



Off Menu – Ep114 – Shaparak Khorsandi

Ed Gamble

Welcome to the Off Menu podcast where we take chat, we take humour, we take good times and we put them in the pestle and mortar and we crush them into a podcast paste. Hello James.

James Acaster

I'm the pestle and Ed's the mortar.

Ed Gamble

The pestle and mortar are two new nicknames.

James Acaster

Yeah, not really puns that we can do on our names to do with pestle and mortar really.

Ed Gamble

No I don't think so.

James Acaster

So we'll just call ourself pestle and mortar.

Ed Gamble

Pestle and mortar

James Acaster

Pure and simple, simple and plain.

Ed Gamble

Also, two more sets of great nicknames.

James Acaster

Yeah

Ed Gamble

Pure and simple, and simple and plain.

James Acaster

Well, with that one though, who's who? With those ones?

Ed Gamble

Well is simple the same in both of them?

James Acaster

Yes, I guess so.

Ed Gamble

Okay, I guess I'll take simple.

James Acaster

Well you're a gentleman but I think anyone listening to this podcast would probably put you as pure and plain.



Ed Gamble

Yeah but then plain, I'd rather be simple twice then pure and plain.

James Acaster

But you've got, you've got a joke about how your face just looks like the default face on a computer game before you change anything.

Ed Gamble

Yeah that's true. Maybe I'll stake pure and plain then and you can be double simple.

James Acaster

Yeah, I'm double simple.

Ed Gamble

Simple squared and P and P. Welcome to the show!

James Acaster

Yeah, welcome, welcome along. This is the Off Menu podcast with simple squared and P and P and we invite a guest into our Dream Restaurant and we ask them their favourite ever starter, main course, dessert, side dish and drink, not in that order. And this week's guest is

Ed Gamble and James Acaster

Shaparak Khorsandi.

Ed Gamble

Shaparak Khorsandi, a wonderful stand-up, an author and many other things, she's great James.

James Acaster

She's done so much stuff. Fantastic comedian. We recorded this episode quite a while ago actually

Ed Gamble

A while back

James Acaster

And so in the episode it might be confusing because we're calling Shaparak, 'Shappi', for the whole thing at the time that was what Shaparak went by, things have changed, we've recorded an intro that makes sense now but, you know, don't listen to the episode and then go, 'whoa, they switched the guest on us?'

Ed Gamble

They've lost their minds!

James Acaster

Yeah

Ed Gamble

No, we're simply retroactively recording an intro and outro to make sure we get Shaparak's name correct.

James Acaster

And don't go thinking, oh that means that when they do a secret ingredient cos all of you lot know, you listen to the podcast, and you know that we always say a secret ingredient in the first part of this podcast, this little intro, and we say to them, pick the secret ingredient and they get kicked out of the Dream Restaurant, and some of you are thinking now, well they're recording this intro after their recording the main episode so clearly they've picked the secret ingredient afterwards so that they



don't have to kick someone out and they think it's one big conspiracy and that Jayde Adams was just someone that we didn't take to very well and we decided to kick her out for no reason cos we didn't like her and that is not the case, we genuinely choose the secret ingredient ahead of time. We knew going into this episode that the secret ingredient was bergamot, we already knew that, we're not making it up now.

Ed Gamble

There is no way that we could come up with that and fake a secret ingredient and act like we'd not picked it beforehand. We can't act James.

James Acaster

We can't act! If we were actors

Ed Gamble

Sorry sorry, I forgot, I'm talking to a footman from the Cinderella musical.

James Acaster

Listen, not just a footman, also a mouse, I had to play a mouse in the

Ed Gamble

Uh, spoiler warning!

James Acaster

Spoiler alert, I play a mouse and then I turn into a footman. So I had to play two roles in that, I had to play a mouse and then I had to play a footman who used to be a mouse, so like that's, that's a range, that's full range acting there.

Ed Gamble

So, did you get the part based on the mouse or the footman, when you went into the audition were you a mouse or were you a man?

James Acaster

Good question Ed, the answer simple and plain is that I didn't have to audition because I replaced somebody who dropped out at the very last minute.

Ed Gamble

Right.

James Acaster

That's how you get around that is that someone drops out at the very last minute and then they quickly rush around going, 'who can we replace them with?', and all you gotta do is be available, be affordable and be Acaster, the three As.

Ed Gamble

Yeah I was gonna say, I think the last one's quite important because I'm, I'm two As but then also I'm G, I'm AAG.

James Acaster

And then you're Gamble and no one's gonna get someone called Gamble as their last-minute replacement because it just seems like tempting fate right?

Ed Gamble

No way. They need a Deadcert or an Acaster



James Acaster

They need a Deadcert, they get me in and they know, he can play a mouse and he can play a footman.

Ed Gamble

So in answer to the question are you a man or a mouse, your answer is both.

James Acaster

Yeah, it depends what time you catch me at. Sometimes I'm a mouse and sometimes I turn into a footman and then I change back into a mouse, spoiler alert again.

Ed Gamble

So let's hear the Off Menu menu of

Ed Gamble and James Acaster

Shaparak Khorsandi.

Ed Gamble

Welcome Shappi to the Dream Restaurant!

Shaparak Khorsandi

Hello! I'm very excited to be here! I washed my hands and everything.

James Acaster

Welcome Shappi Khorsandi to the Dream Restaurant, we've been expecting you for some time.

Shaparak Khorsandi

Well I've been sat here for ages, the waiters just seem very very busy and I didn't want to intrude on their thoughts.

James Acaster

No worries.

Ed Gamble

This is nice, this is the first time that someone has been in the waiting area of the Dream Restaurant while we served other guests and we've noticed that you've been sat there, we sent out a little bowl of nibbles just to keep you busy

Shaparak Khorsandi

I know but you mustn't let the nibbles fill me up though, you have to feed me proper food soon otherwise it will go to waste and that's a crime.

James Acaster

Favourite type of nibbles?

Shaparak Khorsandi

Favourite types? I've never. Ah well crisps I guess are good nibbles and I love good bread and butter. I could eat a whole meal of just bread and butter and maybe some feta cheese and a mound of herbs that you put in it and a radish, like a thinly sliced radish with Middle Eastern sort of bread, I mean I would nibble that and then I wouldn't be able to eat my food. Or I would eat my food but then I'd hate myself.



Ed Gamble

There is a, you know, a potential bread option coming up so here in the Dream Restaurant we wouldn't send out bread in the waiting room, it would have to be some other sort of nibble, perhaps a bowl of crisps. Just so you can graze.

Shaparak Khorsandi

In that case, what I would really love as a nibble is, what are they called? Edamame beans with loads of salt.

