



Off Menu – Ep182 – Joe Cornish

Ed Gamble

Welcome to the Off Menu podcast, taking the sashimi of conversation, dipping it into the soy sauce of great humour, and then popping it in your mouth, and that's the podcast, and it's sushi because I had sushi last night.

James Acaster

Well, that sounds genuinely delicious. That is Ed Gamble there, my name is James Acaster, we own a dream restaurant, we invite a guest in every week and we ask them their favourite ever starter, main course, dessert, side dish, and drink, not in that order. And this week our guest is-

Ed Gamble and James Acaster

Joe Cornish.

Ed Gamble

It's Joe Cornish. Finally completing the Adam Buxton and Joe Cornish double hit.

James Acaster

Yes. You know, space it out.

Ed Gamble

You've got to space it out.

James Acaster

You've got to space it out. Joe Cornish, of course, wonderful director, writer, also, you know, known for his work with Adam Buxton back in the day. But, I mean-

Ed Gamble

He's got so much on the old CV has Joe Cornish.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

What a career. I'm very excited to speak to him.

James Acaster

Very excited. Do you know what? I'm going to say before he gets here-

Ed Gamble

'Joe what'?



James Acaster

'Joe what'? Lovely voice.

Ed Gamble

Very nice voice.

James Acaster

Something about his voice-, and Adam, and Louis Theroux, they all went to school together, right?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

They've all got-, something about their voices is lovely.

Ed Gamble

Yes, really nice, really nice. So, I'm hoping that he brings his nice voice with him today.

James Acaster

He'll bring the nice voice, and also, he's brought the nice TV show with him.

Ed Gamble

He's brought the nice TV show. He's got a new TV show called Lockwood & Co., which is out now on Netflix, and it sounds so exciting, James. 'In a world plagued by ghosts where giant corporations employ psychic teams to battle the supernatural, only one company operates without adult supervision, and its name is Lockwood & Co. Run by Anthony Lockwood, a rebellious young entrepreneur haunted by his mysterious past, his brilliant but eccentric psychic George, and newly arrived supremely gifted girl called Lucy, this renegade trio are about to unravel a terrifying mystery that will change the course of history.' I hope that's what it's about.

James Acaster

Ed, you know so much about it, you know so much about Lockwood & Co., that's really exciting.

Ed Gamble

I don't know that, that is what I hope it is.

James Acaster

Yes, that is very exciting.

Ed Gamble

Ruined for me because I auditioned for it, so.

James Acaster



Yes, you're not a kid, man. I've told you before, stop auditioning to play a kid.

Ed Gamble

But one day it might happen.

James Acaster

It will not happen, especially not 'one day', you're getting older. If anything, time's working against you. Stop auditioning to play kids, start auditioning for adult roles, and then maybe you'll get something.

Ed Gamble

One day I will play a kid.

James Acaster

You will not play a kid, man. Ed auditioned for a Rugrats movie.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

You just wanted to play Tommy Pickles.

Ed Gamble

I'd be a great Tommy Pickles.

James Acaster

Listen, man, we've been through this.

Ed Gamble

Hey, man, we've got to combine forces. Tommy Pickles, and you're Chuckie.

James Acaster

Well, I could be Chuckie, obviously, (talking over each other 02.42).

Ed Gamble

Yes, ginger.

James Acaster

Yes, (inaudible 02.45) I could be Chuckie.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes, just got to speak with a blocked up nose all the time.



Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

What a character. What a character.

Ed Gamble

Bonito could be Angelica.

James Acaster

Yes, Bonito's very much like Angelica, comes and bullies us and we're all scared of him every single week. Maybe we'll pitch this to Joe, because I think they were going to do a Rugrats movie, weren't they?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Has that been and gone?

Ed Gamble

I'm not going to bring up the-,

James Acaster

Are we too late?

Ed Gamble

The audition, probably.

James Acaster

You might not bring it up.

Ed Gamble

No.

James Acaster

I might.

Ed Gamble

I might bring up that I went to a film screening and he kicked over my popcorn when he walked past me.

James Acaster



Definitely bring that up, that's food related.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

That's food related. Then we can ask him about what popcorn he likes.

Ed Gamble

Me and Nish went to see a film screening-,

James Acaster

Nish Kumar.

Ed Gamble

Nish Kumar. And Joe Cornish was sat really near us, and then he got up to go to the toilet, he kicked Nish's popcorn over, and he came back from the toilet, he kicked my popcorn over. And then Nish kept shouting, 'Attack the pop,' for the rest of the night.

James Acaster

'Attack the pop.' My God. I mean, that is funny.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

I'm going to ask him what kind of popcorn he likes. I think he's going to say salted.

Ed Gamble

I don't think he likes popcorn, clearly. He actively hates it.

James Acaster

He was jealous that you guys had some, I think.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

And kicked it over because he wanted some pop.

Ed Gamble

Yes, attack the pop.

James Acaster



Attack the pop. Also, if he brings up, like, that he likes cheese, I'm going to say, 'Attack the block of cheese.'

Ed Gamble

What else comes in blocks?

James Acaster

Yes, we've got to think of other stuff, because we definitely want to say, 'Attack the block,' of something. If he says 'croquembouche', we go, 'Attack the croque.'

Ed Gamble

'Attack the croque,' that's good.

James Acaster

We can say that for that.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

So, just any opportunity to say that.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

And then if we do say it, here's what I'm going to do, I'm going to give you a heads up right now. Normally I don't give Ed a heads up. If I get one of these in, say, 'Attack the thing,' I will say, like, 'Attack the croquembouche,' and then I'll go, 'Championne, championne, ole, ole, ole.'

Ed Gamble

Why are you giving me a heads up?

James Acaster

And then I'm going to carry on.

Ed Gamble

Because it's baffling anyway, and it's exactly the sort of thing you would do.

James Acaster

Yes, well, I'm just letting you know that's what's going to happen.

Ed Gamble

Well, don't forget to watch Attack the Lockwood.



James Acaster

Oh, yes.

Ed Gamble and James Acaster

Champione, champione, ole, ole, ole.

Ed Gamble

But unfortunately, if Joe says the secret ingredient that we've pre-established, he will be kicked out of the restaurant. And today's secret ingredient is-

Ed Gamble and James Acaster

Cornish pasty.

Ed Gamble

We've not reached too far for that one, but it was either that or a cup of joe.

James Acaster

Look, yes, we're not superhuman here, guys, we're just people like you. And we just try our best with the secret ingredient.

Ed Gamble

It's just a format point.

James Acaster

Just making it Cornish pasty.

Ed Gamble

We've really backed ourselves into a corner.

James Acaster

Especially-, I'm thinking of a particular Cornish pasty that-, I used to get Cornish pasties when I was, like, living in Kettering, and I'd come back from London from gigs, and I'd get in at St Pancras, and they were not enough meat, and too much pastry.

Ed Gamble

Are you talking about the West Cornwall Pasty Company?

James Acaster

Yes, with the pirate on the-

Ed Gamble

Yes, see, I like those.



James Acaster

I don't like those.

Ed Gamble

They've got the big, thick handle round the outside, I love that.

James Acaster

Yes, too thick.

Ed Gamble

I love the steak and Stilton one.

James Acaster

Yes, well, that was my go-to, but I would find that it was too hot on the inside, too cold on the outside, the handle was too big.

Ed Gamble

You'd prefer it to be hot on the outside and cold in the middle, would you?

James Acaster

No, funnily enough, I'd like it hot on the outside, hot in the middle as well. I'd like it to be nice.

Ed Gamble

You're crazy.

James Acaster

I don't think the deal is one of the elements has to be cold.

Ed Gamble

Well, hopefully he doesn't pick that anyway, because I'm very excited to speak to him. This is the Off Menu menu of-

Ed Gamble and James Acaster

Joe Cornish.

Ed Gamble

Welcome, Joe, to the dream restaurant.

Joe Cornish

Well, thank you for having me, I'm very excited to be here.

James Acaster

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



Joe Cornish

Holy shitbox, it's the genie.

James Acaster

'Holy shitbox.' Now, before we started recording, you asked us if you were allowed to swear, and you were straight in there with 'holy shitbox.'

Joe Cornish

Well, I like to make myself feel comfortable, it's like arranging scatter cushions on a sofa, a couple of 'shit's at the beginning, get really comfy.

Ed Gamble

No, that's given me a horrible image of how you arrange your sofa, 'A couple of shits at the beginning.'

Joe Cornish

Yes, no, that is not-, my sofa's very clean, and quite expensive. It's been ruined by the cat.

James Acaster

How big is your sofa, and how many scatter cushions are on it?

Joe Cornish

Well, it's a three-person sofa, with big bottoms. Three big-bottomed people. Opposite it is a two-bottomed-, is that how you measure a sofa, in buttocks?

James Acaster

Yes, I think so, in buttocks.

Joe Cornish

It's a six-buttock and a four-buttock, but mega-buttocks. And I've answered your question.

James Acaster

Well, how many scatter cushions are on there?

Joe Cornish

There are no scatter cushions on it.

James Acaster

Do you think they're a waste of time, scatter cushions?

Joe Cornish

Scatological cushions.

Ed Gamble and James Acaster

Yes.



Ed Gamble

Yes, nice.

Joe Cornish

It took me a while to bring that round.

Ed Gamble

I'm glad we got there though.

Joe Cornish

What, would I ever put scatter cushions on?

James Acaster

Yes.

Joe Cornish

Well, I think they're silly, scatter cushions. Like, you don't actually scatter them, it's not like you're a farmer on a sofa farm, scattering the cushions at the beginning of the seasons.

Ed Gamble

Sowing the cushions.

Joe Cornish

So you'll grow a whole branch of-, name a sofa shop.

James Acaster

DFS.

Joe Cornish

You'll grow a whole branch of DFS.

Ed Gamble

So, you have a fallow sofa.

Joe Cornish

In time for the harvest. I do. Well, there might be some coinage growing in the furrows.

Ed Gamble

Do you have a hairy cat?

Joe Cornish

What, like a long-haired cat?



Ed Gamble

Yes, how hairy is your cat?

Joe Cornish

No, it's a shorthair. He's a British Shorthair, his name is Smudge, which is like calling a boy Colin.

James Acaster

Yes?

Joe Cornish

Isn't it? Smudge, for a cat?

James Acaster

It's nice though.

Joe Cornish

When I was a kid I did a comic strip on Her Majesty's Secret Service with a friend of mine when we saw it on telly, and we gave James Bond a cat, and the cat was called Smudge, so I've always wanted to name a cat Smudge, and now I've finally done it.

James Acaster

Did you pitch that to the family when you got this cat?

Joe Cornish

Oh, there was no question that I would be naming the cat.

James Acaster

Mmm?

Joe Cornish

Yes. My daughter's three, so has no agency, and my wife knows better than to try and name the cat. It's my one area of authority in the house.

Ed Gamble

You're a writer, right? You can-, you know, you can come up with a cat name.

Joe Cornish

Yes, Smudge, bang, ten out of ten.

James Acaster

But then, you know, you're writing loads of scripts and stuff, you get to name characters all the time. You don't want to, like, give it to someone else for one fucking goddamn second?

Joe Cornish



The naming?

James Acaster

One shitboxing second. Do you want to let someone else name it for once?

Joe Cornish

Would you like to rename my cat, James?

James Acaster

No, because (talking over each other 09.02) names.

Joe Cornish

You could give him some middle names like a pedigree cat.

James Acaster

Oh, yes, that'd be nice.

Joe Cornish

Go on.

James Acaster

Smudge Ed Gamble-, I was looking at Ed.

Ed Gamble

Wow.

James Acaster

So-,

Ed Gamble

Wow. One of the most inventive comics of his generation, apparently. Smudge Ed Gamble Cornish, that's pretty-,

Joe Cornish

That is good.

James Acaster

Ben.

Joe Cornish

That's one of those middle names you'd never tell anybody.

Ed Gamble

Yes, Ed Gamble.



Joe Cornish

And you'd be embarrassed when you admitted it.

James Acaster

His middle name is Ed Gamble, that's quite good. Is that official now?

Joe Cornish

That is official, yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Joe Cornish

Wow, that's exciting.

