



Off Menu – Ep 05 – Aisling Bea

Ed Gamble

Welcome to the Off Menu podcast, and may I be the first to say Happy New Year.

James Acaster

Happy New Year, everybody. 2019.

Ed Gamble

It's 2019. We're obviously not recording this in 2019 so I wonder what the world will be like in 2019.

James Acaster

Oh, in the future and everyone's hovering around with no legs. Just cut off at the waist and hovering around.

Ed Gamble

All dripping blood everywhere.

James Acaster

Loads of space blood.

Ed Gamble

Dripping silver blood all over the floor.

James Acaster

But they'll still need to eat in the future.

Ed Gamble

No butt. That's the problem.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

They've got no butts, James.

James Acaster

They've got no butts.

Ed Gamble

They've hovering around.



James Acaster

We've still got mouths though and the food goes in the mouth and straight out the bottom of the body I guess.

Ed Gamble

Anyway, welcome to the show. First thing you need to know is James was an hour and a half late because he slept through his alarm. We'll talk about that with our guest. You look like you were about to protest that until you realised that I just gave pure facts.

James Acaster

It did happen, yes.

Ed Gamble

It did happen which is why this intro feels slightly rushed because we've got to go somewhere else.

James Acaster

Yes, we've got to go and film an episode of our other YouTube food show and I'm going to eat some puddings and describe them to Ed.

Ed Gamble

Yes, we're looking forward to that but of course, now, this is the main priority, of course, is Off Menu, the Off Menu podcast today with our wonderful guest Aisling Bea.

James Acaster

What a wonderful guest. It was so great, so many great foods. I won't give any spoilers but I had a lovely time.

Ed Gamble

So did I. I think it was a particularly funny episode actually.

James Acaster

Yes, oh, and very importantly, every single episode we say that there's an ingredient that if the guest mentions we kick them out of the restaurant and I can reveal that today the ingredient is cloves.

Ed Gamble

Cloves. I hate cloves James.

James Acaster

Disgusting.

Ed Gamble

They're disgusting. I don't like the flavour they impart and sometimes they'll just be in the meal and you'll crunch down on one by accident.



James Acaster

Worst day of my life when I did that. I did that when I was a little kid, bit into a clove and I was so miserable. It ruined the whole meal like a perfume bomb going off in your mouth.

Ed Gamble

Yes, it's horrible. Absolutely disgusting. I'm finding difficult to foresee a situation where Aisling might bring up cloves but if she does she's out on her ass.

James Acaster

She is out on her ass.

Ed Gamble

Thank you very much. We'll come back and have a little chat to you after the episode but for now this is Aisling Bea.

Hello.

Aisling Bea

Hello. Good morning guys or should I say to James good afternoon.

James Acaster

I was late to the restaurant today.

Aisling Bea

No late is-, you just didn't turn up and then turned up at a different time. Late is what I was which was-, I was a cheeky twenty minutes late and I texted you and was wondering why you didn't text me back. I thought, 'God, he must be so angry with me.' Turns out James is one hour late.

Ed Gamble

One hour, twenty minutes late so just to explain what happened. We were meeting Aisling at 10 am, bright and early to record this episode. Aisling turned up fifteen minutes late which I think is acceptable. That's an acceptable.

Aisling Bea

It was a cheeky 20 if I'm honest.

Ed Gamble

Okay, but I think that's acceptable for a guest.

James Acaster

You come from New York today.

Aisling Bea

Saturday but still it takes ages to- Swimming is a long-,



Ed Gamble

Now I know you live far away James. You live in a bit of London that's slightly more difficult to get from.

James Acaster

Sure.

Ed Gamble

But you slept through your alarm didn't you.

James Acaster

Yes. Slept right through the alarm. Woke up just naturally.

Ed Gamble

That's nice. How lovely for you.

James Acaster

And I thought to myself, 'Oh no, this feels a bit too natural the way I'm waking up.' I'll look at my alarm. I've done this before and I've woken up before my alarm so maybe that's what's happened.

Aisling Bea

Ooh, you don't want to have the day steal sleep from you and be cheated out of an extra cheeky five.

James Acaster

Wasn't going to have that.

Aisling Bea

No, thank you.

James Acaster

I looked at my watch. Oh, I was meant to be there twenty minutes ago and I'm still in bed. I had to ring up and I felt so bad the whole journey. Not been good. Not been fun.

Ed Gamble

Not a good day so far for you.

James Acaster

Oh, I am on the back foot. Listeners, I am on the back foot.

Ed Gamble

Do you still feel like you're waking up right now?

James Acaster

Yes, a little bit.



Aisling Bea

You've become less of a friend and more of a showbiz friend that I smile at because of what happened today. Yes. I'm like, 'No, it's fine James. Honestly, it's not like my time is worth anything.'

Ed Gamble

Thank god that it was Aisling Bea here today who was willing to just sit here and do a little bit of work, get on with her own stuff-

Aisling Bea

Paying my taxes, ordered a jacket. Don't worry about it.

Ed Gamble

Well you told me you were doing work but you ordered a jacket.

James Acaster

That's work still. You could wear that on stage.

Aisling Bea

Yes, exactly. Oh listen, if you look on my receipts for my taxes everything I've worn on stage.

Ed Gamble

You're not technically allowed to do that.

Aisling Bea

And I don't. That was another one of my great jokes.

Ed Gamble

Yes, a different discussion. Imagine if it had been one of our other guests.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

One of our more, sort of-

Aisling Bea

Oh, I'm sorry. What are you trying to say, Ed? Your more important guests?

James Acaster

Oh yes, Ed's on the back foot now.

Ed Gamble

Richard Osman would have flipped this table over. He would have been so angry that you're late but luckily Aisling was nice.



James Acaster

Yes, some people are angry.

Aisling Bea

I feel like you're back pedalling there from what you really wanted to say. Imagine we had a high status person on.

James Acaster

That's honestly where I was going with it.

Aisling Bea

Do you know what? Between the two of you, I'm having a terrible time.

James Acaster

I couldn't believe it.

Ed Gamble

Anyway, welcome to the fucking restaurant.

Aisling Bea

Thanks a million lads. Great to be here. The service is terrible, I can tell you that much already.

Ed Gamble

The waiter is very late.

Aisling Bea

Yes, putting the wait into waiter the two of you.

Ed Gamble

So we should probably explain what's going on here. You get to order your dream meal. Starter, main side, drink, dessert. James, you're the waiter, would you like to appear officially.

Aisling Bea

Jesus Christ.

James Acaster

Yes, I'm genie as well. Just so you know.

Aisling Bea

Are you? Oh my god.



James Acaster

Yes, yes. I'm a genie waiter because this is a dream restaurant. We can have whatever you want. You could have any food that you've had in your whole life from any specific place, any specific time. I can get it for you. Welcome to the restaurant. I'm a genie and your waiter for the evening.

Aisling Bea

I want to rub you the right way, James.

James Acaster

Yes.

Aisling Bea

Here's a question I had because I've been thinking about this a lot. I've been very excited about doing this podcast. I've been salivating thinking about it and does the meal have to make sense as a whole?

Ed Gamble

That is up to you.

James Acaster

It's up to you, yes.

Ed Gamble

If you feel comfortable with making the weirdest meal of all time, that's fine.

Aisling Bea

I remember the first time I went to New York City and I went to a deli and I couldn't-, I'd never seen a deli before and-,

Ed Gamble

It's already such a New York story.

Aisling Bea

Isn't it? You can really hear the honking of the angry horns from the men who I won't have sex with.

James Acaster

Did a honking in the background.

Aisling Bea

Thank you. That's James honking his horn there in the background. And I went into a deli and I was, like-, you could put anything you want into the box for just the weight of it. There's no-,

Ed Gamble

Yes.



Aisling Bea

And I remember putting like-, and I was like, 'I'll take this for my dinner later.' Like, such a rookie error and I put like sushi and mash, and sweet and sour chicken because I had meat at the time. Like all my favourite things-, you've never seen anything like that box when I got it home that summer's night, from my handbag and I was like, 'Oh, there's a reason Japan, China and Ireland don't have a fusion restaurant.'

Ed Gamble

They probably still talk about you in that deli.

James Acaster

'Do you remember-,'

Ed Gamble

Crazy Irish lady. Came in and had sushi and mash potato.

Aisling Bea

Mash? Are you crazy? My grandad was actually quite open minded about food and he would eat anything as long as it came with mash so we'd order Chinese and he'd get-, like mash was like the fork. The very basics of a dinner was mash.

Ed Gamble

Yes, you have that to stick to the plate just like the cement.

Aisling Bea

So you'd have rice and mash.

James Acaster

Sure. You build on the mash.

Aisling Bea

And every Chinese restaurant in Ireland as well, god love them, they all have to do chips. Curry chips which is an indian sauce over an Irish product in a Chinese restaurant. God bless us everyone.

James Acaster

Modern day.

Ed Gamble

So your pescetarian?

Aisling Bea

Yes. So I eat fish.



Ed Gamble

You eat fish.

Aisling Bea

I hate them. But out of a vengeance.

James Acaster

You introduced me to poke.

Aisling Bea

Oh, poke.

James Acaster

You introduced me to it.

Aisling Bea

When we were in Hollywood together. Ed, don't worry about it.

Ed Gamble

Wow. This is just so many great stories about America.

