



Off Menu – Ep188 – Alex Jones

Ed Gamble

Welcome to the Off Menu podcast, boiling the water of conversation, pouring in the pasta of humour, waiting ten minutes, then taking out the pasta of humour and chucking it at the wall to see if it's cooked.

James Acaster

Put a bit of salt in the water maybe.

Ed Gamble

A bit of salt in the water, not olive oil, I've heard that's a myth.

James Acaster

Oh, yes, don't believe the myth.

Ed Gamble

Don't believe the myth, don't believe the hype.

James Acaster

That's Ed Gamble there. My name is James Acaster. We own the dream restaurant and we invite in a guest every single week and ask them their starter, main course, dessert, side dish and drink, dream style. Not in that order. And this week-,

Ed Gamble

Dream style.

James Acaster

Well, I realised that normally I'd say, we ask them their favourite, and I missed out the word favourite, so I thought I would make sure people know we're not just asking them about their starter, main course, it is their dream-,

Ed Gamble

It's dream style.

James Acaster

Yes. And this week our guest is Alex Jones.

Ed Gamble

Alex Jones, a wonderful broadcaster, TV presenter, host of the One Show, James.

James Acaster

The One Show. If you are listening from abroad and don't know what the One Show is-,



Ed Gamble

It's a British institution.

James Acaster

I mean, it's the first show that was ever on TV, is that correct?

Ed Gamble

Yes. It's the only show on TV.

James Acaster

It's the only show on TV. We've both had the privilege of being on it. And being interviewed about-, you know, often it's people, they're plugging their wares, but it's a plethora.

Ed Gamble

A plethora and then little, sort of, filmed inserts.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes. It's a magazine show. It's a daily magazine show.

James Acaster

It's like picking up magazine but, you know, not reading it.

Ed Gamble

A magazine show is a term. You don't need to describe why. A magazine show is a term for a television show, you don't need to then say, it's like picking up a magazine but not reading it.

James Acaster

It's confusing because there are magazines are about TV.

Ed Gamble

There are magazines that you put in guns as well, but everyone knows from the context what I'm talking about.

James Acaster

I didn't know that. Now I'm going to think about that now.

Ed Gamble

Stop thinking about it.



James Acaster

Okay. Also, listen, we love Alex Jones and we love the magazine show that is the One Show. But Alex Jones says a secret ingredient, and ingredient which we deem to be unacceptable. We will have to kick her out of the dream restaurant.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Those are the rules. And this week, the secret ingredient is wontons. Wontons.

Ed Gamble

One Show tons.

James Acaster

Wontons.

Ed Gamble

Just going to say, I've had a few people come up to me recently and say, 'We've really run out of steam with this secret ingredient thing.'

James Acaster

I think that's made it better.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

I think it was probably an unnecessary format point for us to put in there originally. I think it really paid off when we eventually did kick someone out of the dream restaurant. I think it will pay off again whenever someone does it again.

Ed Gamble

If Alex Jones picks wontons.

James Acaster

Yes. So, if that happens, people will love it when it happens every time. But until then, it is now, like, really hard to think of the secret ingredient, and I enjoy it more how bad it is. And that it's wontons because she presents the One Show and 'won' sounds like one a little bit.

Ed Gamble

And let me tell you, the lady who runs the barber shop that we go to does not agree.



James Acaster

Yes. Yes.

Ed Gamble

She had such a go at me about lighter fluid.

James Acaster

Oh, she might have brought that up to me, actually. I was in there just last week.

Ed Gamble

Emma does not like the lighter fluid secret ingredient.

James Acaster

She thought that because they're not going to pick it, of course they're not going to pick it.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

But imagine if they do, it's even more exciting then.

Ed Gamble

Yes. And also sometimes it relates to the person's work, right, so, Richard E Grant-,

James Acaster

He drank lighter fluid in a film.

Ed Gamble

He drank lighter fluid in a film.

James Acaster

Maybe he did get into it as a result, you know, you don't know.

Ed Gamble

But still, great haircuts in there, so you'll take a bit of being harangued.

James Acaster

Yes. I'm wearing a cap today, but don't let that reflect.

Ed Gamble

No, no. James has had his hair cut like a monk.

James Acaster

Yes, yes. I asked for the monk cut, every time I go in, 'Give me the monk, please.'



Ed Gamble

But hopefully Alex will not be saying 'wontons'.

James Acaster

Hopefully not, but, you know, bit of fun if she does, get to kick someone out again.

Ed Gamble

Yes. So, this is the Off Menu menu of Alex Jones. Welcome, Alex, to the dream restaurant.

Alex Jones

I am so pleased to be here. Yes, mind blown.

James Acaster

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

Ed Gamble

Here we are.

Alex Jones

Well, I can't believe I'm here, because I love this restaurant. In fact, it's the first restaurant I've been to, I think, since the pandemic, to be honest.

James Acaster

That's exciting.

Alex Jones

I know.

Ed Gamble

This is great. We don't need outdoor seating or anything, we're back in normal restaurant set up.

Alex Jones

Yes, it's good.

Ed Gamble

No QR code in the dream restaurant.

Alex Jones

I hate talking about the pandemic, but social life stopped, and then I forgot to go to a restaurant after that.

James Acaster

You didn't do Eat Out to Help Out? Do you remember that? Do you remember Eat Out to Help Out?



Alex Jones

What was that?

James Acaster

That was Rishi Sunak back then just, you know, he wasn't prime minister then, this was early days, this was, like, a deep cut.

Alex Jones

Oh, I remember when you had the money off.

James Acaster

Yes.

Alex Jones

Yes, we did that. We did a bit of that.

Ed Gamble

He was the minister for Wagamama, back then.

James Acaster

Yes, he was like, 'Come on guys, you all need to get out there and get in the restaurants again.' But, you know, at the time, we were a bit unsure as to whether it was too early or not, and it was.

Alex Jones

It was, it turned out. Yes, well done.

James Acaster

It was actually too early to tell people to all go to the restaurants.

Alex Jones

But no, I'm really pleased to be here. I listen a lot to this podcast, I'm a big fan of this restaurant.

James Acaster

We're a big fan of you.

Alex Jones

I didn't think I'd get on the guest list to be honest.

James Acaster

Come off it, come on. What are you, high as a kite?

Alex Jones

I wish.



Ed Gamble

You are on our TV screens probably more than anyone else, right?

Alex Jones

Probably. Probably. Probably. I mean, it is a five day week jobby, isn't it. Yes, I am. But, you know, you've got all these people who really know stuff about food, and I was like, 'I like food, but God, I don't know.'

James Acaster

Yes, but come on.

Alex Jones

I thought you had to be a proper foody to be on this.

Ed Gamble

No way.

James Acaster

When you're hosting the One Show and you've got everyone on there plugging there wares, are you always sat there going, 'They are definitely qualified'? Surely you're looking at some of your guests going-,

Alex Jones

Well, I mean, between us, 80% of the time, I'm like, 'Hmm.'

Ed Gamble

It is incredible though, because when I came on the One Show, you could have a chat with you, a completely normal chat, and then you'll go, 'Alright,' and then literally just turn to the camera and then be live to millions of people.

Alex Jones

Yes.

Ed Gamble

It's that quick.

Alex Jones

It's like anything isn't it, you get used to it, I suppose.

Ed Gamble

I wouldn't get used to that, I don't think.



Alex Jones

But, you know, it feels like we're just in somebody's, well, in our lounge, so, it doesn't feel like it's a stressful situation.

Ed Gamble

I did I feel like I was just in a lounge with Alex Jones, Ronan Keating and Martin Freeman on the screen.

James Acaster

When I was on it, Jermaine, yourself, Ainsley Harriot and Grace Dent.

Alex Jones

There you go, that's a good sofa.

James Acaster

During the first week was it stressful though? When you were just getting used to it, was it like, 'This is insane that I've got to just-, because also it's over in the blink of an eye. I couldn't believe how quickly it was like, 'Oh now the show is-, so you just have to blast through it, you've got so many points to hit, one story to the next.

Alex Jones

Yes. I'm going to give you an insight into the first show I ever did.

James Acaster

Yes.

Alex Jones

Okay. Picture the scene. 2010, pretty nervous because there was this big build up to it, and our guest was dun, dun, dun, Whoopi Goldberg.

Ed Gamble

Oh my goodness.

James Acaster

Holy moly.

Alex Jones

So, you know, start big. And that was fine, and she was in Sister Act, and I'd seen Sister Act, so we could chat away, and she was absolutely lovely, everything you want Whoopi Goldberg to be. Even nicer than she is in Ghost, right, and she's lovely in Ghost. But we had a film, and we call them films, sometimes look at me like we've got two heads because they're like, 'That's not a film, that's not a movie,' I'm like, 'No,' but it's VT, right. And we had a VT on beavers. This is day one. And, so, I repeatedly had to say the word 'beavers', which Whoopi Goldberg thought was absolutely hysterical and could not control herself. And I was like, 'Oh my God, be professional.' I was thinking about all the



sad things, I was pinching my wrist really hard thinking of dead cat, okay, really sad things, maybe I'll die of cancer, all of this. And I go through the gamut of sad things to stop myself laughing, because this is my first show, I can't mess it up because Whoopi Goldberg finds the word 'beavers' funny. Anyway, we got through it, as you said, it's super quick, and we did get to the end unscathed. Twelve years later, I'm still there, so it was all-

Ed Gamble

Has Whoopi been back on?

Alex Jones

Yes. And we always talk about that.

James Acaster

Yes, of course. Does she still remember that time.

Alex Jones

She came in and she went, 'How's your beaver?' I was like, 'Fine, how's yours?'

James Acaster

Brilliant. That's nice having a joke with Whoopi Goldberg, isn't it?

Alex Jones

I know. Cool, hey?

Ed Gamble

Because you do have to keep that sort of level of control because it is so quick. Like, you can't be, like, pissing yourself laughing with the guest because

Alex Jones

No.

Ed Gamble

You've got to get onto the next.

Alex Jones

But, you know, like any live situation, you just can't help laughing sometimes. And I'm one of those that laugh at the wrong time a lot of the time, you know, funerals. You know sad settings. But sometimes just something will tickle you, and it happens a lot on the sofa.

Ed Gamble

Especially, the One Show is famous for its quick changes in tone as well. I'm thinking of the Mel Brooks clip, which I think is the funniest thing that's ever happened on TV.



Alex Jones

We loved Mel Brooks.

Ed Gamble

So funny.

James Acaster

'This is nuts.'

Ed Gamble

'This show is nuts.'

Alex Jones

I know, Mel Brooks didn't, you know, he didn't hold back, he said as it is and we loved him for it. We were like, 'Yes Mel, you're 100% spot on.'

Ed Gamble

But you're there going, 'Alright, guys, you have to calm down now because we do have to go to this quite sad, this quite sad film now.'

Alex Jones

Yes, I think it's changed a bit, it was quite, we call it a gear change. Oh my god, I feel like Alan Partridge just saying the words. We cause a gear change and it's when, you know, you change topics and we had a lot of them back in the early days. Those corners have been smoothed somewhat.

Ed Gamble

We've talked before on the podcast about our favourite One Show moments. I can't remember who we were chatting to, but it came up.

Alex Jones

Did it?

Ed Gamble

We mentioned the Mel Brooks thing, we mentioned Adrian Chiles calling Judi Dench, Jame Dudi.

Alex Jones

Oh, I always say Jame Judi Dench, because if you said-, right, so everybody now, right, lets try it. 'Dame Judi Dench'. Okay, but-, no, but imagine you are under a lot of pressure, you're nervous, you're reading an autocue, go.

James Acaster

Dame Judi Dench.



Alex Jones

Jane Judi Gench.

James Acaster

Yes.

Alex Jones

See.

Ed Gamble

Jane Judi Jench.

Alex Jones

But Jane Judi Jench knows this is the case and doesn't expect any better these days, so it's fine.

James Acaster

He did apologise for it, he said, 'Sorry that I called you Jame Dudi, earlier.'

Alex Jones

I know, I've called-, honestly, I called Brian Ferry, do you know Brian Ferry?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Alex Jones

Yes, so I said, 'Please welcome, Frying Berry.'

Ed Gamble

Frying Berry.

Alex Jones

It's just you can't-, you know, you can't control what comes out when you're live, sometimes, and I think that's, you know, that's why I love the show because they're so warm. Nobody really minds, it's like, 'Oh fine, just get on with it, onto the next thing.'

James Acaster

What about when-, and we don't have to put this in the pod if you don't want to, but I might never get the opportunity to ask you about it, when Matt Baker absolutely went for David Cameron and said, 'How do you sleep?'

Alex Jones

Well, see, okay, so nobody's really asked me about that before and I think, genuinely think, knowing Matt really well, that he didn't mean it to be a question about, you know-, I don't think he meant it, how do you sleep because, you know, all this terrible stuff going on in your mind. I think he meant, because



you're so busy, just how do you sleep, you're running a country, how do you sleep? And I think Matt ran with it, because it was a bit cooler than the other version. And I think he just ran with it, but who knows what was in his brain at that time.

James Acaster

Who knows.

Alex Jones

But they got T-shirts printed at work with that question on the back.

Ed Gamble

Oh, great.

James Acaster

I absolutely loved it.

Ed Gamble

'How do you sleep at night?' And how about when the Cookie Monster wore a poppy?

Alex Jones

Well, I didn't even know how they were going to pin it on to be fair without hurting him. Because, you know, I mean, that's-, that's not an outfit he's wearing, that's his body.

