



# Off Menu – Ep 01 – Scroobius Pip

**Ed Gamble**

Bon Appetit and welcome to the Off Menu podcast with Ed Gamble and James Acaster. I'm Ed Gamble.

**James Acaster**

I'm James Acaster.

**Ed Gamble**

This is exciting isn't it?

**James Acaster**

Very exciting. This is a podcast where we ask a guest basically to build their dream meal, their favourite starter they've ever had, favourite main, favourite desert, favourite side, favourite drink.

**Ed Gamble**

Best drink. Now this is episode one so we are obviously getting a few things fleshed out, I went with Bon Appetit there as the opening.

**James Acaster**

I liked that.

**Ed Gamble**

Are you happy with that?

**James Acaster**

Yes, and I am a waiter.

**Ed Gamble**

This is the other thing we should let you know as well, we haven't quite nailed the format down yet, and James is insisting throughout the podcast that he is a waiter and taking the order, so each time our guest who this week is the wonderful Scroobius Pip.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Very exciting.

**James Acaster**

Very exciting, love Scroobius Pip and can't wait to hear what he wants to eat.



**Ed Gamble**

So James, every time we ask Pip about a new course, James takes the order as the waiter.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

I'm not sure that we should do that James.

**James Acaster**

You can't tell people what jobs they can and can't do Ed. You are like the dad in Billy Elliot.

**Ed Gamble**

Well, I can tell someone to not to be a waiter in a private room when we are not in an actual restaurant.

**James Acaster**

You can tell them, but then freedom of speech I'm allowed to be a waiter.

**Ed Gamble**

So, we are sticking with Bon Appetit as the opening, and certainly for this episode because we've already recorded it, you were acting like a waiter throughout, but a waiter who constantly stayed at the table.

**James Acaster**

Yes, one of those familiar waiters who comes and sits with you and gets a bit personal, has a bit of a chat.

**Ed Gamble**

I hate them.

**James Acaster**

No, it adds to the meal I think.

**Ed Gamble**

It doesn't add to the meal.

**James Acaster**

I felt like I added to the ambiance.

**Ed Gamble**

You were fine, because at least I know you.

**James Acaster**

Yes.



**Ed Gamble**

So I'd be like, 'The waiter here is James Acaster, he's going to come and sit at the table,' because it would just be awkward otherwise because we'd be like, 'What's happened to James? What's happened in his comedy life that he's needed to get supplementary wages as a waiter?'

**James Acaster**

Well, the waiter is more of a passion thing. It's my passion.

**Ed Gamble**

So, this is not anything you are being paid for?

**James Acaster**

No, I do it for the love. That's why I like chatting as well.

**Ed Gamble**

Does the imaginary restaurant that you are working in, know that you are working there? Have you applied to work there, or have you just turned up in a little waiter's uniform?

**James Acaster**

Well, I like to think that like-, it's almost like I'm a Genie and, like, the whole-,

**Ed Gamble**

A Genie?

**James Acaster**

Yes, but the whole restaurant-,

**Ed Gamble**

Okay, I think it's confusing enough that you are pretending to be a waiter in our pretty laid-back food-chat podcast, with a loose structure of favourite starter, main, side, dessert, you can't also be a genie.

**James Acaster**

But it's a magical restaurant because they are able to order food from any time in their life, any time they had it, and, like, you know, it will be one of those things where like-, if it was a film, in the film, I would just appear like, 'I'm the waiter,' and then they would realise there's something magical about the restaurant and they'd realise actually I'm the only member of staff there, and the whole thing is just magic and I'm a genie who created the restaurant.

**Ed Gamble**

Do you see what I'm saying when I'm telling you that that seems like you are overcomplicating it?



**James Acaster**

But there's, like, layers and layers of stuff where people would like-, you know, because the more people listen to the podcast, the more they'll discover that.

**Ed Gamble**

Right, okay.

**James Acaster**

Even though I'm saying it now, in episode one.

**Ed Gamble**

You've already given away the twist that you are the genie as well as a waiter.

**James Acaster**

Yes, I have given it away, actually.

**Ed Gamble**

As well as James Acaster the comedian.

**James Acaster**

But what we could do is, we could edit this bit out, and then in a few years' time, play this and go, 'Look, it was there from the beginning. They knew from the beginning that he was a genie and it was a magical restaurant that he'd created by magic.'

**Ed Gamble**

I think it's a really fun episode. We've just had a really lovely chat with Pip.

**James Acaster**

Really good. Some unexpected choices, and hitting a lot of our loves.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, indeed.

**James Acaster**

Things that we like. And we should also point out that for every episode, there's going to be a secret ingredient which if they mention it, they get kicked out of the restaurant.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, should we mention what it is now?

**James Acaster**

Yes, so listen out for it. We won't say if he says it or not yet, but we decided that the ingredient that we don't like is pomegranate this week.



**Ed Gamble**

Pomegranate. Pomegranate seeds that get in your teeth.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

We're not having that in our imaginary genie restaurant.

**James Acaster**

No, don't like them. So, if he orders that he is in trouble.

**Ed Gamble**

Also, something to be aware of, we're recording in the offices of your management James.

**James Acaster**

Yes. Not management at the restaurant, because that's just me, I'm the genie.

**Ed Gamble**

Okay, confusion really coming into play now.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

And I think we are next to the kitchen of your management, so there will be background noise of plates and microwaves pinging.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

That is completely accidental, that is not a bed we've added in, but it's perfect, it's worked out ideal.

**James Acaster**

It is perfect, and adds to all of the magic, but don't expect it every episode.

**Ed Gamble**

No don't expect it every episode. So, this is the intro for the first one, I think in future ones we'd be catching up on food news, discussing food experiences.

**James Acaster**

Yes, the intro will be a bit more.



**Ed Gamble**

This is just a bit of set up for this one now, because it's the first ever one we've done.

**James Acaster**

Yes, letting people know what it is, but look you know, if you are getting confused by if I'm a waiter, or a genie, and stuff like that, just know that it is going to be Scroobius Pip talking about his favourite dishes that he's ever had, and that's all you need to know.

**Ed Gamble**

So just imagine me, Ed Gamble, a man, sat talking to Scroobius Pip, a man, with sort of James a hovering waiter.

**James Acaster**

Yes. Enjoy the show.

**Scroobius Pip**

Hi Guys.

**James Acaster**

Good to see you, welcome.

**Scroobius Pip**

Thank you for having me, it's exciting to be the first guest.

**Ed Gamble**

Is it exciting? Or are you worried that you are the guinea pig in this experiment?

**Scroobius Pip**

It's exciting because it's got that element of being invited round for the first dinner party, but I've chosen the menu. So the risk is taken away.

**Ed Gamble**

Exactly.

**Scroobius Pip**

So even if you guys are appalling hosts, both figuratively and literally, I get to talk about my favourite things, so I've got it covered.

**Ed Gamble**

And you are the first one, so you can't get anything wrong.

**Scroobius Pip**

Yes. Everyone else has to compare to me now, I've got tons of extra categories, I've planned your podcast wonderfully.



**Ed Gamble**

That sounds great.

**James Acaster**

You're like the first star in a reasonably priced car.

**Scroobius Pip**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Just straight on the leader board, doesn't matter what anyone else did.

**Ed Gamble**

Now have we picked our first guest well? Are you a foodie? Would you consider yourself a foodie?

**Scroobius Pip**

Well, yes, and it's something I made a note of at the start that I wanted to get across, I made a list of some of the posh restaurants I've been to.

**Ed Gamble**

That's what we like to hear.

**Scroobius Pip**

I've been to nice places like Sushi Samba, Popolo, Bob Bob Ricard, I know, Sushi Samba twice. Rocksalt in Folkstone, if you want to get out of London. Hawksmoor, Duck and Waffle all of these, and I needed to get them in because almost all of my choices are from major fast food chains, because I've just got cheap taste. It's a blessing and a curse I think. I really enjoy nice food, like I said I go to loads of nice places, but a while ago, we did on another podcast I was asked my kind of death row last meal type thing, and I realised I genuinely would probably order it from Pizza Hut or Dominoes. Literally that was it, you could have anything you want, but it's the last time I could have stuffed crust right? I can never have one again? Well, I've got to have one.

**James Acaster**

Are you a stuffed crust guy?

**Scroobius Pip**

I am a stuffed crust guy, yes.

**James Acaster**

Once I went round to Ed's house, I'd just literally broken up with my girlfriend that day.

**Ed Gamble**

Sorry I was just timing that, just wanted to see how long it would take for you to mention a breakup.



**James Acaster**

Yes, here we are, straight in there. And I went round to Ed's and ordered a pizza, and ordered a hotdog stuffed crust pizza which I'd never had before.

**Scroobius Pip**

It's intense isn't it?

**Ed Gamble**

See that for me is a step too far.

