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NOW, LIVE FROM SAN FRANCISCO:

“WATCH WHAT CRAPPENS,” THE HOT ENTERTAINMENT PODCAST THAT’S BEEN A FIXTURE ON iTUNES’ TOP 10 FOR TV & FILM PODCASTS, appearing at Social Hall on November 4

Funny and brash, the show attracts 1.4 million+ listens per month – and growing

Los Angeles, CA (October 9, 2017) — Watch what happens when ***Watch What Crappens***, the top podcast devoted to all things Bravo TV, airs its 578th episode on November 4, live from **Social Hall in San Francisco**. With numbers climbing by 100,000 listens per month, this funny, brash, good-natured show now boasts 1.4+ million listeners (To put this in context, the Washington Post podcast commands 1.3+ million) and has grown exponentially month to month, from 200,000 listens in June 2016 to over 1.4 million listens per month fifteen months later. The show also has racked up nominations for “Best Podcast” by *LA Weekly* and earned praise from *Mental Floss*, which called it “laugh-out-loud” in its list of “19 TV Podcasts You Need To Hear.”

In January, the hosts – Ben Mandelker (bsideblog.com) and Ronnie Karam (trashtalktv.com, *Rose Pricks* podcast) – expanded the show to five days a week, making it the only Bravo podcast with daily content. They decided to go live because “it adds extra sizzle” ... Besides their San Francisco gig, they recorded live from Chicago’s Lincoln Hall on September 27, LA’s Teragram Ballroom Theater on September 2 and the Gotham Comedy Club in New York in July. (All shows were **Sold Out** in a matter of days!)

Of course, there’s no telling who will attend *Watch What Crappens* — or what they’ll say. The stars of *Flipping Out* joined Karam and Mandelker on stage in LA; Jeff Lewis, Gage Edward, and Jenni Pulos. What’s more, the audience was thrilled when Shannon Beador of *The Real Housewives of Orange County* made a surprise appearance. *Real Housewives of Dallas* star LeeAnne Locken and Nico Scholly of *Below Deck* took the stage in Chicago and over the summer, cast members from the Bravo shows *Summer House* and *Gallery Girls* stopped by the show in New York City.

Not bad for two guys who started the whole thing as a lark sometime in 2012. “Basically, we just happen to like talking about shows we watched the night before,” explains Mandelker, whose first foray into digital entertainment 15 years ago was the original TVgasm.com website that he and another friend created. Except that their commentary is as much a love fest as a

lampoon. “Yeah, we’re huge fans, even if it doesn’t sound like it sometimes,” Karam adds.

And people are noticing. *Bustle* called *Watch What Crappens* “dependably fantastic;” *The Huffington Post* declared *Crappens* the “go to podcast for all things Bravo;” and BuzzFeed ranked the show on its list of “22 Fantastic Podcasts To Make Your Commute Less Shitty.”

The success has been pretty surreal for its hosts, whose low-tech operation has them trading quips over Skype. “We never thought two guys making jokes about the *Real Housewives* would blow up like this,” says Karam, whose role as a Bravo commentator has also turned him into a tastemaker of sorts. “We always get people asking us which shows to watch, and a lot of our listeners tell us they only watch certain shows to hear our commentary, which is crazy,”

Indeed, half the appeal of *Watch What Crappens* is tuning in to hear what the hosts will say next.

Frequent targets of their ridicule (and adoration) are “queen” Lisa Vanderpump, Shannon Beador, Ramona Singer, and the cast of *Vanderpump Rules*. But the discussion often moves into broader realms, with Patti Lupone, Ina Garten, and *Settlers of Catan* providing fodder, and commentary about *Southern Charm* that’s peppered with witty asides adding to the howl. Lots of improv and impersonations, too.

At this point, *Watch What Crappens* has developed a veritable tome of recurring gags (so many that the hosts are currently assembling a glossary). Being “in” on those jokes is part of the fun. “We just want to capture that feeling of cracking jokes while you’re watching shows with your friends. We’re saying what you’re thinking,” says Mandelker, who likens the podcast to “a cyber version of a water cooler.”

Regardless of why people subscribe to *Watch What Crappens*, the podcast decidedly has proved to be a grassroots success, and not just on iTunes, where it has been a top ten fixture on the TV & Film charts. In September 2014, Karam and Mandelker linked up with the subscription service [Patreon.com](https://www.patreon.com), which has brought in a few dollars (though the hosts won’t tell you how many).

“It’s so cliché, but we really do owe the success of our show to the listeners. Because of them, we can publish our podcast multiple times a week – and also have food and electricity, which is really nice, too, by the way,” says Karam. In return, Mandelker and Karam serve up an exclusive weekly bonus episode for Patreon subscribers as well as other perks such as a monthly Google Hangout, ringtones, and access to the “Crappens Mailbag,” which allows users to submit questions that will be read on the air. This audience interaction has led to a highly engaged community, particularly on the show’s Facebook page, where entries are replete with hundreds of comments and likes.

And how do the Bravo stars feel about being lampooned on *Watch What Crappens*?

So far, the feedback has been positive, with some Bravo-lebrities such as Lisa Rinna (*Real Housewives of Beverly Hills*), Jill Zarin (*Real Housewives of New York*), Lea Black (*Real Housewives of Miami*), and Kate Chastain (*Below Deck*), happily appearing on the podcast to roast themselves and their fellow cast-members. Michelle Collins, formerly of *The View*, also has shown up a few times.

“We definitely make fun of these shows, but the goal is to be good-hearted about it,” Mandelker stresses. “We’re not trying to troll anyone. The truth is we mock because we love.”

Interestingly, the unintended effect is that their commentary actually induces people to watch more of the Bravo shows.

Now, with the podcast airing five days a week, Karam and Mandelker have made *Crappens* part of their listeners' daily routine. "It's like a radio show, except you can listen to it whenever you want," Karam says. Mandelker elaborates: "Sure, we're working more, but we think it's a great opportunity to give the listeners more content while also growing our audience."

Tickets for the November 4 show at Social Hall, 1270 Sutter Street, San Francisco, are available at WatchWhatCrappens.com. *Watch What Crappens* is available on iTunes, Google Play, Soundcloud, iHeartRadio, Stitcher, and anywhere else where podcasts are found. Bravo!

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