



Off Menu – Ep93 – Jessica Fostekew

Ed Gamble

Welcome to the Off Menu podcast, we are the worm at the bottom of the tequila that is the internet. My name's Ed Gamble.

James Acaster

My name is James Acaster. A drunk little worm.

Ed Gamble

James is a drunk little worm if anyone had to describe, asked me to describe James I'd say, he's a sort of a drunk little worm guy.

James Acaster

Drunk little tequila worm. I wonder what that's like. Is the worm alive?

Ed Gamble

I don't know, I guess not. I'm assuming the worm's not alive because it's at the bottom of a bottle of tequila.

James Acaster

I don't know, if it's like a little pond worm, it can survive.

Ed Gamble

Although we'll probably get some messages. I think the worm's found in mezcal traditionally, rather than tequila.

James Acaster

Oh really?

Ed Gamble

Although I've never even seen a bottle with the worm in. I think it's mezcal, yeah.

James Acaster

Do you remember Terravision?

Ed Gamble

I do remember Terravision. Of course. Novelty band by virtue of their only hit being Tequila, but apart from that, quite well thought of within the sort of Kerrang! crowd.

James Acaster

Yes! Their album, was it, How To Make Friends And Influence People, or whatever it was called, they, that did really well and then people were like, oh what a great band. And then later on they had a hit with Tequila, wasn't it a remix of it?

Ed Gamble

Yeah probably. It was always remixes that did well back in the day. Anyway, I mean, we are in danger of sort of straying onto your other podcast's territory. I'd imagine you talk about Terravision, I don't really listen to it.

James Acaster

I'll be bringing it up at some point on that podcast.



Ed Gamble

This of course is the Off Menu podcast where we talk about food. More specifically we have a special guest and we ask them James.

James Acaster

Their favourite ever starter, main course, side dish and drink. And this week's guest is

Ed Gamble

Jess Fostekew

James Acaster

Jessica Fostekew

Ed Gamble

We'll go with Jessica Fostekew. Yes. Brilliant brilliant comedian, brilliant podcast host as well. She's got a, also a food podcast, called Hoovering.

James Acaster

Yeah, called Hoovering, we've both done it. Brilliant podcast.

Ed Gamble

We have, she brought, did it ages ago, she brought beetroot soup over to my house

James Acaster

Delicious

Ed Gamble

I think I spilt, spilt quite a lot of it, but it was very very nice.

James Acaster

Fantastic. I started out with Jess on the comedy circuit and it's so great to see her doing so well now. She's such a brilliant comedian, I've always been a fan, thrilled to have her on the podcast. However, even though we love her, if she mentions the secret ingredient, we will have her kicked out of The Dream Restaurant.

Ed Gamble

We'll have her kicked out of The Dream Restaurant, we'll kick her out of the Zoom because, I should say, this is a home-cooking episode, we're all in our separate homes

James Acaster

Yeah. Hemp seeds. That's the secret ingredient this week, hemp seeds. So help me God.

Ed Gamble

I don't even really know what they are, I just, I'm not, just get all that stuff off. Faff. If i can blow it off the plate, I don't want it.

James Acaster

Interesting. If you can blow it off the plate you don't want it. I didn't know that was a rule with you.

Ed Gamble

Well I didn't realise either until I said it, but you know what, I'm willing to stand by that.

James Acaster

You don't like seeds, any sort of seeds.



Ed Gamble

Well what seeds are we talking? Hemp seeds, no they're quite

James Acaster

Poppy seeds, pumpkin seeds.

Ed Gamble

But I don't think I could blow pumpkin seeds off, I don't really like pumpkin seeds but I don't think I could

James Acaster

You couldn't blow a pumpkin seed off your plate?

Ed Gamble

They're quite heavy aren't they? It depends what

James Acaster

How heavy do you think it is that you couldn't blow it off the plate? How weak do you think you are?

Ed Gamble

Well I'm sorry I've not used my lockdown properly I've not been testing what seeds I could blow away.

James Acaster

I reckon you could blow any seeds you wanted off a plate.

Ed Gamble

No. Not a pumpkin seed.

James Acaster

What seeds do you reckon you'd struggle with?

Ed Gamble

A lot of them. I'm thinking like things that would just be immediately blown off. Poppy seeds I could probably blow off of my plate but I would definitely have to puff.

James Acaster

Yeah. You could definitely, not probably.

Ed Gamble

I'd have to puff.

James Acaster

You wouldn't have to puff. It weighs nothing.

Ed Gamble

But what other seeds are there? Pumpkin seeds.

James Acaster

Straight away. Sunflower seeds, straight away.

Ed Gamble

No, couldn't blow them.



James Acaster

You couldn't blow a sunflower seed?

Ed Gamble

No.

James Acaster

Are you mad?

Ed Gamble

But sometimes, so like sometimes a poppy seed might be stuck on a bagel, if it's stuck on a bagel I couldn't blow it off the bagel so it's fine it's earned it's place.

James Acaster

Right, cos it's stuck on the bagel.

Ed Gamble

Cos it's stuck on the bagel. There's a reason for it to be there. Hemp seeds are quite, like very light aren't they, like feathery, in my mind.

James Acaster

Uh huh, yeah.

Ed Gamble

Unless I'm thinking of the wrong thing.

James Acaster

They're definitely lighter, I'd say, than the seeds we're talking about, but I'm just saying

Ed Gamble

I'm confident I could blow the hemp seeds off a plate

James Acaster

Yes, but like you could with all the other seeds we've mentioned as well.

Ed Gamble

No, I couldn't blow sunflower seeds off the, I couldn't, they're really heavy

James Acaster

If everyone listening to this can film themselves blowing various seeds off of plates to show Ed how easy it is and send tweet them to him that would be very much appreciated.

Ed Gamble

But I don't, if you've got to puff, that doesn't count for me.

James Acaster

What are you talking about?

Ed Gamble

So I'm talking about if I was eating it and just like... I just did quite a concentrated breath and they went off, that would be annoying to me.

James Acaster

Well that's not blowing, is it?



Ed Gamble

If I had to do that.

James Acaster

Do you think that every time you're breathing in and out you're blowing in and out?

Ed Gamble

Yeah, blowing air, that's what I call it.

James Acaster

No, you're breathing. Blowing is like a proper, that's a

Ed Gamble

Right, well I don't like hemp seeds.

James Acaster

Me neither. For different reasons.

Ed Gamble

Right, well we agree on that.

James Acaster

Yeah we agree on that one.

Ed Gamble

We can agree that that we don't like it cos we could blow it off the plate.

James Acaster

No that's not what I said, that's not my reason.

Ed Gamble

Well that's not the, hemp seed's the secret ingredient and if she says them, she's out of here. And I hope it doesn't happen because I'm a fan.

James Acaster

Well, fingers crossed. Oh, is that Jess at the door?

Ed Gamble

Well it must be. This is the Off Menu menu of

Ed Gamble and James Acaster

Jessica Fostekeew.

Ed Gamble

Jess Fostekeew, welcome to The Dream Restaurant!

Jessica Fostekeew

Hey, thanks for having me!

Ed Gamble

It took us a while to get up and running for this one but now we're here and it's worth it. There were, there were some issues getting into The Dream Restaurant because The Genie forgot the key but now, here we are, ready to go, ready to take your order.



Jessica Fostekew

Yeah

James Acaster

Welcome Jess Fostekew to The Dream Restaurant, we've been expecting you for some time.

Ed Gamble

Now Jess, you're, it's obviously a long time coming that you, you should have been on this podcast a while ago, you're an OG food podcaster, you're putting food podcasts out in the world,

James Acaster

Yes

Ed Gamble

This is the official food podcast crossover.

Jessica Fostekew

Yes!

Ed Gamble

Right? This is what the people have been asking for.

James Acaster

We've put our beefs to one side, no pun intended, and we've got you on the pod. That's why you haven't been on.

Jessica Fostekew

There's just too much beef.

Ed Gamble

There's so much beef. Although, we have both been on your podcast to be fair so I think you, you didn't know about the beef.

Jessica Fostekew

No I didn't.

Ed Gamble

Recognise this scarf Jess?

Jessica Fostekew

Oh, you've still got my scarf!

Ed Gamble

Still got Jess' scarf from when she came over to my flat to record, to record her podcast and let me tell you Jess, I don't live in that flat anymore, I've moved house, and I've still got your scarf.

Jessica Fostekew

Oh Ed. You're so lovely for keeping it.

Ed Gamble

Either very conscientious or very weird. It is a nice scarf.

Jessica Fostekew

You're very kind for keeping all of it, it's gonna be one of those things where every time we meet for the rest of our lives we go, ah, I didn't bring that scarf again.



Ed Gamble

You're going to come and visit me towards the end of my life in an old people's home towards the end of my life and your scarf is going to be a shawl over my horrible knees.

James Acaster

I'm going to have horrible knees when I'm old I think.

Jessica Fostekew

Do you reckon?

James Acaster

Yeah, they've been pretty bad during lockdown, whatever workout I was originally doing really messed my knees up and now my knees hurt all the time. I've gotta do yoga to make them not hurt, but during yoga they hurt and I'm thinking I'm actually probably making them worse.

