

Elias Mena

Independent Capstone

## **“Uptown Coro”**

Weekly Podcast



Atmosphere: laid back, fun

Runtime: Approx. 45-60 Mins

Description: Unfiltered late night conversation at your Tia's crib.

Co-Hosts: Elias Mena, Tennessee Rodriguez & Bryant Guzman (frequent guest/occasional

host: Adonis Pagan)

Platform: [Soundcloud](https://soundcloud.com/uptowncoro)

Social Media: [Twitter.com/uptowncoro](https://twitter.com/uptowncoro)

[Instagram.com/uptowncoro](https://www.instagram.com/uptowncoro)

[Facebook.com/uptown.coro](https://www.facebook.com/uptown.coro)

### **Example of Content**

-Discuss takes on things going on today and in the area (Topics can include sports, current events and other media)

- Maintain easy going atmosphere (as if with friends and family) while providing a substantial takes on things
- Give a recommendation at the end of each show from either host (Movie, Show, Book, Video game, etc.)
- Give a trivia question at the end of each show to create an incentive of communication between listeners and hosts.

### **Research**

The first thing we did was some research on some of the podcasts out there and came to a few conclusions. The focus of our podcast was going to be more on pop culture and self-reflection. By this what I mean is that we would look at things going on or trending in the news pertaining to things in the media such as music and their artists, some sports and movies and television. By self-reflection I mean that we would tell stories about our lives that pertain to the topic at hand, however briefly we may mention them, for example if we happen to attend a wrestling show, we'll probably talk about the first time we got into watching professional wrestling. After some contemplation, we decided that we wouldn't want to focus on the news coming from Washington DC and other news that's deemed very serious because we deemed it to be counter product to the environment of the podcast that we want to create. We were never afraid to talk about topics going on in politics that we felt strongly about, for example the growing concern over gun violence in the USA.

We sometimes mentioned some of the news if we find it to tie into pop culture in anyway as well, an example being like when James Franco and Seth Rogen released the political and controversial film *The Interview*. Amongst the various podcasts that exist out there, we narrowed it down to two podcasts that we thought we would be the most similar to. The two podcasts were both two man podcasts and both are based out of New York City as well. The podcasts are [The Brilliant Idiots](#) hosted by Charlemagne tha God and Andrew Shulz and [Bodega Boys](#)

hosted by Desus Nice and The Kid Mero. The similarities would be that we were all going to be talking about pop culture and have our opinions and takes on them. In *Bodega Boys*, they satirize pop culture by poking fun at it and making points about it based on their own opinion, like they did with Gucci Mane's wedding.

On the delivery of our content, our style leaned more towards that of the Bodega Boys in the sense that our delivery of it will be more relaxed and less uniform like how *Brilliant Idiots* are. The biggest way that we differed however from these two podcasts (besides being three people and not two) is in my opinion one of the most important factors to take in to account: perspective. While these two different podcasts feature hosts who have fame and definitely have more in the way of wealth than the three of us, we are also younger than these hosts and we also lack the financial wealth (despite what Bryant may have you believe) that they may possess therefore our perspective on everyday life likely is much different from theirs. Because we are younger, we can probably relate closer to the peers we may have around us, like current college students or just young adults from New York City. We also realize that our perspective on life right now will also likely alter our opinion on things going on that we may cover, but it will be an interesting dynamic since we all don't always share the same opinion on a lot things we discuss.

### **Execution**

As far as who we'd interview, we had 4 prospective interviews. The first was my girlfriend as she is a casual wrestling fan going to her first live event, which happens to be the 25th anniversary of RAW. We were going ask her questions about how her first live event was, if it went the way she thought, How her view on wrestling changed, would she prefer live to at home and those sort of questions. She ended up becoming our co-host instead! The second interview I had planned was my step brother's father, who is a hardcore wrestling fan and usually tends to cater to how professional wrestling was before. He also loves other promotions

rather than WWE which I found would be interesting to talk about after the fallout of Wrestlemania weekend which was when we planned on interviewing him.

The third interview was likely going to be with a fellow LaGuardia High school alumni and friend of mine who is an up and coming actress and just landed her first big role in a feature film. I was excited for her and wanted to ask things like how does breaking into that field work in terms of actually landing a role, how it was for her before landing the role, and although controversial, I'd ask her how it feels to be a female entering that profession in light of current events happening in the industry. The fourth and somewhat of a stretch to actually get as a guest was Instagram sensation [Pioladitingancia](#) otherwise known as the "I No F\*\*\*\*\* Baby" guy. The main reason why we thought this was possible is because he is typically around Dyckman, where Bryant frequents and we think it would've be an awesome addition to hear from him, however briefly as he is a huge public figure in New York City especially in the Dominican community.

