



# Off Menu – Ep 166: Paul Chowdhry

## Ed Gamble

Welcome to the Off Menu podcast taking the raspberries of conversation, the jam sugar of humour, mixing them all up together in a pan, mashing them down with a fork, turning on the heat of the internet and creating the jam of the Off Menu podcast.

## James Acaster

Jam, not your best bet because it was jam sugar, kind of, let us know where it was going.

## Ed Gamble

Yes, but you can't use normal sugar for it. I think you have to have a specific jam sugar. Certainly, when I did Bake Off that was the case.

## James Acaster

To be fair, I didn't know that and that's quite a nice little detail that I didn't know. I've gone away learning something now that there's such a thing as jam sugar.

## Ed Gamble

I'd imagine I'll get a message saying, 'You can use normal sugars', but we had to use a special source of sugar.

## James Acaster

But, jam sugar's now going to be one of my catchphrases too.

## Ed Gamble

Yes.

## James Acaster

I'll just jump into any situation that's really jumping like a party or something. I'll just jump from nowhere and go, 'Jam sugar.'

## Ed Gamble

Yes, and I'll go, 'Apple steak.'

## James Acaster

Apple steak. Apple steak and jam sugar here a.k.a. **Ed Gamble** and **James Acaster**. This is the Off Menu podcast. We own a dream restaurant. We're inviting a guest in and we ask them their favourite ever starter, main course, dessert, side dish and drink. Not in that order and this week our guest is **Paul Chowdhry**.

## Ed Gamble

Chowders.

## James Acaster

A manic. **Paul Chowdhry** as we all know a fantastic comedian. He's been on Taskmaster, one of the probably all-time great Taskmaster contestants in my opinion. One of my favourites ever.

## Ed Gamble

Yes, one of mine too.



**James Acaster**

You know, tours the country and sells out venues with his stand-up.

**Ed Gamble**

Wembley, he did Wembley.

**James Acaster**

He did Wembley and just an unpredictable and unique fella.

**Ed Gamble**

I don't know what's going to happen today.

**James Acaster**

No.

**Ed Gamble**

He also, of course, does a podcast of his own called the PudCast.

**James Acaster**

Yes, I went on that.

**Ed Gamble**

I went on that too.

**James Acaster**

I had a very frank conversation with him and enjoyed it quite a lot. That's why I'm quite looking forward to having him on the pod and that's why, you know, I'm quite happy calling him a manic before it starts because I know it's impossible to really rattle this guy.

**Ed Gamble**

We say he's unpredictable. Here's something that I think will happen and I'm willing to put £50 on it now. He will within the first twenty minutes do an impression of me which is like this. He'll say, 'You're all like hey guys.' He calls me a hey guys comedian because I say, 'Hey guys', to the audience and I ask the audience if they're alright.

**James Acaster**

Yes, that's fair enough he's got you there. Also, just to let people know we are recording this before Paul comes in. I know a lot of people think we do it all afterwards. Right, we've not interviewed Paul yet, that is a genuine prediction from Ed so we will see what happens there. I also think at one point he will say something that is deliberately referencing something that we have no idea what it is. He knows that and then, he'll just stare us down until we have to ask him further questions.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, exactly. Also, we can't predict what he's going to say which makes the secret ingredient even more exciting.

**James Acaster**

Very difficult. Secret ingredient, obviously, is usually an ingredient that we don't like, so we'll kick people out of the dream restaurant and then get any dinner if they pick it and this week the secret ingredient is flaxseed.

**Ed Gamble**

What is it?



**James Acaster**

I don't like it. It's powdery. It's weird.

**Ed Gamble**

Powdery, yes.

**James Acaster**

I don't really think it adds much in terms of flavour.

**Ed Gamble**

Where does it go? What do you put it on? Yoghurt?

**James Acaster**

I think people dump it in their yoghurts but I don't really see the point.

**Ed Gamble**

It's sawdust.

**James Acaster**

I guess it's probably got some superfood quality I don't know about.

**Ed Gamble**

Paul's very healthy as well. Paul's ripped.

**James Acaster**

He's ripped. He's a healthy man.

**Ed Gamble**

Ripper armoured.

**James Acaster**

He's ripper armoured, banana pyjama'd.

**Ed Gamble**

He's apple steaked.

**James Acaster**

He's the human embodiment of apple steak, that guy.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, he really is.

**James Acaster**

Yes, so maybe he does eat a bit of flaxseed and that gives him that apple steak body.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, so we'll find out. But, if he mentions his flaxseed that he has in the morning to give him his apple steaks, we're going to kick him out.

**James Acaster**

We're going to kick him out and I don't think he'll care.

**Ed Gamble**

No, I don't think he'll care. Also, I'd imagine he has no idea what this podcast is. I'd imagine he's not prepared for it in any way.



**James Acaster**

No, here's another prediction. Every time we ask him his dream one, he'll respond like he's in a genuine restaurant and he'll go, 'Oh, what can I get?' Because, he won't have thought about any of it in advance. Even if he has thought about it in advance he'll probably think, 'No, that's silly to do that', and then, he'll get rid of that and just come in and wing it.

**Ed Gamble**

At some point, he's going to do an impression of what he considers a white man to sound like and use the name Dave.

**James Acaster**

Yes, he'll do that and also, at one point he'll call me Jamie for a joke because it amuses him to call me Jamie.

**Ed Gamble**

That amuses me as well. I hope he does that.

**James Acaster**

Yes, it is fun. It is funny to do that so, I mean, there's a lot of stuff that's going to happen that I'm very excited about.

**Ed Gamble**

Have you spoken to him about the time he introduced you on stage?

**James Acaster**

Yes, I spoke to him whilst I was on his podcast, I talked to him about the fact that once when I was starting out as a stand-up, he introduced me on stage at a charity gig at The Comedy Store in the following way. 'Please welcome to the stage, my main man James Alabaster', and I walked on stage to that.

**Ed Gamble**

One of my favourite stories.

**James Acaster**

Yes, obviously he doesn't remember it so that's going to be fun.

**Ed Gamble**

We'll find out. This is the Off Menu menu. It's **Paul Chowdhry**. Apple steak. Welcome, Paul to the dream restaurant.

**James Acaster**

Welcome, **Paul Chowdhry** to the dream restaurant. We've been expecting you for some time.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes, it's a long time coming this and I've got to say what an honour it is for you to have me on this podcast today. Well, what an honour.

**Ed Gamble**

It is, Paul. We're over the moon to have you on the podcast, Paul. Of course, we are. When you say, 'It's been a long time coming', how long have you been waiting to come into the dream restaurant?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Well, this thing's been going for what, twenty years this podcast?



**Ed Gamble**

Yes, around twenty years, 2018 we started so around twenty years, yes.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes, so a lot of people are saying.

**James Acaster**

By the time that your episode goes out.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes. You're just stacking them up and putting them in the library waiting for the release. That's what I do with my podcasts.

**James Acaster**

We're like Prince. We record a lot, we put them all in a vault.

**Paul Chowdhry**

More Tupac.

**James Acaster**

Yes, also Tupac.

**Paul Chowdhry**

26 or 25 he had 55 albums in the vault.

**Ed Gamble**

Wow.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Something like that.

**Ed Gamble**

He's almost like he knew.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Suge Knight knew.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, I always knew we'd get into deep rap conspiracy theory.

**James Acaster**

This is the fastest in any podcast episode that we've done that we've talked about Suge Knight. This is very early on for the Suge Knight chat.

**Paul Chowdhry**

I knew this was a very gangster podcast with you two guys.

**Ed Gamble**

It really is, yes.

**James Acaster**

Thank you.

**Ed Gamble**

You, of course, do your own podcast Paul, the PudCast.



**Paul Chowdhry**

PudCast, yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Which we've both been on.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Oh, what an honour it was to have you on the PudCast. You were both very exquisite guests on that and your contribution to the PudCast has never been forgotten.

**James Acaster**

Thank you. Cheers Paul glad to hear that. Did all your listeners go crazy for our episodes?

**Paul Chowdhry**

What was your name? James has been on it. And who's this guy?

**James Acaster**

Ed.

**Paul Chowdhry**

**Ed Gamble's** been on it.

**Ed Gamble**

I've been on it as well. I enjoyed doing it very much.

**Paul Chowdhry**

People of your level of success and this was before you did the advert.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Before I was in the advert. You got me before I went mainstream.

**Paul Chowdhry**

I got you before you were a sell-out.

**James Acaster**

Oh, I haven't told you this.

**Ed Gamble**

Go on.

**James Acaster**

I was walking down the street, and somebody shouted, 'Cazoo yeah you can!' at me.

**Ed Gamble**

At you?

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Paul Chowdhry**

What did you say?



**James Acaster**

I, kind of, just laughed. I looked around and I laughed because there was someone looking at me really pleased with themselves but I just laughed and gave them the thumbs up and kept on walking. But, I think they thought that's me on the adverts.

**Paul Chowdhry**

You should have Suge Knighted them.

**James Acaster**

I should of Suge Knighted them. I mean, he's not exactly a role model for me, Suge Knight but, yes.

**Ed Gamble**

But, his name is Suge, short for sugar. You love sugar.

**James Acaster**

I love sugar. If it's short for sugar, fair enough. Have you got favourite types of sugar, Paul a food podcast?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, are you a sugar boy?

**Paul Chowdhry**

No, I gave up sugar years ago.

**Ed Gamble**

Have you?

**James Acaster**

Years ago?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Years ago, now.

**Ed Gamble**

Because, we should say, you're in pretty good nick, Paul. You're a healthy boy. This is obviously a food podcast, so we're interested to hear what you're going to say about food because you're pretty ripper armoured, right?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Now, I remember us having this conversation on my PudCast about-, you were previously-,

**Ed Gamble**

A bigger boy. A little fat boy.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Well, I don't want to use the term 'fat bastard'.

**James Acaster**

I'd have liked it if you just let Paul find a point.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, sorry but I'm a self-confessed previous fat bastard.



**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes, and then, you came up with it. We talked about this. You came up with this whole premise that you used to have diabetes, to sell.

**James Acaster**

That's a good premise.

**Ed Gamble**

I'm still diabetic. I am diabetic, Paul.

**Paul Chowdhry**

No, but you use that, so you can do the fat bastard jokes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, I don't think I said that.

**Paul Chowdhry**

He uses it. He uses it, you know, you can-,

**James Acaster**

I haven't listened to the episode. I don't know what's true.

**Paul Chowdhry**

No, but you know when people use-, so they come up with conditions and then, they can joke about those people.

**James Acaster**

What other examples of comedians who have done that?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Eddie Murphy doing jokes about African Americans. He can only get away with it, but he made up he was African American. Where it's the same thing with **Ed Gamble**. He gets away with doing jokes about ethnic minorities because he pretends to be an ethnic minority.