Aisling Bea

Yes. One time we went to see the-

James Acaster

Aisling loves America don't you? You love it.

Aisling Bea

I do love America. I love being out there. In fact, we've all been out in America together fairy time. Chasing our little dreams. I brought James to the World of Leggings. I've got a picture of that somewhere.

James Acaster

Oh yes?

Aisling Bea

It's a big shop that sells all different types of leggings.

Ed Gamble

From all across the world.

James Acaster

And my legs looked like the mannequin 's legs.



Aisling Bea

Oh, the mannequin's legs at the front. They were so skinny and white. James has the same colour as your basic mannequin. Yes, I went to the World of Leggings and James-, I can show you the world. So yes. Poke, I love. Poke is basically tuna, ahi tuna and I say tuna because that's what they say in America. Tuna.

James Acaster

Tuna.

Aisling Bea

So I ate tuna with some rice, some scallions which you call in Ireland green onions.

Ed Gamble

And knowing you some mash.

Aisling Bea

A bit of mash if you wouldn't mind. I'm not an animal.

James Acaster

A little corner of mash.

Aisling Bea

Just a little, like, to the side pasting bucket. Like they do vinaigrette. Can I have mash over mine?

Ed Gamble

Mash on the side please.

Aisling Bea

Mash on the side. I remember my friend Steph-, about two Christmases ago-, she's Americana and she wasn't going back to America so we're like do you want to come back to Ireland for Christmas with us and she was like, 'Oh my god, I have to say you guys are so funny the amount of potatoes you have in one meal.' I'm like, 'Don't be ridiculous Steph.' We had, like, obviously gratin but that's not really a potato. Gratin dauphinois, it's like cheese and potato. Then like roast potatoes for texture and mash for texture and then a jacket potato on the side. That's not-, I wouldn't call that excessive Steph. Maybe, like, four in one meal.

Ed Gamble

You may need potatoes.

James Acaster

First of all, I'm going to get you some water. Would you like still or sparkling?

Aisling Bea

Still always please James. I like a water that runs deep.



James Acaster

Oh yes. Also I just don't like sparkling water. Maybe it's because I'm so humble, you know. Like I'm very down to earth.

Ed Gamble

You'd say tap wouldn't you?

Aisling Bea

I'd say tap water, yes. Absolutely. And I get all my staff to bring me tap water all the time. Oh, my chef loves bringing it to me and it just keeps me grounded. You know the one thing I got, like, when I-, from panel shows got a bit of cash, my favourite thing in the world that I bought and I was like, 'God Aisling, you've made it big now,' was on my sink in my kitchen.

Ed Gamble

Your main kitchen?

James Acaster

Oh, I hope this is what I think it is.

Aisling Bea

In my main kitchen. And which kitchen have you been in it. Probably the sort of-,

Ed Gamble

I think it was the servant's kitchen. Yes. The kitchen behind the kitchen.

Aisling Bea

Yes. That one.

James Acaster

-the Miliband's.

Aisling Bea

Yes, and I got a BRITA filter insert into my tap which means in London I can get on tap filtered water so I don't have to put it in a jug.

James Acaster

Oh, that is good actually.

Aisling Bea

Yes.

James Acaster

I thought you were going to say that you have one of those boiling hot taps.



Aisling Bea

That will be my next if down the road-

Ed Gamble

A Quooker. A Quooker I believe they're called.

Aisling Bea

Oh, it cost too much. It was like £600 to get one and I couldn't.

Ed Gamble

Can we get a sponsorship from Quooker taps please?

Aisling Bea

Quooker.

James Acaster

Quooker, Quooker.

Aisling Bea

This podcast has been brought to you by Quooker taps. Quooker for hot tea fast.

James Acaster

There you go. That was great.

Ed Gamble

So good. That's the perfect podcast advert.

James Acaster

Hot tea fast is a really good. Is that their slogan anyway?

Aisling Bea

No, I just made it up.

James Acaster

That's so good. That's proper good.

Aisling Bea

Yes. It brings me to the boil. Like, I could do lots of different ones.

Ed Gamble

The laugh was pretty creepy but apart from that-

Aisling Bea

Creepy? That's my main laugh. And then you laugh like that you witch.



Ed Gamble

That's not creepy. It's very open.

James Acaster

Poppadoms or bread, Aisling?

Aisling Bea

Interesting. With the meal I'm about to choose, I don't really want a poppadum. I would love some sourdough.

Ed Gamble

Oh yes.

Aisling Bea

And loads of real butter. I don't want olive oil. I want real Kerrygold Irish butter and I will slather it on and potentially ruin the dinner because I love bread so much.

Ed Gamble

Tell me about Kerrygold Irish butter. I don't know what that is.

Aisling Bea

Kerrygold Irish butter brought to you by Aisling Bea. Kerrygold Irish butter is a delicious butter that we're brought up eating in Ireland.

Ed Gamble

You know Kerrygold.

James Acaster

No.

Ed Gamble

It comes in the paper.

Aisling Bea

James, pull yourself together.

Ed Gamble

You'd know it if you saw it.

Aisling Bea

It's in golden paper like a Willy Wonka bar but for, like, savoury people.

James Acaster

I think I'd remember that, Ed. I think I'd remember a Willy Wonka-,



Ed Gamble

It's all over the place. In Ireland, they eat it like a Willy Wonka chocolate bar as well, they unwrap it.

Aisling Bea

Yes, we do. If you want to view paradise and if you-, if you get the right one, you get a trip to the butter factory. So, yes, I love Kerrygold butter. I buy it wherever I go and it's, like, way more expensive than even probably nicer butter in areas like New York. I even bought it in Malaysia once when I was out in Malaysia and like-, but just some part of me goes, 'I love my country,' when I buy it.

James Acaster

It tastes nostalgic does it? Because of your childhood?

Aisling Bea

Maybe. I think it's more buying it makes me feel like a connection to-,

Ed Gamble

It's good butter. The best butter I've ever had is in France though. The little logs that have-, you know, logs of butter that have chunks of salt.

Aisling Bea

Salt on the top. Yes.

Ed Gamble

Chunks of salt.

James Acaster

I had that. I think I've spoken about this on the podcast before but I once had butter. Caramelised butter that had basically pork scratchings in it.

Aisling Bea

Jesus. Caramelised though? Because I'm not a fan and I'll say it here now lads. Sweet and savoury. I don't like salted caramel. Just I like things to be separate and I don't like the idea of caramelised butter with salt. I just-, who are you? Are you a baby or an adult? Don't try and be both.

James Acaster

I want to be both. Big was one of my favourite films as a kid.

Aisling Bea

That's so creepy. I talked about this on friend of the podcast Brett Goldstein's other podcast recently. I can't move for we're doing a podcast at the moment guys.

James Acaster

I think we should decide who's friends of the podcast. I'm not sure about Bread to be-,



Ed Gamble

You just called him bread then. Bread Goldstein.

Aisling Bea

Old Brett Goldstein.

James Acaster

I guess he is a friend of the podcast.

Aisling Bea

So our friend sour dough bread Goldstein and we were talking about Big and how it doesn't stand up. It's creepy.

James Acaster

Oh definitely. Even as a kid when I liked the film, I did think they're not addressing the thing at the end. Because there's that point where he turns back into a little boy and he turns and waves and she doesn't break down crying.

Ed Gamble

She should immediately be sick right. Yes, she should be sick.

Aisling Bea

Yes, she should be like eugh. The end of Big should be he waves and then she goes eugh. Oh my god.

Ed Gamble

I hope you all enjoyed listening to that on your headphones at home.

So, starter.

Aisling Bea

Now, when I was thinking of a starter, I couldn't think of one isolated one that I'd ever had but I know one thing I always try and order that always makes me feel num, num, num. It's how do you call it? Like a battered calamari. Like squid in breadcrumbs and I get that whether it's at a Thai restaurant or it's at an Italian place or I just-, there's something about the rubberiness of a squid with the breadcrumbiness of-, crunchy, crunchy bread and just a big bowl of them with a dip and there's no end and salt and there never seems to be an end to them and again it can be a bit like a dinner in itself. I don't eat meat for environmental reasons more than anything and also for cruelty. Like it's not like I don't believe people shouldn't eat animals but I believe that the farming industry is so cruel and in the same way we have degrees of murder for humans because you don't just go all murder is the same. You're like how cruel were they when they murdered them. How cruel were they? I feel like we should have the same with animals. Like how cruel are you that you kept them alive. Anyways, side note.



Ed Gamble

Can I steal that opinion because I'm really looking for a way to eat what I want while also seeming like a really good guy?

Aisling Bea

Yes, how cruelly did it die. Like if it was like walking down-, if a cow was walking down the street at night, you bash on its head, it didn't know and it was gone. Eat away. If you sat it down in a chair, strapped it to something and, like, started, I don't know, doing some of your stand up to it, Ed, before you kill it. I would find that cruel

Ed Gamble

Very cruel, yes.

Aisling Bea

So there's something about calamari that I feel is so brain dead when I look at it I'm like I want to eat you.

James Acaster

You'd eat it alive.

Aisling Bea

Yes. You know Blue Planet?

James Acaster

Yes.

Aisling Bea

In a, sort of, meta way my favourite thing was watching Blue Planet in the bath in the dark with some candles on which I realise sounds a bit more erotic in a room with three men.

Ed Gamble

Look, whatever you're into is fine okay.

Aisling Bea

I was fully clothed, don't worry.