Ed Gamble

But you'll never mention it again to anyone.

Joe Cornish

Well, I think we're on quite a popular podcast, so the damage is done.

Ed Gamble

Bad luck, Smudge Ed Gamble Cornish.

Joe Cornish

Good initials though, SEGC.

James Acaster

The C, kind of-,

Joe Cornish

It took me a while to get through those.

Ed Gamble

Nearly forgot the first letter of your own surname.

Joe Cornish

Yes, it's early.

James Acaster

'What's my name?' Of all the scripts you've written, what's your favourite character name that you've come up with for someone?



Joe Cornish

Well, it was fun naming the characters in Attack the Block, and I'm working on the (TC 00:10:00) script for the sequel, and I'm having fun finding those names. Like, Pest, I like. Yes, that's the answer to your question.

James Acaster

How exciting, I didn't know there was going to be another Attack the Block.

Joe Cornish

Yes, hopefully.

James Acaster

Boyega coming back for it?

Joe Cornish

He is, yes. We're writing it together.

James Acaster

What?

Joe Cornish

Yes, sir. Both holding the pen.

Ed Gamble

It's taking a while, right?

Joe Cornish

What could be difficult is the writing's very scrawly.

James Acaster

He's fighting you, you're trying to call another character Smudge.

Joe Cornish

Yes.

James Acaster

(Inaudible 10.29).

Joe Cornish

I should put a Smudge in there, that would be a good name for a character.

Ed Gamble

That would be really good.



Joe Cornish

Smudge. Yes, why would you name a human smudge?

Ed Gamble

I'd want Smudge to be a really evil character because it's such a cute name.

Joe Cornish

Right, yes, counter-intuitive.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Joe Cornish

Maybe Smudge holds a pen in a weird way and just smudges the ink as he or she writes.

James Acaster

Yes.

Joe Cornish

That's all I can think of.

James Acaster

But, hey, Lockwood & Co.'s coming out, that's exciting.

Joe Cornish

Yes, plug time.

James Acaster

Yes, hey, it's-

Joe Cornish

Plug in the socket.

Ed Gamble

We really try and bring it in naturally and organically, this sort of thing.

Joe Cornish

Yes, that's good. No, yes, this is a show for Netflix, but might this podcast go out after that show goes out?

Ed Gamble

Yes, it's available now.

Joe Cornish



Well, then it's available now, it's a supernatural action adventure series in eight parts, the first and the last ones directed by me. I flicked you the V then, sorry.

James Acaster

You did flick me-, yes.

Joe Cornish

I did.

Ed Gamble

(Talking over each other 11.18) two episodes, and you flicked James the V.

James Acaster

I feel that it was two episodes by flicking me the V.

Joe Cornish

And then I've, sort of-, I think I'm called a 'showrunner', even though I don't like that term.

James Acaster

Right, why not? Why don't you like that term?

Joe Cornish

It sounds tiring, running. And 'show', I don't now, sounds a bit razzle dazzle, and it just sounds like Greg Wallace might visit me and ask me how I do it. Do you know what I mean? 'You're telling me-'

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Joe Cornish

'Oh, Joe, this is amazing. And you get that many shows out in this much time? Ho, ho, ho, I never realised it when I opened my packet of shows, that this much work went into them. You're telling me you film four minutes a day?'

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Wearing a hair net for no reason. Absolute waste of time every time he's got a hair net on.

Joe Cornish

Like, writer/director sounds quite sophisticated, doesn't it?

Ed Gamble

Yes, that's good.



Joe Cornish

Showrunner, I don't know.

James Acaster

This is an exciting series though.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Joe Cornish

How do you know?

Ed Gamble

Because we've got the press release right here.

James Acaster

Well, we read the press release and we're like, 'This sounds cool.'

Joe Cornish

No, it is good. It's quite exciting and spectacular, and it's got ghosts, and fighting ghosts. It's a clever idea. Like, the idea is that ghosts can kill you by touching you. One little touch of a ghost and you're dead.

Ed Gamble

Oh, no.

Joe Cornish

Yes, 'Oh, no,' right?

James Acaster

Yes.

Joe Cornish

But, you know, usually in movies ghosts can't do that much to you, can they? They can possess your daughter, they can throw things at you, they can make very sudden loud noises that risk a heart attack-

James Acaster

Pottery, hey can do pottery.

Joe Cornish

They can do pottery, that's true, I was watching that yesterday, weirdly-

James Acaster



If they touch the pot, the pot dies.

Joe Cornish

Connected to something else.

Ed Gamble

That would be awful if that mythology happened in Ghost.

Joe Cornish

Well, no, they can't-, can they do pottery?

James Acaster

Well, they can help you.

Joe Cornish

They can sit close to you while you do pottery.

Ed Gamble

They can sit behind you while you do pottery, but she'd be dead immediately if this was the Lockwood world.

Joe Cornish

If it was Lockwood & Co., yes, that would be a very-, she would slam face-forward into the pot, and then her corpse would spin round-,

James Acaster

Yes, her face would stick to it.

Joe Cornish

Until it hit a table leg.

Ed Gamble

Is she then a ghost and she spins round and gets flung off somewhere and touches someone else and then they're dead?

Joe Cornish

Yes, well, that could be a massacre in the street.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Joe Cornish

Oh, dear.



James Acaster

Are you a big foodie?

Joe Cornish

Well, you know, I'm not. I'm really infantile. Yes, I'm one of these people that's hanging on to particular decisions they made based on nothing when they were twelve.

James Acaster

Great.

Joe Cornish

So, this isn't going to be your, you know, haute cuisine episode of Off Menu.

James Acaster

That's interesting.

Ed Gamble

I'm very excited to hear the stuff though.

Joe Cornish

Really?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes, especially now.

Joe Cornish

Like, I am wasted in a posh restaurant.

James Acaster

Yes?

Joe Cornish

Like, yes, in both senses of the word, of the phrase. You're, sort of, wasting your money if you take me to a-, take me to a medium restaurant, or to Brixton Village, somewhere like that, and I'm in.

Ed Gamble

But posh restaurant-,

Joe Cornish

Posh restaurants, I get very bored and frustrated.



Ed Gamble

But surely that must have happened a lot in the past. Like, Netflix, did they take you out to wine you and dine you in the posh restaurants?

Joe Cornish

Have they? Yes, I do go to, yes, quite a lot of business-type meeting-type dinners. And yes, I do get quite tetchy. Not tetchy, what's the word? Like, impatient. I just want the food slapped down. I mean, I've been served courses that are just like, 'I don't want to eat any of that cube of peculiar substances.' Here's the thing, I like to know what I'm eating. So, I like to see it. I don't like sauces because they feel like a smokescreen.

Ed Gamble

Really?

Joe Cornish

Do you know what I mean?

James Acaster

Really interesting.

Joe Cornish

Yes.

Ed Gamble

You don't see the sauce as part of the dish?

Joe Cornish

No, I don't. I think it's like, well, if you're going to cook something, cook it nicely, don't smother it in a sauce to try and-, you know, putting a sauce on something is like wearing a Halloween costume on a daily basis or something, do you know what I mean?

Ed Gamble

No.

Joe Cornish

It's like a mask to hide-,

James Acaster

Not on a daily basis.

Ed Gamble

But the sauce is surely part of the cooking? You're suggesting that they've cooked something and then grabbed some sauce from the fridge or something and then just covered it.



Joe Cornish

Yes, (talking over each other 15.05).

James Acaster

You can't just taste the sauce, it combines with the flavour of-

Joe Cornish

Okay, well, here's the other weird thing, I don't drink tea or coffee.

Ed Gamble

Right.

Joe Cornish

And I've only just in my twilight years, which I'm now in-

James Acaster

Are you in the twilight years now?

Joe Cornish

I think so. Started drinking, like, hot drinks. Like, I've got a lemon and ginger here. So, basically, hot-, I just don't like hot fluids.

James Acaster

Right, okay.

Joe Cornish

You must have had people like this on before with peculiar infantile hang-ups.

Ed Gamble

Oh, definitely, yes.

James Acaster

We've heard that Paul Rudd does not like sauces.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Joe Cornish

I've eaten a meal with Paul Rudd.

Ed Gamble

That must have been the driest meal in existence.

James Acaster



Yes, I bet everyone was like, 'Those two guys, what the-,'

Joe Cornish

I got a piece of lettuce on my epiglottis, is what I remember about that meal. It was with Edgar in LA and we were in quite a posh restaurant.

James Acaster

Yes, is this Ant-Man?

Joe Cornish

Yes, when Edgar was casting Ant-Man, before we left Ant-Man, Edgar chose Paul for Ant-Man. And yes, so, we sat down and had a meal with him, and I started, sort of, convulsing and being unable to talk, and coughing violently, and it was a tiny little piece of lettuce, almost like a little rip of Rizla that was attached to my epiglottis. Very difficult to get off, because you can't get a finger and thumb in there and peel it off.

James Acaster

Well, sure.

Ed Gamble

The only way to do it-

Joe Cornish

You risk twanging your epiglottis.

James Acaster

Yes, go on.

Ed Gamble

Is Paul Rudd shrink down to the size of Ant-Man and go in there and get it, right?

James Acaster

Yes.

Joe Cornish

Very good, Ed.

Ed Gamble

Yes?

Joe Cornish

Thank you.

James Acaster



That's the only way.

Ed Gamble

Me and James have both been thinking about that ever since-

James Acaster

Yes.

Joe Cornish

Oh, really?

Ed Gamble

Yes, you can tell, you could tell.

James Acaster

Yes.

Joe Cornish

You're absolutely right.

James Acaster

As soon as Ed said, 'The only way to do it-' I went, 'Fair enough, he got there first.'

Joe Cornish

Well, I should have said to him, 'Look, if you want this part, get the lettuce off my epiglottis.' The audition of all auditions.

Ed Gamble

Yes, wow.

Joe Cornish

But I don't think he would have got the part.

Ed Gamble

No.

James Acaster

If he'd done it?

Ed Gamble

If he could do it in real life?

James Acaster

If he had shrunk down and got the lettuce off your epiglottis, you wouldn't have given him the part?



Joe Cornish

Well, then he definitely would have got the part because imagine the VFX money you would have saved.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes.

Joe Cornish

If he could really shrink-a-dink.

James Acaster

Jumped in your mouth, got the lettuce, then came out your nose. And then sat down and carried on talking to Edgar.

Ed Gamble

That would have been a meal to remember.

James Acaster

Well, we always start the dream menu with still or sparkling water?

Joe Cornish

Yes, well, this has become a very controversial binary decision on your podcast, hasn't it?

James Acaster

Yes.

Joe Cornish

It's a bit like some sort of factional political divide that might schism the country. And I get the feeling, having listened to your podcast, that, you know, still water is the thing to-, that's the popular choice.

Ed Gamble

We get a lot of sparklers in. There are a lot of those sparklers knocking around.

Joe Cornish

Really?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster



I feel like it's 50/50. Also, I know-,

Joe Cornish

Do you? I don't. Well, here's the thing, I think it depends on your budget. Like, I'm not going to buy still water, that seems very decadent.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I completely agree.

Joe Cornish

Go for tap water.

James Acaster

Yes.

Joe Cornish

If I'm really splashing out and having an exciting meal, then I'm going to have some fizz in my water because I'm not paying for water, you know?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Joe Cornish

So, it depends on the time of day, the budget, but I'm in the dream restaurant, right? So, money is no object. I'm going to go for sparkles.

James Acaster

You're going to go for the sparkles?

Joe Cornish

I certainly am, yes.

James Acaster

Just because of what we've been talking about so far, I would imagine that if you had sparkling water, you would splutter and just, like, it would be a disaster.

Joe Cornish

Because of my sensitive epiglottis?

Ed Gamble

Your epiglottis, yes.

James Acaster

Yes, you would be all over the place, talking like Donald Duck.



Joe Cornish

No, no, I'm pretty-, I can handle my sparkling water.

James Acaster

Yes?

Joe Cornish

Yes. I'm pretty good on sparkling water. I mean, it's an exciting drink, don't get me wrong.

Ed Gamble

If anything, it might help if you've got something stuck in your epiglottis.

Joe Cornish

Oh, absolutely.

