



Off Menu – Ep 201 – Angela Barnes

Ed Gamble

Welcome to the Off Menu podcast, opening the Kinder egg of the internet. Taking out the parts of the little toy that is humour. Building the little humour toy, playing with it for a bit, throwing it in the bin, eating the egg.

James Acaster

Kinder Surprise.

Ed Gamble

Kinder Surprise.

James Acaster

That's Ed Gamble there. My name is James Acaster. We own a Dream Restaurant. We invite a guest in every single week and ask them their favourite ever starter, main course, dessert, side dish and drink. Not in that order. And this week, our guest is Angela Barnes.

Ed Gamble

Angela Barnes. Brilliant comedian.

James Acaster

Fantastic comedian. A dear friend. We've known Angela for many, many years. Very excited to finally be able to get her on the podcast. Can't wait to hear what her dream meal is. Her dream menu.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Excited to hear it and it's just nice to catch up with Angela as well, isn't it?

James Acaster

It is very good. Last time I saw her was the final series of Mock the Week and Nish and I had gone back for a little jolly and had forgotten that it's actually very hard.

Ed Gamble

Yes. It's a hard show.

James Acaster

And yes, people like Angela, really on the ball, who have been doing it, like, way more recently than us really riffed on every single topic and I felt like I was like, 'I'm falling behind here. I'm rusty.'

Ed Gamble

Well, yes. I watched that episode. You two shouldn't have been there.



James Acaster

Yes. It's fair to say.

Ed Gamble

It was a disgrace.

James Acaster

Yes. Absolute disgrace but you know who's not a disgrace is Angela Barnes, unless Angela picks the secret ingredient.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

An ingredient which we deem to be unacceptable and then, with a heavy heart, we'll have to kick Angela Barnes out of the Dream Restaurant and this week, the secret ingredient is-

Ed Gamble

Scallop roe.

James Acaster

Scallop roe.

Ed Gamble

The orange bit.

James Acaster

The orange bit in the-, now, we're getting specific, I guess. I guess this isn't if Angela says, 'Scallops,' we'll have to say, casually-

Ed Gamble

'Do you want the roe on?'

James Acaster

'Do you want the roe on or roe off?'

Ed Gamble

Roe on, roe off.

James Acaster

Yes. And if she says, 'Roe on,' we'll go, 'Get out, please.'

Ed Gamble

'Get out, please.'



James Acaster

And then that will be that. We'll feel bad about that.

Ed Gamble

I don't mind it, really. If I ever lay my hands on some scallops with the roe on to cook, I'll just leave the roe on.

James Acaster

Will you?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

I think if it's down to me, I'm taking them off. I don't like the texture.

Ed Gamble

Fair enough.

James Acaster

I don't think they add anything flavour-wise, although, you know, I have been to places, very fancy places, I'll hold my hands up, where they say they remove those and then make a separate thing out of it, like a sauce or-

Ed Gamble

Or a mousse or something.

James Acaster

A mousse. A powder, even.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

But I can't say I've every loved those elements, even when they're done in those ways. You know, I just think-

Ed Gamble

Yes. And you ain't making powder at home, are you?

James Acaster

Listen, I'm not making powder. Not that kind of powder.



Ed Gamble

No. What?

James Acaster

I make powder at home.

Ed Gamble

What do you mean?

James Acaster

I can't say anything else because the cops might be listening.

Ed Gamble

Angela Barnes is on tour. She is touring her show, Hot Mess.

James Acaster

It's going to be a fantastic show. Angela's shows are always gag-heavy and fantastically performed and so, it will be coming to a town or city near you soon.

Ed Gamble

Make sure you go on her website and look at that. So, this is the Off Menu menu of Angela Barnes.

Welcome, Angela, to the Dream Restaurant.

Angela Barnes

Thank you for having me. Already?

James Acaster

Welcome, Angela Barnes, to the Dream Restaurant. We've been expecting you for some time.

Angela Barnes

You don't muck about, do you?

James Acaster

Never. I never muck about. I've never been known to muck about on this podcast.

Ed Gamble

The genie doesn't hang around.

Angela Barnes

No.

James Acaster

I must say-,



Ed Gamble

I mean, it's pointless-,

Angela Barnes

I didn't even have to rub anything.

Ed Gamble

No, exactly.

James Acaster

Yes, that's the point.

Angela Barnes

Yes.

James Acaster

I mean, some people have brought that up.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

It's been said, 'Why am I doing that when no one's rubbing, like-,'

Ed Gamble

Also, you're out of the lamp so much as the genie. Why do you even go back in there?

James Acaster

Well, people don't see that the-, yes, you've got to bear in mind that between episodes, I'm in a lamp for a week.

Angela Barnes

Yes, so you can't be waiting for someone to rub.

James Acaster

No.

Ed Gamble

No.

Angela Barnes

You're just going to-, yes. Fair enough.



James Acaster

Also, it would be an undignified format but I think as a guest, if we told you you've now got to pretend to rub a lamp and do that, I think our guests would be like, 'What the-,'

Angela Barnes

It wouldn't be the first time in the entertainment industry someone's been asked to rub something to further their career.

Ed Gamble

Also, I think you'd happily, sort of, go through with that format point of like, 'Pretend to rub the lamp,' but when we have people in here that we don't know-,

James Acaster

Yes. Come on. There are a lot of people who would not have done that.

Angela Barnes

That's when it really shines a light on your idea, isn't it? It's fine when it's someone you know well and you're just going, 'Look, we're mucking about. It's just silly. It's fine,' but then when a big Hollywood-,

Ed Gamble

You're confronted.

Angela Barnes

When Richard E. Grant's sitting in here, suddenly it's-,

Ed Gamble

Oh, Richard E. Grant would have rubbed the hell out of that lamp.

James Acaster

He would have rubbed the lamp, but when we went to America for a couple of weeks to record episodes there, I think every single guest we had there, if we had said, 'Rub the lamp,' even the actors would have gone, 'I'm not pretending to do that.'

Ed Gamble

It's so undignified.

James Acaster

Yes. That would have been them, but you would have rubbed it if we'd asked you?

Angela Barnes

I'd rub anything. I would have rubbed it. No problem.

James Acaster

Yes. Yes.



Angela Barnes

I've already made it smutty. I don't even mean to. I'm sorry. I've been here two minutes.

Ed Gamble

Don't worry. You've already given your first no-context Off Menu quote that will be tweeted.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

'I'd rub anything.' Angela Barnes.

James Acaster

Yes. That will be tweeted straight at you, immediately. Would you describe yourself as a foodie, Angela?

Angela Barnes

Not in a MasterChef sort of way. In a 'I am constantly thinking about what the next thing I'm going to eat is' sort of way.

Ed Gamble

I think that's what a foodie is.

Angela Barnes

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Like, it doesn't have to be thinking about what you're going to eat in terms of the highest possible quality of ingredients or anything like that, but if you're food-focused.

Angela Barnes

I'm very food-focused. I wake up thinking about what I'm going to eat and while I'm still eating it, I'm thinking about what the next thing I'm going to eat is. But not in a, sort of, 'Oh, what would be the dream thing I could have,' it's 'When am I going to consume it? How am I going to fit it into my day?' It's all-consuming and I panic if I think, 'What if I get hungry?' I can't remember the last time I felt hungry, really, because I'll panic about feeling hungry.

Ed Gamble

And you're well-organised.

Angela Barnes

And I'm well-organised. Only when it comes to food, but I am. Yes.



Ed Gamble

Being hungry's the worst, though. Isn't it?

Angela Barnes

Oh, God. I can't. When you start to feel faint and light-headed. I can't be-, no.

Ed Gamble

No.

Angela Barnes

And also, I think, 'Well, I'm not going to be sharp if I'm thinking about it.' You know? I want my brain to feel nourished. Yes.

James Acaster

Yes, I guess so. I think, maybe, for me, if I've just eaten, that's when my brain's the least sharp.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

That makes it the dullest-,

Angela Barnes

For a bit but then, you know, you've got to time it. You don't want to-, I've made that mistake once. I remember being at Up the Creek in Greenwich on a Friday night, which is a sort of comedy club that can be a bit tasty.

Ed Gamble

Especially on a Friday.

Angela Barnes

On a Friday night. And I don't know why I did this, but I had fish and chips before I went on.

Ed Gamble

Oh, no.

Angela Barnes

I just walked on stage and immediately, I was like, 'Oh, I've made a terrible mistake. I can't think of what-, I can't respond to anything. I'm sluggish.' So I learnt my lesson.

Ed Gamble

You've got to be sharp for that gig.



Angela Barnes

You've got to be sharp.

Ed Gamble

You can't have fish and chips before that gig.

James Acaster

I've never done it because I know I'm not sharp enough.

Angela Barnes

That's a gig where I've walked on stage-, the only gig where this has happened. It's about ten years ago now. I've walked on stage and someone's gone, 'Get back in the kitchen.'

Ed Gamble

Wow.

James Acaster

Wow.

Angela Barnes

And it was a-, 'Ah. Hello.'

Ed Gamble

They'd seen you in the kitchen, eating the fish and chips?

Angela Barnes

They had, yes.

James Acaster

Yes, to be fair.

Angela Barnes

'You left a mess. Can you go and clear it up, please? Who do you think you are?'

James Acaster

'You've still got some fish batter on your face.'

Ed Gamble

I might have said this on the podcast before. The first time I emceed Up the Creek on a Friday, a man sat at the side of the room. The first thing he said to me, he went, 'Turn the fucking radiator down, mate. My nuts are melting off.'

James Acaster

You've not said that on the podcast before.



Angela Barnes

I love when you're the MC of a gig, they do think that you're also-,

Ed Gamble

You can do everything. You're in-,

Angela Barnes

You're in charge of the entire room.

James Acaster

I've not heard that before.

Angela Barnes

I've had people when I'm emceeing complain about the coat situation. You know? 'I couldn't get my coat in the cloakroom.' 'Nothing to do with me, mate. I'm not-,'

James Acaster

Back in the days when I was on the old socials, at every single gig, the whole day leading up to the gig, people tweeting me, 'Can I park nearby?'

Angela Barnes

Oh, God.

James Acaster

'It's the-, what the-, I'm not sorting out your car parking for you.'

Angela Barnes

That's the thing. I remember doing my first tour and it's still happening, because I've got a tour on sale now, just to get that in, but when you announce your tour and suddenly, it's, 'Why aren't you coming here?' 'Why aren't you coming here?' 'Are there tickets left for that one?' It's like, 'I'm not the box office and I can only go where they want me.'

Ed Gamble

It's so disconcerting, announcing a tour, and then all of the-, you're like, 'Oh, I've got a few responses about this,' and it's all, 'Why aren't you coming here?' It's like, but no one's tweeting me going, 'I'm glad you're coming to my place.'

James Acaster

Yes, yes, yes. 'Thank you.'

Angela Barnes

And also, do you know how long a tour would have to be to go to every town in Britain?



Ed Gamble

Yes.

Angela Barnes

Ask Mark Steel. He's been doing that radio programme for twelve years and he hasn't done every town yet.

Ed Gamble

The worst is I'm doing some dates in Australia and I was so excited to do it and I was like, 'I'm coming to Australia, guys.' First response, 'Why aren't you coming to Singapore?'

James Acaster

Yes. Absolutely brilliant. Why aren't you, though?

Ed Gamble

Well, there's a-

Angela Barnes

Is it because you're racist?

Ed Gamble

Yes. It's because I'm racist and there's no gigs that I'm aware of.

James Acaster

You're a bad man.

Ed Gamble

I'm a bad-

James Acaster

My chair's sinking down. I don't know why my chair is sinking down. I don't think I tripped anything, but that's what's happened to me.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Angela Barnes

Don't do anything about it. I like the idea of you, just slowly through the-, that would sort of give the podcast a timeframe. We keep going until James disappears.

