



Off Menu – Ep125 – Ed Sheeran:

Ed Gamble

Welcome to the Off Menu Podcast, taking the pumpkin of the internet, scooping out the seeds of good chat and carving in a face of humour. Two faces in fact. Ed Gamble and James Acaster, plus a special guest. Another little face on the back.

James Acaster

I absolutely loved that. Absolutely loved it. A wonderful, seasonal intro.

Ed Gamble

Yes, a seasonal intro. I did my spooky voice.

James Acaster

I loved that, 'Podcast.'

Ed Gamble

'Podcast.'

James Acaster

Very good.

Ed Gamble

Imagine such a thing, so scary.

James Acaster

This is the Off Menu Podcast and we invite a guest into the dream restaurant and we ask them their favourite ever starter, main course, dessert, side dish and drink, not in that order. And this week our guest is Ed Sheeran.

Ed Gamble

Ed Sheeran. A singer, song-writer.

James Acaster

Hey, he's a global superstar. We don't need any introduction that Ed Sheeran has got a new album coming out, Equals, which is out next week. Go and get it, check it out. Very exciting. Very excited to have Ed on the podcast. I've seen him on Hot Ones, I know he likes food.

Ed Gamble

Yes. If you want to impress James, all you need to do is get on an episode of Hot Ones.

James Acaster

Just get on an episode of Hot Ones.

Ed Gamble

And then you'll immediately go in his big book of respect.

James Acaster

Yes. Big book of respect. I keep it in my house and I write everyone I respect in there.

Ed Gamble

One day I hope I get on Hot Ones, so James respects me.



James Acaster

Good luck because right now, you are definitely not in that big book of respect, at all. However, even though Ed Sheeran is in the big book of respect, if he says the secret ingredient, we are kicking him out of the dream restaurant.

Ed Gamble

Yes we are and the secret ingredient this week is candy corns.

James Acaster

Candy corns. Halloween special. In American where Halloween is, like, huge. Like, about candy corns.

Ed Gamble

Yes, massive. And I'd say in the UK, Halloween is about horror and in the US, there's this spooey thing.

James Acaster

Huh?

Ed Gamble

Spoopy.

James Acaster

Go on.

Ed Gamble

Like fun spooky.

James Acaster

Spoopy?

Ed Gamble

Like not-, like kiddie, sort of, cute.

James Acaster

Did you accidentally say, 'Spoopy,' and now you're trying to pass it off as it's-,

Ed Gamble

No, spoopy is a good thing. Benito back me up.

James Acaster

Benito said he's never heard of it. He's shaking his head.

Ed Gamble

Spoopy. It's like cute spooky.

James Acaster

Yes but that doesn't make sense saying spoopy because-,

Ed Gamble

My wife loves all the spoopy stuff. It's spoopy you mother fuckers.

James Acaster

Okay it's spoopy. So, they do it all spoopy. They do do it fun and it is jolly and over here, it is a lot more menacing and more about egging someone's house if they don't give you some sweets.



Ed Gamble

Yes, much prefer that.

James Acaster

Yes. It's your kind of thing because you like savoury, so you like some eggs on your house.

Ed Gamble

Oh I love it. Scramble them up and fling them at my window.

James Acaster

Yes, yes. It really played into your hands on that one, but candy corns, even a sweet tooth mother fucker like me, really does not like candy corns. They are too sweet. I don't like the texture of them in the mouth.

Ed Gamble

Imagine loads of candy corns on a cob.

James Acaster

Yes, candy corns on the cob.

Ed Gamble

Candy corns on the cob.

James Acaster

Having to rotate it and-, ugh. I'd rather eat the cob.

Ed Gamble

Yes, and it's not often you say that.

James Acaster

Yes, not often I'll say that, but I'd rather chop up a cob and eat it.

Ed Gamble

Yes, he'd rather eat the cob.

James Acaster

Than have all the disgusting candy corns on the candy cob.

Ed Gamble

But hopefully Ed Sheeran will not say, 'Candy corns.'

James Acaster

Hopefully he won't say, 'Candy corns,' but we'll see. We'll see, and I'm quite excited. I'm quite excited to go into this one and see what kind of food Ed Sheeran likes.

Ed Gamble

Well, let's go into it before I quickly say that I'm on tour next year. Edgamble.co.uk for tickets and I've released a vinyl, edgamblestore.com for that.

James Acaster

Pretty cool. Pretty ghoul.

Ed Gamble

Pretty ghoul. So now, let's hear the Off Menu menu-,



James Acaster

So spooky.

Ed Gamble

Of dead Sheeran. Welcome Ed to the dream restaurant.

Ed Sheeran

Cool.

James Acaster

Welcome Ed Sheeran to the dream restaurant. We've been expecting you for some time.

Ed Gamble

The entrance of the genie there. Did you enjoy the entrance of the genie?

Ed Sheeran

I did, yes. I did. You did just say, just before we started, that you were going to be more strange than you were off mic.

James Acaster

Yes, I warned you. I gave you fair warning Ed Sheeran. I said, because I just had a very nice normal chat with you, and I thought, 'This guy needs to be given a heads up that I'm about to do a genie noise and claim that I've burst out of a lamp.'

Ed Gamble

It's the first time you've ever given anyone a heads up as well.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Sheeran

That's nice though. Do people usually come in and then you go straight into the podcast?

Ed Gamble

Pretty much because we're doing a lot on Zoom, so it's quite difficult to have a pre-chat.

Ed Sheeran

Zoom podcasts are difficult, aren't they?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Ed Sheeran

I mean, it's still lovely to be able to talk but I've-, yes. I find in person is much more personable.

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes, we love it.

James Acaster

Yes, yes actually. Agreed. Also, this is a very exciting episode because I think, correct me if I'm wrong, it's our first time having another Ed on the podcast.

Ed Gamble

It is. I was thinking about this.



James Acaster

Double Ed.

Ed Gamble

Double Ed, yes.

Ed Sheeran

Are you going to make the, 'Two Ed's are better than one?'

James Acaster

Oh. I hadn't even thought of that.

Ed Gamble

No, not thought of that.

James Acaster

Do you know what? I quit as a comedian. I quit. Again, I quit. If I can't up with, 'Two Ed's are better than one,' Sheeran is now replacing me on the podcast. That's it. You're the new genie.

Ed Sheeran

What makes you laugh though? What actually tickles you?

James Acaster

What makes me laugh? 'Two Ed's are better than one.' That's going to make me laugh for quite a while.

Ed Gamble

Christmas crackers.

James Acaster

Christmas cracker jokes. I don't know. I think it's funny when people get bullied.

Ed Gamble

He loves bullying.

James Acaster

I think that's funny. That's always pretty amusing.

Ed Sheeran

I need to hook you up with my security guard, Kevin. He is like-

James Acaster

Kev.

Ed Sheeran

Kev. Mate, I've never seen anyone take so much joy in the demise of-

James Acaster

Is he a little bullying security guard?

Ed Sheeran

No, no. He's just-, yes. He's Kev. He's funny.



James Acaster

I love it that you just realised, 'I can't say any of this on a podcast.' You just went through every single story about Kev in your head and went, 'Nope, all of that is going to end both of our careers so I'm going to keep all that in my head.'

Ed Sheeran

Oh not mine, no. Or his. I mean he's just-, he's who he is.

Ed Gamble

You want a security guard who is a bit of a bully though, right?

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Sheeran

Yes, but do you know what's great about Kev? Is that I've seen Kev punched in the face and instead of punching the dude back, he got me in a car and out of there. So on that day I was like, 'Oh, you're like -,' There's a difference between someone is just an alpha male, I guess, and someone who is a professional security guard.

Ed Gamble

Yes, but you know he dropped you off at the hotel, drove back and punched the guy in the face, right?

Ed Sheeran

Probably, yes. Probably.

James Acaster

Also in answer to your previous question, definitely one of the things that makes me laugh, would be seeing a guy get punched in the face and then just get in the car and drive away. That is definitely my sense of humour. Just takes the punch and then gets in his car and doesn't even retaliate. Yes, and drives off.

Ed Gamble

Love that.

James Acaster

Yes, I like that. Do you like meeting other Eds? Is this the best Ed you've ever met?

Ed Sheeran

Yes, do you know my-, so in primary school I was called, 'Teddy,' and then another Teddy joined, so then I was just called, 'Ed,' and then another Ed joined, and then I was just called, 'Ed S.' So every time I meet another Ed, it strips me of my identity a bit more.

Ed Gamble

Yes, it is sad, isn't it?

James Acaster

It does feel like, yes, maybe you're not the only Ed in the room anymore. Also with you, normally on the podcast he's swinging it about, he's the only Ed.

Ed Gamble

I'm always saying, 'I'm the only Ed in this room.' That's, sort of, my catchphrase on the podcast. I talk about how I'm the only Ed.



Ed Sheeran

So really that catchphrase is null and void now?

Ed Gamble

Yes gone. I've got to be Ed G for the rest of the pod.

Ed Sheeran

Well I'll be Ed S.

Ed Gamble

Okay cool.

Ed Sheeran

Or Teddy. I mean the other Teddy's not here anymore.

Ed Gamble

Yeah, I like Teddy.

Ed Sheeran

Yes so do I. Mate, that was-, yes, that's why I'm Teddy's Photos on Instagram. My manager's wife still calls me Teddy.

Ed Gamble

But, you know, I'm imagining now. Would Teddy Sheeran be doing as well as Ed Sheeran?

James Acaster

Yes, good question.

Ed Sheeran

Do you know, that was quite a weird thing at the start of my career because everyone thought it was a stage name, because they were like, 'Oh, it sounds so much like a stage name.' And I remember being like, I always thought it was quite an odd thing to see on a poster.

Ed Gamble

Because it was just your name?

Ed Sheeran

Mate, I wanted-, when I was, like, sixteen, seventeen or maybe it was eighteen, I considered changing it to Redwood and then Jedward came on X-factor and I was like, I'm so happy I didn't.

James Acaster

So you were going to call yourself Redwood?

Ed Sheeran

Yes, because of the red hair but Jedward have become friends of mine and I love Jedward, and together they're like, 'It's John, it's Edward, it's Ed Sheeran and together we are Jed Sheeran.' They're so excitable. I sent them a-, I paint and I sent them a painting and they sent me a painting back that they did, and it was actually really, really good.

James Acaster

Wow, so hold on. What's this musicians thing where you send each other paintings?

Ed Sheeran

No, they just saw that I was doing-, I painted my album cover and they saw that I did it and they said, 'Would you do us one?' and I was like, 'Yes, why not?' And yes, sent them one and then they



sent me one back. It was painted for my daughter and it was like a cat with a drum kit and it was to hang in her bedroom. It's really sweet. Really sweet.

Ed Gamble

Yes, that's really nice.

James Acaster

A cat with a drum kit.

Ed Gamble

Are they excitable all of the time?

