



Off Menu – Ep177 – Kathy Burke

Name

Text.

Ed Gamble

Welcome to the Off Menu Podcast, taking one layer of humour sponge spreading on the butter cream of friendship, the jam of great chat and then putting another big bit of internet sponge on top of it and that's the podcast James, it's a cake.

James Acaster

Is my name Victoria?

Ed Gamble

No, James Acaster.

James Acaster

And that's Ed Gamble. And this is the Off Menu Podcast, where we invite a guest into our dream restaurant and we ask them their favourite ever starter, main course, desert, side dish and drink. Not in that order. And this week our guest is Kathy Burke.

Ed Gamble

Here we are back in a little town we like to call National Treaschester.

James Acaster

Get your shovels because we're digging for treasure.

Ed Gamble

We're digging for treasure.

James Acaster

Nationally.

Ed Gamble

What a treat James this is to have Kathy Burke on the podcast. Every time I've been asked, 'Who's the dream guest to have on the podcast?', Kathy Burke always gets mentioned by me.

James Acaster

I would say this is the longest we have tried to get a guest because before we even did our first episode the people we asked straight away were Scroobius Pip, Kathy Burke and Richard Osman and Grace Dent. So, those four straight away were the first four emails we sent out and Kathy was like, 'I'll try to make it work if I can,' and we've been trying to make it work for years and we finally, finally did it.



Ed Gamble

So, now, when people ask me for dream guests I can't say Kathy Burke and The Rock anymore, I just have to say The Rock.

James Acaster

Now it's just The Rock, so make it happen people.

Ed Gamble

Maybe Kathy knows The Rock.

James Acaster

Kathy might know The Rock, The Burke might know The Rock.

Ed Gamble

So excited to have Kathy in, obviously, what a history of work.

James Acaster

We've grown up fans, we've both met her a couple of times.

Ed Gamble

I've never met her.

James Acaster

You've not?

Ed Gamble

Never met her.

James Acaster

Oh my God, I can't believe I'm about to be here the first time Ed Gamble meets Kathy Burke. This is going to be great. I'm also aware that Kathy refers to our podcast as the Where's My Dinner Podcast.

Ed Gamble

I'm sure we'll get into that.

James Acaster

Yes. I refer to Kathy Burke's new podcast as Where There's A Will, There's a Wake.

Ed Gamble

Well, that's the title of it.

James Acaster

Yes, that's the actual name, not where's my funeral.



Ed Gamble

Oh, I'm Dead Podcast.

James Acaster

Yes, if you could plan your perfect death, what would you do? That's the tag line.

Ed Gamble

Yes, that's good. You've recorded an episode, haven't you, James?

James Acaster

I have, I went on and talked to Kathy about my perfect death, perfect funeral, perfect afterlife. And it was an early morning record, it really bummed me out for the rest of the day if I'm honest.

Ed Gamble

Yes, it's a very interesting talking point. I mean I've not heard it yet, but I'm assuming myself and the Great Benito will be carrying the coffin?

James Acaster

Yes, well, maybe you, you're a strong boy.

Ed Gamble

Yes, but, Benito can get involved.

James Acaster

He can do a eulogy, but not with his thin arms hold the coffin up.

Ed Gamble

Yes, but I think the idea with pallbearers is that you have many, right, so, it's, sort of, distributed and you're not a heavy guy, James.

James Acaster

Even so, he could be there for show, but I don't think he's going to be doing any work.

Ed Gamble

I imagine everyone wearing the traditional funeral garb apart from Benito who's wearing his Alton Towers jumper.

James Acaster

Yes, yes, he wears Alton Towers jumper. He won't care, he'd be looking for a replacement going around.

Ed Gamble

I think he will care, that would be a lot of admin to have to deal with.



James Acaster

He'll mainly be networking at the wake just trying to see who likes food, 'I notice you've had a few chips from the buffet?'

Ed Gamble

Don't give away what's on the buffet, we need to go and listen to Kathy's new podcast.

James Acaster

Yes, yes, we will have to, there's loads of food chat on that. I do talk about a lot of food. But, anyway, it's not a bout me, it's about Kathy Burke today.

Ed Gamble

So excited, but of course we're really hoping this doesn't happen today, James, that if Kathy picks and ingredient which we have pre-decided upon that is our secret ingredient, something we hate, we will ask her to leave the dream restaurant and go straight to her dream funeral.

James Acaster

And this week the secret ingredient is crab sticks.

Ed Gamble

Crab sticks or crab-flavoured sticks or fish sticks.

James Acaster

Thank you, Bede.

Ed Gamble

Thank you, Jenny Bede. Wonderful comedian Jenny Bede suggested this to me on WhatsApp.

James Acaster

Now, I'm fully behind it, I have to say though, we've had tinned crab in the past, now we've got crab sticks, it's sounding like we don't like crab.

Ed Gamble

I love crab.

James Acaster

Now, of course we like crab.

Ed Gamble

I actually don't mind crab sticks sometimes. My wife loves crab sticks.

James Acaster

Is she now? I didn't know that.



Ed Gamble

They're regularly in our fridge. You know, in the packet they come in those little separate plastic sleeves.

James Acaster

Like little cheese strings?

Ed Gamble

Yes, I find those around the house quite regularly.

James Acaster

Disgusting.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I find those next to the bath and stuff.

James Acaster

Absolutely gross. It always surprises me how gross Ed's wife is because every time I see her she's just lovely, you know, I would never guess all this stuff, these little crabby packets around the house.

Ed Gamble

Eating crab everywhere, finding crab stick packets in the bathroom bin.

James Acaster

Go on and bin it. Look, we're a big crab fan. On my tour that I just went on, my tour manager, ever time he looked at a menu was like, 'I know what you're having, you're having the one with the crab on it.' I didn't even notice that about myself, so now I feel bad selling out the crab here.

Ed Gamble

I actually don't think there's any crab in them which is why you have to call them crab-flavoured sticks. That's a bit from Alan Partridge, he does a fact about crab sticks and they have to call them crab-flavoured sticks.

James Acaster

Maybe we should save this secret ingredient for when we have Steve Coogan on the podcast.

Ed Gamble

No, we have loads of other things we can use for Steve Coogan.

James Acaster

Oh yes, there're loads, smell my cheese.

Ed Gamble



Spinal column in a bap.

James Acaster

Yes, anyway, it's not about Steve Coogan, it's about Kathy Burke.

Ed Gamble

Yes, this is the Off Menu menu of Kathy Burke.

Welcome Kathy to the dream restaurant.

Kathy Burke

Thank you very much.

James Acaster

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

Ed Gamble

Yes, here we are, we actually have, yes.

Kathy Burke

Well, I did listen to lovely Richard E. Grant on your show quite recently and I heard you say you wanted either me or The Rock. So, I couldn't actually get in touch with The Rock himself, but I did bring The Rock to just be part of it.

Ed Gamble

For the listeners, Kathy has brought an action figure of The Rock.

James Acaster

That is good. He's got a little black waistcoat on and no top and trousers.

Kathy Burke

And he moves, look at that, but I wonder, can he sit? Let's sit him down, let's get him comfy.

James Acaster

What film is the one where he wears a little black waistcoat? Wrestling?

Kathy Burke

Wrestling.

Ed Gamble

On the WWE.

Kathy Burke

That's yours, you can keep that. I should have got two, so you'd have one each.



Ed Gamble

We can have it in the studio.

Kathy Burke

For a change someone would get more pleasure out of it than you, Ed.

James Acaster

That's probably true.

Ed Gamble

Is this something you brought specifically for this purpose or did you have one kicking around?

Kathy Burke

No, I ordered it on a well-known delivery service and there was a right palaver. Well, it didn't get delivered, they said, 'We couldn't deliver', and I thought it was a goner. And I ordered it about three weeks ago and then the other guy, a neighbour from down the road said, 'Oh I've had this package for a few days', and it was The Rock. I was like, 'Oh, wonderful.'

Ed Gamble

Did you tell your neighbour what the package was?

Kathy Burke

No, I'm never that familiar with neighbours, thank you very much. You start all that caper, they'll never leave.

Ed Gamble

My neighbours are the same, they're simply addresses that have parcels delivered to them I pick up at a later date.

Kathy Burke

Exactly.

James Acaster

I try to chat to mine. Yes, but, we're right next to each other, right in a little corner.

Kathy Burke

I mean, I have to say my neighbours are lovely, everyone's very, very nice, but I've always, sort of, kept myself to myself.

James Acaster

What I'm imagining, just for my own amusement, is that Kathy's neighbour is The Rock.

Kathy Burke



Yes.

James Acaster

So, that's why you didn't tell him what was in the package.

Ed Gamble

I feel like if Kathy's neighbour was The Rock you might have been able to get something from him to bring in rather than order.

Kathy Burke

Maybe, I don't know man. Maybe he might have not liked some noise in the past and didn't want to do me any favours.

Ed Gamble

I'm on a street WhatsApp group.

Kathy Burke

Oh no.

Ed Gamble

See, I really resisted for a long time, but it is brilliant because there's one guy down the road who always looks out the blinds just at the right time as something's happening and you're like, 'You're looking at those blinds all day.' And the other day he saw a workman who was working on one of the other houses come out the house and do a shit next to one of the cars.

Kathy Burke

What? What? That's outrageous.

