



# Off Menu – Ep143 – Siobhan McSweeney

**Ed Gamble**

Welcome to the Off Menu podcast, taking the ribs of conversation, lighting the woodchips of humour, and smoking the ribs for many hours to produce a falling off the bone podcast experience.

**James Acaster**

Didn't understand all of that, but I loved it.

**Ed Gamble**

Hang on, what didn't you understand, James Acaster?

**James Acaster**

The woodchips threw me off. You know more about it.

**Ed Gamble**

The wood, I mean, the wood, you know what I mean, the barbecue, like, the wood pallets or-,

**James Acaster**

Yes, well you know more about cooking than I do, so sometimes those terms, I'm like, 'Oh no-','

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, I had some barbecue yesterday, I mean, you wouldn't use just woodchips but, you know, the basics were there, it was like, slow cooked, low and slow, American barbecue style thing. I was thinking maybe a sinewy style cut of rib.

**James Acaster**

His name is Ed Gamble, my name is James Acaster, this is our dream restaurant and we invite a guest every single week to ask them their favourite ever starter, main course, dessert, side dish, and drink, not in that order. And, this week our guest is, Siobhan McSweeney.

**Ed Gamble**

Siobhan McSweeney.

**James Acaster**

Very exciting, Siobhan's a wonderful actor of course, most famous for Derry Girls.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Wonderful, so funny.

**Ed Gamble**

Played Sister Michael in Derry Girls.

**James Acaster**

Sister Michael, I mean, what a show.

**Ed Gamble**

What a show.



**James Acaster**

This is our second member of that cast.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes indeed, Nicola Coughlan of course was the first.

**James Acaster**

Yes, locked herself out.

**Ed Gamble**

Locked herself out her flat, yes, but very excited to speak to her. The new series of Derry Girls is coming soon, James. And, it's also the last series of Derry Girls.

**James Acaster**

The third and final.

**Ed Gamble**

I suppose, you've got to end things sometimes when they're playing younger people, and time does tend to mess with that sort of stuff.

**James Acaster**

Exciting, though, I love it when people just go, right, just two or three series, and we're going to wrap it up, and it's been so good, and then it's going to end up with this perfect thing that never got ruined.

**Ed Gamble**

Until Derry Girls, The College Years.

**James Acaster**

Yes, that's true, that's true. Yes, I'm currently watching series eleven of the Walking Dead, and I can't believe I'm still doing it. What an awful show.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, the Walking Dead, and they never stop for a sit down even, do they, the dead?

**James Acaster**

They just-, no.

**Ed Gamble**

Constantly walking for eleven series.

**James Acaster**

Weirdly, there's an episode in this one where they're all asleep, the dead. And it's like, what are they doing? They're having a nap, this never happened before in eleven series, and then there's one that they have all napping. It's like, we've got to creep through them and not wake them up, it's like, what?

**Ed Gamble**

But you know, it's the zombie thing, right? You don't know how the zombies are going to act.

**James Acaster**

Sure.

**Ed Gamble**

It might be that for eleven years they're walking around and then you need a nap as a zombie.



**James Acaster**

With a big nap, yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, you can invent your own zombie law.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

But, we're not here to talk about the Walking Dead, series eleven or otherwise.

**James Acaster**

No.

**Ed Gamble**

Unfortunately, if Siobhan says a secret ingredient that we have decided right now, then she will have to leave the dream restaurant. And, today's secret ingredient is mini marshmallows.

**James Acaster**

Mini marshmallows, mini marshmallows.

**Ed Gamble**

Mini, mini marshmallows. I don't mind a marshmallow, full sized marshmallow.

**James Acaster**

Yes, yes, love them.

**Ed Gamble**

Toast it, you know, eat it raw, I don't mind, you know.

**James Acaster**

Delicious, delicious, delicious.

**Ed Gamble**

Mini marshmallows, what's the point?

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Because, if you're just eating mini marshmallows, you're having a handful that constitutes the size of a full marshmallow. Quite often, you know that hard bit round the outside of a marshmallow?

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

You like to get to the soft bit in the middle, the mini ones are basically all hard bit.

**James Acaster**

It's, and I feel like I'm betraying my younger self, because I had a lot of mini marshmallows as a kid in hot chocolates and really loved it.



**Ed Gamble**

Yes, yes, I guess in hot chocolate format I suppose that's why they-

**James Acaster**

But, no, even when I think back now, a full size marshmallow is nicer in a hot chocolate, and a mini one just goes very puddly and like, you don't get that plumpness, a little bit of crispiness, maybe, different textures in there. You just get it very piddly like, white-

**Ed Gamble**

It's all the powder, all the powder.

**James Acaster**

White, sugary just-, blob in the top of your-, and, it's not really the same. Rest in peace the hot chocolate deluxe at Northampton College, that was great.

**Ed Gamble**

Rest in peace.

**James Acaster**

But, you know.

**Ed Gamble**

You see that on series twelve of the Walking Dead, that's going to come back to life.

**James Acaster**

It's asleep, don't wake the hot chocolate deluxe, it's going to get you.

**Ed Gamble**

So, if Siobhan says mini marshmallows then she is out on her ear. I'm on tour, few more dates left in April but then I'm doing some more in the Autumn, James.

**James Acaster**

Yes, exciting.

**Ed Gamble**

September, October, November I'll be back on tour doing that show again, which I'm very excited for.

**James Acaster**

Proud of you man, adding extra dates.

**Ed Gamble**

Thanks man, adding extra dates in the face of underwhelming demand.

**James Acaster**

It's exciting, that's how you do it.

**Ed Gamble**

Just got to add them, create the demand. Nah.

**James Acaster**

Yes, keep doing it, even though no one wants to see it anymore, Walking Dead style, that's the way they do it.



**Ed Gamble**

No, there is demand.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

So, do come and see it. You're doing a Scandinavian tour of course, James.

**James Acaster**

Of course I'm touring Scandinavia, and you can buy tickets for that. I don't know where, I was meant to do it, I just realised-, just remembered, I was meant to do a little video and send it to, and I haven't done that.

**Ed Gamble**

Is this your show where you're encouraging hecklers, James?

**James Acaster**

Yes, it's called Hecklers Welcome.

**Ed Gamble**

Fill your boots.

**James Acaster**

Fill your boots is the whole blurb, and you are allowed to come and heckle me, and you can pre-order my new book, 'James Acaster's Guide to Quitting Social Media, Being the Best You You Can Be, and Curing Yourself of Loneliness Volume One,' you can pre-order that wherever you get your books, I'm very excited about that coming out.

**Ed Gamble**

But for now, this is the Off Menu menu of Siobhan McSweeney.

**James Acaster**

A fly flew between me and the microphone.

**Ed Gamble**

I thought you were doing-,

**James Acaster**

I didn't want to inhale it.

**Ed Gamble**

I thought you were doing a new thing where you're waving your arms about.

**James Acaster**

No, I was pulling away and getting rid of the fly because, I didn't want to-, it's a tiny fly.

**Ed Gamble**

Right.

**James Acaster**

It was enough that I might have breathed it in.

**Ed Gamble**

Leave all that. Leave all that in.



**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, here's Siobhan. Welcome, Siobhan, to the dream restaurant.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Hello guys, lovely to be here.

**James Acaster**

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

**Ed Gamble**

There we are, the genie there.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Oh, hello genie.

**James Acaster**

Hello.

**Ed Gamble**

The genie for McSweeney.

**James Acaster**

The genie for McSweeney, we've never had it rhyme before.

**Ed Gamble**

There we go.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Genie McSweeney.

**James Acaster**

I can be a muck genie this episode if you like?

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Please do.

**James Acaster**

Yes, that's quite exciting, I like that.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Genie McSweeney.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

I was naming my non-existent new puppy and I thought maybe Queenie McSweeney.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, that's nice.



**Siobhan McSweeney**

But, as a vehement anti-royalist, I didn't know how to sort of-, I thought, 'Fuck it, get a Corgi, call it Queenie McSweeney.' Own it, own it McSweeney.

**Ed Gamble**

So, it would be a Corgi?

**Siobhan McSweeney**

So, maybe I could ask genie McSweeney to give me a Queenie McSweeney.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes, yes, I'll get you a Queenie, yes.

**Ed Gamble**

I think you could count that as anti-royalist if you got a Corgi, and called the Corgi Queenie.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Yes, and called the Corgi-, yes, and treat her very-, behead the-,

**James Acaster**

Yes, yes, yes, chop it's head off.

**Ed Gamble**

That's the only way.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

That'll learn them, that'll get people on my side, here as I hold up the bloody corpse of my little Corgi puppy.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, you win.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Have a think about your monarchy.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

That's the thing, isn't it, about being anti-royalists, I'm not up for the monarchy either, but then, when you start talking about it, it's very easy to just slide into language that makes you sound like you're from olden times, when-, like, you're quickly talking about putting their heads on spikes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, it's revolution and it's anarchy.

**James Acaster**

I'm going to chop their heads off and I'm going-, then we're going-, oh, maybe not.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Did you see the-, Somerset House, they were filming something, but they were building a guillotine and people were going, 'What the fuck is happening now? This seems like a natural conclusion to-,'



we're only in March twenty-, ah, we're not, we're in the future some time as well, in a non-specific time.

**James Acaster**

I went to the Beano exhibition at Somerset House.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Ooh.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Really, really great, not on my own, you know.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

With who?

**James Acaster**

Some kids. So, just, don't think I'm weird.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Your gang.