Ed Gamble

Erode it away, yes.

Joe Cornish

It might bubble the leaf off, yes. Like some sort of Alka-Seltzer function.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes.

Joe Cornish

Yes, but I do feel like a bit of a dilettante, even though I'm not sure what that word means, I feel like a bit of one for choosing sparkling water.

Ed Gamble

But, you know, this is the dream restaurant.

Joe Cornish

It is, so I don't get judged for my-,

James Acaster

No-one can judge you.

Joe Cornish

Dilettante-ism.



James Acaster

Yes, no-one can judge you in the dream restaurant.

Joe Cornish

Apart from the genie.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Rather than put it in a glass, do you want us to put it in, like, a tankard or something so people can't see through it? So, you can probably pretend like you're drinking tap water, so you don't feel like a dilettante.

Joe Cornish

No, I want to go the whole hog, I want a big, expensive bottle, and a champagne flute.

Ed Gamble

Oh, nice.

Joe Cornish

Yes, and I'll hold it with my little finger extended, a la Tony Hadley, and I'll sip it and sup it, and burp like nobody's business.

James Acaster

Will you say, 'Cheers-', at the start?

Ed Gamble

Every time you take a sip.

Joe Cornish

Yes, I will. I'll say, 'Bonne sante.'

James Acaster

Yes, you'd say, 'Bonne sante.'

Joe Cornish

Yes, 'bonne sante' I think is French for good health.

James Acaster

So, who would you be saying that to in your-,

Joe Cornish

Who else is in my dream restaurant?



Ed Gamble

Yes, is anyone there with you?

Joe Cornish

Oh, God. Who's in my dream restaurant? Just people-, who's in my-, people who'd laugh at my jokes. And, like, a lot of times (TC 00:20:00) when I have dinner with people, I don't know, I find that they talk a lot about themselves. Maybe I'm just a really good listener, but I'm trying to think how I could get a group of people who'd be fascinated by me. Maybe I'd recruit them on the Internet.

Ed Gamble

You'd want some sort of lackeys or toadies?

Joe Cornish

Yes, on Instagram-, maybe some toadies. Yes, some fawning toadies. Yes, I don't know how to do that, I'd hold some sort of toadie competition and see who could write the toadiest note.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Toadie from Neighbours turns up, he's gutted, he's got it wrong.

Joe Cornish

Toadfish.

Ed Gamble

Toadfish, yes.

James Acaster

Toadfish.

Joe Cornish

Oh, that would be a great dinner.

Ed Gamble

Do you want Jarrod Rebecchi to come to your meal?

Joe Cornish

Who's that?

Ed Gamble

That's Toadfish's-, the character name.

Joe Cornish

Wow, that's good.



James Acaster

Wow, well done.

Joe Cornish

Are you, like, a deep Neighbours fan?

Ed Gamble

No, not anymore, but that was my era, was Toadfish/Jarrold Rebecchi.

Joe Cornish

Toadie.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Also, I'd say Toadie/Toadfish is very much like The Rock was in wrestling, where even if you don't really like the show or watch it very much, you know that character and you think that character's awesome. You can be a fan of Toadfish, and not a fan of Neighbours.

Ed Gamble

Yes, that's true, same with Harold Bishop.

James Acaster

Yes.

Joe Cornish

I tell you what I'd have, I'd have all my friends, Louis, Edgar, Adam, some friends who aren't, like, well known as well.

James Acaster

Let's throw in a name of one of the ones who isn't well known as well.

Joe Cornish

Tom.

James Acaster

Tom.

Joe Cornish

Tom would be there, David would be there.

James Acaster

What's Tom's surname?



Joe Cornish

Townend. He's the cinematographer-,

James Acaster

Thomas Townend.

Joe Cornish

He shot Attack the Block, and he shot Lockwood & Co.

James Acaster

Still a colleague.

Joe Cornish

He's a colleague, yes, but he's a very clever guy.

James Acaster

Any friends who aren't colleagues?

Joe Cornish

Any friends who aren't colleagues? David. I mean, most of my friends are in the biz.

James Acaster

How do you know David?

Joe Cornish

Well, David runs the Film4 channel.

James Acaster

Oh, okay.

Joe Cornish

David Kosse. But I did know him before, I knew him long before I made films.

James Acaster

We've got to find a friend who doesn't work in the industry.

Joe Cornish

Alright, this is tough.

James Acaster

We've got to find someone.

Joe Cornish



I think they all work in the industry.

James Acaster

No, surely not?

Joe Cornish

Yes, I really think they do.

James Acaster

Surely you've got one friend who doesn't work in the biz?

Joe Cornish

No. I've been doing this for a long time. Smudge?

Ed Gamble

Smudge, I knew we were going to get to Smudge being at the meal.

Joe Cornish

He's a good conversationalist.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

He doesn't say much, but he looks at you and blinks.

James Acaster

Oh, yes, slightly-

Ed Gamble

That means he loves you, you know?

Joe Cornish

Does the silent meow. Anyway, the point of having all those people is the one difference would be they'd be fascinated by me and really want to hear what I had to say about myself and my career, instead of just constantly talking about themselves and their own achievements.

Ed Gamble

I think that's your fault for only having friends within the industry.

James Acaster



Yes.

Joe Cornish

Yes.

James Acaster

If you had a friend who didn't work in the industry, they probably would be interested.

Ed Gamble

They'd be so impressed. They'd be so impressed by-

Joe Cornish

Man, I'm trying to think. This is terrible. I probably do, I'm just panicking.

James Acaster

Yes, I really hope your neighbours don't listen to this podcast.

Joe Cornish

Okay, well, am I-

James Acaster

They're in the industry, probably.

Joe Cornish

I'm not, like, tight close friends with my neighbours, are you?

James Acaster

No, I'm not.

Joe Cornish

They're not super close buddies.

James Acaster

I like them. I've only lived there for a few months, to be fair to me.

Joe Cornish

Maybe I should scroll through the contacts in my phone and see-

James Acaster

Will Joe Cornish find a contact in his phone who is not in the industry?

Joe Cornish

So, that's my producer, that's Adam, that's my wife. These are the people who've called me in the last couple of days, my producer Nira, who's a massive fan of this podcast.



James Acaster

Hello, Nira.

Joe Cornish

My wife, Adam Buxton, my builder, Cloddie (ph 23.27).

James Acaster

Now, is Cloddie a friend?

Ed Gamble

Right, do you want Cloddie to come?

Joe Cornish

Yes, he's a friend. Do I want Cloddie to come? Yes, he could come.

Ed Gamble

Yes, let's get Cloddie in here.

James Acaster

What's Cloddie like?

Joe Cornish

He's a good guy.

James Acaster

Yes.

Joe Cornish

He's very good. I mean, he does big jobs, but he does little jobs too.

James Acaster

Yes.

Joe Cornish

I like that in a person.

James Acaster

I like Cloddie.

Joe Cornish

That's all you needed to hear to like him. Cloddie's great. I've found two more friends, Joel-, I've accidentally called Edgar.



James Acaster

No, don't call Edgar.

Joe Cornish

He's going to call back now.

Ed Gamble

He'd love to be on the podcast again.

James Acaster

Yes, he loves this podcast.

Joe Cornish

He does love the podcast. Leo, she works in the industry.

James Acaster

So, you've got Joel-

Joe Cornish

Joel produces Black Mirror.

James Acaster

Yes, okay, (talking over each other 24.09).

Joe Cornish

And that's it. So, yes-

James Acaster

So, the closest we got was Cloddie.

Joe Cornish

William, he's a plumber I called when my boiler broke the other day.

James Acaster

Okay.

Ed Gamble

So, Cloddie and William can come.

Joe Cornish

James Biddle, he's a producer, Lucy Pardee, she's a researcher. Unknown caller, maybe I'll have to track them down and invite them, whoever it was.

James Acaster



'This is my friend, Unknown Caller.'

Joe Cornish

'Hello, you don't know me, but you called me accidentally at 4:32 two weeks ago. Would you like to come to have a meal with me in a dream restaurant?'

Ed Gamble

'It's going to be me, and Cloddie, and Smudge.'

Joe Cornish

Yes, listen, I'm going months back and all I can find is my hairdresser.

James Acaster

Yes, Jesus.

Ed Gamble

There you go.

James Acaster

Well, thank you very much for doing the research there and seeing if you could find anyone. Poppadoms or bread? Poppadoms or bread, Joe Cornish? Poppadoms or bread?

Joe Cornish

Oh, my god. Well, bread.

Ed Gamble and James Acaster

Yes?

Joe Cornish

Yes, I had these friends who started a restaurant, and they had a brand new type of bread in their restaurant, and they grew a yeast, and they grew it. Have you ever come across this kind of shit? They did it in a yoghurt pot in a cupboard, and I think they were so heavily into breeding bread, they were bread breeders. I'm not sure that's the right term, but I like it.

James Acaster

Yes, no, I think it is.

Joe Cornish

Because that's what yeast does, isn't it? One bit of yeast parties with another little bit of yeast-,

Ed Gamble

In the yoghurt pot.

Joe Cornish



And they create a new sort of yeast. They're just cultures, aren't they?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Joe Cornish

And in a Petri dish.

Ed Gamble

It's sort of disgusting when you think about it.

Joe Cornish

It's disgusting when you think about it, it's disgusting when you look at it under a microscope, it's delicious when you eat it.

Ed Gamble

Oh, yes, when you eat it. But you didn't eat it straight out the yoghurt pot, did you?

Joe Cornish

No, but they so wanted to become restaurateurs that even when they were at university they were breeding yeast. And they invented this sort of yeast, and it became the signature bread of their restaurant, which was called Moro in Exmouth Market.

Ed Gamble

Heard of it.

Joe Cornish

And the bread there was, like, one of the signature things when you went there, and, God, it was delicious. But when I ate it I always used to think of, like, a grotty little cupboard in a student house in Bristol, and an old Pot Noodle pot.

James Acaster

Can you think of anything else that is disgusting when you think about it, disgusting when you look at it under a microscope, delicious when you eat it?

Joe Cornish

Yes, all meat.

Ed Gamble

Yes, meat, surely meat.

Joe Cornish

All uncooked meat. I mean, most food, really, probably, isn't it?



James Acaster

You think it's all disgusting under a microscope?

Joe Cornish

Kind of everything's disgusting under a microscope, apart from Ant-Man.

Ed Gamble

He's better.

Joe Cornish

What isn't? He's even better, yes, you can see his expressions much more clearly.

James Acaster

Was there a period in your life where you were thinking a lot about that sort of-, where it was just, like, all you would-,

Joe Cornish

About Ant-Man?

James Acaster

Well, all of your thoughts just went to things being shrunk down and tiny, and how-,

Joe Cornish

Yes, we worked on that film for about eight years.

Ed Gamble

Wow.

James Acaster

Fucking hell.

Joe Cornish

From before the first Iron Man movie.

Ed Gamble

Wow.

James Acaster

Wow. I didn't know it was that.

Joe Cornish

Yes, on and off we were working on it. I mean, we weren't just working on that for eight years, that would be too much, too long for a film about a Shrinky Dink superhero.



Ed Gamble

(Talking over each other 27.15).

Joe Cornish

No, but on and off, we were both doing other things.

James Acaster

So, you were always, like, you'd maybe look at a mug and think, 'Oh, imagine a little man climbing up that mug.'

Joe Cornish

Well, it's weird how doing that sort of thing actually cleans your mind.

James Acaster

Yes?

Joe Cornish

When you think about something for that long you're like, 'Okay, done with that, finished with that.'

James Acaster

Yes, 'I never have to think about little people.'

Joe Cornish

Never have to think about it ever again.

Ed Gamble

But are you suggesting that Joe would look at everything and go, 'Imagine a little man climbing up that'?

James Acaster

Yes. Like, if I was doing Ant-Man for eight years, I think every time I looked at anything I would think-, I'm looking right now at a tissue box here, and I would think, 'Oh, imagine a little man climbing up the tissue box and then jumping in the hole where the tissues are.' And, 'What would that be like for the little man?'

Joe Cornish

You know what? You'd be a fan of the Ant-Man films. You should see-, and he appears in the Avengers movies as well. You might like those.