Ed Gamble

And listen to this, this guy went outside and took a picture of the shit and put it on the WhatsApp group.

Kathy Burke

Oh Jesus. Excuse me, I've just burped. I tell you why he probably had to have a shit outside, because a lot of people don't let builders or workman use the conveniences in their home, which I think is outrageous and completely inhumane and going to the bathroom is very, very important. So, it might smell for a bit, and just tell them, 'Clean it after. I don't want to be sorting out anybody's skid marks, so just make sure you clean it.' It's all you got to say. It's all I'd say.

Ed Gamble

I mean, the story went on and on, like, there were more details coming through. I don't think he was very well. He was only sixteen or seventeen and then he had to come back and clean it up (TC 00:10:00) because his boss told him to clean it up and then he was crying while he was cleaning up the poo.



Kathy Burke

Oh, this is so sad.

Ed Gamble

But, from my perspective, reading all that on a WhatsApp group, I had the best morning of my life.

James Acaster

Of course, because, you know, it is funny when people cry.

Ed Gamble

Especially when they're cleaning up their own shit.

James Acaster

Yes, that is funny.

Ed Gamble

Sorry, awful.

Kathy Burke

Taking of shit, where's my dinner?

James Acaster

That's what you call our podcast, do you?

Kathy Burke

That's what I call your podcast, Ed, Where's My Dinner? Because I can't remember Off Menu, it's so weird. It's so easy and of course it makes sense, but I said to Roisin Conaty, 'I'm doing Where's My Dinner?', she said, 'What's Where's My Dinner?' And I went, 'You've done it, you know, Where's My Dinner, where you talk about your dinner with Ed and James.' She went, 'It's called Off Menu.'

James Acaster

I'm quite impressed that Roisin knew actually.

Ed Gamble

Good for her.

James Acaster

We must have really made an impact if Roisin remembered what we were called. And of course you've got your own podcast now.

Kathy Burke

Yes, thank you.

James Acaster



Where There's A Will, There's A Wake.

Kathy Burke

That's it, a little bit of promotion. So, I don't know when this is being aired, but I suppose we would have dropped by the time this has aired and learning all this new vanguard communication that the kids use. So, yes, it's called Where There's A Will, There's A Wake and it's about your fantasy funeral. And James has done it, James came on and was a lovely guest I'm sure. We might be pushing for Ed to come on it at some point soon.

Ed Gamble

No pushing needed, I'll be there in a shot, Kathy.

James Acaster

But, Ed will never die.

Kathy Burke

Ed will never die.

Ed Gamble

Is that something you think?

James Acaster

Yes, I think you're one of those kind of people who will never die.

Ed Gamble

I don't know what sort of people are they.

James Acaster

Yes, there're a few people, abnormal people, who just never die and I think that's you. You'll always look like this forever and you're always going to be alive.

Ed Gamble

Well, then I've got plenty of time to plan what my dream funeral will be, right?

Kathy Burke

Absolutely, and it's quite nice because it's, sort of, a bit dark, but it's good fun and it's good to laugh in the face of death because we're all quite frightened of it, but it's something we've got no control over. So, Where There's A Will, There's A Wake allows you a little bit of control in a, sort of, fantasy aspect.

Ed Gamble

Also, it is really important to talk about because no matter what James thinks, it is going to happen to everyone and you've got to get what you want out there. I mean, there is a situation maybe where someone who's been on your podcast doesn't leave a will or doesn't actually tell their family what they



want from the funeral, so their family have to listen to your podcast and then do what they said on there.

Kathy Burke

That's exactly what Jennifer Saunders said. At the end of it Jennifer said, 'Oh just send this Ade and then I haven't got to bother with any legal shit. Just send it to him.'

James Acaster

Well, everyone can listen to that now. Not right now, listen to this first and then go and listen to all of Where There's A Will, There's A Wake.

Kathy Burke

Thank you very much.

James Acaster

Are you a big food fan, Kathy?

Kathy Burke

Well, yes, I love food. Who doesn't like food?

James Acaster

Some people, some weirdos.

Kathy Burke

Well, I suppose I am a bit finickity because I don't eat meat. So, I haven't eaten meat for, God, it's nearly 40 years now which is really impressive, but I do occasionally have fish because every now and again you feel your body needs a bit of extra protein and it's very good for the skin. So, I'm a pescatarian and I've been a pescatarian for 40 years.

Ed Gamble

I wouldn't say that's finickity though. I wouldn't talk to a pescatarian and go, 'Oh dear, that's picky.'

Kathy Burke

Well, I've only just started. No, no, we've only just started.

James Acaster

Yes, yes, there's a lot of finickity-ness coming around the bend.

Kathy Burke

There is, there're a lot of things I can't eat because of medical conditions and there're a lot of things I won't eat because of good taste.

James Acaster

Could you do your own show called Can't Eat, Won't Eat?



Kathy Burke

Oh, that's a good idea.

Ed Gamble

It's just a, sort of, generation game style conveyor belt of things and you just say-,

Kathy Burke

I just flick off what I don't want. Tiddlywinks, you know, Tiddlystings, no. Aubergine, fuck off.

James Acaster

You don't like aubergine?

Kathy Burke

Don't like aubergine. I think the reason I don't like aubergine is because when I started being a vegetarian and I didn't eat fish for the first ten years of being a veggie, but I was a veggie in the 80s, there was nothing. There was baked beans, jacket potatoes, cauliflower cheese and moussaka and that was it. So, I actually went off moussaka.

Ed Gamble

The absolute venom that you said moussaka with.

Kathy Burke

I fucking hate moussaka.

James Acaster

You sound like, Scar from the Lion King talking about Mufasa.

Ed Gamble

Really?

James Acaster

Yes, yes, that amount of disdain.

Ed Gamble

Yes, if that film was remade and instead of Mufasa hanging over the edge of a cliff it was a moussaka, you'd absolutely dig your claws in, wouldn't you?

Kathy Burke

Yes. So, I don't like moussaka. The other thing I don't like is risotto because that would be fobbed off on you a lot, as a vegetarian in the 80s.

Ed Gamble

Mushroom risottos.



Kathy Burke

Oh, Jesus. In fact a few years ago, fuck knows how long ago it was, but Gordon Ramsay had a show on the telly, I think it was called the F word, does that ding a ling? Do you remember that?

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes.

Kathy Burke

And he would invite people to a restaurant and all that and he'd cook for you. Anyway, so I was looking forward, he knew I was a vegetarian, and he comes over and he's like, 'Really nice to meet you', I went, 'Nice to meet you', and he went, 'Really happy you're here.' He said, 'You're a vegetarian which is a bit of pain in my life', and I went, 'Okay', and he said, 'But, I'm going to do you a lovely risotto', and I went, 'No, you're not.' And he was like, 'What?', and I said, 'I don't like risotto. I'm not having it.' And he said, 'But I'll do a really nice risotto.' He's Gordon bloody Ramsay and I went, 'I don't care, I don't want it. I haven't come all this way to have a risotto.' So, he had to go back into the kitchen-

Ed Gamble

Moussaka.

Kathy Burke

Can you imagine if he said moussaka? But, anyway, he came back and what he did, he did a nice pasta, like, a tagliatelle with mushrooms and I have to say it was amazing, it was incredibly delicious.

James Acaster

Imagine if it wasn't. I remember Vic Reeves going, maybe it was that show-

Ed Gamble

It was Hell's Kitchen, I know exactly what you were going to say.

James Acaster

Ordering the fried egg?

Ed Gamble

Yes. I think it was when there was a celebrity one, they all had to cook in the kitchen and it was always a stressful service and Vic Reeves, I don't know if he'd had a drink or if he was just being weird, just toddled up to the pass where all the chefs were working and asked for two fried eggs on a china plate.

Kathy Burke

Fantastic.

James Acaster

Gordon Ramsay cracked two eggs over his head as far as I remember.



Kathy Burke

Did he?

James Acaster

Yes, yes, as far as I remember that's what happened. He was furious. I remember that series, was that the one when Edwina Currie was on it?

Ed Gamble

Maybe.

Kathy Burke

That's Hell's Kitchen, that was hilarious. Didn't he sandwich her head between two slices of bread?

James Acaster

Maybe it wasn't her, the idiot sandwich or the stupid sandwich. I remember him saying to Edwina Currie, 'You fucked our prime minister, now you're trying to fuck me up the ass?'

Kathy Burke

Absolutely brilliant.

James Acaster

We always start with still or sparkling water, Kathy.

Kathy Burke

Still. Question two.

James Acaster

I would have been very surprised if you said sparkly.

Kathy Burke

Well, I'll have a sparkly now and again, but I drink a lot of water, I really do drink a lot of water and I drink bottled water which is, sort of, out of order or I can drink filtered water. I don't like water straight out the tap because I've got a funny tummy, so I think psychologically if it's straight out the tap I think I'm going to get the shits. And it's not always the case, but I do drink a lot of water. I love water.

James Acaster

Oh yes?

Kathy Burke

I don't understand it when people say, 'I need a little bit of juice in there', I just don't get it.

Ed Gamble

Yes, people think water's boring and I don't understand this. It's the best.



Kathy Burke

It is, it's great.

Ed Gamble

Unless it comes from the tap because it gives you the shits?

Kathy Burke

Yes, I can't have it from the tap.

