



Off Menu – Ep 203 – Paul Foot

Ed Gamble

Welcome to the Off Menu podcast, taking the gnocchi of conversation, throwing it into the boiling water of the internet, and waiting for it to bubble up to the top to serve up a nice bowl of podcast gnocchi.

James Acaster

That's Ed Gamble, my name is James Acaster, we own a dream restaurant. Sorry, I had to swallow there.

Ed Gamble

Great, that's all staying in.

James Acaster

Yes. And every week we invite in a guest and we ask them their favourite ever starter, main course, dessert, side dish, and drink, not in that order. And this week, our guest is Paul Foot.

Ed Gamble

Paul Foot, a wonderful comedian, one of my favourite comedians, James.

James Acaster

Yes, I think it's fair to say that our entire generation of comics, inspired by Paul Foot in some way, to some degree, absolutely hilarious.

Ed Gamble

Totally unique.

James Acaster

Yes, always to the beat of his own drum.

Ed Gamble

To the beat of his own drum, not just on stage, off stage as well.

James Acaster

Yes, it's not an act.

Ed Gamble

No, it's not an act, so very excited to speak to Paul Foot, because I genuinely don't know what he's going to say. But I know he likes cooking, and I know he enjoys food.



James Acaster

I do know that. Before I even became a stand-up comedian, I'd watch Paul's YouTube channel, and every now and again he would do a little cook-along, where he would show you how to cook a fish pie and stuff like that.

Ed Gamble

Oh brilliant.

James Acaster

I remember the fish pie especially.

Ed Gamble

This is going to be so much fun. Paul has had an amazing career as a stand-up comic, and we've got a lot of questions for him.

James Acaster

Also, you can see Paul's new tour, Dissolve, get tickets at paulfoot.tv and see all the different places, he'll be coming to a town near you I'm sure.

Ed Gamble

He will, I'm sure.

James Acaster

Also, and we hate to do this, but every single week there is a secret ingredient, if the guest says it, they get kicked out on their ass, because we've deemed it unacceptable. And this week, the secret ingredient is a moist cake.

Ed Gamble

Moist cake. Now this refers to one of Paul's signature stand-up comedy routines.

James Acaster

A fantastic routine about how if you get given a slice of home-made cake, you have to comment on how moist it is to the person who's made it. I once saw him do this routine to a room full of people who were loving it, really laughing, there's one guy in the front who wasn't, and Paul said to him, 'Are you not enjoying my comedy?' And the man was like, 'No, it's not for me.' And then Paul offered him a slice of an invisible moist cake and said, 'Come on, just bite this and join us all.' And the man was like, 'No.' And he was like, 'Just have a bite of the moist cake.' And it was a stand-off for about five minutes, and eventually the man mimed eating the moist cake, and everyone cheered and went crazy for it.

Ed Gamble

Fantastic, that's the sort of thing you get at a Paul Foot show. Paul did a lot of mimes for a while, he invented a new form of mime where he spoke during it, which I have very very fond memories of.



James Acaster

Was that when he was being Penny?

Ed Gamble

No, I think that was post-Penny. The other routine of Paul's to look up is, weirdly he did that show Last Comic Standing in the US, and did very well on it, and he did moist cake on that. And shire horses is the other big routine that you definitely need to look up. But anyway, you can tell we're absolutely giddy fans, so let's get Paul onto the podcast now. This is the Off Menu menu of Paul Foot.

Welcome, Paul, to the dream restaurant.

Paul Foot

Oh, thanks Ed.

James Acaster

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

Paul Foot

Oh hi James, that's funny you appearing there like that. 'Oh hi', That's funny, you just appeared out of nowhere.

James Acaster

Yes, I did, didn't I?

Paul Foot

You didn't appear out of nowhere.

Ed Gamble

No, I've been here all the time.

Paul Foot

You came from behind a door, you've been hiding behind a door. It was a bit weird when you appeared, a bit frightening, in a horrible way. In just a horrible, sort of stalkery way.

Ed Gamble

In a creepy way.

Paul Foot

Yes, in a creepy way. But when you appeared, James, it was more magical. Well it was magical, he just appeared out of nowhere.

James Acaster

It was magical, and lovely, and I'm sorry for what you had to endure with Ed beforehand.



Paul Foot

Yes, well it wasn't just that appearing, it was a lot of things happening in the weeks and months preceding it. Ed has been making various appearances in my life in different places. Sometimes just appearing in old phone boxes. I walk past a phone box and I think, 'I didn't know they had phone boxes any more, what do they use them for? Are they for the internet? What do they have them for?' And then I see, 'Ed Gamble's in there.' And it's a local phone box near my house, there's no reason. But A, no one uses them any more, and why is he there?

James Acaster

What was he doing in the phone box?

Paul Foot

Nothing, that's what was so weird about it.

Ed Gamble

Just standing.

Paul Foot

If it had been something like, I don't know, even if he'd had binoculars or something, like a proper sort of stalkery pervert.

Ed Gamble

Like a grubby one.

Paul Foot

At least that would have given a context. Or even something sexual, I'd have welcomed, because I'd have known what it was.

Ed Gamble

You know what I'm up to.

Paul Foot

You know what it is, you call the police, they know how to deal with it. It is a bona fide offence. But you can't just call the police and say, 'I think I've seen Ed Gamble in an old phone box, not doing anything.'

Ed Gamble

That's not a crime, I was just in the phone box.

James Acaster

Are you worried that when you hit the road, and you go on tour doing your show Dissolve around the UK, that Ed is going to follow you around the UK and pop up at various places?



Paul Foot

Absolutely. In fact, what I tend to do when I get in my car is always check the back seat in case it's one of those scenes from a film when suddenly Ed Gamble comes from behind and says, 'I was here all the time, hiding in the car, I want to speak to you.' And I say, 'I can't speak to you, Ed, there are a number of restraining orders in the county courts as well as in the jurisdiction of California. In various countries, there are restrictions, I can't speak to you. You know what happens, I call the police.' I don't even have to say anything to the police, I've got a code number, I just say to them, 'Code 4739.' And they know.

Ed Gamble

Well, I know the code now, thanks for letting me know the code, Paul.

James Acaster

Oh no. He knows the code.

Paul Foot

Oh dear.

Ed Gamble

Also, I've got all of your tour dates listed here, so I know exactly where you're going to be and when.

Paul Foot

Oh no.

James Acaster

That's concerning, isn't it?

Paul Foot

That is a worry.

James Acaster

It's really played into his hands, this episode.

Ed Gamble

Yes, the beginning of October's going to be great. Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Sheffield, Birmingham, Stafford.

James Acaster

Oh, he's got you.

Paul Foot

Yes, it's a good job that I went to the trouble of learning a false code number for the police, as well as going to the extravagant expense of making a false website that looks like my own website but has different dates always one day behind, so that you will always appear at the theatre one day after I was there, where the police are waiting.



Ed Gamble

Do you worry that's going to damage your sales?

Paul Foot

Well, it will reduce them by one. The ticket will be sold, but there'll be one empty seat in every show. It'll always be there, the Ed Gamble seat. Seat 4E. Four rows back, and five in.

Ed Gamble

That's my seat.

Paul Foot

That's your seat, which you've booked for every single show, but that will always be empty.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Paul Foot

But that's a good thing.

James Acaster

You can look at that seat and feel comforted, I guess.

Paul Foot

Yes. I know that that is the difference between me and death.

James Acaster

That's becoming very apparent that these are the stakes here.

Paul Foot

Yes. I've known it for some time. And by the way, I think it's best that in this podcast, Ed is referred to in the third person at all times. I know that he has plotting against me.

Ed Gamble

Do I need to refer to myself in the third person as well?

James Acaster

Would that make you feel safer?

Paul Foot

Yes, I think that's better. It's like an entity.

Ed Gamble

I'm just an aura, really. Oh, sorry, Ed's just an aura.



James Acaster

Yes, Ed Gamble.

Paul Foot

Ed Gamble, the spirit of Ed Gamble. Which is not a good spirit, not like yours, that genie, that lovely, wonderful genie coming up. Like a fluttery little genie rising, if I may say, with a dash of camp.

James Acaster

Thank you.

Paul Foot

Lovely.

Ed Gamble

I don't think there's any non-camp genies though, to be fair. I think it comes with the territory.

Paul Foot

Well I suppose it does.

James Acaster

Who thinks it?

Ed Gamble

Huh?

James Acaster

Who thinks it comes with the territory?

Ed Gamble

Oh, Ed Gamble thinks it comes with the territory.

James Acaster

Thank you.

Paul Foot

I mean, if you look at genies, particularly in panto, always camp aren't they?

James Acaster

Yes.

Paul Foot

There was one with Christopher Biggins, months of work they did trying to get the campness out of him so he could play the most straight, sort of macho genie ever, and it was just a waste of money. Money



down the drain that ultimately meant that they didn't make a profit. There's solid profits to be made on panto, because they're big sellers, but instead a loss has been made, and the theatre had to close.

James Acaster

I don't expect you will know, but do you happen to know some of the methods they used to try and de-camp Biggins?

Paul Foot

Well, some of the methods, yes. Speaking deep. Speaking deep. Biggins deep. Deep Biggins. And then they'd get him to say things like, 'Urrrgh.' Things like that, and, 'Arrrgh.' Some of the things I can't really say, but the sort of things you'd say in the '70s like, 'Alright? Nice rack on you, love.' So they'd find things, and we ought to put a trigger warning that some 1970s phrases are going to be used in this podcast. But it was things like that, so 1970s phrases, he'd have to say stuff like, 'Alright darling? Want to meet up after work? You got a boyfriend? Doesn't stop us, does it?' Things like that, that's the sort of stuff that Biggins had to say.

Ed Gamble

To de-camp the genie character.

Paul Foot

And it didn't really make much difference.

James Acaster

Didn't work at all, as soon as he got on stage-

Paul Foot

Yes, as soon as he got on stage he was like, 'Ooh hello, Christopher Biggins here, you all know what you've come for. And I know what I've come for as well.' And all of that sort of stuff, all the innuendo, it'll all be out, the innuendo, the campness. And it was supposed to be the most masculine panto ever, that's what they were aiming for.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Very sad, very sad what happened.

Paul Foot

And they wanted no innuendo in that panto.

James Acaster

Big mistake. Shouldn't have hired Biggins. But then he puts bums on seats.



Paul Foot

But then, you know, also another thing that puts bums on seats is a combination of an actor who used to be in Emmerdale ten years ago, as well as other well-known actors like Wendy Craig. It all adds up.

Ed Gamble

Would you do panto, Paul?

Paul Foot

What, being serious? Are we being serious, or are we joking?

James Acaster

Oh it's up to you. We'll follow you.

Paul Foot

It's not the dream, is it?

