



# Off Menu – Ep151 – Rob Brydon:

## **Ed Gamble**

Welcome to the Off Menu Podcast. Taking the egg white of conversation, whisking as hard as you can with the whisk of the internet, pouring it into the ramekin of humour, putting it in the warm oven of chat and making the souffle of entertainment.

## **James Acaster**

Wow. I mean, Ed knows so much more about cooking than I do, that I don't know where it's going until-, I don't know what it is until the end. I was like, 'What is this? What's he made?'

## **Ed Gamble**

Well, there's some ingredients that I didn't put in, like any sugar or any flavouring. So it's just hot egg. I've made hot egg.

## **James Acaster**

Hot egg?

## **Ed Gamble**

Yes.

## **James Acaster**

Well, in many ways that does represent the podcast.

## **Ed Gamble**

Yes.

## **James Acaster**

That's Ed Gamble. My name is James Acaster. This is the Off Menu Podcast. We have a dream restaurant and we invite a guest in to tell us their favourite starter, main course, dessert, side dish, drink. Not in that order. Did I say them all? Starter, main course, dessert, side dish and drink.

## **Ed Gamble**

That's all going in.

## **James Acaster**

Not in that order. And this week, our guest is Rob Brydon.

## **Ed Gamble**

Rob Brydon. Rob Brydon, of course.

## **James Acaster**

Rob Brydon. National treas.

## **Ed Gamble**

National treas, baby.

## **James Acaster**

A wonderful actor, wonderful comedian, wonderful host of Would I Lie to You?

## **Ed Gamble**

He does it all. He's a renaissance man.



**James Acaster**

Yes, he has his own podcast, Brydon And.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, he does indeed, that you've been on.

**James Acaster**

Yes. I don't know if it's been out yet.

**Ed Gamble**

Interesting. A little exclusive.

**James Acaster**

So who knows if this will go out-, Will this go out before or after that one.

**Ed Gamble**

We'll see.

**James Acaster**

We will see.

**Ed Gamble**

Very excited to have Rob on the show. Big fan of Rob's and have been for a long time.

**James Acaster**

Both big fans of his work, however, if he does say the secret ingredient, an ingredient that we deem to be disgusting, we will kick him out of the podcast. Although, you know, it's actually this week is an ingredient that someone else has suggested that they feel is disgusting.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. And this week the secret ingredient has been suggested by Garath Edwards on Twitter and Garath has suggested jellied eels.

**James Acaster**

Jellied eels.

**Ed Gamble**

Jellied eels. Now, I'm worried, because Rob, he's old school.

**James Acaster**

Sure.

**Ed Gamble**

He's an old-school entertainer. He sings, he dances, he does jokes.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Jellied eels are quite an old-school thing, but I guess more of a London thing and Rob is, of course, a Welshman.

**James Acaster**

Yes. I would worry more if we'd got, like, Mickey Flanagan on or someone.



**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

He might pick a jellied eel or, like, that guy who plays Brick Top in Snatch. Like, those guys, they might choose a jellied eel. With Rob, I think he's probably on safe ground here, but maybe he's trying go against type. Maybe he's like, 'Yo, everyone thinks I love stuff from Wales, but actually-

**Ed Gamble**

I love jellied eels.

**James Acaster**

Here's a jellied eel.

**Ed Gamble**

I've never had a jellied eel, to be fair.

**James Acaster**

Neither have I.

**Ed Gamble**

I don't want one.

**James Acaster**

They've never looked nice. They've never been described nicely to me, but maybe that's just the company I'm keeping. Maybe I need to speak to different people.

**Ed Gamble**

They're the sort of thing that you would think is ripe for, like, a hipsterfication.

**James Acaster**

Yes, sure.

**Ed Gamble**

But maybe the idea of them gross people out so much that they could never.

**James Acaster**

I wouldn't be surprised if someone has tried it or is going to try it. Because, like, also that look of you can imagine someone with, like, the braces and the waxed moustache. And they're selling jellied eels.

**Ed Gamble**

In a pie shop or something.

**James Acaster**

Yes, I mean, that's going to happen if it hasn't already.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. Well, there we go. Something to look forward to.

**James Acaster**

Something to look forward to.

**Ed Gamble**

But if Rob says it, he's out.



**James Acaster**

If Rob says it, he's out, and we'll chuck a hipster out with him.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Just for balance.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, Benito.

**James Acaster**

Yes, Benito, you little hipster.

**Ed Gamble**

You're stupid braces and big moustache.

**James Acaster**

Yes, that's what Benito looks like. Everyone always asks what does the great Benito look like.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, like Sweeney Todd, but with Nikes on.

**James Acaster**

Yes, exactly what he looks like. Ed, you're going on tour, aren't you?

**Ed Gamble**

I'm going on tour. I'm on tour. Ed Gamble: Electric is the name of the show. Edgamble.co.uk for tickets. I would love to see you at them.

**James Acaster**

And you can preorder 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. Preorder it wherever you get your books.

**Ed Gamble**

But for now, this is the Off Menu menu of Rob Brydon. Welcome, Rob, to the Dream Restaurant.

**Rob Brydon**

Well, it's so nice to be here. Thank you for having me.

**James Acaster**

Welcome, Rob Brydon, to the Dream Restaurant. I've been expecting you for some time.

**Rob Brydon**

I can only echo what I said to Ed, really. Thanks very much. It's very nice to be here.

**James Acaster**

Yes, it's very exciting.

**Ed Gamble**

What do you think happened in front of you there? That sound? What was going on there?



**Rob Brydon**

I think that was the genie. I've done my research.

**Ed Gamble**

You never know.

**Rob Brydon**

I've listened to this. I've got enough respect for you guys that I listened and thoroughly enjoyed it. That was the genie popping out.

**Ed Gamble**

Popping out quite vociferously today. it was a good pop-out, I think.

**James Acaster**

It was a good pop out but it's quite confident. You know, I've got to be confident around Rob.

**Rob Brydon**

You've got to be confident around Rob?

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Rob Brydon**

Why?

**James Acaster**

Don't show him any weakness.

**Ed Gamble**

See, that's interesting. I feel naturally at ease around Rob, immediately.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

But you've got your guards up straight away, have you?

**James Acaster**

Yes, I've got my guard up.

**Rob Brydon**

Yes, You're right to do that Acaster, because if you show me the slightest chink, I will take you down.

**James Acaster**

You'll get me.

**Rob Brydon**

I will.

**James Acaster**

You will. Well, you know, I'm happy to take that, well, I don't want to take that -



**Rob Brydon**

They'll be nothing you and your modern up-to-the-minute hipster humour can do about it. It will be old school all the way.

**James Acaster**

Man, imagine if there's another series of The Trip, but they were like, 'You've got to have a, you know, some new blood, some modern hipster humour.' I managed to make the cut.

**Rob Brydon**

We take you along with us.

**James Acaster**

I'd get you destroyed.

**Rob Brydon**

Like Scappy Doo around the table. You know, the kid's that with us.

**James Acaster**

We're getting absolutely, just, torn apart.

**Rob Brydon**

I don't think you would. I think you would overpower us with the power of now, basically. And we'd look like two granddads and we'd be going, 'Go on, Steve. Come back to him with something.' 'I can't think of anything. He's really fast.' 'I know, but you are as well.' 'Well, so are you. Why don't you say something?'

**Ed Gamble**

But obviously, you and Steve are back and forth with impressions well in The Trip. So James would have to get involved in that, really wouldn't he?

**Rob Brydon**

Yes. Who would you do?

**James Acaster**

Oh no.

**Ed Gamble**

So James, what could you do if it was all, sort of, fast-paced impressions around the table?

**James Acaster**

I know where's he's going with this, Rob, and I don't like it.

**Rob Brydon**

You've got one up your sleeve, have you?

**James Acaster**

This is a regular thing on the podcast.

**Ed Gamble**

It's so far up his sleeve, it's popped out his collar.

**James Acaster**

Ed makes me do an impression quite vaguely on this podcast and I don't like doing it. He's really done well here.



**Rob Brydon**

It's very early, isn't it? Very early in the podcast.

**Ed Gamble**

Very early. Because I specifically like it when James has to do it to people who are good at impressions or accents or anything like that.

**James Acaster**

Yes, but we can move on, can't we? You don't want to hear it.

**Rob Brydon**

No, let's hear it. So who is it?

**James Acaster**

Well, I'll do it and you can guess who it is.

**Rob Brydon**

Good.

**James Acaster**

What would you like me to talk about in the voice? I'll act like I'm on The Trip with you and Steve.

**Rob Brydon**

Yes, so you could say something like, well, talk about the food. Let's say we're having a lovely starter. Talk about that. That's what we talk about.

**James Acaster**

Oh, Steve, do you like your starter? Donkey. It's donkey meat. Steve, are you eating your starter, man?

**Rob Brydon**

Is that meant to be Mike Myers doing Shrek?

**James Acaster**

My name is Shrek.

**Rob Brydon**

It's Shrek, is it? It's only because you said donkey. If you hadn't said donkey, - You may as well have said, 'Oh, Princess Fiona, she's lovely.' I mean, that's not good.

**James Acaster**

What?

**Rob Brydon**

You heard me. I said it's not good. I've got too much respect for you, James, to say anything other. No, it's not good. I would say out of that area.

**Ed Gamble**

I would like to see that on The Trip.

**James Acaster**

I'm trying. I'm really committed to it. You've got to admit that.

**Rob Brydon**

There's no doubt you committed to it. If anything, that made it worse.



**Ed Gamble**

Is that the first thing on the checklist of a good impression? Commitment?

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Throwing yourself into it.

**Rob Brydon**

That's the first thing, and that's the bit I think that James skipped over. You have so many talents, James. It would be like me trying to do Keepie uppies. You know, it's never going to happen. It's rubbish.

**James Acaster**

I bet you could though.

**Rob Brydon**

No, I can't.

**James Acaster**

But you wouldn't try. Your character in The Trip would try. Your character in the Trip would be very competitive.

**Rob Brydon**

Of course, yes, but you see that's where my character in The Trip is very much a fabrication. Because I'm not that. I'm competitive in some ways, but in others, I'm massively uncooperative. I'm happy for a no score draw.

**James Acaster**

But then you think very sportsmanly. You told me a story about throwing sweets into an audience where you were thinking like a tennis player.

**Rob Brydon**

I do like playing tennis.

**James Acaster**

In how you threw the sweets was, like, you weren't just throwing the sweets. You were like, 'Right, I've got to do it like I'm serving in a tennis match.'

**Rob Brydon**

Yes, well that's because it was in front of an audience. This was when we were doing Would I Lie to You? Before the pandemic, what they do on those shows, I think they probably do it on most panel shows. They do a long record, so they bring you sugar, basically, to pep you up. So they would bring jelly babies around and you'd eat them. Because you'd just go up and then you crash on the other side of it. So what I would do is I would throw some out to the audience, you know? Get them involved, throw them out. Underarm to the ones near the front, but overarm for the ones near the back. You know, people would go, 'Oh, this is fun.' But I threw one, and as James said, really I want to get the projection and follow through on the throw so you get a bit of distance. This little old lady was sat in the front row of the raised bleachers bit. It sailed through the air, she wasn't paying attention, it hit her squarely between the eyes and she went down. Like I sniper, I'd taken her out. Do you know what I'm saying? Ping. And they just go. And she went down and if I'm being honest, my first thought was for myself. I just thought, 'Oh my god, what have I done?' And she stayed down





for what seemed like an eternity. It was probably only twenty seconds, not even that long. She was okay, and I've never thrown a jelly baby from that day.