Jessica Fostekew

Oh, so when you say horrible knees you mean painful knees rather than horrible to look at which is, I think, what Ed was going for by... you don't have to shroud them in a shawl you just have to medicate them with pain relief.

Ed Gamble

Yeah.

James Acaster

I think, the fact they feel bad now means they'll look bad when I'm older.

Ed Gamble

Do you think? They'll look horrible. Maybe they'll still look really young when you're older and then they'll just be powder inside.

James Acaster

Imagine that. What like a little stress ball?

Ed Gamble

Yeah.

Jessica Fostekew

A couple of little stress balls.

James Acaster

Yeah yeah.

Ed Gamble

That would be good if your knees were like stress balls and you could just really give them a good old squeeze. That'd be lovely. Now Jess, you, you're poster for your last show was you weightlifting so I'd imagine you've got real strong knees, right?

Jessica Fostekew

Got really muscle-y knees? Yeah really hench knees actually, yeah. I dunno, I dunno how much you guys can lift in terms of knee ups but many hundred kilograms I can knee up.

Ed Gamble

Normally at this point we'd ask if our guest was a foodie or were into food but we know you are already so we've just gone straight for knee chat, which is the next thing down on the list.



Jessica Fostekew

Yeah, absolutely.

James Acaster

Always. We rarely get onto it actually on this podcast. Normally we ask them about food and the knee chat's there as an emergency one. We've never broken the glass so early.

Ed Gamble

So genie, ge-knee, ge knee.

James Acaster

Ge-knee. Oh man.

Ed Gamble

Come on.

James Acaster

Do you know what? You're firing on all cylinders today. Me and Jess, I speak for myself, I'm exhausted after all the technical difficulties, I'm not even in the, I'm not in the room mentally right now, but you

Ed Gamble

Mate, I'll tell you what's happened. I got up really early cos I couldn't sleep because it is a thousand degrees. I had a coffee, did a little workout, had another coffee and then I've poured myself a giant glass of cold brew which I made last night so, I am firing on all cylinders but I've, I've got about, there's about a ten minute window before I crash.

Jessica Fostekew

Yeah. What is cold brew? Is it just cold coffee, black coffee? Or has it got sugar?

Ed Gamble

It is cold coffee but I always used to try and make cold brew by making a hot coffee and then dumping loads of ice in, that's not how you should do it. I've since brought a jug because it should be brewed cold, hence cold brew, rather than brewed hot. So I've got a jug and you just put ground coffee in, fill it up with cold water and then I put it in the fridge for like twelve hours. So it's like coffee but made cold and it is absolutely delicious.

James Acaster

Do you mix it with anything because the best ones that I've had are ones that have a bit of a fruity quality to it as well.

Ed Gamble

No sir. I'm not putting any fruit in my cold brew. I think you can put some like citrus fruit or something in, it's just black coffee, cos that's what I drink anyway.

Jessica Fostekew

Oh like I suppose I was about to think that sounds repulsive, and say it out loud, which I've done now, but I, then I remembered iced tea, that's lush with all different bits of fruit in it, isn't it? So, I need to shut up and open my mind. Shut my mouth, open my mind.

Ed Gamble

That's, we're going to be telling you that throughout the podcast I think.

Jessica Fostekew

Shut your mouth and open your mind



James Acaster

Shut your mouth and open your mind.

Jessica Fostekew

It's a good motto for life isn't it? Twitter should be told that.

Ed Gamble

That coffee's really dipping off now, so shall we at least get water and starter under our belt before I have to have a nap?

James Acaster

Sure sure, yeah, yeah. Do you want still or sparkling water Jess?

Jessica Fostekew

Because this is like a dream meal, right?

Ed Gamble

Mm-hm

Jessica Fostekew

Like, of dreams. I'm going to bin off ethics completely here. Is that alright?

Ed Gamble

Cos that's the dream. That's the dream of course is to ethics.

James Acaster

Are we going full Hannibal?

Jessica Fostekew

Well the dream is, the dream is that ultimately, yeah, is that eating has no consequence. So yeah. So sparkling because normally I mean I drink sparkling water, but I just assume that if you have it in a restaurant maybe, it's more likely to come in a glass bottle. Basically I don't buy it in day-to-day life because it's just loads of plastic bottles and I haven't got a Sodastream or another fizzy making thing. But I love fizzy water the most of all the waters but it's one of those things I feel like I have to earn. Or it feels like a treat, but that's ridiculous because it's the same water but just aerated isn't it? I'm friends with this really amazing Scottish author called Rose Ruane and she calls it jaggy water. And I love that because in Scots that jag, jag is anything like spiky all prickly.

Ed Gamble

It sort of makes it seem like the water's starting on your mouth.

Jessica Fostekew

Yes, yeah, jaggy water yeah. Really aggressive water.

Ed Gamble

Bu that's right isn't it? When you have a sip of sparkling water and the water's going like, 'come on mate, what you looking at?'

James Acaster

It's all kicking off.

Jessica Fostekew

It feels like the difference between, still water's like brushing your teeth in the olden days and jaggy water is like, when you get your first electric toothbrush and your teeth are like woooooo yeah!



James Acaster

Yeah, agreed.

Ed Gamble

It really is a it really is a party in your mouth.

James Acaster

Yeah, it brushes your teeth, I've said it a million times before and finally a guest has agreed with me.

Ed Gamble

I don't think Jess is agreeing with you that sparkling water is a replacement for an electric toothbrush.

James Acaster

Hmm, we'll see about that. Jess get this, recently I met a thirty-three-year-old you had never heard of a Sodastream, didn't know what one was.

Jessica Fostekew

Oh really.

James Acaster

Yeah, had no concept of it. And when I say I met a thirty-three-year-old, it's my girlfriend who I've been going out with for over a year but

Ed Gamble

But when you found out she didn't know what a Sodastream was you felt like you'd only truly met her for the first time, right?

James Acaster

Yeah. I was like, who is this? And she's from Manchester and she said, 'oh it must just be a Southern thing, Sodastreams'.

Jessica Fostekew

No, because I have a thirty-three-year-old girlfriend who's Scottish and she owns a Sodastream so

James Acaster

There you go

Ed Gamble

Oh right, so you've got an exact comparison. You have a thirty-three-year-old girlfriend who owns a Sodastream

Jessica Fostekew

yeah

Ed Gamble

Well, there we go, absolutely in your girlfriend's face James.

James Acaster

To be fair, that could not have come at a better time, that piece of information. I literally stopped there to picture myself winning an argument after this.

Jessica Fostekew

Ooh, that's a lovely feeling.



James Acaster

Hello, just, have you got a map on you? Maybe get that out. I was just wondering where Scotland was before we have a little chat. Nah, I think that's very good. Also jaggy, the only time I've heard Jaggy before is the band Biffy Clyro did a song called There's No Such Thing As a Jaggy Snake.

Jessica Fostekew

No!

James Acaster

And they're from Scotland. I thought they'd made the word jaggy up but now

Ed Gamble

Well, hang on, what do they mean by that?

Jessica Fostekew

A bumpy snake or a spiky snake?

Ed Gamble

A bubbly snake?

Jessica Fostekew

Bunky, bumpy, I said bunky that's not a word.

James Acaster

Fizzy?

Ed Gamble

A fizzy snake. But I mean, there is such a thing as a fizzy snake, we all know they are, they're delicious.

James Acaster

Absolutely, I love them.

Jessica Fostekew

Oh yeah, I've just remembered what you mean. Yes please!

James Acaster

Did you like fizzy sweets when you were a kid?

Jessica Fostekew

Yeah, I preferred and still do, I'm not that into sweets, huh sorry

James Acaster

Hmmm boy

Ed Gamble

Oh God, warning signs

Jessica Fostekew

But I preferred and still do the sour fizzy ones, if it's sour and fizzy I'm all over it.

James Acaster

Okay



Ed Gamble

How sour are we talking though? Toxic waste?

Jessica Fostekew

No, I mean Tangfastic. I've never had a sweet that was too sour for me. But I don't feel like I've been truly challenged.

James Acaster

Sure

Jessica Fostekew

I've not gone to any of those specialist places and gone, 'give me your sourest sweet, dicks'.

Ed Gamble

I mean, I don't know why you're being so jaggy in the sweet shop.

James Acaster

Yeah you're being very jaggy in the sweet shop I think, after your jagtastics. I don't like Tangfastics.

Ed Gamble

What?

James Acaster

Yeah I know. I think it's cos once I was in a train that derailed and to try and cheer the passengers up they handed out Tangfastics, and now I, now I associate it with trauma.

Ed Gamble

I would say that's the last thing I'd want if I'd been through a traumatic experience would be to eat a very sour sweet.

James Acaster

Yeah

Ed Gamble

I'd want something smooth and comforting right?

James Acaster

Yeah one hundred percent. And also I was at the back of the carriage and I was watching the Tangfastics make their way to me. So you know that, well I'm lucky if I get cola bottles here, do you know what I mean? Everyone else is going to take all the good ones, the dinosaurs and stuff

Jessica Fostekew

Also, I'm not sure something smooth and comforting is that practical if you're in a traumatic like, if there's been a terrible train accident, how are they going to manage to come around and give everyone a small pot of macaroni cheese?