Ed Gamble

No, it's not the dream, but would you enjoy it, do you think?

Paul Foot

Yes, I mean, I would enjoy it. Because you can enjoy anything, can't you? If I had to do fifteen years hard labour in Siberia-

James Acaster

You'd enjoy that?

Paul Foot

I'd enjoy it.

James Acaster

Do you think so?

Paul Foot

You'd get into it. Just get into the mode, wouldn't you? I'd think, 'Well, I have to accept my life is different now, I'm not longer a stand-up comedian, I'm in Siberia having gone to Russia and said something to-, ' whatever I did. I said an innuendo to Vladimir Putin in the style of Christopher Biggins.

Ed Gamble

You were doing panto in Russia.

Paul Foot

I was doing panto in Russia, yes. I was doing panto in Leningrad. It's not called Leningrad any more is it? Why did that pop out of my mouth? I think I was going back to the '70s, the 1870s. So that was a



mistake. But anyway, the point is, get into it. So, if you have to toil at the coal face of panto, you've got to enjoy it, haven't you?

James Acaster

You've got to enjoy it. So you'd have a good time.

Ed Gamble

You'd accept your lot.

James Acaster

You'd accept that that's your life now.

Paul Foot

Yes, I'd accept that it's my life. But I'd accept that there's more likely of a way back from a life sentence in a Russian kangaroo court sentencing me to life of hard labour in Siberia-, there's more likelihood of getting back into my career from that than there is from appearing in panto. Because let's face it, right up there with being on a cruise ship with the death knell being sounded for one's career.

James Acaster

Yes, that's fair enough. We're going to talk a lot about food today. We already know that you are a foodie, you appreciate fine foods. When I first met you over fifteen years ago, you were definitely in a phase at that point, and maybe it's not stopped, maybe you're still doing it, where you said to me, 'I only ever eat in Michelin star restaurants now.'

Paul Foot

I don't know whether you've misremembered slightly.

James Acaster

That's what you said.

Paul Foot

Perhaps I was trying to impress. There's a truth to that in that you get the good value. The best value, I think, in restaurants is at the top end and at the bottom end. You can get some really cheap thing for £1.70, good value, and you can pay £200 for a really good meal, and it's really good. Where you lose out is on the sort of mid range. The sort of Bella Italias, and the places that are a bit better than the Bella Italias. You could cook it yourself, it's not that good, and it's money down the drain. So yes, therefore, one should eat in the Michelin star restaurants when one can.

Ed Gamble

I would like to see you host a consumer affairs show where you judge whether things are money down the drain or not. Because that as a catchphrase, 'It's money down the drain.' I can see it.



Paul Foot

That would be the name of my show, 'Money down the drain.' And I would look at things that are down the drain, money-wise.

James Acaster

And would it be like Antiques Roadshow where members of the public bring stuff to you, and you decide if it's money down the drain or not? Or are you going to establishments and deciding if what they're selling is money down the drain?

Paul Foot

I'd go to establishments, and there's obvious things. I find it hilarious that people are caught out by things like this. I bought a fridge a few years ago, a fridge, and it cost about £200. Which is what you have to pay for a really quite good fridge. You can really pay a lot of money for a really expensive fridge if you want.

Ed Gamble

One of the big American ones, if you want to do that.

Paul Foot

But it doesn't really make much difference, it's a fridge. So £200 for a fridge, there's not much that could go wrong in a fridge, and it's under warranty for the first two years anyway. And then they try and sell you a thing, 'Would you like peace of mind? It's only £28.99 per year, and if anything happens to your fridge, it'll be replaced.' Does anyone actually just look at that and think, 'What are the chances of the fridge breaking down? Low. What are the chances that I'm going to end up paying a lot more?' It's ridiculous, why do people do it? Madness. This is the sort of thing I'd say in my podcast. Not podcast, it's not a podcast is it? It's a TV show. It got confused, this is a podcast. This is really happening, I forgot that.

Ed Gamble

This is real

Paul Foot

This is real, TV show imaginary.

James Acaster

And if someone did pay £28 a year just in case something happens with their fridge and goes wrong with it, what would that be?

Paul Foot

Well, in the show, they'd sign a thing that if they'd been found to be putting money down the drain, then I'll save some of that money. So I'll say 50% of the money that they're putting down the drain would be saved, and the other 50% goes to me. So I will be siphoning, from people's bank accounts, money. People who have made stupid decisions in the past. Any bad decision, I get half the money.



Ed Gamble

So, in a way, going on the show is also money down the drain?

Paul Foot

Yes, it is. I might say to you, 'You've got an investment.' And you could say, 'It's quite a good investment, I'm getting 7% interest.' And if I found one with a higher interest, I'd say, 'You should've thought about that, higher interest.' So you then get the higher interest, but you pay half the difference to me, you see. For life.

James Acaster

When you get their money down the drain, when that gets siphoned to you, do you have to pay tax on that, or is that tax-free?

Paul Foot

Tax-free.

James Acaster

Good.

Paul Foot

Because, well, it is, isn't it? Because it's not earnings, is it? It's just money I'm siphoning off. It's a gift. My accountant, I said, 'How does it work with the tax situation with certain things?' 'Earnings, tax at this rate, blah blah blah, dividends, tax at this rate.' Siphoning? You don't. Has anyone ever paid tax on siphoning?

James Acaster

No, never.

Paul Foot

Another thing you can do with the siphoning, is you can siphon money out. You might have too much money, 'It's a bit of a problem, I've got too much money here, it's causing a problem because the capital gains tax situation, big worry.' Siphon it out into the Cayman Islands. So it can be siphoned-, that's siphoned off.

Ed Gamble

Yes, that's siphoned off, not siphoned out.

Paul Foot

Yes, siphoned out is when it comes out of their bank account into me. And then that is then, ironically, siphoned off into other accounts around the world.

James Acaster

And then that gets siphoned up?



Paul Foot

Yes, that gets siphoned up into property portfolio. Because I would like to be wealthy enough that I don't have a house, or even second home, or even three homes. A portfolio. That's what I want to have, a portfolio. So you don't even really know what's in it, you've got a portfolio. 'Oh, I'm going to Hong Kong next week. Shall I stay in a hotel? I think I might have somewhere in Hong Kong, let me check my portfolio. Yes, I've got somewhere in Hong Kong, I can stay there. Although the portfolio says someone's in there at the moment, I'll stay in a hotel, never mind.'

Ed Gamble

So you always end up in a hotel anyway?

Paul Foot

You always stay in a hotel.

James Acaster

In your fantasy.

Paul Foot

Yes, in the fantasy. But then I might think, 'Well, I need to expand the portfolio in certain areas, certain markets.'

James Acaster

Would you ever like your property portfolio to include hotels? Because then you've got yourself covered there if you buy a hotel and you own hotels.

Paul Foot

Yes, I'd like to own a hotel.

James Acaster

And then you've got a room whenever you want.

Paul Foot

I stayed in a hotel in Melbourne earlier in the year. It wasn't my hotel, I want to point out before I start the story. It wasn't mine, but I knew someone who knew the owner of the hotel. Best room in the hotel, wasn't it? All people at reception saying, 'If there's anything you want, anything at all, just let us know.' I mean, that's just, imagine if that was my hotel.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

I think they do say that to everyone though in hotels, right?



Paul Foot

Oh, do they?

James Acaster

Oh yes.

Paul Foot

I don't know, I've never stayed in a hotel. I don't stay in hotels often because I'm normally just in one of my portfolio places. I'm not familiar with it. I didn't know that. I thought it was some special treatment I was getting. That's disappointing. I didn't know they said that to everyone.

James Acaster

Yes, they offer to help anyone out. Was it the Adina in Melbourne?

Paul Foot

It was not the Adina, it was the, I've forgotten what it was now. The Mantra.

Ed Gamble

The Mantra.

Paul Foot

The Mantra.

Ed Gamble

I was there too, the Mantra on Russell.

James Acaster

Were you?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Did they offer to help you or did they just tell you to go fuck yourself?

Ed Gamble

Yes, they said, 'Sorry are you Paul Foot?' I said, 'No,' they said, 'We can't get you anything.'

James Acaster

I mean, I'm surprised that you were able to stay in the same hotel as Paul since your history with him.

Ed Gamble

What do you mean?



James Acaster

Stalking him all the time, following him around the country in phone boxes.

Ed Gamble

Well, he didn't know I was there.

James Acaster

And you followed him to Melbourne now and stayed in the same hotel as him.

Paul Foot

It wasn't the same hotel, you made a big mistake, you wasted your money. It was in Epping.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Oh, different one.

Paul Foot

Yes, different one. Near the airport.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I wondered why I couldn't see you.

James Acaster

That's the greatest trick ever.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

We always start with still or sparkling water, Paul.

Paul Foot

Oh yes. Well, I think still water, and there's a reason for that which sounds ridiculous. Where I am in good health.

James Acaster

Congratulations.

Paul Foot

But I have one weird thing about me, which is not really a health thing, and I only really realised eight months ago. But I used to, if I had, like, sparkling water or anything sparkling like sparkling cherry cola and things like that, then I would go all bloated inside. And then if I had, like, all rich food, I would have



to go to the, like, loo and it would have to release it in a really violent way that sounded like I was being sick. One time I was at the Dorchester Hotel having one of those Michelin Star meals we talked about. And then I said, 'Can you show me where the loo is please?' It's all very polite. 'Oh, it's this way please, thank you so much sir,' and all that stuff. Then I went in and there were, like, some really rich people in the loo, it was the Dorchester, and I just went, 'Ahhh' or like vomiting sound, but it's like a vomit sound. But it isn't, but it's like all the gas coming out all violently. Anyway, and I couldn't work out what it was, and I thought it was because I'm swallowing air as I'm eating, eating too quickly and, kind of, air's going in. Anyway, then suddenly, I was having a conversation with a friend a few months ago, and he said something about, 'Oh I just did a little burp there.' And then I said, 'What is burp?'

James Acaster

What?

Paul Foot

I said, 'What is burp?' Because I didn't really know what burp was. I didn't know. I'd heard the word but I didn't know what burp was, you see. And then I discovered that you can burp either loudly, like little burp noise, or silently but the point is, I realised that never in my whole life have I ever burped, ever. I've never burped. I didn't know what it was. So, I've been training myself in burping because I looked it up online and it's quite rare what I've got. It's quite rare but you can have it done by under general anaesthetic, you have to have Botox injected into your, sort of, like, down in the mouth.

James Acaster

In your throat.

Paul Foot

Down in the throat, that bit, yes.

James Acaster

To help you burp.

Paul Foot

To help you because it opens it up and then you can burp after that. But I was trying to do training because I saw an internet video of a man trying to do a burp and one time after brushing my teeth, I managed to get my mouth all full of toothpaste and I managed to do a belch. And I have been able to, more recently, do like release all the gas in, like, a vomity way, but less loudly than before. Like, I'd be on aeroplanes and the cabin crew would say, 'Are you alright? What's going on?'

