



Off Menu – Ep118 - Edgar Wright (Live at the Royal Festival Hall)

Ed Gamble

Hello.

James Acaster

Yamma, yamma, yamma, yum, yum yum.

Ed Gamble

Lovely. Okay, I was going to say hello but yamma, yamma, yamma, yum, yum, yum, it is. Welcome to a bonus episode of Off Menu a.k.a. The Great Benito presents Off Menu Live.

James Acaster

With, brackets, Ed Gamble and James Acaster.

Ed Gamble

And, double brackets, special guest Edgar Wright. Double brackets then closing off the other brackets, so it's sort of a triple bracket.

James Acaster

Yes. A lot of brackets involved, but really, even though The Great Benito has put himself at the head of all this so that his name is in big lights, very egotistical, Edgar Wright is the real draw here.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Edgar Wright's the real draw.

James Acaster

Amazing director, writer. I mean, come on, Spaced, Shaun of the Dead, Hot Fuzz, World's End, Scott Pilgrim, Baby Driver. He's just released, as we're recording this, The Sparks Brothers documentary about the band Sparks, and One Night in Soho is coming out soon, a wonderful horror film. He's been a busy boy.

Ed Gamble

Oh, man. He's been such a busy boy. I didn't get a chance to say to Edgar, which is very lucky because it's probably the sort of boring shit he hears every day, one of my first dates with the lady I'm going to marry was to see Scott Pilgrim. That is a film that means a huge amount to me. I love that film so much.

James Acaster

I didn't know that.

Ed Gamble

But I would imagine he hears that quite a lot.

James Acaster

Do you think?

Ed Gamble

Yes. I mean, there's no reason for him to be invested in my relationship.



James Acaster

I guess not but, you know. I don't know, maybe he'll hear this and he'll get in touch with you and be like, 'Please, invite me to the wedding. All I care about is your relationship now.'

Ed Gamble

'I want to film the wedding. I want to be the videographer at the wedding.'

James Acaster

That would be great. I'd love that. That would be a nice little wedding video, wouldn't it?

Ed Gamble

It would be, yes.

James Acaster

Directed by a professional director who makes films.

Ed Gamble

Yes, Simon Pegg's in it for some reason.

James Acaster

Yes. Simon Pegg's in there.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Nick Frost.

Ed Gamble

Nick Frost's working behind the bar.

James Acaster

Yes, great. That would be awesome, and this was a live episode, of course. The Royal Festival Hall, Southbank Centre. You've got a lot of people in that audience and they were all Off Menu fans. They knew all the little details of Off Menu, probably even better than the 3 of us do.

Ed Gamble

They were Menu heads, that's for sure.

James Acaster

They were Menu heads. They also loved Edgar Wright, and who can blame them?

Ed Gamble

Who can blame them? Let's crack into it James because it's a really good episode.

James Acaster

Let's get crack-a-lacking.

Ed Gamble

Let's get crack-a-lacking. It's the Off Menu menu of Edgar Wright.

James Acaster

Edgar Wright.



Ed Gamble

Live.

Ed Gamble

We did it.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Oh, yes. Too much. So, hello. Welcome to the second ever Off Menu Live.

James Acaster

The Off Menu Live show. Sprinkling the-.,.

Ed Gamble

Here we go, this is not normal-, but, honestly, thank fuck you're doing it because I genuinely haven't thought of one. As I was walking out, and everyone was cheering, I thought, 'This is lovely but I've not written the intro again, so.'

James Acaster

I've not written one.

Ed Gamble

No? So we've got a sprinkling. What are we sprinkling on what?

Audience Member

Kettering.

Ed Gamble

Sprinkling what? What did he say?

James Acaster

He said Kettering. He's a moron.

Ed Gamble

I see. You can't sprinkle Kettering.

James Acaster

Doesn't understand what you can sprinkle. Still doesn't also seem to understand the podcast, never listened to it before. He's the reason I've stopped touring if you're wondering. That and the pandemic. Sorry, actually blame the pandemic more than you, Sir.

Ed Gamble

Let's not kick off on that note James. Let's not have one of your famous meltdowns this early on. What are we sprinkling?

James Acaster

I quit. Sprinkling the-.,.

Ed Gamble

What sort of things do you sprinkle, food-wise?

James Acaster

Sprinkling the icing sugar of chat.



Ed Gamble

Okay. I mean, it's amazing how on the nose you are as a persona, isn't it? Just straight to icing sugar. No beating around the bush. Sprinkling the-, you don't sprinkle icing sugar, you snort it.

James Acaster

I'm sorry, I don't remember you criticising Kettering this much when that guy shouted that out. Accepted that immediately, I had to point out how bad that was. Sprinkling the icing sugar of chat-.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Over the dough of humour.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Baking in the oven of live entertainment.

Ed Gamble

It is a bit like an oven.

James Acaster

And producing the doughnut of friendship.

Ed Gamble

Okay. That's very good.

James Acaster

Pretty good.

Ed Gamble

No, it's really good. So, never made a doughnut. You ever made a doughnut?

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

How do you make a doughnut?

James Acaster

Sprinkle icing sugar on some dough and put it in the oven.

Ed Gamble

Right, okay. Yes, I suppose so, mate, in a way. Do you want to tell everyone what the podcast-, or am I doing that tonight, have we switched roles?

James Acaster

Yes, if we're switching roles, you do that. Roles, that's a pun because a doughnut's a role.

Ed Gamble

Not a role. You've been making roles. The Off Menu Podcast is a podcast where we ask a special guest their favourite starter, main course, side, drink and dessert, in that fucking order. Got it right.



James Acaster

You did it in the order. It takes years of training to get it in the order.

Ed Gamble

Yes, and our special guest tonight is Edgar Wright. Very exciting. Very exciting, he'll be coming on a little bit later. Before we bring Edgar out-.,

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

I've made sure he's still in his dressing room.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

We should sort of the secret ingredient.

James Acaster

Yes, we should actually.

Ed Gamble

Bit special, we've not decided on it yet so we thought we'd get one of you guys to decide it.

James Acaster

You can help us I think.

Ed Gamble

Woah.

James Acaster

A hand went up for down here.

Ed Gamble

Look, if there's a hand went up, that's fine, otherwise if we let people scream out, the secret ingredient's going to be Kettering, so.

James Acaster

Then I'll have to leave. Oh, by the way, if you don't know, the secret ingredient, just so you know, is an ingredient we don't like, and if someone says it, if a guest says it-.,

Ed Gamble

They get kicked out.

James Acaster

We kick them out the dream restaurant so, it is fun but also, to bear in mind, if we do do one and kick him out, we all have to go home. Now this person in the front row, you put your hand up.

Audience Member

Yes.

James Acaster

Which I respect. What was your suggestion?



Audience Member

Cornetto.

James Acaster

Cornetto?

Ed Gamble

Oh, no. We're not doing-, come on.

James Acaster

Cruel.

Ed Gamble

Come on.

James Acaster

What are you trying to do?

Ed Gamble

We've got a hand up here James.

James Acaster

That would be dessert, I guess, at least.

Ed Gamble

What do you reckon?

Audience Member

Raisins.

Ed Gamble

Raisins?

James Acaster

Raisins? This is interesting. The other night sultanas was, like, a-.,.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

What is people's problems with-,?

Ed Gamble

Are you from the Fresh Grape Board or something? You're trying to-.,.

James Acaster

Why don't you like raisins?

Ed Gamble

Yes, what's your problem with raisins?

Audience Member

They're just not for me.



James Acaster

They're just not for you?

Ed Gamble

Quite a mild reason to shout something out. 'Raisins, they're not personally for me. I understand that everyone has different tastes.' Alright, raisins, we'll put it in the mix.

James Acaster

Let's see, person with their hand up there.

Audience Member

Salad cream.

James Acaster

Salad cream.

Ed Gamble

Salad cream.

James Acaster

Some support there for the salad cream.

Ed Gamble

I think that was him clapping his own choice there, as well. 'Salad cream, standing ovation.'

James Acaster

That's a showbiz secret and I respect it. Always start your own applause, we've all done it.

Ed Gamble

Salad cream's more solid than raisins.

James Acaster

I think I like-, because I like salad cream, but I do appreciate why people don't like it.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

I think it's quite a good one to choose.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Unless it gets topped but I think, you know.

Ed Gamble

Oh, hang on, we've got a hand up over here.

James Acaster

Pretty confident you can beat salad cream, aren't you? Look at this.

Audience Member

Parma Violets.



Ed Gamble

Parma Violets?

James Acaster

No, we've-, I agree. I agree.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Absolutely. Disgusting, Parma Violets, we've already had those on the podcast though.

Ed Gamble

We have already had Parma Violets on the podcast.

James Acaster

Have we already had salad cream?

Audience Member

No.

Ed Gamble

'No.'

James Acaster

'No you have not. I sang along to Barefoot Baby Boy, I know everything about this podcast.' Yes?

Audience Member

Anchovies.

James Acaster

Anchovies.

Ed Gamble

Anchovies.

Audience Member

Jammy Dodgers.

James Acaster

What was that person saying?

Ed Gamble

I don't know if I want to know.

Audience Member

Salad cream.

Ed Gamble

Salad cream? Yes. Same bloke? yes.

James Acaster

Oh Jesus, bunch of absolute pig shits tonight. Yes, on the aisle?



Audience Member

Cabbage.

James Acaster

Cabbage.

Ed Gamble

Yes, that always gets suggested.

Audience Member

Coriander.

James Acaster

Coriander.

Ed Gamble

We've had, surely-,. Very popular.

James Acaster

We've had that one on but that's a good one, mate. I think we just have to go with salad-, I mean, there's a few hands up with people who are still very passionate about this, yes?

Audience Member

Avocado.

James Acaster

Avocado?

Ed Gamble

What the fuck are you talking about?

James Acaster

What the fuck is the matter with you?

Ed Gamble

Fucking avocado?

James Acaster

Jesus Christ. Right, can we kick him out? I don't think that's-,.

Ed Gamble

Look around you mate, these are the people who buy the entire load of avocados. This is everyone.

James Acaster

Avocado?

Ed Gamble

What the fuck? Right, confident hand up here.

Audience Member

Coffee.

James Acaster

Coffee.



Ed Gamble

Hang on, I've got someone you've got to meet.

James Acaster

Oh, no. He'll be squeezing you into that cafetiere.

Ed Gamble

Bare with me five or six minutes.

James Acaster

He's an angry man.

Ed Gamble

Do you really not like coffee?