James Acaster

I would like that.

Ed Gamble

Is that a scene that you ever considered?



Joe Cornish

A tissue box?

Ed Gamble

Ant-Man climbing up a tissue box and jumping into the tissues?

Joe Cornish

Well, if he was, say, trying to parachute out of a high building you could do that.

James Acaster

Yes, there you go.

Ed Gamble

Or if he had a cold.

James Acaster

Yes.

Joe Cornish

If he had a-, well, yes, and he'd just rip a little corner off, a tiny little corner off.

Ed Gamble

Yes, it's funny.

Joe Cornish

I don't know, I think the fibres would be very big and they'd lash against his face.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

He'd probably be better off getting that little bit of lettuce.

Joe Cornish

You see how deep I'm going into this?

Ed Gamble

Yes, you know, but that's good, this is-,

Joe Cornish

I mean, I'm really imagining it.

Ed Gamble



Yes.

James Acaster

Yes.

Joe Cornish

And how to deal with it. This is the VFX meeting. 'Mojo, the fibres would be too big, they'd lash against his face.'

Ed Gamble

That's exciting.

Joe Cornish

That wouldn't fly in ILM. What would fly is Ant-Man holding the corners of a tissue and jumping out of a high building. I was going to talk about plies, three plies, because maybe he'd lose a ply and you go, '(Gasps),' but he's got two left. Then he loses another one, '(Gasps) He's only got one ply.'

James Acaster

So, would you have to, like, add commentary there though? You'd have to have him going, 'Oh, no, I lost a ply'?

Joe Cornish

No, the trick would be to set up the plies earlier in the film.

James Acaster

Yes, have him talk about plies then.

Joe Cornish

To just toss it in, right, so the audience go, 'Oh, that's a strange thing to mention.'

Ed Gamble

So, he'd probably go, like, 'Ooh, three plies.'

Joe Cornish

Yes, 'Would you like one of these 3-ply tissues?' Throwaway line in an act one scene.

James Acaster

I think Michael Peña's character could get away with saying that.

Ed Gamble

Yes, exactly.

James Acaster

I think everyone would fit with him.



Ed Gamble

Yes.

Joe Cornish

Yes.

James Acaster

How's his surname spelt? How's it said? I've only ever seen it written down. I just said 'Pee-na' and I don't think it's Pee-na.

Joe Cornish

Yes, I don't know.

James Acaster

'Pen-ya'?

Joe Cornish

Yes, I think so, probably.

James Acaster

Anyway, I think if that character said, 'Do you want one of these tissues? It's 3-ply,' it would just be a funny joke.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Joe Cornish

Yes.

James Acaster

And people wouldn't really see it as, like, a thing, but then later on you go, 'Oh, man, that's good.'

Joe Cornish

Yes. There we go, that's in the bag, the scene is written.

James Acaster

If someone offered you to do a Borrowers film or TV show, would you do it, or would you think, 'I can't think about that stuff again.'

Joe Cornish

I would think that. I don't like The Borrowers. Burrowers? What are they called?

Ed Gamble



Borrowers.

James Acaster

They're borrowers.

Ed Gamble

Because they borrow. Well, they're thieves.

James Acaster

(TC 00:30:00) Yes, they're thieves, they never give it back.

Joe Cornish

I don't know, they feel like-, yes, I don't know, isn't it Jim Broadbent?

Ed Gamble

Yes, he's-,

Joe Cornish

To have a very small Jim Broadbent living in the cracks of my floorboards would be upsetting for me.

Ed Gamble

What, you'd feel bad for Jim Broadbent, or you'd be worried about-,

Joe Cornish

It just feels dirty.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Joe Cornish

I'd want to get a toothpick and clean him out.

Ed Gamble

Clean him out?

Joe Cornish

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Oh, you mean out of your house, you don't clean out his cracks.

Joe Cornish

No, clean him out of the cracks in the floorboards, yes.



James Acaster

You want to get him out. I mean, I think that's-

Joe Cornish

I think that would be upsetting, it's just upsetting to have tiny people living-, Ant-Man man returns to normal size and carries on a reasonably normal life.

James Acaster

That's why you like him.

Joe Cornish

That's why I like him, yes. But to have Broadbent-, I don't know who the rest of the Burrow-, Borrowers were.

Ed Gamble

Borrowers. I can understand-

Joe Cornish

I'm saying Staunton, I'm just imagining Staunton.

James Acaster

Yes, you'd hope so.

Ed Gamble

Could it be another national treasure?

Joe Cornish

You'd hope so. Yes.

James Acaster

Yes. I mean, for me, Ian Holm is the original Borrower. Because that was, like, a Sunday lunchtime, Sunday teatime series. And it would be Ian Holm as Pod, I think was the main one.

Joe Cornish

Yes. Well, no insult to fans of The Borrowers, but no, I think your earlier point stands, I'm just done with shrinking.

James Acaster

Yes, you can't do it.

Joe Cornish

Yes.

Ed Gamble



What would you do if you found a Borrower in your house? Would you kill it?

Joe Cornish

What would I do? I would become a billionaire, because I'd have a very, very tiny human, and nothing like that's ever existed before. I'd probably call Blue Peter, that would be my first port of call.

Ed Gamble

To become a billionaire.

Joe Cornish

Well, just to get the exposure I need, because-, I'm thinking of '70s Blue Peter, not the Blue Peter now, which is just-,

James Acaster

Yes, no-one watches that now.

Joe Cornish

'This is house music and break dancing,' isn't it?

James Acaster

Yes.

Joe Cornish

I don't know, I just think that's the first call for people who are unusually tall or unusually small.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Not the Guinness Book of Records?

Joe Cornish

Yes, no, you're right, maybe Guinness Book of Records.

James Acaster

Also be very exciting for you if you found a Borrower because then you'd have a friend who wasn't in the industry.

Joe Cornish

Well, I don't know about that, because they'd immediately-,

Ed Gamble

I think they'd immediately get in the industry, wouldn't they? Yes.



Joe Cornish

Yes, they're immediately catapulted into showbiz.

James Acaster

Because of your things that you make them do. So, then you're going through your phone, 'I've got Pod here. Oh, no, he hosts Blue Peter now.'

Joe Cornish

Oh, you've made me worried now I haven't got any friends in the industry.

James Acaster

Well, you know, we've got a whole podcast for you to remember someone that isn't Cloddie or Smudge.

Joe Cornish

Quite unsettling having you talk in a casual manner about Cloddie and Smudge.

James Acaster

So, the bread is the bread from Moro, is what you would like?

Joe Cornish

Yes, the bread is the bread from Moro.

James Acaster

That's what you want.

Joe Cornish

Yes.

James Acaster

Delicious.

Ed Gamble

Butter with it as well?

James Acaster

No, not butter, no. A little dish of delicious olive oil to dip it in. Lovely, but be very careful not to get it on your shirt. So, I'd have to tuck in the napkin like a bib. Because I'm terrible for getting oil splats on my clothes.

Ed Gamble

Yes, me too.

Joe Cornish

The second I put a new shirt on, it's gone because of an oil splotch.



James Acaster

Two days ago, just, I got up, showered, dressed, then went to make something in a frying pan with some olive oil, immediately over all of it. I've got about seven aprons in my kitchen hung up, I don't wear any of them.

Joe Cornish

You've got to put them on.

James Acaster

And I was like, 'Come on, man, you've got start wearing an apron.'

Joe Cornish

No, my wife's taught me to put an apron on now, and now I love it. I like to call it a pinny.

James Acaster

Yes, that's nice.

Joe Cornish

Because it feels a bit more transgressive to have a pinny on.

Ed Gamble

I'm just imagining your wife teaching you literally the technique of putting an apron on. 'So, your head goes through this bit.'

Joe Cornish

That is kind of what happened. She ties the strings at the back for me. But you're right, you've got to protect your new clothes from oil, definitely.

Ed Gamble

I'll just cook topless though.

Joe Cornish

Do you?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes, Ed's got his sexy body.

Joe Cornish

Isn't your chest covered in, like, little burns?



Ed Gamble

Tiny little burns.

Joe Cornish

Speckled peckled with little burns.

Ed Gamble

Yes, it's like the Borrowers have had a cigarette party on my chest.

Joe Cornish

Really?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

'A cigarette party.'

Joe Cornish

Video drone style.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

What does your apron look like?

Joe Cornish

Well, there are two aprons in the kitchen, one has got blue vertical stripes, your classic.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Lovely.

Joe Cornish

I think the other one is, sort of, brown. Slimming, is it? Of course, yes.

James Acaster

(Talking over each other 34.06), aren't they? So, it's very clever to put that on. Although as an apron, because it's not your full body it must look weird.

Ed Gamble



Yes, just the middle of the body is slimmed down.

James Acaster

Very slim in the middle, but awful arse.

Joe Cornish

Yes, like a, sort of, freaky funhouse optical illusion. People can't look at me in it, it makes them feel dizzy.

James Acaster

Yes. Tiny body, big old arse.

Joe Cornish

Yes, Cloddie comes in, immediately falls over, cracks the plaster-

James Acaster

Gets covered in oil because he's not got his apron on.

Joe Cornish

Got another job. The other one is just grey.

Ed Gamble

Which is for cooking sad meals.

Joe Cornish

A bit of egg maybe on it.

James Acaster

I'm detecting that you prefer the vertical stripes one.

Joe Cornish

I go for whichever's hanging on the top of the huger cluster of things that are hanging off the back of the kitchen door, so much so that it doesn't open properly, bounces off the cupboards.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Our apron hook came down recently.

James Acaster

Oh, no.

Joe Cornish

Did it?

Ed Gamble



Yes, came off the wall.

Joe Cornish

Was it self-adhesive?

Ed Gamble

Yes, it was one of those adhesive ones, and then, you know, I'd got a new apron, a leather apron-

James Acaster

That's asking for trouble.

Joe Cornish

Listen, give Cloddie a call, he'll screw one in for you.

Ed Gamble

Cloddie will sort me out, won't he?

Joe Cornish

Yes.

James Acaster

He will.

Joe Cornish

He'll probably do it for free just as a little taster, like a drug dealer.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Joe Cornish

Keep you coming back.

Ed Gamble

And then you get really addicted to Cloddie's work.

James Acaster

Were you-, and this is a genuine question that I care about.

Ed Gamble

Yes?



James Acaster

In the room when it fell down, or were you elsewhere in the house, and heard it, and thought, 'What the bloody hell is that?'

Ed Gamble

I was away, I got back and all my aprons were on the floor, and I was like, 'Well, I'd better hang those back up.' Went to hang them back up, no hook.

James Acaster

No hook at all.

Joe Cornish

Oh, my god.

James Acaster

Because you'd put that big leather apron on.

Ed Gamble

Because it's an adhesive one as well, there's no mark where it was.

Joe Cornish

How long ago was this?

Ed Gamble

This was two weeks ago, I'd say.

Joe Cornish

Well, you still look startled. And when I came here today I thought, 'Ed looks startled. Something's happened to Ed recently. I hope he's okay.' And now I know.

Ed Gamble

Yes. And as soon as aprons came up I was like, 'Oh, no, I'm going to have to bring this up, God.'

James Acaster

This is the first time we've talked about aprons on the podcast.

Joe Cornish

Really? That's exciting.

James Acaster

Which is, like, a food podcast that's been going for quite a while.

Joe Cornish

What's the difference between an apron and a pinny?



James Acaster

Well, I would imagine a pinny has, like, frills on it and stuff. That's what I imagine a pinny as, would have, like, frills around the-, it's a bit more fancy.

Joe Cornish

Why is it called a pinny?

Ed Gamble

Is it short for pinafore?

Joe Cornish

Well, a pinafore is a pinafore, a pinny is a pinny.

James Acaster

But what's a pinafore?

Joe Cornish

It's a little dress that you pin on the front of a dress, isn't it? Like, I don't know, I don't watch enough Bridgerton. They have big bustle-y things, and pop a little pinafore on the front.

Ed Gamble

I thought a pinafore-,

Joe Cornish

It's like a big for your genitals.

Ed Gamble

Yes. But I thought that's what a pinny was.

Joe Cornish

It's like a giant flat sporen.

