

Off Menu – Ep175 – Alex Horne (Christmas Special)

Ed Gamble

Welcome to the Off Menu podcast, wrapping the chipolata of giggles in the bacon of the internet.

James Acaster

Jingle Bells. That's Ed Gamble, a Christmas miracle. My name is James Acaster.

Ed Gamble

A pig in a blanket.

James Acaster

And this Off Menu podcast. We own a dream restaurant. We invite a guest in every single week, we ask them their favourite ever starter, main course, dessert, side dish, and drink. Not in that order. Sometimes if it's a Christmas episode, we ask them their dream Christmas meal and this week our guest is Alex Horne.

Ed Gamble

Alex Horne. Little Alex Horne, of course. It's been a long time coming.

James Acaster

Yes, much requested Alex Horne. Of course, the assistant on Taskmaster, the creator of Taskmaster.

Ed Gamble

The brain.

James Acaster The brain, the real, the true brain.

Ed Gamble

The big brain.

James Acaster

Of the whole thing. He's put us through our paces and now we get to flip it around.

Ed Gamble

Yes, we get to put him through his paces. I've got to be honest, Alex is a lovely man, an absolute comedy genius. I think within the next decade we'll see him approaching national treasure territory. Here's what I'd say, I'm fairly sure this menu is going to be absolute dog shit.

Yes. I'd say he doesn't think about food at all.

Ed Gamble

No.

James Acaster

He just eats whatever is around that's he's meant to be eating. You've seen all the disgusting things he puts in his mouth on Taskmaster without hesitation and doesn't seem to really care.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

I've been around him when he eats and he pretty much just eats what the crew's eating. He's not putting any thought into it.

Ed Gamble

No.

James Acaster

I don't think we're strapping in for a gourmet, tour de force here.

Ed Gamble

No, definitely not. Definitely not, he's eaten some pretty bad stuff in the past, but that's not to say it's not going to be a wonderful, entertaining Christmas episode. He's a Christmas man.

James Acaster

Yes, he seems Christmassy.

Ed Gamble

I think he's a Christmas man.

James Acaster

Yes, I think you can paint a picture of him with a little Santa hat on and it doesn't feel weird.

Ed Gamble

I bet his kids have a lovely Christmas.

James Acaster

I bet they do actually, apart from dinner.

Ed Gamble

Dinner will be awful.





Yes, but everything else is fine. The games would be fun, I imagine.

Ed Gamble

Yes, games will be fun, lots of little tasks, Christmas tasks.

James Acaster

Yes. Let's see, I guess. We'll ask him. However Ed, even though it's Christmas, if Alex Horne says a secret ingredient which we deem to be unacceptable, we will chuck him out of the dream restaurant.

Ed Gamble

And I think we'd love to that you and I.

James Acaster I'd really enjoy it.

Ed Gamble I'd love to trick him.

James Acaster

I'd love to trick him. He's tricked us before, doesn't feel good. Maybe we can trick him, so this week the secret ingredient is his own beard.

Ed Gamble

His own beard.

James Acaster

Alex Horne's beard.

Ed Gamble

He's eaten it already, so he might put it on his dream meal.

James Acaster

Yes, Noel Fielding fed it to him.

Ed Gamble In a sandwich, in his exotic sandwich.

James Acaster Series four.

Ed Gamble Yes.



They slipped a little bit of Alex's beard off between some bread and Alex ate it, so he has eaten his own beard before. If he's got a taste for it and he puts it on his menu, then we will kick him out.

Ed Gamble

Kick him out.

James Acaster

And it'll feel pretty good to do that.

Ed Gamble

You should go and watch obviously Taskmaster. We all know you should go and watch Taskmaster, but if you're knocking around All 4, you should go and watch The Horne Section Sitcom. They've done a sitcom, James.

James Acaster

I'm very excited about this.

Ed Gamble

Very excited.

James Acaster

I love The Horne Section and the fact they've done a sitcom, I can only image what that's going to be like. They're very hilarious. Their music is fantastic and the dynamic between them as a group, I find it very funny when watching them live, the way that Alex talks to them, the way they've got their own little characters going on, and that continues back stage as well.

Ed Gamble

It does.

James Acaster

I think it's just who they all are.

Ed Gamble

Yes, if you listen to the Horne Section Podcast, it's all on there as well. Very, very good.

James Acaster

Yes, so that's very, very exciting.

Ed Gamble

Yes, so go and check that out. I believe it's all on All 4 right now, but without further ado, this is the Off Menu menu of Alex Horne.



James Acaster Alex Horne.

Ed Gamble Welcome Alex to the dream restaurant.

Alex Horne

Thanks Ed.

James Acaster Welcome Alex Horne to the dream restaurant. We've been expecting you for some time.

Alex Horne

Thanks James. It's such a nice restaurant. It's everything I thought it would be and a little bit more.

James Acaster What's the little bit more?

Ed Gamble Yes, what's the little bit more and then what's the original thing?

Alex Horne

Well, I was expecting a welcome from Ed and then the sound effect from James, and the little bit more is the eye contact.

James Acaster Yes.

Alex Horne I wasn't expecting eye contact.

James Acaster No.

Ed Gamble From James?

Alex Horne Well, from either of you.

Ed Gamble

I'm good with eye contact surely.



I just wasn't expecting it today. I thought you'd be quite focussed, got business-like, but you've been quite friendly.

Ed Gamble

I'm a friendly guy. James is a friendly guy.

James Acaster (Talking over each other 04.30) guys.

Ed Gamble Two friendly guys.

James Acaster Who do you think you've made the most eye contact with in your life?

Ed Gamble Out of us two or in general?

James Acaster No, just the world, I guess.

Alex Horne At a general with Doctor Hark.

James Acaster Doctor Hark.

Alex Horne He's my specialist.

Ed Gamble Okay because I thought about something completely different when you said that.

Alex Horne

Well, I made up Doctor Hark, but I quite like the name.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Alex Horne

Who have I made most eye contact with? I mean, I suppose my wife. Probably. Rachel is her name. We look at each other quite regularly. We spend an hour at each-, you know what we did do? We got a



hot tub and then we look at each all the time because you can't, sort of, go on screens, so you have to look at each other.

Ed Gamble

You can't turn round in a hot tub.

Alex Horne

It's, sort of, almost for that reason. Yes, it's a circular hot tub.

James Acaster

Yes, that's a good little trick for anyone trying to give up their phone or have less screen time.

Alex Horne Get a hot tub.

James Acaster Get a hot tub.

Ed Gamble Yes, get a hot tub.

Alex Horne

But I've been embarrassed about that ever since I got one. I think you might be the first people I've told in a public arena.

Ed Gamble

Well, there you go. This is the big announcement. We like to get exclusives here.

Alex Horne I wish hadn't said it now.

Ed Gamble

I think in general it's known that you know that marriage on rocky ground if you sit in the hot tub and then you both face in the opposite direction.

James Acaster

Yes, that's always bad. No eye contact at all. Didn't even realise they were there.

Alex Horne

I make a lot of eye contact with Rachel in the hot tub.

James Acaster

Yes.



Alex Horne Sorry, no physical contact in the hot tub.

James Acaster No, very important.

Alex Horne

Yes.

Ed Gamble You've got to keep that water clean.

Alex Horne Got to keep it clean. I, in lockdown stocked up on chlorine.

Ed Gamble Did you?

Alex Horne That was my main thing.

James Acaster Stocked up on it.

Alex Horne Stocked up on chlorine.

James Acaster Why?

Ed Gamble Because the hot tub (talking over each other 06.01)

Alex Horne Does he not know about lockdown?

Ed Gamble No. (laughter)

Alex Horne People had to stock up on things.

James Acaster

Yes, but I never heard about people stocking up on chlorine during it.



Ed Gamble

Was there a rush on chlorine?

Alex Horne

Well, no. I was worried there would be a rush on chlorine, so that's why I stocked up on chlorine. I don't think I should have to explain this anymore. Please.

James Acaster

Well, I don't know. You're the first person I've met who's stocked up on chlorine. Everyone else stocked up on, like-,

Ed Gamble

Was it then that you realised that things were going quite well, that you were stocking up on chlorine for your hot tub?

Alex Horne You mean career-wise?

Ed Gamble Career-wise, yes.

Alex Horne Yes, it was that moment I thought, 'Things are fine.'

Ed Gamble Did you stock up on truffles as well?

James Acaster Yes, think I'm alright.

Alex Horne Look, I'll talk about truffles later when we get to the food segment of the podcast.

Ed Gamble

Okay, so sorry.

Alex Horne We're still doing small talk, thank you.

Ed Gamble

We're still doing hot tub chat.



If we may step over into the food chat then, I would say is, it's safe to say, and I haven't said this to a guest before at the top of the show, safe to say this menu is going to be bad.

Alex Horne

Oh, I see. By the way, I suddenly felt a sense that I've relaxed.

James Acaster

Yes.

Alex Horne

That was good. It always takes me a few minutes in any company to relax, but I've relaxed now.

Ed Gamble

Do you think it's because you mentioned your hot tub and then your body, sort of, imagined it was in the hot tub?

Alex Horne

Yes, I think that's been building up for four years, this release of hot tub news.

James Acaster

Yes, remembered you've got plenty of chlorine at home, so you felt a bit more chilled out.

Alex Horne

I think there's a bit of pepper on this table (ph 07.14).

Ed Gamble

Speck of something on the table there and you're not going to believe this, popped in his mouth.

Alex Horne

I think it was pepper.

James Acaster

You think it was pepper.

Alex Horne

It won't be a great menu. It won't be a menu that will lure anyone to this restaurant again. I don't understand this restaurant. Do you give people a menu to choose from?

James Acaster

No. Off Menu.

Alex Horne

There has to be a menu to go off-menu.



No.

Ed Gamble

That's a good point, but I don't want to list what would be on the menu now just in case it is what's on your menu.

Alex Horne

I'll go off-menu obviously, but I'd like to know what's on the menu.

Ed Gamble

Well, the menu appears in front of you when you say what you want.

James Acaster

Wow, we've not ever said this before.

Alex Horne

Is it? That's a (ph 07.49) big claim.

Ed Gamble

And then you just pick. There's obviously only one option because you've just said it.

James Acaster It's what you want. You conjure it up.

Alex Horne I see. I understand the restaurant now.

James Acaster Yes. Sorry about that.

Alex Horne Is it a drive-through?

Ed Gamble It can be if you want.

James Acaster If you want it to be.

Ed Gamble

You like a bit of a drive-through.

But again, I get for each course, go round and round.

James Acaster

Just go doing doughnuts. Fun.

Ed Gamble

Because now I'm imagining the genie in, like, a fast food server's outfit.

James Acaster At the window.

Ed Gamble Yes, hovering at the window.

James Acaster

That would be fun.

Alex Horne

Okay. I'm coming to your drive-through restaurant please.

James Acaster

I was with someone once, a comedian who I won't name, this comedian drove me to a gig. He arrived at the gig and he was very flustered, then he wanted to get home as soon as possible, and then we're driving home and he went to a McDonald's drive-through. He was all over the place and during the drive through, he ordered the food and then he went to the window to pay, they were getting him the food, and he went, 'Oi, rude. Rude.' Like that to them, and then they gave him the food, and then he sped away and he went, 'They were talking about me in there.' And I was like, 'Oh no.'

Ed Gamble

Oh no.

Alex Horne

Oh no.

James Acaster

And then he slowed down and laughed at a woman who was being sick.

Alex Horne

Well, I've had that before. I once got out of a coach at a petrol station. No, I got out my car at a petrol station and there was a coach who pulled up in front of me, and four old people got out and were sick at the front of the coach, and I laughed at that. All of them just lined up and was sick, really old people. It was so funny.





Ed Gamble

I mean, the visual is better there.

Alex Horne

It was awful.

Ed Gamble Funny. Four old people.

James Acaster

Yes, that's, like, laughing at one girl on her own being sick is horrible, laughing at four old people being sick off the same coach is funny.

Ed Gamble

Especially with the girl being sick late at night, you're like, 'Well, she's had too much to drink. She's by herself. It's very sad, I hope she's alright.'

James Acaster

So sad.

Alex Horne

2pm.

Ed Gamble

Four old people being sick, 2pm off a coach, 'What's happened?' There's so much back story to get to grips with there.

Alex Horne

But also, it's quite hard to know how to deal with anything. If you see someone being sick, would you step in? I'm not stepping in.

Ed Gamble

No, I'm not stepping in anything.

Alex Horne

I walked down a corridor and a girl walked down opposite me recently, and she was crying and I did this face, just a sad face to her and I carried on walking.

Ed Gamble

I guess, what else are you supposed to do? But also, don't do that.

James Acaster

The listeners are scared to guess what face that was (TC 00:10:00).



Yes, you can imagine.

James Acaster

But it in and then go, 'That's mean of Alex to laugh at her.'

Alex Horne

I didn't mean to. It wasn't a decision, it was just what happened.

Ed Gamble

Yes, you, sort of, did an emoji.

Alex Horne

Yes. That is an emoji.

James Acaster

So, food wise, I only have really seen you eating, I think, on the set of Taskmaster.

Alex Horne

Oh, really?

James Acaster

Where you pretty much just go with whatever the contestant has ordered.

Alex Horne

Yes, I would say that's, sort of, my dream scenario for any food. I'd happily go to a restaurant where I say, 'I'll have what you're having.' Every time or waiter just bring me food. I love it when the decisions are all made. I don't really have taste buds, so it's more about the size and colour of the food. Size, shape and colour.

James Acaster

(Talking over each other 10.46) favourite colours.

Ed Gamble

Are you about to break the podcast? Going, 'I'll have what you're having.' But we're not having anything.

James Acaster

No.

Alex Horne

Every day at Taskmaster, the menu goes round and I have what Jenny has. Jenny's in charge of the menu at the moment, I say, 'What are you having Jenny?' And I think she's maybe a vegan or something, so we don't have similar tastes.





Ed Gamble

So, what, sort of, stuff are you having. What's (talking over each other 11.08)?

Alex Horne

Polenta.

Ed Gamble

Polenta.

Alex Horne

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Where are you getting polenta from? Is this out of the Taskmaster house?

Alex Horne

I don't know. It's in the menu. I had a baked potato yesterday with coronation chicken and baked beans.

Ed Gamble

Nice.

Alex Horne I don't know. It was alright.

James Acaster

Weirdly I've had a hankering for that lately.

Ed Gamble

Have you?

James Acaster

Baked potato with coronation chicken. I've come very close to ordering it twice on a menu and then gone for something else, but always after thought, 'I really want that coronation chicken with the baked potato actually.'

Alex Horne

What did you have instead?

James Acaster

I can't actually remember. That's how much I, like, I wish I'd had the baked potato with the coronation chicken.



I've never done that. As in I've never not got that close to ordering something and then order something else. I would have ordered it.

James Acaster

You would have just done it.

Alex Horne

Yes, I would have ordered it. Wouldn't you have ordered it?

Ed Gamble

No. I spend a long time working out what I want.

Alex Horne

Really?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Alex Horne

No, not me.

Ed Gamble

No, you have what Jenny has. Is Jenny here by the way?

James Acaster

We should have got Jenny on the podcast first and told you what Jenny had.