James Acaster

Yes

Ed Gamble

Yeah, it's more prep isn't it, to be fair, than a bag of Tangfastics.

Jessica Fostekew

It is more prep



James Acaster

What would be your ideal sweet after a train accident Jess?

Jessica Fostekew

I think minstrels would be, a bag of minstrels would be a bit more comforting than a Tangfastic.

Ed Gamble

Oh yeah. You know what, i thought it was a stupid question and your answer has just justified the question. Because it's the correct answer, I think, a bag of minstrels. Not revels cos you want predictability don't you?

James Acaster

Oh, if you handed out a bag of revels after a train accident.

Ed Gamble

Yeah, first I've been in a train accident and now I've got a coffee one!

James Acaster

Yeah yeah. That's, that's, that's the. I think you have both named the best and the worst sweets that could be handed out. Minstrels, number one best one. Revels, the worst after any sort of traumatic event.

Jessica Fostekew

Except if I was in the train because I'm the only person in the world who loves coffee revels and would have everybody's elses, I would forego my bag of revels just to go around and have everyone's coffee one for them

James Acaster

Wow

Jessica Fostekew

Does that make me like a hero?

James Acaster

Yeah actually!

Ed Gamble

I've never met anyone who likes the coffee revels. I don't mind them, it's a bit of a sort of stereotype isn't it, that the coffee revels are the worst ones

James Acaster

Sure

Ed Gamble

I don't mind them but I'm certainly, if I'm popping a revel in my mouth I'm disappointed if it's the coffee. Cos really I'm looking for an orange, I'm looking for a Malteaser, I'm looking for

James Acaster

You're looking for an orange?

Ed Gamble

I love an orange one



James Acaster

I don't like the orange one, I like chocolate orange but I find the revels chocolate orange too powdery, like my knees.

Ed Gamble

But that's why I like them. I bite down into the orange one and I go, ah it's like my friend James' knees.

James Acaster

It reminds you, reminds you of your pal. Now Jess, before we move on, just quickly rank all the revels in order from worst to best.

Jessica Fostekeew

Okay, so, raisin, worst. Um, is there a nut one?

James Acaster

Is there a nut one? It feels like there should be a peanut one but then

Jessica Fostekeew

I don't think there is.

James Acaster

I don't think there is.

Jessica Fostekeew

And then I'll go orange, and then I'd go Malteaser, and then I'd go, ah sort of like a, ah like a shell-less minstrel, solid chocolate, like a slug to a snail, a minstrel would be. And then, top of the, top of the tree coffee. Sorry if I've missed one.

Ed Gamble

I'm now obviously on the revels wikipedia page.

Jessica Fostekeew

Great.

Ed Gamble

Originally revels had orange creme, coconut, toffee, toffee or peanut centres, along with Galaxy Counters, minstrels minus exterior shell and Malteasers. The coconut centres were later replaced with coffee cream and the peanuts were replaced with raisins. Original revels flavours also included Turkish delight which was withdrawn after five years and in 2008 they had a Big Brother style eviction campaign where one flavour from the bag will be replaced by a special limited-edition flavour.

Jessica Fostekeew

Oooh!

James Acaster

Is it too early to say this is our best episode?

Jessica Fostekeew

I think toffee I forgot toffee, toffee's still in it. That hard toffee

James Acaster

Yeah, toffee's still in it. Which is my favourite actually.



Jessica Fostekew

Ah is it? Okay I would put

Ed Gamble

Is it? No

Jessica Fostekew

I'd put it above, for me, just under Malteaster actually.

James Acaster

Yeah

Jessica Fostekew

Lower half of the, lower half of the league.

James Acaster

Yeah, it's in the relegation zone but it's surviving.

Jessica Fostekew

Is there any that we'd all agree is top half?

Ed Gamble

No cos I think I'd go raisin top

Jessica Fostekew

Whoa whoa whoa!

James Acaster

What the?

Ed Gamble

The thing is I love a chocolate raisin, I love a chocolate raisin, I love a yoghurt raisin, I love anything within the genre of covered raisins. Coffee isn't too bad but it's not bottom, but I think toffee might be bottom for me because it's too chewy.

James Acaster

What the hell? Sorry Grandpa.

Ed Gamble

Also, coffee was briefly replaced by strawberry.

Jessica Fostekew

Oh fuck off.

Ed Gamble

Yeah I agree, fuck off.

Jessica Fostekew

I hate strawberry flavoured things or banana flavoured things. Unless it's a strawberry or a banana don't take its flavour and put it somewhere else.

Ed Gamble

I agree



James Acaster

Amazingly, I find chocolate covered raisins and even more so yoghurt covered raisins, to be a great idea

Ed Gamble

Perfectly executed

James Acaster

When I see them I'm like, I can't wait for this I'm going to eat all these chocolate covered raisins, I feel sick so quickly, even more so with yoghurt covered raisins. Like they make me feel sick Ed.

Ed Gamble

Oh really?

James Acaster

Yeah, not like disgusted by them but actually just physically like I'm going to puke.

Jessica Fostekew

Yeah

Ed Gamble

And you have such a capacity for sweet things.

Jessica Fostekew

I think it's just that it's a sweet thing covered by another sweet thing, like you kind of, like a malteser is biscuity, it's not that sweet. I dunno, it's double sweet. Also, there's so many foods where it's really nice when it gets a bit that's stuck in your teeth, like that's the point of it, but with a chocolate covered raisin I find that very annoying, I don't want it to still be there when I've finished it.

Ed Gamble

It just seems like a real witch hunt.

James Acaster

Popadoms or bread?! Popadoms or bread Jess?

Jessica Fostekew

I listened to your episode with very funny and amazing Louis Theroux but the one bit that made me go, hang on, do you wanna fight, is when he, he said, 'why would anyone have bread because you'd be so full up?', and I thought, yeah yeah yeah, you might. But I am gonna say popadoms. But I think it's because, it's so only when you go to like a nice restaurant that anyone would give you some bread before your dinner. I think that's just such a sign that you're having a really exciting time out and about, but I am gonna go popadoms over bread because, purely for the love of the dips. For the love of dips. The popadom itself is kind of an okay thing but it's really just a shelf for exciting things. Also, I have a, I really like getting way too many popadoms if you're having a take away because I secretly like them all bendy the next day. If I'm gonna have them crispy I want them loaded up with like a really fit lime pickles and really mustardy pickles and stuff and all the tangy ones and hot ones but if it's gonna be on its own, and then I do love it on its own, it's got that little bit of a bend in it the next day, oohh bring it on.

James Acaster

So, personally, I'm not a fan of the bend the next day. In fact, I would say I desperately try to finish all the ones that, you know, on the night, cos I'm like oh no otherwise these are a write-off tomorrow. So it's very interesting to meet someone who prefers, I don't think I've ever met anyone who prefers the stale bendy popadoms the next morning.



Ed Gamble

Yeah but she also likes the coffee revels mate, so you gotta think that through.

James Acaster

Yeah, this is quite an intriguing pallet.

Ed Gamble

Jess is a maverick when it comes to taste. Do you want us to, so at The Dream Restaurant would you like some fresh ones with the dips and then every so often we'll, every so often in the pile there'll just be a bendy one and you never know when it's coming, a la Revels.

Jessica Fostekeew

Oh my god it's the most exciting, I'd never even thought that that might be an option, imagine if that could ever happen in real life. I'm gonna have actual dreams about this dream meal because of that. Oh yeah.

James Acaster

How bendy do you want it? Do you want it bendy enough that we could feasibly make a wrap out of all the dips with the popadom?

Jessica Fostekeew

Yes exactly. No that's exactly what I want and I want some, I like the idea that you can like, you can basically fold it up. Ooooh. A big salty

James Acaster

Yeah

Ed Gamble

Like a big floppy dog's ear?

Jessica Fostekeew

Not hairy, you're making it sound hairy and hair on anything ruins it. Oh god yes please, popadoms with all the dips.

Ed Gamble

It's rare we got a unique choice for this course because obviously, you know, it's popadoms or bread, it's a very binary choice. And somehow we've got a floppypop, floppypoppies

James Acaster

Flopadoms, we've got flopadoms, come on

Jessica Fostekeew

Flopadoms! That sounds rude.

Ed Gamble

Flopadoms!

James Acaster

Right, well we'll absolutely get you your flopadoms, don't worry about it.

James Acaster

So we come to your starter. The big leagues now. I mean really it's small leagues starters. No one really cares about them, I mean they're no one's favourites.



Ed Gamble

That's the best course. The best course. The best course.

Jessica Fostekew

Oh shut up. Not, oh no

Ed Gamble

Oh, you alright Jess?

James Acaster

You alright? What's happened?

Jessica Fostekew

I'm just worried that I, I don't know, I didn't expect to feel like this much of a freak but starters is my favourite course.

Ed Gamble

No don't worry, don't feel like a freak, you're on my side. James is trying to rile me up.

Jessica Fostekew

Oh

Ed Gamble

Starters are my favourite course

Jessica Fostekew

Starters are my pudding.