James Acaster

Edamame?

Shaparak Khorsandi

Yes, edamame beans because they're just sort of soggy vegetables with tonnes of salt so it's delicious.

Ed Gamble

Yeah quite, that's, the salt is the bit I enjoy there. Quite often I feel like I just want to suck the pods dry of all the salt and leave the beans in there, I don't even want to bust into the beans really.

Shaparak Khorsandi

There's no point to them. Sometimes I buy broad beans in their shells, boil them, put a load of salt in them and just suck on them while I watch telly. So I just, so it just seems more civilised than directly pouring salt onto my tongue.

Ed Gamble

I knew there was a reason you hadn't done Celebrity Gogglebox.

James Acaster

Yeah, just go to a lady sucking a broad bean again.

Ed Gamble

Yeah, they filmed it all didn't they? And then they were like, we can't put this out she's sucking on a broad bean.

Shaparak Khorsandi

I was disappointed. I still got paid though, they just said it might put people off their, not just their food but their life.

James Acaster

Do you want to do that in the waiting area?

Shaparak Khorsandi

Yeah! I'll suck some salt. Thank you.

James Acaster

Have you ever waited so long at a restaurant where you've just gone, 'forget it', and then just left?

Shaparak Khorsandi

Yeah I've had to. I was with some friends and children and when children get over hungry they become like chimpanzees that are very angry and I had ordered a lovely takeaway from my favourite takeaway place but it never arrived, so we went to my favourite restaurant down the road which is like Indian, Bangladeshi, and it was a Saturday night, and you know when you go to a restaurant a lot and they know you and you're really friendly with them, when they're busy it's you that they'll neglect because they know that you're alright, you're a mate. And so we sat there for like



forty minutes, an hour, the kids were like chewing on the table cloth and in the end I went up, really apologetic, I was nearly crying from hunger myself cos I am not good with hunger, I was like almost crying going, he hasn't even bought us nibbles, he could have brought us nibbles. And then we ended up going home and making sandwiches and then the restaurant that never bought the takeaway, I called them up and said, 'guys what happened?', and they said, so sorry, cos they know me as well because I always order, and they said and this isn't funny but they had an immigration raid and then, so they couldn't

James Acaster

Well you say it's not funny, you're laughing your head off.

Shaparak Khorsandi

Well you know, it was, no one was taken in, they were fine, no one suffered which was why it was funny and then afterwards I thought, did they really have an immigration raid or was it a very busy Saturday and decided that was the only excuse a regular would accept?

Ed Gamble

Yeah but they can only use that once right? They're not gonna be able to use the immigration raid excuse again.

James Acaster

Ah see I was gonna ask if it felt empowering to walk away cos I quite like sometimes just going, no, do you know what, I'm not going to eat here and then I leave because I don't like how I've been treated but that sounds like it was quite upsetting for you and it wasn't very empowering because it was like a close friend.

Shaparak Khorsandi

It was upsetting. I have been empowered by that, I was once at the Melbourne comedy festival in an outdoor pizzeria with my then husband and we waited over forty-five minutes for pizzas and when they arrived they were burnt. And I said, we're not eating these, we are going to proudly walk away, and he's a lot more sort of very sort of British about things, he was like, no at least we should explain to them. And I was like, no we're going to walk away and we walked away and I've worked in those sort of places and it was one of those sort of situations where I just thought they were relieved.

Ed Gamble

Yeah

Shaparak Khorsandi

They'd rather of we just walked away then made a complaint, cos they were having a rough night. You know, we all have rough nights.

Ed Gamble

That's the problem, I don't feel empowered by walking away in those situations because it think, you're playing into their hands. Like if they're really busy, the thing they actually want is for people to start walking away so if anything you should sit there for even longer, as a punishment.

Shaparak Khorsandi

It's like, I've had, you know, a shit gig, and if people get really angry with me I just go well, it's a hazard of the trade. And that's why, I'm so amazed at people that start stand-up when they're older cos you've got to be like, like for me if I wasn't so young and everything being so chaotic anyway but then maybe that would be different, now I'd be like, 'excuse me, this is the third'... someone emailed me and I didn't reply to their email and then they emailed me the next day and said, 'it's very bad form of someone of your stature'



James Acaster

What?

Shaparak Khorsandi

'To not contact someone of my stature', stature? Because what she was saying was like, 'I'm bigger than you and I've emailed you and it's so rude that you haven't emailed me back'. Isn't that weird, imagine being like that! So I didn't do what she wanted me to do and then she wrote, 'that's very disappointing', isn't that? Aren't people funny?

James Acaster

Awful

Shaparak Khorsandi

Awful. Aren't people awful?

Ed Gamble

Yeah, aren't people awful, that's what you meant! Dreadful people. Well, here at the Dream Restaurant you don't need to worry about that sort of thing.

Shaparak Khorsandi

Ah good.

Ed Gamble

You're the top stature

James Acaster

Absolutely

Ed Gamble

There's no one above you saying you should answer emails, you're the person everyone's answering emails for.

Shaparak Khorsandi

That feels nice. I feel like I'm in a warm bath in a restaurant.

Ed Gamble

You can be, I mean that's all part, if you want to be in a bath in the restaurant and have one of those tables across the bath, we can bring all the food and pop it down there.

Shaparak Khorsandi

Oh how wonderful! And would you be able to provide some sort of constant heater so that it doesn't go cold?

Ed Gamble

Absolutely.

James Acaster

Look, you can have that Shappi but Ed is deliberately trolling the listeners there because he promised to take a photo of himself in that situation in the bath with the table over it, eating a popadom sandwich. Promised he would do it and

Ed Gamble

A video, I actually said



James Acaster

And is yet to do it.

Ed Gamble

Yep

James Acaster

And so bringing up that bath he knows that he's shaking the cage of the listeners, I'm not condoning that, what an awful man.

Shaparak Khorsandi

Ah, you know what, you've put me off my bath Ed. Because I'm now just imaging a bath with bits of popadom in it. That's not gonna make me feel clean.

Ed Gamble

I've just been in there. There's shards of popadom in there, bobbing around. Sorry!

Shaparak Khorsandi

Shards of popadom.

James Acaster

Yet you filmed it.

Ed Gamble

I don't like baths, I'm sorry I don't like baths so I'm not going to.

James Acaster

Well then you shouldn't have promised on the podcast.

Ed Gamble

I don't like baths and, you know, I don't really like popadoms as much as bread, I'd rather have a bit of bread in the shower. Can we do that instead?

James Acaster

No one made you promise to the audience that you would sit in the bath and eat a popadom. You did that by yourself. I even tried to warn you against it on the episode and you doubled down, so don't start saying now that you don't like baths.

