

Studio Smartass: astronaut's drink

Bart Kuipers

Studio Smartass (Studio Snugger) is a Dutch television show for 8 to 12 year-olds, in which (cutting edge) scientific concepts are addressed in a humorous way.

Each topic starts off with an urgent question of a viewer, after which the host, Simon Smartass, invites an expert to the studio to answer the question. However, the expert's answer isn't always accurate and it's up to Simon, together with the live audience, to call the expert out when they are talking nonsense.

This scene can be found on the website of School TV: <https://schooltv.nl/video/studio-snugger-aflevering-78/> (min 4:00)

18.3 - INT. STUDIO - OPENING AND PHOTO ROULETTE

The audience of 8 to 12 year-old children applauds. A show tune starts and our host SIMON SMARTASS, mid-forties, dressed in a TUXEDO, comes running down the stairs, microphone in hand. He takes a short BOW before he starts talking.

SIMON SMARTASS

Merci! Danke schön! Teşekkürler!
Dankjewel! Thank you! We'll
immediately go to the first
question. And the first question
comes from ...

Photos of CHILDREN'S FACES scroll over the screen. The scrolling slows down and stops on the face of an EIGHT YEAR-OLD CHILD.

SIMON SMARTASS

Toki Fujiwara! Toki, what is your
question?

TOKI

What do astronauts drink?

SIMON SMARTASS

(Repeats)

What do astronauts drink? What an
incredibly smart question, so I
say: Studio Smartass please give
us an answer!

18.4 - INT. STUDIO - SET CHANGE

Set to ENERGETIC MUSIC: eight STAGE MANAGERS run onto the empty floor carrying a number of PROPS, among which: a futuristic looking TOILET STALL with a SILVER CURTAIN, a WATER PURIFICATION DEVICE with a funnel on top and a tap on the bottom and PANELS WITH WIRES AND COMPUTER CHIPS.

The STUDIO LIGHTS DIM, on the studio's back wall an image of the INTERIOR OF A SPACE SHIP appears: we are in the space station ISS.

A MAN IN AN ASTRONAUT SUIT is rolled onto the studio floor on a hand trolley. That is NEIL NOT-SO-STRONG.

18.5 - INT. STUDIO - MAIN SET - SPACE STATION ISS

SIMON SMARTASS

And there is our answer. Enlighten us!

NEIL NOT-SO-STRONG

(Strong Texan accent)

Purified waste products.

SIMON SMARTASS

Who are you exactly, and how do you happen to know this?

NEIL NOT-SO-STRONG

I'm Neil Not-So-Strong, astronaut. I've lived on the space station ISS for 999 days.

SIMON SMARTASS

Wow, 999 days, such a long time! And on board you were drinking ...

NEIL NOT-SO-STRONG

... from this machine.

He points at the WATER PURIFIER behind him. Simon is clearly impressed.

NEIL NOT-SO-STRONG

With this device we purify all the waste products on board. Would you like something to drink?

SIMON SMARTASS

A real astronaut drink? I would love to! What have you got? Coffee?

NEIL NOT-SO-STRONG

Water.

SIMON SMARTASS
Water, of course. No Cola,
perhaps? Or OJ? Milk?

NEIL NOT-SO-STRONG
Just water.

Meanwhile Neil fills a PLASTIC CUP with water from the PURIFIER and hands it to Simon. Simon takes a big sip.

SIMON SMARTASS
Very tasty! But why don't you just
bring the water with you on the
spaceship?

NEIL NOT-SO-STRONG
If we took all the water with us,
our rocket would be too heavy and
we would never make it into outer
space.

SIMON SMARTASS
Yes, of course, that makes sense.
So can we see the machine in
action?

NEIL NOT-SO-STRONG
Absolutely! Just a second.

Neil goes into the TOILET STALL. From behind the curtain we hear the sound of someone URINATING.

Meanwhile Simon takes another sip from the cup.

SIMON SMARTASS
(To the crowd)
Real astronaut's water! Does
anyone want to try?

Before Simon can offer the water to anyone, Neil reappears from the TOILET STALL holding a CUP FILLED WITH URINE.

SIMON SMARTASS
Wait, what is that in your hand?

NEIL NOT-SO-STRONG
Just a cup of urine.

SIMON SMARTASS
Urine? You mean pee?!

Neil takes the CUP OF URINE and casually empties it in the funnel of the WATER PURIFIER. He flips the switch and LIGHTS START TO FLASH on the device.

NEIL NOT-SO-STRONG
We use this machine to purify the
urine so you can drink it again.

SIMON SMARTASS
(Confused)
Wait! So I've just ... been
drinking ... your pee?!

NEIL NOT-SO-STRONG
No, of course not.

SIMON SMARTASS
Oh, thank heavens. (Laughs) I
thought for a second ...

Relieved Simon takes another BIG SIP of water.

NEIL NOT-SO-STRONG
That was my colleague's.

Simon immediately SPITS OUT the water.

SIMON SMARTASS
Eeww, YUCK! I already had a gut
feeling something was off here!
This is disgusting, and this story
is pure nonsense! Get out of my
studio, at once!

Angrily, Simon sends Neil off the studio floor, but half
way through:

18.6 - INT. STUDIO - ANSWER

Title: with a TINKLING SOUND, a BRIGHT SHINING LIGHTBULB
appears as a sign the story is TRUE!



The MUSIC starts again, and the STAGE MANAGERS take away
the SET PIECES. Amidst it all, a flabbergasted Simon
shakes Neil's hand.

SIMON SMARTASS
So it is actually true! Thank you
so much for this answer. You'll
get the complete Studio Smartass
Encyclopedia, and we would love to
have you back soon!

A STAGE MANAGER with a white mustache approaches Neil and
hands him all 13 VOLUMES of the STUDIO SMARTASS
ENCYCLOPEDIA.

Neil leaves the studio, hardly able to carry all the books.