

Podcast: [What If World](#)

Episode: 97: What if What If World had a presidential debate?

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Transcription by Keffy

[Rising harp scales followed by the What If World theme song.]

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.

[Gentle bell music.]

- Mr. Eric: Hey there folks, and welcome back to *What If World*, the show where your questions and ideas inspire off the cuff stories. I'm Mr. Eric, your host and today's episode is gonna be a little bit different. See, we've almost hit 100 stories now, and in that time, I've gotten so so so many questions, believe me, I wish I could tell each and every one of you a story, but I do this show by myself and it takes a lot of work.
- A bunch of these questions are over a year old! Some of them had sound issues, some of them I just wasn't able to get to. Any of these questions could make for a great story so if you hear one you like, don't wait for me to make it into a story. Spin your own tale.
- JF Kitty: Mr. Eric, we've got a lot of questions to get through.
- Mr. Eric: Oh, thanks JF Kat.
- JF Kitty: And, by the way, I want to give a meow out to Betty. She's six years old and she loves the monkey baahs.
- Mr. Eric: Are those, like, goat monkeys? They climb and go baa.
- JF Kitty: No, the monkey baahs.
- Fred the Dog: He means the monkey bars, Mr. Eric.
- Mr. Eric: I'm still hearing monkey baas.
- Fred the Dog: Well we also need to give a big thank you to Carlitos. I thought I already said thank you, but then I listened to old episode and I said, no, I didn't say thank you.

Mr. Eric: Well, I am sorry, Carlitos, that we didn't thank you sooner. And Betty, that's really cool that you like the monkey bars.

JF Kitty: Oh, you understood the whole time, you were just messing with me!

Mr. Eric: I can mess with you every once in a while.

Pipey-O : And-a me! Pipey-O! I want-a thank-a Chloe.

Mr. Eric: Pipey-O, you want to thank Chloe?

Pipey-O : Yeah, she's a grown-up-a patron but she really like-a me.

Mr. Eric: Well, if she likes you that much, I think she deserves a shout-out, sure. But Pipey-O, you should take your seat in the audience, now.

Pipey-O : In the audience?

Mr. Eric: Well, yeah. We're gonna have the debate.

Pipey-O : Oh boy-ee!

Mr. Eric: Fred, JF Kat, get to your podiums.

Fred the Dog: Oh, I like that mine's a little puppium that I can sit on top of it.

JF Kitty: Who put this microphone on top of my podium! I'm of course going to knock it off! [Thud] Take that, microphone.

Mr. Eric: Okay, let's just get this back up here.

Alabaster Zero:: Yeah, what's taking them so long.

Mamma Jamma: Yeah, we were here for the presidential debate, but it's not happening.

Mr. Eric: Sorry, sorry. I'm just fixing JF Kat's mic-

Fair Elise: You know, I could fix that with magic.

Mr. Eric: I know, but you're in the audience. Just enjoy the show, Fair Elise.

Poppa Loo: How can we enjoy the show when we weren't nominated to be president?

Mr. Eric: Uh, Poppa Loo, can we just draw focus away from all of you sitting in the audience and take a look at our candidates? That's what we're here for.

[Dramatic news channel theme music.]

Mr. Eric: Grown ups and kids, dogs and cats, basically anyone with ears, welcome to the 2018 What If World presidential debate. Let's meet our candidates. Fred the Dog.

Fred the Dog: Oh, hi. Sorry, are we doing opening statements, now?

Mr. Eric: Abacus P. Grumbler.

Abacus: [Splutters] Oh, it's such an honor even to be nominated. What am I doing here?

Mr. Eric: JF Kat.

JF Kitty: Ich ben ein What If-er.

Mr. Eric: Whendiana Joan.

Whendiana Joan: I was told there'd be ancient relics to discover here?

Mr. Eric: Mr. Mouser.

Mr. Mouser: I got a single vote. I feel so special.

Mr. Eric: And finally, Alabaster Zero.

Alabaster Zero: I move to postpone this debate until I can find my lucky jean jacket.

Mr. Eric: Okay, candidates. I've got a series of questions that some of you will get a chance to respond to, and some of you won't and some will argue with each other, and other people probably won't talk a lot because six candidates is a lot of people and we have to keep this under 20 minutes.

Whendiana Joan: Those don't really feel like great debate rules.

Mr. Eric: Okay, Whendiana, first question goes to you.

Alabaster Zero: I feel like he's not listening to any of us.

