



Off Menu – Ep194 – Tim Minchin

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Ed Gamble

Welcome to the Off Menu Podcast, chopping the raw white onion of humour very, very small, in small, little dices. Chopping a bit of cucumber of conversation, putting it into the white, plastic, small bag of the Internet and throwing it in with a curry.

James Acaster

It's one of those bags you get for a takeaway, you don't know what it's for.

Ed Gamble

It's one of the raw onion bags in the curry.

James Acaster

That's Ed Gamble, my name is James Acaster, we own a dream restaurant and we invite a guest in every single week, we ask them their favourite ever starter, main course, dessert, side dish and drink, not in that order. This week, our guest is Tim Minchin.

Ed Gamble

Tim Minchin. I mean, how do we even describe Tim Minchin?

James Acaster

Well, listen, he's written amazing musicals that have touched the hearts of many, he's an incredible stand-up comedian.

Ed Gamble

Amazing songwriter.

James Acaster

Amazing songwriter.

Ed Gamble

It feels like he conquered stand-up comedy very quickly, though, and then just went on to having smash hit musicals.

James Acaster

He won a whole bunch of awards for being a brilliant stand-up and then went, 'Now I'm going to go and do Matilda, change the musical landscape,' and then, also, he's got a-, I was about to say his new musical, but because of, you know, the pandemic and what has been happening with time, this was back in the day, he did Groundhog Day, the musical, but now it's, like, finally coming back to the UK, so it feels new, but it's not new.



Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

It was on Broadway for ages.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

So, you know, but time now feels weird, which is, like, quite appropriate.

Ed Gamble

Okay, so I'll do another version and then Benito can work out which one to put in.

James Acaster

Huh? No, no, no, listen, because it's relevant. It's a musical about time, every day over and over again, that's what the pandemic felt like, but also because of the pandemic, we're now like, 'Oh, this is new.' It's not new, really, because it was started before the pandemic and now it paused and now we've got it back again. The time feels weird.

Ed Gamble

He's also written the musical Groundhog Day, which is on from now until August at the Old Vic. So, just pick whichever one you want from that, Benito.

James Acaster

You pick whichever one you want. Tim Minchin, we like him very much, but if he says a secret ingredient, an ingredient which we deem to be unacceptable, we will kick him out of the dream restaurant. This week, the ingredient is chocolate cake.

Ed Gamble

Chocolate cake, specifically.

James Acaster

Now, look, obviously we like it.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

We like chocolate cake.

Ed Gamble

It's the best.

James Acaster

Obviously, we do, but sometimes we pick ingredients that are specific to the guest.



Ed Gamble

Yes, and Tim, of course, wrote Matilda and there's a big old chocolate cake in Matilda.

James Acaster

Bruce Bogtrotter's chocolate cake, that he eats.

Ed Gamble

I love that guy, that guy's a hero.

James Acaster

Love Bogtrotter on this podcast, respect.

Ed Gamble

Yes, we're Bogheads.

James Acaster

We're a couple of Bogheads.

Ed Gamble

Yes, boy, but if Tim picks chocolate cake, he is out on his ear, or both ears. We'll pick him up by his-

James Acaster

Oh, yes, here we go.

Ed Gamble

Pigtails.

James Acaster

Pigtails, swing him round and round.

Ed Gamble

Swing him round and we'll throw him out. This is the Off Menu menu of Tim Minchin.

James Acaster

Tim Minchin.

Ed Gamble

Welcome, Tim, to the dream restaurant.

Tim Minchin

Oh, yes, it's nice.

James Acaster

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

Tim Minchin

Was I on time? I was early, I was early for my booking.



Ed Gamble

You were early. Yes, the, 'We've been expecting you for some time,' is a genie catchphrase, which relates more to the restaurant's booking system, which is, sort of, infinite and it doesn't fit within linear time.

Tim Minchin

Oh, right.

Ed Gamble

It's like it was fate, we always knew you'd be-

Tim Minchin

Yes, I was always going to come and not come, at all different times and not times.

Ed Gamble

Exactly, yes, and you're here and not here.

James Acaster

Yes.

Tim Minchin

Yes, totally, which is a state in which I'm very comfortable. A, sort of, yes, super-position, spin up, spin down, existing, not existing, like a cat in a box. So, I fucking love it, I'm really happy. I'm only here if I'm observed.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Oh, yes, great, this is as philosophical as it gets, really, on this podcast.

Tim Minchin

Yes, that's it, can we please-, let's start again.

James Acaster

This week, someone told me that the Schrödinger's Cat thing, that was actually just Schrödinger-, people were going on about these theories of, like, 'If you can't see something, do you know it exists?' and all of this and he said, 'It's stupid, it's like if someone said, "If you put a cat in a box, you don't know if the cat's alive."' Everyone went, 'Exactly, that's brilliant.' He didn't like any of that, he was saying it to take the piss and now we've all run with it and going, 'Yes, Schrödinger's Cat,' and it's like, 'No.'

Ed Gamble

Yes, he really believed in the dead and alive cat.

James Acaster

Yes, he was like, 'No, you know it's alive because you put it in the box.'

Ed Gamble

'No, I was taking my cat to the vet when you called me about this philosophical principle.'



Tim Minchin

People got confused, 'I just had a cat who seemed unconscious.' There was a really good bit in McEwan's latest novel, about using that cat thing, basically as a state of not knowing, of insecurity. He talks about a phone call from the police where the police are ringing up to talk about his son. He expands what would be a heartbeat before the cop reveals what he's ringing for, where the father just assumes the kid is dead or has just had a big, drunk night out and needs to be picked up and that is the cat in the box. In that moment, he is both dead in a morgue, lying on a slab, and, sort of, shame-faced in a cell, having done a public wee or something. They're both true until the-, what are they called? The wave function collapses and it becomes one or the other. It's really good. He can write a book, Ian McEwan, have you noticed?

Ed Gamble

Yes, he's pretty good at it, isn't he?

Tim Minchin

He seems to be able to churn out a book.

Ed Gamble

He's getting there, he's getting there.

Tim Minchin

He's alright, yes. I've sent him some notes, actually. I actually did send him some notes.

James Acaster

Yes, did you?

Tim Minchin

I sent him an email pointing out things I loved.

James Acaster

Great.

Tim Minchin

He's one of those people who I just at some point got an email address and now I send him fan mail.

Ed Gamble

We had to do one of his books for GCSE English, so now I can't pick up any more of his work, because it just reminds me of it.

Tim Minchin

Atonement?

Ed Gamble

No, The Child in Time.

Tim Minchin

Oh.



James Acaster

Weirdly, I like To Kill a Mockingbird and we had to do that.

Ed Gamble

Everyone likes To Kill a Mockingbird, even Arthur Chung, but you don't know if you've killed the mockingbird, do you, until you get it out the box.

James Acaster

That's true. I saw the Aaron Sorkin play at the theatre.

Tim Minchin

Oh, yes, was it alright?

James Acaster

Speaking of the theatre.

Ed Gamble

Wow.

James Acaster

Pretty good segue.

Ed Gamble

I don't want to call it early, but by the way this is the most literary start we've ever had to a podcast.

James Acaster

Yes, actually, we never talk about books.

Tim Minchin

Everyone's turned off.

Ed Gamble

No, I don't think so, I think they're just absolutely aghast that we haven't, sort of, made a fart joke yet.

James Acaster

McEwan's tuned in for the first time.

Tim Minchin

Yes, he's here. Yes, I'll get him listening.

James Acaster

Groundhog Day.

Tim Minchin

Groundhog Day.

James Acaster

Exciting, it's very exciting.



Tim Minchin

Yes, really good, it's coming back round again.

James Acaster

I mean, all the press has got to be that, right?

Tim Minchin

Yes, it's funny how I've done a couple of interviews and no one's like, 'So, Groundhog Day's coming out,' they're obviously like, 'Oh, I can't just say that,' but I'm like, 'No, say that, that's a good story.' It's back. Yes, it's really, really nice. So, I don't know if your listeners know about this, but it's a musical that I helped write, a musical based on the 1990s iconic film. It went really well in London and then went to Broadway and, kind of, went critically well but it was just, for lots of reasons, we couldn't keep it-, musical theatre is just like putting all your chips on red or something, except much lower odds. I mean, something like 1 in 26 make their money back, so it's a gamble thing because you just put so much into it, they're so expensive to create and run. We couldn't survive on Broadway, so it, kind of, died even though we got all of these awards and reviews. Then, all sorts of stuff happened. My dear friend, Andre, who was the producer and our business partner, died suddenly and we couldn't get it into a theatre and then COVID and on and on. Suddenly, it's seven years later and finally it's coming back to London. I get to be here for rehearsals and, you know, notice little phrases of songs that I'd like to improve. It's like that beautiful tinkering that you get to do when you get a second chance at something, which, ironically, is what Groundhog Day's about.

James Acaster

Yes, so exciting. Was it at the Old Vic, originally?

Tim Minchin

Yes, yes.

James Acaster

I really wanted to see it and I assumed-, I was like, 'It's going to be here for ages.'

Tim Minchin

Yes, lots of people did.

James Acaster

It went, I was like, 'That's unfair.' So, I'm very excited that it's coming back now, because, like, yes-,

Tim Minchin

I mean, I'd love you to see it. I mean, musicals, I don't love them all and most people don't love them all. Some people are massive fans, but they're tough, you know? They're tough to get right and different people like different things. You know, I'm not a massive fan of-, what's the ABBA one or whatever?

James Acaster

Mama Mia.

Ed Gamble

Mama Mia.