Ed Gamble

That's weirder.

Aisling Bea

And there I was in my tracksuit in the bath.

James Acaster

The BRITA filtered bath.



Aisling Bea

Always. And I always remember hearing about Jerry Seinfeld, like how wealthy he was and this was before I started stand up. That he had Evian in his shower. That was just always a little fact. In his shower in the Hamptons, he had Evian.

Ed Gamble

That can't be true.

Aisling Bea

I don't know. I don't know if it is but considering where I am now and where he is, I'm like I suppose he is that much better than me. So, yes. So where was I? So I'd be in the bath in my tracksuit, watching Blue Planet and it would be on. I'd be watching all the little linguine and crabs. That's not the names of them. I just thought of crab and linguine.

Ed Gamble

Linguine is a type of pasta. I've not seen that episode of Blue Planet.

Aisling Bea

Oh, I think they were filming one day and someone dropped their pasta into the tank.

James Acaster

They tried to style it out.

Aisling Bea

Here is the pale linguine. It doesn't have much brain cells. And as there was a bit on a squid, like a funny squid, and I know I should have been going, 'Oh, wow isn't the planet amazing?' But instead I was like, 'I'd batter you. I'd eat you with some aioli. Dip your little-, or I'd chop up your arms and just, like, batter you, make you crispy and just stick you in some aioli.'

James Acaster

Was Attenborough also saying that over the top.

Aisling Bea

Here we are. And this next little fellow is delicious with aioli.

Ed Gamble

I'm going to batter you.

Aisling Bea

Can I tell you another hashtag celeb fact? I was in a recording studio recording an audiobook and I was told that next door was David Attenborough doing the next series of-, and I was allowed to go in and watch. Quick fact. He does six hours in a row without a toilet break. He sits there and he sounds and, like, it is hard to do. Reading for that long, your voice and everything-, I'm constantly even now sipping this green juice from smart coffee krush.com.



James Acaster

Sponsorship for us.

Aisling Bea

Hopefully. That's what I'm trying to do. And he was doing page after page without a toilet break which I find fascinating.

James Acaster

It's like a camel. He's seen so many camels in his life he's become one.

Aisling Bea

He's known how to put a nappy in his back yet.

James Acaster

Yes.

Aisling Bea

Which is what a camel is.

James Acaster

Nappy in his back.

Aisling Bea

Humps or nappy in the backs as I like to call them.

Ed Gamble

That's what you picked up off him right?

Aisling Bea

Yes. Back nappies.

James Acaster

Did you know calamari, there's different types because you can-, picking at the salt and pepper squid, or-,

Aisling Bea

Yes. Salt and pepper's here.

James Acaster

Yes, there are different things on calamari, isn't it? There's chilli. You can get chilli on it.

Aisling Bea

Can't do chilli now.



James Acaster

Can't do chilli now.

Aisling Bea

I've slowly built up my tolerance to be able to, like, eat something more than, say, a korma in an Indian restaurant. But I come from a family where my mother was like, 'Oh, Aisling, what's in that soup? It's very spicy.' And I'm, 'It's tomato and basil soup, Mammy. I think it might be pepper.' So I have, like, a low tolerance for spice.

James Acaster

Right.

Aisling Bea

So chilli-, I can't do chilli squid.

James Acaster

You can't eat chilli squid?

Aisling Bea

For example. Yes.

James Acaster

That's off the table.

Aisling Bea

When people bring-, like, 'I've got hot sauce in my bag, swag,' like Beyoncé said. I'd be like, 'I've got some little yoghurts in my bag, swag.' Just in case I get to-,

Ed Gamble

Just to cool down the basil.

Aisling Bea

Just to cool down, in case. Yes, so can't do chilli.

James Acaster

So no chilli. Salt and pepper squid?

Aisling Bea

Bien sir mon amie.

James Acaster

You would like that kind of stuff. I like the calamari in chain restaurant Busaba. Have you been there?



Aisling Bea

Oh yes, yes, yes. Busaba Eathai.

James Acaster

I would say that calamari's so good that it's got its own special little box on the menu that says that it's their signature.

Aisling Bea

Yes, yes, yes. It's their signature, like Z for Zorro. Calamari for Busaba.

James Acaster

Yes. Leaving calamari after every crime.

Ed Gamble

At the scene of the crime, and they just leave one ring.

James Acaster

Yes.

Aisling Bea

Do you know actually, if there are any vegans out there? I mean, my two Hollywood friends here will know this. You know Café Gratitude in L.A., have you ever been?

James Acaster

I'm sure I have-,

Ed Gamble

I've never been because the whole idea of it makes my anus crawl up into my neck.

Aisling Bea

Yes, and that's how you eat when you're there. So Café Gratitude is this notorious, not notorious, famous vegan restaurant in Hollywood in Los Angeles. And most British people go there and go, 'Come on, mate,' like Ed Gamble would. And it's basically a vegan restaurant where every time the server comes over, she goes, 'Hey, can I get you anything? Still water?' I always say, 'Tap, thank you.' And she's like, 'Also, today our gratitude question is, so you can think about it while you order, what brings you joy?' And every day, the question is different. I can already see your two British faces, no thank you, not in the mood for it, not at all.

Ed Gamble

Well, it gets worse because the menu items are-, what are they called?

Aisling Bea

Like, gratitude bowl, hope burrito.



Ed Gamble

But you have to order it by saying, like, 'I feel gratitude,' or, 'I feel happiness.'

Aisling Bea

Well, 'I would like the happiness. Yes, please.' I would like the happiness.

James Acaster

Happiness of a burrito bowl.

Aisling Bea

Yes, but I have to say the food is-, if you're looking for an alternative, the food is delicious because it has to be. And when-, like say they have a cake made out of avocado and you're like, 'This is bullshit. Actually, it's really lovely.' Like a key lime pie made out of avocado.

James Acaster

Yes.

Aisling Bea

And one of the things they had as an alternative to calamari was, it's called young coconut. And every time I said it, you know that song 'because we're young dumb, young young dumb and broke'. I'm not sure if you know that song.

James Acaster

I don't think I do know that song.

Aisling Bea

Every time I heard it, it's like 'young dumb broke high school kids.' Anyway, that's the song. All my teen followers will know it, who are listening in. And every time I had to say young coconut, I wanted to say 'young young, young young coconut'.

James Acaster

Yes. I bet they would have let you do that there.

Ed Gamble

Yes, they would have loved that.

James Acaster

They would have loved it.

Aisling Bea

They would have been like, 'If that brings you joy, you can sing from your heart, sing from where you need to sing'.



Ed Gamble

Young coconut does sound like a rapper with a tattoo on his face.

Aisling Bea

Yes. Big up young coconut, yes.

Ed Gamble

Y-U-N-G coconut, that's how you would spell it.

Aisling Bea

Oh, Yung. Or if he was a bit of a philosopher, he could be called J-U-N-G. Carl Jung.

Ed Gamble

Wow, we're all over the place. Highbrow, lowbrow.

Aisling Bea

Yes, I don't know who my audience is, to be honest.

James Acaster

I would find it very difficult not to say something rude when they ask you what brings me joy. Even though I'm not a-

Aisling Bea

Could I have a wank, please, Carol?

James Acaster

Yes. I'm not particularly blue.

Aisling Bea

You're not particularly blue.

James Acaster

But in that situation where everyone's being so earnest, I would find it very difficult not to want to ruin it.

Aisling Bea

Yes. I've never thought of you as not blue but you're definitely not blue, James.

James Acaster

Yes. Not very blue.

Aisling Bea

Yes. You might curse a bit, sure. Not an angel.



Ed Gamble

The genie from Aladdin's blue, though.

James Acaster

That's true, very good, Ed.

Aisling Bea

Oh, he's very blue. Yes.

James Acaster

And that's a very clean joke.

Ed Gamble

Yes, there we are.

Aisling Bea

Exactly. The worst thing in the world is when you think you're doing family-friendly material for like, there's this gig which I'll talk about later actually, on St. Patrick's Day, which is family-friendly. And I was, like, going through my set-list going, 'Yes, yes, yes.' And until you're on stage, I didn't realise nearly everything I have ends with like, 'my dick' or 'fingering'. And I didn't know until the end so I had to sort of style out, 'But of course, as we all know, I got an enjoyable evening out of it. Well, all the best.' You don't realise sometimes your stuff's blue.

James Acaster

I remember chatting to you before you went into a gig that your family were going to be at and you had to do your fingering routine.

Aisling Bea

Yes.

James Acaster

You were talking to me quite seriously about it.

Aisling Bea

My mother, my aunt, her friend from work, Barbara, who's Polish.

James Acaster

Yes. Lovely.

Aisling Bea

Yes. And she actually comes out and goes, 'No, actually, I got what you meant about it I understood.' And I went, 'Oh, thanks, Barbara.' She wasn't looking me in the eye though. So yes, in this place, they did young coconut, which is a calamari substitute. And it was so delicious. I thought I was eating, because coconut skin inside, when deep-fat fried, is that kind of squashy white calamari stuff.



James Acaster

Wow.

Ed Gamble

Okay.

Aisling Bea

And it was so tasty. And it made me think maybe we should leave those little fishies in the pond and just eat those weird coconuts.

James Acaster

And can you remember the question that they gave you to think about?

Aisling Bea

I'll be honest, I've been a couple of times, guys. I'm a white girl who's into crystals. And it wasn't my first trip or my last.