Shaparak Khorsandi

What if like you dropped your bread in the bath and it goes soggy, just the way ducks like it and then ducks fly into your bath in your restaurant? That would ruin everything.

Ed Gamble

Oh it depends what's on the menu.

Shaparak Khorsandi

You haven't thought this through. How do you relax then if you don't like baths?

Ed Gamble

Baths put me on edge.

Shaparak Khorsandi

Oh interesting.



Ed Gamble

I can stand in the shower for, you know, up to half an hour, have a little think. I'd much prefer that, not a bath. Horrible. You can see everything.

Shaparak Khorsandi

Oh but that's lovely.

Ed Gamble

I don't want to look at that, I don't want to look at it.

James Acaster

You can see everything in the shower as well Ed, I mean.

Ed Gamble

Yeah well I can just look ahead in the shower, can't I?

James Acaster

I dunno how you're showering?

Ed Gamble

Yeah I can look right ahead or look up, just look away.

James Acaster

You can do that in the bath as well. You can look at the ceiling if you want.

Ed Gamble

No, it's right there James. It's right there.

James Acaster

It's always right there. Your body is always in the same place. Shappi, back me up on this.

James Acaster

Still or sparkling water? And if you want it in your bath or if you want to drink it.

Shaparak Khorsandi

No no, I'd like to drink it. I'll drink the sparkling water. Do you know what I remembered when I was preparing myself emotionally and mentally for speaking with you today.

James Acaster

Yes Prime Minister

Shaparak Khorsandi

I was thinking about food throughout my life and I get really serious, stop me if I'm getting serious. In the olden days when like plane travel was very different and like very, quite a bit special, aeroplane food was different so it wasn't cooked like it is now, it was little compartments in this big box and then it would have everything cute and wrapped up, little cube of cheese and a little slice of sandwich and like this and my brother and I thought this was adorable, we were like in primary school, and so my dad, on a flight back from somewhere for work, he didn't eat his meal but he kept it and the air steward said, 'did you not enjoy the meal?', he said, 'yes', and my dad right, I can't explain just how foreign my dad is. Like Iranian people find him very foreign, he's Iranian.

Ed Gamble

Thanks for clarifying he's Iranian cos otherwise, if people didn't know that that would be a really weird thing to say.



James Acaster

He's Swiss and Iranian people find him really foreign.

Shaparak Khorsandi

It's a peculiarity of Iranians that they always assume Swiss people are Nigerian and so he said to them, 'no, my children like the food', and what he meant was, my children get a bit of a kick out aeroplane food and so I'm going to take this home because we were like, you know, five and six. And the air steward thought that he needed food to feed his kids

Ed Gamble

Oh god.

Shaparak Khorsandi

And so, as he left the plane they came and found him with a little bag and they'd put five more boxes and pressed them into his hand and said, 'for your children'.

Ed Gamble

Oh my god

Shaparak Khorsandi

And so he came home

Ed Gamble

A bit of a result for you and your brother though, you must have been so happy with that.

Shaparak Khorsandi

Well, it was weird though, that aeroplane food, it's like, it only tastes good on the aeroplane. When he'd brought it home it was like this weird stale mushy nonsense that we didn't really enjoy but, it didn't spoil my childhood, that particular afternoon. But it taught me a lesson that some things you have to have in situ.

James Acaster

Fair enough, so you want sparkling water is that right?

Shaparak Khorsandi

Yes please.

James Acaster

Are you drinking sparkling water right now Shappi?

Shaparak Khorsandi

I am, I'm drinking San Pelligrino, which is my sparkling water of choice.

Ed Gamble

How much sparkling water do you drink because you're swigging it out of the bottle there, this seems like a regular occurrence, are you drinking a bottle everyday?

James Acaster

That's a big bottle.

Shaparak Khorsandi

I drink a bottle everyday because everyone else during lockdown has been drinking alcohol and I don't, I can't really because I live alone with my kids, it's just a bit weird to suddenly hit the bottle. And I find sparkling water, it's like alcohol, it's just it's got a bit of a kick to it, hasn't it? Do I sound really desperate for booze?



Ed Gamble

Yeah, a little bit, just because you're going, it's like alcohol because it's got a bit of a kick, I couldn't think of anything less similar to alcohol really.

Shaparak Khorsandi

Yeah, well, it just, it can, and especially San Pellegrino because it's just so fizzy, this brand of alcohol I'm drinking.

James Acaster

I mean you have got on the, mounted on the wall there some sort, a mini bar of sorts.

Shaparak Khorsandi

I've got a bar, I've got one of those nineteen fifties bars in my front room, it's a little present I bought for myself when I got back from I'm a celebrity and it's very special to me, this bar and I don't really, I don't sort of sit at home and go, oh, I'll go to my bar and pour myself a drink. Like they do in black and white films, they just casually pour themselves a scotch. That would ruin me, ruin me, imagine that, in the middle of the afternoon.

James Acaster

Imagine, but instead you have a San Pellegrino and you go, woohoo, I'm hammered.

Ed Gamble

You should really, because you've got the full optics there, so like the upside down bottles with the with the things, you should replace all of those bottles with San Pellegrino

Shaparak Khorsandi

Yes, and then no one would ever come to my party

James Acaster

Popadoms or bread?!?!?!?

Shaparak Khorsandi

AH! Bread! Bread! Always bread. What are you thinking of? That's like saying, a toad or a kitten, it's, they're two very different things, very different things. A popadom is a large crisp and a bread is the food of the gods, no disrespect to popadoms.

Ed Gamble

No disrespect to popadoms but they're the food equivalent of a toad.

Shaparak Khorsandi

I love toads!

James Acaster

Okay, well let me ask you this, toad or kitten?

Ed Gamble

That's a good question actually

Shaparak Khorsandi

Ah no, well now I feel, do you know what now I feel like I'm going to be cancelled because I, I likened a popadom to a toad. I love popadoms I would like to say that. Kitten. I think I would prefer to have a pet kitten than a pet toad. And in fact I do have two cats so, I don't have two large toads bopping about the house.



James Acaster

You said you like a bath? Kittens can't get in the bath with you.

Shaparak Khorsandi

They can't. Do you know what, I've changed my mind, I'd like a big toad please.

James Acaster

Absolutely.

Shaparak Khorsandi

With a big popadom between its toes. It can't because it's webbed. A popadom in its mouth with a fly on it, that's my ideal meal. We're done.

Ed Gamble

If you're in the bath you could put a popadom in and the toad could sit on it like a big lily pad.

James Acaster

Yep

Shaparak Khorsandi

Oh that's a beautiful idea because that would last for exactly three seconds before it sank, which is my attention span. So, but may I ask you, is it okay if this is lunch rather than dinner?