Ed Gamble

We should have got Jenny on the podcast. Yes, really what we should do is if you're struggling later on in the menu, say we get to dessert and you're struggling, you should text Jenny and say, 'What do you want for dessert?'

Alex Horne

I'm not a big food fan. I do it. Same as, sort of, movies as well. I don't really like them.

Ed Gamble

Really? You're like Michael Owen.

Alex Horne

Yes. I do like Michael Owen.

James Acaster

You like football.



Alex Horne Yes, I like football. We're doing things I like.

James Acaster Yes.

Alex Horne I like football. I like trousers. What do I like? Yes, football.

Ed Gamble You like fun tops.

James Acaster You like Tim Key.

Alex Horne Yes. Football, Tim Key, trousers, tops.

Ed Gamble Tops, yes.

Alex Horne Ten-pin bowling.

James Acaster Do you have Jenny's phone number?

Alex Horne Yes.

James Acaster

Can you text Jenny and say what would be your dream meal, and if she does get back we can maybe see?

Ed Gamble

But we do want yours as well Alex (talking over each other 12.52) stress that.

James Acaster

Yes, we want yours as well, but then you can look at Jenny's and decide if you would prefer that at the end.

Alex Horne

Okay, so what am I saying? Jenny, what is my dream meal? (Laughter)



James Acaster Yes, or whatever won't confuse her the most.

Alex Horne

What is my dream meal? Quick as possible please.

Ed Gamble

I don't know if she's a fan of the pod.

James Acaster

Yes, say you're doing Off Menu if she wants to Google that.

Alex Horne

I think she would like this podcast. I think she does like this podcast.

James Acaster Right.

Ed Gamble Okay, then she'll know the format hopefully.

James Acaster This might help.

Alex Horne There we go.

James Acaster Does Gary still work on Taskmaster?

Alex Horne I was with Gary yesterday. Yes, Gary still works there.

Ed Gamble

Love Gary.

James Acaster

That's my main food memory from Taskmaster is Gary eating the cake. It was Gary's birthday. We all had a slice of this big cake and Gary just picked up the rest of the cake and he ate it in a way that was, like, I respected it so much the way he did it. He just completely, didn't cut it up, just got a fork, and just dug into it and he looked so happy. I was like, 'I think Gary's my hero.'



I could tell you a lot about the food habits of the crew, but I think there are some secrets, but the biggest secret is that Andy C, the producer, never eats in the same room as us.

James Acaster

I never noticed that.

Alex Horne

I don't think he'll enjoy me saying this but it's brilliant for us. We always wonder what he's up to.

Ed Gamble Yes, what's he doing?

Alex Horne I don't know. Hi Andy.

James Acaster Hello Andy.

Alex Horne He sneaks off. It's great.

James Acaster

Thank you for the rap album recommendations Andy, every now and again.

Ed Gamble

So, have you ever followed him to where he goes to eat?

Alex Horne

No, I respect him too much. I'd feel awful if he caught me following him out to lunch.

Ed Gamble

So, say he went to the caravan to eat, what if you went, 'Andy, do you mind if we just have a chat about something? We've got a few things to catch up on.' And took your lunch in there and sat down in the caravan with him.

Alex Horne

I don't know what would happen and I wouldn't do that. There's a secret room in the caravan, so he'd probably go there.

Ed Gamble

Probably go in the secret room.



Alex Horne Full of balloons.

James Acaster Does he eat the balloons?

Alex Horne Did you ask me if he eats the balloons?

James Acaster Yes.

Alex Horne I don't know if he eats the balloons. I can't imagine he would.

Ed Gamble No.

Alex Horne Just because of the content of the balloon.

James Acaster Yes, sure.

Alex Horne Not edible.

James Acaster Good task.

Alex Horne Yes, eat the balloons.

James Acaster Eat the balloons.

Alex Horne Fastest wins.

Ed Gamble Eat the balloons is a great task. I'd eat the balloons.

James Acaster Yes.



If you had a task, if it was to shit, fastest win, who would win out of you two?

James Acaster

I think maybe Ed.

Ed Gamble I reckon I'd win it.

Alex Horne That's what we get requested most.

Ed Gamble

When you said that, shit fastest wins, my stomach went let's go.

James Acaster Yes.

Ed Gamble Five points.

Alex Horne You're very competitive.

Ed Gamble Yes.

Alex Horne

Yes.

Ed Gamble

My whole body (talking over each other 15.08).

James Acaster

But also it's like, you know, shitting is a big part of his life. him and Nish shared a flat for years and it was very much the theme of the flat.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster When are doing a shit?



Ed Gamble

We still text each other now about it.

Alex Horne

That's so interesting. Tim and I lived together. I don't think we ever mentioned it and we probably pretended we didn't do it.

Ed Gamble

You've never hugged either.

Alex Horne We have hugged actually.

Ed Gamble

Once.

Alex Horne Twice.

Ed Gamble

Twice, sorry.

Alex Horne

Once when I was sad, once when I was happy. (Laughter)

Ed Gamble

But you're not going to talk about shitting if you're not even hugging.

Alex Horne

No, never. Never done one in the Taskmaster house either. There's only one toilet and I'm not going to do that.

Ed Gamble

Really?

James Acaster

I've definitely done one in the Taskmaster house.

Ed Gamble

Yes, me too.

Alex Horne Have you both?



James Acaster Yes, definitely.

Alex Horne We've got a good spray.

Ed Gamble

We do.

Alex Horne To deal with (ph 15.49). It's all about shitting, isn't it? Shall I see if Jenny's replied?

James Acaster Yes, sometimes it is.

Alex Horne

Shall I see if Jenny's replied? Yes. Well, first of all, I mean, how is the coronation chicken and cheese and bean, I had cheese in it as well, jacket potato combo?

James Acaster Good to know you weren't lying.

Alex Horne You have also before now asked for a sandwich with raisins in (laughter).

Ed Gamble So, that's a possible.

Alex Horne Asked for.

Ed Gamble Asked for a sandwich with raisins in.

Alex Horne Why wouldn't you have a sandwich with raisins in?

James Acaster It's, well-,

Alex Horne Chewy.



That's a dessert, I would say.

Alex Horne

I go off and make honey sandwiches for the children for, sort of, Saturday lunch. I'm not in charge of (talking over each other 16.33) anymore. Shall I say thanks Jenny and then leave her alone, is that alright?

Ed Gamble

Yes, maybe.

James Acaster

Yes, okay.

Ed Gamble

Would you just have the sandwich with just, like, buttered bread and raisins though?

Alex Horne

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Literally nothing else because I could see maybe if it's a honey sandwich and sprinkle some raisins in, that would be nice.

Alex Horne

I'm not sprinkling the raisins in.

James Acaster

No.

Alex Horne I think I'm spooning the raisins in.

Ed Gamble How many raisins are you thinking?

Alex Horne It's a layer of raisins.

James Acaster

A whole layer. You don't want to see any bread.

Alex Horne

Replace sausages with raisins in your sausage sandwich and then you've got a raisin sandwich.



Yes, white bread?

Alex Horne

White bread. Anyone who doesn't have white bread is lying to you. Aren't they?

James Acaster

Is that true?

Alex Horne Of course.

James Acaster I have brown bread all the time, but I'm a liar.

Alex Horne Yes, you're lying to me.

James Acaster Yes.

Alex Horne What's nicer?

James Acaster Brown bread.

Alex Horne White bread.

James Acaster I think brown bread's nicer.

Alex Horne Yes, you're lying to me.

Ed Gamble I love granary bread.

Alex Horne No you don't.



Ed Gamble How do you feel about that?

Alex Horne Well, you don't.

Ed Gamble I do.

Alex Horne You don't.

Ed Gamble I do, I prefer white bread.

Alex Horne Thank you. There we go. See?

James Acaster White bread's the best.

Alex Horne Yes. Of course.

James Acaster Tomato ketchup.

Ed Gamble And raisins.

Alex Horne And butter. I'm so sorry by the way. This isn't me pretending, I've just got awful taste in food.

Ed Gamble But that's great.

James Acaster

We know you're not pretending. We know what we're getting into. We wanted to establish to the listener. This is a man who eats because he'll die otherwise, but not because he wants to eat.

Alex Horne

Yes, I quite like the choosing, but it doesn't make any difference to me what it is when it arrives.

Ed Gamble

Right, so weird to like the choosing then, isn't it?

Alex Horne

Yes, but what I mean is I like the words.

Ed Gamble

You like picking your words, but it doesn't matter. They don't necessarily represent anything physically to you.

Alex Horne

No, when it goes into my mouth it could be anything. It doesn't make any difference, so that probably makes no-,

James Acaster

Well, people have seen you put all manner of things in your mouth on Taskmaster.

Alex Horne

Quinoa, I put quinoa in once.

James Acaster We always start with still or sparkling water.

Alex Horne

Okay.

James Acaster Do you have a preference? This is the choosing.

Ed Gamble

Yes, this is choosing words. You choose your favourite words.

Alex Horne

Oh, I see. Well, I like the word sparkling, but I don't really want water thank you.

Ed Gamble

Not at all.

Alex Horne

If there's a choice of water or not water, I'll have no water, thank you.

James Acaster

Yes.



If I'm at a restaurant with Rachel, I won't have water.

Ed Gamble

Will Rachel have water?

Alex Horne

Rachel will have sparkling water. Okay, I'll get sparkling water for Rachel.

Ed Gamble

Okay. That's fine, but, you know, if you're not going to drink it, you don't need to get it. (Talking over each other 18.37).

Alex Horne

I won't have water, thank you.

Ed Gamble

Won't have water. How much water do you drink in a day would you say?

Alex Horne

Two.

Ed Gamble

Two water.

James Acaster

I would say a man who says that if it's a choice between water and no water, I'll have no water shouldn't be stocking up on chlorine.

Alex Horne

Is there Fanta on the menu?

James Acaster

Yes.

Alex Horne I'll have Fanta then.

James Acaster We've got Fanta for the water.

Ed Gamble

Okay, I think we could allow Fanta for the water course, can't we?





Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes, for sure.

Alex Horne

why not Fanta? Because Fanta, it's like white bread. Fanta is nicer than water. White bread is nice than Vogel. Is that a type of bread?

Ed Gamble

I think so.

Alex Horne

Vogel.

Ed Gamble Vogel.

Alex Horne

Vogel.

James Acaster Never head of Vogel.

Alex Horne I think I've seen that written down.

James Acaster Do you think that Fanta is the white bread of drinks?

Alex Horne Yes.

James Acaster Is that what you're saying?

Alex Horne Yes or Orangina if we're abroad.

Ed Gamble

Okay.



Are we abroad?

James Acaster

You can be.

Ed Gamble

You can be. It's at the drive through remember.

Alex Horne

No, I'll stick to the UK drive through (talking over each other 19.31).

James Acaster

Because you want to be driving a certain way.

Alex Horne

On the left. Well, I'm worried I'll be in my car abroad and then I'll be ordering from the wrong window.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I mean, this is your dream, you don't necessarily need to add admin (ph 19.42).

Alex Horne

I like reversing.

Ed Gamble

Okay, so you're in your car, abroad drive through, and you're reversing.

Alex Horne

Reversing. But it is busy, so everyone else (talking over each other 19.51).

Ed Gamble

So, everyone else has to reverse as well.

James Acaster

So, just to determine what country it's in, I want you to imagine you're reversing in, you get to the window, you look at them (TC 00:20:00) and the first word you say is.

Alex Horne

Bonjour. Sorry.

James Acaster

Bonjour.



There's not a lot of imagination and I don't want to travel far. I only speak French. I speak a bit of German, but I'd say that to them, I'd say, '(inaudible 20.17).'

James Acaster

That's good.

Ed Gamble

It is good.

James Acaster

What's that? I'd like a jacket potato (talking over each other 20.25).

Alex Horne

Food wise, it's only kaugummi. That's all I know in German which is chewing gum. Does that count as food?

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes, very interesting that's in your list of food words. Really am looking forward to this menu.

James Acaster

When you don't have to swallow.

Alex Horne

I do swallow chewing gum.

James Acaster

Oh, yes.

Alex Horne

Because I think the seven year thing is, I can't believe it's true because I've swallowed it for the last twenty years.

James Acaster

You swallow them every time.

Alex Horne

Yes. We gave bubble gum to the children for a two-week holiday in France because we thought they were normal sweets and they're fine too. They're just popping them and eating them.



With your kids.

Alex Horne

Yes. Chewing gum is definitely fine to swallow otherwise they wouldn't sell it, I think.

Ed Gamble

Right, that's interesting, but they sell quite a lot of other stuff that-, I mean, what are you doing with that chlorine?

Alex Horne

But not stuff that you (talking over each other 21.09) put in your mouth and not eat. I don't think they could sell chewing gum if you're not supposed to swallow it, don't you think?

James Acaster

Well, it's just like saying they wouldn't sell knives if you weren't supposed to-,

Alex Horne

But there's no warning on the pack saying do not swallow this.

James Acaster

I think there is.

Ed Gamble

I think there might be.

Alex Horne

But it's not like a cigarette packet where there's a picture of people who swallow too much chewing gum.

Ed Gamble

No, I'd love that.

James Acaster

Well, no, but that's because with cigarettes, you know, they're meant to be smoked, so legally they have to go, 'Listen, just so you know if you use these the way that we're telling to, it's going to be bad.' With the chewing gum you're not meant swallow it, so they don't have to go-,

Alex Horne

I think it's better to swallow than to spit it out onto the pavement.

James Acaster

Yes, but those aren't the only two options.

Have you seen how many bits there are on pavements, chewing gum?

James Acaster

Yes, it's awful.

Alex Horne

Do you worry that sometimes it will all just be chewing gum and no pavement anymore? It's going to get to that point.

Ed Gamble

But, you know, that's nature.

Alex Horne

Is it?

Ed Gamble

No.

Alex Horne

But it is if people don't swallow it.

Ed Gamble

I quite like when the chewing gum goes all black and it's these little black dots all over the pavement. I quite like that, makes me feel at home.

James Acaster

There's a bridge, I can't remember which bridge in London it is, might be Millennium Bridge where someone has gone along-, I hadn't noticed it. I was with someone and they noticed it, someone has gone along and coloured in all of the chewing gum on the bridge different colours, so you look down and it's this quite, like, artistic. It looks really bright colours and vivid, and then you realise it's the chewing gum that they've coloured in.

Alex Horne

Are they using Sharpies or Posca pens maybe?

James Acaster Maybe it was Posca pens.

Alex Horne Maybe it was Posca pens.

James Acaster Yes.





Ed Gamble Possibly Posca.

James Acaster It was very good.

Alex Horne No, I'm into that.

James Acaster It's quite uplifting actually. They've made something ugly beautiful.

Alex Horne But I'm going to keep swallowing.

James Acaster So, you're going to keep swallowing chewing gum and bubble gum.

Ed Gamble So, we're having Orangina, are we, because you're abroad and reversing in?

Alex Horne Yes, we'll have Orangina. Yes, please.

Ed Gamble Orangina on holiday. What a treat?

Alex Horne Shake the bottle, wake the taste.

Ed Gamble Shake the bottle, wake the taste.

Alex Horne Not many foods or drinks you have to wake up before consuming.

James Acaster Yes, wake the taste. Do you like the fact that you have to shake the bottle to wake the taste?