The interview would've had to be in Spanish as that's all he speaks but we would offer a translation of what he says. We would've asked him how it felt to become an overnight celebrity and what he may be working on as we are aware of his various connections to musicians in hip hop and many other genres of Dominican music. This guy was who we felt to be the ultimate goal if possible. Of the four prospective interviews, we nailed one, who ended up staying as a host. The other three fell through due to scheduling conflicts, the last one especially as he became an even bigger celebrity than we initially thought he was capable of becoming, landing a spot on MTV's Wild n'Out amongst other things.

In the way of random things to differentiate, we were thinking a trivia crack kind of thing where we have a question at the end of every episode with trivia on random things, whether it be music, sports television or film. We would encourage listeners to reply to us via social media such as twitter or maybe even snapchat. An example would be "Who was the 50th ever WWE

champion and how long was their reign?" Or "How many blueprint albums did Jay Z release and how many years apart from each other were they?"

### **Do's and Don't's**

The first thing I can say is important is advertising your podcast. I would have told you that the more social media you can get on is best, but I would say it's a safer and smarter bet to stick to the ones you know best, and keep it down to however many you feel you can handle. Once you get started and once you begin to start advertising your podcast, it can become hard to manage all of those accounts. Since certain platforms work differently you should want to take advantage of each and not just cookie cut all of your content.

Another strong thing to focus on is your time distribution. If you want to make sure you succeed, you need to put in the right amount of time into the project as well. I would say depending on the time of your project, you should allow yourself up to one day to two for pre and post production as well as any advertising you'd want to add in. Speaking of time, you should keep your show at a good length so as not to over saturate or deprive your show.

The last and most important thing I feel is to do your research but stay creative! You would want to stand out not do the same act as the rest. If you avoid this you run the risk of either copying someone else's style, or worse, being generic. You should also not be afraid or stray away from controversial topics, this could lead to you being a far more popular and sought out show as long as you're mindful not to cross over any boundaries.

### **Reflection**

The biggest thing to take away from this project was how much I underestimated it. At first, we thought that it would be super fun, which it was. But we never really took the time to think about how many hours of work and sheer dedication this project demanded. As for me especially, I wanted this to stand out and I wanted to have fun while doing it, so I incorporated my art skills into it. The first thumbnail was simply the logo to the central topic, a wrestling event

that we went to earlier that week. This was before I had the idea to incorporate art into the thumbnail and the first episode was a bit straining on us because of our lack of expectation on how difficult it was. After that I started making collages for the logo, and finally after looking at some other podcast, a single drawn logo that changes minimally depending on the topics and guests. Only the final four episodes feature the image however I plan on updating it down the line.

The thing that I noted most about this experience is how technical things can get, especially when you don't have a formal recording area. In our case, we used a single snowball microphone in my living room. Between the sometimes rickety table we were on, the children running in the hallway and the occasional commotion outside of our window, editing was a headache especially when we were going through the phase where we wanted to perfect everything. Once we were a few episodes in however we felt that as long as the background noise wasn't louder than our own voices, we welcomed it as part of our "brand" and authentic ambiance. We were marketing the podcast as being a late night conversation at your family's home after all. Another thing we were told by a few of our listeners was how we seemed "sheepish" at first but soon caught our stride. We definitely were a bit shy around the mic but grew over time. We were also told early on that neither of us had developed a "real on air character" or "presence". I have yet to get back to that listener on a follow up but I'd say we definitely have over time let our personalities take over when recording and we each have similar views, however have enough differences to be distinguishable.

My biggest pieces of advice that I can offer someone who wishes to do the same are simple: Love what you're doing, stay the schedule, keep what works and probably the most important, don't overwork! The last one I stress mostly because when you're tired you probably won't nail the technical aspect of it for instance, but most importantly when recording, you're likely to not bring the same energy to the show. This is something that is super important because the energy you bring is one of the most important aspects of your show. Also never be

afraid to change what works and what doesn't. If I could go back, I would've kept my recording days on Friday but change my publishing day sooner from Saturday to Sunday. We found our best episode was published on Sunday and it allowed me to edit for an extra day which took more stress off from me than I'd like to admit. I would also eliminate Facebook as one of my platforms since it's the least used and also saw the least amount of activity for our show. The best thing about all of this however is that we've only just wrapped up Season 1 and Season 2 is in the works with all of this self-reflection and criticism in mind!

### **Content**



### **UptownCORO Episode 1 - RAW 25**

Description: We talk about WWE events, Barclays center, and Enzo Amore



### **UptownCORO Episode 2 - Valentines**

Description: We talk about various current events including the Snapchat update, Youtube mishaps, racism in DR and Valentine's Day.

Comments are welcome!



### **UptownCORO Episode 3 - The World is Bugging**

Description: We talk about Drake, Lebron James producing the new House Party movie, life with the MTA and more with guest Eli's brother Adonis AKA Dominican Drake!

Comments always welcome.



### **UptownCORO Episode 4 - Wakanda Forever**

Description: We talk about Fergie's performance, Black Panther and NYC Exclusives.