James Acaster

Have you ever had it from the tap that's given you the shits?

Kathy Burke

Yes. I know I don't look it, but I'm very delicate.

James Acaster

Claudia Winkleman came on the podcast, said she never drinks water.

Kathy Burke

Really?

James Acaster

She thinks it's disgusting and she thinks that when you drink it it swells you tongue up and makes your tongue all big and wet.

Kathy Burke

That surprises me because she's got such lovely skin, she's got very glossy hair.

Ed Gamble

She's eating a lot of fish.

Kathy Burke

Do you think?

Ed Gamble

Yes, it must be the fish.

Kathy Burke

But, that surprises me about old water. But, yes, anyway, I would like some still water please.

Ed Gamble

Filtered? Bottled?

Kathy Burke



Filtered or bottled.

Ed Gamble

Do you have a bottle of choice at home?

Kathy Burke

Not really, it's whatever it's cheapest, what's on offer on the odd delivery.

James Acaster

Would you want anything in the water? Do you want any lemon, ice?

Kathy Burke

No.

James Acaster

Okay, you looked disgusted when I said that.

Kathy Burke

No. I remember a friend of mine got really into making cucumber water, you know, Jesus, load of shit.

James Acaster

Would you name this shameless person?

Kathy Burke

No.

James Acaster

The Rock?

Kathy Burke

It was top film director, Joe Wright, and he got into making this cucumber water for a bit. I was like, 'No, you're alright.' I'd have preferred tap.

James Acaster

Would it have been, like, long, cut cucumber?

Kathy Burke

Yes, I don't know, they were just all in a, sort of, object-,

Ed Gamble

Like a vat.

Kathy Burke

Yes, with a fancy tap on it.



Ed Gamble

Yes, I know exactly what you mean.

Kathy Burke

You know, you pass a lot of places, you see it in cafes here.

Ed Gamble

So, I've just been on tour, so in a lot of hotels and you stay in a slightly nicer hotel, that's what they have at breakfast (TC 00:20:00) instead of just, like, normal water, they've got mint and strawberry and cucumber. I think they call it spa water, all in a big vat. It's like, 'i just want a glass of water', because quite often I just want the water to cool my coffee down, but you can't have a strawberry-cucumber-mint coffee.

Kathy Burke

No. And also, wouldn't there be bits and, you know, bits get on my nerves, when there are bits in things. So, I can't be having that.

Ed Gamble

So, you're a smooth orange juice person as well?

Kathy Burke

Yes, yes. Orange juice with bits?

James Acaster

Disgusting. I've said it before, I'll say it again, it's like someone has emptied a pencil sharpener into my orange juice, I hate it, absolutely hate it.

Kathy Burke

That's a brilliant way of describing it.

Ed Gamble

But, it's bits of orange though, so it's like someone's used a pencil sharpener to sharpen an orange and then emptied it.

James Acaster

Yes, even worse. Disgusting. Do you like yogurts with bits in it? When the yogurt's got, like, bits of strawberry and bits of raspberry in there?

Kathy Burke

Well, sometimes. I do prefer a plain yogurt, but sometimes. See, I'm mad about blueberries, we'll get onto blueberries later, but if there's a blueberry knocking about in some yogurt, then I'll have that quite happily.



James Acaster

I believe I used this morning in my porridge.

Kathy Burke

Very good.

James Acaster

Thank you. Pretty impressive, isn't it? Poppadoms or bread, Kathy Burke?

Kathy Burke

Bread, of course bread.

Ed Gamble

See, that's how I feel, but, you know, we do get quite a lot of people saying poppadoms, but I'm always bread as well.

James Acaster

I'm very relieved that quite a lot of people say poppadoms because it was my idea to say that stupid question.

Kathy Burke

Poppadoms are great if you're having a nice bit of curry or something, but, you know, you can't toast a poppadoms and I love toast and I like brown bread, no seeds. This is getting on my nerves, this seed shit, it's on everything, honestly. I did a tweet, 'Would you stop because I'm not a fucking parrot? What is this?' And I've got a lovely shop down the end of my road, quite a posh French shop and they do lovely baguettes and sourdough and I've got myself a nice sourdough baguette from there the other day, got it home, fucking seeds in it.

James Acaster

Inside?

Kathy Burke

Inside. They've never done that before. And the seed thing, because I used to eat a lot of seeds because they're very healthy, so I used to scatter them on my salads and then I didn't realise I had this tummy condition called diverticulitis and the worse thing you can eat are seeds.

Ed Gamble

Really?

Kathy Burke

Yes, yes, because when you've got diverticulitis it means you've got these little, sort of, pockets around your intestine, so if you eat things like seeds they can get stuck in the pockets and they can get infected and can make you terribly ill.



Ed Gamble

So, in the show where you flick food off that you don't like this is a medical one rather than a taste one?

Kathy Burke

This is a medical one, yes. Are we allowed to mention shops?

Ed Gamble

Yes, go for it.

Kathy Burke

So, M&S used to do a great brown batch loaf that was covered in seeds and I used to love it, it was delicious particularly toasted because then some of the seeds would be quite, what would you say, cracky.

Ed Gamble

I know exactly what you mean.

Kathy Burke

But, obviously, that was killing me, you know? So, yes, no seeds thanks.

Ed Gamble

Is there anything else that gets trapped in the tummy pockets apart from seeds?

James Acaster

All the bits I'd imagine.

Kathy Burke

Well, all the bits I suppose, although I wasn't really told that by the doctors-, by my consultant I should say, it was just mostly seeds and I had been going big time on the seeds before.

James Acaster

So, you were a parrot?

Kathy Burke

I was happily a parrot, but not any longer. And in the last, sort of, ten years it's gone seed nuts because everyone's gone fucking healthy, but I think it's a cheap way of filling up a salad bowl, 'Oh, I'll throw some seeds on there because they're about a penny and we can charge £10.

James Acaster

It's a scam.

Kathy Burke

Yes.



James Acaster

So, what type of bread are we talking then for this?

Kathy Burke

Well, I love a wholemeal and I love Cranks wholemeal, it's quite dense but I love it, it's the best toast, it's wonderful.

James Acaster

I've not heard of Cranks.

Ed Gamble

No, not sure I have either.

Kathy Burke

So, Cranks, it was, sort of, one of the first veggie restaurants, it used to be around the back of Soho, somewhere in Soho. So, yes, when I first became veggie 40 years ago I would have to go to Cranks, I'd have to go all the way into town if I wanted to get a few bits, you know what I mean, stock up on some things. And then, yes, they do a great wholemeal loaf. I think some normal shops will do a Cranks loaf, but again, I went into a shop that I knew did Cranks and I went in and it was a seeded Cranks loaf.

Ed Gamble

These seeds are just following you around, aren't they?

Kathy Burke

They're just everywhere.

James Acaster

And when you were walking to the shop you were thinking, 'I can't wait to have my Cranks loaf.'

Kathy Burke

My Cranks toast when I get home, nice bit of toast. And, yes, so, that didn't happen. So, I don't mind your, sort of, common sliced shop-bought Hovis or Warburtons, but always brown, I just prefer wholemeal.

James Acaster

I think for you dream menu we can get you some Cranks and a bit of butter on there?

Kathy Burke

No, no butter, I use olive spread which I much prefer actually, I find butter a bit much, I do, yes, a bit much. Every now and again it's nice, but, yes, it's like eating soft cheese, isn't it?

Ed Gamble

Yes, I'm well aboard for that.



James Acaster

He will go home and eat a whole block of butter now.

Ed Gamble

Brilliant. My wife went on holiday to Paris with some friends recently, came back, just brought me some butter in a bag. It's the butter with chunks of salt in it.

Kathy Burke

Yes, that is great butter. I go to France a lot and I mean, they're dirty bastards because they'll put meat in everything, like, you'll order some peas and it's been cooked in fucking duck neck or something, to eat some peas. They just love it. Although, I have to say again just on the flip side, but my friend, Sean who lives in France, who I go to visit, him and his husband, Peter, we'll be onto Peter later, and he's vegan, Sean, and actually living in France, they're are getting great at it now and there're lots of vegan choices to be had. But, that butter with the salt is extraordinary.

Ed Gamble

It's so good.

James Acaster

But, would you not count that as bits? That's bits, isn't it? Butter with bits of salt in it?

Kathy Burke

Yes, but it's all different, isn't it, salt? I mean, it's naughty.

Ed Gamble

And it melts a little bit, so they're not crunchy bits. Well, they are a little bit, but, you know.

Kathy Burke

And especially if you use it on toast because then it does melt and then your salty bread is even saltier with the salty toast.

Ed Gamble

Is this what you want on your dream meal then, the brown toast with just olive spread? Anything else on that?

Kathy Burke

Yes, just some olive spread, yes. Every now and again I like a bit of seedless jam and you can get seedless raspberry jam and I love a cherry jam. Love cherries.

James Acaster

Do you like marmalade?

Kathy Burke

No, don't like marmalade.



Ed Gamble

James is annoyed there because he was going to ask his traditional question.

Kathy Burke

Which is?

James Acaster

Are you a shred head or a shredless wonder because you talk about bits and there's marmalade that has the shreds in it and marmalade that has no shreds in it.

Kathy Burke

No, I find it a bit bitter. It's a bit strong for me.