**James Acaster**

Yes, yes, my gang, the backstreet kids.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Your street gang of ruffians.

**Ed Gamble**

You made fun of me when I said I was going to go to the Beano exhibition.

**James Acaster**

Yes, yes, I did.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Because you went with some kids and I just wanted to go to the Beano exhibition.

**James Acaster**

Yes, you just wanted to go on your own, and I thought it was really funny, because I didn't know that about Ed, that Ed like the Beano.

**Ed Gamble**

I love the Beano.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Oh, really?

**Ed Gamble**

We've been in the Beano.





**Siobhan McSweeney**

Have you?

**James Acaster**

Yes, that's a-

**Siobhan McSweeney**

I must admit, I haven't kept up to date with my Beano subscription.

**Ed Gamble**

Did you miss our issue?

**Siobhan McSweeney**

I mean, it's that, it's the New Yorker, National Geographic, it's just a big pile by my bed, I really need to get on top of it.

**Ed Gamble**

Are you much of a foodie, Siobhan?

**Siobhan McSweeney**

I love food. By foodie, do I-, no, I just like eating, and I like eating lots of food, but a food-, like, I don't really care what's in it, do you know what, and I don't sort of-, oh, this is-, like, no, is there a lot of it? Is it tasty? Yes, I'll have it please, thank you.

**James Acaster**

So, is like, buffets pretty high up on the list?

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Buffets are pretty good.

**James Acaster**

Ah, yes.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

I think, one of the great-, I mean, we've all had a difficult lockdown, but no one had it more difficult than be because I really took to the bed when I realised that breakfast buffets in hotels, they're-, a chance that they may be no more.

**Ed Gamble**

I had exactly the same realisation, lockdown one.

**James Acaster**

But, I think they're back now.

**Ed Gamble**

Oh, okay.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

They're back, but are they-, they're back, I've seen a few of them, I mean, they're back but their heart isn't in it, it's sort of like they're just back for tax reasons or something, you know? They're here for the final tour.

**James Acaster**

Yes.



**Ed Gamble**

What's the star of the breakfast buffet for you at a hotel?

**Siobhan McSweeney**

The courses, so, the breakfast buffet is something that I realise that I approach as if I was a sports person, which I am not, but like, feel like I have to win at it.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

You feel it's you against the hotel, and you have to win, and you have to get there early, and you never get there early, or you have to, you know, figure out what the time is. You have to look at the-, they usually have a piece of paper on the elevator going, 'Gets busy around nine, don't come then.' And you're like, oh, what happens at nine? Why don't you want me to be there at nine? I bet you that's when the good sausages come out like, or the really, really crispy rashers, you're like, but am I willing to take that chance? Are they double bluffing me? Like, and it's art, so you don't sleep. And then, you get up and you're like, oh, do I shower? Am I wasting buffet time? Then you have to make sure that you've eaten enough, and come back and shower before the chamber maid comes, and that's awful, so that's more pressure. And sometimes, you don't want a fifteen course breakfast first thing in the morning, when you haven't slept or showered.

**Ed Gamble**

Rare, it's rare that you don't want a fifteen course breakfast now, I think if you're in a hotel, come on, you've got to go for it.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Yes, yes, yes, yes. No, you start off with fruit, don't you?

**Ed Gamble**

I don't, personally.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Oh, you go straight-, yes.

**Ed Gamble**

If you want to talk different tactics, I'm being careful here, because I have a fifteen minute routine about breakfast buffets in my new tour show, so I don't want to-,

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Oh, really, oh no, let's not ruin it.

**Ed Gamble**

I don't want to slip into material, but, no, I go hot first.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

No, no, no, no, no.

**Ed Gamble**

And then continental.

**James Acaster**

Interesting.



**Siobhan McSweeney**

No, but you start with fruit, then you go for the rashers, forget your porridge, no one's here for porridge.

**Ed Gamble**

No, no, you don't want to fill up on porridge.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

You don't-, like, porridge is-, no. No, no, no, no, no. Porridge in general, I don't believe in as a concept. When it's hardened and put-, the flapjack I'll have if I must, but porridge, no. It's also because when I was growing up, dad would make porridge in the morning, and on Monday we'd have a fucking porridge and-, 'Fucking porridge, oh, this is awful, I feel sick.' And then, I'd watch him go to the sink, pick up the saucepan of the porridge that's been-, add water, put it back on the thing and he would go-, and so by Friday, we were eating glue. There was no oats in it, it was just like-, I mean-,

**Ed Gamble**

So, it was just the pan scrapings with water in, basically? Wow.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Yes, I mean, I don't know why, porridge is provably the cheapest item.

**Ed Gamble**

That's why it's popular, right? Because it fills you up and it's cheap.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

It fills you up, and it's really, really fucking cheap and he's like, 'Oh, better make this stretch out.' So you'd start at Monday with gruel and you'd end with like, (respondent feigns muffled speech) actual glue, it's actual glue. So, I haven't been able to look at porridge in the face ever since.

**Ed Gamble**

No, that makes sense.

**James Acaster**

Would your dad be putting anything on the porridge, would you be adding anything to the top of it?

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Milk and sugar.

**James Acaster**

Milk and sugar.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Yes, I hear Scottish people put salt on it, and that's why they haven't got independence.

**James Acaster**

Yes, yes, I mean, I always think of-, for me, porridge is a Scottish dish, right? Because, you've got the guy in the kilt throwing the-, what's he got, a shot-put?

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Porridge.



**Ed Gamble**

A shot-put.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Throwing porridge.

**James Acaster**

Yes, just throwing it at people.

**Ed Gamble**

People think he's shot-putting, but they're just getting a face full of oats, yes.

**James Acaster**

He's a shot-putter, isn't he? That's an interesting-, interesting one that they chose there.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, he is a shot-putter, yes, wearing a kilt, yes. I think of a Quaker, of course.

**James Acaster**

Yes of course.

**Ed Gamble**

Rather than the shot-putter.

**James Acaster**

Yes, quiet little Quaker.

**Ed Gamble**

Any other porridge, guys?

**James Acaster**

No, but I would like to see those guys hanging out.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

But, we're not here to talk about porridge, you don't like porridge. So, you're not having that.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Damn you, porridge.

**Ed Gamble**

So, you're having fruit, then you're going for the rashers?

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Yes, no, I streamlined it when I was working on the last gig, so you go, alright, the bloody toast machine, disaster, absolute disaster, we've put a man on the moon, but what the fuck is going on with that fucking conveyor belt of, 'Phh (ph 13.16)?' It's stupid.

**Ed Gamble**

That's the noise it makes when it spits the toast out, right? Yes.



**Siobhan McSweeney**

Little mice sort of, cycling and sweating out with it. And, you've to put that through of course, about fifteen times before it gets any way toasted.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, and then on the sixteenth time, it's completely done.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

It's a sitter (ph 13.34).

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

It comes out as a completely different item, it's a small washing machine. So, you get that going, that'll take a couple of hours for the toast to be done, and you go straight for the sausages and rashers, and you have to-, this is where the lurking happens, because you need to have really, really, really well done rashers and properly-, you know, I like my stake rare, but I like my sausage burnt. I like a touch of carbon in the morning.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, yes, get you going in the morning, yes.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

I like the smell of burnt toast in the morning, yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

I like quite pinky sausages, I think.

**Ed Gamble**

Undercooked?

**James Acaster**

Like, an orangey-brown exterior, and a pinky-,

**Siobhan McSweeney**

That's enough about me.

**James Acaster**

Pretty delicious.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Okay, then, so, you know, like, I've given up on the eggs, I've given up on eggs.

**James Acaster**

Why's this?

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Because you can't get it right. The scrambled eggs is just egg water, beside rubber eggs, no use. Poached eggs, I don't believe in.



**Ed Gamble**

Okay, they occupy the same sort of fantasy land as porridge, right?

**Siobhan McSweeney**

There's no need for it, we don't need another way to make eggs. But, I know, I'd like a boiled egg, and I like a fried egg, but they're always a little bit too oily and runny, and it's not worth it, it's not worth it, you've got a limited amount of time, the chamber maid is making her way down the corridor here, you've got to shower, you've got to shower.

**Ed Gamble**

Why don't you put the do not disturb sign on?

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Because it feels too aggressive. It feels a bit aggressive, do not disturb, I'm not in here, but do not disturb, it's counter-intuitive.

**Ed Gamble**

So, you put yourself on this countdown where you've got to wolf down this huge breakfast and get there before she does?

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Yes, yes, yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, okay, got it.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

And meanwhile, you're trying to find a nice person to give you the coffee with oat milk, and that's taking a while because they look at you as if-, even though you've been staying in the hotel for three months now and it's literally what you ask for every morning, 'Oat milk?' And you're like, yes, yes. And they're like, 'Porridge?' No, fuck off with the porridge, we've been through this, Eileen, just get me my oat milk. So, yes.

**James Acaster**

That was what your dad might have been making on the stove, was he's trying to make his own oat milk for you.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Oh my God, oh.

**James Acaster**

And, that's why you love it so much now as an adult.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, oat milk is just runny porridge, isn't it?

**James Acaster**

Yes, it's just the runniest porridge ever.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

It's like, I suppose it is, yes.

**James Acaster**

Porridge smoothie, can I have a little porridge smoothie?



**Siobhan McSweeney**

Daddy, can you hear me? All is forgiven, Daddy, come back.

**Ed Gamble**

So, you're staying in hotels for extended periods of time when you're filming things, right? So, every morning you're having that.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Yes, well, or like, on set breakfasts but, yes.