**Ed Gamble**

Oh, how did we get there?

**James Acaster**

Diabetes is an ethnic minority. This is what Paul is saying, yes. Is that right, Paul?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

I don't want to misquote you here. Yes, so Ed makes out that he's from the diabetic community so he can make jokes about diabetes.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes, and you shouldn't do that kind of stuff, man.

**Ed Gamble**

No, I'm sorry. I put my hands and I say I'm sorry.





**Paul Chowdhry**

Shouldn't do that sort of stuff. I'm happy for that message to go out. When you were on Taskmaster, you had to sweat at one point and you exercised a lot. You really showed them how healthy and fit you were on that.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Which I did on the way here today as well.

**Ed Gamble**

You did some exercise on the way here?

**James Acaster**

What did you do?

**Paul Chowdhry**

I ran from the tube station.

**James Acaster**

Did you? Why were you late then?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Well, because I was running.

**Ed Gamble**

I thought you drove here.

**James Acaster**

Should have been on time.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Oh, yes I was going to drive and then, I decided to take the Tube. I thought it would be quicker on the Tube and the Tube was packed, packed in that shit hole. The horrific scenes on the Tube for when I got here and then, my manager's assistant told me it was 0.2 miles away, six-minute walk and it's actually half a mile from the tube station which is like a 40-minute run.

**James Acaster**

Well, that's not a 40-minute run.

**Ed Gamble**

Eight-minute walk.

**James Acaster**

I reckon you ran in the wrong direction and then, you had to run around again and people were just watching you run around London absolutely like a madman.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Then, I was outside and I had to contact Ben the producer because I was standing on the street corner for half an hour. I think he can verify that.

**James Acaster**

Yes, he can verify that but everything else, I mean, pretty much Paul when it comes to your life I only believe the stuff that I was there for. Everything else there's no way I'm believing it.



**Ed Gamble**

But, I'm looking forward to drilling down into your food choices and your food likes and dislikes, Paul because the only time really I've seen you eat we were in Montreal together once. We were at a fancy Montreal industry party. It was a comedy industry party and there were some canapes being passed around and everyone was getting on with the canapes and then, you went, 'No, I'm not having any of this.' You lent over to one of the wait staff and they went a bit confused and then, walked off. About five minutes later, they brought you over a full plate of avocado on toast.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Really?

**Ed Gamble**

It was at a party. Everyone else was having canapes and you somehow ordered a full plate of avocado on toast. He'll always pretend that he doesn't remember.

**James Acaster**

This is another thing. He always pretends he doesn't remember the stories about himself. Everyone always brings up stories about you to you and you always go, 'Oh, I've got no memory.'

**Paul Chowdhry**

I don't remember any of this, yes. I was in Montreal?

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Paul Chowdhry**

The comedy festival?

**Ed Gamble**

The comedy festival. We did the BritCom line-up together. It was me, you, Nish and Sara Pascoe. You don't remember this at all?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Are they comics as well?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, they're all comics, Paul.

**Paul Chowdhry**

I headlined it, didn't I?

**Ed Gamble**

No, Nish did.

**Paul Chowdhry**

No, Nish was comparing it.

**Ed Gamble**

No, Nish headlined it.

**James Acaster**

Nish headlined it.

**Paul Chowdhry**

How could Nish headline it if I'm on the bill? You can't even say that as a joke to listeners.



**Ed Gamble**

Yes, see I was trying to see what you would remember and what you didn't remember. You did headline it, Paul annoyingly.

**James Acaster**

Yes, you did headline it. We always start with still or sparkling water, Paul. Do you have a preference?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Well, you know my answer to this question, don't you?

**James Acaster**

No.

**Ed Gamble**

No, that's why we're asking.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Well, I would say to the waiter when they offered me still or sparkling.

**Ed Gamble**

Oh, we do actually know because Greg Davies told us.

**James Acaster**

Oh, okay.

**Ed Gamble**

Do you remember this?

**James Acaster**

I don't quite remember this, no.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Well, I didn't remember this until I was reminded by listeners of this podcast as to my answer and my answer to that is, what would you recommend?

**James Acaster**

That's good.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Because, it depends on the waiter, doesn't it? You really need to start with that kind of relationship. Set your persona up from the beginning so they know what they're dealing with.

**Ed Gamble**

Like you've done from the beginning of your career, you've set your persona and you refuse to budge from it.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Well, that's me though, isn't it? I would say I'm a natural-, I don't put on the act like you, you know.

**James Acaster**

Well, that's the debate.



**Ed Gamble**

That's the debate that rages through the comedy circuit and it has done for about fifteen to twenty years, Paul.

**James Acaster**

You and Andy Kaufman, how much of this is the real him? I don't know.

**Ed Gamble**

So, you say what do you recommend so you can get to know the waiter better?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes, it sets up the waiter then, you break them down a little bit.

**Ed Gamble**

Oh, interesting.

**James Acaster**

Break them down, what do you mean?

**Paul Chowdhry**

You know, emotionally, mentally and then, they're more relaxed in this scenario.

**James Acaster**

You loosen them up.

**Ed Gamble**

You're breaking them down to be more relaxed.

**Paul Chowdhry**

You're friendly with them, you know? What do you say, 'Still mate, I didn't want to be asked.' You know, whereas I'm nice to them. 'I'm diabetic, don't even ask that question.'

**James Acaster**

Because of water.

**Ed Gamble**

Because of the water.

**Ed Gamble**

So, what do you recommend?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Because that's a question, isn't it, at a restaurant? 'What do you recommend?'

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, but not normally with the water.

**Paul Chowdhry**

I always open with my best material, so that's the best line at a restaurant, 'What would you recommend?'

**Ed Gamble**

But, it doesn't work for that bit. You don't open with everything you might say in a restaurant when it comes to-, you don't go, 'Oh, I'll have it cooked medium rare, please'. It has to relate to the specific thing.



**Paul Chowdhry**

Always open with your closer when you're doing new stuff. That's the logic, isn't it? You open with your old stuff so then you've got to get better. So, that, 'What would you recommend?', normally came at the main course, I start with it at the water so it can only go up.

**Ed Gamble**

Why not just go in and pay the bill?

**James Acaster**

You've got to build on it and get better. That makes sense.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, pay the bill as soon as you go in.

**James Acaster**

Yes, tip them.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Well, some restaurants do that. Some do say, 'You've got to pay before we bring the food out'. I went to one shithole yesterday and they said that. 'You've got to pay for it', and maybe because it's a bad area and people then eat and do a runner.

**James Acaster**

Do a dine and dash.

**Ed Gamble**

What was this restaurant you went to yesterday?

**Paul Chowdhry**

It was some shisha lounge.

**James Acaster**

Did you partake in the shisha?

**Paul Chowdhry**

I don't do shisha.

**James Acaster**

No?

**Ed Gamble**

No?

**Paul Chowdhry**

No.

**James Acaster**

Too much sugar in it?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Too much sugar in it and it's basically smoking, isn't it? Without a filter.

**James Acaster**

Is it?



**Paul Chowdhry**

But you guys smoke a lot of weed and shit. I gave all that stuff up.

**Ed Gamble**

Of course, yes. What did you have at the shisha lounge then if you weren't doing any shisha?

**Paul Chowdhry**

I had corn.

**Ed Gamble**

What? You what?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Corn.

**Ed Gamble**

Corn?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Just corn.

**James Acaster**

Yes. You smoked it?

**Paul Chowdhry**

No, I ate it.

**Ed Gamble**

Like sweetcorn?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes, sweetcorn.

**Ed Gamble**

Like a bowl of sweetcorn?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

You went to a shisha lounge and just ordered a bowl of sweetcorn. They made you pay for it first.

**Paul Chowdhry**

It was like £8 for that.

**James Acaster**

Straight in, 'Hello, we assume you'll be wanting the shisha pipe?', 'No, I would just like a bowl of corn'. 'You have to pay for that first', 'This place is a shit hole'.

**Ed Gamble**

Did you have anything else?

**Paul Chowdhry**

I got mogo which is like a vegetable and chaat.



**Ed Gamble**

Nice.

**James Acaster**

Lovely.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Papri Chaat.

**Ed Gamble**

Are you veggie or vegan at this point?

**Paul Chowdhry**

I don't tend to eat meat in shit holes.

**Ed Gamble**

That's a good rule I think.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Because, you don't know where that meat has been and it's been pumped with steroids. I could just come out of the gym and then, you're eating this chicken and I tend not to unless I know what the chicken's been through in its life and the trauma it's been through. I want to know what life it lead before it got to this point.

**Ed Gamble**

What details do you need about the chicken?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Just its personal life, relationships, how many children it had and where it lived.

**Ed Gamble**

In terms of how many children it had, is it better for the chicken to have had less children or more children?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Well, it depends, you know, because it can variate the taste of that chicken so I tend to ask about its qualifications.

**James Acaster**

What if one of the details they told you about the chicken's personal life is that it was a massive fan of your comedy?

**Paul Chowdhry**

I wouldn't eat it. I would let it live.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, but no that's not how restaurants work, is it? What restaurant are you going in where they go, 'You ordered the chicken', and they're like, 'Alright, we'll go and kill it then.'

**James Acaster**

It's not like a lobster.

**Paul Chowdhry**

No, they bring the chickens out. Yes, so they're all running around and I talk to one of the chickens.



**Ed Gamble**

Sorry, the information's coming from the chicken?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Who else is going to tell me this information?

**Ed Gamble**

The waiter. We've just established all this.

**James Acaster**

I guess to be fair, Ed and I assumed you'd be talking to the waiter. You're saying you're talking to the chicken.

**Ed Gamble**

This is the dream restaurant I suppose. That is possible.

**James Acaster**

They're telling you what their lives are like so if any of them go, 'I'm a big fan, Paul.' You're like, 'Let this one live.'

**Paul Chowdhry**

They're not Irish. They're just normal chickens.

**James Acaster**

Normal.

**Ed Gamble**

Just normal talking chickens.

**James Acaster**

Yes, fair enough so I recommend the still water.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Okay, yes. I know you like the sparkling.

**Ed Gamble**

No, I'm more of a still boy actually but I don't mind the sparkling.

**James Acaster**

If you're asking me, the waiter I recommend the still water with a stick of mini Toblerone in it.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Do you still want the still?

**Ed Gamble**

Why are you asking me?

**Paul Chowdhry**

I thought we were-,

**Ed Gamble**

Would you like me to join you for this meal?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Where are you then?





**Ed Gamble**

Well, I'm like the Maître d'. I'm overseeing the whole thing.

**Paul Chowdhry**

So, I'm on my own?

**Ed Gamble**

Well, you can bring whoever you like with you.

**Paul Chowdhry**

No girl, nothing. Just sitting on here like a wanker on my own.

**Ed Gamble**

Well, no you can bring a girl if you want, Paul. I don't mind you bringing a girl.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Any gender, I'm not just saying girl. I could be with any gender.

