



Off Menu – Ep135– Tom Davis

Ed Gamble

Welcome to the Off Menu podcast. That's the intro.

James Acaster

What? Taking the butter of conversation.

Ed Gamble

No. Rubbish.

James Acaster

Spreading it over the bread of comedy. Putting it in the toaster of the internet.

Ed Gamble

What the hell are you making?

James Acaster

I guess we're breaking the toaster. Just like we broke the internet. Just like Wreck-It Ralph.

Ed Gamble

I love it. I was thinking about doing a toasted sandwich, but I couldn't remember if I'd done that before or not. That's where I thought you were going. Imagine if you were going in the exact direction I was thinking about, it would have been quite scary, but luckily, no, you were spreading on the butter to bread and then putting that in the toaster. Yes. Pretty tired boys, aren't we?

James Acaster

Yes, I guess we must be pretty tired. We got up pretty early to interview someone who cancelled on us, and now, we've been here all day because we had another full day of recording after that, so, you know, pretty tired boys. However, you know, this is the Off Menu podcast. We own a dream restaurant. Ed Gamble's the maître d' over there. I, myself, am a genie waiter, and we invite in a guest and we ask them their favourite ever starter, main course, dessert, side dish and drink, not in that order. This week, our guest is Tom Davis.

Ed Gamble

Tom Davis. Tom Davis, comedian, actor, writer, very prolific, James.

James Acaster

Very prolific. Always funny. Can't wait to have him on the podcast.

Ed Gamble

Very prolific, always terrific.

James Acaster

Wow. Yes. I love that.

Ed Gamble

He is extremely funny. Most things he says makes me laugh. He's extremely funny. He is in a new show called The Curse on Channel 4, an '80s crime comedy.

James Acaster

You're talking my language, man. I'm very excited to watch it.



Ed Gamble

You love crime comedy, don't you? You always say that.

James Acaster

I love crime comedy. Yes. I always say that. I love crime comedy.

Ed Gamble

You should tell Tom that.

James Acaster

I'll tell him. I'll tell him that I love crime comedy. You mark my words, I'll do it.

Ed Gamble

Okay. It's him and the guys from People Just Do Nothing.

James Acaster

Which I love, as well.

Ed Gamble

Emer Kenny is in it, as well.

James Acaster

Man, are you kidding me? This whole thing is like, full to the brim with talent. Bursting at the seams.

Ed Gamble

Indeed. I'm very much looking forward to watching it, but not as much as I'm looking forward to hearing Tom's dream menu. All that aside, if Tom picks an ingredient that we've pre-established that we don't like, we will kick him out of the dream restaurant, and when we say 'we', Benito said he'll handle it.

James Acaster

Yes. He said he'll handle it himself.

Ed Gamble

He can take him. A lot of you don't know what Benito looks like. Benito, 6"9'.

James Acaster

Yes. He's humongous. Big old guns.

Ed Gamble

A lizard's tongue.

James Acaster

A lizard's tongue.

Ed Gamble

Imagine that.

James Acaster

So, he will kick out big Tom Davis, if he says the secret ingredient. This week, the secret ingredient is Jack Daniel's.

Ed Gamble

Jack Daniel's. We promised it. We said Southern Comfort a couple of weeks ago.



James Acaster

Jack Daniel's, just as bad. Gets talked about with more reverence, as well. At least Southern Comfort is just, you know, just accepted as being being kind of 'bleugh'. Jack Daniel's gets talked about like it's the king of whiskeys, and it really, really isn't.

Ed Gamble

No. Terrible. Being able to put Coke with it. It's not nice. Supposed to be rock n'roll, it's disgusting. It's a weird square bottle. I hate it.

James Acaster

Yes. I would actually respect it more if they just really leaned into, 'Just have it with Coke.' They do lean into it a bit, you can get it in cans of Coke, I think, but, it should just be, 'Just have it with Coke.' Then I'm like, 'Okay, cool. This is just whiskey that I can have with Coca-Cola. If I want a whiskey and Coke, this is the one to have. I don't need to get too precious about it, no need to ruin a good whiskey.' It's all the long soliloquies?

Ed Gamble

Soliloquies.

James Acaster

Soliloquies. Gordon Bennett. Jack Daniel's.

Ed Gamble

Gordon Bennett is the British Jack Daniel's.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

I'd say, Jack Daniel's, the booze that I've most poured down the sink. After a party, someone'll bring a bottle of Jack Daniel's, or I'll just have a bottle of Jack Daniel's and I'm like, 'Right, I'm clearing all the booze out,' or I'm moving, and I'm not taking that Jack Daniel's, that's going straight down the sink. Big old square bottle down the sink.

James Acaster

Yes. Sorry, but, you know. RIP to Limmy.

Ed Gamble

Lemmy.

James Acaster

Yes, yes, sorry. Limmy's a comedian.

Ed Gamble

Limmy's alive.

James Acaster

He's alive.

Ed Gamble

You really gave everyone a real shock there.

James Acaster

Sorry, everybody.



Ed Gamble

Lemmy, we're talking about Lemmy from Motorhead.

James Acaster

Limmy is alive, and he's teetotal.

Ed Gamble

Yes. You couldn't have got that more wrong.

James Acaster

Yes, but Lemmy from Motorhead loved Jack Daniel's, and rest in peace to him.

Ed Gamble

Before we get to Tom Davis's menu, of course, let's not forget that I'm on tour, everyone. My show is called Electric, it is on tour right now. Go to edgamble.co.uk for tickets. I'm loving it so far. Why don't you come and love it with me? Now, this is the Off Menu menu of Tom Davis.

James Acaster

Tom Davis.

Ed Gamble

Welcome, Tom, to the dream restaurant.

Tom Davis

Wow. I'm so honoured to be here.

James Acaster

Welcome, Tom Davis, to the dream restaurant. We've been expecting you for some time.

Tom Davis

I've had a reservation here for quite a long time. I'm so happy just to be sitting here, just looking at you two, it's just a joy.

Ed Gamble

Now, the genie entrance there, I mean, I've seen the genie entrance maybe 140 times. It's the only time I've ever heard it trail off. Normally it's just, bang, we're in. There was a little wisp at the end, there. I don't know if you noticed, Tom.

James Acaster

I was floating down, wasn't I?

Tom Davis

I melted a bit when I saw that. You know you can get indulged with pyrotechnics and all the craziness? Sometimes it's just Acaster just doing-, it felt like magic. It's everything I dreamed it would be, and a little touch more.

James Acaster

Thank you, Tom. Yes. I thought, 'Take your time, today. Take your time, you're with big Tom Davis, we know we're in good hands. Take your time.'

Tom Davis

I feel like everyone's in good hands. It's like we're all holding each other's hands, we're all going, 'You know what? I think we might have this. Might be okay.' I mean, at the end of the episode, someone goes, 'That was fucking terrible. They all got very arrogant at the top of it.'



James Acaster

Yes. Some people-, the best criticism I heard about this podcast, I can't remember what episode it was, but it was when I was still on social media. Someone said, 'Heard your episode with,' whoever the guest was. 'They liked the sound of their own voice.' I was like, it's a podcast! We're interviewing them.

Ed Gamble

'They responded to your questions.'

James Acaster

Yes. 'They liked the sound of their own voice.'

Tom Davis

'Obsessed with food.' That's insane criticism.

James Acaster

'Really loved to talk.'

Tom Davis

The show, the new show went out last night, and it's just, that mad thing of like, such nice positives, but then you just get the odd negative which just-, I made the mistake this morning, like, 4.30 this morning, waking up with my daughter and doing the night feed, and, like, a cherished moment, and then I looked on Twitter. I just sat there just with tears in my eyes just thinking, 'Fucking-, that guy from Barnsley hates your show. Really should have worked that little bit harder. What could I have done?' It's really sad, because as a comedian, certainly myself, I always find that thing, that there's a massive part of me that just wants to be liked. For someone who was bullied at school or whatever, like, pathetic need to, sort of, like, everyone at school, the nerds, the jocks, walking around going, 'Yes, just like me. I have nothing in common, I'm not clever, I'm not good at sport, but just like something about me.' That's transcended into what I do now. As soon as I get any negativity, I'm like, 'God. Maybe if I just went to his house and knocked on the door and went, "Hey, mate. How are you, alright? Hey, I'm actually alright."'

Ed Gamble

It's that thing of, no matter how many people tell you, 'Look at all of these good comments! People love it! There's like, 100 good comments for every one negative comment!' You're like, 'No, but one negative comment is worth 100 comments.'

Tom Davis

There's always a guy who's got-, a very grey-looking sort of human being, who's usually got quite far-right-leaning sort of views of the world. Which, usually, I'd think, 'Actually, he'd probably quite like me.' (Laughter).

Ed Gamble

Yes. He's really got to hate actually what you're doing, what you're putting out there.

Tom Davis

Yes. Creatively. Loathe creatively. 'Because on paper, I love that geezer.'

James Acaster

'It's everything I should want in the world.'

Ed Gamble

To overlook the fact you're a big white bloke, he's like, 'Can't even take that into account. What he's producing is awful.'



Tom Davis

'That's how turgid this shit he's putting out is.'

James Acaster

You know, don't listen to that one guy, Tom.

Tom Davis

No. I try and move on. I try and get on through the day.

Ed Gamble

It feels like you have.

James Acaster

The Curse. You're referring to The Curse.

Tom Davis

Yes, The Curse.

James Acaster

The show, The Curse.

Ed Gamble

That's the name of the show. That's not the curse of the comedian, to look for the bad comment. Or the Strictly curse.

Tom Davis

Yes, no, The Curse, Channel 4.

James Acaster

I'm looking forward to it. I genuinely am going to watch it, I'm not just saying it. I love crime comedy as a genre.

Tom Davis

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Not where I thought you were going with that. You'd say, you like all the people in it,

James Acaster

I do love all the people in it. I love you, obviously. I love People Just Do Nothing.

Tom Davis

Yes, I thought you were going to say, 'I admire your career.'

James Acaster

I know those guys are in it.

Tom Davis

Yes, I think it's fun. It's sort of a weird one, because it's been, like, four or five years of writing it, to now have it out there. I always find it so nerve-wracking, the day before, the day it goes out, and then you're just waiting for reviews. Yes, it seems people like it. People enjoy it. The other thing I've been-, because I think doing King Gary was such a sort of personal piece, all of a sudden, I've had quite a lot of people going, 'Why don't you just, not like, just do the King Gary character?' You're like, well, I'm a character actor. That's like, it'd be quite fucking lazy, wouldn't it, if I just shoved that over everything I did now as Gary King, because it's sort of slightly-, yes. It's been a real, yes,



labour of love. I'm really proud of it as a show. I hope people enjoy it, apart from that one guy in Barnsley, who's really-

James Acaster

Sure. Well, that's, I mean-

Ed Gamble

Let's not hang around on that guy, you know?

James Acaster

He's going to be listening to this going, 'I won. I did it.'

Tom Davis

Or he's listening to it going, 'It was only a joke.'

James Acaster

Yes. 'I didn't really mean it.'

Ed Gamble

'He's a comedian, why can't he take a joke?'

Tom Davis

He loves this podcast.

James Acaster

'Just said it for a laugh.' It's weird, isn't it, people come up to you and go, 'Well, why don't you just do that same character?'

Tom Davis

Yes.

James Acaster

If you did the same character, is it fair to say people would go, 'Why don't you just do something different?'

Tom Davis

'You just do the same thing in everything.' Yes. It'd be a real mix of-, yes. You're damned if you do, you're damned if you don't. That's just life.

James Acaster

What you should do is just have a podcast. No-one ever says that to us. No-one ever goes, 'Why don't you stick to something else?'

Tom Davis

I do-, that's quite sad. I have a podcast. It's-

Ed Gamble

Right, I'll listen to it. On the reg.

James Acaster

I don't listen to podcasts.

Tom Davis

Why would you?



James Acaster

Ours is the biggest one in the world.

Ed Gamble

Who's told you that?

James Acaster

Huh?

Ed Gamble

Who's told you that?

James Acaster

You and Benito say we're doing well.

Tom Davis

It's when you're-, it's like if you're playing for one of the biggest football teams in the world, you're not looking below you. You're not going, 'What's going on in the conference?'

James Acaster

Going and watching the local clubs, aren't you?

Tom Davis

'I hear Dagenham and Redbridge are doing well.' Why would I give a fuck? I just won the Premier League.

James Acaster

Forget it. Forget it.

Ed Gamble

You have a great podcast with Romesh called Wolf and Owl, which I hadn't heard up until, like, three months ago, and then I put on an episode, I was like, 'I really like this.' Then I listened to all of it in about three days.

Tom Davis

Wow. Amazing.

Ed Gamble

You were living in my head for about three days.

Tom Davis

That's the only place I ever want it to be.

James Acaster

Who's the wolf and who's the owl?

Tom Davis

Well, guess. I'm the wolf. Strong leader. Romesh is the bookish owl. Yes. He demanded upon that name. Yes, he's-, yes, it's a lot of fun.

Ed Gamble

Everyone who writes in with an email, they have their own sort of animal nickname.



Tom Davis

Yes, that's only become a thing-, look, if I'm honest, we were recording just for our own amusement. We did about 30 pilots, we were just pissing about. We just thought none of them were any good. So, then, we just, I think, called it a name that no-one would-, if it was shit, associate it with either of us. We should have really called it 'The Tom and Rom Show', or something like that, or 'Tomesh'. Really lame. Yes. Then, this animal pack thing has grown, and people seem to call themselves a crocodile, or-,

Ed Gamble

Do you want to give us some animal names?

Tom Davis

I think the leopard because you're loyal, and you never change your spots.

James Acaster

Interesting. Okay.