Mr. Eric: Emily likes swimming and she asks, what if kangaroos could turn into bounce houses?

Whendiana Joan: That's how we're gonna decide who's president? With what-if questions?

Abacus: Oh, it is What If World, Whendiana. If you don't have the chops to answer the question...

Whendiana Joan: I've got an answer. If kangaroos could turn into bounce houses, Whatstralia would be the new Wisneyworld.

Mr. Eric: Oh, I'm sorry, you didn't incorporate swimming into your answer.

Mr. Mouser: It doesn't seem fair that there would be right and wrong answers in a presidential debate.

Mr. Eric: Correct answer, Mr. Mouser. The next question is yours.

Fred the Dog: Is this like Jeopardy rules or what?

Mr. Eric: Nolan's mommy wonders what if bubbles didn't pop?

Mr. Mouser: Ooh, I was once stuck inside a bubble. Fortunately it did pop. If it hadn't, I would have floated awaaaaay.

Mr. Eric: JF Kat, you and Mr. Mouser are close friends, do you care to elaborate?

JF Kitty: Er, uh, it was I who popped the bubble. I was trying to eat, er, save Mr. Mouser and wanted to eat him, snack on him, later.

Mr. Eric: JF Kat, threatening to eat his opponent.

Mr. Mouser: We've been friends for many years and he's never once actually eaten me.

Fred the Dog: You know, I'm going to jump in there, Mr. Eric.

Mr. Eric: I'm sorry, Fred, we're gonna have to move on to the next question.

Fred the Dog: Oh.

Mr. Eric: Nico asks, what if dogs could talk?

Fred the Dog: Wow. I don't know, I never thought about that.

JF Kitty: You're a talking dog.

Fred the Dog: Well, if I could talk, I would say that JF Kat did once try to eat Mr. Mouser. It was back when we first met. Bloob bloob bloobbloobbloobbloob.

Whendiana Joan: We can do flashbacks?

Alabaster Zero: No one said we could do flashbacks.

Mr. Eric: I don't know, Fred the Dog made a perfect flashback noise, so it's happening.

[Rising harp scale.]

Mr. Eric: JF Kat and Fred the Dog were an unlikely pair, two young strays roaming around the street on a cold autumn night.

Mr. Mouser: You can cuddle with me, Mr. Mouser. After all, it's a very cold night.

Mr. Eric: And Mr. Mouser looked like a very cold mouse.

Fred the Dog: Oh, Jojo Fluffy Kat, we should really cuddle up with this little mouse so he don't freeze.

JF Kitty: That sounds delici-er delightful.

Fred the Dog: Jojo Fluffy Kat, you're not gonna eat this Mr. Mouser fellow, are you?

JF Kitty: [With mouth full] I wouldn't think of it.

Mr. Mouser: He has very good diction for a cat with a mouse in his mouth.

Fred the Dog: JF Kat, you spit out the Mouser.

JF Kitty: Why would I do that, I'm hungry?

Mr. Mouser: It's all right. It's quite warm in here.

Fred the Dog: No, that's not okay. You spit out the Mr. Mouser.

JF Kitty: Why, I oughta, bleh.

Mr. Mouser: Oh, so he did try to eat me.

Mr. Eric: Okay, Mr. Mouser seems to be throwing his hat in JF Kat's ring. Jojo, are you ready for the next question?

JF Kitty: I'm going to have to pass. I just found a tangle in my tail.

Alabaster Zero: Ooh, ooh, that means it's my turn.

Mr. Eric: Okay, Alabaster. Liam likes his parents and he asks what if tornadoes were time machines.

Alabaster Zero: I know this one. I wrote it down on my hand. Uh, if tornadoes were time machines.

Whendiana Joan: How could you have possibly written the question on your hand?

Alabaster Zero: It's a little thing called preparation. I wrote what if questions all over myself just in case.

Whendiana Joan: Okay, well, I'm actually an expert in time travel. I've got a sister in the future and a sister in the past and they're both actually just time duplicates of me.

Alabaster Zero: Okay, I can't make out the whole thing, but it says jean jacket.

Mr. Eric: Interesting, Mr. Zero. Go on.

Alabaster Zero: See, time travel is dangerous because you can change the future or the present depending on what you do in the past. But if you go into the future, it's less dangerous, except for the future's future, which I guess you'd change.

Mr. Eric: Sorry, you mentioned a jean jacket?

Alabaster Zero: Uh, so the jean jacket would be time-proof. And then I would... everyone would put it on and when a time traveling tornado hits you, it would also kind of work like an, um, a dungaree parachute.