Audience Member

Fuck coffee.

James Acaster

Fuck coffee? Okay, it's a Sunday, mate. I think we've got to go with salad cream.

Ed Gamble

I think salad cream's a great choice.

James Acaster

Yes. It's a good choice.

Ed Gamble

Let's start, let's do it. Everyone of The Royal Festival Hall, this is the Off Menu menu of Edgar Wright.

James Acaster

Good to see you.

Edgar Wright

Thank you.

James Acaster

Lovely, hello.

Edgar Wright

Thanks for having me.

James Acaster

Feeling hungry?

Edgar Wright

I am feeling hungry.

James Acaster

Yes?

Ed Gamble

Well that's a shame because we don't have any food for you.



James Acaster

We're just going to make you talk about it. Oh, I need to do my proper entrance.

Ed Gamble

Oh, yes, sorry.

James Acaster

Sorry Edgar.

Ed Gamble

Obviously James needs to transgress to the Astral Plane and become the genie, so you're now going to watch a fully grown man try and climb inside that lamp.

James Acaster

Got my lamp here.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Just going to climb inside it. Nice and easy. There we go.

Ed Gamble

Okay. He's inside the lamp, everyone we need to look at the lamp and imagine rubbing it. Imagine. We're not allowed to touch it for COVID reasons. It's been a hard time for genies because of fomites. Okay, we're rubbing it, it's good.

Edgar Wright

Oh, wow.

Ed Gamble

Here we-, it's a genie.

James Acaster

Welcome back everybody to the dream restaurant, we've been expecting you for some time.

Edgar Wright

I was not expecting Oscar winning visual effects.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Edgar Wright

I appreciate it.

James Acaster

Tell your friends at The Academy. Can't wait.

Ed Gamble

There's too much CGI these days, and I think it's the practical effects, are the way to go.

James Acaster

Yes.



Ed Gamble

And I think we've nailed that tonight.

Edgar Wright

Oh, yes. I'd like to see you in Guy Ritchie's remake of Aladdin.

James Acaster

Oh, man. That-, you know, I once turned that down, man. When I was a kid-.

Ed Gamble

Really?

James Acaster

Yes. I would say, 'Yes,' to it. I would say 'Yes.' When I was kid, Robin Williams was my hero because of Aladdin, I was obsessed with it and I was still a little Christian boy and went to church, and, at one point, when I was a little kid, in Sunday school, we all had to write down, like, a little profile of ourselves to put on the wall of all the kids at Sunday school, and one of the things you had to fill out was who your hero was, and I put Robin Williams, and all the other kids put Jesus, and I realised that was the right answer. I was the only one with Robin Williams, the genie, he's funny. Who was your hero growing up? Robin Williams? Or Jesus? Those are the two options.

Ed Gamble

It's the new 'Popadoms or bread?'

James Acaster

'Robin Williams or Jesus?'

Edgar Wright

Well, you know what, I'd say flat-out Mork.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Edgar Wright

I'd say, like, I knew who Mork was before I knew who Robin Williams was.

James Acaster

Right.

Edgar Wright

So, let's say Mork.

James Acaster

Yes.

Edgar Wright

I would have drawn that and put that up on the Sunday school wall.

James Acaster

Yes, well Mork was cool. I didn't watch enough Mork. I just remember the episode where they were hatching an egg for ages, it was the size of a person, and then it was a person when it hatched. Just so you know, by the way, there's someone in here who's gunning for you because we asked them what the secret ingredient should be, which is when we get to kick him out if they say the secret ingredient, the person at the end there said 'Cornetto,' was trying to stitch you up.



Ed Gamble

Yes.

Edgar Wright

But, specifically, what flavour of Cornetto?

Ed Gamble

Good point, he's got you.

Audience Member

Strawberry.

James Acaster

Strawberry.

Edgar Wright

That's the good one. Now I would go, if I had to rank the three classic flavours, now there's, like, 400 of them.

Ed Gamble

Yes, mental.

Edgar Wright

But it would be classico first, then strawberry, then mint last.

Audience Member

No? Is that contentious?

Edgar Wright

No? Is that contentious?

Ed Gamble

Oh, no. I'm sorry Edgar, you're going to have to leave.

James Acaster

Yes, this is why we're here.

Edgar Wright

Would you like me to go? I do think classico is-, there were people hissing then, it's like panto.

James Acaster

Oh, yes. They get proper angry.

Edgar Wright

Oh my God.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Proper angry about food stuff.

Edgar Wright

A lot of mint fans in tonight.



James Acaster

Mint would be my favourite. I'm not just playing to the crowd here but as a kid I was always-.,

Ed Gamble

I just used to go through it. I didn't used to taste them, I just used to go through them. Just straight in until you just get to the bottom bit. That was the key, just get to that fucking little pointy chocolate nipple, that's all I wanted.

Edgar Wright

I saw somebody on Twitter the other day complaining about the chocolate at the bottom of the Cornetto cone, it's like, 'What the fuck is wrong with you?'

Ed Gamble

That's the best bit.

Edgar Wright

Also, as somebody pointed out, it's the load bearing bit. It's there to stop the ice cream, right? That's why it's there.

Ed Gamble

I've never thought about it-.,

Edgar Wright

That's why it's there.

Ed Gamble

In terms of structural engineering before. It's the load bearing bit, it is.

Edgar Wright

It's true though, right?

Ed Gamble

It is, yes, yes.

James Acaster

Because other cones, you hold them and they just go, 'Pfft,' immediately.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Any other cone you get, 'Oh no. I can't bare the load.'

Edgar Wright

You've got to be dead inside not to enjoy that last piece of chocolate, haven't you?

James Acaster

What was even their justification for slagging off the bit of chocolate at the end? Oh, here we go. Someone's kicking off. Is that someone who doesn't like the chocolate at the end? No.

Edgar Wright

Is there anybody in The Royal Festival Hall who doesn't like the chocolate at the bottom of the Cornetto cone?



Audience Member

Me.

Edgar Wright

'Me.' Why?

Ed Gamble

'Me.'

Audience Member

(Inaudible).

James Acaster

Happier than anyone who doesn't appreciate joy has any right to be. 'Me, I hate the chocolate.'

Edgar Wright

Next time you have one, will you post it to me afterwards?

James Acaster

Why can't you buy bags of them? You should be able to buy-.,.

Ed Gamble

I think you can, yes.

James Acaster

You can? Right. Sorry guys, goodbye. I need to go.

Ed Gamble

The amount of Cornettos they had to collapse just to get the nibs off them to put them in a bag.

James Acaster

I feel pretty bad. Are you a foodie Edgar? Would you consider yourself a foodie?

Edgar Wright

I am a foodie but, in thinking about this tonight, I realise that, a lot of fancy restaurants, I've definitely been to a lot of fancy restaurants in my time, but most of those, kind of, go into, like, the general experience, and I've found myself racking my brains to think of any one dish that I had in some of the world's top restaurants. Which is strange because there are a couple of times I've been to-, I usually judge by the expense of the bill, but I actually found it, sort of, tough to think of a specific dish so I started going back to things which I gravitate towards. So, I definitely do have a thing where I gravitate towards the same things and, sort of, try and expend less mental energy on picking and just, kind of, things that I like and so that's what I've gone for tonight, for the most part.

James Acaster

I want to dig into you saying that you judge it by the bill at the end.

Edgar Wright

Yes. Well, if you've gone to a really fancy restaurant and it's been an extortionate bill, you have to think, 'Well, I guess that was really good.'

Ed Gamble

'I guess I'm wrong.'

Edgar Wright

'I guess that must have been 700 quid good.'



James Acaster

'I thought it was disgusting but it was the nicest meal I've ever had and I'm an idiot.'

Edgar Wright

That's just me fooling myself into thinking I haven't just wasted £700.

James Acaster

Yes, sure.

Edgar Wright

That was only the one time.

James Acaster

I was going to say, this is a very specific amount of money you've repeated twice now.

Edgar Wright

Listen, you don't forget that bill easily, especially when you've done the really dumb thing of saying, 'Hey, I'll get this.' 'No, wait, wait, wait.'

James Acaster

Is there a choice from that meal on the menu tonight or can we talk about that meal now?

Edgar Wright

No, there wasn't a choice (talking over each other).

Ed Gamble

Where was the £700 meal? Burger King?

Edgar Wright

It was at that New York restaurant.

James Acaster

'We were really hungry.'

Edgar Wright

That New York restaurant, Le Bernardin, I think that's what it's called.

James Acaster

Right.

Edgar Wright

Which is the kind of place that Patrick Bateman would go.

James Acaster

Right, okay, yes. So, like, really small classy place, stuff like that?

Edgar Wright

Yes, really fancy.

Ed Gamble

Quite dark in there as well?

Edgar Wright

Very dark in there.



James Acaster

Do a murder.

Ed Gamble

Until the bill comes out and they put a spotlight on it.

Edgar Wright

I did-, this is maybe too much information but this is the time for it, isn't it?

James Acaster

Yes.

Edgar Wright

Maybe I shouldn't tell this story but I did-, let me just say I was bordering on having-, now I don't even know if I want to talk about this.

James Acaster

Well, I guess we'll go home and just imagine what it was, forever, but, at the minute, we're all thinking it was a wank.

Edgar Wright

Let's be coy about it.

Ed Gamble

You were like, 'Well, I paid 700 quid, I'll fucking do it in the middle of the restaurant.'

James Acaster

Yes. 'I'm going to get my money's worth, excuse me.'

Ed Gamble

'There's your tip.'

Edgar Wright

Let's just say frequent toilet trips were needed.

Ed Gamble

Yes?

Edgar Wright

And, like, because I was in the States, Imodium was needed, but here's the thing-.,

Ed Gamble

Right, I'm so glad you said Imodium because, for a second, it sounded like you were doing a lot of coke.

Edgar Wright

It would also have the same effect.

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes.

Edgar Wright

And Patrick Bateman would be proud of me. I was going for the full American Psycho effect.



Ed Gamble

Yes.

Edgar Wright

Take a lot of coke before dinner.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Edgar Wright

Kill a prostitute after dinner. No, the thing was is that, like, I knew going in I was ill but I'd-, it was Christmas Eve, I'd booked, you know, it's difficult to get a table there. Me and other friends-.,

Ed Gamble

This story is bleaker with every sentence Edgar.

James Acaster

Christmas Eve, shit in your pants and you go and spend 700 quid on a meal.