James Acaster

I had a very nice lime and rum marmalade the other day.

Kathy Burke

Lime and rum?

James Acaster

Yes, maybe you would enjoy that. It was good.

Ed Gamble

Shreds?

James Acaster

Shreds in it, but I didn't mind.

Kathy Burke

That's interesting. That's the sort of thing you get for Christmas, isn't it?

Ed Gamble

And then put it at the back of the cupboard for a year.

Kathy Burke

That's it.

James Acaster

Yes, that's what happened and now it's November and I just opened it for the first time.

Kathy Burke

And did it have mouldy top?



James Acaster

No, it didn't, it was very happy.

Kathy Burke

That's good. Was it Theresa May that said, 'You just got to scrape off the mould off the top.' Says a lot, doesn't it?

Ed Gamble

Was that about jam or about, like, the economy?

James Acaster

One more question before we move on to the starter, how did you god-damn wife get butter from France to your house without melting and going all bad?

Ed Gamble

Well, it's not a particularly hot time of year and, you know, it's quite a quick trip now I think, hop on the Eurostar, not too bad. And she brought back, I'm not joking, about twelve salamis as well, because she eats very oddly when I'm away as well. She will just live like a squirrel or a rat or something and just, sort of, scuttle to the kitchen and eat slices of sausage all night.

Kathy Burke

So, she just grazes?

Ed Gamble

She grazes all day and then I come back with my square meals and she's gutted. I think she loves grazing like a little rat.

James Acaster

So, we get on to your meal proper now. Your dream starter?

Kathy Burke

Right. So, my dream starter is a small portion, obviously because it's a starter, of spaghetti pesto.

James Acaster

That's very nice, you look quite pleased with yourself.

Kathy Burke

Well, yes, because I, sort of, wanted spaghetti pesto as my main and then I thought, 'That's a bit-', and then I thought, 'Oh no, the Italians, they like to have a little bowl of pasta as their starter sometimes.'

Ed Gamble

You've hacked it, you've hacked the system because now you get to have that as your starter. I mean, the Italians sometimes will do starter, pasta course, main and then desert.



Kathy Burke

(TC 00:30:00) Oh, that's true.

Ed Gamble

So, if there's anything else you're thinking of for your starter that you want to then throw before the pasta course, you can use the pasta course loophole.

James Acaster

We have allowed people to use that loophole before by giving themselves a pasta course in between the starter and the main.

Kathy Burke

Oh really, oh great, alright then, right, great, okay. Well, for my starter before my pasta course I want-, you know there's a very posh restaurant called The Ivy and many, many years ago before I knew I couldn't eat seeds I went to The Ivy and they did a tomato tart that was so delicious I dreamt about it that night and I went back to the restaurant a week later just to have this starter again because it that lovely flaky pastry, but it was roasted tomatoes and, like, a balsamic dressing. It was delicious.

Ed Gamble

That sounds delicious. I love when roasted tomatoes and they go all sweet and just a bit chewy as well maybe, just really delicious, that's so good.

Kathy Burke

Absolutely gorgeous.

Ed Gamble

What happened in the dream with the tomato tart?

Kathy Burke

I was just eating a tomato tart.

Ed Gamble

That's so funny.

James Acaster

So, is that the same as what happened in the day?

Kathy Burke

Exactly the same.

James Acaster

Different outfit on or wearing the same clothes?

Kathy Burke



No, but same taste, you know? It was like eating it again.

Ed Gamble

I do that as well. I really worry when I just have dreams that are so literal to what just happened because everyone else is like, 'Really weird dreams, trying to interpret them, processing what's happening in the day.' Yes, I'm like, 'I'm eating exactly the same thing in the dream as I was eating just before I went to sleep.'

Kathy Burke

Just having my dinner all over again. So, that would be my starter, and then my little pasta course would be my spaghetti pesto, home-made pesto.

James Acaster

So, you make your own pesto?

Kathy Burke

Oh yes, fuck yes. Because, you know, sometimes it just doesn't live up to it when I eat out. I can always tell as well when they've used a jarred pesto and you can tell and that's very, very, very disappointing.

Ed Gamble

What's going into your home-made pesto?

Kathy Burke

Your basil, your pine nuts, garlic, olive oil, parmesan, a little bit of salt and pepper. Sometimes, just to be controversial, I'll chuck a few spinach leaves in there because it just gives a nice deeper green and it's the simplest thing to make. I mean, the jarred stuff, it costs a fortune compared, you know, they're all quite expensive ingredients, but if you make enough you can freeze it, put it in litter tappers and freeze them.

James Acaster

How often are you having pesto?

Kathy Burke

Quite a lot, I'd say I probably have pesto maybe once a week. So, it does get used.

Ed Gamble

I think that's a good amount. It's clearly something you enjoy, but it's not turned into a problem.

Kathy Burke

It's not a problem. I'll tell you when it was a problem. Remember that lovely programme, The Trip, that Steve Coogan and Rob Brydon did together? Well, when they did The Trip in Italy it was a nightmare because they're eating this divine food, so I would have to pause it, go downstairs, make myself some spaghetti pesto, come back upstairs and eat a little bowl of spaghetti pesto while I was watching it.



Ed Gamble

And they have multiple meals per episode in that, so were you making multiple bowls of tiny spaghetti pesto every time they ate anything?

Kathy Burke

No, just a bowl an episode. But, I would, it just became a little habit, I was like, 'Oh, fucking hell, I've given it ten minutes, I've tried, I've got to go make some spaghetti pesto.'

James Acaster

So, I love pesto, of course I do, but, I'll be very hesitant to have a meal that's pesto heavy because for me I'm tasting that pesto for the rest of the day, like, I'll have the taste of pesto in my mouth, I'm doing pesto burps. They are the most distinctive burps, like, I can burp five hours later and it will taste of pesto.

Kathy Burke

Really?

Ed Gamble

But, that's a delight for you if you like pesto.

James Acaster

Maybe that's just me.

Kathy Burke

I wouldn't mind that. I wonder what it is, it might be the garlic in it that's repeating.

James Acaster

Something on me, but, because I'm a big pudding boy I love to have deserts, so I'm like, 'If I have this pesto, I don't know how long it's going to be until I go and have a pudding and it won't taste of pesto', you know?

Kathy Burke

That sounds weird.

James Acaster

That's my dilemma.

Ed Gamble

I get the pesto burp thing, but it shouldn't flavour the next bit of food that you have.

James Acaster

I can feel it in there.

Ed Gamble



You can feel it in there?

James Acaster

It's still in my mouth, the pesto, yes, the ghost of the pesto it's still in there and it all haunts the desert.

Kathy Burke

Maybe it's too basil heavy or something.

James Acaster

Yes, I think the basil is a big part of it.

Ed Gamble

I mean, I've been known to eat pesto from the jar like a yogurt, literally just stand at the fridge and eat pesto with the tea spoon, get it down me.

James Acaster

Wow. Well, it doesn't need cooking, it only needs warming through.

Ed Gamble

And that happens in my tum. The oven I call it.

James Acaster

What do you think of red pesto?

Ed Gamble

Big question.

Kathy Burke

Well, that's a tomato pesto. Yes, I mean, not peppers, I can't have peppers, they demean digestion. But, yes, I suppose sun-dried tomato pesto, as long as the little seeds have been removed I would happily make that.

Ed Gamble

That's a lot of effort though to remove the seeds from the sun-dried tomato because it doesn't want to give them up, does it?

Kathy Burke

No, no, no, you just get a teaspoon and you just scrape them out.

James Acaster

Here's something I'm going to offer you, you've got your tomato tart with some sun-dried tomatoes in it, followed by the pesto pasta, in between the two as a bridge do you want a little teaspoon of red pesto? A little bridge from the sun-dried tomato into the pesto.



Kathy Burke

I see, you know what would be quite good actually, is one of those little sorbet things, a little tomato sorbet would be quite a good bridge, because I don't mind those little palate cleansers. I fucking hate the amuse-bouche, what is that?

James Acaster

Yes, well, I tried to do it on this podcast for a bit, I tried to do people amuse-bouches at the beginning.

Kathy Burke

No, they are just like little glasses of sick.

Ed Gamble

Very cheffy, isn't it?

Kathy Burke

It really is, it's, like, 'Look, stop titting about, just make my dinner. I don't need these little glasses of puke.'

Ed Gamble

So, it's supposed to get your mouth ready, right? That's the whole point. But, when I turn up to dinner, my mouth's ready.

Kathy Burke

Yes, my mouth's always ready for dinner.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Where's my dinner?

James Acaster

That's on The Trip, they say it's Ray Winston's phlegm.

Kathy Burke

Please, that bugs me, I hate that word.

James Acaster

Your dream main course. You've already found a lovely hack with the pasta course, you are up to a very satisfying start here with your starter and your pasta course. Your main?

Kathy Burke

So, I do occasionally have some fish. I will have very simple pan-fried sea bass. I pan fry it skin down in a little bit of chilly oil, so when you like that crispy skin it's a little bit chillified, and I have that with Kath's continental potatoes. And what they are is one day I had a couple of Charlotte potatoes left in the fridge, a red onion and a couple of tomatoes, and I thought, 'What am I going to do with this?' So, I chopped them all up, de-seeded the tomatoes, mixed them up in some lovely garlic oil, put them in the



oven. Amazing. Amazing. So, that's now a regular of mine, Kath's continental potatoes which is just basically spud, onion, tomato.