**Ed Gamble**

On set breakfast.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

You try, if you're very canny, you can get the two.

**Ed Gamble**

So, were you staying in a hotel for a long period of time when you were filming series three of Derry Girls?

**Siobhan McSweeney**

I was indeed.

**Ed Gamble**

It's the final series of Derry Girls.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

It is the final series, so, yes, a hearty breakfast was very much needed as we went into the very, very final because, it's sad isn't it? The end of an era.

**Ed Gamble**

It feels sad, were there tears on set?

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Oh yes, for various reasons, yes, yes, yes. But, it does sort of-, it's changed everybody's lives, everybody that it's touched, like, my life is completely different since playing that nun-, and it was weird, taking off the costume for the last time, because like, we know it's the last time.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

There isn't sort of like, 'Oh, maybe, maybe her and Frasier are offering some spin-', I'm like, 'No, it's not going to happen.' So, yes, I sort of-, I did want to burn that wimple by the end of it, like, the upshot of playing Sister Michael is that, you know, everything was loosey goosey, no make up, no need sort of-, you know, I came back in the second series. I'd been away, and I came back with a cold sore, and they were like, 'Brilliant.' I'm like, this is the best job ever, best job ever. But, all the joy of that and like, certainly sort of, a bit of moisturiser or not, was taken away by the 47 hours we would need to put on that wimple. There were staple guns, Sellotape, Pritt Stick, we tried every-, gluing. Like, what'll we do? How can-, I don't know how actual nuns do it, I'm sure they don't have 300 pins.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, they don't have a glam squad.



**Siobhan McSweeney**

They do not have incredibly qualified make up artists and mirrors with-

**James Acaster**

I don't know, some of them do shows in Vegas, and stuff like that. And then like, you know-

**Siobhan McSweeney**

And then the mob comes after them.

**James Acaster**

Yes, so, they've got a lot of people.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, I suppose, yes.

**James Acaster**

They're pretty showbiz.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, Whoopi's got a team.

**James Acaster**

Yes, Whoopi's got a team.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Oh, Whoopi, but, you know.

**Ed Gamble**

Whoopi's got a team.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Whoopi can have whatever she wants. Queenie McSweeney.

**Ed Gamble**

Well, you say you won't do any spin offs as Sister Michael, but what if Whoopi called and said, 'I want to do a big nun crossover?' And, it would be a crossover.

**James Acaster**

The crossover.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Like, when King Kong fought the other-

**Ed Gamble**

Godzilla.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

The Godzilla, yes.

**Ed Gamble**

I wasn't seeing it as quite such a violent-, I wasn't imagining you and Whoopi sort of, towering above New York City.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

I mean, if it was that, I think I'd consider it. I mean, I'd do anything for Whoopi.





**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

I would do-, but, I'm not sure I'd do that.

**James Acaster**

No, no. What other fictional nuns are there that are good gang?

**Ed Gamble**

Good point.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

The thingy, Maria.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, Sound of Music.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Of course.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Oh, no, I wouldn't go next to or near her, what a drip.

**Ed Gamble**

No, don't like her.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

What an absolute drip.

**James Acaster**

A bit of sparkling water is how we always start.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Yes, I would like sparkling please, genie.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

And, I would like it, if you don't have enough sparkling, I would like the Soda Stream. We had the Soda Stream in our house growing up, and it was truly a wondrous object. But, I was thinking about it last night, and I remember, in Ireland, we call soft drinks minerals, those cheap minerals that we used to get and it was called TK.

**James Acaster**

I don't know why I'm laughing at that, apologies, that was rude.



**Siobhan McSweeney**

Yes, no, not at all, not at all.

**James Acaster**

I mean, I love-, I laugh-,

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Ireland, hilarious with their little ways. Near twenty years, I'm used to the laughter. The laugh's louder on the other side, believe me. They laugh with our minerals, but have you seen the state of them? But, you know, awful 1980s orange like, it was orange, and it tasted like chemicals, but I remember I had a cousin and (TC 00:20:00) obviously, not the brightest tool in the box, she came and she got so excited when she saw the Soda Stream, she grabbed the bottle of TK orange and shook it so much. And I was like, what are you doing? She said, 'I want to get the gas out of this so that we can reinflate it with the Soda Stream.' And, I remember she had been a little bit older than me, and she came from Cork City, so she had that sort of-, you know, and I was a country bumpkin, and she had older sisters so she listened to music, whereas I could only sort of go, is it Boy George? I hadn't a clue, and I remember sort of looking at her and going, ah. You're sick. You're no threat to me at all with your city slicker ways, you barely have opposable thumbs, be gone. And, it was a good day.

**James Acaster**

She didn't fizz up the TK?

**Siobhan McSweeney**

I mean, I sort of walked out of the room in disgust, she was a bit like, 'But what? It's a good idea.' I'm like, well, okay.

**Ed Gamble**

Huge fan of you, I don't know if you were paraphrasing there or not, but huge fan of her saying, 'I want to get all the gas out and reinflate it.'

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Reinflate.

**Ed Gamble**

I want to reinflate it.

**James Acaster**

Great.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Because, sparkly water is inflated water basically, isn't it?

**James Acaster**

Yes, yes, yes.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

It is, isn't it? it's happy water.



**Ed Gamble**

It's like lilo (water).

**Siobhan McSweeney**

But, do you know in Germany, you have different forms of frizzante? You have depending, and do you know, and when I'd be in Germany, I'd be like, why? If you want fizzy water, there's a-, no, you see, as you get older, your palette develops, and sometimes, I must admit fizzy water can be a bit too aggressive for me.

**Ed Gamble**

A bit too harsh.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

A bit too harsh, a bit too filled.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

So, you know, the trick is, open it and leave it-, leave it, deflate overnight, and then you can sort of, gulp away feeling refreshed but not like it's hurting you.

**James Acaster**

Yes, not too aggressive.

**Ed Gamble**

So what-, I've not heard about this in Germany, they have different levels of fizz, do they? Frizzante, as you said.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Yes, yes, yes, they have ultra fizz. And, I don't know what it is, but that-,

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, I feel like you don't know what they're called.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

No, I don't, hands up, you got me guys. I don't know what it's called, but they're definitely different, the types of like, just a gentle effervescence down to like, this is how we got rid of the wall. You know, jack-hammer-esque.

**James Acaster**

They just spray a bottle of uber-fizz at the bottle of the wall and it just crumbles away.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

David Hasselhoff is still hiding in fear from it.

**James Acaster**

Soda Streams don't work now, and that's a shame, because they used to work back in the day and now they don't really work with the ones that they make.

**Ed Gamble**

James got sent a Soda Stream, and he was-, he'd really get on with your cousin in Cork City, let's just say that, he couldn't make it work.



**Siobhan McSweeney**

Oh, bless.

**James Acaster**

It doesn't work anymore.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Why?

**James Acaster**

I think they just like, stopped making them good, because I think back in the day, they obviously were doing it, and I think now they're just like well, no one's really buying Soda Streams, so they don't really bother making them very well, so it just doesn't work.

**Ed Gamble**

No, well you're not-, you're doing it wrong. You pump it up too much, and then you can't put it on the thing, and you're all fingers and thumbs, aren't you?

**James Acaster**

I think it's just broken.

**Ed Gamble**

No, it's not broken, you're broken, I think.

**James Acaster**

They don't make them very good in the factory.

**Ed Gamble**

You're broken.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Yes, it's the factory's fault.

**James Acaster**

Poppadoms or bread? Poppadoms or bread, Siobhan McSweeney? Poppadoms or bread?

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Is that how you treat your Soda Stream? I'm beginning to see where there problem is here.

**Ed Gamble**

Exactly, he's screaming at his Soda Stream.

**James Acaster**

You're the first person I've made jump in ages with that.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

In ages, you shouldn't be proud of that.

**James Acaster**

Yes, well, it used to be in the early days, they'd jump every single time, and now people are always ready for it because they've had a little listen beforehand. But then, I was like, ah, this is the perfect time to do it, because-,

**Ed Gamble**

Because, we were talking to each other.



**James Acaster**

Yes, you think we've teed up something else.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Ah, I had-

**James Acaster**

Yes, and it was the Soda scream. I got you with the soda scream.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Very good. I would like both please.

**James Acaster**

Ooh.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Yes, if possible.

**James Acaster**

You would like both.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

I would like both, and I would like the poppadoms to continue throughout the meal, even with dessert.

**James Acaster**

Lovely.

**Ed Gamble**

Okay, great, well I'm very interested to see what this dessert's going to be later.

**James Acaster**

Which, well, we learned lately that that's not-, that's actually the right way to do it.

**Ed Gamble**

That's not-,

**James Acaster**

We were told.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Well, I agree, but how do other people know this?

**James Acaster**

Asma Khan, who's like-, she's got a proper restaurant and everything.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Oh yes, yes.

**James Acaster**

She knows what she's doing, she told us poppadoms are meant to be at the end of the meal, just before dessert.



**Siobhan McSweeney**

Oh.

**James Acaster**

Yes, as with anything, you've just-, so, you're more authentic, you've brought in the authenticity, yes.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

More authentic, yes. Well, but I want to throw out the whole thing, I don't want to wait until just before, yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Right, okay, so do you want a big pile of poppadoms to sort of, snack on throughout the meal? Or, as this is the dream restaurant we can do this for you, do you want an absolutely massive popadom that you can just sort of work your way into the middle?

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Oh my God. Could I have-, do you know like, an art installation, they'd have cube? Could I have-,

**James Acaster**

Actually, I don't know what you're talking about, but yes.