James Acaster

Yes. I'm just going to stay there. Yes. When I've disappeared, I'm back in the lamp.



Ed Gamble

You're a natural beta, so your chair's decided to-,

James Acaster

Yes. It knows. Doesn't want me to be that high up.

Angela Barnes

Have you got your feet in the lamp? Is it sucking you back in?

James Acaster

Yes. That's what it is. I'm just going. We're winding back into it.

Ed Gamble

Finally.

James Acaster

I did a tweet once where I just said-, I'd announced the dates. All that stuff had happened and so I did a tweet just saying, 'Just so you know, if I'm not coming to your town, the only reason is because I specifically don't like you and you're an awful audience member,' thinking that would be funny. Everyone took it personally.

Angela Barnes

Oh, God. You just-,

James Acaster

'Oh, thank you very much.'

Angela Barnes

There's nothing you can say on Twitter that someone won't take personally, is there? There's nothing that you can say that won't be-, oh, it's fun, isn't it?

Ed Gamble

Yes, it's a laugh.

James Acaster

Good fun, though. But let's talk about your tour, though.

Angela Barnes

Yes. Thank you.

James Acaster

The show is called-,



Angela Barnes

Hot Mess.

James Acaster

Brilliant title.

Ed Gamble

Great title.

Angela Barnes

Thank you. Thank you. Yes, it's a show I did in Edinburgh last year and it was originally about one thing but it's now about something else.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Perfect.

Angela Barnes

Yes.

James Acaster

What was it originally about?

Angela Barnes

Well, it was originally about-, I've got ADHD, like every comedian has, but I got diagnosed and so I was doing a show a bit about that really and then, ironically, I got distracted, so ended up with the show being a bit more about certain things that happened during the pandemic. It's funny but it's also got a little bit of heart, I think.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

You're very good at that in your shows.

Angela Barnes

Thank you, Ed.

Ed Gamble

Because a lot of people go, 'Oh, this show's going to be about something. It's going to be so emotional,' and then it all goes towards that but yours is peppered with jokes, like there's always brilliant writing in there and you manage to meld the two.



Angela Barnes

Oh, thanks. Well, I do think if you're coming to a comedy show, the bottom line is, if you come away and you haven't laughed then there's a bit of a problem, isn't there?

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Angela Barnes

But there's nothing wrong with, you know, being funny about things that are sad, if that makes sense.

Ed Gamble

Yes, totally. Yes.

Angela Barnes

But I wouldn't ever do a show that's just, 'Here's a story of something terrible that happened.' It's got to have gags in it. That's the deal, right?

James Acaster

Yes. Although-

Angela Barnes

Sorry, I didn't to make-, that's the deal, James.

James Acaster

Sometimes we can trick them. They don't know what the deal is. I didn't sign nothing. When they leave, I'm like, 'I didn't say you had to laugh.'

Ed Gamble

Yes. That's true, actually.

James Acaster

This chair is proper low now.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Angela Barnes

Yes.

James Acaster

Pretty cool.



James Acaster

We always start with, 'Still or sparkling water?'

Angela Barnes

Sparkling. I can't believe-, I listen. I'm a fan of the podcast. I listen.

James Acaster

Thank you.

Angela Barnes

I can't believe how many people don't say sparkling water.

Ed Gamble

A lot of people. More than half, I'd say. It's a big division as well, between the stills and the sparkling.

Angela Barnes

What's wrong? Don't they like fun? What is-, what? Why would you? It's fizzy. It's joy. It gives you a little dopamine hit. That's what I want from my food and anything I consume. I want to get the dopamine hit from it.

Ed Gamble

The dopamine hit.

James Acaster

Right.

Angela Barnes

And I'm not getting that from a glass of water. I'll drink a glass of still water if I'm really thirsty and I just need to gulp it down but obviously, sparkling water.

Ed Gamble

Celebratory.

Angela Barnes

Celebratory. I have a glass of sparkling water by my bed, even.

Ed Gamble

Well, that's crazy, Angela.

Angela Barnes

I think part of it is I have problems with my ears so I wear, sort of, hearing aids and things but anything internal, I can hear because you don't hear it through your ears. You know, you hear it, sort of, through the bones in your skull and stuff. So, I can hear fizzy water. Right? And that's really exciting. It's like, 'Oh, that's a really loud, lovely-, ' and it feels like it's sort of soothing my ears to drink fizzy water.



Ed Gamble

So are you worried that if you were drinking still water at night, you wouldn't be able to know if you were drinking it or not?

Angela Barnes

It could be anything I'm drinking.

James Acaster

You could be pouring it anywhere.

Angela Barnes

It could be anything because I can't hear it.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes.

Angela Barnes

I like to be able to hear my drinks. Is that not normal? No?

James Acaster

A multisensory experience, drinking the sparkling water. We've not had that before.

Angela Barnes

I think fizzy drinks are a bit-, it's a bit like-, what's that stuff? Popping candy. You know. It's a bit like that, when you can hear it in your brain and you go, 'Oh, this is mad. This is amazing.'

Ed Gamble

Do you have a pot of that next to your bed as well?

Angela Barnes

Always.

James Acaster

Start the day with that.

Angela Barnes

I clean my teeth with it, actually.

James Acaster

What is the best food to hear?



Angela Barnes

Oh, that's a good one. Well, obviously anything crunchy is quite good to hear. I mean, popping candy I've already said. I can remember so clearly the first time I had it. It was on the front of a copy of the Beano. They gave you a free packet of it and I was-

Ed Gamble

Space Dust.

Angela Barnes

What?

Ed Gamble

They did the Space Dust as well.

Angela Barnes

Space Dust, yes, or you used to get highland toffee sometimes on the front of the Beano. Remember that?

James Acaster

Yes, because it's Scottish.

Angela Barnes

They had a little packet of Space Dust and I remember going to the park with my friend and I opened it and I put it in my mouth and then I think I thought I was having a seizure. Like, I started crying. I was like, 'Something's terribly wrong.' Always been a hypochondriac and my friend had to, like, go, 'No, no, no. It's supposed to do that.' And I was like, 'No, it's in my head. I don't like it. Make it stop,' and then when I realised that I wasn't dying, I was like, 'Okay. Again. This is brilliant. I want more now.'

Ed Gamble

'Get me another one. I want to get the Beano again.'

James Acaster

Like Warheads. Did you have Warheads at that age? The super sour lemon Warheads. These sweets that were like-, there was a challenge on the packet for, like, how long you could last without spitting it out.

Angela Barnes

Oh, God. Like jawbreakers, sort of?

James Acaster

Yes. They were, like, the most sour thing I've ever had in my life and we used to try and properly do the challenge of how long you could keep it in your mouth for and then they released hot ones, where it was just, like, super-, I mean, they were horrible.



Ed Gamble

Yes.

Angela Barnes

Have you seen those-, you know the Jelly Belly bean thing? Like, the really good flavours but you can get the ones-, I can't remember what they're called. I bought them for my godson once where it's like a Russian roulette one and some of them taste of, like, dirty socks or vomit or whatever and you're supposed to-,

Ed Gamble

Yes, I've seen those. Yes.

Angela Barnes

Yes. They're pretty grim.

Ed Gamble

I've never understood that.

Angela Barnes

No. Why would you want to?

Ed Gamble

If you're buying yourself sweets, why would you want to make sure that some of them taste of vomit?

Angela Barnes

No, but it's quite nice to do that to children.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Oh, yes, yes, yes.

Angela Barnes

You know, buy them for children for Christmas. That sort of thing.

James Acaster

Take the thing they love the most, sweets, and then make it awful.

Angela Barnes

Exactly. They've got to learn.

James Acaster

Yes. I can understand that.



Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

And also, they get really excited about it. Like, especially because of Harry Potter and stuff and the Bertie Bott's Beans, so my nephews, if I said to them, 'Some of these taste like piss and shit,' they would be really excited about it.

Ed Gamble

That's what it says on the packet.

Angela Barnes

They would, until they got one that tasted like shit.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Angela Barnes

'I thought you were excited?'

Ed Gamble

I don't know if I'd notice because I don't know what shit tasted like.

James Acaster

Come on. You know what it smells like.

Ed Gamble

Yes, but I don't know what it tastes like.

James Acaster

Ed, I know you know what it smells like.

Ed Gamble

I do know what it smells like.

Angela Barnes

Well, obviously if you know what it smells like, you know what it tastes like, but I've never understood this, why do shampoos smell so nice but taste so horrible?

James Acaster

Oh, yes. That's true.

Angela Barnes

Like, why doesn't it taste like it smells?



Ed Gamble

Yes.

Angela Barnes

And why does it smell chemically but it tastes chemically? How do they do that?

Ed Gamble

So are you saying shit might taste nice?

Angela Barnes

It might taste like shampoo.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes. It might taste delicious.

Angela Barnes

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Shit might taste like shampoo smells.

Angela Barnes

Yes.

James Acaster

Was that a tongue-twister?

Ed Gamble

Shit might taste like shampoo smells.

Angela Barnes

I already can't do it.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

I like the theory.



Angela Barnes

I also don't like anything that doesn't taste like it looks. Like, that's why I've got no desire to go Heston Blumenthal and go, 'Oh, it looks like this but it's actually mash potato.' No, I want-, I can't deal with that. I want it to taste like it looks like, please.

Ed Gamble

You must hate that show, Is It Cake?

Angela Barnes

I actually love Is It Cake. I do love Is It Cake.

James Acaster

Didn't have to-, I thought, 'Ed's going to have to explain the premise.' Nope.

Ed Gamble

No. Loves it. Loves it.

Angela Barnes

Oh, God no.

James Acaster

Angela's a fan.

Angela Barnes

What's not to love? They bring on a cake. Sometimes it's cake, sometimes it isn't cake. It's so simple and I do think that there we are, comedians, sitting there, writing jokes and scripts. That's all that people want.

James Acaster

All that they want.

Angela Barnes

Is it cake? That's it.

James Acaster

If you want to get a Netflix series at the minute, all you have to do is think of a food competition show. It can be anything and I think that they would buy it off you.

Angela Barnes

I do watch them. Have you watched-, what's the one I watched recently? Pressure Cooker. Did you watch that?

Ed Gamble

I watched a bit of Pressure Cooker.



James Acaster

Which is that?

Angela Barnes

It's sort of Traitors crossed with MasterChef, kind of.

James Acaster

Oh, really?

Angela Barnes

Yes. What's not to love?

James Acaster

Have they got to say they're a Faithful and stuff? Or is it like-

Angela Barnes

Well, they sort of form alliances and they bitch about each other.

James Acaster

Oh, wow.

Angela Barnes

So they have to cook and so they're sort of judging on their food but also judging on, 'Who do I want to get rid of, strategically, because they're a better cook than me? So I want them gone.' So, being a good cook doesn't mean you'll win.

James Acaster

This is the proper-, it's like the actual restaurant industry.

Angela Barnes

Yes.

James Acaster

I'm excited about this. I've seen it advertised on there and thought, like, 'Yes, it'll be like all the others.' I didn't know it was like-

Angela Barnes

Oh, no. It's good.

James Acaster

Cut-throat reality TV. I'm going to get on that. Poppadoms or bread? Poppadoms or bread, Angela Barnes? Poppadoms or bread?



Angela Barnes

Bread. Obviously, bread. Don't get me wrong, I love a poppadom. Big, fat, oily crisp. What's not to love? But there's so much more choice in bread and I am a bread fan. Like I'm sure everyone says, 'It doesn't like me but I like bread.' I could just eat-

Ed Gamble

How much does it not like you, though?