**James Acaster**

Who do you want to bring with you?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Well, I normally go out for dinner with Greg and Russell Howard.

**Ed Gamble**

Normally, how often?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Whenever I go out for dinner, it's with Greg and Russell Howard.

**Ed Gamble**

When was the last time you went out for dinner with Greg and Russell Howard?

**James Acaster**

Why are you only on first-name terms with Greg?

**Ed Gamble**

So, you always go out for dinner with them?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Those two, yes.

**Ed Gamble**

So, what did they have at the shisha lounge?

**Paul Chowdhry**

No, we don't go to the shisha lounge. They go to very expensive restaurants, and they order a lot of alcohol and then we split the bill three ways which can become problematic because I don't drink. You know, when they split it three ways.

**James Acaster**

Yes, that's unfair.



**Ed Gamble**

All you've had is a bowl of corn.

**Paul Chowdhry**

And all you've had is corn and then, they've had seventeen dishes. Greg eats, the man likes to eat. Russell likes to eat as well. Russell Howard and Greg.

**James Acaster**

You're chatting to a chicken in the corner.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes, the chicken's running around.

**Ed Gamble**

So, for your dream meal in the dream restaurant would you like Greg and Russell Howard to be there?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

The good thing is they've both been on this podcast.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Oh, have they done this?

**James Acaster**

So, we know what the menu would be.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Have you heard of these two guys by the way?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, Greg and Russell Howard.

**Paul Chowdhry**

They're in the industry as well. Russell, he's had a TV show and Greg's been on a couple of bits and pieces. You've heard of them?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, I've heard of them.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes, so they're comedians.

**Ed Gamble**

Greg did that show, The Cleaner where you had the best cameo of all time.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes, I was in that. Oh, thanks man with Helena Bonham Carter. We're actually meaning to go out for dinner, us three.

**Ed Gamble**

Oh, really?



**James Acaster**

Whose you three?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Helena Bonham Carter, me and Tim Burton, her ex-husband.

**Ed Gamble**

I don't think you were in a scene with her though, were you?

**Paul Chowdhry**

No, but she was around, you know. We were hanging out.

**Ed Gamble**

You were in a scene with Gita from EastEnders.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes, she was in EastEnders, Gita, yes. That was her character name, I think.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, yes.

**Paul Chowdhry**

The actress, I can't remember her name. She was there as well.

**Ed Gamble**

She was there as well as her character from EastEnders or?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes. So, the character from EastEnders was with the woman who played the character from EastEnders but she didn't like to be reminded of that, but Greg was there.

**Ed Gamble**

Greg was there which is important and he's here at your meal now.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

So, you, Greg and Russell Howard are there, have brought out your still waters because that's what I recommend.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Oh, thanks man.

**James Acaster**

Poppadoms or bread? Poppadoms or bread, Paul Chowdhry?

**Paul Chowdhry**

I'm not sure whether you're asking me about poppadoms because I'm Indian.

**Ed Gamble**

Well, what I would say is, to our credit, we have asked the question, 'Poppadoms or bread,' on every other episode.



**Paul Chowdhry**

I've heard every single episode of this.

**Ed Gamble**

Have you?

**Paul Chowdhry**

And you've only just said to white people, you've just said, do you want bread?

**James Acaster**

Normally, I just say bread. Normally I go, 'Do you want bread? Want some bread?'

**Paul Chowdhry**

And then you shouted, 'Poppadoms,' at me.

**Ed Gamble**

But we've had other guests who are from Indian families, Indian backgrounds.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Oh really, which ones?

**James Acaster**

We don't need to justify this to Paul.

**Ed Gamble**

No, but we're just saying that we definitely-, are you suggesting that we didn't shout poppadoms at them and we were waiting for you?

**Paul Chowdhry**

You were waiting for me to come onto this podcast.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. We were. We knew that it'd really get into your head.

**Paul Chowdhry**

This has got to me, now.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Paul Chowdhry**

You didn't ask this to the chickens.

**Ed Gamble**

No. Well, we haven't had the chickens on the pod. They'd be awful guests.

**Paul Chowdhry**

But poppadoms are basically a big crisp.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

A big crisp.



**Paul Chowdhry**

They're a massive crisp, aren't they? One crisp. It's one crisp.

**Ed Gamble**

But a big one?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes. It's one, big crisp.

**Ed Gamble**

How do you feel about having one, big crisp.

**Paul Chowdhry**

I don't like, really, poppadoms. Especially when people crack it in the middle and then their hands touch other parts of the poppadom and then you think, 'Which part did they touch?' So you've got to go first and take as much of that poppadom as much as humanly possible before other people start sticking their shit fingers in.

**James Acaster**

Here's the thing, though. You're having a meal with Greg Davis. I know that he chose poppadoms.

**Paul Chowdhry**

But Greg's hands are the same size as a poppadom. So, if he goes to crack it, he's touched every bit. You might as well order a new pile of poppadoms.

**Ed Gamble**

So do you get a bit weird about that sort of thing? If someone's touched your food, you wouldn't eat it?

**Paul Chowdhry**

I wouldn't even look at it again.

**James Acaster**

What would happen if you looked at it?

**Paul Chowdhry**

I'd just I'm full. I'd just say I'm stuffed.

**Ed Gamble**

If you sat down for a meal with Greg and Russell Howard. You've literally sat down, you've had some still water. They bring over poppadoms. Greg cracks some poppadoms. You go, 'I'm full.'

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes. If he touches the poppadom, I would say I'm full and then I'll wait until the next course comes out and make sure it's a dish that people don't have to touch.

**Ed Gamble**

Then you would say, 'I'm not full anymore.'

**Paul Chowdhry**

I'm hungry again.

**Ed Gamble**

It's quite a weird excuse. Can't you just say you don't want any poppadoms.



**Paul Chowdhry**

No, because I do want the poppadoms. I want the poppadoms.

**James Acaster**

But you don't want Greg's shit fingers.

**Paul Chowdhry**

But some arsehole's touched it.

**Ed Gamble**

So, when someone's touched your food-,

**Paul Chowdhry**

It's like, how can you eat food that someone else has touched? How can you do that?

**Ed Gamble**

The chef will touch it quite often to prepare it.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes, but I think they're touching it with gloves on.

**James Acaster**

You reckon?

**Ed Gamble**

Not in all places, I don't think.

**Paul Chowdhry**

I don't think they would take out the poppadom from the deep fryer with their hands.

**Ed Gamble**

No, but I mean just food in general, a chef might have touched it.

**Paul Chowdhry**

People don't do that. They'd have to wear gloves. They'd have to wear masks. Hazmat suit and then the food will come out. So, I want to know what that waiter's doing with the food.

**Ed Gamble**

You could ask the chicken, I suppose.

**James Acaster**

You little Irish chicken.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

So you prefer bread is what you're saying?

**Paul Chowdhry**

I don't really eat bread because bread puts on a lot of weight so I tend to go for poppadoms just to warm up.

**Ed Gamble**

So no poppadoms or bread.



**James Acaster**

So you're skipping the whole poppadoms, but you get the prawn crackers?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Prawn crackers are basically poppadoms with prawn flavour on it. So basically, everyone's got a crisp if you look at every nationality. Every nation has their own crisp. Asians, Indians, have poppadoms. Chinese have prawn cracker and you've got salt and vinegar.

**James Acaster**

Every nation. All the nations done. Indian. China. Salt and vinegar.

**Ed Gamble**

It was Asians, Indians.

**James Acaster**

Sorry, Asians, Indians. China.

**Ed Gamble**

UK.

**James Acaster**

Anywhere else?

**Paul Chowdhry**

The Mexicans have got those, what are they called again? Tortillas?

**Ed Gamble**

Tortillas.

**Paul Chowdhry**

So that's a crisp that's been fried in half.

**James Acaster**

Fried in half. Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Any other nations?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Americans have got potato chips. Just name me a nation, I can give you what they've got.

**Ed Gamble**

Kenya.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Poppadoms.

**James Acaster**

They have. They have.

**Ed Gamble**

That's a fair point. You've absolutely got me there. Okay. Norway.



**Paul Chowdhry**

Norway. The Norwegians. They give you deep-fried ice.

**Ed Gamble**

Deep-fried ice?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Deep-fried ice they give you, I think.

**James Acaster**

That's just water, isn't it?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes, but that's their version of a poppadom.

**Ed Gamble**

They deep-fry ice?

**Paul Chowdhry**

They deep-fry ice, I think. I think for a starter. It's a thing, isn't it, out there? I think from Norway. You can Google it.

**James Acaster**

Do they put it in batter first?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

This is why I never trust anything you say, Paul, because the way you delivered that which is blatantly untrue is the exactly the same tone you deliver everything else, including details about your life.

**James Acaster**

Yes, it's hard.

**Paul Chowdhry**

No, but my life, I would never lie about my life. I would never make up stuff. I know it's serious to you and I know people wouldn't want to be hoodwinked and shit so I would always tell the truth about my life and what we went through in Montreal.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, which you remember now?

**Paul Chowdhry**

It's coming back to me. Bits of it, but I try to forget it.

**James Acaster**

Just as a refresher, in Montreal you ordered a tray of avocado on toast. Would you like that now as your bread course?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes, with anchovies on it.





**Ed Gamble**

So, your bread course would be avocado on toast with anchovies on it?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes. I lived out in Italy for six months doing Devils, a Patrick Dempsey drama, and I ordered some anchovies and they brought me a tin of anchovies and it was 30 quid.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. Those tinned fish can go absolutely insanely expensive. The Spanish ones especially.

**Paul Chowdhry**

But they're 99p in Sainsbury's and I was like, 'What the fuck is this shit?'. It's just a tin and it was opened, so a tiny tin had been opened. So, they charged me 30 quid to open the tin, you know, with the little coke thing on it.

**Ed Gamble**

Was it nice anchovies?

**Paul Chowdhry**

They were just anchovies.

**Ed Gamble**

But you're a fan of anchovies.

**Paul Chowdhry**

But now I really value a tin of anchovies because of it.

**Ed Gamble**

Because you paid so much.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Then when I get a £1 tin of anchovies home, I'm like, 'This could be 30 quid in a restaurant'.

**Ed Gamble**

That's good.

**James Acaster**

Makes you appreciate it more. Let's get into your dream meal. Your dream starter, Paul. Here we go. I knew this would happen. Look at him, he's staring off into nowhere.

**Paul Chowdhry**

My dream starter. It's a tough one. There's a lot to chose from here because I'm a real foodie, as you know, and I'm from a background of cuisine.

**Ed Gamble**

What's your background of cuisine?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Well, my family had a snack bar in Southall and I was a chef in there.

**Ed Gamble**

Did they?

**James Acaster**

I didn't know this.



**Paul Chowdhry**

This is all true, yes. I used to make sandwiches.

