Gangster Contest

by

Simon Wiedemann

INT. - DAY

In the centre of the room, a colourfully dressed GAME SHOW HOST (50) stands behind a podium. On his left and behind a smaller podium, is CONTESTANT A (30), just a regular guy. On the right, behind another smaller podium, is a short GANGSTER CONTESTANT (60), in a smart black suit. The room is well lit. Behind everyone and high up above is a large screen that currently says 'GTMPA-A!!!'

GAME SHOW HOST

Hello viewers and welcome to another edition of hit game show 'Guess the Most Popular Answer-ama!' where two contestants try and guess the most popular answers to questions!

The AUDIENCE cheers.

GAME SHOW HOST

But first, let's get to know each other! Contestant A, what's your name and what do you do?

CONTESTANT A

I'd rather not say.

The GANGSTER nods his head.

GAME SHOW HOST

Why not?

The GANGSTER mimes getting his throat slashed. The GSH looks towards the GANGSTER and scratches his head.

GAME SHOW HOST

Why aren't you letting him say his name?

GANGSTER CONTESTANT

I'm not sure, exactly.

GAME SHOW HOST

Power?

GANGSTER CONTESTANT

You, know? I think you're right.

GAME SHOW HOST

Can I ask your name?

GANGSTER CONTESTANT

No.

GAME SHOW HOST

Can I ask anything about you?

GANGSTER CONTESTANT

You can call me 'Gangster Contestant' and ask my shoe size.

GAME SHOW HOST

And what is that?

GANGSTER CONTESTANT

11.

GAME SHOW HOST And why is your shoe size significant?

GANGSTER CONTESTANT

It's a palindrome.

The AUDIENCE groans with offence. CONTEST A looks down in shame.

GAME SHOW HOST

Oh no. Another palindrome freak. Let me guess, you saw a deranged old lady write something like '12321' on a wall and now you can't think of anything else. And I guess that led you to a life of crime somehow? Let's blame numbers rather than yourself. Am I right?

GANGSTER CONTESTANT

Watch it.

GAME SHOW HOST

Am I right?

GANGSTER CONTESTANT You'd be obsessed with the numbers too if you saw enough of them.

GAME SHOW HOST

Idiot.

GANGSTER CONTESTANT

111.

The AUDIENCE shouts 'No!!' and 'Why??'

GAME SHOW HOST

Great! So we have some guy and another person with feet I'd rather not describe! Let's start the show!

A jingle is heard. The HOST turns round and looks up to the screen. It now says 'Name something you slice'.

GAME SHOW HOST

Well... Contestant A, can you name something you can slice for me, please?

CONTESTANT A

A tomato?

GAME SHOW HOST And Gangster Contestant?

GANGSTER CONTESTANT

A muppet's face.

The HOST widens his eyes.

GAME SHOW HOST

I'm sorry?

GANGSTER CONTESTANT

You heard.

GAME SHOW HOST

Right you are. Let's have a look at the scores!

A ping is heard. The HOST turns round again, to see the screen saying 'Tomato 150 points, Muppet's Face zero points.

GAME SHOW HOST

I hate to say this gangster, but you score no points...

GANGSTER CONTESTANT

I'VE slashed a muppet's face, though.

Another jingle is heard. The HOST turns around and reads from the screen again.

GAME SHOW HOST

Next question!

GANGSTER CONTESTANT

No more questions.

The HOST stares at the GANGSTER, blankly.

GAME SHOW HOST

I'm sorry?

GANGSTER CONTESTANT

You will be sorry. 232.

MAN IN AUDIENCE

You scumbag!

GAME SHOW HOST

Next question: Name something people are afraid of.

CONTESTANT A

Spiders!

GANGSTER CONTESTANT

Me.

A ping is heard. The screen says 'Spiders 36 points, Me 161 points.

GAME SHOW HOST

It seems Mr. Gangster is back in the game! A good looking number, too. No! That's not what I meant!

GANGSTER CONTESTANT

Yes! Going to win me £1,000!

GAME SHOW HOST So you're not going to steal Contestant A's money if he wins?

GANGSTER CONTESTANT Wouldn't it be your money, technically speaking?

GAME SHOW HOST

No.

GANGSTER CONTESTANT
But there'd be a brief period it was yours?

GAME SHOW HOST

I guess...

GANGSTER CONTESTANT
I'll find a way of getting the money.

GAME SHOW HOST

You'll take the money just before I hand it to Contestant A, and that way you won't be robbing him, technically speaking?

GANGSTER CONTESTANT

Right!

GAME SHOW HOST So then you'll be robbing me?

GANGSTER CONTESTANT

It wouldn't look like a robbery. It would look like you're handing me money.

GAME SHOW HOST

Contestant A's money.

GANGSTER CONTESTANT

Enough games. Just give me the money.

GAME SHOW HOST

No!

GANGSTER CONTESTANT

Go on.

Another jingle is heard. The HOST turns around again.

GAME SHOW HOST

Next question! Name something that makes a lot of noise.

CONTESTANT A

Police cars chasing the gangster.

GANGSTER CONTESTANT

The game show host, all the flippin' time.

A ping is heard. The GSH does more turning.

GAME SHOW HOST

Both contestants have 20 points, annoyingly.

And another jingle... And more turning.

GAME SHOW HOST

Next question is 'Name something that moves very slowly'.

CONTESTANT A

Time in this studio.

GANGSTER CONTESTANT

The host after I've finished with him.

GAME SHOW HOST

Look, if you're going to keep threatening me, I will call the police.

A thunderous sound is heard, as bits of the roof crash to the ground.

Dust gradually rises up and makes everyone choke. Now the blue skies are seen. From above, an OLD LADY hangs from a rope. A helicopter's blade is heard.

OLD LADY

Palindromes rock! Here's a question for you! How awesome is the Keema Nan?? VERY awesome! One thousand and eleven points!

GAME SHOW HOST
We've been trolled! Stop the filming!
Stop the filming!

GANGSTER CONTESTANT
Here's a nice number! One hundred and
twenty three thousand, three hundred
and twen...