Angela Barnes

It doesn't-, I am sluggish after bread, you know? Like you just-, but then, I do eat too much of it. I can't-, and I will live on-, I'm not a cook. Like, I love food but I hate cooking. I hate it to my bones. Luckily, I live with a man who loves cooking but I hate it so left to my own devices, my husband goes away, I'm eating salad cream sandwiches for a week. That's what I'm doing. I just will eat bread because it takes no time and I don't have to think about it.

James Acaster

Salad cream sandwiches, Angela. I can't grasp that.

Ed Gamble

Yes, that was pretty bleak, Angela.

James Acaster

I'm going to puke over that.

Angela Barnes

I love salad cream. Do you know what one of my favourite-, it almost made it into my list but I didn't in the end because I couldn't work it in to go with everything else. One of my favourite comfort foods is a bowl of Birds Eye peas mixed with salad cream.

James Acaster

Holy fuck.

Angela Barnes

That's my 'sit in front of the telly' snack.

Ed Gamble

Now, I would not class that as a comfort food because that would not comfort me at all.

Angela Barnes

Have you tried it?

James Acaster

No. A thing of nightmares.



Ed Gamble

No, but I know all of those ingredients and I can-, well, 'all of those ingredients.' I know peas and I know salad cream and I've eaten from a bowl before but I don't think I would enjoy that, no.

Angela Barnes

That's because you're posh, see? If you were-,

Ed Gamble

Don't you bring class into this. James, what do you think it sounds like?

James Acaster

I think it sounds revolting.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Angela Barnes

Are you not a salad cream fan?

James Acaster

No. Well, I quite like-,

Ed Gamble

Going to accuse James of being posh?

Angela Barnes

Absolutely not, but he is posher than me. I mean, in the-, you know, I'd say-,

James Acaster

Probably. Yes. Yes, I'd say so.

Angela Barnes

There's a gradient here and I'm at the bottom.

Ed Gamble

So, this salad cream sandwich you're having when your husband goes away. Are you literally just talking about-,

Angela Barnes

When I was a student, right, I did not eat well as a student because I just wasn't one of these people who go, 'Oh, yes. These are the recipes my mum taught me.' My mum worked full-time when I was growing up. We had Findus Crispy Pancakes or chicken nuggets.



Ed Gamble

Delicious.

Angela Barnes

There was no standing at her knee in the kitchen, watching her cook. It just didn't happen. So I went to university with no cooking skills at all and, you know, we just had, like, a little one of those Baby Belling cookers with two rings on and that was it. You know? So I just had a loaf of bread and some salad cream in the fridge and some butter and I would just-, and white bread. Like, you know, obviously, the cheapest Tesco Value white bread and I'd go, 'Oh, I'd better eat something if I'm going out drinking,' and I'd have a couple of slices of that. And I wouldn't even cut. I'd just put the butter on, squeeze the salad cream on and then just fold it and eat it. That would be-,

Ed Gamble

Oh, so not even two-,

Angela Barnes

Not even two slices and slice it nicely. No, I'd just fold it.

James Acaster

Would you spread the salad cream or just squeeze it on?

Angela Barnes

No, I'd just squeeze it on and sort of rub it round a bit until it's spread around.

Ed Gamble

Yes, that does the spreading for you, doesn't it? Yes.

Angela Barnes

Otherwise, you've got washing-up.

Ed Gamble

Yes. You're using a knife, aren't you?

Angela Barnes

I don't believe in washing up.

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes, yes.

James Acaster

Yes. That's a good point.

Ed Gamble

Now, as a student, I completely understand that.



Angela Barnes

Yes.

Ed Gamble

You're saying you still eat those.

Angela Barnes

Yes. I'm 46. I still-, it always has to be-, and my husband's really good. If he notices the salad cream's getting low, he will go, 'Oh, I've bought you more salad cream because you were getting low.' There has to be salad cream in the fridge and salad cream is kept in the fridge. Ketchup, no. Salad cream, yes.

James Acaster

Okay.

Ed Gamble

Yes, right, okay.

Angela Barnes

It's just nicer cold.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes.

Angela Barnes

And yes, I will often just-, sometimes, I'm so lazy, I just can't-, like, putting butter on the bread feels like cooking so I just get the bread and squeeze the salad cream on.

James Acaster

Well, to be honest, actually, the butter in there threw me a little bit because I was like, I would just think it would be salad cream and bread and actually, I think I would rather have, if I had to eat one of them, I'd go for just salad cream and bread. I don't think I'd have the butter.

Ed Gamble

No, I'd have the butter, for sure.

Angela Barnes

Oh, yes. No. It's nicer with the butter, definitely.

Ed Gamble

More of a treat.



James Acaster

Okay. Well, I'll believe the experts.

Angela Barnes

More sort of luxurious and rich.

Ed Gamble

I love salad cream.

Angela Barnes

Right.

Ed Gamble

But just salad cream in a sandwich? You're not tempted to put a bit of cheese in? You can buy pre-sliced cheese, if that's what you're worried about.

Angela Barnes

No. No. It just takes away from the salad cream. I love the-, maybe it's that same thing as fizzy water. It gives you that little hit. I can't hear salad cream but I feel like I know what it sounds like. You know?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

So what do the peas do with the salad cream? How's that work as a combination?

Angela Barnes

I love peas. Peas are the best vegetable in the world because no preparation. They're just in the freezer and they're the only frozen vegetable that doesn't make them horrible. Do you know what I mean? Like, I've had fresh peas and I don't think they're better than frozen peas.

James Acaster

Oh, really?

Angela Barnes

Whereas most vegetables, the frozen versions are obviously horrible compared to the fresh version but peas, I don't think-, it's really easy. Just hot water.

Ed Gamble

Okay. So you are heating them up.

Angela Barnes

I am heating them up.



Ed Gamble

For a second there, because you were like, 'You get them straight out of the freezer-,'

James Acaster

'Here we go. Straight into the salad cream.'

Angela Barnes

That's why-, I mean, I need a bit more time if I'm going to have peas and salad cream.

Ed Gamble

Yes, of course. Yes, yes, yes.

Angela Barnes

It's bread and salad cream when I'm in a rush, when I've got stuff to do, and then peas and salad cream if I'm feeling like I've got a bit of time. Because the problem, is, as well, I think about food a lot but because I hate cooking, I don't think about preparing food myself until I'm already hungry or until it's time to eat and so it's all about speed, which is why I eat out too much or I get takeaways too much because I'm definitely not someone who goes, 'Right. On a Sunday, I'm going to sit down and plan my meals for the week.' It just doesn't happen.

James Acaster

Sure.

Ed Gamble

Yes. That's tricky. Well, and if you did do that, you'd just write, 'Peas, peas and salad cream.'

James Acaster

Yes, yes. It would all be salad cream.

Ed Gamble

'Monday.'

Angela Barnes

My HelloFresh delivery is just a box of bread.

James Acaster

It would be like in *The Shining* when they find out what he's been writing. The same thing, over and over again. So, your bread. Is your bread course the salad cream sandwich?

Angela Barnes

I don't think it is, actually, because there's something I want for my dream. Can I just say, in the Dream Restaurant, I'm assuming that heart problems aren't a consideration.



Ed Gamble

No.

Angela Barnes

Like, we're not worried about cholesterol. Brilliant.

Ed Gamble

It depends. If it's your dream to have heart problems then by all means, welcome them in.

James Acaster

Yes. We won't block anything you want but, like, yes, if you want anything, there's no medical stuff that even exists when you're in the restaurant. None of this will affect you.

Angela Barnes

So no arteries are getting clogged by this menu?

Ed Gamble

No.

James Acaster

It won't affect you at all.

Angela Barnes

Brilliant. In that case, for my bread course, I want something that are called toutons and they're a Newfoundland thing. So, my mum's family are from Newfoundland in Canada and they make these for breakfast and it's supposed to be, like, leftover bread dough. When you make bread, it's the left-, obviously, I don't make bread and have leftover bread dough, so I have to have someone else make toutons for me who can cook but they deep-fry them and then you eat them with butter and black molasses.

Ed Gamble

Oh, my God.

James Acaster

Oh, wow.

Angela Barnes

Traditionally, they were fried in pork fat.

Ed Gamble

Right.



Angela Barnes

So you'd fry them in pork fat and you'd have them with what they call scrunchions, which is like little rendered bits of pork fat. So, like crackling but in little, tiny pieces and that's yummy and then you have it with black molasses and butter as well and it's just, like, this sweet, fried bread and it's so delicious and I've never seen it anywhere but in Newfoundland and I want it from a place called Mad Rock Café, which is-, there's this hiking trail in a little place called Bay Roberts in Newfoundland and it's got this café on the hiking trail and the people that work there are amazing. I don't think they've ever left that café. I can't imagine them existing in any other place and I went there with Matt, my husband. When we first got together, we went over there and they went into the Mad Rock Café and I'd never been there before and my cousins were like, 'Oh, you've got to go. You've got to go.' It blew their minds that two English people were in their café. Like, English people don't go there. It absolutely blew their-, they were getting the staff. 'Come and listen to this. Come and listen to this. It's amazing.' And it's Mad Rock Café and Crafts and so, I think the sort of matriarch of the café, she knits and makes, like, mittens and socks and so they're on sale in there as well and they are the best homemade touts. They are not worried about cholesterol in the Mad Rock Café. They will fry it in butter, in pork fat, in whatever they've got and there's just these juicy bits of dough and then, you just think, 'Well, that's not bad enough for me. I'm going to pour pure sugarcane over it.'

Ed Gamble

At that point-,

Angela Barnes

At that point, you might as well.

Ed Gamble

Once you've fried it in all the butter and stuff, yes. Just go for it. Right?

James Acaster

In for a penny. Yes.

Angela Barnes

Bring on the molasses.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Angela Barnes

Yes.

James Acaster

I think all regular listeners to this podcast have just heard what your bread course is and gone, 'We're in for a good episode,' because that is a very specific-, what I like-, I mean, you know-,



Ed Gamble

Unsurprisingly, the first mention of toutons.

James Acaster

The first mention of toutons we've ever had.

Angela Barnes

Well, I hoped that would be the case because I thought, 'Well, I'll bring a little bit of my culture to the podcast.'

James Acaster

Also, you're getting it from a certain place as well. This is what I like to see in the dream menus, is someone thinking outside the box, going to a certain place and knowing exactly what the dish is. And I love it when people have something for the bread course that is a proper dish as well.

Angela Barnes

Yes. Well bread roll-, because I'm a sucker for, if I'm in a restaurant and there are bread rolls on the table, I have to eat them because they're there. And I feel like, I don't know if a past me grew up in the war and has that whole mentality of, 'You have to eat it all.' I have to eat it all, there are children starving somewhere, which is a stupid thing to say, what are you going to do, send it to them? I don't know. But the idea that I will eat the bread, and then it will ruin my dinner. And it doesn't matter that I know that, the bread's in front of me, I will eat it. So I want it to be a dish that I've chosen to have, rather than just go, 'Oh now I've eaten all the bread.'

Ed Gamble

And it feels like part of the meal. So if you are a little bit full, it doesn't matter, because you've already had a really nice dish.

Angela Barnes

Exactly. You're not full up on just boring bread rolls, you're full up on something yummy.

Ed Gamble

On toutons.

Angela Barnes

And I'm a firm believer in-, salt, fat, and sugar is what makes everything nice. I'm not going to shy away from those things, and anyone who comes on here and says they're having grilled fish and salad are lying to themselves.

Ed Gamble

It's rare, but it does happen.



James Acaster

There's that Netflix series, that Salt Fat Acid Heat, and I was like, 'Where's the sugar episode?' It's like, 'Excuse the fuck? What? Where is it?'