Ed Gamble

And they need those in Bridgerton.

Joe Cornish

I don't know what it is. Do they?

James Acaster

Yes, they need bibs for their genitals.

Ed Gamble

Yes, they need bibs for their genitals, yes.



Joe Cornish

They do? Crikey malikey.

Ed Gamble

To clean up those oil splats.

James Acaster

They've got a lot of oil splats.

Joe Cornish

The frying pan bukkake. Christ.

James Acaster

Also, I think, fair to say, the first mention of bukkake on the podcast.

Ed Gamble

I think so.

Joe Cornish

Really?

James Acaster

So, that's good.

Joe Cornish

Oh, I'm very proud.

James Acaster

And of course it's come-, you know-,

Ed Gamble

Right, I've Googled 'pinafore'.

Joe Cornish

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Don't do that and go on to Google images.

James Acaster

Why?

Joe Cornish



Well, I think-, yes, I'd like those pictures.

James Acaster

Are there sexy pictures?

Joe Cornish

I don't see your point.

Ed Gamble

But I don't understand why that's the first thing that comes up on 'pinafore'.

James Acaster

Naked women wearing-,

Ed Gamble

A three-pack-,

James Acaster

Well, wearing only pinafores.

Joe Cornish

I think pinnies and aprons, they're quite potentially sexy, because they happen to cover all your sensitive areas and not much else, but they leave the buttocks exposed. So, the front view-, if you're naked but just wearing an apron, you're presentable from the front, but all you have to do is turn to get the can of ravioli off the top shelf, and suddenly, 'How's your father?' It's-,

Ed Gamble

But isn't that the same with, like, hospital gowns though? And you wouldn't call those sexy.

Joe Cornish

Well, no, because you're in a hospital.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Joe Cornish

Some people find that sexy.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I suppose. There's something for everyone out there, isn't there?

Joe Cornish

Listen, as long as you're somewhere business-like where you're getting things done, then it's sexy, right?



James Acaster

It's sexy because it's so naughty.

Joe Cornish

Well, you've just got to get on with it, it's utilitarian.

Ed Gamble

I'll let you know that you can buy a three-pack of maid costumes for £8.99.

Joe Cornish

Would you buy them for me, please?

Ed Gamble

Yes, sure.

Joe Cornish

I don't know what I'm going to do with them. Maybe everyone at my table is wearing pinnies.

James Acaster

Yes? Are you sure? Because this is your builder and your cat.

Joe Cornish

What about my other friends? Have they not been allowed in?

James Acaster

Oh, yes, so, Edgar, Louis-,

Joe Cornish

Yes, they're all wearing pinnies.

James Acaster

Adam.

Joe Cornish

They're fully dressed, but they've got pinnies on because a pinny is the thinking man's bib.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Joe Cornish

I mean, it really does eliminate any possibility of splattage or spillage.

Ed Gamble



Do you like that in a restaurant, when they give you a bib?

Joe Cornish

When they give you a bib in a restaurant?

Ed Gamble

Like in a-

Joe Cornish

It's never happened. It might now.

Ed Gamble

Like, a seafood restaurant or a barbecue restaurant-

Joe Cornish

Oh, right, that's true.

Ed Gamble

Sometimes they'll have, like, a plastic bib, and they'll come and put it on for you.

Joe Cornish

Yes, I don't think that's ever happened to me. I don't know if I like it, I'd have to experience it. I don't know, like, the closest association I've got is when you sit down in a barber's chair and the barber puts the-, stands and presses their tummy into your back, and-

James Acaster

Your back? You're in a backless chair?

Joe Cornish

Well, no, you're right, the tummy-, I mean, this barber's got a high tummy.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Joe Cornish

And drapes the thing round you, and ties it. Yes, I quite like that. Feels like you're in for something, doesn't it?

Ed Gamble

You like the tummy on the-

Joe Cornish

No, I like the draping of the thing around the chesticles, and the tying of the thing around the back of the neck. Feels like a ceremony, doesn't it?



Ed Gamble

Like a, sort of, crowning ceremony, like a coronation?

James Acaster

I feel like it's more like a sorting hat situation than a coronation.

Joe Cornish

Right. Why? The way you look at me as if I've got something to say about that. You looked at Ed, then you looked at me with quite a Newsnight face and tilted your head.

James Acaster

Yes, 'What do you think?'

Joe Cornish

Like, 'Joe, go, run with that,' I don't know where to run with that.

Ed Gamble

You know what to do, Joe.

Joe Cornish

Sorting hat or coronation? I got lost about two non sequiturs ago.

James Acaster

(TC 00:40:00) Your dream starter.

Joe Cornish

Dream starter, okay. Well, I was thinking about this, and, like, in the dream restaurant, can I be anywhere that I want?

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Joe Cornish

So, it's like the rules of space and time are suspended?

James Acaster

Yes.

Joe Cornish

So, I would go for a bruschetta.



James Acaster

Lovely.

Joe Cornish

Lovely.

Ed Gamble

Very funny thing to follow you asking if the rules of time and space are suspended.

Joe Cornish

Well, this isn't any old bruschetta.

James Acaster

Yes, I absolutely loved it. 'Can I do whatever I like?'

Joe Cornish

I went for this meal, right-, so, one of the-, okay, so this is the-,

James Acaster

'The rules of science don't apply.' 'A bruschetta, please.'

Joe Cornish

This is the follow-up to your, 'Poshest meal I've ever had?' Right?

Ed Gamble

Great.

Joe Cornish

So, when Attack the Block came out, this Italian producer bought it to distribute in Italy, his name was Aurelio De Laurentiis, Dino De Laurentiis' nephew.

James Acaster

Yes.

Joe Cornish

Do you know De Laurentiis? Famous producer, right, Barbarella, Flash Gordon, Blue Velvet, Conan, Serpico.

James Acaster

No, I-, oh, I know Conan.

Ed Gamble

Yes.



James Acaster

(Talking over each other 40.54).

Joe Cornish

Famous Italian producer. Anyway, his nephew, he buys it for Italy. He puts me in a private jet. I'm in a festival in Switzerland, in Lugano. He says, 'Joe, come and see me. I want to meet you, I love your film.' A little bit like that, his voice was.

James Acaster

That's nice.

Joe Cornish

And so he puts me on a private jet from Locarno, I fly to Naples, where I get on a speedboat, like a sexy speedboat, big James Bond speedboat. I get speedboated out to this little bay off the island of Capri, where Aurelio De Laurentis is floating in this beautiful cove with a little plastic floating tray with a cappuccino on it. I get off the speedboat, I bash my ankle against the step so there's blood running down my ankle.

Ed Gamble

Immediately ruining the scene.

Joe Cornish

I'm in excruciating pain and I'm dribbling blood everywhere, I don't say anything about it, I just get in the water. Salty sting healing the wound. And I swim over to-, and that's how I meet Aurelio. Anyway, cut a long story short, I stay a night on the island of Capri, he takes me the next day for lunch on this private island off the Amalfi Coast, which has Rudolf Nureyev's villa on it, the ballet dancer. I think it's called Li Galli or something, you can hire it now for about \$300,000 a minute. So it's on this private island, and a friend of Aurelio's is staying there, and we have lunch there, and they just bring the most incredible tomatoes. I've always had a conflicted relationship with tomatoes, right? Didn't like them as a kid at all. And tomatoes are a fruit, correct?

James Acaster

Yes.

Joe Cornish

So these tomatoes really tasted fucking phenomenal. I mean really extraordinary. All my life, my dad had said, 'Don't be so fussy about tomatoes, they're a fruit.' And I'm like, 'Shut up, they're not a fruit, they're weird.' These tomatoes, they were just sensational. And they were chopped into a bruschetta with some amazing olive oil, and it was just the most beautiful thing I've ever tasted. There was another big mysterious billionaire who I think had hired the island, and he had all these peculiar artists and people there, it was very odd. It's a bit like that John Fowles book, *The Magus*, have you ever read that?



James Acaster

No.

Joe Cornish

People who've read that might know what I mean, just this weird collection of people. So I'm sitting next to Aurelio, he's smoking a cigar, the other billionaire's smoking a cigar, Aurelio's watching him and he leans over to me and says, 'That man smokes a guitar like he is sucking a cock.' And I say, 'Ha-ha, yes he is.' That's the sort of thing, the sort of quip, billionaires make.

Ed Gamble

I mean, it's good, and that guy leant over to the guy who was next to him and said exactly the same thing about Aurelio probably.

James Acaster

Also, I would imagine-, I wasn't there, but I don't think he was.

Joe Cornish

From the mental picture in your mind? Or do you think they're two very different-,

James Acaster

Well, I've been very lucky in my life to-,

Joe Cornish

Have sucked a lot of cock.

James Acaster

I've seen people smoking cigars. Do you know what I've seen people going down on people. I cannot imagine anyone doing one as they would do the other.

Joe Cornish

Really? When I suck a cock I go, 'Pop pop pop pop pop.' That's a pipe isn't it? I think this guy might have been licking the tip of the cigar, with a circular motion. I don't know whether this is a false memory syndrome, but that's what sprung into my head.

Ed Gamble

I feel like you might have invented that.

Joe Cornish

Don't you moisten one end of the cigar? I don't fucking know what I'm talking about. Anyway, listen, Aurelio De Laurentis was a really lovely, incredibly generous man, and he gave me the time of my life. He also gave me the tomato of my life. So for my starter I would be there on Rudolf Nureyev's private island, with Aurelio, and the cigar sucking man, with that bruschetta. The elements of that bruschetta.

Ed Gamble



We should probably just jump in and say, when we talk about a mysterious billionaire on a private island, it's not that one, right?

Joe Cornish

No, it's not that one. Well, there's a few to choose from.

Ed Gamble

What a reveal at the end of that story that would be.

Joe Cornish

I was only there for lunch, so I don't know what happened when the sun went down. And everybody seemed of a legal age there. But everyone was quite confused. It's beautiful, look at it on the internet, it's amazing. Beautiful villa.

James Acaster

Bruschetta's the kind of thing where, the best version of it is like-

Joe Cornish

Why would you need anything else?

James Acaster

Why would you need anything else? It's great.

Joe Cornish

You think?

James Acaster

Yes. A good bruschetta.

Joe Cornish

Crunchy, fresh, delicious.

James Acaster

Fantastic. I think billionaire bruschetta, that's how you want it.

Joe Cornish

A billionaire bruschetta club.

James Acaster

That's a new series for Netflix.

Joe Cornish

That's a new hip-hop label.



Ed Gamble

It also sounds like a horrible hybrid between billionaire shortbread and bruschetta. Just a thick layer of caramel, tomato. Oh no, James is interested.

James Acaster

Look at who you're talking to.

Joe Cornish

I'm interested as well.

James Acaster

You think I don't want that?

Ed Gamble

You'd eat that like you were sucking a cock.

James Acaster

I would. And you know how I suck a cock, I tap the cock. 'Championnes, Championnes, Ole Ole Ole!' Would you say, Joe, that I was Championnes just then?

Joe Cornish

I don't know, you sort of insulted my film, so no.

James Acaster

I didn't insult your film.

Joe Cornish

Was that a football chant?

James Acaster

Yes.

Joe Cornish

Aurelio took me to the only football match I've ever been in in my life, because he owns Napoli, and we drove there, the wrong way down a busy road, literally into the oncoming traffic. It was extraordinary. Because it was Aurelio. And all the fans just parted, and we watched a match in Naples football ground, which is really old and they can't rebuild it because it's taken them centuries to figure out where all the different families sit, and if you knocked it down, Aurelio told me, and rebuild it, you'd have to enter negotiations with all the different families into how much stand they have. It's just evolved over so long that it's sort of settled now, but it's crazy, and crumbling, and it was quite an aggressive, violent, messy game. I loved it.

Ed Gamble

During that trip, were you just every five minutes doing, 'What the hell is going on?'



Joe Cornish

I can't quite believe it happened, he invited me over a few times, 'Joe, come to my estate in Sicily. I give you a million dollars, write the film for me.' He owned half of Cinecitta. Cinecitta is a very famous Italian film studio where all the Fellini films were shot and stuff. He was a lovely man, but I just went home.