Ed Gamble

I like it.

James Acaster

I'd have thought I'd have got the meerkat, or something. A bit more like a meerkat.

Ed Gamble

The worm. The little worm.

James Acaster

Yes. The little worm.

Tom Davis

I would go with the rhino.

Ed Gamble

Yes. I'm happy with that.

Tom Davis

Strong.

James Acaster

Horny.

Ed Gamble

Because I'm horny and grey. Quite grey.

James Acaster

Rapidly going grey.

Ed Gamble

I don't look well.

Tom Davis

'Yes, he looks quite ill at the moment, Ed Gamble.'

Ed Gamble

I'm horny as hell.



Tom Davis

Really happy with it. Just as you find out you've got a really bad skin defect, that's sort of slowly-, 'That's why-, I saw Ed Gamble in February and then I saw him again in April and he was actually completely grey.'

Ed Gamble

Completely grey, but still had an absolute rod on.

Tom Davis

I knew a guy, actually, this is a weird story. It'll probably get cut out.

James Acaster

Well, it won't.

Ed Gamble

It won't. It'll start with this.

Tom Davis

When I worked on a building site, we convinced, like-, he basically came into work one day and said that he'd had a bit of trouble with his ball bag and the skin had gone quite hard around it.

James Acaster

Quite an open guy.

Tom Davis

We convinced him that it was a disease called, like, 'Rhinosaurusitus', or whatever.

James Acaster

Good mates. Really open with you.

Tom Davis

Men, your whole skin, like, got really thick and hard and started becoming like a rhino's, always started with your ball bag.

Ed Gamble

Always started with your ball bag. Always.

James Acaster

Always starts with the ball bag, and then you turn into a rhino.

Tom Davis

Yes. You'd sometimes hear him on a night out, sort of, chatting up a girl, and then going, 'You probably need to know, I've got, like, a situation.'

Ed Gamble

No.

Tom Davis

Yes, yes. He believed us for years. He was very gullible.

James Acaster

What? He'd be so sure that he was going to go home with this woman that he would tell them about his hardened ball bag before they left the club?



Tom Davis

He was just very open. He was just very open. He didn't want anything not said.

James Acaster

Yes. Sounds like he was open.

Tom Davis

He was like, in a game, he'd always have his cards on show, and I respect that about him.

James Acaster

You didn't respect it. You absolutely showed him complete and utter disrespect by doing that. 'I'm showing my cards.' 'Yes, well, you're going to turn into a rhino. It starts with your ball bag.' 'Oh no.' You can't be open and gullible. I think that's a bad combo.

Ed Gamble

It is.

Tom Davis

No, it is.

James Acaster

'I tell everyone everything about me, and I will believe anything they say, at the same time.' That's bad stuff.

Ed Gamble

What was his ball problem? Did he ever work that out?

Tom Davis

I think, just with age, his ball bag just got leathery.

James Acaster

He didn't want to go to the doctor's about it?

Tom Davis

No.

James Acaster

If I was him-, if you're the kind of person who's so open about that you tell all your mates and you would tell a women you've only just met who hasn't even gone back to your place yet in the club, then surely you have no problem going to the doctor's and going, 'Can you look at this? I've heard I'm turning into a rhino from my mates, the builders.'

Ed Gamble

He doesn't need to go to the doctor's, because his mates have already told him what's wrong.

Tom Davis

I think he was slightly worried about, like, sometimes, it's sort of like, if you go, that's a definite answer, isn't it? I think he took it as, you know, like a building site quack who just sort of gone, 'Look, there we go, mate. I think that's probably what-', also, none of us actually saw the balls.

James Acaster

No.

Tom Davis

He just described them in great detail.



James Acaster

It never spread to the rest of his body, so, he must have gone, 'Well, okay, this is a lie.'

Tom Davis

No, or he just thought, 'I'm getting away with it. Seems like whatever I'm doing is keeping it under control. It's just attacked the ball bag. Maybe if it spreads to my legs, then I start getting worried. Rhinosaurusitus of the legs.' Probably find out it's a real disease. Or, I go to a zoo one day, and I'll be knocking on the glass, and he'll go, 'Oi oi. You alright?'

James Acaster

'Can't believe you said Ed looked like a rhino.'

Tom Davis

'It's Kevin.' 'Oh, for-,'

James Acaster

'Gave that Gamble guy the rhino title.'

Ed Gamble

'Yes, look at me. I'm a full rhino.' In this disease, then, you imagine he could still speak English once-, even though the transformation's complete. He can knock, as well.

James Acaster

The keeper-, then they still have him in the zoo.

Tom Davis

The zookeeper just going-, 'We're going through fucking glass like nobody's business. Stop knocking on the fucking glass every time. I'm trying to get out of here.'

James Acaster

We always start with still or sparkling water, on the podcast. Your preference?

Tom Davis

You know what I've got a real preference for is, I like to go to a restaurant and I like to sample the tap water like it's a wine.

Ed Gamble

Are you swilling?

Tom Davis

Yes, yes. I think, you know what, we live in one of the only countries in the world where you can have, like, tap water. Different areas, like, sometimes it's chalky, sometimes you get fresh keg. I actually think we should be pushing it more. I think the vibe of actually being proud-, because it's sort of sneered upon, if you-, 'What do you want?' 'Tap water.' Like you can't afford a bottle. Actually, I think people should be more up-front about pushing tap water, because it's like a wine. Fine wine, right?

Ed Gamble

Yes, because they don't mention it. They always say, 'Still or sparkling?' It's like a secret menu item, you have to say, 'Tap.' I'm always very proud of saying 'tap'.

Tom Davis

Yes. Or, I like to say, 'What's your tap like? Just bring me-, ' yes. Then you just have a glass and just the little-, 'That's lovely. That's quite-, yes, that's nice and fresh. Yes.'



James Acaster

If you've got a place in the country where is your favourite tap water, do you find that, wherever you are, you go, 'Do you have some Salford tap water, please? I would like a pint of Salford tap water.'

Tom Davis

You'd probably move there.

James Acaster

'We're in Birmingham.' 'You asked me if I wanted water.'

Tom Davis

Yes. Or you just literally get a sip of it and go, 'You know what? I will get a bottle. That's not for me.' If it's a bit cloudy and it's got bits in it, but I think it's something we should be really proud of.

James Acaster

So, you know what I've got to ask you now? You told me before this that you have lived, for a few years-, I didn't know this, but for about three years, near where I grew up.

Tom Davis

Yes.

James Acaster

Northamptonshire. Obviously, you've had tap water elsewhere. What do you think of the Northamptonshire tap water?

Tom Davis

Look, I was spoilt as a child, because I was brought up with Surrey tap water, which is beautiful. It's very crisp, it's very, you know, it's with you. One of the main reasons I moved to where I moved is the water there, it's-, even, like, on a hot day, it's ice cold. There's nothing but deliciousness to it.

James Acaster

It's the Northamptonshire tap water you're talking about?

Tom Davis

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Saying 'it's always ice cold', that's not a characteristic of tap water, though, is it?

Tom Davis

That's a character-, like every good drink-,

Ed Gamble

Because it's in Northamptonshire, it comes out the taps ice cold?

Tom Davis

Ed, I can see where you're going with this. I have been in parts of this country where I've run the tap for maybe ten minutes, and it doesn't get as cold as the stuff.

James Acaster

You got a soaking wet hand at the end, because you're just running your hand under the tap all the time.



Tom Davis

Yes. You're like that, or you just get a little shot glass, and you take a slug of it, and it's like, 'This is still not cold enough for my palate.'

Ed Gamble

I think my point is, is it specific to Northamptonshire that it comes out the tap ice cold immediately?

Tom Davis

Yes, I think so. (Laughter). That's why-,

James Acaster

Yes. Always cold.

Tom Davis

It's like having one of those things on your fridge. Beautiful water, man. I think that that's, you know, I always want to shake someone by the hand when I've had amazing water, and say, 'You should tell everyone about this.' Obviously, they don't, because there's such a mark-up.

Ed Gamble

Who are you shaking by the hand?

Tom Davis

The restaurateur. The maître d'. Go out with a fiver at the end of the meal, going, 'That water was fucking lovely, mate. You tell everyone about that.'

James Acaster

Yes. They should tell people about it in Kettering.

Tom Davis

Lovely bit of kit. Yes.

James Acaster

Would that be the water you'd like in your dream meal, is Kettering tap water?

Tom Davis

Yes, I am going to go with Kettering tap water.

James Acaster

Yes!

Ed Gamble

Do you like Kettering tap water?

James Acaster

Yes, although, I must say, I said Salford earlier because I think that is where I've noticeably had the best tap water.

Ed Gamble

Very soft water.

James Acaster

Again, just tasted very fresh and clean and pure.

Tom Davis

I like a bit of chalky water sometimes.



Ed Gamble

I don't mind it. I like a bit of hard water. I like hard, London water.

James Acaster

Because he's a Wimbledon boy. He's a Wimbledon boy.

Tom Davis

I know Wimbledon well.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Tom Davis

Great water.

Ed Gamble

Great water.

Tom Davis

No limescale in it. You can have a kettle for ten years, not have to clean it.

Ed Gamble

Yes. That's certainly what I've found. My mum says that every time I call her. She's like, 'Still not got the new kettle? It's the same kettle we had when you were born,' she says. (Laughter).

Tom Davis

'Not had to descale it once.'

Ed Gamble

'Amazing.'

James Acaster

Poppadoms or bread? Poppadoms or bread, Tom Davis?

Tom Davis

I'm a bread fan. I love my bread.

James Acaster

Yes?

Tom Davis

Also, I do think poppadoms should be available in more places. I think poppadoms should be spread out. I think they're beautiful, but I love bread. I like a bit of tiger bread before I-, yes. A healthy bit of tiger bread before a meal.

Ed Gamble

Now, the tiger bread. We've not really discussed the tiger bread in too much detail, have we?

James Acaster

No, I don't think it's come up very often, which is weird, because it's a nice bread.

Ed Gamble

Does it taste any different to normal bread, or is it just tiger bread because it's got those stripes on the top that make it look like a tiger?



Tom Davis

Fresh tiger bread, that softness, it's like a good mattress. It's just really decent, with a nice salty butter. I knew that I was doing well for myself when the butter started coming out without a wrap around it.

James Acaster

Yes, that's nice.

Tom Davis

That's definitely when you know life's getting ritzy.

Ed Gamble

The way you put that suggested that it's the same restaurant you were going to the whole time, but it was only at a certain point they went, 'We'd better start unwrapping his butter.'

Tom Davis

Just someone in the kitchen going, 'Tom Davis is here.' 'Unwrap that butter.' Pulling it out.

James Acaster

'He won't be getting greasy fingers today.'

Tom Davis

The Toby Carvery. 'Mr Davis, we've unwrapped you butter, and here's your tap water.'

Ed Gamble

'Things are going well for me.'

Tom Davis

Yes. 'I think things are going to be okay.' I used to make a lot of bread, actually. Yes. I used to be obsessed with-, soda bread became my thing. I used to love, like, Guinness bread. I used to like-,

Ed Gamble

I love that sort of bread.

Tom Davis

Yes. I used to love-, but I think a tiger bread is really hard to get the proper texture to it. It's a really-, yes, it's a hard one. Because this is an unknown little fact of me, I trained as a chef, so, when I was scaffolding and working on-site, I hated doing what I was doing. At two, two and a half years-, so, I trained at nights, at (mw 20.42) college, trained as a chef, and then I worked for a while at The Connaught.

Ed Gamble

Amazing.

Tom Davis

I like cooking, and I'm a big, home-, I love things like, yes, bread cooking. Bake Off would be fun. Never been asked to be on it. I know both of you (talking over each other 20.56).

James Acaster

It's not fun.

Tom Davis

Is it not fun?



James Acaster
No.

Tom Davis
Really.

James Acaster
It's not fun.

Ed Gamble
Not the way he did it. It is fun.

Tom Davis
Really?

Ed Gamble
Yes, it's really good fun.

Tom Davis
I'm hoping.

Ed Gamble
You'd smash it. Yes.

Tom Davis
Yes. I feel sometimes, obviously, because I've got a past in the business, maybe they'd-,

James Acaster
Yes, it might be different for you.

Ed Gamble
Maybe you should just do normal Bake Off, and absolutely, like-,

Tom Davis
Could you imagine that? Just gave it all up. Normal Bake-,

James Acaster
'Tom, this isn't Celebrity Bake Off.' 'I'm not celebrity anymore.'

Tom Davis
'Yes, no. I'm not a celebrity. I've given it all up.'

James Acaster
'Not a celebrity, so it doesn't count.'

Tom Davis
'I mean, it's still a little bit unfair because I'm trained as a chef.'

Ed Gamble
'I've started wrapping my butter again.'

James Acaster
Yes. Gone back to that butter.



Ed Gamble

Left the celeb world behind.

Tom Davis

'Things aren't going so well, actually, so, put a foil around that.' Tiger bread is, yes. That's my go-to.

Ed Gamble

So, there is a different taste to tiger bread, do you think? Or is it a textural thing?

Tom Davis

Yes, yes, yes. I think texture, but also the taste. I think it takes butter better than any other-, maybe soda bread could go toe-to-toe with it. I like a restaurant where you have unlimited bread before a meal. I like the fact that, actually, it's 50/50 whether you're going to be able to eat your starter, because you've eaten so much bread before the meal. I really-, that's the vibe I'm into.

Ed Gamble

How much tiger bread do you reckon you could put away and still comfortably eat the meal that's about to come?

Tom Davis

Three slices.

Ed Gamble

Three slices? Nice.

