

The Pop Ups. Stay seated. Three, two, one, ignition. Get ready for an adventure of magnificent proportion.

The Pop Ups. (Singing.) I don't know what you've been told, but we're in a golden age - so many discoveries that are jumping off the page. Wow in the world. Wow in the world. Wow in the world. Wow in the world. Wow in the world. Wow in the world. Wow in the world. Wow in the world.

The Pop Ups. With Guy and Mindy. We're on our way, Houston.

Reggie. Coo. Coo.

(Soundbite of typing.)

Mindy. Okay, Reg. I'll dictate the email invitation, and you type it up, okay?

Reggie. Coo.

Mindy. Ahem.

(Soundbite of typing.)

Mindy. Dear friends and neighbors, you are cordially invited to an experimental nose picking party to test our friendship.

Reggie. Coo.

(Soundbite of typing.)

Mindy. Bring your own nose...and that's pretty much it.

(Soundbite of typing and email ding.)

Reggie. Coo!

Mindy. Oooh I wish I could be there when everyone opens up their email!

(Soundbite of whoosh transition.)

Guy Raz. (Whistle.)

Computer Voice. You've got mail!

Guy. Oh, I better check that.

(Soundbite of smartphone sounds.)

Guy. Let's see...looks like my subscription to the London Review of Books is up for renewal....I need to confirm my dentist appointment for Tuesday....Oh, and an invite from Mindy! Let's see here...dear friends and neighbors...nose picking party...da da da...test our friendship!?

Mindy. (On megaphone.) Ahem! Attention, friends and neighbors!

Guy. What in the...

(Soundbite of door opening.)

Mindy. By now you should have received an email invitation to my nose picking party!

Guy. Mindy! You just sent it!

(Soundbite of door closing and footsteps.)

Guy. I barely had time to finish reading it before you started shouting into a megaphone!

Thomas Fingerling. Yeah Mandy, you don't have to scream and wake up the whole neighborhood!

Grandma G-Force. I don't read email. If you wanna reach me. you're gonna have to pm my dm's in flap chat...or facespace...or tweeter.

Reggie. Coo.

Mindy. Well then everyone please follow me to the ol' factory in my backyard! Come on, now!

(Soundbite of chatter.)

Guy. Mindy...an ol' factory isn't a place. Olfactory is the term used to describe the parts of our body that are responsible for smell, like your nose!

Mindy. Exactly! And that's why I built my ol' factory as a giant replica of your nose, Guy Raz!

Guy. What?!

Mindy. Tadaaaaaa!

Dennis. (Gasp.) Wow!

Guy. (Groans.)

Dennis. Well how do we get inside this thing, Mindy?

Mindy. The same way you get inside anyone's nose. You climb in through the nostrils!

(Soundbite of whoosh and futuristic music chime.)

AI Voice. Welcome to the Olfactory!

Thomas Fingerling. Gasp!

Grandma G-Force. Oh snap.

Guy. And high tech too!

Reggie. Cool!

Dennis. But Mindy, where's the party? Where are the decorations?

First, I'd like for everyone to take a deep breath through your noses...

(Soundbite of inhaling.)

Mindy. Ah, smell all of the science in this space.

Thomas Fingerling. (Exhales.)

Mindy. No no no. Hold you your breath still.

Thomas Fingerling. Oop! Sorry. (Inhales.)

Mindy. Now, while you're holding these smells in your olfactory systems, I'm going to tell you why we're here.

(Soundbite of murmured agreement.)

Mindy. You see, I recently read a new study in the journal Science Advances. And it was lead by a graduate student named Inbal Ravreby, a graduate student at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel.

Guy. Mindy, can we exhale now?

Mindy. Oh sure...uh...reverse smell!

(Soundbite of exhale.)

Mindy. Anywho...Ms. Ravreby had a big wonder.

Dennis. What was it, Mindy? What was her big wonder?

Mindy. Her big wonder was this, do people who form fast friendships do so in part because of the way they smell?

(Soundbite of oooh.)

Guy. Mindy...are you saying that friendships can be based on smell?

Dennis. (Gasps.) So you can't pick your friend's nose, but your nose can pick your friends!?

Mindy. Well, let's find out! So if you will look to the left nostril over there, you will see a large sniffing scanner.

(Soundbite of robotic scanner.)

Everyone. Ohhh.

Mindy. I invented it as a way of scanning people for odors!

Guy. You mean that scanner can tell us what we smell like?

Mindy. Well, try it for yourself and see!

Guy. Okay, here it goes.

(Soundbite of stepping onto metal.)

Guy. Stepping onto the scanner platform...

Mindy. Okay. Hold still Guy Raz.

Guy. Okay.

Mindy. Press this button...

Guy. Alright.

Mindy. ...And scan!

(Soundbite of robotic scanner.)

AI Voice. Scanning initiated. Scanning scanning.

Everyone. (Gasps.) Wow!