Ed Sheeran

For like ten, fifteen minutes they are, 'Jedward. We're Jedward.' And then when I'm like, 'Guys, let's have a conversation.' I've had really, really deep chats with them but whenever people meet them with me, they are just Jedward. When did I first meet them? I think I was driving through Toronto and I just saw them. They were just walking down the street, and I rolled down my window and I was like, 'Jedward!' And they were like, 'Hey!' And then I picked them up and I took them to my hotel room and then instantly was like, 'Oh fuck, what have I let myself in for?' Because they were going on Google and showing me like signed Justin Timberlake CDs that they-, 'We're going to order this one and we're going to order this one, too. What do you think about this set?' And I was kind of like, 'Guys, I need a sleep.' So I just went in my room and fell asleep and then they left. I didn't see them again for a while. And then I saw them. I actually, this sounds name drop-y but it's quite funny. I did a Beatles event and Paul McCartney was at it, and I was meant to hang with them afterwards but I said, 'No,' to go hang with Jedward. Oh man, that was weird. (TC 00:10:00) They, kind of, trashed a hotel room and then put it back together. It was, kind of, the most Jedward rock and roll thing but man, they're really sweet kids. Well, they're not kids. They're my age. Fucking hell.

James Acaster

Oh sure but, I do-,

Ed Gamble

Driving down the street and just seeing them.

James Acaster

'Jedward.'

Ed Gamble

In my mind, it's in the middle of nowhere in Canada. Like, it's a completely blank landscape and just in the distance you can see Jedward in the horizon.

James Acaster

Probably could have told who they were from quite a long way off.

Ed Sheeran

Yes, well they still had the big quiffs then. They don't have the quiffs anymore.

James Acaster

That's Jedward. You've got a new album coming out, very excited. You're wearing the hoody of it as well. Are you wearing your own merch, Ed Sheeran?

Ed Sheeran

Yes I am, I am. Do you know, I never have. I've always worn clothes.



James Acaster

Yes, congrats. Which is interesting.

Ed Gamble

We're getting all the exclusives.

James Acaster

Interesting stuff. I'll have you know Ed, a lot of the time, the tabloids take stuff out of this podcast and they make big stories out of it and if they know you've always worn clothes, that's going to go huge.

Ed Sheeran

But my record label made-, my record label have always made, like, alright merch. It's just, like, the album name on a hoody and then recently, they've been making-, I don't know who is the new merch guy there but they're making really, really good stuff.

James Acaster

It's really nice.

Ed Sheeran

I just started wearing it and it's the first time my fan base have actually been like, 'Oh wow, we like this merch.' Usually it's like, 'Okay, we have to buy this t-shirt.' Yes. People really seem to like it, so I've started wearing it a bit more. Obviously this podcast is not filmed, so slightly pointless, but you know it's coming out.

James Acaster

We're looking at it. We think it's great. Equals, you've got the emblem on the chest. Why all the maths?

Ed Sheeran

I just, you know-,

Ed Gamble

Quite an aggressive question James.

James Acaster

Well listen, I want to know.

Ed Sheeran

I quite like explaining it though because people do find it odd but I had reached a point in my career, when I was, like, nineteen, where I was like, 'Right, no one is going to sign me. I've got all these songs, I should just start releasing stuff and see how it goes.' So I set out a plan of fifteen projects and five of them were EPs and I would do five different EPs and five different genres, I guess. So there was one band EP, one acoustic produced EP, that ended up being the sound of Plus. One duet EP with one girl called Amy but it was a girl called Ledger that sung on it, and then a live EP and then a collaboration EP with the grime scene. I was like, 'I'm just going to get all this music out there and see how it goes.' The first one came out and bombed. Second one came out and it had, 'A-team,' on it, so it started getting some traction. Third one came out and it had a few of these love acoustic songs so that started getting some traction. Then I did a live EP and people were turning up to gigs and then I did the collaborations EP, and then it all came together and blew up. So from that point, I was like, 'Right, the next set is five albums where Plus is the addition on to all the EPs and it basically continues with the same sound. Multiply makes it bigger, so it takes it into stadiums. Divide is a double album of R&B and acoustic and there were two more.' They were meant to go in a different order but, Equals was always the end of the equation with all the sounds in one, which is what Equals is. But then there's an acoustic record after, Equals.



James Acaster

I always thought, 'Divide,' was a political thing because you brought it out in 2017 after the Brexit referendum and the country was divided.

Ed Sheeran

We actually pushed it back because of that reason. It was meant to come in 2016 and it was the Brexit referendum and Trump getting in. It was meant to come out the week of the election and I remember being like, 'We should push this back to March because people will think that.'

Ed Gamble

And he still thought it.

James Acaster

I still thought it, but that's because, you know, not everyone is as sharp as me.

Ed Sheeran

'Shape of You,' is hardly a political statement though, is it?

James Acaster

Sure. I mean, look, I'm not saying this is the political-, you know. When it first came out and I saw the title I was like, 'Woah, here we go. The country is divided and Sheeran is commenting on it.'

Ed Gamble

Ed's got some stuff to say.

James Acaster

I like all the calculator-, well it's not really calculator stuff. It's maths stuff.

Ed Gamble

Maths stuff. The maths came before the calculator.

Ed Sheeran

I like the idea because all the albums have colours. So, Equals is red. Divide was blue. Multiply was green. Plus was orange. And I like the idea of you see colours and then you see the symbol and then you know what the album was. So we can do billboards all over London and it can just be red with an equals sign and people will be like, 'Oh, Ed's got a new album coming out,' rather than shoving it down people's throats.

James Acaster

Do you think you'll ever bring out an album that's called 58008?

Ed Sheeran

No. These are-, I've got one more maths one and then that's the end of it. And I quite like, the tour is called the mathematics tour because American's don't say, 'Mathematics,' or, 'Maths,' they say, 'Math.' They're kind of like, 'What's that?'

Ed Gamble

Thank you for not changing it to the Math tour, to suck up to the Americans.

Ed Sheeran

Well I actually love the fact that it's all symbols, so whoever in press has to write it out has to find where the divide is and you have to go on a completely separate keyboard that you have to download and it's just a ball ache.



Ed Gamble

James made a very immature joke there and huge respect to you for skimming over it. Calling the next album 58,008?

Ed Sheeran

That's just a meme that goes round. I wouldn't say that that's like an original joke.

James Acaster

Yes, that's not an original joke.

Ed Sheeran

'Ed Sheeran's next album is the square root of blah blah blah,' or pi, or-,

Ed Gamble

Not only was it immature, it was un-original.

James Acaster

I'm just saying. What am I meant to do? It's a podcast. Come up with original material every week? Are you kidding me, do you know how many episodes we have to do per series?

Ed Sheeran

How many series have you done?

Ed Gamble

Six.

James Acaster

Six, man.

Ed Sheeran

With 20 episodes each?

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes, so I think we've done 130 or so.

Ed Sheeran

With repeat guests? Or is it always-,

Ed Gamble

Nope, never had repeat guests.

James Acaster

When you turn it upside down it says, 'Boobs.'

Ed Gamble

Yes, we know.

Ed Sheeran

Oh. That's some meta shit right there. He's -

James Acaster

No one has done that joke. No one has done that joke before.



Ed Sheeran

Man. That's-,

James Acaster

See, you owe me an apology.

Ed Gamble

Do you get it now Ed? Ed S?

Ed Sheeran

I do, yes. I do. I never finished school though so I don't know-, you know.

James Acaster

Everybody owes me an apology at this table.

Ed Sheeran

I mean it's clever. I wouldn't say it's funny, it's clever.

James Acaster

Yes, yes, yes, yes.

Ed Sheeran

Although I am laughing, so it is funny. I'm sorry. I'm very, very sorry.

James Acaster

First of all, the jokes. Clever.

Ed Gamble

You're not getting an apology off me.

James Acaster

Huh?

Ed Gamble

You're not getting an apology off me.

James Acaster

Well, by the end of this podcast, you will apologise. We always start with still or sparkling water, Teddy?

Ed Sheeran

I would always go still but sometimes when I'm not drinking, sparkling gives you the same-, you can go out for a night out, have a squeeze of lemon and sparkling water and no one comes up to you and goes, 'Why aren't you drinking?' They just assume you're having a gin and tonic. So, I would go sparkling if I'm trying to not get too fucked up.

Ed Gamble

If you were just drinking flat water and someone came up to you and went, 'Why are you not drinking?' Would that be how quickly you would be convinced into drinking?

Ed Sheeran

Yes.



Ed Gamble

Would it be that quick? 'Why are you not drinking?' 'I'm sorry.'

Ed Sheeran

No, it's more the peer pressure of seeing-, I'm not saying you can't have-, I've had great nights out sober but I've just had more fun nights out plastered.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

So, what you're saying is some nights you'll go out and you'll have a fizzy water with a lemon in it and you'll act like you're drunk around everyone and you'll pretend?

Ed Sheeran

No. No, it's less people coming up to you and forcing you to take shots.

James Acaster

Out of all your mates, who's the one who is the most like that? Who's like, 'Why aren't you drinking man? Come on.'

Ed Sheeran

Mate. I mean he's my best friend. A guy called Fred. He would be-, we had a party once and everyone fell asleep at about 2:00. Everyone was like, 'We're fucked.' And he used to live in Dubai and he was over for the day and he was like, 'No, it's not ending.' And I just remember being woken up with a Jagerbomb. He, sort of, poked me, woke me up, gave me a Jagerbomb and I downed it and I went, 'I'm still going back to sleep,' and then went back to bed. I felt rough in the morning. Mate, he's the best, but he can rally the troops as well. If everyone is dipping, he can rally the troops. He's, like, pure uni, rugby lad, so he knows all the drinking games. Do you know what I mean? He's pure uni.

James Acaster

Yes. In my mind now, Fred's the one that punched your security guard in the face.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Probably.

James Acaster

He was the one who did it.

Ed Sheeran

Mate, that would just never happen. But Fred, he's the start and end of a party. He can just make a party happen even if everyone is, sort of, flagging, he'll make it happen.

James Acaster

So, if he walked in here now, we'd probably all be partying pretty soon?

Ed Sheeran

Not partying, but we'd be playing drinking games, yes. Very quickly.

James Acaster

Favourite drinking game?



Ed Sheeran

There's one called Sink the Bismark, where you have a bucket and a pint glass and a bucket. And you all have your drink and you all pour a little bit of water into the glass, and then there's another pint glass that you pour a bit of your drink in to. And the person who sinks the glass-, so you pour tiny, tiny, tiny bits to keep it afloat and it gets to a point where the glass is literally on a knife's edge of falling, and then when it goes in, someone has to down the pint with everything in it. It works well if everyone is on gin and tonic because you end up just drinking gin and tonic, but it's bad if like someone's on red wine, someone's on beer, someone's on-

Ed Gamble

Someone's on Bailey's.

Ed Sheeran

Yes.

Ed Gamble

You need a bucket for that one as well.

Ed Sheeran

We sometimes go en masse, as a friendship group, to Ibiza and go to one of those day clubs and that's one you play with loads of random people there, and it's just fun. It's just fun.

James Acaster

Kevin and Perry?

Ed Sheeran

Kevin and Perry.

James Acaster

That's all I know about Ibiza.

Ed Gamble

That's all you know about Ibiza?

Ed Sheeran

Do you know what? My wife had never seen it and I was like, 'How have you never seen Kevin and Perry?' So, we started watching it, and I think because she's now watching it as a 29-year-old woman and not a thirteen-year-old kid, she was like, 'Yes, I don't know if I like this.' And I was like, 'But it's culture, you have to watch it.'

Ed Gamble

It's culture. It's pure culture.