Alex Horne

Yes, I like that it's asleep when you buy it and you've got to wake it up and then drink it. Surprise.

Ed Gamble

Do you think that's a horrible way for an Orangina to meet its end though?

Alex Horne

No, I think it's a lovely way.

Ed Gamble

It's all peace and then all sudden it's 'Arrrghh.'

Alex Horne

No, I think liquids are fine, aren't they? If you're a liquid swallowed by a shark it's not as bad as us guys being eaten by a shark.

OFF MENU

Ed Gamble Yes, that's true.

James Acaster You'd rather be a liquid swallowed by a shark.

Alex Horne Than my current state, yes.

James Acaster Yes, that would be better.

Ed Gamble Also the Orangina bottle, always a treat.

Alex Horne Yes, love a shake. Oh shape. Lovely shape.

Ed Gamble Lovely shape.

Alex Horne Is it the shape of an orange, do you think?

Ed Gamble Yes. That's what I would imagined (ph 23.41).

Alex Horne A bit. The bottom bit. **Ed Gamble** A bit. Obviously you need the neck of the-,

Alex Horne Orange with a neck.

Ed Gamble Yes.

James Acaster If an orange had a neck.

Alex Horne Yes, it might get bigger.

James Acaster Size bigger for the episode.

Alex Horne It won't be the last I don't think.

James Acaster No, I don't think it will be.

Alex Horne If an orange had a neck is not a bad if.

James Acaster Yes.

Alex Horne A good size if.

James Acaster

It's quite good. If an orange had a neck, would that make the main bit of the orange the body or the head?

Alex Horne

Yes. I see with what end's it coming out I suppose as well? You'd want it to come out of the mouth rather than the rear end of the orange.

Ed Gamble

But surely you just flip the orange over, couldn't you?





Flip the orange over.

Ed Gamble

The way I would see it if it had a little neck on it, if an orange had a neck, big if, I would hold it by the neck and peel the orange like a banana. You see?

Alex Horne

No, I see. But you're peeling a banana like you peel banana. I go round and round (laughter) like a satsuma.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble I've seen you do that. Takes ages.

Alex Horne

It does (talking over each other 24.37).

James Acaster Everyone says, 'Alex Horne, who can peel the banana in one.'

Alex Horne

Yes, but width wise. I don't know which end of the orange is the bottom if I'm honest.

James Acaster

I feel, like, the main orange is the body and then the neck, but then you have to then imagine a head because is a neck a neck without a head?

Ed Gamble

Yes, neck of a bottle.

Alex Horne

Well, then the bottom of the bottle is the body of the bottle.

Ed Gamble

Yes, but you can have a neck without a head surely.

James Acaster

What is a neck without a head?

Ed Gamble

Neck.



Then the neck becomes the head.

Ed Gamble

This has got philosophical quickly Alex.

Alex Horne

Don't think you can have a neck without a head.

Ed Gamble

You can't have a neck without a head, but we're even talking about bottles where you say the neck of a bottle.

Alex Horne

Yes, then you've got the little lid as the head.

Ed Gamble That's not the head.

James Acaster Yes, the lid is the head.

Alex Horne

The lid is the head. Of course the lid is the head.

Ed Gamble

It's on top of the neck.

Alex Horne

That's why people say, 'I'm just going to take off the head of the bottle.'

James Acaster

Off with its head. That's what you shout.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I suppose. Whenever I open a bottle of anything, I scream, 'Off with its head.'

James Acaster

Poppadoms or bread? Poppadoms or bread, Alex Horne? Poppadoms or bread?

Alex Horne

White bread please.



James Acaster Of course.

Alex Horne Yes. I forgot about the questions.

Ed Gamble (Talking over each other 25.43)

Alex Horne And you caught me by surprise then. I guess that's the idea.

James Acaster You're the, kind of, person who has to tell people that you were surprised.

Alex Horne Because I didn't show it.

James Acaster Well, there's no, 'Eurgh, eurgh.'

Alex Horne No, that's true.

James Acaster That would be a good task. Actually scare Alex.

Alex Horne We've had-,

Ed Gamble Surprise Alex, right?

Alex Horne

Where I come out of the shed. One of my favourite ones that, but then in that one I knew I was going to be surprised, so that's difficult to prepare yourself to be surprised.

James Acaster

Because even then you had to verbally articulate how surprised you were.

Alex Horne

I'm the same with jokes now as well. You might be as well. I have to say, 'Yes, I found that funny.' Rather than laughing in any way.



Ed Gamble I really laugh still.

Alex Horne Do you?

Ed Gamble I love a big, old laugh.

Alex Horne Bit more basic.

Ed Gamble Scare Alex would be a great task as well, I think.

Alex Horne I'd need to not know I'm going to be scared in the next hour.

Ed Gamble Sure. Well, I guess it's a case of scare Alex at some point during.

Alex Horne Before he's 50.

Ed Gamble Before he's 50.

James Acaster Yes. I mean, maybe that would be day one be given that task without you even knowing it's a task.

Alex Horne Now we've ruined that.

James Acaster And they have to do it by the end of the series.

Ed Gamble Yes, and then you, sort of, liaise with the Andy's on when you're going to do it.

James Acaster Yes.

Alex Horne That would be quite good.



The way I would do it would be say Andy C, invite Alex out with lunch with you because he would not be able to resist that.

Alex Horne

Wow, and then it turns out he's got some horrific habits.

James Acaster

Yes, that he does something awful.

Alex Horne

In the old days you could have a really basic task like sweat the most, go an hour, but we feel, like, we've done all them which I think why I mentioned shitting earlier.

Ed Gamble

Because you've done fart.

Alex Horne

We've done fart. We've done sweat the most.

Ed Gamble

Yes, done fart.

Alex Horne

There's not many bodily functions left and I, kind of, want to cut the most hair off your head, but it's not that sort of programme, so you think of a bodily function we've not done, please let me know.

Ed Gamble Burp.

Alex Horne

Yes.

Ed Gamble If you've done fart.

Alex Horne Totally (ph 27.31). Yes, we've done fart.

Ed Gamble

You've done fart.



Yes, really that was the series to do it would be to give Mike that as well in the same series.

Alex Horne And then go even worse maybe.

James Acaster So, that he's (talking over each other 27.41).

Ed Gamble Vomit.

James Acaster Vomit.

Ed Gamble Cum.

Alex Horne Well, I suppose it is that, isn't it?

James Acaster Eventually. I think that's for Champion of Champions, isn't it?

Ed Gamble Imagine.

James Acaster That feels, like, a Champion of Champions task.

Ed Gamble I can't wait to Taskmaster.

Alex Horne No, I don't think we can.

Ed Gamble Cum, fastest wins.

James Acaster Ed is going through a real cum phase.

Ed Gamble

No, I'm sorry. I didn't bring it up yesterday. It wasn't me who brought it up yesterday.



He finds cum very funny.

Ed Gamble

Cum is funny to say because it's so rude.

Alex Horne

It's fun. It's, sort of, a shame it's rude because if wasn't rude we could all just talk about it and laugh about it because it's just like spitting, isn't it?

James Acaster

Exactly like spitting.

Alex Horne

If footballers did it on the pitch, would you be cross?

James Acaster Yes, they've normalised it.

Alex Horne They could always do it before a free kick.

Ed Gamble

Why?

James Acaster

While their holding onto their dicks. When they're in the warm (ph 28.31), that's what they're getting ready for.

Ed Gamble Or they've all just done it.

James Acaster They've all just done it (laughter).

Ed Gamble See, it's funny.

Alex Horne It's very early in the morning for this.

James Acaster So, you would like white bread.



Alex Horne Yes, white bread please.

James Acaster What do you want on the white bread?

Alex Horne What do I want on the white bread?

Ed Gamble Is it just like bog standard white sliced loaf?

Alex Horne Mighty white.

Ed Gamble Mighty white. Okay, great.

Alex Horne Might white sliced bread, medium sliced. Is there an option to have things on it?

Ed Gamble If you want, yes.

James Acaster If you want to.

Alex Horne I'll have butter.

James Acaster Butter.

Ed Gamble Have you had butter on bread before?

Ed Gamble It works.

James Acaster A classic.



Alex Horne Makes it nice, doesn't it?

Ed Gamble It's a good system.

James Acaster Does make it nicer.

Alex Horne It's like sugar and tea or milk on cereal.

James Acaster How many sugars do you have in your tea?

Alex Horne

Two, but I've cut down recently to just under two. I think I asked for one this morning, didn't I, which is just under two?

Ed Gamble Yes, that is just under two.

James Acaster How many sugars does Bob Mortimer have in his tea?

Alex Horne Fifteen. Well, he cut down to fifteen when he was with us.

James Acaster Yes, I think by the time he come on this he's at fourteen maybe.

Alex Horne And it's not an exaggeration.

James Acaster No.

Alex Horne He has a whisk instead of a spoon.

Ed Gamble

So, do you want us to spread the butter?



Alex Horne I can spread my butter.

Ed Gamble You can spread your own butter.

Alex Horne Thank you, or dip. I don't mind dipping it.

Ed Gamble You want to dip into-,

Alex Horne Wiping actually. I'll wipe the bread in the butter.

Ed Gamble Do you want, sort of, a block of butter or do you want a tub of butter?

Alex Horne Butter's, sort of, wrapped up, isn't it, like a present when it arrives? I'd like it wrapped up please.

James Acaster A little envelope.

Alex Horne An envelope of butter please.

James Acaster And you're unwrapping that and then you're wiping the bread on it.

Alex Horne Then wiping the bread, yes. Wiping the bread across it.

Ed Gamble

A whole slice wiped (TC 00:30:00) across it or are you just going to wipe little bits?

Alex Horne

I think my mum told me you're meant to tear the bread in a restaurant, not cut it, so I will tear bits off it and wipe it into the butter parcel.

James Acaster

First bit of wisdom from mamma Horne in the episode.



Alex Horne Sheila, thank you.

James Acaster Sheila.

Alex Horne Sheila. So, I'm not going to be rude in the restaurant.

James Acaster So, she's always told you always tear the bread.

Alex Horne Tear the bread, soup spoon away from you, and elbows off the table, thank you.

Ed Gamble What do you mean soup spoon away from you?

Alex Horne You're not meant to pull the spoon towards you when you eat soup. You're meant to push it away.

Ed Gamble Then how do you get it?

Alex Horne And then pull it back towards you.

James Acaster I get you.

Ed Gamble What? So, you, like, get the ripple, so you're pushing the soup away and then coming back.

James Acaster No.

Alex Horne Ladle it away.

James Acaster You're just going away.

Ed Gamble

Okay, so the soup is collecting on the far side of the spoon.



Yes.

Alex Horne

Yes, I think you're doing the collecting, take some credit for this.

Ed Gamble

Yes, but I thought you meant you're literally pushing the soup one direction and then just coming back and getting it.

Alex Horne

And then waiting for it. like a tide.

James Acaster

So, that there's, like, loads of soup just gone over the rim that way and the table's covered in soup because you keep on pushing it that way.

Alex Horne

Maybe it was that. Yes, Sheila was messy. It is messy, but bread and butter.

Ed Gamble Mighty white, medium sliced.

Alex Horne

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Block of butter.

Alex Horne

Well, I didn't know there was more options. I'll have some cheese.

James Acaster

Huh?

Alex Horne I'll have some cheese.

James Acaster

You like some cheese on your-, what kind of cheese?

Alex Horne

Either slices or Primula shrimp flavoured cheese spread.



Ed Gamble

I think that's been a secret ingredient before.

James Acaster It has been a secret ingredient.

Alex Horne Has it? I love (talking over each other 31.27).

James Acaster In the past.

Alex Horne

When I was a kid I did like squeezing Primula shrimp flavoured cheese out of a tube onto bread.

Ed Gamble

I'd do it directly into my mouth when I was a kid.

Alex Horne And then a toothbrush.

Ed Gamble

It is weird, isn't it? Because it is so like toothpaste. It feels weird when you first have it, but after a bit fat, little boy at the fridge straight into the mouth.

Alex Horne

And I don't think it goes off either.

Ed Gamble

No.

Alex Horne One of the few foods.

Ed Gamble

But it's one of the few things that doesn't go off, but tastes like it's always off.

Alex Horne

Yes.

Ed Gamble Shrimpy cheese.



Alex Horne So, I'll have a bit of that please.

James Acaster You would like the shrimpy cheese.

Alex Horne An American cheese as well, the slices.

James Acaster Hold on, are they both on together or are they on different parts? Are you doing half?

Alex Horne Half.

James Acaster Half American cheese.

Ed Gamble You wouldn't go shrimpy cheese-,

James Acaster Half shrimpy cheese.

Ed Gamble American cheese on top.

James Acaster You would like to do that.

Alex Horne

I don't mind. Yes, I'll do wipe in the butter, squeeze the cheese on, whack a slice on in each case.

James Acaster You're squeezing the cheese on, are you then spreading it or are just squeezing it and that's it?

Alex Horne No, I think I'll spread with the slice probably. I'll use the slice as a tool.

James Acaster

So, you're patting down with the slice.

Alex Horne

Yes.



Ed Gamble Can see it like a tooling up sequence in a film.

James Acaster Yes, really quickly edited like Snatch or something.

Alex Horne Yes, and then I'm probably full, so that would be me.

James Acaster That is the problem.

Alex Horne I do quite often fill up on bread.

Ed Gamble I don't think Jenny would have any of this.

James Acaster No, Jenny's not picking this.

Ed Gamble Jenny's picking this, is she?

James Acaster Absolutely not. No wonder you have to (talking over each other 32.50) Jenny.

Alex Horne One of the team can't eat gluten.

James Acaster Right.

Alex Horne I love gluten. I'll have some gluten if there's gluten available.

James Acaster

Give you a little pot of gluten on the side, that could work.

Ed Gamble

Yes, you can sprinkle some more of that on the bread if you want. I don't know if it's a sprinkle situation with gluten.



Alex Horne I think it's a tap, tap.

James Acaster I was thinking you might spoon it in.

Alex Horne Well, either way.

Ed Gamble You can have the gluten tap.

Alex Horne And Riboflavin please.

James Acaster What flavour?

Ed Gamble Riboflavin.

Alex Horne

Riboflavin. You know when you're a kid and you read the cereal packet ingredients? I always was attracted to Riboflavin and myosin.

James Acaster

Okay. Well, I don't know when you're a kid and you read the cereal packet ingredients. I also don't know what Riboflavin is.

Alex Horne

It's in RiCiCLES and that's my favourite cereal.

James Acaster

That is a good cereal.

Ed Gamble

Me too. I wanted to be called Rick when I was a kid because of Captain Rick.

Alex Horne

Are you?

Ed Gamble

I wanted to be called that.



Alex Horne Yes, but are you?

Ed Gamble No.

James Acaster He's called Ed.

Ed Gamble I'm called Ed.

Alex Horne Rick with a K.

James Acaster You wanted to be called Rick after Captain Rick.

Ed Gamble Yes, because of the Captain Rick RiCiCLE.

Alex Horne He was cool, wasn't he?

Ed Gamble Yes, he was so cool.

James Acaster He was cool.

Alex Horne He was an astronaut. Are you kidding me?

James Acaster I want to make fun of you but he is cool.

Ed Gamble He's an astronaut. I mean, there's worst role models to have than an astronaut who has his own cereal.