Ed Gamble

Yes! Starters are my pudding, yes! Can we both get that as a tattoo, 'starters are my pudding'?

Yeah

Jessica Fostekew

Yes, starters are my pudding! I actually might do that, I've been waiting for ages, I've been waiting thirty seven years to think of something I like good enough to tattoo onto my body and starters are my pudding might be it. My, I've got a really naughty four year old and he did a brilliant thing during lockdown where, because I sort of got into a pattern of letting him have a pudding after every, like lunch and dinner, just to sort of get him to eat each thing and then one time he, he was like, 'I don't want this mate'. And it was like a nice pasta and he was like, 'I'm absolutely sick of this mains, I'm just so sick of all mains', and I was like, 'alright, well don't worry, you know, whatever, you don't have to eat it', and he went, 'but I want, I just want a different thing, I want the thing from afterwards'. And I was like, 'you want pudding before you've even had mains?', and he was like, 'not pudding' and I was like, 'what then?', and he went, 'sweet mains'. He tried to reclassify pudding as sweet mains to see if he could, just sort of survive on just puddings.

James Acaster

I tell you what, you might want to take a good long look at me because this is what your son's gonna look like when he's older. Absolutely heading that way.

Ed Gamble

A little Acaster in training, sweet mains.

James Acaster

Sweet mains, that's my kinda guy.



Jessica Fostekew
Sweet sweet mains.

James Acaster
Is he available to appear on a podcast? This child?

Ed Gamble
But starters, I'm all about the starters.

Jessica Fostekew
Starters, so, I'm not very good at choosing, like I get a sort of a joyful, a sort of happy kind of overwhelmed in restaurants where there's more than one option to be honest because I like everything, I love everything. So I just never know what to pick and so if I could, can I get like a, kind of a bento box but not of, not of Asian things. Could I get like a tiny amount of different things on the same plate or box or whatever?

Ed Gamble
So you'd like a box with the sort of little individual section yeah.

Jessica Fostekew
Yeah, with like a tri of different things

Ed Gamble
A prison tray?

Jessica Fostekew
Yep, like a prison tray please.

James Acaster
We can still call it a bento, actually because it's the Off Menu podcast we should call it the Benito box.

Jessica Fostekew
Yes, the Benito box!

James Acaster
Yes.

Jessica Fostekew
Isn't that the name of like a kind of a burrito chain?

Ed Gamble
Benito's Hat is the name of the burrito chain.

Jessica Fostekew
Benito's Hat, my bad.

James Acaster
I've heard they're good. I've never been in myself because it reminds me too much of The Great Benito.

Ed Gamble
Work



Jessica Fostekew

Your producer. So, in one, there would only be three sections to the prison tray, in one section I want some, like so fresh calamari that's like hours hours away from having been in the sea. Because that like, I had it in Greece once and I watched the ship, like ship, this tiny little boat come in and the squid's come off it and he's like smacked them to death on the side of the stone quay.

Ed Gamble

Wow you really have, you have thrown ethics right out the window, straight away.

Jessica Fostekew

I did warn you I was gonna do that.

James Acaster

Yeah, well you did warn us but, I, in my defence, when you said, 'I'm gonna abandon all ethics', I didn't think the words smacked to death was gonna come up later on.

Ed Gamble

I thought you meant you were just have some meat, have something out of a plastic bottle, you're not going to watch your food be dashed against a rock.

Jessica Fostekew

Yeah, I want that, I want to watch

James Acaster

And then put into your prison tray, which now we know why you've been locked up as well.

Jessica Fostekew

Squid murder

James Acaster

Smacked to death

Jessica Fostekew

Joyful, psychotic squid murder. Yeah I want to watch the squid get thrashed to death by a fisherman, a Greek fisherman.

Ed Gamble

Perfect.

Jessica Fostekew

Yeah, I've just never tasted anything like, I really like calamari even if it's rubbish, I'm not a snob about it, but when it's good and it kind of like just, just like gosh poof and vanishes in your mouth, as soon as it hits your mouth, oh god, I want that in one section. And then in another section I want an oyster but I want one, like a big Scottish one that's so snazzy that it tastes of all the scary and exciting things that oysters taste of but also a bit creamy and I want like Tobasco on that and loads of lemon on all these things.

Ed Gamble

The first time I've ever heard snazzy used to describe shell fish. I liked it a lot, I'll be using it in future.

Jessica Fostekew

Yay! And actually, I've just got into having a little bit of vinaigrette, like that little vinaigrette that they give you to put on an oyster. That's good.



James Acaster

Mmm, it's a must, it's a must for me.

Jessica Fostekew

And now I'm going to go for the least ethical, I think potentially less ethical than watching a squid die before you eat it, in a violent way.

Ed Gamble

What are you gonna do?

James Acaster

What is this? Are you killing the fisherman as well?

Jessica Fostekew

No

Ed Gamble

My mind's going crazy here, what do you want to watch happening to the next animal?

Jessica Fostekew

I don't want to watch anything happen but I want octopus because I think it's so delicious but I think it is the least ethical because they're so clever aren't they?

Ed Gamble

Yeah.

Jessica Fostekew

They can plan ahead and they haven't found any other animals that can plan ahead.

Ed Gamble

Well, they can't plan that far ahead if they're getting eaten by you.

James Acaster

Sure. That's not on their to-do list.

Jessica Fostekew

Yeah. I mean I'm not saying they're cleverer than us

Ed Gamble

They're not psychic

Jessica Fostekew

But they're definitely cleverer than some people.

James Acaster

How far ahead can an octopus plan, Jess?

Jessica Fostekew

I don't know in terms of time but I know it can find an object, for example, discarded by a human and hide it and come back to it and use it for something later, like a coconut shell or whatever. I, I have to watch a lot of Andy's Aquatic Adventures on BBCbeebies or whatever it's called.

James Acaster

Yes, is this with sweet mains?



Jessica Fostekew

Yep, cos of sweet mains, sweet mains has taught, thanks to sweet mains I know a sort of weird amount about animals and dinosaurs now.

James Acaster

Right, yep.

Jessica Fostekew

I mean octopuses are basically utterly incredible and we really shouldn't eat them but they're really nice barbequed with loads of chilli and garlic.

Ed Gamble

Yeah they are delicious.

Jessica Fostekew

Also, they look like something, it looks like they're so clever they've designed their tentacles to look repulsive to a human but then any, as soon as you've overridden it and shut your eyes and eaten a bit for once, you're then like, oh, you've ruined it, that mask of disgusting lookingness doesn't work on me anymore.

Ed Gamble

Why is it, why do you think it's less ethical because the octopus is intelligent? Isn't that like saying it's probably more okay to kill a thick bloke?

Jessica Fostekew

Yeah, I think that's exactly what I'm saying actually.

James Acaster

Yep, that's how things should work in court.

Ed Gamble

Yeah.

James Acaster

'What was the IQ of the victim?'

'Well, lucky for you...'

Ed Gamble

I think that's a, I think that's a good line up of things

Jessica Fostekew

Yeah

Ed Gamble

Interesting you've gone calamari and octopus, very rare

James Acaster

Yes, very rare.

Jessica Fostekew

Well you know when you go to an amazing seafood restaurant and you get like, sometimes you just get like a sharing thing? That's my favourite cos you can try all the things. For someone who's sort of challenged when it comes to choosing, that's the dream isn't it?



James Acaster

Also I like that everything's from the sea in this starter. It makes sense.

Jessica Fostekeew

Do you two like things that are from the sea to eat?

James Acaster

Yeah

Ed Gamble

Love it. Absolutely love, love octopus, I really really like it. Just like chargrilled octopus, fried octopus. There, at Dumplings Legend in Chinatown they do a fried, just a fried octopus with chilli and salt

Jessica Fostekeew

Pwhoar!

Ed Gamble

And it is phenomenal. Chilli, garlic and salt and oh it's just, it's just delicious.

Jessica Fostekeew

That was the one thing on the old starters thing that I was like what do I do here, do I try and make it all go together? Because the other element of starter world that makes my heart sing is like dumplings and dim sum but I was like no, keep it, just keep it simple!

James Acaster

So, in Old Boy when he just eats the octopus raw and the actor did it in real life, was that octopus planning something at the time? Was he going, 'okay, I've just got this shoot to wrap up and then once I've done that I'm gonna go to my trailer and WHAT THE FUCK?!'?

Ed Gamble

It had its whole career, its whole film career planned out in front of it.

James Acaster

'I've got to ring my agent after this, this film is, WHAT THE, WHAT YOU DOING? WHAT YOU DOING? NO STOP STOP'. What do you think about that actor doing that Jess? I always think about this.

Jessica Fostekeew

Do you?

James Acaster

I just think it was so unnecessary, so especially when you watch it on the, when you watch it in the film you just think, I don't know how much that's really added to the film for me.

Jessica Fostekeew

I've never seen the film.

Ed Gamble

It's the only bit I remember though.