James Acaster

I wonder if you remember any of your answers?

Aisling Bea

I think I definitely would have answered with a joke. I never, like, totally buy into it. I respect their right to do it.

James Acaster

Sure.

Aisling Bea

And I enjoy the vibe. But I wouldn't maybe totally answer it. Because I'm like, 'Well, I don't think we should stretch for happiness. I think hopefulness and just an acceptance of who we are is probably better.' But that answer doesn't go down that well.

James Acaster

That would be great if you said that.

Aisling Bea

'Oh, I was expecting kites and rainbows.'

Ed Gamble

So we've got calamari.

Aisling Bea

Yes. For a starter, please.



Ed Gamble

With a dip, with aioli, you said.

Aisling Bea

I think so, Ed. I do think so.

James Acaster

That's a nice dip. That's a good solid dip.

Ed Gamble

That's a really good dip, actually.

Aisling Bea

Yes, it's a good solid dip. Like, I wouldn't have it on a date. You know, garlic.

Ed Gamble

Sure. It's not date food.

Aisling Bea

No, it's more pals, you know. But you don't-,

Ed Gamble

It's a pal dip.

Aisling Bea

'So how is everything? How are-', you know. Because that's the thing about something garlicky, isn't it, you have to have a level of comfort with the people you're with.

James Acaster

Big deal. You know, I remember my parents having discussions about them having friends round for a meal when they were cooking a curry. And I remember witnessing a huge chat about how much garlic was going in the curry beforehand. Because they were going out afterwards as well, it was a big night. And they were like, 'We can't just feed everyone a garlicky curry and then all go out.' It was a really long, serious chat. Memory of my childhood. Yes.

Ed Gamble

You feel it if you go out the house like that. Yes.

Aisling Bea

Yes.

Ed Gamble

I think you'd maybe have a wedge of lemon on the side, to squeeze over it.



Aisling Bea

Oh, I would, Ed. I'm so sorry I forgot that.

Ed Gamble

You've got to squeeze that-

James Acaster

And you squeeze that over?

Aisling Bea

Oh, I would. I would.

James Acaster

Mark of being an adult.

Aisling Bea

Here's an interesting thing if you want another celebrity fact. Because, you know, I'm absolutely being totally Hollywood, now. I'm arriving twenty minutes late.

James Acaster

Yes, which you're still yet to apologise to me for.

Aisling Bea

So, I'm working on this Netflix show at the moment with Paul Rudd. And I don't think he'll mind me telling this because I think it's mad. Paul doesn't like sauces.

Ed Gamble

What?

James Acaster

That is very odd.

Ed Gamble

What a weird Hollywood thing.

Aisling Bea

No ketchup. No mustard. We had gone for food and were eating our lunches together and stuff. He doesn't, no vinaigrettes, no mustard, no ketchup Ed. And I'm talking about a man who will order chips, or fries as we call them in Hollywood.

Ed Gamble

No, so he just eats them dry?



Aisling Bea

Dry. Chicken, dry. Everything, dry. No sauces.

Ed Gamble

Big bowl of sand, please, for Paul Rudd.

Aisling Bea

Yes.

James Acaster

What if it came in a-, like, does he not order dishes that already come with a sauce?

Aisling Bea

Well, he orders things and 'can I get no sauce over that', or, like 'Does it come with mustard or anything?' Or he'd have a burger with no ketchup or mustard. The nearest thing to a sauce would be melted cheese.

James Acaster

Right. What?

Ed Gamble

What brings you joy, Paul Rudd? Absolutely nothing.

James Acaster

Dryness.

Aisling Bea

I was like, 'Paul, it's a dinner of a psychopath that you could put up with that much dryness.' I remember one time again, when I ate meat, a friend I had, which is a popular choice of weddings, a hog roast. And I turned up to the afters.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Aisling Bea

And they had made hog roast sandwiches in floury baps with no butter on them. And I nearly choked to death. It was so dry it managed to suck the moisture from inside me and the air from my neck, I was like.

Ed Gamble

Did it have crackling in it as well?

Aisling Bea

Yes. All the driest things with no-,



James Acaster

Stuffing? Because that makes it even worse, a lot of the time.

Aisling Bea

No, actually. No. Yes, bread-on-bread action.

James Acaster

Oh, God.

Aisling Bea

Bread squared.

James Acaster

Well, I hope they're divorced.

Ed Gamble

When we have Paul Rudd on the podcast, we'll be prepared for that.

Aisling Bea

Yes, exactly. Expect a dry podcast.

James Acaster

Oh yes, when Rudd's on there, we'll deliberately bait him and we'll ask him if he wants sauce with everything.

Ed Gamble

You have to have a sauce.

James Acaster

Does that extend to desserts? Would he not have it on an ice cream sundae?

Aisling Bea

Interesting question. He doesn't really eat sweets. He's on the Ant-Man diet.

James Acaster

Right, I mean this guy.

Ed Gamble

Who is this guy?

James Acaster

Absolute piece of work.



Aisling Bea

So yes, actually because his parents are English, and so I got him a load of Crunchies because they're the things he misses. He used to love Crunchies.

Ed Gamble

So dry.

Aisling Bea

Yes, really dry honeycomb. So yes, that's the thing he remembers from his childhood. Beans and Crunchies.

James Acaster

So eccentric. Such an eccentric man. He's married to Phoebe, to be fair. So he's got to be pretty eccentric.

Aisling Bea

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

That's why he's so kooky.

Aisling Bea

I mean, the two-, can you imagine what the two of them must be like? Yes.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

So, main.

James Acaster

Main course.

Ed Gamble

The big daddy.

Aisling Bea

Main. The big daddy. Now, this isn't-, I don't know if I'd order this on death row. Because death row is a very different kettle of fish. What are you looking for on death row? Your best possible meal or comfort at the time?



James Acaster

They come to you on death row, don't they, and they go, 'What would you like to eat? Also, what brings you joy?'

Aisling Bea

What brings you joy? 'Someone believing my innocence. Just someone believing me.' 'Okay, be right back with your KFC.' I basically had, like I was talking about earlier, this St. Patrick's Day gig on 17th March about five years ago. Maybe four years ago. And it was in the middle of Trafalgar Square at 4:00pm. Now, my birthday, I'm not sure if you, guys, remember this from other years gone by, my birthday's the 16th of March, which is the day before St. Patrick's Day. And every year since I was probably five, I've had a birthday party. And they've got kind of increasingly, like, 'birthday party' since then. And I go out and I get so excited to see my friends but also so nervous that no one will turn up, that I don't eat all day and mama has a drink. And people hand me, especially if there's any sort of house party quality to them, which there was five years ago, I think I had it in a warehouse I rented out, that everyone brought their own booze. And my friend had gotten me a St. Patrick's Day cup and kept on pouring Cava into it, which I do believe I'm allergic to. I mean, I'm not, I just drink too much of it.

Ed Gamble

Goes to your head.

Aisling Bea

It just straight away. So I was knocking back Cava all night. And the next morning, myself and my sister had to go and clean up the warehouse before I went into the St. Patrick's Day gig. So I'm still drunk, cleaning up this warehouse, and the night before, a friend of mine who's an actor, his name is Arthur Darvill-, do you know Arthur?

Ed Gamble

Was he in Doctor Who?

Aisling Bea

Yes, he is in Doctor Who.

James Acaster

Oh, I'm thinking Broadchurch.

Aisling Bea

He might have been in that, too.

James Acaster

Was he in Broadchurch as the vicar?



Aisling Bea

He might have. Well, he was a year ahead of me at drama school, like before I started. And we've got a good friend Hugh Skinner who's also a lovely man. He's in things like Mamma Mia and stuff. God, I'm name-dropping all over the place.

James Acaster

Yes, he was the vicar in Broadchurch. Great Benito has just got him up on the laptop.

Aisling Bea

He is the vicar in Broadchurch, yes. So the two of those thought it would be funny en route to my birthday, to buy a bag of frozen prawns and give them to me as a present. And to be fair, it was. And they would go around popping these frozen prawns into people's drinks like ice cubes. Now, absolutely hilarious. I love a laugh as much as the next guy. You ask anyone in town, 'Does Aisling like a laugh?' They'll go, 'Aisling? Of course.' But the next day when I was still a bit drunk and had to clean up an old warehouse in East London, with the old prawns which are-, we are now into probably hour thirteen on the heated ground. It was so disgusting that I started vomiting then.

Ed Gamble

So your main is old frozen prawns.

Aisling Bea

Old frozen prawns.

James Acaster

I'm trying to see how this is building up to the best main you've ever had.

Aisling Bea

So, I basically vomited at the warehouse. Then went home and vomited in my own house because the drink was wearing off.

Ed Gamble

That's the trailer for this episode, by the way.

Aisling Bea

Yes. Then I had to get on the bus to go into Trafalgar Square to do this gig in the afternoon. Had to get off the bus twice to vomit at the side of the road.

James Acaster

Oh my God.

