

Special Episode: The Second Annual View from Somewhere Kickathon Featuring “Dreamgirl” Ramona Martinez On Piano [pub. Jan. 24, 2020]

Credits:

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Parodied from: The Dreamboy Podcast

Logo and Kickstarter art: Billy Dee

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Special thanks: Toby Beard

TRANSCRIPT:

[SFX of Radio dial tuning into different stations]

[The last stanzas of Maple Leaf Rag on the Piano]

RAMONA: Whew! I barely got through that one, ladies, gentlemen, and gender non-conforming individuals. Scott Joplin is no joke -- especially after nine straight days of fundraising.

Well if you're just tuning in, you're listening to the Second Annual View from Somewhere kick-a-thon campaign. I'm Ramona Martinez. You may know me as The Producer for the view from Somewhere podcast, but today, I'm your host, and really...your friend on this journey together towards our fundraising goals. And I'm so delighted that Lewis asked me to step in and be with you, I get to dust off my old extemporaneous fundraising skills and really scrape to the very bottom of my piano repertoire knowledge which could be described as...limited.

[Piano: Heart & Soul]

RAMONA: As I said before, we are 9 days into this campaign with another 11 to go. We're raising money for our podcast, The View from Somewhere, which as you probably know discusses the role of objectivity in journalism, and how it's used to uphold status-quo thinking and white supremacy. So far we've raised about \$10,500 on Kickstarter, which is so close to our goal of \$16,600.

[Phones ringing in the background]

RAMONA: Well, I think it's time we take another call from someone who wants to share why The View from Somewhere is so important to them, but before we do that...

[Piano: The Celebrated Chop Waltz]

I want to remind you that there's still time to enter our 'What does Journalism sound like' contest, so please do tweet us your best impersonation of the current state of media. You can record a voice memo on your voice and tweet it to @LewisPants. And we've had some great entrants so far, and you know, it's really up to you. What *does* Journalism sound like? You know, I don't know, is it like...tktktktktktktk

Or Aaah! Aaah!

Or Skidiki-pap-pap, and a pu-pu-pudrrrr-boom

You know, it really, it's just...sky's the limit.

[Piano music out]

RAMONA: Alright, let's hear from one of our supporters now. Hi there, you're on the air.

Cy: [breathing/purring]

RAMONA: Hello? Hello, can you hear me?

Cy: [breathing/purring]

RAMONA: Sir, this isn't funny I can hear you breathing.

Cy: Meow.

RAMONA: Oh, Cy! Um...everyone, it's my cat Cyclops. [Meow] How did you get this number, Cy?

Cy: Meow.

RAMONA: Well, you are a very resourceful cat, and I am very proud of you, but you know um...I can't really talk right now, would you...maybe you'd like to share what you like about the podcast with our listeners?

Cy: Meow. Meoooooww. Meow.

RAMONA: Okay Cy, I don't think that's topical, and frankly there are children listening to this so um...

Cy: Meow!

RAMONA: I think I'm just going to have to talk to you later, okay?

Cy: [Insistent Meowing]

RAMONA: Alright...okay...alright...okay...alright...thank you.

[Cy gets hung up on]

RAMONA: Alright, well! Since Cy was unable to articulate why The View from Somewhere deserves your support, I'm happy to do it for you.

[Piano: Heart & Soul]

Now some of our listeners may have heard Lewis and I talk about our "kickstarter" before, and not known what the heck we're talking about. So allow me to explain how a kickstarter works.

[abrupt ending to Heart & Soul]

RAMONA: Let's see what else can I come up with here...

[Piano: Fur Elise]

RAMONA: Kickstarter is an online service that allows you to crowdfund for a particular venture or purpose. For us, we've determined that \$16,600 is exactly the amount we need to make to get to the end of our show. So if we are unable to make that amount in the time allotted, for us 11 days, we won't get any of the money.