Ed Gamble

Yes

James Acaster

Yeah

Shaparak Khorsandi

Because dinner frustrates me. I love lunch and I love breakfast, but dinner I just want to be running around. I find dinners, 'oh come to my birthday dinner', I feel shackled by a dinner because you can't choose the time, often it's at eight. I don't eat that late and I have to say like, can I come earlier and eat at six please. I find it very stressful going for dinners, especially if there's loads of people, I just think what's the point, we could have all had a sandwich before we came and then just stood around and chatted.

James Acaster

So you don't like dinners because you want to be bouncing around doing stuff in the evening whereas lunch you like to sit down and take your time and have a nice lunch?

Shaparak Khorsandi

Yeah, and I think lunch is, it's more socially acceptable to get up from a lunch table and have a wander around but dinners just tend to be a bit more heavy, unless it's like a dinner party at somebody's house and it's around a table and it's small. I can handle up to sort of six people. But I went to a dinner in a pub when I was seventeen, it was my friend's sister's twenty first birthday, I knew I was no good at dinners, it was strangers because I'm shy as well and I went and I'm seventeen everyone else there is like university students, it was just horrible and I couldn't talk to anyone and then suddenly people were looking at me and I didn't really understand why and I couldn't say anything because my throat had seized up and my jaw had seized up in a sob of anxiety and I realised I had tears running around my face. So I basically just sat at this dinner at seventeen and was crying.



Ed Gamble

Do you feel like that is because it was a dinner, do you feel like it wouldn't have happened if it was lunch?

Shaparak Khorsandi

If it was a buffet it would have been alright

Ed Gamble

There's always something to talk to somebody about at a buffet. If you're up at the buffet with someone you can be like, 'ooh this is a nice spread isn't it', or, 'ooh, what are you going for? are you on your second trip are you?', that sort of thing.

Shaparak Khorsandi

Absolutely. Where shall I put my stick? You know, the whole sort of, that stick conversation.

Ed Gamble

Buffet chat.

Shaparak Khorsandi

Buffet chat! That's all good. And do you know, even telling you that story I had anxiety and you know the other reason, i've been to one hen night in my entire life, I was twenty-one. Okay, this is how old I am. There were no mobile phones and there was a restaurant where you had a telephone on each table, my children tell me off for saying 'telephone', it's like saying 'wireless' apparently instead of the radio. There's a telephone on each table and each table has a number and you can phone a table, you can go, 'hi this is table number fourteen and you phone a bunch of people and you have a chat and it's a flirty thing. Every single girl at that hen night got a phone call from a boy at another table except for me, I became the receptionist. I just went, 'ah, I'll be the receptionist' and I said, oh hello this table and I said, it's for you and no one, and so I just find dinners with people I don't know so stressful. So I can I have my meal in the dream restaurant just utterly alone?

James Acaster

Absolutely you can be utterly alone. I have some more questions about this situation that I've never heard of before

Ed Gamble

Telephone restaurant yeah, yeah

James Acaster

When there's a phone on every table and people are allowed to ring the tables and you were the only person that didn't get a phone call. Does that mean that when the guys rang the table, they were like, 'hello can I speak to the lady in the yellow dress please', 'hello can I speak to the lady with the brown hair?' and they were specifically asking for individuals.

Shaparak Khorsandi

Yeah, no one said, can I speak to the podgy, frizzy haired woman that's crying. Oh it was very stressful. I didn't realise how stressed I'd get talking about my past restaurant traumas. Now I'm really worried that anyone listening will go, oh well I'm never inviting her to a dinner, I do like to be a guest, it just has to be small and with people who are friendly. And fancy me.

Ed Gamble

And everyone else in the restaurant has to fancy you and they have to call you to tell you.

Shaparak Khorsandi

Oh my god do you know what happened to me once, I won't tell you his name because you'll know him



James Acaster

Well then I'd like to know his name please

Ed Gamble

Yeah

Shaparak Khorsandi

I'll tell you later. This comedian took me out to dinner once on a date and he took me to this really lush, fancy French restaurant on the King's road and I went to the loo and when I came back from the loo the waiter came over with a glass of champagne and the waiter said, this has been sent to you by a secret admirer, right. Any normal human being would guess that my date had arranged this while I was in the loo, I thought, oh dear, another man in the restaurant has sent me champagne so I've got to make sure I don't make my date feel bad so I just enjoyed the champagne and I said, 'oh you know, that's sweet isn't it? You know he was probably a perve'. And then on the way out he goes, 'Shappi, you do realise that that was me that sent you the champagne', and I felt so stupid.

Ed Gamble

I think that's a weird thing to do though, right? That feels like a move they've done on other dates for a start

Shaparak Khorsandi

Yeah, he was quite a bit older than me, he knew what he was doing.

Ed Gamble

Okay, now we're narrowing it down.

James Acaster

What do you want as your starter? Your dream starter for lunch?

Shaparak Khorsandi

Okay, my dream starter is something that I haven't had enough in my life but it has to be made in a particular way. It's jumbo king prawns, barbequed by a real Australian.

Ed Gamble

No fake Australian.

Shaparak Khorsandi

No. I used to have these Australian neighbours and they were always barbequing even in the winter and they would hand me plates over the wall and I just was so full of admiration for the way they do food and I just think Australians just don't muck about with food, they appreciate it, they feed you. They're almost Eastern in the way they need to feed you and they need to feed their guests and I haven't eaten enough barbequed shrimp in my life and I would like lots of garlic on them somehow as well.

James Acaster

So when you said by a real Australian, what's the criteria there?

Shaparak Khorsandi

They've got to be really smiley, they've got to look good in and out of clothes, cos that's how I imagine all Australians are, they just look in a good and out of clothes, as we all do. In our own special ways, Ed. And I would like them to have, oh God, who am I kidding, it's a bloke. Okay if it's a bloke he's got to have sandy blonde hair, just past his ears, and if it's a girl she's got to have a really luscious bouncy brown ponytail. A really good thick ponytail, no make-up, really really healthy-looking people. They are.



Ed Gamble

Is this what your neighbours looked like? Are you just describing your neighbours?

Shaparak Khorsandi

Yes. This is what they look like.

Ed Gamble

And when you say they look good in and out of clothes, was that you looking through their window or...?

Shaparak Khorsandi

I just, well I went to the Gold Coast and everyone walked around naked, practically and they all looked amazing and they all had like whole arm tattoos. So maybe that as well, a sleeve, I believe they're just called a sleeve. I'd like them to have a tattoo sleeve please.

