

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.