

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.

(Soundbite of rain pattering and trudging in mud.)

Guy. Ugh, what rainy weather! I'm sure glad Mindy invited me over for some TV.

(Soundbite of knocking on door.)

Bouncer. Hold on, I'm coming I'm coming.

(Soundbite of rain and door swinging open.)

Bouncer. Name?

Guy. I'm Guy Raz.

Bouncer. Guy Raz...ah yeah.

(Soundbite of crossing off list, paper rustling.)

Bouncer. Here you are. Come on in and hurry up! We're running twenty minutes behind.

(Soundbite of footsteps.)

Guy. Twenty minutes behind on what?

Bouncer. No time to explain. Head that way.

(Soundbite of mild commotion.)

Guy. What in the world is going on here?

Costume Department. Excuse me. Are you Guy Raz?

Guy. Uh...yes?

Costume Department. Great. Follow me just through here.

(Soundbite of footsteps.)

Costume Department. We need to go to wardrobe and get your costume.

(Soundbite of door opening and closing.)

Guy. Costume?

Costume Department. Mmhm. I think it's somewhere in here.

(Soundbite of clothes hanger sliding.)

Costume Department. Nope, that's not it. Nope. Oh! Here it is! Ha...ah.

(Soundbite of outfit thumping down.)

Guy. What in the—

Costume Department. Beautiful isn't it?

Guy. It looks like a giant chili pepper.

Costume Department. Well of course it does. Arms up!

Guy. What?

(Soundbite of fabric stretching, rustling.)

Costume Department. Ok, there we go. That seems like a good fit to me. How does it feel?

Guy. It's a little tight.

Costume Department. Alright, let me just loosen that up a little bit.

(Soundbite of expanding.)

Costume Department. How's that?

Guy. That's better.

Costume Department. Okay, good! I'm gonna make some final adjustments.

(Soundbite of tinkering with outfit, fabric ripping, clipping)

(Soundbite of door opening and footsteps.)

Mindy. Guy Razzzy! You made it!

Guy. Mindy! What in the wow is going on here?

Mindy. Isn't it obvious? I'm putting on my very own daytime TV talk show!

Guy. You're what?

Mindy. Yeah, remember...I told you all about it on the phone?

Guy. Mindy, when you asked me to come over for some TV I thought you meant we were going to watch some TV, not make some!

Mindy. Oh, we're still gonna watch it...just after we make it.

Guy. Ugh!

Mindy. And guess what Guy Raz, you're gonna be the star of the show!

Guy. I am?

Mindy. Well not you you. More like the character you'll be playing.

Guy. The character I'm playing?

Mindy. Yup! The character, Capsicum!

Guy. Capsicum? You mean like, the pepper? Is that why you've put me in this ridiculous costume?!

Mindy. So Guy Raz... are you feeling spicy?

Guy. Not really!

Mindy. Well you better turn up the heat and get spicy Guy Raz, because you're going live in five minutes!

Guy. Five minutes?!

Mindy. Yes! So get ready! I'm going to be walking you and the audience through your family tree.

Guy. My family tree?

Mindy. Well, not your family tree Guy Raz, I'll be going through your character, capsicum's family tree. Your pepper family tree

Guy. A pepper family tree?

Mindy. Yup, it goes back hundreds of years and includes peppers from all over the world!

Guy. And I'm supposed to be playing the role of the main pepper?

Mindy. Yeah, see! Now you're getting it!

Guy. Ugh.

(Soundbite of knocking.)

Producer. Knock, knock, knock! Mindy, we're ready for you.

Mindy. Ooop! Gotta run Guy Raz, and don't worry it'll all make sense, okay?

(Soundbite of footsteps.)

Mindy. Alright see you out there! And don't forget to smile!

(Soundbite of door closing.)

Guy. Mindy! Ugh.

Producer. Ok, Guy Raz?

Guy. Yes?

Producer. We're ready for you. Follow me.

Guy. Alright.

(Soundbite of squeaking and walking.)

Producer. Oh, easy on the costume, there!

Guy. Ehh.

Producer. Alright, stand right here and wait for your cue, got it?

Guy. I think so?

Producer. Great. Have fun out there.

Assistant Director. Ok here we go in three, two, one...

(Soundbite intro to talk show and applause.)