Ed Gamble

I mean let's, let's drill down into specifics. What are the tattoos of?

Shaparak Khorsandi

Just happy things.

Ed Gamble

Like shrimp, like jumbo shrimp.

Shaparak Khorsandi

Shrimp, Barbie, Kylie, maybe like a tattoo of Mags from neighbours. I'm just making everyone who's Australian hate me right now. But they have no hate in their hearts, that's the thing about Australians, they have no hate. And nothing makes me sadder in Britain when it's a really really rainy day and you see a wet Australian. I just think, oh you poor little sweetheart, you've been, you're out of your natural habitat so I think it's our duty to dry them off.

Ed Gamble

I saw a duck in a road once, like and it was nowhere near any pond and the duck was like clearly baffled, is that the sort of same vibes as a wet Australian?

James Acaster

The opposite.

Shaparak Khorsandi

That's exactly the same vibe. I saw a duck like that and I called the RSPCA who didn't want to know. So I put it in my coat and went to one of the big fancy royal parks and released it to the pond and it shat all over my coat and I had to throw the coat away. I wouldn't do that to an Australian, I trust them not to shit in my coat.

Ed Gamble

You wouldn't put an Australian in your coat and like take them to the airport or something?

Shaparak Khorsandi

Not without their consent. Deport a wet Australian? I don't have the power to deport Australians. But no, I'd certainly dry them off. definitely. Can you tell I miss going to Australia, to the festivals?

Ed Gamble

You definitely miss Australians.



James Acaster

A little bit.

Ed Gamble

This is the first time, I think, in Off Menu history where someone has mentioned the food briefly at the beginning and then given a very detailed description on who's cooking it.

Shaparak Khorsandi

I really miss Australia. Yeah, it's gotta be someone that loves you a little bit that cooks for you.

James Acaster

So of all the Australians in the world, what Australian do you think loves you the most.

Shaparak Khorsandi

Um, probably Judy who used to be my son's nanny. I think Judy loves me because she stayed in touch. And I think Tim Minchin's fond of me because he will cross a room to say hello even now that he's a mega star but I don't think he loves me. I think that if I died he would write an emotional tweet.

Ed Gamble

But not a song.

Shaparak Khorsandi

Not a song, na.

James Acaster

So your son's old nanny is cooking these shrimp or Tim Minchin is?

Shaparak Khorsandi

I think my nanny should cook the shrimp because the last time I had shrimp was with he in Australia.

James Acaster

That wasn't when I was in Melbourne at the same time as you was it or?

Shaparak Khorsandi

No, the last, the time, you were in Melbourne with me I think that was 2014 but

James Acaster

A different nanny

Shaparak Khorsandi

Yeah but I have got photos of you cradling my children, which is adorable. I've got to tell you this you two, and I'm sure you'll get a lot of parents telling you this because you are the comedy rockstars of this generation.

Ed Gamble

Correct

Shaparak Khorsandi

My son is like, he's thirteen and I was emailing someone who's surname is Gamble and he looked over my shoulder and he goes, 'ooh is that a relation of Ed Gamble?', 'I was like, how do you know Ed Gamble?', and he went, 'well he does a podcast with James Acaster', I was like, oh my god, the Off Menu podcast, he was like, 'yeah, like why are you even mentioning that to me because I'm so



cool, I don't want my mother to be in my sphere', and I went, 'I'm on that podcast, thank you very much, on Tuesday', and I tell you, he's lost respect for you both.

Ed Gamble

Ah that could have gone either way couldn't it, it was never gonna be that you gained any of his respect

Shaparak Khorsandi

Oh god no, he's thirteen, absolutely not, he's never gonna watch or listen to anything you two have ever done again

Ed Gamble

Oh no, oh no, we used to be, we used to be rockstars man

James Acaster

We didn't really delve into the jumbo shrimp, but it feels like it doesn't matter

Ed Gamble

I wanted to ask how jumbo are we talking?

Shaparak Khorsandi

Biggest shrimps you can find. I want them to have eye lashes.

James Acaster

So your main course Shappi?

Shaparak Khorsandi

I've struggled with this, I'll be honest with you. I have struggled with my main course because I'm so into starters that the main course is always a little bit of a disappointment. May I please have something really fiddly because I don't like to trough when I'm eating in company, I like to have picky food so maybe a giant pot of mussels with some really skinny chips.

James Acaster

I will say, the skinny chips is what excites me there. Because with a pot of muscles, as nice as muscles are, they're fiddly and whatever but the chips, skinny chips with the muscles are what tips it over the edge. So good.

Ed Gamble

Yeah. Really good.

James Acaster

Either just like eating them as they are, the chips, or dipping them in the sauce. That might be my favourite way to have skinny fries is with a pot of muscles.

Shaparak Khorsandi

And could, I know we haven't got to drinks but can it count as a food cos it's liquid bread, can I have a cold lager with that.

Ed Gamble

Yeah, look, I reckon so seeing as you've put in the argument of it counting as food because it's liquid bread.

Shaparak Khorsandi

Yeah. So I won't have bread with my muscles but I will have a beer instead of bread, thank you.



Ed Gamble

Because it's like a bread smoothie essentially. Yeah.

Shaparak Khorsandi

Yeah. Going Off Menu! See.

James Acaster

There you go. it's the first time someone's said it. How many episodes and no one's done that?

Ed Gamble

I've not have muscles in ages. I'd never really choose them apart from, in Edinburgh there's a restaurant at the bottom of Victoria Street called, I think it's just called Muscles and Steak restaurant, I can't remember what it's called but it was the place when I did Edinburgh as a student, when my parents came to visit to watch the show and obviously you're like, well I've got no money to go to a nice restaurant, this is where, you've got to take me here, and it would always be a bucket of muscles and some skinny fries. And oh god, they tasted so good.

Shaparak Khorsandi

Heaven, really nice, nice to share, so now I'm thinking maybe I should have had a companion.

James Acaster

But that will start to stress you out.

Shaparak Khorsandi

Can it be someone I just have a laugh with? Someone I know really well.

James Acaster

Who?

Shaparak Khorsandi

I have a friend called Andy who always has funny, interesting things to say. So probably him. Yeah

James Acaster

Andy.

Shaparak Khorsandi

because we both love food and he's got a really brilliant knowledge of books and films and music and he always entertains me with his chat.

Ed Gamble

In the muscles, what's going on there? Is it like white wine, garlic?

Shaparak Khorsandi

Garlic, just garlic

Ed Gamble

Just garlic?

Shaparak Khorsandi

Just feed me garlic.

