

# P4 Malmöhus, Sweden's radio

## Morning on P4 with Fredrik Ralstrand

### *Transcript of an radio interview with the admin of the Swedish bronies facebook group*

The radio host Fredrik Ralstrand interviews Daniel Nilsson about bronies  
Transcribed by Filip Granberg

Listen to the interview:

<http://soundcloud.com/liggiluff/bronyintervju> (SoundCloud)

<http://sverigesradio.se/sida/artikel.aspx?programid=4185&artikel=5195697&play=4042403&playtype=Ljudklipp> (sverigesradio.se)

Svenska bronies facebook group:

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/181009408636884/>

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**Fredrik:** And in just a moment now in the morning, you will learn everything about being a bronie. Not to be confused with "brownie".

**Fredrik:** Morning in P4, and it will be about toys you could say. You could read about guys who like pastel colored ponies in the paper, and they are adult. And they like this TV show: [G1 intro of course.]

**Fredrik:** The TV show Friendship is Magic have gotten an unexpected group of fans that's getting stronger on the web, and they simply call themselves bronies. My guest in the studio right now, welcome Daniel Nilsson from Helsingborg.

**Daniel:** Thanks.

**Fredrik:** Fun to have you.

**Daniel:** It's fun to be here.

**Fredrik:** Can you tell us about your T-shirt firstly?

**Daniel:** Well. I wear a T-shirt that pictures the pony Vinyl Scratch or DJ Pon-3, as she officially is named. It's a pony that appeared for three seconds, or maybe even one and a half in the first season. But the fans thought that she looked really cool, so she have gotten really famous online.

**Fredrik:** Yeah. It's it's wonderfully nerdy, I love nerdness in this manner, and it's actually really nice this one, what was it, DJ Scratch?

**Daniel:** Vinyl Scratch or DJ Pon-3.

**Fredrik:** Alright. Let's begin to say that this clip I played now is from the old My little pony that I grew up with, but the one that you like is sounding completely different: [G4 intro, but you can hear this fine without me pointing this out, making this piece of text useless. Unless you're not listening along, then this is very useful.] It's sounding very much more modern, this is an entirely new series. For those who doesn't know what this is, what kind of show is this?

**Daniel:** Well. Yes, it is a show produced for younger girls. But it is assumably one of the best kid's shows that have been produced for many years.

**Fredrik:** How come?

**Daniel:** Because it is extremely well made in the most aspects, it's got some amazingly well defined characters, a lot of people think that it looks great, it's occasionally very advanced in the animation for being animated in the way it is. It's got amazing voice actors, that really bring the characters to life, and the overall quality is very high.

**Fredrik:** Yes. And this begun very specially for you. It begun a late night, right?

**Daniel:** Yeah, exactly. A friend and I were at home in the middle of the night and we were gonna eat, and we we're gonna put something on the TV to watch. So we were on youtube and we thought: "So what are we gonna watch?" And he just searched for "My little pony."

**Fredrik:** From nowhere?

**Daniel:** Yeah, more or less. We had seen some images and stuff online, people talking about the show. I've never thought about watching it, I just assumed that it was just a thing that people uploaded pictures of from different shows, since it happens all the time. But yeah. We watched the two first episodes, and then the third, and that was that for that night. But the next time we met, it went like this:

-“So yeah about that My little pony... Did you watch any more of it?”

- "Well yeah, I happened to watch the rest of the episodes."

- "Yeah, same here."

**Fredrik:** So it simply stuck with you? As in how you can get hooked on any show.

**Daniel:** Yep. Absolutely.

**Fredrik:** And this have evolved very much. The papers have written about this and you have groups on facebook that grows, and then you have meetups, including in Helsingborg.

**Daniel:** Yeah. It was a very small meetup in Helsingborg this winter. We were a few people simply, 10-15 people that got together, walked around, ate something and we went around to different stores and looked if they had any ponies.

**Fredrik:** Aha. How many ponies do you have?

**Daniel:** A bit too many. But not enough.

**Fredrik:** It's like how people collect shoes, and you can think "Oops. I have a bit too many shoes." But how many do you have? Tell us.