Mr. Eric: Wow, that is...

Alabaster Zero: Of course, I want to time travel with my mom and dad.

Mr. Eric: Nice work, Alabaster. That's some good answering.

JF Kitty: I'm impurredressed.

Mr. Eric: Wow, making a purr noise with a Boston accent, very impressive, JF Kat.

Abacus: There seems to be no rhyme or reason to your point system, Mr. Eric.

Mr. Eric: Yeah, I've never actually run a presidential debate. I'm probably not the best person for the job.

Abacus: Maybe I'm the best person for the job. Hit me with a What-If-er, Mr. Eric.

Mr. Eric: Coming at you. Milly likes dogs and she asks, what if we didn't have trees?

Abacus: Oh, it would be a bright, bright, bright sunshiney day. Due to the lack of shade. And male dogs would have to hold it until they found a fire hydrant. Then the fire hydrants would rust from all the extra dog action.

Mr. Eric: I follow, yes.

Abacus: Causing them to burst, spreading water throughout the lands.

Fred the Dog: I'm absolutely spellbound.

Abacus: And finally, with water running down every road, the trees would grow again. The end.

Mr. Eric: Oh, man. Abacus. I'm impressed.

Fred the Dog: You can't hear it, but I'm clapping my tongue. It sounds like this, namnamnamnam.

Whendiana Joan: You know, if we didn't have trees, there would be some real problems.

Mr. Eric: Thank you, Whendiana, I think we didn't touch on the lesson, really.

Whendiana Joan: If there weren't any trees, global warming would speed up, and when it rained there'd be way more flooding.

Mr. Eric: And as president, would you do something about that?

Learninator: She would probably call on me, the Learninator.

Mr. Eric: Oh, man. Learninator, I missed you. Thanks for zapping yourself into existence.

Learninator : That's not how time travel works. It's more like I zapped all of you into my existence.

Mr. Eric: What? Sorry, this question was about trees.

Learninator : In the future, trees are made of chrome and also they're holograms.

Mr. Eric: Why wouldn't you just make the hologram of a real tree?

Learninator : People have forgotten what they look like. Stop asking me so many questions.

Mr. Eric: Good point. Looks like it's time for another question for Fred. Fred, Parker asks, what if there was no such thing as school?

Fred the Dog: Oh, when Mr. Eric was a teacher, he had to go to school all the time, and then they left me alone all the time. So I think it's good. Oh, but then people don't learn things, and that's bad. So I guess it's good-bad.

Mr. Eric: Good-bad. Wow.

Mr. Mouser: I think I agree with Fred.

Mr. Eric: Mr. Mouser, you want to support another one of your opponents?

Mr. Mouser: I don't see them all as opponents. If we work together, we can make What If World a better place, regardless of who is president.

Fred the Dog: Aww, Mr. Mouser, you're such a good boy.

Mr. Eric: We've got a few questions left, we've got to keep this moving.

Whendiana Joan: All right, give me another question.

Mr. Eric: Okay, Whendiana. We have a question from Ezra. He wants to see a character named Applesauce Robot who is an applesauce jar that can turn into a robot jar that shoots applesauce.

Whendiana Joan: That's not really a question.

Mr. Eric: You're so right, Whendiana.

Applesauce Robot: Well, maybe it is a question, Mr. Eric.

Mr. Eric: Applesauce robot!?

Abacus: Applesauce robot!

Whendiana Joan: Applesauce robot?

Robot: Yeah. I'm an applesauce robot, but sometimes I'm just an applesauce jar. But when I'm a robot, I just go ahead and shoot applesauce wherever I like.

Mr. Eric: Okay, Applesauce Robot. Do you think that's fair to just shoot applesauce wherever you like?

Robot: Fair? It's just part of who I am.

Whendiana Joan: Well, I'm an explorer who can travel in time but that doesn't mean I use it to make my life easier.

Robot: That's a good point, there, young lady.

Mr. Eric: Whendiana, you're so smart and I feel like if I were just better at girl voices, everyone would want you to be president.

Whendiana Joan: I know, Mr. Eric. But even if someone else gets to be president, like Mr. Mouser says, we're all going to work together.

JF Kitty: Meow you're gonna work together? What about when I was president.

Abacus: The entire sun went out one week and I was the only one there to stop it. Me and my partner Fair Elise, of course.

Fair Elise: Thank you, Alabaster.

Alabaster Zero: I definitely would have messed it up without Fair Elise's help.