Aisling Bea

And you know those like, nothing left like (retching noises). Sweating like a pig in my Irish jersey because it's St. Patrick's Day. Everyone wearing green. I get into Trafalgar Square which is just full of Italian people wearing Irish jerseys who are also getting hammered. And I get backstage and I'm like



(retching noises) and I go onstage and go, 'What if I vomit on stage?' And thankfully, I didn't but I died on my arse because I was doing what I thought was family-friendly material at 4 o'clock in the afternoon in a giant tent in the middle of Trafalgar Square with a load of drunk Irish people in there. And children, so many children up the front, thinking it was hilarious. And I was like, 'And then, of course, when you get to this sexy bit, you-, respectfully drive everyone home.' Like there was just no way of getting around it in my material, and I was so sick and pasty and pale. But when I came offstage, it's like it was over.

James Acaster

Yes.

Aisling Bea

It had finally been over. And I was there with Ardal O'Hanlon, Barry Murphy.

Ed Gamble

Barry Murphy.

Aisling Bea

Barry Murphy. And Dara O'Briain. Because we were all doing this Irish gig, Team Ireland, in London. And I was like, 'God, guys, it was my birthday last night. I really didn't think it but I think I can finally eat again.' And they were like, 'Have you ever been to Burger and Lobster in Soho?' And I hadn't been able to eat, I hadn't eaten the whole day beforehand. I had vomited up every possible liquid and solid and mush in my tummy. There was nothing left. It was just a pure virgin belly, ready to have food at this stage, having been cleansed of everything. And I was like, 'I've never eaten a lobster before,' and they were like, 'You've never eaten a lobster before?' I'm like, 'Oh, Ireland, no wonder the economy crashed,' so we all went to Burger and Lobster. And no offence to Dara, Ardal and Barry, three great Irish men, but I didn't fancy any of them. And they didn't fancy me. And to go to a restaurant when you're that empty of food, and be given a bib and a little stick to get the buttery fish out of the lobster tail. And not to fancy anyone, so not to worry about the butter on your face, and to sit there in a bib after vomiting for thirteen hours straight. I honestly was so close to nirvana, I was like, 'Yes.' And Ardal was teaching me how to get in, get the little stick into its dead arms and pull out the-, you know, and again, sorry to all the Blue Planet fans. But I was yanking out the little bit of lobster, you get this little, kind of, stick-,

Ed Gamble

Took one home to have in the bath in the dark.

Aisling Bea

Yes, eat it in the bath.

James Acaster

Dip it into the buttery bathtub.



Aisling Bea

Buttery bath. Lob a load of Kerrygold into my bath for my skin. Just baste myself like a lobster. But I remember genuinely thinking, and I knew-, you know when you know you're not going to vomit anymore, it's the best feeling in the world. You're like, 'Oh, my whole life is now ahead of me.' Because I've been so physically sad and unpredictable for so many hours. And I just remember that as being one of the best, and again, it came with a side of chips. It was St. Patrick's Day, the birthday party had gone well. I'd cleaned up all the old prawns in the warehouse. And just to have that lovely buttery lobster.

James Acaster

Burger and Lobster is the kind of place that friends from outside of London, when they come to London and I tell them about Burger and Lobster, get absolutely furious because it's exactly what they thought London was.

Aisling Bea

Yes.

James Acaster

For those people who don't know, you can basically order a burger or a lobster and it's twenty quid.

Ed Gamble

I think it's gone up now, actually.

Aisling Bea

Has it?

James Acaster

It's now gone up even more than twenty quid. But it was originally twenty quid.

Ed Gamble

That was the selling point of it, wasn't it? That it was twenty quid.

Aisling Bea

Yes.

James Acaster

And when people hear-,

Ed Gamble

Yes, because everyone in London's going, 'Oh, my God, such a good deal, lobster for twenty quid.' And then you tell anyone else and they're like, 'Come on, ridiculous.'

Aisling Bea

Yes.



Ed Gamble

They started adding things to the menu which I didn't think was necessarily a good idea. Because I thought the whole USP of it was that it was two or three things, actually. Because there was the lobster roll.

James Acaster

The lobster roll.

Aisling Bea

I hate when places do that.

James Acaster

I loved the lobster roll.

Aisling Bea

There's a place beside my house in New York called Just Salad, and it has pictures of toasts and soups and desserts. And I'm like, 'Just think about it in advance.' What part of your business plan, when you came up with this title, did you not pick like a-, it drives me nuts. Which they also do.

Ed Gamble

We've got a very odd shop next to us, where we live. It used to be a corner shop with a post office hatch at the back, great.

Aisling Bea

Love it.

Ed Gamble

Then the corner shop shut down, but the post office hatch was still in the back for a while. So it was an empty room with a post office hatch at the back, and you'd have to walk through, like, a deserted shop. Then it was taken over by some posh people and it's now called Ella's. And it's a florist, a coffee shop and a wine selling place. But the post office hatch is still in the back. So you've got these really posh people running around going, 'Oh yes, one flower, that's £25.00 please,' with the grumpiest Indian man sat in the back.

Aisling Bea

Oh, no. Running a post office.

Ed Gamble

They're not interacting with each other, like he's just trying to get on with the post office.

Aisling Bea

Do you know though, I have to say, I feel like I know the demographic of that shop.



Ed Gamble

Yes.

Aisling Bea

You know, like, someone goes in for a coffee and they're picking up flowers that evening because they're having people round.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Aisling Bea

And they're going to get a lovely bottle of wine so the flat will be nice as well, it'll be so nice with some flowers. And then, do you know what, I do have to send off my tax form. Like, I can see the people who go into that place-

Ed Gamble

Yes, that's the sort of area it is.

James Acaster

I want a shop that just does everything.

Aisling Bea

Yes. Do you know, that's the one thing about America and their bloody pharmacies. It's like, they should have Willy Wonka outside going 'If you want to view paradise, simply look around.' You can get anything.

Ed Gamble

CVS in America is just incredible.

Aisling Bea

CVS. Frying pan, tin of tuna, nail file, cleanser, morning after pill without any questions. It's just a joy. You try and get any one of those things in the UK without interrogation.

Ed Gamble

Because, honestly, I can't take my morning after pill unless it's mashed up into some tuna.

Aisling Bea

And my nails are filed.

James Acaster

I went to one of them and it had a fro-yo stand there. That also did, like sorbets and stuff and little samples. So you could just get a shot of-, every time I went there, I would get a shot of the apple sorbet which was real sour and nice, and just walk around sucking on that.



Aisling Bea

Do you think you could ever be friends with someone who didn't love a sample?

James Acaster

No I don't, although I've known people who love samples too much, I'm going to say it.

Aisling Bea

I know those people, James. You always know they'd make terrible lovers, because you're like, 'There's a point at which you are taking the piss, by how much you're taking from me and how much you're not buying.' Put it that way, 'You're putting no money into this and I just keep giving you things for free.'

Ed Gamble

I always act though when I'm taking the samples, and so I'll be like, 'Hmm.'

Aisling Bea

Yes. Where did you say this was made?

Ed Gamble

They don't care.

Aisling Bea

They know.

Ed Gamble

I'm just going to go around once more but I'll probably come back and get some-

James Acaster

I think once where-, so I was with my girlfriend at the time and we went into a shop that she regularly went to and she would always get a sample.

Aisling Bea

Ann Summers probably. You see, I am much bluer, I'm much bluer than you guys.

Ed Gamble

A quick sample of this.

James Acaster

This truly is the Blue Planet.

Aisling Bea

Okay. That's as much as I need.

James Acaster

I believe a Blue Planet call-back got buried under stuff there. It was really good.



Aisling Bea

Blue Planet, yes.

James Acaster

Yes, pump that up, Benito.

Ed Gamble

Also it got buried under a lovely joke from Aisling where she did an example of someone taking a sample of a vibrator.

Aisling Bea

That's enough, that'll do me. Thank you, I'll go back around, I'll come back to you though.

James Acaster

There's so much good stuff going on at once. Yes, she went in there and got a cookie sample, a little sample of a little cookie. She would always have a sample of cookie when she went in that shop. So, we went in there together, I bought something, and then we went somewhere else and I was like, 'Oh, I should've got a bottle of wine from that place, we'll go back there.' We went back and I'm buying the wine at the thing and I can hear her having an argument in the background, and I'm looking over, and we come out and she's like, 'They wouldn't give me another sample in that place.' I was like, 'Alright, it says one sample per person.' 'And I was telling them, it's for you.' I was like, 'It wasn't for me though.' And she's like, 'Yeah, but they didn't know that.' So, she had a whole argument about how she was getting a cookie sample for me and they were like, 'Well, he has got to come and get it.' She was like, 'He's buying the wine, I'm getting it for him.'

Aisling Bea

I know your friend who that is, and I have to say we love tiny bites of things.

James Acaster

Yes.

Aisling Bea

It's the one thing that connects us as friends, and our favourite thing to do, we've gone to a few weddings together, we just love tiny bites. It's not even the freeness of it, it's the tiny bites.

Ed Gamble

Tiny bites sounds like that's another friend of yours, 'And we just love Tiny Bites.'

Aisling Bea

'Yo, what's up, it's me Young Coconut, I'm so happy to collaborate with Tiny Bites.'

Ed Gamble

Yong Coconut, featuring Tiny Bites.



Aisling Bea

Because we're young-young, young-young coconut.

Ed Gamble

This is Tiny Bites.

Aisling Bea

He's really short with all these very tall models around him. We love tiny bites.

James Acaster

Just crunching on their ankles.