**Ed Gamble**

What was your signature sandwich?

**Paul Chowdhry**

We used to make tuna specials. It was called The Upper Crust, actually, which has now been stolen because we didn't patent the name.

**James Acaster**

So, you were the original Upper Crust?

**Paul Chowdhry**

We were the original Upper Crust and it actually got stolen from us because we didn't patent the name. So, we were going to sue them for starting The Upper Crust and you see it in major stations now but that was actually-

**Ed Gamble**

That was your family snack bar name.

**James Acaster**

So you used to work in The Upper Crust. The OG Upper Crust. So, what was your signature sandwich? The tuna special, you said?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Tuna, mayonnaise, onions, a bit of chilli.

**James Acaster**

Oh, nice.

**Paul Chowdhry**

If you want chilli on it. Generally, white people don't like chilli and stuff. I used to cook all the time and I just finished a show for E4, it's a cookery competition. Celebrity Cooking School.

**James Acaster**

You a contestant in that?

**Paul Chowdhry**

I'm a contestant in that with Kerry Katona.

**James Acaster**

You and Kerry Katona?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Are you against each other?

**Paul Chowdhry**

And who?

**James Acaster**

Versus each other or?



**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes, yes. There's a lot of people from Made in Chelsea, Made in Essex. Happy Mondays.

**Ed Gamble**

Which one? Bez or Shaun Ryder?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Shaun Ryder and that cleaner.

**Ed Gamble**

Huh?

**Paul Chowdhry**

The woman who's the cleaner.

**James Acaster**

Mrs Hench?

**Paul Chowdhry**

No, the other one. She did Clean My House or something.

**Ed Gamble**

Kim Woodburn?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Kim Woodburn. She's in it.

**Ed Gamble**

Well, I've never been more excited about a TV show in my entire life. I bet you absolutely rinsed them Paul, if you've got a culinary background.

**Paul Chowdhry**

I'm not sure they liked me. I'm not sure some of the contestants took to my level of competition.

**James Acaster**

Look. I say this as someone who loves your company and loves being around you. I guarantee some of them didn't like you, but that's what makes for good TV.

**Paul Chowdhry**

It was very tense.

**Ed Gamble**

Do you cook at home, Paul?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes. Yes, I'm a big cook. I can show you some videos, if you want.

**Ed Gamble**

No, no. What's your signature dish at home? What do you cook at home?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Well, I had to cook on the show as well. What would I cook if you came over? Some wholemeal pasta.



**James Acaster**

But you're saying that because you're looking at Ed and thinking, 'What would Ed eat?' That looked like what you were doing there. You were sizing him up and going, 'He'll probably like wholemeal pasta.'

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes, just looking at his body. There's another time we ate. Taskmaster. It was the second time we ate together.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. We ate together at Taskmaster because in the series of Taskmaster I did, Series 9, Katy Wix was ill and then they brought in Katherine Ryan to replace her in one episode and Kerry Godliman to replace her in another episode and then they were worried that she'd be ill for the next day as well. So, just in case, Paul came in, so he was just hanging around the studio eating. Both shows in a row, I came off, Paul was waiting for me at the top of the stairs and went, 'Yes, yes. Some funny stuff in there.'

**Paul Chowdhry**

Did I say that to you?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

That's nice. You've got some napkins there.

**Paul Chowdhry**

The coke's wearing off now.

**James Acaster**

We still haven't heard what your dream starter is although I think, as we go on through the podcast, we'll probably have to pick up on Upper Crust because I would like to hear about that.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes. We'll pick up on that but I do like a soft-shell crab.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. Good, now we're talking.

**Paul Chowdhry**

That's probably one of my favourite starters.

**James Acaster**

That's very nice.

**Ed Gamble**

Deep-fried?

**Paul Chowdhry**

No. Shallow-fried.

**Ed Gamble**

Shallow-fried, but with the batter on it?



**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes. Well, it has to be deep-fried I think. I'm not sure if it can be shallow-fried.

**James Acaster**

You can probably shallow-fry it. For the right person, the right chef would be able to shallow-fry that.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Or the prawn version.

**James Acaster**

Like battered prawns?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Well, I think they're called crispy fried prawns?

**James Acaster**

Crispy fried prawns?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Is that what they're called?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. I guess so, I guess you could call them that. Maybe prawn tempura, something like that.

**Paul Chowdhry**

It was not called prawn tempura in a lot of restaurants.

**Ed Gamble**

What restaurants are you thinking of? Where do you like to get your crispy prawns?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Chinese. I'm not going to a fish and chip for them, mate. I don't think they do soft-shelled crab.

**Ed Gamble**

So from a Chinese restaurant, fried soft-shell crab?

**James Acaster**

Chinese restaurant might be like a king prawn, deep-fried king prawns.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Deep-fried king prawn, yes.

**James Acaster**

I mean, do you want both of those as your starter together?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Little seafood medley.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Well, if money isn't an option and you guys are buying and you're drinking alcohol and I know by the end of the meal, there's going to be a problem, you need to eat as much as you humanly can.



**James Acaster**

Remember, you're with Russell Howard and Greg. So, they're going to be drinking.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes. Heavily.

**Ed Gamble**

I don't think Russell does drink heavily though, does he?

**Paul Chowdhry**

No. He just, a bit of red wine here and there. He's not really a big drinker.

**Ed Gamble**

Is there a sauce with this soft-shell crab or like a dipping sauce or something.

**Paul Chowdhry**

It comes with a sauce.

**Ed Gamble**

So, it comes with a sauce but what sort of sauce?

**Paul Chowdhry**

It comes with like, a what do you call it? It's a dark, watery texture.

**James Acaster**

Like a soy sauce type of thing?

**Paul Chowdhry**

It's like a soya sauce but it's not soya sauce as much.

**Ed Gamble**

**Yes. Like a thinner sort of-, I know the one you mean. The sort of tempura sauce that you would get.**

**Paul Chowdhry**

I think it's called tempura sauce but I do like chilli sauce on the side.

**James Acaster**

You want chilli sauce?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes because it used to be a thing when we were younger. Chilli wasn't a big thing so your parents and your uncles and everyone would carry chilli in their pockets and bottles of chilli sauces. So wherever we went, we had chilli with us.

**James Acaster**

Whole chilli or?

**Paul Chowdhry**

No. Like, a bottle of chilli sauce or tabasco or something, because I know it wasn't a thing back in the '80s, like, chilli wasn't a thing. You'd go to school trips and stuff and my friends from your background would find even salt and vinegar crisps 'chilli', but it was just the vinegar.

**James Acaster**

I still do that on tour now. I've got a bottle of Nando's sauce in the car.



**Paul Chowdhry**

Oh, really?

**James Acaster**

Yes, because sometimes in hotel breakfasts on tour, they won't have any chilli, they won't have anything, and if I'm having eggs, I need to put some chilli on there.

**Paul Chowdhry**

In the morning?

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Paul Chowdhry**

You eat chilli in the morning?

**James Acaster**

Yes. It's great.

**Ed Gamble**

I need spice in the morning, baby. Get myself going on eggs. Scrambled eggs, you need hot sauce, I think.

**James Acaster**

I'll have a bit of a kick in the morning. Also, avocados on toast, nice to have some chilli in it.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Avocados on toast in a hotel?

**James Acaster**

You can get that sometimes.

**Paul Chowdhry**

What hotels are you-,

**Ed Gamble**

I'm spending on the hotels, mate.

**James Acaster**

But we're just saying, I'm more referring to just starting the day with a bit of chilli, that stuff's great.

**Paul Chowdhry**

What, chilli on eggs?

**James Acaster**

Yes. Brilliant. Delicious.

**Ed Gamble**

What hotels are you staying in?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Ibis. Holiday Inns.

**James Acaster**

Oh mate, come on.



**Paul Chowdhry**

£49.99 hotels.

**James Acaster**

You're selling out Wembley, what are you doing in there?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes but there's overheads and there's a lot of outgoings. In fact, I drive myself to Wembley.

**James Acaster**

Pretty sure you don't need to do that.

**Paul Chowdhry**

But I don't live too far.

**James Acaster**

Yes, fair enough.

**Paul Chowdhry**

You let the other guys set up the show, you know.

**James Acaster**

Yes. I'm glad you're not setting up your own show.

**Paul Chowdhry**

You guys have done Wembley, yes?

**Ed Gamble**

No.

**James Acaster**

No. Neither of us has done Wembley.

**Paul Chowdhry**

How come?

**James Acaster**

I don't think I could sell it.

**Ed Gamble**

I don't think I could sell enough tickets Paul, to be honest.

**Paul Chowdhry**

You could probably do this podcast at Wembley.

**Ed Gamble**

We probably could do this podcast at Wembley.

**James Acaster**

We admit that, yes.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Since 2018, at least 10,000 people would have heard this podcast.





**Ed Gamble**

You know that that's not how selling tickets works, right?

**Paul Chowdhry**

No. Very difficult to sell tickets.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, but I think we could do Wembley with this podcast but it's what do you do in Wembley if you're doing a podcast.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes, because you could do this as a live podcast and I know you have done it as a live podcast so why didn't you do in Wembley? I'll be a guest on it.

**James Acaster**

Because you're doing it now, you see.

**Ed Gamble**

Unless we do a redemption episode, sometimes we do redemption episodes.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Well, don't put this out.

**Ed Gamble**

Because you want to save it for Wembley?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Let's just save it. Just talk to the producer. Say, 'Don't put this out.'

**James Acaster**

Well, he's right next to you. He's sitting next to you, you can talk to him now.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes, but he's your producer. He's not going to listen to me.

**James Acaster**

He might listen to you.

**Ed Gamble**

I mean, I'm really enjoying this episode Paul but-

**Paul Chowdhry**

Let's not put this out. I

**Ed Gamble**

I'm going to say it, I feel like there's too many big silences for Wembley.

**Paul Chowdhry**

I'm playing the room.

**Ed Gamble**

So you're playing Wembley now, in the conversation?

**Paul Chowdhry**

No, I'm playing this room.



**James Acaster**

The big silences, you need the laugh to go to the back and then back to you. You need to -

**Ed Gamble**

As you know.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes. I did in my Live innit at Wembley, a Live innit tour show there and it's a nice room.

**Ed Gamble**

For your main course?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Main course.

**Ed Gamble**

You're talking like this is a new concept to you, the main course.

**Paul Chowdhry**

This is a very difficult-, there's so many to choose from here, you see, with all the cuisines I've experimented with around the globe. It depends what mood you're in as well and if I'm having a cheap date with Greg and Russell Howard. It depends what I would go for and one of my favourite dishes when I was in Italy, it was cooked in its natural habitat and as it was supposed to be cooked, which you don't really find in London was Cacio e Pepe which is cooked in a bat of cheese, which is actually cooked in a bat of cheese. Like a massive cheese ball and they open it up and they cook it in the cheese bat.