Ed Gamble

I like that you're not committing to a particular country of where it's from, it's just continental.

Kathy Burke

I mean, I called them continental, I really don't know why. I think just to make them sound a bit special, they're just potato, onion and toms.

James Acaster

What are the ratios between the potatoes, onions and toms? Are you just, like, a third each or if they're mainly potatoes?

Kathy Burke

Mainly potatoes and the Charlotte ones are the best, you can cut them in nice slices, you get them going first and then you slice up your tomatoes and your onions. And after the potatoes have had a nice 20 minutes, first little twisty, spiny, then bung in the tomatoes and onions. It's great and you can just forget about them for about another half hour. It's lovely. So, I have those with some pan-fried sea bass, but they're not my side.

Ed Gamble

No, no, no, they go with the sea bass.

Kathy Burke

Yes, yes.

Ed Gamble

That makes sense.

James Acaster

But, your garlic oil there in with the continental potatoes?

Kathy Burke

Yes.

James Acaster

And are you putting salt, pepper in there?

Kathy Burke

Oh yes, absolutely. And if I haven't got any garlic oil I'll put in a couple of hoes of garlic. That makes it continental.

James Acaster



Even more continental. I love, like, chunks of roasted garlic.

Kathy Burke

Yes, that's great.

Ed Gamble

What a treat that is.

Kathy Burke

When you roast a whole garlic and then you squeeze those little juicy buds out, that's lovely. Really nice on a slice of Cranks wholemeal bread.

Ed Gamble

Well, if you've got some garlic in there you could save some bread from the bread course and start mopping and spreading and doing all that.

Kathy Burke

Amazing.

Ed Gamble

How long have you been doing Kath's continental potatoes for?

Kathy Burke

I think it's probably about ten years, yes, because I think it was ten years ago that it was, 'What do I do with my leftovers?', and then it was like, 'Oh my God, I've just come up with this amazing dish.'

James Acaster

You know, people are going to be making this now. Are you social media?

Kathy Burke

Of course.

James Acaster

(TC 00:40:00) Well, you'll be getting some photos.

Kathy Burke

Well, that's alright, it's better than when I first joined social media and I was getting photos of people's shit.

Ed Gamble

If you want now, you need to join my neighbours' WhatsApp group. Why were people sending you pictures of shit?

Kathy Burke



You know, just dirty troubled people. I don't know, it was a real shock when I first joined Twitter.

James Acaster

Hold on, there wasn't anything that you were doing?

Ed Gamble

Some internet trend or something, but just troubled people?

James Acaster

Jenny and Keith show or something, but, like, you've not done any of that.

Kathy Burke

No, I just joined. I don't know, so I learnt how to use the block button quite quick.

James Acaster

Sure.

Ed Gamble

If only they'd learnt how to use the block button.

Kathy Burke

If only.

James Acaster

Sorry, how many people were doing this? Was it one person doing it?

Kathy Burke

No, I think I got about three. It's extraordinary, isn't it?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Kathy Burke

People's lives, man.

James Acaster

Well, there you go. Well now you're going to get Kath's continental potatoes pictures.

Kathy Burke

Yes, please.

James Acaster

And then they'll be a lot nicer.



Kathy Burke

(Talking over each other 41.09). Thank you.

James Acaster

So, this sea bass. And that's cooked by you for your dream meal.

Kathy Burke

Yes.

James Acaster

Cooked by you.

Kathy Burke

Yes.

James Acaster

With a crispy skin, the chilli oil.

Kathy Burke

Yes, the chilli oil on the skin and Kath's continental potatoes.

James Acaster

Would you put the sea bass on a bed of the Kath's continental potatoes?

Kathy Burke

No.

James Acaster

No.

Kathy Burke

It's just everything, you know-,

James Acaster

Yes, on one plate.

Kathy Burke

On one plate, sort of, not piling, not little bits of, like, little finger-full. I've got a big spoon. I scoop a lot onto my plate.

Ed Gamble

Kath's big spoon.

Kathy Burke



Kath's big spoon.

James Acaster

Nearly fell off your chair. That would have been a big moment on the podcast. We've not had someone fall off their chair before.

Kathy Burke

Do they just lean back?

James Acaster

Yes.

Kathy Burke

Oh right, okay.

Ed Gamble

It won't go all the way back. That would be a horrible thing to do to a guest.

Kathy Burke

That would be really horrible.

James Acaster

It's not the Doctor Evil chair. So, the Kath's continental potatoes are not your dream side, so what is your dream side?

Kathy Burke

Well, because we've got quite a lot of oil in that, you know, the sea bass has been pan-fried, Kath's continental potatoes, got the garlic oil, so we need something steamed, and I love-, what's funny about that?

James Acaster

I like how you very seriously said we need something steamed, it was like some plan of action and you threw your hand in the air. You need a big bold gesture. We need something steamed.

Ed Gamble

We need something steamed.

James Acaster

Your face looked deadly serious.

Kathy Burke

Well yes because otherwise it's too much grease, see, so you need to cut through the grease. I mean, I love greens, so it's either going to be steamed broccoli and a little bit of chilli maybe, a little bit of garlic or just plain steamed broccoli or steamed spinach which I love. I hate creamed spinach. What the hell is



that? Putting cream in, I mean, I just think it's repulsive, so I don't want creamed spinach thank you very much. If I'm in a restaurant and the spinach on the side is creamed spinach, I say, 'Could you please ask the chef not to cream in my spinach?' I just want it plain and a little bit of salt and pepper, tiny little bit. I also like peas. So, my side could be-, what would you say?

Ed Gamble

A medley.

Kathy Burke

Yes, a medley, very good, of broccoli, spinach, although the spinach can be a-, you've got to do the spinach separate because you've got to get the water out of it. Broccoli, spinach and peas.

Ed Gamble

Lovely.

Kathy Burke

And that goes really lovely with the continental spuds and the sea bass.

Ed Gamble

You've really thought about this as a menu as a whole which I like.

Kathy Burke

Of course, that's what I was asked to do.

Ed Gamble

Yes, you know, some people come in and they just go with all their favourite foods, all in one.

Kathy Burke

Ed, some people are cunts. That's all I've got to say.

Ed Gamble

Correct.

James Acaster

There's a place that I can get on Deliveroo now called Cocotte, and they do amazing-,

Ed Gamble

Chicken, the rotisserie chicken place.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I've had that.



James Acaster

Do you have their salads?

Ed Gamble

Yes, the salads are amazing.

James Acaster

The salads are really something else.

Kathy Burke

Right.

James Acaster

And their burrata salad with peas and courgette is one of my favourites, really big peas.

Kathy Burke

What's burrata?

James Acaster

It's that cheese that's like a creamier mozzarella.

Ed Gamble

Mozzarella.

Kathy Burke

Yes, of course.

Ed Gamble

It comes as a whole thing, and then you cut into it and it just, like, spills all the creamy stuff out.

Kathy Burke

Lovely. That sounds really nice.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

It's very good, and I don't know what kind of peas they are. They're bigger than your regular peas. They're like marbles.

Kathy Burke

Wow. Big peas.



James Acaster

But, like, really delicious peas.

Ed Gamble

They're like marbles.

James Acaster

Yes, they're like big, fat peas. They're not like normal.

Ed Gamble

Like garden peas.

James Acaster

Garden peas.

Kathy Burke

Are they called marrow peas?

James Acaster

Maybe they are.

Ed Gamble

Maybe.

James Acaster

I mean, I should maybe should look at the-

Kathy Burke

There's a pea called marrow-fat pea, so it might be them.

James Acaster

I had a great day the other day, just sitting there on Deliveroo and favouriting all my favourite ones so that I've got them proper.

Kathy Burke

I didn't know you could do that.

James Acaster

I didn't know you could do it, but as soon as I did that, it's a game-changer now. I can just go on my list of favourites. I don't have to be scrolling all the time looking for where my favourites are.

Ed Gamble

I love getting little insights into James' life. That was his great day the other day.



James Acaster

Yes.

Kathy Burke

He's so happy with the simple stuff, isn't he?

Ed Gamble

He is, yes.

Kathy Burke

I think that's a good way to be a human.

James Acaster

I like having an organised list of things you like.

Kathy Burke

Yes.

James Acaster

And I can just go on that list and look at it and go, 'Oh man, I can have all these things to my house.'

Kathy Burke

So, it's a chicken place really, but they do veggie stuff.

James Acaster

Yes, I've actually never had the chicken there. I just have the salads there.

Ed Gamble

It's pretty good. The chicken's fine, but the salads are the highlight, I think.

James Acaster

Yes.

Kathy Burke

Because I used to eat meat obviously when I was a kid, and I used to babysit. Because back in the 70s when you were a child of say, like, a nine or ten year old, you absolutely were allowed to look after three and four year olds, and so I used to do a lot of babysitting and I remember going to this lovely lady I used to look after her kid. Lovely lady called Molly, and they were going out for a Saturday night and she said to me, 'Okay.' She said, 'Help yourself to whatever you like.' And so, I was like, 'Great.' I put the kids to bed, had a look round the kitchen, there was a chicken in the oven. They would obviously cook the night before for their Sunday dinner, the next day, and I thought, 'I'll have a bit of chicken.' And I mean, I was like Desperate Dan and I remember turning the chicken upside down to get the oysters, you know, from the bottom.