Aisling Bea

Maybe I'll be like, when tiny bites shout out, 'Crunching, Crunching, oh yeah.' But we do and we've gone to a few weddings together and our favourite thing is, we're always like, 'Okay, spread out.' And we try to see where the waiters are coming out of so we can, like, grab. Because we want to sample everything, so we always stand near a door and the two of us will sort of go, 'Yeah, yeah, yeah, I mean, I love-, it was so nice when they did the poem.' But we're slowly moving towards the corner. 'Hi, sorry, yeah, could I actually get one of those.' And we love just little-,

Ed Gamble

Little bites.

Aisling Bea

Because there's something about not having to nail yourself down to one choice. You don't have to just like go, even with this, I'm like, 'Oh, I have to choose one thing.' But with tiny bites you can have so many things.

James Acaster

I'm just thinking about it.

Aisling Bea

Just little tiny bites.

James Acaster

I'm quite excited with your meal so far, because if I was to, like, I've always had a thing in my head of my dream banquet because I can't choose just one meal like this. I always think about a table full of all the food I like.

Aisling Bea

Tiny bites.



James Acaster

Tiny bites, yes, for example. Yours is the closest so far to things that I would have. So, I would have the Thai calamari from Busaba at my banquet and I'd also have the lobster roll from Burger & Lobster at my banquet. Those two things that were already in my head before we started today.

Aisling Bea

Can you imagine tiny bites of lobster roll, just little tiny bites of it.

James Acaster

Well, actually-,

Ed Gamble

I can't get beyond Tiny Bites being a little rapper, so that's why I go vacant every time you say Tiny Bites. So, here's a bit of a dilemma, your main from Burger & Lobster comes with fries as standard. Now we've got to pick another side.

Aisling Bea

Duh-duh-duh, double potato. Duh-duh-double potato. It's Tiny Bites. This is what I was asking, does the meal have to make sense?

Ed Gamble

It's up to you, no one is judging you on this.

Aisling Bea

It sounds like the two of you are judging me on this.

Ed Gamble

No, you do double potato if you want.

Aisling Bea

I will be choosing a big creamy bowl of mash. Or, monster mash.

Ed Gamble

And you're not having the sushi?

Aisling Bea

No, with sushi underneath. Sushi. I have a joke and it's not totally relevant because that would be a Japanese Irish mix. But I have a joke which is, I think I did it at a gig before and you came out and booed me afterwards. You were MCing.

Ed Gamble

I booed you?



Aisling Bea

Yes, I think you did, it was at the Union Chapel and I thought I might try it out. I feel like it might've been you and I said, 'I'm going to go on and try this joke, it's terrible.'

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Aisling Bea

You came out afterwards and were like, 'Boo Aisling.' Very funny at the time. But here's my big joke, my ex boyfriend was Irish Chinese, his name was Pat Noodle.

Ed Gamble

Yes, that's why I booed it.

Aisling Bea

That silence was all I got on the day as well, yes. I just thought, I wasn't sure if it was the room itself. I think the silence is worse than a boo.

James Acaster

I thought it was going to be a routine about food. Because we always booed Josh Widdecombe.

Aisling Bea

Sorry, I just slobbered my smoothie.

James Acaster

Aisling has just had a big gulp of her green juice.

Aisling Bea

No, I've got it on my jumper.

Ed Gamble

There you go, just on the white bit of the jumper there.

James Acaster

That was not a tiny bite, that was a big gulp.

Aisling Bea

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Big Gulp is Tiny Bite's-, he's in his crew.

Aisling Bea

Big Gulp is the big guy standing behind and goes, 'Big Gulp.'



Ed Gamble

Big Gulp is the DJ.

Aisling Bea

Big Gulp gets paid despite really only shouting his name over every track, but it's enough to keep him going and buy a small semi detached.

James Acaster

Big Gulp.

Aisling Bea

Tiny Bites comes in and goes, 'Yo-yo, I'm Tiny Bites. Canapes, Canapes, it's Tiny Bites, it's Tiny Bites.'

Ed Gamble

Sorry, Tiny Bites also exclusively raps about small dishes?

Aisling Bea

Yes, yes, yes.

James Acaster

Nibbles, nibbles.

Aisling Bea

Then in the background, we'll go Big Gulp. Big Gulp in the background constantly.

James Acaster

It's like DJ Khalid.

Aisling Bea

Yes, yes, yes, exactly. Or Jazzy Jeff.

Ed Gamble

Big old of creamy bowl of mash.

Aisling Bea

Big old creamy bowl of mash.

James Acaster

Is it from anywhere in particular?

Aisling Bea

My own hand.



James Acaster

Do you make good mash?

Aisling Bea

I do make good mash lads.

James Acaster

What's your secret?

Ed Gamble

Kerrygold I'm guessing.

James Acaster

Kerrygold, without a doubt. Big blob of butter, you want to get, and this is actually going into a lot of details-

James Acaster

Sorry if I'm interrupting here. You're having Kerrygold on the sourdough bread.

Aisling Bea

Yes.

James Acaster

On the lobster.

Aisling Bea

Oh yes.

James Acaster

And in the mash, yes? Just checking

Aisling Bea

Yes, yes, yes. I'm all about the branding, about the branding. So, bring back my Kerrygold because there's not much of it left, but there's enough for mash out of a bar. You want to be specific about your spuds guys, and that's not me asking you to check yourselves for testicular cancer.

James Acaster

But also do.

Aisling Bea

But also do, please, check your spuds boys.

James Acaster

It's what brings me joy.



Aisling Bea

If that brings you joy, 'Checking me spuds,' 'Okay, thanks, I'll just take your order.' So, Queens spuds are available in Ireland, but ironically not available in England and they are a very floury, floury spud. Just when you mash them up, they've got a dryness to them.

James Acaster

A King Edward would do, that's a floury spud?

Aisling Bea

No, no, no, as little bites might say. Tiny Bites, rather. Little Bites is his brother, like mini Snoop or whatever he's called.

Ed Gamble

Yes, that's right Mini Snoop.

Aisling Bea

Mini Snoop, what is his name? Little Dog?

James Acaster

He's a someone, isn't there?

Ed Gamble

Lil Bow Wow.

Aisling Bea

Lil Bow Wow, Yippee Yo, Yippee Yay, where my dogs at, yes, that's who it is. So, floury Queen potatoes, not a waxy Edward, please.

Ed Gamble

That's my nickname.

James Acaster

Waxy Edward.

Aisling Bea

And as you come on to stage they go Waxy Edward on, and then as you leave, they go Waxy Edward off.

James Acaster

That sounds delicious. So, mash them up, Kerrygold, milk.

Ed Gamble

Yes.



James Acaster

Secret.

Aisling Bea

Salt, peppers here.

James Acaster

You just reminded me, I used to work in the kitchen, and Ed doesn't know this about me, he's going to absolutely love this, I had the nickname the Mash King.

Aisling Bea

Il love it.

James Acaster

I was so good at making the mash that I was getting called the mash king in the kitchen. I'd completely forgotten about it until you said milk, and as soon as you said milk, I remembered how I used to put the milk in.

Ed Gamble

It's like in one of the Bourne Films where suddenly you're remembering. You're like-,

James Acaster

I'm the Mash King.

Ed Gamble

I was the Mash King.

Aisling Bea

Or in any episode of CSI, where they're like, 'We just can't crack this case. It's like it's a joke.' And then someone goes, 'A joke. A joke. One minute, I'll be back in an hour.' Just tell us where you're going, we've all the time going down in the lift, where you have the time to tell us.

Ed Gamble

That's good, so you've got the Mash King right here.

Aisling Bea

The Mash King is right here.

Ed Gamble

The Mash King approves.

Aisling Bea

Do you know my only worry about that James is, I used to be, in inverted commas, 'really good at cleaning the house and the fridge and my house'. Mammy would say, 'Oh Aisling, you're so good at



cleaning the fridge.' And now I know, I was like, 'Me, good? Okay, I'll keep doing it.' I feel like that was maybe the shit job and they were like, 'James, aren't you so good? We're going to call you the Mash King.' And you're like, 'Oh, alright.'

James Acaster

I'll tell you it was not the people who were in charge were calling me the Mash King. It was the people who-, basically the people who worked on washing up and stuff.

Ed Gamble

The mash subjects.

James Acaster

Who would then eat leftover food, because that's what you do when you work in washing up in the kitchen. They would complain-, I remember I'd come back from a shift and they'd go, 'Someone else was working on our shift James, it was not the same. The mash was not as good because the Mash King didn't make it.' I think I'd put cream instead of milk.

Aisling Bea

Interesting, interesting.

James Acaster

Cream, butter, salt and pepper. Really mashed it good and I did take a lot of pride in it actually.

Aisling Bea

You know what you can always through in there James, some parsley.

James Acaster

I don't mind if I do. I think they would sprinkle it on the top when they sent it out in a dish, but maybe mixed into it.

Ed Gamble

Here's how precocious a young child I was, my grandmother made me some mashed potatoes.

Aisling Bea

Was?

Ed Gamble

My grandmother once made me some mashed potatoes and she was a very healthy lady, always looking after her health. I said, 'What have you put in these mashed potatoes.' And she said, 'Oh margarine.' My mum remembers this distinctly and I said, 'Gary Rhodes uses double cream.'

Aisling Bea

Ed.



James Acaster

Couldn't be more on brand.

Ed Gamble

What a little dick.

Aisling Bea

You know the things you only want from your house. Like, my friends mother sent me home to my own house for my dinner once because she was like, 'I can't have Aisling anymore.' Because I only liked what I liked from my house. One of them was consomme soup, and it sounds so French, and that's just like old bones.

