

[00:00:00] <music>

**Annie:** Hi friends! Welcome to another episode of That Sounds Fun. I'm your host Annie F. Downs. I'm really happy to be here with you today. We've got a great show in store. It is day five of the 2021 Christmas Party with 12 days in a row of Christmas coming your way. Imagine that we're all mingling at a lovely Christmas holiday soiree taking in the beautiful decor, pause and have a chat with new friends here and there.

If you missed days one through four with the Deck the Hallmark guys, Porsha Williams, Keatyn Klaus, Becca Stevens, be sure to check those out. So much fun and wisdom, everything in between those episodes. The soundtrack of our party is *Little Drummer Boy* from for KING & COUNTRY. It's from their album *A Drummer Boy Christmas*. It's so good y'all. So be sure to check that out.

And I have it on good authority that Santa is planning on stopping by the studio tomorrow so we can chat before he starts his world tour. So today is the last day to send in questions for Jolly Old St. Nick. Just follow the link in the show notes to share your questions.

Before we dive into today's conversation, I want to take a moment to share about one of our incredible partners. This podcast is sponsored by [BetterHelp Online Therapy](#). We talk about BetterHelp pretty regularly here at That Sounds Fun. And this month we're discussing some of the stigmas around mental health.

For example, so many people have either been taught or have bought into the idea that mental health shouldn't be a part of normal life. But that's not true. We take care of our bodies with the gym, the doctor, and nutrition, we should be focusing on our minds just as much. Where, O where would I be without consistent support of my counselor over the years? I think you'd find it really helpful to connect with a therapist through BetterHelp.

BetterHelp is a customized online therapy that offers video, phone, and even live chat sessions with your therapist. So you don't have to see anyone on camera if you don't want to. It's much more affordable than in-person therapy and you can be matched with a therapist under 48 hours. Give it a try and see why over 2 million people have used BetterHelp Online Therapy.

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**Intro:** And today on the show I get to talk with the hilarious Nate Bargatze. Nate is an incredible comedian. He's done two Netflix specials, *The Greatest Average American* and the *Tennessee Kid*. He's appeared multiple times on Conan and the Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon. He was even on Jimmy Fallon's Clean Cut Comedy Tour and he performs all over. He also hosts a podcast called Nateland.

We just kind of jumped right in like old pals. And this one is really great. So let's gather round over the Punchbowl because this is one that's just going to go down easy, you guys. Here's my conversation with my friend Nate Bargatze.

[00:02:50] <music>

**Annie:** Oh yes, look at this new timer we got, Nate. I mean-

**Nate:** Oh, yeah. That's funny if we're on stage.

**Annie:** Wow. Don't y'all have a timer when you're on stage?

**Nate:** We have a timer that sets in there. We do have one. We set it in the front.

**Annie:** But is it just like your phone?

**Nate:** No, no, it just counts up. And so you kind of know. I like to keep an eye. I kind of know where I want to be like 30 minutes, know what joke I want to be on. I can tell if I'm going too fast or slow, depending on if I'm at that joke.

**Annie:** Really?

**Nate:** Yeah, not like it really matters. But I can tell. If I do the joke quicker it's like, All right, I'll be a little under an hour. If I'm not to that joke, I'm pretty low over an hour." And it's just you know, so much energy to grow.

**Annie:** Oh my gosh, you've got the whole thing mapped out every night?

**Nate:** Some. I just kind of know the one joke. I know the general idea.

**Annie:** The one part where the road split.

**Nate:** Yeah, yeah. And it's like if I'm not there by 30, it's... But if you get there at 20, you're like, "We're in big trouble. We're in big trouble."

**Annie:** "This is not great."

**Nate:** Yeah, it's not good.

**Annie:** I practiced to talk one time for a church in the car. They'd said 35 minutes. And I had written the whole thing out, almost manuscript it because I was nervous. So I was like, "As I'm driving I'm gonna practice it one good time." 19 minutes. I was like we are-

**Nate:** In the car?

**Annie:** In the car on the way. I was like, "We are in big trouble today. Because I'm gonna have to find another 16 minutes between here and the church."

**Nate:** You hope the energy will grow. Are you getting laughs and stuff?

**Annie:** I mean, not 60 minutes. You're getting 60 minutes. I'm getting 16 seconds. There's not a world.

**Nate:** No, it is tough. On the special *The Greatest Average American*, it taped outside and so they had to wear masks. It was at Universal Studios. You take two shows when you take a special and then you usually-

**Annie:** On the same night?

**Nate:** Same night.

**Annie:** You get back to back?

**Nate:** Yeah, back to back. You basically kind of take one show, and then there might be like four jokes that you're like, "I had said it better in the first time. So move it or whatever."

**Annie:** So do the exact same set?

**Nate:** Same set. But every other special, we do the first one, they're like, "We got it. Don't worry about it. Have fun the second show." And so usually the second show we might even add a little something in there because you're just loose because you know we already got it in the books. And so like the next one just to make sure.

But this one I did because the energy was...it was outside, they had masks on, I couldn't hear them laugh. And I did 43 minutes and it's supposed to be an hour. And they-

**Annie:** You couldn't hear them laugh at all?

**Nate:** No.

**Annie:** I've watched it. When you watch it, you can hear them laugh.

**Nate:** Well, they made it. And they had mics under table-

**Annie:** You just couldn't hear it.

**Nate:** I can't hear them.

**Annie:** Oh, that's awful.

**Nate:** So it was like to your timing, your timing is all based on the audience.

**Annie:** Yes.

**Nate:** And so you just start talking a little bit quicker. And then that just start sucking the energy out. And then it's like, I mean, it's 43. Right. When I got off, they were like... Usually, they're like, "We got it." Now, they're like, "We don't have it."

**Annie:** We most definitely-

**Nate:** The second show was... I mean, I can't tell you how important the second show is. Like the most.

**Annie:** You're like, "Start at the beginning and slow it down by point 5."

**Nate:** Yeah. I had to find 17 minutes.

**Annie:** Did it work? I mean, yeah, I've watched it.

**Nate:** Yeah. I'm out, I just felt myself go slower. And then I just slowed it down. And also the second show, because they had mics on their table, we put where I could hear their laughs in my monitor. So then I at least had some kind of... I mean, it's not the most ideal thing but it made it a lot better.

**Annie:** I mean, I want to live a life where in my ears is the people laughing around me at my jokes.

**Nate:** Oh, yeah.

**Annie:** What a dream that you just always hear the laugh track in your whole story!

**Nate:** We just had the monitor on the stage. I don't have the year thing.

**Annie:** Oh, it's not in your head.

**Nate:** Yeah, I don't know what that is. Like that's a singer-

**Annie:** That's musicians. We don't get that.

**Nate:** I don't ever understand. Is that their monitor?

**Annie:** I think so.

**Nate:** Oh, yeah.

**Annie:** Producer Johnny is nodding aggressively.

**Nate:** I always see that. A comedian soundcheck is, I mean, it's one second. I go up and say, "Hello." All right, yeah, sounds good."

**Annie:** Same as a speaker. They're like, "We've locked you a soundcheck for 30 minutes." I'm like, "I promise you I can do it less than that because I got to do two sentences." And because of the something in my voice, they have to use a compressor. So every time I get there, I go. "Hey, this is Annie." Uh, everybody else says compressor, and the sound guy laughs a little bit and they go, "Yeah, you're good." That's it. That's the fullness of that soundcheck.

**Nate:** Yeah, it's great.

**Annie:** Do y'all do sound checks at comedy clubs?

**Nate:** Not at comedy clubs but a theater.

**Annie:** Okay.

**Nate:** So you make sure... because it's always different. Every venue has a different sound system, different people running it. My tour manager used to go do it but I like to come see the theater and at least talk once into it. And so I'll go out there and then like, you know, your introduction like with the music, like the lights you can see. But it's very quick.

**Annie:** When you bus-tour, you get to the venue, what's your first move? Do you walk in and look at the room? Or do you go work out and go eat lunch and whatever?

**Nate:** I will try to go... if they let us in... sometimes you can't go in yet. But if we get there, I'll just wake up when I wake up, and then if the door is open I'll go look at it real fast. Because then if I don't make the soundcheck, okay, I at least see the room.

