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Nerd nostalgia is real at 'MythBusters' party

There was one sentiment overwhelmingly apparent in the air on Saturday night: affection for the Discovery Channel show "MythBusters."

The stars, producers and "fabricators" behind the 14 seasons of "MythBusters" rounded out their series run at Forgery Bar in San Francisco on Saturday, 13 years after the show premiered on the Discovery Channel in 2003. The event was filled with warm embraces, thoughtful

conversations and cheeky anecdotes among crew members, hosts and fans, while the series finale aired on television screens around the venue.

"Even though we knew the show was coming to an end, that just made us better and stronger. We had a

lot of tough episodes," "MythBusters" producer Dennis Kwon said. "The guys were great — (show hosts) Jamie (Hyneman) and Adam (Savage) "MythBusters" continues on E3

SEEN

By Alyssa Peretra



Sammy Dallal / AP Images for Discovery Communications

"MythBusters" host Adam Savage (center) joins the gang trading memories during the series finale party.

'MythBusters' felt the nerd love

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— and everyone stepped up. Everyone pulled up together."

Forgery Bar, a SoMa cocktail lounge, had been decorated for the occasion. Yellow caution tape lined the walls, custom napkins reading "We'll Myth You!" were stacked in piles around the space, and the cocktail menu featured some familiar terms: Plausible Punch, Confirmed Colada and Busted Bomb.

Guests at the intimate event were primarily cast and crew members. Some, though long off "MythBusters" and working elsewhere, still had fond memories of production high jinks and mishaps. Scottie Chapman, the show's "Mistress of Metal" in the early aughts, recalled an incident that seemed straight from a slapstick comedy film. In one 2004 episode, the crew attempted to make a 6-year-old girl float using thousands of balloons. They used a pellet gun to shoot down runaway balloons, and neighbors called police about the noise of the shots.

"The cops come in, and (a crew member named) Jim has the pellet gun in his hand and starts running towards the cops. They jump out, draw

Online: Go to SFGate.com to see a video from Saturday's "MythBusters" finale party.

guns on us, we get on the ground, and the sound guy's 6-year-old and I lay down behind a fistful of balloons," Chapman said. "I'm laughing my ass off."

But the most commonly recounted memories involved the wacky creative opportunities posed to them by Savage and Hyneman. Builder Aaron Mattia said one of the best parts about working on the show was "not knowing what was going to happen," and lead fabricator Tory Fink said every day was a challenge.

"We're building stuff that's never been built, and it's experimental weird stuff you'd never normally build. It's pretty awesome," he said. "When I was younger, being a nerd was bad, but 'MythBusters' (gave) people who have a scientific mind or who are thinkers something to relate to."

After "260 hours of TV, 83 miles of duct tape, 210 destroyed cars" and seven Emmy nominations, as the night's host told partygoers, a lot of people around the world have



Lash Mills / The Chronicle

The Forgery Bar in SoMa was decked out appropriately for the theme at the series finale party for "MythBusters" cast, crew, family and friends, celebrating the show's 13 years.

been able to enjoy the Discovery Channel show through the years.

And though "MythBusters" publicly dealt with cast departures and creative differences during its time on the air, the event only celebrated the years of accord. "Adam and Jamie, and me and all the builders, from the cameramen to the sound guys, we all spoke the same language," said Joe Sargent, a production member from the show's art department. "It's like this weird space

between television production and playhouse and science experiment, and it's ... amazing. We had a great run."

Kari Byron, a host on "MythBusters" for 11 years, said she's come to view the show's cast and crew as lifelong connections. "I made family with these people, I take them everywhere I go," she said. "We had one of those projects every single week, where I was like, 'You want me to make a slapping machine? How the hell am I going to do that?'"

Now, after 13 years and thousands of experiments, production team members hope that the show helped inspire and usher young minds toward pursuing science. "There are so many kids now that are into science, and it was not that way before," Chapman said. "Hopefully there is something that carries that torch."

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