Tim Minchin

Mama Mia. So, like, jukebox things, I like really intricate musicals that are, sort of, clever and stuff, but at the same time, there's stuff that's really obscure and it's hard to get. I think it's super smart but super joyous and I like it a lot.

James Acaster

I'm very specific about the musicals I like. I've not seen it yet, but I already know it's going to be one of those.

Tim Minchin

Yes, I think it's got a lot of gags and a lot of clever ideas.

James Acaster

So, I went to see Book of Mormon this week, which I'd already seen but I took my girlfriend for her birthday. My girlfriend was like, 'I don't like musicals,' and I was like, 'Have you seen Book of Mormon, Hamilton and Matilda?' She was like, 'No.' It's like, 'Well, then you don't not like musicals.' Yes, you need to see those. I used to be like, 'I don't like musicals,' and I absolutely thought I didn't and then I saw Matilda and then that was completely different after that. I was like, 'Oh, I do like them,' because, actually, before that, I thought, 'Musicals are-, there's one good song and the story's really annoying and then that's it and I go home.' Actually, Matilda was, like-, I mean, I wouldn't say this to you outside of here, because it would seem a little bit-,

Tim Minchin

Seem awkward.

James Acaster

but, you know, we're on the podcast, every single song's brilliant, visually it looks amazing, the story's great and then you realise, 'Oh, it can be like this.'

Tim Minchin

Yes, and I think those three musicals you mention are really a good example of the, sort of, slightly different ways in which musicals can be good. Putting aside the jukebox thing, which I totally get can be a fun night out and you know all the songs, but it's just songs wedged into a story framework. That's a different genre to me and it's not one I'm particularly interested in. Book of Mormon's a satire, it's almost a parody of a musical and yet, because the South Park boys got help from Bobby Lopez, who is, him and Kristen Anderson-Lopez wrote Frozen, you know? He's proper Disney and he wrote Avenue Q was his breakout. So, Bobby wrote these songs. So, even though it's, sort of, a parody of a musical, it's taking the piss out of the idea of what the Americans call an, 'I want,' song, you know, and all that, it's so brilliant. It manages to be a parody of something and an impeccable version of itself at the same time. Then, you've got Hamilton, which is just brilliant. Obviously, Lin Manuel's just extraordinary, but it's really, like, the songs could play on the radio and they did and they won Grammys and stuff. Then you've got something like Matilda, which isn't Sondheim, but it's more in that realm where we're not trying to place the music in a trendy time or place, the music's just supporting the story and it's hyper detailed and it makes you laugh and cry. That's the, sort of, area I like to play in, because I can't write pop songs. So, yes, good musical theatre's out there, but for me those are, sort of, the three possible categories of good musical theatre and then there's a bunch of other stuff, which is really just people trying to make money out of old properties.



James Acaster

My nephews have started watching-, so, there's a version of Matilda now, the musical, on TV or Netflix online somewhere.

Tim Minchin

Yes, there's a freaking massive film.

James Acaster

He just texted me lyrics from Matilda out of context and the first time he did it, well he texted me, 'Oi, new kids, and so you think you're able to survive this mess by being a prince or a princess,' and then the whole thing, that was very threatening out of context. I hadn't seen Matilda in a while.

Tim Minchin

Probably written down, you don't realise that the alphabet is hidden in those lyrics.

James Acaster

No, I didn't realise the alphabet's there at all. I didn't realise there was an alphabet.

Tim Minchin

'What's this alphabet all the kids are going on about?'

James Acaster

I don't know what the alphabet is, Tim.

Tim Minchin

'What will it be next, numbers?' There's a fantastic line in the Matilda movie-, this might be an anti-climax because I might forget this quote, but Mr Wormwood, someone says something about Matilda getting books out of the library and he goes, 'Are there books now?'

Ed Gamble

Fucking great. Stephen Graham, amazing.

James Acaster

Oh, Stephen Graham's in it?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Tim Minchin

Yes, he plays Mr Wormwood.

James Acaster

Tell him I will beat him up. I've said on the podcast before.

Ed Gamble

James is trying to start a feud with Stephen Graham, which to me doesn't sound like the smartest idea.

Tim Minchin

We could probably get that happening.



James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes.

Tim Minchin

He's a very nice guy and he's not as tall as you, but there's absolutely no doubt that he'd make mince meat out of you.

James Acaster

This is what everyone assumes and that's what I've got on my side.

Tim Minchin

Have you ever had a fight?

James Acaster

No.

Tim Minchin

I feel like you're someone who could-,

James Acaster

Beginner's luck.

Tim Minchin

It's not luck if you plan it, mate. It doesn't work like that. I feel like you could get angry enough about something to do some damage.

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes, you've got good reach.

James Acaster

Yes.

Tim Minchin

Really?

Ed Gamble

Yes, he's like, you know-,

Tim Minchin

Physical? Oh, I thought you meant intellectually.

Ed Gamble

Not intellectually. God, he was absolutely lost with that Ian McEwan stuff.

James Acaster

Yes, and then you've launched the alphabet at me. I mean, this whole thing has been confusing.



Tim Minchin

All 27 letters.

James Acaster

Yes, yes. 27?

James Acaster

We always start with still or sparkling water. Do you have a preference?

Tim Minchin

Well, I don't want to immediately destabilise the premise of your podcast, but sparkling.

James Acaster

Yes?

Tim Minchin

Yes, I'm just going to go crazy from the outset.

James Acaster

Yes, you feel pretty nuts?

Ed Gamble

I really thought you were going to throw a spanner in the works there, Tim. Some people come on, they go, like, 'Water? It's disgusting,' but just straight for sparkling.

Tim Minchin

Yes, 'Who drinks water these days?'

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes, boring.

Tim Minchin

'We can't afford to all be drinking water. Check your privilege.' Yes, I think sparkling. It came quite late for me, I didn't really start sparkling until my 30s, probably.

Ed Gamble

What was the change? What happened?

Tim Minchin

It's just maturity.

Ed Gamble

Success? Would success come with sparkling water?

Tim Minchin

Yes, maybe. To be fair, I was too poor for sparkling water until about then. I think it really cleanses the palate, it makes you feel like, 'Alright, now I'm ready for something disgusting to go in my mouth.'



James Acaster

Is that how you view all food? As something disgusting?

Tim Minchin

Yes. I mean, it's pretty disgusting when you break it down.

Ed Gamble

Yes, literally, yes.

Tim Minchin

Yes, I like the sparkle. It probably still makes you feel a bit like, 'I'm having a proper dinner.' You know, because you don't have sparkling water at home before dinner, do you?

Ed Gamble

No.

Tim Minchin

It marks that you're embarking on a ritual.

Ed Gamble

Yes, like a cutting of the ribbon, ready to rock.

Tim Minchin

Yes, that's right, yes.

James Acaster

If someone offered you a tap at home that dispensed sparkling water, would you say, 'Yes,' or would you go, 'No, then that'll ruin all meals out for me'?

Tim Minchin

I mean, I guess that offer is tacitly there, isn't it? I mean, I wrote Matilda, I can have a sparkling water tap, do what I fucking want. I'm renovating my house at the moment. I'm not, I'm hiring people who know how to do it, and, yes, there's all that hot tap joke, but I hate over-tech, I hate having more things that can break down in my home. So, literally I want a hot and cold water tap, I don't even want a mixer, you know? I want light switches to be on and off and a dimmer can be a round dimmer if you're going to have a dimmer, but none of this, sort of, 'Here are five different settings and you can change the settings for the different lights.' Each light has a switch, each temperature of water has a tap and that-, instant boiling water, I don't know, it's something I'm deeply uncomfortable with, about instant boiling water.

Ed Gamble

It feels like you need to put the effort in.

Tim Minchin

Yes, yes, I like the ritual of, like, 'Well, I want a cup of tea, but I'm going to have to damn well wait.'

Ed Gamble

'I'm going to have to wait for it,' yes.



Tim Minchin

I have to take a breath here.

Ed Gamble

You don't like the idea of one of those taps, you don't want too much technology in your house, but what about a Japanese toilet? You must want a-, everyone wants a Japanese toilet in their house, right?

Tim Minchin

My first experience of the Japanese toilet, I got to stay in Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber's apartment in New York once. He was fond of me, I guess, because I was doing Jesus Christ Superstar, which was going well for him and Matilda's-, he owns the Cambridge Theatre, so we've got a bit of a relationship. I was over there, actually, opening Matilda on Broadway and writing Groundhog Day in his apartment. I've got this fantastic photo of all my coloured sticky notes on his window, overlooking Central Park, in the Trump Tower. You heard of that guy?

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes.

Tim Minchin

He's got one of those toilets where it's got a little nozzle and you can adjust where it's pointing and it squirts water at your pooper and all that stuff. It's pretty nice, it feels like another thing that can break down and having to get your poopy squirter fixed the whole time feels like an annoyance, yes.

Ed Gamble

A bit embarrassing.

Tim Minchin

Yes, sorry, mate.

Ed Gamble

'The water pistol that fires at my anus is broken again. Can you come over and fix it?'

Tim Minchin

Yes, yes, yes, just shift your anus, mate.

Ed Gamble

I know you wrote Matilda, but you can shift your anus.

Tim Minchin

Yes, and I definitely noticed people would disappear into the toilet and not come out for a while, it was a novelty thing where people would-,

Ed Gamble

Which is a nice reason for it to happen at showbiz parties, right?

Tim Minchin

Rather than the other option.



James Acaster

Actually, it could have been the other option and you were just very naïve.

Ed Gamble

Heather loves that poogie squirt.

James Acaster

Oh, the poogie squirt has blasted my line off the toilet.

Ed Gamble

Oh God.

Tim Minchin

I think I am really naïve about that stuff.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I am.