AI Voice. Scanning initiated. Scanning. Scanning. Scanning.

(Soundbite of robotic scanner.)

AI Voice. Odors detected.

Everyone. Ooooooh!

AI Voice. Cacao beans, eucalyptus, bleach.

Reggie. Co.

Guy. Wow! I would say that's pretty accurate!

Reggie. Co.

Guy. Okay, so Mindy, back to this researcher's "big wonder." Which was, do people who form fast friendships do so in part because of the way they smell.

Mindy. Oh yeah. The hypothesis, or educated guess, was that without even realizing it, people who form fast friendships kinda smell the same!

Guy. But the way a person smells is based on so many different things!

Mindy. I see your point, Guy Raz. There are a lot of reasons that a person might smell the way they smell.

Guy. Yeah and people could smell the same because they might wear the same perfume, or enjoy the same kinds of food, visit the same kinds of places.

Mindy. Yes, that's true. But underneath all of those smells from the outside there is a buffet of natural body odors, more than six thousand known odor molecules that make up our own signature stink!

Guy. Wow! And that's what these researchers wanted to study?

Mindy. You know it, Guy Raz! So Ms. Ravreby and her team designed an experiment!

Everyone. Ooooooh! An experiment!

Mindy. So the first thing that Ms. Ravreby and her team did was gather twenty pairs of "click friends."

Guy. "Click friends?"

Mindy. Yeah, that's a term used to describe people who became friends almost instantly.

Guy. Ah, got it.

Mindy. So for our purposes here, we're going to break up into three pairs... So, Thomas Fingerling and Grandma G-Force, you'll be in group number one.

Thomas Fingerling / Grandma G-Force. Okee-doke! / Okay.

Mindy. Dennis and Reggie, you'll be in group number two.

Dennis. Oh-kay!

Reggie. Cool!

Mindy. And Guy Raz...you and me will be group in number three.

Guy. Alright!

Mindy. Next, the researchers told everyone to stop eating stinky or pungent foods like garlic and onions because they can affect a person's body odor.

Grandma G-Force. And they keep away the vampires.

Thomas Fingerling. Good point.

Mindy. No-not-ugh. Okay, can anyone guess what the researchers had everyone do next?

Dennis. (Gasps.) No!

Guy. I'm guessing that they had everyone take a shower with some unscented soap? You know, to get the smell off?

Mindy. Actually, that's right, Guy Raz!

Thomas Fingerling. Teacher's pet!

Guy. (Groans.)

Mindy. And not just any unscented soap...it was special unscented soap! From the lab!

Grandma G-Force. Ooh la laa...

Mindy. So go ahead and pass around these unscented soaps...

(Soundbite of chatting and passing.)

Mindy. Oh, one per person please!

Thomas Fingerling. Oh, this soap smells like science.

Grandma G-Force. Fingerling, science don't smell like nothin'.

Thomas Fingerling. Oh.

Mindy. And after their unscented science baths and showers, they were not allowed to use any body lotions on their skin or deodorant on their armpits.

Guy. So what about their clothing after the showers, Mindy? I mean, people tend to smell like the kind of laundry detergents they use to wash their clothes.

Mindy. Oh, great point, Guy Raz. so each person was given a clean, odorless, t-shirt to put on.

Dennis. Free shirts!?

Thomas Fingerling. Lucky ducks!

Mindy. And it just so happens, I have a free shirt for each one of you!

(Soundbite of cheer.)

Thomas Fingerling. I like free stuff.

Mindy. One for you...and one for you...

Guy. Thanks!

Mindy. And one for you...

Thomas Fingerling. Thank you!

Grandma G-Force. Ooh!

Guy. Thanks!

Reggie. Cool!

Dennis. Oooh mine says lab rat!

Grandma G-Force. Well, so does mine. How can we both be named lab rat?

Mindy. And that brings us to the final step in part one of this experimental party...

Everyone. Yeah?

Mindy. Is that we're all going to go home.

Everyone. Huh?

Mindy. Shower up with our unscented soaps.

Everyone. Huh?

Mindy. And go to sleep in our fresh and clean t-shirts.

Dennis. Huh...you want me to sleep in this shirt and get it all gross and sweaty and slept in?

Mindy. That's right, Dennis!

Dennis. Oh.

Mindy. In fact, in the real experiment, the researchers had the participants in the study sleep in their t-shirts, so they could better capture everyone's natural body odor.

Guy. And then what should we do with our shirts after we sleep in them?

Mindy. Oh, you bring them back here in the morning, and then we'll run them through our sniffing scanner! Okay, everyone go home and get to bed. I will see you back here first thing tomorrow morning, okay? And don't forget to bring back your shirts!

(Soundbite of chatter, clock ticking, and rooster crow.)

Mindy. Good morning everyone.

Everyone. Morning / Morning, Mindy! / Coo.

Mindy. And welcome back to part two of our nose picking party to test our friendships.

