

Section: The Monkees

Context: During the filming of the second season, the band became tired of scripts which they deemed monotonous and stale. They had already succeeded in eliminating the laugh track (a then-standard on American sitcoms), with the bulk of Season 2 episodes airing minus the canned chuckles. They proposed switching the format of the series to become more like a variety show, with musical guests and live performances. This desire was partially fulfilled within some second-season episodes, with guest stars like musicians Frank Zappa, Tim Buckley and Charlie Smalls (composer of *The Wiz*) performing on the show. However, NBC was not interested in eliminating the existing format, and the group (except for Peter) had little desire to continue for a third season. Tork said in DVD commentary that everyone had developed such difficult personalities that the big-name stars invited as guests on the show would invariably leave the experience "hating everybody". Screen Gems and NBC went ahead with the existing format anyway, commissioning Monkees writers Gerald Gardner and Dee Caruso to create a straight-comedy, no-music half-hour in the Monkees mold; a pilot episode was filmed with the then-popular nightclub act the Pickle Brothers. The pilot had the same energy and pace of *The Monkees*, but never became a series. In June 1968, Music Supervisor Lester Sill chose to release the two non-album tracks "D.W. Washburn" b/w "It's Nice To Be With You" as the Monkees' next single. The Leiber/Stoller-penned A-side would break into the Top 20, peaking at No. 19 on the charts. CANNOTANSWER

STUDENT: **Were they on TV?**

TEACHER: ⇨ Yes, "" (During the filming of the second season,)

STUDENT: **What happened in the second season?**

TEACHER: ⇨ "" (the band became tired of scripts)

STUDENT: **What else was going on in that season?**

TEACHER: ⇨ "" (They had already succeeded in eliminating the laugh track ()

STUDENT: **Why did they get rid of the laugh tracks?**

TEACHER: ↗ "" (CANNOTANSWER)

STUDENT: **Did the band members say anything about the second season?**

TEACHER: ⇨ Yes, "" (Tork said in DVD commentary that everyone had developed such difficult personalities)

STUDENT: **So they grew apart or something?**

TEACHER: ↗ "" (CANNOTANSWER)

STUDENT: **Did they end up leaving the show?**

TEACHER: ↗ "" (CANNOTANSWER)

STUDENT: **Did they have any songs released form this season?**

TEACHER: ⇨ Yes, "" ("D.W. Washburn")

STUDENT: **Were there other songs?**

TEACHER: ⇨ Yes, "" (It's Nice To Be)

STUDENT: **Were these songs popular?**

TEACHER: ↗ Yes, "" (The Leiber/Stoller-penned A-side would break into the Top 20, peaking at No. 19 on the charts.)

STUDENT: **When were these songs released?**

TEACHER: ↗ "" (1968,)

STUDENT: **Were they ever in any other TV shows or movies?**

TEACHER: ⇨ "" (CANNOTANSWER)