

## **INTERVIEW: UNPOP SESSION PART ONE, 1972**

**(Recorded document of JonBenet Ramsey phone  
interview with Shaun Partridge)**

JBR: Thanks for being up for this interview, Mr. Partridge. I'm really interested in the UNPOP Art Movement. Can I call you Shaun?

SP: I prefer The Partridge in the Pear Tree, however Shaun is fine.

JBR: So what exactly is UNPOP?

SP: Well, before I answer that question, did you know that you and the Silver Queen of the Factory Scene share the same birthday?

JBR: Really? What a scream! I have an original, Day-Glo, "Initials B.B." hanging on my bathroom wall.

SP: Wow. I wish I had enough bread to score one of those. So anyway, UNPOP was hatched because a couple of friends and I were really big fans of this amazing English, TV show called, "Unfreak". It was on every Friday afternoon. I don't know if you

remember it. I would rush home from kindergarten to watch it while eating Spoon Candy.

JBR: No. I've never heard of it. "Unfreak"?

SP: Yeah, man. It was really heavy. I think you can get bootlegs of it somewhere.

JBR: What was the basic premise of "Unfreak" and how is that tied in with UNPOP?

SP: Well, UNPOP was the American version of "Unfreak", kind of like "Steptoe and Son" which later became "Sanford and Son". Continuing with "The Carol Burnett Show" which was the Yankee version of the limey version of the "The Benny Hill Show".

JBR: Was "Good Times" an American version of some swinging London TV. Session?

SP: Yes, you're correct! "Good Times" was an American version of the popular BBC series, "All Creatures Great and Small.

JBR: Oh, yeah! I think I heard that before.

SP: Then you've got "Fridays", which is the American version of "Monty Python". The same goes for "English Shoes" which later became "Sneaker U.S.A".

Even "Man About the House", which we now know and love as "Three's Company" in American. A funny side note; did you know that Jack Tripper was originally called Jack the Tripper? Obviously, the American audience wasn't quite ready for that.

JBR: Oh! I didn't know that "Sneaker U.S.A." was originally "English Shoes". I love that show.

SP: So anyway, UNPOP was picked up by the PBS franchise and people seemed to dig it. It was a straight out of the gate hit in the Land of Primetime for five seasons. But ratings dropped during the collapse of the Reality Picnic.

JBR: So what happened? Why did the collapse of the Reality Picnic impact the show so severely?

SP: Well, let me pose a question to you, JonBenet; have you ever gone on a picnic?

Q. Yes.

A. What exactly did you eat on this picnic?

Q. I had cold chicken, lavender lamb surprise, mandarin sun honey biscuits, plump bright cherry bulbs that light your stomach up for a whole two hours after eating them, an ice-cold pitcher of Lemon Pledge and for dessert a delicious slice of Rhubarb? Yes. Strawberry? Ok, That Sounds Lovely Pie.

A. Oh, I just love Rhubarb? Yes. Strawberry? Ok, That Sounds Lovely Pie. And my old lady cooks a wonderful lavender lamb surprise.

So anyway, what if you went on that picnic and ate that wonderful, delicious food and then someone wandered up wearing a ugly beige uniform and told you that there are no such things as picnics? And that Hanna-Barbera never ever existed. How would that make you feel?

JBR: Uptight. Really, really uptight.

SP: Yeah! And you'd be right to feel uptight.

JBR: What does this have to do with the UNPOP Art Movement?

SP: Oh, yeah. So anyway, UNPOP is like the English version of “Till Death Do Us Part”. You take all of these things man, that seem uptight and negative and you blow some Anne Frankincense into the ears of the Brown Goblin.

JBR: Brown Goblin?

SP: Oh, yeah. The Brown Goblins. That’s a different Trip all together.

JBR: Why would you blow Anne Frankincense into the ears of the Brown Goblins?

SP: Oh, you know. It’s fun to watch confusion. Like when you spit on an ant pile. Maybe that seems really Kiddie-Scene and juvenile, but at the end of the day if you’re laughing, it’s Solid Gold.