**Scroobius Pip**

On all of those things, and the hotdog stuff crust is an example of, I enjoyed it, I never needed to have it again.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Scroobius Pip**

I'd experienced it. I didn't regret it, there's some things like that you order and regret, I didn't regret it, but I didn't have any urge to have again. It was a strange thing to review in that way, because people were asking me online 'How was it?' I was like 'I really enjoyed it, but I will never have another one'. So it was a weird combination.

**Ed Gamble**

Question about the hotdog stuffed crust, is it one long hotdog all the way around, or is it a series of normal size hotdogs?

**Scroobius Pip**

If it was one all the way round it would be the Cumberland sausage stuffed crust wouldn't it.

**Ed Gamble**

Wouldn't that have to come out of the crust and sort of curl round towards the centre of the pizza?

**James Acaster**

It might have been two.

**Scroobius Pip**

The base is just a sausage.

**James Acaster**

I don't know because I had it in slices.

**Ed Gamble**

And you were crying weren't you?





**James Acaster**

And I was crying and everything. It cost a lot of money as well, because I ordered it, it cost me £20.00 that pizza and I felt, I'll do it because I'm heartbroken.

**Scroobius Pip**

Was it worth it?

**Ed Gamble**

It didn't help.

**James Acaster**

I don't know if it was worth it.

**Scroobius Pip**

I've got spare revenue now, I've not got to waste it on dates and stuff like that.

**James Acaster**

Yes, exactly.

**Scroobius Pip**

I'm never going to be eating out again so.

**James Acaster**

Get myself a hotdog stuffed crust pizza for £20.00.

**Ed Gamble**

So you go to posh restaurants, but your go to is probably fast food. Food is about comfort really.

**Scroobius Pip**

Completely. And I have that a lot, I used to have it on tour or with when I do acting a bit now, if I'm away, one of the exciting things is seeing what takeaways are available and local to my hotel. Because I live in a small town in Essex, called Stanford-le-hope, and the only chain brand option I've got is Dominoes. Other than that it's all small local ones and things like that and they're not amazing, it's not like the East End, it's not all these fancy independent things, it's kebab shops and stuff like that. So it's exciting, like we don't have Deliveroo or Uber Eats or any of that kind of thing, so it's genuinely exciting each time. Before now, in fact almost every time, I've had for example an acting gig in Leeds, and before I've gone there, I've entered the postcode and checked what takeaways there are. Because I like that little hotel room takeaway just pig out, enjoy yourself, have a film on, and yes it's that comfort.

**Ed Gamble**

So, we should get into this.



**Scroobius Pip**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

We've asked you to pick your perfect starter, main, side, desert combo, but something we're going to throw at you early doors that you weren't expecting, we've just sat down in the restaurant, Poppadoms or bread?

**James Acaster**

Poppadoms or bread?

**Scroobius Pip**

Jesus, I'll go for bread. No, I'll go for Poppadoms.

**James Acaster**

You can if you want say a different option if you've ever been given something else nice before a meal that you'd prefer?

**Scroobius Pip**

No, I'm going to go for Poppadoms, and I like Poppadoms but the only dip of the Poppadoms I like is the Mango Chutney, so don't worry with the rest of them, just bring more Mango Chutney.

**James Acaster**

Like four Mango Chutney dips?

**Scroobius Pip**

Yes, it's awkward if I go with other people because I get a little bit, if they take a big scoop of the Mango Chutney I'm like 'Well you're having a bit of everything, that's all I'm having, so you've taken a large scoop of my only option, and you should spread it out'.

**James Acaster**

Yes, it's not fair. Have you tried the other dips and just have never liked them?

**Scroobius Pip**

Yes, it's a weird one with curry's, I didn't have a curry until I was over 20.

**James Acaster**

What?

**Scroobius Pip**

I was in my 20s when I had my first curry.

**Ed Gamble**

Wow.



**Scroobius Pip**

And there was a place near me called Bombay Nights, and they had all real authentic, apparently they shipped in all their spices and everything and so it was really authentic, and it was the best curry I've ever had. But I'd only ever go there once or twice, or once every month or two, and people would get annoyed because I'd always have the same stuff but if I'm only going once every month or two and that one thing I had was really nice, I want to have it again.

**Ed Gamble**

You don't want to risk picking something else.

**Scroobius Pip**

Because it was really nice, there was nothing wrong with that I don't think, but it would annoy people, but then that place closed down, every curry I've had since hasn't come close.

**James Acaster**

Really? What was the curry?

**Scroobius Pip**

Here comes the judgement. It was buttered chicken.

**James Acaster**

I knew you were going to say buttered chicken. As soon as you said 'Here comes the judgement' I was like, here comes buttered chicken more like.

**Scroobius Pip**

But it was beautiful, they did it as kind of, it was more it had the, it was more a masala and then they had the creamy sauce on top of the masala and it was a really beautiful mix and it tasted lovely. But yes, I would get judgement every time, because clearly I had that the first time because I've never had a curry and I'm in my 20s, and I want to take it easy.

**James Acaster**

Fair enough.

**Scroobius Pip**

Happened to really like it, and then stick with it, let's not deviate from the path.

**James Acaster**

Everywhere else do you always get buttered chicken now?

**Scroobius Pip**

No, I generally avoid it now because everywhere else I've gone it's been a huge let down, because it is just more bland and more creamy than it was there. There it was spicy but not in a hot way, it had a lot of flavour and a lot of spices, I'm not into hot stuff, so I mean like flavour wise hot. I like hot food, I don't demand all my food, 'Pop that in the fridge first please for half an hour'.



**Ed Gamble**

All of your choices are freezing.

**Scroobius Pip**

So everywhere else I've gone I've then understood why I get judgement at choosing buttered chicken, because when I had it in other places it was like, it's just like a creamy sickly chicken, in that place it was special.

**James Acaster**

That place they did it really well.

**Scroobius Pip**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Imagine that, you have a dish that everyone thinks is pretty bland, but you have it the best that anyone has ever made it in the world and you just think it's the best meal ever.

**Scroobius Pip**

Yes. And everyone else is judging me. As I said, I then had, we were on tour in Newcastle once, and we went to a curry house, I was like alright, this is a tour as well so I'm ready for judgement, I was like this is going to be fun. So I ordered it and everyone was having the hottest thing on the menu, and then it came and I was like do you know what, you're right to judge me, it's bland and boring.

**Ed Gamble**

Even though you've explained it now, I'm still judging you for the buttered chicken.

**Scroobius Pip**

Yes I know, it's mad isn't it.

**James Acaster**

I would like to try this original buttered chicken. It's what I'm referring to it as, the original buttered chicken.

**Ed Gamble**

You've got Poppadoms.

**Scroobius Pip**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Don't fill up on them.



**Ed Gamble**

That's key isn't it.

**Scroobius Pip**

I won't, I won't.

**Ed Gamble**

Don't fill up on the Poppadoms because now we are going to the starter, but, are you being the waiter James?

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

So you need to come and take the order don't you?

**James Acaster**

Well actually, first of all would you like a drink before we get your starter?

**Ed Gamble**

Good point.

**James Acaster**

Yes I'm going to start on just water, I like a water with a meal. That's genuine, that's true, just a water is fine.

**Ed Gamble**

Still? Sparkling?

**Scroobius Pip**

I might spice things up later on and order an alcoholic drink.

**James Acaster**

Okay.

**Scroobius Pip**

At the moment I'm going to start on the water because I don't want anything to influence the flavours that I'm about to take in, I don't want to set a palette that's then hard to deviate from. Like cleaning your teeth before a glass of orange juice.

**Ed Gamble**

Now this is a real good intro into the starter, so you are having water to not interrupt the flavours of the starter.



**Scroobius Pip**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Still, sparkling or tap?

**Scroobius Pip**

Tap is fine actually.

**Ed Gamble**

I'm the same, I'm a tap guy.

**Scroobius Pip**

I'm fine with tap. Still but there's an element of Essex cheapness that I'm like well still and tap are the same thing just at a different price, so I'll take the cheaper of the two, tap. But the starter, I'm going for what is, and I will not have any argument on this, what is the best starter ever, and it's the reason I went for Poppadoms rather than bread because I'm going for garlic bread with cheese. Because it is the best starter ever, no matter what meal you're having it's the best starter ever. There's more fancy starters, there's nothing as good. And I'm asking the waiter to pop down specifically to get Pizza Hut garlic bread with cheese, so it's not just a Pizza that's garlicky and cheesy, it's slices, it's individual slices with the cheese melted beautifully on top. It's the best starter. And I won't have any argument.

**Ed Gamble**

I can see why you went with the water now, you don't want anything influencing the flavour of the Pizza Hut garlic bread with cheese.

**Scroobius Pip**

The continental flavour of garlic bread with cheese.

**Ed Gamble**

You have picked a starter whose flavour could punch through any drink.