James Acaster

He didn't give you a million pounds?

Joe Cornish

No, he didn't.

James Acaster

Your dream main course.

Joe Cornish

Okay, well I'm going to go somewhere else for my dream main course. I think I would go to-, do you ever go on holiday?

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I have been, yes.

Joe Cornish

You're so privileged. To Crete, or one of the Mediterranean islands. And you're driving along the coast, and you stumble upon what seems like a little family-run restaurant, with only three or four tables. This happened to us on a holiday to Crete, and we stumbled upon this little restaurant by the sea, with little tables, and I think it was run by a husband and wife, and we thought, 'We'll try this place.' And we sat down, and it had just quite a simple menu, fish and chips and grilled shit. 'Shit' meaning stuff. So we ordered fish and chips and a salad. So basically, it was as if Tom Conti from Shirley Valentine rolled up his sleeves with his hairy forearms, waded into the sea, pleased a fish to death with his fingers, brought it out, literally just gutted it, slapped it on the grill while his grumpy, horny-nosed wife skinned some fresh potatoes and then threw them dismissively into a scalding pan of boiling hot oil. And the his luscious daughter peeled a lettuce and sliced a cucumber. And while they're doing this, we're just looking out over the sea and looking at the stars, looking at the island of, what's it called, Spinalonga? I wrote it down. Spinalonga. Beautiful island, no lights on it, deserted. And then they just serve you this incredible, fresh, grilled, fried yumminess. And then the bill comes and it's like almost nothing.

Ed Gamble

Like a quid.

Joe Cornish



So you just tip them incredibly generously, because (TC 00:50:00) you thought that's how much it would cost, so you feel good about that as well, and then you leave. And then you try and find it again, and you can't. It's just like a mystical, magical-

Ed Gamble

It burnt down 100 years ago.

Joe Cornish

They were all dead. Lockwood & Co, Netflix, January 27th. But have you ever had an experience like that?

Ed Gamble

Yes, and it's a very Mediterranean experience as well I think.

Joe Cornish

Yes, and also Peckham. No no, that's not true, I don't think there's any places like that in Peckham.

Ed Gamble

It's where the surroundings really help the taste of the food as well I think. But also, if it's fresh fish and fresh cut chips, it's incredible. But if you have those surroundings and the company you're with, looking out across the sea, you can't really get much better than that.

Joe Cornish

Just me, the simple Mediterranean people, the fish, and my industry friends, chatting about the business.

James Acaster

I haven't really had an experience like that, and I'm always very jealous, because we've had some guests come on the podcast, and fresh-caught fish that they've had on a holiday is often one of the things that comes up, because obviously it's one of the best things you can eat anywhere. And every time I'm like, 'I want to do it so bad.' And I should, whenever my next holiday is, deliberately go to somewhere where you can do that.

Joe Cornish

Are you saying you didn't get that at Disney?

James Acaster

No, when I went to Disney World, I didn't get the freshly-caught fish.

Joe Cornish

Sea World would do it.

James Acaster

Yes, that'd be good, should've gone there.



Ed Gamble

At Disney, they do have fresh fish, but they take it and then they have to cut it all into the shape of Mickey's head, and by the time it gets to you it's just-

Joe Cornish

Or Flounder, or Nemo.

James Acaster

Let's do your dream side dish.

Ed Gamble

You've got chips with the fish anyway, but that's all part of the main.

Joe Cornish

I'm not big on side dishes, to be honest, it feels like being unfaithful, a bit on the side. It feels like having a fancy woman, do you know what I mean? Just have the fucking main dish, put it on the plate, what's the point?

Ed Gamble

You're very welcome to put it on the plate, this is just an opportunity for an extra bit of delicious food.

Joe Cornish

Well, I don't know. I really couldn't think of anything exciting, but if I've got to have vegetable, right? Usually it's where you get your veg, I'm trying to think of the word, it's like the righteous portion of the meal, the good-for-you bit. So I would just like somebody to say, 'I've grated some carrot and put something nice on it.' Like some sort of crumbly, nutty, shit that makes carrot taste nice.

Ed Gamble

Like a sort of crumb, a crumbly, nutty crumb.

Joe Cornish

Something like that. You know stuff that people do to make boring vegetables taste like they deserve to be eaten.

Ed Gamble

Some herbs.

Joe Cornish

Some herbs. I had some the other day, and it was delicious. It was some oil, maybe some warm butter, with bits of crumbly toast and nuts, and probably some little bacon flecks. If you want to elevate anything, put some bacon flecks on.

James Acaster



But it's grated carrots you want?

Joe Cornish

It was grated, yes. You don't want to sit in a high class restaurant like Bugs Bunny and nibble, 'What's up?'

Ed Gamble

You were smoking a cigar then.

James Acaster

Hold on, we only got, 'What's up?' There and not, 'Doc'.

Joe Cornish

Well, because it was the maitre d' I was talking to. And it was a genuine question, I wanted to know what was up. I kind of bailed on the impression midway through, because I feel I wasn't committed to it.

James Acaster

I liked it a lot.

Joe Cornish

Thank you.

James Acaster

I did that in primary school when I was four or five. There was a girl, and it was her last day at the school, and we were sitting down for register or whatever, and I turned around and said, 'Hey Siobhan!' And before I could say anything to her, the girl next to her went, 'I love you', like that, and I didn't know what to say, so I went, 'What's up, Doc?' And then I turned back around and faced the teacher absolutely mortified. I remember that, I still think about that all the time.

Joe Cornish

You didn't do the little, doesn't he make a little noise?

James Acaster

'(imitates noise) What's up, Doc?' And then right back to the front going, 'Jesus Christ.' Also probably thinking, that other kid, they were genuinely funny doing the, 'I love you', thing, that was funny.

Ed Gamble

That's really funny.

James Acaster

Especially for a five year old kid to make use of that little gap. 'Hey Siobhan!' And she goes, 'I love you.' Because that's quite funny, for a five year old to tell another five year old on her last day of school before she leaves that they love them. It's quite funny.



Joe Cornish

This feels like it could be underpinning your whole career, that traumatic moment. It's like your rosebud.

James Acaster

It is, I'm just trying to be funnier than that girl, but I will never be funnier than her, because she was five.

Joe Cornish

Keep working at it.

James Acaster

Thank you, Joe.

Ed Gamble

Is it cold grated carrot you want?

Joe Cornish

The grated carrot I had the other day was cold, I think, yes. Is that alright?

Ed Gamble

Yes, you can have what you want. I'm just interested, cold grated carrot with some crumby, spicy shit on top.

James Acaster

To be fair, I totally agree with you. It actually brings out the flavour a little bit more sometimes.

Joe Cornish

I mean, carrots taste like dirt, don't they? However sweet the carrot.

Ed Gamble

You've really got to wash them, man.

Joe Cornish

No inside them there is a core of soil, isn't there? It's very difficult to eat a carrot that doesn't have a little soily aftertaste.

James Acaster

I don't agree with him.

Joe Cornish

You don't agree with that?

Ed Gamble

No. But it's difficult to disagree with, because it's your taste.



Joe Cornish

I think I've just got a much more refined palate than you guys.

Ed Gamble

I think you've got a mud-mouth.

Joe Cornish

I can really taste the soil.

Ed Gamble

You've got a mud-mouth, mate.

Joe Cornish

I do have a muddy mouth. Well, one of the first words I said in this podcast was, 'Shit'. So you're clearly right.

James Acaster

Shit box.

Ed Gamble

Shit box from a mud-mouth.

James Acaster

Here's a question about your mouth, your voice, how many people have asked you this before? Because I'm genuinely interested in this, and I don't know if it has been brought up, but you must be aware of it. You, Louis, and Adam have the same voice, right?

Joe Cornish

Yes, it's my voice, the copied it.

James Acaster

Is that what's happened? No one else in the world has it.

Joe Cornish

Well you've got to remember I'm older than them. I'm the oldest of the three of us. Louis is the youngest, Adam's in the middle, and I'm the eldest.

James Acaster

Let me tell you, I'd have guessed completely the opposite way around for that. I'd guess that Louis was the eldest, you were the youngest, and Adam still remains in the middle.

Joe Cornish

Well that's how we've aged, Louis has become a wizened Magnus Pike figure. That's not true, he's a very handsome man. This also isn't true. Adam hides his face with a beard, so you don't know what's



going on really. I have the face of a middle aged Annie Lennox impersonator, or maybe Sebastian Coe after he's run a very long race, he's a runner. I don't know what I look like. What's the question?

James Acaster

Why do the three of you have the same voice and no one else in the world has that voice?

Joe Cornish

Well, because we've been friends since we were thirteen, and we've spent a long time together, and I don't know. I really don't know.

Ed Gamble

Also you all went to the same school, right?

Joe Cornish

Yes, but it wasn't a voice school. I think other people came out of it speaking different, didn't they?

Ed Gamble

I don't know.

Joe Cornish

But you do copy each others'-, if you're close friends you do-

Ed Gamble

If you spend a lot of time with someone, yes.

Joe Cornish

Yes. Like I've picked up certain things from Edgar, knowing him a lot, that I do and I like.

Ed Gamble

Like directing?

Joe Cornish

Directing, a lot of writing tips. But also he would go, 'Oh Lordy Lordy Lord!' Like that, and that's one of my favourite exclamations. 'Oh Lord!' And in fact, the other day my mum said it. And I was like, 'She's never said that before, but I've been saying it around her, and now she's picked it up.' So it's fun just picking up little mannerisms from friends, isn't it? It makes life more entertaining.

James Acaster

It is nice. And it's a nice way of talking, the way that the three of you have.

Joe Cornish

You've got a good voice.

James Acaster



Yes, I've got a great voice.

Joe Cornish

It's not West Country, is it?

James Acaster

No, it's Kettering, Northamptonshire. When I started comedy, on an open mic circuit, everyone assumed I was from the West Country. It's the out the side of the mouth, long, 'a-r' sounds.

Joe Cornish

It's sort of slightly lazy and laid-back sounding, but then you say very assertive things with it, which is funny. You've got a more straight-forward voice.

Ed Gamble

Blank.

Joe Cornish

Blank, you think?

Ed Gamble

Just a blank voice.

James Acaster

Little blank voice.

Joe Cornish

No, you've got a very nice voice, you've got a very mellifluous voice.

Ed Gamble

Is it RP, is that what people say? Or does that mean something else?

Joe Cornish

Received Pronunciation.

Ed Gamble

What does that mean?

Joe Cornish

I think it's a sort of plain voice. Just like your average BBC voice.

James Acaster

Ed had a bit of stand-up once where he said that his face looks like when you're making a character on the Wii, and it looks like that person before you've added anything to it. And maybe also has the same voice.



Ed Gamble

I've got the voice of that as well, yes.

Joe Cornish

No, you'd be a good Dean Cain style, Smallville. You could play Superman now that Cavill has left the part. Have you ever had BBC voice training?

James Acaster

No.

Joe Cornish

I had BBC voice training. A woman trained me, this is when I was doing the Radio 4 Film Review Show, so I had the official training. She tore (TC 01:00:00) the corners off a piece of A4 paper, stuck them with Sellotape to the microphone like cats' ears. She didn't know I had a cat.

Ed Gamble

You breathed in and they immediately stuck to your epiglottis.

Joe Cornish

Yes. Luckily that didn't happen.

James Acaster

How many plies are we talking?

Joe Cornish

I'm not sure A4 paper has plies, I think those are tissues. Listen. So then she said, 'Talk to the microphone like you're talking to your cat.' And that's why when you listen to Radio 4, it's particularly soothing and addictive. And she also said, 'Talk to the microphone like you're talking to your partner who is lying next to you in your bed with their head on the next door pillow.' Next door pillow? 'Knock knock, I'm coming in!' And so that's why there's a slightly sexy-, or certainly there used to be a sort of slightly sexy close-mic tone to Radio 4. 'And it's why it's the-, ' Ahem. Christ, the training's wearing off. 'It's why it's the housewives' favourite.'

James Acaster

See if I got a Radio 4 show, it'd just be me going, 'Don't jump on the shelf! Get away from that vase!' Because my girlfriend's always doing that.

Joe Cornish

Really?