UNPOP is kind of like yelling, “Fire!” in a crowded theater and then padlocking the doors so no one can get out. Then when everyone cools down, they realize there never really was a fire. It was just their own Head Trip.

JBR: Yeah! That makes sense. So you say it’s not a movement anymore. What exactly is it?

SP: It's an archive Trip now. The whole UNPOP is floating in Computer Space...just floating in the Land of Computer...just floating...floating and floating. What we realized was that the best stuff on the UNPOP site was the stuff we'd stolen from the real world. Things that you couldn't believe actually existed in your mind's wildest TV sitcom. We're just going to keep adding to the archive like you add new pieces to a Precious Moments collection.

JBR: So what happened to the other UNPOP artists?

SP: Well, they're still doing their thing. But it's not like UNPOP defines them. They were doing their thing before, and they'll keep on doing their thing.

JBR: So, do you still consider your art UNPOP?

SP: Actually, I was just talking to my friend Chuck Bass about this. He was a big fan of the English version, "Unfreak". As you know, he hails from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Tea and Cucumber Sandwiches and Possibly Soft, Wet Beans as a Breakfast Side Borough of London. He's also a huge fan of the American version. The best of both worlds he would always say.

I was telling him that I don't consider my art UNPOP anymore. Chuck, always being full of pragmatic perfection, put down his Scotch and asked me if I had a sponsor. At the time I didn't. I didn't see the need.

But then one day, I had a dream I got a job at the 7-Up Bottling Company and when I woke up, I had a peaceful, easy feeling. And then a few years later, I got sponsored.

JBR: Oh, great! Who did you get sponsored by?

SP: God.

JBR: Really? God? The real One?

SP: Mr. and Mrs.

JBR: Wow! What are Mr. and Mrs. God like?

SP: Have you ever been to Disneyland?

JBR: Yes, once and I can't wait to go back again!

SP: Imagine that you live at Disneyland and everyday you wake up and look outside saying to yourself, "Wow! I live at Disneyland!" Then you'd go to the Aunt Jemima Pancake House for breakfast. Aunt

Jemima would bring you your pancakes and then she would open her mouth and syrup would pour forth, coating your delicious pancakes. All you can stomach!

You'd have little apartments all over the Magic Kingdom for all of your best friends and you'd preside in Sleeping Beauty's Castle. During October you'd live in the Haunted Mansion. Herbie the Love Bug would be your own personal transportation to take you all around the Magic Kingdom always at your disposal.

JBR: Beep! Beep!

SP: Adventure Thru Inner Space would still be there. The same as it looked in 1967. Also, the submarine ride would still have real, live mermaids splashing in the lagoon. The Jungle Cruise would have the original, red and white-striped canopies and the skippers wouldn't say bad jokes. JonBenet this would be a very intense and realistic journey!

Hippos could charge and capsize the boat! Jamboree Bears would still be singing sweet country music. You would eat sugar cubes dipped in liquid It's A Small World and the Jamboree Bears live sets would blow your mind Right-On!

Also, Walt Disney would be alive but he'd be a centaur now. His lower body would be that of a horse with a lovely, lustrous, brown coat. A strong upper body with the same dignified hairstyle and mustache that we've grown to know and love. Instead of a shirt and tie, a bow and arrow would complete his attire.

Not only that, but you'd be dating Mickey Mouse and Minnie Mouse would be totally cool with it. That's what God's like.

JBR: Oh, my God! That would be beyond belief. If I lived at Disneyland, I could go to the Enchanted Tiki Room everyday and have pineapple soft serve! Oh, that's too good to be true! Please, please tell me that it's not make believe!

SP: JonBenet, look into my eyes. I would never lie to you. Once you Turn-On to the God Scene, you can never lie. I can only be Anne Frank with you. Everything else would be an ugly, Brown Goblin lie...

(Click)

Tape runs out.

End of interview Part One, 1972.