Ed Gamble

It's like broth, isn't it? Like stock basically, yes.

Aisling Bea

But I just knew that's what I liked, but what I probably liked was salt. I'd ask for consomme and then I didn't know what the word vanilla was. So, I just knew I liked Hazelbrook Farm Ice Cream. So, when I'd go around my friend's, she'd be like, 'Do you want some soup?' I was like, 'Is it consomme?' And she's like, 'Do you want some ice cream?' 'Is it Hazelbrook Farm?' I didn't know the word vanilla, but I just wanted nothing to be different to the way it was in my house.

Ed Gamble

That's great.

James Acaster

What drink would you like?

Ed Gamble

I'd imagine, a big cup of melted Kerrygold.

James Acaster

Yes. Please.

Aisling Bea

Do you know, there's this coffee they have and it's like bulletproof coffee and so, for body builders, Kerrygold has become the go-to. Because it's a really pure-,

Ed Gamble

It's grass fed, right?

Aisling Bea

Yes, it's grass fed.



Ed Gamble

That's what it has to be, yes.

Aisling Bea

Yes, beef and all that kind of stuff. So, like, bodybuilders are putting Kerrygold into their coffee at the moment. Yes, they melt it in there for extra good fats.

Ed Gamble

Amazing.

Aisling Bea

The point is that the coffee slowly releases energy, rather than makes you go, 'Wing.'

James Acaster

Right, okay.

Aisling Bea

There is some science to, but with the drink, it's interesting. Because I love a cup of green tea. I drink tea, I'd say I have eight or nine cups a day.

Ed Gamble

Wow.

Aisling Bea

Yes, all of them. And what annoys everyone in my life is that I drink half the cup. Make a whole one, drink half because you get distracted.

Ed Gamble

So you have four, four cups of tea a day?

Aisling Bea

Maybe, maybe.

Ed Gamble

All in all.

Aisling Bea

Sometimes maybe two, I sip and I'm like, 'Lovely.' I do love a cup of tea and if I was in death-row, I would love a cup of tea. But I'm actually going to have to Google this on my phone. I went to a cocktail bar in New York City recently and had the nicest cocktail. It was so bloody delicious and alcohol-y, it felt adulty, like a treat.

Ed Gamble

Some cocktails make you feel grown up, don't they?



James Acaster

Yes, they have to taste of alcohol. I think I got into cocktails through the really sweet ones, whisky sours and stuff where you can't even taste the alcohol in it.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

But now, I have to have ones where you can taste it.

Ed Gamble

I'm a vodka Martini man, through and through.

Aisling Bea

Really?

Ed Gamble

Love it.

James Acaster

Yes.

Aisling Bea

Do you actually love it?

Ed Gamble

To kick off a meal, I absolutely love a vodka Martini. It's like rocket fuel.

James Acaster

I can't remember what it's called, so sorry to the actual establishment, but it's in Highgate or somewhere, or Tuffnal Park. It was a vegetarian place and they did this Martini, it was a Vespa Martini. But they used-, it was Captain-, they grew their own rosemary in the garden and then they would put that in and leave it there for ages. Maybe weeks, maybe months, before they gave it to you. That's the best Martini I've ever had, and actually one of the best-, do you know, what I want it so badly now.

Ed Gamble

I remember you telling me about that place, it's Tuffnal Park.

James Acaster

Yes, Tuffnal Park.



Aisling Bea

What happens with me is, as clean eating, or when you're trying to be healthy, they recommend you have vodka soda lime as a drink, so that's a go-to drink. But I'm not sure if I enjoy it or I just train myself to go, 'It's not that bad.' Do you definitely like that one as a-

Ed Gamble

No, I really do actually like it.

Aisling Bea

You do actually like it, because you probably have to be careful what drinks you have with your old diabetes.

Ed Gamble

The old diabetes, yes. Well, alcohol is a bit annoying-

Aisling Bea

It spikes your sugar.

Ed Gamble

Yes, it spikes but then also drops it quite soon after.

Aisling Bea

I'm trying to find the name of this place.

James Acaster

Weren't you looking for a photo of the cocktail?

Aisling Bea

Basically, do you know what it is? It's more the name of the place is a phrase and i keep on forgetting it. Because it's kind of like pass the parcel, or passing ships.

Ed Gamble

Where was it?

Aisling Bea

In New York City. And it had a speak easy vibe to it, and it was really nice. Anyway, wherever this place is, it had this cocktail called something like, Love me Good and was vermouth and cherry liquor. A cherry in it, but it still managed to not be too cherry-ish and maybe a whisky as well and rye, there was rye in it. Oh my God, it tasted desserty and whisky-ish, and I love, love whisky. It just covered my tongue in yumminess and I just felt so adult drinking it in this speak easy in New York.

Ed Gamble

Yes, feel like you're in Mad Men.



Aisling Bea

Yes, exactly.

Ed Gamble

With a brown drink.

Aisling Bea

It felt like-, yes, a brown drink.

Ed Gamble

Having a brown drink in New York.

James Acaster

It does feel good to be in New York, having a brown drink, it feels great actually. I'm getting quite excited about it.

Aisling Bea

Sorry to be a bit blue, and I know you guys aren't but having a brown drink really feels like a terrible euphemism for something.

James Acaster

St. Patrick's Day again.

Aisling Bea

Yes, having a brown drink.

Ed Gamble

So, we don't-,

Aisling Bea

Where are we?

Ed Gamble

We don't want to overrun in this restaurant because you've only got the table for a certain amount of time.

James Acaster

Sure.

Aisling Bea

What a really nice way of saying, 'Aisling, hurry up.'

Ed Gamble

No, a lot of this has been us, it is me getting distracted with Little Bites.



James Acaster

I've had a lot of fun.

Aisling Bea

Little Bites.

Ed Gamble

Big Gulp.

James Acaster

Tapas.

Ed Gamble

Who's Tapas?

James Acaster

No, that's one of the things that he would say. Little Bites would say.

Aisling Bea

That's one of the things, and then he'd like tap an ass.

James Acaster

Yes. I like to tap-ass, can I pay? Can I pay-,

Aisling Bea

For a tap ass.

James Acaster

I like to tap ass, can-I-pay.

Aisling Bea

I had a tapas, can-I-pay.

James Acaster

Put nibbles into it.

Ed Gamble

Or vol-au-vent.

Aisling Bea

Looking at your nibbles. I like the tapas, can I pay?



James Acaster

I'll see you at the buffet. Oh man, right guys, see you later, I'm retiring and I'm becoming a rapper. I've just rhymed canape with buffet.

Ed Gamble

Okay, it's dessert time.

Aisling Bea

It is dessert time. I'm picking a dessert that when I was growing up we had these lovely neighbours who lived next door and one day they sold their house and were replaced by two English people. We kept our mind's open, maybe they wouldn't be that bad. Shirley and Tim moved in next door, two English names, never met a Tim before. I didn't actually know any English people, we generally, we just didn't know any English people. My mum knew a jockey called Bob Champion who was English and would go to our house before, but genuinely we didn't know what they'd be up to. I don't know, would they try and steal things from us? We didn't know what their vibe would be.

Ed Gamble

Was he good, Bob Champion, was he a champion?

Aisling Bea

Neigh. No, he was, he actually was a champion jockey, there was a film made about him, so he was the first celebrity we met, because he survived cancer and then went back on to win a big race, I can't remember what it was.

James Acaster

Was it Sea Biscuit, the film?

Aisling Bea

No, but that was my dessert. Butter, lobster and a biscuit. So, yes, Bob Champion. My brain-,

James Acaster

Tim and Shirley.

Aisling Bea

Tim and Shirley invited us up for dinner at their house and we were like, 'Oh, we're going for dinner.' I was like eleven or something like that. Normal dinner, didn't try and poison us or anything, we were delighted. Then they got to dessert and I'd never had pecans or hazelnuts before, which now-, guys, are two of my favourite nuts.

Ed Gamble

They are de rigueur for you.

Aisling Bea

Yes, you know how I love those little bites.



Ed Gamble

I would say just a, but a roasted salted pecan is, I think, my favourite snack in the world. Carry on.

Aisling Bea

Salted for me, pecan, pecan for me is a sweet thing. I told you at the start Ed-

James Acaster

Like crossing the streams.

Aisling Bea

I don't want to fall out, but she had made a cake, like a tart rather, with a hazelnut mousse, bits of hazelnut thrown into the mousse, then set it and put roasted pecans on top of it with some kind of glaze. I just never had-, it was a dessert like off the telly and I'm like, 'No wonder you guys took over half of the bloody world. Look at you, and you'd be welcome to have our country back if this is what we are to expect.' Instead of a scone or apple tart, God, I feel so basic now. I remember just going, 'Oh, a posher level of life it presented to me.'

Ed Gamble

It may have seemed nice having a posher level of life up there, but then you guys went back down to the bottom of the ship and had a good old dance, didn't you?

Aisling Bea

We did, we did, first to drown though once they-, the upper class didn't open the cages to let us into the lifeboats.

James Acaster

True. Belly full of tart though.

Aisling Bea

But by damn, we had lovely bellies full of tart and a head full of music. So, yes, that always strikes me. When I thought of dessert, I'm not the biggest dessert person in the world. I'm a savoury gal, y'all know how much I love butter. Butter all day, butter all night. My favourite butter dish, if you're asking, and I think you are because I know we've got lots of time left.