James Acaster

Yes, she jumps on the shelf. She's always everywhere.



Ed Gamble

Couldn't she just say, 'Talk to the microphone like it's your cat'? Why did she have to put the ears on?

Joe Cornish

I don't know, because that's the sort of inspirational teacher methodology that got her where she was.

James Acaster

Was there a tail? Did she add a little tail to the other side?

Joe Cornish

She did not add a tail.

Ed Gamble

There was a wire, I guess.

James Acaster

You could pretend that's a tail.

Joe Cornish

Well, listen, you might make a better teacher than her by extending the cat analogy.

James Acaster

Couple of little legs off it. Well thank you for answering that question about your voice, because I think it all the time. It's a personal question.

Joe Cornish

Well, I'm sorry if it's confusing. And maybe I'll try and get a new voice.

James Acaster

Homer Simpson?

Joe Cornish

I don't know, this is just the beginning, it's very protoplasmic, embryonic. I'll keep working on it, maybe I need to contact the lady again. 'Hello, I need a new voice, I sound too similar to my friends and everyone's getting confused. Can you design a new voice for me?' 'Of course I can, I designed Stephen Fry's voice, I designed-' Who else has got a particularly distinctive voice?

Ed Gamble

McKellen?

Joe Cornish

'I designed Ian McKellen's voice, that took me years. I shall design a new voice for you. It's very expensive, but I can do it. Can you afford it?' 'Yes.'



James Acaster

Get that Italian man to pay for it.

Joe Cornish

'Very well, you won't be hearing from me for several months, but when you do hear from me again, I will have a new voice for you.' 'Thanks very much.' Hang up the phone.

James Acaster

And will the voice be that voice you were just doing?

Ed Gamble

I like that voice, I think you should nick the voice off that lady.

Joe Cornish

It's quite tiring isn't it. Listen, let's all do the rest of this podcast in new voices, in different voices.

Ed Gamble

Well let's do it in each others' voices.

Joe Cornish

Well that might be insulting.

Ed Gamble

But then we can just carry on the podcast as normal and pretend it's the other person talking.

Joe Cornish

Alright, let's do it. Go.

James Acaster

'Well thank you for having me on your podcast, guys.'

Joe Cornish

'That's a pleasure, thanks for coming, Joe. Tell us again about your Netflix show. Actually don't, we've heard twice, we don't care.'

Ed Gamble

Dream drink. James is now looking at me like I need to give him the answer.

James Acaster

'Well, as you know I don't like hot drinks. I've only just started drinking lemon and ginger, but it's not one of my favourite drinks yet. And actually, I drink alcohol, but I don't drink that much for it to be my favourite drink, so actually my favourite drink would just be a Ribena.' Did I get that right?

Joe Cornish



Well done. I don't think I could host this podcast.

James Acaster

Did I get that right, that it would be a Ribena?

Joe Cornish

No, I don't like Ribena. You want to know my drink?

James Acaster

It's not a hot drink is it? Because otherwise you're completely turning everything upside down.

Joe Cornish

Well, I tell you what I'm drinking a lot of at the moment is Coke Zero.

James Acaster

Good on you.

Joe Cornish

We were in the writers' room for this show, and one of the writers was drinking Coke Zero, I'd never encountered it before.

Ed Gamble

You'd never even crossed paths with it?

Joe Cornish

No. I think I was drinking-, I'm very infantile with drinks, I was drinking squash, fresh orange juice watered down, maybe some water.

Ed Gamble

Fresh orange juice watered down is very grown up though, I'd say.

Joe Cornish

Maybe.

Ed Gamble

Because you're watering it down.

Joe Cornish

But then I tried-, and it tastes really good, Coke Zero. Really good. And I don't drink tea or coffee so I do need some caffeine from somewhere, so that's where I get it from. I worry about what's in it.

Ed Gamble

In Coke Zero?



Joe Cornish

Yes. I don't know how they're making it taste so sweet.

Ed Gamble

It's artificial sweeteners.

Joe Cornish

Is it? Is it aspartame or whatever it's called?

Ed Gamble

Aspartame, yes.

James Acaster

I think sometimes about it. I'm similar, I like Coke Zero, Diet Coke, Pepsi Max.

Joe Cornish

Diet Coke's much more watery isn't it? Girly than Coke Zero, which is specifically designed for men.

James Acaster

It was, it was targeted.

Joe Cornish

The lettering is black, like darkness and fear and things that men are concerned with.

James Acaster

But yes, they were trying to aim it at people-, again I don't want to come across as a massive fan of Ed Gamble's comedy here, but Ed had a bit about moisturiser having to rebrand itself. Bulldog moisturiser for men, which is exactly the same moisturiser as any other thing, but it's having to make stupid men use it and actually take care of themselves.

Ed Gamble

That was the premise, there was punchlines and stuff.

James Acaster

Yes, you had some punchlines.

Joe Cornish

That would have been good enough for me, just observational comedy.

Ed Gamble

'Right, so, it's the same moisturiser, guys. Onto the next bit.'

James Acaster



I remember watching that routine and thinking, 'Do you know what? I know he's my friend, but that's a bloody good point.' And also, to me, because I haven't had full-fat Coke in ages, so Coke Zero and Diet Coke taste just like a full-fat Coke now, so there's no point me having a full-fat Coke.

Joe Cornish

You can tell the difference though between Coke Zero and Diet Coke, right?

James Acaster

Yes.

Joe Cornish

What's the difference?

James Acaster

I think you're right that the Diet Coke tastes a bit more watered down.

Joe Cornish

It's got a little bit of perfume in it.

James Acaster

Really?

Joe Cornish

A splash of perfume.

Ed Gamble

You think they've marketed it to women by putting perfume in it?

Joe Cornish

It's just lighter, and more airy. It's sort of like a convertible car, long blonde hair blowing in the wind, do you know what I mean?

James Acaster

No, but it says a lot about you.

Joe Cornish

Whereas Coke Zero. 'Zero. We can deal with Zero, we're not frightened of Zero. Nothing. Zero.'

Ed Gamble

On a hot day, what would you prefer?

Joe Cornish

I would always go for Coke Zero, because it's sweeter. It tastes sweeter. And I did read up on it, and you'd have to drink litres and litres a day for it to have-, a rat would have to drink litres and litres a day



before the rat started growing enormous balls on its head. That is what happens with too much, because it's got testosterone in it, it's sweetened with testosterone. Diet Coke has a little bit of perfume, Coke Zero has a little bit of testosterone, if you drink too much you start getting too manly.

James Acaster

If you like that Coke Zero is sweeter, have you ever dove into the world of cherry Pepsi Max?

Joe Cornish

No. Do you like that stuff?

James Acaster

We like cherry Pepsi Max on this podcast.

Ed Gamble

And I've got a bone to pick. I think there's a conspiracy to get rid of cherry Pepsi Max. Every petrol station I've been into recently, and that's a lot, all the cherry Pepsi Max has gone, and it's Pepsi Max with raspberry, which looks almost exactly the same because it's only a tiny little fruit emblem, so I've bought that accidentally a few times, and the Coke Zero with cherry is taking up most of the shelf space. I've not seen a cherry Pepsi Max for about a month.

Joe Cornish

That does happen every now and then. Every now and then there's machinations in the industry that the consumer can barely glimpse. Like when Haribo took over the entire sweet industry, that happened by stealth didn't it? One year there was Pick n Mix, the next year there was fucking Haribo, and that's all you can get. But they could be phasing it out.

Ed Gamble

Why would you phase it out?

James Acaster

No one drinks the raspberry.

Ed Gamble

The raspberry one is disgusting.

Joe Cornish

No one over twelve generally drinks that stuff, do they?

Ed Gamble

Cherry Pepsi Max is my little treat when I'm driving somewhere, thank you.

Joe Cornish

Is it?



James Acaster

Have you had one?

Joe Cornish

Would you drink cherry juice? Lovely cup of fresh cherry juice. Would you get a cherry juicer?

Ed Gamble

I'd get a little cherry juicer.

Joe Cornish

And drink fresh cherry juice?

Ed Gamble

For a while I always used to have a bottle of sour cherry juice in the fridge because I thought it was healthy.

Joe Cornish

Seriously?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Joe Cornish

And was it nice?

Ed Gamble

Yes. You can buy it in concentrate as well, put it in smoothies and stuff.

Joe Cornish

Would you squeeze a cherry into a drink just to add a little bouquet?

Ed Gamble

100% I'd do that.

Joe Cornish

Would you?

Ed Gamble

Yes. In a little cocktail I'd spritz a cherry on, wipe it around the edge of the glass.

Joe Cornish

Wow, you're classy.

Ed Gamble



I love cherries.

Joe Cornish

I feel very pedestrian in your company. My wife's bought a cherry stoner, have you ever seen those things?

Ed Gamble

No, I love the sound of it though.

James Acaster

Is that someone who's never smoked weed before?

Joe Cornish

A cherry stoner?

James Acaster

Yes.

Joe Cornish

Very good, I'm there. No, it pushes the stone out of a cherry. At first I thought, 'What is this ridiculous gadget cluttering up our cutlery drawer?' And now I can't eat a cherry without it, it's incredibly efficient.

James Acaster

Is it very satisfying to use it? It sounds satisfying.

Joe Cornish

(TC 01:10:00) It's very satisfying, it precisely just ejects that stone. It's really good, I recommend it. You'd love it.

Ed Gamble

I'd love it.

Joe Cornish

You're a cherry fanado.

Ed Gamble

I'm a cherry fanado.

Joe Cornish

You're a Nelly Furtado.

James Acaster

Nelly Furtado the cherry fanado. We've all seen that Netflix series. Your dream dessert?



Joe Cornish

You know, I'm not a big pudding fan. Because I would rather skip pudding, feel superior, 'I'm not going to have any pudding.' Everyone else eats awful puddings. You've got a pudding YouTube channel haven't you, or something? So you're heavily into puddings.

Ed Gamble

We've done a YouTube series called Just Puddings.

Joe Cornish

James is looking, I don't know. Something's going on.

James Acaster

I'm ready for whatever's going to happen here, if you're skipping pudding I'm not going to be polite to you now.

Joe Cornish

I'm skipping pudding, but I tell you what I'm doing later. I felt self-righteous skipping pudding and watching as everyone else stuffs their faces, and secretly they're thinking, 'Joe's better than me, he's not having pudding.' But later, I'm going to the fucking newsagent, and I'm buying some fucking sweets. Because the confectionery industry has surpassed the pudding industry.

James Acaster

Wow.

Ed Gamble

That's a big claim.

Joe Cornish

That is why Rowntree's and Mars have started to migrate into the puddings industry. Snickers ice cream, Revels mousse. The puddings industry hasn't migrated into the confectionery industry.

Ed Gamble

What do you mean, 'Revels mousse'?

James Acaster

Where you buy it and you don't know what flavour it is until you get home?

Joe Cornish

Yes, you can get a Revels mousse.

Ed Gamble

You can't get a Revels mousse.

Joe Cornish



Alright, you can get a Maltesers mousse.

Ed Gamble

Yes, Maltesers mousse. A Revels mousse would be magic, it'd be like a Willy Wonka dessert.

Joe Cornish

Well you'd have those bits in. They should do it, or it could be like a fruit corner where you tip the contents into the chocolate, it'd be delicious.

James Acaster

Or it'd have to be one pot, but you don't know what it is until you get home. So you get home and you go, 'Oh it's a Minstrel flavour mousse.' And then another time, 'It's a coffee one.'

Joe Cornish

But there's nothing a pudding can do that confectionery can't do better.

Ed Gamble

Wow. What about heat and texture?

James Acaster

I'm very relieved you're having a dessert and it is a sweet thing, but at the same time, this claim is-

Joe Cornish

So for my dessert, two and a half hours later I'm having a Yorkie biscuit and raisin duo.

Ed Gamble

Another product specifically designed for men.

James Acaster

Yes, what is your problem, man?

Joe Cornish

I'm very manly, very very manly.

Ed Gamble

It's the best Yorkie as well.

Joe Cornish

It's my current thing, that's what I'm going for at the moment.