**Ed Gamble**

Was there any part of you that was quite satisfied when that happened?

**Rob Brydon**

No.

**James Acaster**

Bullseye.

**Rob Brydon**

No, I thought everything was over.

**Ed Gamble**

I don't think you can end a career on that.

**Rob Brydon**

Of course you can. Actor and comedian Rob Brydon has been detained in custody after assaulting an elderly woman in the audience of the popular panel show, *Would I Lie to You?*

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, but then it's like you read further on and it's -

**Rob Brydon**

People don't read further on, Ed, do they? They don't.

**James Acaster**

I think the only way your career is in danger is if after you'd thrown it you had said, 'Bullseye.' Out loud. If you'd thrown it, she goes down and you go, 'Bullseye.' Then-,

**Rob Brydon**

Or people are saying, 'I was in the audience and I distinctly heard him under his breath. He said, "Bullseye." I mean, he didn't shout it. I'll give him that, but under his breath-, And he slightly punched the air with his fist.'

**Ed Gamble**

But then, the way that entertainment works, it would be ten years of nothing and then you'd host a reboot of Bullseye.

**Rob Brydon**

Yes, but you know, I'll tell you what, I wouldn't be happy with the ten years of nothing.

**Ed Gamble**

No, fair enough.

**Rob Brydon**

Call me a stickler.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, just don't throw something.

**Rob Brydon**

Ten years of nothing, and then-,



**Ed Gamble**

And then Bullseye.

**James Acaster**

Of the three of you, on Would I Lie to You? Who do you think has the best taste in food?

**Rob Brydon**

That's interesting. The best taste in food, probably me. I think I might have the most curious palate, possibly. I think Lee is quite-, I mean we've eaten together a zillion times. Yes, Lee is quite basic, I mean, in every sense. David is a little urban, but he's also quite cautious. He's a cautious man.

**Ed Gamble**

Well, we've interviewed Victoria on this podcast, and we know about their eating habits.

**Rob Brydon**

So what did she say?

**Ed Gamble**

Well, I feel like that it's more about her. That she takes-

**Rob Brydon**

He's kind of meat and potatoes, aren't they? They're meat and potatoes guys, aren't they?

**James Acaster**

When they go on holiday, they take a minifridge with them so they can have they're own food from home.

**Rob Brydon**

Oh dear god. Do they honestly?

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Rob Brydon**

Oh, that's pathetic.

**James Acaster**

I don't know why that hasn't come up on Would I Lie to You?

**Rob Brydon**

I was with him last night and I will be with him on Friday night and you can rest assured I'll be bringing this (talking over each other 12.01) Because that makes me angry. You want to say, 'You're a grown man. Come on.' It surprises me with Victoria, because Victoria is as bright as it's possible. Now, we've sort of been on holiday with them and with Lee. You know, we've all gone off together and we've made the mistake of playing Bananagrams. Are you familiar with that game?

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Rob Brydon**

It's a great game. A kind of high-speed Scrabble for a busy young guy. And you don't want to play Victoria Coren Mitchell at Bananagrams. I mean, my wife went to Cambridge, and she beat her. I



couldn't believe it. I thought my wife was unbeatable. I was like, Mickey leading Rocky into the ring. 'Go on, show them what you can do.' And then she was, you know, Victoria was Ivan Drago, being led in by David. And yes, Victoria wiped the floor with us. To the point that all the joy left the game.

**Ed Gamble**

Did you look at your wife a little differently after that?

**Rob Brydon**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

We always start with still or sparkling water on the podcast. Do you have a preference?

**Rob Brydon**

Yes, I do. Sparkling. Always sparkling, and it's typically San Pellegrino. I do have choices with these because I find Badoit a bit too-, Is there too much sodium? What is it? There's something salty.

**Ed Gamble**

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

**Rob Brydon**

Yes, it is. Now once in a blue moon, that will be nice for a change, but generally speaking, San Pellegrino in a glass bottle. The only complaint there, the bottles aren't very big. We get crates of them delivered to home and we get through them. We get through about two of those a day.

**Ed Gamble**

Wow.

**James Acaster**

Crates?

**Rob Brydon**

No, don't be silly. Don't bring your absurdest humour into this conversation.

**Ed Gamble**

Doing his hipster jokes again.

**Rob Brydon**

He sees a chink, he gets in there, doesn't he?

**James Acaster**

I was just offered a sideways glance at the situation.

**Rob Brydon**

No, bottles, two bottles.

**James Acaster**

Two bottles.

**Ed Gamble**

So are you drinking sparkling water instead of still water on, like, regularly at home? To quench your thirst?



**Rob Brydon**

Yes. Not always, but often it will be. Certainly, with a meal, it's sparkling and even at other times in the day. And then I fluctuate between room temperature or chilled. Generally, it tends to be chilled because that has more impact, doesn't it? It distracts you from the stresses and strains of life. It's like getting into a bath. For about ten seconds you forget everything, and then you're sat there. You're a sitting duck, aren't you? For all the thoughts to come back. Is that not how you view a bath? Just the thoughts?

**James Acaster**

The thoughts come back. Yes, I guess so. I guess the thoughts will come back pretty quick.

**Ed Gamble**

The thoughts hit me in the bath. That's when they're hitting me.

**Rob Brydon**

Well, that's what I'm saying.

**Ed Gamble**

But there's no moment-,

**James Acaster**

But Ed doesn't think outside of the bath. Outside of the bath, nothing's going on.

**Ed Gamble**

Oh, nothing. And when I get in the bath, I'm like, 'oh god, my life.'

**Rob Brydon**

What I'm saying is, if you're feeling the weight of the world, you think, 'I'm going to have a nice bath.' Well, we've got a dreadful bath. We bought what if you looked at it, you would say, 'You've got a good bath.' Because it's fancy and it looks like a cattle trough, right? For a little chap like me, I can get no purchase. So I can't get a position, because if I try to sit up, I slide all the way under. My legs, my feet won't reach the other end unless I'm almost perpendicular or parallel to the bottom, you know? So it looks great and I find that you get in and the initial thing of the heat of the water, oh lovely. A lovely sensory all over. But then, 'Hang on, what am I doing now? I'm in the bath.'

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. So are you more of a shower person?

**Rob Brydon**

Yes, I like the shower. I had one today.

**Ed Gamble**

Well done.

**James Acaster**

Do you sing in the shower?

**Rob Brydon**

Yes. Well, I often warm up my voice in the shower because I've been touring with a band. A lovely opportunity for a plug, RobBrydon.live. And for that you have to keep your voice good. So yes, I tend to do that when I'm in the bathroom.

**Ed Gamble**

What's your vocal warmup?



**Rob Brydon**

It's set for me by my musical director. It's a series of vibrations and hums and then vowels and then all sorts of different things, you know?

**James Acaster**

So no songs?

**Rob Brydon**

No, not songs as such. I'll sing along with stuff that I listen to, but no's not really songs. It's more (vocal warmup example), things like that. Weird sorts of sounds. I know, you're right to look quizzical, but it really works.

**James Acaster**

Yes. I was hoping to hear even more.

**Rob Brydon**

I can do more if you want.

**James Acaster**

I thought just having Rob to loads of noises.

**Rob Brydon**

You do things like (vocal warmup example) and then (vocal warmup example).

**Ed Gamble**

That's my favourite so far by the way.

**Rob Brydon**

When I did Human Remains, we were about to start filming Human Remains and it was made by Steve Coogan's company. This was a big thrill. So it was Julia Davis and I and we filmed it in Brighton and around there. So we were there, I remember this so clearly and this is 22 years ago. We met up with Steve in a hotel the night before and he was telling us about the importance of warming up your voice, right? He goes, 'When I'm on tour, (vocal warmup example 17.06)' It just sounded like Alan, you know? And it's very hard to take seriously. (vocal warmup example 17.12) And he was sitting there in all earnestness, you know. It's very hard for to think of a vocal warmup. It's odd what things stay with you, isn't it? But that has stayed with me. He was right, of course. You have to look after it.

**James Acaster**

Sure. Absolutely. Popadoms or bread? Popadoms or bread, Rob Brydon?

**Rob Brydon**

Okay, well, it's a reasonable question. A lot of my answers are going to be a bit centrist. They're going to be a bit Tony Blair, I'm afraid, putting, you know, you-know-what to one side. I'm going to say a bit of both. I like a popadom. Now, I have an issue with bread. As a young man, I had Olympic-level acne. On my face. Not my back. Some people have it on their back. I would've loved to have had it on my back.

**Ed Gamble**

Bacne, I believe is the-,

**Rob Brydon**

Bacne? Why have I never heard that? Anyway, I had it on my face. So I ended up on loads of antibiotics. In those days they gave you tonnes, now they're very wary of them, aren't they? And as a result, I think it affected my gut. So I find it hard to process, properly digest, yeasty things. So



that's fungal things like mushrooms and breads. And it affects my skin. La-de-dah. So, I can eat sourdough bread. So that's what we have at home. If I were in a restaurant, and it's a dream restaurant, so you're not thinking about consequences, I'd have some of the best sourdough bread and I would have salted butter with it. That would just be delicious.

**James Acaster**

Every time there's butter in a restaurant, I think of you.

**Ed Gamble**

Wow.

**Rob Brydon**

Do you?

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Rob Brydon**

Why?

**James Acaster**

Don't dip your head in the bloody butter. So there's a bit in The Trip. You're showing Steve your hair and you dip your face forward to show the top of your head and he goes, 'Don't dip your head in the bloody butter.'

**Rob Brydon**

I have no memory of that.

**James Acaster**

It's great.

**Rob Brydon**

Is that the first one?

**James Acaster**

I think it might be the first episode. Every time there's butter, I think of you sticking your head in the butter.

**Rob Brydon**

Really? I'd forgotten that entirely.

**Ed Gamble**

Every time I see a sandwich wrapped in clingfilm, I think of you, Rob.

**Rob Brydon**

Why?

**Ed Gamble**

Because there's an episode of Human Remains, where you're selling sandwiches and they're all wrapped in clingfilm. I think one of them is a lamb sandwich and that always makes me laugh when I think about it as well. So there you go -

**Rob Brydon**

You see, Human remains, no one remembers it and it's one of the best things I've done. You could argue it's the best thing I've ever done and it is awfully good. I mean, I would wave the flag for that



any day. And yes, that was Les and Ray, he used to talk like that. 'We can't shift them. We've got lamb. We can't shift it.' You know, and Julia was this utterly depressed woman. Utterly depressed. And he would say to her, 'Alright, teacup? Happy?' And she goes, 'No.' 'That's it. More that happy?' And he would sing songs, he'd make up songs.

**Ed Gamble**

I've got a guppy in my bucket.

**Rob Brydon**

You remember that, Ed?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, I was obsessed with that show.

**Rob Brydon**

Sweet lord. Well this is a lovely little ego massage for me, isn't it?

