosaur for sure.

JF Kat: Not so fast! I've got a quick thank you for Enoki!

Mr. Eric: Oh, our Patreon member, Enoki? Thank you so much.

Miss Karen: Eric, what's happening?

JF Kat: Who's this in here?

Mr. Eric: Oh, sorry. J.F. Kat, this is Miss Karen.

Miss Karen: Hi, Mr. Kat. I've heard so much about you from the stories of What If World.

JF Kat: It's President Kat.

Miss Karen: Ah, I'm sorry. President Kat. It's so good to meet you, you're one of my favorite characters.

Alabaster: I thought I was your favorite character.

Miss Karen: I did say "one of," Mr. Zero. I'm so happy to meet you, too!

Alabaster: It's Detective Zero.

Miss Karen: I just can't win.

Mr. Eric: Alabaster, what are you doing here?

Alabaster: Well, you know. I'm here to give Miss Karen a hard time.

Mr. Eric: Yeah, I can see that.

Alabaster: And also to say thank you to Ava.

Fred: Wait, Mr. Eric, we got to say thank you to Rocco.

Miss Karen: Fred! I've never heard you speak before. You never speak to me. What's up?

Fred: I talk all the time, Mommy.

Miss Karen: I guess I should pay more attention to you?

Fred: No, I'm just kidding. I love you.

Mr. Eric: Aw, Fred. You're so sweet. I'm glad at least one of them isn't giving you a hard time. And Fred, of course, was thanking Rocco.

Otis: Is there time for one more thank you to Liz?

Mr. Eric: Otis the Aloofest? Wow. You already have such a following that you're back again?

Otis: Of course.

JF Kat: Wait a second, there's another cat of importance here!

Mr. Eric: Okay, whoa, whoa, whoa.

Otis & JFKat: [Meow menacingly at each other.]

Mr. Eric: Okay, we've got to get to the story, but just one more quick thank you for Ava, Rocco, Liz, and Enoki, our new patrons. But now, let's find out what if crabs could dance and superheroes lost their powers and animals got them.

[Rising harp scale]

Q-Rex: Everybody give it up for Q-Rex!

Crowd: [Cheers]

Q-Rex: Yeah! It's your favorite T-Rex who also raps, and I am here hosting the first annual animal talent show. That's right, annual animal talent show, okay we got like 16 flying creatures. That's cool, that's cool. We got Fred the Dog. He's not going to do the tongue thing, actually. I guess he's just been learning to play the drums. I think there's even going to be a kitten playing the glockenspiel, y'all.

But first, let's give a big annual animal talent show welcome to the great Pondero Pony!

Crowd: [Cheers!]

Pondero: It is I, the great Pondero. I know you all want to see how I can fly but I'm going to make this card disappear.

Mr. Eric: The great Pondero took out a little playing card with his forehoof and when he seemed to just twist his hoof a little bit, suddenly, the card was gone. But all he got was a smattering of applause.

Crowd: [Claps, but just a little.] It's in your hoof!

Pondero: It is in my hoof, oh...

Mr. Eric: And the great Pondero trotted off the stage.

Q-Rex: All right, all right! The great Pondero, everybody. Now, put all your pincers and legs together for Coco the Dancing Crab!

Mr. Eric: And a very nervous-looking crab clattered onto the stage, but she was wearing brightly colored tassels and as soon as the music kicked in, she started moving [Theremin music plays in the background]. And suddenly, she didn't seem nervous at all! Her legs were flailing, her claws were a-clacking. It looked like she was having a blast!

Heckler: You call this dancing?

Coco the Crab: Uh, yeah, was just—

Heckler: This is not dancing. Dancing is beautiful movement and strong, sharp body motion.

Coco the Crab: Well, I—I just—

Heckler: You're flailing.

Coco the Crab: Oh yeah, that's fine for me, but I practiced really hard and now I'm just up here to have a good time and show off my talents.

Heckler: No, no. That is not what dancing is about. Let me show you how it is done.

[Record scratch.]

Q-Rex: Hang on, hang on, whoa. It looks like we have a human from the audience. She's wearing a tutu and a tiara. She has a lot of attitude. She's stepping up onto the stage, everybody. Oh man, looks like we've got... a dance off on our hands. What's the name of our next contestant?

Tsarina Ballerina: Tsarina Ballerina.

Q-Rex: All right, Tsarina, let's see your movinas...

Tsarina Ballerina: Please do not denigrate my art.

Q-Rex: It's just... it's just rap. It's like, my art. Okay, anyway, let's put on some ballerina music.

Mr. Eric: And Tsarina Ballerina started leaping all over the stage. She was doing pirouettes, leaps, plies.

Tsarina Ballerina: Half barrels, full barrels, triple axle...