James Acaster

It is weird showing someone, as an adult, something that you loved as a teenager. So, it's a part of your life and, like, your formative years and everything and you think it's a classic and then you show another adult and you're like, 'Oh no.'

Ed Sheeran

Well, like Ali G. Ali G Indahouse, I feel like every single one of my mates had that on VHS and that was just something that we all watched, and now you meet people that haven't seen it and you can't explain why that film was important, if that makes sense?

James Acaster

Yes.



Ed Gamble

Yes, Martin Freeman was in it.

Ed Sheeran

Oh, mate, I met him when I did the Hobbit. I did, like, a song for the Hobbit and we did a press run, and I remember getting pissed and being like, 'Man, I loved Ali G.' I think he wasn't my biggest fan, I don't think.

Ed Gamble

I tried to get him to do the Fargo accent all the time, so you're probably okay. You probably came off better than I did.

Ed Sheeran

No but I remember telling him it was a seminal role. He's Ricky C in it. I remember being like, 'Ricky C man, that's a seminal role.'

James Acaster

Yes, but you're Ed S.

Ed Gamble

Even when you said it then, and I know you meant it, (TC 00:20:00) it sounded sarcastic.

Ed Sheeran

It wasn't though. It wasn't.

James Acaster

Seminal role.

Ed Gamble

I know. But saying, 'Ricky C was a seminal role.'

Ed Sheeran

I only saw the office probably like four, five years ago and I only watched it because I'd seen the David Brent on tour film. I just had never seen it. So I didn't know-, I now watch it and I'm like, 'Oh, that's the cultural marking.'

James Acaster

Hold on, hold on. Did you just say that your way into the office was David Brent, Life on the Road?

Ed Sheeran

Yes and I got shown it because someone said, 'This is like your life.' Because I had a load of mates employed on tour and I watched it and I was like, 'Oh, man, this is quite depressing.' There were so many different correlations. But that's a fine way to get into it. I'm sure Ricky-,

James Acaster

You're just the first person I've met who has got into The Office by watching David Brent, Life on the Road.

Ed Sheeran

But I got into it, this is the thing. The route in to something great. It doesn't matter how you get into it. It's just-,

James Acaster

I'm not having a go.



Ed Sheeran

But you are.

James Acaster

But it's just blowing my mind.

Ed Sheeran

But you can't compare-, this is the thing with great shows like that, that people are like very, very protective over. You can't complain how people get into them. It's like, I didn't hear a Michael Jackson song until-, well, that I knew that it was a Michael Jackson song, until I was about twelve. I saw him on Top of the Pops doing Rock My World and I'm like, 'Who's this guy?' And then from there-, but I just didn't grow up with it. From that, I was like, 'I like his music,' but you can't rag on me for not knowing something before.

James Acaster

I'm not ragging on you.

Ed Sheeran

You know.

James Acaster

I'm not ragging.

Ed Sheeran

I knew that The Office existed, I'd just had never seen it.

James Acaster

No ragging going on here.

Ed Gamble

You've got to stop ragging on Ed man.

James Acaster

Listen, actually, I apologise for the ragging. Poppadoms or bread? Poppadoms or bread, Ed Sheeran? Poppadoms or bread?

Ed Sheeran

Christ, man. It's fucking nine. Oh no, it's ten. It's 9:55. This is my thing. In a restaurant, I would never eat bread on a table because I'd be like, 'Why am I filling myself up for the meal?' But I would always have poppadoms. So I'd probably say poppadoms but in a day-to-day life, I'd have bread every single morning. If I've gone out for a nice meal-, unless it's, like, a really, really fancy restaurant and you know the bread is going to be like warm and cooked and brought out, I'm probably not touching the bread beforehand.

Ed Gamble

That's good. We don't get many people actually thinking about that. But you would always-, if you go to an Indian restaurant and they put poppadoms on the table, you would always go for them.

James Acaster

Yes you've always got to go for-,

Ed Gamble

Just to get the mouth fired up, right?



James Acaster

Yes, get it started.

Ed Sheeran

But I think sometimes-, so I went to a three Michelin place the other day and the bread came out and it was almost a course and it was almost the best thing of the meal, because it was made into the warm bread and you've got the buttery, salty stuff. But I would say, if I'm going to the local Italian around the corner, I'm going to have some nice pasta or a pizza, I wouldn't have bread before that.

Ed Gamble

Yes, good shout.

James Acaster

Yes, so what are you thinking for this meal? Because I was hoping you'd pick bread so I could call you Bread Sheeran, so just keep that in mind.

Ed Sheeran

There's unofficial cards of me, which is just like a loaf of bread with my face on it, and I'm like, 'Someone is getting paid for that, but it isn't me.' I get sent them as birthday cards. There's one that says, 'Egg Sheeran,' as well, on an egg.

Ed Gamble

That doesn't work as well as Bread Sheeran.

Ed Sheeran

But they're in Marks & Spencers and stuff and I see them and I'm like, 'Who's sanctioning this, because it's not us?'

Ed Gamble

That's Kev. That's Kev side line.

James Acaster

Gets punched in the face and he goes, 'I can take that hit to the face, I'm absolutely rolling in the Bread Sheeran money.' Have you ever bought one for anyone? Or had one bought for you?

Ed Sheeran

I get sent them a lot. I get sent them a lot. I got sent them as cards for when my daughter was born being like, 'Congratulations on your daughter being born,' and we're opening one up being like, 'That's such a weird card to send someone.'

Ed Gamble

'Congratulations on your daughter being born, here's some money that she'll never see.'

Ed Sheeran

Yes, yes. I think she'll be fine.

James Acaster

Also, I'm hoping that you chose brioche so I can call you Bread Sharin'.

Ed Sheeran

Bread Sharin', yes. No brioche I find too-, we got into those-, you know over lockdown, you get those burger kits that you could send and cook at home, and brioche was always a bit too sweet for me. I think I just like a standard bun with sesame on the top.



James Acaster

I've said this on the podcast a lot, and people always disagree with me.

Ed Sheeran

But it's not having-, like I'm not saying the shitty white bread that would be, like, 59p. I'm saying, 'A nice bread roll with some sesame seeds on the top I think is better than a brioche bun for a burger.' The type of rolls that you buy from bakery for the barbecue.

James Acaster

100%, on board.

Ed Sheeran

You don't want them though when they're like fluffy.

Ed Gamble

Patty & Bun do a demi-brioche which is slightly sweet but it's still got the-,

James Acaster

Patty & Bun evangelist, as always.

Ed Gamble

It's good stuff, man. It's a demi-brioche. It's half sweet, it's perfect. It's just what you need.

Ed Sheeran

I'm up for trying that. I'm up for trying that.

Ed Gamble

There we go.

James Acaster

Try it. He goes on about Patty & Bun all the live long day, Ed. If you get him started on it, he won't stop talking about it.

Ed Gamble

I will, it's nice.

Ed Sheeran

I think Patty & Bun was one of the places I got the burger kit from.

Ed Gamble

There you go. Did you enjoy it?

Ed Sheeran

I did enjoy it. What I enjoyed about it is, it was sort of like being-, mate, I'm not even going to go into this. It was just interactive eating. I liked it. I was about to say, 'It's sort of like being in a restaurant but not.' And then I was like, 'Of course. That's the whole point of it.'

Ed Gamble

That's a good point though.

James Acaster

But to be fair though, that's what was nice about those home kits. Is that even though it sounds like an obvious thing to say, when you are in that situation, we hadn't had that before.



Ed Sheeran

Yes it was just a nice experience to do, and it takes at least half an hour and so that's half an hour out the day that's used.

Ed Gamble

And you're basically-, you're eating stuff that you could order from Deliveroo really, but you feel less guilty because you spent a bit of time making it.

Ed Sheeran

So this is in-, in Suffolk, there's no-, well actually, there might be in Ipswich, but in Framlingham, where I live, there is no Deliveroo or Uber. So I have people come visit and they're like, 'Yes, I'll just Uber home' and I'm like, 'No you won't, you'll book a taxi a week in advance and you'll be happy about it.'

Ed Gamble

So, there's nothing on Deliveroo?

Ed Sheeran

No, but there's, like, two kebab shops nearby that I will drive into, because they're five minutes away. I'll ring them up just before I get-, I'll like, 'Can I have a chicken wrap?' And then I'll order it and by the time I get there, it's done and I'll pick it up and go home.

Ed Gamble

Do you feel like you've made an effort for that as well?

Ed Sheeran

Yes, but then I'll probably eat it before I go home.

James Acaster

Did you chose poppadoms or bread? I can't remember.

Ed Sheeran

I think I chose poppadoms, yeah.

Ed Gamble

I think we we went with poppadoms.

James Acaster

We went with poppadoms.

Ed Sheeran

Needs a good dip though.

James Acaster

What dip? What dip are you thinking?

Ed Sheeran

I just think mango chutney.

James Acaster

Are the other ones even getting a look in?



Ed Sheeran

Not really, no. They're always brought out-, there's a really fantastic Indian restaurant I go to in London called Gymkhana and there are always three different-, or maybe even four different things, and I just always smash the mango chutney and then get more of that.

Ed Gamble

We're big, big fans of Gymkhana on this podcast.

Ed Sheeran

So, this is the life hack that I've found there. The butter chicken and the rice is way too much for one person. I always found myself being really full, but if you split it between two people, it's the perfect amount.

James Acaster

Is that your order in most Indian restaurants? Do you go for the butter chicken?

Ed Sheeran

No. I'm actually a vindaloo man. I really like vindaloo. I know that's crazy but I'll go veg usually. I think in a place like Gymkhana it's quite good chicken, but if I'm anywhere round the country and I just want a curry, I'll usually go veg just to be on the safe side.

James Acaster

Muntjac biryani man. Every time I'm at Gymkhana.

Ed Sheeran

Yes?

James Acaster

I say, 'Every time,' as if I'm in there all the time but like, every time I've been. That was the best cook at home kit.

Ed Sheeran

Yes the Gymkhana one. I've been doing that whenever friends of mine have babies, because I find that when you have a kid, you lose date night, because you're suddenly looking after the kid, like, every second of the day. But sometimes, it will get to Friday night and they'll be asleep and you can't go out but it's quite nice-, so I send these kits to friends of mine who have kids and then on a Friday night-, it will be like going to Gymkhana but not.

James Acaster

Wow, so when your friends have babies, you send them a Gymkhana cook at home kit.

Ed Sheeran

The last few-, we've had really close friends have babies in Suffolk and I found the best thing that you can send someone-, because everyone sends stuff for the babies firstly but they always forget about the mother and it's a massive change. And a massive shift and a huge-, birth itself is pretty fucked up. The best thing to do is send scented candles or like a nice bath salt or something, and frozen lasagnes. That they can just put in the freezer and not think about and they go, 'What's for dinner tonight? That frozen lasagne.' So I usually would send a stack of ten, so, yes. I think it's thinking ahead.

Ed Gamble

I might have a kid now. If you get sent frozen lasagne.



Ed Sheeran

But if a friend of yours has a kid, don't send them-, obviously send them cute clothes or whatever because that is lovely as well, but just maybe send them a frozen meal or a cook at home meal or yes, something for the mum.

Ed Gamble

That's a good shout.