**Ed Gamble**

When I was at university, I had the DVD of it and during Fresher's Week, I decided that I would try and get everyone in my Halls of Residence to watch it.

**Rob Brydon**

I bet nobody enjoyed it.

**Ed Gamble**

They were all shit-faced. I was like, 'Everyone be quiet. You've got to listen to this.'

**Rob Brydon**

Well, that's better than they sat down and watched it and just went, 'No.' Well, yes, that was, 'I've got a guppy in my bucket and he isn't looking well. A guppy in my bucket and he isn't looking well. A guppy in my bucket and he isn't looking well, some-', 'And then he would do his nasal music. Do you remember that? Where he would go.

**Ed Gamble**

Like you in the shower.

**Rob Brydon**

Like a military band.

**Ed Gamble**

The other one, I mean, at the risk of just listing lines that I really like from it, the other song is, that I do sing out loud to myself quite a lot is, 'Sweeter than sugar, sweeter than wine.'

**Rob Brydon**

You may be the only person in the world who remembers that song. I don't remember that one. I remember, well, he took her on, given that I ended up doing cruise adverts, it's quite funny that in that episode, they want to go on a cruise, but he can't afford a cruise, so he takes her on a ferry. And he says, 'It's not a cruise, it's a ferry. But what is a ferry? It's just a very fast cruise, isn't it really?' That was funny. Do you remember the bit where they're rehearsing selling? They're practising selling some flowers, and he's shouting up how much are they. 'How much for daffs?' And there's one, they're trying to do the accounts for their house.

**Ed Gamble**

For their cash flow, they put a fiver in the box.



**Rob Brydon**

Yes, and there's a bit where Julia says, 'Blank ham.' We improvised this, and this is very much my attitude. This is how I am with Maths. He's trying to do the accounts and he's going, 'Right, we've got 70. 70 plus four is 74. We know that.' Which I love. And she's in the distance. And she's going, 'What do you want, Les?' 'I got to carry the one. Carry the one.' Really basic maths. And she says, 'Do you want some ham?' And he goes, 'Yes, right.' She goes, 'Right, blank ham.' Blank ham. I mean, what even is that, as they say? I love that you like that show.

**Ed Gamble**

It's fantastic.

**James Acaster**

Well, before we move on, do you want to know another situation where I always think of you and you can guess what-

**Rob Brydon**

I'm staggered by this.

**James Acaster**

You can guess what the-

**Rob Brydon**

Yes, see if I can associate it.

**James Acaster**

I don't want to be too specific with it. It's at an airport. If I'm at an airport, if I arrive a bit too early at an airport. That's it.

**Rob Brydon**

Good lord. Something to do with me and my work?

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Rob Brydon**

Airport. I have no idea.

**James Acaster**

It's Mary and Jeff when you arrive too early to pick someone up.

**Rob Brydon**

Oh, there was. Yes, there was an episode where he's waiting at the airport.

**James Acaster**

Yes, he waited too long.

**Rob Brydon**

'I'll look around WH Smith.' Does he say that?

**James Acaster**

Yes, and it's that specific line, because you go, like, 'I'll look around WH Smith.' He says, 'I could probably be in there for 45 minutes before they move me on.'

**Rob Brydon**

Yes, that's right.





**James Acaster**

It's the line I always think about.

**Ed Gamble**

So before we move on to the starter. Do you want popadoms and bread? Is this what you were saying?

**Rob Brydon**

No, not really. I like popadoms, but for the meal that I'm about to tell you about, a popadom would seem wildly inappropriate.

**Ed Gamble**

So we're going with the lovely sourdough bread with the salted butter.

**Rob Brydon**

Yes. Nice. But not too much of it because, see, it's all about balance. Life is all about balance, and the right meal is. You know, you don't want too much of that bread, very tempting just to have the bread. So just enough to make a dent and then move on.

**James Acaster**

What's the starter then? This dream starter?

**Rob Brydon**

I'm going to go oysters.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Rob Brydon**

I came to oysters relatively late in life. It was my first trip to Australia. In about 2004, I went over to make a sitcom called Supernova. It's a lighthearted amiable fish out of water story.

**Ed Gamble**

Were you the fish?

**Rob Brydon**

No. Yes, indeed I am. So you threw me then. Yes, I am the fish. I'm an astronomer and I go and work in the Outback with some oddball Aussies. I had such a great time. We went there and the early days of me and my wife, Claire, who you met, James, the other day.

**James Acaster**

Lovely. The best.

**Rob Brydon**

I'm a little nervous to introduce her to Ed, because he's a lovely-looking boy.

**Ed Gamble**

What? Hold on.

**Rob Brydon**

I felt comfortable with you being there. Ed has got the look of a young Elvis meets Tom Cruise.

**James Acaster**

Okay, what have I got the look of?



**Rob Brydon**

You've got the look of one of those guys that used to help Elvis.

**James Acaster**

I cannot believe this.

**Rob Brydon**

Or one of the guys that Elvis used to meet when he went to visit a charity place. I'm joshing with you, James.

**James Acaster**

I think Claire liked me.

**Rob Brydon**

She was thrilled to meet you. You remember my daughter, my eldest, she's a huge fan of yours.

**James Acaster**

I met her and her mates after an episode of Would I Lie to You?

**Rob Brydon**

You did, yes. And then they came to see you live and it was, you know, I phoned James' people and said, 'I would love to come and see James.' Making it out like it was going to be me. And then gave them to my daughter. Result.

**James Acaster**

We hit it straight off.

**Rob Brydon**

Free tickets. Yes.

**James Acaster**

I can't wait to see Brydon in the audience.

**Rob Brydon**

You couldn't ask for them back, could you? It's just not the done thing.

**Ed Gamble**

Were you looking for him in the audience?

**James Acaster**

Yes, I was looking around. They could see my eyes searching. Where is he?

**Ed Gamble**

Where's he gone?

**James Acaster**

Listen out, where's that laugh?

**Ed Gamble**

I had that in Edinburgh once where Dara Ó Briain said he was coming to my show and I thought, 'He's coming tonight.' And so I went out there, like, ready to see Dara, looking around. And I looked down and Dara wasn't in the audience. I looked down and John Lesley was in the front row. So that really threw me. No, I don't think Dara got the ticket for John Lesley. He just happened to have been there on that night.



**Rob Brydon**

Yes, so Claire and me, we went to Australia for the first time. And I, growing up, had a very limited palate. I grew up in South Wales, (inaudible 26.19) Baglan (inaudible 26.20) and we were very, not unusually so, it wasn't like it is now. You know, you had very basic food and I was not curious at all. So it would be all the normal foods. I don't think I'd had pasta, I hadn't had spaghetti when I went to drama school. All sorts of things I'd never had and certainly never seafood. So we're out there in Australia. We're at this outdoor restaurant in the Rocks area, down by the Sydney Harbour Bridge. Have you ever been to Australia, you guys?

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Rob Brydon**

Well, it's gorgeous. It's just so vibrant. It's just brilliant. And Claire says, 'Let's have the seafood platter.' I thought, 'Are you mad? What are you talking about? That's going to have all sorts.' So out it comes. And it's got oysters, lobster, shrimp, crab, all these things, right? And I find I love it. I'm loving these oysters. So we phone home. We phone Wales. The time difference means they will probably be awake, my mum and dad. And I say, 'I'm sitting by Sydney Harbour Bridge and I've just had crab and this and that.' My mother is like, 'You'll pay for that.' She said, 'Your father had crab in 1973. He was sick for a week.' So that began my love of seafood. So I would say I love oysters. They always make me feel, like, something special. Because you tend to have them with champagne. And if you, and I'm sure you would, because it's a podcast, you wanted me to expand on oysters. I have three oyster-related stories. Each of them involving a famous person. For a food podcast, I mean, this is mana from heaven.

**James Acaster**

Yes, this has fallen into our laps here. This is so good.

**Rob Brydon**

Okay, so. Tom Jones, James Corden, Dale Winton.

**James Acaster**

Wow.

**Rob Brydon**

You choose the order.

**Ed Gamble**

Who are we starting with?

**James Acaster**

I personally would like to go-,

**Rob Brydon**

I'm asking you for your starter now.

**Ed Gamble**

Hang on, should we say?

**James Acaster**

I think that we'll choose the same.

**Ed Gamble**

Same time? Right, okay.



**James Acaster**

Okay, so it's going from first to last.

**Ed Gamble**

First to last. Yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes? Ready? One, two, three. Corden, Jones, Winton.

**Ed Gamble**

Corden, Jones, Winton.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Rob Brydon**

You work together.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Rob Brydon**

Good lord. So, James. Okay. The second time, I went back to do a second series of this show, in Australia, in Sydney. It was the same time that James was touring the world with The History Boys, the National Theatre.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Rob Brydon**

And the same time that he and Ruth were getting Gavin and Stacey together. They'd given me the script and asked me to play Uncle Bryn, and I was reticent, because I thought he's quite similar to Keith Barrett, in that he's a naive, well-meaning Welshman, and I still harboured ambitions to be Robert De Niro at that stage. I thought, 'Well, I can't just keep on doing the same.' Turns out, you can. So, I was undecided. So, we meet up one day, he and I, at the beach at Manly and we chatty, chat, chat. But the oyster thing was, I took him out for lunch. There's a lovely restaurant in Rose Bay called Catalina. From there, you see the seaplanes landing and taking off. It's so gorgeous. I take him there and I'm now really on my oyster kick by now. I'm Mr Oyster. I say to James, 'We've got to have oysters.' James, well, now, is who he is. He was this very provincial kid from High Wycombe, you know? Oh, you know, like that. I said, 'You want some oysters?' 'I've never had an oyster.' I said, 'Well, it'll be good.' 'Oh, I don't know, Bobby.' He calls me Bobby. 'I'm not sure.' I said, 'Come on, we'll have some oysters.' So, he would only have it, you know you can get those deep-fried oysters?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Rob Brydon**

So, he would settle for that. Well, okay, it's something. Oh, no. He tried a normal one. So, he has it, right, it's all there, ready to go, put some vinaigrette on it, right? And he sits there. Right? The man who would conquer the world. But this is before that. And he sits there and he looks nervous and he goes, he tips it up, put it into his mouth, but he keeps it in his mouth. Right? Then you look at his



face. And, of course, he's a wonderful actor, but this was all real, but he's showing you everything. So, he's sat there and he looks terrified. Right? Terrified. And he's like this. But then he starts to get a sense of the flavours. 'Oh, it's quite nice.' So, then he goes, 'Mmm.' And his face is changing. He starts to, sort of, chew a little. And he's about to swallow when the weather changes in his mind. Oh no, he doesn't like this. And the fear comes back. He goes, and he spits it out into a napkin.

**Ed Gamble**

Oh no.

**James Acaster**

Oh dear.

**Ed Gamble**

At that point, did you look at that and think, 'This guy's going to conquer the world'?

**James Acaster**

He's going to conquer the world.

**Rob Brydon**

I thought, 'This provincial bozo is going nowhere.' This small-town Sam, he ain't going to amount to nothing.

**James Acaster**

So, Tom Jones.

**Ed Gamble**

Tom Jones, please.