Ed Gamble

I hadn't even thought about that.

Alex Jones

That's his body, they were actually stabbing the Cookie Monster through his blue fur. Yes.

Ed Gamble

Poor guy. But that's how much, you know, he loves-.

Alex Jones

That's how much he loves the One Show. He was like, 'I'm going to take this stab through my body to put a poppy on, not to upset Britain.'

James Acaster

All he shouts when it happens is 'cookie'. Do you like cookies? We're getting onto food. You came in eating a cinnamon bun today if you don't mind me sharing that with everyone.

Alex Jones

I did. That's absolutely fine, and I did offer you some but I'd mauled it so it doesn't look very appealing now. Cookies, I think-, this is controversial, I think cookies are overrated.



James Acaster

Interesting.

Ed Gamble

That is a big swing actually.

James Acaster

Why?

Alex Jones

Sometimes they taste too doughy.

Ed Gamble

So you're saying you don't like the soft ones, when people make them really soft?

Alex Jones

Not really.

James Acaster

But what about a chewy one?

Alex Jones

I mean, well, if you're going to go down that route of having a biscuit, I think there are better options. That's what I'd say.

Ed Gamble

Top three biscuits?

Alex Jones

Okay. Controversially, I'd go for a good dunk, Digestive because it's solid.

James Acaster

Is that number one?

Alex Jones

I think it is number one.

James Acaster

Wow.

Alex Jones

Okay, but I also like Rich Tea which is the opposite and flaky. I don't like custard creams, we'll probably get onto custard later. Everybody loves them, I hate them. But the other biscuit I like probably would be, I like a Hobnob. Again for the robustness.



James Acaster

This is mad, Alex. These are, I mean, but actually, I'm very glad we asked top three, because that is very revealing.

Ed Gamble

Digestive, Rich tea, Hobnob.

Alex Jones

Yes.

James Acaster

Some people are going to be absolutely frothing at the mouth with that, that's a very plain list I'd say.

Alex Jones

Well, okay, we'll add shortbread in.

Ed Gamble

Just as plain.

James Acaster

I mean you just got plainer. You joking?

Alex Jones

No, but again you've got to think of the dunk. I mean, okay, if you're eating a biscuit on it's own. But who does that? Where's the joy?

James Acaster

I think a lot of people.

Ed Gamble

Well, I'm rarely dunking I would say.

James Acaster

Yes, this is like.

Alex Jones

Sorry?

Ed Gamble

I'm rarely dunking, you heard.

Alex Jones

How?



James Acaster

I can't remember the last time I dunked.

Alex Jones

But the whole point of a biscuit is as an accompaniment to a cup of tea.

Ed Gamble

No way.

Alex Jones

Absolutely.

James Acaster

No, we're living in a Peter Kay routine here. But no, I don't think so, it's nice though, I think its very wholesome.

Alex Jones

I think you will find if you went to, like, a biscuit factory and there are many in the North East, well, I don't know why I said the North East. But there are many all over Britain.

James Acaster

Just in the north east.

Alex Jones

But I think, they will tell you that with a cup of tea a biscuit comes into it's own. So if its not a dunker, what is it?

James Acaster

If you go to a biscuit factory and ask them that. Yes, because the biscuit factory is directly above the tea factory.

Ed Gamble

Yes, it feels like they're biased, doesn't it?

Alex Jones

No, but I think they're in cahoots.

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes, they're definitely in cahoots.

James Acaster

They're phoning each other. Well, that's very interesting and that's good. I mean, that's good to know.



Ed Gamble

Robustness is at the top of your list for qualities you like in a biscuit.

James Acaster

Yes, you want them to be dunkable.

Alex Jones

I don't like-, I like a biscuit and a tea and eating them together. But I don't want the biscuit in the tea. Because that leads to a whole horrible situation where you then have to throw the tea. So you haven't had anything, you've only had half a biscuit and half the tea.

James Acaster

All I can think about is that, I haven't thought this Peter Kay routine for years.

Alex Jones

What Peter Kay routine are you talking about?

James Acaster

It's all I can think about now.

Ed Gamble

It's a brilliant routine.

James Acaster

Ah, it's a classic. From his classic show that he did a million times.

Alex Jones

He's got a biscuit routine?

James Acaster

About dunking biscuits. He says Rich Tea, they break off and he says when a biscuit breaks and it goes in slow motion and he does the whole act of, 'nooo, my biscuits fallen in me brew'. It is a classic.

Ed Gamble

It is very good.

Alex Jones

But if you're doing a rich tea you've got to be in there quick, you've got to act quickly.

Ed Gamble

Would you ever stack Rich Tea, three Rich Tea dunked at the same time?

Alex Jones

Are you mad?



James Acaster

I don't know.

Ed Gamble

You're the one talking about robustness, you know, this is science.

James Acaster

This is important to you.

Alex Jones

One at a time, one at a time.

James Acaster

One dunk and then in, right? You're not dunking more than-,

Alex Jones

One dunk in, but with a digestive you can take a breath. With a Hobnob you can take a breath, with a Rich Tea you've got to go quick.

James Acaster

Okay. Here's a question then about dunking-, we really should get onto your menu but I have to drill into this. I can handle the digestive dunking thing, yes, take a breath. One dunk for the Rich Tea. Hobnob, I would say, if you take a breath there, it's going to start flaking, it's got, it's the-,

Ed Gamble

Maybe a choccy chip falls in.

James Acaster

The psoriasis of the biscuit world, I would say a Hobnob.

Alex Jones

Oh, that's put me off.

James Acaster

It, it is going to flake.

Alex Jones

Wow, now I don't like Hobnobs anymore. The psoriasis of the biscuit world.

James Acaster

Yes, I'd say, you know, it's not holding-, if you don't want biscuits in your brew-

Ed Gamble

James, James can tell you what has the most psoriasis in any of the cuisines.



James Acaster

Yes, Yes.

Alex Jones

I'm not sure I want to know because you've just put me off biscuits for a start.

James Acaster

Croissant?

Ed Gamble

Of course it's the croissant, it's the normal croissant.

Alex Jones

Croissant.

James Acaster

We should get onto your menu proper, because otherwise we're just going to talk about biscuits for ages which is-.

Ed Gamble

We will check whether you can dunk any of your choices though.

James Acaster

Yes, everything will be doing the dunk test on.

Ed Gamble

We'll be doing the dunk test.

Alex Jones

Okay, I think some of them would get messy, but go on.

James Acaster

We'll see.

James Acaster

Still or sparkling water?

Alex Jones

Oh well, you see, I'd go still, controversially. Because if I'm in a restaurant I don't want water, at all. If I'm out, I want a proper drink and waters just there to be polite. And with fizzy water, I used to think, Perrier water and there are other brands there that do fizzy, but I used to think they were the absolute devil when I was growing up. It's just such a funny taste. If you really taste it because what you're expecting's lemonade and it's not.



James Acaster

Oh, so you were tricked early on.

Alex Jones

Tricked. I mean these days, I like it. And when I was pregnant, and you can't drink and you're pregnant for a long time because I had three children, I drank a lot of sparkly water which apparently is bad for your teeth.

James Acaster

Yes, the enamel.

Alex Jones

But, you know, it gives you a-, I don't know, it gives you a sense of celebration if you're in a restaurant and you can't have anything more exciting.

Ed Gamble

It's fine to drink fizzy water when you're pregnant though, right, you don't have fizzy kids?

Alex Jones

No, it's fine. No, you don't have fizzy kids, well maybe we did actually thinking about it. Maybe that's what's happened.

James Acaster

Think about the kids, how fizzy are they?

Alex Jones

The kids? Oh, the middle one is flipping heck, off the charts fizz, yes. He's like a bottle of champagne that's been in the fridge upside down and then you open it, that's what he's like.

James Acaster

Okay, you don't know do you? You don't know how fizzy the kids going to be until-.

Alex Jones

You don't-, you don't. But I think it's a thing, you know, fizzy water I think is like olives, nobody likes fizzy water or olives as a child apart from my children who do like olives but that's because they've grown up in London.

Ed Gamble

I loved olives as a child.

Alex Jones

Where did you grow up?



Ed Gamble

London.

Alex Jones

Interesting.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Alex Jones

See, there you go.

James Acaster

Buckingham palace.

Alex Jones

Buckingham palace.

Ed Gamble

Posh little boy.

James Acaster

Yes.

Alex Jones

I think most people don't like olives or oysters or fizzy water when they're little. It's something as an adult you think, I've grown up now, I have to like those times.

James Acaster

Yes, you got-, I mean, you know, you don't know how long you're going to be around for, but you're going to be pretty bored if you just like the same stuff forever. So I'm very glad, I think if you're a little kid and you like olives I think, 'bad luck', you don't get to discover them when you're older, that's fact.

Alex Jones

No, and where is there to go?

James Acaster

Yes, where is there to go, what are they going to do? Start getting into Munch Bunch when they're 30?

Ed Gamble

Well, I did do it the other way round so I hated the kids menu, and like chicken nuggets and stuff and would prefer to have, like, olives and poached salmon. And then when I got older I started to appreciate chicken nuggets and oven chips and stuff.



Alex Jones

So where are you now?

Ed Gamble

A big old mix, I'll eat all of it now.

Alex Jones

Okay, chicken nuggets with olives on the side.

Ed Gamble

Chicken nuggets, sparkling water, a few olives sprinkled on top.

James Acaster

I wouldn't mind some chicken nuggets and olives maybe, that'd be fun.

Alex Jones

Quite nice, my kids would love that.

James Acaster

Yes, yes.

Alex Jones

Ideal. Yes, I don't know, I think, you know, waters there to quench your thirst, if I'm out, I don't want water.

Ed Gamble

So, we've had people on the podcast before do a bit of a hack on this-, for this stage and if you don't want water and you want to choose something else to have when you get in. I mean, we both hacked it when we did our menus.

Alex Jones

Gin and tonic.

Ed Gamble

You'd love gin and tonic. You could make the joke that it is a water.

Alex Jones

It's more or less the same.

Ed Gamble

It's got tonic water in there.



Alex Jones

Yes, and I mean you only really need water in a restaurant if you're choking because otherwise, you're there to have a nice time. And everybody says, 'Yes, we'll just have some still', nobody means that, nobody wants the water.

Ed Gamble

If you're choking gin and tonic would help anyway wouldn't it?

Alex Jones

Absolutely.

Ed Gamble

You can use that instead, yes.

James Acaster

It's a good way of getting more gin and tonic off them.

Alex Jones

Completely.

Ed Gamble

Do you have a specific gin, gin that you like? Or a specific tonic?

Alex Jones

Oh, well I like to try a lot of different ones, but I tell you, there is a lovely one, I think it's made in Swansea and I'm not just saying that because I'm born there. It's called Signet gin, that's very nice, very botanical.

James Acaster

Signet, of course, is swan related.

Alex Jones

Exactly.

James Acaster

Just letting you know that didn't go over my head.

Alex Jones

Its a baby swan isn't it?

James Acaster

Is it? That's mad.



Ed Gamble

Why?

James Acaster

Naming booze after a little baby?

Alex Jones

Yes, but they don't expect baby swans to drink it.

James Acaster

Well, I don't know.

Alex Jones

It's just a very nice name.

James Acaster

I think you're putting ideas in people's heads.

Ed Gamble

I hate it, I mean, swans are annoying enough anyway, right? Imagine a pissed swan.

James Acaster

That would be very lairy.

James Acaster

How do you feel about swans, coming from Swansea?

Alex Jones

Oh, I like the look of them at a distance, but closer I think they could take your arm off. But you're not allowed to touch them, are you? Because the queen owns all the swans.

James Acaster

Not any more, dead.

Ed Gamble

She passed them on.

Alex Jones

Oh, yes, does the king now own them? What's happened, what's happened to the swans?

James Acaster

He must do now, right, he must know that there's swans.



Ed Gamble

Do you think she had to put it in the will?

James Acaster

Yes, I leave all the swans to Charles.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I think he does now own all the swans.

Alex Jones

Maybe automatically he becomes the swan owner, the swan dad.

James Acaster

I mean, obviously, you've got a lot to take onboard when you suddenly become the king. But I hope he's taken a moment to go, I own all the swans now. That's got to feel very boss.

Ed Gamble

Maybe at the coronation, I think he'll probably take that in because there'll be a lot of standing around, he'll probably be like, 'Fucking hell-

James Acaster

He can finally touch a swan

Ed Gamble

I'm the swan Daddy'.

James Acaster

All these years if he's wanted to touch a swan he's got to phone his mum and ask permission and how he can just walk up and go, 'bup'.

Alex Jones

Now he can stroke them, yes.

James Acaster

Yes, he can just do it.

Ed Gamble

But do the swans know the torch has been past, because they might still try and deck him.

Alex Jones

Yes, they would have told them, main swan, head swan would have spoken to the other swans and said, 'Charles is now in charge'.



James Acaster

That's a good voice. So that means like, I mean, how did the people of Swansea feel about the royal family owning the swans?

Alex Jones

I haven't asked them directly but I assume fine. You know, I mean, King Charles, conservationist. He's in love with animals, so it can only be a good thing.

James Acaster

Former Prince of Wales of course. So do you feel like you got your boy in now?

Alex Jones

He's onboard, yes.

James Acaster

You're guys on the phone, secretly.

Alex Jones

Got the Welshy in charge.

James Acaster

Proper Welshy.

Ed Gamble

So lovely gin and tonic?

Alex Jones

Lovely Gin and tonic.

