

Audio:

- VK88
- Glassmen 05
- Academy - School for Scandal
- Mandarins
- Bloo
- SCV - My Body is a Cage and Ending (outro)

Intro

- You're listening to Drum Corps AF, the only drum corps podcast where we record for an hour before we realize the host didn't have his mic on! I'm John (and Nick is not here).
- Episode 6: 2018 Wrap-Up, part 1
- Fair warning: We are opinionated AF and we're not afraid to bitch slap your favorite little corps. So if you're prone to butthurt, please press delete and scroll on by. BUT we love this activity. The worst day watching drum corps is better than the best day rerecording your show because you fucked up the simplest goddamn thing.
- *Disclaimer: The opinions expressed on this show do not in any way reflect the opinion of any corps the hosts are or have been affiliated with. They are FAR classier, smarter and more successful than we are!*
- *The Drum Corps AF podcast does not have a Patreon or a booth at DCI, and we do not accept donations. If you like what we do, please consider becoming a monthly partner with your favorite drum corps.*
- Talk back: FB Group, Twitter: @drumcorpsaf
 - YOU can be on the podcast! Join the FB group or follow us on Twitter for details.

News

- We have a percussion analyst!
 - Kelly Elias
 - Played snare for Chops Inc, Minneapolis MN (2004-2006), Member of Chopstix percussion (2004-2006, 2009).
 - Taught several high school drumlines in Minnesota and Texas
 - Favorite Drum Corps: Blue Devils

Listener Feedback

- Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this segment are those of the speaker ONLY! I mean seriously, in some instances literally no other human being holds these opinions.
- Two ladies from the Philly article about GH
- Want to be on the podcast? Join our FB group or follow us on Twitter

This Episode

- Academy (Clip)
 - I was really, really impressed with [@TheAcademyDBC](#). This is a show you have to see live. They are selling out to their concept almost as much as [@TheBlueStars](#). Wonderful performance energy.
 - To me, School for Scandal is the musical highlight of [@TheAcademyDBC](#)'s show. Can I get some more Samuel Barber in DCI, please???
 - Verdict

2018 [@TheAcademyDBC](#) is...

9% one of their best shows

31% better than their average

46% an average show for them

14% below their average

- What do they need for 2019?
 - John: Keep Lindsay Vento, she's going a good direction. Keep pushing.
 - Nick:
- Colts
 - Love the creepy vibe of [@dcicolts](#) opening. Just wish it wasn't prerecorded vocal.
 - Colts don't have the same confidence in their small bore pyrotechnics as the big boys, but when the Full ensemble comes in, WOW!

- I like Colts voiceovers, but they really need to be live instead of prerecorded. This much prerecorded vocal music feels like cheating.
- Verdict
- What do they need for 2019?
 - John: Stop using so much prerecorded music. Let the kids perform!
 - Nick:
- Spirit
 - Performance Level
 - This does not look like a semifinals corps, y'all. 12th is crazy competitive, but they are playing ball! Much improved!!!
 - Verdict

2018 @SpiritDrumCorps is...

32% one of their best shows

58% better than their average

8% an average show for them

2% below their average

- What do they need for 2019?
 - John: Keep this staff together, they are dynamite. Retain members, and you're in the big show next year.
 - Nick:
- Crossmen
 - Verdict

2018 @Crossmen is...

8% one of their best shows

23% better than their average

54% an average show for them

15% below their average

- What do they need for 2019?
 - John: PLAY JAZZ!!!
 - Nick:
- The Corps Formerly Known as Phantom Regiment
 - The last time Phantom Regiment placed lower than 10th was 1974.
 - I have given PR a lot of shit this year, but I will say that tonight they proved they deserved to be in finals. They maxed the hell out of that piece of a shit they call a show. That's what a proud membership does, they step it up.
 - Verdict

2018 @PhantomRegiment is...

0% one of their best shows

7% better than their average

15% an average show for them

78% below their average

- What do they need for 2019?
 - John: Pull the goalie. FIRE WILL PITTS. In fact, fire everyone - design staff, instructional staff, admin staff. Start fresh. Beg JD Shaw to write your brass book, find a big name brass caption head and PAY HIM whatever it takes. Without the staff, you're out of finals next year.
 - Nick:
- Mandarins (Clip) (Perc)
 - The way they bring the stage on the field, with one guy walking on it, full of attitude, is amazing.
 - They were super clean Fri night. No way were they missing the big dance.
 - Light-up Rifles!!! OMG!!!
 - I love when [@DCIMandarins](#)'s creepy spider guard capture the Tesseract and save the world from Thanos!
 - If your true colors are that you're a creepy ass spider-looking thing, then you've got some fucking problems!
 - Verdict

2018 [@DCIMandarins](#) is...

92% one of their best shows

8% better than their average

0% an average show for them

0% below their average

- What do they need for 2019?
 - John: Keep refining, keep the fire. Sophomore slump is a bitch.
 - Nick:
- Blue Knights
 - Amazing bright colors near the end of the show. Mesmerising.
 - Best use of front/back uniform flips this year
 - Verdict

2018 @TheBlueKnights is...