Edgar Wright

But it was-, I just had that, kind of-, I felt like, probably, I just looked, kind of, you know, grey and sweaty for the entire meal, but it was that thing, it was Christmas Eve, and we'd booked a table and I couldn't, like, you know, pull a sicky so I suffered through it, and it was nice but that's maybe why I don't remember it as being one of the best meals of my life.

James Acaster

No, it doesn't sound nice, it sounds bleak. I mean, was it a family?

Edgar Wright

No, it was just friends on Christmas Eve.

James Acaster

I so want to know who-, was there any celebs there because if it was Christmas Eve, I really want to know what celebs you're hanging out with on Christmas Eve.

Edgar Wright

It was Rian Johnson, was who I was having dinner with and his wife, Karina Longworth, another podcast extraordinaire. I think I tried to keep it secret that I was ill and then it was very clear I was not well.

James Acaster

Back and forth.

Edgar Wright

And really struggling. Once you've done seven trips to the toilet during the meal, obviously, something is up or, like you said, a big coke-head.

Ed Gamble

How many courses was the meal?

Edgar Wright

I think taking-, going to the bathroom seven times to take coke would have been less embarrassing than essentially having diarrhoea.



James Acaster

I just like the thought of you trying to style it out though. Seven trips to the bathroom and you're still trying to come back. Tidings of comfort and joy everybody. God bless us everyone.

Ed Gamble

Were you shitting as the time crossed from Christmas Eve to Christmas Day?

James Acaster

That's the question.

Edgar Wright

I don't think so. I would have liked to have done that on New Years Eve. That would have been good.

Ed Gamble

That's the (talking over each other).

James Acaster

Yes, that's good.

Edgar Wright

That would have been good. Then to, kind of, you know, it would have then crossed two kind of years.

Ed Gamble

Do you want to know the worst calendar year crossing of my life?

Edgar Wright

Do it.

Ed Gamble

It was many, many years ago, as it-, I can't believe I'm saying this out loud.

James Acaster

Everyone's having those moments tonight apart from-, I am coming out of this squeaky clean.

Ed Gamble

As it crossed from one year to the other and I didn't realise that this was the time, one of my friends had decided to show me Two Girls One Cup on his phone. It's actually quite similar to your Christmas Eve.

Edgar Wright

You now have to share a story where you've been violently ill in a restaurant.

James Acaster

Yes, well, I've never shit myself in a restaurant, it's fine.

Edgar Wright

I didn't actually do it.

James Acaster

Yes, I shit myself in a steakhouse in LA. Good times. Still or sparkling water?

Ed Gamble

Imagine an actual waiter doing that. Shit myself in a steakhouse. Anyway, still or sparkling water?



James Acaster

Shit myself once, what kind of water do you want?

Edgar Wright

Still. Still, still, still. With ice.

Ed Gamble

This is what the Royal Festival Hall was built for.

Edgar Wright

Also, please no lemon in the still water.

James Acaster

Look at this. You're really winning them over.

Edgar Wright

I get a bit annoyed, and this happens a bit more in the States than it does in the UK but that presumption that you wanted some lemon in it. So, fish that out immediately. The lemon in the water just, you know if you go to, like, a spa sometimes and they have that horrid water with like what seems like a ton of, like, limes and lemons sat in it.

Ed Gamble

Sometimes strawberries and stuff.

Edgar Wright

No, and it just looks like mulch, so, I can't get that out of my head.

James Acaster

To be fair, that's load-bearing though.

Ed Gamble

Yes, that's load-bearing.

James Acaster

It keeps the water. It'd just come out of the jug otherwise.

Edgar Wright

There's nothing worse than room temperature or warm sparkling water. It's horrific. Room temperature still water, fine. Room temperature sparkling water, no. The only time I've ever been excited to drink sparkling water is when I've had some periods of just not drinking for a long time and then just the bubbles become a bit more fun.

Ed Gamble

It's all you've got left.

Edgar Wright

That's all you've got left is, like, I guess I'll have some sparkling water, the bubbles are fun. Other than that, no, sparkling water, no. Also, the worst thing as well is when you take a sip of sparkling water thinking it's still. No. That's really bad. Especially if it's warm, that's the worst.

Ed Gamble

How often has that happened in your life?



Edgar Wright

More often than I care for.

James Acaster

So, hold on, is it that you're not even looking at it and that you're just going for it or is it like, you know, sometimes sparkling water gets a little bit flat, you can't really tell and then you have the swig and it's like, it's just got a dead fart in it.

Edgar Wright

Just, like, brands with confusing labels. Like, make it clear, sort of, that black is still and then the other one is silver, right, or grey?

Ed Gamble

That's a good point. I mean, look, the crisp debate rages on about what colour should be what flavours. We've never really sorted out what colour sparkling should be and what colour still should be. So, I think we should do it now.

Edgar Wright

Green for sparkling, I'd go with that.

James Acaster

It's like, nature. You imagine a babbling brook§ or something.

Ed Gamble

Of course, blue is up for grabs here because they're both water, right?

Edgar Wright

That just confuses the issue, to have, like-,

Ed Gamble

So, we need to get rid of blue completely.

Edgar Wright

Blue's out. No?

James Acaster

People want to keep blue. Blue for still. I mean, that's the other option.

Edgar Wright

Blue for still, green for sparkling because it's the colour of a spring, right? I think.

Ed Gamble

We've actually solved that a lot quicker than I thought we would.

James Acaster

Are you saying you don't like sparkling if it's, like room temperature. This still water, does it matter how cold it is?

Edgar Wright

Well, if you're in the dream restaurant, I'd love it with some ice in it would be lovely.

Ed Gamble

You dreamer. 'If we're going wild here'.



Edgar Wright

You know, room temperature still water is fine.

James Acaster

The ice cubes are made from still water or sparkling water?

Edgar Wright

That would be the way of weaning me onto sparkling water, wouldn't it?

James Acaster

Gradually. Releasing the bubbles, one at a time. You can just have one bubble at a time each time.

Edgar Wright

That's like you're trying to slowly poison me with sparkling water.

James Acaster

Yes, just gradually dripping you one bubble at a time until eventually you love it and you can't tell the difference anymore.

Edgar Wright

Yes. Like the Pepsi Challenge.

James Acaster

Well, I mean.

Edgar Wright

You're probably too young to remember that.

James Acaster

I remember the Pepsi Challenge and I could-, I mean, right now, I could tell the difference between Diet Pepsi and Diet Coke if anyone wanted me to. They're very different.

Ed Gamble

Do you think, Edgar, if you didn't have any water for, like, a year, do you think then if you had sparkling water it would taste the same as still water?

Edgar Wright

I thought you were going to ask me, if I was in the desert and somebody came around and they gave me a bottle of sparkling water-,

Ed Gamble

That's a better question than my desperate appeal to an in-joke on the podcast.

Edgar Wright

You'd have to be really fussy to turn down the sparkling water at that point, after three days in the Gobi desert without any water.

Ed Gamble

Do you think your mouth would be so sensitive that the bubbles would just, like-, your face would melt.

James Acaster

That's a point.



Ed Gamble

James is disappointed because I interrupted his Diet Coke story, by the way. He's so angry. He's not going to get over this.

Edgar Wright

What would be your preference, Pepsi wise?

James Acaster

Diet Pepsi, I'd go for. I like Diet Coke as well but I'd probably prefer Diet Pepsi but, like, for ages, I didn't really have-, I, kind of, like, gave up caffeine entirely which I have to be careful saying that in the building because I think Edwin Coffee's not left yet. I didn't have caffeine in my diet for ages and then after five years, I started drinking Diet Coke's again and I hadn't had, like, full fat Coke in all that time and after five years of not having any caffeine and not having regular Coke, Diet Coke just tasted like normal Coke.

Ed Gamble

Can I just say, firstly, the other-, we did this the other night, James has told that story maybe 100 times on the podcast. We did it live the other night and we-, it was brilliant, lovely show, lovely audience. We came off stage and James looks a bit bummed out. I was like, 'What's wrong, that was really fun' and he went, 'Didn't get a chance to do my Diet Coke story'. It was great live then to hear people being bored by it live because you all cheered when he started doing it and then there was a noticeable drop-off in energy just as you got-,

James Acaster

I think you need to be able to tell the difference between bored and on tenterhooks, Edward. Poppadum's or bread? Poppadum's or bread, Edgar Wright? Poppadum's or bread?

Edgar Wright

I'm going to go bread.

James Acaster

There we go.

Edgar Wright

Some booze, some booze. I will say though, if you'd asked me, like, twenty years ago, the answer would have been poppadums but the joy of poppadums has, sort of, been permanently been curdled in my brain because poppadums have too often been a part of what I would call the sad takeaway.

Ed Gamble

Christmas Eve?

Edgar Wright

Christmas Eve. So, you know, I think, sort of, like, I'm sure you guys have done this as well, there's a point in the night where after a certain hour, usually midnight, that ordering a takeaway is a bad idea and usually it's because, like, at a certain point in the night, your takeaway options start disappearing and so then if you're really, kind of, on one and it's like, I've got-, you know, you want to get, like, a late night Chinese or an Indian, it's always that really depressing thing that even before you've got to the main you've ordered, being lumbered with the really dry poppadums, coming from a plastic bag as well, is so, just, depressing and even the little tub of mango chutney or the, kind of, takeaway version of, what's it called, raita, the yoghurt, it's just like-, so, I think I've had too many of those and it's permanently ruined the joy of poppadums because I used to love that. So, that's now gone out of my life. I'd say the same for, like, bad 3AM prawn crackers. Also, really depressing and it's, sort of, permanently ruined both of them for me, so, it's got to be bread all the way and if I'd be specific, I'd say, like, a couple of things that I really like is like-, well, I just went to



Spain, actually, and the bread there, they always have, like, tons and tons of aioli. Really garlicky aioli. That's the best. So, that's what I'm specifically going for.

James Acaster

Great, and what type of bread is with that garlicky aioli?

Edgar Wright

Spanish bread.

Ed Gamble

Spanish bread, of course.

Edgar Wright

Famous Spanish bread. I realise Ross Kemp went into more detail.

James Acaster

Sure, you tend to remember exactly what you're eating when there's a gun to your head, I think. You want to be polite to your hosts.

Edgar Wright

None of my anecdotes involve MS13.

James Acaster

Well, I don't know.

Edgar Wright

Yet.

James Acaster

So, you want Spanish bread with loads of garlicky aioli there. Also, like, just out of interest, give me a cheer if you would say bread. Poppadums. Same as the other night, the poppadums sound happier.