James Acaster

It's the best Yorkie, by a country mile. I don't think I will ever eat any of the other Yorkies again, because why would you? The raisin and biscuit Yorkie is clearly the best. I love the little bits of biscuit, I



would love a bag of just little bits of biscuit, I would love to eat them, I could graze on that quite easily. I think they're very satisfyingly perfectly spherical, those little bits of biscuit.

Joe Cornish

Nice packaging as well. Royal purple, Prince loved them. Lovely the yellow and purple goes together.

James Acaster

Really?

Joe Cornish

Yes, he only ate and drank purple things. It's what sent him to an early grave.

Ed Gamble

Too many Yorkies.

James Acaster

69? I think he was 69.

Joe Cornish

He wasn't, was he?

Ed Gamble

I thought, 'That's a new format point. After your dessert-'

James Acaster

'You've had your dessert, would you like to 69?'

Ed Gamble

The old double cigar.

Joe Cornish

After a heavy meal? I don't know, it might be breezy.

James Acaster

Actually I think I'm thinking of Bowie, Bowie was 69 and they died in the same year, so that's what I'm thinking, I don't think he was.

Joe Cornish

Was that the famous year-, no that's not the famous year.

James Acaster

Yes, 2016, everyone died.

Joe Cornish



Anyway, so there you go. I know that's controversial. If I had to have a pudding from the menu, I would go for a single scoop of vanilla ice cream.

Ed Gamble

No.

James Acaster

No, we don't want to make you have something.

Ed Gamble

You go to the garage or whatever or the newsagents and get yourself a purple Yorkie, I love that.

James Acaster

And you're getting the duo, which I respect as well.

Joe Cornish

I'm getting the duo, yes, because there's a few more lumps on it.

James Acaster

The single Yorkies-

Joe Cornish

Not enough.

James Acaster

It's not enough, is it? It's quite annoyingly not enough, actually.

Joe Cornish

All of these chocolate bars that say, 'Family pack, sharing bag, duo.' I mean that's bullshit, isn't it? And they know it's bullshit.

James Acaster

It's legal loopholes.

Ed Gamble

They changed-, they can't call it, 'King-size' any more.

Joe Cornish

But no one's sharing that fucking shit, are they?

James Acaster

Do you still think, 'King-size' in your head when you're eating it? Do you think, 'This is King-size'?

Joe Cornish



Did they used to be called King-size?

Ed Gamble

Yes, they were called King-size, and then they had to change and now they're Duo.

James Acaster

I imagine you, you're someone who likes to quite heavily apply gender to their foods, and then you were being like, 'I'm a King, this is King-size. I'm a King.'

Joe Cornish

Yes, I would feel like a King.

Ed Gamble

And if you made that movie now, The Kid Who Would Be King, you'd have to change it to The Kid Who Would Be Duo, and have to have two kids in the lead role.

Joe Cornish

That would be very good. And it could have been sponsored by Yorkie, and instead of Excalibur it could have been a chocolate sword, with some biscuit bits in it.

James Acaster

That would be nice.

Joe Cornish

That would be very nice, it would come out of the stone more easily.

James Acaster

Well, if the right person wields it, I don't want to pick you up on the folklore. I guess if it was a Yorkie sword-

Ed Gamble

Well it would snap off too easily wouldn't it? I don't think it would come out of the stone.

James Acaster

Well I think Yorkie would have it that the whole film would be women trying to pull it out and it not working, and then right at the end just any bloke goes, 'Yes!' And pulls it out, 'I did it!' I'm going to read your menu back to you now and see how you feel about it. Water, you want a big, expensive bottle of sparkling water, and you want a champagne flute to drink it out of. Poppadums or bread, you want bread from Moro with olive oil. Starter, the bruschetta from Rudolf Nureyev's private island.

Joe Cornish

Yes, I do.

James Acaster



Main course, fresh fish with chips and salad from a Crete restaurant that you can never find again. Side dish, grated cold carrot with crumbly shit that makes it delicious.

Joe Cornish

Yes, and that's what I want written on the menu as well.

James Acaster

Drink, Coke Zero. Dessert, you're going to pass, but then hours later you're going to have a biscuit and raisin Yorkie duo from a newsagents.

Joe Cornish

Yes, that really does sound delicious.

James Acaster

Are you excited, you liked hearing that back?

Joe Cornish

It felt silly while we were doing it, but now I think this has been very useful.

Ed Gamble

That's what a lot of our guests feel. They feel awful during the main record, and then at the end they think, 'Pretty good actually.'

Joe Cornish

When the results are read, they feel really pleased. And it's quite healthy that as well, isn't it? Yes it is, fresh grilled fish, bruschetta.

James Acaster

I wouldn't see someone eat that and call them unhealthy.

Ed Gamble

That healthy Mediterranean thing, like the Olivio advert that Mediterranean people are really healthy.

Joe Cornish

And I'm in beautiful locations, apart from the garage at the end.

James Acaster

Where you end up after all that.

Joe Cornish

But there'll be a garage somewhere, even if you're on the Amalfi Coast, there'll be a garage.

Ed Gamble

I'm sure Aurelio could sort you out with a speedboat to a local garage.



Joe Cornish

Well he'd private jet the Yorkies in, wouldn't he?

James Acaster

That'd be the final thing to convince you to write the film for him, 'I'll get you all the Yorkies you heart could desire.'

Joe Cornish

And infinite Yorkie bar, just went on forever.

Ed Gamble

How many chunks do you reckon you'd get through the infinite Yorkie bar?

Joe Cornish

What, before I died?

Ed Gamble

Before you died, or you just gave up.

Joe Cornish

I would not give up.

Ed Gamble

Okay, before you died.

James Acaster

Would you say, when you did that, you'd Attack the Choc? Championes, Championes, Ole Ole Ole! Will you admit that I'm the Championes now?

Joe Cornish

Yes, you are the Championes.

Ed Gamble

I'd say that Joe didn't enjoy it the first time you did that.

Joe Cornish

I do admit that.

James Acaster

I knew it was going to go badly. Joe thinks that I'm making fun of his thing, which I'm not, but I saw, 'Attack the Choc' there, it in front of me, and I just wanted to do it again. Mainly because I wanted to sing Championes.



Joe Cornish

You sang it beautifully.

James Acaster

Ed joined in with me the first time I did it.

Ed Gamble

But then I really got the sense that Joe didn't enjoy it, so I thought, 'James won't go back to that.'

Joe Cornish

Well I just feel alienated. I did a podcast, and we developed weird shit that only people who listen to the podcast would know. We had this call and response thing, Steven. We'd shout, 'Steven!' Other people would shout, 'Just coming!' And if I did it, or I was at a venue and someone I was with didn't know the podcast and someone shouted, 'Steven!' I'd go, 'Just coming!' They're like, 'What the fuck are you talking about?' That's how I feel when you Championes, I feel late to the party.

James Acaster

Well to be honest, full disclosure, we recorded our intro for you before you got here, I decided during the intro, because I was worried you wouldn't choose a pudding, and if you chose cheese, you wanted a block of cheese, I would say, 'Attack the Block of Cheese.' And then I decided to say, 'And then I'm going to sing Championes afterwards.' There was no reason behind it. So it's not a long running joke on the pod, it literally happened before you got here.

Ed Gamble

I wouldn't even say it's one that I'm in on.

James Acaster

No, it's one of those things that I decided to do for my own amusement.

Joe Cornish

And what did you expect from me?

James Acaster

Definitely I thought you'd be confused. I didn't think you were going to think I was being rude about your film, which is what you originally said.

Joe Cornish

That's just my face.

James Acaster

And then I was like, 'I shouldn't do it again after that first time.' Is what I said to myself in my head, 'Don't do it again.' But then when you were saying, 'I would continue to eat the chocolate, over and over the block, and I would never stop eating this chocolate.' I was like, 'It's chocolate, we're talking about



blocks of chocolate, it's all there.' I'm sorry, because I didn't want to make you feel (TC 01:20:00) alienated when you're the guest.

Joe Cornish

Well it's too late now.

James Acaster

It's too late. But that's why you apologise, right?

Ed Gamble

Well that's what we like to do, we like to welcome guests into the podcast, and then at the end of the podcast, so you don't feel like you're not missing out on anything by ending, we immediately alienate you and make it quite a cold ending.

Joe Cornish

What was my thing that I'm not allowed to say?

Ed Gamble

Cornish pasty.

Joe Cornish

I guessed that it might be.

Ed Gamble

We didn't really think that one through.

James Acaster

We've run out of stuff, so it's a gift whenever anyone-

Joe Cornish

200, you're coming up to your 200th?

James Acaster

Not far off.

Joe Cornish

A lot of podcasts. I can't wait.

Ed Gamble

Thanks so much Joe.

James Acaster

Thank you Joe.



Joe Cornish

Thanks for having me.

Ed Gamble

Thank you so much to Joe Cornish for coming on the show, how exciting was that, James?

James Acaster

That was extremely exciting. I felt like a naughty little boy sometimes.

Ed Gamble

You were a naughty little boy, always. Very odd sometimes when you are speaking to someone in our audio format when you have listened to them so much on an audio format.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

I occasionally found myself being transported to listening to the Adam and Joe Show podcast, and it was odd for me. But a treat.

James Acaster

Also I find his voice very relaxing, so I'd be lulled sometimes as well. But I think we did well, I think we were never lulled at the same time.

Ed Gamble

Never lulled at the same time, that's us.

James Acaster

Because that's what people say about us.

Ed Gamble

We're alternate lullers.

James Acaster

That's why we work well as co-hosts, because we never both fall into a lull at the same time.

Ed Gamble

The best co-hosts and partner presenting team, they're the ones who are alternately tuned out of what's going on.

James Acaster

Absolutely. So like, just then when you were talking, I went in a lull but it was okay. Thank you to Joe for not choosing Kit Kat Chunkies.



Ed Gamble

No, that wasn't- you've been lulled again haven't you?

James Acaster

I don't remember what the secret ingredient was. Microwave vegetables.

Ed Gamble

No, that's a different one. Cornish pasty. It's Cornish pasty, thank you to Joe for not-

James Acaster

Pork scratching with hairs on it.

Ed Gamble

Choosing Cornish pasty. Make sure you watch Lockwood & Co, that is on Netflix now, Joe's new show. If a ghost touches you, you're dead.

James Acaster

Yes. And then you become a ghost?

Ed Gamble

I guess so.

James Acaster

And then you touch someone else.

Ed Gamble

We'll have to watch Lockwood & Co to find out, I'm very excited to watch it, it sounds quite up my street actually.

James Acaster

Absolutely.

Ed Gamble

Also, we've got some thank yous to do. Thank you so much to Origin Coffee for sending us a massive box of coffee. And also, a cup, there was a cool cup in there.

James Acaster

Thank you to my parents, for doing a great job raising me.

Ed Gamble

And thank you to Halen Môn salt, or Halen Môn, I'm never sure how to say it, I'm so sorry if people would like to correct me or tell me say Halen Môn or Halen Môn, or Halen Moan I've been told as well. The salt from Anglesey. It's fantastic stuff. The thing is, they sent us some more salt, I love it, so I've got a pot of it on the side. Keep it in a little sealed pot. I've got an other little pot of it, because they also sell



to Marks & Spencer and I bought some when I was on tour to take around with me. I've got a big bag of it. And then in the cupboard the other day, I found a Kilogram bag that I'd bought a couple of months ago.

James Acaster

Right, so warning to all slugs, don't mess with Ed Gamble.

Ed Gamble

Do not mess with me.

James Acaster

You'll be fizzing in no time.

Ed Gamble

That sounds nice though, for them.

James Acaster

Good on them. Do you know what, if I was a slug, and someone were to salt me, I'd like it to be that salt. Halen Môn salt please.

Ed Gamble

And you can start putting that on your website.

James Acaster

'Even slugs love it.'

Ed Gamble

'Even slugs love it', or a quote from James Acaster, 'If I was a slug, I'd like that to be the salt.'

James Acaster

Sorry, I laughed there just because Ed so quickly agreed with, 'Even slugs love it.'

Ed Gamble

Yes. Thank you very much for listening, we will see you again next time, bye bye.

James Acaster

Good bye.

Ed Gamble

Even slugs love it.