James Acaster

Yes.

Paul Foot

But anyway.



Ed Gamble

So, the problem is that you're getting all that gas in there but you have no way of releasing it other than this weird vomit sound?

Paul Foot

I can't release it other than the weird vomit sound. But then strangely enough, two weeks ago, and I hadn't even eaten or anything, I've been doing all this training you see, and then I was just changing a record on my record player and suddenly I did a burp. And that's the first one in my whole life. But I haven't done one since. That was about three weeks ago. But there's maybe a hope that I-, and then the next step would be another burp. And then the next step after that would be a silent burp, which is like, that's like a real pipe dream to me at the moment. Like, I'm more likely to be in panto with Christopher Biggins than that. Not that I want to.

James Acaster

No, you don't want to do that.

Paul Foot

I don't want to do that, it's unlikely, but it's still, so anyway, so that's why, for that reason, I would have the still water, because the last thing I need is more bubbles inside me because of that thing. It's got a fancy name for it.

James Acaster

Really, not being able to burp.

Paul Foot

Yes. And you can have it done but you have to have it done privately and it costs about £4,000 or something but what concerns me is that, you know, it's privately and you've got to find someone who knows what they're doing. It's not like the NHS, when, with the NHS, you can have something done on the NHS for free and if it goes wrong you can then just live with it for the rest of your life, but tell everyone and just say, 'You know, the NHS, they let me down. There's been so many cuts. So many cuts in the NHS it's a disgrace, it's been run into the ground. I went for a routine operation on my hip, I've been in agony ever since. I had a routine operation to check something to do with my gall bladder. I've been incontinent ever since and I can't have sex any more. It's a disgrace. That's what's happened to the NHS. And after it, they paid me just £15,000 compensation, it's not much is it? Considering I've lost my sex life. I've lost my sex drive and I've lost my ability to-, ' you know, all that stuff. So you know, if it's private, you know, you can't do that.

James Acaster

No.

Ed Gamble

No



Paul Foot

So, it's best to make sure they know what they're doing.

James Acaster

Yes, yes.

Paul Foot

So, that's why I thought, why don't I just train myself to do it? It must be possible.

James Acaster

I mean, if you've done it when you were changing the record on your record player, that's a good start.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Maybe you remember what the album was you were listening to, the music, maybe that helps.

Ed Gamble

Maybe it relaxed you.

James Acaster

Vivaldi was it?

Paul Foot

Certainly not. No, it was JS Bach. I wouldn't have been listening to Vivaldi. Talk about second rate. I can't believe you just said that. That's like the most insulting you can say. The idea that I listen to Vivaldi in my own home. In my private sanctuary, when I've finally got into my own home, done a complete sweep of the whole house, checked that Ed Gamble isn't there anywhere in the home and I can just relax. The idea I'm going to put Vivaldi on and then burp, it's insulting.

James Acaster

I apologise.

Ed Gamble

Can't believe you said that, man.

James Acaster

I apologise.

Paul Foot

That's alright James.



James Acaster

I do apologise.

Paul Foot

I know you didn't mean it.

James Acaster

I didn't mean it.

Paul Foot

Deep down I like you.

James Acaster

Yes. Poppadoms or bread? Poppadoms or bread, Paul Foot? Poppadoms or bread?

Paul Foot

Poppadoms or bread? Poppadoms.

James Acaster

Lovely.

Paul Foot

Yes, they're nice aren't they?

James Acaster

They are nice. They're very nice.

Paul Foot

I mean, it's not going to fit in with my meal I don't think, because it's not, I don't think I'm going to have an Indian meal particularly but it's nice isn't it?

James Acaster

Yes, yes.

Paul Foot

It's the best isn't it, poppadoms?

James Acaster

Yes.

Paul Foot

With all the little pickles.



James Acaster

Yes.

Paul Foot

The little pickles and there's always one that no one likes. The onion.

James Acaster

Yes, people often disregard the onion.

Paul Foot

The chopped onion bit. I like the chopped onion one.

Ed Gamble

Well that's because you can't burp, so you never have to experience the onion burp.

Paul Foot

Oh no, I've never had that.

James Acaster

They don't repeat on you.

Paul Foot

Do they? I didn't know.

James Acaster

Yes, you done have to taste it again as it belches out your mouth.

Ed Gamble

Because when you burp, which is what you're training yourself to do, if you've had onion, you then get the taste of onion in the burp.

Paul Foot

Oh but when I do the little vommy thing, you definitely have the taste then. It's real bad. I mean, that's like concentrated onion. It's like 1,000 French onion soups. So, forget about your little onion burp thing, this is like concentrated onion trauma. This is like 25 years in Siberia, hard onion. You know, it's just cutting onions for 25 years.

James Acaster

Yes, and then you have it all with that belch.

Ed Gamble

You know how you say you can enjoy anything, does that go for the weird vomit sound?



Paul Foot

Yes, one has to enjoy every part of one's life doesn't one? If one can. You know, it's all part of life.

James Acaster

Yes. It's all part of life.

Paul Foot

Yes, so I make the best of it. It's one of the things that's going to happen in my life.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Paul Foot

So yes. If you think about it, I may be on the way to being cured but even if there's say another 50 vomit moments in my life before the curing I've learnt how to do the burping, that's still 50, I mean, that's about as long as this podcast. So, you know, I might as well enjoy it. The whole length of this podcast is just vomiting. Which in many ways, you know, is probably the reaction of some guests, I suppose, after the show.

Ed Gamble

It's been said before.

James Acaster

A few of them have been sick.

Paul Foot

Sort of doubled up.

James Acaster

Yes.

Paul Foot

But sort of thinking, 'What did I do that podcast for?' You know, but then vomiting repeatedly thinking about the podcast but also checking the time to make sure that the vomiting, in some way, I don't know why it makes a difference, but that it outlasts the length of the podcast. If the vomiting is longer than the podcast then you think, 'Yes, okay, that's gone now, it's over.' Somehow in some sort of spiritual way it's just exorcised.

Ed Gamble

It cancels it out.

Paul Foot

Cancels it out.



James Acaster

Yes. So, do you want all the dips with your poppadoms?

Paul Foot

Oh yes, please.

James Acaster

You want all of them?

Paul Foot

Yes, that one, the mango-ey one, I like the sweet one.

James Acaster

Mango chutney.

Paul Foot

Yes, and the one that's sort of, the very hot one.

James Acaster

Yes.

Paul Foot

Yes, want that one.

James Acaster

The lime pickle.

Paul Foot

The lime pickle.

James Acaster

And the onions.

Paul Foot

And there's a fourth one that I can't remember what it is now.

Ed Gamble

It's like the raita, the yoghurt one.

Paul Foot

Oh the yoghurt one, yes, a bit of the yoghurt one.



James Acaster

Do you want to invent a dip as well? Invent your own poppadom dip, a brand new one, a Paul Foot special?

Paul Foot

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes.

Paul Foot

I really like cherry cola.

James Acaster

Yes.

Paul Foot

I mean, I say that I don't know why I say that because I only probably have it maybe every four years. But like, every four years I have, like, a craving and it's overwhelming. It can come on quite quickly. It can come on within fifteen minutes and I've gone from just normal life to just massive craving for cherry cola. It happens about every four years to the extent that I would go into shops and just, 'Have you got cherry cola?' You know, and then I have a bit of cherry cola and I just, the craving's gone.

James Acaster

Yes.

Paul Foot

For four years.

James Acaster

That's nice.

Paul Foot

So, yes, I'd have that flavour.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Dip. The cherry cola dip.

Paul Foot

In a cherry cola on my poppadoms.



James Acaster

So, do you want actual, just like a little saucer of cherry cola, or do you want a sauce that has the consistency of, like, mayonnaise but that is cherry cola flavour?

Paul Foot

Yes, I think I want to do something a bit more Heston Blumenthal. I want something that tastes of cherry cola but looks quite different. I would like the sauce to look like crushed up bits of old poppadom. It looks like bits of old poppadom but it's actually much softer. It looks hard but it isn't, it's soft. And it's got cherry cola flavour.

Ed Gamble

It tastes like cherry cola, yes. That's going to blow people's minds.

James Acaster

Yes, that will actually.

Paul Foot

And it's got vitamins as well so you don't have to bother eating for the rest of the day because it's got all the vitamins.

James Acaster

That you'd need for a day.

Paul Foot

For a day yes, the whole day's vitamins.

James Acaster

Yes, that's good.

Paul Foot

All of that. And it's got protein and everything that you need.

Ed Gamble

It's a complete meal, really.

Paul Foot

Do you know, I only discovered recently, that's another, you know, and don't know whether you've had the same thing either of you but when there's things that you just, you get to quite an age, like, I'm nearly 50 and then there's things you just didn't know. Like I didn't know what was burp, for example. And then there's other things, like, it was only when I was about 48 that I found out what a canyon was. I didn't know what a canyon was, had no idea, and then people say, 'I've gone to the Grand Canyon.' And I didn't really, I'd just sort of say, 'Oh that's nice, must be lovely to see it,' and then change the subject. Because I didn't know what a canyon was. I didn't know what that word was.



James Acaster

You didn't know what the Grand Canyon was your whole, until you were 48?

Paul Foot

No, I'd heard of it, I knew it was near Las Vegas, but I didn't know what it was. I didn't know what a canyon was.

James Acaster

You'd never seen a photo of it?

Paul Foot

No. I didn't know what the word meant and I'd never looked it up. I don't know why, I just never looked it up. I always thought, 'I must look it up.' Like, someone would say something about a canyon and I'd think, 'I must look that up so I don't appear foolish next time.' But then I would just forget about it and then I'd suddenly be like a nightmare into a conversation with someone, 'We just got back from a family holiday. We went in a helicopter, flew over the Grand Canyon.' And I'd think, 'Oh no, it's happening again.' And I'd think, 'I'm 47 years old, I can't tell them I don't know what a canyon is.'

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

I guess, canyons aren't coming up that often though, right? So, you think, 'Oh I should look that up,' and then it's so long until someone brings up canyons again there was no point.

Paul Foot

Yes, it's about every four or five months on average. On average.

James Acaster

That you meet someone who's either going to or coming back from the Grand Canyon?

Paul Foot

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Or just brings it up, yes.

Paul Foot

An average, healthy, sexually active adult. The sexually active wasn't really relevant there. But, you know, every four, five months you'll hear the word canyon. And probably less often than that, maybe once every ten months be involved in a conversation about a canyon, where you really have to then, sort of, add something to the conversation. Say yes, 'I really know what you mean there, yes. Yes, Grand Canyon yes, I get your meaning there, I know what they say about that, yes, yes.' Actually this, what I'm doing now, that's actually some of the training that Christopher Biggins had to do. 'Yes, yes, I



know about canyons.' That was some of his training, he used to do that. 'Yes, I know about canyons, yes tell me about it, yes.'