**Ed Gamble**

Bat? What do you mean by bat of cheese?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Like a bat of cheese.

**James Acaster**

We've not heard this phrase before. I might be wrong but I would say like a wheel of cheese or something.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Like a bat of cheese, isn't it?

**James Acaster**

A bat of cheese?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

What?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Have you never heard that expression before?

**Ed Gamble**

No.



**James Acaster**  
B-A-T?

**Paul Chowdhry**  
Yes.

**James Acaster**  
No. A bat of cheese?

**Paul Chowdhry**  
Yes.

**James Acaster**  
Which means what?

**Paul Chowdhry**  
Which means like a big lump of cheese.

**James Acaster**  
A bat?

**Paul Chowdhry**  
Yes. Did you guys English Literature or Language?

**Ed Gamble**  
Yes. Yes, at GCSE.

**James Acaster**  
Never heard that phrase before. A bat of cheese? No. Look, I'm sure that's the phrase but I've just never heard it and you've presented it because you said it was cooked in a bat and I was like, what?

**Paul Chowdhry**  
Yes. It's like a bat of cheese.

**James Acaster**  
I'm just going to Google, 'Bat of cheese.'

**Ed Gamble**  
No. I don't want to Google it. I think we just leave it.

**Paul Chowdhry**  
We'll let the producer have a look, is this real?

**Ed Gamble**  
Did you mean, 'Bag of cheese,' is what's come up?

**Paul Chowdhry**  
I meant, 'Bag of cheese.'

**James Acaster**  
You meant, 'Bag of cheese.'

**Paul Chowdhry**  
Not bat of cheese. Let's just maybe check Google. Have you got internet reception here?



**Ed Gamble**

Yes. This has got internet reception. He's Googled, 'Bat of cheese,' and all that's come up is, 'Did you mean bag of cheese.'

**Paul Chowdhry**

Well, this was in Rome. He's on Google in the UK.

**Ed Gamble**

So, if it was Italian Google, it would say, 'Yes, that's what we cook'

**Paul Chowdhry**

Can you write, 'Bat of cheese,' in Italian?

**James Acaster**

Bat of cheese, Italy.

**Paul Chowdhry**

No. Write it in Italian. Do the translation.

**James Acaster**

Go on Google Translate. Bat of cheese into Google Translate.

**Ed Gamble**

Do you mean like, wheel of cheese, like a whole cheese?

**Paul Chowdhry**

No. Not like Wheel of Fortune.

**James Acaster**

Pipistrello di formaggio, let me have a look, what has come up when you put pipistrello di formaggio into Google is, from what I can make out, a little canape which is a rolled up ball of cheese which has been dyed black and they've stuck olives for eyes and big tortilla chips in it for ears so they look like bats. That's the main Google thing. If you Google that, 'Bat of cheese,' in Italian, it comes up with a Halloween novelty snack that you would serve up to guests when they arrive, where they've made balls of cheese look like bats by putting tortilla chips in the ears.

**Paul Chowdhry**

That's the main course

**James Acaster**

It says Pipistrelli.

**Ed Gamble**

So, do you want Pipistrelli for your main course?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Well, I've said bat of cheese.

**Ed Gamble**

So, that's what you're going to have.

**James Acaster**

Pipistrelli, that's your main course.



**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

The Cacio e Pepe's gone now. That's your main course.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Well, and the Cacio e Pepe on the side.

**James Acaster**

Yes, but you want the Pipistrelli as well.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Do you like bats as an animal?

**Paul Chowdhry**

No.

**Ed Gamble**

Quickest you've answered a question.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Not a big fan of bats.

**James Acaster**

Don't like them.

**Paul Chowdhry**

But I do like a bat of cheese.

**James Acaster**

You like a bat of cheese.

**Ed Gamble**

A Pipistrelli.

**James Acaster**

A Pipistrelli di Halloween.

**Paul Chowdhry**

With some Cacio e Pepe on there.

**James Acaster**

Talk to me about the Cacio e Pepe. What do you like about that?

**Paul Chowdhry**

It's very cheesy. It's very peppery. That's why they call it e Pepe. The Pepe is the pepper but people didn't know that.

**James Acaster**

Who didn't know that?



**Paul Chowdhry**

People I've told about this dish.

**James Acaster**

Do you want to name and shame anyone who didn't know?

**Paul Chowdhry**

I didn't ask them their names but they didn't know.

**Ed Gamble**

You didn't know their names.

**Paul Chowdhry**

I didn't ask them their names, but they didn't know.

**James Acaster**

You didn't know their names, but you were telling them about cacio e pepe, 'It's called that because it's got pepper in it', but you didn't know who they were or what their names were.

**Paul Chowdhry**

No.

**James Acaster**

But you were telling them this.

**Paul Chowdhry**

When I came back, I was like, 'You've got to try this cacio e pepe', 'What's that?', I'm like, 'It's pretty obvious what it is'.

**James Acaster**

But you didn't know these peoples' names so you were like-, what, in the airport?

**Paul Chowdhry**

They think you catch the pepper from somewhere. So, some people-, if they knew what it was, they thought you've got to catch the pepper and create this dish. But you can't catch a pepper, you can catch bats.

**James Acaster**

You can't catch pepper? Why can't you catch a pepper?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Well, it doesn't just fly around, does it? It's not just a-,

**James Acaster**

So, if you just picked the pepper like a piper-,

**Paul Chowdhry**

You can pick the pepper, yes.

**James Acaster**

Is that not catching? But you're not catching it?

**Paul Chowdhry**

No. No.



**James Acaster**

No.

**Ed Gamble**

What about if we put you in the crystal dome at the end of Crystal Maze and filled it with peppercorns?

**James Acaster**

And we just fired them in and they went up in the air.

**Paul Chowdry**

Yes but that wouldn't be a natural way to get cacio e pepe.

**James Acaster**

No, doesn't have to be natural. You're catching it still, you're catching the pepper.

**Paul Chowdry**

And what presenter are we talking about? The original?

**James Acaster**

Oh, okay. Yes, sorry.

**Ed Gamble**

Crystal Maze? What one do you want?

**James Acaster**

This is important.

**Paul Chowdry**

Are we talking about O'Brien or are we talking about Ayoade?

**James Acaster**

Ed Tudor-Pole?

**Ed Gamble**

Well, there's Ed Tudor-Pole in the middle, as well.

**James Acaster**

Let's not write him out of history.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Paul Chowdry**

Who?

**Ed Gamble**

Ed Tudor-Pole, he presented it after Richard O'Brien.

**Paul Chowdry**

Did he?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, the lead singer of Tenpole Tudor.



**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Paul Chowdry**

I'd go with him, yes.

**Ed Gamble**

You want him?

**James Acaster**

Alright, okay, the one you forgot about?

**Paul Chowdry**

Yes. I was a big fan of his.

**James Acaster**

You want Ed Tudor-Pole?

**Paul Chowdry**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Okay. You're happy with Ed Tudor-Pole firing peppercorns into the crystal dome and you've got to catch them all?

**Paul Chowdry**

Yes. Yes.

**James Acaster**

And then you will admit that you're catching pepper?

**Paul Chowdry**

Well, you're not catching it because it's not just flying around, is it?

**Ed Gamble**

Well, it is in the crystal dome, yes.

**Paul Chowdry**

In its natural-, you obviously know where pepper comes from, don't you?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Paul Chowdry**

It grows, yes?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Paul Chowdry**

But it doesn't then take off.

**Ed Gamble**

No.





**Paul Chowdry**

So, it should be 'pick e pepe'.

**James Acaster**

So, the dish would be called 'pick e pepe'.

**Paul Chowdry**

Yes, because the people that don't understand-

**Ed Gamble**

So, you're having 'pepe e stroli de Halloween' and 'pick e pepe'?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes, you want 'pick e pepe' because you don't catch it?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Delicious.

**Paul Chowdhry**

We're enjoying this meal so far.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, it's good.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

What are Greg and Russell Howard thinking so far, do you think?

**James Acaster**

What do they think of that?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Well, they're drinking at the moment.

**James Acaster**

What are they thinking and drinking? What do they think when the pepe e stroli to Halloween comes out? What do you think they would think about that? When you've ordered that?

**Paul Chowdhry**

I think Greg would enjoy that.

**James Acaster**

Yes?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes.



**James Acaster**  
Russell Howard?

**Paul Chowdhry**  
Russell Howard on the other hand is a very serious man.

**James Acaster**  
Yes, yes.

**Paul Chowdhry**  
Yes. I mean, I'd love to watch one of these meals unfold.

**James Acaster**  
Yes?

**Paul Chowdhry**  
Genuinely, I'd love to be a pepe e stroli on the wall at one of these.

**James Acaster**  
If they're looking to do, like, a follow-up of the trip-, because Googan and Brydan aren't doing it anymore, I would say Jess making it a three-hander and having it-, you, Grey and Russell Howard because I would-, I'd watch that, especially if you went to Italy in one of them. Like they did in the original.

**Ed Gamble**  
Paul just got a look in his eyes there, that he decided that that's genuinely a good idea. So, I'd like to apologise in advance to the manager that both Paul and I share, for the amount of phone calls he's going to receive about that.

**Paul Chowdhry**  
Yes.

**James Acaster**  
And to the communications (ph 42.52) at Sky and to Michael Winterbottom. We come to your dream side dish, what side dish are you going for here? You've got the pepe e stroli de Halloween and the cacio e pepe-, sorry, the pick e pepe. You've already had the deep-fried prawn and the-,

**Paul Chowdhry**  
It was a lovely start.

**James Acaster**  
Hot shell crab.

**Paul Chowdhry**  
Yes, really nice start.

**Ed Gamble**  
Yes.

**Paul Chowdhry**  
So, the side dishes are interesting, aren't they? Because you've got-,

**Ed Gamble**  
So much choice as well.



**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes, you've got your spinach, which has got a lot of butter in it and stuff, creamy-, creamy spinach?

**Ed Gamble**

Can be, yes.

**James Acaster**

Cream spinach is a dish, yes.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Cream spinach, parsnips, olives.

**James Acaster**

Olives. Olives?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Olives as a side dish, do we think?

**James Acaster**

You look very serious and you're nodding.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Is it a side dish?

**James Acaster**

I don't know, I never think of-

**Paul Chowdhry**

Would you have a dish-

**James Acaster**

I've-

**Paul Chowdhry**

Would you have olives as a side dish?

**James Acaster**

I think it's going to be a pre-meal thing, like, around the bread course, I'd say I think that you might get some olives.

**Paul Chowdhry**

But you didn't offer me the olive oil with the bread.

**James Acaster**

Oh, you could have asked for it.

**Ed Gamble**

You could have asked for it, yes.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Oh, I could ask for that?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.