Because I've had times where, say, you don't get to go see the room before the crowds in there, for whatever... like you come in late or whatever. And so like you go out. And when I go out, I like it all blacked out. Like the audience is completely dark.

**Annie:** Oh, you don't want to see them at all?

**Nate:** No, I don't like. It just feels like more-

**Annie:** You just want to hear them. You just want the laughter rolling?

**Nate:** You want to hear them. I don't want to make them feel weird. I mean, they think I'm looking at them. I will make better eye contact if I can't see.

**Annie:** You're just looking into a darkness, you're like, "I've got somebody."

**Nate:** Yeah, you're looking at somebody. Because otherwise it gets weird. Like I would always get weird. Like you're really looking at someone then you're like, "I think I'm just looking at..." Like whatever they're thinking, I'm also thinking. And so I'm trying to be like, "All right, well, we can all just enjoy this show."

**Annie:** "Let's just continue to have two separate experiences."

**Nate:** Yeah. Yeah. I'll do it and then... And we turn the lights off at the end. I like to because I do want to see everybody. But sometimes you go out, the crowd is completely dark out, and then you're like, "I haven't seen any of these people."

**Annie:** I don't know what's on the other side of the darkness.

**Nate:** I don't know what's on the other side. No. And that's weird. Because you're like when you don't see them at all, you're just like, "What's happening?"

**Annie:** That has never one time happened to me. I can't imagine walking out not knowing what the people-

**Nate:** You would always have the lights on.

**Annie:** Yes. We don't blink out for two hours.

**Nate:** Yeah, because I've done corporate gigs where they have speakers and stuff and then we do our comedy or whatever. Yeah, those not. You're seeing the whole crowd.

**Annie:** Right. Right. They're all there. I did a thing with radio people maybe six months ago, a year ago, and radio people have heard everything. Like they're not there to hear me. They're not. They're not there for it. And so I'm passionate about whatever I'm teaching about and they're just... I'm like, "Can we turn the lights off?" Because I appreciate they're here, but I am hurting. This is hurting my feelings. This is hurting my feelings.

**Nate:** When you're a speaker I guess that is the weird thing. Like you have to learn to talk without really response. Because people are learning something, right? That's the point.

**Annie:** Maybe.

**Nate:** That's what you hope.

**Annie:** That's what you hope, yeah.

**Nate:** So yeah. Because when you bomb in comedy it's like they don't laugh. I mean, you don't want to get used to it. But you're kind of, I don't know, it doesn't bother you as much. But it still happen when you start talking quicker or you start like, you know, like you're trying to just get them to laugh. So I don't know. But I mean, a speaker I would imagine, yeah, that's got to be... especially somebody that's just real serious. I guess your mindset is different.

**Annie:** Which is brutal. Dustin Nickerson, who we all adore, Dustin has taught me so much about the importance of bombing for y'all. I mean, there are times especially

like on a Monday night at Zanies, that is the night where y'all practice all your new stuff. Right?

**Nate:** Yeah.

**Annie:** You tell me about the power of bombing?

**Nate:** It doesn't happen as much as it did when I first started.

**Annie:** Certainly.

**Nate:** I mean, I've done it 19 years now.

**Annie:** Full time for 19 years?

**Nate:** No, not full-time. Full time maybe 10 years. Maybe.

**Annie:** That's incredible.

**Nate:** 11 years maybe. I don't know.

**Annie:** Wow.

**Nate:** Yeah. It all just blends together. So bombing is very important. I mean, you just have to feel what that feels like, that uncomfortableness, and not be able to take it personally. It's very hard not to take personal because you think, Well, you know... And then it makes you want to like get back on it and then be like, "All right, well, I needed it."

I always thought there's a very important thing too learn what it sounds like to really do great, like to kill as we say, to be crushing on stage. You need to know what that feels like so you're always chasing that. You're always know, like, well, I'm trying to get every joke to that level.

Because, I mean, otherwise, if people don't do good for a long time, they get used to that sound, the response that they get. And so then they think they're doing good. And you're like, "It's not good, man." But that's all they hear. They've never heard themselves do good. Because even if you're in the crowd, you can tell people are laughing, but you got to feel it. So if it's not good ever, well, then every show they do is not good. And then they stay there because they don't-



**Annie:** They don't know.

**Nate:** They don't know. Because you got to learn how to make a joke great. Like even just one joke you got to write them over and over. You got to say them over and over again. You got to learn why... You should be able to know when the people are gonna laugh, somewhat why they're gonna be laughing. You just got to kind of know like, "All right, this is funny. This works here." And then when you get older and do it longer, you kind of have a better idea of what's going to work and what's not going to work.

**Annie:** And the only way you know if a joke works is to do in front of people?

**Nate:** Yeah, I mean, we get the most immediate response. That's what I love about comedy is there's nothing... I can make up a joke during the show and I get a response. So it's the most unfiltered from my head to people. And then you get immediate like, "All right, how does this sound? Do they laugh? Do they not laugh?"

**Annie:** And then when you walk offstage, do you add it to your notecard and go, "I don't want to forget that that thing happened or that I said goldfish joke or whatever?"

**Nate:** Yeah, yes. Some of them I'll either write it down. I don't write down a ton of time. But I'll usually like put in my notes if it's one little thing and just remember to say it. It kind of changes like little. The big parts are all there, maybe there's some little stuff here and there. Unless it's something local. And if you just come up with some local, you're just-

**Annie:** You gotta be proud of yourself and get on the bus.

**Nate:** Yeah. Yeah. Sometimes you want to like... I opened right now with a joke about going to a store in Omaha, Nebraska. And that was a joke that would destroy so hard in Omaha. And I was like, "Just please work." Sometimes you're like, "Well, I gotta make this." The Mount Rainier joke with the dead horse. I was like, "How do I make everybody get that Mount Rainier?" Because otherwise, people could be like, "I don't care about another mountain."

**Annie:** Or another dead horse. I got my own dead horse.

**Nate:** I got my own dead horse. I got my own mountain. I have enough on my plate.

**Annie:** I don't think you meant to do this, but when I'm hearing you talk about getting that medium-sized laugh and being okay, I mean, we all do that in our lives. I mean, we've been talking a lot about prayer. So I'm going to go way too serious for a second. But how many times do we just get satisfied in the very middle versus going for the big thing?

**Nate:** Oh, yeah.

**Annie:** Right.

**Nate:** Oh, yeah, everybody does.

**Annie:** I mean, you're modeling that. What you're saying in comedy I'm responding to about things I prayed for this morning, I'm like, "Oh, yeah, I don't know what the big laughs sounds like in prayer. So I'm just keeping satisfied with the medium. And that's enough."

**Nate:** It's safe. It feels safe.

**Annie:** You better say that.

**Nate:** I remember there's a quote that—recently I moved from New York to LA—was if you start feeling comfortable, it's time to make a change. And it was Jerry Weintraub. And he used to be a big agent, a producer for Ocean's Eleven, Thirteen. Like big Hollywood dude.

And he was working in New York for WME agents and then moved to LA. So I read his book and when I read that is when I moved New York to LA. Because he was like, "You can start feeling very comfortable. And you go, 'All right, I got a good thing going here. I was getting on stage everywhere. But if I want to go to the next level, I got to go to LA, then I've got to get on the road, and then you can start expanding.'"

And that's been like the big laugh is like people get comfortable. And it's very easy to go like, "Let's not blow anything up. We got a good thing going." And some people just want that. And I understand that. And there's some people that want to have the drive. It's like, "Well, you gotta go be uncomfortable. Yeah, it's too comfortable. You're enjoying it. It's like it's easy."

**Annie:** So Nashville, New York; LA, Nashville?

**2021 Christmas Party Episode 5 - Nate Bargatze    That Sounds Fun Podcast with Annie F. Downs**

**Nate:** I started in Chicago, actually. So I never did comedy in Nashville at the beginning. But I just moved to Chicago, and then for two years and then New York for about almost nine, LA for a couple of years, and then back to Nashville.