Ed Gamble

I mean, there were definitely a lot of people cheering both there.

James Acaster

Yes, some people just haven't had dinner today. Whatever you've got please.

Edgar Wright

The poppadums contingent have ordered them earlier in the evening.

James Acaster

They planned it a little bit-, I mean, carrier bag poppadums, no-one's putting them in their dream meal. Especially when they get-, and prawn crackers, when you get that, kind of-, if you can fold them.

Edgar Wright

It's just that thing, like, after 3AM or something, there's only, like-, when there's only two takeaways open on GrubHub, you know it's not going to be good.

Ed Gamble

If you're on GrubHub at all, really. GrubHub?



Edgar Wright

Deliveroo, at this point, is closed.

Ed Gamble

Yes, that's it. When you're like, you scroll down, even Deliveroo's abandoned you and then you're like, now I'm going to have to hit up GrubHub. Even the name GrubHub.

James Acaster

I've never heard of this before.

Ed Gamble

I can't wait to hear you say it.

Edgar Wright

Does it still exist? I think, sort of, you know, once I switched-, once Deliveroo came along, GrubHub was a thing of the-, does GrubHub still exist?

Ed Gamble

It's been taken over by Pornhub.

Edgar Wright

You can get anything, anytime on that.

Ed Gamble

Exactly, yes. It's never sad.

Edgar Wright

It's always sad but it is 24 hours a day.

Ed Gamble

Have you never heard of GrubHub?

James Acaster

No, I've never heard of GrubHub before.

Ed Gamble

That sounded as good as I hoped it would when you said it.

James Acaster

Really? GrubHub. Get to your main meal now, and we'll get to your starter, your dream starter-,

Ed Gamble

Aioli, by the way, quickly, genius. I don't think anyone else has chosen aioli with the bread. The garlic, when it just rips your face off, it's so good.

James Acaster

People don't choose it, I think because people don't know when to stop saying the first bit.

Edgar Wright

Aioli?

James Acaster

Yes, they're not confident enough on the podcast. They're like, 'I'd like some aiaiaioli please'. So, no matter how much they love it, they're like, fuck it, I'll have garlic mayo.



Ed Gamble

This is when we find out how easy it is for James to write James Acaster stand-up material.

James Acaster

Yes, easy when you're a fucking genius.

Ed Gamble

'No-one ever knows when to stop saying it'.

James Acaster

It is pretty easy.

Edgar Wright

A bumble bee?

James Acaster

I think that was a fucking bee. That's from one of my other shows. I don't know where that bee's gone. Great, now I've got that in my head. Count me out for the rest of this, I'm going to be too scared. Your dream starter. Is it from a specific place?

Edgar Wright

Yes, I went around the houses thinking about this one because I had to think about what starters I always order because I tend to order the same things in the same places and there's also sometimes a thing where, like, if I'm at dinner with my girlfriend, she'll ask me to order something so she can have most of mine and usually that's burrata, which I'm totally happy with. Burrata is a great starter. I never realised it rhymes before either.

James Acaster

Yes, you said burrata was a great starter. That was quite good.

Edgar Wright

There's a place in LA, Osteria Mozza, that has a mozzarella bar that's just all burrata's. It's, like, it's too decadent before anything even starts.

Ed Gamble

I'm going to die at that place. I've just decided, that's where I'm going to die.

Edgar Wright

It's a good place to die.

James Acaster

If I ever fell out of a plane and God forbid, but that's where I'd like to land. I think it'd cushion you enough.

Edgar Wright

On one of the burrata's?

James Acaster

On all of them.

Edgar Wright

If you landed on the mozzarella bar itself, you could spring back.

Ed Gamble

All the way back up to the plane but with a mozzarella in your mouth.



James Acaster

Mozzarella and just this, like, stream of all the gooey stuff that comes off the-, like a firework, I don't know. Quite nice, is what I'm saying, I'd like that, prefer that-, although the worst place I'd like to land if I fell out of a plane is-,

Ed Gamble

Are we all going to do best and worst?

James Acaster

Yes. Is on the pavement right next to the burrata-, it would be the worst. I would hate it.

Edgar Wright

Not on some sea urchins or something.

James Acaster

No, not even on some sea urchins because at least then you're like, well, what chance did I have?

Ed Gamble

You just survive, just for a second, and just see the burrata, you're like, oh God.

James Acaster

See someone enjoying it. That'd be bad.

Edgar Wright

So, these are the cycles that I went through. The other thing is a starter that I only had once which, like, my birthday was at the start of lockdown last year so it was pretty-, there was, like, nothing open and my girlfriend very nicely on my birthday cooked me, like, what I can only describe as gourmet movie snacks which was amazing. So, because we were going to have, like, a movie marathon all weekend and so she cooked me, like, hot dogs, she's Swedish, with Skagen on top which was amazing.

James Acaster

What's Skagen?

Edgar Wright

Skagen's, like, the fish, kind of-, any Swedes in the audience? Help me out. That didn't help, just the squeal.

Ed Gamble

It's like fish woo. Fish woo, that's what it is.

James Acaster

What? How's that helping me out?

Edgar Wright

It's a fish sauce, it's great. I've only had that once but what I want-, and I think you have mentioned this before and so I think I'm correct in thinking this but the one I eventually plump for is one that if I see it on Deliveroo, I will go to that restaurant just to get the starter and that's the squid at Busaba, (inaudible).

James Acaster

Yes. The calamari from Busaba. Yes.



Edgar Wright

I've heard some people on the Internet call it crack squid and I'd agree with that because I had it the other night and it's just one of those things that's like-, I mean, almost the rest of the menu doesn't matter as much but that, kind of, inky, sort of, like, peppercorns and garlic on it. So, I'm going to say the Busaba squid.

James Acaster

Man, if you haven't been to Busaba and got the squid then your life is, kind of, incomplete, I'm afraid. That is such a good choice. Really, you know, starters are notoriously the worst course and everyone knows it.

Ed Gamble

Go fuck yourself.

James Acaster

I've never been so happy at a guest's starter choice before, this is great.

Edgar Wright

It sounds like you haven't been to the right burrata bar.

James Acaster

Yes, I've not been but, like-,

Edgar Wright

How do you feel about the squid at Busaba?

Ed Gamble

I have never had this squid before so I need more description because I assumed when you said the squid from Busaba, which I nearly said burrata-, I know what sounds you like. How's it prepared? I assumed it was, like, deep-fried like calamari.

Edgar Wright

No, it's, like, grilled and in some kind of inky sauce with peppercorns and garlic. It's lovely.

James Acaster

It's magic but it still has a crunch to it as if it has been fried. Like it's been air fried or something but it's like-, I don't know how they do it, Ed. It's impossible. The flavour in it has this, like, indescribable.

Ed Gamble

I'll be honest with you, Edgar, I've not stopped thinking about you nearly picked hot dogs with fish sauce.

Edgar Wright

Yes. I could switch back to that one.

Ed Gamble

I need to know more about this because no offence, it sounds disgusting.

Edgar Wright

Where's that Swede? Skagen on hot dogs is good, right? What? Jesus Christ.

Ed Gamble

Yes.



Edgar Wright

I guess you had to be there. It was delicious.

James Acaster

Yes. I mean.

Edgar Wright

Maybe it was tastier because it was my birthday, I don't know.

James Acaster

It's your birthday, you're looking forward to your movie marathon. What films did you watch on your birthday movie marathon?

Edgar Wright

I think it was a very unusual double bill of 2001: A Space Odyssey and Jackie Chan's Police Story.

James Acaster

It could almost be a sequel to 2001, that's what I've always thought.

Edgar Wright

2001: Jackie Chan's Police Story.

James Acaster

Well, the ending is so ambiguous of 2001, you might as well have any film after it and go, yes, that's what happened at the end.

Edgar Wright

The star child goes down to Earth and becomes a police officer in Hong Kong.

James Acaster

Yes, I'd be up for that.

Edgar Wright

Queue up the second film.

James Acaster

Yes, and then you were eating your fishy hot dogs.

Ed Gamble

Okay, we don't normally ask this question, it's completely out of the blue here. What is the best food film?

James Acaster

Ed, I've got to say, before we carry on, great question.

Edgar Wright

Well, there's two that spring to mind but one of which I haven't seen recently, Tampopo is a good one and then another one that's really good, will make you very hungry, is Stanley Tucci's Big Night. That's a great food film. It's impossible not to watch that and not be absolutely starving at the end.

Ed Gamble

I have not seen it. What are they eating in that?

Edgar Wright

Italian food.



Ed Gamble

I've heard of it.

Edgar Wright

What's your favourite food movie? Jaws?

Ed Gamble

Well, I think I've said this before on the podcast. Spirited Away is an amazing food film and I've always watched that going, look at that incredible food, that's incredible and ignoring the fact that they're eating so much of it, they turn into pigs, which has always been my issue. It's always about the quality of the food and not the quantity being too much but that's a phenomenal-, those big dumplings, they're like, all wobbly and you can see how much soup's in them, I just want to-,

Edgar Wright

James, what's yours?

James Acaster

There's two. I think I've probably mentioned both of them on the podcast before. One is in Home Alone 2: Lost In New York when he gets served all the ice cream and he's on the bed and, 'Another scoop, sir? One scoop or two?', he's like, 'Make it three, I'm not driving'. One of the best. Absolutely live my life by it still.

Ed Gamble

Yes, for many reasons.

James Acaster

Yes, never driving again.

Edgar Wright

Was he ordering the rum and raisin? There's not alcohol in the ice cream.

James Acaster

I don't think it was even rum and raisin, it was just that Macaulay Culkin's a genius and he can sell that shit. Worked. Ice cream is the booze for kids, like, you know, the kids version of booze so there's that line but the other bit, obviously, is Bangarang in Hook, is when they have the food fight in Hook, always makes me-,

Ed Gamble

It's not nice food though, is it?

James Acaster

No, it is. Not the bit when you can see the food or when they're fighting, the bit when they are miming it, when they're just doing-, when that kid is like, doing all that, I was like, I fucking want that food so much. Robin Williams, hero, is looking at the kids and being like, and I was like, I feel that. Absolutely get what you're feeling. Like, the kid, I think he's called 'Fats', that's not me being an arsehole, that's the kid's name, is doing this and looking up at him and Robin Williams is like, oh God, I want that food so much. That, I think, is the best-, better than any physical food I've ever seen in a film. The Bangarang food is delicious.