James Acaster

Yeah



Shaparak Khorsandi

I went to a restaurant in San Francisco once, apparently it was part owned by Madonna, I don't even know if it's still there, called the Stinky Rose and there the idea is to have something with your garlic. And you sit down at this restaurant and they give you a bowl of mashed garlic that you just spoon into your gob. I think you're supposed to get a bit of bread. I wish I was made of garlic, I love garlic so much.

Ed Gamble

Hang on, that's an interesting thing, let's dig down into that. You love garlic so much you wish you were made of garlic?

Shaparak Khorsandi

I'd bite myself, yeah.

Ed Gamble

How quickly do you think you'd last if you were made of garlic?

Shaparak Khorsandi

I'd have no hands in three seconds.

James Acaster

You'd go for your hands first?

Shaparak Khorsandi

Hands first. Terrible isn't it because I've used my hands to pull my cheeks off. I think my cheeks would make good garlic because they're quite, you know, quite squashy. And baked, you know, nice, not hard garlic, it's got to be either pickled for at least like three years or it's got to be roasted, mush mush mush. Oh sometimes I just get a clove of garlic and I roast it as a snack. I wonder why I don't have a partner, I stink. I really stink.

James Acaster

Moving onto your side dish, is that your side? Is all the garlic from The Stinky Rose?

Shaparak Khorsandi

Oh, garlic mush please. Served by Madonna, thank you.

James Acaster

Madonna's there now. So we've got Madonna, your Australian friend.

Shaparak Khorsandi

Yeah

Ed Gamble

There's a telephone on the table as well.

Shaparak Khorsandi

Telephone on the table. Constantly calling

Ed Gamble

Oh, there's a call coming through. It's from some gentleman at another table. They want to speak to the lady who stinks.

Shaparak Khorsandi

Oh my god that's me! All this trauma undone, thank you Ed. Thank you Ed, I needed that.



James Acaster

You were quite excited there because I could see in your eyes you were like, 'oh it's gonna be for Madonna'. And then when Ed said, the lady who stinks, you were like, 'oh what?'.

Shaparak Khorsandi

Because Madonna doesn't, I've met Madonna, she's fragrant. She smells nice.

James Acaster

Have you met Madonna?

Shaparak Khorsandi

When I say I met her, I was in the toilets with her at the comedy awards once, just next to her at the sink, putting on lipstick.

Ed Gamble

Did you say anything to Madonna at the sink?

Shaparak Khorsandi

I smiled. And then, Britt Ekland dropped her sunglasses and it was a very packed toilet and then someone else accidentally kicked them and then I scrambled around the toilet floor, getting Britt Ekland's sunglasses and she got them, she put them back on her face and she goes, 'thank you', and then she left. So I spoke to Britt Ekland. We got deep.

James Acaster

Which year was this?

Shaparak Khorsandi

It would have been about 2011ish or 2012ish. I was nominated for something so it would have been 2011, because that's when I used to get nominated for things. I'm a happier person now, I'm no longer scrabbling around on the floor picking up celebrities' glasses.

Ed Gamble

Now you're the person who's dropping your sunglasses on the floor.

Shaparak Khorsandi

And saying, 'oi, Madonna, get them for me!'.

James Acaster

Do you remember who won comedy awards that night?

Shaparak Khorsandi

It was Jo Brand won my category, as she should have done frankly. Sarah Millican, I was sat next to her, the three of us were nominated, and she doesn't drink and at the time I did little else but drink, so I just remember it was one of those sort of things where I thought oh god, poor woman, she's just sat next to this lush and I was just like drinking this champagne and I was going on about the champagne, I was like pointing something out to her about it and Goldie Hawn was on stage and she said, how can you be looking at that and not what's going on onstage. And I just thought, oh god she's so professional, she looks in the right direction. And then on telly they should me necking champagne from the bottle. I was only mucking about, I was only being silly and I got loads of hate online saying that you think you're really cool necking your champagne, but you're not.

James Acaster

Really?



Shaparak Khorsandi

That was the trolling in those days. In the old days trolling wasn't as harsh, it was like, 'ohh you thought you were big and clever drinking from the bottle but I'm here to tell you that you're not missy, you're not'. Do you know what, this is, and again this is how old I've become, when I see a younger comic be trolled because of something they've said on telly, I get so upset because I properly feel maternal, whether they want me to or not.

James Acaster

Saying you feel maternal about young comics, if you woke up tomorrow and your actual children were now comedians and two comedians were now your children, and they've swapped places and your children now have the career of two specific comics and those comics are now your kids, what swap would you want to do?

Shaparak Khorsandi

Okay, so I would like my son to have Bill Bailey's career and Bill Bailey be my boy.

James Acaster

I didn't know, I didn't think when you talked about being maternal over comics, I didn't think you were going to choose someone older than you

Ed Gamble

Cos we.. that's so funny.

James Acaster

Bill Bailey's your little boy. Okay, that's brilliant. Cos I'm imagining him the size of a child but still looking exactly the same.

Ed Gamble

Definitely and wearing dungarees.

Shaparak Khorsandi

Okay, and I think that's because I've met Bill Bailey, he is extraordinarily nice

Ed Gamble

Now when you say you've met him, do you mean you've stood next to him at a sink?

Shaparak Khorsandi

And I've met his wife and she's incredibly lovely and I would like my child to do as well in their life partner.

Ed Gamble

Yeah, just to let you know, obviously, you've met his wife and she was lovely but you are essentially breaking up their relationship with this choice because now

Shaparak Khorsandi

He's my child.

Ed Gamble

Now he's your child, yeah.

Shaparak Khorsandi

Could she also be my child?

Ed Gamble

No, your son's going to be married to Bill Bailey's wife.



Shaparak Khorsandi

Oh that's bizarre. And my daughter, I think she would really enjoy Graham Norton's career.

Ed Gamble

Wouldn't we all?

Shaparak Khorsandi

Yeah but I think, it's a specific thing with Vieve Is that if she met you two she would find out everything about your lives, from who you were dating, if you were married, what your favourite colour was, what your favourite food was and she wouldn't just ask you for the sake of it, it would matter to her. And Graham does that thing as well where he does that Agony Aunt thing on his radio show, people ring up with problems and he sort of does the Agony Aunt bit and I think she would absolutely love that, her greatest thing in life would be to talk to as many people as possible intimately and have a giggle. So if I could have Graham Norton as my child please and give his career to my daughter. Thank you. I'm now raising Bill Bailey and Graham Norton.

James Acaster

Perfect.

James Acaster

Shall we move onto your favourite drink?

Shaparak Khorsandi

Can I have one alcoholic and one non-alcoholic?