**Annie:** Were you and Lauren married the whole time?

**Nate:** We've been together the whole time since I was 20.

**Annie:** Wow.

**Nate:** We met Applebee's on Thompson Lane.

**Annie:** Get out of here. That is disgusting.

**Nate:** I know. Before I started comedy-

**Annie:** What did you do then?

**Nate:** I was a host and she was a server.

**Annie:** I'm sorry. Y'all worked at Applebee's.

**Nate:** We worked at Applebee's.

**Annie:** You don't mean you met there.

**Nate:** No, we worked there.

**Annie:** Y'all were employees at the Applebee's. That is a deeper story. I apologize for saying "disgusting."

**Nate:** No, that's all right.

**Annie:** That was your income. I did not know.

**Nate:** I was 20 years old.

**Annie:** You were a host and she was a server.

**Nate:** Yeah, yeah.

**Annie:** Great.

[00:16:43] <music>

**Sponsor:** Hey friends! Just interrupting this conversation real quick to share about another one of our incredible partners, [Ritual](#). Okay, so listen to this. Over 97% of women, that probably means you, aged 19 to 50, that might be you, are not getting enough vitamin D from what they eat and 95% are not getting their recommended daily intake of key Omega 3s. That's really not something we should be ignoring, you guys.

Ritual's Essential for Women 18+ Multivitamin was formulated by exhaustive research to help fill nutrient gaps in the diets of women ages 18 plus. It's formulated with nutrients to help support brain health, bone health, blood health and provide antioxidant support.

Ritual didn't stop there. They invested in a gold standard, University-led clinical trial to prove the impact of Essential for Women 18+ Multivitamin. So AFD, what were the results? You may be asking. Essential for Women 18+ was shown to increase vitamin D levels by 43% and Omega 3 DHA levels by 41% in 12 weeks.

The clinical study was published in the leading scientific journal *Frontiers in Nutrition*. A published clinical study is a big deal and a serious commitment to a first-of-its-kind standard in the industry. I love that Ritual is committed to third-party testing, traceable and vegan-friendly ingredients, and always clear communication. No shady stuff.

I know I can trust their vitamins. I take my ritual multivitamin every day. I just know that no matter how I try I'm not getting all the good stuff I need for what I eat so I want to be sure to supplement that. And Ritual is my go-to. It's easy on the stomach and it doesn't have that vitamin E aftertaste that some do. Gross.

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**Annie:** All right, I'm with our Enneagram Nines from EnneaSummer, Adam and Camille. You guys, what is your favorite Christmas song?

**Camille:** All right, mine's gonna be a little bit of a sleeper.

**Annie:** I thought y'all were about to sing together. It looks it.

**Camille:** I know.

**Annie:** It looks like Adam was about to direct a choir.

**Camille:** I can't sing at all. I'll not even embarrass myself.

**Annie:** Okay, tell your story then.

**Camille:** Okay. So there's this Luther Vandross Christmas record.

**Annie:** Okay.

**Adam:** Talk to me.

**Camille:** And there's a lot of originals on it. They don't necessarily embody your traditional Christmas spirit. But there's a song called *The Mistletoe Jam*.

**Annie:** Okay.

**Camille:** It's got this intro, and he's talking about wanting to kiss someone on the mistletoe. But my mom is like... Luther is it for her. And it's just every year I see that CD come out, and it gets put out and I'm like, "That's it. That's all I'll listen to for the rest of the year." And that's how it was when I was a kid.

So recently, I played it for my husband, and my mom was in town. I mean, she's not necessarily on beat but she always dances to it. She always snaps to it and it just will forever remind me of Christmas.

**Annie:** Oh, so good. Luther. Okay. Adam, are you going to sing to us?

**Adam:** Hands down the best Christmas song-

**Annie:** Wow.

**Adam:** ...is *O Holy Night*. Might be shocking that I'm saying that. I love *O Holy Night*. It takes me back to Trinity on the Hill, United Methodist Church.

**Annie:** Augusta, Georgia.

**Adam:** Augusta, Georgia. And the Music Minister.

**Annie:** Yeah, that's what Dave Barnes says.

**Adam:** His name was Melvin. He had a very operatic voice and he would sing that song every Christmas Eve and just blow the roof off. And I love that song. I think it kind of explains the whole miracle of Christmas too. So I love it. I love *O Holy Night*.

**Mattie:** Hey, guys, it's Mattie Jackson Selecman, author of *Lemons on Friday*. My favorite Christmas song is *O Come All Ye Faithful*.

**Annie:** And now back to our conversation with Nate.

[00:20:43] <music>

**Annie:** So Chicago to New York for nine years.

**Nate:** New York was. Yeah, yeah.

**Annie:** Wow.

**Nate:** New York is... that's where you get good. You go up every night, it's like dog years. I went on stage every night for probably eight years. Even if you're doing 5 minutes or 20 minutes or whatever it was, you're in front of crowds that don't know you, sometimes they are getting tricked to be in the room. It's like they don't know why they're in the room. And so you got to win over people. I think New York comics are the best comic. They just get to learn it different than anybody else. I mean, it's-

**Annie:** Every night. That is brutal.

**Nate:** Every night. Annie, it's every single night. So you're just going and putting in the hours.

**Annie:** How was LA better? Was it better?

**Nate:** LA was different. When I moved to LA, I got... I was getting up everywhere in New York, and then I moved to LA, it was... I remember where I was supposed to go open for Bill Burr at this place, and then it end up being canceled. And it was

like a Friday night, I had no shows. At this point, I'm probably 12 years into comedy or something like that, and I'm like, "This is not good."

And that's the moment I felt very uncomfortable. Because I was like, "Oh, this could all go down." And so then it was like, "All right, let me get back out." Started doing these shows, start getting good on these shows, get into this LA scene so they know me more." Then I started going on the road more. It's like that kind of stuff.

**Annie:** So why did y'all come back here?

**Nate:** I mean, I'm born and raised here and my whole family is still here. But I was leaving them alone out there. I was traveling so much on the road. Our daughter was two and I was just leaving her and Lauren out there. So I was like, "You know what, let's just move back." Nashville is more centered.

I like Nashville. I'm a big obviously fan of here. I've grown up here. But it's like, you know, I don't know, it's Nashville... I mean, Nashville is blowing up now. When I first moved back, I didn't tell anybody I moved back.

**Annie:** Really?

**Nate:** Because I thought they would think I quit comedy.

**Annie:** Wow.

**Nate:** I was nervous about it.

**Annie:** Yeah, because it's like the go home, give up thing. That wasn't it at all?

**Nate:** No.

**Annie:** Wow.

**Nate:** So I just left and didn't tell close friends. Because we were getting to a point where we're not seeing each other that much. Like everybody's busy.

**Annie:** Yeah, you're seeing them more on the road more than you're seeing them here.

**Nate:** Yeah. And so I'm like, "You know what, I think I could just not tell them and they wouldn't know."

**Annie:** So you both go to Milwaukee airport, and then you're like, "I'm not on that LAX flight."

**Nate:** I drive one to my house. I picked him up, I was like, "Hey, I'm at home this weekend." And I was like, "I'll pick you up." And I picked him up and I was like, "I've been living here for six months." He had no idea. And there's people who still think I live in New York. Like people don't know. No one knows. No one cares.

And you're like, "So what's you learn?" And you're like, "No one cares what you're doing." And you're like, just go do whatever you got to do that's the best. And just be out and be around."

**Annie:** Favorite venue you've ever played?

**Nate:** Ryman. I've opened for Marc Maron at Carnegie Hall. Carnegie Hall was crazy too.

**Annie:** Wow.

**Nate:** But Ryman is-

**Annie:** You opened for Marc Maron. That's pretty good.

**Nate:** Yeah. But we just did the Ryman. And Ryman is pretty special. Grand Ole Opry was crazy. I mean, all of them. But Ryman does just something. The way the laugh sound comes back to you is... I haven't really heard much like that. Like it just swallows you. It's so great.

**Annie:** Our whole team went last night to *Behold the Lamb of God*, Andrew Peterson. And as I was leaving, I said... because we tour the podcast. So as I was leaving, I said... Okay, I'm 41. We're very close.

**Nate:** Yeah, I'm 42.

**Annie:** I think we're class of 98?

**Nate:** 97.

**Annie:** 97. You're the year old guy. I said as I was leaving, "Before I turn 50, let's play this room." They were like, "Oh, we'll do it before that." I was like, "Great. Great. Great. I'm just saying."