**Scroobius Pip**

Pretty much, but I really want it to punch through nothing, punch through air.

**James Acaster**

Also, are we allowing guests to say they won't have any argument on it?

**Ed Gamble**

I think so, I think that's the level of passion we require from our guests.

**James Acaster**

That is true actually.



**Scroobius Pip**

I'm the first one, so it is undisputed at this stage.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, so maybe the next guest.

**Scroobius Pip**

Obviously, the future of the podcast is to dispute it. It's one of my, I watch a lot of mixed martial arts, and my brother's main annoyance is at the start of a title fight, they'll introduce someone as the 'Undisputed champion', it's like, we are literally here to dispute that, it's literally why we are all watching, this is the dispute of that. It's just the undisputed champion, no, it is being disputed in front of us now. At present there's no one here to battle me, so it is undisputed.

**James Acaster**

Garlic bread with cheese is the undisputed champion. With the Pizza Hut garlic bread with cheese, what is the cheese on top of it?

**Scroobius Pip**

It's normally a Mozzarella, they for a period had four cheese mixed cheese, which was Mozzarella, I think it was Red Leicester, and a Cheddar. I worked in Pizza Hut for a little while in the kitchen. That's the best option, the mixed cheese is the best option because the melt is just a little bit nicer, it's a little bit creamier, it's a smoother melt.

**James Acaster**

So that's what you would like me to get you, is the mixed cheese one?

**Scroobius Pip**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Not the Mozzarella?

**Scroobius Pip**

I believed they stopped doing it five to ten years ago, but if you could, they'll probably have some somewhere.

**James Acaster**

It's a magical restaurant, I can get you whatever you want from whatever time period.

**Ed Gamble**

Time is no issue in this restaurant.

**James Acaster**

Yes, I can get you whatever.



**Scroobius Pip**

It would be beautiful.

**James Acaster**

How many slices are you getting with this?

**Scroobius Pip**

I'm going to go for four, I'm going to do a full order, eat it myself. I can handle it, I can take it, I'm confident in myself.

**Ed Gamble**

Now I would say this is part of getting garlic bread with cheese from Pizza Hut, would you like it brought in the box? Because I think part of it is some of the cheese may be caking onto that weird little cardboard thing at the bottom and the grease forming a circle on the bottom of the box.

**Scroobius Pip**

I would like it in the box. In fact, I'd like James to have a seat, I'm going to go and get it myself because I like to eat one or two before it gets to the table. I like to collect it from Pizza Hut, because I've not got a Pizza Hut that delivers as we've heard, only Dominoes is my local, so if I want Pizza Hut I have to drive to it. On the drive home, a slice or two isn't making it home let's just say that.

**James Acaster**

Yes, you are having it in the car.

**Scroobius Pip**

People in my house think they come in orders of two.

**Ed Gamble**

I think the grease is giving you away there though, because there's definitely like a shadow of grease where it used to be.

**Scroobius Pip**

Like a chalk line round a body.

**Ed Gamble**

You know what's been there.

**James Acaster**

Claiming that they've moved about a bit in the car. It must've been there then slid.

**Scroobius Pip**

I mean and the crumbs in my beard is a telltale sign. Driving isn't easy for clean eating so.





**James Acaster**

Garlic breath, everything about it. I might have eaten the garlic bread.

**Scroobius Pip**

The rouse is up.

**Ed Gamble**

My issue with getting that as a starter when you get it from Pizza Hut or somewhere like that, is then you eat that, then it sort of carbs you up so much by the time you get to a pizza you don't enjoy the pizza as much as you want to.

**Scroobius Pip**

It's weird, with pizza or generally with fast food, like anything chocolatey and desert, I don't seem to have a limit on them. I think it's partly because as unhealthy as my choices are going to be, in the week I eat really health, then at the weekends I eat whatever I want. So I don't seem to have a limit on it, I seem to be able to eat all of that garlic bread, but before now, and I will be doing it today, before now, in fact, I say before now, almost more regularly than ordering a pizza now, I'll just pop in a little starters order. From Dominoes or Pizza Hut, I'll order only starters, I'll order, you know, I'll go Tapas at Pizza Hut. I'll have some chicken wings, I'll have some garlic bread, they do a macaroni cheese at Pizza Hut now. From Dominoes I might go twisted doughballs who knows.

**James Acaster**

A few starters?

**Scroobius Pip**

A few starters and a desert.

**James Acaster**

Is that your favourite course then?

**Scroobius Pip**

I reckon it must be yes.

**James Acaster**

Of all the courses, you're a starters guy?

**Scroobius Pip**

I think it is, which makes it all the more impressive that when compiling this list, it's the only one that I only had one option. All the others, still written on my phone are two options, so I'm that undecided, I'm going to wait until the waiter comes and call it on the day, but all the rest I've got almost a tie for first place. Starter was the only one that I was like 'There's nothing better than cheesy garlic bread'.

**James Acaster**

From Pizza Hut three years ago.



**Scroobius Pip**

From Pizza Hut three years ago.

**Ed Gamble**

I think that is a solid first choice.

**James Acaster**

I like garlic bread that you can tear apart, you know, like a baguette of garlic bread that you can tear it.

**Ed Gamble**

My issue with those is that because they're sort of half or three quarters sliced through the baguette, often there's a little dry bit of bread at the bottom where the garlic butter hasn't reached. Whereas slices of garlic bread with cheese, there's garlic butter everywhere.

**Scroobius Pip**

It's covered. Or often popular in pubs, the tear and share garlic bread, so it's just a big thing that is there for you to tear. I like to have that, or it's the only time in fact I have mayonnaise, I'm not a mayonnaise man but a bit of ketchup, a bit of mayonnaise, I double dip, because the share is a suggestion.

**Ed Gamble**

You have tear garlic bread?

**Scroobius Pip**

The tear is essential, the share part is completely at your discretion, so I'll cross the streams, I'll dip in both.

**James Acaster**

Dipping garlic bread in mayonnaise?

**Scroobius Pip**

Yes I know it's mad isn't it? But this is so many mind blowing revelations here, that is the only time I've ever had mayonnaise.

**James Acaster**

You've never?

**Scroobius Pip**

I've only ever had mayonnaise at tear and share. In fact I can even say a specific place, a pub round the back of Festival Leisure Park in Basildon, tear and share garlic bread, ketchup and mayonnaise, double dipped. I'm not a mayonnaise man, it's never appealed to me.

**Ed Gamble**

So that place in Basildon is the only place you've ever had mayonnaise.



**Scroobius Pip**

The only place I've ever had mayonnaise yes.

**James Acaster**

And you are thinking you might have another buttered chicken on your hands where if you go and have mayonnaise anywhere else it's not as good?

**Scroobius Pip**

I think potentially. And again it's weird, because there, similar with buttered chicken which is the white creamy sauce over the masala in this place, and mixing the red ketchup with the white mayonnaise I think I have an issue, with I can only handle white stuff if it's mixed with red stuff.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Scroobius Pip**

Which is a strange thing to realise.

**James Acaster**

Let's pull that out on it's own and put it on the internet out of context.

**Ed Gamble**

Right sorted, we've got garlic bread with cheese, waiter.

**James Acaster**

Thank you, I'll let them know in the kitchen. For a main sir?

**Scroobius Pip**

Well, this is going to both surprise and disappoint. For the main, I'm going for a pizza, because pizza is the best.

**James Acaster**

He's actually doing it.

**Scroobius Pip**

Yes. But I'm going for something that I'm the only person who's ever had, and I might have to come in the kitchen and make it for you. Because when I worked in Pizza Hut I invented, my name in real life is David Meads, I stopped using that name, not for stage, but when I worked in HMV I was known as Pip, in loads of other places I was known as Pip, but in Pizza Hut I was still known as David Meads. And there, I invented the 'Meadsy base'. So I'm going to have a Meadsy base pizza, and the way I created that.



**Ed Gamble**

You will need to tell the kitchen how to make this.

**James Acaster**

I'm writing this down.

**Scroobius Pip**

Yes, so you do thin crust pizza's here right?

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Scroobius Pip**

Slap out a thin crust, sprinkle it with cheese, then pop another thin crust on top of it, so you've got this cheese encased base. Now the problem you are probably thinking there is, but Pip, the cheese is going to bubble out of the sides, how do you seal that? Stuff the crust mate, stuff the crust, fold it over, stuff the crust so we've got a stuffed crust. So cheese in the crust and in the base, and then the sauce and the toppings on top.

**James Acaster**

So, you've got a stuffed base pizza? What cheese are you putting in there?

**Scroobius Pip**

Again, I've gone for the four cheese mix, because it's again a smoother blend, it gives a nice smooth melt.

**James Acaster**

So, you've had that on the garlic bread?

**Ed Gamble**

And now that's in the main course as well?

**James Acaster**

That's the exact same cheese.