Alex Horne Best cereal going maybe.

Ed Gamble Yes.



Alex Horne You've got the chicken on Cornflakes.

Ed Gamble Yes, fuck that chicken though. The Cornflakes are so boring.

Alex Horne Are you okay?

James Acaster It's a cockerel.

Alex Horne Yes.

Ed Gamble We can say that.

Alex Horne He's the main guy.

Ed Gamble Yes exactly, boring.

Alex Horne He's the Ronald McDonald of cereals.

Ed Gamble Exactly. People are like Leonardo and the turtles.

James Acaster I'd say it's more the Abraham Lincoln of cereals than Ronald McDonald.

Alex Horne Snap, crackle, and pop, not interested.

Ed Gamble No.

James Acaster No, they've got each other. They don't need Ed.

You didn't want to be called Crackle when you were a kid.

Ed Gamble

No.

Alex Horne

Okay.

Ed Gamble Or Pop or Snap.

Alex Horne Coco the Monkey.

Ed Gamble

Coco the Monkey, I mean, he's a monkey.

Alex Horne

I think I liked him, and then I grew out of him.

James Acaster

Yes, he's probably, like, the original favourite, isn't he? And then you, kind of, grow up and you go Captain Rick.

Ed Gamble Yes, you realise you're never going to be a little monkey. Tony the Tiger.

Alex Horne Tony the Tiger. Yes, you saw it.

James Acaster

Yes. I reckon if Richard Osmond did a world cup of, you know-,

Alex Horne

It's not a big if.

James Acaster

Cereal mascots, Tony the Tiger would probably win.

Ed Gamble

Yes.



Yes.

Ed Gamble It's not the best catchphrase.

Alex Horne Roar (ph 35.03). Tony the Tiger, what is his catchphrase?

James Acaster Go on.

Ed Gamble Right, okay. We keep guessing.

Alex Horne Tony the Tiger. It's going to be roar again, I think.

Ed Gamble Well, that's not a catchphrase.

Alex Horne (Talking over each other 35.15). You stole my Frosties.

James Acaster Yes, who stole my Frosties?

Alex Horne I didn't think he had a catchphrase, did he?

Ed Gamble Yes, quite famously. The tiger.

James Acaster Yes, really, like, everyone knows it in the world.

Ed Gamble It's in reference to the Frosties themselves. Are we allowed to give that to him?

James Acaster It's his opinion on the Frosties.

Alex Horne They're great. They're Grrrrr, they're grrreat.







Ed Gamble

They're grrreat, yes. Who are the other cereal mascots? I guess we're then getting into the realms of Captain Crunch.

James Acaster The Quaker Oats man.

Ed Gamble He's not a mascot though.

Alex Horne There's a lady who looks like a K for Special K in a swimming suit.

James Acaster Grandma Crunch.

Ed Gamble I've moved on from Grandma Crunch now.

James Acaster Ed eats Grandma Crunch, but apparently not anymore.

Ed Gamble The guys at Surreal Cereal sent me some cereal, so I've moved onto those guys now.

Alex Horne I love those guys.

Ed Gamble Low carb.

Alex Horne There's a lot of them on there.

Ed Gamble Low carb, high protein cereal.

James Acaster

Yes, I can't think of any other real big cereal mascots.

Alex Horne

Cookie Wolf.



Yes, that fucking mad wolf with the cookies. Absolutely mad.

Alex Horne

I've never had a Pop-Tart.

James Acaster

Interesting.

Ed Gamble Hello. I think you would like a Pop-Tart though.

Alex Horne I think I'd like a Pop-Tart.

Ed Gamble Do you think you would like a Pop-Tart too much?

Alex Horne Yes, probably.

James Acaster

They are good. It's one of those things where I always asked as a kid, I was like, 'Please can we have Pop-Tarts?' Always no. Grew up, thought, 'Too old to have a Pop-Tart now, it's ridiculous.' But tried it and was like, 'They're every bit as good as I thought they'd be.' They're amazing.

Alex Horne

I did some research about them recently. They're in the 60s and they were called Pop-Tart, it was the during the war (ph 36.33) of pop art movement genuinely and they were called that, and there was a late arrival that came out at the same time that failed because they had a boring name. I think they were called-, I can't remember like Quaker Rectangles. Really dull name.

Ed Gamble

Pop-Tarts is fun.

Alex Horne

Really fun.

Ed Gamble And obviously they pop up.

James Acaster

They pop up.

Alex Horne And they're full of jam and chocolate. What are they?

James Acaster Jam, chocolate, marshmallow, whatever, fuzz.

Ed Gamble Peanut butter.

James Acaster It's all going on in there.

Alex Horne Well, maybe I'll have my first Pop-Tart with the bread.

Ed Gamble What do you want in the Pop-Tart?

Alex Horne What you said.

Ed Gamble Primula.

Alex Horne No, I'll have Nutella. No, I'll have Biscoff.

Ed Gamble Biscoff.

Alex Horne Yes.

Ed Gamble A Biscoff Pop-Tart.

James Acaster Biscoff Pop-Tart.

Ed Gamble

I think Pop-Tarts probably go down as the worst thing to start a day, don't you think?

James Acaster Yes.



No.

Ed Gamble

Wouldn't you feel awful if you had a Pop-Tart (talking over each other 37.18)?

Alex Horne

If you had a choice between a Pop-Tart or haddock, what would you have?

Ed Gamble Haddock.

James Acaster Haddock.

Alex Horne Okay, what about Pop-Tart or a very heavy cake?

Ed Gamble Probably a Pop-Tart, I guess.

Alex Horne Well, there you go. It's not as bad as a heavy cake.

Ed Gamble

No.

James Acaster I would say in terms of things that are marketed as a breakfast thing.

Alex Horne

Oh I see.

Ed Gamble Very heavy cake isn't one.

Alex Horne

A really heavy cake. Right, now I see.

Ed Gamble

How heavy were you thinking?



Alex Horne Like 1kg.

Ed Gamble Yes, that's a heavy cake.

Alex Horne 1000g. Big cake.

James Acaster It's a big cake.

Ed Gamble First big cake of the episode.

James Acaster First big cake there.

Alex Horne

I worry about your secret ingredient because I feel that this is a slightly scattergram approach to this and I might accidentally spray.

Ed Gamble Yes. When you're doing things, like, throwing Pop-Tarts onto the bread course.

Alex Horne There's not many foods we haven't mentioned yet, I think.

James Acaster Yes.

Alex Horne Eels quickly.

James Acaster Well, your dream starter then.

Alex Horne

Okay, can we have a pause in the meal? We'll do a lap of Marseille and then come back.

James Acaster

A pause for what?

Well, for it all to digest. I've eaten so much.

James Acaster

I thought it was, like, out of respect for someone who's died.

Alex Horne

Well, I guess people will have died. Yes, for whichever famous person has recently died.

Ed Gamble

Are you driving out of the drive through for the lap front ways?

Alex Horne

We have to reverse out because there's people in front of me, I think.

Ed Gamble

No, because you're the only one to reverse in.

Alex Horne

I don't know. Maybe we'll go up. Maybe they'll be a lift.

Ed Gamble

Straight up.

Alex Horne

Yes.

Ed Gamble

A car lift.

Alex Horne

Remember that little toy we had to wind the thing and the lift goes up.

Ed Gamble

Yes, there was a car lift.

Alex Horne

I'll go in one of them.

Ed Gamble

You been in a car lift in real life?

Alex Horne

Yes.



Ed Gamble

Very exciting, aren't they?

James Acaster

Where?

Alex Horne

I can't remember, but I definitely remember being in a car lift. I've been in one where in the Euro Tunnel I think, it spins you round 180 degrees.

James Acaster

I was thinking about the Euro Tunnel. I think that's where I've been in.

Alex Horne

Maybe I've been on one there as well. Maybe this is set in the Euro Tunnel. No.

Ed Gamble

I'm not sure there's a drive through at the Euro Tunnel.

Alex Horne

Yet.

Ed Gamble

You can't really drive through.

Alex Horne

Yet.

James Acaster First yet of the episode.

Alex Horne

I had a £50 bet with my friend Tim Henry when we were eighteen that there would be a sail through McDonald's by the time we were 50, and I had to pay out last year. It exists.

Ed Gamble What?

Alex Horne Yes.

James Acaster So, you said no.



Ed Gamble

You better (Talking over each other 39.24).

Alex Horne

I said no.

James Acaster

So, Tim Henry was the one who was like, 'There's definitely going to be a sail through McDonald's.' And you thought, 'Idiot.'

Alex Horne

24 years later I paid out.

Ed Gamble

How much was it?

Alex Horne

£50.

Ed Gamble

£50.

James Acaster

And had you stayed friends you and Tim Henry, or did Tim Henry have to get back in touch with you and go?

Alex Horne

Yes. We've stayed friends. He's moved to Australia, so I had to wire the money BACS.

James Acaster BACS.

Alex Horne I was thinking of CHAPS, then I went BACS in the end.

Ed Gamble Is the CHAPS for the money?

Alex Horne What is chaps?

Ed Gamble They're, sort of, cowboy trousers.



Oh right. There's a CHAPS payment system, isn't there?

James Acaster

Is there?

Ed Gamble

Is there?

Alex Horne I think so. Sometimes it says CHAPS or BACS, doesn't it?

James Acaster

What was the conversation between (TC 00:40:00) you and Tim Henry when you had to pay him the money?

Alex Horne I'll find you the message.

James Acaster Did he get in touch with you and say?

Alex Horne He got in touch with me from nowhere.

Ed Gamble I want to know more about this sail through McDonald's anyway.

Alex Horne Well, I can all the info.

James Acaster

There's a lot of questions here. Obviously, I've gone straight into being obsessed with Tim Henry.

Ed Gamble

Yes, because of his name.

Alex Horne

There's Tim Henry when I was (ph 40.16) in Australia recently.

Ed Gamble

There you go. Tim Henry's a handsome lad.



James Acaster Yes.

Alex Horne

He's that one.

Ed Gamble

I know what he is. (Talking over each other 40.22).

James Acaster

But he doesn't like a fucking heron (ph 40.25).

Alex Horne

Someone at the door, sorry. I'm just going to look through for the word sail through in my WhatsApp history.

Ed Gamble Okay.

Alex Horne Would it be hyphenated?

Ed Gamble What about McDonald's?

Alex Horne Okay. Well, I'm doing sail through.

James Acaster While you're searching it, do you want to tell us what your starter is?

Alex Horne Yes, I don't think I can do that though. I can't do two things.

James Acaster You can't do them at once.

Alex Horne

No.

James Acaster

The amount of things you ask people to do.



Unless you want to be to say, 'I want sail through for my starter.' McDonald's comes up a lot in my WhatsApps.

James Acaster

Does it?

Alex Horne Yes.

James Acaster

Too much?

Alex Horne

No, about right. I really like McDonald's food.

James Acaster

You love it.

Alex Horne Yes. Sail through. It might have been a text.

Ed Gamble How often are you chatting to Tim Henry though?

Alex Horne

I can tell you that stat. I reckon once a month.

James Acaster So, surely it's in this monthly (ph 41.06) chat.

Ed Gamble Just go to Tim Henry.

James Acaster

Most people would have found the Tim Henry chat and just scrolled, rather than search for the term sail through.

Alex Horne

Okay, I'm just going to scroll. Okay, Tim Henry Oz.

Ed Gamble

When was this? When did you lose the bet?



I think it was last year.

Ed Gamble

Okay, worth checking your bank history?

Alex Horne

I could do that. Do you want me to do that?

James Acaster

Well no, keep scrolling on the Tim Henry WhatsApp Oz.

Alex Horne

Yes, let's just do this. I bought him some gold shoes.

James Acaster

You bought Tim Henry some gold shoes, what?

Alex Horne

That was my standard birthday present for a year.

James Acaster Because there was an underground KFC.

Alex Horne Gold shoes in action.

Ed Gamble Yes, I remember when you were buying people gold shoes.

Alex Horne (Talking over each other 41.41). I'm back in 2018 now.

Ed Gamble

Oh right.

James Acaster

Okay, so you've sailed past the sail through chat.

Ed Gamble

Benito, you can tell us about the sail through McDonald's, right?

James Acaster

It's called McBoat.



Alex Horne I think it was called McBoat.

Ed Gamble It's in Hamburg.

James Acaster It's in Hamburg.

Ed Gamble Of course, it's in Hamburg. Where else would it be?

James Acaster Boaty McBoatface, you remember that?

Alex Horne Because Hamburg sounds like hamburger.

Ed Gamble Yes.

Alex Horne Fine. I do remember Boaty McBoatface.

Ed Gamble We need to hear about your starter. Is it McDonald's related?

James Acaster Do you know what Boaty McBoatface got called in the end?

Alex Horne

No.

James Acaster Because they didn't let it be called Boaty McBoatface, David Attenborough.

Alex Horne And that's the same with his actual name, isn't it?

James Acaster

Yes.



Mrs Attenborough wanted to call him Baby McBabyface. Well, we can talk about Attenborough if you want.

James Acaster

No, let's hear your starter.

Alex Horne Okay, crisps and dips.

James Acaster Crisps and dips. What kind of crisps?

Alex Horne Pringles.

James Acaster Yes.

Alex Horne Obviously.

James Acaster Flavour.

Alex Horne And maybe McCoy's and also Taytos, cheese and onion or the spring onion one with chives.

Ed Gamble Taytos are good. Taytos are good stuff.

Alex Horne Taytos are good. Taytos are good stuff.

James Acaster Been (ph 42.47) to the Taytos.

Alex Horne No, I've tried to go to Tayto World.

James Acaster (Talking over each other 42.49).

Yes, I've tried to go twice and it's been shut each time.

Ed Gamble

Oh no.

Alex Horne So, I'm going to keep trying.

Ed Gamble What time did you try and go?

Alex Horne Midnight.

James Acaster Knock on the door.

Alex Horne

Christmas day. No, the kids want to go because when you land in Belfast, it's the main sign you see, isn't it? Tayto World. So, I haven't been, but I'd like to. But, I'll have crisps and dips. That'll be fine.

Ed Gamble Let's do a quick world cup of crisp mascots.

James Acaster Yes.

Ed Gamble There's the Tayto, Tayto, of course.

Alex Horne Pringle man.

Ed Gamble Pringle man.

James Acaster

I wouldn't be surprised if it turned out the Pringle man was the distant cousin of the Monopoly man.

Alex Horne

Maybe not that distant. Do people still use the phrase, never seen them in the same room? Is that still going?





Ed Gamble I think so.

James Acaster Yes.

Alex Horne Have you ever seen Mr Pringle and Mr Monopoly in the same room?

James Acaster Yes, at a board game party.

Alex Horne So, they're not the same person.

Ed Gamble Have we seen his body though, Pringle man?

James Acaster No, it's just like a head.

Ed Gamble It's only his head, isn't it?

Alex Horne Yes.

James Acaster Like the games master.

Alex Horne Yes, or Kritan (ph 43.44).

James Acaster

Yes, or Kritan. He's just a floating head. I can't remember if he has a monocle or not because now I'm confusing him with Monopoly man (talking over each other 43.50).

Alex Horne

No, it's mainly just a moustache. I think he's the shape of a Pringle, isn't he?

James Acaster

And his name is?