**Ed Gamble:**

Yes. (Laughter).

**Siobhan McSweeney**

No, but you know like, could I have a room made out of poppadoms, and could I, because it's magic, not make dirty, the popadom, when I run through it, but I have enough structural integrity, that when I run through it, you know like a cartoon? And you can sort of see the shape.

**Ed Gamble**

You can see the outline of you? Yes.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Yes, so I would do that, be able to see that, then there will be a basket of course, and I would pick up the shards of popadom and take it away, sort of-, so, I'd work for it in a way, I'd harvest my own poppadoms.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, so, are you eating in the-, is this where the restaurant is? Are you in a big cube popadom?

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Well, no, because how-, what'll-, I'm very into lighting, and I don't think you could-, the structural integrity for light fittings and stuff, no, that's silly.

**Ed Gamble**

So, it's separately a cube popadom and you run through it and pick up the shards, but also when you run through it, not make dirty.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Not make dirty, so I can still eat it. But also, if I stood in the cube, I could just sort of fling myself around the room and sort of, feel it crash all around me, but also not make dirty with my feet or anything.



**James Acaster**

Yes, but in that fantasy, you're not going to allow for light fittings, you're going to be like-

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Well no, because poppadoms can't-, you're not thinking this through, poppadoms can't hold up a lampshade.

**James Acaster**

No, but they also can't withstand someone throwing themselves around it and not making dirty at the same time.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Is this-, what are your limitations as a genie? I didn't sign up to this.

**Ed Gamble**

You'll be interested to hear that we've never crossed this bridge.

**James Acaster**

But this is what I'm saying, I could absolutely give you a big cube popadom that you can jump around and not make dirty, but also I can put light fittings in that.

**Ed Gamble**

Or, they're fairly translucent, poppadoms, so you could put the lights outside the popadom, and you'd get a sort of, lovely glow around the popadom, yes.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

I think I'd like that, that feels a little bit more special, and I think it would be quite a special moment, I'd like to be nicely lit, and I think in a cubed popadom, I mean, with like an over-, I'm not a big fan of overhead lighting.

**Ed Gamble**

It's a bit much, isn't it?

**Siobhan McSweeney**

It is a bit much, and then I just want to know that there's nothing around my feet so that I can get a proper run at the corners and things like that, you know? I don't want to be thinking about lamps.

**Ed Gamble**

No.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

So, if we could have a few like, lights around.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, some tea-,

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Light footlights and-,

**James Acaster**

Or candles, even.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Yes.



**James Acaster**

No, I can tell you don't like that idea as much.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

No, I'm-, I'm worried that the cube will-

**Ed Gamble**

Are you worried that the soot from the candles would make dirty?

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Well, my flat burned down a couple of years ago, and I was convinced it was my fault, it was not my fault, it was an electrical thing. But, since then I've been very anxious about candles, even though it was not my fault.

**Ed Gamble**

I remember that happening, it was absolutely awful, saw that on the news, dreadful.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

It was awful, it was, it was just a bit awful, but also a bit liberating too, because then you're going oh, I've lost everything, okay, yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Oh, yes, that sounds nice actually, yes.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

No, but as in, you go okay, that's fine, I'm okay.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Nobody else was hurt, like basically, I got through a traumatic event but what people on yoga retreats try to sort of pay for it, you know?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Oh, I've lost everything, and that's okay.

**James Acaster**

You know what I like to do sometimes?

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Burn everything?

**James Acaster**

Yes, partly, partly, yes, yes, yes, yes. I go up really high, maybe on a really high bridge or a top of a building.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Oh, God.

**James Acaster**

And, I just hold my phone off the edge.





**Ed Gamble**

Oh, you're mad.

**James Acaster**

I just hold my phone by my thumb and forefinger and I just hold it off the edge and just, it feels amazing. I don't let it go, but it's really fun, you just hold it like that, and you're like, 'If I drop that, that's my life over, that's done.'

**Ed Gamble**

So, are you comparing you dangling your phone off a bridge, to Siobhan literally losing everything she owned?

**James Acaster**

Yes, yes, I imagine if I lost my phone it would probably feel the same.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Come here to me, so when you're on this bridge and you're holding over your phone, what do you feel when you pull it back then? Like a loser? Like a coward?

**James Acaster**

I feel exhilarated.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Like a tourist?

**James Acaster**

So I'm like, phew, it's like, phew, I just had a close call.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

So, you're getting all the adrenaline, so you're tricking your body into thinking that you've achieved something brave by being an absolute coward?

**James Acaster**

Yes, it's like, exhilarating, it's like if you-,

**Siobhan McSweeney**

That's why you're a comedian.

**James Acaster**

Yes, it's the same feeling.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

It's exactly the same thing, isn't it?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, it exactly the same feeling.

**James Acaster**

You know, it's the same rush people get from skydiving, I guess.

**Ed Gamble**

Is it because you've stopped doing stand up for a bit?



**James Acaster**

Probably.

**Ed Gamble**

So, is this what you've replaced stand up with? Dangling your phone off the edge of a really high thing?

**James Acaster**

Well, I did a thing with Joe Lycett, and we had to go up a bridge, and it was like-, and, it was all these just, wooden slats and they had these gaps in between them, and they were perfect size for an iPhone, and I just kept on doing it and really, I liked Joe's reaction which was, he was just panicking that I was going to drop it. So, I'd hold it there and watch him really freak out about it, and trying to get all the crew to do it and stuff.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

I went up-, I did a travel show last year around Northern Ireland, and there's these iconic cranes in Belfast, and I managed to go up one of them, they're called Samson and Goliath, and I went up Samson.

**Ed Gamble**

Oh.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Hear her, she went up Samson, and what a way to find out you don't like heights.

**Ed Gamble**

On camera.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

On camera, in a boiler suit, there was one step I had to take, oh, bleugh, and there was no-, I'm like, but surely, health and safety would mean-, and they were like, 'No, there's none.' And I'm like, but no, you have to have some guard, like, there was- you know like, the mind the gap in the tube?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Yes, you mind the gap, right? But you're like, I can see it, but imagine if that drop was hundreds-, like, what? And they're like, just step over it, and you're like no, because there's no guard, and they're like, 'Well, you know, you have to.'

**Ed Gamble**

And just make sure you step over it, yes.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

'Just don't go down there.' But, it's not a choice, is it? Like, yes, but by the end, there's footage of me skipping along the very top of the crane, I was very brave.

**Ed Gamble**

So, imagine dangling your phone over the edge of it.

**James Acaster**

That's what I'd do.



**Siobhan McSweeney**

Every time you say dangling your-, I keep thinking that you're like, just exposing yourself on Blackfriars Bridge or something.

**James Acaster**

I do that as well.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Dangling your willy, yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes, I do that as well.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Is that what the phone is, trying to get a good angle?

**James Acaster**

Yes, yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Holds it with his thumb and forefinger and dangles it over the edge.

**James Acaster**

Just Joe Lycett losing his mind.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, keep trying to get the crew to do it, you were fired off that show, weren't you?

**James Acaster**

Yes, that was it.

**Ed Gamble**

What kind of bread we talking, by the way? We've gone into the poppadoms pretty detailed, but-,

**Siobhan McSweeney**

The poppadoms? No, the bread would be Irish soda bread, it would be specifically the bread that my mother made every single morning when I was in national school, I would wake up every morning to the smell of fresh scones, fresh brown bread, and fresh apple tart. And, she would deliver these freshly baked goodies to all the local shops, and it would be her sort of little cottage industry, for pin money, you know? And, I hated the smell of it, like, I would get-, when I think back, how ungrateful I was, but you know, kids are the worst, they really are the fucking worst. I would wake up to the smell of freshly baked scones and go oh, God, not again. And, I would sort of stomp around-, in fairness, I would get my lunch, and my lunch would be freshly baked bread. And because I once said I liked peanut butter, I had peanut butter for twelve years. Peanut butter on freshly baked bread, then wrapped in tinfoil and put into a lunch box, so by the time lunch came, you opened the lunch box, the condensation on the roof of the-,

**Ed Gamble**

Oh, yes.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Yes, you'd unfurl the tinfoil, and the raw dough that the bread was so freshly baked, it had resorted back to its primordial self, had melded with the peanut butter to create something that I could only describe as Friday porridge. It was yet another gluey, gruel sort of thing, and you're like, oh. It had no integrity whatsoever, but now I would, with the benefit of hindsight and a bit more maturity, I



would kill for that brown bread again. And, specifically, Bandon Co-Op butter. There's something about the salt quota, this butter doesn't go rock hard when you put it in the fridge.

**Ed Gamble**

Oh, wow.

**James Acaster**

Right, great.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

And, there's something about the clarifying process, somebody explained it to me and then it got boring so I stopped listening, but it's got something to do with the clarifying process, so it actually doesn't go rock hard, and it is perfectly salted, and it's our local farmer's co-operative in Bandon.

**Ed Gamble**

Amazing.

**James Acaster**

I thought you said, 'Banned in Co-Op.'

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Bandon Co-Op.

**James Acaster**

As if like, it's not allowed.

**Ed Gamble**

It's not allowed.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Yes, Co-Op has gone, 'No.'

**James Acaster**

That was once banned in the Co-Op, it's so salty.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Yes, yes.

**James Acaster**

Let's get on to your menu proper, your dream starter.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Oh, yes. Dream starter would be crab claws from-, I mean, obviously, they wouldn't still be like, from 1996, but you know, I'm not eating-, they're not old crab claws, but they were in their-, genie, you would have to transport them from 1996.