Tim Minchin

Like and even though because I'm not a taker of drugs particularly, but I'm really stupid about it. I've been playing rock and roll for a long time and I just I'm still dumb about it, I'll go to a party, all my actor friends are like blahlalalal and then I'm like, 'everyone's in a good moodtonight', and I go, oh, Tim, that's cocaine, you idiot.

James Acaster

Yes, my girlfriend is way more well-versed than all that stuff than me and I'll always be like, "Such and such was in a really weird mood earlier," she'll be like, "They were on drugs. You're 38, what is the matter with you?"

Tim Minchin

It's weird when our friend headbutted the wall and then got back up, yes. He was obviously feeling very resilient that night.

James Acaster

Going about like Will Ferrell in Elf, just like thinking everyone's nice. Oh, that was what I was trying to remember.

Ed Gamble

What?

James Acaster

I was going to ask has Andrew Lloyd Webber ever played his song My Name Is Andrew to you?

Tim Minchin

No, has he got a song called My Name Is Andrew?

James Acaster

Yes. He played it to Josh Groban.



Ed Gamble

No, he didn't, I think you're getting mixed up.

James Acaster

Josh Groban told us that when he came on the podcast.

Ed Gamble

I think you made up the song My Name Is Andrew, from memory.

James Acaster

Well, I'll let you be the judge, who do you think made this song up, me or Andrew Lloyd Webber? He played it to Josh Groban and it goes, "My name is Andrew, hello, hello, hello. I have shoes and I have to go." It actually, might have been, "I have feet and I have to go."

Tim Minchin

I think that sounds quite good.

James Acaster

Yes.

Tim Minchin

I think maybe Josh Groban made it up and told you that. I like Josh.

James Acaster

Grobes. Grobes probably made it up, passed it off as Andrew Lloyd Webber.

Tim Minchin

Andrew's quite eccentric, but that feels right, doesn't it?

James Acaster

Yes, yes.

Tim Minchin

Like you've got to be.

James Acaster

Yes.

Tim Minchin

To be that good.

James Acaster

You've got to be.

Tim Minchin

He was very young when he was that good. I think getting, sort of, really respected and famous young, it's-, I mean the people I know to whom that happened are the most, sort of, destabilised people. Not that Andrew's unstable, it's just like it's strange for your personality, it's hard to know how to be.



Ed Gamble

Well, being brilliant and then also having to work extremely hard when you're that young I think probably spins everyone out a bit.

Tim Minchin

Yes, that's right.

James Acaster

How old was he?

Ed Gamble

I think he wrote Superstar at 21.

James Acaster

What?

Tim Minchin

Wow.

James Acaster

That's younger than Jesus is in the play.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Tim Minchin

Jesus didn't do anything at that age.

James Acaster

Yes, Jesus did nothing.

Tim Minchin

He was smoking cones at 21.

James Acaster

His wilderness years.

Tim Minchin

Banging on, yes.

Ed Gamble

I'm worried that he put sticky notes on his window, to be honest, how did you get off the residue?

Tim Minchin

Well, I don't think the sticky notes leave much residue, that's the point of them, right? It's not like I glued notes to the window.

Ed Gamble

Yes, but I will wouldn't put them on glass, especially on a big window overlooking-,



Tim Minchin

Well, I feel like he has a person who cleans those windows, like floor to ceiling windows.

James Acaster

Tim Rice.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Tim Minchin

Tim Rice, yes.

Tim Minchin

Yes, he uses Tim Rice to soak up red wine spills.

Ed Gamble

Yes, either that or you crank the poop shooter up to 11 and just angle it right out the bathroom.

Tim Minchin

Open the door, to angle it.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Popadoms or bread? Popadoms or bread, Tim Minchin? Popadoms or bread?

Tim Minchin

I didn't know that was a question, I'm not prepared. Popadoms or bread?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Tim Minchin

Well, you have popadoms if you're eating South-East Asian food, but we're not-, I mean I know where this is going, so I would say bread, but-, bread.

Ed Gamble

Bread? Any particular sort of bread?

Tim Minchin

White, very fluffy, really crispy, like a baguette, baguette bread, sort of.

Ed Gamble

Warm?

Tim Minchin

Yes. Oh yes. The same as a sparkling water.



Ed Gamble

Everything tepid.

Tim Minchin

Yes, warm, yes.

James Acaster

Have you ever gone to a boulangerie and got a-

Tim Minchin

A boulangerie? En Paris, you mean? Actually, yes.

James Acaster

Sure, and have you walked home with the baguette?

Tim Minchin

Ridden home with a basket on a red bike. I have, I think I've walked home with a baguette in France.

Ed Gamble

Did you bite the top off of the baguette on the way home or did you wait until you got home to eat the baguette?

Tim Minchin

I mean I understand the question.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Tim Minchin

But-,

Ed Gamble

It's not a tricky one.

Tim Minchin

I'm going to answer every question with-, I'm going to start with that, "I understand the question."

Ed Gamble

"I understand the question," yes.

Tim Minchin

I mean, no, you don't do that, that's not where the joy is. I mean the knob at the end is, you know, who wants to wrap their lips around the knob at the end? No.

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes.

Tim Minchin

There's too much crust there, yes.



James Acaster

You don't do it?

Tim Minchin

I mean I eat the ends, it depends what you're using it for.

Ed Gamble

Oh, I always nibble the end.

Tim Minchin

Yes?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Tim Minchin

You bite the end off?

Ed Gamble

I can't resist it, Tim.

Tim Minchin

As you're walking home?

Ed Gamble

Yes, I can't resist it.

Tim Minchin

I'm more likely to dig a bit out of the middle if I'm going to.

Ed Gamble

I think you can get away with a little just (biting noise), and, you know, no Parisians are going to bat an eyelid, but if you're in the middle of the street digging the middle out I think you're going to lose some of the, sort of, French cool.

Tim Minchin

Kudos.

Ed Gamble

Yes, the kudos.

James Acaster

If you do a bunch of different ones down the middle, then you can play it like a flute, maybe, when you get home. Play one of your songs.

Tim Minchin

Yes, I don't know, I've not tried that. I mean I understand the question. Like sometimes when I'm trying to kill a tree, you drill holes around the trunk and then squirt Monsanto products into the trunk, so, you



could do that with a loaf of bread, like drill some holes and then put like jam or something, make it into a big, long-,

James Acaster

Oh, I'd like that.

Ed Gamble

I would like that. Yes, yes.

Tim Minchin

What else could you squirt into it?

Ed Gamble

I'm interested in how many times you've killed a tree.

Tim Minchin

I kill trees, yes.

Ed Gamble

No follow up or context is absolutely ideal just, 'Yes, I kill trees, next question.'

James Acaster

Yes.

Tim Minchin

I have a little block of, you know, what we call a block, what do you call that over here?

James Acaster

What, of houses?

Tim Minchin

No, like a bit of land, twelve acres of native Australian rainforest, but the problem is it's not native because of colonialists like you guys, everything's been crap, and not just like you guys, other people bring stuff. It's native, it's like a microclimate down south from Sydney and it's got beautiful native trees but is often challenged by invasive species. Some of which are trees themselves, but mostly it's, it's like bushes and stuff. So, you have to very carefully-, well you can just go and spray it all with glyphosate and run roughshod over it. We're doing a different thing where we're trying to rewild the trees whilst not-, like lovely native birds live in the invasive species, so you do it slowly, slowly and try not to spray glyphosate everywhere and stuff, so we're doing that. So, one way to do that is to drill holes in things.

Ed Gamble

The baguette technique.

Tim Minchin

The baguette technique, yes.

Ed Gamble

The flute, the baguette flute.



James Acaster

You don't want to get mixed up and put jam in the trees though.

Ed Gamble

No.

James Acaster

So, don't ever do that, Tim.

Tim Minchin

Well, I don't know if that would matter.

James Acaster

I don't want to open the paper, I don't want to open the paper and read about you squirting jam in trees, because you got mixed up. I don't want to see that for you.

Tim Minchin

I really appreciate that.

James Acaster

We're going to get onto your dream meal now and I've thought of a great question, Ed.

Ed Gamble

Okay, here we go. Will Tim understand it? This is the question.

James Acaster

Is this the kind of-, fuck.

Ed Gamble

Oh.

Tim Minchin

That's okay, start again. Start the whole podcast again.

James Acaster

Is this the kind of meal that you could have over and over again, day after day, over and over, each day having the same meal over and over, like Groundhog Day?

Ed Gamble

There you go.

Tim Minchin

Oh, I like that. I don't think you want to do anything over and over, do you? Which is, sort of, what Groundhog Day is about, or at least trying to figure out how you bring wisdom to bear on the question of how you put up with life's grind is what Groundhog Day is about. So, it does sometimes feel like it's very, oh my God, I'm awake again, it's another morning. Do you have that?

Ed Gamble

Yes.



Tim Minchin

I feel like you guys probably have most mornings you feel like that. There's a lyric in Groundhog Day, a song called Hope that starts with the lyric, "There will be mornings when you're utterly defeated by your laces." Which is something I've, sort of, felt.

Ed Gamble

Not James, he wears Velcro shoes.

Tim Minchin

Yes.

James Acaster

They defeat me though.

Tim Minchin

Yes, that's when you know you're in trouble. This meal that I have planned for you boys, it would be a lot. Well, it's just quite heavy but, yes, I mean you could, but you'd get sick of it. I mean food perhaps more than anything is enhanced by novelty, isn't it?

Ed Gamble

Some people don't feel like that. Some people like having the same thing every day and having a routine. I don't. I think that sounds awful.