Narrator. Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to everyone's favorite genealogical talk show...it's 'Family Tree'!

(Soundbite of applause.)

Narrator. With your host, the one, the only...Mindy!

(Soundbite of applause.)

Mindy. Thank you thank you, I love you all! And welcome to 'Family Tree'!

(Soundbite of roaring applause and cheers.)

Mindy. My guest today can be found on almost every single continent on the planet. It's been traded and transported across the globe for hundreds of years and today, it's here with us. Please, put your hands together for the pepper you all know and love—it's Capsicum!

(Soundbite of applause.)

Mindy. I said, Capsicum! Capsicum to the stage!

(Soundbite of applause fades.)

Mindy. Guy Raz! That's your cue!

Guy. Eh...

Production Assistant. Push him! Push him hard.

(Soundbite of sliding and applause.)

Mindy. There we go. Please, take a seat.

(Soundbite of costume squeaking.)

Mindy. So, Capsicum Pepper, why don't you tell us a little bit about yourself?

Guy. Um, uh, well I'm uh a vegetable, I think?

Mindy. Well, botanically speaking, you're actually a fruit, but when it comes to cooking, most people regard you as a vegetable...and one of the most successful ones on the planet, I might add!

Audience. Ooooh.

Mindy. With a family tree that extends back at least hundreds of years and spans the entire globe!

Guy. I am?

Mindy. You're kind of a big deal! But what you might not know is that you actually came from quite humble beginnings.

Guy. Huh.

Mindy. But now thanks to the C.R.E.A Research Center for Vegetable and Ornamental crops in Italy.

(Soundbite of swoosh.)

Mindy. We have the answers to all your burning family questions!

Guy. Huh?

Mindy. Are you ready to find out–

Mindy and Audience. Who...you...are!?

(Soundbite of applause.)

Guy. Um, I guess?

Mindy. Great! Now let me just...get this...thing out.

Guy. Uh Mindy, do you need a hand?

Mindy. No, I got it.

(Soundbite of thud.)

Mindy. Phew!

Guy. Wow...that's one big book.

Mindy. This isn't just any book Capsicum Pepper, this is a book put together by the CREA Research Center.

(Soundbite of pages turning.)

Mindy. And in it is the genetic information of over ten thousand peppers from all over the world.

Audience. Oooh, ahhhh.

Guy. Right, and genetic information is the living code inside all of us that makes us unique.

Mindy. Exactly!

(Soundbite of pages turning.)

Mindy. These researchers have taken more than ten thousand pepper samples from all over the world to try and understand what it is that links them together, what common ancestors they might have...

Guy. Oh, I get it. It's kind of like how some people might take a DNA test to try and understand their family history and heritage...sounds like these researchers did the same thing, but for peppers...like me!

Mindy. Exactoritos, you spicy little pepper!

(Soundbite of laughter.)

Guy. And what did they find, Mindy?

Mindy. Well, whaddya say folks, should we take a look and find out?

(Soundbite of applause.)

Guy. Mindy where did you find all these people?

Mindy. Eh, don't worry about it. Alright, now.

(Soundbite of book thud and pages turning.)

Mindy. As you well know, Capsicum pepper, your family tree includes everything from bell peppers cayenne peppers to ja-lap-en-os...

Guy. Do you mean jalapeños?

Mindy. Yeah, that's what I said.

Guy. Uh-huh.

Mindy. Ahem, as I was saying, these researchers found out that all of these peppers, including yourself, share several common ancestors!

Guy. Really!?

Mindy. Uh-huh. It turns out that several of the peppers tested from Asia and Europe shared several common genes...

Guy. Which means that they must have had a common ancestor at some point in the past.

Mindy. Exactoritos, they're basically cousins! With common ancestors that were traded between Europe and Asia hundreds of years ago.

Guy. Wow.

Mindy. And that's not the only historical connection that these scientists were able to pull out of their research.

Guy. Really?

Mindy. Really! What do you say, audience? Are you ready for a little story time?

(Soundbite of applause and cheering.)

Mindy. Lights!

(Soundbite of lights powering down.)

Mindy. The year is 1571 and Portuguese traders are fighting their way across the Atlantic Ocean towards a new world ...

(Soundbite of waves and seagulls.)