**Ed Gamble**

I'm looking forward to hearing what the desert is going to be.

**Scroobius Pip**

Is it going to be cheesecake? Who knows. It's in the main course several times, because it's in the base, and it's on top.



**Ed Gamble**

On top, and in the crust as well.

**Scroobius Pip**

Well in the crust they go for more of a kind of cheese string type thing.

**Ed Gamble**

Of course, yes.

**Scroobius Pip**

So it's then tubes of things you put in, you role it over, you push down nicely to seal it, and you run a little thing that perforates the base and seals it all in, you run that all over, then you put the sauce on and yes.

**James Acaster**

So, what sauce are you putting on?

**Scroobius Pip**

So, your traditional tomato pizza sauce.

**James Acaster**

Yes

**Scroobius Pip**

And then, on toppings, again it's a controversial thing, despite the monstrosity I've just created in front of you.

**James Acaster**

I imagine the topping is going to be another pizza base.

**Scroobius Pip**

Tiny pizza's.

**Ed Gamble**

No, I'm traditional on toppings, because the habit in the UK, again this is the same as the people who at the curry house were having the hottest curry available, at Pizza Hut, Dominoes or wherever else they're going, let's put some meatballs on it, let's have what's on a farm, put all of it on there. And including two of the vegetables, but only two not many, let's not mess things up. But in Italy they always say that your sauce, your base and your cheese are the most important toppings. Then you should have one, maybe two other toppings, so I just go for ham, I'm just going to have ham on top of this. Because there's a lot in there already, so it's just cheese and ham.

**Ed Gamble**

I like it that you are referencing the simplicity of Italian cuisine, but you've stuffed the base and crust.



**Scroobius Pip**

That's it, I had to highlight the monstrosity that I'd built first, which is a very Americanised route of making pizza, but yes, I'm going for that simplicity in the topping.

**James Acaster**

While respecting the tradition.

**Scroobius Pip**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

What size are we talking?

**Scroobius Pip**

Well the beauty of a Meadsy base is the thin crust based are made in all sizes, so it's really optional, but I'll go for a medium I'm quite peckish. So I'm going to have a medium all to myself, if I need to take some home in a box, I'll take some home in a box.

**James Acaster**

Is a Meadsy base, have you had it cold in the morning before?

**Scroobius Pip**

I don't like cold pizza, I always reheat in the oven, not the microwave, the microwave makes it go soft and floppy, the oven if done within reasonable time returns it to it's former glory, just slightly crispier.

**Ed Gamble**

Or, I don't know if you've ever tried this, dry pan, medium heat, cheese down.

**Scroobius Pip**

Really? I like that, yes that makes sense, because it will give it that.

**Ed Gamble**

I think that would work for a Meadsy base as well.

**James Acaster**

Won't it dry it up?

**Ed Gamble**

No because it's like a dry pan so you are not frying anything, you are just warming it and a bit of melt on the cheese again.

**Scroobius Pip**

Just heating it.



**James Acaster**

Does it not just stick to the pan?

**Ed Gamble**

No.

**Scroobius Pip**

If you've got good pans, shouldn't have that problem.

**James Acaster**

Maybe I haven't got a good pan.

**Ed Gamble**

And if you are ordering from someone like Pizza Hut or something, the cheese never goes so melty it's almost liquid does it? It's sort of got like a solidified quality to it anyway.

**Scroobius Pip**

Yeah it's got that quality to it.

**James Acaster**

Well that's good. I didn't know you ever did that Ed.

**Ed Gamble**

I don't do it regularly, but I'm aware that is a thing you can do.

**Scroobius Pip**

I've never done it, but I now intend to. I mean it's rare that I have any leftover if I'm honest.

**James Acaster**

Well I was going to say, if you are making a Meadsy base, you'd put the work in because only you can make it.

**Scroobius Pip**

Mate, I've put the work in. Pizza is my favourite meal, it's why it got in there, and I used to when I got the job at Pizza Hut my mum genuinely sat me down with little concern saying 'But you love pizza, and this might ruin it for you, it might be the thing that pushes you over the edge'. And I ate it, you get a free pizza for lunch, also Pizza Hut do a thing called the buffet, which is you've got your buffet there, and because of the amount you have to make you prep some of them in advance, if there's any left over at the end of the day there's no point in throwing them away is there. And by chance every shift I had, there was a large ham and cheese pizza left over at the end from the buffet.

**Ed Gamble**

Is that as well as your pizza for lunch?



**Scroobius Pip**

That's as well as my pizza for lunch. I pop that in the oven, take that home, provide for the family, I've become a man.

**James Acaster**

Now that you are known as Scroobius Pip, have you considered changing the name of the Meadsy base to like a Pipperoni pizza?

**Ed Gamble**

Come on.

**James Acaster**

Pipperoni pizza.

**Scroobius Pip**

It suggests too much, a Pippy base or a Piperoni pizza suggests either there's some use of-

**James Acaster**

When I said, 'Piperoni pizza' I could see that you enjoyed it.

**Scroobius Pip**

Yes. I don't know, I like the Meadsy base, it never came into fruition. About five years after it's creation Dominos started doing a stuffed base pizza.

**Ed Gamble**

See I wasn't going to bring this up because I didn't want to rock the boat.

**Scroobius Pip**

I think they must've heard somehow, I think the word got through. Genuinely when I was working there, looked up the phone number for head office because I wanted to ring them up and say look I've created this new pizza, I think it's got a future.

**James Acaster**

There's a mole in our department.

**Ed Gamble**

The Dominoes one, was it called the Dominator?

**Scroobius Pip**

The Dominator yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Now the problem with that stuffed base, was it was like cream cheese.





**Scroobius Pip**

It was liquid cheese yes.

**Ed Gamble**

It was horrible.

**Scroobius Pip**

Yes it was messy, again it was another one that I tried and enjoyed, but I wasn't particularly drawn back many times. Dominoes have a history of that, they'll create inventive things. Speaking of which this is just a plug for Dominoes now, I was so proud of them recently when I saw a new menu addition, because Dominoes have an option of potato wedges, that's not that exciting is it? You're getting a pizza, you got the option of garlic bread or this. They've just upped that, you can now order potato wedges, with melted cheese on, or with melted cheese and bacon. Instantly ten times more appealing. And it's stuff they've got anyway, they've not had to order in anything extra there, it's sitting there, they probably throw out a load of cheese at the end of each day that isn't used, and I saw it and just went 'Well done lads'. Because you've made that ten times more appealing and you've spent nothing extra, not a penny more.

**Ed Gamble**

You are proud of them.

**Scroobius Pip**

I was so proud of them.

**James Acaster**

That is quite good. I have a question about the Meadsy base.

**Scroobius Pip**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

How old were you when you invented it?

**Scroobius Pip**

So, I guess I would have been seventeen or eighteen.

**James Acaster**

And who else has tried it? Only you?

**Scroobius Pip**

Only me, I'm the only one that has ever tried it, I've never let anyone have a taste.

**James Acaster**

Never shared it with anyone?



**Scroobius Pip**

I did it with individual, so a personal pizza so imagine that stuffed, there's not a lot left for toppings, it's mainly base.

**Ed Gamble**

When the stuffed crust first came out, you could only get it in large.

**Scroobius Pip**

Only in large.

**Ed Gamble**

It was only available in large.

**Scroobius Pip**

Again it's a myth, because you can stuff any crust. Trust me.

**James Acaster**

You've stuffed some crusts.

**Scroobius Pip**

I've stuffed some crusts in my time.

**Ed Gamble**

You are an innovator, you were working at the top of your game.

**Scroobius Pip**

I genuinely feel that that was a 'We've got something good here, let's keep it on a maximum premium'. Because people who want a stuff crust, will order a stuff crust when they might have previously thought 'I'll have a medium', but 'Oh I want a stuffed crust, I'll go large' and reheat it in the morning or whatever else, and you are spending a load more. If it was an option on a medium, people would take that believe me.

**Ed Gamble**

Absolutely

**Ed Gamble**

Right, it's a good meal so far.

**James Acaster**

Very good sir.

**Scroobius Pip**

It's going okay isn't it?



**James Acaster**

The Meadsy base, writing that down.

**Ed Gamble**

You must be feeling pretty full, but you've got to order a side.

**Scroobius Pip**

A side, yes.

**James Acaster**

A side for the Meadsy base?

**Ed Gamble**

Potato wedges with cheese and bacon?

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Scroobius Pip**

It's not, but guess what, cheese is making an appearance again.

**Ed Gamble**

Is it the cheese mix again?

**James Acaster**

Just writing down 'Unbelievable' before you cut me off.

**Scroobius Pip**

It's not from Pizza Hut. This is a shock, it's not from Pizza Hut. It's from Camden Market, is it Off The Kerb? Or something, they have their little bit which is all food from around the world, obviously honed in on one that had cheese and they do these haloumi fries that have got pomegranates sprinkled on and some mint sauce and all sorts of stuff like that.