Ed Gamble

Well I guess fat and acid is in puddings, right?

James Acaster

There should be a sugar episode, okay?

Angela Barnes

Yes, there definitely should. I'm very team sugar in this. I know you have a medical aversion.

Ed Gamble

I'm still team sugar.

Angela Barnes

I remember once getting in a car with you, and you had a packet of cherry tomatoes, and you described them as, 'Diabetic Haribo.' And I thought, 'You're just kidding yourself, mate. I know you have to do that.'

Ed Gamble

I was definitely kidding myself. I was probably kidding you as well.

James Acaster

It's not cool to try out material on other comics off stage, man.

Ed Gamble

I don't remember saying that, and I never used it on stage, thanks Angela.

Angela Barnes

Did you not? It's great. It made me laugh.

James Acaster

He's writing a new show now, that's straight in there, he's going to walk on stage eating a punnet of cherry tomatoes, 'Who wants some diabetic Haribo, everyone? Kids and grown ups love it so, cherry cherry tomato.'

Ed Gamble

I don't play for team sugar, but I'm an avid supporter from the side lines.

Angela Barnes

So you'll watch, you're not offended by team sugar. People who say, 'I don't have a sweet tooth, I don't like sweet things.' Are the same people who say they like jazz. They don't, they've just learnt to say that



because they think it makes them look like a grown up, and they've even started to believe they like jazz. They don't like jazz, no one likes jazz, of course the don't like jazz. But they've said it so much they believe it. And that's like, 'I only like dark chocolate, 70%-', 'no you don't, no one does.

Ed Gamble

I like all chocolate. I do like the dark stuff, I'll eat 100%.

Angela Barnes

It's fine if there's nothing else, but if you've got a mint Aero here, and a 70% cocoa fancy thing, mint Aero all day, every day.

Ed Gamble

I do disagree with that.

Angela Barnes

Oh, are you not a mint chocolate fan?

Ed Gamble

I don't mind it, but I would rather eat the 70% chocolate.

Angela Barnes

But you're wrong.

Ed Gamble

But that's fine, you can have the Aero and I'll have the 70%.

Angela Barnes

Okay, and then we can coexist.

James Acaster

Here's a controversial take for you, I prefer the mint Aero balls to the actual mint Aero chocolate bar.

Ed Gamble

I agree with that.

Angela Barnes

I can understand that. Is it to do with surface area coverage, I think.

James Acaster

There's something about it, it just tastes different. It's a bit creamier, there's something creamier about the texture of it.

Ed Gamble

Also, I think a mint Aero is too fragile to have to snap a block off.



James Acaster

Yes.

Angela Barnes

Yes, it makes a mess when you snap it.

Ed Gamble

Whereas the Aero balls.

Angela Barnes

You whack them in.

James Acaster

You whack them in, you can have a handful of those.

Angela Barnes

There's no admin. No admin at all.

James Acaster

I like to have a handful of them, not one at a time, those balls.

Angela Barnes

Chocolate mint or chocolate orange?

James Acaster

I like both, but I would go chocolate mint.

Angela Barnes

See, I love chocolate mint and chocolate orange, don't make me decide. It'd be like deciding between my twins, I couldn't do it.

Ed Gamble

I love that, I've never seen someone set up a hypothetical situation that they have absolutely no plan on answering themselves. 'Chocolate mint or chocolate orange? I couldn't decide personally.'

James Acaster

'I could never do it.'

Angela Barnes

I can't believe I've asked you, I'm sorry.

James Acaster

Here's a question. As someone who likes food to look like what it is, what if I gave you what looked like a Terry's Chocolate Orange, but was actually chocolate mint? How would you feel about that?



Angela Barnes

I'd ask you what I'd done to hurt you. Why would you do that to me, James? We've known each other a long time, why would you do that?

Ed Gamble

That'd be so weird.

Angela Barnes

It would be really weird, my husband really takes the Mickey out of me for this, because he thinks I'm the only person on the planet who thinks this. I love orange in chocolate, I love mint in chocolate, banana in chocolate, but I can't abide any red fruit with chocolate. I know cherry and chocolate's a thing, I know people love it, but they're wrong, it's disgusting.

James Acaster

You hate it.

Angela Barnes

I can't. Red fruit. Strawberries and chocolate, raspberries and chocolate, no.

James Acaster

Really?

Angela Barnes

Yes.

Ed Gamble

So you don't like strawberries dipped in chocolate?

Angela Barnes

Absolutely not. I love chocolate, I love strawberries.

Ed Gamble

They're pretty sexy though, Angela.

James Acaster

They're sexy.

Ed Gamble

Strawberries dipped in chocolate, pretty sexy.

James Acaster

Pretty sexy.



Angela Barnes

I'm afraid an Aero is sexier, mint Aero, definitely. Melt that down, amazing.

James Acaster

People love strawberries and chocolate, that's sexerific.

Angela Barnes

I love strawberries and I love chocolate, but together, there's something not-, my taste buds don't know what to do. 'Am I eating strawberries? Am I eating chocolate?' I don't like it.

Ed Gamble

Maybe that's why it's sexy.

James Acaster

Yes, because that's what sex is, right?

Angela Barnes

What, you don't know what to do?

Ed Gamble

You're all like, 'Oh no, what's happening?'

James Acaster

'What is this? Is this me? Is it you?'

Angela Barnes

'It doesn't look like what it tastes like.'

James Acaster

Cherry and chocolate is my dad's favourite combo, so he's going to be upset when he hears this.

Angela Barnes

David?

James Acaster

David.

Angela Barnes

David Acaster, no.

James Acaster

It's his favourite, he loves it. He loves the Gower brownies. Gower Cottage, is that what it is? They do a cherry version of those, he's a happy man.



Angela Barnes

I don't know why, I love the two things separately, but together I can't and whenever we watch-, my husband and I love MasterChef, we watch MasterChef together, that's real appointment viewing in our house. Whenever they combine cherries with chocolate I'm like, 'Oh they've fucked it. They were doing so well, and they've fucked it.'

Ed Gamble

I wish you were one of the judges. Just walking around the different benches. 'What did you do?' 'Cherries and chocolate.' 'Fucked it.'

James Acaster

'Fucked it, bye.'

Angela Barnes

Obviously you judge a cooking show, what happens when it's something that you personally don't like? Because they could obviously do a beautiful cherry chocolate thing that everyone loves, because most people like it. It would make me gag to eat it, but I'd have to acknowledge that-,

James Acaster

I'm going to say, before you answer it, this is the best question anyone's ever asked you on this podcast. People have asked us before about stand-up, I couldn't give a shit. But this is a very good question, I'm interested to hear Ed's answer, and I cannot say that often on this pod.

Ed Gamble

Personally, there's very few things that I don't like. There's nothing that I would eat that would make me gag in the same way as cherries and chocolate would make you gag. But there are sometimes things where I'm like, 'I wouldn't choose it, and it's not necessarily something I'm wild about.' And in that scenario, you do have to sort of divorce yourself from the personal taste aspect, and work out if they've managed to get the taste that they wanted to across onto the plate so it's more about technique.

Angela Barnes

And do you look at the other judges and go, 'Is this a good one? Do you like this?'

Ed Gamble

Basically, ask Tom Kerridge if they've done it properly.

Angela Barnes

Always ask Tom Kerridge.

Ed Gamble

In fact, just every time anything comes, 'Tom is this nice?'

James Acaster

I seem to like it too much.



Ed Gamble

I like it if Tom likes it.

Angela Barnes

Do you ever really like something then look at Tom and see his face and you go, 'Oh.'

Ed Gamble

We do disagree quite a lot, yes.

Angela Barnes

The thing I definitely wouldn't be able to do is, I'll look at a plate on MasterChef and go, 'That looks a bloody mess.' And they'll go, 'Beautifully presented.' And then I'll look at one and go, 'Oh, doesn't that look lovely.' And they'll go, 'What's this mess.' And I'm like, 'What am I not seeing that you're seeing?' I don't know. If it's just not been dolloped out of a bowl then it's pretty, right? They made an effort.

James Acaster

Most of it has been dolloped out of a God damn bowl these days, am I right? Dream starter!

Angela Barnes

Okay, it's been so hard. I did have, 'Bowl of peas and salad cream', down as a potential, but I'm not going to go with that.'

Ed Gamble

If you pick that.

James Acaster

Fucking hell, I'd have been sick.

Angela Barnes

Again, I'll reiterate how there's nothing healthy in my diet whatsoever. But mine is a deep-fried haggis to start. I love haggis so much, but when you have haggis in a nice restaurant, they give you a piddly little bit of haggis. You know City Restaurant in Edinburgh, not City Café, but City Restaurant, the one that's open late at night with a red front, and the same woman has worked-, I first went to Edinburgh in 1995, and she was there. She's still there, she was there this year, and I have a deep-fried haggis supper. It's disgusting, and beautiful, and there's so much haggis in it. I'd have it every day, I have to stop myself. I have to cross the road, walk the other side of the road, to stop myself going in and ordering one. Because it's so cheap, and so yummy.

Ed Gamble

Isn't that pie maker across the other side of the road though?

Angela Barnes

It is yes, so I end up with a haggis pie instead. What a terrible mistake to make.



Ed Gamble

'Well done Angela, you've outdone-, oh no!'

James Acaster

Well that sounds delicious. Haggis, very underrated outside of Scotland, everyone turning up their noses. It's when you're a little kid, and someone tells you what's in it and you get all silly about it because you're immature, and then people just carry that through to adulthood, which is ridiculous.

Angela Barnes

A grown person saying, 'Oh I couldn't eat it.' 'Grow up', is what I say to you. If you eat a sausage, you can eat haggis.

James Acaster

Grow up or shut up, really.

Angela Barnes

It's one or the other.

Ed Gamble

Well it is, because fine you can find haggis disgusting, or be weird and squeamish about stuff, but just shut up.

Angela Barnes

Yes, let me enjoy my haggis.

Ed Gamble

I want to eat my haggis. Are you putting any sauce on it?

Angela Barnes

The sauce from the City Restaurant, so it's the salt and sauce that Edinburgh-, it's like brown sauce thinned with vinegar, I think.

Ed Gamble

Yes, vinegary, thin brown sauce, it's so good.

Angela Barnes

I really want one, I could cry. Because you can't get it anywhere. Every time I gig in Scotland, it's the first thing I want to do when I get there. I was doing, I think it was a tour show maybe in Glasgow, and I was so excited, I was like, 'Right, I'm going to do what I've got to do, and then I'm going to buy a haggis supper and I'm going to eat it and it's going to be amazing.' And then I think I had to get an early train the next morning. So I did the show, I went to the chippy, I got there just as it was closing, and I got it back to the hotel, and I was quivering with excitement because I hadn't had one before, I opened it, and they'd given me a deep-fried pizza. And I actually cried.



James Acaster

I'm very emotionally invested in that story just now. Because I know exactly what that feels like.

Ed Gamble

You can't wait.

Angela Barnes

On the train up I'd been excited, all through the recording I couldn't concentrate I was so excited about my haggis supper, and-, have you had deep-fried pizza?

Ed Gamble

It's horrible.

Angela Barnes

I tried to eat a bit because it was there. What are you doing? And it's cheap pizza.

Ed Gamble

It's bad pizza, so it's like freezer pizza.

Angela Barnes

It's like Co-op pizza.

Ed Gamble

Yes, like the little ones.

Angela Barnes

Yes. There's no flavour in it and it wasn't haggis, and I actually cried. Because I was leaving early the next morning, I couldn't. And do you know what-

James Acaster

That is the saddest story we've had on this podcast.