**Rob Brydon**

When we did Islands in the Stream, number one, thank you very much, for Comic Relief. Yes, it's a novelty record, but I don't like to think of it that way. We went for a dinner. Me, Claire, James, Ruth, Tom, his son who's his manager.

**James Acaster**

Corden's in this one as well?

**Ed Gamble**

Corden's in this one? He makes a cameo in this one?

**Rob Brydon**

Corden? Yes, he was there. Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes?

**James Acaster**

Yes?

**Rob Brydon**

So, we go for dinner at this, sort of, chef's table at Corrigan's restaurant, which is in Mayfair. If you ever spend time around Tom Jones, he is the ultimate alpha male. They order, 'What do you want for starters?' 'I'll have oysters.' Right. Then we think, 'Well, how many?' Well, I would never have more than six oysters. 'I'll have a dozen.' Good God, a dozen oysters? I mean, good, that's a lot of oysters. Right?



**Ed Gamble**

Why he's so potent.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Rob Brydon**

I'll never forget, you know you get the section of lemon is muslin? So, he gets it, and it was just the way he squeezed the lemon over the twelve oysters was one of the most manly things. You know? What's that Flight of the Concord's line? 'I'm so potent, all the women in the front row got pregnant.'

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Rob Brydon**

I mean, it's like that. I would have recommended pregnancy tests for those. Because it was so. As he did it, I was watching him, and I kind of went, 'Woah.' It was just, you know? Because he's from another era, I mean, he's super successful now in this year, but do you know what I mean? He comes from another time, doesn't he? You know?

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Rob Brydon**

It was amazing. So, that's my second.

**Ed Gamble**

So, when he, like, revealed the lemon after he'd squeezed it, did it look like it had been through a juicer?

**Rob Brydon**

There was nothing left of it, nothing left. That lemon was done.

**James Acaster**

When Tom Jones is shucking the oysters, is he, like, doing some of his trademark, you know, noises between the oysters?

**Rob Brydon**

No. It's a lovely thought, isn't it?

**James Acaster: You don't want to do an impression of that?**

**Rob Brydon**

Would you like me to imagine what that would sound like?

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Rob Brydon**

Well, I'm going to. 'Huh. I'm going to eat the oyster, you know? With my mouth.' And he goes, 'Yes. Right. It tastes good.' As if 'good' is an exotic word.



**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Rob Brydon**

Yes. So, that.

**Ed Gamble**

Shucking doesn't mean just eating, by the way.

**James Acaster**

Oh, yes.

**Rob Brydon**

Shucking is the opening line.

**James Acaster**

Shucking is, like.

**Rob Brydon**

They were already shucked.

**James Acaster**

They were shucked, although he could shuck them himself with his bare hands.

**Rob Brydon**

He could probably do it with his teeth. He'd open them with his teeth.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Rob Brydon**

So, that was him. Then the Dale one. Lovely Dale Winton, no longer with us. There was a New Year's Eve some years ago. We had Dale, who I got to know a little bit, I ended up doing a few things with him, and David Walliams, because they were big friends, came for New Year's Eve dinner at the house. The wonderful house. The brought presents for the boys and they were all charming and everything. We had oysters and we prepared the oysters and Dale went, 'Oh. Oh no. I've never had an oyster.' Never had? We've all had oysters in this room?

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Rob Brydon**

He'd never had an oyster. You, sort of, assume that once somebody is enjoying the fruits of their labours, they're going to broaden their-, and they'll have been in a situation where-, I mean, you know, as I say, I didn't until I was 35, 36, 37. Anyway, he'd never had them. So, I gave Dale his first oyster.

**Ed Gamble**

First oyster.



**Rob Brydon**

And he liked it.

**Ed Gamble**

I suppose he spent a lot of time in that supermarket and I'm not sure they had oysters in there, did they?

**James Acaster**

It's not really a supermarket.

**Rob Brydon**

That was funny. I'd never made that connection. Yes. So, there we are. Those are my three. In many ways, they're in descending order of entertainment, aren't they? As we've discovered.

**James Acaster**

I liked, the Tom Jones one was my favourite, I think.

**Ed Gamble**

I thought the Dale Winton one was heart-warming.

**James Acaster**

Yes, you gave Dale Winton is first oyster. That's nice.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. Do you like a big oyster? You get big oysters sometimes and you get little, sweeter ones.

**Rob Brydon**

Do you know what? I'm a little embarrassed to say, I don't know. There is one I'd like, but I couldn't tell you what it was. I always have to ask advice.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Rob Brydon**

I'll say, 'Which is the one that tastes-?' I like it if they taste of the sea. I want them to taste of the sea.

**James Acaster**

I like the creamy ones.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. Creamy's a good thing to say to people.

**James Acaster**

If they're nice and creamy. Not have cream in them.

**Rob Brydon**

I realise. I'm not an idiot. I don't think you're putting-,

**James Acaster**

I'm not saying.

**Ed Gamble**

No, Rob, you don't understand. They don't have cream in them.





**James Acaster**

Yes. Rob, I'm not pouring cream in the oysters.

**Rob Brydon**

Thanks for clearing that up for me, James, because for a minute there I thought you were having oysters with cream. I wish I was as sophisticated as you and I'd know these things.

**Ed Gamble**

What are you putting on? Are you using the vinaigrette and the shallot?

**Rob Brydon**

Yes. I love all that.

**Ed Gamble**

Are you using Tabasco?

**Rob Brydon**

No. It tends to be-, Do you know what? I don't think I've ever tried Tabasco. Sort of, I've found I'm happy with the vinaigrette and shallot and I've gone, no, I'm not going to try anything else. Which is silly.

**Ed Gamble**

Tom Jones could just crush a whole bottle of Tabasco over the top of your head.

**James Acaster**

He'd open his hand and the glass wouldn't even be there anymore, it's powdered.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Rob Brydon**

It'd be gone.

**Ed Gamble**

Do you want six when you're dreaming?

**Rob Brydon**

Yes, six.

**James Acaster**

You don't want to go The Full Jones?

**Rob Brydon**

No, I don't. I'm not man enough. It's as simple as that.

**James Acaster**

Your main course.

**Rob Brydon**

Alright. Now. This was difficult. This was difficult. I've gone for something you might say, 'Well, this is a little dull,' but this dish has to be done as well as it can be done. So, this is somebody doing it who can do it just right. I'm afraid it's a lovely Sunday roast lamb lunch.

**Ed Gamble**

Don't be afraid of that.



**Rob Brydon**

Well, I know. But it's a little. So, it'll be Welsh lamb. You know? There'd be lovely gravy. Now, Welsh gravy tends to be thicker than English gravy, and I'd like somewhere in between. Happy medium, I'm a centrist, as I said.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Rob Brydon**

I'd want parsnips. But they've got to be done just right.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Rob Brydon**

I'd want carrot and swede mash.

**James Acaster**

Okay.

**Rob Brydon**

That's lovely.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Rob Brydon**

Have you ever had that?

**James Acaster**

Yes. That was, I think, I don't appreciate that enough because when I was a kid, mum would do that. But we wouldn't have mashed potato. I think, as a kid, I was very ungrateful and would want mashed potato, because, like, that'd seemed to be what the other kids had.

**Ed Gamble**

Carrot and swede is so good that.

**James Acaster**

But actually, carrot and swede mash.

**Rob Brydon**

If it's done right. Because you want a bit of structure to it.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Rob Brydon**

I don't want it to be too fluffy, I like a bit of.

**Ed Gamble**

Plenty of black pepper as well.

**James Acaster**

Yes.



**Rob Brydon**

I'm not a big black pepper guy.

**James Acaster**

Are you not?

**Ed Gamble**

Black pepper and swede go together.

Rob Brydon: I'll try that. I'll try that next time. I'd have roast potatoes. I'd have Yorkshire pudding.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

I don't like them.

**James Acaster**

Yorkshire puddings. He keeps saying that on the podcast.

**Rob Brydon**

Seriously?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

It's mad, isn't it? Isn't it crazy?

**Ed Gamble**

They take up a lot of real-estate on the plate and that could be filled with, sort of, extra meat, etc.

**Rob Brydon**

That's interesting.

**James Acaster**

Not such a threat now, is he?

**Rob Brydon**

The minute Claire heard that, she looked past you.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Rob Brydon**

She looked at the more interesting fellas next to you.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Rob Brydon**

'I wonder what his story is.'



**Ed Gamble**

There's nothing interesting about loving Yorkshire puddings.

**Rob Brydon**

Yorkshires are lovely. They've got such an individual taste and also the structure of them, the way they yield after a gentle prod.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Rob Brydon**

If that's not too suggestive a way. They do though, don't they? They look as though they, but they're a house of cards, really, and they collapse under questioning.

**Ed Gamble**

With that gravy, as soon as they touch gravy, they're gone. Right?

**Rob Brydon**

But I do love them. That's what I'd have. But I have to stress, not just me making this, it's got to be done by someone who knows what they're doing.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Rob Brydon**

And it's just right. Also, that it gets to you while it's still piping hot. That's one of the big problems with the Sunday lunch.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Rob Brydon**

The timing elements. So, so often, you find yourself biting your tongue for the sake of the host. You want to go, 'Well, it's, kind of, it's almost cold.'

**James Acaster**

Yes. That gets me.

**Ed Gamble**

They're very out of fashion now. Those hostess trolleys.

**Rob Brydon**

Oh yes.

**Ed Gamble**

But you can see why people had them, because you'd put them in there. Yes.

**Rob Brydon**

You can see why they came in, yes.

**Ed Gamble**

I've got a couple of questions, Rob.

**Rob Brydon**

Yes, please.



**Ed Gamble**

What cut of lamb?

**Rob Brydon**

Sweet lord. I don't know. Again, you see? Isn't that embarrassing. I'm going to say leg. Leg of lamb.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. Leg. Classic.

**James Acaster**

Yes. I think I'm a shoulder guy.

**Ed Gamble**

I'm a shoulder guy. I love a leg, sure.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

But the shoulder's just fattier.

**James Acaster**

I'm not turning down a leg of lamb.

**Rob Brydon**

But, you know what? And I don't want to bring everyone down. Even as we say this, I've dabbled with the thought of vegetarianism. Veganism. I'm not comfortable with the thought of eating these creatures and yet, you hypocrite, you do it.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Rob Brydon**

Not saying you, here.

**James Acaster**

Yes, sure. Sure. I'd love it if you were saying me during that.

**Ed Gamble**

'You hypocrite.'

**James Acaster**

'I'm not comfortable with it, yet you, you hypocrite, you do it.'

**Rob Brydon**

Well. I remember, actually, it was when we were doing the first trip, we pulled over at the side of a field to do something and there were lambs and they came up and I remember then thinking, 'Rob. What are you doing?' Because you don't have to give it a lot of thought before it just doesn't add up.

**James Acaster**

Sure.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, sure.



**James Acaster**  
Absolutely.

**Rob Brydon**  
So, we're all in denial.

**Ed Gamble**  
Yes.

**James Acaster**  
Yes.

**Rob Brydon**  
We're all pretending, 'That's not related to that thing in the field.' You know? And we watched that Netflix thing about veganism and we were vegan for about a week. Yes. I just want to put that out there that I am ever so slightly.