Ed Gamble

I think Paul, if I didn't know about something and someone brought it up and I wanted to disguise the fact I didn't know about it, I wouldn't use the phrase of, 'I get your meaning there.' Because that is opening up a whole world of issues.

James Acaster

If someone said to me, 'Yes, yes, canyons, I know all about that.' That's when I'd be suspicious.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Paul Foot

Yes, you would be, yes.

James Acaster

You still haven't told us what a canyon is though, during all of this. You're saying that you know what it is now.

Paul Foot

I think I know what it is. It's like a big, kind of, valley.

James Acaster

Yes, yes.

Paul Foot

But I didn't know that.

James Acaster

No.

Paul Foot

I'd no idea what it was. I did not know that the Grand Canyon went down into the ground. I didn't know what it was.

James Acaster

What did you imagine when people did say it? Was it just a blank slate in your mind or did you imagine something?

Paul Foot

I half thought maybe is it some sort of mountain? But then that didn't seem to make sense because people said, 'Oh we flew over it.' And you thought, well why would you fly up over a mountain? So then



I thought maybe it's just some sort of thing with, like a big lake and there's trees around it or something and it's kind of pretty and maybe it reflects the sunlight in a particular way and people say, 'Wow, what a canyon. The light the way it's reflecting off that lake. It's a particular type of lake that reflects the light in a particular sort of way. It's called a canyon.' That's kind of what I thought it was.

James Acaster

A lake that reflects light in a certain type of way?

Paul Foot

Yes, either that or some sort of docking site. I didn't know. Something like that. I didn't really know, you know, I was guessing.

James Acaster

Is there anything nowadays that you're pretending to know about that you don't know about that you want to share on the podcast?

Ed Gamble

Because yes, we can talk about it.

Paul Foot

Yes I think there was. I think I brought this up because I was going to say something that I didn't know, with reference to what we were talking about on the podcast but I've completely lost my thread now of what it was we were saying.

James Acaster

It was poppadoms and the sauce that you've got.

Paul Foot

Yes, and you were saying something about did I want a cherry cola, I can't remember what it was.

James Acaster

Did you want it in a dish or did you want the sauce to just taste of cherry cola, to be like mayonnaise that was-, do you not know what mayonnaise is, is that what-,

Paul Foot

Yes, I knew what mayonnaise was. There was something else I didn't know, something obvious. Oh, I tell you what it was. It was I said about vitamins and you said about protein, Ed.

Ed Gamble

I think you said protein.

Paul Foot

Or I said protein. But that was something I only discovered like a year ago. I didn't know that protein is like food, like you can eat. I thought that food was only carbohydrates. Carbohydrates is what gives you



energy, so you need carbohydrates like potatoes and things, it gives you energy. And I thought protein, like eggs or what else, milk and things like that.

Ed Gamble

Chicken.

Paul Foot

Chicken. Doesn't give you energy. It's just I thought if you eat chicken or eggs or stuff you'll have no energy, because you can't get energy out of it, it just, like, helps your bones. You need it for your bones because otherwise your bones will just break. But I didn't know that it's energy. I had no idea that you could eat protein and that is food that gives you energy.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

I think that one is more, because you're getting into the weird, sort of, scientifically there, I think that's more understandable and acceptable than not knowing what a canyon is until you're 48.

Paul Foot

You think that's more-,

Ed Gamble

Yes, I think the protein thing's fine, I think that's alright.

Paul Foot

Well, that's why I said the canyon thing first, to sort of soften you up.

Ed Gamble

Yes, it's worked.

Paul Foot

So that when I said it, you weren't so shocked about the fact. I knew that if I'd gone straight in with protein, you'd have been all over that, Ed, going on about it. I know what you're like when you get on your high horse. And you'd have been going, 'How could you not know? It's one of the foods,' you know.

James Acaster

You'd have been torn limb from limb.

Paul Foot

Yes, I would've been.

Ed Gamble



Yes.

Paul Foot

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes.

Paul Foot

But by, sort of, tricking you with the canyon thing, which kind of wrong-footed you, and then pretending that I'd forgotten what I was saying earlier, I tricked you. I tricked you.

Ed Gamble

You tricked Ed Gamble.

Paul Foot

I tricked Ed Gamble. Not for the first time. Always having to be on the move. Always making phone calls to hotels but actually it's another hotel. You think you know which hotel I'm going to but it isn't that one.

Ed Gamble

That's how you do it.

Paul Foot

Yes. Fake property portfolios left around on the desk. You look in there think, 'Oh I'll go there it's one of Paul's, one of his portfolio.' It's not. It's fake information.

James Acaster

Your dream starter, Paul Foot.

Paul Foot

Yes. Oh yes. Yes. Dream starter. I thought soup because I just think soup is so nice, isn't it? Because you get the flavour of what the soup is, but without having to actually eat whatever the thing is. Just get the flavour. And it's so easy. You just spoon it in, there's no eating involved, there's no chewing. Flavour. In it goes. Flavour, flavour, flavour.

James Acaster

Yes, do you not like chewing?

Paul Foot

Well, I mean, I don't mind it. It's alright, but it's just if I'm going to have this dream meal, why not make parts of it easier for me?

James Acaster



Yes absolutely.

Paul Foot

Just shove it in.

James Acaster

Yes, makes sense.

Paul Foot

So, I want soup.

James Acaster

What flavour soup?

Paul Foot

Well, again, I thought of mushroom because I love mushroom soup, it's my favourite. Or pea, love a bit of pea. But then I thought, 'What about quail?' Because I like quail but it's a bit fiddly to eat, isn't it? There's quite a lot of flavour of quail, but it's fiddle, fiddle, fiddle. Fiddling around with that quail, you know. And then I thought, 'What about quail and champagne?' Because then I wouldn't even have to bother. I could have champagne with it but wouldn't have to even bother with having a glass of champagne, it would all be there.

Ed Gamble

It would all be in the soup.

Paul Foot

In the soup.

James Acaster

So you want quail and champagne soup?

Paul Foot

Yes.

James Acaster

Lovely.

Paul Foot

Because I also think like, you know when you're having a meal and they say, 'This wine goes with the food.' I never quite know when, like, they say you should take a mouthful of the food and then have a bit of the wine, 'Yes, it goes with it.' But do you have to, like-, if you get some of the food in your mouth do you have to then get the wine in as well all together and then, sort of, chew it to get all the flavours together, or can you have the food and swallow that then get the wine in but it has to be really fresh in. 'You've got a bit of a flavour of the chicken and the pesto sauce, get the wine in, get the wine in



because it pairs well.' 'This particular wine, sir, it goes very well with the pesto. The notes of grapefruit really complement the pesto. So, you've still got the pesto flavour, get the wine in.'

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Paul Foot

Or what? So, are you allowed to just sometimes have a mouthful of food and not have the wine?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Paul Foot

Are you allowed to just have a mouthful of the wine? It's difficult to know and I just think, wouldn't it be easier if they just get the food and the wine and just blend it together.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Paul Foot

Because they go together and that's why I had the idea to just shove it all together in a soup.

James Acaster

Yes.

Paul Foot

Quail and champagne soup.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Is the champagne still fizzy when it's in the soup?

Paul Foot

Well, I hope so.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Paul Foot

Yes, I'd like it to be.

James Acaster



You want it to retain the fizz.

Paul Foot

Yes, in fact, why not make it into an aspic. Make it into like a jelly, jelly soup and then you could have the bubbles in, couldn't you?

James Acaster

Aren't you rolling the dice a little bit if you have anything fizzy that's got bubbles in it?

Paul Foot

Oh yes, you're right, yes.

James Acaster

Because you might have to do them with the screams.

Paul Foot

Yes, no, until I've done the training you're right. So, in that case I will have the champagne flattened prior to-, I want the flavour of quail and flat champagne.

Ed Gamble

Yes, quail and flat champagne.

James Acaster

In an aspic still?

Paul Foot

In an aspic.

Ed Gamble

So, is it all jelly all the way through?

Paul Foot

It's jelly, yes.

Ed Gamble

So jelly soup.

Paul Foot

It's a jelly soup.

Ed Gamble

So, it's jelly?

Paul Foot



It's soup that's been jellied.

Ed Gamble

Yes, it's jelly.

Paul Foot

Yes, jelly. It's a savoury jelly.

James Acaster

Yes, and you're just going to slurp that and not chew it because you don't want to chew it.

Paul Foot

Yes, you don't have to chew jelly.

James Acaster

No.

Paul Foot

You can swallow jelly whole but it doesn't matter because it just dissolves inside your tummy, doesn't it?

James Acaster

Yes.

Paul Foot

It's the only thing you can, apart from mashed potato, you can have mashed potato, just swallow it down. I can't think of anything else you can just swallow down without chewing it that's solid.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes, it's a good question.

Ed Gamble

I guess, mainly purées.

Paul Foot

Any purée or any jelly.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Paul Foot



Or aspic.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Or aspic.

Paul Foot

I like the word aspic.

James Acaster

Yes.

Paul Foot

It sounds sophisticated, doesn't it?

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

I think it sounds like cleaning products.

Paul Foot

Oh, you're thinking of asbestos.

Ed Gamble

And Harpic.

Paul Foot

Yes, and Harpic, which together make an awesome combination. A little bit of asbestos from a condemned building with a bit of Harpic, put it around your loo and you're not going to be worrying about toilet stains in the toilet bowl for long because you'll be dead from asbestos, you know, that thing you get from asbestos, you'll be dead quite soon.

James Acaster

That's literally money down the drain, isn't it? If you do that to yourself.

Paul Foot

Well, if it's, well, it depends how much it costs. You say literally money down the drain but how much does it cost to get asbestos? You could get it for-, People will pay you to take it away, to be honest. So, it's actually the opposite of money down the drain. It's actually-,

Ed Gamble



A good investment.

Paul Foot

It's actually your life down the drain and money for your children or other beneficiaries to your will. Make sure you make a will before doing that cleaning because you will be dead shortly.

James Acaster

You will be dead.

Paul Foot

You'll be dead, yes.

James Acaster

What's that setting us up for? What's your dream main course?

Paul Foot

I thought, fillet steak. I love fillet steak and I don't like the other steaks. You know when people say, 'I prefer, I prefer sirloin. The little bit of the fat in it gives it the flavour. Have you tried rib-eye? I know you say you don't like T-Bone but try this, it's exceptional.' It's not exceptional, they're just awful. They're all gristle, aren't they? You can't-, it's all gristle, all those other ones, rump and all those ones. Terrible.