**James Acaster**

Yes. Do you want-,

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes, I need some of the olive oil with the bread.

**James Acaster**

But remember, your bread course is toast with avocado and anchovies on it. And you want olive oil?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes but I would sprinkle the top.

**James Acaster**

You're putting the olive oil on top of that?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes, on top of that.

**James Acaster**

Fine.

**Ed Gamble**

So, what do you want as a side dish?

**Paul Chowdhry**

If it's a cheat day-, it's very controversial, I hope you don't take me off this.

**James Acaster**

What? Cheat days are controversial?

**Paul Chowdhry**

What I'm about to say.

**Ed Gamble**

Right.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Chips.

**Ed Gamble**

You've changed the game on this one, Paul.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Has anyone said this before?

**Ed Gamble**

No, I don't think anyone's said chips before.

**James Acaster**

You're the first person to choose chips on the podcast, yes.

**Ed Gamble**

So, that's specifically for a cheat day? So, all week when you're working out, you're keeping it lean, you're getting ripped, you're thinking about chips?



**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes. Because it's a good crisp, isn't it?

**James Acaster**

Okay.

**Ed Gamble**

Hang on, what?

**Paul Chowdhry**

It's from the crisp family.

**James Acaster**

Sure, it's from the family. Yes, they're related.

**Paul Chowdhry**

It's from the crisp family.

**James Acaster**

Potatoes. Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

What sort of chips do you want?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Deep-fried, deep-friend chips. I like thin chips, I don't like the fat-, no offence. No offence, I don't want to-, yes, I do like a good, thin chip, a good chip.

**Ed Gamble**

Like, a French fry?

**James Acaster**

French fry?

**Paul Chowdhry**

No, English are good.

**James Acaster**

But, like, a McDonald's? You know, those kind of French fries?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Are you thinking about that?

**Paul Chowdhry**

When, you go to, like, a good hotel restaurant, they're very thin, aren't they?

**Ed Gamble**

Can you remember the best chips that you've ever had?

**Paul Chowdhry**

I think the Dorchester do very good chips.



**James Acaster**

Yes?

**Paul Chowdhry**

The restaurant at the Dorchester, the Dorchester Hotel in London. That's where Tom Cruise stays.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes?

**James Acaster**

Oh, it's where Tom Cruise stays?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes, it is.

**James Acaster**

How do you know that?

**Paul Chowdhry**

It's common knowledge.

**James Acaster**

yes?

**Paul Chowdhry**

That he stays there when he film in London.

**Ed Gamble**

Have you ever stayed there?

**Paul Chowdhry**

No.

**Ed Gamble**

But you'd go to the restaurant for the chips?

**Paul Chowdhry**

It's not really within my budget of hotel.

**Ed Gamble**

Okay.

**James Acaster**

Right, it probably is-,

**Paul Chowdhry**

The Dorchester, it's not within my-,

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, I think it is a-,

**Paul Chowdhry**

Realm of possibilities. It's a distant dream for me, someone like me. I'm not within that pay bracket.



**James Acaster**

You are. But you've been to the restaurant there?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes. I took my dad there for his birthday last year.

**Ed Gamble**

Oh, lovely.

**James Acaster**

Greg and Russell Howard invited to that?

**Paul Chowdhry**

No. It was more of a family meal. They're extended family.

**Ed Gamble**

Did your dad have the chips?

**Paul Chowdhry**

He had a few chips, yes, and some baked fish and stuff. It was nice.

**James Acaster**

When you eat chips around people, are they, like, 'Wow, this is very rare. It must be a cheat day or something, like, Paul's eating-,'

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes, must be a cheat day, yes.

**James Acaster**

'Paul's eating chips, we never get to see this.'

**Paul Chowdhry**

Very rarely do I eat chips, and I'm doing it today because I've been waiting-, how many years since you started this podcast?

**Ed Gamble**

20.

**Paul Chowdhry**

28 years since you've started this and I thought, you know, just go and treat myself-,

**James Acaster**

Yes, why not?

**Paul Chowdhry**

With lots of ketchup.

**Ed Gamble**

How often do you have a cheat day, Paul?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Well, you're supposed to have them once a week, right, if you're training. Because you train a lot, don't you, now?



**Ed Gamble**

I try to but I don't really do the-, I don't go in for the whole cheat day or-,

**Paul Chowdhry**

You don't do cheat days?

**Ed Gamble**

I live food too much. I like the training because it makes me feel good but aesthetically I'm not so focused on it that I'm not just going to eat what I want most of the time.

**Paul Chowdhry**

So, you just eat anything?

**Ed Gamble**

I eat pretty much anything, yes.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes but you're a happy man now you've got a girlfriend-, fiancée-,

**Ed Gamble**

Wife.

**James Acaster**

He had a-,

**Paul Chowdhry**

You've got a wife now?

**Ed Gamble**

I've got a wife.

**Paul Chowdhry**

What about your girlfriend?

**Ed Gamble**

She's fine with it.

**Paul Chowdhry**

It's a good one, that, isn't it?

**Ed Gamble**

It's fun.

**Paul Chowdhry**

That always works, doesn't it?

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Paul Chowdhry**

People will laugh at that at home, they'll think, 'Oh, it's got some comedy in this now, because he said 'girlfriend', 'wife-', and then he said, 'what about your girlfriend-', do you get it?

**James Acaster**

Yes.





**Ed Gamble**

Yes, it's really good.

**James Acaster**

If you laughed at that joke, tweet Paul about it and let him know, 'I laughed'.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes, it's a great joke.

**James Acaster**

Just tweet Paul and say, 'I laughed' and then put, 'Hashtag good joke'.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Good joke. That will always work, that joke.

**James Acaster**

Yes. And also put the hashtag, 'It will always work.'

**Paul Chowdhry**

Throughout the history of time and jokes. It's such a simple format. Because you take someone in one direction and then I thought, you know, 'His girlfriend became his wife,' I was insinuating the girlfriend is another-,

**Ed Gamble**

Is another person, yes.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes. Or boyfriend, whatever.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. Or, you know.

**Paul Chowdhry**

It could mean any gender.

**Ed Gamble**

it wouldn't work with that because you'd already said girlfriend, so that wouldn't work.

**Paul Chowdhry**

In that scenario, but we could-,

**James Acaster**

Yes. It wouldn't work to go, you know, 'You've got the girlfriend now,' and Ed goes, 'I've got a wife,' and then you say, 'Is your boyfriend okay with that?' Would be logically as a joke-,

**Paul Chowdhry**

It wouldn't work, then people wouldn't laugh-,

**James Acaster**

It doesn't make sense.

**Paul Chowdhry**

I can hear the laughter now as people are listening to this. That wouldn't have worked.



**James Acaster**

No.

**Paul Chowdhry**

But if you said that you've got a husband now, 'What would your boyfriend think of it?'

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

That would work, that works as a-

**Paul Chowdhry**

People would give you a round of applause at home.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, at home.

**James Acaster**

At home, he gets a round of applause.

**Paul Chowdhry**

From the people at home listening.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Not our house, with your boyfriend.

**Ed Gamble**

No.

**James Acaster**

No. I mean, Ed, to be fair, was with his partner before-

**Paul Chowdhry**

Who was this partner?

**James Acaster**

Huh? Oh, yes, sorry.

**Ed Gamble**

Wife.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Oh.

**James Acaster**

Great.

**Ed Gamble**

So, that's good.



**Paul Chowdhry**

See, if this was a club.

**James Acaster**

Yes. I mean, the roof's off.

**Paul Chowdhry**

I'd have ripped it.

**James Acaster**

The roof's off by that point.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, there you go.

**James Acaster**

Wembley stadium's in rubble at this point.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Paul Chowdhry**

You can't say that.

**James Acaster**

Huh?

**Paul Chowdhry**

You can't say that about me.

**James Acaster**

No?

**Paul Chowdhry**

You can't, because of my look.

**James Acaster**

Yes?

**Paul Chowdhry**

If you're not listening to this-,

**James Acaster**

Yes, go on.

**Paul Chowdhry**

I've got a beard, I'm Asian and you said I've left Wembley stadium in rubble.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

You did say that.



**Paul Chowdhry**

You can't say that.

**James Acaster**

I did say it.

**Paul Chowdhry**

You can say it to this guy.

**Ed Gamble**

Ed.

**James Acaster**

Yes, Ed.

**Paul Chowdhry**

But if you say it to me, it comes across slightly differently.

**James Acaster**

Am I in trouble now, do you reckon?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Well, it depends on the listeners. I know you've got a very liberal, left-wing audience and they could get offended by that.

**James Acaster**

So, they were, like, applauding a minute ago at your joke, how do think they're reacting now to me saying that Wembley stadium thing?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Well, we've got to, now, try and pull this back.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Do you reckon we can pull it back with a drink?

**James Acaster**

Yes. I think we try and pull it back with what your drink course is.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Oh, the drink course?

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Paul Chowdhry**

This is very controversial, what I'm about to say.

**Ed Gamble**

So, no booze for you?

**Paul Chowdhry**

No.



**Ed Gamble**

No booze.

**James Acaster**

You don't like booze?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Haven't drank in 23 years.

**Ed Gamble**

Wow.

**James Acaster**

What was the last alcoholic drink you had, can you remember?

**Ed Gamble**

Great question.

**Paul Chowdhry**

I had a hot toddy.

**Ed Gamble**

I don't know why that's so funny, Paul.

**James Acaster**

It's really funny.

**Ed Gamble**

Your last alcoholic drink-

**James Acaster**

A hot toddy. A hot toddy. Well, that's me done. Why is that funny? It's really funny.

**Ed Gamble**

It's the idea of you finishing that and going, 'Never again'.

**James Acaster**

Yes, and after a hot toddy, 'Never again.' It's such, like, not a-, I don't know why. It's such a specific and, like, rare thing. Hardly anyone is having a hot toddy ever and you had a hot toddy?

**Paul Chowdhry**

I've hit rock bottom.

**James Acaster**

'It's my last one, I'm done'.

**Paul Chowdhry**

I had that 2 months ago.

**James Acaster**

A hot toddy?

**Ed Gamble**

Wow. You said your last drink was 23 years ago?



**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes, that was the last proper drink.

**James Acaster**

But two months ago, you had a hot toddy?

**Paul Chowdhry**

But wasn't feeling well a couple of months ago.

**Ed Gamble**

Okay.

**James Acaster**

Well, Ed's gone.

**Ed Gamble**

So, you said you'd not had a drink in 23 years?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

But you had a hot toddy 2 months ago?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes but for medicinal purposes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes but it's still an alcoholic drink, Paul.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Paul Chowdhry**

It's medicine, isn't it? It's, like, medicine contains alcohol. If you have a Day & Night Nurse, there's alcohol content, I'm not technically drinking. So, before medicines were invented, people would just have hot toddies.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes but medicines are invented now.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

How often are you having a hot toddy?