**Ed Gamble**

I'm just going to stop you there, this is very interesting, because in the meeting previous to this recording, James said we should establish an ingredient that if it gets mentioned then we kick the guest off the show.

**Scroobius Pip**

Right.

**Ed Gamble**

And today's ingredient was genuinely pomegranate seeds.



**Scroobius Pip**

Pomegranate seeds really? It's the only place I've ever had them as well, so that's fascinating.

**James Acaster**

I'm not going to enforce it. We're not going to kick you off, but I can't believe you actually said the ingredient.

**Scroobius Pip**

What's interesting here is the first two times I had these, I said I didn't have the pomegranate seed. I'm quite a picky orderer, there'll rarely be something on the menu that I'm satisfied is the right way to put that together, I'm like 'Well no, let's leave that off of it' or 'Let's add that' and so as you've seen with the invention of the Meadsy base, and with this the first few times I went to this place, everyone's just having it, they've got these seeds drizzled on this mint stuff, and I was always like no I'll just have the haloumi fries. There was some kind of green sauce mixed on, but other than that I'm fine. And it was after a while I went for the pomegranate seeds, so I'm happy to leave them off it gets me through to desert.

**James Acaster**

My problem with them is like eating bits of gravel.

**Ed Gamble**

They do get stuck in your teeth.

**Scroobius Pip**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

I don't like the texture of them, so when I'm eating a lovely salad and they've been snuck in there.

**Scroobius Pip**

Yes, I get you.

**James Acaster**

And then you get one popping in your mouth.

**Ed Gamble**

I feel they are more about look, than they are about taste half the time.

**Scroobius Pip**

I couldn't agree more.

**Ed Gamble**

Call it like a jewelled Couscous or something. But once you actually bite down into them, there's nothing there.



**Scroobius Pip**

It's like when they pop gold on stuff. So, some deserts have gold flakes sprinkled on, it's just a look. Some vodka will have bits of gold in it, I'm here for the vodka not the gold.

**James Acaster**

They say the first bite is with the eye, but all the other bites are with your teeth and mouth, and I do not like the pomegranate.

**Scroobius Pip**

Lets not focus solely on the first bite, that's a small percentage of the bites depending on how much you chew.

**Ed Gamble**

The haloumi fries I'm well on board with.

**Scroobius Pip**

They are amazing yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Absolutely.

**James Acaster**

Talk us through them.

**Scroobius Pip**

It's just simple, it's slices of haloumi that they've probably coated in something a bit and then they've deep fried it and haloumi is something that I came to late, as all of the UK did I feel. It feels like it's something that came out of nowhere and everyone went who's been keeping this a secret?

**Ed Gamble**

This seems to be a running theme for you though coming to cuisine quite late in your life. Did you eat gruel until eighteen?

**Scroobius Pip**

It's because of the pickiness and the blandness. Genuinely from the age of about thirteen or fourteen is when I started to make my own meals if I wanted to, but definitely from fifteen or sixteen, I probably went ten years and I would eat fruit or vegetables, once, maybe twice a year.

**Ed Gamble**

Wow.

**James Acaster**

Wow.



### **Scroobius Pip**

I'm not exaggerating at all, I would live off pizza and meat and that's it, simple as that.

### **Ed Gamble**

Wow.

### **Scroobius Pip**

I would generally have veg as a Christmas present to my mother. So it's Christmas, alright let's have some veg on the plate, otherwise, I mean potato doesn't count as a vegetable obviously, it's its own food group. But then when I got a bit older, I realised that there's all this good food that can be healthy and tasty, I've not chosen any of it today, but it does exist.

### **James Acaster**

I think that's a good way of doing it though, because if you do eat all of that stuff when you are younger, you don't have that real magical moment when you're an adult when you realise you like a whole other world of food.

### **Scroobius Pip**

Yes, and believe me, I wouldn't change a thing. Because at that age I had the metabolism to deal with that. That's the perfect time to eat absolutely appallingly, and then when you get a bit older, you go 'Oh look, here's some healthier stuff that's tasty', if I'd had that early and got bored of it, it'd be a far bigger struggle now, whereas as I've come to it as I'm getting a bit older and the metabolism is taking a little more effort, it's perfectly timed.

### **Ed Gamble**

I think this is a question that applies to the majority of the UK and I think we'll have a good discussion around it. What's your record at a Pizza Hut buffet? Now obviously you were behind the scenes a lot so.

### **Scroobius Pip**

Me and my mate Steve, who worked with me at Barleycorn Home Stores, in Basildon, we would have a contest, and we would give points. It was a point per slice, a point for garlic bread. No they didn't have garlic bread. The kicker was we'll give a point for each of the big breadsticks that they do at the buffet.

### **James Acaster**

Okay.

### **Scroobius Pip**

That was a mistake because that's not equal to a slice of pizza.

### **Ed Gamble**

That's half a point really isn't it, yes.



**Scroobius Pip**

So, he scored 21, my best score was eighteen I believe. I think we gave a point for a pint of drink, so it was generally a point for every element.

**James Acaster**

Yes, pint of drink.

**Scroobius Pip**

Yes, so my score was eighteen, so I'd say at least ten of that was slices of pizza,

**Ed Gamble**

Solid.

**Scroobius Pip**

Probably twelve, I wasn't big on, I was there for the game rather than the score. So whilst I could have got a better score filling up on breadsticks, but what kind of lunchbreak is that?

**Ed Gamble**

Exactly.

**James Acaster**

You still wanted to have a nice time.

**Scroobius Pip**

Also, I will add, that Pizza Hut buffet, was for a long while, my favourite place to do a runner from and not pay.

**Ed Gamble**

Was that when you were working there as well?

**Scroobius Pip**

No, it was after, I went through a phase of really begrudging paying for food, and Pizza Hut buffet was a real favourite of mine. Again, I think part of it was the guilt free element, knowing how much goes in the bin, so my consumption can just count as wastage. And my technique was flawless, I'd do it on my own more often than not, the first time I did it, I'd got my first job as a photographer, and my first paid job, and I got paid something like three or four grand which was insane for an eighteen, nineteen year old. I'm a photographer now, and it blew my mind. And again, it's an illustration of my cheap taste, to treat myself I went for a Pizza Hut buffet to celebrate, and as the real illustration of my cheapness is with that cheque in my pocket, I still chose to do a runner. And my technique is, on arrival, and I don't know if they've changed it, but so many of the buffet bars are quite near the front door, so my technique is, eat as much as I want, and walk up to the buffet with my plate, just look for a bit, place the plate on the side and just walk out of the door. Never had to run, it was always a very casual, just stroll up, have a look, and often a pizza or a buffet pro knows that you will get some lingerers who are waiting for new pizza's to come out the door. A new one, it's coming, so no one turns a blind eye if you are hanging around up



there for a bit, so I hang around until people, I've almost become invisible because they assume I'm just waiting for a new pizza, and then just pop that down, stroll out of the door.

**James Acaster**

So much of the time I think it would be so easy to do that anywhere.

**Scroobius Pip**

Yes, I really enjoyed it for a bit, but the last thing it became a buzz.

**Ed Gamble**

You've got to walk, haven't you? The last thing you want to do after a Pizza Hut buffet is run.

**Scroobius Pip**

Exactly, a casual stroll, and then yes, got away with it numerous times.

**James Acaster**

Have you had a time where you are trying to catch a waiter's eye trying to ask for the bill, and they are ignoring you, and you think, 'I could just get up and walk out'? And nobody would stop you doing it.

**Scroobius Pip**

Did that, at Frankie and Benny's I was on a date, Frankie and Benny's, we were waiting to try and pay for a good fifteen minutes, and then I realised that my waiter had finished his shift and just gone. So I said to the girl I was on the date with, 'Go and wait in the car,' because I didn't want her to have any embarrassment, 'You head out to the car, I'll be out in a minute'. And then I got up, I walked out, I said good bye to everyone on my way out, so I said, 'See you later, thanks a lot that was lovely, bye, thanks a lot, that was beautiful.' I walked out and got in my car and went home. Frankie and Benny's at the Festival Leisure Park in Basildon.

**James Acaster**

What a date as well. As you were driving away, one of the waiters said to the other, 'That's the guy who invented the Meadsy base.'

**Scroobius Pip**

Yes, and the young lady got to go, 'A good meal, and he's a rebel. Look at this rebel.'

**James Acaster**

Did you tell her you'd done a runner?

**Scroobius Pip**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Or did you make out you'd just paid for it?





**Scroobius Pip**

No, I was fine with that, I was quite proud.

**James Acaster**

'Just so you know, I've also nicked this car.'