**Nate:**        50.

**Annie:**        Before I turn 50, I want to play at the Ryman. That's just the one.

**Nate:**        It's the one.

**Annie:**        That's in the thoughts because I grew up in Atlanta. So the thoughts.

**Nate:**        We have the Foxes.

**Annie:**        But if you do the Ryman, you do the Fox. They just are in the same tour.

**Nate:**        I think I'm doing the Fox in March or something. I don't know. That day I could be making up. It's something. But the goals of like being 50, I'm having big goals. So like your goals, I think you've always got to be attainable. I think-

**Annie:**        Are you about to tell me to settle down on Ryman?

**Nate:**        No. I'm like, "I go 60."

**Annie:**        You're like, "Annie, I came all this late."

**Nate:**        75. Let's hope by 75, 80-

**Annie:**        You need to stay alive is what I'm saying.

**Nate:**        The bottom is full, the Ryman, Annie. You're 95 years old, we got the bottom full, and I think that's just great.

**Annie:**        We told them this is your funeral so that's why they are here. No one paid to get in. You rent it out with your own money.

**Nate:**        No, just somebody goes to being like 50, it's like everybody's like, "We'll do it sooner," and you're like, "No, I'm just thinking 50." Because it's easier to make the steps to get to that goal. If you have that goal in a year, you might do it now. You might do it anyway.

**Annie:**        Maybe a shot.

**Nate:**        But it's a pretty big goal to look for. You always try to have goals. When I first started, I never thought like I'm gonna try to play at Madison Square Garden. I was

handing out flyers on a corner, trying to get people to go show up. I was like, "Well, how do I get off this corner. I just don't want to stay on this corner." And so whatever that makes me to get off that. So every goal is something that's very attainable that could happen within a few weeks or six months. But it's something that you're like, "Oh, I can get off this corner." And I can do that.

And so every goal that you set, which is your end goal is to be whatever you want it to be. My end goals have been... the bigger ones, you know, they get knocked off, and then you got to kind of... Like now I'm kind of looking to be like, all right, what am I...

**Annie:** Yeah, what's bigger? I mean, you've done The Tonight Show, you've opened for and played huge rooms. I mean, how do you dream bigger now?

**Nate:** It's like now I'm trying to get a lot better with like this is not about me. It's like that idea of like you're second, I'm second to everyone. I'm trying to be that more, to just wrap my head around that. None of this is about me. I mean, you go to do shows. It's not about my ego or my something. It's about the audience.

I feel like nowadays a lot of stuff is either TV, movies, whatever it is it's made inward, it's made for that person, and it's all me and I. But it needs to be out because it needs to be given to them. I'm an entertainer. So my job is just to make sure you have... I'm not a big message guy. I'm not trying to change anybody's whatever they believe. But it's like I just can make you have fun and I can make this all come together. So my job is just to do that. And so I'm just trying to do that and get that out.

**Annie:** So the shift in your brain has been, instead of me getting on The Tonight Show, now the goal is I want to get on the Tonight Show because I want to entertain. It's for them instead of for you.

**Nate:** Yeah, yeah.

**Annie:** Absolutely interesting.

**Nate:** You want to create a world... I'm trying to know you want to create a world that can be... I can create a world that I know if you come to... say I don't have to be in everything. But I can shoot my own TV show. And then if I'm in it or if I'm attached to it, you know, it fits with what I do on stage and what I... Like you don't have to... I like people coming to my show and it's dads and they're having this with 13, 14-year-old daughter's and he's like, "This is all we really go to together." I like

being where these families can come out to this stuff. I'm not trying to do comedy for kids.

**Annie:** You're not doing that 12-year-old crown?

**Nate:** Yeah. I'm not hoping to get like 8-year-olds and be like, "I hope they get it." But you want to be-

**Annie:** Some hot Peppa Pig stuff.

**Nate:** Yeah. Yeah. But I do like that everybody can go to something. I like that.

**Annie:** So my question is, is this an age thing where we're mid-40s? No, we're not. In our hearts. We're early 40s. I have some similar thoughts of now that we've done this, what does it look like for me to help people who are 10 years behind me professionally? I mean, that's one of the reasons we have the Podcast Network is we're getting to help other people create shows that have the That Sounds Fun stamp on them so that our listeners trust it from the start.

You do the same with your openers. You do the same with Nateland, where you have two other comedians who I think are so funny. But you push to them a lot and let them do the jokes.

**Nate:** Yeah. I mean, you're looking at this audience that you're kind of getting and you're going, "I want this audience to have more stuff." There's just trust. You have trust with your audience. And I think it's like, you got to just kind of use that trust, and then you're like, "Hey, I think y'all will like this." Maybe you do. Maybe you don't.

**Annie:** So is this an age thing for us? Or is this we've hit enough of our goals that we're thinking so hard about and so now we turn to something more important?

**Nate:** Yeah, I think it's that. I mean, I think your age helps that because as you're older you get... I would always say you either make it a 20 or 40, no one makes it in the middle. So you either get really lucky. And if you got famous at 20, I would do it too. Everybody would do it. Or you're going to have to go hit the ladder and climb all the way up.

**Annie:** That's really interesting. I think you're very right about that.

**Nate:** Yeah. And when you're being 42, I'm obviously happier I made it. Or, you know, I don't know, made it or whatever. But wherever I'm at later in life than earlier.

Because it's like I have all these experiences, you're a lot more grounded. You don't look at flashy things as easy as I would have been the past. Before you're like, "Oh, this person's famous." And you're kind of doing that kind of stuff. And then you get older, your circle starts getting you like, you know, I just like who I'm with and I don't trust every...

**Annie:** I don't trust anybody.

**Nate:** Yeah, you're just in there.

**Annie:** That's why it's taking me this long to get here.

**Nate:** You know, you're like, "I just want to be like... It's like we're all the same." I love the audience that comes out. I'm not better than any of them. Most of them are doing better than I am, they're smarter, they're whatever. I might be the funniest of them, I hope so, but it's like they're doing so much stuff, I can't fathom what they're doing.

So I love that. Like you love your audience. Your audience should be you, they should represent you. I should be able to go sit with everybody and ride in the car and we would get along. That's just how it should be. If people hated their audience, I was like, that doesn't make... Why would you want them?

**Annie:** Right. Right.

**Nate:** Like, why would you want to perform for them?

**Annie:** Right. When people come up to me and say things like, "I feel like we're already friends. I know this," I'm like, "No, that means I've done exactly what I've been working to do." I like your analogy. I should be able to ride in the car with anybody listening to this right now. They should want to ride in the car with us. We should enjoy riding in the car with them if we're doing this right. That is such a good way to phrase that.

**Nate:** That's how I think about any... If I meet someone famous, I'm like, "Could I ride in a car for two hours with them?"

**Annie:** For two hours. That's your limit.

**Nate:** Yeah.

**Annie:**      Could we go to Chattanooga?

**Nate:**      Could we go to Chattanooga? A lot of times you're like, "It would be brutal. What could we talk? This would be the worst." Then you just go like, "I don't want that. I'd rather just go with my buddy and have fun."

**Annie:**      Right.

**Nate:**      Like once you get past the idea of going, "Oh, that was cool to meet that person or whatever," and then it's after that you're like, "All right, that's enough."

**Annie:**      Yeah, that's good. I wouldn't run that far. Okay, Nashville talk. Vanderbilt. Baseball and football. Can we talk about that?

**Nate:**      Yeah.

**Annie:**      Let's talk about football first. Is it hurting you?

**Nate:**      I'm excited about Carl Craig though.

**Annie:**      I'm too.

**Nate:**      Yeah, I am. I thought we did... We actually scored some points. And I mean, it's a very much a mess right now. But they're in the stadium-

**Annie:**      It's very much a mess.

**Nate:**      Oh, it's a mess. But I feel like he's gonna dig into it. It's the beginning of... hopefully he's changing everything. The stadiums are getting renovated, they're doing all these different things. We've needed that forever. So at least it's like, all right, well, that's what's happening. Let's give it a go and see.

**Annie:**      I want them to be good because we're here. I went to Georgia. So I mean, I love being in SEC town. But then you're like, "Come on, you guys."