**Paul Chowdhry**

When I'm not feeling well.

**Ed Gamble**

And how often is that?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Every week.



**Ed Gamble**

They're on their feet at home.

**James Acaster**

They're shouting for more. Deliberately set him up for it as well.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Paul opens (ph 51.35) that, he knows where this is going-,

**Ed Gamble**

He's got it, he's a pro.

**James Acaster**

He had a hot toddy two weeks ago or two months ago, or whatever, so, you know, you are having alcohol every now and again when you feel ill.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Only hot toddy.

**James Acaster**

Only hot toddies. And are you buying whiskey especially for that?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Do you have whiskey in the house now?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes, about three to five bottles. Big bottles.

**James Acaster**

Yes. That you make your hot toddies with?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

But what's your dream drink going to be? Is it going to be a hot toddy, your dream drink?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Hot toddy-,

**James Acaster**

So serious.

**Ed Gamble**

Hot toddy.



**James Acaster**

Hot toddy.

**Ed Gamble**

So, with your dream meal, it's going to be a hot toddy? Which would suggest that you're ill for your dream meal, right?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes, okay.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes. I mean, if you're going to have your dream meal, being ill would be the best situation to have it.

**James Acaster**

Why?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Because you could be dead soon.

**James Acaster**

Sorry, the best-, your dream is to be so ill that you could be dead soon? So, what are Greg and Russell Howard thinking at this point?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Well, they're worried.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

You're having a hot toddy, you're at death's door-,

**Paul Chowdhry**

You guys are laughing about this but they're thinking, 'This guy could be dead soon, so let's give him a good meal'.

**Ed Gamble**

You're at death's door, having a hot toddy. So, that is your dream drink? Is there a particular, sort of, whiskey that you like with a hot toddy?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Whiskey is whiskey, I think. I think a lot of people would disagree with that.

**James Acaster**

Yes, a lot of people who like whiskey would be, like, 'Absolutely not'.

**Paul Chowdhry**

I don't really have a preference apart from 1983 Jack Daniel's.

**James Acaster**

Okay, there you go.





**Ed Gamble**

1983 Jack Daniel's?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Oh no, Johnnie Walker.

**Ed Gamble**

Johnnie Walker? So, you're going to have the 1983 Johnnie Walker-,

**James Acaster**

Hot toddy.

**Ed Gamble**

Hot toddy.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Oh no, the other one. Jack Daniel's, Johnnie Walker and-, it's the red (ph 53.26) label.

**Ed Gamble**

That's Johnnie Walker, I think.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Is it?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. Do you want that?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes, Johnnie Walker, red label or black label.

**Ed Gamble**

One of those two?

**Paul Chowdhry**

I think red label is better.

**Ed Gamble**

Red label?

**James Acaster**

Red label.

**Ed Gamble**

Johnnie Walker, red label, hot toddy for you drink?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Because you're at death's door?

**James Acaster**

Because you're at death's door, you're dying?



**Paul Chowdhry**

Well, you know, it used to work as a medicinal purpose in the olden days. But you've got to mix it with honey and lemon.

**James Acaster**

So, that's what you do in your hot toddy?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

So, your hot toddy is Johnnie Walker red label with honey and lemon?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Nothing else in there? Bit of ginger?

**Paul Chowdhry**

A bit of ginger, yes, you can chuck that in. Is that part of a hot toddy?

**James Acaster**

If you're doing a medicinal thing, that's always-,

**Paul Chowdhry**

If it's for medicinal purposes, it can do any harm, can it, at that point? If you're that close to death.

**James Acaster**

A bit of ginger and whiskey is nice.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Paul Chowdhry**

It really warms you up, doesn't it? You can feel it.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

It's a good drink choice, we've never had a hot toddy, have we?

**James Acaster**

No, this is our first hot toddy on the podcast.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Really?

**Ed Gamble**

First hot toddy on the poddy, that's great, isn't it?



**James Acaster**

The hot poddy.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

You've turned this into a hot poddy, how does that feel?

**Paul Chowdhry**

And then a side of Ribena.

**James Acaster**

Oh, hello.

**Ed Gamble**

A side of Ribena?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

You like Ribena?

**Paul Chowdhry**

I like Ribena. I like coconut water.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Paul Chowdhry**

I think that's nice because it refreshes the palate.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Paul Chowdhry**

I actually don't drink with my food because you don't digest your food if you drink while you're eating, so you don't get the nutrients out of the food.

**Ed Gamble**

So, when you're eating, you don't have a single drop of liquid?

**Paul Chowdhry**

I have a drink fifteen minutes before eating and then fifteen minutes after eating. And then I eat in the middle. Because when the water and the liquid is mixed up with the actual food, it doesn't go to the right departments.

**James Acaster**

What?



**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

It doesn't go to the right departments?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes. in your body.

**Ed Gamble**

What are all the departments?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Well, it gets confused because it's all-, it's like the Poseidon Adventure in your stomach because the food's all, like slushing around, just like the Titanic.

**James Acaster**

So, if you eat and drink at the same time-?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes?

**James Acaster**

Where does the food go?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Well, it doesn't know where to go because it's all mixed with liquid. So, have you noticed that you don't become ripped when you mix water with your food or drinks?

**James Acaster**

I've not noticed that, no.

**Ed Gamble**

No.

**Paul Chowdhry**

You haven't noticed that?

**James Acaster**

Well, I've not become ripped ever but, like-,

**Paul Chowdhry**

Well, watch what you do now, when you take this advice on board.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Next week, you're going to be ripped.

**Ed Gamble**

So, for this dream meal, you're having a hot toddy fifteen minutes before you eat?

**Paul Chowdhry**

I'd probably have the hot toddy at the end, and then the Ribena at the beginning.



**Ed Gamble**

At the beginning.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes. You've got to-,

**James Acaster**

A Ribena fifteen minutes before, water course, and then if you've got to extend it fifteen minutes again-,

**Paul Chowdhry**

I'd have to wait fifteen minutes, yes.

**James Acaster**

And then you've got your avocado on toast?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

And then your whole menu, and then fifteen minutes later, you have a hot toddy.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Oh no, actually, I'd probably wait for the dessert.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, after your-,

**James Acaster**

Dessert.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

We arrive at the dessert-,

**Paul Chowdhry**

No idea which way this is going to go.

**James Acaster**

Russell Howard and Greg are absolutely off their faces.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Are we talking dessert trolley or are we talking about-,

**James Acaster**

It's your dream.



**Ed Gamble**

Well, it's your dream, so it's whatever you want for dessert.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Do you remember the dessert trolleys?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Paul Chowdhry**

You're probably too young to remember.

**James Acaster**

I remember the dessert trolley.

**Ed Gamble**

Was that always an exciting moment, when they wheeled the dessert trolley around? Was little Paul all excited?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Well, yes, sometimes people used to be sitting on that dessert trolley and they used to wheel him out as well, or her or whichever.

**Ed Gamble**

What?

**James Acaster**

What? People were sitting on it?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes, people used to sit on them. That's the problem with dessert trolleys, you don't know what's going on with the trolley before the desserts are put on it.

**James Acaster**

You don't trust-

**Ed Gamble**

So, not only do you worry about the background of a chicken before you eat it, you're worried that someone's been sat on the dessert trolley before they put the dessert on?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Well, if you look to the side of the restaurant, you can see the dessert trolley just sat there with desserts on it, so I wouldn't (ph 56.50) that dessert's been in the fridge.

**Ed Gamble**

Right, okay.

**James Acaster**

But if you can't see the dessert trolley, in your mind, what's the worst thing that they could have done to the dessert trolley?



**Paul Chowdhry**

I can't, this is a family podcast, isn't it?

**Ed Gamble**

No.

**James Acaster**

Well-,

**Ed Gamble**

I mean, what is in your mind? What is the worst thing that could have happened-,

**James Acaster**

Yes, it's not a family podcast, so you can say what-,

**Ed Gamble**

What's the worst thing that could have happened on that dessert trolley before they put the desserts on it?

**Paul Chowdhry**

There's a lot of things going through my mind right now.

**James Acaster**

Go on, just say them out loud.

**Paul Chowdhry**

We can say this?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Fucked it, innit?

**James Acaster**

So, not had sex on it, fucked-,

**Ed Gamble**

I assumed that you were worried that someone had sex on it, what I wasn't expecting is that you were worried that they had actually fucked the dessert trolley.

**Paul Chowdhry**

No, the dessert, not the trolley.

**James Acaster**

Oh, like in American Pie?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes.



**James Acaster**

In American Pie, he fucks a pie, that's the whole reason it's called American Pie, he puts his dick in a warm apple pie and he fucks it.

**Paul Chowdhry**

I didn't know you could say this on-

**James Acaster**

And then he gets caught by his dad.

**Paul Chowdhry**

The producer's looking at his computer thinking, 'Can we not put this in-, can we take this in another direction?'

**James Acaster**

No, this'll be-

**Ed Gamble**

Paul, this is going to be in the trailer, mate.

**James Acaster**

Yes, this will be in the podcast, don't worry about it. So, you're worried that they fucked the desserts.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Or put their dick in it.

**James Acaster**

Or just put their dick in it?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

What's the difference-

**Paul Chowdhry**

Or peed in it.

**Ed Gamble**

What's the difference between someone fucking the dessert and putting their dick in it?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Well, people put bodily fluids in food as well.

**Ed Gamble**

But I want to know because you said you're worried that someone's fucked the dessert or put their dick in it-?





**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

But isn't that the same thing?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Not really.

**Ed Gamble**

Go on.

**Paul Chowdhry**

You've put your dick in a lot of things, haven't you?

**James Acaster**

Yes, he-,

**Ed Gamble**

I actually wouldn't say a lot of things.

**James Acaster**

You've not fucked your pants every morning.

**Ed Gamble**

No, exactly, I don't fuck my pants.

**Paul Chowdhry**

You just put your dick in them.

**James Acaster**

You just put your dick in them.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, that's true. That's a really good point and, you know what, I'll take that on board.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes, you've had countless partners.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Paul Chowdhry**

You might have put your dick in them.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes but then I've fucked them, haven't I?

**Paul Chowdhry**

No, you've made love to them.

**Ed Gamble**

Right, okay.



**James Acaster**

Okay.

**Ed Gamble**

What if someone had made love to your dessert?

**Paul Chowdhry**

That's fine.

**James Acaster**

Because it was done lovingly?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, okay, fine.

**Paul Chowdhry**

It's not aggressive.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

So, what is this dessert that someone's made love to potentially?

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Tiramisu.

**James Acaster**

We're in a hot toddy situation here again, I've got no idea what's absolutely the funniest thing you could have picked, Paul, really funny.

**Ed Gamble**

It's also the worst one for anyone to put their dick in, you're going to spot it straight away.

**James Acaster**

There's so much going on there.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Well, there could be a cover-up.