Angela Barnes

I posted about it on Facebook. I was so upset, I posted about it on Facebook and lovely-, do you know Susan Morrison? She's a Scottish comic. She posted me some haggis, because she felt so sad for me.

Ed Gamble

A fried haggis?

Angela Barnes

It wasn't deep-fried.

Ed Gamble

Absolute slop. Dripping out the Jiffy Bag.



James Acaster

'Thinking of you, Angela.' The only-, is this sadder? No. Maybe it is. I was going to do the New Zealand Comedy Festival. Every year there was this place, Honey Trap it was called, café, did the best sandwich I've ever had in my life, this beef brisket sandwich. Every year, looking forward to it. One year, the whole flight there, which let's not forget is like a day and a half, really excited about it. Got there, straight to the place, essentially a little arcade the shop's in, closed. Closed for good, closed for life.

Ed Gamble

They put that on the window.

James Acaster

'Closed for good, closed for life.' I was absolutely devastated.

Angela Barnes

Did you track down the chef?

James Acaster

No, but they put on their website the recipe for the sandwich, so me and my girlfriend at the time tried to make it. We didn't nail it, but it was still-,

Ed Gamble

It scratched the itch a bit.

James Acaster

We felt like we'd paid our respects to the Honey Trap.

Angela Barnes

If City Restaurant ever closed, I can't even speak, I'd be so upset.

Ed Gamble

There's no way that place is closing.

Angela Barnes

I'd be so worried for that lady who's worked there forever, what would she do?

Ed Gamble

We've only heard two of your courses so far, and both of them are in places where you think the people who work there never leave that place.

Angela Barnes

Yes, it's true.

Ed Gamble

That's what you seem to like.



Angela Barnes

It's true, I do like that. You want that feeling, don't you? It's like that feeling you get with your teachers, that they live at school. If I bumped into the haggis lady, she came to my show I'd-, 'Get out, you've got haggis to cook, what are you doing?'

Ed Gamble

Would you recognise her though?

Angela Barnes

Absolutely.

Ed Gamble

Wouldn't you be, like, out of context?

Angela Barnes

I imagine she would be wearing the apron. She has a little black shirt, a black skirt, and a black apron that she wears, and she'd be wearing that, obviously.

Ed Gamble

And a hair net.

Angela Barnes

And a hair net, yes, I'd spot her in the audience.

James Acaster

Your dream main course.

Angela Barnes

This was so hard, but I've narrowed it-, it's got to be something from a German Christmas market. I love Germany. I love German history, I love learning about it, I love speaking German, I love everything about Germany, and I love going to Berlin for Christmas. We were there a few weeks before Christmas this year. It's the most comfort you can get from a food and environment together, is eating hot food at a German Christmas market, with a glass of gluhwein. My tip, if you're going to a German Christmas market, because they get a bit fancy some of them, if they accept card payments, don't eat there. Only eat at the ones where it says, 'Nur bar', or, 'Nur Bargeld.' That means just cash, cash only. Go there, because they'll be more traditional. And usually served by a man with an amazing moustache, usually. And they're such brilliant names, like, 'Kartoffelpuffer.' That's like these potato pancakes. Or, 'Käsespätzle', which is like a cheese, macaroni type dish, their sort of version of macaroni cheese but a bit different. But my favourite thing, it's a liver dish, calves' liver, but it's obviously been cooking for about 47 years in this vat, and it's so tender, and so soft, and it's with apples and onions. I think it's mostly in Berlin, it's a real Berlin speciality. So, 'Berliner Leber', it's called. And you have that with what they call Grünkohl, which is this cabbage, which has again been cooking forever, and it's got onions, and herbs and stuff in it. But together, it's just this bowl of liver and cabbage. But in the right



environment, it's the best taste. It's so warming, and Christmassy, and your cheeks are cold, and your hands are cold, but you're insides are hot, it's the best.

Ed Gamble

You've sold it wonderfully. But when you really narrow down what it is, you did say, 'It's a bowl of liver and cabbage.'

Angela Barnes

It is a bowl of liver and cabbage.

James Acaster

It's a bowl of liver and cabbage.

Ed Gamble

You've brought us there though.

James Acaster

Maybe the first time someone's main course has been liver.

Ed Gamble

Possibly.

Angela Barnes

I love liver. My Nan used to cook liver when I was a kid, but it was like boot leather. So I thought I hated liver. And it was dry, so I just assumed I hated liver. But then when you have liver that's been slow-cooked, and it's that lovely soft, and with a nice sauce with onions.

Ed Gamble

Calves' liver is beautiful, I love calves' liver.

James Acaster

The listeners won't be surprised to hear that. That he loves liver, specifically from a calf.

Ed Gamble

Well calves, it's a different texture.

James Acaster

Sure.

Ed Gamble

Lambs' liver is the one that everyone used to have and hate, because it overcooks and goes all rubbery. Calves' liver, if you cook it right, it's soft, delicious. Calves' liver bacon, mashed potato, onion gravy, hello. Chicken liver's great.



Angela Barnes

I do think I was alive in the war, I think I must've been. I love offal, I love haggis, I love liver. I'm not squeamish about eating offal at all.

Ed Gamble

We've gone from haggis to liver. Some people are going to be listening to this menu going, 'This is awful.'

Angela Barnes

I know people will hate it.

Ed Gamble

Haggis, liver, what's your side dish, a witchetty grub?

James Acaster

I mean, you've already done a shout out to the salad cream and peas. It's not made it on there, but you know.

Angela Barnes

Is this the most sophisticated menu you've ever heard?

James Acaster

It kind of simultaneously is and isn't, actually, I think it's both. German Christmas markets do feel so authentically Christmassy, what is it about Germany where they manage to nail that?

Angela Barnes

I'm not sure what it is. Lots of places in Europe nail it, like Switzerland nails it as well. Doing gigs just before Christmas in Switzerland with Sean McLoughlin, and we got the most lost I've ever been in a Zurich Christmas market, to the point we thought, 'We live here now, and that'll be fine. I could live here now, and it'd be alright.'

James Acaster

I went to an Estonian Christmas market once, and I loved it. But I don't know why, it's like that part of the world-

Angela Barnes

I think we can't do them as well here because it's so rare that we get a crisp, cold day. December is grey and drizzly, that's not Christmassy. Whereas Berlin is cold at Christmas, and it's that sort of cold but sunny, and your cheeks hurt but it's nice. You need that sort of weather, I think. And they just do it better, the food's amazing. In December, we had fondue. We didn't go to any restaurants, we ate at the Christmas market every night, because I just love the food from there. And it's my happy place. We were supposed to go the year before, and I got Covid so we couldn't go, so I was really champing at the bit to get back. And I love Germany anyway, and I love Berlin particularly. Because I'm a Cold War nerd, so I spend the day going to the Stasi buildings or looking at bunkers or whatever. And I've been on my



own, I used to go on my own to Berlin, and it's nice. I'll do all the geeky, history stuff during the day. If you're on your own, there's no one going, 'I'm bored, can we get some food.' There's no one doing that. And then, as a woman travelling on my own, a Christmas market is a nice place to go and eat, have a drink, without having to sit in a bar on my own. And I just wander round, and most of them are open until 11:00 or midnight, and then go back to the hotel, it's just a lovely way to-,

James Acaster

This dish, is it quite popular at the Christmas market, or is it something that you specifically like?

Angela Barnes

It's quite popular at the Berlin ones particularly, this liver dish.

Ed Gamble

What were you imagining? That Angela was like, 'Okay, I've got an idea. Have you got any liver?'

Angela Barnes

Imagine, 'I don't like any of this stuff you've got on offer.'

James Acaster

Do you know what, 'Specifically', was the wrong word.

Ed Gamble

'Is this something that you asked them to make?'

Angela Barnes

Imagine if I just went, 'I love what you're doing here, I've got some calves' liver in my bag, and I just wondered if you could just knock me up something.'

James Acaster

You never know. I don't know how accommodating. This Christmas- It's Christmas, they make wishes come true.

Angela Barnes

If I told them it was what I'd asked Santa for, maybe.

Ed Gamble

They've got their own dream restaurant.

James Acaster

So is there a long queue when you have to go for this?

Angela Barnes

Yes, often there is. And sometimes you have to wait a bit.



Ed Gamble

That's what you were trying to ask.

James Acaster

Yes.

Angela Barnes

Sometimes I have to queue. I went with my husband who doesn't speak any German at all, and I've gotten to a point in my German proficiency now where in Berlin, if I talk to someone in German, they don't talk back to me in English, it's really nice to get to that level. It takes a while, but I think I've got there now. But he likes to try, so I'll tell him what to ask for, and he'll go up and order it, but then if they say anything back to him, he's screwed, he can't deal with that at all, so I have to always go with him and order.

Ed Gamble

Do you slag him off and stuff in German?

Angela Barnes

Yes, of course. 'This prick hasn't even bothered to learn another language, so typically English. I'm embarrassed, to be honest, to be with him.' That's what I say.

Ed Gamble

Does he like the liver?

Angela Barnes

He likes the liver, yes. He's another offal fan. That sounds romantic, doesn't it? 'We eat a lot of offal together.'

Ed Gamble

'That's how we met.'

James Acaster

That's good, otherwise you'd have to tell him to eat up and shut up, or whatever it is. What's it called?

Ed Gamble

Grow up or shut up.

Angela Barnes

'Grow up or shut up.'

James Acaster

Grow up or shut up. You don't want to deal with somebody you have to tell to grow up or shut up.



Angela Barnes

I'm trying to think if we had offal at our wedding. Because we had Pieminister pie and mash at our wedding.

James Acaster

So you really are taking a risk when you cross the road to get away from City Restaurant.

James Acaster

Your dream side dish.

Angela Barnes

Okay, I'm going back to my Newfoundland roots again here a bit, I'm sure you've had this before on the podcast, but I'm going to say poutine on the side. But from a specific place.

Ed Gamble

Great.

Angela Barnes

Because there's a lot of posh poutine about, and I'm not- Fine, have posh poutine, whatever. But proper street poutine.

Ed Gamble

Just peas and salad cream.

Angela Barnes

Just peas, and salad cream, and cheese curds.

James Acaster

Imagine.

Angela Barnes

In Newfoundland, in St. John's, the capital, there's an area called George Street which is the sort of party area, if you like. It's a tiny place, but it's all very Irish, Newfoundland. My Grandad, everyone thought was Irish, they have Irish accents with a sort of tinge of Canadian.

Ed Gamble

It's a mad accent.

Angela Barnes

It's a mad accent. I've grown up around it and I can't do it, but watch Come From Away.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I went to see Come From Away and I was like, 'What the hell? People are making this up, surely.'



Angela Barnes

Well it's funny, because I went to see *Come From Away*, and it's lovely, it's just like listening to my family speak. But I went with a friend who's English, came away and they went, 'Those accents are terrible.' I was like, 'No, they were spot on.' People assume it's a bad Canadian accent they're doing, but it's not, that is how they talk. Google, 'Newfoundland accents.' It's beautiful.

James Acaster

Mare of Easttown, is that anything to do with that area? Because Kate Winslet was doing an accent in that.

Ed Gamble

That's in America isn't it?

Angela Barnes

Yes.

James Acaster

Okay.

Angela Barnes

With Newfoundland, there's a lot of settlers from Ireland and Wales settled there in the 16th century or whenever. And one of the sad things about it is, one of the only places, I think, in the world to have a complete genocide. Because none of the Native Americans left, they all died out, I think the last one was alive in the 1800s. Because it's a fishing community, it's all cod fishing, and obviously the Europeans came, took over the fishing ports around the edge, pushed all the natives inland, and there was nothing to eat, they all died out.

Ed Gamble

Lovely, tell us about the poutine.