**Daniel:** I don't know.

**Fredrik:** It's that many? You can't count them?

**Daniel:** Well yeah, but I got a small shelf dedicated to them.

**Fredrik:** Are they over fifty?

**Daniel:** They might be. Most of them are these tiny figurines. So they make out the majority.

**Fredrik:** Exiting! We need to hear more about this. You need to tell us more about what the show's messages and such, we'll talk more to Daniel Nilsson soon.

[Music that is not pony.]

**Fredrik:** [Song info, interview info.] ... we're being guested by Daniel Nilsson from Helsingborg, a true brony, that being, what did we say? A guy who likes the show Friendship is magic!

**Daniel:** It's a fan of the show friendship is magic actually.

**Fredrik:** I see.

**Daniel:** Yeah, brony can be applied to both men and women.

**Fredrik:** Right. So there's womenly bronies as well?

**Daniel:** It sure does. Some of them prefer to be called "pegasisters" instead of bronies, but it's a term that almost unknown for most people because most use "brony".

**Fredrik:** Alright. So we know that there are both guys and girls. You've had meetups in Helsingborg as said, but the big meetups are in Stockholm. How many are you then?

**Daniel:** Well. The first really big meetup we had were we 70-80 people. And now latest in summer, just a few weeks ago were we 100 people

**Fredrik:** Wow. And I can imagine that if you go to USA, these meetups become much bigger.

**Daniel:** They become really big. There's for example Bronycon, that is, what I recall, the biggest My little pony convention in the world at the moment.

**Fredrik:** Yeah. I assume that there's a lot of prejudices and myths about being a brony. What could they be?

**Daniel:** Well. If I should bring up the most common myths, it's that "everyone's anti-social nerds that sit at home locked in their room that doesn't do anything else than to watch ponies and Star Trek." And there's also a lot of myths about our sexualities and stuff. One of the most common ones are that we're either all homosexuals, pedofiles, or zoophiles, the latter meaning getting off on animals. And all of the studies that have been made, because we actually have a real professor that begun to make studies about bronies.

**Fredrik:** Glorious!

**Daniel:** Yeah. He was so fascinated about the whole thing. All of the studies that have been made so far shows that we aren't distinguished from the rest of the world, considering the bronie's sexual orientations and so on.

**Fredrik:** And then there's this thing about "coming out of the stable" about being a brony, that that too is one of the existing myths about bronies.

**Daniel:** Well. I do know that these myths is the reason for people maybe having some problem with telling people they know that "Yeah, I watch My little pony." Because people usually don't know what it is about, so they'll just think "All right, what's wrong with this person?" Without even knowing what this person just told them.

**Fredrik:** So how does that make you feel? Have you experienced it?

**Daniel:** Well, most people I know knows that I watch My little pony and that I call myself brony and so on. Most don't really care. They think: "Ah, he's watching a TV show that he likes. That's nice." But I've heard that it's very different from person to person how people will react to it. It's very sensitive for some to tell people they know about, due to fears of not being liked any more, or getting in trouble.

**Fredrik:** So we know that you exist, but what is the show about? I'm guessing a lot are curious about that. Are there any messages or of that nature?

**Daniel:** Yeah. Most of the episodes are independable and are a form of an adventure tale. There's mythological creatures, villains, rescue missions, mysteries and it's rather pacey. And the messages that the show will tell are generally: "be nice, like people, let people do what they enjoy, and who knows, you might get help from somewhere you didn't think of."

**Fredrik:** That's what it's about?

**Daniel:** Yeah. It's generally what the most messages are.

**Fredrik:** Sorts of friendship messages.

**Daniel:** Exactly.

**Fredrik:** Exciting! And I'm sure there's a lot of people who are interested, and maybe someone will feel that "Maybe I am a brony." What should you do then? Where can you find others?

**Daniel:** Well it's not that hard to find more bronies, but some special hubs in Sweden at least are the facebook group that I am the admin for. Svenska (Swedish) bronies at facebook. Then there's also a Swedish forum that's called svenskabronies.egetforum.se. And then there's a whole lot of international brony hubs like Equestria Daily. It's probably the biggest pony blog around and I recall that were somewhere in... Well, I don't dare speak of how many pageviews it got, but it's in the millions.

**Fredrik:** Daniel Nilsson in Helsingborg, thank you so much for coming here and explaining how it is to be a brony. Now we know a lot more. And I'm sure several prejudices are gone. Thanks a lot for coming here.

**Daniel:** We can hope. Thanks you too. Bye!