Ed Gamble

I disagree with you, Paul, but that little character you did there was like an impression of me.

Paul Foot

That's what you like. You like the, 'Oh, it's marbling.'

Ed Gamble

I like rib-eye.

Paul Foot

'It's got the marbling. It gives it the flavour. It all dissolves away when you cook it.' It doesn't dissolve away when you-, it's all chewy. Like, when I was a child, I used to hate meat because it was always-, I'd sit there at the table and it was all going round and round in my mouth and it was all chewy and I couldn't get rid of it and then I'd have to go to the toilet and, like, flush it down when no one was looking.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Paul Foot

So, it was just awful.

James Acaster



Where would you keep it between? Would you have it in your mouth when you went to the toilet and then spit it out?

Paul Foot

Yes, I had it in my mouth and then I'd have to, sort of, make excuses of, 'Oh, I'll just-', you know, but they knew. It was all in my cheeks, all that gristle, gristle, and also, when I say gristle, I do mean fat. I do always just call anything that isn't purely meat gristle. I've always done that.

James Acaster

Yes, why?

Paul Foot

I don't know because it's just awful, isn't it? You know, like, when I go to my local butcher, sometimes I get like a chicken breast and I say, 'There's gristle,' it's not really gristle it's just a bit of fat on it. Then sometimes, like, another butcher has to come over and they say, 'It's alright, we know what to do with Paul.' They know they have to get rid of every single tiny bit of fat off of it because it's just awful.

James Acaster

You hate it?

Paul Foot

Hate it. The only time I don't hate it is, like, I had it to the other day, I hadn't tried it before but I had wagyu beef and I don't think that was fillet but it was all, it was quite fatty.

Ed Gamble

There's a lot of marbling in that.

Paul Foot

A lot of marbling but it was like proper marbling not like from your cheap old Aldi sirloin steak thing that you eat and pretend that you're satisfied with. This was like proper wagyu, it's all, like, been massaged they've massaged a lovely little cow and everything and it's just, it was like chopping into a beef burger it was so soft and it was just pure meat with the fat all marbled through it. That was nice.

James Acaster

Yes.

Paul Foot

But even better, wagyu fillet steak and then not only do you have the tenderness of the wagyu, no gristle at all.

James Acaster

So, you would like a wagyu fillet steak?

Paul Foot



Yes, wagyu fillet steak.

James Acaster

That would be your dream?

Paul Foot

Yes.

James Acaster

You might be the first person-, have we had wagyu before?

Ed Gamble

Maybe, we've chatted about it before.

James Acaster

We've chatted about it.

Ed Gamble

But I don't think anyone's picked it specifically. How do you like that cooked, Paul? To what temperature?

Paul Foot

Quite rare.

James Acaster

Yes.

Paul Foot

Yes, rare.

James Acaster

What do you think of people who have, like, well done?

Paul Foot

Oh, it's appalling, isn't it?

James Acaster

Yes.

Paul Foot

I mean, obviously, I don't want to sit here and tell people how to live their lives, but you know, what sort of person would, 'Oh, I like it well done.' You know, it's pathetic, isn't it? 'Can I have it medium, well done?' They're the even worse people. Medium to well done. I mean, just admit what you want. You want it well done, just say that. Don't try and sound sophisticated by saying, 'Medium, well done,' just



say, 'I don't appreciate the meat, I want it cooked to a cinder until it's gone all dry because I'm British and it's the only way I've ever had it. I can't possibly like the idea of any blood coming out,' and just say, 'Well done,' have it like that.

James Acaster

Yes, well said.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Paul Foot

In fact, I like to go to, because if you go to a restaurant, especially British ones, they always cook a bit more. Like, if you say, 'Medium rare,' they'll always do it medium and so on because they're just too, sort of, scared to serve anything with any blood. So, I like to say, 'Could I have it really, really well done until it's actually dried out and ruined? Because that's how you were going to do anyway, wasn't it?' That's what I like to say.

James Acaster

That shows them. I imagine the answer is no to this but would you like any sauce? Sometimes people like a sauce on their steak. Peppercorn sauce or something?

Paul Foot

Yes, I like a sauce.

James Acaster

Oh, you do?

Paul Foot

Well, this is similar to the soup really, isn't it? Because I can have any flavour I want.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes.

Paul Foot

You know, so I could have peppercorn.

James Acaster

Yes.

Paul Foot



But I could have anything.

James Acaster

Yes.

Paul Foot

Cherry Cola.

James Acaster

You could have Cherry Cola again.

Paul Foot

Could have Cherry Cola sauce, couldn't I?

James Acaster

Sometimes people, you know, cook meat in Cola, don't they?

Ed Gamble

Yes, and Cola goes into barbecue sauce sometimes. So, I actually think that would work as a sauce.

Paul Foot

Yes, but I've had a better idea.

Ed Gamble

Oh.

James Acaster

Yes, yes.

Paul Foot

Poppadom sauce. No one is expecting that are they?

James Acaster

No.

Paul Foot

It looks like Cherry Cola but it tastes of poppadom.

James Acaster

Also, bread sauce is a thing. So, therefore, why not have poppadom sauce. You know, like, why doesn't that exist in the world already? You know?

Paul Foot



Yes, why doesn't it?

James Acaster

Yes, so, I think you've done a good thing there.

Paul Foot

Yes, I've invented something.

James Acaster

Yes, you've invented something properly.

Ed Gamble

Poppadom sauce that looks like Cherry Cola.

Paul Foot

Well, I haven't invented that. I've invented poppadom sauce, I have no idea how to make it look like Cherry Cola. That's beyond my abilities, I'd have to get, like, Heston Blumenthal for that.

Ed Gamble

Well, the genie can do that.

James Acaster

I can do that for you.

Paul Foot

Oh, can you?

James Acaster

I can make anything you want. If you want it to look like Cherry Cola but taste like poppadom sauce, done.

Paul Foot

Yes, I'd like that.

James Acaster

Yes, you can have that on your steak, on your fillet wagyu.

Paul Foot

Fillet wagyu, yes. No gristle.

James Acaster

There'll be no gristle, I promise. We know how to deal with Paul.

Paul Foot



I tell you what I could do, this is just a silly idea, I could have-, I mean, I don't think you want silly ideas really, do you?

James Acaster

We're talking about poppadom sauce that looks like Cherry Cola. So, I think we're okay with whatever you're about to say.

Paul Foot

I could have a sauce that tasted of gristle. See what's it's like because I've never eaten gristle because whenever I've tried to eat some gristle-, some people just eat gristle, don't they? You see them, 'Oh, lovely,' like that fat all round a bit of ham.

James Acaster

They eat fat, they don't eat actual gristle but they eat fat, yes, that you call gristle.

Ed Gamble

It's getting confusing because you seem to call everything gristle.

Paul Foot

It's gristle.

Ed Gamble

What do you think about-,

Paul Foot

I call you gristle.

Ed Gamble

Yes, you do actually.

Paul Foot

That's my affectionate name for you.

Ed Gamble

I'm gristle.

Paul Foot

Sometimes, in times when Ed is like stalking me, there are little times where there's just a moment, it might be a moment when I'm just frantically getting my bedroom door closed, trying to get the privacy lock over, desperately trying to push his foot out so he doesn't-, and I'm trying to push back a knife that he's trying to get through the door.

Ed Gamble



Oh no, this has gotten really sinister.

Paul Foot

Yes, I know.

James Acaster

You're the one who does it mate.

Ed Gamble

Well, Ed Gamble does it.

Paul Foot

When I say a knife, I mean a butter knife because, you know-,

James Acaster

He's trying to butter you.

Paul Foot

He's trying to butter me up. He's trying to butter me up, literally. He's actually spent the whole evening buttering me.

Ed Gamble

Ed Gamble got mixed up with the phrase.

Paul Foot

Ed Gamble, he treats me like a crumpet. Anyway, after such nights as that sometimes there's just a moment, it's like hatred in both of our eyes. You know, like, as we look at each other, 'Get off me, just get out of me room,' and he's like, 'I want to put more butter on you,' and sometimes there's just a little moment of human connection between us. Almost as if we've both had enough of all the stress and all the worry and then I just say, 'Alright gristle.' That's my little affectionate name, and then Ed Gamble he blows me a little kiss and I close the door.

Ed Gamble

A little kiss-le.

Paul Foot

That's the end for that day. Until the morning.

Ed Gamble

Until the morning, yes.

Paul Foot

And the nightmare just starts anew.

James Acaster



Your dream side dish.

Paul Foot

Oh, so dream side dish, well, can I have Dover sole sashimi?

James Acaster

Of course you can, yes.

Paul Foot

Because I really like sashimi. I just love it. It's the best, it's, like, one of the best things ever, isn't it? When you get really good sashimi it's so good. I did think I could have all a selection of sashimi but then one time, I was in a restaurant in Tokyo and it was a Michelin three starred but it was very unpretentious because it's Japan and I had, like, some of the best food ever there. I had, like, a carrot and it was the best carrot I've ever tasted my whole life. I don't know how they cooked a carrot so well and part of the meal was Dover sole sashimi and also, the restaurant it was called Grunt. Like, if you translated it, it was a kind of fish called grunt. Anyway, it was so nice, so I just thought, 'Can I just, like, absolutely have loads of Dover sole sashimi?'

James Acaster

Great.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

I love that.

Paul Foot

It's expensive but just can I have that?

James Acaster

Yes.

Paul Foot

In fact, I might even cut down a bit on the fillet steak. Just so I can just really go.

James Acaster

Really make room for the Dover sole?

Paul Foot

For the Dover sole sashimi.

Ed Gamble



Was the restaurant called Grunt?

Paul Foot

It was called Grunt, well, in Japanese. It's the Japanese name for the fish called Grunt. It's named after the fish called Grunt. It's not called Grunt, like, grunt.

Ed Gamble

It's not a Biggins.

Paul Foot

It's not Christopher, no. That's the Christopher Biggins restaurant which is ironically also called Grunt.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Paul Foot

From his days when he was trying to be all masculine. Yes, he was the maître d' there, he'd welcome people. 'Yes, welcome to the restaurant. Welcome to Grunt,' he'd say trying to be all masculine. That was the theme of the restaurant. Masculine.

James Acaster

Masculinity.

Paul Foot

Masculinity was the theme but it soon went wrong by the time people were even, you know, by the time people were just even getting their starters it had already turned into a big camp fest. Christopher Biggins going around saying, 'Oh, who's for another little savoury mouthful? Mm, I wouldn't mind one myself,' and all that. It was like that. You know, and then it went on like that for the rest of the evening.

James Acaster

So, this Dover sole sashimi sounds brilliant. I think it's a wonderful choice.

Paul Foot

Yes, I think it's nice.

James Acaster

Wonderful choice.