James Acaster

Yes, talk about bonus round butter dish.

Aisling Bea

It's my friend, my friend as a dish with a fat Buddha as a lid, and it's a Buddha dish, that's very clever, that got as much as my booted joke.

James Acaster

I thought that was a serious thing.



Aisling Bea

It's a Buddha, it's a Buddha.

James Acaster

It's a butter dish with Buddha on the top.

Aisling Bea

With Buddha, so it looks like he's really fat off the butter and it's a Buddha dish.

James Acaster

You do so many accents, that I thought you were doing another New York accent with butter.

Aisling Bea

Yes, yes, yes.

James Acaster

I thought Aisling is doing another-

Aisling Bea

I'm treating James to another little trip into the imagination.

Ed Gamble

You did go into it so casually as well, like, 'And my favourite butter dish.' As if that was a pretty standard question.

Aisling Bea

Yes. Do you know what guys, I didn't realise what would be happening during the podcast, a review of everything I say.

James Acaster

Sorry.

Ed Gamble

Hazelnuts and pecan tart.

Aisling Bea

Yes, just the nuttiness of it. Hazelnuts are such a tasty-

James Acaster

May I ask how you'd conducted yourself that evening once you'd eaten the tart, because surely you wanted some more tart and you had to be smart about when you asked for it?

Aisling Bea



I didn't really at the time, I thought I was getting away with being eleven. Also, when I was eleven, I kind of had this personality. I wasn't-, I've never been a shy person and I also-, I like being around elderly people a lot. I'm like, 'Where did you get this tart, Shirley? This is lovely, can I have another bit of it?' Yes, I was able to horse it into my face.

James Acaster

That's loads and loads of tart.

Aisling Bea

Yes, elderly, I can kind of charm an elderly person.

James Acaster

Was it a hit with the whole family, or just you?

Aisling Bea

I can't actually remember, I think I was so brought into this swirl of 'Wow.' I just remember me sitting at their kitchen table eating, I don't remember anything else afterwards. I don't remember-, weeks passed actually and I've no memories.

James Acaster

Never saw Tim and Shirley again.

Aisling Bea

Yes, but I have that tattoo with numbers on my back, don't know what happened.

Ed Gamble

Mr Genie Waiter, would you like to take us through the order?

James Acaster

Absolutely, let me just get your order right.

Aisling Bea

God, it has taken ages to order, hasn't it?

James Acaster

Yes, we get to the whole meal at once, we've very social. You would like some still water and some sourdough bread with some Kerrygold butter.

Aisling Bea

Thank you.

James Acaster

You would like calamari to start, salt and pepper preferably with some aioli dip and a-,



Aisling Bea

A squeeze of lemon.

James Acaster

A squeeze of lemon on top of it. You would like lobster from Burger and Lobster as your main course, which comes with fries anyway.

Aisling Bea

It must be served with people I don't fancy and a bib.

James Acaster

There has to be three, preferably Irish men who you do not fancy.

Aisling Bea

Yes, so I couldn't bring any of the three of you guys.

James Acaster

Thank you. Nice to be involved in that, Great Benito. A mash, creamy, made by your own hands.

Aisling Bea

Made my own hands.

Ed Gamble

Kerrygold.

James Acaster

Kerrygold in there as well. Also lobster, from Burger Lobster, if it could have Kerrygold butter, that would be great. A love me good drink, a love me good cocktail.

Aisling Bea

Yes, if it's called that, whatever it was called.

Ed Gamble

It is now.

James Acaster

Also, Shirley and Tim's hazelnut and pecan tart for dessert.

Aisling Bea

Yes.

James Acaster

Another satisfied customer.



Ed Gamble

Yes, absolutely.

Aisling Bea

How much is that going to cost me?

Ed Gamble

Nothing.

Aisling Bea

What?

James Acaster

It's on the house.

Aisling Bea

Jesus Christ.

James Acaster

It's on the house. Part of me being a genie means that I'm able to rob a bank to pay for it for you.

Ed Gamble

Aisling, thank you so much for coming to the restaurant, you've been a wonderful guest and I apologise for the lateness of the waiter.

Aisling Bea

Oh my God.

James Acaster

Yes, I apologise as well, I was stuck in my lamp. Thank you so much.

Aisling Bea

Thank you so much guys. I've enjoyed myself and I will count this as a date and I'll tell you which one I'll be picking out of the three of you with an email.

Ed Gamble

We'll let everyone know on the next episode.

James Acaster

It won't be me, I'd be late for a date wouldn't I?

Aisling Bea

Put it this way James, not to spoil anything, but it won't be you.



James Acaster

No.

Ed Gamble

Thank you very much.

Aisling Bea

Bye. I would like to do a big shout out to Little Bites, Big Gulp, all the fans.

James Acaster

Was there another one?

Aisling Bea

No.

Ed Gamble

That was it.

James Acaster

Young Coconut.

Aisling Bea

Of course, my boy Young Coconut.

Ed Gamble

Bloody good episode that mate.

James Acaster

What a great meal. I loved it so much. Well done.

Ed Gamble

I think that's probably the closest to what you might have.

James Acaster

It was close, the Thai calamari from Busaba, the lobster roll from Burger & Lobster, those would be very close contenders for my favourite meal.

Ed Gamble

Il saw when Aisling was talking about that pecan tart, I saw your eyes light up.

James Acaster

I did like the sound of it, yes. But I haven't tried Shirley and Tim's pecan tart.



Ed Gamble

But it appeals to you that it was made by people called Shirley and Tim?

James Acaster

Very much so, yes. I liked the fact it was made by Shirley and Tim.

Ed Gamble

They sound like good, honest folks.

James Acaster

Yes, they do.

Ed Gamble

That was Aisling Bea, a wonderful comedian, actor, all of those things. You can actually see Aisling's stand-up on Netflix.

James Acaster

The Comedy Line-up, it's called.

Ed Gamble

On The Comedy Line-up. It's like a 15 minute set I believe, a 15 minute special.

James Acaster

Which by the way, is not enough. Once you watch Aisling for 15 minutes, you'll be trawling for clips of her on YouTube, trying to get so much more Aisling Bea in your life. Let me tell you.

Ed Gamble

Yummy, yummy, yummy, that's what you'd be saying, give me some more Aisling.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Fifteen-minute special, which I think is enough, actually, generally. I think any longer than that, personally, for stand-up. What is it, it's two hours 45 minutes shorter than your Netflix content, isn't it, James?

James Acaster

Yes, well, you know.

Ed Gamble

You take a lot longer to get going. Aisling has got more impact.



James Acaster

Yes, Aisling is still in the room and really laughing.

Aisling Bea

Sorry, Yum, Yum, Yummy. Delighted, yes.

Ed Gamble

It's great fun talking about someone as if they're not here when they're sat in the room.

Aisling Bea

Don't mind me, just ignore me, pretend I'm not here.

Ed Gamble

That's where you can check out Aisling's content. Personally, I'd like to say please come and see me on tour, I'm touring my show that's called Blizzard. I start in late Jan, kicking off at Norwich Playhouse for a couple of nights, then I go all over the country for the few months after that.

James Acaster

That'll be a fantastic show.

Ed Gamble

If you go to Ed Gamble-,

James Acaster

And once you've watched it, you'll want it more, and you'll go on YouTube, 'Yum, yum, yum.' More Ed Gamble.

Ed Gamble

Ed Gamble.co.uk/gigs is where you can check out the tour.

James Acaster

I'm also on tour, it's called Cold Lasagne, Hate Myself, 1999. Also me and my friend Josh Widdecombe have filmed a series for Dave, called Hypothetical. It's a panel show, where we ask the guests-, we pose the guests hypothetical scenarios, so that is coming out, I believe, early Feb.

Ed Gamble

I wonder what sort of legends appear on episodes of that?

James Acaster

You are on it, yes, Ed's on it.

Aisling Bea

Boo.



James Acaster

As Aisling was away. Just not in the country.

Ed Gamble

So, check out all of those things.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Get yourselves on to iTunes, or wherever you listen to your podcasts, subscribe to this podcast, review it, tell your friends.

Aisling Bea

Instagram?

Ed Gamble

Instagram it actually, thank you Aisling.

James Acaster

Let us know what your-,

Ed Gamble

A picture of you listening to it.

Ed Gamble

Yes, eating your favourite food, a picture of you eating your favourite food, with hashtag Off Menu Podcast.

James Acaster

I'll tell you what, I guarantee you this, I'll never respond.

Ed Gamble

Follow us on Twitter as well, @ Off Menu Official. That's where you need to be looking. Follow us, we'll be sending updates about who we've got coming up. We've got some wonderful guests coming up.

James Acaster

You say we.

Ed Gamble

Including-,

James Acaster

The Great Benito is going to be doing that.



Ed Gamble

Who've we got coming up. Shall I just name people and then hope that we-

James Acaster

Lou Sanders coming up. Phil Wang.

Ed Gamble

Tom Hardy. Worth a punt. Let's just say that.

James Acaster

Yes, that's worth a punt, Aisling.

Ed Gamble

Paul Rudd is coming on to do his dry meal.

James Acaster

Yes, no sauces.

Ed Gamble

Yes. That's a different podcast. Keep listening, subscribe, all that sort of shit, thank you very much, bye-bye.