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America's Only National British Newspaper™ — Established 1982 www.ujnews.com Vol. 31 No. 5 August 2013

August 2013

JAMES VAN LEER

Podcast Looks At The Funny Side Of Anglo-American Differences



BRITAIN and America have always laughed at their cultural variances, but thanks to the relatively new medium of podcasting, and a savvy Brit, there's a modern way to do it.

Since its launch last year, *Transatlantically Speaking* has been providing amusement for British expats in the USA, American expats in Europe and anglophiles everywhere.

Show host James Van Leer is from southeast London, but has lived in California for over 20 years, via a spell living in Asia while travelling the world.

After settling in the US, James wrote, directed, produced, edited and acted in his own movie back in 2004. Now a citizen of this fine nation, James feels his twenty years of experience being immersed in American culture give him a unique perspective, and that a podcast is an ideal outlet for all his ridiculous observations on both cultures.

Co-host Paul Johnson represents the American perspective, which often leads to some spirited exchanges; on a recent show, a discussion about the word "flatware" – which the British don't use – devolved into an argument about the relative flatness of forks and plates.

The last half of each show is a quiz called "That's Not English," which pits Johnson against a weekly British phone-in guest to see who can identify more words from their opponents' vernacular. This leads to some hilarious guesses at the definitions of "her majesty's pleasure" and "sloppy joe."

Transatlantically Speaking is a weekly podcast founded in December 2012. Listeners can access directly from the show's website, transatlanticallyspeaking.com, or on a mobile device via iTunes. A selection of popular podcatching sites also carry the show, including Blackberry, Zune, Stitcher and Miro.

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