**James Acaster**

No problem.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

From the summer of 96, in a place called Termonn Sheen, where my best friend grew up in a pub restaurant there and introduced me to crab claws, it was the first time I ever had crab claws, and I was like, what is this? And, even now, when I smell butter, garlic, lemon and parsley, I feel happy and you know, holiday? It's a holiday smell, like, a really free, fun, couple of pints and fresh air kind of smell, do you know?



**Ed Gamble**

A couple of pints, fresh air and crab claws.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

I don't think I've heard anything better ever, this sounds absolutely amazing.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Yes, really, really lovely. And also, you know, I'd just started uni then as well, and that feeling of finally finding people who didn't think, or they probably did think I was weird, but they were just as odd themselves. Finding your own tribe, really, because secondary school was great and, you know, people were very nice and blah, blah, blah, but I did always feel like quite an outsider, so it's nice to sort-, like, that summer of going, oh my God. I'm not the only freak in the village, kind of thing, or at least there's two of us now, yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, that is a nice moment.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

It's a pivotal moment, isn't it? Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

It's great, and then I would say, you grow up and get more and more your own tribe, and then every now and again, you confront him as someone who isn't from there, and you want to murder them.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Yes, yes.

**James Acaster**

I had someone come up to me in the street the other day and try-, actually, talking about Joe Lycett all the time now, but they thought I was Joe Lycett, and they were pretty hammered, and a proper lad. And, they were just going, and they went, 'Joe Lycett.' And, I went, 'No, I'm not.' I was talking to my girlfriend at the time, it was like, I went, 'No, I'm not Joe Lycett.' He's like, 'Yes, you are.' And he kept going, doing that, and he came up to me really close and he went-, he was giggling, going, 'You are Joe Lycett.' Then he raised his camera phone really far, and he was just going to-, and I said, 'Please don't take my photo, I'm not Joe Lycett.' And he was like, 'I'm going to do it.' And, his mate was really laughing and jeering.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

I fucking hate that.

**James Acaster**

And I was like, I haven't been around these people since, like, school.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, yes, yes.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Yes.



**James Acaster**

You realise, I've had my whole life just going like, not these people anymore, and then you're like, oh, you're still here, you still exist.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Yes, yes.

**James Acaster**

And, what was annoying is that, he went away and then realised I was James Acaster and then came back and did the whole thing again, but with my actual name.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Did he think you'd forgotten?

**James Acaster**

Yes, well, yes.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

How much time did he think had passed?

**James Acaster**

Well definitely, with the first one he thought I was fobbing him off, and then he thought oh, if I just go back and clear up-, because he thought, why-, he was annoyed because I got his name wrong.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

And, then he realised that you were going to fob him off again, yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes, yes, and then he just went-, to be honest, the second time he didn't even try and take my photo, because he kind of went, 'Oh no, you just don't like me.' And then he went away while his mate continued to shout stuff at me. But like, pretty good stuff.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Oh, like, fuck off, fuck off, fuck off. So, you know there was all this sort of thing, you know, about oh, the echo chamber on social media? I'm like, yes. What kind of absolute animal would you think I would be if I was hanging round with people whose opinions I didn't agree with?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, we do that in life, don't we?

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Here's my friend Mark, he's an awful racist, but you know, need a different opinion in my life. See her, don't believe with her economic theories either, but it's good to have diversity, it's like, fuck off, I want that echo chamber, but preferably I want it shaped like a popadom cube.

**James Acaster**

How many crab claws do you have in there? Because, I would always have an even amount, because I wouldn't want one crab going around-,

**Siobhan McSweeney**

A little bit lopsided.



**James Acaster**

Yes, yes, yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Yes, I don't think about the rest of the crabs, because if you do, you sort of go, where's the rest of the-, like, what are they doing?

**Ed Gamble**

They're using it, I'm sure they're using it somewhere.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Yes, you could use them as Frisbees, I suppose,

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Maybe that's what the fellow in the oats thing is-, the shot-put, the thing.

**James Acaster**

He's throwing a crab claw.

**Ed Gamble**

He's throwing a crab claw.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

He's throwing a crab-, yes. Yes.

**James Acaster**

Are you having these crab claws hot or cold?

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Hot.

**James Acaster**

Are they hot?

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Of course they're hot.

**James Acaster**

Because you can have them cold though, don't-,

**Siobhan McSweeney**

You can have anything technically cold, but it doesn't make it right.



**Ed Gamble**

People eat crab claws cold, you know, you cook them and then you stick them in the fridge or whatever, and they're lovely, and then you dip them in like, mayonnaise and stuff and they're delicious.

**James Acaster**

They're lovely yes, oh, crab meat.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

No, no, no, there's-, I mean, I understand that, that's fine, that's, sort of, a stand up by the fridge thingy, isn't it?

**Ed Gamble**

No, I don't think it's necessarily-, I think it's served in some places cold, like, seafood on, like, ice, like, I'll have cold crab claws and prawns and-

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Yes, I suppose, yes, but that would be incorrect.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, yes, yes.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

And, they're not allowed into my poppadom echo chamber.

**Ed Gamble**

They will not-, they won't break in, they can't get through.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

They would make it dirty with their cold crabs.

**Ed Gamble**

They would make dirty, yes.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

No, this is warm, and it is a big piled high-, I have never counted the crab claws, but now that you've mentioned it, I would like an even number. I would also like them to keep coming.

**Ed Gamble**

Sure, throughout the meal.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

This will be a pattern.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.





**Siobhan McSweeney**

I would like them to keep coming throughout the meal, and them never really to get that cold, for the butter to not solidify, yes. Let's keep going, let's keep the party going, like, yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes, right, yes.

**Ed Gamble**

How are you cracking into them? Hands? Is it, pulling the two little bits of the claw apart?

**Siobhan McSweeney**

So, it would be just the very tip of the claws, so it would have an exposed bit of crab flesh, and I would-

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, like James on the bridge.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

I would hold it with, just like your phone, I would hold it with my thumb and forefinger, roll it around-, no. I would bite the crab claws and then, I would have a little instrument from Ogie's mam, Mary Maloney, would have given me like, a small little fork thingy. And, she'd teach you how to gut down to the very-, you know the black tip of the claw? I think that's where the sweetest meat is, and if they're very fresh it comes out whole. So, you poke around there and you come out and this, like, this little sliver in the shape of the curve comes out, and that's the sweetest bit of the crab meat.

**Ed Gamble**

There's nothing more satisfying.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Nothing, and you feel like you-, aha. That, like, the breakfast buffet, 'I won.'

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, you beat the crab.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Take that, crab, take that.

**James Acaster**

If it doesn't come out whole, I just feel like I've-, give up, immediately eating these.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

So, genie, I would like every single one of them to come out, and sometimes, if you do crack it it comes out in itself, either way, it's coming out smoothly, please.

**James Acaster**

Yes, it'll all come out smooth, I promise.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Great, oh yum.

**Ed Gamble**

It sounds so good.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

It just would be nice.



**Ed Gamble**

Surround your meal, yes.

**James Acaster**

And it will keep coming, while your poppadoms keep coming as well, don't worry.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

And, bask and I'd go and-, well, you know, to walk it off a little bit, I would then go for a little stroll among the shards of the poppadom cube.

**James Acaster**

Yes, yes, stamp on them, you're getting them nice and pounded eventually.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Oh yes, but they would never turn to dust, but they'd give that lovely crunch of an autumn leaf.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, great. Your main course, your dream main course.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

My dream main course, now, I broke my leg last summer while I was filming something, and I broke it incredibly badly, and I'm still recovering. It was a-, it's a very-, I'm only beginning to realise how traumatising it was, yes, that sounds a bit-, but it was, and there's a lot of my recovery I don't actually remember because I was in an awful lot of pain.

**Ed Gamble**

Oh, wow.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

But, thankfully there are cameras, because I literally had to go on set after coming out of hospital.

**Ed Gamble**

Wow.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

But, when I came out of hospital I was still in a wheelchair, and I couldn't really move at all, and the leg needed-, the dressings needed to be changed a couple of times a day, yada, yada, ya. I was on quite heavy medication, blah, blah, blah. Where I'd been staying in West Cork, I had steps up to it, it was a-, they'd put me up in a lovely place, but there was no way on earth-, didn't have wheelchair access or the care I would need. So, production, the most extraordinary production people, they worked above and beyond, thought in their infinite kindness and wisdom, that the best place for me to recuperate for the rest of the shoot would be the Skibbereen old folks' home. So, I got wheeled in to the Skibbereen old folks' home and plonked in a room there, and every couple of days I was wheeled out to go on set, and then at the end of the day I would be wheeled back. It was the most hilarious and strangest time of my life.

But, I distinctly remember being on set you know, being in pain, everybody working so hard, really, really hard and it being glorious. But, knowing that I was finally getting back to myself when I was going, 'Oh, I hope this is the last take, we've many turn arounds, okay, I need to get back it's sausage and chip night at Skibbereen old folks' home.' Because, the sausages and chips man, oh my, oh my. It was just, it was food for the soul, it was a bam (ph 42.56), it soothed my completely. It



was-, they were perfect, the chips were crunchy and fluffy, not dry. Plenty of them, but not too many because, you know, I was still recovering and I didn't have a huge appetite, but I wanted to feel like myself, and food is so emotional, isn't it? And, it makes you feel like yourself, especially your body. If there's a limb like, literally hanging off you, you want to feel like yourself and who you were before all this.