Now you may think, this is most unfair! Shouldn't they be able to keep whatever money they can earn in that time frame? Under normal circumstances, I would agree. But the idea is, we've determined we need x amount to be able to pull off the show, and if we can't get that amount, well, then we certainly don't want to take your money without being able to deliver.

The wonderful thing about kickstarter is that there are amazing perks to go along with your donation, but everyone has to pitch in and make sure that we do make our goal, or else -- no one will get any of the perks. Perhaps you want a beautiful View from Somewhere tote bag, or for \$1 you could get two hours of a raging dance party mix to share with your friends and family. But only if we succeed in our goal, which is why it's so important after you give, to share with everyone you know, so that they can help us get there too. See we're all in this together, and that's a beautiful thing.

So now you know what a kickstarter is, and armed with that information, I urge you to go over to viewfromsomewhere.com, where you can click on a giant orange button that will take you to the kickstarter, and to the dance party of your dreams.

Oh, and of course, to change the future of journalism itself, I mean isn't that why we're all here? Or are you here for the tote bag? These are all questions we must ask ourselves in these trying times...

[Fur Elise finishes]

[Piano: Twin Peaks theme]

RAMONA: You know, we did an episode uh...with a guest named Laura Palmer, and...we really missed the opportunity to make a Twin Peaks reference so, I'd like to do that here in this last section of the fundraiser this evening...

And I would also like to speak from the bottom of my heart about this show that...Well, it's been a huge part of my life for the last year, and I think it's going to be a huge part of peoples' lives for a long time. You know, when I was a baby journalist, and I was working my first jobs in newsrooms in the seats of our nation's power. Well, I used to think that both sides maybe could be right. I used to think, Well, maybe if there's no such thing as truth, then their perspective is just as valid as mine. But the longer that I worked in newsrooms, the more I realized that there were people who had power who didn't want to let it go, and they would...they would call foul if people called attention to what they were doing. They would call foul if people wanted to stand up for their rights. It's so easy to be accused of being political...if your rights are threatened in this country, which frankly, other than white men, is everyone. And um...well...that's why The View from Somewhere deserves your support. Because for far, far too long, we've just had to roll over and take it. We've just had to say, Well, this is the way it's always been so...people surely knew what they were doing. But the View from Somewhere shows us that this is not the way it's always been, you know, objectivity is really like a hundred years old. And in the grand scheme of human thought, that's a blip, ladies, gentlemen and non-gender conforming individuals.

And we can create a future that...that reflects us. We can create a media that reflects what people are really talking about around their dinner table. We can...

I've been thinking a lot, just, you know, for myself about this Ursula Le Guin quote, and I'm gonna butcher it but, essentially she says, No one could imagine a world without monarchy, without the rule of kings, and they don't exist anymore...I think that's what's so important about this show. We give people a chance to dream. Dream for something better. And um...this was supposed to be a joke and now I'm legit about to cry...

This...this small venture that Lewis started with his firing, and writing this book, it's turned into this conversation about how we can help save our country, and Lewis gives me so much shit for being patriotic, but I truly believe that America has the potential to be a wonderful place. Like we have values...about speaking truth to power, and really being a place where the truth can be spoken bravely, and without being muzzled. And I want that for us. I want that for you. And I know it's just a podcast, but it's being taught in journalism schools, and it's being listened to in newsrooms by baby journalists like me. And we're planting a seed. We're letting them know that it doesn't have to be like this. That journalism doesn't have to be broken. That we can build institutions and newsrooms and publications that really are funded by people, and speak to people, and are for the people. Please...head over to View from Somewhere dot com. And pledge your support. And uh...I hope you all have a very good night.

[View from Somewhere Theme - Accordion]

RAMONA: Thanks for listening to the View from Somewhere. This podcast was created by Lewis Wallace, with production by me, Ramona Martinez. Our theme music is by dogbotic, and additional music in this episode was played by me, on the piano. Special thanks to Toby Beard for recording help. Our distributor is Critical Frequency, our social media coordinator is Roxana Bendezu, and Billy Dee designed our logo. Thanks, and talk to you next time.