Ed Gamble

As soon as you get in, so maybe we're waiting for you at the door with a gin and tonic on a tray so you can just grab it as soon as you get in, yes?

Alex Jones

With ice, obviously, I don't like ice in any other drink apart from a gin and tonic.

James Acaster

How come for a gin and tonic you like it then?

Alex Jones

Because I think otherwise it's a bit too tonicy, it takes the edge off, the ice. Imagine gin and tonic without any ice.



Ed Gamble

Yes, I've had warm gin and tonic before at parties when there's, like, nothing left, really.

Alex Jones

I mean, obviously, first-world problems, I was going to say, that's absolutely horrific. It's not absolutely horrific, but it's not ideal.

Ed Gamble

First world problem is very much-, covers all of our episodes of the podcast.

Alex Jones

Yes. So it'll be fine.

James Acaster

Yes, yes.

Ed Gamble

That's a trigger warning, first-world problems.

James Acaster

Yes, we're doing a podcast about what food people like.

Ed Gamble

We talk about what foods we don't enjoy and don't want to eat, thank you.

Alex Jones

And a slice of orange, if you've got one.

James Acaster

Wow, I was about to ask, lemon or lime, I didn't even think about that.

Alex Jones

Oh no, lemon or lime, okay at a push. But blood orange, a slice of, delicious, and tons of ice.

James Acaster

Actually, that was the last gin and tonic I had at my friend Joe's house, he makes the best gin and tonics in the world, I'll give you his number after this. And he made me, yes, it had a slice of orange in it and some pepper in it as well. He put some black pepper in there, it was very good.

Alex Jones

And thirst quenching. You don't need water.

Ed Gamble

Sure, you don't need it.



James Acaster

Single or double?

Alex Jones

Oh, single, let's not go mad, because make room for the wine.

James Acaster

Ah right, okay, good, a little insight in to what we can expect.

James Acaster

Poppadoms or bread? Poppadoms or bead, Alex Jones? Poppadoms or bread?

Alex Jones

I can't even believe it's a question. I mean, poppadoms right, fine, they've got their place with all the dips, order loads of them, love it. But bread, bread, if you ask me, starter, main, dessert, I could go bread for all three.

James Acaster

Wow, great.

Alex Jones

Because I think there's nothing nicer in the world than fresh bread with salty butter. What's not to love? I could live on that forever and ever and ever. And I don't like fancy bread, you can keep your ciabatta, you can keep your focaccia, focaccia can fuck-, all of it. I just love fresh bread, you know, plain.

James Acaster

When you're talking plain, are we talking just like a loaf of Hovis?

Alex Jones

No, I don't want sliced.

Ed Gamble

Fresh out of the oven?

Alex Jones

Fresh out of the oven, you don't have Hovis, like-.

James Acaster

I was just trying to drill down.

Alex Jones

How boring.



James Acaster

Well, Alex said fresh bread.

Alex Jones

No that's for sandwiches, that's for sandwiches.

Ed Gamble

Is Hovis fresh?

James Acaster

Fresh out the packet.

Alex Jones

No, fresh out of the oven.

James Acaster

Fresh out the freezer.

Alex Jones

Yes, hot-, I mean can you stop? No. Can anybody stop eating bread when it's like that? No, they can't. Bread, cheese, red wine, done. Every course.

James Acaster

Yes, putting, like, butter straight on some bread out of the oven, just watching it absorb instantly.

Alex Jones

Or, you know, if you're little and you're in France on your holiday and your job is to go and get the baguette and it's hot.

James Acaster

What?

Ed Gamble

One of my favourite things on the podcast is when people try and pitch things as universal experiences. 'You know when everyone's young and it's their job to go and get the baguette in France when they're young.'

James Acaster

I mean, even like, when you're little and you're in France on holiday. Even that is, like, I know there will be listeners going, 'No, I don't know what that's like', and the, it's your job to get the baguette. 'Alex, it's your job today to get the baguette.'



Alex Jones

It feels like a lot of people used to do that, but, you know, okay, okay, we'll picture the scene then, I mean, you're in, lets go, I don't know, not Normandy because it's not very sunny there. Let's go lower, Loire.

Ed Gamble

Hang on, so where we going?

James Acaster

Is that a place?

Alex Jones

France, France, France.

Ed Gamble

Oh, you said let's go lower, Loire.

Alex Jones

Loire is a region in France.

Ed Gamble

I thought you were just saying lower with a funny French accent.

James Acaster

That's the first time on the podcast I've been genially confused.

Alex Jones

Right, let's go to flipping Paris, everybody knows Paris.

James Acaster

Loire, I like Loire.

Alex Jones

Loire, Loire, okay. And we've gone to patisserie, that's cakes though. What's bread? Ed, you know.

Ed Gamble

Boulangerie.

Alex Jones

Boulangerie, let's all go to the boulangerie.

James Acaster

Why, Ed you know? Why did I not even get considered for that?



Ed Gamble

Did you?

James Acaster

No.

Alex Jones

No, fine, so I picked the right one. So we're all off to the boulangerie, right, and we're going to get the baguette and we're going to take the baguette on a picnic and it's fresh out of the oven and the smell is so delicious, and the first thing that you do? That looked rude. You move the packet down the baguette, and you chomp off the top and it's absolutely delicious.

James Acaster

See, I was going to ask you, when you said, it's your job to go and get the baguette, I was going to ask you if you do that because Ed has spoke on the podcast before about when his partner, now wife, used to live in Paris and some times it would be Ed's job to get the baguette.

Ed Gamble

It would be my job to get the baguette.

Alex Jones

And would you ansh the top off?

Ed Gamble

And even though she lived in a little flat on a courtyard and the boulangerie, you just had to go down some stairs, out, turn left, a gauche, and then into the boulangerie and it was one minutes walk away, baguette, even on that short walk, achum gone.

Alex Jones

Hundred percent. There is no way you can go to the boulangerie, get a baguette and not ansh the top off. Its delicious.

James Acaster

I'm very glad that you said it independently because I think we've been asked-, we've had a few people say about warm baguettes and I always ask them that question because Ed said he couldn't resist doing it. I always ask them if they could resist it and I'm glad its just come up organically, I didn't even have to ask the question, that's how irresistible it is.

Alex Jones

It's irresistible. People talk about things like pretzels, shut up. I mean, right, I've never bought a pretzel because they don't appeal to me, they are dark brown and slightly salty which is okay when you have that bite when it's got the salt on it, delicious momentarily, but that is not bread. Its not a cracker, it's not a biscuit, it's not bread, what is it? A waste of time.



James Acaster

A waste of time.

Ed Gamble

I do agree with you, I think pretzels suck.

Alex Jones

However, however, in a shopping centre, there's a lot of big shopping centres of this brand in London, Westfield, and you can get sweet pretzels. Now they, off the charts. Off the charts delicious.

James Acaster

Sweets always better.

Ed Gamble

Aunty Anne's Pretzels.

Alex Jones

But pretzels, I've heard people talk about pretzels on this podcast, I can't-, I can't get on with that, at all. It's not a thing.

James Acaster

I don't know if anyone's ever chose pretzel proper, have they? Maybe.

Ed Gamble

I kind of do agree with you.

Alex Jones

And I don't mean the crisp ones, because I don't want people to get confused here, not the crisps, not the little ones you get in a bag, the big ones you buy at the bakery counter.

James Acaster

I've definitely bought a pretzel before and just instantly gone, 'No, I can't be bothered with that'. Did one once at Herman ze German.

Alex Jones

What were you even doing in there?

Ed Gamble

It was his job to go and get the pretzels.

Alex Jones

I thought you were a foodie. What are you doing? And Herman the German.



Ed Gamble

The sausages were good, to be fair.

James Acaster

I used to go there for quite a bit because, Brett Goldstein, he's won awards.

Alex Jones

Yes?

James Acaster

He used to love going in there and getting a box of just, like, cut-up sausage with all the sauerkraut and stuff. So, I copied him and would do that, and I loved doing that after a gig. It'd be a quick bite to get after a gig. If I was gigging in Soho, Leicester Square, wherever, go down to Herman ze German. All cut-up, crispy onions on there too. Delicious.

Alex Jones

Very delicious.

James Acaster

And once I was, like, 'I'm going to get something else. I'm going to get that pretzel. And that was-,

Alex Jones

A mistake.

James Acaster

Yes. It was, like, a job.

Alex Jones

Let me tell you about pretzels. They've got those yellow stickers on them at the end of the day, every day, because nobody wants them.

James Acaster

Yes, they're trying to flog them.

Ed Gamble

The only time I've ever enjoyed a pretzel, and bear with me, it was at Disneyland.

James Acaster

Yes, okay.

Ed Gamble

It was a pretzel, but it was filled with fake cheese and jalapeño. And it was delicious because it was so salty.



Alex Jones

Hang on, with fake cheese and what?

Ed Gamble

Jalapeño.

James Acaster

Dgalapeño.

Alex Jones

You say it differently to anybody I've ever heard saying that word.

Ed Gamble

Well, you've obviously never heard a Spanish man say it, because that is the correct pronunciation.

Alex Jones

You are not Spanish.

Ed Gamble

No, but I say croissant, and I say jalapeño.

Alex Jones

Jalapeño?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Alex Jones

It's not jalapeño, is it? Is it? Go on, James. You say it. Jalapeeno I'd say.

James Acaster

I guess I say jalapeeno.

Alex Jones

Jalapeeno, I'd say. Jalapeeno. I mean, I wouldn't go Dgalapeeno, but I'd go jalapeeno. Jala- what?

Ed Gamble

Jalapeño. I'm perfectly willingly to admit that I'm wrong.

Alex Jones

Wow.

James Acaster

He's probably right.



Ed Gamble

But as far as know, on the N, there is the little squiggly accent which is 'nye'.

James Acaster

How do you said piñata?

Ed Gamble

Piñata.

James Acaster

Oh.

Alex Jones

Oh.

Alex Jones

Well, because of your of, kind of, explanation, I'm going to believe you, and because you are who you are, I think you'll probably right, but I just haven't heard anybody say it like that before.

Ed Gamble

Well, I might be wrong. I frequently get messages saying I've absolutely messed up a pronunciation.

Alex Jones

Jalapeña?

James Acaster

Welcome to my world. My whole life is copying what Ed does until someone else tells me it's wrong.

Alex Jones

So, would you go into a takeaway place or a restaurant and say that?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Alex Jones

Would you say, 'I want some jalapeña on my pizza?'

Ed Gamble

Jalapeño.

Alex Jones

Jalapeño sorry, jalapeño.



Ed Gamble

Yes.

Alex Jones

I've got a slight problem with sometimes when we're out with friends and there are a few friends who I won't name, but they go deep with an accent when we're ordering off a menu that say is Spanish, and I just feel so super awkward because I'm like, 'Okay, we don't need to go, you know-, we don't need to go hard on this.'

James Acaster

Is Matt Baker one of those people, Matt Boulangerie?

Alex Jones

Matt Boulangerie, I've never been really in that situation with Matt. I don't imagine he would be, but some people have got real confidence, haven't they, and they go into a Spanish restaurant and they basically become Antonio Banderas. I mean, is he even Spanish?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

I think he might be.

Alex Jones

I think he is.

James Acaster

Puss in Boots is.

Alex Jones

More or less.

Ed Gamble

Puss in Boots is funny.

Alex Jones

And they go all that. Anyway, we digress.

Ed Gamble

I don't do that. I find that embarrassing, but I mean, I feel very exposed after saying jalapeño, to be honest.

Alex Jones

Jalapeño, sorry I didn't mean to.



James Acaster

That's how I'm going to start saying it now.

Ed Gamble

I loved it.

Alex Jones

I didn't mean to make you feel awkward.

James Acaster

Your dream starter.

Alex Jones

Okay, you are going to look at me know as if uggghhh. 'I mean, couldn't she bring something better than that?' But I've gone through this is my head over and over and over, and I have to stay true to prawn cocktail.

James Acaster

Hey.

Ed Gamble

It's a big hitter.

James Acaster

It's a big hitter on the pod, lot of people chose prawn cocktail. I'd say you are, if I may say this, the youngest person to choose prawn cocktail.

Alex Jones

Gosh.

James Acaster

Normally, it's people who grew up in a certain decade, and I would say you are the youngest person to choose a prawn cocktail.

Ed Gamble

But prawn cocktail is cool now, right?

James Acaster

It's cool now.

Alex Jones

It is, and I was a late comer to prawn cocktail. Again, it was in the sparkly water, olive category where prawns and me were not friends, because if you bite into a prawn, don't ever do that.



James Acaster

What?

Alex Jones

Don't ever bite into a prawn. I can't even say it. Don't ever bite into a prawn.

James Acaster

No?

Ed Gamble

Don't ever bite into a prawn?

James Acaster

Are you swallowing them whole?

Ed Gamble

How are you going to eat this starter?

Alex Jones

100%.

James Acaster

What?

Alex Jones

100%.

James Acaster

How big are the prawns?

Alex Jones

King-size.

James Acaster

King-sized prawns and you're gulping them down like a pelican.

Ed Gamble

Oh, no, Alex.

Alex Jones

100%. It's the same thing as-, there's a rule, isn't there? Unspoken, but nobody ever bites into scampi.

James Acaster

What?



Alex Jones

Never bite into scampi and look.

Ed Gamble

Are you swallowing that whole? Oh right, 'and look'.

James Acaster

Don't look at it.

Alex Jones

If you're going to order scampi and chips, and let me tell you

James Acaster

Hold on, what are we talking about?