Robot: Well, my work here is done. [Splurting noises]

Abacus: Eeew! Applesauce! One of my many weaknesses!

Fred the Dog: Oh, this is good applesauce, I like it.

Mr. Mouser: This applesauce will feed my entire family for a week.

Whendiana Joan: Thank you for not shooting applesauce at me.

Robot: Well, I know you and Alabaster wanted to stay clean.

Alabaster Zero: Because you know I like to eat it right out of the jar?

Robot: And here's your jar. Just don't feed it to Tabby Tallulah. Applesauce is bad for cats.

Abacus: Ooh, I won't, Mr. Applesauce Robot. [Cries] You're so kind.

Robot: I know.

Mr. Eric: Okay, quick! Mr. Mouser, we're running low on time. [Bottle rolling] Oh, bye Applesauce Robot!

Robot: Yeah.

Mr. Eric: So, Lily likes playing with her brother and sister and she asked what if bath toys came to life?

Mr. Mouser: When I was a boy I used to play in the bath with my brother and sister. I remember it like it was yesterday. Flashback sound.

Whendiana Joan: Another flashback? Mr. Eric, we need to get moving.

Mr. Eric: I'm trying to stop it, Whendiana, I just—

[Rising harp scale.]

Mr. Mouser: Oh, it's so nice having a bath with my brother and sister and our giant kitty bath toy.

Mr. Eric: Just then, the giant black and white bath cat toy came to life and turned into a real cat.

JF Kitty: Purrfect. I came to life in front of some delicious—[Splashing] I can't swim!

Mr. Mouser: Ms. Mouser, Miss Mouser, should we save him even though he wanted to eat us?

Mousers: Okay. I suppose.

[Falling harp scale.]

Fred the Dog: See, JF Kat? You tried to eat him the moment you were born.

JF Kitty: I've tried to eat a lot of things! It's tough when you've just come to life and no one's there to teach you nothing! Fortunately, I've had Mr. Mouser there most of my time in the What House, helping me along the way.

Mr. Mouser: As I will continue to do, regardless of who—

Mr. Eric: Quick, Alabaster! What if the earth was made of gummy bears and ice cream.

Alabaster Zero: [Stutters] Wait, I know this. I know this.

Whendiana Joan: You seriously? You wrote this down?

Alabaster Zero: Yep, uh, let me just take off my shoes and my socks. See, my big toe says, jean jackets.

Whendiana Joan: [Sighs] Okay.

Alabaster Zero: Because you see, the whole world would be edible, so if you wore a jean jacket that would mean, "Don't eat me." And then everyone would get along.

Abacus: My goodness! According to my magculations, it would actually work.

Whendiana Joan: Everyone would be nice to each other just because they wore jean jackets?

Fred the Dog: I don't know, eventually somebody would get a tummy ache from all the gummy bears and ice cream and then they'd be mean to someone else even if they were wearing a jean jacket.

Alabaster Zero: Well, that's why they'd have Detective Alabaster Icey-Bear, or uh, Creamy-gum. Oh, no.

Learninator : And in the future, the jean jacket would be a symbol of absolute authority.

Mr. Eric: Oh, Learninator. I forgot you were here.

Learninator : That's what I wanted you to forget.

Whendiana Joan: My friend, the Learninator is trying to say that most big problems don't have little answers. That's why you need a lot of smart, hard-working people working together all across What If World.

Abacus: You conjured quite the answer, Whendiana.

Fred the Dog: Oh, I just remembered. Also if there were no trees, dogs wouldn't have sticks and that'd be bad.

Mr. Eric: Okay. [Fanfare plays.] We've got time for just one more question. This was from three kids but the first name got cut off. However, I'm sure that Jose and Juan asked what if cats owned people?

JF Kitty: I thought these were supposed to be hypothetical questions?

Mr. Eric: It is a hypothetical question.

JF Kitty: Say the end.

Mr. Eric: The end. Hey!

[Record scratch.]

JF Kitty: Hahahaha!

Mr. Eric: Well, I guess our debate had gone on long enough.

I'd like to thank Karen Marshall O'Keeffe, my co-creator, Craig Martinson for our theme song, Jason O'Keeffe for our artwork, and all you kids at home who know that today's smart and hardworking helpers can be tomorrow's smart and hardworking leaders. And if you're the leader today, it might be okay to give someone else a shot tomorrow. I bet you'll learn something new.

Until we meet again, keep wondering.

[What If World theme plays.]

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