



Off Menu – Ep 210 – Paapa Essiedu

Ed Gamble

Welcome to the Off Menu podcast, squeezing the pods of the internet. Popping out the edamame beans of humour, gobbling them down in an act of friendship, and that's the Off Menu Podcast. Pod, edamame pods.

James Acaster

Not making the fruit salad anymore?

Ed Gamble

Not today.

James Acaster

That's Ed Gamble, my name is James Acaster, we are in a dream restaurant and every week we invite in a different 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 Paapa Essiedu.

Ed Gamble

Paapa Essiedu, a wonderful actor. He has been in so much brilliant stuff James.

James Acaster

I am excited Ed.

Ed Gamble

What a hit rate this guy has got.

James Acaster

It has just been hit after hit.

Ed Gamble

Hit after hit.

James Acaster

So many things, and also let's not forget, The Lazarus Project.

Ed Gamble

Yes, The Lazarus Project is of course coming back for a series two.

James Acaster

Very excited.



Ed Gamble

Yes, time loop baby.

James Acaster

Time loop. Maybe we should put the introduction at the end of the podcast today because we're time looping it.

Ed Gamble

Yes, well we should keep it here, and then put it at the end as well.

James Acaster

Yes, but that's up to Benito, I guess.

Ed Gamble

Because it has to be a time loop Benito.

James Acaster

You've got to loop it.

Ed Gamble

Can you loop a pod? Yes, so we're going to loop this episode.

James Acaster

Yes, this'll be looped forever.

Ed Gamble

Time looped.

James Acaster

If you want to listen to it forever.

Ed Gamble

Yes, bad luck, you're not going to be able to listen to any other podcasts because it's going to be looped.

James Acaster

Yes, that's it now. But listen, I hope that this doesn't get looped over and over again. I hope we don't have to kick Paapa out and then that's the actual, like, episode over and over, and you've got to hear him getting kicked out over and over again.

Ed Gamble

Because he will get kicked out, if he picks a secret ingredient on which we have pre decided. And this week, the secret ingredient is, sachets of pepper. Sachets of pepper, now not anything I've ever considered to be an issue.



James Acaster

It sounds like a folk song.

Ed Gamble

Sachets of pepper. Not anything I've ever thought was an issue to be honest, sachets of pepper. But I guess, the really ground, black pepper, not particularly pleasant for me. But this has been selected by a listener James.

James Acaster

Who is the listener?

Ed Gamble

Leo Watkins.

James Acaster

Leo Watkins. I mean, I get it. I don't think I've ever used a sachet of pepper because why would you, what would you need it for?

Ed Gamble

Well, if you're like, at a service station or something?

James Acaster

But what for though, what are needing to pepper up in the service station?

Ed Gamble

Whatever you want, if there's something bland, you want to pepper it up. Maybe a Pret a Manger.

James Acaster

Yes?

Ed Gamble

Pepper.

James Acaster

You put some pepper on the Pret?

Ed Gamble

Pepper on the Pret.

James Acaster

I don't know about that but-



Ed Gamble

Look, they sell like, you know, so I'll often have breakfast from a Pret, and there will be like an egg based thing, and I'm peppering that up, and you know I love a bit of pepper on my egg, I sing the song.

James Acaster

Go on.

Ed Gamble

I've told you about this before, surely? Once at university I was having breakfast with some friends, and our friend, Tom Needham, heard me very quietly-, so it was for no one else, it was just for me when I was putting pepper on my egg. Going, 'A little bit of pepper on my egg.'

James Acaster

That's good.

Ed Gamble

To the tune of Mambo Number 5.

James Acaster

That's very good.

Ed Gamble

So, I always sing that when I put pepper on my egg.

James Acaster

Yes, if I love something, I'll sing the Susie Quattro song, 'I Love Rock and Roll.' But about whatever the pick is. But I'll still, the next line will always be, 'So, put another dime in the jukebox baby.' No matter what it is, so yes. 'I love peppery egg, so put another dime in the jukebox baby.' For example. So, hopefully Paapa is not going to say that. You know, I mean, there's also never enough pepper in the, I'd say, the little sachet.

Ed Gamble

Yes, you need two-, well, you need one-and-a-half, that's the issue.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Alright, well thanks Leo Watkins, thank you to Paapa Essiedu, very excited to hear what his menu is going to be. This is the Off Menu menu of Paapa Essiedu.

Welcome Paapa, to the Dream Restaurant.



Paapa Essiedu

Thank you.

James Acaster

Welcome Paapa Essiedu to the Dream Restaurant, we've been expecting you for some time. You were waiting for that.

Paapa Essiedu

I was waiting for that.

James Acaster

You weren't going to speak before I got out of the lamp.

Ed Gamble

It's a very polite way of dealing with the genie, just knowing he's on his way.

Paapa Essiedu

Should I be interrupting the genie, or should the genie be leading me?

James Acaster

You do what you want, this is your dream restaurant. I'll follow your lead if anything.

Paapa Essiedu

Okay, I'll let the genie go first then.

James Acaster

Yes, but did it look good when I burst out of the lamp?

Paapa Essiedu

The lamp is shattered now, yes. So, I don't know what you're going to do next week.