Alex Jones

I've done that millions of times because I love scampi, but in a pub situation, you're there, it's summer, scampi, peas and chips in a basket, back in the 80s.

Ed Gamble

Lovely.

Alex Jones

But never bite into the scampi, because you never know what you're going to see, and that's going to ruin your meal.

James Acaster

What might you see?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Alex Jones

Well, the inside of scampi is not great. Have you ever bit into a scampi and looked?

Ed Gamble

I don't think I have to be honest.

James Acaster

I've definitely bitten. I definitely don't gulp these things down whole.

Alex Jones

Okay.



James Acaster

I'm trying to think if I have bitten into the scampi and then looked at the other half. I mean, I think I have and in my head it's quite succulent and juicy, like a deep-friend scampi.

Alex Jones

Okay, well, you just try that again and then come back to me on that.

James Acaster

Okay, yes.

Alex Jones

So, the rule of scampi, always swallow whole.

Ed Gamble

Swallow whole?

Alex Jones

100%.

James Acaster

You're not even biting it when it's in your mouth?

Alex Jones

Dip it into your tartare or into your tartare, not the thing that's on your teeth, as in tartare sauce or your ketchup, whatever, and down it goes. And with prawns, it's the same thing.

Ed Gamble

With a king-sized prawn, you would swallow that whole?

Alex Jones

Well, take the bits off you don't want, in it goes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Alex Jones

Yes.

James Acaster

Why don't you bite it in your mouth?

Ed Gamble

Yes, because you can't see it.



Alex Jones

No, you can.

James Acaster

But why don't you?

Alex Jones

I can, I do. I do. I don't go (gulp sound).

Ed Gamble

What? Because you know for the last five minutes everyone's been imagining you just swallowing those prawns whole.

Alex Jones

No, that'd be silly, then I'd be choking so the gin and tonic would have to be replaced by water.

James Acaster

Immediately. So, you're biting them in your mouth, you're chewing them up.

Alex Jones

Yes, I bite them in my mouth.

James Acaster

And then you're swallowing them.

Alex Jones

I mean, I think prawn cocktail is under-celebrated. It's having a moment now, isn't it? It's having a cooler moment, but I mean, it's delicious. Crispy iceberg lettuce, proper, proper 70s. Triangle bread, toast.

Ed Gamble

Nice.

Alex Jones

Paprika on top.

Ed Gamble

Getting a bit more bread in there. Paprika.

Alex Jones

It's the only thing I make all year.

Ed Gamble

Is it?



James Acaster

Make that at home.

Alex Jones

It's our starter on Christmas day.

Ed Gamble

Great.

James Acaster

Lovely.

Alex Jones

Along with mackerel pate which is a bit weird to have both but anyway.

James Acaster

I think they're both- especially in the UK, they're quite Christmas starters.

Alex Jones

I might move on. When my palette develops, I might move on to oysters, but I am not there yet.

James Acaster

I mean, yes. If you're not even looking at scampi when you bite it, good luck looking at an oyster.

Ed Gamble

Before you even put it in.

James Acaster

Yes.

Alex Jones

No, I have had one, one, and oh God, takes me back now.

James Acaster

Yes.

Alex Jones

Got stuck it did, half way.

Ed Gamble

Got stuck.

James Acaster

Half way down your throat or down your body?



Alex Jones

Yes, oh my God and all I could think, I mean, I'm not even going to go there, but I really-, because, you know, we were filming, right? And we were in France again, and there was a man, like a fisherman, but he was also a TV chef in France and he was making this beautiful, kind of, vinaigrette thing to go on top of it. And it looked so lovely, all these lovely shallots duh, duh, duh, and I thought, 'How bad can it be with that on top of it?' God it was awful.

James Acaster

So, this was fresh.

Alex Jones

Massive ones. I don't know, but they're giant oysters.

James Acaster

And they just caught them in front of you.

Alex Jones

Fresh.

Ed Gamble

Wow.

Alex Jones

Fresh, just caught them, here we go, shuck them, this stuff on top, you know, and there was Tabasco in there and I thought, 'Well, you're not even going to taste it.' Oh my goodness me, the texture, woah.

James Acaster

Did you chew that? Did you bite that?

Ed Gamble

Did you bite?

Alex Jones

No, I did not.

James Acaster

Straight down.

Alex Jones

Yes, tears in my eyes, all of it because I couldn't swallow.

Ed Gamble

Wow.



James Acaster

And did that come across in the footage?

Alex Jones

Very much so.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Did the fisherman mind? Did he seem offended?

Alex Jones

I was trying to hide it from him. I did a bad job.

Ed Gamble

Yes, you can't hide anything from a fisherman.

James Acaster

No, that's notoriously-

Alex Jones

But I'm hoping in time, I would like to like-, you know it's that thing you would like to like them. All my friends like them, my husband loves them. And I'm like, 'The work of the devil right there.'

James Acaster

Absolutely delicious.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

And having one that's just been caught and prepared for you by the fisherman who caught it, wow. That's a privilege.

Alex Jones

I think it's the texture though, isn't it? What can we do about the texture? Nothing.

James Acaster

You could embrace it.

Ed Gamble

Sometimes they fry them. They might bread them and fry them.

Alex Jones

It's a lot of work though, isn't it, when you can just have a scampi.



Ed Gamble

Yes, I suppose so. But yes, I suppose it's the same with a deep-fried oyster, you're not biting that and having a look inside, are you?

Alex Jones

Absolutely not.

James Acaster

You can't ask the fisherman to do that the boat, 'Can you deep-fry that for me please?' And he probably hasn't got that knocking around the old fishing boat.

Alex Jones

No.

Ed Gamble

Would you like to be blindfolded for this meal because it seems like you don't want to look at a lot of your food?

James Acaster

Yes.

Alex Jones

No, I don't mind. The prawn cocktail, I mean, it's covered in-, how do you even say it? Marie Rose sauce.

Ed Gamble

Well, Ed knows how to pronounce things.

Alex Jones

Go on.

Ed Gamble

I would say Marie Rose.

Alex Jones

Okay.

James Acaster

I'd say Mary Rose.

Ed Gamble

Yes, you say Mary Rose, you absolute troglodyte.



Alex Jones

Do you?

James Acaster

I said it on here once and absolutely got killed for it, got torn to ribbons.

Alex Jones

That sounds like a pub. It's not a pub.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes.

Alex Jones

Mary Rose.

James Acaster

Yes, I said Mary Rose sauce and then the whole podcast had to stop.

Alex Jones

So, is it just Marie Rose or Marie Rose?

Ed Gamble

I would say Marie Rose, but again, I can't stress enough I'm really not the authority on foreign languages.

James Acaster

You are in this room.

Alex Jones

But I think none of us really know these things, do we? We just say it very quickly and hope for the best.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

In America with prawn cocktail, they have cocktail sauce. Have you had that before which is like-,

Alex Jones

It's the same, isn't it?

Ed Gamble



No, it's like a tomatoey based sauce with horseradish in it.

Alex Jones

Well, hang on a minute, what do you think Marie Rose sauce is then?

Ed Gamble

Like a more mayo based sauce, right?

Alex Jones

No.

James Acaster

It's got tomato sauce in it.

Alex Jones

Hang on a minute, not in our house.

James Acaster

Not in your house.

Alex Jones

No it's, hang on. It's ketchup and mayonnaise.

Ed Gamble

Yes. That's what I mean.

Alex Jones

What are you talking about then? Tomatoes, tomato sauce is ketchup.

Ed Gamble

The American one is more-, it's almost like, more of a pasta sauce type consistency.

Alex Jones

No.

James Acaster

Like a salsa.

Ed Gamble

It's all tomato, there's no mayo.

Alex Jones

No.

Ed Gamble



And there's horseradish in it and it's a real disappointment when you order a prawn cocktail in America.

Alex Jones

Yes, wow.

Ed Gamble

Because you want that mayoey dip.

Alex Jones

Of course you do.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Alex Jones

Have they not been over here and seen that we do it better and gone, 'It's wrong.'?

Ed Gamble

Obviously not. You know what these Americans are like.

James Acaster

Yes, you know what these Americans are like. They come over, they see what we do, they don't take us seriously. They just try and remake it, do their own versions like The Office.

Alex Jones

I thought everybody ate the same prawn cocktail all over the world.

Ed Gamble

No.

Alex Jones

So, that's another eye-opener. Thanks Ed.

James Acaster

Thanks Ed.

James Acaster

Your dream main course.

Alex Jones

Okay, right hold on tight and don't judge instantly, okay?

James Acaster



You said this about the prawn cocktail.

Ed Gamble

And we were on board with the prawn cocktail.

Alex Jones

But the prawn cocktail is universal. This is not.

James Acaster

Okay.

Alex Jones

Okay, ready?

James Acaster

Yes.

Alex Jones

Deep breath. Corned beef pie.

James Acaster

Hey.

Ed Gamble

Look, that sounds great.

James Acaster

I want to eat it immediately.

Alex Jones

Okay, so I wouldn't want to eat corned beef out of a tin, that would make me feel a bit sick. Again, don't look at it, but corned beef mixed with onions, mixed with potato that then becomes mash potato with a little bit of secret ingredient ketchup, salt and pepper, mush it together in pastry, in the oven, oh my God, it's a dream.

James Acaster

I think you've just reminded me of something my mum used to make that I'd completely forgotten about.

Alex Jones

Exactly.

James Acaster

And not I'm really excited. It's a dream. I do think it's a dream.

Alex Jones



My mum used to make this for us, still does on occasions, not often enough mum if you're listening, but she does make it and it is like nothing else because at the time you can have it respectably with vegetables and gravy, bit like a Sunday roast kind of thing, day after with ketchup or beans. I mean, I've taken this podcast now right down to the gutter, haven't I?

James Acaster

This is great.

Alex Jones

Let's forget about fancy food a minute, this is comfort food personified.

Ed Gamble

It sounds amazing. I love corned beef anyway, from the tin, whatever.

James Acaster

Yes.

Alex Jones

No, you don't Ed. Do you?

Ed Gamble

I used to have corned beef sandwiches when I was at school.

James Acaster

Yes, so did I.

Alex Jones

How do you say corned beef?

Ed Gamble

Corned beef.

James Acaster

Boeuf.

Ed Gamble

Boeuf.

Alex Jones

Boeuf.

Ed Gamble

Boeuf de la corn.

James Acaster



I used to have corned beef sandwiches.

Ed Gamble

Yes, and I loved it.

James Acaster

And I would really look forward to them, they were my favourite sandwiches.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Alex Jones

Yes, we'd have them in school, corned beef sandwiches. I did not look forward to them because dad used to put ketchup on them as well, and I didn't like them. I mean, but I can see why people would like them, but it's just the whole tin thing. I don't like anything in a tin apart from tuna.

James Acaster

Interesting.

Alex Jones

And beans.

James Acaster

And why?

Alex Jones

And tomatoes. No, I do like things in a tin actually.

Ed Gamble

You like everything in a tin.

James Acaster

Most things.

Alex Jones

But meat in a tin, so SPAM, no. What's the other one that's like a ham and it's got that jelly around it? That's a big no.

James Acaster

I know what you mean.

Alex Jones

It's like luncheon meat or something.

Ed Gamble



Luncheon meat is insane.

James Acaster

Yes, you don't like those.

Alex Jones

Wow heebie-jeebies.

Ed Gamble

Any meat in a tin is too reminiscent of dog food I think when you tip it out.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

I don't mind it.

Alex Jones

But let's push past that, corned beef, get it out of the tin, quickly mix it with other things in a bowl and my mum was with me last night and I was like, 'Mam, can you just make a corned beef pie, because I'll take it tomorrow?' She's like, 'Well, I'd love to, but I've got your washing to do.'

James Acaster

What? Your washing?

Alex Jones

I mean, I'm like, 'You don't have to do my washing. I'm perfectly capable.' She's like, 'There's a lot of work that we need to do in this house.' Anyway, let's not go into that.

James Acaster

So, when your mum visits, she proper, like, goes into mum mode?

Alex Jones

Yes.

James Acaster

And does everything in the house.

Alex Jones

Yes, I'm incapable apparently of anything.

Ed Gamble



You see, on one hand you're saying, 'Mum thinks I'm incapable, she's doing my washing.' But then on the other hand, you are saying that you asked her to make a corned beef pie last night.

Alex Jones

Yes, only because this is her recipe, you see.

Ed Gamble

Yes, so you don't think you could make it.

James Acaster

Have you tried?

Alex Jones

I haven't tried. I mean, at a push, I'm sure, but it's just hers has got the je ne sais quoi. I love how I put that with a corned beef pie.

James Acaster

It's a very French episode.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Ed Gamble

That is the first time anyone has ever used the phrase 'je ne sais quoi' in relation to a corned beef pie.

Alex Jones

Really? Okay. No, I believe that.

James Acaster

I think I've got that wrong. I was about to say this reminds me of Home Alone when someone says it, but I don't think she does say. I think she tells Kevin, she goes, 'You're what the French call less incompetent.' She doesn't say 'je ne sais quoi'.

Alex Jones

Je ne sais quoi.

Ed Gamble

There's not a corned pie involved, either.

James Acaster

If only there was. I bet that would come in quite handy. This is a question for you, Alex, if you were defending your house against burglars and you had a corned beef pie, would you use it in a trap?

Alex Jones



Well, it's that dense you could throw it at them and it'd probably take them out.

James Acaster

Yes.