Tim Minchin

Yes. If you said to me one breakfast for the rest of your life and I went a lovely granola, some yogurt and some rhubarb or something, I mean basically that's what I have every morning, I'm very happy with that, breakfast seems to me-

Ed Gamble

So, you have a Groundhog Breakfast, but not the rest of the day?

Tim Minchin

Yes, that's right, no.

James Acaster

Next musical, Groundhog Breakfast?

Tim Minchin

Yes, I mean I understand the question.

James Acaster

Your dream starter?

Tim Minchin

Yes, alright, so this is where my vegetarian-ism will fall away very quickly because it's pâté.

Ed Gamble

Pâté?



Tim Minchin

Pâté.

Ed Gamble

The meatiest of the starters.

Tim Minchin

The cruelest of the meats. Yes, pâté, and this is why I was a bit thrown by the bread and popadom question because my starter involves bread and a really, lovely, really buttery pâté, no complexity, not like let's add peppercorns or some sort of weird-, just like a-, and no there's like fishy things, just like liver, duck liver,

Ed Gamble

Duck liver?

James Acaster

Chicken liver. Probably chicken liver, I actually, don't know how different duck-, I'm sure connoisseurs would say they're very different but I'm not sure. Yes, really, buttery, really bad for you and bad for the duck, you know, pâté, with an onion jam.

James Acaster

Lovely, yes, yes, yes.

Ed Gamble

Really thick, sticky?

Tim Minchin

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Like caramelised onion?

Tim Minchin

Fuck and stucky.

Ed Gamble

Thick and sticky, yes.

Tim Minchin

Yes, caramelised onion jam and then, yes, just a baguette. Really, really fresh.

Ed Gamble

I'm so on board with this, if there's ever like chicken liver pâté or anything like that on a menu, always ordering it, that's the rule.

Tim Minchin

Yes, I tend not to because I feel a bit bad about it, but that's why in my fantasy one I can just go nuts.



Ed Gamble

Sure, yes.

James Acaster

I didn't ever-, I don't know what kind of pâté we had when I was growing up.

Tim Minchin

It wasn't posh?

James Acaster

I didn't like it, yes, I thought I don't like pâté. So, I would never do that, but then I remember being in a restaurant or whatever where it was just like you get what you're given, and they brought that out and I was like, oh, okay, this is like the smoothest, most-,

Tim Minchin

Yes, naughty.

James Acaster

So good.

Ed Gamble

I'm not sure I've ever told this story on the podcast, I might have done, but my wife once bought pâté from a newsagent that was out of date and she-,

Tim Minchin

Sorry, what?

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes, yes. Basically when I go away-,

Tim Minchin

She buys her pâté from a newsagents?

Ed Gamble

She will eat just pickles all day and then she'll go to the closest place where she can buy food, which is normally a newsagent, and on this occasion she bought some pate from a newsagent that probably wasn't good to start with and I think was out of date, and wait until you hear this, she claims it made her see in black and white for an hour.

Tim Minchin

I think she bought a newspaper. I think she got the words confused.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Tim Minchin

So, she bought a newspaper and went home and read it and she's like I'm seeing in black and white.



Ed Gamble

This pâté's crazy.

James Acaster

Ed's going away tomorrow from a month, I'm going to check in on her.

Ed Gamble

I'm worried.

Tim Minchin

Where?

Ed Gamble

To Australia.

Tim Minchin

Tomorrow?

Ed Gamble

Yes, tomorrow.

Tim Minchin

You're going to the Comedy Festival?

Ed Gamble

Yes, two weeks in Melbourne and then all over the place and then to New Zealand, yes.

James Acaster

Ever been?

Tim Minchin

And your wife's- To Australia? I can't remember. I was there a week ago and I'll be there again in two weeks. Is your wife used to this?

Ed Gamble

Yes, she's used to me going away for-,

Tim Minchin

No, sorry, is she useless?

Ed Gamble

Oh, useless. I thought you said used to this.

James Acaster

I did, but I love-, that's a delicious starter, I like that a lot.

Tim Minchin

The trouble is you're full already, but can I pretend that that's not a problem?



Ed Gamble

Yes.

Tim Minchin

That's part of this, right?

Ed Gamble

For sure, yes.

Tim Minchin

Because, I mean, yes, you're never going to want dessert at the end of this shit show, but we're in a fantasy world where-

James Acaster

A lot of people employ that rule of like you don't get full and you just can eat whatever.

Tim Minchin

Before you go to dinner you have this lovely little ceremony where you have a surgical bypass where you bypass your stomach and you just get a pipe taken from the lower part of your oesophagus straight out the side of your body, it just falls into a bucket, an open bucket.

Ed Gamble

It's a wonderful attitude to the notion of fantasy that you've gotten, which is like you can't stretch it to just not being full.

Tim Minchin

Actually, my brain's really like that, even like with my sexual fantasies I have to peg it really-, I have to really peg it to reality, I can't let myself-, I have to be really close to reality with just a little twist to keep it-

James Acaster

So, what are we talking? Like if you were to have a sexual fantasy about someone who wasn't your partner, would you have to then put that in a world where that is okay and you've been given permission or-

Tim Minchin

Well, to be honest, I don't want to be too creepy but I would usually have to have seen that person recently so I can peg it to something that actually, happened. I'm quite a literal person, but actually, the honest truth of it is I don't-, it's mostly my partner.

James Acaster

That's lovely.

Ed Gamble

That's lovely.

Tim Minchin

It's not lovely, it's sad and annoying and I can't have dreams about-, it's like if I have a sexy dream it always stops-, my dream, my-, I won't let me do fun things in my sleep, it's so annoying.



Ed Gamble

Also, if you have to go through the whole rigmarole of being like, well, then we'd split up, of course.

Tim Minchin

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Then one of us would have to move out. You'd have to book the movers and get the truck and stuff.

Tim Minchin

This is really getting in the way of my-,

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

This is going to take ages.

James Acaster

Dream main course.

Tim Minchin

I want to preface this, and I should have said this earlier, I'm not really a foodie, right? I don't think I'm as bad at this as some people, I mean I'm not as skanky and, sort of, trash as-,

Ed Gamble

Yes, you're definitely not.

Tim Minchin

Was it Nick Mohammed who-,

Ed Gamble

Yes, that is-, that might be one of the worst menus. I mean it is one of the worst menus we've ever had.

James Acaster

Disgusting.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes, I would rather eat the pipe that comes out of your side and goes into a bucket. I would rather eat the bucket contents after you-,

Tim Minchin

It would probably be lovely.

James Acaster

Yes.



Tim Minchin

It is just good food chewed through my mouth.

Ed Gamble

It's not breaking down in any sort of scientific way, is it? It's just pate shooting out that pipe.

Tim Minchin

Well, it's all chewed up, it's masticated and you'd get a little bit of acid, not much, but on the way down your oesophagus. So, it's a steak, yes, because really if I-, especially when I'm hungry, if I imagine that the pate didn't touch the sides, quite literally, I love like-, and you know it's quite trendy these days to really like marble- I'm like lean fat, you know you get a fillet that's like as tall as it is wide? Basically, a fist of meat, and quite rare, but not too rare, really high-quality filler. That's basically it, I'm pretty happy, sort of, on a plate with a little-, I don't know, what do we do with it? Sometimes I think like-, no, what's the, sort of, sauce, not bearnaise, but-, maybe it's bearnaise.

Ed Gamble

Bearnaise is the like tarragon-y, creamy one, yes?

Tim Minchin

Yes, creamy, but when it's really, really good and really moist, you barely need a sauce.

Ed Gamble

I completely agree, sometimes you just don't need a sauce.

James Acaster

Dream steak is going to be without a sauce, really, because that's when it's like the most delicious, the most, best quality.

Tim Minchin

You're masking it.

James Acaster

Yes.

Tim Minchin

Anything masking it is a step backwards.

James Acaster

Yes.

Tim Minchin

I picture it with something green on the plate, and asparagus looks pretty but I can't handle the smell of my urine the next day, I've just gone, 'Okay, enough, I can't handle the smell of my urine.'

James Acaster

Yes.



Tim Minchin

Like, immediately, minutes later, I bite the thing and then I go, 'Oh, I'm going to go have a wee,' and it makes my eyes hurt, it's awful. Does anyone know anything about that? The chemistry of that?

Ed Gamble

Well, I always think is it, like, the asparagus protecting itself?

Tim Minchin

Yes, saying, 'You don't want to eat me, it's going to stink.'

Ed Gamble

Yes, 'My urine's going to-, your urine's going to stink.' It's not the asparagus's urine, unless it is, I don't know anything about science really.

Tim Minchin

You know enough to know that asparagus doesn't urinate.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I should do, yes.

Tim Minchin

It does, all living things have output.

Ed Gamble

Yes, excretions.

Tim Minchin

Excretions, yes.

James Acaster

It might excrete something.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Tim Minchin

Well, presumably oxygen, I mean, we hope.

James Acaster

I hope, I hope so much.

Tim Minchin

Does asparagus excrete, do all plants excrete or just leaves?

Ed Gamble

I've never been close enough.

Ed Gamble

I've never been close enough to an asparagus to hear if it's breathing or not.



Tim Minchin

I'm so embarrassed I don't know.

James Acaster

Maybe we should do an episode and get an asparagus on.

Tim Minchin

Yes.

James Acaster

I'll get his drink menu, see if it's breathing and tweeting.

Ed Gamble

I don't mind the smell of my urine after I eat asparagus.

Tim Minchin

Yes, some people find it, kind of, like, novel, like-

Ed Gamble

It reminds me of what I ate the night before.

Tim Minchin

Yes, gross.