James Acaster

Probably the nicest person we've ever had on the podcast. We've never had anyone this nice on the podcast.

Ed Gamble

I feel like a piece of shit.

James Acaster

What the hell? I never think about the mother. My own sister has got kids.

Ed Sheeran

I was exactly the same. A friend would have a kid, I'd send them a teddy bear and a onesie and then be done with it but-,

Ed Gamble

Literally just yesterday, gave a toy monkey to my friend who's just had a baby.

Ed Sheeran

And that's totally fine, but I'm saying, from having a kid, I realised-, fuck, like-,

Ed Gamble

It's alright, I'm seeing him next week. I'm taking a frozen lasagne with me.

Ed Sheeran

Exactly, and he will appreciate that so much. I promise you.

Ed Gamble

Although he's got to get it home so it will probably be defrosted by the time.

James Acaster

But then, even better.

Ed Sheeran

Or just send him a Patty & Bun cook kit.

Ed Gamble

I'm going to send him a-, he's vegetarian but I'm still going to do that.

Ed Sheeran

What, Patty & Bun don't do veggie?

Ed Gamble

Yes, they probably do but I'm-,

Ed Sheeran

So, I grew up veggie, right, and the veggie options when you were a kid were shit. And I just remember always-, it's probably why I started eating meat. I got to thirteen, I was at school, sausage



rolls were there. There were burgers and I was like, 'Fuck this.' But now, the vegetarian option is now better than the fucking meat option. Linda McCartney was, like, the top, top. Although the Quorn fake chicken burgers-, on tour, our tour chef would make a fake KFC Zinger burger with that and it was banging.

James Acaster

When I was doing my B-Tech in Music Practice course in Northampton College for two years, me and my friend Graham every Friday went and got Zinger Tower Burgers from KFC and we'd watch the extreme sports on the TV.

Ed Gamble

Perhaps you can see why he didn't continue in music because that's what he spent his time doing when he should have been learning about it.

James Acaster

Yes, I wasn't practising. We get on to your proper dream meal now, starting with your dream starter. Is this from a specific place or is it, like, a general dish?

Ed Sheeran

So I fucking love nigiri.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Sheeran

I love nigiri and there is a place where (TC 00:30:00) me and my wife go for our anniversary, which is the Araki in London which is-, so this is what I love about restaurants is where it's taken out of your hands and there is no-, well there is a menu, but you rarely wouldn't look at it. And it's like a tasting thing and someone just goes, 'Hey, here's something you'll like.' And you eat it and you go, 'Yes, I like that.' 'And here's something else you like.' I find Omakase sushi is so much of that because sushi is a minefield sometimes. You go, 'I don't fucking know,' and having a chef go, 'Hey, try that.' 'Hey, try that.' And it's such a quick thing. You don't use any cutlery, it's just with your hands and I love that. So I would say nigiri and I would say medium, fatty tuna nigiri.

James Acaster

Very nice.

Ed Gamble

I love it. Tuna is the way to go.

Ed Sheeran

Yes although we probably should slow down a bit with tuna, you know.

James Acaster

To be fair, absolutely. We should always slow down on tuna.

Ed Gamble

They're massive. Have you seen a tuna? They're huge.

James Acaster

That's the problem though.

Ed Gamble

We should all get one big tuna at the beginning of the year and we've got to portion ourselves.



Ed Sheeran

This is what the, like, top, top sushi restaurants in Japan do. You know they'll sell tunas for like a million pounds, and one sushi restaurant will buy that tuna for a million pounds and that will just be them for a long time.

Ed Gamble

Wow, I didn't know that.

Ed Sheeran

And it's good publicity because people go, 'They bought the million pound tuna.'

James Acaster

They bought the million pound tuna.

Ed Gamble

That would hurt though, wouldn't it? Spending a million pounds on a tuna.

Ed Sheeran

I imagine so, yes. I imagine so. Imagine not refrigerating it properly, you know.

James Acaster

It would be really gutting if people didn't say they bought the million pound tuna. If I bought a million pound tuna and no one talked about it, I'd be like, 'What the fuck did I do that for? I spent a million quid on that tuna.' You at least want people to say-, I'd want to hear people saying when I walk past, 'He bought the million pound tuna.'

Ed Gamble

I feel like they wouldn't be saying it in a nice way though, about you. They'd be like, 'Oh man.' Especially-,

James Acaster

Or, like, if I didn't have a restaurant. If I just bought a million pound tuna.

Ed Sheeran

You wouldn't have a restaurant or a fridge that can fill it. You just have this thing rotting in your house.

James Acaster

What have you done that for? It's like, 'I sent it to a new mum. I just sent it over. There's a million pound tuna for you. I know it can be tricky, it can be hard.'

Ed Gamble

It can be tricky being a new mum, people don't often think about the mum.

Ed Sheeran

Very, very good. This is where I see the professional comedian come out.

James Acaster

Here he comes out.

Ed Gamble

I mean we're about half an hour into the podcast.

James Acaster

I've been throwing them out left right and centre, but finally, you haven't got a fist pump over there.



Ed Gamble

No I'm not looking for one, I'm not looking for one.

James Acaster

No, well you're not going to get it with that attitude. Tuna nigiri. Fatty tuna nigiri as well. You want a proper-

Ed Gamble

Medium fatty specifically.

Ed Sheeran

Yes, well, the Araki, they do three tunas. One is like normal, one is medium fatty and one is really fatty and they're all great. Mate, it's a great spot. It's one of these places where, because it's quite-, it's a wait to get into so when you're there, you really, really appreciate it.

Ed Gamble

It feels like a special night out.

Ed Sheeran

Well, there is only, like, ten seats I think, and it's just great. It's just great. That's probably my favourite restaurant in the world, I would say.

James Acaster

My mum refuses to eat sushi. She just doesn't like the thought of raw fish. She eats fish but she just thinks-, she's actually very open minded with food but with this she's always like, 'No, I'll never touch it.' Doesn't want to eat it. Do you have a message for her?

Ed Sheeran

Do you know what? I used to be a pizza and chips man and that was all I ate, and then when I started travelling the world, my thing of it was, if a whole culture goes, 'This is our thing and we love it.' Then I'm going to give it a go. I'm going to give it a go, because when you go into any restaurant and there's a chef there, and they specialise in something, it has to be good. It has to be. There's probably a way of easing into it, if she went to more of a Californian Japanese restaurant, she could probably ease into it a bit more because it's more Westernised, I guess. And then she'll be like, 'Oh I quite like this,' and then she could start trying stuff. I think if she goes straight into nigiri, maybe she wouldn't like it. Maybe try, like, a soft shell crab tempura roll first, you know.

James Acaster

Yes, I wonder if I could get that past her. My dad loves soft shell crab.

Ed Gamble

Yes, of course he does.

James Acaster

Yes, yes. That's the thing he loves now. He didn't use to love it and he text me the other day saying, 'Just ate a soft shell crab,' and then he wrote, 'Oh yes.'

Ed Sheeran

I never really loved nigiri. It was always the part that-, I would go just pure Californian rolls with fried stuff in the middle with like mayonnaise on top. But I think going to Japan and I think having a menu taken away from you is the key. Where someone just goes, 'You'll like this,' and you just try new things.



Ed Gamble

I went to-, my friend had a pop up at Quality Wines. He runs a good food delivery thing called Decatur, that do shrimp oils and stuff. I went to that the other night and he went, 'Do you want to order stuff or shall I just bring you stuff out?' I went, 'Just bring me stuff out. That's brilliant. Take the decision out of my hands.' What I didn't realise was, he bought us everything on the menu. I mean literally everything on the menu.

Ed Sheeran

So you were just trying little bits?

Ed Gamble

Not trying little bits. No. Eating the whole thing of every dish that came out.

Ed Sheeran

Nice.

Ed Gamble

And we rolled out of that place. We felt awful. It was a really horrible end to the night.

James Acaster

Well, you've sent me photos of food from that place and it's massive.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

It's humongous.

Ed Sheeran

Yes, well this is the key with trying stuff on the menu. It has to be-, I always went to Gymkhana and I just ordered a butter chicken and rice. The other night I was like, 'Oh, there's a tasting menu,' and I've been going there for seven or eight years, but the tasting menu is more bite size stuff. So it's-, I think if you're going to do that, it needs to be-, like, if there's a burger on the menu of this place that you go to, it should be a little bit of it and then you try that and then you do it.

Ed Gamble

I can't do it Ed. I can't do it. I've got to finish it. I've got to clean the plate.

Ed Sheeran

No, no. I mean they should be offering you a little bit rather than-,

Ed Gamble

I think he was doing it to test me. I think he was doing it to test me.

Ed Sheeran

Did you have a strict dad when you were younger?

Ed Gamble

No, not really but actually my dad is very-,

Ed Sheeran

Clean the plate, yes.

Ed Gamble

'I'm a child of the 50s, you've got to eat everything. You can't waste anything.'



Ed Sheeran: Exactly, same. So we never wasted-, we never wasted anything. That's the most difficult thing about trying to eat in America is the portion sizes are huge and I always feel, now, I always used to always finish them but then I turned into a fat cunt. And now when I go back, I have to just ask them to just half or quarter it.

James Acaster

Yes, Ed's dad is crazy.

Ed Gamble

Yes, he's a mad man.

Ed Sheeran

Elaborate?

James Acaster

Well, just a weird guy.

Ed Gamble

You're the weirdest guy I know, if that puts it in-,

Ed Sheeran

I don't think you are. I think you put this on.

James Acaster

I do put it on.

Ed Sheeran

We hung before the podcast and I was like-, I wouldn't have guessed, and then suddenly you switch it on.

Ed Gamble

What's really interesting is you're having a lovely chat before the podcast and you never said this to a guest before, 'I'm quite weird on the podcast.' And now, you are being weirder than you have ever been on the podcast.

Ed Sheeran

And I really respect you. I love-,

James Acaster

Being weirder but also it's because Ed Sheeran is such a nice and normal man, that I feel like in order to address the balance, I have to go even weirder because you're a very nice, normal-, and I'm sure you've heard that before.

Ed Sheeran

You can go weirder, if you want. You can do.

James Acaster

Do you remember when Chris Ramsey got you to sing a song on the toilet?

Ed Sheeran

That was my toilet.

James Acaster

It was your toilet?



Ed Sheeran

Yes. I just bought that house and he came for-, just before New Year or something. Yes, I can't remember why. Oh, it was Christmas. I was singing a Christmas song, yes.

James Acaster

Yes, you were singing Jingle Bells.

Ed Sheeran

That was, like, 2012. I'd bought my house in February of that year, and I was very proud of it but it was-, it didn't really turn into a house until my wife moved in, because it was just mattresses on the floor, and one television with a PlayStation kind of thing.

James Acaster

That was Chris' idea because I remember-, because he had his Nandos jumper on, his Nandos Christmas jumper.

Ed Sheeran

He wanted to get a Black Card.

James Acaster

He wanted to get a Black Card. And who knows? I guess we can't legally say if he succeeded.

Ed Sheeran

I think he did get one but Nandos-,

James Acaster

They don't exist. The Black Card doesn't exist.

Ed Sheeran

Mate, I can show you it. I've got it.

James Acaster

Fair enough.

Ed Sheeran

There we go.

Ed Gamble

Ed, you're not supposed to say they exist. They're the rules.