And, you can't really get it with other things, food really does that special, special thing. And, it was the most comfort-, like, the sausages were beautiful, they were very juicy on the inside, but they were sort of black and brown, that dark-, and they weren't soggy, they weren't baked. People had put care into these sausages, and they were beautiful pork meat, and they had Chef ketchup, not Heinz, Chef ketchup, which is-, I don't think I've seen it here, it's a brand in Ireland, but there's something about it that is a bit more-, I presume a bit more sugary, or something, than Heinz. And, it also has a sort of, a thicker texture, like, Heinz is a bit watery now, isn't it? Like, it's sort of like, a puree, passata, kind of, hunkered down, but it has to be served at room temperature. The thing with ketchup, you can't have cold ketchup, it needs to be at room temperature, if not warmer, in fact.

I wouldn't recommend microwaving the ketchup, but I'm not saying don't do it either. And, that would be my main course. It would be served with a cup of tea and the feeling that I had done a good day's work, I was due a good night's sleep, and I wasn't in awful pain, and I was getting back to myself. And, the best food in the world makes you feel more like yourself, and that place of chips and sausages did it.

**Ed Gamble**

Was this once a week in the Skibbereen old folks' home?

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Yes, yes.

**Ed Gamble**

I mean, this-, I've never heard of anyone say that the old folks' home food is good. Like, they've got a rep for being terrible, right?

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Listen, I couldn't believe like, all my preconceptions of those places was blown out of the water when I stayed there. You had people who genuinely liked their job, that I found weird. They were really-, not only liked their job, but they were really passionate about it, and would go above and beyond, they were also very funny. Like, that wonderful, dry sense of humour. They were very knowledgable, they were being paid fuck all, and it was just really affirming to know that there are these places where, through no fault of their own, people we love will end up there. And, to know in spite of all the horror stories you hear, there are people working their arse off, and they're doing it because they're passionate about their job.

You know, it was lovely, and so many funny things, so many funny things. What was really, like-, because, it took a while for me to realise that my friends and colleagues were looking at me slightly askance, was the fact that I loved it so much. I was like, can I go back? You know, poor Siobhan, she's in the old folks home, I'm like, it's great crack, we would sing song on Mondays. It is so much fun, like, you know, they'd a lovely garden, it was exactly what I needed to heal, and I'm so grateful to them all, and oh, God. I think I'm getting a bit, yes. It's been horrible, and that was very nice, and the food was part of it.

**Ed Gamble**

Have you booked yourself in for a few decades time?

**Siobhan McSweeney**

I have, just for a little bit of a retreat.



**James Acaster**

It should be that, you know, because it's a shame that those places have a really bad rep for like, the food's rubbish. Because, it's like, people who are just going go, well, it's a rubbish situation having to be there, so therefore the food is now going to be-, we don't have to make it good. And actually-,

**Ed Gamble**

I'm only basing it on my Grandma when I used to visit her in an old folks' home, I think she just liked complaining.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Well, the thing is, everybody was complaining about the food. I'm like, lads, this is fantastic.

**Ed Gamble**

Oh, right.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Have you tried catering on set? Like, this is great. You're really, really fine. And also, I think, yes. It's people not being particularly happy they're there, and also it wasn't a novelty anymore. And, I was happy to be fed, your grandma has lived her entire life.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, she was counting the fish in the fish pie.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Oh, right.

**Ed Gamble**

She was going, 'There's four flakes of fish in the fish pie, it's an absolute disgrace.'

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Well, I mean that is a disgrace.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, absolutely.

**James Acaster**

Fair enough, yes.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

It's a disgrace.

**James Acaster**

If it's more mashed potato than fish then-,

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, yes, yes.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

I hate that. I hate that in shepherd's pie as well, oh, mountain of mashed potato and a little river of brown sludge at the bottom, you need to have it 50/50 at least.



**James Acaster**

I don't know, I just want not much mashed potato, and I want it to be as crisp as possible at the top as well.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Yes, yes, good.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

I want to be able to lift off the top layer of mashed potato like it's the crispy skin, that's what I want.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Nice.

**Ed Gamble**

You want to be able to smash through it and still see your body shape, right? Yes, yes, yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes,

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Oh, so you could have a little mashed potato cube beside my-

**James Acaster**

I'd love it, I'd love it, just the outer layer of the shepherd's pie.

**Ed Gamble**

Would you have it make dirty, or not?

**James Acaster**

I'd make it dirty, yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Would you?

**James Acaster**

I'd make dirty as much as possible.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

I don't think you should make it dirty.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Because whatever about a poppadom, that would crunch, the underpart of a crispy skin of a shepherd's pie, that's mushy, man, it's going to be like when snow turns to slush.

**James Acaster**

Yes, you want, that right?



**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

You can't eat that, how are you going to get it in your basket? You haven't thought this through.

**James Acaster**

Dirty basket, I'll have a dirty basket.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

you can't have a dirty-, oh, did you hear about him, he's got a dirty basket.

**Ed Gamble**

Your dream side dish.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Oh, yes, I didn't bother with that.

**Ed Gamble**

Well, because you've already got the chips and you've got the cup of tea.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

I've got the chips, the cup of tea, now, the cup of tea is very specific. It's Barry's tea-, are you taking notes? Barry's teabags, made with-, I know it's a cliché but, London water is awful, I don't care how many people it's gone through, that's the nature of water, it's what they do to it afterwards. Why is it like that? It shouldn't be solid, it feels like-, sometimes I make tea and it's like, it's solid now, what has happened to this water? So, it needs to be good water, soft water.

**Ed Gamble**

Where's the best water?

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Cork.

**James Acaster**

Yes?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Yes, done. And, a tinchy - my aunt used to measure out the milk in spoonfuls, and she would put one in and I thought she was mad, and I've tried it, she was not mad, she was a genius. So, one spoonful of semi-skimmed milk, that's the green stuff, right?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

So, that would be beside it in a mug around this size. So, it is, it's a good amount of tea but it doesn't go cold too quickly, and it's not too hot for too long, because that's the problem if you don't have a lot of milk in your tea, you're just waiting for it to cool and then the break's over. So, as a side dish, you have to remember, I still have the mountain of crab claws.



**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes, they're still coming.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

I have a cube of popadom, so I think I'm fine for a side.

**James Acaster**

So, you're passing on the side.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

I'm passing on the side, thank you.

**Ed Gamble**

Pass on the side, okay, yes.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

And, remember the slightly warm Chef ketchup, you know?

**James Acaster**

Yes, of course.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

I like a lot of ketchup.

**James Acaster**

Earlier when you said Chef ketchup, I don't think I would be alone in this.

**Ed Gamble**

Oh no, I was thinking the same thing.

**James Acaster**

But, you were talking about like the old folks' home, and you were saying, and chef, and I was like, oh, we're going to learn the name of the chef in the old folk's home.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Ketchup.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

And, ketchup, I was like, because I've never heard of the brand Chef's ketchup, I just thought, there's a man called Chef Ketchup at the old folk's home.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

No.

**Ed Gamble**

I did not think that, actually, I'd like to retract my initial thing in saying that I agree with you.



**James Acaster**

Oh God.

**Ed Gamble**

I just thought you meant like, home-made ketchup, so like, chef's ketchup.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Oh, I see, chef a la maison.

**Ed Gamble**

But you were imagining a man called Chef Ketchup.

**James Acaster**

A man called Chef Ketchup was working at the old folks' home.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Alright, Chef Ketchup?

**James Acaster**

And the Chef, yes, Chef Ketchup made all the food.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, would that be his real name? Or, a nickname because he's big and red-,

**Siobhan McSweeney**

True destiny.

**James Acaster**

Oh, I thought it was his real name, yes.

**Ed Gamble**

That was his name, I was like, 'Oh.'

**Siobhan McSweeney**

From the Ketchups down the road, it was Chef Alan.

**James Acaster**

Yes, I was like, here we go, a man called Alan Ketchup, he's a chef. Are you also going to pass on dream drink as well, because you've got the tea?

**Siobhan McSweeney**

No.

**James Acaster**

No.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

I want a frozen margarita.

**James Acaster**

Yes, and you can have one. In huge agreement with this.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Yes.





**James Acaster**

Any specificities?

**Siobhan McSweeney**

No, but perhaps not the-, I went to visit my friend in the states and she brought me to a supermarket and I saw pre-mixed margarita mix, and she had a very young child and I ostensibly was going over to help because, her husband was away shooting and I sat down, and I drank the whole-, because she had one of those American fridges where you get the crushed ice, I love it. I was like, oh, dear God, this is amazing, and it came in like, in a huge, like a keg, almost, like a-, what do-, like, not a flagon, but like, those huge old fashioned sort of, jars, where you-,

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, I know what you mean.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

You'd always have moonshine in it, yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Oh, yes, yes, yes.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

But, this was this pre-mixed margarita mix, and I would have the crushed ice, and I sat on the couch and complained about the at in Atlanta, and drank the whole thing, and for the rest of the week had the worst heartburn of my life. Like, for days and days, and then I was like, I am mostly lime now. I am shrivelled up, so not that. But, any other kind would be nice, and also, I've been trying to find the chilli salt you put around the edge of it, the chilli and lime salt, there would have to be a lot of that. And, if I wanted to just put my finger in and and-, it's basically like, the best part of Doritos. You know, the bottom of the powder of Doritos.

**Ed Gamble**

Well, we can do-, I mean, this is the dream restaurant, instead of chilli and lime salt, do you want the powder from a bag of Doritos around the rim of the glass?