**Nate:**      Everybody can root for Vandy. Vandy is always kind of like, I don't want y'all... You don't want us to be your team-

**Annie:**      But everybody else.

**Nate:** But everybody else. Vandy beat Georgia on my wedding day and my 10-year wedding anniversary.

**Annie:** Oh, those are the two times?

**Nate:** Yeah. Like in the recent.

**Annie:** Yes.

**Nate:** And I thought they did it on purpose.

**Annie:** Is that for you?

**Nate:** That's for me. Because I did my wedding on a Friday. I did not have it on Saturday for that reason, to avoid college football for my friends. So we got married on Friday 13th.

**Annie:** Just so that you-

**Nate:** Just so.

**Annie:** ...didn't get married on a football Saturday?

**Nate:** They beat Georgia for me.

**Annie:** We've just been talking about this, some friends and I. Every college wedding I went to was built around the Georgia football schedule.

**Nate:** Oh, I can imagine.

**Annie:** No one gets married in the middle of a Georgia game. You either wait till it's over or you don't get married on that Saturday. On off days, on by weeks you're going to two weddings or three because everybody wants to get married on the by weekends.

**Nate:** That's great.

**Annie:** Vandy Baseball though.

**Nate:** Great.

**Annie:**      Ain't it fine?

**Nate:**      So fun.

**Annie:**      It's so fun. I just cannot get enough of them. Do y'all go a lot to games?

**Nate:**      I'm not ever here. So I don't get to go to any of that.

**Annie:**      I don't ever.

**Nate:**      I mean, we got basketball going. I can sometimes go to basketball because it's like Tuesdays and stuff like that. But usually weekends are very hard to get to a game. As a Vandy fan, it's like we never really felt like this crazy, big... We never got to feel like Alabama or something, like Georgia where we are just this dominant team. And now we do with baseball. It's the greatest thing ever. I love it so much.

**Annie:**      It is so fun. Are you traveling every weekend?

**Nate:**      Basically. I got to Vegas tomorrow.

**Annie:**      Do you?

**Nate:**      Yeah. Then I'll have like a month off and then I start back up in January. Mid.

**Annie:**      How often are you doing bus tours versus flying to a city and being there for a whole weekend?

**Nate:**      It's basically all bus now.

**Annie:**      It's all bus.

**Nate:**      I'll fly to Vegas just because I'm doing one night in Vegas. When I did a West Coast run, maybe if it's like three days I'll just fly out there and then get around out there. But you get routed for bus. So your agents just put it where you're always like two, three hours. I mean, it's just super easy because your stuff all stays on the bus. You at least have something consistent.

**Annie:**      Man, no kidding. Pretend the crowd size doesn't matter. Theaters or comedy clubs?

**Nate:**      I like theaters. I mean, comedy clubs are great. Zanies down here is great.

**Annie:**        So fun. You and John being here have like upped to Zanies profile big time.

**Nate:**        Yeah, it was. I think comedies just had a better place than it's ever been. With Netflix and everything is just more of a spotlight and it's way more mainstream than it ever has. It was always kind of this niche kind of thing, or it felt. People knew the few famous ones but that was about it.

And now with podcasts, podcasts have been huge for comedians because what we do is just talk. So more people know comics more now. And then national Zanies is with it blowing up and then Theo Von moved here. So like some-

**Annie:**        That guy I cannot breathe sometimes when I'm listening to him. He is stupid. I think he is so funny.

**Nate:**        Very funny.

**Annie:**        Are you touring Nateland yet? Are y'all gonna tour the podcast?

**Nate:**        We do. We went live once at Zanies.

**Annie:**        I came. I came watch. It was great.

**Nate:**        We're doing one other live one, and I think it's coming up during the comedy festival. It might be on sale now or it could not be. It could go either way. Whatever I say just know-

**Annie:**        Just fact check it yourself, everybody.

**Nate:**        ...there's a great chance... I'm not even on a podcast. So Nateland. Who knows where this could lead to?

**Annie:**        Who can even know?

**Nate:**        Who even? But yeah, we do it there.

**Annie:**        It's great. The backdrop looking exactly the same as the Ryman recording. I mean, it's brilliant.

**Nate:**        It's fun.

**Annie:**        Emma and I went and watched yours as we were building our podcast.



**Nate:** Oh, okay.

**Annie:** We were very inspired by a couple of things. We were like, "Man, okay, I love how they do that. I love how they do that."

**Nate:** And you have a couple of things not to do? You're like, "We're not doing that?"

**Annie:** You want me to tell you what. The only thing is your chairs rocked back. So we didn't want chairs that rocked.

**Nate:** My chair, my room, actually I stopped it rocking. I don't think I need it.

**Annie:** It wasn't a sound thing? It was a-

**Nate:** It's a weird.

**Annie:** It was a movement thing. And we're like, "Oh, we don't want rocking chairs." That was literally the only thing. The rest of it was brilliant. So we're like, "Oh, man, if I rock like that, that'll make me look like a grandmother."

**Nate:** Next time we'll just stand and just go.

**Annie:** You're like, "Annie, told me."

**Nate:** Annie said I gotta go. First of all, Annie says she is going to sell the Ryman about time she's 34 years old. And I said, "Get out of here, Annie."

**Annie:** I mean, you're like, By the time... I can't tell you. Last night. I was like, "It is a long time between now and 50."

**Nate:** You'll sell out before 50.

**Annie:** There are people who sell out the Ryman at 90. It will not be me.

**Nate:** You can't choose because I think for both of us if we got a chance to be super famous in 19, we're not gonna say no. But it's better this way. It will be better this way.

**Annie:** It's better this way.

**Nate:**        And you will-

**Annie:**        19-year-old Annie? Can you imagine?

**Nate:**        I have buddies that I joke about saying... like defending Britney Spears, this was like forever. I mean, obviously now with all this stuff. But this was a joke from 15 years ago. But being like, "Hey, give me a million dollars when I'm 18, I'll be dead. I'm gonna die."

**Annie:**        Yeah, shaving my head will be... y'all would be pleased-

**Nate:**        You'll be thrilled if I just come home with in shaving my head. I always thought that was Justin Bieber. Like he's 14 and now his borderline has more power than his parents. I mean, his parents are living off his money. He's all this stuff. And that dynamic, whatever it is, is just not normal. It's a miracle they come out how they... that end up at least still be able to talk. I don't know his whole life but...

**Annie:**        But you're right. This will be better that we did it this way.

**Nate:**        Oh, yeah.

**Annie:**        How many times have you played the Ryman? Just that once?

**Nate:**        Just once. I played it a few times here and there, but that was only headlining that one.

**Annie:**        That's awesome. Okay, Christmas episode is what we're on. 12 Days of Christmas. Talk to me about the Bargatze Christmas life. What do y'all do? Are you big into Christmas? Are y'all Christmas people?

**Nate:**        Yeah. I love Halloween, it's a big one for me.

**Annie:**        Tell me. Wow.

**Nate:**        I think it's because of my daughter. I think it's very fun for kids. Because I always ask for-

**Annie:**        You're like, "Don't put me on the road. This is the one."

**Nate:**        I work every Christmas. Every other holiday I go, "Slam me." I got double shows, triple shows. Get me out of this house. And that's the only day I work.

**Annie:** But Halloween-

**Nate:** But Halloween-

**Annie:** ...not interested.

**Nate:** ...don't even throw something this way. Yeah, we're big Christmas people. My family used to come spend the night with us and spend the night, wake up together the next morning.

**Annie:** That's sweet.

**Nate:** Then we go see my wife's family.

**Annie:** Do you have siblings?

**Nate:** I have a younger brother and a younger sister. My brother works for GOD (Global Outreach Development). He teaches at school a lot. He was a missionary for a long time and they teach a lot of that—how to be missionaries. And my sister just started working for us.

**Annie:** Oh, that's awesome.

**Nate:** Yeah.

[00:40:44] <music>

**Sponsor:** Hey friends! Just interrupting this conversation real quick to share about another one of our incredible partners, [Rothy's](#). So I've got some good news for you this holiday season. Looking good and feeling great just got easier, thanks to Rothy's.