Tom Davis

Three decent-sized slices. I always think, as well, it's quite nice when you get those restaurants where you can cut your own bread. I think it's presumptuous of people when they cut the bread for you. I like it when you get a little loaf and you cut, you know. Obviously, this is pre-cut-,

James Acaster

What are they presuming?

Tom Davis

That you can't handle it.

James Acaster

If it's presumptuous, what are they presuming there?

Tom Davis

I think that either you can't handle a thicker slice. I think that bread consumption is like politics. Never judge anyone by it. You just go in, I think we should be allowed to cut our bread as we please. It's a very dangerous world we live in. If you were to come into-, if I had a restaurant like this one here, you two came in, I'd say, 'Look, here we go, here's a loaf.' I would not want to give you a thin slice, you a thick slice. All of a sudden you're like, 'I like thick slices.'

James Acaster

I'm not very good at cutting bread, though. I think I'm doing it really well, and then actually, it's at an angle, and I end up with, like, a wedge of bread, rather than a neat slice.

Tom Davis

It's all about the softness.

James Acaster

Yes?



Tom Davis

It's all about being quite sensual. Bread is all about sensuality.

Ed Gamble

Go on.

Tom Davis

When you're making it, proofing it, feeling it. It's all about being soft, you know? You don't want to knead it too hard, you want to treat it nice. Even that comes down to the cutting, you keep that nice, that rhythm good, alright? Soft, slow, to the point, right? You want, basically, at the end of it, the bread to, sort of-, much like our rhino friend, you want bread to give you a wink and go, 'Thank you. I felt-.'

James Acaster

This is your mate who turned into a rhino and is winking at you from the other side of the glass at the zoo, just to be clear?

Tom Davis

Yes. I just think you-,

Ed Gamble

It'd be awful if you're cutting into bread and it turns out that's another friend you used to work with.

Tom Davis

Breaditus. 'He'll be gone soon.'

Ed Gamble

'I've noticed my penis getting soft like a baguette.' 'Yes, I know what's happening.'

Tom Davis

'Yes, you've got Breaditus.'

James Acaster

Always ends with 'itus'. Always just the word that they know anyway. Is giraffe bread a thing, or am I making that up in my head? I seem to remember seeing some giraffe bread once, but now I think-,

Ed Gamble

Are you thinking of a French stick?

James Acaster

Hmm. Good point.

Tom Davis

I've never heard of that.

James Acaster

I think it was similar to tiger bread, and I couldn't really tell the difference.

Tom Davis

Did it have, like, the small giraffe-,

James Acaster

This is what I'm thinking. Was it that, or was it more of a giraffe-y pattern on it?



Ed Gamble

No, it feels like there would be. Yes.

James Acaster

I'm thinking that it existed, but now I can't-, I'm doubting it. I'm thinking it might have been a dream.

Tom Davis

Yes, but what a dream.

James Acaster

What a dream, you know.

Tom Davis

That, you know, you could turn that dream into a reality.

James Acaster

Just create giraffe bread myself.

Tom Davis

Yes. That could be the next step-,

James Acaster

Be the person who invents it.

Tom Davis

Wow, so many different things. I didn't know we'd all be coming up with these news ways of looking at our life after this.

Ed Gamble

Well, we're ideas men. That's the thing, yes.

James Acaster

That's the thing. We've all been, like, you know, locked down for two years. Now we come out, we can chat together.

Tom Davis

We can go on the real Bake Off together. You could hide in a cupboard.

James Acaster

Surprise them.

Tom Davis

We could come up with giraffe bread. Paul Hollywood comes over going, 'What is this bread?' It's like, 'You've never seen anything like this before, you mug.'

James Acaster

It'd be good, actually, if I sent in as like-, if I made it, and it was great, but someone else was, like, on the show, and Paul Hollywood comes over, and he goes, 'That's brilliant,' and goes to give them a Hollywood handshake, and I burst out the proving drawer. (Laughter). 'It was me, you mug.'

Ed Gamble

You're really puffed up, because you've been in the proving drawer.



James Acaster

Yes. I'm all proved. 'Who are you?' 'It's James Acaster. Wait for my skin to calm down. We'll see who it is.'

Ed Gamble

One punch and you completely deflate.

James Acaster

Right. Let's get onto your dream starter.

Tom Davis

It's a tough one, this, because it's like, I had to give this so much thought from the moment I knew.

Ed Gamble

That's what we like.

Tom Davis

I plumped for a proper French onion soup. As a kid, first time I went abroad, we were on a school trip to Bordeaux, and we tried this French onion soup. I remember the whole way there, I was so excited about it. It was, like, the first time I'd been on a ferry. Quite a few kids from my school got, like, detained, because there was-, remember NAF Co?

Ed Gamble

No?

James Acaster

No?

Tom Davis

NAF NAF. There was a NAF Co. They were big at the time. They had a shop on the ferry. A load of kids from my school went in and drummed it, like, took all the-, shoplifted. So, the sort of the start of the thing was a load of kids who weren't allowed-, yes, who stole loads of bits.

Ed Gamble

Not a great place to shoplift, when you're at sea.

Tom Davis

Yes, yes. There's no-where to run is there, really, do you know what I mean? 'We'd have got away with it, too.'

James Acaster

Hold on a second, sorry. Let's scroll back.

Tom Davis

Hit me. Scroll back. Rewind, baby.

James Acaster

You're on the school trip.

Tom Davis

Yes.

James Acaster

You're going to Bordeaux.



Tom Davis

Yes.

James Acaster

A bunch of kids from your school trip, on the ferry over, shoplift from the NAF NAF shop, and the teachers just let them be detained, and everyone else just carries on-

Tom Davis

No, no, no. They came with us. No, they came with us, but they weren't allowed to-, they-, I can't remember exactly what happened, but they came for the rest of the trip, but they were detained on the ferry until the ferry-, they didn't keep them on the ferry. They're not still there working, like, cabin mates.

James Acaster

The whole school trip still carried on? In my school-, is this primary school, secondary school?

Tom Davis

This was secondary school, yes.

James Acaster

Yes. If that happened in my school, I don't know if the trip would have continued. A bunch of kids trying to ruin-

Tom Davis

Yes, but I think they couldn't ruin it for everyone else. I think it was-, they came, but I remember, because we went to a discotheque on the last night, they weren't allowed to come. Yes, they got all the stuff back, I believe.

James Acaster

Yes. Okay. That's their punishment.

Tom Davis

Apart from a couple of wallets that were doing the-, you know, those sort of big wallets you used to get back in the day.

Ed Gamble

With the zips.

Tom Davis

Yes, yes. Yes. They couldn't go to the discotheque.

James Acaster

Okay. Fair enough.

Tom Davis

Which, to be fair, was like, quite a weird thing to go. Like, we were sort of, fourteen, fifteen? Everyone else in there was in their twenties, sort of quite a creepy weird thing to be taken to.

James Acaster

You were taller than the people in their twenties, surely, so that was fine.

Tom Davis

Yes, yes. It was a fair indication of what my whole life would be like, whenever I went to a nightclub, the fact that everyone was pointing at me and laughing.



Ed Gamble

Dressed head to toe in moody NAF NAF.

James Acaster

Stolen it.

Tom Davis

Walking home with my wallet and opening it constantly in front of people. A couple of centimes falling out. Yes. I was obsessed with finding this-, like, a proper, real French onion soup with the bread at the top, and the cheese, the big crouton on the top of it. I tried a couple, but found, like, one that was just off a stall that was just beautiful. You know? I held it tight to my mind. For now, I don't think I've ever-, it was so good, the taste of it, I don't think I've ever tasted a French-, maybe it's the first time, like the first time, you know. I was going to say, 'You lose your virginity,' but that wasn't the best time I'd ever had sex (laughter).

Ed Gamble

'Never gets better after that!'

James Acaster

Imagine if there was someone who's like, 'You know what, the best time is always the first time, and I've never had it as good.'

Ed Gamble

'Chasing that high.'

Tom Davis

'Chasing that sweet, sweet feeling. Crying afterwards.'

Ed Gamble

'The awkwardness.'

Tom Davis

'The no return of the phone call. The laughing behind my back from all of my-,'

Ed Gamble

Imagine losing your virginity and turning to the person and going, 'That reminds me of my first ever French onion soup.' (Laughter).

James Acaster

'Never been topped.'

Tom Davis

'The crouton on top.'

James Acaster

Just imagined in my head, like, even if it's not-, even if it's not your first time, just turning to someone you just had sex with and going, 'It doesn't get better than that.' (Laughter). It made me laugh. 'It doesn't get better than that.'

Tom Davis

'High-five!' Just lying there with a big grin like a big Cheshire cat.

Ed Gamble

'Well done.'



Tom Davis

'Nice one, actually, for that. That was really good. You know what? I think it couldn't get any better than that, so, that is a warm handshake.'

James Acaster

'That's living, isn't it?'

Tom Davis

'Would you like some French onion soup? I've an amazing recipe. Give me four and a half hours, I'll give you some soup that'll knock you sideways.'

James Acaster

You said you tried a lot of French onion soup when you were there?

Tom Davis

Yes. I had a couple of tries of, like, I wanted to find-

James Acaster

Was everyone else-, were all your other-, your classmates going around being like, 'Let's get loads of French onion soup, let's find the best one?'

Tom Davis

They were doing cool stuff, yes. No, no, no. A lot of them were just getting flick-knives and porno-, porno cards were big at the time.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Porno playing cards on the French trip, a ninja star.

James Acaster

Ninja star's what Ed got.

Tom Davis

I was, hopefully, the only kid who wanted a decent French onion soup. I heard stories, you know?

Ed Gamble

The teachers checking your bag after the trip to make sure there was no contraband.

Tom Davis

Just a fuck-tonne of onions.

Ed Gamble

Just loads of soup swilling around in your suitcase.

James Acaster

'Davis! You've been pouring cups of French onion soup into your bag? Disgusting.'

Tom Davis

Like, a plastic bag within it. 'I'm going to take this home for my mum and dad. They'll like this.'

James Acaster

'We told you. None of this.'

Ed Gamble

I'm so on board with this choice. I love French onion soup.



Tom Davis

Do you know, the only thing that came close was, there's a restaurant near me in Oakham, place called Oakham, called Hitchen's Barn, and they do a cheese souffle of the week that is unreal. It's the best thing I've ever tasted, that is incredible, but it doesn't incite the same-, and I think that-, you know, I'm a big fan of this podcast and I think you have to pick with you heart.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Totally.

Tom Davis

I think I could go with that, but every time I think of that French onion soup, there's a smirk across my face, and I think of the old boy selling it, and the smile he gave me as I walked away, you know, on my own, thinking, 'That little loner is just about to have the highlight of his holiday.'

James Acaster

I'm excited to hear about that. Hitchen's Bar, did you say?

Tom Davis

Hitchen's Barn, yes. It's incredible.

James Acaster

I want to go in there, next time I go back. See if there are these great cheese souffles there.

Tom Davis

Everything there is amazing. I go in there, and I-, yes. I will shake hands and-, great tap water. Beautiful tap water.

James Acaster

Yes? Great tap water, you're shaking their hands.

Ed Gamble

I want to see you try that.

James Acaster

What, shake their hands?

Ed Gamble

You absolutely know Tom gets away with that sort of thing, walking in, shaking everyone's hand, saying 'hello'.

James Acaster

Yes. 'Hello, how's it doing?' Shaking everyone's hand. If I were him-,

Ed Gamble

Everyone's like, 'Great,' and they're so happy to have him there, shaking hands. 'That guy came in, shake his hand, unwrap that guy's butter.' You going in there, marching up, shaking everyone's hand, everyone like, 'The hell?'

James Acaster

Yes, it wouldn't work. 'Hello! My name's James. Tom Davis told me you have a good cheese souffle. Is that correct?'



Tom Davis

Just holding their hand the whole time, nervously.

James Acaster

Yes. 'Life doesn't get better than this.' (Laughter). 'Hi, everyone.' 'Here he is. Someone told him about some food, again. Trying to be like big Tom Davis (mw 32.20) chatting to him.'

Ed Gamble

So, the French onion soup comes in those weird little bowls, right? So, they're like, bigger bowls than normal soup bowls, which is exciting.

Tom Davis

Yes, yes. If you get it right, it's got the crouton on top and a crouton on the bottom, right?

Ed Gamble

On the bottom, as well?

James Acaster

Secret one on the bottom?

Tom Davis

Yes, so, you should have, like, a bread-

James Acaster

Sandwich.

Ed Gamble

Like, all soaking it up. It's great.

Tom Davis

Yes, so it's all soaked up, and, again-

James Acaster

Soup sandwich.

Tom Davis

Yes. Man, I think everything should be better in a sandwich. I just think, sandwiches are fucking king. I'd like to open a restaurant. If that-, might be my dream. Just, everything's in a sandwich. You could have an Indian meal, a Chinese meal, you could have a roast dinner, you could have a Mexican-, well, Mexican's kind of-, you know, a burrito within bread.

James Acaster

Yes. People don't have to eat-, obviously with the soup, it's like, you're eating it like-, you're not picking it up and eating it like a sandwich, but you're going-, the point is, it's between two bits of bread, so, you can eat it however you want, but-,

Tom Davis

Bread makes everything better. It's like medicine. You think about any meal that you've ever had in your life, and would bread be good for-, I still ask for a roll after any course in any restaurant so I can mop stuff up.

James Acaster

Any course in any restaurant?



Tom Davis

Yes.

James Acaster

Any course?

Tom Davis

Apart from dessert. I'm not a heathen.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Sushi restaurant? Are you asking for a bread roll to mop the soy sauce up?

Tom Davis

You know what?

James Acaster

Send it around on the conveyor belt for him.