**Siobhan McSweeney**

From the chilli Doritos, yes, please.

**James Acaster**

From the chilli Doritos, yes, that's quite a good idea actually.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

That's a really good idea, yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes?

**James Acaster**

Yes, yes, yes, that's the kind of stuff, Bob Mortimer would do that.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, yes, yes, he loved inventing things.

**James Acaster**

He made mashed potato out of crisps.



**Siobhan McSweeney**

No.

**Ed Gamble**

But, I mean, you've got to give you credit for really thinking about that.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Yes, I figured out how he did it an I'm-, it's a lot of mastication, I think, would be involved.

**James Acaster**

He thought about it, he imagined it. Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

No.

**James Acaster**

Not that great, no, fair enough.

**Ed Gamble**

No.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

It would be the crisp residue that you find in your mouth. You know when you eat a bag of crisps?

**James Acaster**

I thought it was-, yes, yes, yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

And then crick out that bit.

**James Acaster**

Oh, yes.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

It would be a lot of that, in a pile.

**James Acaster**

A big bowl of those, yes.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

no, no Bob.

**Ed Gamble**

but, the frozen margarita, a great choice.

**James Acaster**

Yes, lovely choice, we've had it before in the podcast, because it is one of the top drinks, one of the best. Never regret it.



**Siobhan McSweeney**

Well, it's a good drink, it's a good drink.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

And, also tequila doesn't make me mad, it turns out I'm quite pleasant on tequila, yes. There was a bit of a like, you know you're a bit of a cunt on gin, I'm like, I did not know that, I did not know that.

**Ed Gamble**

Is gin the worst?

**Siobhan McSweeney**

So far, under very controlled examination, experimental conditions, tequila seems to be the one that I can continue drinking without starting a fight, or worse, over a long period of time, that's the one thing that I go, okay, let's keep her on the tequila, keep her on the tequila.

**Ed Gamble**

What night was frozen margarita night at the Skibbereen old folks' home?

**Siobhan McSweeney**

They didn't have frozen margaritas, but you know, it was fine, I had very nice pain killers.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Riding high on those.

**James Acaster**

Yes, pop your painkillers in one of those little plastic cups with the chilli and lime salt around the rim.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

They did. Oh, that would be nice, na, na, na, na, na, na, na, tequila.

**James Acaster**

We arrive at your dream dessert, very exciting. It's been an emotional roller-coaster.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

It has.

**James Acaster**

A whole journey through your life and childhood, into your uni days, into being an old folk-,

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Into the old folks' home.



**Ed Gamble**

To the old folks' home, yes, we've really-, is this going to represent your death somehow? It feels like that's-,

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Yes, yes, yes, imagine. Yes, no, but it is like, it does sound a bit like, oh, I'm picking this because I think I'm-, blah, blah, blah. I haven't been able to find a black forest gateaux that tastes like the black forest gateaux I ate in the black forest.

**Ed Gamble**

Wow.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

And, I have been trying to find it, and people fuck it up by trying to be fancy. Don't be fancy, get the little, the chocolate sprinkles virmicelli or something, they're called, coat that on the outside, I want your tinned sour cherries, I want your Kirsch, don't get fancy with fancy Kirsch, I want your shit Kirsch. I want cream, proper cream, of course, I'm not an animal, and moist chocolate sponges, and a good ratio of the sour cherries to the sponge. Don't mess around with it, it's a classic for a reason, don't try to go all fucking Nigella or whoever the fuck you think you are, because somebody once liked your cake that you brought into the office?

**James Acaster**

Have you had a gin?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Getting really angry about this.

**James Acaster**

I thought we gave you a margarita.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Do you know how much shit black forest gateaux I've had, because people try to mess around with it? I spent a summer in Triburg, vor die (inaudible 55.57) in Deutschland, in the Black Forest, where the highest waterfall in Germany is.

**Ed Gamble**

What level of frizzante is the waterfall?

**James Acaster**

Oh yes.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Oh yes, very good, no, it was too high up, I didn't bother, I was too busy enjoying-,

**James Acaster**

Tell you what, I would walk fast at the top of that waterfall.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, we know what you'd do there.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Oh, you'd be dangling.



**James Acaster**

Charlotte Church at the bottom of the waterfall, of course? I mean, I guess like, when you were in the black forest, you must have been like well, I have to have a black forest gateaux while I'm here.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Well, I was working as a dish washer in the kitchen, and I was very confused, and I did not have as much German as my German teacher or I thought I had. So, I didn't really have much to do, so I would sneak into the fridge and eat black forest gateaux day in, day out, and never got sick of it. In retrospect, it would have been sort of like, what's it called over here? Is it a Toby, place where you have like-

**James Acaster**

Toby Carvery?

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Yes, that's it, it would be sort of like, the black forest version of that.

**Ed Gamble**

I would argue that you love that black forest gateaux so much, firstly because you were in the black forest, so it's just atmospherically like, fantastic.

**James Acaster**

So you thought this was legit.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

I like to match, yes.

**Ed Gamble**

And also, you were sneaking it, and there's no better taste than sneaky food.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Oh, my God, was that the added ingredient?

**Ed Gamble**

I think so, I think for your dream meal, we might have to put the black forest gateau in a separate room.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

An obstacle.

**James Acaster**

It has to be snuck.

**Ed Gamble**

And, you have to sneak it.

**James Acaster**

You've got to sneak it.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Would I have to do all the laser things to get through it?

**Ed Gamble**

If you'd like, sure, yes, yes, yes.



**Siobhan McSweeney**

But, what if a shard of poppadom has fallen from my clean basket onto the ground and without me noticing, and I put my foot down and it makes a, 'Crrsk.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

The security comes out. Yes.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Does the whole, 'Eee eee eee' and then I have to run, but I have a bad leg.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Oh, yes.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

I have a bad leg, so I can't run.

**James Acaster**

Not going to get to that Black Forest gâteau, are you?

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Oh, it's going to taste so good. Oh my God, that's the missing thing, that's-, forget the ratio, this-, yes.

**James Acaster**

It's the sneaking, yes, you've got to sneak it.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Oh, yum, yum, yum, yum.

**James Acaster**

When I was a dish washer I would sneak the lumpy bumpy when that was in the fridge, of course, the walk in fridge.

**Ed Gamble**

Of course.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

What's the lumpy bumpy?

**James Acaster**

Either a chocolate lumpy bumpy or a toffee lumpy bumpy if you're lucky. Toffee lumpy bumpy I'd say was the best.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

It doesn't sound lucky.



**James Acaster**

So like, it's mainly cream, it's mainly thick cream on like, a-, as a layer, a thin layer of sponge as the base, and then a thick cream, and then like, a very thick chocolate or toffee glaze, that also has embedded in it chunks of chocolate and toffee and fudge.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Lumpy bumpy.

**James Acaster**

I would sneak the chocolate lumpy bumpy or the toffee lumpy bumpy whenever my heart desired, and that was my black forest gateaux in the black forest.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

I'm telling you, listen, we had it good. Good times.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

I would sneak cheese out of the fridge at home, take a big bite out of it like it was an apple.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

My mum would make pate, and she said that she came in once and looked like a dirty protest had happened, and I looked like a Augustus Gloop. It was all over my face, I had two handfuls of it-,

**Ed Gamble**

Of pate behind your back.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Of pate behind my back, and she went, 'Siobhan, have you been at the pate?' And I went, 'No. No I have not, mam.'

**James Acaster**

I'm going to read your menu back to you now, see what you feel about it.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Yes, please.

**James Acaster**

Water, you want sparkling, left open overnight or from a Soda Stream, poppadoms or bread, you wanted a room full of popadom that you can burst through whilst not make dirty, and then eat the shards throughout the meal, and you would like your mother's Irish soda bread with some Bandon-,

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Bandon.

**James Acaster**

Co-Op butter. Starter, crab claws from the summer of 96 throughout the meal.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Throughout the meal, made by Ogie Maloney.

**James Acaster**

Wow, I missed that the first time round, and I would have been on that very quickly if I-,



**Ed Gamble**

And Ogie Maloney's mother gives you the fork.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Mary Maloney gave me the fork to take-, yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Mary Maloney gives you the fork, yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes, yes, I heard that Mary Maloney gave you the fork, and I let that go, but then I didn't know that Ogie Maloney was involved.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Ogie Maloney makes the crab claws.

**James Acaster**

Yes, that is very cool.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Main course, sausage and chips with Chef Ketchup from the Skibbereen old folks' home.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

With a side of tea, Barry's tea bag with Cork water, one spoonful of semi-skimmed.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Yes, thank you.

**James Acaster**

Drink, a frozen Margarita with chilli Dorito dust around the rim. Dessert, Black Forest gâteau from the Black Forest, snuck.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

Yes, the sneaking, apparently, it's not the cherries that made it, it was the sneaking.

**Ed Gamble**

The adrenaline.

**Siobhan McSweeney**

It was the sour taste of copper in my mouth with the adrenaline coursing through my veins. That little make you fight for your dessert. I feel like I've learnt a lot about myself. Thank you, guys.

**Ed Gamble**

We've learnt a lot about you.

**James Acaster**

Your entire life.





**Ed Gamble**

Thank you so much for coming into the the dream restaurant, Siobhan.

**Ed Gamble**

Well, there we are.

**James Acaster**

Wow.

**Ed Gamble**

What a wonderful menu. I loved that.