Alex Jones

Yes. It's a big unit. When you're having a slice, you know about it. You don't want prawn cocktail really to proceed corned beef pie because you're going to be up to your eyeballs.

James Acaster

In what?

Ed Gamble

Just food.

Alex Jones

In corned beef pie.

James Acaster

In corned beef pie.

Alex Jones

And I'm not sure there's any room for any prawns.

Ed Gamble

What shape is this corned beef pie?

Alex Jones

Well, it's up to you. You can go with what you feel but square we usually make.

Ed Gamble

Nice square.

Alex Jones

so, you can have big rectangles of it.

James Acaster

I'm going to text my mum.

Alex Jones

Okay, go.

James Acaster



And ask if we had corned beef pie when we were younger.

Alex Jones

So, we used to have a thing called corned beef hash. Do you remember that?

Ed Gamble

Yes, which is chopped potatoes, onions, corned beef.

Alex Jones

I mean, I don't know, people must still eat it somewhere in the world, but I think it's fallen out of fashion.

Ed Gamble

Yes, it's another one of those things where you might see it on a menu somewhere and it's, like, a bit of a trendy thing to put on.

Alex Jones

Yes, exactly.

Ed Gamble

Yes, it's delicious.

Alex Jones

We could bring corned beef hash back right now probably, couldn't we?

James Acaster

I feel, like, that's more again, in America, I see corned beef hash on a menu.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

But then neither of those things are what we know them as here.

Ed Gamble

Yes, corned beef is not the same.

James Acaster

Yes, hash isn't the same.

Alex Jones

Hang on, what corned beef have they got there then?

Ed Gamble



Well, it's just not that, sort of, compacted corned beef that we have here. It would be like a bit of beef, the ways it's been brined is in more, like, a corny way.

James Acaster

It's, like, shredded. It comes out shredded and salty.

Alex Jones

Good explanation Ed.

Ed Gamble

Well, it's something to do with the process of the way it's been brined as opposed to whatever the fuck corned beef is here.

Alex Jones

Fine, okay. And what's hash then over there?

James Acaster

Well like, actually, maybe over there hash is quite-

Ed Gamble

Yes, I think it's the same.

James Acaster

I'm just thinking of hash browns really and how hash browns are here and then hash browns there are like stringy potatoes that have been fried in with onions and stuff, but it's not all one block like we've got.

Alex Jones

Right, but it's quite odd, isn't it? Because things like corned beef hash, casserole, you know, pies, these are things that you'd have growing up and of course, wholesome food and those of the things that you'd dread, wouldn't they? 'Oh no, it's that night we're having corned beef hash. Oh no and I'm going to be dragged away from Neighbours to eat this.'

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

But that's the regularity thing I think as well, it's like everyone Wednesday, what we're having corned beef hash? And then you move away and you realise you can have whatever you like on any night of the week, but then Wednesday rolls around and you're like, 'I miss that corned beef hash.'

Alex Jones

Yes, I know. Like Monday was lasagne and salad day for years.

James Acaster



Great.

Alex Jones

About twenty years.

James Acaster

Monday was?

Alex Jones

Yes, and, you know, that's not a bad Monday, is it?

James Acaster

Garfield loves lasagne but doesn't like Mondays.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

So, that'd be crazy for Garfield.

Alex Jones

Garfield doesn't know what's going on.

Ed Gamble

We'll come back to that. That would surely be the way to help Garfield like Mondays.

James Acaster

Perfect for Garfield.

Ed Gamble

Because he'd look forward to it.

James Acaster

Give him a lasagne on a Monday, turn around, anyway.

Ed Gamble

What do you mean Garfield doesn't know what's going on?

Alex Jones

Garfield honestly, he used to annoy the shit out of me. I don't know why. Everybody loved Garfield and I was like, 'What's the big deal?' God, so annoying.

James Acaster



Why did he annoy you?

Alex Jones

I don't know.

James Acaster

Too negative. He was quite negative, wasn't he? And you're quite a positive person.

Alex Jones

Very negative. Negative, everything's a problem. Gosh, shut up Garfield.

James Acaster

Yes, everything's a problem to him. He's not nice to Odie, the dog, and that's quite a nice-

Alex Jones

I just think he could do with better energy.

Ed Gamble

What would you do if you had to interview Garfield on The One Show?

James Acaster

Yes.

Alex Jones

He wouldn't even get past the flipping security door. No, we'd pin a poppy straight into him, no messing.

James Acaster

Take that Garfield, it's not even Remembrance Sunday.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Well, I think that sounds delicious and hopefully my mum will text me and tell me. Because if that is something we used to have when we were kids, I really want it again because I know exactly what you're talking about, the comfort food.

Alex Jones

Well, so do you know what rissoles are? That look of confusion there.

Ed Gamble

No, I just don't want to get it wrong.

James Acaster



Yes.

Ed Gamble

Are they like meatball type things?

Alex Jones

No, so rissoles-

James Acaster

Fuck you. Fuck you Ed.

Alex Jones

Rissoles are basically corned beef pie in a, sort of, battered-, no, not battered, breadcrumb and fried ball. Delicious.

Ed Gamble

Bit like meatballs.

James Acaster

Yes, like balls of meat I guess.

Alex Jones

So, in fish and chip shops in South Wales, rissole and chips is a thing which is weird because it's double potato, but nobody cares, so it's corned beef, onion, mash potato, in a bowl of breadcrumbs, fried with chips, sometimes gravy on it, sometimes curry sauce. Yum.

James Acaster

Yes.

Alex Jones

And it's that curry sauce that you can only get in fish and chip shops, you know the one.

Ed Gamble

It sounds so good.

Alex Jones

Slightly vinegary.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Alex Jones

Anyway, so I made these rissoles for Dame Mary Berry.

Ed Gamble



Wow.

James Acaster

That's a Dame who's name you can pronounce.

Alex Jones

Yes, I can do that one.

Ed Gamble

You're not saying Berry Mary.

James Acaster

No.

Alex Jones

Berry Mary. Love Dame Mary Berry. So, I went on a show with her, it was one Christmas ages ago and she said, 'Okay, you have to cook a dish (TC 00:50:00) for this Christmas party that we're going to have at the end.' I was like, 'What? I can't cook and now I'm cooking for Dame Mary Berry.' And I said, 'Alright then, I'll make rissoles.' Why? Anyway, and she said, 'What are you going to make dear?' I said, 'I'm going to make rissoles, Mary.' She said, 'What are they dear?' And I said, 'Well, you know, it's a Welsh tradition and they make them in South Wales and mum used to make them.' She said, 'Well, they sound delicious.' I mean, Mary's all over, kind of, World War II food and this falls into that category. Corned beef, straight in there and I made them and honestly it looked like cat food. God, I could not get the consistency right. It was just really runny corned beef from potato, but I couldn't get it so that I could make it into a ball, and I made it. Honestly, it's never looked so bad. Fearne Cotton was on the same show. She did something really super duper, I don't know, like butternut squash, risotto in a butternut squash.

James Acaster

She hates Fearne Cotton.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Alex Jones

No, I love Fearne Cotton.

James Acaster

Clearly hates Fearne Cotton.

Alex Jones



She is such a good cook and she'd made a lovely dip, and she said, 'Al, what's your dip?' and I went, 'Ketchup,' like, I hadn't even made a dip, I just poured a ketchup into a bowl. Anyway, Mary Berry loved it.

Ed Gamble

Great. Of course she did.

Alex Jones

Absolutely loved it.

James Acaster

She's a good one.

Alex Jones

She's lovely.

Ed Gamble

Yes, she is.

James Acaster

I wish she was on Bake Off when I got on it. Corned beef loaf.

Alex Jones

There you go.

James Acaster

My mum sent me the page of the recipe book.

Ed Gamble

Wow, that was a quick response.

James Acaster

Oh, she has very little going on.

Alex Jones

Oh my goodness, your poor mum.

James Acaster

Well, you know.

Alex Jones

Go on.

James Acaster



12oz can of corned beef, 6oz Cheddar cheese, grated, nine large slices of thinly sliced white bread, two level tablespoons of French mustard, 6oz butter, 2oz of freshly made white breadcrumbs, one large egg, size two in brackets, one medium onion peeled and finely chopped, two level tablespoons of pickle. Do you want me to read you the method?

Alex Jones

No.

Ed Gamble

It sounds like she's making a corned beef sandwich?

James Acaster

Oh yes, it says 'corned beef sandwich'.

Alex Jones

Also, what does it look like? Have you got a picture of how it should look like in the end? I can't picture.

James Acaster

No, this recipe book is so old that it just looks like parchment, it looks like old, you know, tea-stained parchment paper.

Alex Jones

There you go, World War II food.

James Acaster

I don't think photos existed when this-, I mean, the next recipe in it is ginger beer, how to make your own ginger beer.

Alex Jones

It's like the Famous Five cookbook.

James Acaster

Yes, Enid Blyton's written this shit, and I've said to her, 'Wow, I'd love it again,' and then she's gone, 'What, why?' And asked me if I've recently discovered corned beef. I'm just going to yes, because I don't have time to-, yes, I'll tell her later on. She listens to the pod anyway.

Ed Gamble

Yes, she does, yes.

Alex Jones

There you are, well she'll know about it.

Ed Gamble



Yes. Yes, she'll absolutely love that bit where you said she doesn't have anything going on.

James Acaster

Yes, I'll get a text. I'll get a text about that.

Alex Jones

Yes, too right you will. Cheeky.

Ed Gamble

Straight away, as soon as it's released, very little going on.

James Acaster

Yes, as soon as I say it, she'll text me, fuck all else to do.

Ed Gamble

This corned beef pie sounds absolutely amazing.

Alex Jones

Honestly, I mean, it is a bit World War II, you know, it's a bit retro but taste it.

Ed Gamble

Also, that and the rissoles really sounds like the sort of thing you'd eat before you go out drinking.

Alex Jones

Oh yes, or after. So, in Cardiff, and you'll have listeners, I know, in Cardiff, and they'll know about Chippy Lane. Chippy Lane, it's not really called Chippy Lane but it is Chippy Lane because all the, sort of, late night takeaway places are on it and the floor is so slippery from chips, yes. So, when you go down there in a heel-

James Acaster

Wales, man.

Alex Jones

You are taking your life into your own hands, Chippy Lane in a heel, 3:00am, disaster but, ooh the rewards, if you make it into the shop, the rewards are like no other, rissole, chips, curry sauce, tonnes of vinegar, oh, my mouth is watering.

Ed Gamble

How slippery is it?

Alex Jones

Very slippery.

Ed Gamble



Could you start at one end of Chippy Lane and slide all the way, like Marty McFly, down to the other end?

Alex Jones

Well, let's just imagine it, okay, your chips have fallen on the floor, okay, a few people have walked over them, so they've, kind of, worn into the concrete, very slippery, very slippery.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Like 'the floor is lava', a bit like that.

Alex Jones

People say bananas, it's not, it's chips.

Ed Gamble

Chips should be in cartoons for people slipping on them, yes.

James Acaster

Not Bananas.

Alex Jones

Yes, there you go, if you're touring in Cardiff, Chippy Lane, that's where you need to go.

Ed Gamble

I can walk down Banana Lane in heels, no problem.

James Acaster

Yes, I think I can run down Banana Lane.

James Acaster

Let's do your side dish, dream side.

Alex Jones

Okay.

James Acaster

Is it chips from Chippy Lane or are we looking at something else here?

Alex Jones

It could be chips from Chippy Lane, it would always be a potato in some form, and, I mean, that's pretty standard when it comes to side dishes, isn't it?

James Acaster



Yes.

Alex Jones

None of this broccoli with chilli. Nice and all that, but not that exciting. I would go, again, I don't know if I'm saying it right, potatoes au gratin, au dauphinoise. If you're going to eat that with the corned beef pie, don't get me wrong, cardiac arrest is imminent and you will be carted off to the hospital.

Ed Gamble

That's a heavy meal.

Alex Jones

That's a heavy meal.

Ed Gamble

I'm on-board with it though.

Alex Jones

This is in our dream situation, so we can go there, but I think dauphinoise potatoes are absolutely delicious.

James Acaster

I'm confused for a second there.

Ed Gamble

They're the best potatoes. Why did you get confused?

Alex Jones

Why are you confused?

James Acaster

When you said, 'Cardiac arrest,' like, because you'd just been talking about Cardiff, I thought you'd said, 'Cardiaff arrest,' about someone getting arrested in Cardiff. It confused me for a second.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Alex Jones

Cardiac.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble



You can't arrest anyone in Cardiff, because they slip away from the police so easily.

James Acaster

Oh that's true, isn't it, they're too slippery, they went down Chippy Lane, 'So long, coppers,' they just slide down there. These are Ed's favourite potatoes.

Alex Jones

Are they?

Ed Gamble

Dauphinoise, the best potatoes, yes.

Alex Jones

So, let me just check this with you, Ed, again, I'm coming to you, no offence, James. Dauphinoise, are they same as au gratin?

Ed Gamble

No. I don't think so.

Alex Jones

Oh, since when?

James Acaster

Oh, here we go.

Ed Gamble

Or maybe they are. Okay, maybe they are the same. I might be getting mixed up with, another shout out for this word, potatoes boulangere.

Alex Jones

That is not a thing.

Ed Gamble

It is.

Alex Jones

It's not, you've just mixed up boulangerie and potatoes, that's not a thing.

Ed Gamble

Google it.

Alex Jones

What, bread potatoes?



Ed Gamble

No, I guess it's, like, bakers' potatoes.

