

THE DAWNING OF THE MIDWEST PCA PUB QUIZ

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ROUND 1: Part 1

In the Beginning...

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QUIZ

ROUND 1: In the Beginning

In the 1970s, Sharon Burns and Tom Porter founded a business selling what events to bars in Britain?

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1:1

ROUND 1: In the Beginning

By 2012, I had been the MPCA Executive Secretary for three years. We'd seen a steady rise in our attendance and were reaping the fruit sewn by Gary Burns and the other early leaders.

Lori Scharenbroich and I had been working to augment the community atmosphere at the conference, adding a variety of social and professional events to the schedule.

On a whim, I suggested we add a pub-quiz-style trivia night.

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1:1

ROUND 2: Part 1

The Confession

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ROUND 2: The Confession

In a nod to his role as the host of QI, which British actor/writer hosted a pub quiz in an episode of his legal comedy series, *Kingdom*?

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2:1

ROUND 2: The Confession

Now, in this moment of truth and reconciliation, it seems apt that I reveal my dark secret: I have never attended a pub trivia night.

My idea of them springs from a messy melange of BBC shows and films, including *The Office* and Stephen Fry's show *Kingdom*, in which he wears academic regalia while running a pub quiz.

Never one to let inexperience stand in my way, I donned my robes and tam and did my best.

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2:1

ROUND 3: Part 1

A Few Traditions

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ROUND 3: A Few Traditions

When Mel Brooks cast Zero Mostel in *The Producers*, the actor brought with him the tradition of Broadway, as he was known for originating what role just three years earlier?

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3:1

ROUND 3: A Few Traditions

In the decade that we've run the quiz, we've settled into a few traditions. The format – 55 questions over five rounds, winners and losers both get prizes, teams of four – has remained relatively unchanged.

In the second year I added a category asking about the history of the day of the quiz. We also started using questions with image and sound clues; in the third year, more of those. Somewhere along the line I began including a few word puzzle questions. These categories may or may not have reflected my enthusiasm for the now-defunct “Ask Me Another” program on NPR.

I've also been blessed with help from several other MPCA regulars, including Paul Booth as the Answer Maven, and the scoring squad, who now wear jester caps and give out points for funny wrong answers.

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3:1

ROUND 4: Part 1

And, Of Course, Captain Ron

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ROUND 4: And, Of Course, Captain Ron

Who starred in the 2007 adaptation of a classic Richard Matheson novel that is sometimes credited as an early example of the modern zombie apocalypse text, despite having no zombies in it?

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4:1

ROUND 4: And, Of Course, Captain Ron

They say that the mythology of a cultural icon is shaped not by reality, but by the perception of that reality. For example, we all know Superman can fly. But in early appearances, he merely jumped really far. But once he could fly, that became a defining aspect of the character.

The quiz took flight with question 41 of the fourth event, in 2015. In the category about “short men,” I asked “Who starred with Martin Short as the titular character in the film *Captain Ron*?” I was tickled by having included one of my favorite corny movies, so the next year, it returned.

After that, it became legend. I consider it a personal victory that at least one person went out of their way to watch *Captain Ron* to train for the Pub Quiz.

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4:1

ROUND 5: Part 1

Into the Future

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ROUND 5: Into the Future

In their classically cynical 1986 pop song, Timbuk 3 imagines that in a nuclear war future, they'll have to wear what protective gear?

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QUIZ

5:1

ROUND 5: Into the Future

As we move toward the future, the pub quiz will continue to be both a staple of the MPCA experience and, hopefully, an evolving event that's both fun and social.

It's been a delight to run each year so far, and I look forward to helping it continue for many years to come.

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5:1

- 1) Pub Quiz
- 2) Stephen Fry
- 3) Tevye
- 4) Will Smith
- 5) Sunglasses

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QUIZ
THE ANSWERS