Ed Gamble

So, first thing in the morning, go to the toilet.

Tim Minchin

Like when you have a poo poo after beetroot?

Ed Gamble

Yes, exactly.

Tim Minchin

'Ahhh, no, it's okay.'

Ed Gamble

That's the panic one, that's the proper panic one. The asparagus, because you know when you get up in the morning and you're still a bit, like, just still not fully woken up?

Tim Minchin

Yes.

Ed Gamble

And not connected with the world yet.

Tim Minchin

And the asparagus says, 'You're alive.'



Ed Gamble

And suddenly the asparagus is there and then I was like, 'That's what I did last night.'

James Acaster

It's like a ginger shot for you.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Tim Minchin

'I don't remember anything else but I know I had asparagus.' I completely blacked out, clearly got in a fight but at least I had asparagus.

James Acaster

I ate my veggies.

Ed Gamble

Imagine, Tim, if you ate asparagus one night and then the next day is when your Groundhog Day started.

Tim Minchin

Yes.

Ed Gamble

So, every morning-

Tim Minchin

Oh, every morning I'll wee and it smells of asparagus. I guess you'd get used to it.

James Acaster

Put your little hand in mine, eurgh.

Tim Minchin

I was under the misapprehension that people have, you know, different receptors and some people don't seem to worry about the asparagus smell or don't really smell it, and I thought the distinction was some humans, whatever the chemical is, they don't excrete, they absorb it or something so it's not coming out in their urine. And some humans, they excrete all that through their urine, which is probably dumb. I think what it is is that some people just can't really smell it, right?

James Acaster

That's what I was told.

Tim Minchin

It's more a receptor thing, yes.

James Acaster

I was told some people can smell it, some people can't smell it.



Ed Gamble

Same with cucumber, some people hate the smell of cucumber because they can smell something in cucumber.

Tim Minchin

Well, exactly, and I'm not a big fan. And by the way, I'm not a supertaster because I did a podcast with people a lot dumber than you guys, Brian Cox and-, where I did the monkeys.

James Acaster

Oh, we've had him on, absolute crackpots.

Tim Minchin

Yes, he believes all this weird shit, thinks there are Suns everywhere.

James Acaster

Yes.

Tim Minchin

But we did this wine podcast, and I'm a bogan, you know, like, I don't have fine taste or anything. But whatever the thing is that smells asparagus, I'm the king of that, I've got that, I have that asparagus piss smelling thing in spades.

Ed Gamble

You smell it everywhere.

Tim Minchin

Yes.

James Acaster

So you don't want asparagus on this plate, with the steak?

Tim Minchin

No. So, if it's not that, as I say, they're pretty, aren't they? Pretty spears.

Ed Gamble

But it looks nice, yes. Well, you could have a bunch of asparagus.

Tim Minchin

Brittney Spears. Pretty spears.

Ed Gamble

Well, you could have a bunch of asparagus in a vase in the middle of the table or something?

Tim Minchin

That's right, or like a wreath. We could all be wearing little asparagus crowns.

James Acaster

If it makes you happy I'll do it. Midsommar.



Tim Minchin

Alright, okay, well that's good. Okay, so if I've got something else on the plate it would be either long-stem broccoli, it's very nice, with some, like, little roasted pine nuts through it, or something like that, or of course Brussels sprouts fried to almost burnt with little bits of bacon or something.

James Acaster

Yes.

Tim Minchin

Bacon and the steak's a bit much.

Ed Gamble

Sure, but if you're going for it, it's all coming out the pipe.

Tim Minchin

Yes, that's right, yes.

Ed Gamble

You may as well.

James Acaster

Sometimes when we go to, like, a steakhouse or whatever, the sides are usually pretty beefed up they've got to have stuff in them, they're pretty crazy.

Tim Minchin

Yes, that's right.

James Acaster

And you are pretty hungry so, like, it's quite exciting to get one of those, you know, bacon bits in the brussels sprouts.

Tim Minchin

And if you're honest, a little mac and cheese with a steak is pretty insane, like, a really classy one with a little blue cheese in it or something. But I think there's a section in this podcast where you ask about sides and I'm, sort of, trying to cheat by having something on the plate and then I want to have a side as well.

Ed Gamble

Absolutely fine by us.

Tim Minchin

So, I'm going to leave the greens on the plate and then I'm going to get into mac and cheese on the side, spoiler alert.

James Acaster

I think that's absolutely, yes, fine.



Ed Gamble

Also, I think because of the steak you're having I think you can afford to have some richer sides, because it's not like a mad, marbled rib-eye or anything, which are more fat.

Tim Minchin

No, it's not like that much fat or, yes, I think that's right, something cheesy is fine.

Ed Gamble

Do you want it, sort of, cooked on an open flame? I hate to start leaning towards stereotypes of your countrymen.

Tim Minchin

Yes, no, it's not a barbie. You know, I fell pretty deep into that trap, didn't I?

James Acaster

Are you looking forward to Greta Gerwig's new movie?

Tim Minchin

Barbie? Very much, I wasn't sure, I've heard a lot about that project over the years, I had a. Meeting about it back in the day, as in they wanted songs and stuff and I was like, 'Oh.'

James Acaster

And you wrote a load of songs about barbecues.

Tim Minchin

Yes, like-,

Ed Gamble

'Tim, why are we going to throw a shrimp on this doll?'

Tim Minchin

'On this doll.' Yes, and I wasn't sure but I said, 'Send me a script' and then they never did, but maybe it was because I kept talking about Barbies. It looks quite funny.

Ed Gamble

Big cast.

Tim Minchin

I think my countryman who's playing the lead role is very, very talented and she can do it all, including be very funny.

James Acaster

Have you met her? Do you know her?

Tim Minchin

Yes, Margot, not very well, actually, she was a voice in my movie that died, my animated film that I spent four years making that they shut down.



James Acaster

Oh wow, I didn't know that.

Tim Minchin

Yes. Mine. I directed, and co-wrote and wrote songs for it.

James Acaster

Wholy moly.

Tim Minchin

Like, whatever million dollar-, I moved to LA to co-direct and co-write this film, we spent four years on it, and we were £50 something million in and, like, three quarters done, some amazing characters, beautiful character design. Hans Zimmer was helping me with the score.

James Acaster

What?

Tim Minchin

Yes, and Hugh Jackman, and Jacki Weaver, and Margot Robbie and Naomi Watts and, you know, and Mendo, everyone was in it. But, yes, the studio got bought and they just went, 'yes, that's a tax write-off,' and that was that.

Ed Gamble

Wow.

Tim Minchin

Yes.

James Acaster

Well, when was this, timeline wise? Is this pre-,

Tim Minchin

Well, the close-down happened the same year that Groundhog Day, within the same few months that Groundhog Day closed on Broadway.

James Acaster

Oh no.

Tim Minchin

Under a whole lot of, sort of, ruthless American reductive behaviour as well. Well, not reductive, it's ruthless. But, you know, you want to play in that end of the game you can't go, 'Oh, I thought it was all going to be like a school play,' you know?

James Acaster

Sure.

Tim Minchin

But the shutdown of Larrikins, the film, was right on the high end of-, you know, everyone in Hollywood's got a story of something got shut down but it's usually not that late.



Ed Gamble

Yes, that's mad.

James Acaster

And working with those-, I mean, I would have through in your position you would have been like, 'Well, this is definitely happening, I've got Hans Zimmer, I've got this cast.'

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Tim Minchin

Oh totally. I mean, I actually never doubted-, I'm super foolish about this stuff actually. I'm just about to pitch my new show to market, like, I've been developing it for two years, again, I say mine because we're talking about me, it's obviously always a lot of people, and a lot of work and I've got a really good production company attached, a fantastic director and rally good pilot, you know? And I'm like, 'Well, this is my next project,' and it's only recently, after working on it for two years, I'm like, 'Oh, no, this is another thing that-', it's a period piece, someone needs to commit £20 something million to a show with me at the centre, I'm like, 'This probably won't happen.' I just sort of forget all the time, I'm so wide eye, like, 'I've got a creative idea and I've worked really hard and I'm really kind, let's do it, guys ' and they're like, 'Yes, it doesn't quite work like that.'

Ed Gamble

But you probably need that level of optimism and excitement about it while you're creating it.

Tim Minchin

I think so, I think it's got me a long way but, my God, it hurts when you suddenly go, 'Oh, yes.' I'm very Pollyanna-ish actually, even after my annus horribilis, even after losing Larricans, which did, I was really knocked sideways by it-, Broadway's always pretty traumatic, even with Matilda it was quite traumatic, but I seem to rise again as this doe eyed babe in the woods, you know?

James Acaster

Yes.

Tim Minchin

Like, 'Oh, hello, Mr Wolf,' like it's so weird.

Ed Gamble

'Why are you going to the toilet again, Mr Wolf?'

Tim Minchin

That's right, yes, 'Should I come with you, Mr Wolf? What do you mean out of order.' Yes, so I think that is good and I love my work so much, and that's what's driving the Pollyanna-ishness, it's just like, 'Oh, more play time.'

James Acaster

Oh, you're saying Pollyanna-ish.

Tim Minchin

Yes.



James Acaster

I though you said polyamorous, I was like, 'No, you're not, you can't even wank over someone else.'

Tim Minchin

Yes, this is true. That is true, yes.

James Acaster

But I get it.

Ed Gamble

Pollyanna.

James Acaster

Yes, second time round I was like, 'We're talking about Pollyanna, that's a character who was naïve and always thinks things are going to be better, yes.'

Tim Minchin

Yes. I wish I could be slightly less Pollyannaish and slightly more polyamorous but, yes I am what I am.