Tom Davis

I would love that. I tell you something, best breakfast I had-, actually, we're not talking breakfast, but in Bermondsey, there used to be a place used to do these sweet rolls, and on top you'd have, like, poached eggs, and it was all covered in soy sauce.

Ed Gamble

Amazing.

Tom Davis

Beautiful. The saltiness, the sweet. Hello.

James Acaster

What was that place called?

Tom Davis

I can't remember its name. I used to just sort of go there when I lived on Bermondsey Street, I used to pop in there, and they used to nod at me, and they knew what I wanted.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Was it on the menu, or were they like, 'Here comes the bread guy.'

Tom Davis

'Bread guy.'

Ed Gamble

'Here comes Breadie.'

Tom Davis

'Why do we do this for him? He thinks this is on the menu.'

James Acaster

'We did it once as a joke, and he keeps going like, "Please can I have another sweet bread roll-,"'



Tom Davis

'Keeps bringing his idiot friends in. "We'll have ten of them."'

James Acaster

'Sweet bread rolls covered in soy sauce, please.' 'Okay. You still-,' I used to work in Bermondsey, and there was a shop right next to the station, and I'd go in every morning and get a custard Danish from there.

Tom Davis

Nice.

James Acaster

At the time, I thought it was the best custard Danish ever. I'd look forward to it all. An hour on the tube to get there, and I'd be thinking about that custard Danish the whole time. Well, not the whole time. Well, kind of. I'd get on at one end, in Bounds Green, and I'd get a flapjack from the flapjack man.

Ed Gamble

What?

James Acaster

Then I'd eat the flapjack on the tube, and then it was as soon as I'd finished the flapjack, I'd start thinking about the custard Danish.

Ed Gamble

Every day?

James Acaster

Yes.

Tom Davis

That's a living life.

Ed Gamble

You live it. You don't just talk the talk, you walk the walk.

James Acaster

Also, on a Friday, if I was lucky-, well, it wasn't 'if I was lucky', this would just happen anyway, in the staff room, they'd put out those Marks and Spencer mini bites tubs, and I'd always be the first one there, so, I'd absolutely clean them up. Do the rounds. Everyone else would always be too polite to eat them, so I'd wait until they've all-, we've had the morning briefing, then just go around, do the rounds again, have another load of them. Absolutely-,

Tom Davis

The Rice Krispies square ones?

James Acaster

Like, all of them. There'd be a different one on each table in the staff room, and I'd be really eyeing up certain ones. One of the Millionaire's Shortbread-,

Tom Davis

Yes, yes, yes. Did you have an order, like, a list of like, 'I'm going to hit up this-,'

James Acaster

Rocky Road. The Rocky Road was, like, the holy grail.



Ed Gamble

Do they have the ones that are like, mini-er Mini Rolls? Like, very-, they're called, like, 'Very Chocolate-y Rolls' or something like that.

Tom Davis

With the chocolate around them.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Oh, man.

Tom Davis

I don't get the politeness of, like, people at-, if I'm at a buffet, I'm steaming in. As soon as the tops are taken off a little bit, like, the cling film comes off, I'm there.

Ed Gamble

Are you meaning-, the top of the containers, but I was like, 'What buffets are you going to where-,'

James Acaster

Tops off.

Ed Gamble

As soon as everyone's tops are off, you go and get (talking over each other 35.59).

Tom Davis

'Come on, everyone. Let's take our clothes off and eat.' 'This is weird.'

Ed Gamble

Buffet at a swinger's night.

Tom Davis

'You tried the profiteroles?'

James Acaster

Again, you'd get away with that more than I would. (Laughter). People do accept it from you.

Tom Davis

There are always people who are a little polite. I think it's rude if you don't get stuck into food straight away. I think it's a sign-, you know. Scoffing it back. I think the sounds of someone eating your food is the best testament to how nice it is.

Ed Gamble

Yes, the noises. Food noises.

Tom Davis

Yes. I'd rather that than someone reserved saying, 'This is delicious.'. Mate. Mmm. I think that there-, yes.'

James Acaster

Good acting straight away, by the way.

Ed Gamble

Really good.



Tom Davis

I can slip in and out.

James Acaster

That was good. That was good.

Tom Davis

Yes. 'Eating guy', that was how-, my first three roles.

Ed Gamble

Good character. Didn't really work on the live circuit, did it?

Tom Davis

No, no, it was quite hard.

Ed Gamble

It was a stretch over twenty.

Tom Davis

My first Edinburgh. 'Fucking hell, he's not even on the main course. He's been eating that French onion soup for ten minutes.'

Ed Gamble

Bad previews where you burn your mouth in the first two minutes.

Tom Davis

'Steve Bennett's absolutely slaughtered me.'

James Acaster

I'd arrive on some mixed bill of gigs, go straight to the green room, 'Is he doing Eating Guy again?' 'Yes. He's up there and he's doing Eating Guy right now on-stage.'

Tom Davis

'Actually, to be fair, the finale when he eats ice cream is amazing.'

James Acaster

'Yes. They love that.'

Ed Gamble

The last thing you want to hear, the MC going, 'I'll just bring you on straight after Eating Guy.' Just keep the night rolling. 'No, please do a bit. Do a bit.'

James Acaster

'Come on.'

Tom Davis

Just asking what's on the menu.

James Acaster

A lot of mime. A lot of mime going on the podcast today, actually.

Ed Gamble

Yes, it's nice.



Tom Davis

Yes. It's one of my problems, I'm a very physical kind of guy, and that doesn't translate well on a podcast.

James Acaster

Before we move on, Charlotte Church chose this last week, by the way. French onion soup. Does it surprise you to learn that you've got that in common?

Tom Davis

I think it's just great company. I think great minds think alike when it comes to French onion soup. I like to think that everyone's got a little bit of French onion soup in them.

James Acaster

Yes?

Tom Davis

Yes.

James Acaster

Interesting. I don't think you thought that through before you said it.

Tom Davis

No, no, no. Maybe I didn't.

James Acaster

I liked it. Do you think you and Charlotte Church are similar in more than outside of-

Tom Davis

You know what? I'd like to think that yes, in a sense, sort of, like, two renegades. She was like, she was actually like a young person who was really, really good in their youth, my youth was pathetic, I worked on a building-, actually, we couldn't be more different (inaudible 38.14), apart from our love of French onion soup. I think if we went to a restaurant together, we'd just eat French onion soup, and every now and again look up and go, 'This is nice,' and have nothing else to talk about. Yes.

Ed Gamble

It unites people though, doesn't it, French onion soup? That's the thing.

Tom Davis

Yes. That's the beautiful thing about it. That's why the French are all so happy.

James Acaster

Were people who said that-, called you 'voice of an angel' at any point in your life?

Tom Davis

No. No, I've never had 'angel' put in any of my-, like, you know, 'feet of an angel' or 'hand'. I don't think you can use 'angel' anywhere else than, you know, 'laugh of an angel'.

James Acaster

Yes. It's always voice-related. It's never like, 'the hair'. Angel hair?

Tom Davis

Angels do a lot of fucking-,

Ed Gamble

Angel hair's a pasta. A type of pasta.



Tom Davis

Actually, to be fair, when my hair was really thinning, it was quite like angel hair. Wispy. Yes. Thin, wispy hair.

Ed Gamble

That's the pasta, actually, you least want your hair to be like. Angel hair pasta.

James Acaster

Yes. Sure.

Tom Davis

Just going to Turkey for a hair transplant and going, 'Can I get a, like, a sort of penne kind of vibe to my hair, please? Like, a thick penne? A linguine.'

Ed Gamble

Or, just two sheets of lasagne. Just like '90s curtains.

Tom Davis

I had those.

Ed Gamble

Did you?

Tom Davis

I had, like, an undercut. Cherished times.

Ed Gamble

Great.

James Acaster

Loved to have seen that.

Tom Davis

Yes. Honestly, when I look at both of you-, all three of you guys with your beautiful hair, man, it's like-, yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes, but now you can pull the hat off. Just for the listener, Tom's got one of those sort of big flat caps on, that, I think, you're the only person I've ever seen make those look good.

Tom Davis

Really?

James Acaster

Outside of Last of the Summer Wine.

Tom Davis

Which was my inspiration.

James Acaster

Those guys look legit.



Ed Gamble

And Peaky Blinders, which is (talking over each other 39.51) . Which is, of course, the Last of the Summer Wine prequel.

James Acaster

It's the very Last of the Summer Wine, actually. Peaky Blinders is like-

Tom Davis

That would be so genius, if that was the prequel to it.

Ed Gamble

At the end of Peaky Blinders, they go, 'I'm going to start calling you Compo.' 'What?'

James Acaster

He gets in a bathtub. 'What the hell?' Dream main course.

Tom Davis

I've gone with a typical Irish boxty. All my family is from a place in Ireland called Mayo, and it's one of-, it takes me back to, sort of, school holidays, we'd go over there on holiday, and it's-, yes, it's a very-, it's essentially just a stew cooked with or without dumplings, nice bit of soda bread, but it's a beautiful thing. It's like, that, some good mashed potato. I think it's the food that probably makes me happiest, I think, you know. That weird thing of trying to recreate it at home, and you can never get the carrots quite sweet enough. Or, there's a trick to it all, I think. It's like a magician's-,

Ed Gamble

It might even be in the pot, just using the same pot all the time.

Tom Davis

Yes. The flavours have sort of, like, so ingrained-, yes. It's a good-, I went-, I took my wife, now, back to where I came from, Mayo, for this sort of trip of, like, you know, just before we got married I was like, 'I'm going to take you back to where I come from.' This tiny little place called Roycarter, which is near Belmullet, which is, sort of, on the, like, furthest peak of Ireland. I hadn't been back for years, so I was like, 'Look, we're going to go. You can see where my grandma was born,' and all that. We were driving over there, and the sat nav's basically stopped, can't find this place, Roycarter, it's quite a tough little place to find. We pull over in Belmullet, we go into this petrol station, and I'm like-, I'm going to do this accent, right? This accent-, in Mayo, they have this kind of, sort of, singing way of talking when you're talking to-, I can't do it greatly, but I'm going to try.

James Acaster

I mean, that's pretty-, I haven't been there, that sounded like a legit accent.

Ed Gamble

Pretty good.

Tom Davis

So, I go into the petrol station, I was like, 'Hi, I'm looking for Roycarter.' This man goes, 'What do you want with Roycarter? Why do you want to go there, now?' I said, 'I'm over there, like, my family's from there. My grandmother.' 'What's your grandmother's name, now?' 'Bridget Lally.' 'Bridget Lally's dead. She's been dead for about twenty-odd-', 'I know she's dead, but my uncles, Dennis and Tady (ph 42.14) Lally-', 'Dennis is in a mental institution and Tady's dead.' I was like, 'Yes, I know this, they're my uncles.' He's like, 'Well, what do you want there?' I said, 'Well, I'm going to take my-', I basically had to do an interview to go to this fucking place, right? So, I do this whole thing, and he said, 'Follow me, I'll show you to Roycarter.' So, we get in the car, and me and my wife are driving. He speeds off, my wife's trying to keep up, right? Speeds through the country. We turn up at Roycarter, and he runs into this B&B pub we're staying in, and the whole pub comes out,



right? I sort of come out, it's quite intimidating, you're in the middle of nowhere, sort of, like, the wilderness of Ireland, and my wife's like, 'Oh my God, what's happening?' I was like, 'Don't worry, I've got this.'

I get out of the car and the woman who runs the B&B is like, 'What do you want here? He says that you're related to Bridget Lally, now. She's dead. She's been dead for about twenty years.' I said, 'I know, Bridget Lally is my grandmother.' She said, 'He says you're Dennis and Tady's nephew. You know that Dennis is in a mental institution and Tady's dead now?' I said, 'Yes, no, they're my uncles, yes. Look, I come from-, I'm on a, sort of, like, me retracing-, showing my wife where I'm from, you know, where my family's from.' My wife was like, 'We have a room booked here.' She was like, 'We've got one room booked tonight in the name of Mick and Mary Murphy. Is that you?' I went, 'No, no, I'm Tom Davis, and this is my fiancée, Kathryn Morphy (ph 43.29) .' She was like, 'Matthews? Maybe we got the name wrong. Mary, Mick, will you come in?' I was like, 'No, no-, ' They take us to this fucking nut's room, right? We're there for, like, four or five days, we were driving around, and for the whole time, she's calling me Mick, my wife Mary. It's like an insane-, it's like something from a comedy sketch.

James Acaster

They never showed up?

Tom Davis

No, no. I think they had just literally not heard what my wife was saying and just put these names down. So, this, I think the penultimate night we're there, I was in the bar chatting to some people, and she comes up with a worried look on her face. She said, 'Can I have a word with you, Mick?' I was like, 'Yes.' She's, 'Your man over there says that you're an actor by the name of Tom Davis. He's got it so wrong.' I said, 'No, no, that is me. I am Tom Davis. I'm an actor.' 'No, when you got here, you said you were Bridget Lally's grandson.' I was like, 'Yes, no, I am Bridget Lally's grandson.' 'Dennis and Tady's nephew?' 'Yes.' 'He's convinced you're an actor.' I said, 'No, I am an actor. I'm an actor, but I'm also related to Bridget and Tady and-, ' and she's like, 'Well, who the fucking hell is Mick Murphy?' I was like, 'No idea who fucking Mick Murphy is,' right? She says, 'This is quite the conundrum we have on our hands.' I was like, 'It's really not a conundrum.' Anyway, she still writes to me, like, DM me from this place, the (mw 44.52) Inn. It's an incredible place-, anyway. I digress. So, I had this vision of taking-, I'm obsessed with food, and I'm obsessed with the memories that-, that's why I love this podcast, the memories and feelings that food incites. I think it's the only thing, like, food and music. Anyway, I was like, saying to my wife, 'We have to go to this place,' I have such fond memories of this boxty that my grand-, we used to go to, my parents, this beautiful little, sort of, pub. So, we go there, and we sit down, and it's quite clear quite early on that this has been taken over by a chain, and the mashed potato was Smash, nothing was cooked, like, properly, and then we spent the rest of the time, me trying to find the perfect boxty, which I didn't, for a while.