**James Acaster**  
So, for you, in our conversation we just had, the bit that tipped you over into feeling uncomfortable there was thinking about leg or shoulder.

**Rob Brydon**  
Yes.

**Ed Gamble**  
Yes.

**James Acaster**  
Then you feel like, oh.

**Ed Gamble**  
Yes, because they don't even change the names.

**Rob Brydon**  
Exactly. Why can't they call it 'the barrong'.

**Ed Gamble**  
Yes.

**James Acaster**  
Yes.

**Rob Brydon**  
And the 'le cla' of the lamb and then (inaudible 40.05). It was you saying 'leg' that did make me picture a beautiful little lamb, gambling.

**James Acaster**  
Yes.

**Ed Gamble**  
Yes.

**Rob Brydon**  
Responsibly. Have you done that joke?



**James Acaster**

No, but gambling.

**Rob Brydon**

Oh, Ed Gamble. Oh. It's too much. I was happy paying tribute to Ray Winstone and then suddenly we get Ed's surname, I mean, God, yes. So. I don't know.

**Ed Gamble**

But leg.

**Rob Brydon**

Yes. I mean, call me a hypocrite, because clearly I am.

**James Acaster**

Also, you said it has to be cooked by someone who knows what they're doing.

**Rob Brydon**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

If you could choose anyone who has ever cooked you a roast and they're cooking your dream roast, who's it going to be? Who has got the goods?

**Rob Brydon**

Well, outside of professional chefs, my wife is a fantastic cook and she can bake and she's wonderful. All sorts of things, right? But to give her a break. Because I've occasionally thought, 'Right. Come on.' Nick Frost is a friend of mine and Nick is a hell of a cook. Right? What a guy. And look at Stanley Tucci, you know? They're wonderful. I'd like to be like that. I never used to want to, but I would like. I think it's a very, 'Yes, you're capable,' you know? Over lockdown, I would dabble, I would start to maybe try and cook things, but I never stick with it. So, in a fantasy world, it would be me doing it. Right? That's never going to happen.

**Ed Gamble**

We've never had anyone use the Dream Restaurant before to imbue them with skills they don't currently have.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Rob Brydon**

I would love that.

**James Acaster**

So, the Dream Restaurant, you would like me to give you the skills of the greatest chef in the world and you can cook everything?

**Rob Brydon**

Well. It's very therapeutic, I think. Go back to the bath now, you see? It's very relaxing if everything is on course. I went to one of Tom Kerridge's places the other day and all those guys are amazing. Angela Hartnett, been to her place three times, she does great stuff. Maybe I get Angela in, because she's a laugh. That would be nice.

**James Acaster**

I'd like to know who's in the roast club. Because we've had a few people pick roasts on the podcast.



**Ed Gamble**

Yes, of course. Richard Osman picked Christmas dinner.

**James Acaster**

Picked Christmas dinner. Which is, kind of.

**Rob Brydon**

Did he?

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

I'm also interested about this gravy. I didn't know there was a difference between Welsh gravy.

**Rob Brydon**

Well, I would say, and I'm no expert, but traditionally, yes, and my first encounter with an English gravy, it's far more watery in its consistency than a Welsh gravy.

**Ed Gamble**

Right. So, is Welsh gravy too thick for you? Because you want an in between, right?

**Rob Brydon**

Well, no, I was just trying to appeal to everyone.

**Ed Gamble**

You don't need to appeal to everyone.

**Rob Brydon**

Well.

**James Acaster**

No. This is your meal. It's going in your mouth.

**Rob Brydon**

Okay. But then I've also, I have become, as Rex Harrison once said, I've grown accustomed to the English gravy, so I don't need to go back quite so far to the full thickness of the Welsh.

**Ed Gamble**

So, sort of, toll booth, seven bridge toll booth gravy?

**Rob Brydon**

Seven bridge, yes. I've gone back to, kind of, a mid point.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Rob Brydon**

Because, you know? A very light English one can be nice.

**James Acaster**

Sure.

**Rob Brydon**

But given it's the Dream Restaurant, I'm aiming high.





**James Acaster**

I've got quite a fondness for just quite cheap, you know.

**Ed Gamble**

Bisto.

**James Acaster**

Bisto gravy.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Rob Brydon**

But you know why that is, don't you?

**James Acaster**

No.

**Rob Brydon**

It's because you're not very sophisticated.

**James Acaster**

Yes. Takes a sip of his water as soon as he says it. Look at him.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, you know?

**James Acaster**

He's sitting there like he's just, like, 'That's that dealt with. Took care of him.'

**Ed Gamble**

'Done. Move on.'

**Rob Brydon**

James, you're a funny guy, don't get me wrong. But. 'You've got a lot of life to live.'

**James Acaster**

Why's Pacino getting involved with this? Why's Pacino?

**Rob Brydon**

'Look at you, with your Diet Cola. Oh, what that's doing to you.' See, I'm two months off that now.

**James Acaster**

You're two months off the Diet Coke?

**Rob Brydon**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

How does it feel?

**Rob Brydon**

Good.



**James Acaster**

Yes?

**Rob Brydon**

Good.

**James Acaster**

How many were you sinking in a day?

**Rob Brydon**

Well, not that many. See, we've got this little fridge in our living room that has those little mixer cans.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Rob Brydon**

So, that's the cheat, isn't it? Because you feel, 'Well, this is nothing,' but you have several of them. So, no, I mean, listen, the most I'd ever have is two of those proper cans in a day.

**Ed Gamble**

I love your drink setup at home. I'm envisioning it now. You've got crates of sparkling water being delivered and fridge with mini cans. It's like you live in a corner shop, it's brilliant.

**Rob Brydon**

We've got one of those open freezers with Calippos in.

**James Acaster**

Benito's writing down a lot of people here who have ordered the roast. I'm going to read them out to you in a minute and see.

**Rob Brydon**

I'd be interested to see which company I'm keeping.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

I think lamb is my top.

**James Acaster**

This is it, this is the full gang.

**Ed Gamble**

Top Sunday roast for me.

**Rob Brydon**

So, these are all the people who chose roasts?

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Rob Brydon**

Okay.



**James Acaster**

So, Jayde Adams, Sarah Millican, Mae Martin, Josie Long, Richard Osman, Sara Pascoe, Roisin Conaty, Amy Hoggart, and Claudia Winkleman.

**Ed Gamble**

There you go.

**Rob Brydon**

Very interesting. I tell you who I met the other night. Michelle Visage. She came from the Drag Race, she came on Would I Lie To You the other night, and it turns out she's a Virgo and I'm a Torus. I said, 'Well, that's why we're getting on,' and I said, because, and I'm not a big believer in all this, but it's worth commenting on. So many of my dear, dear friends are Virgo-ans. I would wonder if, were you to analyse the star signs of those people. I mean, again, I would add to that, I think it's all tosh. But.

**James Acaster**

Well.

**Ed Gamble**

Benito?

**James Acaster**

Can you find out when all those people were born and what their star signs are, please?

**Rob Brydon**

Why don't you know their star signs?

**James Acaster**

Mae Martin is the only one who chose the lamb for the roast.

**Rob Brydon**

Yes, but the other thing you have to bear in mind, and I hope the listener will bear in mind, is the unbearable pressure of coming on something like this, because, I don't know. I mean, I could have chosen, of course, all sorts of meals.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Rob Brydon**

But when I was thinking about it, this was the one. I mean, one of my greatest meals I ever had was again in Sydney, there's a great restaurant called Icebergs that looks down on Bondi. I was on my own, it was one of the last days I was going to be there, I think, and I went there on my own and I had a salt crust rib-eye steak.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Rob Brydon**

And I think I had potato dauphinoise with that. Now, that, even as I'm saying it, is making me think, 'Why have you said a roast lunch?'

**James Acaster**

Change it if you want.



**Rob Brydon**

No, because I talked about this with Claire and if I change it now she'll be furious.

**James Acaster**

Claire will be furious with you?

**Rob Brydon**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

What was the conversation with Claire that led to it had to be the roast?

**Rob Brydon**

So, what am I going to say to Ed and James? What's the meal going to be? She said, 'Well, you can't say rib-eye steak again.' Because, you know, I have been asked.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Rob Brydon**

You know what it's like. We all get asked the same questions all the time.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes, sure.

**Rob Brydon**

Right? So, I mean, never as beautifully as they're being asked here, don't get me wrong.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Rob Brydon**

She said, 'You can't. Come on, think.' She said, 'Well, you like your roast.' Like talking to an elderly relative. 'You like your roast, don't you?' 'Oh I do like a roast, yes. Shall I say roast? Like mum used to make. At Leeds Grammar, some of the boys would have a roast every Sunday.' This great line he once said, his father was a butcher and he said, 'There was a period when I was growing up when Mum and Dad decided they wanted to move up in society and they began to go to cocktail parties where the height of sophistication was a sausage hoisted aloft on a stick.' He said, 'The sausage itself held no fear for Dad being a butcher. He took it in his stride.'

**James Acaster**

Dream side dish?

**Ed Gamble**

Salt crust rib-eye steak?

**James Acaster**

There's your cheat. There's your loophole.



**Rob Brydon**

Could I have a very small salt crust rib-eye as a side dish?

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

For sure.

**Rob Brydon**

Because I think I could eat it with this.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, definitely.

**James Acaster**

Scaled down.

**Ed Gamble**

It's just double meat, really, isn't it?

**Rob Brydon**

Yes. If that's what I want to do, that's what I'll do.

**Ed Gamble**

Or you can have a little ramekin of dauphinoise.

**Rob Brydon**

When they're done well.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Rob Brydon**

Just stunning.

**James Acaster**

Just the best.

**Rob Brydon**

Yes. I'm going to say that as a side dish, but if I were being sensible, I like a nice cabbage. A Savoy cabbage or a nice cabbage done properly.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Rob Brydon**

Might have that.

**James Acaster**

Yes. So, is that what you're going for? The Savoy cabbage?



**Rob Brydon**

Everything is so binary here. 'Make your decision, Rob.'

**Ed Gamble**

Is that what you're like in a normal restaurant? You'd happily go, 'What do you want?' You'd go, 'God, why do you have to be so binary?'

**James Acaster**

You could have the cabbage and the dauphinoise, I'd let you have both of those.

**Rob Brydon**

Yes, okay, forget the rib-eye. Right? That's for another time.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Rob Brydon**

Yes, I'm having the cabbage and the dauphinoise.

**James Acaster**

Lovely.

**Rob Brydon**

So, that's what I'm having.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Rob Brydon**

Okay, alright.

**James Acaster**

Have you ever, because you've got two stories about Australia and how much you like the food there, did you ever try and steer a series of the trip towards Australia? Were you ever throwing that into the suggestion box?

**Rob Brydon**

Well, the thing that comes back, whenever we recommend somewhere way away is the logistics, I mean, it's a dull answer, but the logistics of the distances. You know? When you talk about would we ever do America, well, no, maybe you'd do California or something or you'd so, I don't know, wherever. But it's always Michael Winterbottom who creates the show. It's his decision. Steve and I just rock up, really.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. Also, like, it's pretty much the dream job, right? So, to then go, 'Could we go to Australia?' feels like you're really pushing your luck.