Ed Gamble

Yes, it's the good stuff.

Kathy Burke

Because I used to love that.

Ed Gamble

You were nine.

Kathy Burke

I was nine or ten, so I took the oysters, ate them, and probably a leg. And her husband went fucking ape shit when they got home.

James Acaster

But that's the thing. I had a similar thing when I was, like, a teenager, babysat for the very first time and they said, 'Help yourself to anything in the fridge.' So, I went absolutely-, I had so much shit and then afterwards my mum explaining to me, like, they've phoned me and they've said you've basically cleared their fridge. And I was like, 'Yes. Well, they said help myself to anything in the fridge, mum.' And she was like, 'That's not what that means.' It's like, 'It is what it means.'

Ed Gamble

What else would it mean?

James Acaster

Why would anyone say that to me if they didn't want me to just help myself to anything in the fridge?

Ed Gamble

If they wanted you to have one specific thing, they should say, 'We've left that for you in the fridge.' Or they should have said to you, 'But don't touch the chicken.'

Kathy Burke

Don't touch the chicken. But I think when I continued to babysit for them, there was probably a padlock on the oven or something because I would eat anything when I was a kid. And I think that's why I ended up a being veggie in my adult life because I just went off meat. I couldn't eat it anymore. I used to work in a bakery at one point, I had a few jobs. After school and Saturdays I used to work in a launderette and I used to work in a bakery. The best thing about the bakery was the sausage rolls and I think I use ODED on sausage rolls.

James Acaster

You Desperate Danned the sausage rolls.

Kathy Burke

Yes.



Ed Gamble

Yes. How many sausage rolls would you get through in a day working there?

Kathy Burke

Oh God. As many as I could get in my fat, little face. I just love them and I'd hide them as well. So, people would think the shop had ran out of sausage rolls, but I just hid them.

James Acaster

Have you got any-, it's like, 'No, we haven't got any sausage rolls. Sorry.'

Kathy Burke

Sorry, ran out.

Ed Gamble

But you've just opened. Very popular.

Kathy Burke

No, so popular. Yes.

James Acaster

Your face is covered in flaky pastry.

Ed Gamble

Why are your pockets bulging?

Kathy Burke

So, now I've got eczema.

James Acaster

So, move onto your dream drink.

Kathy Burke

Dream drink, okay. A cup of tea please.

James Acaster

It's what I said. I predicted this.

Kathy Burke

Did you? I'm so predictable.

James Acaster

No, it's just because, I mean, we've met twice I think proper, but both those times I remember cups of tea were something you looked forward to.



Kathy Burke

Yes.

James Acaster

You were quite looking forward to a cup of tea.

Kathy Burke

I love a cup of tea, but because I'm old now, knocking 60 and I have to be careful about things like blood pressure and heart and all that shit, so I have decaf now. My first cup of tea is a normal cup of tea, and then the rest of the day's decaffeinated which I didn't think I would ever get into, but they're fine. They're absolutely fine. It's lovely. I prefer to make (TC 00:50:00) my own tea. The dreaded words are, 'Shall I make you a cup of tea?' And it's like, 'Please don't. I'll do it myself. Can I do it myself?' So, when I turned up here today, lovely Naomi who greeted me, 'Cup of tea?' And I went, 'No, I've brought my own teabags. Is that where it is? Great. I'll do my own tea.'

Ed Gamble

I love that to be able to say, 'It's okay. I'm going to do it myself.' And just be confident enough to do that.

Kathy Burke

Yes.

Ed Gamble

And also, it makes you look cool as well when you turn up at a workplace and like, 'I can do it myself. We're alright.'

Kathy Burke

Does it? Does it make you look cool?

Ed Gamble

I think it does.

Kathy Burke

That's good. I thought it just made me look a bit aggressive.

Ed Gamble

No, not at all.

James Acaster

How long have you been having the decaffeinated tea for?

Kathy Burke

Probably about two years, something like that now, two or three years.

James Acaster



So, you're probably about three years off of it tasting like normal tea.

Kathy Burke

Yes. It's alright.

James Acaster

Yes.

Kathy Burke

It's alright. And today, because we're in London, there was no normal milk. There was oat milk or soya. Oh dear, and she did offer to go out and she said, 'Because otherwise the normal milk just sits in the fridge.' And I was like, 'It's alright. I'll try the soya.' And actually it's fine.

Ed Gamble

Well there you go.

Kathy Burke

It's fine.

James Acaster

It's fine, but-

Kathy Burke

It's fine.

James Acaster

Okay.

Ed Gamble

But you prefer a cow milk.

Kathy Burke

I do. See, this is the thing, when I watch Simon Amstell's Carnage, brilliant film, I was obviously very upset at the end of it and I thought, 'I've got to go vegan.' And I've been veggie and whatever. Well, by the end of the first week of being vegan I was crying for cheese. I mean, I was crying. I phoned up my friend Shaun in France and I said, 'I've got to have some cheese mate.' And he went, 'Come on.' He went, 'You've done your bit.' He said, 'You've been veggie 40 years, you don't drive, you don't have kids.' I thought, 'Yes. Of course, I don't have any fucking-, what do they call it?'

James Acaster

Kids.

Ed Gamble

Carbon footprint.



Kathy Burke

Carbon footprint.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Kathy Burke

My carbon footprint is minuscule, so he gave me permission to eat cheese.

James Acaster

That's nice. I remember you said earlier that your friend was going to come back, your friend from France, but I feel like it's coming in the dessert course maybe, your friend from France and the blueberries.

Kathy Burke

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes, we still haven't heard about the blueberries or the (talking over each other 52.12).

James Acaster

Before we move onto that, we should probably dig into exactly how you like your tea.

Kathy Burke

I like my tea milk in first.

Ed Gamble

What sort of milk are we talking?

Kathy Burke

Semi-skimmed.

Ed Gamble

Semi-skimmed.

Kathy Burke

Semi-skimmed milk, tea bag in, then the hot water.

James Acaster

Now, I imagine throughout your life you've come across a lot of push back with that. A lot of people disagreeing with that order of doing things.

Kathy Burke



Yes.

James Acaster

Can you talk about what that's been like for you?

Kathy Burke

Well, it's been quite distressing at times because when you know you're right, you know you're right, but actually whenever I make somebody a cup of tea, without a doubt people say, 'This is such a good cup of tea.' And I say, 'Milk in first.' Because you can judge it. Well, they say, 'But it just looks like, you know, watered down milk.' But it isn't. There's a tea bag in there and you've just got to wait, and then you give it a squeeze, and then suddenly it's this beautiful honey colour. In the morning, I will have a tiny bit of sugar. I mean, the end of a teaspoon, so it's like a quarter of a teaspoon, even less than that of sugar. I did have some man say to me once, some bloke said to me, 'You can't possibly taste that.' Fuck off. I said, 'You're not in mouth.'

Ed Gamble

Who was that? Who's telling you can taste it?

Kathy Burke

I don't know. It was just some bloke. It's always some bloke. Sorry lads, it's always some bloke.

James Acaster

No, fair.

Kathy Burke

You can't-, just fuck off.

Ed Gamble

He didn't have as refined a palette as you. You can pick up on that sort of stuff.

Kathy Burke

Exactly, that's what I should have said, rather than-,

Ed Gamble

No, I think yours probably got to the point a lot quicker.

James Acaster

Yes, fuck you, you're not in my mouth.

Kathy Burke

Exactly. And you never will be.

James Acaster



I went on Room 101 with Heston Blumenthal, was one of the other guests, and he tried to put people who put milk in first in Room 101.

Kathy Burke

Well, he can fuck off because, you know, what does he do? He puts porridge in with, what? A Brussels sprout and charges people £30 for the pleasure. So, he can do one.

Ed Gamble

Also, that's so weird because, like, his whole thing is about doing things in a different way and reinventing stuff.

James Acaster

Yes, I was confused. I was surprised.

Kathy Burke

Yes.

Ed Gamble

And surely, you're putting the milk in first, you're basically the Heston Blumenthal of tea, right?

James Acaster

Yes.

Kathy Burke

Yes, absolutely.

James Acaster

Exactly what you're doing. You're being the innovator. He's a scientist, right? He prides himself on being, like, sciencey, and it sounds like what you've done is more scientifically-, you're spreading the milk out immediately.

Kathy Burke

Absolutely.

James Acaster

You're not just dumping the milk on the top and it's all sitting on the top.

Kathy Burke

And if somebody makes me a cup of tea and they put the milk in last, I don't complain.

James Acaster

No.

Kathy Burke



I don't say to them, 'Well, this isn't as delicious as it would be if I'd have made it.' I accept it graciously and thank you very much.

James Acaster

Do you have a favourite mug that you have your tea in?

Ed Gamble

Great question.

Kathy Burke

I've got a couple of whoppers. As the actress said to the bishop, so I do like a big mug, first thing in the morning. Well, I've got a nice, tall glass, like a pint glass, but it's not like an old-fashioned pint glass with a handle. It's quite a nice posh, tall pint glass, and I just-, I mean it must have been about fifteen years ago, because I'd always make myself a mug of tea in the morning, you drink that, ten minutes later you want another mug of tea. And I thought, 'What am I doing? I could just have a pint of tea and then I haven't got to keep making another mug of tea.' So, that's what I do. I have a pint.