Ed Gamble

Have you got soy and wasabi to do any dipping or do you leave that alone?

Paul Foot

Yes, a bit of dipping.

Ed Gamble



A bit of dipping.

Paul Foot

A bit of dipping and also, the opportunity to look sophisticated. 'I put my wasabi in the sauce. I only put half a wasabi in, that's my method.' Using the chopsticks showing your sophisticated. Always fun. Particularly if there's someone who doesn't use chopsticks at the meal, who has to use a fork.

James Acaster

What do you think of those people? Do you think they're worse than the people who have a steak done well done? Than people who use a fork for their sushi?

Paul Foot

No, I think it's-, I never used to be able to use chopsticks actually until I was about-, ten years ago actually. I never could do it, but one time I was on a flight from Sydney to Tokyo and I was sat next to a Japanese lady and I just observed her and I learned everything. Why are you looking like that Ed?

Ed Gamble

Well, because you're having a go at me for waiting for you in a phone box and you sat next to a woman you didn't know and watched her hands for the whole flight.

Paul Foot

Yes, well, I wanted to see what she was doing with her chopsticks and I learnt everything from that.

James Acaster

You didn't ask, did you talk to her and say, 'What's the secret?'

Paul Foot

Yes, I mean, you paint it in a very different light Ed, but, you know, I think it wasn't like we were having a big long chat for the whole flight but it wasn't like I didn't say anything either. You know, we would have had a couple of exchanges. 'Oh, it's very nice food here. You're having the Japanese dish as well are you? Very nice.' You know, something like that.

Ed Gamble

'You're very nice.'

Paul Foot

No, the sashimi. Not 'You're very nice.'

Ed Gamble

Oh, I thought you said to her, 'You're having the Japanese dish as well, you're very nice.'

James Acaster

I thought you said that as well but yes, fine.

Paul Foot



She was very nice, she was a very nice person but no I didn't mean it like that.

James Acaster

But you observed her.

Paul Foot

Yes, I observed her.

James Acaster

And now you live your life like her in all ways? Or just the chopsticks?

Paul Foot

Yes, in some ways I live my life in that way. You know, because I use it with chopsticks with her and also, if I were to ever fly to Japan again I would be going there for a euthanasia session, like her. Like she was, you know. It was her final journey. She said, 'Look, I've had enough,' she said, 'I've got a terrible disease and I've had a good life but I'm going back to see my family and then it's a euthanasia session to end it all.' So, I can ensure you the fact that I kept saying, 'You're very nice,' and looking at her hands, she wasn't bothered.

Ed Gamble

She wasn't bothered.

James Acaster

She didn't care.

Paul Foot

She was well beyond all that. She just thought if there's some weird pervert looking at my hands, fine, let him.

James Acaster

Yes.

Paul Foot

Within minutes of getting off the plane, she was dead. She actually went straight into, she didn't even bother going through immigration, she didn't even bother re-entering her own nation. She was, as soon as she got into the arrivals area they just put an injection in her and off she went. I mean, in some ways it wasn't strictly euthanasia, it was more of an assassination.

Ed Gamble

Yes, but she knew about it. It was a pre-organised-

James Acaster

It's what she wanted.

Paul Foot



In fact, she had said to me, 'Please help me I'm in danger. You know, there's assassins, I'm going back to Japan, I want to go back I don't want to live my whole life in exile in Sydney, but there's a danger.' I said, 'Don't worry, I'll be looking out for you, don't worry if I'm here, you'll be safe.' She felt, I think comforted to know that I had her back I was going to be and as soon as these people all went round her, like, with syringes and chloroform and poison darts and various other killing methods, as soon as they did that I just said, 'Oh, transfers this way.' You know, I was off. I was off.

James Acaster

Yes, there's too much to handle. It's a lot for you to take on all at once, isn't it?

Paul Foot

We've all had that happen.

James Acaster

Make your excuses.

Paul Foot

You know, on a plane, you, sort of, bond with someone on the plane and then you say, 'Keep in touch. Yes, yes. Oh, you're taking the same flight are you to such and such?' 'Yes, I'll see you on there,' and then they just give you the slip and then you never see them again. It's similar to that but much worse because I had promised that I would protect her, I would protect her life. She said to me, you know, 'You're a stranger but we have a connection now because you are guaranteeing my life, you're going to protect me,' and she said, 'That shows what decency you have as a human being because ultimately you will protect me.' And I said, 'Well, it doesn't really matter that I don't know you that's just what one does for another human being, we're all part of one human race and so I'm going to protect you.' I didn't. No, she was into the arms of the assassins.

James Acaster

Do you remember her name?

Paul Foot

Yes. Yes, I remember her name.

James Acaster

But you can't say it out loud?

Paul Foot

No, I can't say it for legal reasons.

James Acaster

But you hold it in your heart and you think about it every day?

Ed Gamble



Every time you use chopsticks.

Paul Foot

Every time I use chopsticks I think of her name and every time I don't use chopsticks, the other times of the day when I'm not using chopsticks, I also think of her because I think, 'Well, I sent her to her death.' You know?

James Acaster

Yes.

Paul Foot

It was my fault. You know, so, yes.

James Acaster

That's going to weigh heavy.

Paul Foot

Yes, so I think of her all the time really it weighs heavily on my conscience but when I'm using chopsticks that's when I say her name over and over again. Sort of like a mantra.

James Acaster

Yes.

Paul Foot

Which is ironically a hotel, which I stayed in a different one to you.

Ed Gamble

Different one to me. One step ahead.

James Acaster

Your dream drink, Paul?

Paul Foot

Dream drink, well, I wanted a question about this. When is the drink administered? Sort of thing, because-

James Acaster

Whenever you want.

Paul Foot

Yes, well, that's the point. Do I choose one drink? Like, for example, I might like a porn star Martini it's a really nice drink that didn't even exist twelve years ago, it's amazing someone just invented that twelve years ago. So, I might want that but I wouldn't want that for the whole thing. I wouldn't want that with the Dover sole sashimi.



Ed Gamble

We could give you maybe the porn star Martini when you come into the restaurant as like the welcoming drink.

Paul Foot

Yes, welcoming drink.

Ed Gamble

And then we can give you another drink for the food?

Paul Foot

So, it's just one drink? So, it's not very sophisticated.

Ed Gamble

Well, no.

James Acaster

We could give you a different drink.

Paul Foot

I mean, normally with a tasting menu you have different thing of each-,

Ed Gamble

You can do that.

James Acaster

You can have a different drink with every course if you want.

Paul Foot

Well, why didn't say that earlier?

Ed Gamble

We wait for people to hack the format.

Paul Foot

Oh, I see. You wait for people to-,

Ed Gamble

You can have a porn star Martini when you arrive the restaurant.

Paul Foot

Yes, I'll have that when I arrive.



James Acaster

And that's champagne? And-

Paul Foot

Pornstar Martini, it's like that Passoã isn't it? It's that passion fruit liqueur.

Ed Gamble

And it's often got a half passion fruit in the top.

Paul Foot

It's got half passion fruit in the top and then it comes with a little shot of Prosecco doesn't it?

James Acaster

Right, yes, so you're doing that.

Paul Foot

But I'll change that for a shot of quail and champagne, flat champagne, aspic. So I can have a bit more. So I'll have that, that's my shot.

James Acaster

Yes, do you like pornstars?

Paul Foot

Do I like pornstars? Yes I think they're great.

James Acaster

I wouldn't have expected you to drink a Pornstar Martini, it's not something I'd associate with you.

Ed Gamble

No I wouldn't have guessed that for you.

Paul Foot

Well, I like sweet flavours, like passion fruit's nice. And I also find it-, I mean, it's a good example of marketing isn't it? Because it's got nothing to do with porn stars at all, it just sounds like- it's like the person who invented that cocktail, what's it called? The slow, comfortable screw or something.

Ed Gamble

Against the wall.

Paul Foot

Against the wall.

Ed Gamble

Yes.



Paul Foot

And, they thought, aren't I being clever and it's going to really take off? It didn't take off.

James Acaster

Yes.

Paul Foot

It's just naughty. No one actually gets it. Occasionally it's on a menu and people say, 'Can I have a slow, comfortable screw against the wall? Ha, ha, ha.' And then, someone else says, 'Have you seen what your evening is turning into?'

James Acaster

Yes, yes.

Paul Foot

You know, a little joke like that and it's all part of the flirtation. It's all part of the night.

James Acaster

Yes. It's harmless.

Paul Foot

It's harmless, but it's not always harmless.

James Acaster

No.

Paul Foot

Not in the case of that Japanese lady because the flirtation turned into death.

Ed Gamble

Was that what started her being hunted down then, a conversation like that?

James Acaster

Did she ask-,

Ed Gamble

She was ordering a cocktail.

James Acaster

She asked for a slow, comfortable screw against the wall.

Paul Foot



Yes, she asked for a slow, comfortable screw against the wall. I said, 'Did you say shot against the wall?' She said, 'Oh, that sounds fun, a shot against the wall, is that, like, a shot of, like, a shot of something as I stand against the wall? Sounds fun.' I said, 'Well, you'll find out as soon as you get off this plane.'

Ed Gamble

So, you have her killed.

Paul Foot

Yes, that's-, this is one of the reasons why the guilt is so heavy on me. I was the one-, in fact, I haven't really explained the story. When we got off the plane, I said, 'I'll protect you, but I've just to pop to the loo, you see.' And, I came back as the assassin-,

James Acaster

Yes.

Paul Foot

I said, 'Hello.' You know. Would you like to get against the wall for your shot? And, she was shot, you know, so it was me. I was the-,

James Acaster

You shot her.

Paul Foot

I was the assassin all along.

James Acaster

Yes.

Paul Foot

But, I went back into the loo, came back as me, she was, like, 'Where were you to protect me?' And then, there was a, sort of, moment as she lay there, dying, when she realised that I was both all along and she was, like, 'You were the assassin.' And, I said, 'That's right, Gristle.' Because that was my pet name for her.

James Acaster

Yes.

Paul Foot

As it happens, quite coincidentally the same one I've got for-,

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble



Wow, I'm scared now.

Paul Foot

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Scared for my life.

Paul Foot

It's the same one. But, anyway. That was her.

James Acaster

And, you were the last thing she saw. Was she looking at you as she died?

Paul Foot

Well-,

James Acaster

As the light's flicking out.

Paul Foot

I wouldn't say that, no because she had a connecting flight to Kyoto.

James Acaster

Did she make that?

Paul Foot

Oh, yes, yes. She made that. She was just severely injured. She made it to the connecting flight. It's only a 45-minute flight, James.

James Acaster

Yes, yes.

Paul Foot

It's only a short flight. It's only 30 minutes in transit. You're straight on the flight. I don't know what sort of death you think she had, but it wasn't that quick.