0% one of their best shows

27% better than their average

49% an average show for them

24% below their average

- What do they need for 2019?
 - John: Design. Dig into the old bag of tricks, this one didn't work.
 - Nick:
- Blue Stars
 - You guys, [@TheBlueStars](#) made a house!!!!!!
 - Unpopular opinion: I would have put Blue Stars over Cadets tonight (Thurs)
 - Commitment
 - Nobody knows how to commit to a concept like [@TheBlueStars](#). They have such charisma and charm that you just can't take your eyes off of them.
 - Schtick
 - Is it just me or does anyone else want to see [@TheBlueStars](#) rise up against the bourgeoisie?
 - Is it too much to ask for [@TheBlueStars](#) to build a house on the field in eleven minutes?
 - Verdict

2018 @TheBlueStars is...

19% one of their best shows

38% better than their average

35% an average show for them

8% below their average

- What do they need for 2019?
 - John: KEEP DOING YOU! FUCK THE CRITICS!!!
 - Nick:
- Cadets
 - The Cadets are not “back”.
They never left.
Just that fucker.
 - Costuming
 - The deep wine color of [@TheCadets](#) guard uniforms against the black uniform backs is exquisite.
 - Vocals
 - Words cannot express how much I appreciate [@TheCadets](#) using a vocal ensemble instead of prerecorded vocals.
[#AllYouCheatersJustGotOwned](#)
 - Verdict

2018 @TheCadets is...

15% one of their best shows

21% better than their average

40% an average show for them

24% below their average

- What do they need for 2019?
 - John: Keep doing what you did. The Cadets are SO much more than that asshole. FHNSAB
 - Nick:
- Cavaliers (Perc)
 - Design
 - I didn't realize [@TheCavaliers](#) opening Bolero whistle was live! Good on them!
 - Schtick
 - Don't you hate it when you're in the middle of the show and the guard gets sent to jail?
 - Verdict

2018 @TheCavaliers is...

6% one of their best shows

53% better than their average

28% an average show for them

13% below their average

- What do they need for 2019?
 - John: DO NOT LOSE THAT HORNLINER CAPTION HEAD!!!
 - Nick:
- BAC (Perc)
 - Schtick
 - More corps need to spell out the TV series their show is about in the field.
 - Is it OK when the fire burns them? They don't seem to mind...
 - Fire seems limp when it comes out the second time. That happens to props when they reach a certain age...
 - Verdict

2018 @bostoncrusaders is...

69% one of their best shows

28% better than their average

0% an average show for them

3% below their average

- What do they need for 2019?
 - John: Wow us with design. They have the performance level to hit top 3.
 - Nick:
- Crown (Perc)
 - I am so tired of this Crown show. Feels like they've been doing this 40min show for 8 seasons...
 - Design
 - Music
 - Crown 18: 30 seconds of Bruckner and a bunch of stuff you wish was Bruckner.
 - Hey, there's girls dressed in orange tablecloths. We must clap for that...
 - Visual
 - Jeff Sactig should lose his spot in the HoF for being associated with this shitty ending.
 - Hey, here's some sections of the field Jeff forgot to write drill for. Let's stick some shit in them and leave it there...
 - Bottom Line
 - Crown still gets a lot of wow moments from their performance level, but Bloo and SCV are getting them from show design, too. Can't compete with that.
 - Verdict

2018 @CarolinaCrown is...

8% one of their best shows

20% better than their average

34% an average show for them

38% below their average

- What do they need for 2019?
 - John: Catch up with modern design.
 - Nick:
- Bloo (Clip) (Perc)
 - Visual
 - I love the contrast between the drumline's lavender and the hornline's grey and white. So simple, so effective!
 - Performance Level
 - Everyone is losing their minds over the [@Bluecoats](#)' vocalist, but can we talk about the tuba soloist who pulls a Jaco accompanying her? Holy shit!!! Dude is ridiculous!!!
 - Schtick
 - Thank you, [@Bluecoats](#), for reminding us that Joni Mitchell sang other songs than Both Sides Now.
 - Verdict

2018 @Bluecoats is...

37% one of their best shows

20% better than their average

35% an average show for them

8% below their average

- What do they need for 2019?
 - John: Keep pushing the activity forward!!!
 - Nick:
- BD (Perc)
 - Costuming
 - I don't get BD's male guard tops. Business in front and BDSM in back?
 - So...did BD just steal Crown's orange tablecloths and dye them pink?
 - Design
 - I hate the part where BD plays 20 seconds of a tune I love, then an Arban's exercise, then 10 more seconds of the time I love. But I love the part where they play two and a half minutes of a tune I love!
 - Having different people march two different tempos isn't impressive. Having the same people march two different tempos...that's impressive!
 - BD suffers from Bluecoats 87 syndrome. Natural Woman is so good you almost wish they would have stopped there.
 - Bottom Line

- Prediction: If BD doesn't win, you don't hear another hummable tune out of them until 2030.
- Verdict

2018 @TheBlueDevils is...