Alright, he's come up on No More Jockeys, Mr Pringle, and he does have a name.

James Acaster That's why I brought it up because I know that you've Googled his name during an episode. **OFF MENU**

Alex Horne Yes, I won't remember anything.

James Acaster I don't remember it either.

Ed Gamble Right, perfect.

Alex Horne Little (ph 44.06) Pringle.

James Acaster It was a good name.

Alex Horne Derek Pringle. It could be called Derek Pringle.

James Acaster

Was a good name. It was a funny name. What other crisp mascots are there?

Ed Gamble Well, do you remember Brannigans? There was the butcher.

James Acaster Yes, Brannigans is good. They had good crisps.

Ed Gamble Yes, they're not as good anymore.

James Acaster Really?

Ed Gamble

Well, they're not in the paper packets. I miss the paper packets, the Brannigans paper packets.

James Acaster

Chunky ham and mustard Brannigans.



Ed Gamble

Yes, roast beef and mustard for me.

Alex Horne

Well, I'll have all of these. I'll have a crisp spread if that's alright? I'll have some Monster Munch.

James Acaster

This is what Rosie Jones did. Rosie Jones did this.

Alex Horne

Well, I won't do it then. I'll have crackling. I'll have pork crackling. Can I have pork crackling as my starter, please?

Ed Gamble

You can have crackling with the crisps if you want.

Alex Horne

Okay.

Ed Gamble I feel, like, they go on a platter nicely.

Alex Horne

Cooked by my friend Jules Watson because he made me crackling at the weekend, and it was really nice.

Ed Gamble Just crackling.

James Acaster Any relation?

Alex Horne

Yes, he's got Laura, his wife and his two children, Jake and George.

Ed Gamble

His two children, Jake.

Alex Horne

I was struggling for George for a little bit. Thank God I remembered George. Yes, so I'll have Jules Watson's crackling alongside the crisps.

So, Jules Watson makes their own crackling at home.

Alex Horne

Yes, I'm quite jealous of Jules Watson.

James Acaster Oh, yes. Why? Great life.

Alex Horne

Great cooking. Great life, but he's just a good cook and he cares about that. I don't care about it enough to make crackling.

Ed Gamble

When you say he made crackling, I'm assuming there was pork attached to the crackling?

Alex Horne

Yes, and I witnessed the whole thing and he lifted the crackling lid off the pork and then he scrapped away a layer of fat, put that in the bin, annoyingly.

Ed Gamble

Yes, don't do that.

James Acaster

You'd love that.

Alex Horne Yes, he'd eat that. You'd give it to the birds.

James Acaster Yes. make a little ball.

Alex Horne

Yes, make it to a ball, give it to the birds. Especially with winter coming, they've got to get ready.

Ed Gamble

They've got to get fat.

Alex Horne

Got to get fat.

Ed Gamble

Do you like the pork itself?



Yes, I like everything. It doesn't make any difference.

Ed Gamble

But the crackling is a nice little starter.

Alex Horne

Yes, because of the texture. That's why I don't like water because of the texture.

Ed Gamble You don't like the texture of water.

James Acaster What? I mean, isn't it the same texture as the Fanta that you wanted?

Alex Horne No.

James Acaster Water has a different texture to Orangina.

Alex Horne Yes.

James Acaster I guess Orangina has got those little bits of orange in.

Alex Horne And also it's thicker.

Ed Gamble Sugary and thick.

Alex Horne

Yes.

Ed Gamble

And fizzy.

Alex Horne

And warmer. I'll have warm Fanta. No, it's just a different texture. I don't like the texture of water that much.





Ed Gamble What if water was crispy?

Alex Horne Yes. I like that or steam.

James Acaster Yes, so you'll have ice.

Alex Horne I'll have ice and steam but nothing in between. I just don't like wet water.

Ed Gamble I think crackling's a nice addition to this.

James Acaster Yes, crackling's a nice little starter there. So, is crackling not pork scratchings?

Alex Horne No man. It's definitely crackling not pork scratchings. Are there any side effects to this meal?

James Acaster Not if you don't want there to be.

Ed Gamble Do you mean physical side effects?

Alex Horne

And mental side effects. I think one day someone's going to tell us exactly what's happened with the pork scratchings industry, and then they'll be side effects.

Ed Gamble

Mentally.

Alex Horne

Yes.

Ed Gamble

You mean what's going on there.

Alex Horne

Yes, I think they'll go, 'This is how we did it and it was just scratching pigs with a bucket underneath.'



I mean, I think for most people they'll be quite relieved to hear that that's the process. They're just giving pig a little scratch.

Ed Gamble

Because the pig sound like it would quite enjoy that.

James Acaster

Yes, it's quite nice for the pig. It just falls off nice and easy into a bucket.

Alex Horne

Would you eat that though if it was just a bucket of literally a man scratching a pig and you've got to eat what he found? (Laughter)

Ed Gamble

I think I might.

Alex Horne Would you?

James Acaster What?

Ed Gamble I wish they'd shave it though.

James Acaster Yes, shave the pork scratchings.

Ed Gamble I do wish they'd shave it.

Alex Horne Yes, you do find some bits.

James Acaster That's not nice.

Alex Horne I still eat them.

Ed Gamble Oh yes, proud of it.

I'll have one pork scratching please. One hairless pork scratching.

Ed Gamble

One hairless.

James Acaster One single, and how big is it?

Alex Horne I'd like it to feel like a chicken nugget.

Ed Gamble So, the size of a chicken nugget.

Alex Horne Yes, the size of a chicken-,

James Acaster

The size but not the density. You don't want it soft like a chicken nugget.

Alex Horne

I'd like it to be about the same weight because they can be quite light, pork scratchings.

Ed Gamble They can be, but sometimes they've got a bit too much fat on them I find and the hair thing as well.

James Acaster

Sometimes you have the ones that maybe are a bit the consistency of a chicken nugget. They're quite spongy and I think those ones are horrible.

Alex Horne

When you expect a bit of give and it just sliced straight through. I don't mind them.

James Acaster

You like those ones.

Alex Horne

I'll have one of them.

Ed Gamble

Yes, but completely hairless.





Yes.

Ed Gamble

Brazilian pork scratching.

Alex Horne

I think that would be one little strip of hair on the pork scratching.

Ed Gamble

It's nice that we get to talk about this because I'm never actually too sure. People chop and change with their terminology there.

Alex Horne

Yes, because I'm quite a clean comic, but I sometimes do jokes about Brazilians.

James Acaster

What?

Alex Horne

I try to get a big audience to do a Mexican wave and then we did a Brazilian wave which is nice neat one down the middle. It's quite funny.

James Acaster

That's quite funny.

Ed Gamble That's really funny.

Alex Horne But it's, sort of, cheeky.

James Acaster

Love a bit of cheeky.

Ed Gamble

I suggested that was completely hairless, that joke wouldn't work at all, would it?

Alex Horne

No, I guess there are some Brazilians who are hairless, but you've have to say the specific Brazilian, maybe Fernandinho.

Ed Gamble

What's all of it off then?





He'll always steer it over to his actual area of expertise.

Alex Horne

Yes, my actual area of expertise is how much pubic hair Brazilian footballers have.

James Acaster He knows that.

James Acaster Your dream main course.

Alex Horne Am I ordering it from you or from Ed?

James Acaster I'm the waiter, he's the maître d'.

Ed Gamble I'm the maître d', so I'm just here.

Alex Horne Yes. Well, it's nice you're hanging around. There are other diners.

Ed Gamble Are there?

Alex Horne So, feel free to leave us alone.

James Acaster Who are the other diners?

Ed Gamble It's a drive through, isn't it?

Alex Horne Claire Rayner. Is that a politician?

Ed Gamble Claire Rayner, no.



I don't know Claire Rayner.

Ed Gamble

She was Jay Rayner's mum, I believe.

Alex Horne

She was the first person that popped into my head for some reason. She's here, so go and talk to Claire. I'm going to order from the genie. Hello, please can I have some pesto pasta? Is that alright?

James Acaster Yes.

Alex Horne From a jar.

James Acaster What kind of pasta is it?

Alex Horne

I haven't finished. It's tubes and just add the boiling water eight to twelve (TC 00:50:00) minutes which is quite a wide-, they give you a bit of wiggle room there.

Ed Gamble They do. Do you prefer it eight or twelve?

Alex Horne Don't mind.

Ed Gamble Which end of the spectrum?

Alex Horne

Don't mind.

Ed Gamble Do you like it al dente?

Alex Horne Don't mind.

James Acaster

Do you ever put that as a task? You have eight to twelve minutes.



Alex Horne No, exactly. No, I wouldn't do that.

James Acaster Maybe you should start doing that.

Alex Horne Yes, maybe I should.

Ed Gamble What? Just that's the task.

James Acaster

Yes, rather than, like, you've got to do this, you have half an hour, your time starts now, you have eight to twelve minutes your time starts now.

Alex Horne Yes, it is quite nice.

Ed Gamble That's the whole task.

James Acaster Something before then.

Alex Horne To your taste. I'll go with eight to twelve minutes.

James Acaster

Do something that tasks eight to twelve minutes, you have eight to twelve minutes, your time starts now.

Alex Horne I can't write that down. I guess you're recording this? I'll listen to it.

James Acaster

Luckily for you this is being documented.

Alex Horne

So, the way I want the chef to cook it-, who is the chef?

James Acaster

Who do you want it to be?



Jay Rayner. I want him to cook it for eight to twelve minutes, then drain it, but just using the lid-, because this is the only meal I can cook.

James Acaster

Okay.

Alex Horne

So, I want him to drain it with the lid as the pasta and some of the pasta will go into the sink, put that back into the pan.

Ed Gamble

So, you're not using a colander.

Alex Horne

No, waste of washing up.

Ed Gamble

The sink pasta goes back in with the normal pasta.

Alex Horne

Sure, sink pasta goes back in, don't worry about that. Then you're stirring in the pesto, half a jar, you know the cheap.

Ed Gamble

Saclà.

Alex Horne

Yes, Saclà pesto.

Ed Gamble

It's good stuff.

Alex Horne

Get all the oil in. Then you're getting some Boursin. Fork of Boursin and you're stirring that in, and you're getting one Frankfurter, slicing it up and stirring that in.

Ed Gamble

No, you're not. Alex, you are not doing that.

Alex Horne

And that is my dream meal, but I will also grate some cheddar on the top and stir that in.



Ed Gamble

Cheddar.

James Acaster

Okay, so I was weirdly very on board with the Frankfurter and then I jumped off board with the cheddar.

Alex Horne

Really?

James Acaster Yes.

Alex Horne You were off board, you climbed back on board, and you're jumping off board again.

James Acaster

Yes.

Alex Horne Sounds like you're having fun.

James Acaster Yes, I was having a lot of fun. No one's denying it, it was really fun.

Ed Gamble And what year did you graduate from university?

James Acaster

Ed Gamble Is this something you used to cook at university?

Alex Horne

Something I still cook now.

Ed Gamble

Yes, that's what I mean, but this is a student meal is what this is.

James Acaster

It comes with being a student.

Alex Horne

Well. Yes, I suppose so, but I'm not a student now and I still cook it.



Ed Gamble

Yes, but that's what I mean, but this feels, like, something that you would have cooked as a student.

James Acaster

The point Ed's making is you have not progressed.

Alex Horne

Well, nor has (talking over each other 452,14) Horne. My dad on Mondays had to cook because Sheila obviously went to choir and we had a mushroom omelette everyday for fifteen years-, every Monday for fifteen years.

James Acaster

Yes, not every day for fifteen years.

Alex Horne No, every Monday.

Ed Gamble

Every Monday for fifteen years is bad enough.

Alex Horne

Cheese (talking over each other 52.27). Sometimes we put ham in it, but that was all he could cook and all I can do is this, but it's fine.

Ed Gamble

How often are you having pesto pasta with Boursin, Frankfurter, and cheddar?

Alex Horne

Not often because Rachel looks after me very well and knows that if she's not there this is what I'll eat.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Have you cooked it for your kids before?

Alex Horne

Yes, and I mean, you can ask them about it. They were sick, so I'm not allowed to cook for them anymore. All I'm allowed to make now is daddy's special pudding.

James Acaster

Oh God. That needs to be rebranded Alex. Alex you can't.

Alex Horne

Which is going to the biscuit cupboard, getting a biscuit, going to the sweet cupboard, getting a few sweets, putting them in a bowl, and stirring them up.



James Acaster What?

Alex Horne That's daddy's special pudding.

James Acaster What are the sweets?

Alex Horne Whatever sweets are there, Chewits probably. (Laughter)

James Acaster And what are the biscuits?

Alex Horne Again, whatever there's, digestives.

James Acaster So, you put biscuits and sweets in a bowl.

Alex Horne Grind them up, stir them up.

Ed Gamble You grind up the biscuits.

Alex Horne Well, just, sort of, pestle and mortar.

James Acaster You grind them up together.

Alex Horne Yes.

James Acaster So, you grind up Chewits and digestives.

Ed Gamble

It's just like a powder with sweets in it and that's daddy's special pudding.



Chunks rather than powder.

Ed Gamble But there's no moisture in there.

Alex Horne No moisture in there.

Ed Gamble And do they like daddy's special pudding?

Alex Horne

They don't mind it (talking over each other 53.35).

Ed Gamble

Well, they're just getting rid of the taste of the Boursin and cheddar and all the other stuff.

Alex Horne

Yes, too much cheese they said. I think two of them were sick.

Ed Gamble

Well, there's a lot because you've got cheese in the pesto.

Alex Horne

Cheese in the pesto. Is there cheese in pesto? Yes, they're probably is, isn't there?

Ed Gamble

Yes, there's parmesan or pecorino.

Alex Horne

Boursin.

Ed Gamble

And then Boursin and then the cheddar obviously, and then obviously the Frankfurter as well.

Alex Horne

Why I want it in the restaurant is that I do cook it for myself, but I'd love to see a chef making it and see if it was as good as mine.

James Acaster

You've chosen food critic to make it.



Alex Horne Yes. Is he a critic?

James Acaster Yes, he's a food critic, Jay Rayner.

Alex Horne Right. Well, he's got to make it now.

Ed Gamble Do you think that's what those old people had before they got on the coach?

James Acaster Yes, probably.

Alex Horne Was it two of my time travelling children?

Ed Gamble In the future.

James Acaster It's like Dark, the series Dark.

Alex Horne I had a doctor called Dark, did I?

James Acaster Hark was the doctor that you made up.

Ed Gamble Dark is a fantastic German TV show which you can understand without the subtitles.

Alex Horne As long as they're talking about chewing gum. (Laughter)

James Acaster As long as (ph 54.28) that's the main plot. I think it comes up.

Ed Gamble

Yes, there's a lot of chewing gum stuff. This is exactly the sort of thing I would have made when I was a student or in the couple of years after I graduated.



I associate it with Josh Widdicombe.

Ed Gamble

Really?

James Acaster

Yes, because when I first met Josh, he was just out of university and when I'd go to his house to hang out, if he was like, 'Do you want some food?' He would always make pesto pasta. He would just put cherry tomatoes in there with the pesto. We'd wolf that down and I'd quite look forward to that, and I remember at that point, see I hadn't been to university, I hadn't really cooked much for myself at all, so I'd watched Josh making the pesto pasta and go, 'Wow.' He's like culinary. He knows what he's doing.