**Scroobius Pip**

Because every runner I've ever done was done with intelligence rather than physical prowess or speed, it's always been a calm and casual one, so there is a feel of achievement. I once-, this is terrible confessions, but I was once chased by the police-, yes, this is weird, isn't it, I used to do some illegal stuff. I'm such a chancer, aren't I?

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Scroobius Pip**

I used to spray on walls, I done stencilling, and one time, a police car came, and we ran, and we got kind of away into some woods, and we stashed our stuff and kind of took our hoodies off and then walked out, and as we were walking along, the police car was coming towards us. So, I started to walk a tight rope along the pavement, and then staggered and bumped into the police car as if I was drunk. And they just went, 'Where are you guys off to?' I was like, 'Just going home, mate, had a good night,' and they went, 'Well, go straight home and don't cause any trouble.' They were looking for us, but again, through my intelligence, I felt rather than any physical prowess or anything else-, it's what's lead me to acting now. But that was it, it was that moment of rather than seeing them and going 'Run,' we saw them and went be a drunk on our way home.

**Ed Gamble**

Just been in Pizza Hut buffet.

**James Acaster**

Mind how you go boys, be careful by the way, there's some stencilers around.

**James Acaster**

What is your favourite drink of all time? Water?

**Scroobius Pip**

Well that's the thing, there's a drink that I would order now, it's not my favourite drink of all time. My favourite drink of all time is Robinson's high juice, it's not available any more, the orange one, I drunk it constantly as a kid it had an unusual shape and a green top, it was lovely. It wasn't as sweet as the squashes, it felt a bit more fresh, I would drink that morning, noon and night.

**James Acaster**

We've got it in the kitchen if you want it.



**Scroobius Pip**

I used to dip biscuits in it. This shocks people.

**Ed Gamble**

And is this your desert?

**Scroobius Pip**

No. I'm not going for Robinsons high juice.

**James Acaster**

You dipped biscuits in high juice, but you didn't try mayonnaise until you were in your 20s.

**Scroobius Pip**

It makes sense doesn't it, I was distracted by dipping bourbon biscuits in Robinsons high juice.

**Ed Gamble**

Would you dip tear and share garlic bread in Robinsons high juice?

**Scroobius Pip**

I would not, I'm not an animal.

**James Acaster**

It's like a chocolate orangey thing.

**Scroobius Pip**

I'm an adult now, so I'm not going to have Robinsons high juice.

**Ed Gamble**

You're having garlic bread with cheese for starters.

**Scroobius Pip**

Exactly, so why not order a glass of Scroobius.

**James Acaster**

Oh here we go, it's his own drink now as well.

**Scroobius Pip**

Yes, most popular new cocktail of 2017.

**Ed Gamble**

Fantastic.



### **Scroobius Pip**

I invited on the Drunk Cast, my own podcast, and the original manifestation of it is quite simple, and it's going to blow your mind, with fury at what I'm doing here, it's Gin and Pepsi Max.

### **Ed Gamble**

I think I've heard you talk about this before.

### **Scroobius Pip**

It's legendary, but recently I upgraded it. So, on the drunk cast, there's Chris and Stu, who do the Hardcore Listing podcast. Stu got one over to the Scroobius, the first episode, so everyone was like, 'Oh, it's the worst drink ever,' and then, off mic, he'd go, 'Can you pour me another one.' But Chris was to the end, 'It's the worse drink ever.' Then, we went on a little weekend away recently, and I had a Scroobius 2018, which was Slingsby Rhubarb Gin and Pepsi Max. Chris had some of that and was like, he went quiet for a bit. So, I was like, 'Oh, there's something good going on here.' Then, he had to reluctantly admit, he's like, 'That's really tasty. You've turned a disgusting drink into a wonderful drink.' So, I'll go for a Scroobius 2018, Slingsby Rhubarb Gin and Pepsi Max. A good serving of ice, please, sir.

### **Ed Gamble**

Will that go with the meal, do you think?

### **Scroobius Pip**

Yes, I think so. All of the flavours I have in my meal will punch through anything despite my statement earlier about water, they stand alone.

### **Ed Gamble**

They do, absolutely.

### **James Acaster**

Single or a double?

### **Scroobius Pip**

Double. Why not? YOLO.

### **Ed Gamble**

Is it double though because it sounds like the sort of thing that's just home measures, so it just probably ends up being quite-.

### **Scroobius Pip**

It's just pour a bit, just pour some.

### **James Acaster**

By letting you in the kitchen again and make your own?



**Scroobius Pip**

Yes, if you could.

**James Acaster**

Behind the bar, this time?

**Scroobius Pip**

Take the night off, my friend.

**James Acaster**

The access to the whole restaurant.

**Scroobius Pip**

Sit down, get comfy.

**James Acaster**

I like fizzy drinks when they go flat.

**Scroobius Pip**

Yes, I have people look at me judgmentally when I pour myself a Pepsi Max because I just sling it. And then, they go, 'You know you're meant to tilt the glass and pour it,' I was like, 'No if I sling it, it fizzes up and then a lot of that fizz disperses.' So, I have it slightly more flat from the get-go. It's why I pour from quite a height, to get a maximum explosion of fizz, to soften it slightly. It's not an accident, people look at me as if I'm pouring Pepsi Max for the first time.

**James Acaster**

Yes, which, let's face it, with you, is a possibility.

**Scroobius Pip**

Come on, it's not mayonnaise.

**James Acaster**

Absolutely a possibility that whatever you're eating or drinking, it might be a first.

**Ed Gamble**

You didn't pour Pepsi Max until your 20s in Basildon?

**James Acaster**

Yes, as a Christmas present to your mum.

**Scroobius Pip**

Didn't pay for it.



**James Acaster**

Yes. So, with this Scroobius 2018, do you want it a bit flat?

**Scroobius Pip**

Yes, yes, so pour it from a decent height. A lot of ice again, ice dilutes it a little. People like these ice cubes now that are, kind of, in plastic, so it doesn't dilute. I'm against it, I'm against this, I know I want the water, that's part of it.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, and then, the ice at the end, crunch the ice at the end?

**Scroobius Pip**

Yes, I've had people as well-, yes, I'll have a bit of a crunch on the ice. I mean, I'm normally topping up for round two, but you know, if we need to, I'll allow it.

**Ed Gamble**

I've heard you can't just have one Scroobius 2018.

**Scroobius Pip**

No, exactly.

**James Acaster**

Which, Pip you can't Stip. I regretted it as soon as I said it.

**Scroobius Pip**

I like it.

**James Acaster**

I'm not proud of that.

**Ed Gamble**

So, dessert.

**James Acaster**

Licking my pen.

**Scroobius Pip**

Now.

**Ed Gamble**

Licking the nib.



**Scroobius Pip**

Now, I'm going to ask you, if you could, to just quickly pop across to the cinema because I want Ben and Jerry's, but I have a specific 3 scoops from the scoop station and, again, I've discussed this once or twice on a podcast and got a lot of laughter, but I do a bit of acting here as well because I know the 3 scoops I want, but I also know the order I want them in, but that's a bit embarrassing to say. So, literally, every time I go, I look as if I'm making my mind up when they go 3 scoops, 'Ooh, I'll have chocolate fudge brownie,' because I don't want to say the 3 and then they put them in the wrong order. So, I say, 'I'll have chocolate fudge brownie.'

**James Acaster**

So, that's the base.

**Scroobius Pip**

'And peanut butter cup.'

**James Acaster**

Yes, absolutely. Scooping it up for you now.

**Scroobius Pip**

Then, there's some variations because they did the-, essentially there's variations of cookie ones, so it'll either be half baked or it'll be the cookie dough switch up. There's variations, so whichever one of them is the third scoop to go on top, yes.

**James Acaster**

That's good, because you've got 3 flavours that compliment each other, I would say, and that kind of belong in the same Ben and Jerry's family. Whereas when I'm getting 3 scoops from the cinema, and I do always get 3 scoops, I just want 3 wildly different, it's like I'm asking for 3 different ice creams. So, I go like, I normally would go, Cherry Garcia, and I'd probably also have the Cinnamon Bun one.

**Ed Gamble**

That's a good choice, the Cinnamon Bun's good.

**James Acaster**

Then, and Ed is going to be furious.

**Ed Gamble**

I know what you're going to say.

**James Acaster**

Although Ed might, recently.

**Ed Gamble**

I've recently come around to it, but-



**James Acaster**

I'd get the Chunky Monkey.

**Ed Gamble**

Broadly, I don't like artificial banana flavour.

**Scroobius Pip**

Okay.

**Ed Gamble**

I like a banana, but I don't think science has managed to capture the flavour of a natural flavour in artificial flavouring yet.

**James Acaster**

Fair comment.

**Scroobius Pip**

It's an interesting one because the small banana sweets at Pick and Mix.

**Ed Gamble**

The foam ones?