From the unbeatable comfort to the fact that you can watch them in the washing machine, you guys, these shoes check every box. You might have heard about Rothy's bestselling Point and the Flat. In fact, People Magazine named The Point the best Flat for their first-ever Style Awards in 2021.

But did you know they make insanely comfortable sneakers and loafers and ankle boots and Mary James, and more? The best part, everything Rothy's makes is better for the planet. You know how I feel about this. They've repurposed millions of plastic water bottles into their signature thread that goes into every single one of

their products. I've had one of my pairs of Rothy's for literally years and they still look great and feel as great as the day I got them.

This holiday season takes the guesswork out of gifting. Rothy's has something for everyone. Treat yourself or find the perfect gift for a loved one with their ultra-comfortable washable shoes, bags, and accessories. They're durable, they're classic and they're sustainably crafted. Come on, give them a gift that you'll love year-round and for years to come.

Win the gift game this season with Rothy's shoes and accessories. Get \$20 off your first purchase at [Rothys.com/soundsfun](https://Rothys.com/soundsfun) with extended returns and exchanges through the holidays. That's [Rothys.com/soundsfun](https://Rothys.com/soundsfun).

**Sponsor:** And we got one more amazing partner to share with you that you know I love. It's the [Art of Tea](https://ArtofTea.com). Y'all know it's part of my morning rhythm to make a cup of tea. I love a cup of tea. I love the warmth, the ritual of it, even the fact that it invites me to slow down a little bit and wait for it to be ready, I don't love that part, but it's good for me.

Whether you love tea like me or you're trying it for the first time, the absolute best teas from around the world are at [artoftea.com](https://artoftea.com). I'm a huge fan of their unique collections and blends and how perfect does this sound for the holidays. Dark chocolate peppermint tea.

Okay, listen to the description. Are you ready? A sweet, aromatic blend. Dark Chocolate Peppermint tea joins notes of cooling mint with the taste of smooth, decadent chocolate in a bold infusion. I mean, right, you guys? It basically smells and tastes just like a peppermint hot chocolate would but without any of the heavy stuff. I love it.

And if you're new to tea and aren't sure what you like, you can take their tea quiz. You guys, a tea quiz? They give you a personalized recommendation. You know I love a quiz. And one that matches you up with delicious teas, okay, interested. Well, I know you'll find something that you'll love for yourself.

Art of Tea also makes amazing gifts for the holidays. They have a whole collection of tea gifts, including tea sampler sets, cute mugs, and even a candle that smells just like Earl Grey tea. Simply go to [artoftea.com](https://artoftea.com) and you'll get 20% off your first order using the code THATSOUNDSFUN. That's [artoftea.com](https://artoftea.com) and promo code THATSOUNDSFUN to get 20% off. Prepare to fall in love and become a tea person, you guys.

[00:43:44] <music>

**Hannah:** Hi, I'm Hannah Brown, author of *God Bless This Mess*. And my favorite Christmas song, I'm about to change your life if you didn't know about this, but Dolly Parton, Kenny Rogers Christmas album is the best Christmas magic there is. And there's this song that's a medley of *Winter Wonderland* and sleigh bells that is the best Christmas song ever. Like I'll go head to head with anybody about it.

**Hosanna:** Hi, I'm Hosanna Wong, the author of *How (Not) to Save the World* and I have two favorite Christmas songs. One is *Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays* that my boy is in sync, come on, down the house, and also *Little Drummer Boy* because Angela from the office loved it so much that she wanted to walk down the aisle to it. And that's commitment and I love that. So in sync in Angela, I got you.

**Annie:** And now back to finish up my conversation with Nate.

[00:44:43] <music>

**Annie:** My middle sibling is also a missionary.

**Nate:** Oh yeah.

**Annie:** How did we end up like this as the oldest and then the middle ones are the better ones?

**Nate:** Because they got to just give back for what we take. It was 20 years to make it. We take so much.

**Annie:** We train them up in the way they should go. My sister suffered under my dominance for 18 years. And then she's like, "I just need to work for the Lord. Annie was a monster."

**Nate:** "I gotta clean up her mess." That's what they gotta do. They gotta clean our messes.

**Annie:** That's right. The Lord's like, "The only way both of y'all are getting in is if you handle her stuff too."

**Nate:** Yeah. Yeah.

**Annie:** Your younger sister started to work for y'all.

**Nate:**        Yeah.

**Annie:**        That's fun.

**Nate:**        That's fun. Yeah, it's great. I love it. That's what I love. That's another goal is I like the... you know, my tour manager is my buddy that I grew up with since I was 14. So I like this kind of family, friends. I don't know, everybody's here. Everybody's just kind of coming up and have a family-run business in a sense. That's what I love.

**Annie:**        One of our podcasts said to me recently, "I really want my assistant to have a better car. I want them to be able to buy a better car." So he was talking about what he's gonna do with this podcast, I was like, "Man, that's all we do." So that you can make sure that the person is working... You know, like, Yeah, let's give them good lives.

**Nate:**        Yeah. If we make it we all make it.

**Annie:**        That's it.

**Nate:**        I mean, it's not about us. Not one person that can even do this. It's like you get lucky to be the vessel that gets to deliver it. And then you got to be everywhere else around.

**Annie:**        Oh, I cannot tell you how many times I've told the people here that I am the weakest link. No question. I know what it's like to do this job by myself. I wasn't successful. It's when I got all these people around me that we started having something to work with. So they might not remember what it was like without them, but I do. I know what it was like when I was the only one here. Wasn't great.

Okay, Santa is coming on the pod. We're doing a Q&A. A lot of people have already asked questions. The link is in the show notes if they want to ask a question today. But do you have a question you'd like us to ask Santa Claus?

**Nate:**        How high does he go? And what's his tr... Like what's the-

**Annie:**        What's the speed?

**Nate:**        Yeah. Like in airplane, what do they say? What's your-

**Annie:** Cruising altitude.

**Nate:** Cruising altitude. What's his cruising altitude? Is it probably high it could be higher than in a plane and he's got to get up?

**Annie:** There's no way it's higher than plane.

**Nate:** Has to.

**Annie:** I mean, well, we don't see it. So it must be out of our sight.

**Nate:** Maybe it's not high than airplane. I guess so. But it could not be hard. Because you should have seen him low.

**Annie:** Can he still use his phone in the air, even though we can't?

**Nate:** Oh yeah. Does he have reindeers? Do they have to all put their phones off?

**Annie:** Do they have to power down once they get to their cruising altitude? And then they get Wi-Fi back. That is one of the dumbest rules we all live under. That is a power control thing to me.

**Nate:** Oh, yeah, not to use your phone.

**Annie:** There's not a world where we can't use our phones up there.

**Nate:** No, I think everybody's using it.

**Annie:** Oh, are they? Am I the only one who is putting it on airplane mode?

**Nate:** I put mine on airplane mode. But I've watched people not do it. But your phone doesn't work up there. Like once you get up-

**Annie:** And why have they have done that though? What's the story? Go. What's the story?

**Nate:** Oh, why are they not letting us?

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Nate:** I think rules get made and then people are just like, "I don't know, what are you gonna do? Change them and tell everybody?"

**Annie:**      On every plane in the world? Nah.

**Nate:**      Yeah. And they go, "Just who cares?"

**Annie:**      Yeah. We have to rewrite every script.

**Nate:**      Which is a major problem in the world. It's like people don't want to dive into something and go, "Yeah, we don't really need this though." They're just like, "I know, but you know, just the hassle. It's going to change. Oh, everybody already says all this stuff. It's like, who cares?"

**Annie:**      Yeah. And AT&T doesn't have to get to 10,000 feet.

**Nate:**      No.

**Annie:**      They're like, "Great, that's great for us too because we don't want you to have to change the script. We don't want to have to provide service up there but the Wi-Fi.

**Nate:**      The Wi-Fi. They want to sell your Wi-Fi too.

**Annie:**      Listen, do you know I accidentally... This will tell you a lot about me. I'm an Enneagram Seven. Oh, you hate Enneagram stuff. I've heard you make jokes about it.

**Nate:**      I don't even know if I know what that means.

**Annie:**      Oh, I thought that was you that makes jokes about it. No?

**Nate:**      I don't think I've ever used that word in my life. That sounds like a pretty big word, Annie.

**Annie:**      I totally thought it was you. I guess not. My personality type is not detail-oriented I might say. So I just pulled up the old credit card the other day being curious. I have been paying for Wi-Fi on Delta for all of 2020.