**Rob Brydon**

Yes. It is a very dream job and even more so as time goes by, because it's, I think, three years since we did the last one, maybe four, actually filming it. We think back to it, especially given everything that's happened and the restrictions on travel and so me and Steve just rolling around and, you know? Having a nice time and getting to work with him and watch him work and



collaborate is lovely. Small crew so it's so tight. Everything done in chronological order, that adds to the appeal of it.

**Ed Gamble**

Oh nice, yes.

**Rob Brydon**

So, the trip, more or less, with the odd pick up, but, you know, you start where it starts, you finish where it finishes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

So, the crew. How many people are we talking?

**Rob Brydon**

Not many. Let me think now. Less than ten.

**James Acaster**

So, are they in at the same places as you guys?

**Rob Brydon**

No. They're in less expensive hotels. You think we're all living high off the hog? What do you think?

**James Acaster**

Are they swooping in for leftovers?

**Rob Brydon**

Is that how it works in your world, James?

**James Acaster**

I suppose everyone lives high off the hog, yes.

**Rob Brydon**

No.

**James Acaster**

But maybe a small crew and you're travelling around Greece or Spain.

**Rob Brydon**

Here's what I'm going to say to you. Welcome to the real world. 'But wouldn't it be nice if everybody could live together happily?' It would, wouldn't it? Hover boots would be good as well, wouldn't they? No sign of them. No. Sometimes, let me think, no, generally no. Steve and I would sometimes stay in the hotel that we were appearing to stay at in the show, but often not. We would often be somewhere else. On the trip to Greece, we seemed to have, I remember we stayed at this great hotel, I loved it, he didn't like it. I won't name it, but it was in Athens, right? It had a view of either the Parthenon or one of those wonderful places. There was a terrace on the roof, big terrace where you'd have your breakfast, you come up and there's a bar in the evening. One of my favourite things in the food world is the breakfast if I'm somewhere and it's white table clothes and linen and coffee and a lovely croissant. I don't need loads. And maybe then some scrambled eggs and some smoked salmon and a bit of tomato. So, we stayed at this place and he described it as full of aged Republicans from America with box-fresh chinos. He doesn't like box-fresh anything, right? He would see these guys and he didn't like it, he didn't like it at all.



### **Ed Gamble**

The glee with which you're recounting some of -

### **Rob Brydon**

Well, you see, he's very opinionated. He has an opinion on everything. I used to love it. We were only there for, like, three or four-, And we had to go back to do a reshoot and he wouldn't stay in it, so we all ended up staying in some other blooming hotel then. I loved this room, because you'd come in and they'd go, 'Yes, very good morning. You come, you come here, you sit down.' And they're really quick with the service, they get you the coffee quick and you're looking around, everything is pristine. I was sat by the pool, we had an afternoon off, and I was sat, there was, like, a tiny pool on the roof and I was sat there on a sun lounger. This American guy was sat next to me and he starts talking to me about stuff. He started telling me this bizarre story about either how he'd bought a racehorse or he's selling. 'I was in Kentucky and a guy comes up to me, says, but what do I know about racehorses? Anyway, I end up. Three weeks later, my wife and I were at the stables, we got a piece of the horse.' He's telling all this story, right? I think he said to me, 'What are you doing here?' I said, 'We're making a' I say, 'film' because it's a film round the world, right? So, 'Oh, right, yes.' So, the next morning, I then go and I sit in this restauranty bit looking at the Parthenon, 'It's all lovely, isn't it? Marvelous. The sun.' I end up, I'm sat next to him, and his wife, 'Oh, it's the guy I was telling you about yesterday.' 'Oh really? He said you're an actor.' I said, 'Yes, I am.' 'Oh, that must be so hard.' Meaning it must be hard to get work, because if they've never heard of you, they just assume you're on the poverty line.

### **James Acaster**

Yes.

### **Rob Brydon**

Then she goes, 'Well, now, you give me your name so I can look you up.' So, I had to spell my name for her, which is very demeaning.

### **Ed Gamble**

Very.

### **Rob Brydon**

I like to think that eventually she'd have gone, 'Oh, he's doing okay.' You know?

### **James Acaster**

Yes.

### **Rob Brydon**

But it's that thing where you just have to go, 'Well, you know, yes, it's a difficult job, but you know? You do what you can.'

### **Ed Gamble**

But also, you were in Greece making a film.

### **James Acaster**

Yes.

### **Ed Gamble**

So, she must have realised that things were going alright.

### **Rob Brydon**

Yes, this is what I think. But you often get taxi drivers who drop you off at home and say, 'I couldn't do what you do, mate. Tell you what, best of luck, mate. Good luck.'





**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Rob Brydon**

You go, 'What? Have you heard something? What do you mean?'

**Ed Gamble**

You heard about the Jelly Baby??

**Rob Brydon**

Yes. 'What do you mean good luck?' Yes, I always find that a curious thing. I mean, it's meant well, don't get me wrong, but it's slightly unsettling.

**James Acaster**

Sure.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Rob Brydon**

From my side, I go, 'What do you mean good luck? Things are going okay, aren't they?'

**James Acaster**

Where's the best place? I'm sure you've been asked this a lot, but all the places you ate at on the trip.

**Rob Brydon**

The Amalfi Coast.

**James Acaster**

There we go.

**Rob Brydon**

Specifically on Capri. The Isle of Capri. Not 'Cuh-pree', 'Cah-pree'. I mean, I could fill this whole podcast just telling you some of Steve's reactions to things. When you arrive on Capri, they have these taxis, and what they've done, they're normal cars, I don't know, Fiats or something, and they've axil-grinded off the tops. So, from the top of the door upwards is now gone and in their place is, like, a parasol or a shade, right? And they just drive very slowly around the island. So, we get in one of those to be driven up to this fancy hotel at the top of the island, and Steve goes, 'Look at these cars,' he goes, (inaudible 54.44). 'They've compromised the structural integrity.' I've always remembered that. So, there was a restaurant there, it's in the last episode of the trip to Italy, and that's called Il Riccio. It's twinned with the Capri Palace Hotel. The day we were filming there, it was perfection. It was a beautiful day and you're on a terrace that is atop a cliff and they have a room of temptation which is a chilled room full of desserts you just walk into. While we were filming and the cameras were rolling, there were real people sat in other bits of the restaurant, Gerard or Gerald Butler?

**James Acaster**

Gerard.

**Ed Gamble**

Gerard Butler.



**Rob Brydon**

Gerard Butler. I'm not pretending that I don't remember his name, like some sick power play. I generally wasn't sure.

**James Acaster**

If it's just a man called Gerald Butler, this is not a good story. 'Alright Gerald?'

**Rob Brydon**

Yes. He was from Kettering, you know him?

**James Acaster**

Yes. I know Gerald Butler.

**Rob Brydon**

So, Gerard Butler was there and he just walks into shot. I don't know if he hadn't seen. He went, 'Hey.' He knew Steve. 'Hey, how you doing?' And he said to me, 'Hi, Jerry Butler. (ph 55.51)' I go, 'Hi, I'm Rob.' And he just started talking to us in the middle while we were filming. Steve goes, 'What you doing?' 'I'm just going up and down the coast.' He was doing this amazing thing, he was on some yacht or something. Wow, you know? So, that's the one that, I mean, there were many great restaurants, but that's the one that always springs to mind. Also, my wife had come out for that weekend, so she was there.

**James Acaster**

Staying in the cheap hotel with the crew.

**Rob Brydon**

Yes, but, you know, she liked it. She liked it. There was an all-you-can-eat buffet. She said that, you know, you could go back and the crew had a thing, a scam going where they'd take more. No. She stayed with me in the suite.

**James Acaster**

Very awkward, because, of course, you know? You were having a bet on-,

**Rob Brydon**

On the trip to Italy?

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Rob Brydon**

The funny thing about that is, I've had this a few times, where even in those adverts I did, you know, where I have a pretend wife, I must be thick as hell, because it never occurred to me when I said, 'Yes, I'm going to do these adverts. How much money? I'll do them,' it never occurred to me that people would think it was my wife, because to me it was, well, I'm playing a bloke.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Rob Brydon**

Pathetically, as it went on, we actually gave the character a name, trying to shut the stable door after the horse had bolted, because me and my stupidity. I said, 'People keep saying, is that?' Because they would, I can see that now.



**Ed Gamble**

The next ones, you're going to have to have your character reading something with Rob Brydon in the paper and he's going to have to go, 'I like that Rob Brydon.'

**Rob Brydon**

Well, there were ideas that they were going to say, I think we called him Hugh or something, Hugh Jenkins or something, and we were going to go, 'Mr Jenkins, welcome aboard.' It never actually happened. The same with the trip, because in the trip to Italy, that we'd spend the night with the girl on the island, which I loved because I never get to play that kind of thing. When we're doing the bit, there's a bit on the beach, and I thought I was Hugh Grant, you know? Because it was a sort of, hey, boy meets girl thing.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Rob Brydon**

It was like being in a Richard Curtis film. Then when it went out on the BBC, Claire was dropping the kids off at school and the teacher came up and put her hand on her shoulder and said, 'This must be very difficult.' I mean, what on Earth do they think? I mean, there's fly on the wall and there's fly on the wall.

**Ed Gamble**

I know unfortunately James hasn't listened to anything you've said since you mentioned the room of temptation.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Rob Brydon**

Listen, it's lovely.

**James Acaster**

Take me there immediately.

**Rob Brydon**

I might have some photos of that on my phone, because after we did that, then it was my wife's birthday in September and I took her back out there, but it was a little bit out of season, the weather wasn't as nice.

**James Acaster**

Gerard Butler wasn't there.

**Rob Brydon**

And we were paying this time, so that took the edge off it as well.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes, sure.

**Rob Brydon**

That was when I realised. Everybody while we were filming was going, 'Capri is so expensive,' I go, 'Is it?' I had no idea.



**James Acaster**

Your dream drink, Rob?

**Rob Brydon**

With this meal, Barolo. Which, again, brings us back to the trip to Italy, because that's where I discovered it. We started up in that area, I think. Maybe the first or second episode. Because I'm no wine guy, I'm to connoisseur. I like rosé as soon as it's warm enough, I love it, it makes me happy.

**James Acaster**

Whispering Angel? Are you a Whispering Angel man?

**Rob Brydon**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Rob Brydon**

But is that Lebanese? Is Whispering Angel Lebanese?

**Ed Gamble**

No, I think, no.

**Rob Brydon**

I like Whispering Angel very much. They do it at that place that you and I had lunch the other day, James.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Rob Brydon**

And they're about to start doing it again as summer, spring edges on.

**James Acaster**

You had a Kir Royale there, right?

**Rob Brydon**

I wanted to mention those. Yes.

**James Acaster**

You were very excited about getting Kir Royale.

**Rob Brydon**

I love a Kir Royale. Now, for people that don't know, that is champagne with some cassis. I will often have that. Claire and I went out for lunch two days ago in Barnes.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Rob Brydon**

The place.

**Ed Gamble**

Two separate barns.



**Rob Brydon**

Not random out buildings around the countryside.

**Ed Gamble**

'You sit in this barn and I'll go there.'