So, it's a sort of hallowed thing, that I think back, I remember, but it's the only main course that I could pick to sit in this restaurant and look-,

James Acaster

I know how you feel, man. It's heartbreaking when it's like, it's not only just gone from, 'It's not as good,' it's Smash potato.

Tom Davis

Smash potato, by the way, is like, the laziest-, in a restaurant-, I get it a home, like, you know, but it's the laziest thing to cook. Genuinely, it's like, in a restaurant, come on.

Ed Gamble

You can mash a potato. It's not that much-,

James Acaster



It's actually quite difficult to get it right and to mash them really good, to get really good-quality mash that is really good.

Ed Gamble

Sure. Well, you're the Mash King.

Tom Davis

Is that your thing?

James Acaster

I'm the Mash King.

Tom Davis

Are you like the guy at Christmas who, like, everyone I grew up with and everyone I know from my mates, so to say, always will say at Christmas, they'll go, 'Yes, no, she does all the cooking, obviously, apart from the roast potatoes because I'm the king of roast potatoes.' How long does it fucking take to do that one fucking thing. What do you do the rest-, 'I only do it for Christmas. I only do it.' It's like the family can only get their minds around it once a year.

Ed Gamble

It's that good.

Tom Davis

'Yes, it wouldn't be so special.' You know what would be special? You fucking getting off your arse, giving your fucking wife a hand fucking every other Sunday of the fucking year, and maybe learn another trick (laughter). You got your fucking head around roast potatoes. Like a miracle thing. You parboil them, you throw them in a bit of oil, you can't really fuck it up, Geoff. 'No, no, that's what I do. The King.' Someone, 'How do you do yours, then, mate?'

Ed Gamble

Also, you know they're not that good. Absolutely not that good.

Tom Davis

Like, soggy as fuck.

Ed Gamble

He talks about them for the whole meal, as well.

Tom Davis

Yes. No, no, that's the thing that you know happens. The wife's sweating up, 'Fucking-, your turkey okay? Bread sauce alright? Sprouts, they're not too-, 'How's everyone-, still some roast potatoes left over here.'

James Acaster

Yes. They've made it too awkward, no-one can tell them that they're shit, because they've talked them up all day, then they've done them, and then they sit down and they ask people directly, 'How are them roast potatoes?' You're going to say they're great. You're not going to go, 'Actually, I think you're insane. You've been talking about them all day long, and they're just... the other roasties I've had. They're just very normal. If anything, they are a bit damp, and they're not very nice. They're not as crispy as I was hoping they were going-, you made them sound like they were going to be sent from heaven.'

Tom Davis

'You fucking left the skins on, you lazy swine.'



James Acaster

'These are not good.'

Tom Davis

Do you remember pubs? I used to love pub with a roast potato. Used to be one of my favourite things on a Sunday. Just like, roast potatoes coming over the bar. Just a little wink from a knowing face.

James Acaster

Yes please.

Tom Davis

I tell you what, that's the sort of thing I wish they'd bring back. I think the communities lived and died on things like that.

Ed Gamble

Roast potatoes.

Tom Davis

Roast potatoes.

James Acaster

I thought you meant knowing faces.

Tom Davis

Knowing faces, as well, were good. Cheers basically, isn't it? Where everyone knows your name.

James Acaster

We got some-, our trip to New York that we talk about all the time, not the Off Menu one, but the New Year's one that Ed and I went on, we got poutine somewhere once, and it came-, and we were expecting, you know, chips, and it was roast potatoes. That was incredible.

Tom Davis

I think potatoes are king.

James Acaster

They're great.

Ed Gamble

Are we going to see a little appearance of potatoes coming up in your menu?

Tom Davis

Well, yes. It would be amiss of me not to.

James Acaster

Are we side-stepping into the side dish right now, and is it potatoes?

Tom Davis

I feel like I should whisper this.

James Acaster

Or, are they already included in the boxty? Which, by the way, I've never heard that before.

Tom Davis

You've never had a boxty?



James Acaster

I've never-, no, never had it, but never heard the term.

Ed Gamble

No, me neither.

Tom Davis

Really? It's boxty, Irish stew.

Ed Gamble

I can absolutely imagine what it is. I've obviously heard Irish stew before.

Tom Davis

Yes, but it's, I suppose, like, Scouse, or like anything. Like, it's sort of like, the Irish version of that. So, they do these potatoes out there as well called-, well, I think you can do it-, again, I'm potato nut. I love potatoes. Again, I'm umming and aahing here, because the way I see this, I will stand by this meal. If it comes to a point where I'm on the electric chair and someone says, 'What's your final meal, guy?' I'll be like, 'Go back, listen to me on Off Menu, and source out those ingredients, please.'

Ed Gamble

I think people really overestimate the effort that they'll go to on the death sentence wing. They're not going, 'Okay, we've really got to-, he's asked for this-,'

Tom Davis

'It's pizza, mate, or it's Kentucky Fried Chicken.'

Ed Gamble

Basically, it's KFC or pizza, that's all it is. Yes.

James Acaster

Also, look, I'm sure you're sick of hearing about your height all the time and stuff like that, but you saying about you being on the electric chair just makes me think of Green Mile, because that guy's massive. Makes me think of the whole of Green Mile, but you're playing John Coffey.

Tom Davis

A remake?

James Acaster

Yes. 'Take it back, boss.' That's me doing you.

Tom Davis

Yes.

James Acaster

'Alright? I'm Tom Davis.'

Ed Gamble

That's good.

Tom Davis

That's a really great impression.



James Acaster

'My name's Tom.' I can't go as deep.

Ed Gamble

You haven't quite got the timbre.

James Acaster

My voice doesn't do it. I can't go deep. 'Alright, my name's Tom Davis.'

Tom Davis

That was good.

James Acaster

No.

Tom Davis

You started-, you've really just got to go, 'Alright.'

James Acaster

'Alright.'

Ed Gamble

Yes, there's no way-, neither of us are getting that.

James Acaster

'I'll take it back, boss. I tried to take it back, boss.'

Tom Davis

I'm sort of-, what's happening is, you can't go low, so you've just added a bit of a lisp. (Laughter). So, I'm like that snake out of Robin Hood.

Ed Gamble

You'd be great at that.

James Acaster

In a live Robin Hood? Yes.

Ed Gamble

Live action remake.

Tom Davis

Yes. I'd love to be Little John.

James Acaster

I'd like to be the snake.

Tom Davis

That's the dream. You'd be Robin Hood, right, Ed?

Ed Gamble

I can be Robin Hood.

Tom Davis

Yes.



James Acaster

You've got the goods.

Tom Davis

I think, actually, you'd be an amazing Robin Hood.

Ed Gamble

Thank you very much.

Tom Davis

What's great about you, you've got that sort of cherub look, you've got a great little face, but also you've got wisdom in your eyes.

Ed Gamble

That's good. A wise cherub.

James Acaster

A knowing look. A knowing look, would you say?

Tom Davis

Yes, I'd say knowing. I'd also say, say me and you are knocking about Sherwood Forest and he rocked up, I like the thought that, I'm Little John, and you'll probably be Will Scarlet. You could me.

James Acaster

Yes. Will Scarlet.

Tom Davis

'Don't let him anywhere near that fucking bow and arrow, mate. Keep it to a staff fight.'

James Acaster

Don't want to be Will Scarlet.

Ed Gamble

Robin Hood should look like a cherub with the bow and arrow, shouldn't he? It's perfect. A cherub with a knowing look in his eye. Firing arrows going, 'Yes, won't last.'

Tom Davis

'He knew that was going to hit.'

Ed Gamble

What meat is in the stew, by the way? Is it-,

Tom Davis

It's lamb. Yes. I think it's a lamb. It's a bit like one of those things before, I've never really asked. It's just there on the menu.

Ed Gamble

I guess maybe if it's a case of making a massive thing to use up ingredients, it could be-,

Tom Davis

Yes, it was impoverished food. It was like, I suppose-, yes, whatever you had, basically, in the cupboard. I think we had the best meals, sometimes.

James Acaster

Yes. Ask no questions.



Tom Davis

Tell no lies. Handshake, walk out.

James Acaster

Ask no questions, tell no lies, shake their hand, walk out.

Ed Gamble

Not you, though.

James Acaster

Not me. I would ask a lot of questions. 'I have some questions. No lies, please. Shake their hand. Pleased to meet you. What is in this?'

Ed Gamble

'It doesn't get better than this.'

James Acaster

'This is the life. This the life.' I love-, start saying that more. I'm going to try.

Tom Davis

I think you should, or enjoy it.

James Acaster

Going to try and say it a bit more. 'This is the life.'

Tom Davis

Yes. 'This is the life.'

James Acaster

Also, in situations, where, like-, I like to, like, sit on a train next to a stranger, and half an hour into the journey, just go, 'This is the life.' Stuff like that.

Tom Davis

On a roller coaster. Roller coaster would be a fun thing to sort of, like-,

James Acaster

Yes, but roller coasters are too much fun, right? Being on a trip, just selling it to them that I think the train journey-,

Ed Gamble

Just being so happy.

Tom Davis

Are you in a house or a flat?

James Acaster

Flat, at the minute.

Tom Davis

Yes. You know when you're taking out your-, make sure you've got a couple of the other neighbours taking out their bins, and then just give one a little tap on the shoulder and go, 'This is the life.'

James Acaster

Yes. Recycling bins, though, I'd do it. I'd go to the recycling bins, go, 'This is the life, am I right?'



Tom Davis

Or, just stand out there, take your bin out really early, and stand out there the whole morning. Every time someone brings out a bin, just give them a little-, 'Wednesday. This is the life.'

James Acaster

I might do it in the lift, actually.

Ed Gamble

It can't sound sarcastic at all. It has to be, like, properly, you believe, that this is the life.

James Acaster

In my building, the best one I could do is in the lift, because that seems like, this is exciting that we're in the lift. I can say, like-, I press the button, as it starts going up, just go, 'This is the life, am I right?'

Tom Davis

You put too much emphasis. The one you did before was beautiful.

James Acaster

'This is the life!'

Tom Davis

No, no. 'This is the life.'

James Acaster

'This is the life.' Just to myself. (Laughter).

Ed Gamble

I had an Uber driver the other day, and I got in, and it's the happiest man I've ever met in my life. He went, 'From where did God send you to me?' I got to the bottom of it, it turns out he just lives near where I live, so, he's happy to be driving back in the same direction.

Tom Davis

Was he like that happiness the whole way?

Ed Gamble

Yes, pretty much.

Tom Davis

Man.

Ed Gamble

Put my headphones in, but-,

Tom Davis

Really? I'd have just jumped on the skateboard of that guy's happiness and just surfed home. I don't know. I shouldn't have said 'surfed'. You surf on a skateboard?

James Acaster

No. Skate.

Ed Gamble

No, no, no.



Tom Davis

Skate, don't you? Yes.

Ed Gamble

Sink straight to the bottom of the ocean.

James Acaster

Yes. 'Don't try and surf on a skateboard, mate.'

Tom Davis

You learn something every day.

James Acaster

'In the new Jackass film, are you?' Went to see it the other night. Brilliant, five stars.

Tom Davis

Is it good?

Ed Gamble

Nothing makes Benito laugh more than how much James genuinely loves Jackass with all his heart.

James Acaster

Love it.

Tom Davis

I went to watch the one-, the Bad Grandpa one they did. It's one of the happiest moments of my life. Everyone was just in such high spirits. Actually, I talked about this with Rom and he didn't believe it, but when we were leaving, I was laughing so much, still. I slapped someone on the back and said, 'That was funny.'

Ed Gamble

'This is the life.'

James Acaster

'This is the life.'

Tom Davis

That really was the life! If I could have whispered to him and said, 'You know, in ten years, we're all going to be stuck inside. Fucking enjoy it, kid.'

James Acaster

Yes. 'Enjoy this while we can.'

Tom Davis

'Let's just have another popcorn and get back in there and watch it again.' So, my side dish. It was between fondant potatoes, which I adore, but I think I have to stick with that sort of Irish vibe, and go with-, they do, like, this scalloped potatoes which were really finely-sliced, put in the deep fat fryer, covered in salt, and they are-, it's so sexy when you do that. You-, wow, that was-, fucking hell. I've never had anyone's attention as much as I had yours. There was a moment there.

James Acaster

You were describing it really well. 'These sound fucking nice.'

Tom Davis

That felt like eating the French onion soup again.



James Acaster

Ooh la la.

Tom Davis

They're crispy. I remember going to watch the football every night (ph 55.35) , and they come in a bag, so they're all soaked into the bag, the salt, the grease, and I remember, like, going in, ordering a bag, going, like, eating them on the way to the pub thinking, 'These are fucking amazing.' The whole first half I'm watching, thinking, 'I need some more of those. I need some more.' So, at half-time, I went and bought four bags, pretending that I was buying them for other people, and I just sat on a wall and just fucking scoffed them myself.

James Acaster

Did you have to sit on a wall? You didn't have a seat?

Tom Davis

I just, if I'm going to enjoy anything, I think that that's something that-, you know, it wasn't even a high wall, James, it was quite a low wall, but, I think if-,

Ed Gamble

Knees up around your ears. Squatting on the wall like a frog.