Ed Gamble

At Sunday school, did you mistakenly think that was the Last Supper?

James Acaster

Yes. And then Jesus said, 'Bangarang'. I'd love it if Jesus did Bangarang at the Last Supper. 'Listen,



guys, I'm going to level with you, I'm not supposed to tell you but I'm going to be crucified soon. Who wants to do a Bangarang because it would cheer me up, I'd like to do a Bangarang if you're all up for it'. So, the calamari from Busaba.

Edgar Wright

Yes, why don't they just call it crack squid?

James Acaster

They should call it crack squid. It is so addictive. Like, my sister came to visit me in London once and I had planned a-, we did a food day where we basically did a good pub crawl where we did a course in each place and just all day had, like, a tasting menu across London and one of them was the Busaba squid and I was so excited to go and, I mean, it was weird going in there and just going, 'Just the Busaba squid, please' and they're like, 'Anything else?', no, after this we're going to Shack-Fuyu, see you later. Yes, I really am up for that choice, so, it's very exciting to start.

Ed Gamble

I can't wait to try it. You've influenced me to try it.

James Acaster

I can't believe you've not tried it. I thought I knew you.

Edgar Wright

If we don't get free Busaba from now on, something's gone terrible wrong.

James Acaster

Yes, it has, actually. Ed doesn't deserve it.

Ed Gamble

I'll be the only one putting it on Instagram though.

James Acaster

I think I would definitely get a free one. I don't know if they'll want you in, if you're going to and from the bathroom constantly. You can have it to take away, Edgar.

Edgar Wright

Just the six strips tonight.

James Acaster

Oh, well, come in then. Main course, your dream main.

Edgar Wright

Well, this is another one I went around the houses on because I tend to order the same things around the world and stuff, like, travelling and things. I mean, you know, between, like, the UK and the States. So, you know, like, special-, things like steak and amazing fish, that's great and I find myself that I tend to, kind of, gravitate towards, if you're in, like, a posh restaurant and they have some kind of comfort food on the menu and you always think, that's going to be good. So, I'm a sucker for that. Whenever I see comfort food on, like, a fancy-, in a fancy restaurant, if it's, like, shepherd's pie somewhere or another-, this was the one I was almost going to pick. I'm a real sucker for spaghetti and meatballs. Like, just because, I don't know, it just makes me, sort of, like-, I feel like I only order spaghetti and meatballs when I've felt like I've really earned it and then it feels like that thing of, it's been a good day and it's, like, sort of, you know-, or, like, usually it's a celebration meal and it's that thing because it seems like the most unambitious thing on the menu, spaghetti and meatballs but it's like, you know what, spaghetti and meatballs with a lot of cheese on top and a glass of something, that sounds amazing. I didn't go for that.



James Acaster

I think most of the spaghetti and meatballs that I've seen, and I've seen plenty.

Ed Gamble

If you had to put a number on it.

James Acaster

Yes, good point.

Ed Gamble

I want the number of the individual plates and then I want the number of the meatballs and then the strands of spaghetti.

James Acaster

Fair enough. I think in my 36 years on this planet, I have probably seen-, now. I've probably seen 102 plates of spaghetti and meatballs. I'd say I've seen probably 510 meatballs and 5,000 strands of spaghetti. I think. On the nose, 5,000. Thank you. I would say, a lot of the plates of spaghetti and meatballs I saw, for the first maybe ten years of my life were cartoons.

Edgar Wright

Yes. Lady and the Tramp. It looks fun.

James Acaster

Just really big in the world of cartoons, spaghetti and meatballs. Like, everyone's eating them all the time. Way more than they do in, like, day-to-day life. Spaghetti and meatballs is on the menu a lot in cartoons.

Ed Gamble

That's why I always feel slightly let down by spaghetti and meatballs when I have them because no-one in real life can twizzle spaghetti like you can in a cartoon. You know when they go like, and they've got the whole lump and it's like-, and they suck it and the last bit of spaghetti goes straight in.

James Acaster

Do that again.

Edgar Wright

You just have to practice.

James Acaster

Yes, very good.

Edgar Wright

I know there's some terrible plates of spaghetti and meatballs out there. There's some particular ones. There's two places in LA, actually, that I just-, I can't not have it when I'm there. Have you ever been to that restaurant Little Dom's, have you been there?

James Acaster

I've not been to Little Dom's, no.

Edgar Wright

I don't know why I asked James and not Ed.

James Acaster

No, I've never been to Little Dom's.



Ed Gamble

Have you been to Little Dom's, James?

James Acaster

I mean, obviously, if I saw Little Dom's, I'd go there because it sounds hilarious but no, I've not been to Little Dom's. Where's Little Dom, please?

Edgar Wright

I've never met Little Dom himself.

James Acaster

No, never met him. I'd love to know what Little Dom's like. Let's get Little Dom on the podcast in the future. You can come back for it.

Edgar Wright

That also isn't my pick, that was my B choice and it was, like, the spaghetti and meatballs at the Chateau Marmont hotel or, like, Little Dom's, both of which I can't not have it and it always feels like, sort of, such a beautiful achievement to have nice spaghetti and meatballs. Something happened to me, like, a couple of months ago, where, to go back to the comfort food thing, I was in Cornwall for a week trying to write on my own. Yes.

Ed Gamble

She saw you there.

Edgar Wright

I think what I hadn't accounted for because I've probably been in London too much and probably spoilt during the pandemic by Deliveroo and other, like, takeaway apps, I didn't realise in Cornwall when I got there that the options would go down to two, both of which were, like, 75 minutes away. So, I didn't eat, like, a lot of-, because it was just coming out of the pandemic, I was staying in a place called St. Agnes, anybody know St. Agnes in Cornwall? So, my eating that week had, sort of, gone down to very basic because I am not an amazing cook and I, sort of-, and most of the places, kind of, closed early and they were, like, you know-, and the takeaway options were not great and I'd, sort of, already burned through the Chinese and the Indian ones that were on offer. So, it was my last night in St. Agnes in Cornwall in this little house and then I noticed that the local fish and chip shop was open and I thought, I'll just get fish and chips and maybe because I'd, sort of, suffered through a week of, like, not great food, the fish and chips were orgasmic and I just, kind of, had my little Ratatouille moment of just going back to-, and it was also, it, kind of, cracked the sad takeaway thing because it was so amazing. Even the fact that I was sitting there in a house in Cornwall eating it on my own with the little Heinz sachets, it was just beautiful. I remember the name of the fish shop because it was called 'Fission Chips', like nuclear fission.

Ed Gamble

Fission Chips?

Edgar Wright

Fission Chips.

Ed Gamble

Why was it called that?

Edgar Wright

I don't know.



Ed Gamble

It was near a nuclear power plant?

Edgar Wright

I guess it could be.

James Acaster

I'd have asked why before I ate it, personally. I'd have said, 'Why have you named it Fission Chips like nuclear fission?'. I wouldn't have gone, 'Thank you', straight in the mouth, see what happens. Could have hulked out.

Edgar Wright

I think they really were great, I don't think it was just the, kind of, the week of, like, my bad cooking that I'd suffered through but it was just a beautiful moment and it was a bit of solo non-sad takeaway dining that I really enjoyed, so, I'd like to give a shout out to that.

James Acaster

So, is that shout out or your actual choice?

Edgar Wright

That's going to be my choice.

James Acaster

The choice, fish and chips. Yes, I like that. Good choice.

Ed Gamble

Fish and chips. Great choice.

James Acaster

Nice choice.

Edgar Wright

The £700 meal at St. Bernadine is permanently cursed, so, fish and chips from Fission Chips in St. Agnes, Cornwall, it is.

James Acaster

This is, like, so far, a very seafood-y menu.

Edgar Wright

Yes, it's true.

James Acaster

You know, we've got the squid and now we're onto fish and chips.

Ed Gamble

Let's dig down into this fish and chips. What sort of fish?

Edgar Wright

It was fried haddock.

Ed Gamble

Lovely.



Edgar Wright

There was a lot of salt and vinegar and he gave me a sachet of ketchup and a sachet of mayonnaise and I asked if I could have two more and he said that's 40p and I was happy to pay it.

James Acaster

Imagine if you hadn't. Like, I spent £700 on nothing.

Ed Gamble

How much salt and how much vinegar? Let's mime it out now. So, I'm the man.

Edgar Wright

You be the chippy and I'll say stop.

James Acaster

You're the man, okay. Right, someone film this and make a GIF of it.

Edgar Wright

Stop.

Ed Gamble

So, that was, I'd say maybe eight shakes. Eight shakes. That feels like a good amount, okay. The vinegar's, like, a free pouring vinegar, right, okay?

Edgar Wright

Okay, go vinegar.

James Acaster

Holy Christ. Rest in peace.

Edgar Wright

I forgot to say stop. It wasn't that much.

Ed Gamble

That's 40p, please. That is how much vinegar my girlfriend has on stuff. We'll go to, like, we used to live near an amazing kebab shop called Kebab Kid in south west London and when she'd go in, they'd be like, 'Here comes the vinegar lady'. They'd be doing that to get the vinegar in and she'd be like, bit more, bit more, bit more, with a queue forming around the block. Just, mad. It's soaking wet by the end. It's like a big potato soup.

James Acaster

I'll back that up. I like it. I don't like it like a soup but, like, I definitely like loads of vinegar and when I was a kid, we'd all go at lunchtime to the fish and chip shop, loads of salt and vinegar and we want so much vinegar and then we would put our heads directly in a bag and huff it.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I got into poppers when I was about thirteen, so, it's a similar sort of story.

James Acaster

That guy who shouted ketamine knows what I'm on about. Huffing a bag of fish and chips. You always haddock above cod?

Edgar Wright

I think it was-,



James Acaster

Yes, alright. Cod.

Edgar Wright

I think I was a sucker for, like, the most expensive item on the menu because when you see cod and then it's like, haddock is 20p more, you go, 'Oo, I want try the haddock, that seems like the fancy option'.

Ed Gamble

It's a good choice, haddock. I mean, you know, I speak to you as a battered sausage boy for life. Always battered sausage and in some of my darker years, a battered sausage and a Saveloy. Just to see it naked, you know.

James Acaster

Must be weird for them, in the bag together. You know we're going to someone's house, do you not want to put anything on? How uncivilised. It is easy to write my material. That is how I do it. Workshop that. Haddock, I've got traumatic memories of.

Edgar Wright

I'm sorry.