Ed Gamble

Of tea.

Kathy Burke

In the morning.

James Acaster

So, is that what you want for your dream meal is a pint of tea?

Kathy Burke

That's a really good idea, but in this nice, long glass because it looks nice.

Ed Gamble

It's not like an old Guinness glass or anything like that.

Kathy Burke

No.

James Acaster

I'm not necessarily one of these people, but there are people who definitely have a problem with seeing, like, tea in a see-through-

Kathy Burke

No. I've also got little mugs, little glass mugs. It reminds me, my Auntie Nelly who's my Godmother, who's in her mid-90s now. When I was a kid, she had little see-through glasses, little mugs, and I love it. It, sort of, reminds me of my childhood, that happy time being with my lovely Auntie Nelly. I mean, what's the problem with seeing a drink?



Ed Gamble

Also, surely it works better because you can see what's going on?

Kathy Burke

Yes.

Ed Gamble

In a tea, it's like an aquarium, right? You can see it all working away and you can see when it's ready.

Kathy Burke

That's it. Because sometimes if you're a bit tired, you might have left the bag in, and that's always a nightmare, when it's been left in a mug because you only know halfway down, and it's getting stronger, but you still can't work out why, and then your lip hits the tea bag. But if it's in a glass, you'd be able to-, it's like, 'There's something floating in that. It's a tea bag.'

James Acaster

If someone's trying to recruit you for the army, you'd be able to see it.

Kathy Burke

What?

Ed Gamble

Don't look at me Kathy, I've got no idea what he's on about.

James Acaster

They'd trick people back in the day.

Ed Gamble

Right, okay.

James Acaster

If you're joining the army, they'd put a coin in there.

Ed Gamble

I think it was the Navy.

James Acaster

Okay.

Kathy Burke

But what? What, explain what you're talking about. I don't know what you're talking about.

James Acaster



I think they would go into pubs and talk to these young guys, distract them, chuck a coin in their beer, they'd drink it, get down, and then they'd pick up the coin, and go, 'What's this?' And then they'd smack them over the head and take them into the Navy. But I think it was because you had to-

Ed Gamble

Pay them to be in the Navy.

James Acaster

Yes, it's something like that.

Kathy Burke

I don't understand.

Ed Gamble

See, I used to understand this.

James Acaster

I saw it on How 2.

Ed Gamble

Now James has explained it, I now don't understand it anymore.

James Acaster

Yes, but it was on How 2?

Kathy Burke

What's How 2?

James Acaster

It was a show when we were kids. Did you watch How 2, Ed?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Kathy Burke

How 2.

Ed Gamble

How 2, yes.

Kathy Burke

Oh I see, I watched How.

James Acaster



Vorderman was on it.

Kathy Burke

No, I was the original.

James Acaster

Fred Dinenage was also on How 2.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Kathy Burke

Was he?

James Acaster

And then there was another guy called Gareth, I think.

Kathy Burke

Right.

James Acaster

And Vorderman. those three, but they talked about that, the Navy and the coin, and they did a little act out of it, so that's how I know about that.

Ed Gamble

Is that why you get pewter tankards sometimes, when they've got glass bottoms, so you can check to see if the coin's in there before you drink the beer, so you don't get conscript into the Navy?

Kathy Burke

I just don't understand what the coin's doing. What does that do?

James Acaster

I think you're paid to be in the Navy, so if you met an Admiral from the Navy and went, 'Here's one Groat or whatever it was back then.' They would be like, 'Then you are now in the Navy.' So, if they were drinking the beer, you got down to it, 'What's this?' And then they'd pick it out and then hold it up, and they would take that as them paying to get into the Navy,

Kathy Burke

I see.

James Acaster

And then smack them over the head apparently and take them away. Why don't they just do that in the first place?



Kathy Burke

Yes.

James Acaster

But I just remember them smacking them over the head when they were acting it out on How 2.

Kathy Burke

Right.

James Acaster

Gareth got smacked over the head by Fred I think, but what they were explaining was why they have glass bottoms.

Ed Gamble

There you go, okay.

Kathy Burke

Right, okay.

James Acaster

Those kind of glasses, so case in point, you'd be able to see it in your tea.

Kathy Burke

Yes.

Ed Gamble

If anyone was trying to get you in the Navy.

James Acaster

In the Navy.

Kathy Burke

Right.

James Acaster

Is what I'm saying.

Kathy Burke

Okay.

Ed Gamble

Correct reaction from Kathy.

James Acaster



Yes. She's put her glasses on, looking at her phone. Your dream dessert.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Now, we know that there's blueberries in it. We know that a man from France or who lives in France, is at least going to be involved in this.

Kathy Burke

Yes, he's a man from Liverpool, but he lives in France. He's called (TC 01:00:00) Peter and he's my friend Shaun's husband and he-, well, first time I met Peter, he tried to ingratiate himself as people often do with me by making a strawberry pavlova for pudding. And I said, 'This is very lovely. Thank you so much, but I can't eat strawberries because of the seeds.'

Ed Gamble

Seeds.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

And you can't get seeds out of a strawberry, can you?

Kathy Burke

No, and those little buggers.

Ed Gamble

There's no chance.

Kathy Burke

And they're the worst, like, strawberry seeds, raspberry seeds, they're the nasty culprits. So, anyway, so the next time I went around for my dinner, this was before they moved to France, he made a pavlova with blueberries. It was out of this world. It was just incredible. He uses mascarpone, so it's not too-, because I don't like things too sweet or too, sort of, creamy, and he uses golden caster sugar, so the pavlova, it's brown colour, the meringue. And it's really chewy. It's just lovely.

Ed Gamble

That sounds so good.

Kathy Burke

And then what else does he use? The filling is mascarpone, fromage fraise and a-,

Ed Gamble



So, it's got a little bit of sourness as well to it.

Kathy Burke

Yes, and a teaspoon of vanilla extract, so again, the fromage frais, then it's not too creamy or cloying, and then he, you know, boils up some blueberries with some sugar and then he sieves them, so you get all that juice, and he pours the juice all over the meringue with some fresh strawberries on top. And it's just amazing.

James Acaster

Wow.

Ed Gamble

Have we had pavlova before?

James Acaster

I feel like we must have.

Ed Gamble

We must have done.

James Acaster

I think people have chosen Eton mess before.

Ed Gamble

Sure.

James Acaster

Some people think that Eton mess is the correct answer, but I would rather have this.

Kathy Burke

Pete's pavlova.

Ed Gamble

Pete's pavlova.

Kathy Burke

Yes.

Ed Gamble

I love how every course is named after someone.

James Acaster

Yes, but I love how this isn't getting the word continental in there, and he literally lives in France.



Ed Gamble

It's Liverpool pavlova.

James Acaster

Yes, Pete's pavlova, fair enough. Would you like some of my continental potatoes that I invented in Islington?

Kathy Burke

It's delicious and I attempted to make it. Well, I'm not a great pudding maker. I get a bit nervous because it is, sort of, more maths involved when there's puddings.

Ed Gamble

Yes, totally.

Kathy Burke

But I did make it. I had my great friend, little name drop, my great friend Marianne Jean-Baptiste, who's a brilliant actress, she lives in America now. She's got her kids and they came over one summer a few years ago to see me and I said, 'I've made a blueberry pavlova.' And Marianne said, 'We're not really sweet people. We don't really eat that much sweet.' And I was like, 'Oh well.' And I put it out. Her and her two daughters fucking demolished it. I mean, they could not stop eating it, and they had to hold their hands up and go, 'This is incredible.'

James Acaster

Great. That must have felt good.

Kathy Burke

It did, actually. I felt very proud of Pete, even though it was me that made it.

James Acaster

He'd be proud of you.

Kathy Burke

He was.

James Acaster

Padawan.

Kathy Burke

He was.

Ed Gamble

That's a magic dessert that makes people say they don't eat sweets, just go crazy for sugar.

Kathy Burke



They went crazy for it. It was wonderful. We didn't even have separate plates. We just all ate it with a spoon.

James Acaster

How it should be.

Ed Gamble

Do you put anything on the pavlova or is it all in there? So, would you pour any cream on top of it or anything?

Kathy Burke

No, because you've got your filling. Does he put cream on top? No. But no, just the juice of the blueberries, the compote, is that what it's called?

James Acaster

Yes.

Kathy Burke

And then the blueberries on top of that, but you don't hold back on the mascarpone or the fromage frais. Because it's not cream, you can go a bit full on with it, you know, run a bit more in there.

Ed Gamble

It sounds so good.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

I'll be honest, when you were talking about crying for cheese earlier, I thought maybe it was going to be a cheese board situation.

James Acaster

I remember.

Ed Gamble

Because you like cheese, but also you'd already said there were blueberries coming up, so I think James was a bit more relaxed about that.

James Acaster

Yes, had that in my head the whole way. I was like, 'We're okay. We're going to blueberry town at the end of this.' If blueberries had popped up anywhere else on the menu, then I would have started to worry. I'm going to read your menu back to you now, see how you feel about it.

Kathy Burke



Okay.

James Acaster

You would like still water, whatever's on offer. Not tap.