Ed Sheeran

Have you got one?

Ed Gamble

No, because they don't exist.

Ed Sheeran

You've got one, haven't you?

Ed Gamble

No, because they don't exist.

Ed Sheeran

Mate, Example showed one on camera.



Ed Gamble

That's Example.

Ed Sheeran

Do you know why Example got one originally? He was the first ever person to get one, and he got one originally because he put them on the front cover of his mix tape. If you look at We Didn't Invent the Remix, there's a Nandos on the cover and they were just like, 'Yes, I guess, here's a Black Card.' Genuinely, I have Nando-, because I'm not in London all the time but I genuinely, genuinely have it every single lunch when I'm here. Clare will tell you. If I'm doing promo, it's always an extra hot chicken wrap and a coleslaw, every time. It's, like, every single day because I'm a creature of habit, and I just want-, sometimes you just want the same thing every time. I'll have a different dinner but I just like the same lunch.

Ed Gamble

Nandos is good for that as well because it's consistent across the country.

Ed Sheeran

But not across the world. Different tastes and different flavours in South Africa, where it's created. Different tastes and flavours in Canada. Really different tastes and flavours in Australia. I sat with the-, I went to South Africa and I got invited to a Shabbat at the owners house, and he had all his family round. Big, big Jewish party, it was amazing. I was talking to him and I was like, 'Why does it taste different here and why does it taste in Australia?' And he was like, 'Because the taste buds around the world and the trends of what people like actually change. So England quite like a zesty spice and our extra hot here is like really, really spicy because that's what we do. If you go to any fast food restaurant now, there's always something on the menu that will blow your head off whereas it was quite plain twenty years ago.' He said, 'It's just different in Canada and different in Australia and different in South Africa.' So they just shift it.

Ed Gamble

Just to let you know, I imagine that entire conversation being conducted with a giant cockerel.

James Acaster

A talking cockerel.

Ed Gamble

Does he look like a cockerel?

Ed Sheeran

Do you know, as a company, he does amazing things as a company. I mean, what they do in the community over there and all the stuff in the restaurants here, all the art, is all local artists from there. All the music is local artists. They really give back to the community. I went to go and do some stuff for them there. I went to do a chat and see the studio and stuff like that but I liked it. And I liked him.

James Acaster

But you did not give a straight yes or no answer to is he a giant cockerel? So that makes me think he is a giant cockerel and you were avoiding the question.

Ed Sheeran

Well there's two people that created it. So, he is not but the other might be.

Ed Gamble

The other guy might be.



Ed Sheeran

The other guy might be a giant cockerel.

James Acaster

Will you join me in saying, 'New Zealand's Nandos can suck it forever?' Because it's the worst Nandos I've ever been to? There was a lot wrong with my visit to New Zealand Nandos.

Ed Sheeran

Oh they had it in New Zealand? I've never been to New Zealand.

James Acaster

Yes. New Zealand Nandos went very badly. No one greeted me at the door and asked me if I'd been to Nandos before. I had to take a seat myself. You had to just get a bottle of drink. They didn't have the bottomless soft drinks.

Ed Sheeran

Oh mate, that's half the thing with the crushed ice.

James Acaster

Exactly.

Ed Gamble

And listen to this Ed, I went the other night and I think they've got new drinks machines and they've got cherry Pepsi Max available.

Ed Sheeran

There you go man. So, when I was on the circuit and I know we said, but I did Camden Head and stuff. When I was on that circuit, they didn't sell Nandos sauce in the supermarket. So the only way you could get it is steal it and I remember going into a Nandos, and I remember bumping into my cousin straight afterwards, and I was really-, it was the only thing I've ever stolen in my life. And I was really shaky afterwards. He was like, 'Why are you so shaky?' And I was like, 'I've just stolen a bottle of Nandos sauce.' And this is how the universe got me back. I went on a tube to a gig. I arrived at a gig and the bottle had smashed in my bag. All over my loop pedal, my equipment, everything.

James Acaster

How spicy was it?

Ed Sheeran

I think it was a medium. I think it was a medium, yes.

James Acaster

Right, okay. Could have been worse.

Ed Sheeran

So Nandos, I'm sorry. I took a sauce from Dalston Nandos in 2008.

Ed Gamble

You deserved that. Instant karma.

Ed Sheeran

Instant karma and for, like, a year, my loop station smelled of Nandos. Just like, constant reminder.

James Acaster

So, is your dream main course Nandos? Or are we going somewhere else?



Ed Sheeran

I'd probably go curry, I'd probably go curry with some naan. That would be interesting to have sushi as a starter for that, wouldn't it? Or it would be a vodka rigatoni pasta. One of those. But really spicy.

James Acaster

Let's hear about that. I've not heard of a vodka rigatoni before.

Ed Sheeran

So, the first time I had it was in this restaurant in America called Carbone and I'd never really found it in Italy. I think it's, like, an Italian American creation but it's like spicy creamy tomato pasta and it's really great. I actually put it on the menu at my bar in Notting Hill, just to have it somewhere where you could eat it, in London. So if you ever want to try it, it's at-, I'm not going to plug my fucking bar.

James Acaster

No do. No, absolutely plug your bar.

Ed Gamble

Please do.

James Acaster

I'd love to hear about this.

Ed Sheeran

Okay, it's on Portobello Road, it's called Bertie Blossoms. Do you know what I hate about lots of-, you go to a pub and there's like a huge menu and you go, 'You can't do all of these things amazingly.' So, we tried to do, there's three mains that are spot on, and there's lots and lots of little starters that you can go to. But the mains are you have a steak and chips, fish and chips and this vodka rigatoni, but the rigatoni is just banging.

James Acaster

See, I mean, you say you don't want to plug it but as soon you said that, I'm like, 'I want to go Bertie Blossoms and get a vodka rigatoni.'

Ed Sheeran

I'd say it's my favourite pasta in London, and I'm not just saying that because it's my place, but I go there if I've got a free afternoon. I would go there later today just to get that pasta and then I'd go elsewhere.

James Acaster

Who is Bertie Blossoms?

Ed Sheeran

So, it's owned by me and my manager and Bertie is his wife. Lib Bertie and Blossoms is my wife, Cherry Blossom. So Bertie Blossoms. We were trying to think of a name and that just fit, because Lib runs the bar, as well. So yes, it just fit.

Ed Sheeran

It, sort of, sounds like a really wank-y posh boy place. 'We should go to Berties.' But it's actually really nice, home cook bar with great-, there's good beers on tap. There's like a great wine selection. My mate is a wine merchant sommelier guy, so he's picked a great wine selection and then Lib's a fiend for champagne. So if you like champagne, she's got you covered.



James Acaster

I like the thought of a man called Bertie Blossoms. I don't really think of a posh boy, I think of an eccentric man.

Ed Sheeran

I'm not saying the man, I'm saying the bar.

James Acaster

Oh yes.

Ed Sheeran

'Shall we go to Berties?' 'Yes.'

Ed Gamble

No, I think Bertie Blossoms would be posh. I think it'd be on the rugby team, with your friend Freddie.

James Acaster

A big mad hatter top hat. I'd be walking around and it would open and close at the top, the top hat would, and it would be all over the place.

Ed Gamble

And pasta would come out the top of the hat.

James Acaster

With a big bow tie. Yes. Bertie Blossoms, is it-

Ed Sheeran

If you guys want to go, let me know. I'll make sure they take care.

Ed Gamble

We will. We'll take you up on that.

James Acaster

I'm ordering the vodka rigatoni. What are you ordering Ed?

Ed Gamble

Well, I did want the vodka rigatoni but, as you know, I can't order the same as anyone else.

James Acaster

What do you think about that?

Ed Sheeran

See, I would actually always order the same as someone because I would never want to feel like their meal was-, I never want to look across the plate and get meal envy.

Ed Gamble

If we went out for a meal, we'd be stuck in an infinite ordering loop because every time I chose what I wanted, you'd order the same and then I'd have to change.

Ed Sheeran

No we'd just go, 'You bring out what you want,' and they just-, because then-,

Ed Gamble

Then we're sorted, actually.



Ed Sheeran

The choice is taken out of our hands.

James Acaster

Yes, and as we know, this guy will finish every single morsel.

Ed Gamble

Every single morsel, even if I feel like I'm about to explode.

Ed Sheeran

I won an ice cream eating competition in American because of that.

Ed Gamble

Tell us every single detail.

James Acaster

Yes please tell us this. How old were you, when was it, where was it? How many other people were in the competition?

Ed Sheeran

I was 22 and I was on tour with Taylor Swift, and she had invited my family to go and stay with her in-,

James Acaster

How did she do in the ice cream eating competition?

Ed Sheeran

She played Eye of the Tiger over and over and over and was going, 'You can do it, you can do it.' Let me tell you the story.

James Acaster

Did Taylor Swift put all the ice cream in a blender and have it as a drink? A shake?

Ed Sheeran

No. So she can shake it off, there you go.

James Acaster

Shake it off, Ed. How do you like that? No fist pump for that one?

Ed Sheeran

No.

James Acaster

Both of them are here. They're out, I'm putting them out there if you want to bump them. If you want to bump them, they're right there.

Ed Sheeran

No that's just taking a bit of pop culture and a thing that people eat.

James Acaster

They're there if you want to bump them.



Ed Sheeran

Oh, go on. So she had invited us to her place in Rhode Island so we got there and she said there's this great little ice cream place in the town. We went there and they had this ice cream eating competition called the Big Cahoona Challenge. At this point I'm, as you said, you finish everything on your plate and I was like, 'I can do this. Like, I know I can do this.' It was something crazy like two litres of ice cream. And I was like, 'I can do that.' So I said, 'We'll do it.' I'm there with Taylor and my brother and they bring this ice cream out, but you have to add toppings and I stupidly said, 'Gummy bears.' They are going to fill you up. So, I start eating this thing and I get maybe half way through and I go, 'Man, I'm killing this.' And then because it's Taylor, lots of fans started turning up. So in the end there's like 20 or 30 young girls going, 'You can do it Ed. You can do it.' So I'm eating this thing, and I get to three quarters and I start shivering and I'm like, 'Oh man, this is actually really, really fucked up.'

I'm there and I'm shivering and I've got one a half litres of ice cream in me with these gummy bears, and I'm shivering but then I've got the pressure of all these kids watching me. And Taylor's playing Eye of the Tiger and my brother, my brother still says to this day, and I've had a lot of achievements in my life, my brother still says the proudest he has ever been of me, is when I finished the Big Cahoona Challenge. So I finish it, everyone is like, 'Yay,' and I go, 'I have to go to the toilet.' And I go over to the toilet and when I say I projectile vomited out of my nose, ice cream. And it's chocolate ice cream. It goes all over the floor of the toilet and I'm like, 'There's 20 kids in here. They're going to come in here and think that I've shat all over the floor.' Then I had to clean it up so I'm there wiping all this melted ice cream. I was in there for probably, like, half an hour. Anyway, cleaned it all up. Went outside, everyone is like, 'Yes, yes, yes.' I got a t-shirt, they took my picture and they put it on the wall and I felt very proud to be on the wall. I think lots of people have done the challenge now but at the time, my stomach could take a lot and now it's-

James Acaster

Imagine being one of those gummy bears. What a wild ride those guys went on.