**Scroobius Pip**

Yes, I would say, it's not recreating real banana, it's improving up on it.

**Ed Gamble**

Oh, wow.

**Scroobius Pip**

It's improving upon the natural flavour.

**James Acaster**

I've never seen something push him over the edge like this before.

**Scroobius Pip**

I feel bananas have never managed to capture the taste of cinema Pick and Mix foam bananas. They've never managed to fully capture it and really get the sugariness and get it across for me.

**Ed Gamble**

It's a shame that the guy who invented bananas has not managed to capture Pick and Mix sweets.

**James Acaster**

Really not nailed it for the Pick and Mix's.



**Scroobius Pip**

It's terrible. But yes, I create them as if I'm making a sundae, more than 3 individual flavours.

**James Acaster**

But do you have sauce and stuff on them?

**Scroobius Pip**

No, I don't go for sauce and that. I don't think there's any need for that on Ben and Jerry's, I think there's enough in them, the flavour's there, the sauce is almost unnecessary.

**Ed Gamble**

My girlfriend used to work at a cinema Ben and Jerry's, it stands. I love, like there's a whole, you have to go through training to get the scoop properly and stuff, but was always very annoyed when somebody would order one of those core ones.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, because there's so much stuff they have to do to get the core out. It's stupid, you have to get the core out and then put the sauce in them, put the whole ice cream on top.

**James Acaster**

Yes, that's crazy, I'd never order that.

**Scroobius Pip**

I genuinely, the last time, it's just given me a little flashback to the last time I was genuinely speechless that I was having ice cream at the Cineworld in Leicester Square, I remember the place, I'm not going to say the member of staff's name, it's stuck with me, she's scarred me. But, I'm doing my usual routine, I've gone, 'I'll have the chocolate fudge brownie,' she's scooped that and I've gone, 'Peanut butter cup.' Then, she's started to get it, and she's struggled because of how frozen it is, which happens, that's a thing. But then, she's given up and said, 'Too frozen.'

**James Acaster**

What?

**Scroobius Pip**

'What would you like instead?'

**James Acaster**

No, it's not too frozen.

**Scroobius Pip**

I was just like, that was what I wanted. That was it and I can see it there.

**Ed Gamble**

It's still there.





**Scroobius Pip**

She's like, 'It's too frozen. Do you want a different one?' I was like-,

**Ed Gamble**

And that's not an excuse for not getting you an ice cream, that it's too cold.

**Scroobius Pip**

Yes, exactly. I genuinely didn't know what to do, there was rage but also politeness overcoming me because I'm in public and it was like, there was a time I wanted a way to kind of, enough to let me come round and serve myself. I would have gone, 'The trailers haven't even started yet. I'll have 10 minutes on that.'

**James Acaster**

I'll get a scoop out of that.

**Scroobius Pip**

I'll get to it. You give me time.

**James Acaster**

She's meant to have been through training.

**Scroobius Pip**

Yes. I was stunned, I was genuinely stunned.

**James Acaster**

Did you have a different one or did you replace it with something?

**Scroobius Pip**

Yes, I did, I replaced because I couldn't-,

**James Acaster**

Do you remember what you replaced it with?

**Scroobius Pip**

Force the poor young lady to injure herself.

**James Acaster**

I guess you can't.

**Scroobius Pip**

She had weak arms, she's not made for scooping ice cream.



**Ed Gamble**

My girlfriend worked there for a couple of months and after a couple of months, like, had a more developed bicep on her right arm.

**Scroobius Pip**

It's a fair scoop but yes, it was tough, I went straight to the cookie one and then I didn't know what I wanted on top of that because that's the ending.

**James Acaster**

Can't decide what would go on the top of it.

**Scroobius Pip**

That's the ending, in my panic, I've skipped to the end.

**James Acaster**

Did you go for another chocolate fudge brownie, maybe?

**Scroobius Pip**

I think I went for a chocolate mint one or something, and mint's a risky one, it's still chocolate, so it still mixes in, but yes-

**James Acaster**

I think mint ice cream has become my favourite ice cream to have in a banana split. I know you probably won't like the bananas because they're not as good as the original banana.

**Ed Gamble**

Banana ice cream and shape it into the shape of a banana. Yes, line up a bunch of foam banana Pick and Mix either side of some scoops of mint ice cream.

**Scroobius Pip**

Because the beauty of foam bananas is they come already split, that's the beauty of that creation.

**Ed Gamble**

You don't have to peel them.

**James Acaster**

So clever.

**Scroobius Pip**

Another way that I've trumped the original banana.

**James Acaster**

They've improved upon it so much.



**Ed Gamble**

Right, so shall we recap the meal?

**Scroobius Pip**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

I think we should do that, I think that should be a-

**James Acaster**

Just to make sure I've got this order right before I go to the kitchen.

**Ed Gamble**

Oh sorry, are you taking the full order, including dessert? And then, you'll go into the kitchen.

**Scroobius Pip**

Unconventional.

**James Acaster**

Have you been here when I'm eating? No, you've not. So yes, that's what I'm doing. I want to make sure we get it all right, you see. So, you would like Poppadoms to start and with 4 Mango Chutney dips?

**Scroobius Pip**

Yes, please.

**James Acaster**

And you would like a tap water?

**Scroobius Pip**

Yes, thank you.

**James Acaster**

Starter, I've got here, cheesy garlic bread.

**Scroobius Pip**

I mean, I would've liked the tap water before we started the 40 minute conversation of taking the full order but that's fine, let's continue on. Just a note for future-

**James Acaster**

I'll remember that for next time. Starter, you've got cheesy garlic bread from Pizza Hut, from 3 or 4 years ago with the mixed cheese.



**Scroobius Pip**

Yes, correct.

**Ed Gamble**

In the box.

**James Acaster**

In the box.

**Scroobius Pip**

In the box, please.

**James Acaster**

Main course, I've got here, Meadsy base, written down, ham Meadsy base.

**Scroobius Pip**

Yes, that's correct.

**James Acaster**

That's a medium, you like that medium sized? With a side of halloumi fries from Camden Market?

**Scroobius Pip**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Hold the pomegranates.

**Scroobius Pip**

Yes, hold them, absolutely.

**James Acaster**

Absolutely, you're allowed to stay. Dessert, we've got here, well your drink for one, is the Scroobius 2018.

**Scroobius Pip**

Yes, yes the 2018.

**James Acaster**

You like that flat?

**Scroobius Pip**

Yes, please, as flat as possible.



**Ed Gamble**

It's a good year for the Scroobius, though.

**James Acaster**

With your own measure of Gin?

**Scroobius Pip**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

And home measure of Gin. Then, dessert, we have pop along to the cinema, and we're getting you 3 scoops of Ben and Jerry's ice cream in this order, chocolate fudge brownie and then peanut butter cup and then whatever cookie one that they have on offering.

**Scroobius Pip**

Yes, that's correct.

**James Acaster**

That sounds like a great order.

**Scroobius Pip**

I mean, that's perfect. It's also, I've essentially asked for a job really, because it's all stuff that I want to prepare myself, specific measures, all of this, it's like, 'Are you applying that you're taking on staff at the moment?'

**James Acaster**

You know what you like.

**Scroobius Pip**

I know what I like.

**James Acaster**

If you were only allowed one of those things, what would it be?

**Scroobius Pip**

It would be the ice cream, because I have regularly had ice cream for breakfast, I've had ice cream for lunch.

**James Acaster**

Here we go.

**Scroobius Pip**

I've had ice cream for dinner.



**James Acaster**

My heart is beating. A man after my own heart.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, you're really on James's page there.

**Scroobius Pip**

I don't have a limit on ice cream, ice cream is something when you hear of people having ice cream eating competitions, it's like, it's something that I'd like to get involved with because I've done two tubs of Ben and Jerry's in a row in an evening.

**Ed Gamble**

Wow.

**Scroobius Pip**

For no competition. I had one weekend, where over the weekend, I had, I think, it was 4 tubs, but I counted-, I got in late on the Friday night so technically, it was the Saturday. But within 48 hours, I had 4, maybe 5 tubs. Yes, I don't have a limit on it.

**James Acaster**

Eating ice cream drunk is a real big danger for me. If I get home and there's a tub of ice cream in the freezer, that is going to go. I'm going to wake up the next morning and I won't remember eating it and that'll be what will really annoy me. I've basically just put all the calories in me and without any of the actual memories.

**Ed Gamble**

Me and James went on holiday to New York together, a few months ago, and he was determined to buy an ice cream cake.

**James Acaster**

I've never had one before.

**Ed Gamble**

Never had one before. Then, one night, we were walking back and he went, 'I'm going to go and get an ice cream cake,' and this was about one in the morning. We were like, 'I don't know where he's going, he's just going to come back empty-handed.' He crashed through the door about half an hour later, holding a full family-sized Baskin-Robbins ice cream cake, just sat down and ate it with a spoon.