Ed Gamble

Yes, even creatively you're the opposite of polyamorous, right? You focus on one thing that you absolutely love.

Tim Minchin

I go pretty hard at things, yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

But, you know, when it pays off it pays off pretty big, but then you can't have one without the other.

Tim Minchin

Well, it's a gamble, yes. I didn't realise how much it was a gamble, Ed.

Ed Gamble

Just for the listener, Tim used the phrase gamble, didn't reference it at all because it's just a normal sentence and James pointed at me, which is why Tim felt like he had to bring it up.

Tim Minchin

Yes.

Ed Gamble

So, that's not on Tim.

Tim Minchin

James is like, 'That's an opportunity for a joke, Minchin, fucking idiot.'



Ed Gamble

That joke is not on Tim.

Tim Minchin

'It's a pun. Well, it's not even a pun, it's just his name, make the joke.'

James Acaster

It's his name but I love it. I love that it's his name, it's still funny.

Tim Minchin

This chair keep rolling, I need a caster.

James Acaster

Oh, yes.

Tim Minchin

You know, I'm trying. Acaster.

Ed Gamble

Now that's a pun.

James Acaster

That really did, that got me out of nowhere actually. People don't really do them about my name as much.

Tim Minchin

Well, I'm here to change that.

James Acaster

Thank you, Tim.

Tim Minchin

Yes, don't Minchin my name etc.

Ed Gamble

Did you miss that pun?

Tim Minchin

Now its gone to quite a bad podcast, from a mediocre podcast this has become a bad podcast in the last five minutes.

Ed Gamble

I promise you, it would steadily go downhill intellectually from the beginning and I think we've come good on this promise.

James Acaster

Yes.



Tim Minchin

Yes, we have, it's a slide, we're on a slide, halfway down.

James Acaster

Because on this podcast, if people have food that they don't want to include in their menu but they want to shout out we call them honourable muncheons.

Tim Minchin

Oh, nice.

James Acaster

But for your episode we'll call them-

Tim Minchin

I am the honourable Tim muncheon.

James Acaster

We'll call them-, not horrible.

Tim Minchin

Horrible.

Ed Gamble

Horrible Minchins.

Tim Minchin

Horrible muncheon.

James Acaster

You're horrible Minchin.

Ed Gamble

Horrible mucheon.

James Acaster

You're horrible Minchin.

Tim Minchin

Oral munching .

James Acaster

If you do have any then-

Tim Minchin

You can chew on my food pipe any day.

James Acaster

Yes, exactly.



Tim Minchin

Oral muncheon.

Ed Gamble

If you've got any oral muncheon you just shout out.

James Acaster

Yes, you just let us know your honourable Minchins.

Tim Minchin

I mean, I had to really think in the cab on the on the way here to get enough food to answer you fricking questions.

James Acaster

And, yes, you said your dream side is just mac and cheese so we kind of already know what this is.

Tim Minchin

I feel like, yes, you know, slightly burnt on the top and crunch your way through.

James Acaster

Yes.

Tim Minchin

But when you scoop it out it's all runny, so that becomes a bit of your sauce.

Ed Gamble

Strings? Do you want the, sort of, stringy cheese?

Tim Minchin

I think maybe it's runnier than that.

Ed Gamble

Yes, okay.

Tim Minchin

Yes, it's almost saucy in the bottom.

Ed Gamble

And are you dipping steak in there? Are you dipping the bread in there? You got some bread left over that you're dipping?

Tim Minchin

Maybe, but I think when you've got your steak there and a little bit of long-stem broccoli, do you call it long-stem?

James Acaster

Yes.



Tim Minchin

Broccolini is the other, we call it brocollino.

Ed Gamble

Or tenderstem?

Tim Minchin

Tenderstem.

Ed Gamble

Tenderstem, yes.

Tim Minchin

That's what it is over here, yes, that's what it says in Waitrose, tenderstem. Yes, no, I think you're slushing your steak in your cheesy goodness, yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

And there's nothing in the mac, it's not loaded mac and cheese?

Tim Minchin

I don't think so, I think maybe a couple of different cheeses and maybe, as I say, a bit of blue or something. But I want to talk about truffle here and I don't want to upset anyone, is it cool?

James Acaster

Yes.

Tim Minchin

We're cool with truffle.

James Acaster

We're all cool, we talk about it.

Tim Minchin

You're not going to truffle trigger?

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

No, there's no truffle triggers here.

Tim Minchin

I want to say fuck truffle, man, but I don't really feel that strongly but I've been forced to, kind of, take a position, it feels like a culture war thing. And it's not my fault that I'm angry about it, it's shoved in my face, you know?



James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Been pushed on you.

Tim Minchin

I just feel like everyone's just putting truffle in everything and it's an obnoxious, little fucking fungi, isn't it?

James Acaster

Yes.

Tim Minchin

It's like I've learned to be cross about it, because I don't mind a little bit of truffle in something but it's really aggressive and it makes a lot of itself.

Ed Gamble

It does.

Tim Minchin

'Oh, hi guys, I'm truffle.'

James Acaster

Yes. I mean, when it's in there that's it, it's a truffle dish.

Tim Minchin

You need the slightest shaving. And that's fine, so you could have a truffle mac and cheese and there was a time when I'd be, 'Oh, that's a lovely little note, a musty note,' you know? But now it's just like, 'Fuck off, mate.'

Ed Gamble

It's the truffle oil, it's the synthetic truffle oil, people just glug that in and that's the really, aggressive one.

Tim Minchin

Yes, right.

Ed Gamble

But a little shaving, a little grating is lovely.

Tim Minchin

Yes.

Ed Gamble

I love this character that you've created for truffle though.

James Acaster

Yes, I like truffle.



Tim Minchin

'Oh, hi guys, I'm in your chips.'

James Acaster

Do you know what it's kind of like? Have you seen the latest compare the meerkat adverts.

Tim Minchin

Oh, I haven't, I don't know if I've seen the latest. Oh, send them over to me.

James Acaster

Well, no, I actually won't send them to you, Tim, because I think it would be classed a hate crime.

Ed Gamble

Oh yes, good point.

James Acaster

Because their cousin, the wombat from Australia, visits, and Steen Raskopoulos is the voice, shout out.

Ed Gamble

Does he?

James Acaster

Yes, that's Steve doing that voice of the wombat in the compare the meerkat advert.

Tim Minchin

Oh, really?

James Acaster

But he's kind of like your truffle character but Australian, so you doing this for truffle I feel is, like, it's rebalancing the universe and going, 'Well, here's a gormlessly Britt.'

Tim Minchin

Steen's wombat is like, 'Hi guys?'

James Acaster

It is kind of like, you know, like absolutely-,

Ed Gamble

And way bigger than the meerkats as well, yes.

James Acaster

Bowling into the scene, this clumsy, knocking everything over.

Tim Minchin

Like Australians?

James Acaster

Yes. And completely unaware of, like, how obnoxious he's being.



Tim Minchin

Yes.

James Acaster

But essentially has a good heart. And I feel like that about your truffle character.

Tim Minchin

I don't know though, I think it may be more nefarious than that, I think truffle's doing it deliberately, I think it's a bully.

James Acaster

Yes. I mean, yes, I agree with you about the truffle. My girlfriend absolutely hates truffle, to the point now where if I book us a meal somewhere and they say, 'Any allergies?' I just say that she's allergic to truffle, because it's going to-, and if sometime we. Forget, we just go somewhere and they bring them out, at least I know I'm getting double of that thing, like, I'm at least going to have that as well.

Tim Minchin

I've got a joke in my head that's making me laugh, it's just so obnoxious. I mean, I'll just say it because it's just terrible.

James Acaster

Yes.

Tim Minchin

Which is that, of course your girlfriend hates truffle, all those years she was forced to look for it.

James Acaster

Oh, yes.

Tim Minchin

It's, so your girlfriend's a pig

James Acaster

Yes.

Tim Minchin

It's just so odd but it's structurally nice, and it's not funny to me because I think it's funny to do a joke about-,

Ed Gamble

Oh, it's an awful thing to say about-,

James Acaster

Yes, sure.

Tim Minchin

Yes. But it's funny to me because it's not my sort of joke and so I had to say it out loud.



Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes, I get it. And it's also I think, you know, we've only met today but I still feel like I'm already at that point with you where I'm okay with it.

Tim Minchin

Oh, off microphone, I mean, I love-, because it's a joke on a joke, it's a joke about how terrible these jokes are and we all do jokes about our wives and our mothers, right? And that's funny until it's true, which is why I didn't do it with your girlfriend.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

When you delivered that-,

James Acaster

A double joke.

Tim Minchin

A double joke.

Ed Gamble

You didn't change the way you were sitting to your ironic stance.

Tim Minchin

So I confused everyone, yes.

James Acaster

If you're listening, I love you. Form your trotters all the way up to your snout.

James Acaster

Your dream drink?

Tim Minchin

Well, I am an alcoholic. I'm not really. I'm a, sort of, medicinal alcohol dependent person.

James Acaster

Okay.

Tim Minchin

Which means I like a drink every day. It's a really nice way to end a day but I have no spin up, you know. Have you got friends who are spin up drinkers?

James Acaster

What's-,?



Tim Minchin

Like, if you have one, you have two and if you have two you have four and then you're looking for some cocaine.

James Acaster

Well, I don't look for cocaine at the end because I'm so naïve.

Ed Gamble

Yes. I don't spin up that high.

James Acaster

But, like, if I was out with friends- If I'm out with Ed I would find it difficult just to have one and go, 'See you later, Ed.' And go home.

Tim Minchin

What about your friends?

Ed Gamble

People that you like spending time with, where you don't need to drink alcohol.