Angela Barnes

Anyway that's my family.

Ed Gamble

I'll be honest, Angela, it's the first time we've talked about liver as a dish, first time we've heard about peas and salad cream, and it's the first time the phrase, 'Complete genocide', has been used.

James Acaster

Yes, I'd say. Also, you teed up the story with, 'This is a bit sad.' And I nearly jumped in with, 'Probably don't tell it on the comedy podcast then.' But before I could, the phrase, 'Complete genocide', had already been done.



Angela Barnes

So poutine, there's a little truck on George Street, when you come out of the pub, instead of getting a kebab or whatever, you go to the poutine truck. And it's called Ziggy Peelgood's.

Ed Gamble

It couldn't be more up James' street right now.

James Acaster

I looked at Ed, and he's not even looking at me, because he's like, 'Don't look at him now.' Because he knows I'm going to love Ziggy Peelgood's.

Angela Barnes

Do you not love Ziggy Peelgood's, Ed?

Ed Gamble

Oh no, I'm a big fan of Ziggy Peelgood's, but I just know it's so up James' street, and you'll be hearing that name a lot in the rest of the episode.

Angela Barnes

Brilliant.

Ed Gamble

Every other food you mention, he'll be like, 'Does Ziggy Peelgood's do any of that?'

James Acaster

I will.

Angela Barnes

You've just ruined it for him like, 'Now what am I going to say?'

Ed Gamble

He'll do it anyway.

James Acaster

Yes, I'll still do that, it'll be funnier now. Tell us more about Ziggy Peelgood's please.

Angela Barnes

You've had a few beers, you go to Ziggy Peelgood's, and you queue up, there's always a queue. And you get there, and you can have the classic poutine, chips, cheese curds, and gravy. Or you can have their deluxe poutine, which is the one I like, which has dressing on it. And dressing is-, the only way I can describe it, it's like Paxo stuffing before you cook it. It's sort of like flavoured dust, basically. It's breadcrumbs with sage, and onion, and stuffing, but they don't make it into stuffing, they just sprinkle it on.



Ed Gamble

All-dressed chips.

Angela Barnes

All-dressed chips.

Ed Gamble

All-dressed chips, man, the best.

Angela Barnes

Is that a Montreal thing?

Ed Gamble

Oh my goodness. The best crisp flavour ever. That is my one task if I go to Montreal, is to bring those back for my wife.

Angela Barnes

The dressing flavour.

Ed Gamble

Huge. Yes, all-dressed chips, they're sort of spicy, sweet, salty, every flavour in there, it's amazing. On poutine as well, I can imagine that's insane.

Angela Barnes

On poutine, it's so good. Dressing on a hot turkey sandwich as well, it was between poutine, but you can't really have a hot turkey sandwich as a side dish. But a hot turkey sandwich is just, it's white bread, just like your Mother's Pride white bread with turkey in and then gravy poured over it. And then you have vegetables and dressing on the side. That's one of the first things we have when we get to Newfoundland. My husband loves hot turkey sandwiches.

James Acaster

Does Ziggy Peelgood's sell those?

Angela Barnes

They don't sell them. It's just poutine, poutine all the way. You can't peel a turkey famously.

Ed Gamble

You can't peel it good anyway.

James Acaster

You can't peel it very good, but you can peel the poutine.

Angela Barnes

You can peel a poutine, yes.



James Acaster

Man, so Ziggy Peelgood's does the standard one and the deluxe one, you want the deluxe one?

Angela Barnes

I want the deluxe one because it's got the dressing. He does various different toppings, he does one with bacon bits or he does like a Mexican poutine. Forget it I want traditional but I want it with dressing.

Ed Gamble

Is Ziggy a guy that works there?

James Acaster

Yes sounds like it.

Angela Barnes

I don't know if Ziggy is an actual person, like it's, I think I've seen different people in there serving.

Ed Gamble

Right.

James Acaster

But do they claim to be Ziggy Peelgood when they're serving?

Angela Barnes

I mean obviously everyone's, 'Hey Ziggy.' When you get there you know, so.

James Acaster

They all go along with that.

Angela Barnes

I think for the duration that you're in the van you are Ziggy.

Ed Gamble

You are Ziggy, Ziggy's a feeling more than the person yes.

James Acaster

It's like the doctor, it regenerates and it's like a different person is Ziggy Peelgood.

Angela Barnes

Exactly, exactly yes.

Ed Gamble

And the van is the Tardis.



James Acaster

And everyone's excited about who's going to be Ziggy Peelgood next, everyone gets really angry if it's a woman.

Angela Barnes

You can't have a lady Ziggy.

James Acaster

Yes, yes.

James Acaster

'What the hell is the lady Ziggy Peelgood? Ziggy Peelgood is a man and always has been.'
Well I think that Ziggy Peelgood's poutine with the dressing sounds great, I think it's a very nice-

Angela Barnes

I very nearly, I have to tell you, I very nearly went for something a bit out there. I very nearly had as my side dish a McDonald's hot apple pie and the only reason is I don't particularly, I'm not a particular fan, I don't mind them, they're fine you know. But I used to get them all the time. When I was on tour with my support act, it was always the lovely Phil Jerrod who's sadly no longer with us. But Phil was a real enabler when it came to late night McDonald's and he still is because when I come home from a gig late at night now and I get that, 'I think I'm going to have a McDonald's.' And usually I can talk myself out of it, but then I'm like, 'But it's what Phil would want.' So even beyond the grave Phil Jerrod is making me eat McDonald's late at night. But it used to upset him so much that I'd have an apple pie, like Phil Jerrod if you've never seen him do stand up, king of the rant. Like so good at ranting and I would get one just because I know it would make a rant happen. Because I don't know why but he was so angry that they existed.

Ed Gamble

Really?

Angela Barnes

Yes and I really don't know why. Like we'd go to a drive in, if he was driving and he would be ordering and I'd go, 'Oh can you get me a hot apple pie?' He'd go, 'No.' I'd have to lean over and go, 'Apple pie please.' Because he refused to order it.

James Acaster

Oh my god the headline.

Angela Barnes

And then I'd get it, he'd go, 'Get out of my car. Get out of my car if you're going to eat that.'

Ed Gamble

So now and again you convince yourself to have a McDonald's because it's what Phil would have wanted?



Angela Barnes

Because it's what Phil would have wanted.

Ed Gamble

But you nearly put apple pie onto this menu because it's exactly what Phil wouldn't have wanted?

Angela Barnes

Exactly. Because I miss hearing him rant and it just would, I can hear him. If I'm eating a hot apple pie I can hear a Phil Jerrod rant in my head and I miss it.

Ed Gamble

We can throw an apple pie in anyway I'm sure.

James Acaster

Yes we can throw in an apple pie, especially for Phil.

Angela Barnes

I'll have that with the poutine as a side dish.

James Acaster

Phil would hate my McDonald's order.

Ed Gamble

Oh yes.

Angela Barnes

Oh what's yours?

James Acaster

Grilled chicken wrap with-,

Angela Barnes

No get out.

Ed Gamble

This gets worse.

James Acaster

Maybe this will win you over, with a bag of carrots, the carrot sticks.

Angela Barnes

Look at me I can't, why are you going to McDonald's?



James Acaster

I only go when it's like the only place that's open. Really late at night and I need something-

Ed Gamble

Yes you know really late at night when you're like, 'Oh fuck it I'll have a bag of carrots'

James Acaster

I'm often on the way back from a gig or something, I'm sober as a judge and I don't want to feel bad at the end of the day because I'm not hammered, so I'll end up just getting the most healthiest thing that they've got so that I don't feel like bad.

Angela Barnes

I used to respect you on this podcast because you stood up for sugar and you stood up for dessert and you-

Ed Gamble

And the joy of eating.

Angela Barnes

And the joy of eating and that you don't have to grow up, you can enjoy sugar and sweet things forever.

James Acaster

Peter Pan.

Angela Barnes

But you're going to McDonald's and you're eating carrots. It upsets me they even offer salad because if I want a salad I go to a place that does good salad.

James Acaster

Yes, you know who would like those carrots? Ziggy Peelgood because they were peeled to perfection.

Ed Gamble

They were peeled good.

James Acaster

Peeled good.

James Acaster

Your dream drink?

Angela Barnes

My dream drink until very recently would have had to be a beer of some description. I love, I do, John Robbins once described, it's a thing that I-, I love this badge so much, he called me one of the, what was it? One of our generation's great pints folk. Which I really liked that because I was always an ale



girl, we had, again at our wedding we had beer on the tables instead of wine because every wedding I've ever been to they supply wine and I've had to buy a beer because I don't want the wine. So I thought well at my wedding they can buy the wine and drink my beer so that's what we did. So we had beer and cider on the tables, but unfortunately I've recently become somehow intolerant.

Ed Gamble

Oh no.

Angela Barnes

It's awful, it happened really quickly and now two beers and the next day's a write off which is very upsetting, but I got given some good advice which is don't worry this is just temporary while I'm a woman of a certain age and I've got to get through the next few years. But your friend is tequila is what I was told and if you drink 100% agave tequila, no hangovers, so a margarita.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

That's great.

Angela Barnes

And specifically, so when this came about I got really upset because I love my beers and so my husband bless him took it upon himself to really experiment with margaritas. He's had some disasters, we don't talk about the horseradish margarita any-

Ed Gamble

Oh my god.

James Acaster

Wow, that's ambitious.

Angela Barnes

It was disgusting. You know that feeling like if you have too much horseradish or too much wasabi and you sort of-

Ed Gamble

Gets in your nose, yes, yes.

Angela Barnes

Feel it in your sinuses and it's like that, but yes it was and then this horrible bitter, it was a mistake.

Ed Gamble

Had he heard about that anywhere? Or did he just think I'm going to try a horseradish margarita.



Angela Barnes

I think he'd read about it I think and he ordered, like it was all very, 'Oh I've got to buy this horseradish powder, I'm buying online.' I don't know this all sounded, I sort of left him to it and it was, yes it was horrible. But he makes a very nice ginger margarita, but his best is his chilli margarita.

James Acaster

Nice.

Ed Gamble

Amazing.

Angela Barnes

So and obviously with a salt rim because we're not worried about cholesterol or heart problems in this, so yes I would like a jug of my husband's chilli margarita.

James Acaster

Very nice and is this on-

Ed Gamble

That's great, love it.

James Acaster

Is there much ice in it? Is there like a, is it frozen? Does he pack in some ice?

Angela Barnes

He has done frozen ones which are nice, but this is, no this is just straight up, no ice, no. I don't like ice in my drinks, I don't, I drink, I'll drink coke warm rather than put ice. I'd rather have it room temperature, just than put ice in it. It waters it down and also it makes my teeth hurt, so yes.

James Acaster

Both good reasons.

Angela Barnes

Both good reasons.

James Acaster

I like a frozen margarita though.

Angela Barnes

I don't mind it, well it's a grown up Slush Puppy right?

James Acaster

Yes.



Angela Barnes

Slush puppy for adults.

Ed Gamble

I like that, I like that sort of ice where it's part of, ice is part of the drink right?

Angela Barnes

Yes exactly, yes.

Ed Gamble

When it's cubes and stuff.

Angela Barnes

Forget it.

Ed Gamble

If you get a cocktail with bits of ice floating around in it, livid.

Angela Barnes

Absolutely livid. And also when you, if you order a drink in a pub or something and it's, that's just their way of giving you less drink, so I always ask for no ice.

Ed Gamble

All those cocktails with big cubes in them where you're like-,

Angela Barnes

Matt has those, my husband has those because he likes whiskey and he'll sometimes put one ice cube in a whiskey, but he has these big square ice cubes as well that he sometimes will put that in because then it-

James Acaster

Just take up the whole glass?