James Acaster

I worked in a pub where we had haddocks and they were in this, like, water that would, kind of-, even though the haddocks were, like-, no, the haddocks were just, yes, floating around in there, so the water stank and it was a prank to put people's belongings in the haddock water when they didn't know and stuff like that but the way they do it-, if it was, like, their clothing or something, it would get wrapped in cling film first so it doesn't get wet but you put it in there and the stink of the haddock will get in there and some people did start doing that but one day, someone was, like, I'm going to get Acaster and they went up, they got my shoes, cling filmed my shoes, put them in there but literally, they put them in there, they walked out of the fridge, I walked in the fridge thinking I'm suspecting something, opened it, there were my shoes, got them out before they stank, then put his shoes in there and then all shift he was going, 'Anyone fancy some haddock after this?' And all this and I was like, 'No, not really', 'You will, mate' and all this and loving it. Then at the end we went up to the changing rooms, I put my shoes on and he was like, 'James, have you-'. I was like, I'm pretty good and he was like-, I was like, yes, they're my shoes. Where are your shoes? The horror on his face. 'You prick.' I'm not a prick, am I? Clearly not a prick, I'm you. Yes, but on my last day at the thing, they dumped a bucket of the haddock water over my car and it got into the air vents.

Ed Gamble

Is that why you crashed so much?

James Acaster

Yes, had to crash it to get a new one.

Edgar Wright

Have you ever been able to enjoy haddock since?

James Acaster

Not really. I would always order cod in a fish and chip shop still but maybe that's just because I think it's the OG. It's the OG fish, right?

Ed Gamble

It's the OG fish.



James Acaster

Cod is the OG fish.

Ed Gamble

It was famously the first fish. The original fish.

James Acaster

I think cod's the original fish. Is that the original fish in your-

Ed Gamble

That's why it's so close to the word 'god' because when God was like, 'I'm going to make these things', pop them in that and then they started to slither away, he was like, 'I've got to name them. Cod.'

James Acaster

Dream side.

Edgar Wright

There's a lot of ones on constant rotation, including Brussels sprouts which I find amazing that Brussels sprouts has gone from being everybody's least favourite side or one of the most unpopular ones to the hipster side, which is an amazing transformation in time.

Ed Gamble

I don't think that's hit here properly yet.

Edgar Wright

In the States especially, yes, it's like, Brussels sprouts are everywhere. There's that amazing Portlandia sketch about the-, how Brussels sprouts got hipsterfied, if you've ever seen that. It's an entire episode, in fact.

Ed Gamble

Oh, yes, I have seen that. It's great. I fucking love it, but it's just not hit here yet. Love Brussels sprouts (talking over each other).

Edgar Wright

I liked them before, even when they were, like, boiled and really tasteless I still liked them. But then they got all cool in the states.

Ed Gamble

Oh, so, you liked Brussels sprouts when they weren't cool?

Edgar Wright

Yes. I liked their first album.

Ed Gamble

You've got all their old stuff on vinyl right?

Edgar Wright

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Aren't you making a documentary about Brussels sprouts?

James Acaster

Yes, the sprout bothers.



Edgar Wright

The sprout brothers, yes. I would love that.

James Acaster

That pause there was the three of us trying to think of other riffs after that subject.

Edgar Wright

All of us coming to a dead end and going, 'That's that.'

Ed Gamble

Our podcast records are normally four and half hours is absolute silence.

James Acaster

It's us going, 'I've got something, wait, wait, wait, I've got something.'

Ed Gamble

Sprout brothers.

James Acaster

Sprout brothers. I mean, there's not many, you know, parallels we can draw between the band Sparks and Brussels sprouts to be fair to us. We did quite well to get it as far as we did.

Edgar Wright

One of the brothers is called Russel, that rhymes with Brussels.

James Acaster

Oh my god. Jesus Christ.

Edgar Wright

We're getting somewhere.

James Acaster

We should quit. We should we quit, if we couldn't come up with that.

Ed Gamble

That is genuinely depressing that we didn't. Jesus.

James Acaster

Well. So, you're picking Brussels sprouts.

Edgar Wright

No. And this is another where I, kind of, back to comfort food thing, and I'm sorry, I'm going to have to mention Little Dom's again which you have definitely not been to.

James Acaster

Not been to Little Dom's but I love it, I'm glad we're back there. To be honest, I feel like we moved away from it a bit too quickly last time. We mentioned Little Dom's, we were also excited and intrigued as to what Little Dom's was and then we moved on from it and we were all like, 'We want to hear more about Little Dom's.'

Edgar Wright

Well, they have a side there, and on the menu it's called grilled summer corn, which, you know, sounds like it's going to be like corn on the cob, all nice and charred and everything, but it is literally like a big plate of sweetcorn, with, like, garlic and butter and cheese. And I will, like, shovel that



down my gob without anybody else touching it, an entire plate of sweetcorn. And I think that's something, like, just as a kid, and apologies, I think some people in the room might be with me on this, but did anybody eat sweetcorn straight from the tin when they were young? Okay. I'm with you guys.

James Acaster

Woah. I am going to say way more people than I anticipated. I thought you were going to get five people or something going, 'Oh, yes, I did that.' All of them guzzling sweetcorn from the tin. He's there doing it now. Yes. Filling his mask with it and eating it.

Edgar Wright

I have to reverse engineer something back to my main actually, when I bought the haddock and chips from fish and chips from St Agnes, Cornwall. I became very confident of what I had, was like, this is going to be good, I have a good feeling about these fish and chips. And I went over the road to the Spar that was still open, and I bought a can of green giant, and I went home and I put some butter on it and I stirred it up and it was delightful.

James Acaster

So, you did it straight from the tin, warmed it up?

Edgar Wright

I did warm it up.

James Acaster

Did you call it Little Edgar's sweetcorn when you did it?

Edgar Wright

Little what?

James Acaster

Little Edgar's. That's your name, Little Edgar.

Edgar Wright

I think that was just one of the words that got lost in the fold back here, I was like, 'What are you saying?'

James Acaster

What is this? Italian name.

Edgar Wright

I famously cannot hear my own name.

James Acaster

That's an idea for a film. Write that down. Someone who can't hear their own name.

Ed Gamble

Imagine the high jinx they'd get up to. Not hearing your own name.

James Acaster

Walking around, people are trying to warn them of stuff, they can't hear it.

Edgar Wright

It's a Quiet Place part three, the only way to defeat the aliens, the only word they can't hear is Edgar, so, if you say Edgar over and over and over again, you can survive.



James Acaster

I thought you were going to say the only word they can't hear is their own name, so, you have to learn their individual names.

Ed Gamble

Steven.

Edgar Wright

To go back to the sweetcorn though I think, sweetcorn has always been-

Ed Gamble

This is a wonderful character trait from you Edgar that I was not expecting, to every so often you'd be like, 'But if we could get back to the sweetcorn.'

James Acaster

Never mind that I just did an absolutely spot on impression of the monsters from a Quiet Place. Anyway, I like sweetcorn.

Edgar Wright

I've just noticed the time and we really need to get back to this sweetcorn.

James Acaster

Like Little Dom's.

Edgar Wright

I guess, I've never been to a restaurant where the side is just a pile of sweetcorn.

James Acaster

Yes. How big is this plate? You said you could have the whole plate to yourself.

Edgar Wright

It's pretty big. And the sad thing is I can eat all of it.

James Acaster

That's not sad. That sounds lovely.

Edgar Wright

So, I mean, I'm presuming that at the dream restaurant, that calorie intake is not an issue.

James Acaster

If you want it to be not an issue. Some people might like it. Some people say, 'Double the calories please, I love being buzzed on all the calories.' But if you want no calorie intake but the same great taste and experience, we can do that for you.

Edgar Wright

I listened to Joe Wick's one, and I was impressed by the amount of calorific intake, but then I thought he works out for 23 hours a day and he can do that. Unlike me he can eat whatever he wants.

James Acaster

Yes. He's running from restaurant to restaurant on his menu. It's okay. He's doing a lap of London eating it all. He's alright. You're going to Little Dom's in a taxi, wolfing the sweetcorn and getting grub pub to send you some fish and chips from Cornwall.



Ed Gamble

Little Dom chasing you out of the restaurant telling you you can't take the plate but you can't hear him because he's shouting your name.

Edgar Wright

Joe Wicks would eat individual pieces of corn in between burpees.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Edgar, have you ever had, because this is a recent discovery for me and James, corn ribs?

Edgar Wright

Oh yes, I have.

Ed Gamble

We've had some from a place called Fallow, where you chop them and it's basically deep-frying bits of sweetcorn and then they've got this amazing Kombu seasoning and you just eat like a rib. But I had them in Wahaca the other night too. It's the new big thing, corn ribs.

Edgar Wright

Speaking of cartoons, with corn on the cob, do you eat them left to right like it's a typewriter or something? Do you make the noise?

Ed Gamble

I'm trying to work it out.

Edgar Wright

Do you do them left to right?

Ed Gamble

What is my style? Because that's one style right? Yes, I do that. Full round like that.

James Acaster

Yes, I do sections.

Edgar Wright

I mean, like spaghetti and meatballs, I think any food you want to pretend like you're in a Tom and Jerry cartoon. I would go left to right and finish a line like it's Tetris and then roll it around and start again.

James Acaster

Yes. Yes. Cartoons are always like that. I guess, it would be weird. Imagine being an animator and they said, you've got to animate the character eating the corn on the cob today, and you turned it in and you did it and then rotated it, and then they were like, 'Right, Michael, I'm going to have to see you in my office, you've changed the game.'

Ed Gamble

What does that look like to you?

James Acaster

I just go the mouse eating the corn on the cob. You think any kids want to watch that? You think that's going to make anyone happy? Throw some corn on the cob on the table. Michael, eat that now. Eat that for me. I want to film you on my phone and you tell me how nice it looks.



Ed Gamble

Michael desperately trying to get them to delete the email he's just sent of the spaghetti and meatballs scene where the spaghetti doesn't do this at the end.

James Acaster

Michael, does this ring any bells? Because apparently you don't know what the fuck that is.

Edgar Wright

You know though with the old Disney cartoons and stuff and I presume other cartoons, but Disney cartoons like Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, they filmed, like, actors or models or dancers doing the actions and then they would animate from that. Do you think that when they were getting some people to act out Lady and the Tramp, that they just happened to get on 35 mill film, the spaghetti twirling into somebody's mouth one time and the camera man says, 'Did you fucking see that?' We have that footage forever.

Ed Gamble

That's now the standard.

