

Palindrome Award!

by

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INT. AWARD SHOW - NIGHT

A smartly dressed SIMON WIEDEMANN (37) stands alone on a well lit stage with a podium in front of him. On the podium is a microphone and a golden trophy. In front of that is a cheering, suited AUDIENCE of grown MEN and WOMEN, sitting around tables with meals and bottles of wine on them.

SIMON
Hello, London!

The CROWDS cheers again.

SIMON
It is indeed an honour to pick up my award for best palindrome discovery of the century. I couldn't have done it without the support of people like you.

The CROWD cheers some more.

SIMON
It wasn't all because of you though, let's be real. Otherwise you'd pick up the award, or at least bits of it! No, I pondered hard over many, many months. Years, even. Then it came to me... Hang on, if a Youtube video lasts 10 minutes or more, it's impossible not to have a palindrome at some point in the video.

The AUDIENCE clap respectfully.

SIMON
(jokingly)
Unless of course your computer crashes!

The AUDIENCE laugh.

SIMON
For those of you who don't know already, (living under a rock, much?) there are two numbers you get in Youtube. The first number tells you where you are in the video, the number following that tells you how long the video lasts. So... if the video lasts 10 minutes and 3 seconds, you can pause the video at 3 minutes and no seconds and then you get the palindrome 3:00 10:03.

The AUDIENCE shake their heads in disbelief as SIMON bows.

SIMON
Thank you, thank you. However, I am
not here today just to pick up an
award, there is something else I have
to tell you...

WOMAN IN AUDIENCE
Give me another palindrome!

SIMON
Ok, 1 2 3 2 1.

The AUDIENCE converse in fascination.

SIMON
Anyway, as I was saying, if the
length of a Youtube video is a
palindrome, you will always and I
mean ALWAYS get a palindrome at the
very end of it!

The AUDIENCE explode with delight. A MAN is heard saying
'How is he doing this?'

A MAN runs from the back of the room to just in front of the
stage. It's DAN. He faces the AUDIENCE and shouts.

DAN
This man is a fraud!

The AUDIENCE gasp with horror.

DAN
James here, doesn't know a single
THING about palindromes!!

WOMAN IN AUDIENCE
Is that true?

SIMON
(confused)
No...

DAN
James Ziegler is an idiot!

SIMON
I'm Simon Wiedemann...

DAN turns to face SIMON.

DAN
Are you? You look just like James...

SIMON
I'm definitely Simon...

DAN scratches his head.

DAN
Oh. Why did James say he'd be picking
up an award right here and right now?

SIMON
Sounds like a prank to me.

DAN
That does sound like the kind of
thing James would do...

SIMON
There you go.

DAN
Oh. How embarrassing.

SIMON
Maybe go home?

WOMAN IN AUDIENCE
Either that or sit down and enjoy
more palindromes! You WILL give us
some more, right??

SIMON
Sure. 32123. Would you like to take a
seat, Dan?

DAN
Errr... things to do, things to do.
Sorry.

DAN walks out of the room with his head to the floor. This
time JAMES enters the room, walks to the stage and faces the
AUDIENCE.

JAMES
The man speaking to you is a fraud!
I'M Simon!!

The AUDIENCE sighs.

WOMAN IN AUDIENCE
Prove it!

JAMES
I look like him...

WOMAN IN AUDIENCE

If you're Simon, what is he thinking right now?

JAMES

Errr... Dammit!

SIMON

There you go, proof. Didn't Dan speak to you as he left this building?

JAMES

No, he didn't notice me. His head was to the floor.

SIMON

Well, either contribute something to the world of palindromes or get out.

JAMES

Can I have a free meal, please?

SIMON

No.

JAMES

Oh. Bye then. So sorry.

JAMES leaves the room.

SIMON

Before making way for the next award winner, I'd just like to say the odds of dying on a palindromic age after the age of 10 and before the age of 100 are precisely one in ten. For example, 11 is a palindrome, 22 is, 33 is and so on. Of course 12 isn't.

The AUDIENCE go crazy like never before.

SIMON

Thank you friends, have a great night!

SIMON leaves the stage to more cheering.