Mr. Eric: Triple axle barrels! She was doing kinds of barrels no one had ever seen or heard about! All with exact precision and perfect grace, and when the music came to an end, the audience was stunned to silence, until...

Crowd: [Roaring applause.] Yeah, that was great. I'm wondering why anybody else even tries to dance. Wow that was the best dance I've ever-a seen. It's all right.

Mr. Eric: It turned out the audience for this animal talent show, happened to be entirely made up of superheroes! There was Hat Man, Wondering Woman, Stretcharoo, Fly Guy, and of course, Tsarina Ballerina.

Audience member: Hey Hat Man, can I get your autograph?

Hat Man: You can get my hatograph.

Audience member: What are you doing here, Hat Man?

Hat Man: We're the Whatsit League. Whenever we need a break from fighting crime, we go see a show together, you know?

Audience member: Oh, that's really nice. Thanks Hat Man.

Q-Rex: All right! I've allowed this side conversation to go on for a really long time while I tabulated these votes and it looks like, without letting any other contestants compete—

Contestant: Aw, man.

Coco the Crab: Hey! I practiced really hard!

Q-Rex: Tsarina Ballerina is the winner!

Tsarina Ballerina: As it should be.

Coco the Crab: But you're not an animal. You shouldn't even have entered this contest.

Tsarina Ballerina: But I am the best dancer.

Mr. Eric: And Tsarina got an even bigger crown placed over her tiara. Pondero, the great pony wizard pondered backstage.

Pondero: Hey, what a bunch of scoundrels. How dare they criticize us for not being the best! This talent show is supposed to be about fun. I'll show them.

Mr. Eric: And the thing most people don't know about Pondero—he wasn't very good at card tricks, they were just the most fun for him. But one thing he was really good at was real magic.

Pondero: Ala...ka-falfa!

Mr. Eric: And suddenly, her dancing powers got sucked away and transferred over to Coco Crab. And Tsarina Ballerina who was doing a beautiful arabesque while posing for pictures, suddenly fell flat on her face!

Tsarina Ballerina: No! What—what is happening?

Mr. Eric: But the one thing about magic that all you kids at home know is that it doesn't often go as planned and so all of the superheroes in attendance got their own powers sucked away and given to an animal in attendance.

Fly Guy: Oh no! I can no longer fly!

Mr. Eric: Said Fly Guy.

Wondering Woman: Something has happened, but I'm not very curious about it at all.

Mr. Eric: Said Wondering Woman, and Hat Man reached up to touch his head... there was no hat there!

Hat Man: My haaaaaat!

Mr. Eric: In the ensuing chaos of animals flying all over the place and superheroes scrambling without their powers, something long and pink started to wrap itself around the stage.

Tsarina Ballerina: What is this? It smells.

Fred: Oh, hey guys, does anyone here have like, stretchy powers or something?

Stretcharoo: Um, sure, I had stretchy powers, I'm Stretcharoo. I'm not a kangaroo, I just jump really high and I stretch really far.

Fred: Oh, my tongue just keeps getting longer and longer...

Wondering Woman: Ew, it's slobbery!

Mr. Eric: And that long slobbery tongue was stretching beyond the stage, wrapping up all the chairs. The superheroes were powerless to stop it and they fled back out of the auditorium.

Q-Rex: Everybody watch out, Fred the Dog has double stretching tongue powers.

Mr. Eric: Said Q-Rex. He was wearing a giant hat. He must have got Hat Man's powers. And he pulled it down over his head.

Hat Man: Hey, wait for me!

Mr. Eric: Hat Man dove under at the last second. Stevie the Fleasel flew by.

Stevie: Oh, what gives? I already had flying powers! Just got double flying powers? I'm outta here.

Mr. Eric: And he flew out as well!

Fred: That's okay, everybody. You better go save yourselves. I'll just stop my tongue from stretching somehoowoooo.

Monsieur Snail: Zut alors! I have to get out of here but I am just a snail.

Mr. Eric: Good thing Monsieur Snail had just inherited some super speed! Zip! And off he went, too. And as the slimy snail traced its way down Fred's tongue.

Fred: That tickles my tongue a little bit!

Mr. Eric: It seemed to shrink up.

Coco Crab: What just happened?

Mr. Eric: Asked Coco Crab. She'd been doing beautiful dance moves with her new powers and hadn't even noticed this growing tongue threat.

Tsarina Ballerina: This mangy dog. His tongue is growing and growing and it is getting me slimy and it is encroaching on everybody.

Coco Crab: But I think I just saw it shrink a little.

Mr. Eric: The great Pondero Pony suddenly came out with the question mark of answers. He'd gotten Wondering Woman's powers.

Pondero: How do we defeat this slimy, sticky tongue?