Mindy. And in their hold, a sack of seeds. But not just any seeds...These are the seeds of your ancestors.

Portuguese Trader. Pimento ...

(Soundbite of lights turning back on.)

Guy. Wait a minute Mindy, how were these researchers able to find out all that from a few lines of genetic code?

Mindy. Well Capsicum pepper, these researchers from the CREA Research Center were able to find the same genes in peppers from both South America, Africa and the Western coast of Europe.

Guy. Okay, and their conclusion was that because all these places were hot spots for Portuguese trading in the 1600s that these peppers probably found their way on board the ships?

Mindy. Exactly!

Guy. Wow.

Mindy. And that's not all, while studying your family tree, these researchers found something else. Something very interesting...very...unusual...

Guy. Well, what was it?

(Soundbite of big game show music.)

Mindy. We'll find out right after this break, when we return with another special guest!

Guy. Another special guest?

Mindy. Don't go anywhere! we'll be right back.

(Soundbite of applause and bell.)

Guy. So Mindy, what was that extra thing that these researchers discovered? And who's this special guest you have coming on?

Mindy. Oh, you'll find out soon enough.

Producer. Right this way, ma' lady.

Grandma G-Force. Get your stinkin' hands off me!

Producer. Ouch! Okay!

Guy. Gramma G-Force?

Assistant Director. And we're back in three, two, one...

(Soundbite of bell, band and applause.)

Mindy. And welcome back to this 'Family Tree!' Now, before the break we were talking to our good friend, and pepper, Capsicum about his extensive family tree. A family tree that goes back hundreds of years and stretches from Asia to Europe and from Africa to South America.

(Soundbite of applause.)

Mindy. But that's not all, you see over the years, farmers from around the world have been breeding these peppers for different flavors.

Guy. Right, you mean like how in Europe you might find a pepper that's crisp and sweet, and in Asia you might find one that's small and spicy!

Mindy. Who you callin' small and spicy?

Guy. Uhhh....

Mindy. Okay, well, these researchers were able to identify which genes were associated with spiciness and which genes were associated with sweetness.

Audience. Ooohh, ahhh.

Guy. Interesting, you mean they were able to find the specific parts of the peppers' genetic code might have made it spicy or sweet?

Mindy. You guessed it, Capsicum pepper! And with this information the researchers are hoping that now, pepper breeders all over the world will be able to choose just how spicy or just how sweet they want their peppers to be.

Guy. Huh...

Mindy. Time to bring out our next special guest, someone who has plenty of experience with pepper breeding, pepper eating, and pepper wrestling! It's our own fire breathing, Gramma G-Force!

(Soundbite of applause.)

Grandma G-Force. Scoot your patoot pepper boy! Gotta make some room for old Gramma G-Force.

Guy. Oop! Sorry.

(Soundbite of scootching and sliding.)

Grandma G-Force. Now, let me park my keister right here...ooh.

Mindy. Now, Gramma G-Force...What does this news mean to you and all the other pepper breeders like yourself?

Grandma G-Force. Well, like I tried to tell your fancy pants TV boy on the phone, I don't grow peppers. I eat 'em!

Mindy. Right. I wish I would have seen that one coming.

Grandma G-Force. Speaking of which, you're looking awfully tasty there Mr. Capsicum.

Guy. Grandma G-Force, I'm not actually a real pepper. It's just me, Guy Raz, in a costume.

Grandma G-Force. Sure you are...Now why don't you give me just a little nibble on the top there.

Guy. Oh no.

(Soundbite of squeaking.)

Guy. No! No!

Grandma G-Force. Not so fast Mister Capsicum...I'm gonna take a bite outta you!

(Soundbite of chasing.)

Guy. No Grandma, G-Force! Ow! Stop!

Grandma G-Force. Stop squirming!

Mindy. And I'm afraid that's all the time we have today on 'Family Tree'! Thank you all for being here for our deep dive into the Capsicum's extended family tree! Join us next week when we'll be interviewing a backyard chicken about its dino DNA!

(Soundbite of applause and cheering.)

Announcer. To attend a live taping of Family Tree with Mindy, please call our box office to be entered into a lottery wherein Mindy will pick attendees based off of who is wearing the best hat. All attendees must sign a waiver of liability and provide their own hat. The first 5 rows will get wet.