Alex Jones

Or is that a chip butty.

Ed Gamble

Oh, that'd be nice.

Alex Jones

Oh, hang on a minute, that would have been my side dish.

James Acaster

You'd rather have a chip butty now?

Alex Jones

As a side dish.

James Acaster

Well, this is your side, isn't it, we're on your side now. What about if you did dauphinoise potatoes, but chip butty style?

Alex Jones

No.

James Acaster

You wouldn't want that?

Alex Jones

Well, it'd be runny. What do you think?

James Acaster

I think that would appeal. I think I would like it.

Alex Jones

I think I would like it if it was forced on me, of course.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

I think au gratin has cheese in it and dauphinoise doesn't, traditionally.

Alex Jones



Ooh, interesting. Well, dauphinoise is cream, isn't it?

Ed Gamble

Yes, cream, garlic, yes.

Alex Jones

Basically, layers of round-y shaped potatoes and au gratin has cheese. Are we right? Okay.

Ed Gamble

Well, we'll call that a score-draw, I think.

James Acaster

Normally, I try and repeat what Benito's said so he doesn't have to put himself on the podcast but that was too long, I can't memorise it. He's going to have to pitch-shift his voice down or something. I can't say it, Benito. I can't. You described it so well the first time, you're going to have to Crimewatch your voice.

Alex Jones

Crimewatch.

James Acaster

Yes, I'm sorry, man.

Alex Jones

Dauphinoise, let's stick with dauphinoise because dauphinoise has got cream.

James Acaster

Yes.

Alex Jones

And if we're going full on dream meal, let's go rich.

Ed Gamble

Oh yes, it's the best.

James Acaster

Do you want to chuck a chip butty in there as well?

Alex Jones

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Dauphinoise butty?

Alex Jones



Well, in fact, if we go back to bread, we just put some chips in there and then that's the bread.

James Acaster

Yes, that's fair enough.

Alex Jones

Chip butty.

Ed Gamble

Perfect, yes, that's your new bread course, chip butty.

Alex Jones

Oh my God, this meal is turning out to be an absolute belter.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes, it's quite nice, isn't it?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Is there anywhere you've had dauphinoise before that's, like, the best you've ever had them?

Alex Jones

Oh gosh, I tell you where I did have some nice dauphinoise, is there's a restaurant in London, oh, this sounds really knobby now.

James Acaster

Well, remember, you have already told a story about when you used to get the baguettes, when you were a little kid, so I think you're okay.

Alex Jones

I think that's relatable, this one's less so. There's a button on every table, where you press it and they bring champagne.

Ed Gamble

Oh yes, Bob Bob Ricard.

Alex Jones

Bob Bob Ricard.

James Acaster



This has come up before.

Alex Jones

I had some delicious dauphinoise potatoes there.

James Acaster

How much also-, because people have mentioned Bob Bob Ricard before.

Ed Gamble

I'm going there on Sunday.

James Acaster

Ed's going there on Sunday.

Ed Gamble

So, I know what I'm going to order.

Alex Jones

It's not a Sunday type of place.

Ed Gamble

It's my mother-in-law's birthday, we're taking her for her birthday because she wants to try the champagne button.

James Acaster

Alex has issues with things.

Ed Gamble

I really thought Alex was on my side there.

James Acaster

I could never predict what you're going to have an issue with or what it is, and the fact that it's not a Sunday type of place, I love it as a-

Ed Gamble

It's mainly with me, so it'll always be something I say, 'Jalapeno-,'

Alex Jones

No, I loved that, I just thought, 'Wow, he's exotic.'

James Acaster

That's generous.

Ed Gamble



Yes, I'm going on Sunday.

Alex Jones

Hang on a minute, who goes into central London to a clearly night-time restaurant on a Sunday?

Ed Gamble

I don't think there's such a thing as a night-time restaurant.

Alex Jones

I think there is.

James Acaster

Stringfellows?

Alex Jones

Is that where you're going afterwards?

Ed Gamble

I wouldn't call that a restaurant necessarily. Yes I'm taking my mother-in-law to Stringfellows for her birthday.

Alex Jones

Oh God. I mean, Bob Bob Ricard, beautiful, lovely surprise.

Ed Gamble

Yes, stunning, yes, stunning restaurant.

Alex Jones

Very nice and a nice treat, I just wouldn't have ever have considered a Sunday there.

Ed Gamble

Well, it's open.

Alex Jones

Well, it clearly is.

James Acaster

Optimistically, you're going to be the only ones in there.

Alex Jones

I mean, Sundays, I just think of roasts, you know, in a pub.

Ed Gamble



They do a lovely Beef Wellington there though.

Alex Jones

I'm sure they do. Ooh, Beef Wellington, I haven't thought about a Beef Wellington in years.

Ed Gamble

I love Beef Wellington.

James Acaster

Not too dissimilar to a corned beef pie, not a million miles away.

Alex Jones

Not as good, Beef Wellington's a bit one-dimensional.

James Acaster

Really?

Alex Jones

Controversial.

James Acaster

You want to go to Ron Gastrobar, mate, in Amsterdam, have the Beef Wellington there, that was my dream main course when i did this.

Ed Gamble

So, the dauphinoise at Bob Bob Ricard is nice, you say?

Alex Jones

Beautiful.

Ed Gamble

So, that's the one we're going to put on your dream menu.

Alex Jones

Yes.

Ed Gamble

That's the one I'll be getting on Sunday.

James Acaster

Will you raise a toast to Alex when you're there?

Ed Gamble



Yes, of course.

Alex Jones

Think of me.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Alex Jones

Order a bottle.

Ed Gamble

I'll say, 'Happy birthday,' and, 'To Alex Jones.'

Alex Jones

She'll be, like, 'Who?' 'She loves the dauphinoise here but she doesn't think it's right for a Sunday.'

James Acaster

She hates Garfield.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Alex Jones

Yes, it's alright, I think that's alright.

James Acaster

A bit of trivia, yes, that's alright, it's not controversial, I think you'll be okay.

Alex Jones

No, somebody bought be a Garfield calendar.

Ed Gamble

As a joke?

Alex Jones

So misguided, so misguided.

James Acaster

How old were you when they did that?

Alex Jones



Oh, quite young, and then, speaking of calendars, do you know the other one that somebody bought me?

James Acaster

Chippe n' dales?

Alex Jones

No, worse.

James Acaster

I've just watched the series, so it's in my head.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Alex Jones

Beavis and Butt-Head, I mean, what?

Ed Gamble

Was it the same person who bought you those calendars?

Alex Jones

No. I was lost for words.

James Acaster

I was not expecting it to be Beavis and Butt-Head.

Ed Gamble

How old were you when you got bought the Beavis and Butt-Head calendar?

Alex Jones

Probably about, I don't know, fourteen. Like, I couldn't be anywhere further from Beavis and Butt-Head but somehow, somebody had gone into flipping WH Smith or Woolworth or whatever at the time and thought, 'Oh, she's going to love it.' What? I know.

James Acaster

I mean, they're pretty colourful characters, Beavis and Butt-Head, can you remember any of the months and what they were doing on them? Or did you not even-,

Alex Jones

I just remember a lot of yellow and turquoise, kind of, colour and angry faces, no, bin.

James Acaster



With the Garfield calendar, did they take the opportunity to do a little joke, where all the Mondays were, like, scrubbed out or something?

Alex Jones

Yes, there was that, there was a cross on all the Mondays.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes, great.

Alex Jones

It's not that funny though, is it? I still don't-, do you know what I mean?

Ed Gamble

Yes, it's the same joke 52 times really, isn't it, yes?

Alex Jones

Exactly.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Did that go in the bin as well?

Alex Jones

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes, goes straight in the bin, Garfield, Beavis and Butt-Head, hate them.

Alex Jones

Yes.

Ed Gamble

What would have been the calendar you would have liked to receive?

Alex Jones

You know, I don't know, one of them with, you know, little kittens or kittens in a basket, or I don't know. There was a thing called Forever Friends and I had a wall-planner, Forever Friends wall-planner, I used to love that. I don't know, I mean, New Kids on the Block. New Kids on the Block.

James Acaster



Yes, well that is very funny.

Ed Gamble

You want kittens or Forever Friends.

Alex Jones

Or New Kids on the Block.

Ed Gamble

Garfield's a cat and Beavis and Butt-Head are forever friends.

James Acaster

Yes, come on.

Alex Jones

Nice try.

James Acaster

I mean, what more do you want?

Alex Jones

Nice try.

James Acaster

There's a lot of crossover there, can see how they got confused.

Alex Jones

Then we were talking on the show the other day about Bill and Ted, oh, that's another pair I can't bear, I can't bear, it's just not me, and I'm sure they're very nice people.

James Acaster

Bill and Ted?

Alex Jones

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes, Bill and Ted are nice people, they look like nice people.

Alex Jones

Yes, they do. I mean, I even called my child Ted.

James Acaster



They want everyone to be excellent to each other.

Alex Jones

I don't want a Bill and Ted calendar.

James Acaster

You wouldn't want it, no, I mean, that's a shame.

Alex Jones

How have we got to calendars from Beef Wellington?

James Acaster

Well, I brought up Garfield again because it's funny that you don't like Garfield and then we've discovered you also don't like Beavis and Butt-Head and Bill and Ted. It was worth it, worth asking.

Alex Jones

It's very specific, isn't it?

James Acaster

Yes.

Alex Jones

I feel bad now.

Ed Gamble

You don't like two men who hang around together a lot and are best friends and love rock music, that's what you don't like.

Alex Jones

Well, actually, when you put it like that, it's like my husband and his best friend Trevor.

James Acaster

Hate Trevor?

Alex Jones

Who the kids call Uncle Treasure, that's not his name.

Ed Gamble

What's your husband's name?

Alex Jones

Charlie.

Ed Gamble



So, Charlie and Trevor is a bit like Beavis and Butt-head and Bill and Ted.

Alex Jones

Yes, they are actually, they really are, maybe that's why I'm so annoyed with Beavis and Butt-Head.

Ed Gamble

What would you do if got a Charlie and Trevor calendar given to you?

Alex Jones

Oh my goodness, bin, bin, bin. He was our best man, I love him dearly. I love him to death, he's lovely, but together, oh.

James Acaster

Right, your dream drink.

Alex Jones

This is a hard one. So, if I'm hungry and I'm in a restaurant and I think, 'These people are going to be late,' or, 'They're very slow at service here,' I'll have a Bloody Mary because that is a meal in a glass. It's the fun version of a SlimFast, isn't it, the shake, I always think. There's more to it. You know, it's quite meaty for a drink, fills you up, so I like that. I don't like the lemon in a Bloody Mary.

Ed Gamble

I completely agree with you, yes.

Alex Jones

What is that about?

Ed Gamble

What's it doing in there?

Alex Jones

Why do they put them-, it doesn't go.

Ed Gamble

Yes, completely agree with you.

James Acaster

I don't want it in there. I would accept a squeeze of lemon in there actually.

Alex Jones

No.

Ed Gamble



No.

James Acaster

I would accept that, but it's not essential.

Ed Gamble

You wouldn't squeeze lemon in your tomato soup, would you?

Alex Jones

No, you really wouldn't.

James Acaster

No but this is a Bloody Mary.

Ed Gamble

Yes but it's the same flavour profiles.

Alex Jones

Exactly.

James Acaster

I don't know. I do like the accoutrement.

Alex Jones

Wow, that's a word for a Monday.

James Acaster

I'm just trying to join in with the French stuff.

Ed Gamble

Do you like those Bloody Marys where they, like, put bacon in it and stuff?

Alex Jones

No.

Ed Gamble

No, okay.

James Acaster

What do you want in there?

Alex Jones

Pepper, spicy, celery is fine, although I don't know whether we should go down this road actually.

James Acaster



I think we should.

Alex Jones

Okay.

James Acaster

I love this road.

Alex Jones

Celery, I used to like, celery with a bit of salt. I had COVID, celery now tastes like beef, so I can't cope with it anymore.

James Acaster

Fucking hell, I bet there are a lot of people listening to this who are jealous.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I'm jealous.

James Acaster

So many people hate celery because they say it tastes of nothing, it's watery. If it tasted of, like, beef, they'd be, like, 'Great, I can have a celery Wellington.'

Alex Jones

No, it's not, no.

James Acaster

It's like a Peperami.

Alex Jones

No, because, you know, you want what you're eating to taste like what it looks like. I mean, celery now, well, it's lost its appeal, I can't even tell you, but in a Bloody Mary, if it's spicy enough, it'll take the beef element away.

Ed Gamble

Right, okay.

James Acaster

Sure, also, you know, a bit of beef in your Bloody Mary wouldn't go amiss completely.

Alex Jones

I suppose but I'm also not going to go to the bar and then explain this whole thing, that celery now tastes like beef. They look at me like I'm mad, so I just let them put it in.

James Acaster



Have you googled it to see if this is a thing? Because like, sometimes, you know, people had COVID, afterwards, like I noticed, for example, I got a stye in my eye. I was, like, 'I never get styes.' Then I got one again, I was, like, 'What is going on?' Then I googled it, it was, like, a lot of people had COVID and then suddenly they started getting styes afterwards.

Alex Jones

No way.

James Acaster

So, there's a whole bunch of things that people are finding, you know, post having COVID, that is actually quite common.

Alex Jones

Yes, well there you are.

James Acaster

So, maybe if you google 'celery tastes like beef, COVID'.

Ed Gamble

Celery taste likes beef.