Tom Davis

Like a frog. Look at that weird fellow. Do you remember that Simpsons episode where the really tall guy gets in the small car? Like that.

James Acaster

Yes. Love it. 'Do you find something amusing about my appearance when I drive my auto mobile?' One of the best episodes.

Tom Davis

A great episode.

Ed Gamble

When you were buying the four bags of scalloped potatoes, pretending they were for other people, how deep did you go into that? Were you like, 'Can't-, bit less salt on that one, I think Tony-, Tony's on a low-salt diet.'

Tom Davis

I wish I had done it. I was-, yes. I was like an addict. I was like, yes, come on, mate. Got to get back for the next-, also, I wasn't that far away, by the way, from the place. The place I brought them when I ate them, when I ate them all. So, it would have basically taken someone to walk out a little bit further from the doorway to go, ' (inaudible 57.00) back. Hold up. John. Big fella who bought them. Come here, have a look at this.'

James Acaster

He saw you eat the bag, and then he's clearly been thinking about it the whole first half

Tom Davis

Another bit of acting.

James Acaster

That's good. That is good.



Ed Gamble

Good. Snorting down a load of potato.

Tom Davis

Wolfing them down, just, yes. No sauce needed. I think that's the hallmark of incredible potatoes. I think some potato-, I think, like, we're talking about average roast potato, bam, you need gravy, right? I think a lot of potatoes are sort of, like, ketchup becomes their crutch, but I think with these-

Ed Gamble

Just salt.

Tom Davis

Yes. Just sweet, sweet salt.

James Acaster

As your side dish, do you want four bags of them?

Tom Davis

Yes. I'll have four bags. I think because I'm in such a special place, I won't feel the pathetic, sort of, like, looming judgement that I did when I, you know-

James Acaster

You do love potatoes so much, you were torn between different types. You got a top ten ways to have potatoes?

Tom Davis

Wow.

James Acaster

Normally I'd say top five to people, top three, but because you think they're-, you've got more of a passion, there.

Tom Davis

So, you've got-, I would-, yes, I would go with scalloped potato, then I'd go really good roast potato. Like-, but, I mean, someone's really taken their time. I'd then go to the honest jacket.

James Acaster

So, fondant potatoes isn't-,

Tom Davis

No, no. Fondant potatoes is special, special occasion. It depends, also, what you're cooking it in, what kind of stock. You could almost go, you know, cook this in a chicken stock, but I'd go fondant potato after the jacket. If I'm honest with you, I'm caught in a cross-hairs here a little bit. I'm sort of just listing potatoes.

Ed Gamble

You haven't had time to order them, we understand.

Tom Davis

No, no, no, I'm looking through. I'd go mashed potatoes without skin-,

Ed Gamble

I could tell you were filling for time when you called it 'the honest jacket'. (Laughter). 'The honest jacket, of course.'



Tom Davis

I'd go, mashed potatoes without skin, then I'd go mashed potatoes with skin. I'd go chips. I'm not even-, I think chips are overrated.

James Acaster

Okay. Interesting. That's one of the hottest takes we've ever had on the podcast, and we're reacting like it's not, but, like, that is-

Ed Gamble

Yes. That's a big thing.

James Acaster

There are a lot of people, probably just threw their headphones to the ground in disgust, and stamped on them.

Tom Davis

I think chips are, sort of-, they're lucky to be on the list, but I do enjoy them if they're cooked really well, if they're cooked incredibly well, but, yes. I think, like, a jacket potato-, if anyone-,

James Acaster

You'd take jacket potato over chips?

Tom Davis

Mate, every day. If I go to a Harvester's, first thing I'm doing, changing the chips.

Ed Gamble

I think you're absolutely crazy.

James Acaster

Yes, sounds crazy.

Tom Davis

Really?

Ed Gamble

The jacket potato is a blight.

Tom Davis

What?

Ed Gamble

I hate a jacket potato.

James Acaster

It would be very far down my list.

Tom Davis

Are you kidding?

Ed Gamble

No. Probably the only time I've ever been serious on this podcast.

Tom Davis

Like, a jacket potato with a nice rock salt, just, sort of like grained into it, olive oil on the skin.



Ed Gamble

No.

James Acaster

Look, I'm not saying that's not nice, but I'm saying that I would choose-

Tom Davis

Load it up with a bit of cream cheese, baked beans.

Ed Gamble

Well, yes, I like all-, well, I don't like baked beans. Baked beans are horrible.

Tom Davis

What?

Ed Gamble

Disgusting. I like the things you put on jacket potatoes, but, like, if I eat that, I'll just eat the top off it, and I'll be like, 'There's a load of potato left there, I'm not having that.'

Tom Davis

Are you kidding?

Ed Gamble

It's too floury, the potato.

James Acaster

Also, what I'm doing with a jacket potato is that I'm mashing up the contents of it.

Tom Davis

This is insane. Like, genuinely. I thought this was-

James Acaster

I'm turning it into mashed potato, essentially, to make it nicer and then I might-

Tom Davis

Yes, I mean, I get that but then you've got the skin, it's, like, sort of, that's a handshake with God. The skin, if it's cooked perfectly it's, like, wow.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Hello God, how are you?

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes, you're not shaking God's hand.

Tom Davis

No, it's beautiful, but-

James Acaster

Nice to meet you, divine creature.

Tom Davis

The skin of a jacket potato is, like, the best bit of everything. Man, that's absolutely-



James Acaster

I don't mind, look, I don't mind the-, I like a potato skin.

Tom Davis

Yes, yes.

Ed Gamble

You like a potato skin?

James Acaster

I'm putting chips, French fries, dauphinoise.

Tom Davis

Dauphinoise comes low down for me, though.

Ed Gamble

What?

James Acaster

No, that's going. Fondant potatoes, I'm putting all of them above a jacket potato, in a heartbeat.

Tom Davis

No, man.

Ed Gamble

I'm putting everything above it, yes. Dauphinoise.

James Acaster

Roasties.

Ed Gamble

Pommes Anna.

James Acaster

Mash, parmentier.

Tom Davis

I'm saying now that jacket potato, the wholesomeness of a jacket potato on a Sunday, like, evening when you've, you know. You're, like, you know, cheese, beans, or tuna fish and sweetcorn.

James Acaster

Not tuna fish and sweetcorn.

Ed Gamble

Have you been to Quality Chop House?

Tom Davis

No, no.

Ed Gamble

I want to introduce you to, just, the potato that's going to blow your mind.

Tom Davis

Really?



Ed Gamble

As a potato man, you've got to get to Quality Chop House, they do something called the confit potato where they thinly slice potato.

Tom Davis

I think I've seen the video.

Ed Gamble

Then layer it all up, then, like, put it all in a big tray and then cut it into, sort of, chip sized things and then fry that, and it is just, it's just the best thing in the world.

Tom Davis

I'm going to hit that up.

Ed Gamble

Yes, you've got to.

Tom Davis

When I walk in I'm going to go, 'Ed and James sent me.'

Ed Gamble

Shake everyone's hand.

Tom Davis

Yes, yes. Walk around, yes. Yes, a little ruffle of the hair with the chef.

James Acaster

Little scamp. You were talking earlier about getting hate on social media, after this podcast goes out you might want to lie low for a while.

Tom Davis

Yes, yes.

James Acaster

Where you've just slagged off chips and put jacket potato ahead of them, because you are going to get it.

Ed Gamble

I think we're going to get it for slagging off jacket potatoes, as well.

James Acaster

We'll see about that.

Tom Davis

I think I'd like to see a world where you could see chips and jacket potatoes go head to head, somehow.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Tom Davis

Get 1,000 people.



Ed Gamble

A poll?

Tom Davis

A poll.

Ed Gamble

We'll do a poll.

James Acaster

You could do a poll but, like, chips is going to absolutely murder you.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Tom Davis

Yes, but-

James Acaster

We might get shit from some people for jacket potato, but it will be, like, old people.

Tom Davis

Alright, I want to say it now, if it is an absolute, like, 300 kind of scenario here, where they get an absolute mauling, everyone who votes for jacket potato should get in touch with me and we'll, like, have a jacket potato club or some shit.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes, but you know you've just opened yourself up to an absolute world of pain because everyone who likes jacket potatoes is going to contact you, now.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

You're going to have to set up a jacket potato club, and every tweet should be read in this voice, 'Hello, Tom, I like jacket potatoes.' You just, did you say everyone who likes jacket potatoes is Christian?

James Acaster

Yes, earlier. Yes, I said that earlier, yes, just as my example of a boring person, apparently, even though I'm from a Christian family.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Tom Davis

This just could be the most controversial I've ever been.

Ed Gamble

Yes.



James Acaster

Well, some people would say that chips should just objectively be the side dish of choice for everyone, that is actually the best decision.

Tom Davis

I think if you're going to have a side dish and potato is an option, I think you should have at least ten different potatoes that people can have.

James Acaster

Yes.

Tom Davis

Why has there never been just, like, a potato restaurant?

James Acaster

At least, like, a potato table. There should be a restaurant that, you know, you've got a varied menu, it does different main courses, but the potato selection is, like, just everything.

Tom Davis

Yes, like a dessert trolley for potatoes.

Ed Gamble

Yes, so they wheel it out and they've got the full selection there.

Tom Davis

Yes, yes. Yes, or you know, like, when you go to certain meat places and they've got, you know, which bit of steak do you want?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Tom Davis

Yes, it's like they bring, you know.

Ed Gamble

Yes, like the Brazilian barbecue places where they bring it around on a skewer?

Tom Davis

Yes. Yes, yes.

Ed Gamble

There are just loads of people going around with different trays of potato.

Tom Davis

Yes, yes.

Ed Gamble

You'd get so full so quickly, wouldn't you? Like, ten minutes in you'd be, 'Oh, God.' That's the name of the restaurant, Oh, God.

James Acaster

Yes, but you'd just have it as a side, so it's, like, it's not like you have to eat, you know, a whole load of potatoes every time. It's just that, you know-,



Tom Davis

I think people would, really, that's where you'd really see the potato become probably the superstar of, sort of, world cuisine.

James Acaster

It's already doing pretty well for itself.

Tom Davis

Yes, but-, yes, no, it is, but you know what, it's, like, it's just a staple at the moment. It's not got all the, sort of, it's just living an okay life, it's not getting the kudos it deserves. It's not, you know, like bubble tea and stuff, they have their moment in the sun.

Ed Gamble

Yes, sure.

Tom Davis

Yes, the potato is just-, I mean, I have some chips or I'll have a jacket potato. It's not, like, 'Oh, I'll have some chips,' because they're the new thing on the-,

James Acaster

Well, the jacket potato is the only one that's a meal in its own right.

Tom Davis

Yes.

James Acaster

So, that's saying a lot, right?

Tom Davis

There is a jacket potato shop that actually closed, in Soho, that specialised in jacket potatoes.

James Acaster

Oh, really?

Tom Davis

Yes, I was devastated when that happened.

Ed Gamble

There was that crisp shop as well, do you remember that, that was in Soho?

Tom Davis

Yes, yes. I do, yes.

James Acaster

Just crisps?

Ed Gamble

I think it was called Hip Chips, or something like that.

Tom Davis

Yes, has that gone, as well?

Ed Gamble

I think that might have gone, yes.



Tom Davis

Yes, maybe the potato just isn't big enough to stand on its own, it's a sad thing, isn't it?

James Acaster

Unless you do all the course.

Tom Davis

I actually genuinely feel really heartbroken for the potato, that it's just-, I actually feel like crying. So, the potato is-,

James Acaster

Does it make you feel any better that chip shops are a thing, and have done really well?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Tom Davis

No, fish and chip shops.

James Acaster

Yes.

Tom Davis

It's not a chip shop that stands on its own.

Ed Gamble

They call it, people call it the chippie though, right?

James Acaster

People go in and get just chips, I mean-,

Tom Davis

Yes, but it's not held-, it has to have a sidekick, it has to have. Well, it is the sidekick.

James Acaster

I reckon you could just open a shop that was just the chips, and if the chips are good enough, people will buy them.

Tom Davis

You know, if that happens, I will come back and I will say, you know what, thank you chips, for every potato, I'd have a new-,

Ed Gamble

We'll have you back on for another episode, and it's one minute long.

Tom Davis

Yes, and it's just me going, 'Thank you, chips.' It doesn't even have to be a minute long, I could probably just do it as a sound-bite and send it in, or I could probably do it in a couple of me eating impressions, just to-,

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes, all the different potatoes.



James Acaster

Yes, people have to guess which one it is. Do you want to do three impressions now of you eating different types of chips and-

Ed Gamble

Potato, different types of potato.

Tom Davis

Yes, yes, okay. So, you've got to guess which one this is.

James Acaster

This one's a potato, but here's what's going to happen.

Tom Davis

Yes.

James Acaster

You're going to do them, we are going to guess, and you're going to tell us if, you know, we got it right.

Tom Davis

Yes.

James Acaster

Just like normal, but in the edit, Benito will only have you eating the chips and in the following episode, he will include the answers.

Tom Davis

Amazing, okay.

James Acaster

So, he's not going to do it in this one.

Ed Gamble

So much work.

James Acaster

He's going to hold out the answers until next week.

Tom Davis

I've got you. I've got you, okay. Right, first one, and then what I was going to do is do the actions, but now it's just going to be the-

Ed Gamble

Yes, for the listener it just needs to be the sound, yes.

Tom Davis

Okay.

Ed Gamble

That's a soft potato.

James Acaster

It does feel like that mashed potato.



Ed Gamble

It must be a mash, because it's a soft, you know.

Tom Davis

That was mashed potato with skins off.

James Acaster

Skins off, yes, (talking over each other 01.06.11).

Tom Davis

Okay, are you ready?