Eli talks about how the day is less than 24 hours, Tenn discusses

Black Panther and Bry gets candid about work shifts!

Question of the Week: Who were the 4 main male Robins in the



Batman series and what are they known as now ??

First right answer gets a shout out next week!



### **UptownCORO Episode 5 - Chiqui in the Ghetto**

Description: We talk about living in the poorer neighborhoods of the city, our trip to

Dave & Busters and how animals can have a sexual orientation.

Eli recalls some turbulent time on his block, Tenn talks about toxic gaming

communities and Bry goes in on what it means to be claimed on social

media.

Question of the Week: Who are the 3 prominent princesses in the Super

Mario series? Bonus: What are their respective kingdoms ??

First right answer gets a shout out next week!



### **UptownCORO Episode 6 - Dominican Oscars**

Description: We talk about the oscars, the difference between fame and infamy, being a "proxy" Dominican and more  
Eli talks about the hardships boxers must endure and survive during Their training camps , Tenn talks about being raised in an anti-Yankees baseball home and Bry throws criticism at older generations taste in music.

Congratulations to JanelleMorillo for answering last weeks  
question,

check out her social media pages and show some love!

Question of the week: We all know Bruce Wayne is Batman, but  
who is the other prominent Bruce in the comic book world? Bonus:  
Who is their publisher?

First one to answer correctly gets a shout out in next weeks  
episode!



### **UptownCORO Episode 7 - Free Smoke**

Description: Lucky Numero Siete!

We talk about catching smoke, random twitter shit, and how Canada is on as a nation with our guest Adonis AKA Dominican Drake.

Eli voices his support for some white rappers

Tenn Goes in on DJ Envy's situation with Desus and Mero

Bry absolutely tears Russ apart

and Adonis explains why social media has made the world one of enlightenment.

As always, Question of the week: Did Bronx legend Big Pun ever win a grammy? Bonus: What was his nomination? Answer correctly on any platform for a shoutout on next weeks episode

Ya lo saben, stay up!



### **UptownCORO Episode 8 - Yes!**

Description: UPDATE: Episodes will now be shorter in length. We feel as though we can get the most of our weekly ramblings if we don't go on for too long. Future episodes will span from 40 to 50 minutes

In this episode, we talk about Aliens, the insane amount of disconnect in America, and the surreal underdog comeback story of

Daniel Bryan!

Eli states his case for gun control in the US

Tenn explains who the real Men in Black were

Bry recalls the magic that is Daniel Bryan

Emmy\_Luvs\_Everything is on a roll with the questions, but can she answer this weeks??

Question: Deep throat was the pseudonym of the informant that leaked info on watergate. Who was this person in Metal Gear Solid 1?

Bonus: Metal Gear Solid 2? (You can keep it to first names for the answers if you'd like)

Ya saben, shout out next week to the right answer

Catch up on our past episodes and follow us on Social media

@[UptownCoro](#)



### **UptownCORO Episode 9 - Wake Up!**

Description: Happy Easter everyone!

We talk about Corey Feldman trying to expose Hollywood pedophiles, Cardi B and the Weeknd's new music, and Gentrification with our guest Henry AKA HBoogie.

Eli tries to explain what "kid friendly" music is

Tenn talks his stance on Gentrification

Bry voices his opinion on this weeks new music

and Henry tells us some stories from his job and life.

No question this week! (April Fools!)

Check out Henry on twitter: [twitter.com/Hboogie\\_eg](https://twitter.com/Hboogie_eg)

And be sure to check out him and our buddy Adrian's gaming  
channel

on twitch Lag'd Out once it's up and running! [www.twitch.tv/Lagdout](https://www.twitch.tv/Lagdout)

Stay up everybody.



### **UptownCORO Episode 10 - Wrestlemania !**

Description: Welcome back to Uptown Coro!

It's Wrestlemania Weekend! Were our predictions for NXT correct??

Listen in to find out plus hear our predictions for Wrestlemania 34

and our brief opinions on some of the new music that dropped this  
week!

Eli Talks how NXT results may have Mania implications

Tenn sings Cardi B's praises

Bry talks his expectations for the grandest stage of them all

All while Alexa keeps butting in

Question: How many rings do the Yankees have?

Answer for a shout out next week!

Stay up everyone!



### **UptownCORO Episode 11 - KOD**

**Description:**

We're Back!

We talk about J Cole's album, the general landscape in music and video game flops.

Eli talks how the Kinect flopped in his opinion

Tenn says her opinion on Cardi B

Bry states how bootleg culture must be preserved

It's lit to be back, stay up!



### **UptownCORO Episode 12 - FIN**

**Description:**

Season Finale !!

We wrap it up spicy, talking about some controversial points!

Eli rants about violence in the world

Tenn tries to wrap her mind around the Big Cosby situation

Bry goes in on Kanye West

You already know, this has been fun but we'll be back!

Make sure to stay connected with us through our social media pages (links in bio)

Stay up and enjoy the nice weather!