James Acaster

Especially if it was two dogs, that's impressive. People don't know this but Lady and the Tramp was meant to be about two people and they had all the scene ready with the meatballs and then two dogs just fucking legged it in and did that and they were like, 'I guess we're changing the whole script.'

Ed Gamble

Have you ever done a Lady and the Tramp spaghetti in real life, like, same bit of spaghetti towards someone?

James Acaster

No, but I am absolutely hoping that you have.

Ed Gamble

Fucking weird mate. It's weird.

James Acaster

You've done it? It blows my mind time and time again how I'm painted to be the weird one. All the time. (talking over each other) Lady and the Tramp.

Ed Gamble

Oh, there will be questions.

James Acaster

You mean to tell me, you sat down with a plate of spaghetti and meatballs and you put one end of the spaghetti in your mouth and the other end in the dog's mouth. The question is, Ed, were you the lady or the tramp in this situation?

Ed Gamble

I'm a little bit of both, you know me.

James Acaster

When did you do this?

Ed Gamble

It's the eye contact that's the hardest thing.



Edgar Wright

Lady in the streets, tramp in the sheets.

James Acaster

How far into your relationship was it Ed?

Ed Gamble

Early.

Edgar Wright

Was it during a speed date?

Ed Gamble

Yes, I take spaghetti with me to speed dating nights.

James Acaster

Each table.

Ed Gamble

Right, hit the (inaudible) we're going to try something right now. No. Next one.

Edgar Wright

I think it would be a good speed dating night to only try to recreate that scene from Lady and the Tramp.

Ed Gamble

Or good idea for a dating night, some people are on one side, other people are on the other side, there's long pieces of spaghetti that all crossover, you all put them in your mouth and you just start sucking and see who you end up with.

James Acaster

See who you end up-, yes, that's nice.

Edgar Wright

It's like a key party.

Ed Gamble

It's like a key party, yes, except with spaghetti.

James Acaster

Although, I would like to, like, (talking over each other).

Edgar Wright

What do you do with the meatballs?

Ed Gamble

The meatballs are all just rolling around on the floor, it's horrible.

James Acaster

Did you roll a meatball towards her with your nose when you did it?

Ed Gamble

I should have done that. If you're familiar with Lady and the Tramp, I think you know what's coming next, here is this fat chef that I've hired with an accordion.



James Acaster

So, that's a lovely side, there's all the sweetcorn. Your dream drink?

Edgar Wright

I think I gravitate towards a lot of things. I mean, usually red wine is usually the option. But I'm not a wine connoisseur I usually go for something that's fun to say. Pinot noir is fun to say, Merlot not so fun to say. Châteauneuf-du-Pape, very fun to say.

Ed Gamble

Oh yes. Oh yes.

Edgar Wright

It's even in a Beastie boys lyric, with a bottle of Châteauneuf-du-Pape, I'm fine like wine when I go to rap.

Ed Gamble

There's not many other wines you could have used there to be fair. (talking over each other)

James Acaster

Is that why you go to Little Dom's? Fun to say?

Edgar Wright

What for some Châteauneuf-du-Pape?

James Acaster

Just go to Little Dom's because it's fun to say.

Edgar Wright

Little Dom's is fun to say.

James Acaster

I say I'm going to Little Dom's, I wouldn't care what they're ordering. What they're ordering? No, they don't order do they.

Ed Gamble

I can't believe you've not got your head around this yet.

James Acaster

I'm new to this.

Edgar Wright

That's my theory with wine though, order something fun to say, that's it.

Ed Gamble

I'm beginning to see why you ended up with a £700 bill.

James Acaster

So fun to say.

Ed Gamble

And the funnest one to say is always at the bottom of the list.

Edgar Wright

What I'm going to go for on my drink, and I have, like, I'm going to do an A and B thing which is the main drink and maybe the end of night drink. Main drink would be a gin Martini with a twist of lemon,



which I think is, like, a really, highly concentrated, sophisticated way to get really drunk really quick. And, you know, I just, yes, I've come to enjoy a gin Martini.

Ed Gamble

It's the perfect drink. Yes, let's not fuck around with that, just straight down the hatch. Two and you're done.

Edgar Wright

Yes.

Ed Gamble

But I love.

James Acaster

We went for-, where is it that's meant to be the best gin Martini that guy said?

Ed Gamble

Duke's in London. The hotel bar, it's Dukes, yes. Apparently it's amazing. We didn't go.

James Acaster

I wanted to go and Ed wouldn't let me.

Ed Gamble

Well, we'd been drinking wine all afternoon, we were invited somewhere to drink wine, and the man said who invited us, he said, 'Well, you should go to Dukes for a Martini one day?' And James said, 'We should go after this,' and the man went, 'No you should not.'

James Acaster

And then we went to a pub around the corner and we drank Guinness for the afternoon, and then I still wanted to go to the gin (talking over each other). I was told we couldn't go. So, you're going for gin Martini with a twist of lemon, but then there's another drink later on. Do you want to do that drink after your dessert or do you want to shout it out now?

Edgar Wright

Well, I'll shout it out now because I don't really know anybody that likes this drink, but I'm sure somebody in here will. Because I think it seems like it's probably a granny drink, but, like, my favourite late night drink is an amaretto on ice. Oh, okay, more than I would have thought. It's basically like liquid marzipan.

Ed Gamble

Oh yes.

Edgar Wright

Like, I've never seen anybody else drink it, so I feel very at home now that there was a cheer for Amaretto on ice.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I'd never order it. Would you ever order it in a bar?

Edgar Wright

Oh yes. At the end of the night though. It feels like a good closure.

Ed Gamble

When you're off home for your 3:00 am curry?



Edgar Wright

Just before finishing my meal and going home to fire up Grubhub and find the saddest Chinese meal I possibly can, with the driest prawn crackers in a plastic bad.

James Acaster

I like an Amaretto sour, very nice cocktail. Yes. You know, first of all I was a whiskey sour guy, and then got into the Amaretto sours big time. But I've never gone just pure Amaretto, which now, I, kind of, think I will.

Edgar Wright

I was reading up about it before, I thought I'd do some Amaretto research, and almond is in it but also the two things you can extract from almonds, is, like, I guess, the amaretto liqueur but also cyanide, I didn't know about that. I didn't know that cyanide came from almonds, but that would be a good way to poison someone.

Ed Gamble

Yes. I mean, it would take a fucking long time I reckon. It would be slower than doing it with one bubble of sparkling water at a time. Because I once through a real Brazil nut phase and I ate-,

James Acaster

I can vouch for this.

Ed Gamble

Yes. I hate half a kilo of Brazil nuts on a bus back from Oxford, and then I googled Brazil nuts after I'd finished the bag, and it said they had a lot of selenium in them and selenium can kill you, so, I did a lot of panicked research and I think you'd have to eat about maybe 1,000 kilos.

Edgar Wright

And how many kilos had you done on the bus trip?

Ed Gamble

Well, then I cracked into my second half-kilo bag.

James Acaster

Because you were getting the bus, Ed, before you got on the bus when somebody offered you the almonds, did you say, 'Make it a whole bag? I'm not driving'? Did you say that? Sorry, it was Brazil nuts.

Ed Gamble

Yes, it was. Oh man, are you alright?

James Acaster

Lockdowns have been taking its toll, I'm rusty, I'm rusty. Your dessert.

Ed Gamble

Now Edgar, what I would say to you is that obviously the Amaretto, quite a sweet drink.

James Acaster

Oh, you piece of shit.

Ed Gamble

Don't feel Edgar, like, you obviously then, 'A bit sweet,' you might need something to take the edge of the sweetness, maybe something a little bit more savoury for the final course of the meal.



James Acaster

Well, maybe something nice and savoury, like maybe the pavement in Trafalgar square where I would throw you (talking over each other).

Ed Gamble

I better not land next to the burrata bar. Sorry Edgar, before you give your cheeseboard choice, we got a text saying that-, someone went, 'A bit of intel about the queue, there's a lady with a cheeseboard on her head.' Is there a lady here with a cheeseboard on her head?

James Acaster

What's she going to look like-,

Ed Gamble

Where is she? I don't know what I'm expecting from the end of this? Can we put the house lights up so I can see the lady's cheeseboard?

James Acaster

She's under there. I can't describe how she looks to you.

Ed Gamble

She has come with a cheeseboard hat.

James Acaster

She has made a cheeseboard. I'm sorry everyone up there.

Ed Gamble

I love you. Get me a plate of spaghetti, there's something I want to try with you. And then we can grate your head, I don't know what I'm saying.

James Acaster

Unacceptable. Disgusting thing to say to a fan.

Ed Gamble

Which bit?

James Acaster

Get some spaghetti, there's something I want to try with you, and then saying you were going to grate her head or something. I'm going to be hosting this podcast solo because you've been cancelled after this.

Ed Gamble

God, that would be the way I get cancelled wouldn't it? Be a cheese creep.

James Acaster

Yes. Being a little cheese perv. Also, obviously before we move on, I don't know, oh, there she is, fuck you.

Ed Gamble

Sorry Edgar.

Edgar Wright

I have a controversial suggestion to settle this. And also, if this is the dream meal and also, like, calories are not a problem and money is no option, I would say the dessert and cheese are two different courses, am I right?



James Acaster

Yes, absolutely.

Edgar Wright

Because we haven't even got into petit fours and all of that shit as well.

Ed Gamble

No, but I think, you know, sometimes you don't want anything sweet. The more sophisticated way to round off-, go fuck yourselves, you can all go fuck yourselves. It's lovely for a type one diabetic to meet so many future type twos. Sorry. See you in the Thames you fucking pricks.

James Acaster

He gets a bit testy when he's near the scene of the crime.

Edgar Wright

I like to be a people pleaser. And I'm going to break the format and I'm going to say both. Wait, wait, wait. But the cheeseboard comes second, the dessert comes first.

Ed Gamble

Ah, excellent way to close the meal Edgar, thank you very much. Close on cheese, the headliner.

James Acaster

I accept that. Dessert is dessert and the cheeseboard is a little after thing. Fine. I've never said that I'm not okay with that. I've always stated. There are multiple episodes where I've said that's fine.

Edgar Wright

The dessert I was going to go for, I'm, kind of, a sucker for anything chocolatey, but let's say a chocolate nemesis cake which is pretty amazing. There's a few, the River Café does chocolate nemesis cake.

Audience Member

I work there.

Edgar Wright

There you go.

James Acaster

He works there. He's clapping himself. Like he's coming off at his own testimonial match. I work there.