Alex Horne

Well, cherry tomatoes is really exotic because, well, it's a fruit and it's a fruit. It's double fruit, but it's still a vegetable, surely.

James Acaster

Yes, it's so much of a fruit, it becomes a vegetable.

Ed Gamble

I don't have pesto, but I used to have it so regularly pesto pasta. It is delicious.

James Acaster

It's good stuff. I mainly use pesto now with-, I do the Jamie Oliver salmon recipe from one of his books, so fillet of salmon, pesto all over it and then put loads of, like, green beans and stuff and you wrap it all up in foil, put it in the oven.

Alex Horne

Okay.

Ed Gamble

No, not enough Frankfurters in that, is there?

Alex Horne

No, so I have Frankfurters because in my university days I lived with AI Doyle from Hot Chip and he made nood furters (ph 55.52) every week, you know, stirring noodles with hot water, and then Frankfurters.

Ed Gamble

Nood furters.

Alex Horne Nood furters we made.



Obviously I was hoping he was going to make hot chips, but he never made you hot chips.

Alex Horne

That was as Hot Chip were being formed.

Ed Gamble

The original name was Nood Furters, wasn't it?

Alex Horne Nood furters.

James Acaster

To be honest not a bad name for a band, Nood Furter.

Alex Horne

Might be better than Hot Chip. Also, you mentioned Jamie Oliver, you know what I have on the side which I have a lot now is Jamie Oliver sausage rolls from the service stations. They are incredible. I think they're pork. I think they might be called a pork roll instead of a sausage roll. It's so good.

James Acaster

Is it hot?

Alex Horne

Yes.

Ed Gamble

If you had it at the service station, would it be hot though?

Alex Horne

Yes, it's the green daily fresh or something. It's called Jamie Oliver's nice food.

Ed Gamble

Jamie Oliver's nice food, daily fresh.

Alex Horne

Yes, I think so. It's a cut above the norm and it's so good. I really recommend it.

James Acaster

Why is it a cut above the norm?

Alex Horne

I'm really hungry.



That's Alex's stomach there.

Ed Gamble

There you go.

Alex Horne

It's because I mentioned Jamie Oliver's sausage rolls. They're so good.

Ed Gamble

Didn't do that with your nood furters.

Alex Horne

It's because they've got Jamie Oliver mention everywhere and it's really nice.

James Acaster

So, this would be your side dish. Were you jumping ahead to your side dish here that you would have your pesto pasta and then on the side a Jamie Oliver's sausage roll?

Alex Horne

I think it'd be my second main.

Ed Gamble Okay, interesting.

Alex Horne Because there's nothing stopping you having a second main at restaurants I've discovered recently.

Ed Gamble Have you don't that recently in real life had two mains?

Alex Horne

I would have thought so.

Ed Gamble

Yes, but you can't remember what happened.

Alex Horne

No, not when I go to a restaurant.

Ed Gamble

Jamie Oliver, friend of the show of course.



James Acaster Friend of the show.

Ed Gamble Glad to hear his sausage rolls are good.

James Acaster Been on the show.

Ed Gamble He recommended us some pants that really keep my sausage rolled up.

Alex Horne You're doing pants now.

Ed Gamble No, he just gave us a genuine recommendation.

James Acaster Enthusiastic about the pants he wears.

Alex Horne I'd imagine he wears quite thick pants.

James Acaster Well, you'd be wrong.

Ed Gamble Well, I'm wearing a pair of them right now.

Alex Horne Are they thick?

Ed Gamble No.

James Acaster Not today. (Laughter)

Alex Horne Do I have to check if I'm wearing Jamie Oliver pants?

Ed Gamble

Well, I'd imagine you've got pink pants on.



No, there's been a situation there. They've all gone black.

Ed Gamble

What?

Alex Horne It's all black now.

Ed Gamble

As in they used to be pink and now they've gone black.

Alex Horne

Greg teased me so much. He said, 'You've got to wear black pants.'

James Acaster

Because their slimming.

Alex Horne

I think because he said, 'The older you get, the more likely are to be that you'll need black pants.'

James Acaster What?

Ed Gamble Right.

Alex Horne I don't know. I'm waiting to discover the reason.

James Acaster

I'm guessing he thinks you're going to be dropping drops of piss all over your pants.

Alex Horne

I thought it would be the other one, but yes. (Talking over each other 58.09).

Ed Gamble

Those are the exact pants that Greg wears.

Alex Horne

Yes, I wear the same pants as Greg now.



No, Alex. You've got to look at that. You've got to examine that.

Alex Horne

I've got a box of pink pants.

James Acaster

But Greg has bullied you into wearing the same pants as him.

Alex Horne Yes.

Ed Gamble Black pants.

James Acaster This is not healthy Alex.

Ed Gamble So, you've got your two mains.

Alex Horne Thank you. Thank you for that by the way. Thank you for all of this.

Ed Gamble Most welcome.

Alex Horne Thanks guys.

Ed Gamble This is obviously a Christmas episode.

Alex Horne

Clearly.

Ed Gamble

So, we'd like to talk to you about what you like to eat on Christmas day please Alex.

Alex Horne

Merry Christmas to you too.

Ed Gamble

Merry Christmas.



Don't often say merry except for Christmas time.

Ed Gamble

No.

James Acaster That's true.

Ed Gamble Merry Birthday.

Alex Horne Merry Birthday.

James Acaster Merry Birthday. Merry Easter.

Alex Horne Pardon.

Ed Gamble

What do you like to eat on Christmas day? What's your favourites? What do you look forward to?

Alex Horne

We have Bucks Fizz in the morning thanks to Sheila, no one likes it. I don't think anyone in the world likes it, do they?

James Acaster

Do you not like it? It's like a boozy Orangina.

Alex Horne

I suppose it is on the surface, but it's got that claggy taste. Yes, horrible.

Ed Gamble

First thing in the morning, you're, sort of, shaking yourself to wake yourself.

Alex Horne

Yes, maybe that's what Sheila's doing. Sheila's treating me like an Orangina bottle. I'll have it for the traditions sake. We go a bit rogue, scampi and chips.

James Acaster

Wow.



Ed Gamble

What are you talking about? For breakfast.

Alex Horne

For breakfast. No, for mains, we'll have scampi and chips and crackers.

James Acaster

For your Christmas dinner you have scampi and chips.

Alex Horne

Scampi and chips. Not every year. In fact not any year, but I would like it. Well, otherwise I'm just having turkey, aren't I? You don't want me to say turkey, do you?

James Acaster

We want you to ask what you genuinely have on Christmas day.

Ed Gamble

But that's interesting though. That's an interesting point. It's what you genuinely have, but if you don't like it.

Alex Horne

I like it, but it's boring. I'll have turkey with all the trimmings. What we will have, the interesting bits are pineapple. We have a pineapple (TC 01:00:00) after the turkey.

Ed Gamble

You really can't stay away from pineapples, can you?

Alex Horne

Well, this is why I've got a pineapple tattoo is because every Christmas we have a game where grandpa-, we all have to guess how many leaves are on the top of a pineapple and then grandpa peels them and it was Traylor (ph 01.00.12) before, now it's Hugh, the grandpa and soon it will be me. Not soon, at some point it will be and everyone puts in money and guesses how many leaves there are on a pineapple.

James Acaster

Puts in money.

Alex Horne

Yes, everyone puts in. It used to be 20p, it's now a pound.

Ed Gamble

Inflation.



And the winner gets the money. How many leaves do you think will be on the pineapple? It's a, sort of, eight to twelve minute situation.

James Acaster

Yes, I'd guess nine.

Alex Horne

Too low. Nine.

Ed Gamble

Seven.

Alex Horne

I mean, look at it.

Ed Gamble

Oh my God, yes. You're showing me the tattoo which is a cartoon pineapple. That's way more leaves than would be on a pineapple.

Alex Horne

Often triple figures.

Ed Gamble Triple figures.

Thple ligures.

Alex Horne Triple figures. They keep on coming.

Ed Gamble No pineapple has over 100 leaves on top.

Alex Horne

Nearly all the pineapples have over 100 leaves on top.

James Acaster

Are you sure it's a pineapple that you're doing this with?

Alex Horne

I know a lot about pineapples. I went to Bolivia to see them being grown, on the floor. They grow on the floor. One pineapple a year pops out.

Ed Gamble

Bolivia grow one pineapple a year.



What?

Alex Horne

Each pineapple plant, one pineapple comes out, next year another pineapple out the top of that. You have to slice the top off and plant that. Mad.

Ed Gamble

Well, of course, when you do Taskmaster, I know we've done it.

James Acaster

We've done it. Yes, you can't take that back.

Alex Horne Really?

James Acaster Yes.

Alex Horne I was going to ask you guys at the end of the podcast if you wanted to do it.

Ed Gamble

You get given a pineapple plant as a gift.

Alex Horne Of course, you do.

Ed Gamble And so far I have killed two pineapples.

Alex Horne

Yes, me too. They're very hard to keep alive.

James Acaster Excuse me, what?

Alex Horne It's a new thing. It's Channel 4.

James Acaster

(Talking over each other 01.01.42) given a fucking pineapple plant.



Ed Gamble Did you not?

James Acaster No.

Alex Horne Just wait, you will.

Ed Gamble I've been given two.

James Acaster I didn't get given nothing.

Alex Horne You didn't win.

Ed Gamble

No, but we all got pineapples on our series. You must have been given a picture of one your best moments framed.

Alex Horne Lots of these are new developments.

James Acaster You made that one up.

Ed Gamble No genuinely haven't.

James Acaster Really?

Ed Gamble I've got a framed picture of me stood next to Alex dressed as the mermaid.

James Acaster Alex, we got nothing. Are you joking?

Alex Horne Yes, but you guys got paid.



I'm two series behind him. (Laughter)

Alex Horne

Yes, I think Vicky came on board after. A lot of these are Vicky's developments.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Vicky's great.

Alex Horne

Yes.

James Acaster Well, retroactively you should give us something.

Alex Horne Did you have Vicky in your series?

James Acaster No.

Alex Horne That's it then.

James Acaster Yes.

Alex Horne

Well look, Christmas is all about pineapples for me. Honestly, that game is great and I promise you, they get quite small and then there's arguments about what is a leaf.

Ed Gamble

This is not an insult. It sounds like something you would make up that grandad has to peel all the pineapple.

Alex Horne

I promise it's not, and also other people play the game we've discovered since.

James Acaster

Why?

Alex Horne

I've mentioned this before. It's a, sort of, old tradition. I promise it is and we go to the Pineapple Pub obviously for my birthday every year, so I love pineapples. And also, and this is true, and this is going to



sound like I'm making it up, one time Will from The Horne Section, he's a vegetarian, went to a late night kebab van. We were all queuing up. He asked for a pineapple juice and they gave him a pie and an apple juice. (Laughter) Pineapple juice and that's true.

Ed Gamble

I love that game.

Alex Horne

And my last thing for Christmas dinner is After Eights because I like After Eights because they're nice. They come in the little envelopes each one.

Ed Gamble

Yes, sleeves.

Alex Horne

And in the Horne Section tour, we used do a section where people in the audience put things on the stage at half time that we would laminate the best thing in the second half with some slow music as it went through the laminator. And one person put in an After Eight. Someone else put in a condom and we swapped them around and put the condom in the After Eight wrapper and the After Eight in the condom wrapper, and they fit perfectly.

James Acaster

That's nice. That's satisfying.

Alex Horne Yes, really satisfying.

Ed Gamble

Alex Horne It's like one of those perfect fit things that you get on YouTube (ph 01.03.44)

Ed Gamble

Yes, that's great.

James Acaster

Do you give those to the audience member?

Alex Horne

No, I think what I did was something horrible which I think I got the condom packet and then took the After Eight out of it and ate it. I think something like that, I imagine.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Well, there we go. You will eat anything.

James Acaster

Eat anything, doesn't care. Is that what you want for Christmas dinner then, an After Eight in a condom wrapper?

Ed Gamble

Did you put the After Eight on your knob?

Alex Horne

No, I'm the opposite there. I'll put anything in my mouth, but nothing on my gentleman's place.

James Acaster

Apart from whatever Greg Davis tells you to put on (laughter) in which case you'll absolutely do it in a heartbeat.

Alex Horne

Yes, that's true.

James Acaster

If Grey David said put an After Eight on your knob, you'd be right there.

Alex Horne

Yes, it'll be there permanently.

James Acaster

You have to do it Alex because you're a certain age now. Okay.

Ed Gamble

It's too minty. It'd be like using that Original Source Shower Gel, wouldn't it?

James Acaster

It would be.

Alex Horne

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes, tingles.

James Acaster Nice tingles.





Ed Gamble

No, so the Original Source sometimes I get out the shower, I'm like, especially on a cold day.

Alex Horne Have you done the horseradish one?

Ed Gamble No, not done the horseradish.

Alex Horne It's really good.

James Acaster Jalapeño one.

Alex Horne Yes. Mustard mouthwash they do.

James Acaster

Well, that's good that you're pineapple game. Do you then eat the pineapple at the end of the pineapple game?

Alex Horne No, Sheila slices it up and I think it sits in the fridge for bit and no one wants pineapple at Christmas.

Ed Gamble What? Do you not like the taste of pineapple?

James Acaster

But you're obsessed with pineapple, but you don't like eating it.

Alex Horne

No, I don't like the taste of it. No, I don't really like it. It's too acidic.

James Acaster

So, where does the obsession come from? Why are going and watch it be grown in Bolivia or whatever?

Alex Horne

I didn't watch it be grown. Well, I did watch it be grown I suppose, but I didn't sit and watch it. I wandered round.

Ed Gamble

You didn't go to Bolivia for the pineapple.



Not only that.

James Acaster

But you went to watch a pineapple.

Alex Horne

Yes, we diverted. We went specifically to a pineapple farm (ph 01.05.18).

James Acaster

You've got a pineapple tattoo. You play a pineapple game on Christmas. You made pineapples a huge part of your TV show, but you don't like eating pineapples.

Alex Horne Not really, no. I don't think I like any-,

Ed Gamble Have you ever had a roasted pineapple?

Alex Horne No.

Ed Gamble Very nice.

Alex Horne One of our catchphrases at school was it has no business on the pizza about pineapples.

Ed Gamble Not about anything (ph 01.05.34).

Alex Horne It has no business.

James Acaster Catchphrases.

Ed Gamble

One of your catchphrases at school.

Alex Horne

Yes, the other was, what was the biology teacher called? Top it up (ph 01.05.41). He was called Doctor Top it up because he's always say about the tests, just top it up.



Ed Gamble

Doctor Top it up.

Alex Horne

No, I think his nickname was foetus because he looked like a foetus, but anyway his catchphrase was top it up.

Ed Gamble Wow. Doctor Foetus Top it up.

Alex Horne

Oh God.

James Acaster Well, I think that covers Christmas.

Alex Horne Yes, that felt pretty festive.

Ed Gamble I love that pineapple game.

Alex Horne

It's a good game and it's a bit of calm as well. Everyone has to sit and watch them count.

James Acaster You should play that Ed.

Ed Gamble

No.

James Acaster

You should play any games.

Ed Gamble

No.

James Acaster

You nearly shit yourself earlier because you thought that, that was a task we had to do.

