

The West Wing Weekly
0.08: "Meet the Twwweam (Bonus Mini-Episode)"
Guests: Nick Song, Margaret Miller, Zach McNees

[Intro Music]

JOSH: Hello! You're listening to a mini bonus episode of *The West Wing Weekly*.

HRISHI: It's episode nothing, season nothing, and it's called "Meet the Twwweam".

JOSH: I could hear the three "w"s in twwweam.

HRISHI: Mmhm. It's the last week of November 2018, and this is also time for the annual Radiotopia fundraiser, so we thought we would take a moment to tell you a little bit about how our podcast gets made. Thanks to all the people who support our podcast and who support Radiotopia, our network.

JOSH: You know when we started the show, it was just the two of us. We have since been able to grow to a team of five. You hear a lot from the two of us, but we wanted today to introduce the rest of the gang. The newest member of the crew is Nick Song.

NICK: Hey guys. My name is Nick Song. I am the research intern here at *The West Wing Weekly*. I am based here out of Santa Monica, California, and I'm currently taking a gap year away from school to pursue podcasting and radio. When I'm not working on the podcast, I am helping out on Song Exploder with Hrishi, as well as producing my own shows, such as "Lessons My Father Never Taught Me" and "This Exonian Life". I'm not actually on Twitter, but you can follow me on Instagram @ImNickSong. I'm usually on there talking about sneakers and stuff. So, feel free to hit me up. Thank you guys, so much for listening.

HRISHI: I met Nick at the Podcasting 101 workshop, and as research assistant, he helps us...

JOSH: Well, you really...

HRISHI: Nick helps me look into some of the history that the show references. He digs in for information about the real-world events that inspired plotlines in the episodes. Things like that.

JOSH: Yes, and after we record our conversation, believe it or not, the nonsense you hear has actually been filtered so that you get less of our inanity.

HRISHI: That's right. Margaret Miller is our editor, and she's our first line of defense.

MARGARET: My name is Margaret Miller. I live in Minneapolis, Minnesota. When I'm not working on *The West Wing Weekly*, I work at a dementia clinic for veterans. And you can tweet me @reginamint about perfume and books with magic in them.

HRISHI: Margaret and I have been close friends since college. Pretty much everything I've made since I was a teenager, I've run it by Margaret to get her opinion. And so, with *The West Wing Weekly*, we made it an official job.

JOSH: That's right, and once we've got the raw audio, we send it to Zach McNees, who cuts and mixes it into a final product.

HRISHI: That's right he takes our audio, he takes Margaret's notes saying, "let's lose this because, come on guys..." and then he brings it in Pro Tools and polishes it all up.

ZACH: My name is Zach McNees. I live in Brooklyn, New York. When I'm not working on *The West Wing Weekly*, I work on *Here's the Thing* from WNYC Studios, *The Clubhouse Podcast*,

and I'm a sound editor and mixer for various TV and film projects. You can tweet at me about poker, Ben and Jerry's, or anything audio related @ZMSuited.

JOSH: I'm glad we made this episode because I honestly had no idea how this thing gets put together. These guys, they sound like great people.

HRISHI: It's true, they're great. And Josh, you should follow them on Twitter or Instagram or whatever.

JOSH: Oh, I'm gonna!

HRISHI: And everyone else, you should to. Tweet at them about their respective interests, which maybe overlap with your own.

JOSH: That's right, now let's get serious. All of these special people who make this wonderful show, they get paid.

HRISHI: Yeah! And that's really because we get to be part of Radiotopia, and Radiotopia is supported by listeners.

JOSH: So, if you're one of the thousands of people who have donated to the network, thank you, thank you, thank you!

HRISHI: And all of us, all of the shows on Radiotopia are collectively -- we're trying to take things to the next level. We're hoping to reach 25,000 supporting listeners by the end of this fundraiser.

JOSH: That's right 25 large! And you can become one of them by just pledging five bucks a month. Five bucks a month, and you'll be fueling some really great shows.

HRISHI: And if you feel like donating more, you can, and there are some great rewards. This year, the two of us are offering a reward for up to eight people who donate at the \$250 level. That's a one-time donation, not a monthly donation. You can do either. But if you do that -- if you donate \$250 to Radiotopia, Josh and I will record a special custom message just for you.

JOSH: I don't remember agreeing to this. That's got to be worth more than \$250, but if you say I said yes, then I will honor it. [both laugh]

HRISHI: I have the receipts.

JOSH: It could be a birthday, a graduation, or even a proposal. We've even done one of those before, so we're well-rehearsed. You give us a rough script -- up to, say, 100 words long -- and we will send you back an mp3 of solid gold.

HRISHI: The marriage proposal that we recorded before, that couple, in fact, made it all the way to the wedding. It worked.

JOSH: That's right!

HRISHI: Really, whatever you feel like pitching in to help keep this podcast and all the other great shows at Radiotopia going would be amazing.

JOSH: That's true. We appreciate donation on any level, and I'll just throw this out. We are competitive. I would like to bring in the most money for the fundraiser. [Hrishi laughs] Make me proud.

HRISHI: Also, we just want to say that we hope you are having as much fun listening to the show as we are making it, and thanks for downloading the podcast. We're excited to forge on for the next two seasons.

JOSH: Yeah we are! And we're already dreaming and scheming about what's next.

HRISHI: So, if you want to support Radiotopia and hear the world differently, go to radiotopia.fm. Help keep us independent and strong.

JOSH: --and solvent.

HRISHI: Ok.

JOSH: Ok.

HRISHI and JOSH and NICK and MARGARET and ZACH (together): What's next?

[Outro Music]