James Acaster

Well, I mean, I don't know what sort of a death I think she had. At one point, she was injected with something. Another point, they surrounded her and injected her and, like-,

Ed Gamble

Poison darts.

James Acaster



And poison darts. All sorts. And now, it's you shooting her.

Ed Gamble

And then, she got on a connecting flight to Kyoto.

James Acaster

So, I don't know how she's died. I don't know how she's died on this-

Paul Foot

Well-

James Acaster

Connecting flight.

Paul Foot

No, no. I mean, she pulled through.

James Acaster

She's alive.

Paul Foot

She's still alive, yes. She's still alive. She was injured. Injured. In many ways, quite shaken.

James Acaster

Yes.

Paul Foot

But, she's still alive, yes.

Ed Gamble

Oh, good.

James Acaster

Oh, good. She's living a happy life.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Paul Foot

I still write to her, pen pals.

Ed Gamble

So, you've got a Pornstar Martini as you arrive.

Paul Foot



Yes.

Ed Gamble

But then, what drinks do you want with the different courses? Do you have-, how many different drinks do you want?

Paul Foot

Well, could I have twelve?

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Have you said twelve with twelve in mind or have you just said twelve and now you've got to think of twelve drinks?

Paul Foot

Oh, I said twelve and I've got about four in mind, now I've got to quickly think on my feet.

James Acaster

Yes, yes, yes.

Paul Foot

You know the feeling. You know what that's like, James.

James Acaster

Oh, yes. I know what that's like.

Paul Foot

When you're on a podcast and you say something silly-,

James Acaster

Yes.

Paul Foot

And then, you think, what have I done?

James Acaster

Yes.

Paul Foot



And, I felt a bit like that with that story about that-, when I said about me going into the loo and I thought, that doesn't really tie into those people surrounding her with the poison darts. But, I thought, 'I'm sure James will just roll-, he's not going to pick me up on that.'

James Acaster

Yes.

Paul Foot

He won't mention it.

James Acaster

Yes.

Paul Foot

He's not going to say, 'Oh, there was something in the story that didn't make sense.' He won't mention it. He'll just let it go. But, you did.

James Acaster

Yes. I mentioned it.

Paul Foot

Yes, and then I said, 'She's still alive.' The whole story, kind of, fell apart at that point, didn't it?

James Acaster

No.

Paul Foot

No.

James Acaster

I think we've got a very clear-,

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

View of that story.

Paul Foot

Oh, you think it's clear. Yes.

James Acaster

Yes, we know everything that happened in that story is very clear.

Paul Foot



Alright. Well, Pineau des Charentes.

James Acaster

Yes.

Paul Foot

That would be one of my drinks.

Ed Gamble

Are we including a Pornstar Martini as well?

Paul Foot

A Peach Pornstar Martini is one of the twelve.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes.

Paul Foot

Pineau des Charentes.

James Acaster

Yes.

Paul Foot

Because it makes you sound sophisticated to order something like that, doesn't it?

James Acaster

Yes, yes. Pineau des Charentes.

Paul Foot

So, I'll have that as an aperitif.

James Acaster

Yes.

Paul Foot

Campari and soda. It's a classic, isn't it?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster



Lovely. Classic for a reason.

Paul Foot

It's bitter. I love bitter flavours.

James Acaster

Yes.

Paul Foot

I love all the-, I used to think that I wasn't very sophisticated, like, with wine because I like all the wines.

James Acaster

Yes.

Paul Foot

But then, I realised that's because I like all the flavours. I like sweet. I like bitter. I like sour. I like umami.

James Acaster

Yes.

Paul Foot

The fourth flavour.

James Acaster

Yes.

Paul Foot

And, I also-, I don't like the fifth flavour.

Ed Gamble

What's the fifth flavour?

Paul Foot

Shit. It's not good, is it? Even in the-, But, even in a small dose, it's not good.

James Acaster

No.

Paul Foot

It never adds to it.

James Acaster

Not good. It's horrible.

Paul Foot



It's a horrible flavour.

James Acaster

Bitter, sweet, sour-,

Ed Gamble

Umami.

Paul Foot

Umami.

James Acaster

And, shit.

Ed Gamble

I'm done. We've got a lot of drinks to get through here, Paul.

Paul Foot

Yes, alright. Alright, Ed.

Ed Gamble

Sorry, I'm just-,

James Acaster

Yes.

Paul Foot

We've had three, haven't we?

James Acaster

I believe so.

Paul Foot

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Have we?

Paul Foot

Yes, we've had three.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble



Pineau des Charentes, Campari-,

Paul Foot

Best not get into it all again.

James Acaster

Yes, three.

Paul Foot

Please. Well, actually, just keep going through it. Let's keep adding one and then having to go through them.

James Acaster

Yes. Pornstar Martini- Martini, Pineau des Charentes, and Campari and soda.

Paul Foot

Yes. After that, sherry. Yes, have a sherry.

James Acaster

A lovely sherry.

Paul Foot

A nice sherry. Then, after that, Chardonnay. A nice Chardonnay.

James Acaster

Yes.

Paul Foot

A nice wine.

James Acaster

Yes, very nice.

Paul Foot

After that, a nice other white wine. Another white wine.

James Acaster

Any white wine?

Paul Foot

Riesling.

James Acaster



Yes.

Paul Foot

I'll have a Riesling.

James Acaster

Yes, I like Rieslings. Yes.

Paul Foot

After that, can I have shit juice, but not have it. Just leave that one because it's one of the drinks where I'll leave it, so I only drink eleven of them. It's-

James Acaster

Yes. Shit juice.

Ed Gamble

Shit juice, but you're not going to have it.

Paul Foot

The taste of shit. It's the essence of shit.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

But, you're not going to have it.

James Acaster

But, you're happy, you just want it there.

Paul Foot

Yes.

James Acaster

As a reminder of, like, at least I'm not drinking that.

Ed Gamble

Of how good you've got it.

Paul Foot



Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Paul Foot

But, it's not actually shit. It reminds me of-, you know, those things at the Northern Art thing in Hobart, in the museum there.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Paul Foot

Where they've got a machine that makes human shit.

James Acaster

Wow, I didn't know that.

Paul Foot

So, like, they've got a machine that they put food into and in every way, it imitates a great big machine. Exactly the same chemicals that are in the human body.

James Acaster

Wow.

Paul Foot

And, it makes shit.

Ed Gamble

And, it takes the exact same amount of time, right? So, people turn up to the museum to see the machine poop.

Paul Foot

Have you been there?

Ed Gamble

No, but I've read about it.

Paul Foot

Yes, so it comes out. The poop. It's not real poo because-, it, kind of, is real, but isn't.

James Acaster

Sure.

Paul Foot



Because it's just, like, chemical.

James Acaster

Wow.

Paul Foot

So, I'd have the same. I'd make it chemically.

James Acaster

Yes.

Paul Foot

So, chemical-shit flavouring.

James Acaster

Yes, so you want it from that machine?

Paul Foot

Yes, from that machine. From Hobart.

James Acaster

Shit juice.

Paul Foot

The essence of shit from that museum in Hobart.

James Acaster

Yes.

Paul Foot

Actually, I tell you what I might do. One of my favourite flavours is bubblegum flavour and did you even know that bubblegum flavour is made from banana and strawberry, but it's a special chemical thing. So, it's only one aspect of the chemicals that make banana and one aspect of the chemicals that makes strawberry.

James Acaster

I didn't know that.

Ed Gamble

I didn't know that at all.

Paul Foot

So, it's just, like, one bit of the, sort of, thing.

Ed Gamble



Yes.

Paul Foot

So, I could just have a shit. Just, like, a little bit of the shit. One aspect of the shit.

James Acaster

Okay. I thought you were going to have a bubblegum-flavoured thing, but no.

Ed Gamble

We're still on the shit.

James Acaster

Yes, you're still on the shit juice.

Paul Foot

Yes, actually, I've changed my mind. I'll have a bubblegum.

James Acaster

Bubblegum-flavoured drink.

Paul Foot

Yes, bubblegum-flavoured drink.

Ed Gamble

Instead of the shit juice?

Paul Foot

Yes, instead. Forget the shit juice. It's disgusting. I don't want it.

Ed Gamble

We've done seven so far.

Paul Foot

It's horrible.

Ed Gamble

Five more drinks to go. I'm glad you're not having shit juice, Paul.

Paul Foot

It's horrible.

James Acaster

Yes.

Paul Foot



Yes, bubblegum-,

James Acaster

Bubblegum juice.

Paul Foot

Juice. Bubblegum stuff.

James Acaster

Yes.

Paul Foot

And then, maybe some nice red wine.

James Acaster

Yes.

Paul Foot

Yes. Maybe a light one.

James Acaster

A light red one.

Paul Foot

A light red one.

James Acaster

Yes.

Paul Foot

And then, a heavy one.

James Acaster

Yes.

Paul Foot

Nice heavy French red wine.

James Acaster

Balance it out.

Paul Foot

Balance it out. Oh, can I have Chartreuse.

Ed Gamble



Yes.

James Acaster

Yes.

Paul Foot

Because I like that.

James Acaster

Yes.

Paul Foot

And, I've got, like, a bit of a relationship with Chartreuse.

James Acaster

Yes.

Paul Foot

I don't know. Sometimes, it's the drink I go to after having had many other drinks. I always go to a Chartreuse. One time, I landed in Brazil and I must have had a few wines on the plane because when we got off, I kept going on about, 'Let's go to a favela.' And, I kept saying, 'They don't have any Chartreuse.'

James Acaster

In the favelas?

Paul Foot

Yes, I was a danger. I could have died that night.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Two more drinks, Paul.

Paul Foot

Chambord.

James Acaster

Lovely.

Paul Foot

I had an incident once at Terminal 3, Heathrow Terminal 3 with Chambord.

James Acaster



What happened to you? Was that-

Paul Foot

Well, it was a-

James Acaster

Killing another woman?

Paul Foot

A Kir Royale station. Champagne with Chambord.

James Acaster

Yes.

Paul Foot

But, I was particularly having a bit of Chambord and then I kept saying, 'Just one more Chambord.' Just one more Chambord, then eventually they said, 'You have to get onto your aircraft now or it will leave.'

Ed Gamble

Air travel seems to be a real issue for you. A lot of the, sort of, hot points in your life come during air travel.

Paul Foot

Well, at the time I was assassinating people. Things like that.

Ed Gamble

Yes. But then, there's the favela Chartreuse incident and then Heathrow-

James Acaster

One more Chambord.

Ed Gamble

One more Chambord.

Paul Foot

Yes, yes. It has been a flash point.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Paul Foot

You know, it's a danger.

James Acaster



Yes, and your final drink.

Paul Foot

Final drink.

James Acaster

You've got one more drink left.