Alex Jones

Celery problems.

James Acaster

I'd say you need to put 'celery', 'beef' and 'COVID', those are the three keywords.

Alex Jones

Okay, we should do it and see what happens.

Ed Gamble

Would you prefer styes in the eye or celery to taste like beef, if you were given the option?

Alex Jones

Oh, easy, celery to taste like beef, all day, but also red wine tastes funny and I love red wine.

Ed Gamble

That's a shame, that would bum me out.

Alex Jones

But I'm pushing out.

Ed Gamble



Yes, you've got to.

James Acaster

What does it taste like, red wine?

Alex Jones

Like I've got it from a garage, like really cheap, awful, and it doesn't matter how expensive it is, they all taste the same.

Ed Gamble

That's gutting.

James Acaster

Oh, that is sad.

Alex Jones

But I'm pushing through.

James Acaster

Yes, well done.

Alex Jones

Yes.

Ed Gamble

If you add enough Tabasco, it covers the taste, right?

Alex Jones

Yes, exactly.

James Acaster

So, you're having Tabasco in the Bloody Mary?

Alex Jones

So, I'm having Tabasco in the Bloody Mary.

James Acaster

The celery.

Alex Jones

Not lemon.

James Acaster



No lemon, Worcestershire sauce, Worcester sauce, which one is it?

Alex Jones

Just all of that, Lea & Perrins, all of it.

James Acaster

Olives?

Alex Jones

Yes, alright, on a cocktail stick.

James Acaster

I've enjoyed olives in a Bloody Mary.

Alex Jones

Well, I only order a Bloody Mary if I'm hungry, so all the extra bits, even if the celery does taste like beef, is welcome.

Ed Gamble

Surely you're not hungry at this dream meal though, are you?

Alex Jones

Well no but this is before, so this is an aperitif/little snack.

Ed Gamble

So, you're chugging the G&T, straight on to the Bloody Mary, then onto the bread fast.

James Acaster

Absolutely sloshed.

Alex Jones

Yes, gosh, I'm making myself feel a bit sick when I'm thinking about everything that's in my tummy after this dream meal but Bloody Mary aside, if I'm not hungry, super-hungry, straight in, wine, wine all day, not all day, that would be irresponsible.

James Acaster

Yes, you wouldn't hold it together on The One Show if you've been drinking wine all day.

Alex Jones

There's a wine called Bread & Butter, have you tasted this? Back to the bread.

James Acaster

It has been brought to our attention.

Ed Gamble



Yes, it has, by Michelle Keegan.

James Acaster

Yes, Michelle Keegan, who chose bread for every course, unknowingly, and figured it out as she was going along, that she just keeps choosing bread, and then she said this wine, and then really she said that she needed locking up.

Alex Jones

Okay.

Ed Gamble

Bread & Butter, it's a Chardonnay?

Alex Jones

It's a Chardonnay. I think it's Californian, Bread & Butter, it's delicious.

James Acaster

Yes, would you like to, you know, share a bottle with Michelle Keegan?

Alex Jones

I would, as long as we had another one because I don't think there's anything worse than opening a bottle of wine that you really enjoy and knowing that you haven't got one in reserve. You want to decide when to stop, not the wine, I always think.

James Acaster

Yes, I think a lot of people have probably, you know, listening to this podcast, have just stood up and saluted you. I think you really spoke to people's hearts there.

Ed Gamble

You need one on reserve, yes, definitely.

Alex Jones

Always one on reserve and always something fizzy in the fridge because you never know when there's something to celebrate, I think.

James Acaster

One of your kids, they're fizzy.

Alex Jones

They're fizzy, they are fizzy with a bit of added fizz.

James Acaster

Put them in the fridge, might chill them out.

Alex Jones



Yes, might help.

James Acaster

I think you and Michelle Keegan would get on.

Alex Jones

I think so. I've interviewed Michelle a few times, she's lovely, so I'll get the Bread & Butter in next time she comes on The One Show.

Ed Gamble

Perfect.

James Acaster

Oh, she will be ecstatic if you get that.

Alex Jones

Raise a glass.

Ed Gamble

I seem to remember, when she brought it up on the podcast, a lot of people were messaging me saying, 'I've not had this before and I tried it and it's fantastic.'

James Acaster

Yes.

Alex Jones

Oh, it's really nice. A friend of mine bought it for me as a little gift, she brought it over on my birthday and I thought, 'What is this?' It's special, yes.

James Acaster

Great. Well, it's always good when something gets a second shout out.

Ed Gamble

Chardonnay gets a bad rap as well.

Alex Jones

You know, it does and years ago, I would have gone, 'Oh gosh, I'm not drinking that,' but oh, I'm converted. It used to be sauvignon blanc, New Zealand all the way but now I'll take either.

Ed Gamble

Bread & Butter Chardonnay.

Alex Jones



Yes.

Ed Gamble

Very good.

James Acaster

Delicious. We arrive at the dessert, the dream dessert. I'm feeling good about this.

Ed Gamble

Okay. Well, so James worries if people don't have sweet teeth but what James might not have picked up on earlier is, when we were talking about bread, you said you could happily eat bread, cheese and drink red wine with every meal-

James Acaster

You also said you don't like savoury pretzels but you like sweet pretzels.

Alex Jones

Yes.

Ed Gamble

So, this is tricky.

James Acaster

Could go either way.

Alex Jones

Can you predict?

James Acaster

I think it's going to be something like an apple crumble with custard.

Alex Jones

Oh. No, I hate custard.

Ed Gamble

We also established the custard thing, James.

James Acaster

What, did we?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Alex Jones



Oh my gosh, wobbly custard that's been set in a custard slice.

James Acaster

I might have been texting my mum during this. You don't like them?

Alex Jones

What's the difference between that and blancmange? Who eats blancmange? Nobody.

James Acaster

Do you know Milton Jones, the comedian, Milton Jones?

Alex Jones

I do, not personally but I know, yes.

James Acaster

Not related to him.

Alex Jones

No, don't think so.

Ed Gamble

That'd be a real turn up for the books.

Alex Jones

Maybe, who knows?

James Acaster

Milton and I, when I was supporting him on tour in 2011, the aim of the tour, besides doing the gigs, was to find the perfect custard slice because he loves them and I've got a sweet tooth.

Ed Gamble

I agree with you, Alex. I hate that texture and consistency.

James Acaster

The best one we found, well, maybe this'll convert you, was in Wales.

Alex Jones

Was it?

James Acaster

Yes.

Alex Jones



Do you know what I do like about a custard slice?

James Acaster

First service station as you get into Wales.

Alex Jones

Really? Oh, okay, interesting.

James Acaster

Then we went back to get it and it was like the service station had vanished, it wasn't there anymore, it was like a ghost town. So, I think something happened, something supernatural.

Alex Jones

That is rare.

Ed Gamble

Were you going back the other way?

James Acaster

Oh yes.

Alex Jones

Was it on the different side of the road? Custard slice though, I tell you what I do really like about them, so I hate the middle bit but I love the top bits, but especially the bottom bit, where it's a bit soggy. So, if I could have just those two sandwiched together without the rubbish in the middle, delicious.

James Acaster

Yes, fair enough.

Alex Jones

But custard slice, wrong.

James Acaster

Wrong. So not an apple crumble though, not something like that? I'm thinking, like, homely...

Alex Jones

Well, I've come round to custard but it's taken me a while. It's alright. No, okay, I'm going to go Eton Mess.

Ed Gamble

Oh great.

James Acaster



Okay, yes.

Alex Jones

My sister said to me the other day, about a year ago, I ordered Eton Mess and she went, 'Oh, look at you, going all English.' What? It's just a pudding.

Ed Gamble

Yes but it's because it's called Eton Mess.

Alex Jones

Yes, I know that.

Ed Gamble

People get angry about that sort of stuff, right, yes.

Alex Jones

I don't know, I just love cream, yes. So, eclairs, I'm in, anything with a large amount of-

Ed Gamble

I hate eclairs.

Alex Jones

Why?

Ed Gamble

I think I have an issue with a large amount of cream that's not, sort of, very sweet. So, like, eclairs sometimes, you're just, like, 'They're full of air.' There's so much air. Pfffft.

Alex Jones

Where are you buying them?

Ed Gamble

Well, I'm not buying them, eclairs, profiteroles.

James Acaster

Jay Rayner came on the podcast.

Alex Jones

Oh gosh. Yes, well, I mean, yes but he has got very high expectations when it comes to food.

James Acaster

Sure, but then he chose eclairs as his dessert.

Alex Jones



Did he? Interesting.

James Acaster

Ed did this, threw a little strop, and then Jay Rayner was, like, 'You've got to go to Maitre Choux,' was it?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

'You've got to have them there.' There's so much French in this podcast this week. You said it was nice.

Ed Gamble

Yes, it was but I think I'm just thinking of, like, your supermarket eclairs.

James Acaster

Sure.

Alex Jones

So, what's the difference? Are profiteroles just children of eclairs?

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes, they're, sort of, round little cousins, I guess.

James Acaster

Yes, exactly.

Alex Jones

Is it the same?

James Acaster

Yes, I think so.

Alex Jones

Okay because, I mean, a profiterole stack, nothing nicer.

James Acaster

Oh geat isn't it? When I worked in a kitchen, one of the kitchens I worked in, they started doing profiteroles and you'd just be sneaking off to the fridge, the walk-in fridge, constantly and just whacking one in and then going back in.

Alex Jones



Yes, I'm with you.

James Acaster

It was so good. Especially, like, I mean, they'd been refrigerated for ages and they're a little bit firm as well.

Ed Gamble

Was there a big stack in there and you had to work out where you were going to take it from, like Jenga?

James Acaster

Yes, it was, a big pyramid, yes, just in one room, a massive pyramid of profiteroles.

Ed Gamble

You'd just hear, 'Oh no, James took one from the bottom layer again.'

James Acaster

'We know you did it, man.' Oh, delicious.

Alex Jones

Delicious, choux pastry and cream with a bit of, you know, chocolate that's hard on the top from being in the fridge, yum.

Ed Gamble

I think the reason I like the Maitre Choux ones is I think they were not, like, airy cream in the middle.

Alex Jones

What is Maitre Choux?

Ed Gamble

It's a place in Soho. It's gone now. it was a place in Soho, it's gone now.

James Acaster

I think it's been replaced now by that Pasta de Nata place.

Ed Gamble

Maybe, yes.

James Acaster

The place that does the Portuguese custard tarts.

Alex Jones

Oh, I can get on-board with them either.

James Acaster



No?

Alex Jones

Well, I like them if I don't look at them, here we go again.

James Acaster

Oh yes, it's a bit similar to a custard slice, I guess, isn't it?

Ed Gamble

Yes, it is. Yes, it's Portuguese custard slice,

James Acaster

Yes.

Alex Jones

Yes, there's a nice flavour but I don't like what it stands for, which is squidgy custard mainly.

Ed Gamble

I think those eclairs, the Maitre Choux eclairs, had more of, like, a crème pat in there, so it was a bit more custardy actually.

Alex Jones

Ah, yes, a bit sweeter then.

Ed Gamble

Yes, a bit sweeter, a little bit more solid and I like that but it's 'whoosh' cream, I can't be dealing with that, whereas an Eton Mess, because it's beaten so much and whipped, it's thick and you've got the meringue.

Alex Jones

It's got it all, it's got crunch, it's got berries, to be a bit healthy but it's got masses of cream, sweet, yummy.

James Acaster

Have you had a-, I think they're called Maritozzi bun? It's an Italian bun, Maritozzi, Maritozzi, I'm not like Ed, I don't know how to say things.

Ed Gamble

Don't try and throw this on my, man.

Alex Jones

Where's Stanley Tucci when we need him?

Ed Gamble



Yes.

James Acaster

He's been on the pod.

Alex Jones

I know, I listened.

James Acaster

Yes. Well, this bun, holy shit, you would love it, Jones.

Alex Jones

So, what's it called, Maritozzi?

James Acaster

Maritozzi, I reckon. M-A-R-I-T-O-Z-Z-I.

Alex Jones

Doesn't a double zed make a 't' sound?

Ed Gamble

Yes, Maritozzi, I would say.

Alex Jones

A pizza.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

I ordered this about five times.

Ed Gamble

Do you say pizza or 'pisa'?

James Acaster

Oh, I say pizza.

Alex Jones

Good because that would be ridiculous otherwise.

James Acaster



Yes. This bun, and actually, the reason I got it was because of Tucci, the Tooch, because I saw his TV show, goes to Rome.

Alex Jones

Yes, Taste of Italy.

James Acaster

This guy surprises him with it. He's about to go and eat God knows how many meals in a day. He's in a café speaking to someone and the guy comes out and goes, 'Here's this bun,' and the Tooch is livid. The Tooch was like, 'Oh Jesus Christ, what the fuck?'

Alex Jones

'I can't eat this now. It's going to ruin the day.'

James Acaster

'I can't eat this. This is like my head's worth of cream. Are you joking?' The guy's, like, really laughing.

Alex Jones

'Eat it, eat it.'

James Acaster

Tooch is trying to do it and then the guy comes out and has a go at him for not finishing it and Tooch is, like, 'Are you shitting me? Do you know how much I've got to eat today?'

Ed Gamble

I've got seen this episode. It sounds great.

James Acaster

They keep it in the edit, it's like, 'I'm not eating this,' but I saw it, I was, like, 'That looks incredible,' because it's 80% cream and then this bun that's like, you know, they they've cut a bun, slammed it with cream.