Kathy Burke

Not tap.

James Acaster

Poppadoms or bread, you would like Cranks wholemeal with olive spread. Starter, a tomato tart from The Ivy. Pasta, spaghetti pesto. Main course, pan-fried sea bass in chilli oil made by yourself with Kath's continental potatoes. Side dish, a medley of steamed broccoli, spinach and peas. Drink, a pint of tea made by yourself. Milk first, in, like, the pint glass, so you don't join the Navy. And dessert, Pete's blueberry pavlova.

Kathy Burke

Yes.

James Acaster

That all sounds fantastic.

Ed Gamble

It does. Very home-made as well. This is all stuff that you do or your friend does.

Kathy Burke

Absolutely. I prefer it. I mean, we've got The Ivy tart, you know, I do eat out occasionally, but I'm usually disappointed, so I do prefer home-made cooking.

Ed Gamble

Do you think that comes from being a veggie for so long? Like you said, there was only a couple of places you could eat out when you started being veggie.

Kathy Burke

I suppose. Although, everybody has veggie choices now or they have vegan choices, but I still have to always say, 'No seeds. Hold the seeds.' I don't know. I think it's just I go out less and I was never really into that thing of going out for a meal, like that it was a big deal. I mean, I'll do lunch. I'll meet a pal for lunch. I like a little lunch, but dinner, I just want to be home and I want to be cosy. And I love other people's cooking, but particularly my friend Peter. He's a fantastic cook.

Ed Gamble

He sounds it.

Kathy Burke



I mean, his husband Shaun is going to get the hump now because he'd be like, 'I cook as well.' He does. He's a lovely cook, but Peter, you know when someone's just got it? Just got the knack and he loves doing it because he finds it very, very relaxing.

James Acaster

I find it relaxing, but I find the thought of it doing it stressful.

Ed Gamble

I'm having James and his girlfriend over to our house in a few weeks.

Kathy Burke

Pressure.

Ed Gamble

I'm already worried about it Kathy, I'll be honest.

James Acaster

Wow, you're worried.

Ed Gamble

I'm already panicking about what I'm going to do.

Kathy Burke

No, you know what you should do? A little bit of fried sea bass, Kath's continental potatoes and some steamed greens. Maybe, the one green I forgot was cavolo nero.

Ed Gamble

I might do Kath's continental-, That's good.

Kathy Burke

I love it. I love cabbage.

James Acaster

We can chuck that on there for you.

Kathy Burke

Any greens, I like kale.

Ed Gamble

I'll do that.

James Acaster

It would be so funny if my girlfriend and I went to Ed's house for dinner and he made us the dream menu of one of the guests, and didn't even mention it.



Kathy Burke

Yes.

James Acaster

I'd be like, 'Ed, is this Kathy Burke's dream menu?' No.

Kathy Burke

Well, it's not mine. You should choose somebody's dream menu.

Ed Gamble

No, I'm going to do yours Kathy. They're going to get a pint of tea.

James Acaster

When the pint of team comes out, then I'll start going like, 'Ed.'

Kathy Burke

But the pint of the tea's for the morning though, so it's not really, you know, for your dinner. I think that's a bit much.

James Acaster

Yes. Well, you can have it wherever you want in your dream meal.

Kathy Burke

Yes, okay.

James Acaster

Have a cigarette if you want at some point.

Kathy Burke

Definitely. We'll have that afterwards.

James Acaster

Yes. Something for after.

Ed Gamble

But you can smoke in the dream restaurant as well. It's the dream restaurant.

Kathy Burke

Really?

Ed Gamble

Yes.



James Acaster

Yes, it's your dream restaurant. We can get rid of all seeds within a 30 mile radius if you want.

Kathy Burke

A little bit of whacky baccy.

James Acaster

Yes.

Kathy Burke

Lovely.

Ed Gamble

We can sort that out for you, for sure.

James Acaster

Yes, you can some of that.

Kathy Burke

Fabulous.

Ed Gamble

You wouldn't be the first person to put that on their dream menu.

James Acaster

No, you've been good company. You and Mike Skinner from The Streets. You can some of that together.

Kathy Burke

Of course. Well, that makes sense, doesn't it?

Ed Gamble

Well, there you go. I feel, like, we've added some nice little twists to the menu there.

James Acaster

Yes, I thought I'd chuck the smoking option in there because I remember when we were coming back from an 8 out of 10 Cats does Countdown, it's the train journey from Manchester all the way to London, the whole way you were like, 'I need to get off this train.' As soon as we're pulling into Euston or whatever it is, you're right at the door, 'Right, come on. See you later James, bye.'

Kathy Burke

See you later.

James Acaster



I've got to go.

Kathy Burke

Got to get my ciggy in.

James Acaster

Yes, so definitely at the end of the meal got to have a smoke.

Kathy Burke

Well, that used to be the thing that you did at the end of a meal before-, keep nearly falling back on this chair. The men would go off and smoke cigars, and the ladies would what? What would they do? Knit.

Ed Gamble

I think so.

James Acaster

Talk about the men.

Ed Gamble

They used to knit.

Kathy Burke

Yes, knit. Talk about the men. God, what a life. I was so glad. I think this is a good generation. Well, I'm old enough to be your mother, the pair of you and Ben who's here, like a, sort of, ghost presence. Anyway, I'm just waffling now. It's ridiculous.

James Acaster

Wow because we have already started to get the whacky baccy out, just for the listener.

Ed Gamble

Yes, that's what's happened.

James Acaster

What's happened. Kathy can't remember what she's saying anymore.

Ed Gamble

We'll go before it really kicks in. Thank you so much for coming to the Dream Restaurant Kathy.

Kathy Burke

I've loved it.

Ed Gamble

There we are, the wonderful Kathy Burke, James.



James Acaster

Worth the wait. I think that is (TC 01:10:00) the epitome of worth the wait.

Ed Gamble

Worth the wait, what a wonderful episode. Absolutely. What a lovely and genuinely funny and warm presence she was in the studio, James.

James Acaster

Absolutely, a pleasure to be around, a great menu. When Kathy said pescatarian, I was like, 'Are we going to have crab sticks coming up here?'

Ed Gamble

Yes, and very good that we didn't pick cup of tea because there was some chat about maybe having cup of tea as the secret ingredient, linking it to the Kevin and Perry, cup of tea please.

James Acaster

Yes, because whenever Mrs Patterson gave them a cup of tea, Perry, he would say, 'Thank you Mrs Patterson.'

Ed Gamble

We actually did well to not fanboy as well, James.

James Acaster

We did do well.

Ed Gamble

Normally we absolutely spill.

James Acaster

I'll tell you why I didn't fanboy was because Kathy told me that once she did a show which she was directing it, and, like, no one was fanboy or doing any of that with her, so she gave them a thank you Mrs Patterson out of nowhere one say and they were all delighted about it. So, I thought if Kathy, if you don't do it, she might do. 'Thank you Mrs Patterson.' Maybe we'll get all the stuff if we don't do it.

Ed Gamble

She did say thank you at one point in the, sort of, sing-song Perry way.

James Acaster

A little bit.

Ed Gamble

Which was exciting. Brilliant menu. No crab sticks.

James Acaster



Didn't say crab sticks.

Ed Gamble

No crab sticks.

James Acaster

No.

Ed Gamble

Do go and listen to Kathy's podcast, Where There's a Will, There's a Wake.

James Acaster

Yes. Not only me, Dawn French is the first episode, amazing. Jamali Maddix, Diane Morgan, Stewart Lee.

Ed Gamble

I can't wait to listen to it.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Even if I'm not on it.

James Acaster

Well, one day. I mean, hopefully you've got to get on it before it's too late, before it's real.

Ed Gamble

Yes, it'd be awful. Maybe on my deathbed I'll do it.

James Acaster

They could do one of them one day.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

That would be quite the episode. I mean, would they be able to turn that down. If a celeb was on their deathbed, and contacted Kathy and said, 'I just really would love to do it before I go.' Can they say no to that? Probably not.

Ed Gamble

Probably not. A few foodie thank yous, James.



James Acaster

Foodie thank you.

Ed Gamble

We've been sent some lovely stuff. Thank you so much to JUBEL Beers, I'm hearing about this for the first time.

James Acaster

Benito loves it.

Ed Gamble

Because Benito loves it and he's done the thing where they've been contacting Benito to say, 'We'd love to send you guys some beers,' Benito's gone, 'Yes.' And he's snuffled them all away for himself because he loves their peach beer so much.

James Acaster

He loves it. Earlier on he lied to Ed about having some. He said, 'I love the peach beer, Ed.' And Ed was like, 'I think I would love that.' I went, 'Yes, I drank it all.' And then he admitted, 'I haven't drunk it all, I do have it. I was just telling you that because I didn't want you to drink my peach beer.'

Ed Gamble

Yes, he's got them in his secret, little fridge next to his desk.

James Acaster

Yes, he's got it there. He opens it up, gives himself a beer. Every time he finishes an edit, cracks open a peach beer.

Ed Gamble

Keeps him in the great Fridge-nito.

James Acaster

The great Fridge-nito.

Ed Gamble

So, thank you very much JUBEL and thank you very much to you, the listener for listening again.

James Acaster

Yes, thank you very much to you the listener for listening again.

Ed Gamble

Bye.

James Acaster

Bye.