**Rob Brydon**

We take a packed lunch and we just find a barn and we sit in it and it's kind of nice. No. We went for lunch in Barnes and we both had a Kir Royale, and therein lies the problem, because she didn't want all of hers, so I had the rest of hers. So, she would then drive home. But then, oh dear, hang on, is Rob falling asleep? It's a bit too much. Whereas if I'd only had the one, I think I would have been safe.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Rob Brydon**

So, yes, a Kir Royale. I will have that. Again, that's Claire opened me up to that, I had no idea what it was. I like it.

**James Acaster**

I wasn't drinking at that meal and managed to get you to do your Roger Moore.

**Rob Brydon**

Did you really have to push me? Did you really have to persuade me?

**James Acaster**

Wasn't difficult. You were trying to convince me to have a Kir Royale. So.

**Rob Brydon**

And I did it as Roger Moore.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Rob Brydon**

I imagine you'd probably like it if I did it now.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. It feels that.

**Rob Brydon**

Don't you hate those people that can do voices and you mention stuff and they don't do it?

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Rob Brydon**

Honestly. No, but I'm serious.



**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Rob Brydon**

I love people like Dana Carvey and Martin Short. You hear them on a thing and they just do it.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Good value.

**Rob Brydon**

Because they can do it, and also it's joyous isn't it? Well, I don't know-

**James Acaster**

Please, come-come Mr Bond.

**Rob Brydon**

Come-come Mr Bond you enjoy a Kir Royale just as much as I do. The sparkling combination of champagne and cassis.

**James Acaster**

Yes, that's exactly it.

**Ed Gamble**

Perfect.

**James Acaster**

That was delightful.

**Ed Gamble**

So, you made Rob do that voice to convince you to have a Kir Royale.

**James Acaster**

Yes. I think maybe Roger Moore convinced me to have a Kir Royale.

**Rob Brydon**

They say that Olivier, Lawrence Olivier used to have a glass of champagne every morning at eleven o'clock. So, yes, a Kir Royale would be-, I often have that if I'm out.

**James Acaster**

You're not going for Kir Royale this time, you're going for Barolo.

**Rob Brydon**

Well, because Kir Royale is always-, you know what I would do. I would probably have had, you rammed the sparkling water down my throat. I would've had the Kir Royale while I was having the oysters, is that allowed?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, why not?



**James Acaster**

We could do that, yes.

**Rob Brydon**

I would've had that, the sparkling water is just there, right, it's there. I always say we'll have a bottle of still and a bottle of sparkling, but if I could only have one, it'd be sparkling. So, yes. I would've had the Kir Royale with the oysters and then once the lamb is served, I'm on Barolo.

**Ed Gamble**

Which is a much heartier wine.

**Rob Brydon**

It's a lovely wine and as I say, I have no great knowledge of wine, but Michael had chose this because we were in that region and since then I've stuck with it. I like a Chablis with the white wines, but again my knowledge is abysmal. We go to a particular France of part-, we go to a particular France of part every year. I know I got it wrong the second time. I saw the look of, 'Jesus Christ.'

**Ed Gamble**

No, I knew what you were doing.

**Rob Brydon**

Good God, he didn't realise.

**James Acaster**

I didn't know.

**Rob Brydon**

Is Rob okay? There's a nice winery, vineyard near there. They do lovely rose, they do nice red, so that's another one that I have a vague knowledge of. But beyond that, I'm in the dark.

**James Acaster**

Every time my girlfriend goes for a meal with her friend Lauren and they get wine, my girlfriend always manages to make Lauren laugh by doing an impression of you, doing an impression of Steve Coogan, saying, 'Oh yes, that's a lovely wine.'

**Rob Brydon**

Yes, yes. When you sip it.

**James Acaster**

That's a very nice wine.

**Rob Brydon**

Yes, yes. Because that's the thing that we learned on that, that when you taste the wine, it's just to test it's not corked. It's not to comment on its quality, but it goes against all your instincts, doesn't it? It goes against all your instincts, because somebody has come over, they've given you the thing and that bit is free, isn't it? If you neck all of that. So, you go, so you go, 'Mm.' It seems wrong not to go, 'Oh, it's really nice.' I think Steve-, I don't know whether this was genuine or we were just doing it, I can't remember now. That's one of those things where in a show like that, you go, 'Oh, there's some material, cease on that, we've got a thing here.' Because you're just looking for conflict, you know, we could argue over this.

**Ed Gamble**

Well at that point in the meal I only think about the Partridge thing of when he's having the half a bottle of Blue Nun in the meeting with Tony Hayers and goes, 'Yeah, that's fine, fill her up.'



**Rob Brydon**

Yes, yes, when he says, 'Have I got a second series?'

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, it's that meeting. But the guy just starts to pour it, he's like, 'What are you doing? You need to pour a little bit, I'll taste it and then you can pour the rest.' And then he just downs half a glass and then goes, 'Yeah, that's fine, fill her up.' I think about that every time.

**Rob Brydon**

It's so funny when and lovely when, you've done it several times. People say to you that they think of things, because I think of a million things that other people have done. If I can be given a moment to reflect, it's such a nice thing, thank you. I wasn't expecting it. That's quite nice, I quite like it when Steve plays that dynamic, because they he plays slightly low status for a bit, because he's a bit cowed. That's quite nice, because he often plays a higher status, it's quite nice when he does that, it's quite appealing

**James Acaster**

You're very mean to him in that scene, you go, 'You just made yourself look like an idiot.' Is that how you open the-, because he says, 'Yes, that's very nice, thank you.' Then you're sitting there with a very serious face and you go, 'You just made yourself look like an idiot.'

**Ed Gamble**

He thinks you're an idiot, is what he said.

**Rob Brydon**

But the thing is, that was the first episode, right. That was the first scene we filmed for all the trips and we went into that, not really knowing what it was going-, honestly, not knowing what it was going to be. We'd said no to it twice, I remember saying to Michael after the first meeting. I said, 'Six half hours.' I mean, there was some script don't get me wrong, that does a disservice to Michael, I mean, good God, he came up with the whole story, what happens in it, you know? The food, the restaurants, the journey, all that stuff. But nonetheless, we're going to be sat at tables, I said, 'You'll probably get one strong half hour.' I was wrong obviously. So, when we went off to do that, that was the first scene we shot, which is sitting at the Inn at Whitewell. What the hell is this going to be? In a cock and bull story, we'd bickered, right? So, okay, we can play odd couple bickering. So, we do that, yes, that's interesting you say that I was quite, 'Ugh.' Because as it went on I got more and more uncomfortable with that. It does become very wearisome to constantly be looking for conflict. I think I've said recently, I'd much rather be Gone Fishing with Bob and Paul, where occasionally they'll do a little bit of one of their funny voices or characters. But most of the time, it's just nice. And as we progressed with our various series, Michael more and more had to encourage us to poke each other with sticks. Because I think Steve and I got on better as time went by, we were mellowing, getting older.

**James Acaster**

So, it's hard-, I don't want to get too comedy about it, but with improv, it's best to yes and the person.

**Rob Brydon**

That's right.

**James Acaster**

Say yes to it and do it.

**Rob Brydon**

That's it.





**James Acaster**

So, if you're having to improvise disagreeing with each other all the time and blocking each other's ideas, it is hard. Because you're constantly having to think of another idea instead and a different direction to go. Because you're not both going, 'Let's run in this direction.'

**Rob Brydon**

And there is-, I have to admit, there is the aspect of it that we were playing versions of ourselves. So, I could point to many things and go, 'That's nothing, I would never say that.' There are plenty where I say, 'Well, that was basically me.' And you can touch a nerve, so you've got to be a bit-, so sometimes you go, 'Oh bloody hell, did he mean that?' And that's what gives it its bite, but that becomes a bit, you say, 'Oh, I could live-,'

**Ed Gamble**

Also, there's got to be a reason that you're actually sat there together in all these things, right? You've got to have some sort of understanding amongst each other that the characters have to get on a bit.

**Rob Brydon**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Otherwise why would you go back for another one?

**Rob Brydon**

Yes, but I think that was one of the real things of the show, which is that as we progressed and we were getting older, you do, you rage against the dying of the light and you enjoy company of friends and the greatest compliment I pay to a friend now at my age, 56 is, 'You're looking well.' Which is as lovely as you want to hear, because you're moving into that period now where things start to go wrong. I mean, in the very early stages, but you are, illnesses, all these things. So, yes, it was a very-,

**James Acaster**

Where was that compliment earlier where you said that Ed was a threat and I wasn't to-, you know? I was the opposite.

**Ed Gamble**

But you're not at that age yet, you don't need to-,

**James Acaster**

I feel like I am now. Are we going into the room of temptation for your dessert?

**Rob Brydon**

I think we should, I think we should.

**James Acaster**

Do you know what? I haven't asked any specific questions about the room of temptation because in my head, it's perfect.

**Ed Gamble**

It's perfect, yes.

**James Acaster**

So, I don't want to ruin it.



**Rob Brydon**

There's kind of ceramic surfaces, it's chilled, there are different desserts laid out on a central island. Then other desserts in shelving around the room and you go back out into the warmth of the Capri Sun, although we're under a shade of course.

**Ed Gamble**

We're not going to skip over that Rob, I'm sorry.

**Rob Brydon**

What?

**Ed Gamble**

What do you go back into the warmth of?

**Rob Brydon**

I didn't notice that.

**James Acaster**

I thought this was a fancy restaurant.

**Rob Brydon**

And it's warm Capri Sun as well. Like, warm Ribena.

**James Acaster**

You've got to skewer it yourself with the straw.

**Ed Gamble**

Obviously, earlier when you were talking about Capri I wanted to make a Capri Sun joke, I'm so glad I left it so that we could have that moment.

**Rob Brydon**

This one, this is a generational thing, because when did Capri Sun come into being? Come into prominence?

**James Acaster**

I'm not sure, I don't remember if ever not being.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, it has always been.

**Rob Brydon**

Always, has it? It's never been part of my life, although I think it's in Gavin & Stacey, I think there's a reference to it. I think Nessa says, 'I'll have a Capri Sun.' I think so, maybe.

**James Acaster**

Yes, sounds about right.

**Rob Brydon**

Maybe. But Capri Sun has never been a part of my world. To the extent that I was able to say the warmth of the Capri sun and it meant nothing to me.

**James Acaster**

I can't imagine you even holding a Capri Sun, let alone drinking one.



**Rob Brydon**

I would feel demeaned by it.

**James Acaster**

Fruit Shoot, I can imagine you with a Fruit Shoot.

**Rob Brydon**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

I can imagine you with a Fruit Shoot. But I can imagine, if I saw you holding a Fruit Shoot, I'd think it was funny but I wouldn't think, 'What is going on?' If I saw you holding a Capri Sun, I'd be like, 'This is bananas.'

**Rob Brydon**

I could stretch to an Um Bongo.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Do you think in Capri they're aware of the Capri Sun and they're annoyed about its association?

**Rob Brydon**

No, I wouldn't have thought that they're too worried about it.

**Ed Gamble**

Well, similar with the Congo and Um Bongo, I guess.

**Rob Brydon**

Yes, I don't know how they feel in the Congo about the Um Bongo. So, we would, yes, we would go into that room and I find it very hard to choose a pudding and I've eventually settled for just follow my heart. It's some sort of chocolate, maybe a chocolate bomb, with vanilla ice cream. Or, maybe salted caramel ice cream. Let's make it a little bit interesting.