Mr. Eric: He asked, pressing the question mark against Fred's tongue.

Fred: Oh, hey, that tickles a bit. Whenever my tongue is tickled, I pull it back into my mouth.

Pondero: We've got to do all the tickling we can atop his tongue! It's our only hope.

Mr. Eric: Coco Crab started doing her best but her dance moves were so precise now. Every step was perfectly timed, it didn't tickle at all!

Coco Crab: Oh no, my dance moves need to be sillier or they're not gonna be tickly enough.

Tsarina Ballerina: Dancing's not about fun. It's about being good.

Pondero: I think in this case, dancing's about whatever doesn't get us licked out of existence!

Tsarina Ballerina: Tsarina doesn't do silly dancing and since Tsarina has no dancing powers, Tsarina doesn't dance!

Pondero: That's easy, you just gotta wiggle a bit.

Tsarina Ballerina: You look like a fool, donkey.

Mr. Eric: But as he wiggled just a little bit, Fred's tongue did start to shrink, but it wasn't shrinking fast enough. Now the whole auditorium was wrapped up and big chunks of ceiling started falling down.

Coco Crab: Tsarina Ballerina, you gotta dance silly and you've gotta dance silly fast! Everyone else ran away.

Tsarina Ballerina: The only reason I haven't run away is because I am clumsy now and I would look like a fool.

Pondero: There's nothing wrong with being clumsy and you only look like a fool if you think you're a fool.

Mr. Eric: And Pondero Pony did his best little dance and slipped right on Fred's slippery tongue.

Pondero: Aaah! Oooh ooh! [Crash.]

Tsarina Ballerina: [Laughs.]

Coco Crab: Tsarina, you laughed! See, fun is fun. You don't have to always be a grump about it.

Tsarina Ballerina: You think I am a grump?



Coco Crab: Well, everyone's grumpy sometimes so you just gotta let loose and maybe letting loose right before we get squished by this constricting tongue...

Fred: Sorry, guys.

Coco Crab: Could be a good idea.

Tsarina Ballerina: I don't know the moves.

Pondero: There aren't any moves except what's in your heart.

Mr. Eric: And Tsarina Ballerina, with a grumpy grimace on her face, shook her shoulders back and forth and lifted her heels up and down. There wasn't a whole lot of rhythm to it, but it tickled Fred's tongue nonetheless.

Fred: Oh, whatever that did, keep doing it.

Tsarina Ballerina: This is fun, what do we call this?

Coco Crab: I don't think there's a name for that wild flailing of arms and legs. It kind of looks like what I was doing earlier.

Tsarina Ballerina: We should make a name. How do we tell people to do?

Coco Crab: Wait a second, now that I see you doing that dance, I think I can remember how to do it, too.

Mr. Eric: And just as Freddy's tongue slime dripped on them and pipes started to burst, Coco Crab started dancing silly right along with Tsarina Ballerina!

Coco Crab: We should call it the Crabbarena! Oh-wa! Crabbacrabbacrabbacrabba.

Tsarina Ballerina: Crabbacrabbacrabbacrabba crabba crabba.

Pondero: Renarenacrabbacrabbarena crabbarena.

All: Heeey, crabbarena, what!

Mr. Eric: And his tongue was tickled so much that it finally rolled back into his head. And as Tsarina Ballerina kept doing her silly dance, all of the powerless superheroes came out of the woodworks.

Fly Guy: What's she doing? She doesn't have her superpowers.

Tsarina Ballerina: Hey, crabbarena!

Hat Man: She's dancing without dancing powers.

Tsarina Ballerina: Hat Man, come do dance.

Hat Man: I don't know if I can dance without a hat.

Tsarina Ballerina: Dancing's not about hats. Dancing's about fun.

Mr. Eric: And then, hat or no hat, super powers or no super powers, audience or animal, everyone was dancing. The end.

[Falling harp scale]

Mr. Eric: All right, Miss Karen, we told our first story together in, I think, over a year.

Miss Karen: Yeah, it was a very long time.

Mr. Eric: Did you have fun?

Miss Karen: I did. I feel like I lost Tsarina Ballerina's accent a couple of times. She could have been from any one of like five countries. But really she's from What If World, so it's fine.

Mr. Eric: That's something that folks at home know quite well, is that the What If World accents are often wildly different from their What Is World counterpart, so really nothing to worry about. You did great. And it's always, always so much fun for me to have someone else helping me in the studio come up with crazy, zany ideas for all you kids at home.

I'd like to thank Karen Marshall O'Keefe, for making this podcast possible, Jason O'Keefe for our artwork, Craig Martinson for our theme song, and all you kids at home who know that you don't have to be the best at something to have fun doing it.

Until we meet again, keep wondering.

[What If World theme plays.]