Tim Minchin

Like, after this podcast when we go next door to the pub.

James Acaster

Yes. Then I would, like, yes, as we're finishing the first drink, the best idea in the world would be to say to the guys-

Ed Gamble

I see no point in having one drink.

James Acaster

Yes. At home I'll have one and I don't even want a second one after that.

Tim Minchin

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes, maybe. Maybe at home. But out and about, one drink, I'd rather have no drinks.

Tim Minchin

Oh, one drink's very hard out and about but I wouldn't rather have no drinks. That's absurd. I only say that because I do love a drink but I only drink one thing really these days. So, every time I have, like, a Negroni, you know, you go somewhere nice and 'Let's start with a cocktail.' I'm just like, 'I could be drinking red wine right now. This is a complete waste of the alcoholic effect of-, I could be drinking a good, heavy, dry earth Aussie red wine.' So, that, for me, it's a beautiful red wine. I'm not really enough of a wine wanker to, sort of, tell you what year it would be or whatever but a South Australian or West Australian dry earth Shiraz or Cabernet or something. I like heavy reds with high alcohol content to make the feelings go.



Ed Gamble

I think the best glass of wine I ever had was an Australian Shiraz. Amazing.

Tim Minchin

Was it Penfolds?

Ed Gamble

It was Penfolds.

James Acaster

Yes. For years I would do, yes, the Melbourne and then the New Zealand comedy festival and my Dad, that's the, kind of, wine he likes. It's, like, yes, a Shiraz from that region. So, like, I'd always have to find a different bottle to bring back for him each time.

Tim Minchin

Oh, that's nice.

James Acaster

Yes. I'm a pretty nice dude. But, like, yes, I mean, it must be pretty cool, if you're into that, coming from the actual country.

Tim Minchin

Yes. It's a good place to live. Yes. Yes. I find, you know, and I know this is a reveal of my unsophistication but, I find, like, even really good French wines, that they have this earthiness and this brownness to the colour and stuff. And I couldn't pick it but I could recognise quite good French red but we're ruined in Australia. Not because they're better, because they're so heavy and so peppery. You lose subtlety in your palate. You're just like, 'Roar.' It's like drinking steak, you know.

James Acaster

Right. Yes. Yes.

Ed Gamble

Do you have a collection of wine at home?

Tim Minchin

No. No. It doesn't last.

Ed Gamble

You're just buying and then-,

Tim Minchin

Yes. Yes. I, sort of, get six at a time or something and then the next day I just go back to the shop.

Ed Gamble

So, you're not ageing any Penfolds at home or anything?

Tim Minchin

No. No. No.



Ed Gamble

It won't last that long.

Tim Minchin

No, no. I'm not a collector of wine and I don't buy very posh wine. I buy, you know, \$20, £15, maybe slightly nicer.

Ed Gamble

Which one's your go-to? It doesn't have to be the one you have at the dream meal but, of a day, you're pouring yourself a glass at the end of the day, what is it normally?

Tim Minchin

No. I never even buy the same. There's just so many different wines in Australia. I just go, 'Oh, I'll try that one.' I mean, Penfolds have lots of lower level. Like, they're not all Grange. There's, like, Bin 134 and stuff. And there's one called Max's, named after one of their old vineyards, and stuff. And so, I do buy those. But a dear friend, who owned Vasse Felix. So, I buy, you know, when you know someone (sic). And there's another winery in West Australia where we know the people called Pierro. So, you know, I tend to go. You know, like, when you watch films your friends are in and stuff. I do that.

James Acaster

Oh, lovely.

Tim Minchin

I don't know. I don't know what wine I drink.

Ed Gamble

Just a nice one.

Tim Minchin

Just the one that makes the feeling go away.

Ed Gamble

Write that down.

James Acaster

Because we're talking about Australian drinks now and everything is there certain things that you can only get in Australia that you miss when you're over here or when you're elsewhere? Like, foods or drinks that you're like, 'I wish I could have a-', 'You know, what would be a lazy reference? A Tim Tam?

Tim Minchin

Yes. I mean, these days you can get it all over here. But, you know, those people who are really, like-, I think my brain doesn't work like that. Like, people go, 'Oh, I couldn't live in England. The weather.' And, you know, 'I wish I could get my favourite food,' or whatever. My brain's just like, I don't care about anything except seeing my kids and working. Like, I just don't care. Like, when I'm here I love being here because I get to hang out with smart people and you guys and I get to do work I love. And, you know, walk across the bridge to The National and have a meeting and I don't care if it's raining or sunny because I'm walking across a bridge to The National, you know? Or I'm catching a train to Stratford to talk about, you know. And so, I just don't care about the food or weather or anything, as long as my bed is that I can shut the curtains, so the sun doesn't come in when I'm sleeping.



Ed Gamble

It's quite a good menu so far for someone who doesn't really care about it.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

It is tasty.

Tim Minchin

Yes. It's quite nice food. That's true. Yes.

James Acaster

Yes. Yes.

Tim Minchin

Do you know what? What I miss is an ocean. That's what I miss about Australia.

James Acaster

Right. Yes. Sure.

James Acaster

Let's move on to your dream dessert.

Tim Minchin

Alright. So, my favourite sweet food is apricots. I like apricots.

James Acaster

Lovely.

Tim Minchin

I like, like, dried apricots. I like little apricot coconut squares. They're not so popular over here. I like apricot jam. You're average apricot, take it or leave it, you know, like unprocessed, unsugared but as a flavour-

Ed Gamble

You never know what they're going to taste like. You're rolling the dice on an apricot, aren't you?

Tim Minchin

They can be really powdery and really flavourless. And, yet, put it in a crumble and it's, like, literally one of my favourite things on the earth. Yes. So, I'm going to say apricot crumble.

Ed Gamble

Nice.

Tim Minchin

A really nice, oatly crumble and slightly burnt and custard.



James Acaster

This is great.

Tim Minchin

But custard can be a bit overbearing as well. So, it could just be cream. Don't need ice cream.

James Acaster

No?

Tim Minchin

Apricot's got all the sweetness in it. Yes.

James Acaster

Okay. Okay. Fine.

Tim Minchin

But if you gave me ice cream I wouldn't throw it in your face.

Ed Gamble

You can't be annoyed about that?

James Acaster

No, that's alright. I'm not annoyed. I'm not annoyed.

Ed Gamble

James is a big ice cream boy (ph 56.32).

Tim Minchin

I can have ice cream but I-,

James Acaster

I just had to deal with that for a second but I'm okay now.

Tim Minchin

Yes. It's not huge for me, ice cream. Ice cream's not that big for me, in general. I slightly surprised myself with this dessert because I'm a cheese head but can I just have cheese after dessert?

James Acaster

Yes.

Tim Minchin

Like they do in some countries.

James Acaster

I love that.

Ed Gamble

You can. You're keeping everyone happy there because I'm a cheese head but when people pick just the cheeseboard instead of dessert he loses his mind.



Tim Minchin

Freaks out. Yes.

James Acaster

I lose my mind. I will flip out.

Tim Minchin

Like, I'm very happy to have a little bit of ice cream. I don't want to upset anyone.

James Acaster

No, no, no. Have whatever you want.

Tim Minchin

In fact, I think I do want ice cream with it over custard. My wife's one of those people who'd be, like, cream, ice cream, custard, all at the same time.

James Acaster

Yes. Right. Yes. Yes. Yes. Fair enough.

Tim Minchin

But if we can have enough time, if we can just sit and chill for a while, just, you know, drinking wine for an hour after dessert, then, yes, bring out the cheese.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Any particular cheeses on the board?

James Acaster

Well, hold on, you're moving onto this already but we haven't even talked about the apricot crumble, you piece of shit.

Ed Gamble

I'm excited about the cheese.

James Acaster

You know what we're doing here. You know that I've got a chance to talk about a proper dessert and you're moving it right onto a cheeseboard, you fucking wanker.

Ed Gamble

Just saying, you know, we've had the mac and cheese. So, that's a little shout out to what cheeses might be on the board.

Tim Minchin

Oh, yes. Yes. That's true. I didn't realise I'd been so cheesey.

James Acaster

Oh, yes. There's already about three cheeses in that mac and cheese.

Ed Gamble

No. It's good. So, that's just, like, a suggestion. That's just a whisper of what's to come.



Tim Minchin

Yes, that's right. It's a pre-emptive.

James Acaster

A bit of a whisper. Well, let's keep it as a Wispa.

Ed Gamble

You'd have that as a dessert wouldn't you?

James Acaster

I would love it. I had a Wispa Easter egg yesterday.

Tim Minchin

Can we just take a couple of steps back and let's really dive into this apricot?

James Acaster

Thank you. Thank you. Yes.

Tim Minchin

For James.

Ed Gamble

Fair enough.

James Acaster

Now, is this, like, a home-made thing? Have you had it before and someone's done a home-made one that's delicious?

Tim Minchin

Ed can make it.

James Acaster

Oh, yes.

Tim Minchin

Not if it's mine.

James Acaster

Yes. Yes. Was there one you've had in life that was, like, 'That's the best apricot crumble.'?

Tim Minchin

I don't think so. I mean, I have to admit I have gone with apricot but apple and rhubarb crumble-,

James Acaster

It's good. Yes.

Tim Minchin

I mean, it's the crumble. It's the meeting of the sweet stewed fruit and the crumble and the little bit of ice cream, if you will. So, I don't really mind. But, I don't know, my Mum used to make an apricot crumble.



James Acaster

I do like that it's apricot though. I like it.

Tim Minchin

Yes. With mixed success. You know, she was no culinary genius but she had a lot of heart. No, it's about it being cooked at a high enough temperature that it's a little bit burnt on the top I think.