James Acaster

Well no there's another bit that I remember that's really horrible but it's right in the, it's right in the last bit. But he didn't do it for real. That's the thing, right, so later on, spoiler alert for anyone that hasn't seen Old Boy, at the end of Old Boy he cuts his tongue off



Jessica Fostekew

Oh yeah

James Acaster

But, he only acts that. Do you know what I mean? Like it's all like, no I'm gonna be proper, do this film properly, if I'm gonna eat an octopus I've got to eat a proper live octopus, I'm gonna do it. What's the final scene, cut your tongue off? Okay well, I'm not gonna do that.

Jessica Fostekew

Yeah, little did he know because he probably thought, oh well if I cut my tongue off I'm never gonna work again because I can't act any talking but then little did he know, eat an octopus live as a stunt, you'll never work again anyway mate. Everyone thinks you're a really nasty bastard. Just like I'm never gonna work again after on your podcast I've said I'm happy to see a squid smashed to death in front of me and then eat it.

James Acaster

Your main course Jess!

Jessica Fostekew

Okay, so, I don't never eat meat but I very very very rarely eat meat anymore. So I'm going to go back to the heady days of when I did that and also I'm gonna choose, it's not gonna be

James Acaster

Sorry I'm laughing cos I'm wondering if it's gonna be like, 'I would like a cow shot by a Spanish man with a bazuka please'.

Jessica Fostekew

Yeah! I want yeah, a calf punched to death in front of me by an orphan. No I, not that bad, but I do want a steak. So basically, I used to, I want like a really posh surf and turf and I want the exact one that a chef called Ian Simpson made at a hotel I worked in when I was a teenager where I was on £3.50 an hour as a chambermaid. And er, I think I worked my way up actually, to, £3.50 was the top rate I was on, I was a chambermaid and then I like I made my way up to be a waitress. But we were never allowed to eat, the food was so posh there and he was the head chef and I'd get bollocked because you'd get so hungry taking this incredible food out to people and not being able to eat it, you know, knowing that you're going home to a fucking SuperNoodle at midnight, it was so heartbreaking and like, you'd take the plates back in and people would leave stuff and you'd just be like, you cunts, how could you. Anyway, like they'd take stuff back in to the person washing up and you just sort of, you quickly eat them up before you gave them back the plate. And if I got caught doing that I got the most horrific bollocking, like 'they could have coughed or sneezed on that', and actually, while I'm saying that during a pandemic it does feel like pretty disgusting. But at the time I was like, I don't fucking care that was really yummy. Anyway, once and only once I like saved up and, I think I went, I might have gone with a parent or a boyfriend at the time and went for a meal there. And it felt like a bit of a bus man's holiday and I felt a bit weird about it, it was like this place that I used to work and it was only like within a year of having stopped working there and it was just, I don't know, it was a bit of a stuffy restaurant in this old hotel. And then I ordered this surf and turf and it blew my mind. So I want that exact one, like I just didn't know, it was just a fillet steak with like a garlic butter over it, two or three prawns in their shells, like around the edge. That was it. I just had no idea that prawns or steak could taste like that. It was life changing. This was probably the first posh food I'd ever had, or cooked by a really good chef, that I'd ever had.

Ed Gamble

Now obviously it does sound very nice but do you think it was all the quality of the food or do you think some of that taste was freedom?



Jessica Fostekew

Yeah, there's a hundred percent an element of freedom in there.

James Acaster

It feels a bit like you know, Pretty Woman, Julia Roberts going back to the clothing store kind of thing.

Jessica Fostekew

Yeah! Yeah, there is an element of that.

James Acaster

They caught you eating by the bins but now you've ordered a surf and turf.

Ed Gamble

Did you wear your chamber maid's uniform so people were like, what are, what are you doing eating in the restaurant, you should be working! And you'd be like, not any more.

Jessica Fostekew

I think that it would work really well if my chamber maid's uniform was like the stereotypical chamber maid's uniform like a sexy French maid or something that people think of but actually it was like a really disgusting burgundy tabard, so no.

James Acaster

I'll be honest, I didn't know that chamber maid was still a job!

Jessica Fostekew

Yeah! Well someone needs to clean hotel bedrooms.

James Acaster

Sure, but I didn't think that the job was still called chamber maid.

Jessica Fostekew

Oh, didn't you?

James Acaster

No.

Jessica Fostekew

Yeah, they've probably snazzied it up a bit now and called it housekeeper's helper

James Acaster

Housekeeper's helper?

Jessica Fostekew

Er, bed changer. Towel, towel swapper.

James Acaster

Towel swapper. A towel swapper doesn't sound like they're being employed by the hotel, it sounds like a rogue kind of like, someone on their own is sneaking around, swapping the old towels around and you don't know, oh maybe you're gonna get a fungal infection because the towel swapper's been in.

Ed Gamble

This does sound good though. I like, whoever came up with surf and turf I think was my kind of person because they've obviously gone, you know normally you should have these things



separately but I'm going to invent a dish specifically just to pile on as many things that I like as possible. And, if you come up with a nifty name you can get away with anything. 'Surf and turf'.

Jessica Fostekew

Yes exactly, there's no like natural way that a cow should ever meet a prawn.

Ed Gamble

No, apart from in like, in a surf and turf or sort of fun cartoon series.

Jessica Fostekew

Yes!

James Acaster

Yes. If a living cow meets a living prawn then there's probably a surf and turf about to happen. And I think that the cow would see the prawn and go, 'oh no'. It would instantly know.

Ed Gamble

The prawn wouldn't

Jessica Fostekew

The prawn wouldn't care.

Ed Gamble

The prawn wouldn't know anything. The octopus would be like, I know exactly what's about to happen, I'm out of here.

James Acaster

Uh oh. Quick, plan my exit strategy.

James Acaster

Uh oh. Quick, plan my exit strategy. The prawn: 'nice to meet you cow, what's going on?'.

Ed Gamble

'You don't get a lot of cows around here'.

James Acaster

'Why do you look so scared?'. Tell me more about Ian Simpson.

Jessica Fostekew

Yes! So he was a chef at this hotel. It's still there, it's called the Purbeck House Hotel in Swanage. And he was chef for years and there was another really wicked guy called Eric who would, who managed the restaurant and they were, sort of like, well they were mates and it was just the most fun place to work as a teenager because well, we just always got really drunk after work, in one of the turrets or in the sneaky in the sneaky little foxy bar. It was quite a sort of old people-y hotel. But anyway, it's just really lovely and I've stayed friends with them. When I got a bit older I did a bit of babysitting and stuff for Ian and his wife Liz and then they moved to Charmouth up the road in Dorset which is stunning, and opened their own like tiny really posh little hotel there. I went to stay there once or twice and we're still I went to stay there once or twice and we're still friends. So it's a nice happy ending to the Ian Simpson story but when I was first working there I was really scared of him because he was a really shouty chef. And they used to do pranks, whenever they got new young chefs in they used to do pranks on them. They got this guy, Darren, they'd send him down to the coop, the one supermarket in Swanage and make him ask for things like dangleberries.

James Acaster

Oh dear



Ed Gamble

Oh Darren

Jessica Fostekew

And, chicken nuts.

Ed Gamble

Chicken nuts?

Jessica Fostekew

Basically, 800 very creative words for testicle they would they would have him go to down to Budgens or coop and ask a staff member for. And he just did it again and again and again without realising that he was being diddled.

James Acaster

Aw, I'd love it if, you know, Darren did go and ask for those things and like the shop keeper was like, 'they're having you on mate, all these things mean testicles. I tell you what you should do', and then he could have just gone back to the kitchen and went, 'hey Ian, I've got your dangle berries right here' and then whipped them out, whipped out his own balls, onto the chopping board, going, 'here's your sweet mains baby'.

Ed Gamble

Ah well that's ruined sweet mains forever.

Jessica Fostekew

Yep.

James Acaster

Yeah, sorry. I don't, I know that's what you named your son and I don't want to ruin that for you.

Jessica Fostekew

Sweet mains Fostekew!

James Acaster

Yeah, Sweet Mains Fostekew.

James Acaster

What's gonna be the side dish now?

Jessica Fostekew

Oh god, I suppose actually then, I was gonna have some like triple fried chips from a really specific stall at End of the Road Festival, cos once, they're the best chips I've ever had and I'm from the seaside where I think the second best chips come from which is all chippies by the sea side. Yeah these ones, I'd had like a really terrible gastric flu. After Edinburgh. You know like after

Ed Gamble

This is how all the best food stories start.

Jessica Fostekew

You know after, well I don't know about you two but after Edinburgh festival every year my body goes 'FUCK YOU for doing that to me for a month, adrenaline-wise', and I just get an ailment like sometimes it will be, I've had everything from eczema through to whatever my body will just fall to bits for a couple of weeks after Edinburgh. And this year it was just this really intense gastric flu. And it had just passed, I'd not been able to eat anything which I hate in illness it stops me eating. It's



infuriating because when I'm not eating I'm very sad. Anyway, it was the first thing, I'd I'd tried to eat a few things and I'd just puked them or whatever, or worse, and just, oh, it was the first thing. Again probably they tasted of the freedom or the joy of being able to eat anything as much as anything else, but this stall that just did these triple fried chips. And this was a few years ago when it was it was probably the first time I'd ever seen something been like fried more than once, as if that was a good thing. And it bloody was actually. But, I'm not going to have those. I've talked about them from ages, for ages, only to say I'm not going to have them because I think I'm going to have sag aloo as my side, cos that's got potato in it as well. I love sag paneer as well but I think in this context, with that steak and prawn, I want sag aloo. I love spinach loads. You can have a shit sag aloo but even a shit sag aloo is really good and when it's super good and it's like. Oh, I don't know how to describe, I don't know how they do what they do to the spinach that makes it like nowhere ever grainy or bitter but like smooth but earthy but like a little bit spicy but maybe more peppery. Ah yeah, I want that

Ed Gamble

Is there a specific place where you get the sag aloo from?