Alex Jones

I'd love it.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

There's some orange peel in the actual bun itself, and I found a place that did it next to the Trevi Fountain, if that's what it's called, in Rome. This place, I don't know what it's called, so I can't even write it down. I went there. We were there for eight days. We went to this place five times. They did the best gelato I've ever had in my life, those buns were insane, best cannolis I've ever had. We went and we had everything and, like, it was so good. New Year's Eve, we had a really bad meal, we were really



disappointed and then we just went to that place and we got four different things and sat and ate all these sweets at, like, half past midnight or whatever.

Ed Gamble

You don't remember what it was called?

James Acaster

No because it was, like, a long name. I might have screen grabbed it.

Ed Gamble

it's probably Greggs.

James Acaster

It was a Greggs, that was it.

Alex Jones

It's a Greggs, it was the Italian Greggs.

James Acaster

I think it was a Greggs.

Alex Jones

This is the thing, you see, the Italians, I mean, Italian food is, I think, another level, always safe.

Ed Gamble

Always safe?

Alex Jones

Always safe, you know.

James Acaster

Do you know what I would say, obviously, everything's subjective, I think I'm just not mega into Italian food.

Alex Jones

How can that be?

James Acaster

I know it's weird and I'm happy to hold my hands up and go, you know, 'I'm probably missing out and I'm wrong.'

Alex Jones

So what, you don't like a spaghetti Bolognese?

James Acaster



I do. I like pasta. I like pizza.

Alex Jones

Do you like lasagne?

James Acaster

Yes, yes, yes.

Alex Jones

Yes, so that's okay. Pesto?

James Acaster

Yes. Look, hey, I like these things but I don't love them, unless it's chorizo broccoli pasta, then I love them.

Ed Gamble

That's not Italian.

James Acaster

Then we went to Italy and I was, like, 'Here we go, now I'm going to finally get it and why these are some people's favourite stuff,' and I liked all of it but I just had to accept, do you know what, I think it's just not my favourite of all the cuisines. However, their desserts, I mean, look at that bun. Look at that, look at that bun.

Alex Jones

Oh my goodness.

James Acaster

Do you like that?

Ed Gamble

The bun is almost just there as a handle for the cream, right?

James Acaster

Yes, it's just cream.

Alex Jones

Now, that looks like my perfect dessert.

Ed Gamble

How sweet is the cream?

James Acaster



Sweet, man, it's, like, got icing sugar in the cream.

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes, I'm on-board. I'm on-board.

James Acaster

There I am eating it.

Alex Jones

Wow.

James Acaster

Yes, that's graphic.

Alex Jones

Look, even your eyes are closed.

James Acaster

Yes, it's pretty graphic actually, that picture.

Alex Jones

That is graphic.

James Acaster

Ed's already seen it, I texted it to him as I was eating it.

Alex Jones

I love it. I think the thing is, it's more forgiving, Italian food, you see, because, you know, a bit of cheese on it, what's not to like? But I mean, that, that, I wouldn't have said was particularly Italian. That is just in the Eton Mess camp. It's very delicious looking, cream, yummy.

James Acaster

I feel like we should have talked about Eton Mess more really. I think I've derailed it with this Maritazzi talk.

Alex Jones

No but we all know what Eton Mess is. I mean, you're either in or you're out. People don't like, sometimes, the crunch of the meringue, you know.

Ed Gamble

Yes, those people need to get a life.

Alex Jones



Well, some people absolutely hate Eton Mess. I can't get on-board with that.

Ed Gamble

No.

James Acaster

Too sweet for some people? Sometimes I can find it, a good Eton Mess, phenomenal but it's not something that I think is always good no matter what.

Alex Jones

I think you're right there. I think there are variations on the theme and it has to be a very good one to be very enjoyable. Some of the rubbish ones, I mean, it's not worth the calories but if you're going to have a dessert, see, these people who say, 'Well, I haven't got a sweet tooth,' well don't order a dessert then.

James Acaster

Yes, thank you.

Alex Jones

Do you know what I mean?

James Acaster

Yes.

Alex Jones

Either you're in or you're out. If you're in for a dessert, you want it sweet, that's the point, isn't it?

James Acaster

Yes, it is.

Alex Jones

Would you have a dessert wine?

James Acaster

Yes, yes.

Ed Gamble

I'd have a dessert wine, yes.

Alex Jones

You look unsure, both of you.

Ed Gamble

No, I definitely would.

Alex Jones



Yes, yes.

Ed Gamble

Would you?

James Acaster

We had that thing when those guys invited us that wine-tasting thing that we talked about on the pod before, and that dessert they gave us was like liquid marmalade and I loved it.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Alex Jones

Yes, see, I don't know. I mean, I'll have a glass. If somebody gives me a glass, I'll drink it but by that point in the meal, I'm kind of, like, 'Okay, now we're nearly done with the food. I'm just going to plough with the Bread & Butter.' Do you know what I mean? I don't know whether a dessert wine sometimes stops the flow.

Ed Gamble

You'd want this dessert wine that we got given.

James Acaster

Yes, that one's the only thing, do you know, for ages, I'd say I'd never have gone for a dessert wine but then those men who knew a lot about wine did change my opinion of quite a few things.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I mean, there's absolutely no worry, you'd been worried about sounding wanky, talking Bob Bob Ricard and stuff, don't worry about that because James just brought up the time he had Chateau Yquem at Berry Brothers & Rudd, which is literally the poshest story of all time.

James Acaster

Yes.

Alex Jones

Okay.

James Acaster

Ed knows the names of them.

Ed Gamble

Because that is, like, the most ridiculous dessert wine.

Alex Jones



Yes, and that's super-expensive, isn't it?

James Acaster

Yes, bonkers.

Alex Jones

Why were you tasting it?

James Acaster

They like the podcast and they contacted us and went, 'Do you want to come and do this?'

Alex Jones

Are they wine makers, aren't they?

Ed Gamble

Yes, we had lunch in their directors' dining room.

James Acaster

You know, we're not going pretend that there aren't some perks to doing this pod because sometimes you get invited to the high echelons of societ-ey.

Alex Jones

Well, somebody may just send you in a corned beef pie. Do you know what I mean?

James Acaster

Yes, oh, I hope so. I hope so.

Ed Gamble

I'd be very happy with that though. I'd be very happy with that.

Alex Jones

Wow.

James Acaster

I'm going to read your menu back to you now, see how you feel about it.

Alex Jones

Okay.

James Acaster

Water, you would like G&T with Signet, a slice of orange, blood orange in there, and ice.

Alex Jones



Correct, yes, lots.

James Acaster

Poppadoms or bread, you would like a chip butty. Are we still going to do it with fresh bread and salty butter?

Alex Jones

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Starter, a prawn cocktail, don't look at the prawns. Main course, corned beef pie cooked by your mum. Side dish, dauphinoise potatoes from Bob Bob Ricard. Drink, Bloody Mary, no lemon, and Bread & Butter Chardonnay, so the Bloody Mary is after the gin and tonic, near the beginning of the meal.

Alex Jones

Yes.

James Acaster

Dessert, an Eton Mess, high quality, sweet as you like.

Alex Jones

Correct.

James Acaster

Loads of cream, and that sounds nice.

Alex Jones

It sounds delicious but I do feel like my tummy is like a washing machine now, that is a lot of information there.

Ed Gamble

Well, kicking off with a chip butty is bold.

Alex Jones

Have I overdone it? Am I going to hospital?

Ed Gamble

I don't think you've overdone it. This is the dream restaurant, so if you are going to hospital, it's your dream hospital, which is a different podcast that we do.

Alex Jones



Okay.

James Acaster

Yes. Someone else is probably doing it, everyone does dream stuff now. Hey, not slagging them off, dream hospital's coming up. I'm sure someone's developing a dream hospital podcast and good luck to them.

Alex Jones

Wow, I feel greedy. Mr Greedy.

James Acaster

Oh, Mr Greedy, the Mr Man? that's the reference there?

Alex Jones

Yes, when you read that back-,

Ed Gamble

Do you like Mr Greedy?

Alex Jones

No. Mr Greedy gets on my nerves.

James Acaster

He can join the group.

Alex Jones

We read a book most nights called Mr Men's Baking Competition, and Mr Greedy is the judge and of course he eats all the entries before they've judged them, and I'm, like, 'Oh, of course he did.'

Ed Gamble

Well, it's their fault for assigning the role of judge to Mr Greedy.

Alex Jones

Who assigned the role?

Ed Gamble

Who assigned the role?

Alex Jones

Mr Clever. Was he that clever? No.

Ed Gamble

Well, that's ridiculous.

James Acaster



You're a dumb ass.

Alex Jones

Exactly but that's the point of the story.

James Acaster

Who was the other judge, Mr Corrupt?

Alex Jones

Mr Clever's not always clever, is he?

Ed Gamble

Mr Corrupt is the other judge, yes. Thank you very much for coming to the dream restaurant, Alex.

Alex Jones

Oh, I have loved it. I'm super-full.

James Acaster

Thank you, Alex.

Ed Gamble

There we go, great menu, James.

James Acaster

Delicious menu, I thought, some absolute classics in there but, you know, the corned beef for me is the highlight.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I'm excited to try something like that.

James Acaster

We learnt a lot about Alex Jones.

Ed Gamble

We did, she hates Garfield, she hates Beavis and Butt-Head.

James Acaster

She hates Bill and Ted.

Ed Gamble

She hates Bill and Ted.

James Acaster



Afterwards, no, during, she told us she hates Mr Greedy. He's in the gang too.

Ed Gamble

Yes, hates Mr Greedy.

James Acaster

What a group to not like. I mean, I guess Garfield's a bit greedy. He eats, like, entire stacks of lasagne, just puts them in his mouth, puts them away.

Ed Gamble

Beavis and Butt-Head aren't greedy though.

James Acaster

I don't think they are. Bill and Ted, I don't think they're associated with any particular food but then they've got in common, you know, they're like '90s airhead duos, aren't they?

Ed Gamble

They're friends. She doesn't like pals, young, male pals from the '90s.

James Acaster

The MTV generation, I don't think sit very well with her.

Ed Gamble

Great, that was great. I loved that episode, James.

James Acaster

Didn't say wontons either.

Ed Gamble

Didn't say wontons, didn't say wontons.

James Acaster

So, remains in the restaurant, gets to have the meal. Yes, I mean, no complaints here.

Ed Gamble

No complaints.

James Acaster

I think I might be getting that corned beef pie soon, now I'm nudging my mum about it.

Ed Gamble

Yes, keep nudging your mum.

James Acaster



My mum actually did text me back again because she said, like, 'Why do you want this?' She said, 'Have you recently discovered corned beef?' I said, 'Yes.' She said, 'Goodness, where did you have it, not at a restaurant, surely?' I said, 'It's just been brought up on the Off Menu podcast.' She said, 'Of course, bet the posh boy has never had it.'

Ed Gamble

What?

James Acaster

Then she put a little smiley face because she's being cheeky.

Ed Gamble

Tell her I used to have corned beef sandwiches.

James Acaster

Ed used to have corned beef sandwiches, and I bet she will reply before we've even done this outro.

Ed Gamble

Yes, corned beef and pickle, I used to have in my sandwiches at school.

James Acaster

Corned beef and pickle, and lad and pickle.

Ed Gamble

I used to eat them at morning break and then sneak in for school lunch.

James Acaster

The posh boy, she's never called you the posh boy before.

Ed Gamble

No.

James Acaster

I've never called you that.

Ed Gamble

A bit mean.

James Acaster

Well, it's because she knows I'm here with you now and that I'll tell you.

Ed Gamble

She's having a laugh.

James Acaster



She's being cheeky, like you were cheeky when you hazed her about the ice cream.

Ed Gamble

How to keep hazing her. Thank you very much to Alex for coming in. Watch The One Show, I guess is the plug.

James Acaster

Immediately replied.

Ed Gamble

Yes, there we go.

James Acaster

With a smiley face.

Ed Gamble

Yes, hasn't backed down on it.

James Acaster

I know, hasn't retracted it. In fact, it's a bigger smiley face now and then she's put 'not as posh as I thought' with two exclamation marks.

Ed Gamble

There you go, love it. I'm on tour in Australia and New Zealand if you're listening to this when I am on tour in Australia and New Zealand.

James Acaster

Is this the first time on tour, Ed, in these places.

Ed Gamble

First time I've been in Australia, full stop.

James Acaster

Aussies, you are in for a treat.

Ed Gamble

Melbourne for two weeks, then going all over the place but I'm going to do a separate advert that Benito is going to put in, so you will have heard that already.

James Acaster

Oh nice. Oh, do you say, 'Cobbers,' in the advert?

Ed Gamble



Well, I've not done the advert yet.

James Acaster

Make sure you say, 'Cobbers.'

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

There are some adverts we do on the Off Menu podcast that are just for the Australian audience and we always say, 'Cobbers,' in them. So, you won't know, if you're not in Australia, you won't know this. You have never heard those adverts but if you are in Australia, you will hear those and maybe one of you once messaged Benito, DM'd him on social media, to ask why we said, 'Cobbers,' so much in one of the adverts and do we know that's an Australian phrase?

Ed Gamble

Yes, so will I say, 'Cobbers,' in the advert? Maybe, listen out for that.

James Acaster

Maybe, if you want to sell those tickets, I think you should.

Ed Gamble

Not sure. Thank you very much for listening to the Off Menu podcast. We will see you again next week, goodbye.

James Acaster

Goodbye.