James Acaster

Yeah

Shaparak Khorsandi

Espresso martini please. Thank you. I love espresso martinis with all my heart. Whatever's going on in my life that's making me feel sad I think one day I will be standing at a bar with friendly people, holding an espresso martini. That makes me so happy. Not really really sad, I just mean minor sad, like, I re-potted my plant yesterday and the mud went everywhere because the dogs came in, that kind, that sort of sad.

Ed Gamble

So how quickly, from something like that happening, so the dogs came in and got mud everywhere, how quickly are you going, espresso martini, everything's gonna be fine?

Shaparak Khorsandi

Immediately. Immediately. As I'm cleaning up and cursing the day I got two massive dogs, I want an espresso martini. And it's hard in lockdown cos I can't really buy an espresso martini, I have to go to the super market and get one in the can and pour it into the glass from a height so it froths.

Ed Gamble

Make your own.

Shaparak Khorsandi

That's what my, my son said to me, he said, 'you can make your own', and he's promised to make me one.

James Acaster

Which son? Bill Bailey or Graham Norton.



Shaparak Khorsandi

Bill Bailey!

James Acaster

'why don't you just make your own espresso martini mum?'

Ed Gamble

Who was that an impression of James?

James Acaster

No one. I actually didn't even think, I'm not confident enough.

Ed Gamble

It looked like you were trying to do an impression of Graham Norton and backed out two seconds into it.

James Acaster

Did it?

Ed Gamble

Yeah. 'Why don't you just try and make your own espresso martini?'. We've got an espresso martini, a proper one from a bar, not just you pouring a can in from a height.

Shaparak Khorsandi

The other drink that I would like is something call doogh, d-o-o-g-h, it's the Iranian 'gh' sound, doogh, and I'm going to choose this because, oh god I feel like I'm on Dessert Island Disks.

Ed Gamble

Just to let you know, the face that James just made, he's now obviously thinking about when he has to read the order back at the end and how, what an absolute disaster he's gonna make of that.

James Acaster

Yep, that's exactly what I'm thinking about.

Shaparak Khorsandi

It's like dog but doogh, so not like dog, doogh. I thought your face, James, was that face people sometimes put on when they go, 'oh she's talking about her culture', I feel, I really feel for some sort of, you know, I hate saying white people but I've just said it, when white people pull, that have to 'oh right, yeah the cultural thing, yeah yeah, this is my face, interesting, lovely interesting', because then if you don't look interested then you fear that you look racist.

Ed Gamble

Yeah

Shaparak Khorsandi

So fear not, so what I enjoy about doogh is that you only like it if you have been raised with it. It's, it's not even an acquired taste you have to have been fed it as a child. The most foodie, open minded people hate it. It looks like a lassi, you know the Indian lassi, but nothing like it and it's salty and it's fermented yoghurt so it's gassy and a bit of mint and like a valley of salt. And anyone that hasn't been raised with it that drinks it always goes ahh it's like sea water, but it is the most delicious thing, the most refreshing thing. So I would like to have a nice glass of doogh with my meal because I feel that I've added nothing of my Iranian heritage to this sumptuous meal and I ought to.

James Acaster

So how, how am I pronouncing this?



Shaparak Khorsandi

Ok can you make this sound? It's a gentle sound at the back of your throat. Doogh, doogh.

James Acaster

Doogh. Dooogh

Shaparak Khorsandi

That's it, doogh, doogh. Say doogh.

Ed Gamble

I'm pretty sure that James is just saying duck in a Geordie accent at this point.

James Acaster

Well, that's a step forward, I've never been able to do a Geordie accent before so this is helping me.

Shaparak Khorsandi

James, can you also, this is like, cos my proper name is Khorsandi can you do a very gentle khh sound?

James Acaster

Ghh

Shaparak Khorsandi

Say doogh, mikham

James Acaster

Doogh. Dooogh

James Acaster

Doogh mighan

Shaparak Khorsandi

Mikhan, doogh mikhan, there, 'I want some doogh'. Say lotfan as well, otherwise you sound rude, lotfan.

James Acaster

Lotfan?

Shaparak Khorsandi

Lotfan doogh mikhan.

James Acaster

Doogh mikhan.

Shaparak Khorsandi

Oh my god, you sound just like my dad. That's amazing.

Ed Gamble

James trying to do accents is the most vulnerable you'll ever see him.

James Acaster

Yep.



Ed Gamble

Especially in this situation where he doesn't want to upset anyone, he doesn't want to offend anyone and he's just so quietly, quiet, not leaning into it just, 'I am so sorry', so apologetic, so vulnerable. It's really sweet.

Shaparak Khorsandi

It's adorable.

James Acaster

You are really enjoying it Ed, I can see you on the screen really laughing into your hands.

Ed Gamble

Because you always extend an arm as well, I wish people could see that, you always extend an arm like you're doing a Shakespeare, because you're offering out, you're offering Shappi, you're just like, please, please Shappi.

James Acaster

Well it's like I'm trying to pick something up from the air, like Iranian, like an aerial, like maybe the language will just like, you know, go into my fingertips.

Shaparak Khorsandi

Do you know what, James, you're one of those ultra ultra nice people that's so wanting not to offend anyone that if I made you an Iranian meal, as I have done many times for my non-Iranian friends, of say, khoresh gheymeh has got dried, you put about six or seven dried limes in it for the flavour, it's amazing, no human being eats the dried limes, but you would be the guy sort of quietly trying to dig your fork and your knife into something as tough as a rhino's hide because you're too bashful to say, 'am I meant to eat this or do I leave it on the side', you leave it on the side James, never eat dried lime.

James Acaster

I would eat it, I would eat the dried lime and so thank you, and ask for seconds: 'can I have some more dried limes please?'. Putting my arm out.

Shaparak Khorsandi

So cute. You'd be chewing it for three days. What's James doing? I haven't heard from him in a while. He's chewing a dried lime.

James Acaster

We now get to the dessert, my favourite course of them all, but you said that starters were your favourite which has made me a little bit trepidatious right now, I've got some trepidation.

Ed Gamble

But you must be ready for something, are you ready for something sweet now because you've just had something very salty right?

Shaparak Khorsandi

Yeah, and very garlicky. So here's what I would like for my pudding and it's got to be exactly what I'm describing please. I would like chocolate sponge and chocolate sauce pudding from 1980s school dinners, served by a proper 1980s dinner lady, please.

Ed Gamble

Here we go, strap in, classic Shappi she's about to describe exactly who's serving it to her.

Shaparak Khorsandi

Yes, so, she's very kind, her name is Edie.



Ed Gamble

She's got her sleeve tattoo of a ladle.