Jessica Fostekew

It won't always be on the menu there because it's quite a fancy place that has a mixture of things but I'm going to say Babur in Brockley. It's like a, a sort of very high-end Indian restaurant but it's still super reasonable. And they'll do like a five-course tasting menu that will always have sag something in it. Last time I went there they didn't have sag aloo but I'm sure they'd rustle you one up. It's the same sag that'll be in their sag paneer and their paneer made me go, oh, I've never and paneer before like it's meant to be.

Ed Gamble

Right.

Jessica Fostekew

It was like all soft and, I thought, what?! It's not like that kind of almost brick of it that you can get in supermarkets normally that you have to like. It's kind of almost as much of a head fuck as tofu in terms of, oh, how are you meant to make this nice? Or absorb another flavour?

Ed Gamble

Yeah I know what you mean, it's, they're daunting ingredients, right? Cos it's just like getting a bit of polystyrene, of going like, what the hell am I supposed to do with this? There is a way of getting flavour into it but, oh boy.

Jessica Fostekew

Some kind of magic's involved.

James Acaster

What did you say the place was called?

Jessica Fostekew

Babur. B-A-B-U-R.

James Acaster

Okay thank you. I thought you said Bill Burr.

Ed Gamble

I'd absolutely love it if an Indian restaurant just called themselves Bill Burr.

James Acaster

'Welcome to Bill Burr'.



Ed Gamble

'Is there any connection with the comedian Bill Burr?', 'No'.

James Acaster

Nope.

Ed Gamble

Going back to the triple cooked chips briefly, Jess, why do you think they stopped at triple-cooking chips? Because I remember for a while there were double cooked chips and someone went, I'm triple cooking them, but then no one's ever gone, quad, quad cooked chips. Is that too far?

Jessica Fostekeew

Quadruple cooked chips. I, I don't think it's too far I think it's just harder to say. And it just doesn't sound as good.

Ed Gamble

Yeah it doesn't roll off the tongue.

Jessica Fostekeew

I think it's all the sort of aural aesthetics isn't it? Do you want a quad cooked chip? No. Can't say it, don't want to hear it.

Ed Gamble

Yeah, four times cooked, there's no good way of saying it.

Jessica Fostekeew

No.

Ed Gamble

Triple cooked chips is definitely the way to go.

Jessica Fostekeew

It sounds nice.

James Acaster

I am going to be honest.

Jessica Fostekeew

Uh oh.

James Acaster

I don't really understand what makes them triple cooked because in my head it's like they're frying them, they're taking them out, they're frying them again, they're taking them out, they're frying them again.

Ed Gamble

I think that's it, yeah.

James Acaster

But why don't you just fry them for longer? Why don't you just keep them in there for ages?

Ed Gamble

I don't really know the science behind it. I think some of it, it might be to do with the moisture as well, of getting them out, drying them



Jessica Fostekew

Yeah, if you let the fat cool before heating it again, I think it does something that makes the outside crispier and crispier each time. Eventually, doesn't it sort of decay the crispy outside a bit each time as well? So maybe that is why, maybe that's the boring, real reason why you can't just do like, quintuple fried chips because the decay will have outdone the extra crisping.

Ed Gamble

But those are my favourite chips, the tiny ones right at the bottom that have almost no potato left in them.

Jessica Fostekew

They're just a dark brown husk.

Ed Gamble

Yeah, I love husks. You can't ask for a bag of husks.

James Acaster

Oh, what's come up on the chat here? The Great Benito

Ed Gamble

Er, Benito's sent us the recipe for triple cooked chips.

James Acaster

The preparation process for involves the chips first being simmered.

Ed Gamble

Oh, it's a Heston Blumenthal thing.

James Acaster

And drained of water using a su-v technique by freezing, deep fried. Oh boy, do you know what? Even written down Benito is boring.

Ed Gamble

I think, I mean, I know it's warm in your flat James but, you know when you tried to read that triple cooked recipe out, it was almost nonsense.

Jessica Fostekew

Yeah.

James Acaster

Yeah.

Ed Gamble

I'vee traaa sowaa u vvv.

Jessica Fostekew

It's like a Harry Enfield character.

Ed Gamble

Yeah!

Jessica Fostekew

What's that? Gold standard.



Ed Gamble

And then had the temerity to accuse Benito of being boring when he's copy pasted something out that we've just asked for and then you've not been bothered to read it properly. 'God Benito's boring, isn't he? Ga gahhh blah blahh. Classic Benito'.

James Acaster

That's why I've never acted in anything. 'Oh god this script writer is boring', 'you just delivered it real bad, James'.

Ed Gamble

But we're going with sag aloo. That's what we're going with. Delicious.

Jessica Fostekew

Yes please.

James Acaster

Oh, do you want

Ed Gamble

Oh, there he goes.

James Acaster

I'm not going to say what I was going to say because it would involve, I know, look, I've been in this comedy game long enough now to know that if I did the riff I was about to do it would end up, I can join the dots, like an octopus I can plan ahead and I know exactly where it was gonna end up and it was gonna end up with me singing 'sag aloo' to the tune of Agadoo. And I'm not, I'm not about to walk down that path just yet.

Ed Gamble

Is it something to do with Jess having pushed pineapple for dessert?

James Acaster

Oh I hope there's pushed pineapple for dessert. Pushed pineapple. That's the part of the song that I say, pushed pineapple makes less sense than the actual phrase agadoo.

Jessica Fostekew

Yeah.

James Acaster

Agadoo, I can understand that. Shake a tree, fair enough. Pushing a pineapple? What are you playing at? One handed or two handed? How do you imagine it? Well I know the dance move has been two hands?

Ed Gamble

It's two handed right? Yeah.

James Acaster

But it always seems too much. I'm always thinking, I can push a pineapple one handed, why is it always two hands?

Ed Gamble

You need two to shake the tree I think.

James Acaster

You need two to shape the tree.



Ed Gamble

But you can push a pineapple with one hand, easy.

James Acaster

You can push a pineapple with one finger, I mean it's easy. But they're always two-handed pushing that pineapple.

Ed Gamble

But is the pineapple on the, is it a pineapple tree so surely, if you skip straight to shake the tree you're doing the same as pushing the pineapple.

James Acaster

But then why is push pineapple first? You're pushing the pineapple and then shaking the tree?

Jessica Fostekew

It's absolutely mental isn't it? Are you getting the pineapple out of the way, you're rolling all of the pineapples out of the way just to shake the tree and get a load more pineapples down so that you know which shake each batch of pineapples came from?

James Acaster

Yeah.

Jessica Fostekew

Which vintage of pineapple it was.

Ed Gamble

And we haven't even started on what agadoo means.

James Acaster

That's how ridiculous push pineapple is, it's like, I just accept agadoo straight out the gate. Agadoo, yep absolutely. Push pineapple, hold on, what?

Ed Gamble

I mean, what you've done now James is that unfortunately everyone listening for the next at least twenty four hours will be singing Agadoo but replacing it with sag aloo.

Jessica Fostekew

Yeah.

James Acaster

Yep, they'll be replacing it was sag aloo. They'll be saying 'push pineapple' and then that will blow their minds

Jessica Fostekew

You might have even ruined me ordering it ever again for the rest of my life.

Ed Gamble

Yeah. Certainly out loud. I mean you can probably do it on like a takeaway menu or a Deliveroo or something but if you've ever got to order sag aloo in Babur again

Jessica Fostekew

Hmm and say it.



James Acaster

Also now you've said Deliveroo, I'm thinking Deliveroo to the tune of Agadoo. Two handed pushing pineapple, I'm not gonna get, I'm not gonna

Ed Gamble

No no.

James Acaster

Unless you're a little hamster.

Ed Gamble

Yeah, maybe that's what, maybe within the song Agadoo you're you have to imagine that you're a hamster.

Jessica Fostekew

Have hamsters got hands?!

Ed Gamble

Have hamsters got hands? No, Jess, they've just got little stumps. They just, they're little balls of fur and they roll around.

James Acaster

Well if they've got flippers, what have hamsters got, Jess?

Jessica Fostekew

Paws.

James Acaster

They can still push a pineapple.

Jessica Fostekew

Oh fair enough, I suppose. Could they?

Ed Gamble

Well they push those little balls that they're in, don't they, the hamsters

James Acaster

Well they probably couldn't move the pineapple actually, to be fair

Jessica Fostekew

Yeah if you hollowed out a pineapple they could have a run around in one.

Ed Gamble

Yeah.

James Acaster

Okay, what animal is small enough that it would have to two-handed push a pineapple but also strong enough that it could actually push that pineapple and get some movement.