**James Acaster**

You don't seem like, very excited about it.

**Rob Brydon**

I am excited about it, but I'm disappointed in myself that I can't think of something. And I'd probably sprinkle a Cadbury's Flake over it, I'd crumble it. In the same way that Tom Jones did to his lemon, I would get a Cadbury's Flake that has been chilled and then I'd go, 'Aargh.'

**Ed Gamble**

And would everyone in the restaurant get pregnant?

**Rob Brydon**

Not from me, no. No, I'm afraid not.

**James Acaster**

Gerard Butler maybe.

**Rob Brydon**

I know my place.



**James Acaster**

He'd be walking home, feeling a bit peculiar.

**Rob Brydon**

Yes, Gerard may go, 'Well, what was going on there with that wee guy?' Another lovely dessert of course is summer berries with ice cream.

**James Acaster**

Yes, lovely.

**Rob Brydon**

I'd kind of go ice cream every time if I had to choose. Cheese cake can be delicious. It's very hard in your binary world to come down one side or the other.

**Ed Gamble**

In tribute to Winton you could go to the room of temptation with a shopping trolley and just start sweeping stuff off the shelves.

**Rob Brydon**

In honour of Dale.

**James Acaster**

Supermarket Sweep in the Room of Temptation.

**Rob Brydon**

I've got a video of when we were filming that, I've just remembered, yes. You, I think you glimpsed the Room of Temptation.

**James Acaster**

I'd find it too tempting.

**Ed Gamble**

All you'd need is a glimpse though, as well. You almost don't want to see the rest of it, do you?

**James Acaster**

Yes, because if I went there and like you I got to go in to the room of temptation, I think they would find very quickly just what my - temptation wise.

**Rob Brydon**

Okay, James let me-,

**James Acaster**

Let's find that out.

**Rob Brydon**

Let me question your choice of words there.

**James Acaster**

Okay.

**Rob Brydon**

You said, 'If I go there.' As Yoda would say, I'm not going to do the voice, I'm better than that.

**James Acaster**

Well?



**Rob Brydon**

There is no if, what is this if? What is stopping James Acaster from going to Capri, staying at the Capri Palace Hotel, booking himself a fine and dandy table.

**James Acaster**

Maybe I'll do it, I'll do it. I mean, you know, if you've stopped doing The Trip now, me and Ed could, next generation. We've kind of positioned ourselves haven't we, really?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, that's what this is all about.

**James Acaster**

This podcast.

**Ed Gamble**

This is all about.

**James Acaster**

We're teeing ourselves up for The Trip, the next generation.

**Rob Brydon**

By 2022 Coogan and Bryden were too infirm to continue with this series. Enter, Gamble and Acaster, appealing to a whole new young, vibrant audience. All memories of Bryden and Coogan, sorry efforts, were soon cast aside.

**Ed Gamble**

But the thing is, it's not going to be a great show because we just want to go to the same places you've been, so it's not going to-

**James Acaster**

Yes, we just want to go to the same places.

**Rob Brydon**

What if you went to the same places and you got transcripts and you re-enacted The Trip. That's an interesting idea.

**Ed Gamble**

That's a good idea for a show actually.

**Rob Brydon**

You just do it word for word.

**James Acaster**

But it will just be Ed making me do Shrek impressions at every single restaurant.

**Rob Brydon**

No Shrek, you've got to do the ones that we did.

**James Acaster**

I can't do the ones that you did.

**Rob Brydon**

I know, but that's one of the reasons it'll be funny.



**James Acaster**

Ha, what have you got?

**Ed Gamble**

What I really like, and I believe this is correct, but without questioning it, we've established that you're Rob.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Rob Brydon**

Most people want to be Steve, whenever I look on-, people want to be Steve. They don't want to be me, he has got more of a sexy thing going on. But I'm happy James that you would be me. He's doing Mick Jagger now.

**James Acaster**

Mick Jagger.

**Rob Brydon**

It just sounds like James is upset.

**Ed Gamble**

Rob, you're also going to need to be in this to tell me what James is doing.

**James Acaster**

Yes, you need to be on it.

**Ed Gamble**

Now that was like so clearly-,

**Rob Brydon**

Here Rob, Rob, Rob.

**James Acaster**

Didn't he actually come to your house once, Mick Jagger?

**Rob Brydon**

No, no, no, I was at a party and he was there and I chatted to him a bit and he was stunning. I mean, my God. The energy. Do you remember that film Cocoon, where the old people are suddenly, it was like that. I mean, he radiated, honestly, I'm not exaggerating, he radiated energy and life. And then as we were leaving I heard this voice saying, 'Here Rob, Rob.' And I looked up and he was on the landing and I thought, 'Christ, Mick Jagger is calling to me.' And he went, 'Don't throw those spears at me.' And I thought, and I didn't know what he meant, I thought, 'What?' I looked at my wife and this is bizarre. I said, 'What?' He went, 'Don't throw those bloody spears at me.' And what he was doing, he was doing Michael Cane in Zulu, because he loved The Trip, he told me he loved The Trip. So, I realised, so I turned back to him and I went, 'I've told you before, if you're not going to sing, I don't wanna know. Get back in the other bloody room.' And he went, 'Ha-ha-ha.' And he kind of ran off. Then we left the house and we stood on the pavement outside and just went, 'Wow. Did that just happen?'

**Ed Gamble**

What a life.



**Rob Brydon**

Because I think even he's more to my age than your age, Jagger means more to me. I mean, you're aware, but to someone of my age, Mick Jagger is this-, one of the pillars of popular culture for as long as I can remember, you know? So, it was just, it was just mind-bending.

**James Acaster**

It's the same for us, when we had Ainsley.

**Rob Brydon**

Yes, that would be a similar sort of thing, wouldn't it?

**Ed Gamble**

Similar, he's our Jagger.

**James Acaster**

Yes, he's our Jagger. Insulted us. I'm just going to read this back to you now, see how you feel about it.

**Rob Brydon**

Okay.

**James Acaster**

Water, glass bottle of San Pellegrino. Poppadums or bread? Sour dough bread with salted butter. Starter, six oysters, vinaigrette and shallots with a Kir Royale.

**Rob Brydon**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Main, roast leg of lamb, Welsh lamb, gravy, parsnips, carrot and swede mash, roast potatoes, Yorkshire puddings cooked by Angela Hartnett. Side dish, savoy cabbage and dauphinoise potatoes. Drink Borolo wine. Dessert, chocolate bomb with salted caramel ice cream and a crumbled Flake over the top.

**Rob Brydon**

That's the only thing I'm going to question. Let's not say a chocolate bomb, let's say a chocolate-, no, let's say chocolate bomb, let's say chocolate bomb.

**James Acaster**

Are you sure?

**Ed Gamble**

You sure, you can change it, you've still got time?

**Rob Brydon**

It seems tacky doesn't it? A chocolate bomb.

**Ed Gamble**

Retro.

**Rob Brydon**

Not if it's done really well.

**James Acaster**

Your mouth likes it.



**Rob Brydon**

Yes, all right. Oh Ed.

**Ed Gamble**

Don't blame me.

**Rob Brydon**

It's 2022 Ed.

**Ed Gamble**

The amount of times I've heard that phrase said like that, Oh Ed. Rob, thank you very much for coming to the dream restaurant.

**James Acaster**

Thank you Rob.

**Rob Brydon**

I thoroughly, thoroughly enjoyed it, thank you.

**Ed Gamble**

Well there we are, what a wonderful chat with Rob Brydon.

**James Acaster**

Yes, what a wonderful chat. We got him to do all the voices we wanted him to do, we got all the stories of all the projects that he has been on, what a dream.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, absolutely perfect, and a nice menu as well, I thought.

**James Acaster**

Very tasty menu. When we read it back, he didn't seem happy about the dessert, but-

**Ed Gamble**

I've never seen anyone hate themselves more for their dessert choice. He was angry about it.

**James Acaster**

He was pretty angry, but you know, it's not like he chose a Pizza Hut buffet or something like-, I mean, people choose some pretty awful stuff as their dessert on this podcast.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, exactly, don't be ashamed of the chocolate bomb Rob.

**James Acaster**

Yes, never.

**Ed Gamble**

Do listen to Rob's podcast, Brydon And.

**James Acaster**

Yes, and the and is always a different person.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, I haven't forgotten the second half.





**James Acaster**

Don't think that Ed has gone mad.

**Ed Gamble**

No, no, no, I've not gone mad. It's the name of the person.

**James Acaster**

Yes, the person, it's always like a surname again afterwards.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, so do go and listen to that.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

It's a Spotify exclusive.

**James Acaster**

Fair enough. Sorry, hey, all those shows that we mentioned during the pod, if you haven't watched them, watch them.

**Ed Gamble**

My goodness, if you haven't watched Human Remains, I'm sure you can hopefully track down the DVD of it somewhere. It's perfect stuff.

**James Acaster**

I mean, the listener can probably guess by how quiet I was during the Human Remains chat that I have not got around to watching it yet, which is criminal.

**Ed Gamble**

You're in for such a treat.

**James Acaster**

I love Rob, I love Julia Davis.

**Ed Gamble**

You're in for such a treat.

**James Acaster**

I'm going to catch up there.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, and Marion & Geoff, of course.

**James Acaster**

Marion & Geoff, Gavin & Stacey. The Trip, Would I Lie To You? I mean, that man has got national treasure secured, locked down.

**Ed Gamble**

Locked down and he didn't say jellied eels, that means national treasure is secured.

**James Acaster**

I mean, yes, because that could've been an episode of Gavin & Stacey.



**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

They visit his family, maybe they try some jellied eels. Maybe Rob gets a taste for it, maybe he mentions it on the pod.

**Ed Gamble**

That's it, career over. But thank you very much for coming on Rob, I myself am on tour.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Ed Gamble.co.uk for details, the show is called Electric. Going all over the place.

**James Acaster**

Also, you can pre-order my book, James Acaster's Guide to Quitting Social Media, Being the Best You You Can Be, and Curing Yourself of Loneliness. Volume 1, wherever you get your books.

**Ed Gamble**

Getting used to saying that, aren't you?

**James Acaster**

I'm really getting used to it now, which is good. Because I probably will have to say it a lot more.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, but now you're so used to it, you're saying it so quickly that no one could possibly understand what it is.

**James Acaster**

Yes, no one will understand it, so that'll work against me.

**Ed Gamble**

Lovely. Sorry to make you do Shrek again.

**James Acaster**

Well, you know, as soon as we started talking about impressions. The good thing about that one is that you blind-sided me. I didn't see it coming at all, normally I go, 'Uh-oh.' And I feel a bit of Shrek in the air, and this time, we were talking about impressions. I thought, yes, we'll just have a talk to Rob Bryden about impressions. I can't wait to hear Rob do an impression and it was like, 'Uh-oh. I've got to do Shrek.'

**Ed Gamble**

I'm up now, I'm up.

**James Acaster**

To the master, the master.

**Ed Gamble**

Thanks very much for listening, we will see you again next week. Goodbye.

**James Acaster**

Goodbye.