Shaparak Khorsandi

She's got all her kids and her grandkids have been to Montpellier school, the school I went to, and she's got a massive dish of the chocolate sauce and she always gives me she always gives me an extra helping with a little bit of a wink because she says, 'because I bet you don't have food like this at home, do you?'. She was adorable, Edie isn't her real name

Ed Gamble

Great, you've invited a racist to your meal.

Shaparak Khorsandi

No it's not racist, it's not racist, it's adorable. It's the 1980s. She, yeah, bless her, she'd always so that I bet, cos the thing is Iranian food isn't spicy spicy, it's not like hot, it's more like Greek or Turkish food and so she'd always give me a little extra helping. And she was right, we never had like puddings at home, we had like Iranian sweets or chocolate, we didn't have puddings. And that chocolate sponge and chocolate sauce as a child was the entire point of school for me.

Ed Gamble

So it's like the, yeah, like school dinner chocolate cake, my memory of it, the sponge is, by itself it's just so dry that you couldn't eat that by itself at all, so you've just got to cover it in that custard and then it's nice.

Shaparak Khorsandi

Smother it yeah, so nice. And now you see, I find it, I live a lot of my life through my daughter, so my daughter Vieve is like a version of me but so much better

Ed Gamble

Well she's got her own chat show

James Acaster

Yeah

Shaparak Khorsandi

She's got her own chat show and also she's really open about her love of chocolate sponge and chocolate sauce. Like she will only have school dinners, she asked to see, this is what it's like at schools now, kids ask to see the menu cos they have, there's no menu. And she goes, 'okay, I'm gonna have school dinners on this day and this day, the rest of the time you make me packed lunch because this day I've got chocolate sauce and chocolate sponge and this day I've got like whatever else I like. Also, you know what else my daughter did, so at school my dream was to be Mary, cos that was the main part in the nativity play, and I was never Mary, I was the shepherd and one year

James Acaster

Shepherd Khorsandi.

Shaparak Khorsandi

Shepherd, oh don't.

James Acaster

Come on Sheppi Khorsandi's here. Oh no. Oh no, it's Sheppi Khorsandi.

Shaparak Khorsandi

Do you not think that I went through all of this at school?



James Acaster

Apologies, apologies.

Shaparak Khorsandi

So, the teacher said, Mary was from the Middle East right and so we're going to have someone that looks Middle Eastern play Mary this year you know when you think it's your name, it's like in the, have you seen Zoolander when he so thinks he's one that they say his name and he doesn't even hear it. It was like that, it was exactly, I can't watch Zoolander again because of that. They said, 'it is... Natasha Behrusi', and Natasha Behrusi was only half Iranian and I was a shepherd once again. But do you know who was Mary in my daughter's school Nativity? My daughter. I was the only parent that stood up and applauded at the end.

James Acaster

Yes.

Shaparak Khorsandi

Just going, 'eat shit you bastards', and yeah

James Acaster

'You can all eat a bag of shit, that's my daughter!'

Shaparak Khorsandi

I ruined it, I ruined the play for all the children, they were crying, the donkey left, it was horrible. My daughter was Mary and that, to date, after twenty years of doing stand-up, was the greatest moment in my career was when my daughter was Mary. Oh god have I shared too much?

Ed Gamble

No perfect, perfect amount.

James Acaster

I love it. I'm gonna read your menu back to you now Shappi, see how you feel about it. You would like sparkling water

Ed Gamble

You're having bread for popadoms or bread. We didn't even go into what bread that would be.

Shaparak Khorsandi

Oh, just a really bog-standard baguette please.

James Acaster

A bog-standard baguette, I'll write that down. Starter, jumbo king prawns barbecued by a real Australian (your nanny).

Shaparak Khorsandi

My old nanny thank you.

James Acaster

Your old nanny. Main course, giant pot of muscles with skinny chips with a cold lager. Side dish, mashed garlic from the stinky rose, served by Madonna. Drink, an espresso martini plus dough.

Shaparak Khorsandi

Perfect, you did it perfect then, yeah.



James Acaster

Dessert, chocolate sponge and chocolate sauce pudding from 1980s school dinners served by Edie, the 1980s dinner lady.

Shaparak Khorsandi

Thank you. Yeah.

Ed Gamble

Now for someone who said at the beginning that you wanted to have this meal alone, loads of people turning up aren't there.

James Acaster

Loads.

Shaparak Khorsandi

I hate being alone, it's really rubbish. I suffer in company sometimes but I also really hate being alone. So yes, I have haven't I? I've got people in.

Ed Gamble

But they're making cameos in the meal, right? So you never feel like you're stuck in a situation, they're just, they're in and out, a bit of fun and then they're gone again.

Shaparak Khorsandi

Yeah but you know also, I'm actually thinking, oh god, after the time I've spent with you gusy doing this, I'm actually thinking I might quite like you guys to be my children, is it too late to change that?

James Acaster

Yeah yeah, Bill Bailey and Graham Norton

Ed Gamble

I'm sure they'll be very happy to go back to their careers.

James Acaster

Your children will be hosting this.

Shaparak Khorsandi

Yeah, I think that you're, you're really nice, well-rounded people and I think that my children would enjoy your lives.

Ed Gamble

Me and James would love to be brothers actually.

James Acaster

Yeah, we'd be pretty good brothers. Well thank you for coming into the Dream Restaurant Shappi.

Shaparak Khorsandi

My pleasure!

Ed Gamble

Thank you so much Shappi!

Ed Gamble

There we have it James, the Off Menu menu of Shaparak Khorsandi.



James Acaster

Wow. What a menu, so many tales as well. It was a pleasure to talk to Shaparak. What an amazing episode of Off Menu. Another goal for the boys.

Ed Gamble

James actually isn't here, he just records some lines that we're playing in now, some sort of general outro lines and then I react to them, so, another goal for the boys.

James Acaster

It's been a pleasure Ed, what a great episode. Benito, you plonker.

Ed Gamble

There we go, that's a classic, that fits all episodes. Shaparak did not say bergamot, thank the lord because we wanted to keep her there and, you know what, what a lovely old time, go and see Shaparak on tour. 'It Was The Nineties', is the name of her tour. It starts in October, so go and buy tickets for that. And her book, Kissing Emma, is published on the second of September James.

James Acaster

Buy it now. Available in all good book stores, just go to the internet and pick yourself up a coffee. Cawston Cawston Cawston Press, I'm a little baby and I drink it from the breast.

Ed Gamble

That's one of the ones that we should have got James to rerecord because it's quite specific to people releasing coffees. So thank you very much to Shaparak for coming on the podcast. My tour is called Electric, it's on sale edgamble.co.uk, it starts in February, go to it. Thank you from me, Ed Gamble and thank you from James Acaster.

James Acaster

Aka, simple squared.