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

People are absolutely going to hate this, by the way.

James Acaster

I'm quite enjoying it. I think that's dauphinoise.

Ed Gamble

No, there's more texture to it than that. I mean, obviously, now I'm expecting a mash with the skins on at some point but I'm not sure you'd do it straight away. I'd go roast.

Tom Davis

It was my favourite kind of potato, it's the scalloped potato.

Ed Gamble

Okay, yes.

Tom Davis

Eating them quickly, smashing it, yes, on the walls.

Ed Gamble

Yes, on the wall.

Tom Davis

Yes, on the walls.

James Acaster

That's unfair, because earlier you were going-, when you were biting those I would have got that.

Tom Davis

Yes, okay, okay. Okay, right, is this the last one?

James Acaster

Last one.

Ed Gamble

Yes. He likes it. Oh, he likes that one.

James Acaster

Well, I think it's quite soft, so I guess it might be-,



Tom Davis

No, no, look, right, it's a hard one, this one.

Ed Gamble

There's a bit of bite to it, a bit of bite.

James Acaster

Is it fondant, fondant potato?

Ed Gamble

Tom, are we in a world where you're just making the noise and you're deciding afterwards?

Tom Davis

No, no. No, no.

James Acaster

Well, we'd better not be in that world.

Tom Davis

No, no we're not. No, no, it's not fondant potato, I'm still doing the impression.

James Acaster

It's not fondant, so, your guess.

Ed Gamble

I mean, is it mash? Is it mash with skins?

Tom Davis

No, no.

James Acaster

No.

Ed Gamble

What was it?

Tom Davis

A roast potato.

James Acaster

It was a roast one.

Tom Davis

That's why I had to try and get the crunch there.

Ed Gamble

Yes, you had the crunch there.

James Acaster

Yes, yes.

Tom Davis

The nodding was trying to, sort of, allude to the character that I'm, sort of, someone's-



Ed Gamble

This is how good an actor you are, I really want some potatoes, now.

James Acaster

Yes, I feel like I could have some potatoes.

Ed Gamble

You've really made me want to eat some potatoes.

Tom Davis

That game as well, is so much better I think when you can see what I'm doing.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

We'll see. We'll see how many people get it at home, you know. We'll see who gets it. Your dream drink?

Tom Davis

You know what, recently I've stopped drinking alcohol for now, so it's been seven months, since the Euros, I, sort of, made a deal with myself to.

James Acaster

So, was this the start of the Euros or the end of the Euros?

Tom Davis

The end of the Euros.

James Acaster

So, what happened that made you go, 'This is it, now.'?

Tom Davis

The final game, the semi-final, I was drinking with, like, a load of people after the game.

James Acaster

Yes.

Tom Davis

Quite a few people younger than me, and I was drinking out of a pitcher jug. Someone walked past and went, 'There's a cigarette butt in that pitcher.' I'd drunk probably half of it and someone stubbed a fag out in it, and I thought, 'I'm fucking 42, right, I'm about to be a father, this is fucking bleak.' Like, what am I doing with my life?

James Acaster

Yes.

Tom Davis

So, I put down that pitcher, I said goodbye to everyone of my friends and-

Ed Gamble

You've never seen them again?



Tom Davis

No, no. I just said look, good luck with your roast potatoes, and-, no, and I walked away. Then from there I've just thought, I just drank so much, I was, sort of, like, it was a part of my life that was just constant, pub, pub, pub. From working on sites and then doing stand-up, then working, like, as an actor. You constantly, it felt like alcohol was just a massive part of that, and actually I was, like, I'm just a bit done with that. Yes, so seven months, so now soft drinks are king, and, like, it's a bit of a weird one this, because I've listened to this podcast a lot so I know where-, it's like with the dark Pepsi vibe, I'm obsessed with Coke Zero. So, I'm a Coke Zero kind of guy, I love a Coke Zero, I think that I have it pretty much with at least one meal a day, I like the ice-cold fuzziness of it, as you know I like a nice cold drink.

James Acaster

Yes, ice cold.

Ed Gamble

Is it colder in Kettering?

Tom Davis

It's colder if I put it in the freezer for half an hour before my meal, but yes, I like it, I love a Coke Zero.

James Acaster

Why are you choosing Coke Zero over a Diet Coke, for example?

Tom Davis

I don't know, I think the taste is just, Coke Zero is so much better, the taste. It's, like I just find, I don't know, Diet Coke is that, sort of, dull, horrible sort of flavour. I think you taste more that there's no sugar in Diet Coke than you do Coke Zero.

Ed Gamble

That's why I find it more refreshing, Diet Coke. I could probably have two or three Diet Cokes in a row, whereas Coke Zero, you feel like you've had a drink.

Tom Davis

That's the danger, if you get something that you can have two or three cokes, because, yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Tom Davis

I've actually got to a point now though, I was drinking so much of it, that I can't even finish a can, sometimes. I think I got so used to, sort of, quaffing it down, now it's got to the point where I leave, like, a little bit at the bottom. I actually think there's actually a thing that, I don't think anyone's ever fully finished any can of drink, ever.

Ed Gamble

What? What are you talking about?

Tom Davis

Let me tell you this, right. This is serious.

James Acaster

Good luck. Good luck with this.



Tom Davis

You will think you've finished every can of drink, right?

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Right.

Tom Davis

Next time you've got a can of drink, right. Do that, finish it, give it a little shake. You think it's finished, then just knock it over onto your carpet. I guarantee, there'll be some residue.

James Acaster

I mean, yes, there's going to be some residue. I mean, no-one can finish so it's bone dry.

Tom Davis

Yes, but no-one's completely-, No, no, but no-one's ever completely finished the whole can of drink. I think that's where-,

James Acaster

If you mean by those standards then yes.

Ed Gamble

No-one's finished anything ever, because there's, like, microscopic-,

Tom Davis

I could finish this, I could finish this glass of water now.

Ed Gamble

There'll always be, like, a bit of water left in it.

James Acaster

Finish it now, and then hold it upside down over your hand. Yes.

Ed Gamble

Here he goes.

Tom Davis

Another compelling bit of-,

James Acaster

This is worth it. Yes, okay, hold it upside down like that. Yes, that's good.

Tom Davis

Yes, no, but I'm saying there's a noticeable stain when you have, like-,

James Acaster

Yes, it's water, this is water, (talking over each other 01.11.13).

Tom Davis

Yes, no, that's, I know, but you'll see a puddle at least so big.

James Acaster

You just-, you think, there are three-,



Tom Davis

I mean, again, it's a visual medium that I'm using.

James Acaster

Yes, but for the audience, he held it upside down over his hand and three drops of water went on your hand.

Tom Davis

Yes, yes, but what I'm saying with the can, you'll see at least something that's probably three 50p's big.

James Acaster

Right.

Ed Gamble

Three 50? No, I don't know that.

James Acaster

Benito is going to get you a can of fizzy drink, of Coke Zero, if we've got it.

Tom Davis

Are we doing a Coke Zero?

Ed Gamble

Well, no, you've already said you can't finish a whole one, anyway.

Tom Davis

Yes, well you might have to-,

Ed Gamble

When you say you can't finish a whole one, do you mean that there's always that stuff there?

Tom Davis

No, no, that I'll have-,

Ed Gamble

Or can you literally not finish it?

Tom Davis

No, no, I have just a little bit left, for some reason.

Ed Gamble

Did you ever think that within seven months you'd go from someone who's drinking lager from a pitcher, to someone who can't manage a whole soft drink?

James Acaster

If you want, you can just pour all that into that glass that you had that water in.

Tom Davis

Right.

James Acaster

Then tip it over onto the table, and then knock the can off the table.



Tom Davis

Okay, right. Are you ready?

James Acaster

I am ready.

Tom Davis

Alright, here we go.

James Acaster

This is exciting, he's filling up the glass, now.

Tom Davis

I feel like, you know, like, when they get scientists on these things.

James Acaster

Yes.

Tom Davis

Right, that's everything out, right.

James Acaster

Right, is it?

Ed Gamble

Right, hang on, you do one more pour.

James Acaster

That didn't feel like you emptied it all properly, like most people would.

Tom Davis

Right, okay.

Ed Gamble

Right, three 50p's.

James Acaster

Yes, that's quite a lot.

Tom Davis

You saw that.

James Acaster

That's a puddle, that's a decent puddle.

Tom Davis

That's a puddle, right? You saw-,

Ed Gamble

I still maintain, when you were pouring that out, you deliberately didn't fully pour it.

Tom Davis

Right, no, no, here we go.



James Acaster

He didn't fully pour it.

Tom Davis

Again.

Ed Gamble

Alright, that's true.

Tom Davis

Yes?

Ed Gamble

It's like when you-,

Tom Davis

It's, like, never-ending.

Ed Gamble

It's like when you hit, like, 35, and you start going for a piss and you zip everything back up and you're, like, 'Oh, no.'

Tom Davis

Yes, yes, and then you end up with Mickey drips.

Ed Gamble

Yes, okay.

Tom Davis

I actually-, there's, I feel like someone, not a street magician, like, a street scientist. It's, like, they are, it's just like Ed's face there was absolutely. He was, like, 'Oh, yes,' like, I poured the puddle there.

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes.

Tom Davis

I, essentially, emptied the can of Diet Coke, but what happened when I poured it out there again?

James Acaster

That's amazing.

Ed Gamble

Yes, you did do it, you are like a street scientist.

Tom Davis

I'm like the David Blaine of Science.

James Acaster

Yes, you are a bit like David Blaine of Science, actually, but yes, I mean, to be fair, that first puddle was a bigger puddle of Diet Coke than I was expecting.

Ed Gamble

Then the other one blew my mind, and that's-,



Tom Davis

Yes, yes.

James Acaster

Then the fact that more came out of it still. I'm like that-, you were saying about the Diet Coke, you know, and how much you can drink in one day.

Tom Davis

That's a nice drop of Coke.

James Acaster

Yes, are you enjoying that?

Tom Davis

Lovely, yes.

James Acaster

That's a Diet Coke.

Ed Gamble

It's special.

Tom Davis

Yes, but still, you're missing that Zero vibe, but that's good.

James Acaster

Yes.

Tom Davis

Really hydrating.

James Acaster

Glad to keep you satisfied.

Ed Gamble

I don't like that they changed the design on the Coke Zero cans, because it used to be a black can.

James Acaster

Yes, actually, yes.

Tom Davis

Yes.

Ed Gamble

They changed it to look too much like a normal Coke.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

As a type-1 diabetic man I will obviously need to drink the zero sugar drinks, so occasionally I've been brought a Coke Zero and I have that moment of panic where I'm halfway through drinking it and I'm, like, 'Is this definitely a Coke Zero?'



Tom Davis

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes, and I hate it, I want everyone to know that I'm drinking a Coke Zero. I don't want them to look over and think I'm drinking a Coca Cola, and I'm just a basic bitch.

Tom Davis

Yes, yes. I mean, who even drinks fully fat Coke, now?

James Acaster

Basic bitches.

Tom Davis

Yes.

Ed Gamble

People who are hung over, I think, as well.

Tom Davis

Yes, yes, like the-, I always love the look of someone who's on, sort of, like, public transport and they've got a two litre bottle of fucking full fat Coke, and they're just quaffing it out in the street.

Ed Gamble

Yes, or Lucozade.

Tom Davis

Yes, yes. At home though, my wife won't drink-, so, she has Pepsi Max.

James Acaster

Yes?

Tom Davis

We have a really, like, yes, sort of-,

Ed Gamble

Divided household.

Tom Davis

Yes, yes.

James Acaster

What does she say to you? Like, do you ever have arguments about that? Ever have to justify to here, whatever?

Tom Davis

No, I mean, luckily enough I'm doing well enough for myself that we can have the option.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Tom Davis

You know, if we get to a place where, you know, we can only pick one, I think that's where things will become quite awkward.



James Acaster

You've never been, like, 'Why do you prefer those? I don't understand, it's not as nice as this lovely Coke Zero I've got.'

Tom Davis

We've had that discussion, and a couple of times, sort of, like, you know, I might just, on special occasions I might just go, 'Oh, fuck it, I'll have a Pepsi Max,' and it's, yes, I've got a bit of gas from that, that's what you have with Diet Pepsi, Diet Coke, you have that extra.

James Acaster

Yes, yes, more gas.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Tom Davis

Yes, more gas. Yes, yes, my palate's not ready for it.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Tom Davis

Yes, sort of, like, a buzzy-ness of excitement.

Ed Gamble

Yes, and bad luck, I put a cigarette out in that.

James Acaster

Yes, of course. We know how you like it. So, we've come onto your dessert.

Tom Davis

Yes, I'm going to go with my grandmother's lemon meringue pie.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes, you can't go wrong.

Tom Davis

Like, it was the best thing, like, as a kid. I used to love, yes, busting out her lemon meringue pie sitting in the centre of the table, just can't wait to get through the rest of the meal just to crack on to that thing.

Ed Gamble

So, would your grandma put the lemon meringue pie in the middle of the table at the beginning of the meal, and then you'd all have to sit there looking at it?

Tom Davis

Like a tease.

James Acaster

Yes, that is.



Tom Davis

You get through the rest of this shit, look what you've got waiting for you. I like to think of it, you know, like, just sitting there steaming and, sort of, looking good, the meringue all freshly done, but I don't think it was ever on the centre of the table. That's how I like to remember it.

James Acaster

Yes, yes.

Ed Gamble

You're imagining it on the table, while you're eating the rest of it, yes.

Tom Davis

Yes, yes, but I think it was, sort of, sat in the kitchen, just smiling at me.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Would you ever nip out to the kitchen early and-

Tom Davis

Just, like, 'Sorry, I'm just going to make sure it's still there,' and run out.