**Nate:**      Oh.

**Annie:**      I flew twice. It was great.

**Nate:**      You just sign for a subscription?



**Annie:** Yeah, just kept it going. Even when planes weren't flying, your girl had Wi-Fi if I needed it.

**Nate:** Annie kept going float. You're going to need to play the Ryman just to afford your Wi-Fi that you're paying for the country.

**Annie:** That's right. I'm currently paying for Delta to still have one.

**Nate:** You should all get your password user name just so we can be like-

**Annie:** I want 50 people to have it. So that I can at least get my money back that I paid for all of 2021.

**Nate:** We just all have to give you cash later. We have to drag a parking lot and it's like, It's \$40. Sometimes it gets so expensive. It's like \$25. And you're like, "Are you crazy? What are we doing?"

**Annie:** Right. And it'll be like for half your flight you can pay \$20. For your whole flight, you can pay \$30." I was like, "\$30." And then you're like, "Oh, wait, I don't have to. I have been paying for it for a year.

**Nate:** Yeah, you already did.

**Annie:** I already paid hundreds. Guys, cancel it.

**Nate:** Sometimes I like to just be like don't buy, no one can reach you and you're just alone. Watch some stuff and mind your own business.

**Annie:** Just don't let the world get you for just a minute.

**Nate:** Just for a minute.

**Annie:** I mean, there was one flight I did in years ago when I was working on a book. And I booked a Southwest flight from Nashville to Dallas and back so I could write. Sounds like I have to get on a plane and be in the air where no one can get me because I'm not missing this deadline.

**Nate:** That's pretty good.

**Annie:** I flew to Dallas and back. I was also doing that thing. Have you ever done this at the end of the year where you're trying to get to the next thing, the next level, and so I needed one more flight. And I was like, "Well, let's go write a book on a plane and get that silver or something."

**Nate:** People do that a lot, where they go fly and they will land and walk to their next gate and get on the flight and fly home.

**Annie:** I just not get off the plane. It just came right back.

**Annie:** What's your airline of choice?

**Nate:** Delta?

**Annie:** Same. Same.

**Nate:** Delta is a good, solid... you know, it's just a nice fun... I like Southwest though too. I'm a big Southwest fan. With family, I mean, there's nothing better. It's always very interesting. When our daughter was a little like, you would always be on there and you'd always sit next to like a mom that she would be very easy with. You know, if your daughter is getting up or something, she's like, "Oh, it's okay." It's just very nice and sweet. Southwest always got that vibe to me.

Delta can be a little businessy. But sometimes when you're alone, and you're flying, you're like, "I just kind of want businessy." And Southwest can sometimes be everybody's flying for the first time ever in their life and so there's all these-

**Annie:** And we are all in this together. Come on, you guys.

**Nate:** And it's fun. And there's times for that. And then there's times where you're like, "I want to get on, sit alone."

**Annie:** I want us all to just be in our own business, I'm taking Delta. I want to like make a friend and hope somebody has a good day. I'm going Southwest.

**Nate:** That's what you do.

**Annie:** Yeah, that's exactly right. Okay, so after Christmas, you'll jump into touring again?

**Nate:** Yes.

**Annie:** Okay.

**Nate:** The Raincheck Tour it's all on sale now. It's on my website. Go check it all out. There's a lot of places we're going. And then we will keep adding dates. Because always people are just like, "Why are you not coming here?" Like, we will come there. Wherever you're at, I'm gonna come.

**Annie:** Does it blow your mind that when you post "here's my 40 city tour," Katie in Cincinnati is like, "Why not Cincinnati?" And you're like, "Katie, it's coming." I'm always going to come there.

**Nate:** They're in a major city too.

**Annie:** Uh-huh.

**Nate:** Like Cincinnati, you're like, "That's a pretty big city. I'll probably come to that city." Seattle will be like, "When are you coming to Seattle?" You like, "That's a gigantic town. I'll be there."

**Annie:** "I'll be there. You don't have to worry." But someone who's like small town, Mississippi, I'm like, "We need to have an understanding. Where you live it's not gonna be where."

**Nate:** I mean, that's right. I'm doing some of those dates. Now I think I'm literally coming to... wherever you live I'm coming to you. I mean, some of these there'll be like an hour apart from each other, and you're like, "I'm just going to every single place."

**Annie:** Oh, my gosh, that's awesome.

**Nate:** I'm coming to your house.

**Annie:** By Raincheck, we literally mean he's coming to your house.

**Nate:** I know. I do, yeah. I just go down the block and do.

**Annie:** Who's coming with you?

**Nate:** It mixes up. So I got a lot of guys, a lot of comics. Brian Bates and Aaron Weber are on the podcast, they come to some. But then I got a lot of people I started with in New York. And so I'm trying to bring a lot of them, trying to mix it up. My

shows are all clean, they fit my act. If you go look them up, they might not always be the cleanest comic.

**Annie:** But what they do with your audience.

**Nate:** What they do with my audience is clean.

**Annie:** It's cool.

**Nate:** That's what I like is... because there's a lot of comics, these comics are so great... ones that were kind of basically clean, there's a little bit where I'm like, Just don't... Look, we're not trying to... just don't message... Like, "Just don't curse."

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Nate:** "Don't curse. This audience is just I think dying for that kind of..." I feel like sometimes when you want clean comedy, you can get fed like a very cheesy, corny kind of thing. So it's like get these great comics now. It's like just don't curse. Like doing the late-night set, an audience gets comic that has been in New York for 10 years, as the ropes of a New York comic.

**Annie:** One of the things I'd like for you to teach me in our friendship that I'm going to ask to extend for the rest of our lives is I want to be better about knowing how to have openers in my job. Comedies and music are real easy to have openers as part of the culture. But people in my job don't get to... podcasters, speakers, authors, we don't get to have openers in what we do really. So can we figure out how for me to do that?

**Nate:** It would-

**Annie:** It's a really cool thing you get to do.

**Nate:** It would be somebody introduces you, right?

**Annie:** Yeah. So do I just start bringing in my own... hey, the person who's gonna introduce me is actually going to do 10 minutes themselves, and then I'll be up?

**Nate:** They could write like a little funny thing or something.

**Annie:** Okay, you solved it. So I guess our friendship doesn't need to continue.

**Nate:**        Now, we can carry it on.

**Annie:**        Okay, great.

**Nate:**        At least you do the Ryman.

**Annie:**        Free ticket. Here's what I'll tell you right here, Nate Bargatze, you have free tickets at my Ryman. When I play at Ryman, you have free tickets.

**Nate:**        All right. All right.

**Annie:**        100% and I promise. Will you write that down so I don't forget. I'm kidding. I'll never forget. I'll never forget.

**Nate:**        I go outside and I'm like... yeah. No, I'm joking.

**Annie:**        The whole balcony is empty. You don't have to scalp them.

**Nate:**        I think I had my aunt scalp one of my tickets once I gave them. Like my dad's sister. I think they couldn't find them so I was like, "We'll just scalp them out." And then they scalp my dad's tickets. His own sister did. Something like that.

**Annie:**        Oh my gosh.

**Nate:**        Yeah, pretty great.

**Annie:**        Okay, so our friends have been hearing this for the whole 12 days Christmas Party. But we've got our guests from the whole year. I was secretly recording them their favorite Christmas song. So we've been hearing all these people's favorite Christmas song. So tell me what is your favorite Christmas song?

**Nate:**        I'm trying to think. I'm not the best music person.

**Annie:**        What do you listen to when you're on your Delta flight and staying in your own business.

**Nate:**        Oh, I don't listen to music.

**Annie:**        I know. Podcast or just shows?

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**Nate:** No. I'll just watch shows or I'll just be on my own thoughts. I'm trying to get better at listening to more music. Twenty One Pilots I'd be listening to. They're great.

**Annie:** They are great.

**Nate:** Dan + Shay obviously. They have a new Christmas. I'm friends with Shay. He has a new Christmas song out.

**Annie:** Okay.

**Nate:** Amy Grant. I grew up listening to Amy Grant.

**Annie:** Tennessee Christmas.

**Nate:** Yeah. So a lot Amy Grant. So my mom, all we could listen to is like Amy Grant, Sandi Patty. So Amy Grant was a ton.