**James Acaster**

What?

**Paul Chowdhry**

You could cover it up again.



**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Oh, yes.

**Paul Chowdhry**

With the cream on the top.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Cream, just-,

**Ed Gamble**

A bit more cocoa.

**James Acaster**

Yes. Brush the cream over, put some cocoa powder on it, no one will that you put your dick in it.

**Ed Gamble**

Bish, bash, bosh.

**Paul Chowdhry**

It's got coffee in it as well, doesn't it?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Do you like that?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. Bit of a buzz at the end of the day?

**Paul Chowdhry**

I like a coffee in a dessert.

**James Acaster**

Yes. It's another Italian pick from you here.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes. There's a lot of Italian themes here.

**James Acaster**

Yes.



**Ed Gamble**

Yes, you spent a long time in Italy filming that thing, didn't you?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes. I was institutionalised.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

You were by yourself filming in Italy, right?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

But were you friends with the rest of the cast? Were you all-,

**Paul Chowdhry**

Just Patrick Dempsey.

**Ed Gamble**

Just Patrick Dempsey?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Just Patrick Dempsey, really.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Paul Chowdhry**

You know, he used to be in Grey's Anatomy?

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Paul Chowdhry**

He was the doctor in it.

**Ed Gamble**

So, would you-,

**Paul Chowdhry**

'80s films.

**Ed Gamble**

Would you maybe one day maybe take Patrick Dempsey to one of your meals with Greg and Russell Howard?



**Paul Chowdhry**

That would be a good meal, actually.

**James Acaster**

Do they get on?

**Paul Chowdhry**

See, I don't really cross-pollinate my international star friends with each other because you just don't know what could happen. Nobody could imagine that scenario. See, I'm friends with everyone, you see, it's normal for you to be friends with me. But those guys, there's a lot of egos involved there.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, they're big stars.

**James Acaster**

Do you behave differently around them, do you think?

**Paul Chowdhry**

I'm just a normal person.

**James Acaster**

Do you think that you behave differently with Patrick Dempsey than you do with Greg and Russell Howard?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Exactly the same.

**James Acaster**

Okay, well let's see. Imagine now that Patrick Dempsey has just arrived, say hello to him.

**Paul Chowdhry**

'Hey Pat, how are you doing, mate? Hey, hey, hope you're well'.

**James Acaster**

And now Greg and Russell Howard have arrived, say hello to them.

**Paul Chowdhry**

'Hey Greg, hey Russell, how are you doing, mate?' It's very different.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. Who is your most famous friend?

**Paul Chowdhry**

In my phone?

**Ed Gamble**

Sure.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Do you have to have their telephone number?



**Ed Gamble**

No. Is just who you would consider a friend.

**James Acaster**

It has to be an actual friend. Because I've got a lot of people's phone number who probably aren't my friends, just colleagues or whatever. But, like, someone who you could hang out with and would maybe ring you up and say, 'Hey, Paul, how's it going?' You know? Like, a friend.

**Ed Gamble**

Or someone, if you ran into them, you'd have a chat with them for a bit and you could maybe then go for a lunch with them or something.

**Paul Chowdhry**

I don't have any of them.

**James Acaster**

Let me read your menu back to you now, see how you feel about it.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Have you written it down?

**James Acaster**

Yes, written it down. So, fifteen minutes before, you would like some Ribena, then you want some still water because I recommended it to you.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Fifteen minutes later, you would like a tray of avocados on toast with anchovies, with some olive oil drizzled on it.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes. Sprinkled.

**James Acaster**

Yes. Then, you would like soft-shell crab and deep-fried crispy prawns with chilly sauce. Main course, pick e pepe and pepe e stroli de Halloween. Side dish, chips from the Dorchester.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Drink, well, we'll get to that later, actually. Your desert, you would like a tiramisu that someone's made love to. And fifteen minutes after that, you would like a hot toddy.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

What was the side again?

**James Acaster**

The side dish was chips from the Dorchester.



**Ed Gamble**

Oh of course, yes, sorry.

**James Acaster**

It's a cheat day.

**Paul Chowdhry**

With some ketchup.

**James Acaster**

Some ketchup, yes.

**Ed Gamble**

It's quite the menu, Paul.

**Paul Chowdhry**

It's good, isn't it?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. The main course is a bit of a left swerve, I'd say.

**James Acaster**

Yes. I mean, cacio e pepe on its own, fine.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Delicious.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

You said it should be called pick e pepe, so we changed it for you.

**Paul Chowdhry**

You can't even get that in this country.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Cacio e pepe?

**Paul Chowdhry**

I've looked around everywhere.

**James Acaster**

I don't know. I bet if you Googled now where to get it in London, you'd find somewhere, probably, like ten minutes walk from here.

**Ed Gamble**

I've had it. Yes.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Not from here. I did find it once at Camden Market and it was terrible.



**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Is that the bat of cheese?

**Paul Chowdhry**

It just didn't have that authenticity about it.

**James Acaster**

I had it in Camden Market-,

**Paul Chowdhry**

Did you?

**James Acaster**

Made in a bat of cheese, yes. And it was pretty nice. There is a place in Shoreditch that does it in the bat of cheese proper, and that was delicious.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Really?

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

There's some really good Italian places.

**Paul Chowdhry**

In London?

**Ed Gamble**

Padella, I reckon, you'd get some good cacio e pepe.

**Paul Chowdhry**

You're joking?

**Ed Gamble**

No.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Do you want to go?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. You'd struggle to find pepe e stroli de Halloween, I'd imagine.

**James Acaster**

Yes, pepe e stroli de Halloween, I think you've got to go to the special places for that, it's got to be Halloween, for example. And it's usually, by the looks of the photos, it's just someone's party at their house that they've done some pepe.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes, let's have a look.





**James Acaster**

Paul's looking at the photo of the pepe e stroli de Halloween now, just the first time Ed's seen it as well.

**Paul Chowdhry**

And look what they've got in them, Mexican crisps.

**James Acaster**

Yes, I thought the eyes were olives at first glance but they don't seem to be olives, they seem to be little fried eggs from, like, a Haribo.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes and the ears on some of them are tortillas, that you mentioned earlier.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Doritos.

**Ed Gamble**

Doritos.

**Paul Chowdhry**

They look edible, though, don't they?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

No.

**Ed Gamble**

Oh, no.

**James Acaster**

Not really. I mean, the faces are cheesy but mixed with something that makes them, like-,

**Paul Chowdhry**

Black.

**James Acaster**

Little black bat faces but, like-,

**Ed Gamble**

Well, Paul, thank you very much for coming to the dream restaurant, we've had a lovely time.

**Paul Chowdhry**

I'm stuffed. I can't move. So, this has been real, it's been real.

**James Acaster**

Would you normally go back to Russell Howard's or Greg's now if the three of you had been out or is it just straight home for all three of you?



**Paul Chowdhry**

No, they just get an Uber straight after the restaurant.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes. Are they in the Uber together?

**Paul Chowdhry**

No, separate Ubers.

**James Acaster**

Separate Ubers.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes. I think they meet up afterwards.

**Ed Gamble**

And then, do you drive back?

**Paul Chowdhry**

I drive home, yes. I tend to drive places.

**James Acaster**

Any final words for any of your fans listening?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes. When are we going to start the actual podcast?

**Ed Gamble**

Well, we'll take a quick pause here and then we'll get going, okay?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Don't you do that at the end of a meal? When the meal is finished and then you say to the person, 'Let's order mains.'

**James Acaster**

That's good.

**Paul Chowdhry**

That's a good one, isn't it?

**James Acaster**

It's good.

**Ed Gamble**

Or, 'What's everyone else having?' When the waiter brings over the food for everyone.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Or when the waiter comes to pick it up, say, 'I'll have the same again.'

**James Acaster**

Oh, yes, that's good.



**Ed Gamble**

That's good.

**Paul Chowdhry**

That's a good one as well.

**James Acaster**

That's a good one.

**Paul Chowdhry**

So, you keep it going with the waiter because you don't want them to-, yes, fuck the food. You know, you keep it going, you keep that rapport.

**James Acaster**

And then they'll keep their dick out of the tiramisu.

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes. Because I don't like it when people are rude to the waiters and the staff because then they're going to-,

**James Acaster**

That's the end of it in contract, right?

**Paul Chowdhry**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

You're nice to them-,

**Paul Chowdhry**

They're nice to-,

**James Acaster**

And they don't fuck the dessert trolley.

**Paul Chowdhry**

They'd only make love to the dessert trolley.

**Ed Gamble**

Thank you very much, Paul.

**Paul Chowdhry**

What an honour and a privilege it was to come to this restaurant.

**Ed Gamble**

Well, there we are.

**James Acaster**

Wooh.

**Ed Gamble**

I mean, I think it's the most you've laughed in an episode, potentially.

**James Acaster**

Yes, might have been. Really lost it quite a few times there.



**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

There's a lot of stuff. Can't even begin the list. You just heard all of it anyway.

**Ed Gamble**

So, that shows you in the intro, we're going, 'Here's what Paul's-, he's really unpredictable but here what he's definitely going to do.' He didn't do any of it.

**James Acaster**

No. I think the only thing he did that we predicted is made up his menu on the spot.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes and-,

**James Acaster**

Because he hadn't thought of it before.

**Ed Gamble**

And also said something deliberately confusing and then started at us.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Everything he said was that. Thank you very much, Paul, for coming to the dream restaurant, we-,

**James Acaster**

Thank you, Paul.

**Ed Gamble**

Loved it, and of course we loved it even more because he didn't say flaxseed.

**James Acaster**

He didn't say the secret ingredient. I mean, I don't know Paul would have responded if he had said it and we said, 'Right, that's it, you don't get any dinner.' I think that would have-,

**Ed Gamble**

Well, it would have baffled him, I think.

**James Acaster**

Yes, that would have spiralled it out into a whole other thing.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. You must listen to Paul's podcast, the Podcast, where he interviews a different comedian every week. It's always different, it's always unique, and it's all through the wonderful filter of **Paul Chowdhry**.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Paul's tour is called Family-Friendly Comedian, you must go and see that.



**James Acaster**

Yes, absolutely. You're on your, Ed?

**Ed Gamble**

I'm on your doing my show Electric. Do go onto my website at [edgamble.co.uk](http://edgamble.co.uk) for tickets and details, check out where I might be on.

**James Acaster**

I mean, yes, what can else can you say at the end of such an episode? I hope you all, you know, are tweeting Paul to let him know that you were laughing at home about that joke he made.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, please. And that you were applauding, that would be great. Thank you very much for listening to the Off Menu podcast, I'm very tired now, so we're going to go.

**James Acaster**

Yes, we're going to have a little hot-, hot toddy.

**Ed Gamble**

We're going to have a little hot toddy, apple steak.

**James Acaster**

Apple steak.