Ed Sheeran

If you're ever going to do-

James Acaster

Ed Sheeran? Where am I going? Eye of the Tiger? Woah.

Ed Gamble

Ten minutes later, coming out of a bloke's nose.

James Acaster

Was one of the people who finished the challenge before you named Mitch?

Ed Sheeran

No. Why? Have you checked?

James Acaster

There's a bloke on YouTube called Matt Stoney.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I've seen Matt Stoney, yeah.

James Acaster

He eats 25 big macs in 25 minutes.

Ed Gamble

Yes it's crazy and he's tiny as well.



Ed Sheeran

It's insane. He ate a 20,000 calorie burger that I watched him do and it was something like eight kilograms.

James Acaster

Sorry, is that his YouTube channel? It's just Matt Stoney eating all the big food?

Ed Sheeran

Yes. Yes.

James Acaster

I'm going to watch that.

Ed Sheeran

Mate, it's insane what he does. His shits must be insane. Do you know what I wonder? When I did the Hot Ones, what I said afterwards, I was like, 'The Hot Ones should not be a half hour interview. It should be a day documentary about-', because I had to fly home after that with, like, I had a six or seven month old baby, and just-, my piss stung, my face stung. I was still crying. I don't know what was going on the other end but the documentary should be that. But that bloke does it five days a week. He must have some issues down there.

James Acaster

I don't think he leaves that chair. Your dream side dish?

Ed Sheeran

Do you know it's always good to have a side salad, just so it makes you feel a little bit better. A little bit better. So I would say a green salad with cucumber.

Ed Gamble

Just to cut through everything else.

Ed Sheeran

I'm saying this but I don't actually want that.

Ed Gamble

You've got to go with your dream.

Ed Sheeran

That's just a mental thing to make me feel better. I think, mate, a bowl of chips. Just a bowl of chips.

Ed Gamble

Now we're talking.

Ed Sheeran

Just a bowl of chips and then if it's the vodka rigatoni, you soak it up with the chips. Mate.

Ed Gamble

What kind of chips are we talking? Chip shop chips? Are we talking the triple fried cut, French fries?

Ed Sheeran

No, so I don't really like French fries. I love chip shop chips but they wouldn't fit in a-, if we were doing it. Do you know the kind of fat rectangular ones, like McCain oven chips but not McCain oven-, like, actually cut potato ones that are fried. Those ones. So not too chunky. I find the triple fried ones are just a bit too messed up. Did you find that the pandemic ruined chips for you?



James Acaster

No, go on.

Ed Sheeran

Because they always arrived soggy.

James Acaster

Right.

Ed Sheeran

I just found I stopped eating chips.

James Acaster

Yes I definitely did stop eating chips during the pandemic. Yes, I wasn't even ordering them for that reason.

Ed Sheeran

Yes because they would just arrive soggy and you're not having them in a restaurant.

Ed Gamble

I wouldn't really order chips on delivery anyway really, I don't think.

Ed Sheeran

You, sort of, learn your lesson.

Ed Gamble

Yes and I wouldn't do oven chips ever.

Ed Sheeran

Oven chips in an air fryer, that's where it's at.

James Acaster

You've got an air fryer?

Ed Sheeran

My mum got me an air fryer for Christmas, yes, and it's banging. I do oven chips and Birds Eye chicken dippers in it. I get a wrap and I put loads of salad in it, and put some Birds Eye chicken dippers in it and I put Nandos sauce on it.

Ed Gamble

So you basically do a Nandos wrap at home?

Ed Sheeran

Yes, a crispy Nandos.

James Acaster

I was going to say earlier, when you said that you favour the Nandos wrap extra hot, that is also my order.

Ed Sheeran

My man.

James Acaster

Thank you, fist pump again. Ed, you've got no fist pumps over there. That is sad.



Ed Gamble

I've got one there-, yes, exactly, thank you. But also, I don't want a fist pump from a couple of wrap boys, thank you.

Ed Sheeran

Oh no, so if I'm trying to be healthy, I'll go butterfly chicken, corn on the cob, macho peas but sometimes you're on the move and you're like, 'I've got two minutes to eat lunch. Get a wrap, smash a coleslaw.'

James Acaster

I have received a lot of grief on this podcast for not only getting the wrap.

Ed Gamble

Well, strap in for this Ed.

James Acaster

Because in the wrap, I also always put cheese and pineapple. What do you think about that, Ed Sheeran?

Ed Sheeran

I wouldn't personally do it. I love a normal margarita pizza but if I ever go Dominos or Pizza Hut or Papa Johns, a Hawaiian is great. I'm not saying traditional pizza restaurant. I'm not going to go to-,

Ed Gamble

Take your fist pump back Ed Sheeran.

Ed Sheeran

I'm not going to go to Napoli and ask for a fucking-, but if you're going Pizza Hut, I feel like that is acceptable. It's technically cake anyway.

Ed Gamble

Yes that's true. It is a big old cake.

Ed Sheeran

I had my 29th birthday at Pizza Hut in Bella Horizonte in Brazil. They were like, 'What do you want to do for your birthday?'

James Acaster

In Brazil? You wanted Pizza Hut for your birthday?

Ed Sheeran

Yes, I was just, like, I used to go to Pizza Hut parties as a kid and I was like, 'Fuck it, let's rent a Pizza Hut.' We had some fucking nice wine as well so we got these, like, Jeroboams of really, really good wine with pizza and everyone had a great time. We ate pizza, we had the garlic bread, we drank some fucking Bordeaux.

Ed Gamble

Stood at the ice cream factory for an hour and a half with Taylor Swift.

Ed Sheeran

So, that was one thing they didn't have. They didn't have an ice cream factory or a drinks-, it was sort of like a take away Pizza Hut but they had tables in it but they sort of blacked off all the windows so no one could see in and we just-, it was really fun. It was really fun. We had little birthday hats. It was great.



James Acaster

Who was there? Who was there at the 29th?

Ed Sheeran

There's an artist called Passenger who is a singer/song-writer who was touring with me. I had a few of my school friends there. My friend Fred actually, the guy that-, his birthday is the day before mine so it was, kind of, a joint thing. And then some of my tour crew and then there was a guy who had a house that threw us a party afterwards, so we went there. But I left and my friends carried on until like midday the next day, I remember. I remember getting up, I woke up at 8:00am, I went to the gym, watched half a movie blah blah blah, and I went in my friend's room in the hotel and I was like, 'Fucking hell, you're still going. Jesus Christ.' And they're just there, in silence, staring at a computer screen listening to Bon Iver.

James Acaster

Your dream drink then? That segways quite nicely into your dream drink. Now, we've talked a bit about drinks even before the podcast. Are you going alcoholic drink?

Ed Gamble

Or one of the fancy Pizza Hut wines?

Ed Sheeran

Probably. I gave up spirits. I will have spirits every now and then but I find spirits, they just don't suit me and I love beer and I love wine, and I will never want to give up alcohol. But I feel like if I went down the spirits route anymore, I would probably have to at some point. I do feel that the key to beer is one and a half beers. I don't think it ever gets better. Nothing gets better than the first pint and once you've finished the first pint you go, 'But I want another one.' But if you get to the end of the second, it's-, so I'm always, like, one and a half pints and then I move on to wine. And wine really, I'm, sort of, open to whatever. I'll usually go regional, if I'm in a country. I really like some of the new world wines. I really like Australian wine, I really like Californian but I do go French a lot. French and Italian.

James Acaster

Are you leaning more towards a red French wine then, for your dream drink?

Ed Sheeran

Yes, and I think if I'm having a vodka rigatoni, I would go burgundy. Or maybe something heavier actually. Yes, I'd start off with a bottle of Burgundy and move to a bottle of Bordeaux.

James Acaster

He's a big wine guy.

Ed Gamble

I'm not a big wine guy. I mean, I like wine but I think to claim to be a big wine guy is really wading into deeper waters than I can handle.

Ed Sheeran

My wife got me a sommelier course for my birthday so I can actually-, I really, really like it. I never really liked wine until I was like 24. I think because I had just always drunk box wine as a kid. So you just have the goon bag and you have-, and I still don't like white wine. All white wine just tastes like medicine to me but red, I have really delved into and I really like a good red.

Ed Gamble

The white wine, red wine thing is so hard because I was like that for a long time. I just wouldn't drink white wine because the bad white wines you have when you start drinking will put you off for life.



Ed Sheeran: I think that's it, and I think I probably, from the sommelier course, learned to appreciate white, but it just always-, I just don't like it. And I like basing a meal around a bottle of red. So if I've had an achievement of something, my way to market is, I will, like-, so for the end of the tour, I'll be saying, 'Okay well this is the end of the tour and for that day, I'm going to get this bottle of wine and I'm going to have this meal around it.' And then at the end of the meal, I have a shelf in my house that is just full of wine bottles that are all signed and dated and this restaurant and this date, and then all the people that were there sign it. And then you're left with all these memories, basically. Every achievement that I've had for the last maybe four, five years is marked with a bottle of wine that is on a shelf now. I remembered the date and the memory in that. I don't spunk money on wine and just go, 'I'm just going to drink this because it's a Tuesday night,' but I'll buy a really, really nice bottle of wine and then have it in my cellar and look forward to drinking it on a specific day. If that makes sense.

James Acaster

It does make sense and also, I'm sitting here quite regretful now that I've not marked any of the achievements in my life with anything. I don't think I've got anything in my flat that, kind of, represents anything I've done.

Ed Sheeran

Start doing it. Start doing it with wine bottles because you look back at these amazing nights. I had a friend who passed away in March and I actually got the idea from him, because every time we go over to his house, we'd sign a bottle and his house is just full of these things. And he was a music promoter, so he's got like Bruce Springsteen, Frank Sinatra, he did. All these amazing people and these amazing meals on bottles. So, I adopted it from him. I guess the nice thing as well is, when he had passed away, I had all these memories on my wall as well of nights that we'd had together. I bought a half bottle of Chateau Margaux and that was the first meal that we'd had back in our house with our daughter, but it was a tiny bottle so my wife could have a sip of it. So we've got Lyra's first meal and that is on the shelf. I've got my 30th birthday. I've got my dad's 64th, my mum's 60th. It's just nice memories. I'd recommend doing it.

Ed Gamble

I'm going to copy that idea, I think.

James Acaster

Because also, have you got all the wine bottles of all your achievements and in amongst that is an ice cream bowl covered in sick?

Ed Sheeran

No actually. No. Well, my brother thinks that's my biggest achievement. My brother is very, very proud of that.

James Acaster

Did you go out afterwards and go, 'We've got to buy the wine because we've got to mark this achievement even though I feel like I'm going to puke again.'

Ed Sheeran

No I only started-, my first wine marking was 2016 I think. That was 2013. It was a good year. My favourite year of wine to get is 2011 because that's the first year I actually had success. Oh mate. The wine that I proposed to my wife with, I was like, 'I want to drink that wine every year, once a year for the rest of my life.' I ordered what I thought was 60 bottles but it was 60 cases of 6 six. So it arrived and it wasn't like-,

James Acaster

Man, I hope that marriage lasts.



Ed Sheeran

So do I, so do I. And if it doesn't, I've got enough to drown my sorrows.

Ed Gamble

Yes, you can always go to the cellar. 'Well, here we go.'