Ed Gamble

I would do that, yes.



Yes, you would instantly.

Alex Horne

It's like guess the marbles in a jar. That's the ultimate task really. (Audio cuts out 01.06.16) leaves on a pineapple. Oh dear. it got very sombre.

James Acaster

I have a question for Ed.

Alex Horne Right, do you want me to ask it or do you want to ask it?

James Acaster

Yes.

Alex Horne

Okay, do you want to mouth it and I'll do it? Okay, if you had to dress up as someone at Christmas, which member of the family would you dress up as?

James Acaster Two of those words were right.

Ed Gamble Christmas I'd image is one of them.

James Acaster Yes, and family.

Ed Gamble And family, yes.

James Acaster

When you play board games at Christmas with your family, how competitive do you get?

Ed Gamble

Probably my grandma and very.

Alex Horne

Wig.

Ed Gamble

Yes. She's (inaudible 01.06.52) seeing this, so that might be a bit weird.



It'd be nice, right?

Ed Gamble

Yes. Should be nice. Well, we don't really play board games at Christmas. Scrabble normally.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

When my grandma was still alive it would be Scrabble, me, my mum, and my grandma, but they throw down in Scrabble, so there's no chance in me winning, so I'm not competitive.

James Acaster

You, kind of, know going in.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

It's nice to know to going in.

Alex Horne

I had an insane game of Scrabble recently with my brother-in-law, Eddie, who might be listening to this, he played the rule that you can't have-, say if you've got the word live.

James Acaster

Spell it.

Alex Horne

Live. I want to an S on the end and then put sausage. I said, 'No, you've got to use the existing letters of live, you can't add to live.'

Ed Gamble

That's not true.

Alex Horne

You wouldn't put an O on the front of (talking over each other 01.07.35).

Ed Gamble

That's half the joy of Scrabble is adding new letters onto them.



I couldn't believe and we eventually had to say, 'Well, we've all got different rules for Scrabble.' In my head I'm thinking, 'Yours are not the right rules.'

Ed Gamble

Yes, that is one of the rules of Scrabble that you can do that.

James Acaster

Could you not just Google it and show him?

Alex Horne

I didn't want to. It felt like then I was real power play, so if you're listening Eddie, sorry but I think you were wrong on that.

James Acaster

And then you could at tock and it would be livestock.

Alex Horne

Exactly.

James Acaster Satisfied.

Alex Horne

Yes.

Ed Gamble

You could have put an A in the front and had sausage.

Alex Horne

Livestock. Did you say a sausage?

Ed Gamble

No, just sausage because you can start above the letter, can't you?

Alex Horne

Right. Yes, you could put ten and then an S on the end, ten sausages.

Ed Gamble

Ten sausages.

Alex Horne

That's how Scrabble works.



James Acaster

Your dream side dish.

Alex Horne

Right guys, I feel, like, we've done some quite inappropriate content here, so I'm going to suggest something I've only had once and I really liked it, but I don't think it's the right thing to order here, but do you mind if I order it anyway?

Ed Gamble

You must. I'm intrigued.

Alex Horne

It's the wafers you get at church.

Ed Gamble

When you said we've done some quite inappropriate content so I'm going to order something here, and I was about just say Body of Christ.

Alex Horne

But I had it once and I didn't mind it and I wouldn't have minded another.

Ed Gamble

Yes, but you can't go round again. You can't join the back of the queue again, can you?

James Acaster

No, that's the problem.

Alex Horne

But also, if we're saying this is a safe space where people won't complain, I'm just ordering the physical thing. I'm not interested in what it represents or what it actually is in a Catholic Church.

Ed Gamble

(Talking over each other 01.09.04).

Alex Horne

And my wife's Catholic and their family are all Catholic and I really respect the faith but on this occasion, you must be able to buy that stuff.

Ed Gamble

I'm sure you can buy that stuff because I was at a funeral recently and it was a Catholic funeral and they came and did the waving the orb about with the smoke coming out and that smells brilliant.

James Acaster

Yes, delicious.



And I was thinking, 'Where do you buy that stuff?'

Alex Horne

Well, look, if we're saying this is fine, I'm going to have that, but I'll have it flavoured.

James Acaster

Ready salted, salt and vinegar.

Alex Horne Nice and spicy.

Ed Gamble Suppose it's the holy Pringle, isn't it?

James Acaster

Nice and spicy like Nik Naks.

Ed Gamble

Yes, do you think they come in Pringles tubes? That it's the Pringles guy but he's got a dog collar on.

Alex Horne

Okay. No, but I mean, I might have to give you another option because there's a chance that my family will disown me.

James Acaster

Your family will disown you for wanting Body of Christ as your side dish.

Ed Gamble

It's not Body of Christ, you just want the wafer.

Alex Horne

I just want the wafer. No, I think it's fine.

Ed Gamble Yes, I think it's fine.

Alex Horne Whatever that stuff is.

James Acaster

The Pringles (TC 01:10:00) guy could do with Body of Christ. he hasn't got a body. He's got the head. (Laughter) It would be great for him.



Yes, it would be perfect.

James Acaster

Imagine the Pringles got his head on Jesus' body.

Alex Horne

Well, I want that as long as there's no disrespect caused.

Ed Gamble

No, you can say you like the taste of it. I think it's a compliment.

Alex Horne

Okay.

James Acaster Tastes good.

Ed Gamble I mean, I'm dreading what the drink's going to be.

James Acaster

Everyone needs a way into the faith. You like the taste of the wafers.

Alex Horne

Yes, I'll order that in the most tasteful way please.

James Acaster How many of them?

Alex Horne Just a couple.

James Acaster Two.

Alex Horne Yes. I hate it when people say a couple, three, do you?

Ed Gamble

Yes. A couple's two.



A couple's two. A few is three.

Ed Gamble A few is three and that's few upwards.

Alex Horne So, I'll have a couple.

Ed Gamble A couple. I don't think I've ever had one because I didn't do communion.

Alex Horne Were you not invited to my wedding?

Ed Gamble No.

Alex Horne James was.

James Acaster No, I wasn't.

Alex Horne Were you?

Ed Gamble No, so it's only after Vicky came in that people started getting invited.

Alex Horne I got married a long time ago, before we met. I was only 25 or something.

James Acaster Yes, a young man.

Alex Horne

It was an Ecumenical Service, so you could come up and get a blessing if you wanted, but people didn't didn't really know how that worked, so ended up being given it.

Ed Gamble

Yes, so the blessing you need to cross your arms on the way up, right? And then you just get a blessing.

It's the same if you're in an emergency situation.

Ed Gamble

Or you're about to go down an big water slide.

Alex Horne Yes, those are the three.

James Acaster That's scary and you've got to cross your ankles as well.

Alex Horne

You must cross your ankles at all three situations.

James Acaster Can we guess who was at your wedding?

Alex Horne Comics wise.

James Acaster Just people in general. Must go and forth guessing.

Alex Horne

Yes, until someone makes a mistake.

Ed Gamble Brilliant.

Alex Horne Great game. There's a 200 strong crowd there.

Ed Gamble This is a great game.

Alex Horne New Year's Day, hungover in Ireland, go.

Ed Gamble Okay, you want me to start?

James Acaster You can go first.





Alex Horne We can toss a coin if you want.

Ed Gamble

Alright.

Alex Horne To start.

Ed Gamble Yes.

Alex Horne Anyone got a coin?

Ed Gamble No, it's 2022.

James Acaster Of course not.

Alex Horne Toss a beer mat.

Ed Gamble Toss that.

Alex Horne That's heads because it's sticking out a bit. Heads or tails.

Ed Gamble Heads.

Alex Horne It's tails.

Ed Gamble Of course it's tails.

James Acaster Fair enough. Mark Watson.



Alex Horne Correct.

James Acaster Best man.

Alex Horne Not even nearly.

James Acaster Okay.

Alex Horne No, he wasn't in the frame, but we didn't know each other that well.

Ed Gamble Don't give him more clues. Tim Key.

Alex Horne

Correct. Also not best man, but did a reading and really tried to not make it funny, but had to mention my dead grandfather.

Ed Gamble So, we know he wasn't there.

Alex Horne Yes.

James Acaster Okay. Good. Thank you.

Alex Horne I've got more than one.

James Acaster Tim Henry.

Ed Gamble It's a big swing. Is this an early exit?

Alex Horne He was at the stag.



James Acaster He was at the stag though.

Alex Horne He might have moved to Australia by that point.

Ed Gamble Oh dear me.

James Acaster What?

Alex Horne Can we say we're not sure? He would have been invited.

James Acaster He's not sure.

Ed Gamble But that means if I get this one wrong, the game carries on.

Alex Horne Okay.

Ed Gamble Sheila Horne.

Alex Horne Sheila Horne, wearing a hat.

James Acaster What the fuck am I doing?

Alex Horne First she's ever worn a hat. And she went for a jockey's helmet because it was-,

Ed Gamble Big day.

Alex Horne Well, the transport from wedding to venue was horse, horseback.

Ed Gamble And it matched her outfit.



James Acaster Now this is trickier now actually.

Alex Horne Carrying on, yes.

James Acaster It's quite tricky. Don't know the name of Alex's dad.

Alex Horne I have mentioned it already.

James Acaster You said it earlier, but I don't think it was Norm.

Ed Gamble

Norm Horne.

James Acaster

Norm Horne, and now I'm thinking at this point when you got married, were you back in-, because The Horne Section, you knew them all growing up, but I don't know if this would have been a period of time where you weren't really hanging out. I know you got them back to form a band with them, but I'm going to say Mark Brown.

Alex Horne

So, unlucky.

James Acaster

Fuck.

Alex Horne

Not known to me at that point. Had met, but not known.

James Acaster

So, if I get this right, I've won the game. Rachel Horne.

Alex Horne She wasn't a guest at the wedding.

James Acaster Was that her name?



Yes, wasn't the name.

Ed Gamble

But now it is and for some of the wedding it was.

Alex Horne

It was a cheap shot Ed. Correct, Ed wins. Ed wins in horrible fashion.

James Acaster

He's played a blinder.

James Acaster

Dream drink.

Alex Horne

Yes. We've had the Fanta/Orangade, so now I'm going to go for a combination drink. We're going to have the liquid from a moules marinière (laughter) stirred in with some bread sauce because they're the two nicest liquids in the world.

Ed Gamble

Now, I've seen you drink beer though in the past.

Alex Horne

Yes, that's because you can't often get what I want. I always ask for it and say, 'Do you have any moules marinière juice?'

Ed Gamble

Mixed with bread sauce.

Alex Horne

Mixed with bread sauce. No, because this is a fancy restaurant and that's what I always wanted to have in a cup (ph 01.14.17). Maybe with some Baileys.

James Acaster

So, this is our second Christmas episode of this year.

Alex Horne Well, you've done that wrong.

James Acaster

We do two Christmas episode every year.



Alex Horne Do you?

James Acaster Yes.

Ed Gamble Yes.

Alex Horne Who's in the other one?

James Acaster Mel, Mel Giedroyc.

Alex Horne You've done it right.

James Acaster Mel always chose to drink bread sauce at one point.

Alex Horne Really?

James Acaster Yes.

Ed Gamble Not for her drink drink.

James Acaster Not for her drink drink, for her Christmas dinner.

Alex Horne

Bread sauce is great. Don't understand it. My wife had it the first time at my house, our first Christmas together when Sheila made it, and she couldn't believe it. She said, 'This is going to be horrible.' And she loves it.

Ed Gamble

Well, it sounds mad. If you've never heard of bread sauce, bread sauce.

Alex Horne

You'd think that's butter.



It's crazy.

James Acaster

Or your wife must have thought, you know, being a Catholic, it was liquid Body of Christ, bread sauce.

Alex Horne

They do call it bread sometimes, don't they? But it's definitely not bread.

James Acaster

That's what he broke first of all at the last supper. He didn't have those wafers on hand, but he broke the bread and said, 'Eat this and remember it's me, it's my body.'

Alex Horne

I've got huge regrets for ordering that in a restaurant.

James Acaster

Yes.

Alex Horne

Yes.

Ed Gamble

But you're okay with the moules marinière and bread sauce combination.

James Acaster

Yes, this disgusting slop that you've just invented.

Alex Horne

I don't think it's going to offend my in-laws. Don't call it slop please.

Ed Gamble

Are you consuming it in a, sort of, pewter tankard, in a mug like a cup of tea because it's obviously a hot drink?

Alex Horne

An engraved pewter tankard.

Ed Gamble

An engraved pewter tankard. What does the engravement say?

Alex Horne

I didn't have it as hot though.



Well, that's congealed if it's cold.

Alex Horne

Not if it's stirred through the moules marinière juice.

Ed Gamble

But cold.

James Acaster So, you'd rather have it cold.

Alex Horne

It's a drink. You don't have hot drinks. (Laughter) Do you?

Ed Gamble

Good point.

Alex Horne

yes, cold and in a tankard, and I'll have the engraving of the date that I'm eating this. Big letters, fully spelt out.

Ed Gamble

Big letters, we're not doing numbers.

Alex Horne

We're not doing numbers. No numbers. The 5th December and then we'll write out 2022.

Ed Gamble

Do you imagine it coming out of a tap, like a pint?

Alex Horne

No.

Ed Gamble

Pre-mixed.

Alex Horne No, Rayner's making it.

Ed Gamble

Jay.



James Acaster

He's still on the shift.

Alex Horne

Jay Rayner's making it. Yes, so he's got a vat of moules marinière, ditching the muscles, putting them back in the sea, and then confusing the mussel population, and then just big vat of that bubbling away, then bread sauce goes in, glug of Baileys, put it in the freezer.

Ed Gamble

So, we are having a glug of Baileys in.

Alex Horne Yes we are.

James Acaster Baileys is going in there.

Alex Horne Bailey's going into it. Is this still Christmas?

James Acaster Yes.

Ed Gamble It can be.

James Acaster Yes. It's whatever you want.

Ed Gamble

Well, it's on the 5th December, it says so on the cup.

Alex Horne

So, it's a prelude to Christmas, then it goes in the freezer for two weeks. No, one week, one day. How long does it take to get cold? A day.

Ed Gamble

Then it's frozen. Then you're having a frozen-,

Alex Horne

Room temperature I want. Put it in a room.

James Acaster Perfect.



Put it in a room, and then when it's the same temperature as the room, I'll drink it.

Ed Gamble

Yes, lovely.

James Acaster

You won't give it a little stir.

Alex Horne

I will give it a little stir.

Ed Gamble

I think it would be quite curdled. I think Baileys might curdle, say the bread sauce or the (talking over each other 01.17.00).

Alex Horne

I will not look at it.

Ed Gamble

Would you feel that going down?

Alex Horne

Tell you what I do like as well, is a coke float. It'll have the consistency of a coke float.

James Acaster

Sure, the Baileys will float to the top.

Alex Horne

Bitty.

Ed Gamble Bit scummy (ph 01.17.14).

Alex Horne

But it'll feel good in your tummy and that's the point, and that's why we're all here.

James Acaster

The thing is I think you're in danger of people demanding that you actually do this for real and drink it.

Alex Horne

You will. I don't mind that.



James Acaster

You would do this.