**Annie:** I'm dying to have Sandi Patty on the podcast.

**Nate:** Oh, yeah.

**Annie:** I mean, can you just imagine sitting down with Sandi Patty?

**Nate:** I mean.

**Annie:** She knew me when I was seven. She doesn't know.

**Nate:** She doesn't know.

**Annie:** But she knew me when I was seven.

**Nate:** Yeah, my mom... Such a good name too. Sandi Patty.

**Annie:** Yeah. She's the best. I agree with you. Also, free tickets when I interview Sandi Patty. She'll be the live person. She's the live interview-

**Nate:** She is.

**Annie:** ...at the Ryman. Okay. So Dan + Shay. We'll go with the Dan + Shay song?

**Nate:** Yeah. Their new song.

**Annie:**      Okay, great. We're building a playlist on Spotify. Everybody's.

**Nate:**      Oh, Rudolph. I like Rudolph.

**Annie:**      Wow.

**Nate:**      I don't know. It's just fun.

**Annie:**      He's funny.

**Nate:**      He is funny.

**Annie:**      My all-time favorite Christmas song, I'm just gonna submit to you and see if you even know it. It's called *Thistlehair The Christmas Bear* by Alabama.

**Nate:**      No.

**Annie:**      No. Just check it out. Next time you listen to music.

**Nate:**      That's deep. Where is that?

**Annie:**      It is. It is a deep cut. And I do not know why we-

**Nate:**      Georgia?

**Annie:**      Yeah, that's a Georgia problem. My dad went to Alabama, the rest of us went to Georgia. How about that?

**Nate:**      Oh, wow.

**Annie:**      Dad, Alabama; mom, Georgia; Annie, Georgia; Middle sibling, Georgia; baby, Auburn.

**Nate:**      Oh, wow.

**Annie:**      How about that?

**Nate:**      Auburn.

**Annie:**      It didn't go great.

**Nate:**        No.

**Annie:**        It didn't go great at all.

**Nate:**        What do y'all do?

**Annie:**        Well, she did grad school at Georgia, so we forgive her. But man that those years were... they still can't watch the Iron Bowl together. Different rooms, different houses. It's too much. It's too much.

**Nate:**        That's a whole... I mean, Alabama, Georgia will go play like, you know-

**Annie:**        Eight more times before the year is over. Who's winning national championship?

**Nate:**        I hope it's Georgia.

**Annie:**        Thanks.

**Nate:**        Cincinnati would be fun too.

**Annie:**        I would like to see a really good game between Michigan and Georgia with Georgia squeaking it out. Because I think Michigan looked like number one after last weekend, but they were never going to put Georgia and Alabama in the two, three slot even though they deserved it.

**Nate:**        Yeah.

**Annie:**        I would like to see Cincinnati beat Alabama, of course. And then Cincinnati, Georgia would be a really fun game. And then Georgia-

**Nate:**        I'll be down Georgia, Alabama game though again. I could see it. I want Georgia to win.

**Annie:**        Well, I mean, they won in 1980, the year of my birth. That is the last time we won the national championship. I would really enjoy it.

**Nate:**        We've never won.

**Annie:**        Oh, really, sorry. That's true. But in baseball, we won a lot. Last question we always ask. Because the show is called That Sounds Fun, tell me what sounds fun to you.



**Nate:**        What's fun? I'm a golfer.

**Annie:**        Yeah, you're a big-time golfer. That's not casual. You guys love it.

**Nate:**        I love it. That sounds fun to me. You know, hanging out with your family. My wife's going to Vegas with me. That would be very fun.

**Annie:**        Oh, that's fun.

**Nate:**        And then being on the tour bus with my buddies, all my comics. That's very, very fun. It's as fun as you can imagine it would probably be. And it's like going to camp every week and we're all just on there. It's nice to go from the stage to in there with your buddies. It's like you're just making jokes at each other. So that's very, very fun as well.

**Annie:**        Touring to me is summer camp.

**Nate:**        Oh, yeah.

**Annie:**        I just love it so much. I love bus life. I sleep great. And you just are best friends with everybody for three weeks. It's my favorite thing. We had to make a tough call last week. This will be how we close out. I'll let you decide what we need to do. The option was bus one had a slide out, bus two had a shower. There's 11 of us.

**Nate:**        11 of you. I would do the slide out.

**Annie:**        100% that's what we did.

**Nate:**        I got rid of the shower. I got rid of the shower. Like when you decide-

**Annie:**        Do you have your own bus?

**Nate:**        I lease a bus, yeah.

**Annie:**        For the whole year?

**Nate:**        Yeah.

**Annie:**        So you get to decorate it and stuff.

**Nate:** Not that crazy.

**Annie:** You're like, "No, I can't do that."

**Nate:** You have to sign more of a lease. You have to say. But it's like I got one without a shower because it was like, "No one is using it." You just go to the venues or a day hotel or something like that.

**Annie:** Yeah, yeah. But the slideout for 11 people it's gonna be a game-changer.

**Nate:** 11 people is a lot.

**Annie:** And then in the 12th funk is the cutout of me. Tannie Annie. She's 6'3. She sleeps in her own bed. Thanks for doing this today.

**Nate:** Absolutely. That's for having me.

**Annie:** I'm really grateful.

**Nate:** Me too.

**Annie:** It was super fun.

**[01:00:46] <music>**

**Outro:** Oh, you guys, don't you love him? He's just the best. And free tickets to the Ryman. He's got them. Free ticket to the Ryman. Hey, make sure you're following him and check out tickets for his live shows, stream his Netflix specials, subscribe to Nateland. There is a lot of Nate for you in your future. And I think you're going to be glad there is. Make sure you go out and see him live. Just couldn't think more highly of this dude. And also please tell him thanks for being on the show. I just am so grateful he made time for that today.

If you need anything else from me, you know I'm embarrassingly easy to find. Especially right now you can find me every day. Annie F. Downs on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook. All the places you may need me, that tell you can find me.

And I think that's it for me today friends. Go out or stay home and do something that sounds fun to you. I will do the same. And today what sounds fun to me... Oh, you know what? I'm gonna tell you the whole truth. Today what sounds fun to me is getting ready for y'all to hear tomorrow's podcast. I cannot wait. Day six of the

12 days of Christmas with Aliceson and Barry Bales from Bales Farms. Y'all are going to love them. Okay, we'll see you tomorrow.

[01:01:53] <music>

**Laura:** Hi, my name is Laura Tremaine. I'm the author of *Share Your Stuff. I'll Go First*. My favorite Christmas song is Elvis's rendition of *Blue Christmas*. It is sentimental to me to like my teenage years, my kind of childhood years. And whenever I hear it in the holiday season, that is how I know we are officially in Christmas time.

**Ben:** Hi, I'm Ben Higgins.

**Jessica:** And I'm Jessica Higgins.

**Ben:** And my favorite Christmas song is *Jingle Bell Rock*.

**Jessica:** My favorite Christmas song is *O Holy Night*.

**Mark:** My name is Mark Richt, and the book I've written is called *Make the Call*. My favorite Christmas song is *I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus*. And I don't know if everybody knows that but I'll tell you how it goes. I saw Mommy kissing Santa Claus, Underneath the mistletoe last night, Oh, what a laugh it would have been, If daddy had only seen Mommy kissing Santa Claus last night

**Annie:** What?

**Mark:** What a night! When you asked that question, I thought it was gonna be my favorite Christian song.

**Annie:** Oh.

**Mark:** I got a favorite Christian song too. I'm gonna add it just for fun.

**Annie:** Okay.

**Mark:** *My Redeemer Lives* Nicole C. Mullen.

**Annie:** Oh, nice.

**Mark:** And that got booed in that stadium during the practice one day because the boys got to play the music they wanted and I got to play the music I wanted.

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**Annie:**        So they're in Sanford Stadium but you play *My Redeemer Lives*.

**Mark:**        As Loud as we could play.

**Annie:**        That's beautiful. I hope to hear that someday in my life. That is awesome.

**[01:03:48] <music>**