**James Acaster**

Delicious menu, journey for it. I mean, I'd eat all that food and also-,

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

What a lovely life. What a lovely bunch of stories that we got to hear about there.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, really nice stories and it does-, you know, normally, if someone's saying, like, 'Sausage and chips from an old people's home,'

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

You would normally absolutely kick the shit out of someone for saying something like that.

**James Acaster**

Sure.

**Ed Gamble**

What a nice story and-,

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Actually, thinking about it, I've a lot of respect for canteen sausage and chips.

**James Acaster**

Yes, that's the thing.

**Ed Gamble**

Big shiny sausages and then, like, a shovel of chips.

**James Acaster**

Yes. When Siobhan said that I thought back to when I used to work at the school as a classroom assistant. You know, the canteen wasn't great.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.



**James Acaster**

There would be certain says I would think, 'Oh, it's that day today,' you know, that particular one, and I'd look forward to it even though it was-, and, no, Siobhan was saying this one was good.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

But, even with that one, it was objectively a bad meal that I would look forward to once a week, but it was the best of the lot, so I would have that little, 'Oh, it's that.'

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

As soon as she said, 'Oh, it's sausage and chips night tonight,' I was, like, 'Yes.'

**Ed Gamble**

That's good.

**James Acaster**

I know this feeling, I'm onboard.

**Ed Gamble**

It reminded me of just going swimming, when you've just been swimming.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

When she said, 'Sausage and chips,' I was, like, 'I think I've just been swimming.'

**James Acaster**

Yes, going to Kettering Leisure Village and-

**Ed Gamble**

That's not exactly what I thought, but it-,

**James Acaster**

Then having the awful food afterwards.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

So, you've just done a bunch of exercise and then having the saltiest chips in the world.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, Putney Leisure Centre, I was thinking of, personally.

**James Acaster**

Yes, okay. No, you never went to the KLV?



**Ed Gamble**

Never went to the KLV. It would be PLC and, yes, top diving board. Ten metres, don't mind if I do.

**James Acaster**

Wow.

**Ed Gamble**

Only ever other time would I psych myself up too much and then have to come down the steps because I'd scared myself out of it.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Most importantly, Siobhan did not say, 'Mini-marshmallows,' James.

**James Acaster**

Oh, good.

**Ed Gamble**

Good. She could stay in.

**James Acaster**

Good, you wouldn't get those on a Black Forest gateau.

**Ed Gamble**

No, absolutely not, especially not the proper Black Forest snuck gateau.

**James Acaster**

Yes, snuck gateau.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Oh, I'd love a snuck gateau.

**Ed Gamble**

I loved that episode and Derry Girls is starting very soon, series three, Channel 4. The final series of Derry Girls.

**James Acaster**

Make sure you watch it and if you haven't seen the other two series, catch up and then enjoy the third one.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, do. I'm on tour, Ed Gamble Electric, [Edgamble.co.uk](http://Edgamble.co.uk) for tickets. James has got book out in a bit.

**James Acaster**

Yes, you can get that wherever you get your books.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.



**James Acaster**

Buy my old books as well if you want to.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, why not. Get all the blooming books.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

We have got some lovely, 'Thank yous,' to do for some beautiful food that has been sent to us. First shout-out's just from me, James, you might want to cover your ears for this.

**James Acaster**

Uh-oh.

**Ed Gamble**

Two of my gigs on tour I have arrived to find that some companies have delivered me some amazing cheese.

**James Acaster**

I bet those gigs were rubbish.

**Ed Gamble**

I have had so much nice cheese. One of them is from The Box Of Cheese, who are, like, a cheese subscription and delivery service, they're based in the New Forest, I believe, sent me some absolutely fantastic cheeses. Then, when I went to Newcastle, I was given some amazing cheese from the Doddington Dairy. A huge box of cheese along with some amazing little biscuits for cheese. Oh, it was fantastic, left that backstage. Thank you so much to them.

**James Acaster**

That Newcastle venue, when I was there last, there was loads of ice cream in my dressing room that they got for me because they know about the podcast.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

So, yes, big thanks to, it's the Opera House, is it? What is it?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, the Tyne Theatre and Opera House.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Amazing, beautiful venue.

**James Acaster**

Amazing venue. Wonderful staff who have treated me and Ed to our opposing dessert choices.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, what a fantastic place that was. The audience liked to whoop.



**James Acaster**

Yes, or take their tops off when you're driving away in your car in my experience. It was men. It was a fella.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, it was a fella. Yes, it didn't happen to me. When I went out there, everyone put their coats on.

**James Acaster**

Yes. I drove away, a man took his t-shirt off and shook his titties at us.

**Ed Gamble**

Oh, no wonder you're not doing a UK tour. Huge shout out to Hotel Chocolat.

**James Acaster**

Oh, my God.

**Ed Gamble**

They sent us so much stuff.

**James Acaster**

So lovely. Thank you, Hotel Chocolat, it's made my year. Like, they let me-, this is the dream I've had since I was a kid.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

They said, 'Go on the website and just select anything that you want on there,' and that's what I did. I chose so many chocolates that I really wanted to try and they sent me all of them in a big box. I've been working my way through them and they're so delicious. Also, they're going to let me go down to the HQ, or the kitchens that they've got there, and have a full chocolate-making day and be a little chocolatier.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

I get to make my own. This is all because of the shout outs for the Velvetiser that we've been given.

**Ed Gamble**

Ah, I see.

**James Acaster**

On the pod, and they were, like, 'Do you want to come and make your own Velvetiser chocolate that's going to be your own sachets that you can take home and make your own flavour?'

**Ed Gamble**

My God, James.

**James Acaster**

So, I'm going to get to do that. There's a chef coming in.

**Ed Gamble**

I might a day there too. They've asked me if I want a day there too.



**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

They also sent me the same because said, 'What do you want us to send you?' I said, 'Exactly what you sent to James.'

**James Acaster**

Yes, great.

**Ed Gamble**

Which, you know, I didn't realise that it was in a situation where you went on the website and picked what you want because it was so much.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

You really ran with that.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

I would've been, like, 'Well, maybe these three things,' and how many? 25 different-,

**James Acaster**

Yes, there are, like, six chocolates in each packet and I had about, yes, 25 of them.

**Ed Gamble**

25 packets, yes.

**James Acaster**

25 packets of six each.

**Ed Gamble**

I wish I'd asked for the big boxes now. I like the big boxes as well.

**James Acaster**

Yes, so I didn't ask for any of the big boxes because I just wanted to try individual ones.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, I would've asked. Yes.

**James Acaster**

I didn't know, to be fair to me, how many were in each packet, but I was, like, 'That one, that one, that one, that one, that one.'

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

I wanted a cylinder of the Orange Tangs and they were amazing. Have you had the Orange Tangs, yet?



**Ed Gamble**

I've not had the Tangs yet. I've had a lot.

**James Acaster**

They're so tangy. It was great.

**Ed Gamble**

I mean, as we speak, we went to the Comedy Awards a few days ago and I've not really many, but it was at home and let me tell you, when I got back from the Comedy Awards, I checked into the Hotel Chocolat.

**James Acaster**

Oh, yes. I think I might've checked into the Hotel Chocolat, actually, when I got back from the Comedy Awards. It was pretty great.

**Ed Gamble**

We lost.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Thank you to Hotel Chocolat because we felt like we won.

**James Acaster**

Yes, absolutely.

**Ed Gamble**

Craft Gin Club have sent us, I mean, I guess it looks like a bottle of gin and a way to mix a fantastic cocktail and loads of snacks as well. They've absolutely smashed it. Thanks very much to the Craft Gin Club.

**James Acaster**

Thank you and sorry that, you know, we said the stuff about gin in the main episode, about turning people dark. Not everybody.

**Ed Gamble**

Not everybody. It doesn't turn me dark.

**James Acaster**

Drink responsibly.

**Ed Gamble**

I love gin. Gin's an upper for me. Baked In bake kits, like, they've sent us these baking kits, including one for cookies, which is like a big bottle full of the ingredients and then you empty the whole mix out and mix it up with other stuff.

**James Acaster**

Full credit to them, as well, for not making a Bake Off reference in the letter or anything like that, or the little note they gave us.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.



**James Acaster**

You know, a lot of the time, if I get sent stuff that's, like, not even just anything food related and they'll go, 'Bon appétit, James.'

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

These ones could've gone full on in it because it's baking, and they didn't do it. They just were, like, 'There you go.'

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, I mean, it looks so simple to make those cookies, even you couldn't fuck that up, mate, yes?

**James Acaster**

We'll see about that. Challenge accepted.

**Ed Gamble**

I look forward to you just baking the whole glass bottle with all the stuff in it, straight in the oven.

**James Acaster**

Uh-oh. Also, Ed, I'm holding in my hand, here, the original Veronica Farm Fudge, handmade. Rum and raisin flavour, this one.

**Ed Gamble**

Oh, that sounds good.

**James Acaster**

Delicious creamy fudge, blended with local SC Dogs white rum.

**Ed Gamble**

Wow. I mean, look, fudge is right up your street, right?

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

I love fudge, I'd say, more than anything in the world. I will have one cube of fudge and, being a diabetic man, it will be just like injecting me with adrenaline.

**James Acaster**

Go to space.

**Ed Gamble**

Oh, go to space. Mate, I'll take my pants off and go to space.

**James Acaster**

Yes, exactly.

**Ed Gamble**

So, thank you very much to all those places for sending us stuff, that's marvellous. I can't wait to get stuck into all of that but now, let's say goodbye and see you next week on the Off Menu podcast.

**James Acaster**

Goodbye and see you next week on the Off Menu podcast.