Alex Horne

I would long to do this. I really like moules marinière juice and I really like bread sauce and I really like Baileys. And I never understand the idea that if you like things, then mix them together, you suddenly don't like them. When is that ever true?

James Acaster

When?

Alex Horne Yes.

Ed Gamble This now for example.

James Acaster

As a child I liked milk and orange juice, I mixed them together once, tasted so disgusted that I hid under the table.

Alex Horne

Orange milkshake. You don't get orange milkshake, do you?

James Acaster

No.

Alex Horne You hid under the table.

James Acaster Yes.

Alex Horne For how long?

James Acaster

Not that long but enough that-, it's me on my own in the kitchen, but, like, I hated it so much that I just hid under the table. I went under the table.

Ed Gamble

You just couldn't believe the world could product such a horrible thing. It's confusing for a child.

Well, I don't think I'm hiding under the table after drinking this.

Ed Gamble

No.

Alex Horne I might be climbing on the table.

Ed Gamble

I think we're going to have to sort out some situation where you drink it and we film it to be honest.

Alex Horne

And I get on the table.

Ed Gamble Yes, get on the table.

Alex Horne I don't mind drinking that. I want to drink that.

James Acaster Yes, it sounds like you do.

James Acaster So, we arrive at your dream dessert.

Alex Horne Yes.

James Acaster It's been a mad journey so far.

Ed Gamble

Yes, interestingly, James said to me yesterday, 'I wonder whether Alex will-, because we knew, you know, you don't have the best taste in food, 'I wonder whether Alex will tell us genuinely what he wants or whether he'll do something quite weird.' And you've done somehow both.

Alex Horne

See, I disagree with your best taste in-, I don't have good taste in food. It's like music, isn't it? You like what you like and it's my taste, so music wise it's Roy Orbison and I had four years when I only had the Best of Roy Orbison in my car and I listened to it every single day.





James Acaster

Yes, it's good. His lovely voice.

Alex Horne

The big O (ph 01.18.55). So, for pudding, I'm having a Mars bar and I think it's the nicest pudding and at my wedding I was arguing for Mars bars to be handed out because I think everyone would have been so happy.

Ed Gamble

As Body of Christ.

Alex Horne

Not during the service, as pudding after the meal, so I'll have a Mars bar and then we go home.

James Acaster So, no DSP.

Alex Horne We're coming back from home and we're having a DSP.

James Acaster Yes, a DSP.

Ed Gamble What's a DSP?

James Acaster Daddy's special pudding.

Alex Horne

Daddy's special pudding. No, I don't eat the daddy's special pudding. (Talking over each other 01.19.25)

James Acaster That's disgusting.

Alex Horne No, I'll just have a Mars bar.

Ed Gamble Just the Mars bar.

Alex Horne They're the nicest food.



Normal-sized Mars bar, not a kings-sized or anything.

Alex Horne

No, normal size. Whatever the old size was. I don't think they had sizes in the old days.

Ed Gamble

You just got what you were given.

Alex Horne

Well, maybe we'll have a fun-sized, but it's fun as in much bigger than normal.

Ed Gamble

Right, yes. That always used to annoy me.

Alex Horne

Yes, so a fun-sized Mars bar, but in an asterisk as in much bigger.

Ed Gamble

Out the fridge or room temp.

Alex Horne

I think room temp otherwise it's too hard and I'll have to eat it on the left size of my mouth otherwise my right tooth starts hurting.

Ed Gamble

Right okay, so room temp.

James Acaster

I'd tell the dentist about that.

Alex Horne

I did have (TC 01:20:00) maybe three years having the Mars ice creams. I really like them.

Ed Gamble

I mean, I think they are so superior to the normal Mars bar.

Alex Horne

You'll get through that.

James Acaster

(Inaudible 01.20.09) came on the podcast and chose Mars ice cream as her dessert and as far as I understand it she received a very positive reception from the general public.



Yes, but they're probably not very old your general public. They will get through it.

Ed Gamble It's a phase, is it?

Alex Horne More practical. You can't always have a Mars ice cream in your car.

Ed Gamble How often are you eating a Mars bar?

Alex Horne Once a month.

Ed Gamble

So, it's not Greg who's convinced you to do this, is it? Eat Mars bars.

Alex Horne

No, this is me. Full moon, Mars bar.

Ed Gamble

Because you know Greg at 97 Mars Bars during lockdown one.

Alex Horne

During lockdown, yes. I do know that. Before the Taskmaster recording, he used to ask the audience how many do you think I've eaten? It was always over 97. He kept saying, 'Look at me. How many do you think I've eaten?' And they'd say, 'What? 200.' (Laughter) And then he'd get, sort of, upset and confused.

Ed Gamble

But he'd do it again the next week.

Alex Horne

Yes, and then someone got it right and he said, 'I'll give you a prize if you get it right.' And someone got it right and he said, 'Well, you've cheated clearly.' And got quite cross.

Ed Gamble

He had seven in one day once.

Alex Horne

No, I don't have them that often, but if you go to a newsagents and you're going to pick something, you'll pick a Mars bar, wouldn't you?



Ed Gamble I don't think I would, you know. KitKat Chunky.

Alex Horne Well, that's not as nice.

Ed Gamble Well, it is. It's the best chocolate bar.

Alex Horne Why is it?

Ed Gamble Sometimes I'm having a Ritter Sport. I'll go and buy a Ritter Sport.

Alex Horne What's a Ritter Sport?

Ed Gamble The square ones from Germany, lots of different flavours.

Alex Horne I think I only see Mars bars.

Ed Gamble

I filmed something once with a TV thing, did it for a week, at the end of it one of the presenters had bought a Ritter Sport for one of the cameramen, and she got it out of her bag and went, 'I got you this.' And it just so happened that everyone turned round and looked as it was happening and someone went, 'Not getting everyone Ritter Sports, just him.' And then she got so embarrassed and it's the most embarrassed I've seen anyone get over anything that small. She was like, 'Oh no.' She panicked, absolutely panicked.

Alex Horne

Well, it's weird to get one cameraman a Ritter Sport, isn't it?

James Acaster

Yes, I don't know the story behind it because she got so embarrassed that no one dared to drill any further with that, but it was like, 'Why have you got that?' Then we'd carry on saying it was me and Guz Khan, so obviously Guz didn't let it go, so all day just going, 'Why have you got a Ritter Sport? The rest of us haven't got a Ritter Sport.'

Alex Horne

I like Aeros.



Yes.

Alex Horne

I'll have an Aero.

James Acaster

Well, hold on.

Ed Gamble

No, you should have a Mars. If you want a Mars, you have a Mars.

Alex Horne

Well, you were so negative about it, weren't you?

Ed Gamble

No, not negative about it, but we've got to question these things otherwise it would be a five minute podcast.

Alex Horne

It's different to a normal restaurant this.

Ed Gamble

Yes, it is.

James Acaster Every Sunday after rugby, I'd have a Mars bar. Does that make you feel better?

Alex Horne Makes me feel very happy.

Ed Gamble

We used to have a bag of fun-sized Mars bars in the fridge when I was growing up.

Alex Horne

Big ones or small ones?

Ed Gamble

Small ones. Normal, fun-size.

Alex Horne

Otherwise they wouldn't have been in the fridge.



Yes.

Alex Horne Because these guys are big.

Ed Gamble Yes, they can't fit in the fridge.

James Acaster You know what I really liked? Dark chocolate Mars bars.

Alex Horne Oh my God.

Ed Gamble I don't even remember them.

James Acaster They were limited, out for a bit. I loved them.

Alex Horne Outside centre.

James Acaster Outside.

Alex Horne No, were you an outside centre in the rugby game (laughter) or winger?

James Acaster

I was a winger to begin with and then in the final year-, I quit when I as thirteen, and in that final year they moved me to one of the props or something in the scrum.

Ed Gamble Why are they doing that?

James Acaster

But that was weirdly my best year, but then I quit because I didn't like anyone else in the rugby team.

Alex Horne

No.



James Acaster

Didn't like the (talking over each other 01.23.24).

Alex Horne But you did like the Mars bars.

James Acaster

I loved the Mars bars and the can of Mountain Dew after rugby practice. It was (talking over each other 01.23.28).

Alex Horne Raisins after swimming.

James Acaster Raisins after swimming.

Ed Gamble In a sandwich?

Alex Horne No, a little pack of sun-made raisins after swimming.

Ed Gamble

See, this was my issue with the raisin sandwich thing because they come in such small boxes, you're going to have to open maybe five to six boxes to fill a sandwich.

Alex Horne

You can get bigger boxes. You can fun-sized boxed of raisins.

James Acaster Yes, that's real fun.

Ed Gamble

I find a Mars bar a bit claggy, I'll say it.

James Acaster

Really?

Ed Gamble

Which is why I prefer a Mars ice cream or a Mars bar from the fridge.

Alex Horne

I'll say it and then say the thing.



Okay. I'll say it, I find a Mars bar a bit claggy.

Alex Horne Otherwise you have to say I've said it.

James Acaster I just said that.

Ed Gamble I just said a Mars bar is a bit claggy.

Alex Horne Of course, they're claggy.

Ed Gamble That's what you like, is it?

Alex Horne Yes.

Ed Gamble You like the clag.

Alex Horne

Claggy, sort of, got bad press. I don't mind claggy. All the best foods are claggy. I think all my meal has been claggy, hasn't it? My pasta meal is definitely (talking over each other 01.24.08).

Ed Gamble Including your drink somehow.

Alex Horne

Yes. Claggy, I'll have a claggy meal. If there's a restaurant called Clag, and it's a big if, I'll be there everyday.

James Acaster

Bring your own bowl.

Alex Horne

I'll bring a bowl if that's the system. I mean, if you've gone with Clag, you might as well go with bring your own bowl.

James Acaster

Read your menu back to you now, see how you feel about it.





Right.

James Acaster

Water course you would like Orangina. Poppadoms or bread, a slice of mighty white, medium sliced with butter, shrimp Primula, sliced cheese and a side of gluten with Riboflavin and a Biscoff Pop-Tart (laughter). Starter, a crisp platter with dips, and Jules Watson's pork crackling. One hairless pork scratching. Main course, penne pasta with pesto, Boursin, Frankfurter and cheddar. Second main course, Jamie Oliver's pork roll. Christmas, Buck's Fizz, turkey with all the trimmings, play the pineapple game, and an After Eight in a condom wrapper. Side dish, a couple of nice and spicy communion wafers. Drink, moules marinière juice with bread sauce and a glug of Baileys. Dessert, a Mars bar.

Alex Horne

Yes, okay.

James Acaster

Wow.

Ed Gamble

There it is.

Alex Horne

Wow, seeing it written down brings it to brings it to life.

Ed Gamble

Really brings it to life, yes. How are you feeling about that?

Alex Horne

I'm pretty pleased with my choices.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster I don't know if I would call them choices.

Alex Horne

I mean, I'd have a side of fries if it's not too late.

Ed Gamble

I think you've got the communion wafers.

No, I'm happy with all those things. There's a few surprises along the way.

James Acaster

Yes.

Alex Horne

Yes, it's a long meal. It's not an easy meal.

Ed Gamble

Well, it's a drive through as well remember.

Alex Horne

God, the people behind me because I've already reversed in and then I've ordered that. That could be serious (ph 01.25.52).

Ed Gamble

Don't forget every time they start to pull up to the window you've done your lap and you're back again.

Alex Horne

Yes, and I'm struggling to do this in French.

James Acaster

Yes, it's not easy for you.

Alex Horne

Well, I'm trying to order it in German, but we're in France. Well, it's been a great occasion.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Alex Horne Great celebration.

James Acaster

Got to end the episode with a Christmas message from you today.

Alex Horne

Yes, I don't mind, sort of, mentioning yuletide, so say have a great yuletide.

Ed Gamble

Yuletide. thank you very much for coming to the dream restaurant, Alex Horne.





James Acaster

Thank you Alex.

Ed Gamble

There we are. Yes, what a terrible menu as expected, but a lovely chat.

James Acaster Yes. I mean, revolting.

Ed Gamble Lovely to find out about some background figures in Alex Horne's life.

James Acaster Yes.

Ed Gamble Sheila Horne, Tim Henry.

James Acaster

Tim Henry. Obviously I love Tim Henry. Couldn't stop saying it, couldn't stop bringing him up.

Ed Gamble

Tim Henry. Look, it was a disgusting menu. I think I would have welcomed some of his beard on that.

James Acaster

Yes, it would have been a blessed relief. There's a lot of things on there that were secret ingredients in the past. There's even something on there that he mentioned that inspired us to put it as a secret ingredient in a different episode.

Ed Gamble

Absolutely.

James Acaster

So, it's a disgusting menu. Wouldn't been out place for him to just chuck his beard in there, but he didn't, so he remains in the restaurant.

Ed Gamble

He didn't. He didn't have that which of course, is in his exotic sandwich and we had Mel on last week who also ate the exotic-, her own exotic sandwich.

James Acaster

Yes, which obviously I'd much rather eat that exotic sandwich. I wish I got that task on Taskmaster, make an exotic sandwich. I'd had put a loads of chocolate in a sandwich and they said, 'Eat it.' I'd be delighted.



Ed Gamble Why did Alex have to eat his own beard?

James Acaster It's a good question. I think it was because it was Noel Fielding.

Ed Gamble And he fed it to Alex.

James Acaster And he's just going to be like, 'I'm not doing that.'

Ed Gamble Yes, fair enough.

James Acaster

Actually, now I think of it, I think Noel did eat it. Now I think of it, I think Noel ate the exotic sandwich.

Ed Gamble Interesting. Well, we based it all on a lie. Never mind.

James Acaster And Alex didn't eat his own beard, but I mean, it's still-,

Ed Gamble It's still a secret ingredient.

James Acaster I think it's still a good secret ingredient.

Ed Gamble And he still didn't say it.

James Acaster It's still food.

Ed Gamble He didn't say it. It's still food. Food's food, isn't it?

James Acaster

Food's food, and someone ate it once, so we can put it as the secret ingredient.



Food's food in the end. Thank you very much to Alex for coming on. It was a wonderful episode. Merry Christmas to you. Don't forget to watch The Horne Section television show on All 4. That's all available now, all six episodes I believe, and do keep an eye out for the Taskmaster New Year's treat where they have non-comedians, people from the world of entertainment, and sport, and music. They have them on to do one episode of Taskmaster and I believe there is another one of those coming very soon.

James Acaster

It's always a treat. That's the last of our Christmas episodes. There will be hopefully a round up of the year Off Menu.

Ed Gamble

Best of.

James Acaster

Yearly best of round up that Benito always has to put himself through, poor guy.

Ed Gamble

It takes him 50 years to edit.

James Acaster

Usually the only episode that I'm guaranteed to listen to all year as well. I just catch up on all the highlights just to make sure the podcast is being recorded and put out there because I wouldn't know otherwise.

Ed Gamble

It's normally about three hours long and I cook while I listen.

James Acaster I clean the house.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster Clean the house after Christmas.

Ed Gamble Two different people.

James Acaster

Put it on, walk round laughing at myself.



Yes.

James Acaster

No one else.

Ed Gamble

Never me.

James Acaster

Don't laugh at Ed on it and I don't laugh at the guests.

Ed Gamble

No, never. Thank you very much for listening. I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas time however you may celebrate it. We love you very much. Goodbye.

James Acaster

Bye.