Angela Barnes

Yes it's just.

James Acaster

It's still pretty cool. You know who I think looks like a stink?

Ed Gamble

Ziggy Peelgood?

James Acaster

I would never say that about Ziggy Peelgood.



Angela Barnes

I hope not.

James Acaster

I'm sorry Angela that Ed said that about Ziggy Peelgood.

Angela Barnes

I'm never taking Ed Gamble to Ziggy Peelgood's ever.

James Acaster

The Slush Puppy puppy.

Ed Gamble

No way man, what are you talking-

James Acaster

He looks disgusting, that Slush Puppy puppy looks rank.

Ed Gamble

No way.

James Acaster

It's half of what puts me off, I bet he just smells like that wet dog smell that Slush Puppy, that's what I think of.

Ed Gamble

Well you're imagining him covered in his own slush right?

James Acaster

Yes.

Angela Barnes

Well he is going to be wet, if you're making Slush Puppies all day you're going to get wet. And if you're a dog and you're wet you're going to smell, it does make sense.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

I think it looks disgusting that Slush Puppy and they should get it off of the branding. Because it puts me off nine times out of ten, I'm not getting a Slush Puppy with that little rank thing looking at me.

Ed Gamble

It's called a Slush Puppy.



Angela Barnes

Do you still call it a Slush Puppy?

Ed Gamble

Yes it's called a Slush Puppy.

James Acaster

Yes, call it a Slush Puppy still or whatever. But don't have that puppy on there with his little woollen hat he's wearing, I think that makes it worse, little beanie that he's wearing.

Ed Gamble

He's cold, he's been working in slush all day.

Angela Barnes

It's part of it that Slush Puppy machines are so old now, they're such an old '80s thing that they're often quite faded, the Slush Puppy machines.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Angela Barnes

Often a bit-, they look a bit sad, don't they?

James Acaster

So that makes it look rank.

Angela Barnes

They look a bit peeled and sad, I get that, yes.

James Acaster

That makes it then look like he stinks even more.

Ed Gamble

This is the most I've thought about Slush Puppies ever, I think.

Angela Barnes

I think it'd be a sad day when you walk into Kettering Leisure Centre and there's not a Slush Puppy machine there.

James Acaster

That would be sad.



Angela Barnes

I think you'd be sad on that day.

James Acaster

That would be sad, but, like, I wouldn't mind if I walked in there and there's a Slush Puppy machine, but the actual stinky Slush Puppy's not on there. I'd be happy, just to not see him.

Angela Barnes

But how do you know it's a Slush Puppy machine?

James Acaster

Hopefully it would say the words Slush Puppy on it.

Angela Barnes

But it could be made by anyone?

Ed Gamble

But then that'd make you think of the Slush Puppy, right?

Angela Barnes

Well yes, then it's in your mind anyway. Might as well be there.

James Acaster

I guess they need a new mascot who looks a bit cleaner and looks a bit less rank than that little-

Ed Gamble

Another animal?

James Acaster

Maybe another animal, maybe-

Ed Gamble

Slush Pussy?

James Acaster

I can't believe it. The most disgusting thing.

Angela Barnes

Even if I'd thought that, even I wouldn't have said it.

James Acaster

Yes but-



Angela Barnes

And I am a smutty lady.

James Acaster

But he knew you'd like it.

Angela Barnes

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes, big laugh from Angela.

James Acaster

He knows his audience, he knew you'd absolutely love Slush Pussy. There are not many people he'd say that in front of.

Ed Gamble

No, that's true.

James Acaster

Launched right into it.

Ed Gamble

That's true, I didn't say that in front of Sir Lenny Henry.

James Acaster

Yes, yes, that would have played to silence and we would have all felt sad after the episode.

Angela Barnes

Oh dear. I think he'd love a Slush Pussy in a Premier Inn.

Ed Gamble

Slush Pussy at the Premier Inn.

James Acaster

Oh, oh god. I don't know, it's a good James Bond film?

Angela Barnes

I've never seen a James Bond Film.

James Acaster

I don't know, Octopussy's a James Bond film I guess, here's Slush Pussy, I don't know. I'm trying to join in but I'm just trying to make it less graphic.



Angela Barnes

I'm trying to think of a, how about an animal, I was going to try and bring this back.

James Acaster

Trying to soften it up.

Angela Barnes

How about an animal that should be wet like a Slush Duck?

James Acaster

Yes, but if you say an animal that should be wet he's going to say Slush Pussy.

Ed Gamble

Slush Ducky would work?

James Acaster

Slush Ducky, I would handle Slush Ducky and the Ducky can be called Ziggy Peelgood if you want? I think that's even cooler. But like, yes.

Angela Barnes

You can't peel a duck.

James Acaster

You can't peel a duck.

Ed Gamble

You can't peel a duck.

Angela Barnes

You can but only once, they'll put you in prison.

James Acaster

Yes, yes. I think Slush Ducky I would absolutely be fine with.

Angela Barnes

Slush Ducky?

James Acaster

Yes, yes that's way less rank than the Puppy.

Ed Gamble

Or like an Arctic animal I guess like a polar bear?



James Acaster

Yes, but then I don't, Slush Beary, I don't know. I think Slush Ducky it's fun.

Angela Barnes

Yes.

James Acaster

I think Slush Ducky sounds more fun than Slush Puppy as well.

Angela Barnes

We could start a high end slush business.

James Acaster

Yes.

Angela Barnes

Like Slush Duckies, let's do it.

James Acaster

A fancy slush business.

Angela Barnes

Yes.

James Acaster

And take out the Slush Puppy once and for all.

Angela Barnes

It's got to have, it's good profit margins, it's just ice.

James Acaster

Yes.

Angela Barnes

With a little flavour right?

Ed Gamble

Ice and syrup basically isn't it?

Angela Barnes

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.



James Acaster

All you'd really have to do to wipe them off the face of the earth is just up your ratio of syrup because obviously everyone's main complaint about Slush Puppies is you know two slurps and all the flavour's gone and it's just ice. So all you've got to do is shift the balance.

Angela Barnes

Yes you're so right.

James Acaster

You're going to destroy him.

Angela Barnes

Can I say one more thing as well?

James Acaster

Yes.

Angela Barnes

Make your raspberry red please.

James Acaster

Make your raspberry red.

Angela Barnes

Make your raspberry red.

James Acaster

But you don't like red fruits?

Angela Barnes

I like red fruits, I just don't like them with chocolate.

Ed Gamble

Just with the chocolate.

James Acaster

Apologies, I only half listened, I half listened.

Angela Barnes

So that's fine as long as you're not mixing it with chocolate, but I don't want my raspberry blue, why's raspberry blue?

James Acaster

I thought I'd got you there.



Ed Gamble

Yes he's like the worst lawyer in the world.

James Acaster

Your Honour, may I refer back to someone saying they did not like red fruit. What with chocolate? Oh shit.

Angela Barnes

You can't put chocolate in a Slush Puppy.

James Acaster

Okay, sitting down. Yes well fair enough. Oh here's a question then, if raspberries were blue in real life would you have them with chocolate?

Angela Barnes

Ooh now that's, is there any blue fruit? Well blueberries. Would I have blueberries with chocolate? No.

James Acaster

No?

Angela Barnes

No I think I, orange chocolate, I think citrus and chocolate is fine, maybe that is the thing.

James Acaster

Yes.

Angela Barnes

Maybe it needs to be citrus-, but I'm fine with banana and chocolate, but yes I can't, berries, maybe it's berries that are the problem.

Ed Gamble

Is it that you like, when it's mint and orange, there's often not the actual fruit in it, it's essence.

Angela Barnes

It's the essence of, maybe.

Ed Gamble

When it's red fruit it tends to be bits of actual fruit.

Angela Barnes

That could be the problem. Although I think I'd like, would I like, like if you had orange segments and covered them in chocolate.



Ed Gamble

They are good.

Angela Barnes

You might be onto something.

Ed Gamble

They are good though.

Angela Barnes

I would eat that, I think I would eat that, but not.

Ed Gamble

Oh yes.

Angela Barnes

Yes not. Maybe it's berries, I keep saying red fruit, but maybe it's-

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

It's the berries man.

Angela Barnes

The berry that's the problem.

James Acaster

I like it when we help guests out.

Angela Barnes

Yes I feel like I've learnt something about myself here today.

James Acaster

We arrive at your dream dessert, I'm glad that we just had some talks there about sweet things.

Angela Barnes

Yes.

James Acaster

Because I know that we're, I don't have to worry about this.

Ed Gamble

You're on safe ground, we're on safe ground.



Angela Barnes

Okay yes.

James Acaster

I know that Angela's on the right team here.

Angela Barnes

Yes, dessert, I love a dessert and I will always ask for the dessert menu. I have to be really full to not have a dessert. I'll always find room for it because I don't feel like my meal's finished until I've had something sweet. It's just not, if I've not had a dessert I walk away and something's not right, it's, do you know what I mean? I need something sweet. So, but what I have, I really love school dinner puddings.

James Acaster

Okay.

Angela Barnes

So it has to be a school and I want it served in a school dinner, one of those plastic sort of green coloured plate bowls.

James Acaster

Yes.

Angela Barnes

What do you call that? 'Plowls', I want it in one of them.

Ed Gamble

Yes plowls.

Angela Barnes

You know what I mean. You know the plastic plowls, that's just got the mark of a million knife scrapes on it from the, it's been in that school since the sixties, whatever.

James Acaster

Yes.

Angela Barnes

I want it served by a round woman who hates James Oliver.

Ed Gamble

She's always been there.

Angela Barnes



She's always been there, just like the others and she's not okay with healthy eating in schools, she's one of the people who was pushing burgers through the school railings when-

Ed Gamble

Yes perfect.

Angela Barnes

One of them, I want it served by her. And I want, I'm trying to decide. My first choice, I was going to go with gypsy tart which you may or may not know what that is, it's a very Kent thing.

James Acaster

Yes Josie Long had it.

Angela Barnes

Oh did she?

Ed Gamble

As her dream dessert.

Angela Barnes

Oh did she, oh okay, so that has been in the restaurant before?

James Acaster

Yes.

Angela Barnes

Because I thought I might introduce it, but if it's already been introduced then, it is the sweetest substance known to man. It's like, it's brown sugar boiled up with condensed or evaporated milk with sugar on top.

James Acaster

Yes.

Angela Barnes

Very sweet.

Ed Gamble

But condensed or evaporated milk?

Angela Barnes

You can use either.

Ed Gamble



Both works, good to know.

Angela Barnes

Yes, you can use either.

Ed Gamble

Good to know that they can be traded in.

Angela Barnes

Why have you made that mistake in a?

James Acaster

No Ed.

Angela Barnes

What did you try and make Ed?

James Acaster

Ed actually stands by it.

Ed Gamble

I did a cook along with James and his mum.

Angela Barnes

Oh yes.

Ed Gamble

And she was making some bullshit ice cream.

James Acaster

You ungrateful little shit.

Ed Gamble

And she said, you need condensed or I can't remember which one she wanted.

James Acaster

Condensed milk.

Angela Barnes

Condensed milk.

Ed Gamble



Condensed milk and I looked up condensed milk on my Internet shopping service, this was during lockdown, it was the only way I was going to get it really, safely. And it came up with evaporated milk, so I thought must be the same. Got it, this ice cream was absolute crap.

James Acaster

Blamed my mum.

Ed Gamble

I've never, I actually think I did-,

James Acaster

My mum told him, my mum told him, 'Don't use that,' she told him don't use it.

Angela Barnes

Yes so it's not-,

Ed Gamble

It was all I had, what else was I going to use?

James Acaster

He ignored her and used it anyway.