**James Acaster**

Very nice.

**Scroobius Pip**

You see my second choice on the desserts was Millie's Cookies do cookie cupcakes.



**James Acaster**

Oh, yes?

**Scroobius Pip**

And the cookies are great, I love a good cookie. A Millie's or a Ben's, I like that they've got their own strengths, but the cookie cupcakes it's similar. The beauty of it is, it's all about the chocolate-kind-of-fondant type stuff that's just in there. So, it's similar, you're just getting-, the cookie has become just a receptacle for a whole load of this icing. Yes, it's a beautiful thing.

**Ed Gamble**

I always like to think that Millie and Ben used to be married and they split up and set up separate cookie operations.

**Scroobius Pip**

Millie, I reckon they started Millie's together, because Ben took a while then, because like I can't just do the same. Then, he came up with this thing of just having the chocolate in one big chunk. But yes, I think that's it, I think they started Millie's together and then split up and he's like, 'Well, I can't just make her cookies.'

**James Acaster**

He needs to get over the divorce, so, therefore, he had a lot on his plate.

**Ed Gamble**

Well you know what, this is the first meal we've done and I think it's some solid choices. I like how passionate you've been about each of your selections and I think it's going to be hard to beat.

**Scroobius Pip**

I appreciate that, can I just give you the one that got pushed off because there was another chain-?

**Ed Gamble**

Absolutely.

**James Acaster**

An honourable mention. An honourable munch-ion.

**Scroobius Pip**

I like it.

**Ed Gamble**

That won't necessarily stay, but-.

**James Acaster**

I think that's going to stay. Ben's writing it down. Producer Ben's writing down honourable munch-ion.



**Ed Gamble**

He's writing things he's got to cut out.

**Scroobius Pip**

Or make jingles for. So, years and years ago, not far from here actually, off Leicester Square, no, off Trafalgar Square, there was a Wendy's burger place. Do you remember Wendy's? They did square burgers and it was this real handmade, just real nice. The first time I toured America, they have Wendy's over there, and I was like, 'I've got to go there.' I went there every time and I've had In N Out burger over there, all these ones that people hype, I think Wendy's is the best. Now, Wendy's do a burger called the Baconator.

**James Acaster**

Okay.

**Scroobius Pip**

Which is 2, you've got a choice of 2,3 or 4 patties, cheese, bacon and ketchup and that's it. But it's these square patties and it's delicious. So, I was tempted to go for the Baconator as the main, but it would've meant I couldn't have the halloumi fries as the side, because they also come with Baconator fries, which again is just a big tray of fries smothered in bacon and cheese. It's just, I couldn't have the two without the other, so it's why it got bumped.

**James Acaster**

It was the side dish that bumped it out rather than the main.

**Scroobius Pip**

But the Baconator fries are wonderful, but yes, it is genuinely my big treat when I go to America. It was that and Pinkberry for a while.

**James Acaster**

Oh yes, frozen yoghurt.

**Scroobius Pip**

They won't over here at all and the particular spot in LA, there's a Wendy's there and the Pinkberry's like a 5 minute walk, which in my mind, has walked off the burger.

**Ed Gamble**

Especially if it's hot and you're-

**James Acaster**

Back to zero on the calories.

**Scroobius Pip**

And genuinely, the amount of times I've, I always go in there on my own, because I'm seeing mates, but I want to go somewhere nice or go somewhere special and it'll be every trip I've done to America





now. I'll go at some point, at least once, on my own. Last time, it was the night I got there, I got this really weird Airbnb experience where I got there and all the, everything had glowing lights underneath it. So, all the surfaces have glowing lights. He left a note, there were some guitars on the wall, in case I want to vibe with that, which made me incredibly uncomfortable, and I was jet lagged and it had been this weird trip. I literally walked out and it was open all night, that night. I just sat in there, at midnight on my own, me and some homeless people, I just had a Baconator with Baconator fries and a large drink and then I went back and vibed with that guy's guitar.

**Ed Gamble**

Lovely.

**James Acaster**

Pinkberry's great because it's build your own Ben and Jerry's.

**Scroobius Pip**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

It's what I found.

**Scroobius Pip**

It basically is.

**Ed Gamble**

Really?

**James Acaster**

Yes, there's cookie dough.

**Scroobius Pip**

There's cookie dough, there's brownies, all sorts of stuff. I really, I like it a lot.

**Ed Gamble**

It'll be more difficult to get your order though, because you'd have to build three separate ice creams.

**James Acaster**

You'd have to do a lot of acting.

**Scroobius Pip**

Actually, I'll put some more frozen yoghurt on top. I'll have to walk in and go, 'I'll be there in a minute, guys. Three, please.' Then start my fictional order for me and my friends.

**James Acaster**

'Why don't your friends just come in?' 'No, no, no, no, no. They're outside.'



**Scroobius Pip**

Three smalls.

**Ed Gamble**

And then you go, 'I'm just going to take these out to the guys and get the money,' and then never come back.

**Scroobius Pip**

Yes, exactly.

**James Acaster**

Get in the car to your date, who's waiting for you. Just drive.

**Scroobius Pip**

Just drive while I eat all three of these. 'Oh, did you want something?'

**Ed Gamble**

Thank you very much, Pip.

**Scroobius Pip**

Thank you, it's been a pleasure.

**James Acaster**

Thank you so much and you are welcome here any time. If you wanted to leave a tip for me, I'd appreciate it, here's the bill.

**Scroobius Pip**

Thank you very much.

**James Acaster**

It's actually on Ed, Ed's paying for it.

**Ed Gamble**

I don't think Pip needs to leave a tip because he's done all of the work himself.

**James Acaster**

Oh yes, I'll tip you. Here's a fiver.

**Scroobius Pip**

Ed, can I interest you in a runner?

**Ed Gamble**

That was it, episode 1. Is that something we should do off the back of it, go, 'Yum yum yum'?



**James Acaster**

That hit the spot.

**Ed Gamble**

There we go. So we have got bon appetit to open every episode and then yum yum yum, that hit the spot after every episode. Perfect.

**James Acaster**

Good catchphrase.

**Ed Gamble**

What a great first guest.

**James Acaster**

Such a great first guest, very open, gave us so much information on his choices. Really let us delve into his mind and stomach.

**Ed Gamble**

I thought you were about to say he really let us down.

**James Acaster**

Oh no.

**Ed Gamble**

He did on the pomegranate side.

**James Acaster**

He said pomegranate but then we let him stay in the restaurant because he agreed to have it not on.

**Ed Gamble**

Not pomegranate.

**James Acaster**

He took them off the halloumi fries.

**Ed Gamble**

Which is good. I think that's gone very well, James and I think this is the start of a beautiful podcast.

**James Acaster**

I think so. I feel like it's a start of a beautiful podcast. I think everyone, I mean you know, if you don't like that, why are you listening to podcasts? It was great.

**Ed Gamble**

If we keep booking guests of that caliber, I think we're really going to last.



**James Acaster**

Yes, we have got some absolute humdinger's like that.

**Ed Gamble**

We've got some real humdinger's lined up, so if you enjoyed it, please subscribe on iTunes or wherever you listen to your podcasts. Write reviews, that's important, isn't it?

**James Acaster**

Tweet about it.

**Ed Gamble**

Tweet about it. Tell your friends.

**James Acaster**

Let us know, what your favourite dishes are.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, direct all that to James. Let James know what your favourite dishes are and if you disagree with any of the favourite dishes that our guests have picked.

**James Acaster**

Absolutely.

**Ed Gamble**

The main thing is subscribe on iTunes, share it around, tell your friends, play it loudly in restaurants.

**James Acaster**

Also, why not listen to Scroobius Pip's podcast, Distraction Pieces?

**Ed Gamble**

You are good at plugging, man.

**James Acaster**

Pretty good at plugging.

**Ed Gamble**

If you like James Acaster, which you really should. He's got 4 comedy specials on Netflix.

**James Acaster**

I have. Not bad for a genie waiter.

**Ed Gamble**

Now, that is going to get, if you've not seen James's specials, things are going to get even more confusing if you watch them. James Acaster, genie waiter, undercover cop, jury service.



**James Acaster**

Yes, try and unpick it.

**Ed Gamble**

Enjoy those. But for now, that was Episode 1 Off the Menu with Ed Gamble and James Acaster, we will see you next time with another fantastic guest and more yummy treats. Oh no, I can't say that.

**James Acaster**

You don't want to end on more yummy treats?

**Ed Gamble**

More yummy treats? I sound like a perv.

**James Acaster**

It does sound a little bit pervy, actually. I don't really know how to help you out of that one, Ed.

**Ed Gamble**

We'll just finish now and hope no one heard that bit.

**James Acaster**

Yes, people might have switched off before now.

**Ed Gamble**

Sorry, about the yummy treats, everyone.