Dennis. Ok, Mindy, I stank up my shirt just like you told me to.

Mindy. Oh, that's great Dennis!

Thomas Fingerling. Now what do we do with 'em?

Mindy. Well, now we are going to run these t-shirts through our sniffing scanner and see what...if any smells are shared between partners!

Dennis. Oh yeah, the scanner! Can Reggie and I go first?

Reggie. Coo.

Mindy. Okay. Dennis, Reggie, please place your shirts in the scanner.

Dennis. Fare thee well stinky sleep shirt!

(Soundbite of footsteps and thud.)

Dennis. Reggie! Take off your shirt and shove it in the scanner!

Reggie. Coo.

(Soundbite of feathers flapping, cloth rustling, and thud.)

Mindy. And...scan!

(Soundbite of robotic scanner.)

AI Voice. Scanning initiated...

(Soundbite of ding.)

AI Voice. Odors detected. Odor compatibility, seventy-two percent.

Dennis. Yay! Did we win?

Reggie. Coo.

Thomas Fingerling. C'mon, G-Force. Let's shove our shirts in the sniffer.

Grandma G-Force. Well, I'll shove you in the sniffer, Fingerling.

(Soundbite of thud.)

Mindy. Thank you...and...scan!

(Soundbite of robotic scanner.)

AI Voice. Scanning initiated. Scanning. Scanning. Scanning.

(Soundbite of ding.)

AI Voice. Odors detected. Odor compatibility three percent.

Guy. Huh.

Grandma G-Force. Is that bad?

Mindy. Well, according to this study, people may tend to choose friends who smell like themselves so...

Thomas Fingerling. Well, we've never much liked each other much.

Grandma G-Force. And also I forgot to wear that shirt to bed because I didn't want to.

Guy. Wait, you didn't wear the shirt to bed?!

Grandma G-Force. Yeah, I guess.

Mindy. Grandma G-Force! If you don't follow the guidelines of the experiment, your results have a one hundred percent chance of being wrong!

Grandma G-Force.**Grandma G-Force.** My bad.

Guy and Mindy. (Sighs.)

Dennis. Ah ha! It's a mistrial!

Guy. Okay, Mindy, should we test our results? I brought my t-shirt and I actually slept in it last night.

Mindy. Okay, Guy Raz. Let's see if our friendship is supported through our bodily odors!

Guy. Alright. Here we go.

(Soundbite of thud.)

Mindy. And...scan!

(Soundbite of robotic scanner.)

AI Voice. Scanning initiated. Scanning. Scanning. Scanning.

(Soundbite of ding.)

AI Voice. Odors detected. Odor compatibility ninety-seven percent.

Mindy and Guy. Yay! Woohoo!

Mindy. Yes! This smell study supports our friendship, Guy Raz!

Guy. And I'm sure it has nothing to do with the fact that we both love science and adventure...and science.

Mindy. Well, yeah. It's based on all of the things that we have in common. But it's possible that when we first met, those similar smells we picked up on from each other are what took our friendship to the finish line without us even realizing it!

Guy. Is that what these researchers found in the study?

Mindy. Well, yeah, pretty much. So they found that of the people who had similar body odors, seventy one percent or almost three fourths of them also generally liked each other.

Guy. Suggesting that smelling a person with body odors similar to our own, might be part of what makes you feel good about that person?

Mindy. That's what these researchers found! And next, they hope to experiment with people's body odors by making random strangers smell the same

Guy. Ahh, to see if similarly smelling people tend to team up?

Mindy. You know it, and if they do, how does that affect their behavior or the way they make decisions or the way they come up with ideas?

Dennis. Ooh! I've got an idea! What if we all get in the sniffing scanner thinger and test the odor compatibility of the whole group!? Scanner! Scanner! Scanner!

Thomas Fingerling and Grandma G-Force and Dennis. Scanner! Scanner! Scanner!

Guy. (Sigh.) Ok! Ok! Let's get in the scanner!

Thomas Fingerling and Grandma G-Force and Dennis. Hooray! Yay! Oh boy!

(Soundbite of jostling.)

Thomas Fingerling. Ok, someone hit the button.

Dennis. Ok, I'm gonna try to reach it.

Mindy. You know, on second thought, I don't think we need technology to tell us whether or not our smells are compatible.

Dennis. We don't?

Mindy. Yeah! I mean, just take a deep breath!

Everyone. Ahhh.

Thomas Fingerling. Huh. Not too bad. What is that?

Mindy. That my friends is the smell of hot, buttered friendship in the morning.

Dennis. Aww.

Reggie. Coo.

Grandma G-Force. Uh-oh.

Mindy. What...

(Soundbite of fart.)

Everyone. Ugh!

Guy. Grandma G-Force!

Grandma G-Force. Sorry. Couldn't hold it.

Dennis. Friendship over! Friendship over!

Reggie. Cool!