Angela Barnes

It's not Diane's fault, is it? Is it Diane, your mum?

James Acaster

Yes.

Angela Barnes

I think Diane, yes, I did know that. Yes.

James Acaster

Yes it is, but he ignores it and then he still complains.

Ed Gamble

What else was I going to do? I was, like, 'Alright Diane, fine.'

Angela Barnes

Can you condense milk? Like, is there a way you can make your own condensed milk? I don't know, I'm not a cook.

James Acaster

Good question.

Ed Gamble



Well, I had evaporated milk and I made it and I think it was a scientific discovery because it never defrosted.

James Acaster

Still in his house now.

Ed Gamble

It's perpetually frozen, it was amazing.

Angela Barnes

Is it still there?

Ed Gamble

No, no, I had to throw it in the bin. It was horrible, bad recipe. But good, interesting to know that gypsy tart you can use either, so they must be similar things.

Angela Barnes

Apparently you can, yes.

James Acaster

Yes, I guess if we'd done that as a cook along you'd have been okay, but we weren't, we were doing peanut butter slice cream and you fucked it, mate.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Angela Barnes

Have you seen gypsy tart? It's the most beige food ever, it's just beige on beige with a bit of beige.

Ed Gamble

But super sweet, yes?

Angela Barnes

Right, but I'm not going for that.

Ed Gamble

You're not going for that?

Angela Barnes

I'm not going for that. I'm going for, there was a dessert we had at our school that was-, it was chocolate sponge, like hot chocolate sponge. And I've never had a chocolate sponge as good as the one they had at school. It was a big square slab of it and they made this, it was the consistency of custard, but it was mint flavour and it was green.

Ed Gamble



Oh yes.

Angela Barnes

So, it was just, the days when that was on the-, like, you walk into the school hall, 'They've got the chocolate sponge and mint sauce.' They were the best days at school.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Angela Barnes

Because I had, specifically as well, while I'm eating, I thought a bit about the guests I want with me.

James Acaster

Oh yes.

Angela Barnes

While I'm eating, and there are two I want.

Ed Gamble

You don't even have to say.

Angela Barnes

One is.

Ed Gamble

Ziggy Peelgood.

Angela Barnes

Ziggy Peelgood.

Ed Gamble

And the Slush Puppy puppy.

Angela Barnes

And a Slush Duck. I want, you know the stand up comedian Michael Fabbri right who's one of my best friends, he's a brilliant comedian. But going for dinner with Michael, I feel like there should be an Attenborough documentary about it, it should have an Attenborough- What I might say might sound like I'm saying he's disgusting, it's not in any way I just find it fascinating. Because you'll be chatting away waiting for the meal to arrive, the meal will arrive in front of Michael and he is head down in that meal, conversation just stops, mid sentence stops. And he doesn't breathe, like he doesn't stop, doesn't breathe until the plate is empty and then he looks up and carries on where he, and I will have had a bite during that time. I've never known anyone eat so quickly, it's like he can't possibly taste it, but I find it so fascinating. And I say to him, 'Did you taste any of that? Or did any?'

Ed Gamble



Yes, does he not feel ill afterwards? Or, 'Have I done it again? I blacked out there for a second. Where's my food? Why haven't they brought my food yet?'

James Acaster

It's like Moon Knight.

Angela Barnes

But he does eat every meal like it might be his last he's one of, but I just love how it's, so I want him as one of my companions just because it always makes me laugh, I love watching him.

Ed Gamble

Yes, he sounds disgusting.

Angela Barnes

But I want David Attenborough commentating.

Ed Gamble

Yes, obviously, Attenborough should be there.

Angela Barnes

And the other, when my dessert comes, I want you to bring in a dinner lady from my school who one day, so you got to choose your dessert, there's usually two or three desserts to choose from and you picked it up and put it on your tray and sat down. And there was one day when there was a jam tart right? And I love jam tart, pastry with a little dollop of cream in the middle, lovely. And I sat down and when I started eating it it wasn't jam, it was rhubarb and I didn't like rhubarb. And I was expecting jam, it's that thing, I was expecting one thing, got another, find very upsetting.

Ed Gamble

She 'Hestoned' you.

Angela Barnes

And it really upset me and she stood over me until I'd eaten every bit of that. She wouldn't let me go, I was crying, I was gagging and I was like spitting it out. She made me put it back in my mouth, it was like, it was horrible. I've never forgotten that she made me do it, she was horrible. So, I want to eat my dessert while Mrs Hodders sits next to me eating something she hates and I want her to eat every single mouthful and she's not going home until she's done it.

James Acaster

Absolutely, I mean at the start of that I thought oh a lovely dinner lady who Angela used to like.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster



And then by the end I'm like oh.

Ed Gamble

I was like Angela's naming a dinner lady that really inspired her.

James Acaster

Turns out it's the Trunchball.

Angela Barnes

I've just never forgiven her for that.

James Acaster

Yes, yes understandably.

Angela Barnes

Because I always ate all my food, always ate all my dinner. I was never a fussy eater, I used to eat everyone else's cabbage because they didn't like it and I did. I was never that, it wasn't like, 'Oh she never finishes her.' It's this one thing, I'd picked up the wrong thing, she was like, 'You chose it, you eat it.' I remember her saying that.

James Acaster

I can't even imagine being that kind of a person.

Angela Barnes

No.

James Acaster

What's she getting out of that?

Angela Barnes

I know, it was like some kick she's on.

James Acaster

Yes.

Angela Barnes

Some power trip, like she's, I mean maybe her home life was terrible and that was the only place she felt she had any sort of agency, but I've never forgiven her.

James Acaster

Yes, well I tell you what we will absolutely make that happen for you and she'll be eating a bowl of peas and salad cream and she can eat that, the whole thing.

Angela Barnes



Yes.

James Acaster

And see how she likes that. I hate her.

Angela Barnes

I feel, I mean maybe she was, you know she was having a bad day, whatever, but that's stuck with me for 40 years now.

James Acaster

I've had bad days and I don't think I've force fed a child as a result.

Ed Gamble

Worth thinking about if you have though.

James Acaster

Yes, but consolation for you Angela.

Angela Barnes

Yes.

James Acaster

I imagine she'll be long dead.

Angela Barnes

Probably is.

James Acaster

Yes, she's dead in the ground.

Angela Barnes

Yes.

Ed Gamble

But you've brought her back to life.

James Acaster

And if her relatives are listening fuck you. I'll read your menu back to you now, see how you feel about it.

Angela Barnes

Okay.

James Acaster



Sparkling water, poppadums or bread? Toutons?

Angela Barnes

Toutons.

James Acaster

Toutons, toutons, Arizona.

Angela Barnes

Toutons, not wonton, toutons.

Ed Gamble

Two tons of bread. That's a lot of bread for one lady, two tons.

James Acaster

It's the mad rock café, Newfoundland. Newfoundland?

Angela Barnes

Newfoundland.

James Acaster

Starter, I've lost all confidence.

Ed Gamble

Newfoundland.

James Acaster

Deep friend haggis with sauce from city restaurant in Edinburgh. Main course, oh and now I'm fucked, Berliner Leber?

Ed Gamble

Berliner Leber yes.

James Acaster

And cabbage from the German Christmas market. Side dish, deluxe poutine from Ziggy Peelgood's, Newfoundland again and we're going to chuck in a McDonald's apple pie on the side. Drink, husband's chilli margarita and dessert hot chocolate sponge with mint sauce.

Angela Barnes

I'm so excited.

Ed Gamble

Yes it's great.

James Acaster



How long do you think it would take Fabbri to eat that whole menu?

Angela Barnes

About 30 seconds.

James Acaster

30 seconds, disgusting man.

Ed Gamble

Lot of good stuff on that menu, I'm very excited to try that liver one day.

Angela Barnes

It's so good.

James Acaster

Also I'm pretty sure someone else chose that dessert and I can't remember who, but you should, we should add them to the guest list as well when you're having that dessert.

Ed Gamble

Was it Jade?

James Acaster

No Jade tried to choose a different one and got, actually maybe it was Jade mentioned the mint custard.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

So maybe it was Jade and Jade got kicked out, so I think someone's tried to order that dessert, got kicked out.

Angela Barnes

Oh really.

James Acaster

And you have finally got it into the restaurant.

Angela Barnes

Get in.

Ed Gamble

Angela, thank you so much for coming to the dream restaurant.

Angela Barnes



Thank you for having me.

James Acaster

Thank you Angela.

Ed Gamble

Thank you very much to Angela for coming on the podcast, that was a great menu James and great chat.

James Acaster

Great menu, great chat, some great characters, loved obviously Ziggy Peelgood's.

Ed Gamble

Ziggy Peelgood, the Slush Pussy, you know there's so many great characters there.

James Acaster

I prefer the Slush Ducky myself.

Ed Gamble

That could be a great animated series.

James Acaster

Slush Pussy?

Ed Gamble

No Ziggy Peelgood and the Slush Pussy.

James Acaster

I tell you what I'm not going to argue.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

It would be good.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

It would be very, I mean they sound like, you know like a time travelling duo.

Ed Gamble



Yes.

James Acaster

Who maybe, I mean there's got to be a food theme because this is where the chats have come from, so I'd imagine travelling through time to find the very best dishes.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Ziggy Peelgood I'm imagining is sort of.

James Acaster

Looks like a musketeer in my head.

Ed Gamble

He looks like David Bowie in my head.

James Acaster

Okay, mixture of the two?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

You bred them.

Ed Gamble

Perfect.

James Acaster

And there's not, you know they're not a million miles apart.

Ed Gamble

David Bowie, musketeer and the Slush Pussy is half cat, half cup.

James Acaster

Yes, I imagine the Slush Pussy like a cartoon cat that is made of just pure water.

Ed Gamble

Pure slush.

James Acaster

Yes I guess so, yes.

Ed Gamble



Or is he water and he slushes everywhere he goes?

James Acaster

Yes I guess so yes. Oh it's a he now?

Ed Gamble

You said he didn't you?

James Acaster

Only the recording will tell.

Ed Gamble

Right I think.

James Acaster

When we listen back to it.

Ed Gamble

The animal's made of slush, I think gender's irrelevant.

James Acaster

Yes, yes, yes and can go through things, so how it would help Ziggy Peelgood is that the Slush Pussy could just move through the bars of a prison and get Ziggy Peelgood out of a jail cell if he was in there.

Ed Gamble

Yes definitely.

James Acaster

For example.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Could do, just hope down a drain, get something, hop back out again. Ziggy Peelgood always knows that the Slush Pussy's got his back.

Ed Gamble

Yes absolutely.

James Acaster

But definitely I think it's clear that Ziggy Peelgood is in charge.

Ed Gamble



Very much so, the Slush Pussy is a mere side kick.

James Acaster

Yes, yes he works for Ziggy Peelgood and would do what they're told.

Ed Gamble

Angela did not say scallop roe.

James Acaster

Thank you Angela for not saying scallop roe. You know there were some points early on when I was like you know we're in territory here that most people would say they don't like these things you know.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Angela said how much she loves offal, the stuff that gets thrown away.

Ed Gamble

Offal, haggis, all of that sort of business.

James Acaster

You know maybe are we going to have a dish that is purely scallop roe, but didn't even, we didn't go anywhere near that. I don't think we even talked about seafood.

Ed Gamble

We didn't. No, very happy about that as well because Angela's great. She's on tour, go and see her show Hot Mess, check out her website. She also has a podcast called We Are History.

James Acaster

Yes, We Are History, so go and check that out. I mean check out all things Angela Barnes I guess is the message of the show.

Ed Gamble

It certainly is. Thanks very much for listening, we'll see you again soon, bye.

James Acaster

Goodbye.