Edgar Wright

Do you make the chocolate nemesis cake?

Audience Member

I don't. But I am the chef, but I'm not a pastry chef.

Edgar Wright

Listen, if you don't make the-,

Ed Gamble

Pretty impressive.

James Acaster

Sorry, I take my applause back you fucking asshole, I thought you made the chocolate nemesis cake. That's awesome. It's pretty exciting. Could you hook Edgar up with some nemesis cake?



Audience Member

The nemesis cake is insane.

James Acaster

That was not the answer to the question I asked. Interesting.

Edgar Wright

Did you say that the nemesis cake has turned you insane?

James Acaster

Maybe.

Ed Gamble

For my dad's 60th birthday we went to the River Café and a man who was at my dad's 60th birthday, it's one of the weirdest things I've ever seen in my life, he went back to the kitchen to speak to one of the chefs, and he came back, and he was holding an artichoke and he went, 'Guys, the first artichoke of the season.' And it was the first time my sister's boyfriend had ever been to a Gamble family event, and he was like, 'What the fuck is up with your family?' I think he was holding it up expecting applause, just like, 'This first artichoke of the season.' 'Sit down Chris.'

James Acaster

You and your fiancé are there slurping spaghetti between the two of you, 'I'm not sure about your family, they're a bit weird.'

Edgar Wright

I will say, the other thing, because I was checking it with my girlfriend about the chocolate nemesis cake and I said, 'And it comes with ice cream right?' She goes, 'No, it comes with crème fraîche.' She said, 'You ordered the ice cream as well.'

James Acaster

I've never had chocolate nemesis cake.

Edgar Wright

It's good. It's like a gooey, you know, like a fondant cake.

James Acaster

Oh, like a chocolate lava cake?

Edgar Wright

Sort of, yes. It's a fancy-, I don't know who the nemesis is. (talking over each other).

Ed Gamble

Edgar, when you said chocolate nemesis cake, I saw James going, I know exactly what was happening in his head, he thought it was a cake you could only get at Alton Towers.

James Acaster

Yes. It's what I thought. I'm not even going to pretend it wasn't. I thought it was associated with the ride at Alton Towers.

Edgar Wright

You thought it was a cake that you could only eat on the nemesis ride?

James Acaster

Not necessarily only eat there, but I thought it would be based on there. Like, I immediately thought the design would be quite complex of the cake.



Edgar Wright

You have to queue for eight hours to eat some.

James Acaster

Yes. Yes. For ages. My dad's here tonight, I probably shouldn't have said that, but when I was a kid my parents surprised us by taking us to Alton Towers. They didn't tell us it was going to happen, and I was nine years old. And they woke us up and they were like, 'Okay, we're going to go somewhere for the day.' And they were telling us we're going to go to a deer park as a little trick, and then we got to Alton Towers and it was the best day, it was so much fun. And I was in the queue for Nemesis with my dad and I was really excited, and I looked up and went, 'Dad, this has been the best day of my whole life.' And he went, 'You're nine.' Fucking hard life.

Edgar Wright

That is absolutely quality. Did it get any better?

James Acaster

No, that's still the best (inaudible), so it's valid now.

Ed Gamble

Honestly, there was a genuinely heart-warming moment backstage where I looked up in the green room and James and his dad were both sat next to each other, both eating pastries in exactly the same way.

James Acaster

Rotating them like that. I love you dad.

Edgar Wright

Can I ask Mr River Café something? Do you know it's called the chocolate-, why is it called the nemesis?

James Acaster

Now he's going to answer the question that I asked, he's going to answer that one. Why is it called the chocolate nemesis mate?

Audience Member

I don't know. It's been around for about 20, 30 years.

James Acaster

That is more information than we were expecting though.

Ed Gamble

(inaudible) 30 years. I guess, we'll never know it's been around so long. There's no one alive.

Edgar Wright

And then after I woofed the chocolate nemesis cake and some ice cream, then the cheeseboard. (talking over each other)

Ed Gamble

We've got about fifteen minutes, take us through cheese by cheese by bite.

James Acaster

You don't have to do that. After the chocolate nemesis cake, is it chocolate nemesis cake, then Amaretto, then the cheeseboard?



Edgar Wright

Amaretto at the end, end.

James Acaster

At the very end, end. Okay. Fair enough. And the cheeseboard, I guess, you're just getting that for a joke?

Ed Gamble

What sort of cheeses do you want Edgar?

Edgar Wright

I would like more hard cheeses than soft cheeses. But that's okay. And it's got to have the little quince cubes or whatever they're called. Quince, right?

Ed Gamble

Quince cubes, yes.

Edgar Wright

Quince jelly. You've got to have those.

Ed Gamble

Absolutely. Oh man. So, what sort of hard cheeses would you like?

Edgar Wright

Whatever is nice to say.

Ed Gamble

Oh fuck you.

James Acaster

I'll tell you what's nice to say, 'More ice cream.' I'm not joking. I'll let you have the cheeseboard. Maybe, like, you know, you can have that by the hearth. Is that alright? To move people to the fireplace.

Edgar Wright

Get off the table.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Did you say hearth?

James Acaster

Hearth. Is that not the?

Ed Gamble

A lot of people in here were like, 'Oh, I think we're going to leave that alone are we?' No.

James Acaster

I've said hearth all my life. And no one's corrected me on it, so this is a very bad moment to discover that's wrong.

Ed Gamble

It's hearth. Yes, it's hearth.



James Acaster

That's okay. I've just got to accept this like a champ. Everyone saw in my eyes when I said hearth that it wasn't me that's getting it wrong, you know, as a one-off, they were like, 'Yes, he's believed that his whole life.' So, there's no point me trying to sell it any different now.

Ed Gamble

But how often does it come up really?

James Acaster

Not very often, only when I tell people, 'Take that cheeseboard over to the hearth where it belongs.' Still sounds right to me.

Edgar Wright

When they say, 'Do you want to retire to the hearth?' (talking over each other)

James Acaster

That's the thing I think, no one's ever-

Edgar Wright

They're essentially saying, 'We want this table back.'

James Acaster

Yes.

Edgar Wright

So, if they don't have a hearth, you're going to end up eating the cheeseboard on the street.

Ed Gamble

It sounds like they're saying, 'Do you want to go over to the hearse,' and they've got a lisp.

James Acaster

Well, that's where someone should go if they've ordered a cheeseboard quite frankly. Straight into the hearse.

Edgar Wright

I'm sorry for your loss. I'll be in the hearse, please follow on. So, you've eaten the chocolate nemesis cake, and the bowl of ice cream, and the whole cheeseboard, would you like to go to the hospital?

James Acaster

I think this is fine, I think that's quite a good menu. I'm going to read the menu back to you now, see how you feel about it. Now, normally Benito would write this down and I would read it out, but-

Ed Gamble

He will 100% not come out by the way.

James Acaster

Yes. He's not going to come out. Listen, yes, yes.

Edgar Wright

I want to see Benito.



James Acaster

Yes, fair enough. That will have put him off even more. There's no way. No way he will. So, I'll try and remember it by memory.

Ed Gamble

Tricky. Remember it by memory, it's one of the classic ways.

James Acaster

Here we go. Here we go. Edgar Wright, you would like still water to start, nothing in it apart from ice cubes.

Edgar Wright

No sparkling water ice cubes.

James Acaster

No sparkling water ice cubes, just normal ice cubes in it. You want bread. And you want that bread with plenty of aioli. Spanish bread. Spanish bread. For your starter you want the calamari from Busaba. Your main, you would like fish and chips from Fish and Chips in Cornwall, with a side of the sweetcorn from Little Dom's. Your drink, you would like a, don't help me out Edgar, I'm going to get this. You would like a gin Martini with a lemon twist. Later on at the end of the mean you would like an Amaretto with ice. For your dessert you would like a chocolate nemesis cake with ice cream, and then retire to the hearth for a cheeseboard, which I will allow.

Ed Gamble

Great menu. Really good menu.

Edgar Wright

That sounds like a good dinner.

Ed Gamble

Really good menu. And then it's home for a curry. Edgar Wright, thank you so much for coming to the dream restaurant.

James Acaster

Thank you. Edgar Wright everyone.

Edgar Wright

Thank you. Thanks for having me.

Ed Gamble

Give it up for Edgar. Thank you so much to all of you for coming. It's been fucking brilliant. You've been amazing. We'll probably go now, will we?

James Acaster

Yes, let's go. Thanks everyone.

Ed Gamble

Cheers everyone.

James Acaster

You're great. Bye.

Edgar Wright

Thank you.



Ed Gamble

Well, there we are James, the second in a run of two off Off Menu live.

James Acaster

That is how it's done.

Ed Gamble

What a great show that was. Thank you so much to Edgar for coming down and doing that. Edgar's new film, the Sparks Brothers, about the band Sparks, it's absolutely fantastic, I loved it to bits. You can go and watch that at the cinema, James.

James Acaster

You can go and watch it at the cinema. It will be a wonderful experience. Yes. We both loved that film, and visually it's a treat as well. So, go and see it on the big screen.

Ed Gamble

Yes, do. And he has another film coming out soon called One Night in Soho. I'm not quite sure when that one's out, but do keep an eye out for it. I'm very excited from the trailers, I'm buzzing for that one.

James Acaster

(talking over each other).

Ed Gamble

He obviously did not say salad cream or-,

James Acaster

He did say Grubhub though.

Ed Gamble

He did say Grubhub which is an American thing.

James Acaster

Yes. He wanted us to point that out.

Ed Gamble

He wanted us to point that out, that he made a mistake. Grubhub is an American thing, and we've never had Grubhub here. I don't think people thought badly of him for that, James.

James Acaster

No one would think badly of you for that Edgar, come on.

Ed Gamble

Don't worry about that, man. So, I'm sure we'll do live ones again at some point in the future, James.

James Acaster

Oh, absolutely. We had a wonderful time at both those gigs. Thanks to everyone who turned up.

Ed Gamble

The great Benito will present another live show forthwith. Come and see my tour, I'm doing a solo tour. If you enjoyed Off Menu live, imagine that, but with just me and also it's not really about food. Actually there is quite a long bit about food. But come and see the great Benito present Ed Gamble Electric on tour in 2022, Edgamble.co.uk for tickets. Thank you.



James Acaster

Yes. Also the great Benito presents me at home, wishing Ed all the best of luck.

Ed Gamble

Thank you very much to the great Benito and also to James.

James Acaster

Goodbye.