Ed Gamble

Yes, and just take a little taste of it, try and cover that up.

Tom Davis

Yes. No, no.

Ed Gamble

No, you'd get in trouble?

Tom Davis

No, more than anything as well, I think you've really got to-, I'm very, like, I think you've got to wait for that dessert. I think everything has to be savoured in courses, and I think, you know, that first moment when you just grab that slice. I've been, since then, like a, sort of, almost like a Willy Fog, kind of vibe, trying to find a meringue as good that means as much to me.

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes.

James Acaster

Yes, I think it is one of those situations with lemon meringue pies are best home-made.

Tom Davis

Yes.

James Acaster

Like, I haven't had one in a restaurant that's as nice as numerous ones I've had made by people at their homes. My nan's one was brilliant, my mum's or my sister's, like, way better than anything I've had in a restaurant.

Tom Davis

Same family recipe?

James Acaster

I don't know, you know. I wouldn't be surprised if my sister maybe got the recipe off my mum, but maybe not, you know. She's her own woman, now.



Tom Davis

I always get so-, I get, sort of, like, a weird excitement whenever I go into a restaurant and they've got lemon meringue pie on the menu there, and it's always an anticlimax.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes.

Tom Davis

There's one in east London, I can't remember the name. It's terrible, I can't remember the name of the restaurant now, it's out of my head, but they do this, the meringue is incredible, it's like a sharp pin.

Ed Gamble

Gloria.

Tom Davis

Gloria, yes, but It's just too much.

Ed Gamble

It's crazy and it looks amazing.

Tom Davis

Yes.

Ed Gamble

But it's, the meringue is huge.

Tom Davis

I went there with my wife and I was, like, so excited. I literally wolfed the whole-, it, like, took me back to being a kid. I was wolfing through it, like, you know, 'Alright mate, come on, get that past out,' like, you know what I mean. I'm, like, I can't wait to get to this meringue, and actually, it wasn't fluffy, it's quite a dense meringue, isn't it, and it is just so fucking big. Like, genuinely, by the time you get to the lemon it's, like, you've done about four miles of fucking meringue. It's, like-,

Ed Gamble

The lemon's the best bit as well, isn't it?

Tom Davis

It is, yes. Yes, because it is, the whole point of a lemon meringue pie, otherwise you might as well just order a meringue.

Ed Gamble

Yes, the lemon should be so sharp that the meringue is just there to cut through the sharpness, so the sweetness gets (talking over each other 01.17.58).

Tom Davis

Yes, and so, this is really a dense meringue, the fluffiness to a home-made meringue is, like, that's just something really sacred.

Ed Gamble

Yes.



Tom Davis

The worst thing I've ever had, and I actually felt like just walking out and just saying to them, 'This isn't good enough,' is when they put, like, a shop bought meringue. It's quite clearly, with the lemon under it, and it's just too crunchy.

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes, goodbye.

Tom Davis

Yes, it's, like, see you later alligator, I'm out of here. Yes, yes, it knows-, you're mad if you ate that. I'd just literally pour my drink over it and go-,

James Acaster

Unless it's accompanied with the phrase, 'I'll see you in court.' I went through a phase in lockdown, I bought a jar of lemon curd out of nowhere, didn't expect to, and would just occasionally just go to the fridge and just stick my finger in it, and every time it's tasted like a lemon meringue pie to me.

Tom Davis

Yes.

James Acaster

I thought, 'This is like lemon meringue pie mix in a jar,' that's what I've got.

Ed Gamble

I mean, it's not-, it's very surprising to me that we've not heard this before, that during the lockdown you bought a jar of lemon curd and would regularly just go to the fridge, dip your finger in it, and then lick your fingers.

James Acaster

Then think about how it was like-,

Ed Gamble

Then think about how it was like a lemon meringue pie.

Tom Davis

I love the idea of you just leaning on the fridge, just going, 'Oh, that's nice.'

Ed Gamble

That's like him, yes.

Tom Davis

This is the life.

Ed Gamble

Lemon meringue pies and, you know, the ingredients to make a lemon meringue pie were all banned during the first COVID lockdown, weren't they, so you just had to get that hit where you could.

James Acaster

Could have been a war.

Tom Davis

Wouldn't it be nice if, like, having a cigarette or, sort of, drinking, it was more socially acceptable to take a jar of curd out with you?



James Acaster

Yes.

Tom Davis

Sort of, just run your finger around it and just go, 'Are you alright?'

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

I'd be alright with that if everyone went outside to do it.

Tom Davis

Yes, to the smoking area.

James Acaster

Yes, you'd do it outside.

Tom Davis

Do you want a cigarette? No, I'm just cursing, mate, just having a bit of curd.

James Acaster

By the bike sheds.

Tom Davis

Passion fruit curd is my favourite.

James Acaster

Oh, yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Tom Davis

Passion fruit curd is incredible, but nothing makes it, like, you know, accompanies meringue and goes hand-in-hand as sweetly as lemon, or as sourly as lemon.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Do you have anything with your grandmother's lemon meringue pie?

Tom Davis

No, no.

James Acaster

No ice cream, nothing?

Tom Davis

No, no. No, just, it almost, there's nothing that can match up to it. It's like the Muhammed Ali of, sort of, desserts. Someone else is in the ring but it, sort of, doesn't really matter who that is.

James Acaster

So, float like a meringue, sting like a lemon? Can I say that?



Tom Davis

That's an amazing-,,

Ed Gamble

That works, as well.

Tom Davis

That's incredible, yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes, it's good, yes.

James Acaster

It actually works.

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes.

Tom Davis

That actually really works.

James Acaster

I didn't think it would.

Tom Davis

Yes, it really-, yes.

James Acaster

I thought in my head, 'This will be stupid, so, say the stupid thing.'

Tom Davis

Yes, no, that-,

Ed Gamble

No, float like a meringue, sting like a lemon is perfect, yes.

Tom Davis

Yes, yes.

Ed Gamble

It's quite good.

James Acaster

I'm going to read you your order back, see how you feel about it. You want some Kettering tap water.

Tom Davis

Yes.

James Acaster

You want tiger bread with salty butter.

Tom Davis

Yes.



James Acaster

Starter, French onion soup.

Tom Davis

Yes.

James Acaster

With a crouton on the top, crouton on the bottom.

Tom Davis

Yes.

James Acaster

From the place in Bordeaux.

Tom Davis

Yes.

James Acaster

Main course, Irish boxty, lamb.

Tom Davis

Yes.

James Acaster

Side, four bags of scalloped potatoes.

Tom Davis

Yes.

James Acaster

Drink, Coke Zero. Dessert, your grandmother's lemon meringue pie.

Tom Davis

Sweet as it comes.

James Acaster

Feel good about that?

Tom Davis

You know what, I feel amazing about that.

Ed Gamble

That's lovely.

James Acaster

It does sound nice.

Ed Gamble

That'll fill you up as well, that.

Tom Davis

There's a lot of bread in it.



Ed Gamble

We'll stick to your order.

Tom Davis

You know what, thank God I've gone with Coke Zero, there's a lot of-, yes, it's quite a calorific meal.

Ed Gamble

Two courses in a row which are just, sort of, like, quite thick brown stuff.

James Acaster

French onion soup, followed by Irish-,

Ed Gamble

French onion soup followed by Irish boxty.

Tom Davis

Yes, yes, there's a lot of-, yes, and quite a lot of onions in boxty as well. So, yes.

Ed Gamble

Oh, yes.

Tom Davis

Yes, I like the fact that's a belly-tapper afterwards, right?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes.

Tom Davis

Yes.

James Acaster

Is that the sign of a good meal for you, tapping your belly?

Tom Davis

Oh, yes. If you ever see me eating out, and you're just watching what I'm doing, and if I don't tap my belly at the end of that meal you know, oh, fucking hell, he's going to be complaining about that. He'll be on Tripadvisor on the way out of here.

James Acaster

Yes, yes.

Ed Gamble

So, what is the scenario that you've put us in there? So, we're in a restaurant and you happen to be in the restaurant as well, we're just watching you.

Tom Davis

You're eating as well, you're ordered.

Ed Gamble

We're eating with you, right.



Tom Davis

Yes, yes. I come walking in and I go, 'James, Ed, how are you both doing?' You're, like-,

Ed Gamble

Handshakes.

Tom Davis

Yes, handshakes, of course. You know Kevin, he's-, Kevin's serving, 'Hello, Kev, how are you doing, mate?' Handshake to Kev. Get them both a can of-,

Ed Gamble

Kev is the rhino, right?

Tom Davis

Kevin's a rhino.

James Acaster

Yes, comes in, nodding.

Ed Gamble

We're shocked, obviously, because look, there's a fucking rhino in the restaurant.

Tom Davis

Just with a tray on his back for the food.

James Acaster

He works there.

Tom Davis

Yes.

James Acaster

Kevin works there, okay.

Tom Davis

Yes, I'd order you a couple of Diet Cokes, Diet Pepsi each, 'Get them a can each, would you?' I'd go and sit at my table.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

So, you're coming in, ordering us a drink and sitting at another table.

James Acaster

Yes, not sitting with us

Tom Davis

No, you know, like, instead of a bottle of wine I'd go, 'Get them a Coke, get them a Coke each. Diet Pepsi, James?

James Acaster

Yes, yes, thank you.



Tom Davis

Is that okay?

Ed Gamble

Yes, lovely. Yes.

Tom Davis

Enjoy the rest of your meal, Kevin, look after them.

James Acaster

Yes.

Tom Davis

I would then bowl over, I would bowl over to my table, because I'm eating alone, and I don't want to infringe on your meal.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Tom Davis

Then you'd probably both just, sort of, like, 'What's he up to?' Alright, sort of, at the end of the meal, if I do this, tap my stomach, 'That's nice,' you know, and you see me walk around, give a handshake, you know I've enjoyed it.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Tom Davis

If you see me just look at the plate, sigh a little bit, get up, put my coat on and, sort of, walk out, you know that I've not.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

I think in that scenario, I would rather see you just, like, look at your plate and put your coat on and walk out, because you've come in so bold as brass, you know, shaking everyone's hands, ordering them drinks, introducing them to the maître d' who's a rhino. Sitting down on your own and not even joining anyone because you want to have your dinner on your own, and then hating your meal, and then leaving in silence. It would just be a lot more satisfying.

Ed Gamble

What's the idea that we'd be sat in this restaurant, watching you, just watching you so intently and ignoring the rhino waiter?

James Acaster

Yes, yes. That would be the headline for us, not whether you'd tapped your stomach or not at the end.

Tom Davis

Rhino's in the kitchen, 'Can I get off a bit early?'

James Acaster

Yes, I'd just be quite amused that that's how you were handling the whole situation. 'Yes, have you met Kev?' Yes, he's not very good, goes on and walks out.



Ed Gamble

Tom, thank you so much for coming to the dream restaurant, we've loved having your here.

James Acaster

Thank you, Tom.

Tom Davis

Thank you for having me.

Ed Gamble

Well, there we are. What a great menu, what a great chat, what a great guy.

James Acaster

Thank you so much, Tom, for coming on. I'm very much looking forward to watching The Curse.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Sundays, 10:00pm on Channel 4. All episodes available to stream on All 4.

Ed Gamble

Well done. Everyone has to do that. I don't think there's a person in this country who gets to saying what the streaming service for Channel 4 is called, and doesn't go, '4 OD, no, All 4.'

James Acaster

All 4.

Ed Gamble

All 4.

James Acaster

I nearly said More 4.

Ed Gamble

Yes, that's a channel, it's a whole different channel.

James Acaster

Yes, very confusing.

Ed Gamble

It's not on that, but we're very much looking forward to The Curse, and do also check out the Wolf and Owl podcast.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Tom and Rom, the Tomesh podcast.

James Acaster

That I just discovered.



Ed Gamble

Yes, it is very, very good.

James Acaster

That I've learnt exists.

Ed Gamble

It's very funny.

James Acaster

Romesh, he's too busy for me. How is he doing that? How is he squeezing another podcast in? It's absolutely crazy.

Ed Gamble

It's pretty incredible.

James Acaster

And I'm very glad that Tom didn't say Jack Daniels.

Ed Gamble

Yes, well, he didn't even come close to saying Jack Daniels.

James Acaster

He said forget it, no alcohol.

Ed Gamble

Forget it, no alcohol, good man.

James Acaster

No booze for this guy. Blessed relief, there.

Ed Gamble

Blessed relief.

James Acaster

Especially because I felt quite risky, you know, making the secret ingredient the drink course, because that means he could have got chucked out before dessert, and that's my favourite.

Ed Gamble

Risky, whisky. Risky whisky, baby.

James Acaster

Risky whisky, I'm feeling frisky.

Ed Gamble

Whisky business.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Let's not forget that I'm on tour as well, doing my show, Electric. Edgamble.co.uk for tickets, I'm all over the UK. It's a good show, I can say that now, I've started the tour. It's a good show.



James Acaster

The reviews are in.

Ed Gamble

No, they're not, actually. No, so we're going to keep that quiet, but it is a good show, regardless of any reviews that are not in. Hey, and thanks to MOMO Kombucha, who sent us some buch.

James Acaster

MO Kombucha, mo problems.

Ed Gamble

We actually had a couple, just a couple of lads.

James Acaster

We did.

Ed Gamble

Standing out there, swigging a buch.

James Acaster

Turmeric is my favourite flavour of the MOMO.

Ed Gamble

I like the ginger, ginger MOMO.

James Acaster

Yes, yes. So, yes, thanks for that.

Ed Gamble

Thanks very much for listening to the Off Menu podcast, we will see you again next week. Goodbye.

James Acaster

Sayonara.