James Acaster

'Another day, another case.' We arrive at your dream dessert, my favourite course and I'm quite optimistic here that it's going to be a good one because you've won an ice cream eating competition. I can tell that, you know, you like sweet things. We're not going to go down the awful cheese board route or anything like that.

Ed Gamble

But Ed, if you do feel like you want to get a cheese board, you should get a cheese board.

Ed Sheeran

I would never-, see I think cheese board at the end is a mistake. I think cheese board for starters. I think that's what you need for starters. Just to excite the palette with a bit of fucking mould.

Ed Gamble

Don't end on mould, start on mould.

Ed Sheeran

It depends where you are. If it's a fancy restaurant, I want to just say apple tart but it's apple tatin. Yes, tart tatin. They are always done really well in a great restaurant but I think if you're in like a-, my security guard Kevin and my manager Stuart fucking love Hard Rock Café. So we were in Japan and we shot the I Don't Care video and my mate Omiel (ph 59.14) had flown over for the day. Literally, a day. And he was like, 'Right, we're going out for sushi.' And I'm like, 'No, sorry, we're going out to Hard Rock.'

Ed Gamble

This is amazing. Pizza Hut in Brazil, Hard Rock Café in Japan.

Ed Sheeran

I went to Hard Rock Café in-, me and my wife went to Antarctica with my manager Stuart and my security guard and in Ushuaia, which is the last place in Argentina that you're at before you go to Antarctica, there's a Hard Rock and they're sort of like-, it's not like Michael Jackson's glove, but it's like Kylie Minogue's sock or something like that.

Ed Gamble

It's really bottom of the barrel stuff.

Ed Sheeran

And I think they were quite freaked out that I was there because I don't think anyone well known has ever-, because well-known people aren't really going to go in a Hard Rock, because you are going to get trouble. But we love it so much that we just end up there. So I'm saying, if we're in a Hard Rock, something like a profiterole or one of those massive chocolate things.

Ed Gamble

Is there anything of yours in a Hard Rock café displayed somewhere?

Ed Sheeran

Yes I get asked-



Ed Gamble

Well you're there all the time.

Ed Sheeran

Well, I get asked to donate stuff to loads of things, so I don't know if it's in Hard Rock or if it's in a museum. Loads of my stuff is out there and I just don't know where it is. I'm sure there's probably something in Hard Rock, Hyde Park. But I'm not really hard rock, am I? I'm sort of like medium-

Ed Gamble

A lot of the stuff in Hard Rock café isn't though, really. They just mean, like, music.

Ed Sheeran

That and TGI Fridays. TGI Fridays. I used to live in Guildford and there was a TGI Fridays there. Actually, the Wetherspoons in Guildford. That was real. That was real. A burger and a pint for £3. I mean, firstly, how do you do that?

Ed Gamble

So, you're immediately suspicious when you're eating it.

Ed Sheeran

I know, but mate, I was, like, eighteen. You're not suspicious when you're eighteen and you can get a burger and a pint for £8. I find the worst people are with me are when they're like blitzed. Like really, really drunk because I just, kind of, get picked up and handed around like a rag doll. And Spoons, I'd love to go to a Spoons again though. I was saying on Halloween, I should just dress up as one of the guards from Squid Game and go to like a Tiger Tiger because I haven't been.

James Acaster

Imagine that twist in Squid Game. 'Fucking Ed Sheeran has been doing this to us. You shot my friend. You're a nice guy. You send lasagne to mum and stuff. You're a nice fella.' 'We made it fair for all of you. You had the choice and you could of left.'

Ed Gamble

The only clue is you're the only guard with an equals sign on your helmet.

Ed Sheeran

Even in Squid Game, I'm promoting my album.

James Acaster

He's on brand.

Ed Gamble

Ed Sheeran's got a new album.

Ed Gamble

Red cover, green cover.

Ed Gamble

There you go.

James Acaster

You like that?

Ed Sheeran

I feel like I should fist pump you but I'm not. It's not quite fist pump-



James Acaster

Yes, I didn't deserve it, really.

Ed Gamble

The good thing about Paul Hollywood on Bake Off is he really holds his handshakes back and you've gone in too hard with the first bumping.

Ed Sheeran

Oh what, has he got a weak handshake?

Ed Gamble

No it's like if you get a handshake off Paul Hollywood, it's the best thing.

Ed Sheeran

Really?

James Acaster

That would be so funny if Paul Hollywood had a weak handshake and the Hollywood handshake is this big thing.

Ed Sheeran

Mate, I'd tell you off mic but there was a Hollywood actor I met who is the most, you would think he had a hard handshake, and I met him and it just, it was the most flimsy, flimsy handshake and I just remember being like, 'How? How is this possible?' And it really made me start questioning. I'll tell you off mic but it is quite-

James Acaster

It's Dwayne The Rock Johnson. We all know it.

Ed Sheeran

No, it's not.

Ed Gamble

There's no way he's got a weak handshake.

Ed Sheeran

I'm actually in a movie with him and I said-, I got a thing being like, 'Do you want to do this cameo, it's in this movie with The Rock.' And I said, 'Yes,' and I arrived and I was a pick-up shot and they'd shot his bits. He'd shot his bits interacting with me elsewhere. And so I was, kind of, like, 'Oh, I thought I was going to meet The Rock today.'

James Acaster

That's it now, isn't it? It's like no one is in the same room for these things. People don't know but like you know. We're not even in the same room with you now.

Ed Gamble

We've recorded all our bits beforehand.

James Acaster

Yes. We got you to do your choices first and then we've put our bits in post which you'd think we'd give ourselves more first bumps if anything. If we're doing that. So sorry, for dessert, have we gone for profiteroles at Hard Rock Café or apple tart tartin or whatever it's called?

Ed Sheeran

Yes I'd go for the apple-, can I just say strudel? Apple strudel.



Ed Gamble

You can have apple strudel. Would you like it at the Hard Rock Café?

Ed Sheeran

They'd probably do it well. So, an unpopular opinion, I sometimes would love a cheese board as a meal. At Christmas when I go to a cheese and wine night and then a meal comes out, I'm like, 'But I'm already full. I've already eaten my body weight in cheese.' I do love a good cheese board. Me and my friends, it's kind of gone by the wayside now because we have a night called Sindy Wine Club.

Ed Gamble

What?

Ed Sheeran

We have a night called Sindy Wine Club and once a month, we'll all meet up. There's like six of us. We'll bring one bottle of wine each. And the first one, we all brought a cheese but then that's, kind of like fallen by the wayside. We bring one bottle of wine, we'll order a curry in or a Chinese and everyone will have one glass of everyone's wine and then we'll-, because we never really see each other anymore because everyone's got jobs, and I'm off here and there. So, we get back and it's essentially a grown up lads night. Although we did have one at mine once where I have a friend called Doug that has this game called-, well he has two games. He's got Gin Until you Sleep which basically, he just drinks gin until he falls asleep.

James Acaster

What are the rules?

Ed Sheeran

There's another game called Pisco until your Naked. So you just drink Pisco until you get naked, and he is always the first one to take his shirt off, and then whenever I see Doug with his shirt off, I'm like, 'Oh, it's that kind of night.'

Ed Gamble

Would you ever play Pisco until You're Naked, and Gin until You Sleep back to back?

Ed Sheeran

Yes, we've definitely done that. Have you ever drunk Chartreuse?

Ed Gamble

No.

Ed Sheeran

I have a friend in Sweden that I write songs with, and every Wednesday he drinks one shot of Chartreuse. And, you know, the first time you have it you go, 'Oh my god, that's the worst thing I've ever tasted in my life.' And then suddenly you're like, 'Oh but I'm there,' and it really gets you. It's come to be-, because one of my school mates sort of met him along the way. He's come to stay in England and stuff like that and now Chartreuse is like, instead of starting the night with a Jagerbomb or a shot of tequila, it's a shot of Chartreuse. Try it. The first time you taste it, you're like, 'Ed's wrong.' And then five minutes later you'll be like, 'Ed's right.'

James Acaster

One last question before I read your menu back to you, and I'm not ragging on you here-,

Ed Sheeran

Is that a Harry Potter book?



James Acaster

It's Hong Kong Disney Land. This is the great Benito's book. He loves Disneyland. He loves roller-coasters. He's obsessed with it and this is clearly a book that he's got from Hong Kong Disney Land.

Ed Sheeran

Do you know 40 million people visit Disneyland Orlando every year?

Ed Gamble

Most of those are the great Benito though.

James Acaster

Yes, most of them are him going on his own like he did when we went to America.

Ed Sheeran

What's your favourite Disneyland, great Benito? So the Japanese do-, my security guard will always joke with us when we're in Japan because I'd always say everything is the best in Japan. I think Asahi beer is the best beer. I think the sushi is obviously best in Japan. The McDonalds at Tokyo airport was so perfectly made, it looked like a picture. Everything was spot on in Japan, so I'm not surprised that their Disneyland is proper.

James Acaster

Is the McDonalds in the Tokyo airport where you had your 30th birthday?

Ed Sheeran

Do you know? We actually-, when I was playing my Ipswich, my final shows of my tour, we were trying to rent out a McDonalds and do a tasting menu there and get them to chop up a Big Mac into little bite sized bites but we never ended up doing it but we wanted to get like a McDonalds on the side of a road, you know, service station. Rent it out, black out all the windows and do a tasting menu because I've never done-,

James Acaster

Imagine working in that McDonalds being like, 'Bit of a weird day today.'

Ed Sheeran

Bit of a weird day, but I've never done the whole menu at McDonalds and you don't want to go in and have a whole burger so it would be quite cool to go in and have-,

James Acaster

Also any fast food restaurant, like anyone who is like running a KFC or whatever listening to this, now knows that if they ever want to completely fill their restaurant one day, all they need to do is black out the windows and everyone will go, 'Ed Sheeran is in there. Ed Sheeran is having his birthday, let's see if we can get in there.'

Ed Sheeran

So my vibe with food, I'm not a food snob. I will eat-, I love a fancy restaurant, I love a nice bottle of wine.

Ed Gamble

You've made it very clear in this interview that you're not a food snob. Hard Rock Café, McDonalds, KFC. We've been around the-,

Ed Sheeran

But I also love, like, there's a restaurant in the West called Core that I go to a lot that has three stars that is-, I would go to-,



Ed Gamble

Is that where you were the other night?

Ed Sheeran

Yes, and if I want a really nice evening with someone, I'll take them there, but it's so fantastic. But I'll have Nandos for lunch and go to Core for dinner, so I try and keep it balanced, I guess.

James Acaster

I think it's good, the full gambit. The full range.

Ed Gamble

Yes, got to do it.

James Acaster

I was going to ask why it's called Sendy Wine Club and not Bringy Wine Club?

Ed Sheeran

So, my friends, they all ski. So I never skied and then I married a girl who loves skiing. And so I was 26 when I first learned to ski, which I wouldn't recommend. It's not a fun experience. I'm still at the point where I don't enjoy it but I have to pretend that I do. I'm getting there. I can now ski without feeling like my legs are broken but there's an Instagram, I think, or a Twitter, called Jerry of the Day which is people skiing and then crashing into a snow pile. They'll say, 'Sending.' So sendy has turned into a word that my friend's use for things that are really nice or expensive. So if you have a pair of shoes that cost you a bit, you'd say, 'They are a sendy pair of shoes,' or, 'I've gone full send on those pair of shoes.' So they, because my friend, basically the person who runs Sendy Wine Club is my mate Jack. He's a wine merchant and he's got his sommelier badges and all that stuff and we'll say, 'Jack, can you chose a wine for us' and then he'll chose us each a sendy bottle that we'll buy and then we'll turn up and do that.