Paul Foot

Final one. The final.

James Acaster

Maybe it is your final one ever. Do you want it to be?

Paul Foot

Oh what, like, that horrible stuff they give you in Dignitas, do you mean? That's a drink, isn't it?

James Acaster

Yes, maybe.

Paul Foot

No, I don't think I want that.

James Acaster

No.

Paul Foot

No, I don't want that.

Ed Gamble

Something nice.

Paul Foot

No, something nice.

James Acaster

Yes.

Paul Foot

Now, what about a nice glass of milk.

James Acaster

Yes, a nice glass of milk. Semi-skimmed, skimmed, full-fat?

Paul Foot



Full-fat.

James Acaster

Yes.

Paul Foot

I did that once, again, on a plane because I was on a plane at Bermuda and it was nine in the morning, and they said, 'Would you like a drink before take-off?' And, I said, 'A gin and orange,' which is very eccentric because it's like flying to New York. It's an American Airlines flight to New York. You do not order a gin and orange at nine in the morning in America. They were just, like, 'What, gin and orange?' And then, I drank it and I was ever so slightly tipsy because I'd had a gin and orange before even take-off, and I wrote some comedy about the fat dove. It was a dove that was really fat. It was quite successful.

James Acaster

Yes.

Paul Foot

You know, I did it in one of my shows.

James Acaster

Yes.

Paul Foot

And then, later, the cabin crew person came through and said, 'What would you like?' And, I thought, I've got to really come out with something here because she's thinking, 'Oh, I'm going to say gin and orange.' So, I just said, 'A glass of milk, please.' And, she just said, 'Good comeback.' Like, she knew. She knew I had foxed her. She knew I out-played her because she was, like, she knew that-, she thought-, was thinking I was going to say, 'Oh, another gin and orange,' and she was going to be, like, 'Another gin and orange, that's what you want, but it's still only quarter to ten in the morning.'

James Acaster

Yes.

Paul Foot

She wouldn't have said that obviously because she's a professional cabin crew, but she did it in her eyes.

James Acaster

Yes.

Paul Foot



Or she'd have-, I'd have said something like a coffee. She'd have said, 'Oh, coffee.' You know, play it safe, have a coffee. Yes, yes. Had too much gin did you earlier? Having a coffee.

James Acaster

Yes.

Paul Foot

I absolutely outplayed her. A glass of milk.

James Acaster

We arrive at your dream dessert, Paul.

Paul Foot

Oh, yes. Can I have souffle because souffle is so fun, isn't it?

James Acaster

Yes, yes.

Paul Foot

It's brilliant.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Paul Foot

Souffle. I was thinking about flavour and I was thinking about rambutan. I like rambutan.

James Acaster

I don't know what rambutan is.

Paul Foot

Well, it's a bit like a lychee, isn't it? But, different. A slightly different flavour.

James Acaster

Oh.

Paul Foot

And it's a really lovely flavour. Again, you've just got all the flavour in the souffle. A bit like the soup. There's no need to bother with all, like, peeling the rambutan and getting the thing, getting the stone out. Just get straight to the flavour. And then, I was thinking about other things, like lychee I love and passion fruit, and all the other fruits. And then, I was thinking, like, when I was in Penang in Malaysia, I had all these fruits that I've never heard of before or since with amazing flavours.

James Acaster



Yes.

Paul Foot

So, could I have a special souffle, so every mouthful, it's a different fruit?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Of course you can.

Ed Gamble

Absolutely.

Paul Foot

So, each mouthful, it changes.

James Acaster

That sounds delicious.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

And, a dessert souffle is very special. They are very nice.

Paul Foot

Yes. And, could I have violet flavour? I know that's not a fruit, but can I have that as one of my flavours?

James Acaster

What, like a parma violet flavour?

Paul Foot

Yes, like violet flavour.

James Acaster

Wow.

Paul Foot

Parma violet and rose flavour. I like rose. I like the idea you can get a rose and make that into cooking.

Ed Gamble

Yes, it's mad, isn't it?

Paul Foot



It's brilliant, isn't it?

James Acaster

Yes, that is bonkers. So, you want rose. You want violet. You want lychee.

Paul Foot

Lychee.

James Acaster

You want rambutan.

Paul Foot

Rambutan. Passion fruit.

James Acaster

Passion fruit.

Paul Foot

I want dragon fruit.

James Acaster

Yes.

Paul Foot

Which, I was always-, used to be disappointed by because it looks so pretty from the outside and not so much inside, but then I realised, there's a real delicacy to the flavour. You have to be prepared to probe into the flavour of the dragon fruit.

James Acaster

Yes.

Paul Foot

You can't just be, you know, you've got to be sophisticated.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Paul Foot

So, those are some of the flavours I'll have.

James Acaster

Do you want one flavour to be, like, a certain aspect of a banana and another flavour to be a certain aspect of a strawberry?

Paul Foot



Yes, so we have that. Bubblegum flavour.

James Acaster

Yes.

Paul Foot

And, cherry flavour. Sour cherry flavour.

James Acaster

Oh, yes.

Paul Foot

Now, I did something about three years ago, which was I went to Greece and I was with a friend of mine, and then we went to Piraeus. We spent some time in Greece and then we went to Piraeus, which is that port because we were taking a boat somewhere.

James Acaster

Yes.

Paul Foot

And, he said, 'Would you like a drink?' Because we were waiting for the ferry and I said, because I hadn't had it for, like, 25 years, sour cherry juice because you used to be able to get that in Britain, like, 25 years ago. So, I just said it because I just thought, 'It gets him out of my hair for a bit.' To my amazement, he comes back 30 seconds later with sour cherry juice.

Ed Gamble

Wow.

Paul Foot

They sell it in Greece.

James Acaster

Wow.

Paul Foot

In Piraeus. That's where to get it.

James Acaster

Yesterday, I had, you know, there's that cola that's called Green Cola. Are you familiar with that brand?

Paul Foot

Oh no. What's that?

James Acaster



It's like a diet cola but it's all, like, quite natural ingredients and, like, it tastes a bit more maybe botanical than some other diet colas, but very nice. One of the things they do is sour cherry.

Paul Foot

Oh.

James Acaster

And, that's not a sour cherry cola. It's just, like, a sour cherry, kind of, fizzy drink.

Paul Foot

Oh.

James Acaster

And, I had that yesterday as I was walking here, actually. It was very, very nice. I hadn't had it before and they really nailed it.

Paul Foot

Wow. Did you get me a can?

Ed Gamble

I'd love a can.

James Acaster

If only I knew.

Paul Foot

Yes.

James Acaster

If only I knew. But, I got it from the Holland and Barrett-,

Paul Foot

Oh, well I'll go to Holland and Barrett and get one.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Do you want the flavour of that in one of the spoonfuls of souffle?

Paul Foot

Yes.

James Acaster



Yes.

Paul Foot

The flavour of that thing you described, to save me having to go to a Holland and Barrett to get it.

James Acaster

Yes, okay. Great. I'll put that in there. I'm going to read your menu back to you now and see how you feel about it.

Paul Foot

Yes.

James Acaster

You want still water.

Paul Foot

Yes.

James Acaster

You want popadoms with all the dips, plus a cherry cola-flavoured popadom sauce that looks like popadoms.

Paul Foot

Yes.

James Acaster

For a starter, you want quail and flat champagne aspic.

Paul Foot

Yes.

James Acaster

Main course, Wagyu fillet steak, quite rare, with popadom-flavoured cherry cola sauce.

Paul Foot

Yes, that's right. Yes.

James Acaster

A side dish, Dover sole sashimi from Grunt. Drink, you would like-, well, when you arrive you want a Pornstar Martini with a shot of the aspic and jelly again. And then you want Pinot de Greuer, is it?

Paul Foot

Pineau des Charentes.

James Acaster



Des Charentes. Campari and soda. Shit, this is throughout the meal. Sherry. Chardonnay. Riesling. Bubblegum juice. Light red wine. A heavy red wine. Chartreuse. One more Chambord and a milk.

Paul Foot

I glad I took out the shit juice. It wouldn't have fitted.

Ed Gamble

No.

Paul Foot

It wasn't right.

Ed Gamble

No.

James Acaster

And, as dessert, you want a souffle that changes with every single mouthful. It changes flavour with each mouthful you have.

Paul Foot

Yes.

James Acaster

How do you feel about that?

Paul Foot

I feel good. It sounds like a great meal.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

I feel like you've used the dream restaurant to its full strengths.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

In that you've invented things. There are magical dishes.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble



There's a lot going on. You admitted that you attempted to kill a Japanese woman.

Paul Foot

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

But, very happy that she survived in that story.

Paul Foot

You've admitted that you've been making-

Ed Gamble

I actually never admitted that. I was very quiet throughout the whole thing.

Paul Foot

Yes, but it's been stated.

Ed Gamble

Yes, it's been stated-,

Paul Foot

That you have-,

James Acaster

But, you deny it.

Ed Gamble

No.

Paul Foot

You have been buttering me up literally.

Ed Gamble

Ed Gamble has been.

Paul Foot

Yes, Ed Gamble has been buttering me up literally in a series of Travel Lodges around Britain.

James Acaster

Yes.

Paul Foot



Putting butter over me.

James Acaster

Thank you so much, Paul, for coming on Off Menu.

Paul Foot

Thanks, James Acaster.

Ed Gamble

Thank you, Paul.

Paul Foot

Thanks, Ed Gamble- Gristle.

Ed Gamble

Well, there we are, James.

James Acaster

Woah.

Ed Gamble

Woah. I mean, I knew the Paul Foot episode was going to be something special.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

But, that was bananas, man.

James Acaster

What a ride.

Ed Gamble

What a ride.

James Acaster

So many characters. So many tales.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

That we got told. I don't know what to believe, what was true and what wasn't. Who is to say?

Ed Gamble



I properly lost it on numerous occasions.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

I'm sure we'll release a video of Paul talking about different flavours in food.

James Acaster

And, what is burp.

Ed Gamble

Yes, and what is burp. That's all getting-, I mean, man, what a great episode. Interesting menu as well.

James Acaster

Didn't say moist cake.

Ed Gamble

Didn't say moist cake but, you know, how could we have guessed what he was going to say?

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

The quail soup, whatever it was, with the jelly. The cubes of-, yes. The cubes of aspic. Man, great. I hope-, you know what I hope this episode does, I think most people who know about comedy know Paul Foot and know he's brilliant.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

But, I hope if people are listening, looking out for new comics to enjoy, their next favourite, I think it might be Paul Foot.

James Acaster

It has to be, and you can go and see him do his new show, Dissolve, that's on tour.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

And, it will be fantastic.

Ed Gamble



Yes. Thank you very much for listening. We will see you again next week. Goodbye.

James Acaster

Goodbye.