Ed Gamble

A good question. A cat I think, a cat.

James Acaster

A cat, a chihuahua.



Jessica Fostekeew

Yeah yeah, something like that. I was thinking some sort of marsupial sort of small, yeah. A macaque.

James Acaster

A macaque could get some movement on them.

Ed Gamble

A macaque, yeah definitely, a macaque.

Jessica Fostekeew

Probably quite a long list actually, it depends how long we've got.

Ed Gamble

Yeah

James Acaster

So Agadoo is actually through the eyes of a macaque.

Ed Gamble

Yeah.

Jessica Fostekeew

Yep.

James Acaster

A stub tailed macaque.

Ed Gamble

Ordering sag aloo.

James Acaster

Ordered a sag aloo, is now pushing a pineapple. But, is that stub tailed macaque strong enough to shake a tree?

Ed Gamble

Definitely not.

James Acaster

So now that's out of the running. We've got to presume it's not that. Or the cat. A cat's not shaking a tree.

Jessica Fostekeew

Small bear?

James Acaster

Yeah actually. I think it's got to be a small bear, hasn't it?

Ed Gamble

Yeah, small bear.

James Acaster

It's gotta be a small bear, yeah a small bear, a bear cub would push a pineapple with two hands and it could also shake a tree and get some movement out of it.



Ed Gamble

Yeah, done, tick.

Jessica Fostekew

Oh, thank god for that.

Ed Gamble

What's your drink, Jess?

Jessica Fostekew

Oh, I find it very hard because I do really like all the drinks. I think with this feast it's gonna be, let's say like a snazzy champagne.

Ed Gamble

A snazzy champagne?

Jessica Fostekew

A snazzy champagne.

James Acaster

Pulling out the snazz again.

Ed Gamble

As snazzy as the oyster?

Jessica Fostekew

Yeah. Actually, I think that's the one thing that would go with all the things. Dom Perignon. That's the snazziest. Yeah.

Ed Gamble

Don Perignon. Now, are you a champagne buff? Do you think? Because I have got no idea, I could drink a Don Perignon and I think I could drink any other sort of champagne and I don't think I'd be able to tell the difference or what the hell was going on

Jessica Fostekew

I'm not a champagne buff but I'm not completely, I don't know nothing about it. My dad worked for a champagne company for like fifty years

Ed Gamble

Ooh!

Jessica Fostekew

So I used to go to tastings and stuff and pour little bits of champagne for people.

James Acaster

What?

Jessica Fostekew

Yeah, so he worked for Moët and Chandon who are called Moët Hennessy Christian Dior Vio something now. Weirdly we, so, oh this makes me sound so much posher than I am, he was a travelling salesman, but we always had champagne in our house. But I hated champagne until I was in my thirties and then suddenly something like clicked in and was like, oh that's very nice. But yeah the nicest bottle I've ever had is that he got me a bottle of Dom Perignon which is like the, the best Moët and Chandon from, named after the monk who invented champagne, created it.



James Acaster

Oh, I didn't know that.

Jessica Fostekew

Yeah, that's Dom.

Ed Gamble

Don as in, short for Donald?

Jessica Fostekew

Dom

Ed Gamble

Dom, oh right. Short for Dominic?

Jessica Fostekew

Yeah!

Ed Gamble

Dominic Perignon.

James Acaster

Dominic Perignon.

Jessica Fostekew

And he got me a bottle from the year I was born 1983, and I drank it when my son was born. And it was like all, like biscuity and almost creamy and amazing.

James Acaster

Wow.

Ed Gamble

Hmm, now. If anyone ever accuses me of being posh again, I'll just let them know that I always thought that Dom Perignon was called Don Perignon. If you always had champagne in your house, you know when teenagers go out drinking and they nick booze from their parents drinking cabinets, did you always like just turn up with two bottles of bubbly like an absolute legend?

Jessica Fostekew

No, because that was where I drew the line. Also, I don't want to get him carried away by social services but my dad was, my dad would be the one who, because he worked in London during the week and would come back down to Dorset, where I was growing up, he would bring me enough booze for me and my mates for every weekend from when we were so illegally young. We'd have like all alcopops and stuff, so I never needed to be that kid that nicked out of their parents' booze cabinet. But, once we got older, yeah, if I'd be like, 'oh Sally's doing dinner for everyone or whatever, he'd be like, 'take take this bottle of champagne', I'd be like, 'okay'.

Ed Gamble

That is good.

Jessica Fostekew

I felt like a prick though. Rocking up at seventeen.

James Acaster

I love the thought of you as a teenager, just you and your mates, 'oh see you later Dad, I'm just going to meet the girls, gonna get pissed behind a skip', and he's like, 'do you want some booze?'



And you're just like, 'yeah, I'd love some booze', 'hold on a second', and then he gets like a bottle of champagne and holds it like a waiter properly holds it, with his arm like behind the back, then cut to you and your friends going, 'hmm, very biscuity, are you getting those notes, Jemima?'

Jessica Fostekew

Jemima!

James Acaster

Not Jemima, Fostekew wouldn't hang out with a Jemima.

Jessica Fostekew

No, not one Jemima in my life.

James Acaster

Can we try and guess your friends names?

Jessica Fostekew

Yes please. My Dorset ones, yep.

James Acaster

When you were growing up.

Jessica Fostekew

Yep.

Ed Gamble

Well, you've already said Sally.

Jessica Fostekew

Yep, sorry. I gave that one away.

James Acaster

So that's one. I think you would have been friends with a Natalie.

Jessica Fostekew

No. Natalie bullied me.

James Acaster

Okay, well, man. I could not have misfired more there.

Ed Gamble

It's just amazing how quickly I've forgotten all girl's names apart from Jess and Sally.

Jessica Fostekew

It's the, you'll kick yourself because they're like the names that every girl is called.

Ed Gamble

Steph!

Jessica Fostekew

No. That's my girlfriend's name.

Ed Gamble

Are you not friends with your girlfriend?



Jessica Fostekew

Yes

James Acaster

So competitive! He gets in with that straight away. 'Oh, I guess you're not friends with your girlfriend then'.

Ed Gamble

Oh I guess that's a point then, for me, is it?

James Acaster

Rebecca. Becky?

Jessica Fostekew

Oh, close but no.

Ed Gamble

Jane?

Jessica Fostekew

No.

James Acaster

Jane?

Jessica Fostekew

I'm not that old.

Ed Gamble

Jane is the only girl's name I can think of.

James Acaster

Rachel?

Jessica Fostekew

Nnn, a uni friend called that, you can have that.

James Acaster

Sarah.

Jessica Fostekew

Nope.

James Acaster

How have I not got one yet?

Ed Gamble

Violet?

Jessica Fostekew

No

Ed Gamble

Violet Beauregarde



Jessica Fostekew

Errr.

James Acaster

Kaa.. Kathy Burke?

Jessica Fostekew

I wish!

Ed Gamble

Look, we did really well there. All we had to do was guess some ladies' names and we came up with Violet Beauregarde and Kathy Burke.

Jessica Fostekew

You were so close. You were so close!

James Acaster

We come to sweet mains.

Jessica Fostekew

Sweet mains. Thank you for giving it its proper name.

James Acaster

I'm hoping it's a sweet mains?

Jessica Fostekew

It is gonna be a sweet mains. I don't, I'm not all, I'm very rarely in the mood for a pudding. I think I've got like a salt tooth instead of a sweet tooth.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Yes! Salt tooth. I've never heard it described like that. That's a good tattoo.

Jessica Fostekew

'Salt tooth' and then 'starters are my puddings'.

Ed Gamble

I'd get 'starters are my pudding' as like one of those big stomach tattoos and then I'd walk into a restaurant and when they ask me what I want for dessert, I just lift up my t shirt.

Jessica Fostekew

Already at it.

James Acaster

And they go, 'so sorry, do you want starters or pudding? What do you want?'

Jessica Fostekew

I'll have another starter

Ed Gamble

I'm fine, yeah.

James Acaster

They wouldn't know what you meant.



Ed Gamble

I'm a salt tooth, do you, what about that do you not understand?

Jessica Fostekew

Yeah. But even though I'm a salt, even though I'm a salt tooth I don't want to, I don't want to be that guy that skips straight to cheese so I want something really lemony. My mum makes, and apparently is my auntie Penny's recipe, which'll be my great auntie Penny, this lemon meringue thing. It's like a roulade, is that how you say it?

James Acaster

Yeah.

Jessica Fostekew

And inside it's like the most bright bright lemon and then outside, the every outside is all crusty meringue and then there's this kind of like interim circle that's got like dots of that softer meringue and something else, but it's all soft. And it's, you serve it really cold and the lemony bit is like, so sharp, that it almost tastes fizzy like sherbert. But it's also really light, like it doesn't give you that kind of like gippy, sugared-up, you know when you've been over sugared? Like you might be from a chocolate raisin. It doesn't give you that because it's so refreshing. Like it's a proper like, it's like a slap around the face but it's done internally.

James Acaster

Hmm, yes.

Ed Gamble

An internal slap.

Jessica Fostekew

You know, you know what. And I'd like that

James Acaster

Like you've just swallowed a Greek fisherman.