James Acaster

So, for starters, I'm glad I asked that question because that's an interesting answer but also, if I hadn't of asked that, everyone would of just thought that you guys called it Sendy Wine Club as in you're saying, 'Send a bottle of wine' and yet you're bringing it together and that you're saying, 'Sendy-,'

Ed Sheeran

Sometimes, if you have a pint and you'll say to your mate-, so my friend Fred obviously went to university and has all these drinking games. Have you ever played How's That? Where someone hands you a pint and if you don't say, 'Not out,' and they say, 'How's that?' You have to down it.

Ed Gamble

We had similar things, yes.

Ed Sheeran

So this actually happens. We went to a Sendy Wine Club last week and I actually got Fred for the first time which I've never done but then you would say, 'Send it.' So you would have to send the pint, as in down it. So the 'Send,' sort of-, there's lots of words that me and my friends use that actually mean everything. So when we were on tour, we had a Glaswegian chef who just called everyone Jimmy. If he didn't know anyone's name, he would just call them Jimmy so now my security guard calls people that he doesn't know, or like by the way, 'Who's this fucking Jimmy over here?' Actually, we were in Hong Kong Disneyland and he met a waiter who was called Jimmy, and he was like, 'Jimmy.' He gets very, very excited about anyone called Jimmy.



Ed Gamble

In Hong Kong Disneyland, did Mickey punch your security guard in the face and then you just sort of left?

Ed Sheeran

No, Hong Kong Disneyland, all of my touring crew stayed there and I think for the first-, we were there for like a week and I think for the first day my touring crew were like, 'This is fun, Goofy is serving us breakfast.' And then by the end of it, when they've all been out on long nights out, sort of, going in, and you've got-, it's very true.

James Acaster

Absolutely the last person you want to see, when you're hungover.

Ed Gamble

Livid. Livid at Goofy. You're like, 'Fucking hell, leave me alone Goofy.'

James Acaster

Absolutely don't want Goofy anywhere near me if I'm hungover. Get the fuck off. I'm going to read your menu back to you, see how you feel about it. Water, you would like. Still water. Poppadoms or bread, you want poppadoms and mango chutney. Starter, a medium fatty tuna nigiri from Araki. Main course, vodka rigatoni from Bertie Blossoms. Side dish, fat chips. Drink, bottle of Burgundy. A Bordeaux as well.

Ed Sheeran

A Burgundy then Bordeaux. I'm not going to drink two bottles to myself but if I'm with someone I could polish two bottles. Can I have a pint before them though? One solitary pint of-,

James Acaster

Before the whole meal?

Ed Sheeran

Yes. One solitary pint of lager.

James Acaster

Asahi from Japan?

Ed Sheeran

Asahi from Japan but, yes, it has to be on tap. It has to be on tap. It has to be.

James Acaster

Delicious.

Ed Sheeran

With a frosted glass.

James Acaster

Okay, I can get you a frosted glass.

Ed Sheeran

I built a pub in my garden and I have a freezer in there that's just full of frosted glasses, and I just think it's important.

James Acaster

I feel like we could quite easily do a two-parter and have you back on because now you've just mentioned, at the very last minute, frosted glasses which we haven't talked about on the podcast



much before and I'm interested in that. But also, you built a pub in your garden and we've only just found that out as we've got to wrap it up. So we're going to have to have you back on at some point.

Ed Sheeran

It has a tunnel from the house as well, which actually is completely pointless because it just-, you could just walk to it across the grass but I went to someone's house and they had a tunnel and I was like, 'The pub needs a tunnel. Like, it needs a tunnel.'

James Acaster

That means that you can always escape your house if everyone ever, God forbid, if you were being held-,

Ed Sheeran

But only into a pub.

James Acaster

Yes, perfect.

Ed Sheeran

There's like a dark room downstairs with a really, really comfy sofa and sometimes if I just want to escape an argument, I'll just go down there and just lie and have a nap.

James Acaster

Get through the tunnel? And dessert, you would like apple strudel. Would you rather have me or Goofy serving you if you were hungover?

Ed Gamble

Good question.

Ed Sheeran

I think you. I think you. I think you would keep me more on my toes because you'd say something sarcastic and I'd have to think of something to reply to it. I think it's always good having a friend like you because you would never be agreeable about anything.

Ed Gamble

Bang on.

Ed Sheeran

You would say something and you'd actually get me to think. It would never just be like, 'Yes, this is this.'

James Acaster

Yes I make you think a lot.

Ed Sheeran

But you don't complain in restaurants, right?

James Acaster

I don't complain, no.

Ed Sheeran

Good.

James Acaster

I'm too scared to complain.



Ed Sheeran

I don't want-, mate. Sometimes, and it usually happens with like-, not so much industry people as like artists but usually managers of artists and they'll like send stuff back and I'm like, 'I know someone is putting that on their balls now. You fucked up.'

James Acaster

The only time I've ever, and it wasn't even a complaint, I phrased it as, 'Sorry, I'm just letting you know, it's fine, I'm just letting you know that there was glass in my meal.'

Ed Gamble: Also, good luck putting your balls in that.

Ed Sheeran

A friend of mine is a comedian and on the first date with his wife, this is 100% true, I'll tell you who the comedian is afterwards. So, he's on the first date with his wife and he's being a bit smarmy with the waiter and he's, kind of, joking and joking and joking and the waiter is obviously not finding it funny. And his wife goes, when he leaves, she's like, 'He's going to do something to your food.' And he's like, 'Don't be stupid.' Anyway, the meal comes. He eats it and he catches a disease. The next date they had was in the hospital and he caught a disease that you can only catch from human faeces. So be careful. Be careful. Always be nice to people.

James Acaster

The next date was in the hospital, did you say?

Ed Sheeran

Yes, no, it was. It was.

James Acaster

Good job if you didn't want to get a second date. Hello. 'Remember you told me he was going to do something, I think I've eaten his shit. I trust a third date is on the cards and you'll marry me one day.'

Ed Gamble

Do you think we'll kiss at the end of this date?

Ed Sheeran

They are married now, though.

Ed Gamble

Ed, thank you very much for coming to the dream restaurant.

James Acaster

Ed, it's been a pleasure, thank you.

Ed Sheeran

Thank you and then the mic goes off and you turn back to normal, right?

Ed Gamble

Well there we are James. Teddy Sheeran.

James Acaster

Teddy Sheeran. I'll tell you what Ed, I might have to go to the doctors and have my fist looked at because it got bumped quite a lot there.

Ed Gamble

It did get bumped quite a lot, yes. I mean a lot of them I would call pity bumps.



James Acaster

That is my nickname. Here he comes, old pity bumps. Pity bumps in the house.

Ed Gamble

You used to sing that in your Black Eyed Peas tribute band, didn't you?

James Acaster

Yes. I love the pity bumps.

Ed Gamble

Check them out. Thank you very much to Ed/Teddy for coming into the dream restaurant.

James Acaster

Thank you so much.

Ed Gamble

A lovely menu and lovely to hear about some of his birthday events.

James Acaster

What a nice man. Also, he didn't say candy corns so thank you, we didn't have to kick him out because I would have felt bad because he's a very nice boy.

Ed Gamble

Yes, very nice boy indeed. And his album = is coming out.

James Acaster

29th October on Asylum/Atlantic.

Ed Gamble

So go and check it out, go and buy that. My plugs. My lovely lady plugs. I am on tour with a show called Electric. Edgamble.co.uk for tickets to that. I am going, I say all over the UK but then people get angry with me. I'm going to some places in the UK so do come and see that show and also I've released a live vinyl. None of which will appear in the show Electric, it's mainly crowd work. A lot of work. I recorded it in the Black Heart in Camden. It's called, 'You may struggle to hear me above the crunch of my enemies skulls,' and that's available from Edgamblestore.com.

James Acaster

Love it. I've got nothing to plug. Jamesacaster.com

Ed Gamble

You're plugging your website?

James Acaster

Yes and, 'Cold Lasagne Hate Myself 1999,' is on there. You can buy my-,

Ed Gamble

Yes why aren't you plugging that every week?

James Acaster

Yes I should be plugging it every week really. That's on there.

Ed Gamble

It's such a good show.



James Acaster

Yes, yes. Best show ever, that's on there. And what else?

Ed Gamble

Interesting-

James Acaster

A music podcast called Perfect Sounds.

Ed Gamble

During that interview when Ed was talking about the concepts for his albums, I was thinking, 'It's like a musical version of James Acaster.'

James Acaster

Yes with repertoire.

Ed Gamble

Yes, different colours.

James Acaster

Yes always different colours. Yes, I could have said that, couldn't I? But instead, I had to go and be all weird.

Ed Gamble

Yes, very weird. I think you need to stop now telling guests that you're going to be weird because then you worry about the expectation that you've put on them that you're going to be weird and then you go like full, full James.

James Acaster

Yes I really dialled it up a lot for Ed Sheeran. I mean, basically, I only tell the guests who I think I need to tell them. There are some people obviously-, most of the time I don't tell people but I had such a nice normal chat with him before we started that I just felt like, 'This is going to be really jarring and he'll think I'm being rude.' He'll feel like I've tricked him. You know. Like, I've gone, 'I'll soften him up with a normal chat and now I'm going to absolutely punk his arse.'

Ed Gamble

Because you went so weird, at times, and this is a compliment, it felt like two friends having a chat but one of them had to look at their little brother at the same time.

James Acaster

Yes, that's fair.

Ed Gamble

It was like our mum had said to me, 'James is going to come and sit with you.' I've gone, 'Mum, for God's sake.' I'm having Teddy over. I want to hang out with Teddy and talk about wine and then you've come along like -

James Acaster

There were times during that interview where I just felt like I'd kind of gone mad. I just felt like I don't really know what I'm doing. I'm just firing out anything left, right and centre.

Ed Gamble

Still some very good questions though.



James Acaster

Still some good questions in there but yes, that was, out of all the episodes we've done, it's the one where I've come away from it thinking, 'What did I do? What was I doing? What was that?' Really all over the place.

Ed Gamble

So, I'm looking forward to hearing that back. I'm looking forward to hearing what you said because quite often, I'd just be suddenly aware that you've been talking for ten minutes.

James Acaster

In to my microphone just to myself.

Ed Gamble

Regardless of whatever conversation was happening.

James Acaster

Yes I started doing that quite a few times. I just talk into the mic really quiet, talking to myself about stuff, looking over at Benito because he's got headphones on, I knew he could hear it all directly through his ears. So there's that. I don't know why I was doing any of it. I'd really gone bonkers. For the listener, it's like half nine in the morning we started doing this. It's not that early but apparently, for me, I haven't eaten today.

Ed Gamble

Yes, maybe that's it.

James Acaster

Yes I just went mad.

Ed Gamble

Well thanks for listening.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Good bye.

James Acaster

Good bye.