James Acaster

Which is a running theme.

Ed Gamble

Yes. We've had that.

Tim Minchin

Yes. With the cheese. And also-,

James Acaster

Brussels sprouts.

Tim Minchin

Your steak. I didn't get back to you about flame grilled. I don't think it should be flame grilled but I'm very happy if it's been cooked quite hot. Yes.

Ed Gamble

A little charred.

Tim Minchin

So, I don't like it blue, the steak. Sorry, we're going back to the steak here.

James Acaster

No. Yes. Yes. Yes.

Tim Minchin

But it can be almost, sort of, burnt on the outside as long as it's medium rare on the inside.

James Acaster

So, is this a thing that you like in general? Say, if you're looking at a menu and you see the word burnt because sometimes you get that on a thing are you thinking, 'I want to try that. I want to get that.'?

Tim Minchin

Yes. And we even had the word caramelised earlier which tends to be about really getting it there.

James Acaster

So, let's quickly cover this cheeseboard because, I mean, not that I'd like to hear about it but for Ed.

Tim Minchin

Oh, look, I've got nothing in particular. Especially if you've had a meal, even if you've got a tube out the side of your side it's a lot to think about cheese having thought about that crumble and that steak and that mac and cheese and stuff. But, I guess, something soft, something hard, something blue.



Ed Gamble

Yes. Nice. Classic. Yes.

Tim Minchin

Yes.

Ed Gamble

And then, it's just there to pick at if you want.

Tim Minchin

Yes. Yes. And some, you know, some crackers. And don't make a big meal of the crackers, they can just be, like, water crackers or whatever. Like, table crackers. They don't have to be, like, infused with fig or fucking truffle or some shit. You know, like, some grapes, I suppose, but, oh, it's not-

Ed Gamble

Yeah. Cheese.

James Acaster

And you're probably keeping the wine going for this probably.

Tim Minchin

Oh, yes. Yes. You just stay on it really. Back around apricot crumble time I don't mind a sticky. Sticky?

Ed Gamble

Sticky?

Tim Minchin

Wine. Sticky.

James Acaster

A sticky wine?

Ed Gamble

Sticky wine?

Tim Minchin

Yes. What they call dessert wine over here, we call it sticky. Yes.

Ed Gamble

Oh, dessert wine. Yes. Yes. Oh, I love that.

Tim Minchin

'I don't mind a sticky,' I said and these boys just went, 'Oh, yes, a sticky.'

James Acaster

Like, 'What?' I didn't think that was the end of the sentence. So, I was like, 'Sticky, yes?'

Ed Gamble

Stuck them all over Andrew Lloyd Webber's window.



Tim Minchin

He's just hovering on that adjective. I don't mind a sticky wine. Like a sweet Riesling or whatever with dessert.

Ed Gamble

Oh, yes. Love a sweet Riesling.

Tim Minchin

But also with cheese. Like, so you have your sweet dessert and then you bring out the cheese which is, obviously, not sweet, which is why James is so hateful about it, but then you have a sweet something. Something a bit fortified or desserty in your alcohol intake.

Ed Gamble

Takes you back into the sweet realm.

Tim Minchin

Yes.

James Acaster

Saves the day.

Tim Minchin

And then, you have a beer.

Ed Gamble

Really? See, I couldn't do that. That's where I've parted ways with you there. I'm too full.

Tim Minchin

Yes. It's very rare but we're not full, right? So, we have to understand we're not full.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Of course.

Tim Minchin

I like a cleansing ale but I don't want it to be an ale, I want it to be a lager. It's a bookend, both to this podcast and our meal, a sparkling and then a cleansing lager at the end to just take all the stickiness and all the grapiness out of your mouth. And then, you just go dancing and do some ice.

Ed Gamble

Is that all going through the pipe as well?

Tim Minchin

No. Going straight to the liver.

Ed Gamble

Or are you sewing yourself back up?

Tim Minchin

Yes.



Ed Gamble

Sew yourself back up for the beer at the end.

Tim Minchin

For the beer. Yes. It's a bit sad that you're not getting drunk with that pipe, isn't it? I think the pipe's a metaphor.

Ed Gamble

The pipe's a metaphor.

Tim Minchin

The pipe's a metaphor for not getting full. Just for listeners at home, I don't think you should do the pipe.

Ed Gamble

No. The pipe's a metaphor.

James Acaster

Please, no one do the pipe.

Ed Gamble

No.

James Acaster

I mean, that would, guaranteed, be the end of this podcast.

Ed Gamble

Yes. If someone does the pipe.

James Acaster

If someone listens to this and then does the pipe and then there's a news story about it, about how someone did the pipe because they listened to Off Menu, we're done as a podcast.

Ed Gamble

Yes. We're done for. If it's the new Ice Bucket Challenge we're in trouble here.

Tim Minchin

Yes. Yes.

James Acaster

Oh, no. Please don't do the pipe and nominate your friends.

Tim Minchin

But if they're getting the pipe and raising money.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Yes. And they're nominating their friends to do the pipe.



James Acaster

Yes. But it's only a matter of time before we get nominated then.

Ed Gamble

Yes. And we'll have to do it.

James Acaster

And then, we've got to decide if we want to give to a charity or not.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

I'm going to read your menu back to you now, see how you feel about it. Sparkling water and you would like a warm baguette. Starter, chicken liver pate with caramelised onion jam and more baguette. Main course, you would like a quite rare fillet steak with a Tenderstem broccoli and Brussels sprouts with bacon. Side dish, mac and cheese, little bit burnt on the top. Actually, everything so far should have been a little bit burnt on the top. Drink-

Tim Minchin

Sparkling water.

James Acaster

A heavy, dry earth Australian red wine. The one that makes the feeling go away. For dessert, you would like apricot crumble, a little bit burnt on the top with ice cream. And then, after that, a cheeseboard with sticky wine and after that a beer to cleanse it all again. How does that feel?

Tim Minchin

And then, ice and dancing.

James Acaster

Oh, yes, sorry, and then some ice.

Tim Minchin

Methamphetamines and dancing.

Ed Gamble

That's a lovely menu. That's a good night out.

Tim Minchin

I think it's fine.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Yes.

Tim Minchin

I think I might go do it.



Ed Gamble

Yes. You should absolutely do that. That's a very realisable that menu as well, apart from the pipe.

James Acaster

Yes. Yes. Because then if that was your brain trying to make things realistic that pipe is not-,

Tim Minchin

But actually the pipe is unnecessary and, to be clear to listeners, inadvisable.

Ed Gamble

Don't do the pipe. Yes.

Tim Minchin

But it's unnecessary as long as you do it slowly. I mean, like any good digestion, you know, if you start at 5:00 and finish at 11:00 that's all fine.

Ed Gamble

Yes. And, also, you've not completely gone mad.

Tim Minchin

Totally. And your main's not huge. I mean, you're fillet can be, you know, 120 grams.

James Acaster

Yes, I think you're fine. And I don't think you need to do the pipe, Tim.

Tim Minchin

Appreciate you.

James Acaster

Yes. Yes. Yes.

Tim Minchin

I appreciate it.

Ed Gamble

Thank you very much for coming to the dream restaurant, Tim.

Tim Minchin

Yes. It's really nice and I love the décor.

Ed Gamble

Thank you, Tim. Well, there we are.

James Acaster

What a menu. Delicious.

Ed Gamble

Delicious. Well done, Tim. And thank you for coming in, Tim Minchin.



James Acaster

Thank you for not saying chocolate cake as well.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

I thought that was possible.

Ed Gamble

Yes. I thought it was possible and we did mention to him after the recording that his secret ingredient was chocolate cake he was like, 'No way I would have picked that. I don't like anything like that.'

James Acaster

Yes. He doesn't like chocolate cake. I mean, which is, like, you know, well done for being able to write a musical that so jubilantly celebrates chocolate cake even though you, yourself, hate it, Tim.

Ed Gamble

But Dahl did a lot of the work there, right? With the chocolate cake.

James Acaster

I don't think someone eats dhal in the musical.

Ed Gamble

But maybe Tim was like, 'I want to change it from chocolate cake because I don't like chocolate cake.' And then, there would have been an uproar.

James Acaster

People would have kicked off if people would have gone there and Bogtrotter was eating a flan or something.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

No.

Ed Gamble

Or dhal.

James Acaster

Or dhal.

Ed Gamble

A big pot of dhal. A very different story if Bogtrotter's munching on a big pot of dhal.

James Acaster

Yes. Then everyone would have been very confused. 'What's the messaging here? What's he saying about Roald Dahl, that Bogtrotter's now eating the dhal as one massive thing?'



Ed Gamble

Yes. Yes. Well, I'd watch it.

James Acaster

I guess this is why we don't write musicals and Tim does.

Ed Gamble

Yes, absolutely. One of many, many reasons. But Tim Minchin does write musicals and he's very, very good at it. He has co-written Groundhog Day which is coming back to London. It is on from now until August 12th at the Old Vic in London.

James Acaster

I'm going to go and see it.

Ed Gamble

I'm going to go and see it.

James Acaster

Benito's already been but that's the beauty of Groundhog Day.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Go and see it again.

Ed Gamble

Go see it again. For the listener, I've never seen James look prouder with something he's said, ever.

James Acaster

Yes. Well, yes, it's pretty good, isn't it? What I've just said.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Benito's writing it down to edit it out.

James Acaster

Yes. Yes. Fair enough.

Ed Gamble

Thank you very much for listening. We will see you again sometime soon. Bye bye.

James Acaster

Keep on snacking.

Ed Gamble

Oh, lovely.