Jessica Fostekew

Yes! And then for, and then with it to come just as I'm finishing it, can I have like an amaretto coffee?

Ed Gamble

Yeah!

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yeah you can.

James Acaster

I don't see why not.

Jessica Fostekew

Is it, an Italian coffee. One of those please.

James Acaster

It sounds delicious.



Jessica Fostekew

Good.

Ed Gamble

I love lemony stuff. I think I've only come around to it in the last few years but lemon, oh, extremely lemony desserts are right up my street.

Jessica Fostekew

I worry it's maybe, cos I feel like I talk to lots of people who say this but, and I worry it's our ageing pallets. Like if it just takes a bit longer to like something that intense.

Ed Gamble

Yeah maybe our mouths are dying because of age and we need something to, really really exciting to fire them back up again.

Jessica Fostekew

It's a, your knees, our mouths.

Ed Gamble

Yeah. All I can taste any more is lemons and anchovies.

James Acaster

Yeah. I don't think I've ever regretted getting a lemon dessert. However, every time I look at a menu I weirdly write off the lemon desserts in my head. I skip past them as if they're not even proper desserts.

Jessica Fostekew

Yeah!

Ed Gamble

Straight to chocolate?

James Acaster

But then, yeah, but then when you get them you're like, oh no this is absolutely the best one and I made the right choice, but not enough times do I make that choice.

Ed Gamble

Yep, yeah.

Jessica Fostekew

What's going on there? Do you think it needs better PR?

James Acaster

Yeah, no one's, no one's pushing lemons.

Jessica Fostekew

Yeah. Shake a tree.

James Acaster

Maybe that's what push pineapples means, it's just the PR team.

Jessica Fostekew

That's exactly it!



James Acaster

We need to push these pineapples

Jessica Fostekew

We need a really nice poster for pineapples.

Ed Gamble

We gotta push pineapples.

Jessica Fostekew

We need to push pineapples a lot harder guys.

James Acaster

No one's, no one's buying these pineapples, we've got to push them.

Ed Gamble

Lemon posset, my dad made a lemon posset once which is the richest thing I've ever eaten.

Jessica Fostekew

Yeah.

Ed Gamble

He was like, I've made this lemon posset and then I've put it in wine glasses and then everyone got about three bites in and was like, that's enough for me, thank you. And then he had to just scrape it all into the bin.

Jessica Fostekew

Oh!

James Acaster

See, my dad and your dad would be the perfect team.

Ed Gamble

Yeah, I think so.

James Acaster

My dad would finish those.

Ed Gamble

Although sorry to, I know it's your episode, Jess, but I'm just going to read out my dad's Off Menu choices that my sister forced him to pick.

James Acaster

Oh, now, give us some context for this. When did this happen?

Ed Gamble

This was a few days ago, I don't think my dad's ever listened to the podcast but my sister listened and her and her boyfriend tried to get my dad to pick his Off Menu choices while they were on a walk. Just going to read them out. My dad's quite a stubborn man by the way so, this is what they could get out of him after two hours. Popadoms or bread? Neither, it's too much. Starter? Gazpacho. Main? Can't decide. Side? Depends what the main is. Drink? Depends what I'm eating. Dessert? German cheesecake. So that's what, that was two hours that took.

Jessica Fostekew

Oh my god. Get him on. Get him on the show guys.



James Acaster

Definitely gazpacho.

Ed Gamble

Definitely the shortest episode yet. I love just the stubbornness of, 'main? Can't decide. Side? Depends what my main is'.

James Acaster

Yeah yep, yeah. Drink? Depends what I'm eating. Dessert? German cheesecake.

Jessica Fostekew

Lovely.

James Acaster

Well I, I think that sounds like a very good menu Jess. And I like that you've got the amaretto coffee shot at the end as well.

Jessica Fostekew

Yeah. I had one the other day and it was the first time in years and years and years and I was like, why haven't I, why have I not been doing this more often. It's really nice. Hang on, even my coffees now need a sweet mains.

James Acaster

Now you're talking.

Jessica Fostekew

And it's gonna be alcoholic.

James Acaster

Jess Fostekew, I'm going to read you back your menu now. See how you, see how you feel about it, see if you still feel good about these choices. You would like sparkling water. You would like flopadoms for your popadoms or bread choice. Starter, you want a Benito box, fresh calamari straight out the water, big Scottish oyster with Tobasco and all the trimmings and barbecue octopus as well. Main course, Ian Simpson's surf and turf. Side dish, sag aloo loo loo from Babur in Brockley, London. Drink, Dom Perignon, snazzy. And dessert, you would like mum's brackets via great auntie Penny's lemon roulade with an amaretto coffee.

Jessica Fostekew

Whoa, yes please!!

Ed Gamble

Yeah that is a really good menu.

Jessica Fostekew

Cor, when you put it all in a row like that I couldn't be more smug about my choices if I'm honest.

James Acaster

It is pretty good.

Ed Gamble

Ethics be damned.

Jessica Fostekew

Ethics be damned, sorry ethics.



James Acaster

Bad luck ethics, that's a good menu.

Ed Gamble

Absolutely delicious. Thank you so much for coming to the Dream Restaurant Jess

Jessica Fostekew

Thanks so much for having me here.

Ed Gamble

I feel like we sorted out a lot of issues, I feel like we raised a lot of issues re Agadoo. So if anyone wants to get in contact and let us know the origins of pushing a pineapple, do do that, but that is an absolutely delicious menu. Jess, tell us about your food podcast very briefly because we didn't give it a proper push at the beginning.

James Acaster

Yeah!

Jessica Fostekew

It's called Hoovering and it's about eating. Yeah it's a goodie.

Ed Gamble

Yes, and, Jess is a better host than us because quite often when you do the podcast with Jess she will bring you food.

James Acaster

Yeah. Jess brought food to my flat to record the podcast, probably exactly two years ago to this day and I had just moved in, and my flat was completely bare and we just sat in an empty room

Jessica Fostekew

We sat on the floor and had bircher didn't we?

James Acaster

Yes, and it was exactly what I needed.

Jessica Fostekew

Yay! And to Ed's house, he had a white sofa and I brought some büche around which is

Ed Gamble

Yes, the most staining food of all time.

Jessica Fostekew

That was one of the most stressful, yeah.

James Acaster

Yeah. A lot of people have that complaint about doing podcasts with us, it's a stressful experience. It's very hard for us to get guests onto this actually.

Jessica Fostekew

Not true. I love this podcast, thank you so much for having me on it.

Ed Gamble

Well thank you very much for coming. Push pineapple, shake the tree.



Ed Gamble

Well there we go. I think that was a pretty delicious menu from Jess actually.

James Acaster

Scrumptious.

Ed Gamble

Real scrumptious. Lovely to see a shout out to the surf and turf.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

And thank Jesus actually for Jess not saying hemp seeds.

James Acaster

Ah yes. Thank you for not saying hemp seeds Jess Fostekeew because Ed would not have liked that, he would have huffed and puffed.

Ed Gamble

I would have had to get my blowing lips ready and blown, blown Jess out the restaurant as well. Which I couldn't do because I can't even blow a pumpkin seed off the plate.

James Acaster

I mean you could and you should try it but

Ed Gamble

I couldn't, I, okay, if it was a pile of pumpkin seeds I couldn't blow them off the plate.

James Acaster

Well you keep changing the rules here but like, but you could actually

Ed Gamble

It's my game

James Acaster

Do you know what, even if it was a pile of pumpkin seeds

Ed Gamble

Yeah

James Acaster

with a few breaths you could get it off the plate because you would disrupt

Ed Gamble

I dunno man, it's

James Acaster

Cos you would disrupt the pile with the first blow, they're not all stuck together

Ed Gamble

It's been a long lockdown, it's been a long old lockdown I don't know if i could, what my blowing power's like.



James Acaster

You're exercising all the time, everyone knows it.

Ed Gamble

Yeah but I've not been, I've been mainly working on my shoulders, I've not been working on my blowing, my seed blowing like I normally do.

James Acaster

I think you'd surprise yourself.

Ed Gamble

Okay, well that's something to do anyway. When we can finally meet up, me and James will get together and we'll, that'll be our next live stream actually, we'll live stream some seed blowing.

James Acaster

Yep, we'll get a load of different seeds and try to blow each seed and see how far we can get it.

Ed Gamble

Twelve quid a ticket. Thank you very much Jess for coming into the Dream Restaurant for another home cooking episode. Great menu. Do go and listen to Jess' podcast Hoovering, it is a very good food podcast which I think predates ours and they've had a lot of wonderful guests on in the past. Everyone you can think of, everyone you'd like to hear really. Jess is also got a stand-up special available James.

James Acaster

On Next-Up, it's called Silence of the Nans. Go and watch that, it's excellent, so funny. And just get as much Jess Fostekeew in your life as you can.

Ed Gamble

Do it. I highly recommend it. But for now, let's say goodbye. It's time to shut the doors of the Dream Restaurant once more and we'll see you again sometime soon. Goodbye.

James Acaster

Bring down the shutters. We'll see you again sometime soon.

Ed Gamble

Goodbye.

James Acaster

Goodbye.