0% one of their best shows

15% better than their average

54% an average show for them

31% below their average

- What do they need for 2019?
 - John: Please don't stop playing real music just because you didn't win!!!
 - Nick:
- SCV (Clip) (Perc)
 - Verdict

2018 @scvanguard is...

85% one of their best shows

11% better than their average

4% an average show for them

0% below their average

- What do they need for 2019?
 - John: Keep pushing, they are LEADING the activity in both design and performance level. - DYNASTY!!

- Nick:
- 2018
 - Medals in the past 5 years:
 - [@TheBlueDevils](#) 5
 - [@Bluecoats](#) 4
 - [@CarolinaCrown](#) 3
 - [@scvanguard](#) 2
 - [@TheCadets](#) 1
 - Now that SCV has won, it's only 14 more years until Crown's turn again and 17 until Bluecoats. Until then, enjoy Blue Devils International! This activity has been sponsored by System Blue and Fred J Miller, Inc. Fuck all y'all.
 - Bloo & SCV
 - No matter what happens competitively, [@Bluecoats](#) and [@scvanguard](#) both have ridiculous, genre-defining programs this year. Championships are much less important than pushing the activity forward. Bravo.
 - I cannot imagine two more unique, breathtaking and absolutely engaging programs than the [@Bluecoats](#) and [@scvanguard](#). To quote a competitor, "Oh, what a world we live in!"
 - I believe that years from now, we will look back at [@Bluecoats](#) and [@scvanguard](#) 2018 as one of the great battles of the activity, like 1987, 1993 and 2015.
 - If someone says [@Bluecoats](#) 2016 & 2017 or [@scvanguard](#) 2017 & 2018 are the same shows, that means they're still adjusting to the new style.

2018 Adjustments

	John	Nick
17	SCV Cadets	troopers - Music City in 18th
16	Colts	Madison
15	Madison	Colts

14	Academy	Academy
13	Spirit	Spirit
12	Crossmen	Crossmen
11	Phantom	Mandarins
10	Blue Knights	Phantom
9	Mandarins	Blue Knights
8	Blue Stars	Blue Stars
7	Cadets	Cadets
6	Cavaliers	Boston
5	Boston	Crown
4	Crown	BD (lol I tried it)
3	BD	Bluecoats
2	Bloo	Cavaliers
1	SCV	SCV

Closing

- Where can people find you?
 - Kelly Elias
 - Bruce Juice Podcast and Burger Radio Podcast (@brucejuicepod, @burgerradiopod on all social media)
 - Nick
 - Instagram: LifeAsLohan
 - John
 - ReclaimingChristianity.net
- Next Episode: Some kind of clever offseason weirdness
- Leave us a review on iTunes!
- Until next time drum corps fans, remember friends don't let friends march Blue Devils
- *Disclaimers:*

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Now listen to these ads, motherfuckers...

2018 Wrap-Up, part 1 (14th & higher). John & Nick discuss their postseason impressions of the 2018 season, including some important comments about what's happening in the activity off the field.

Drum Corps AF is an irreverent podcast about drum corps and the marching arts. John and Nick love the activity, but we also get sick of all the saccharine BS that passes for commentary. Call it snark or call it shade, it's what we do. But at the end of the day, we still love drum corps.

To join in the Drum Corps AF community, check us out at
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Show Notes:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/199TTedsuVDROYMF9Mnc8pWCCLYKgXo-yiBCDl33aid0/edit?usp=sharing>

Twitter: [@drumcorpsaf](https://twitter.com/drumcorpsaf)

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Notes for future shows:

- Winning a championship is a magical experience. You have to have the perfect combination of design, staff, membership, timing and audience connection.

...unless you're the Blue Devils. Then you just throw some shit together and hope nobody's better this year.

- I can't believe I have to say this:

Costume Designers, stop putting kids in things where we can clearly see their genitals!

Fans, stop looking at kids' genitals! Even when the costume designers fuck up! What the hell is wrong with you?!?

- 20 years from now, we're going to watch videos of [@scvanguard](#) and [@Bluecoats](#) and say, "Right here, this was the beginning of the biggest shift the activity ever saw."
- Just watched a video of [@scvanguard](#). They and [@Bluecoats](#) are playing a different game than everyone else. Years ahead in props and body movement. When the dust clears, I expect them to be 1-2.
- All in favor of instituting a 2-point penalty for every corps that goes over 15sec of synth bass?
- We all know the scoring system is a joke, so why do we put up with it?
- My opinion is every bit as valid as any judge's.
So is yours.
Don't let them ruin it for you.
Sometimes they reward crap and don't reward awesome.
- Geez, y'all. Just let people have fun in their own way. If you don't like the way someone uses social media or talks about your favorite thing, unfollow them! Easy! He always blows sunshine up everyone's ass, she's an asshole who only criticizes, who gives a fuck?! You be you!
- How the hell is Doug Thrower (Bluecoats brass arranger since 1997) not in the DCI Hall of Fame??? Dude has done more for advocating actual MUSIC in modern DCI than any other human being!
- If you hear nothing else from my feed, hear this:
DCI judging is completely subjective.
Your opinion is no less valid than one of the green shirts.
Don't let their opinion invalidate yours.