Ed Gamble

This is the final episode, it has finally happened, the genie has shattered the lamp.

James Acaster

That's it, I'm free. This is the last meal.

Paapa Essiedu

Yes, I mean, you're not dressed as I would expect a genie to be dressed.

James Acaster

Yes, what were you picturing?



Paapa Essiedu

You know, those kind of shoes that kind of go up at the front.

James Acaster

The curly shoes, yes.

Paapa Essiedu

The curly shoes, the turban, probably culturally inappropriate, but-

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I mean, genies, there is some egginess around the presentation of genies, I guess.

James Acaster

Yes, yes, there is. I mean, we're trying to deal with it in the genie community. But we know that we've got to move with the times. So, but I think we're doing alright.

Paapa Essiedu

This is the genie that I want to see.

James Acaster

This is what is reassuring to you. If you saw me in my true form, you'd be terrified.

Paapa Essiedu

I feel very, very comfortable with this version of a genie.

James Acaster

Yes, it's like modern genie. Yes, it's okay isn't it. Are you a foodie, would you say? Would you say you were a big foodie? I mean, you're wearing-, the listener can't see it, but you're wearing a t-shirt with a drink on it, of a cocktail, a happy cocktail with a little face.

Paapa Essiedu

Yes, a happy Negroni. Am I a foodie? I enjoy food, but I also, I'm very picky with food. I've got a long list of foods that I don't like. Does that mean that I'm not a foodie?

Ed Gamble

No, I don't think so. In fact I think if you know that there are things that you don't like, and you know what you really do like, that probably does, that qualifies you as a foodie, I'd say. Depending on how long this list is actually.

Paapa Essiedu

The list is extensive.



Ed Gamble

Shall we reel some off now? Get them out of the way?

Paapa Essiedu

Yes.

James Acaster

Has it always been this way?

Paapa Essiedu

Yes.

James Acaster

Along your life, as you go on, do you add more and more things to this list?

Paapa Essiedu

I kind of think that my list of accepted foods, kind of, the doorway into the room shut at the age of about six or seven years old. I've got what can only be described as a juvenile appetite.

James Acaster

Right, okay. What are the big ones, that if that is on the menu there is absolutely no way you're eating that?

Paapa Essiedu

I'm not going anywhere near olives. I'm going nowhere near almost every type of cheese. I don't want to see a mushroom.

Ed Gamble

You don't want to see a mushroom?

Paapa Essiedu

I don't even want to see it. In fact, I particularly don't want to see it and I don't want to eat it. I don't want, I'm not mad on cucumbers. Yes, not crazy for capers.

James Acaster

In fact, it has all got to be alliteration.

Paapa Essiedu

I don't like raisins or any kind of, like, fruit in a dessert.

James Acaster

Yes.



Paapa Essiedu

Do you know what I mean? I think those things should be kept very separate. But yes, that's the top list, but there's a lot behind that.

Ed Gamble

Fruit in dessert. Kept separate, I'm not sure.

James Acaster

That's interesting.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

A lot of people would hate fruit in a savoury dish.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

But you're like, no way in a dessert. You don't want apple pie?

Paapa Essiedu

No, I don't want apple pie, I don't want, like, an Eaton Mess, I don't want, like, a blueberry cheesecake. Especially not a blueberry cheese cake.

James Acaster

Because it-, people say it doesn't taste like cheese, but does that put you off?

Paapa Essiedu

But I know.

James Acaster

You know.

Paapa Essiedu

I can read, I know. I know what's going on there. You can't hide it.

Ed Gamble

I love the idea of you saying that to a waiter. Going, you know I can read right? There's cheese in there.

James Acaster

So, I'm not eating that. I'm not an idiot. Right, okay.



Paapa Essiedu

So, maybe I'm not a foodie, I don't know. But I do love the food that I like, do you know what I mean?

James Acaster

Yes, yes.

Paapa Essiedu

But I really, really hate the ones that I don't.

James Acaster

Is this menu just going to be the same dish over and over again?

Paapa Essiedu

Basically. Basically potatoes.

James Acaster

The Lazarus Project, season two which we should talk about before we get into the menu because it's very exciting. Now, look, I've never done a season two of anything.

Paapa Essiedu

Neither have I actually.

James Acaster

Really? Is this the first time?

Paapa Essiedu

Yes.

James Acaster

Was that new for you, going back on set and being like, 'It's everyone again.'

Paapa Essiedu

Yes, that was actually quite nice, seeing everyone again.

James Acaster

Benito was laughing at my stupid question.

Ed Gamble

Have you never done a season two of something?

Paapa Essiedu

Nothing has ever been recommissioned.



Ed Gamble

Really?

Paapa Essiedu

No. I'm not lying. Sometimes I have no choice.

Ed Gamble

This is huge, this is huge for you.

Paapa Essiedu

Yes, it was big. It was quite funny, like, I've never done a season two and neither has Joe Barton who wrote it, he was an amazing who wrote things like Giri/Haji and he himself says that he's notorious for getting shows cancelled. So, we were both in unknown territory, we were all in unknown territory, but it was nice.

James Acaster

It would've been good if this show had got cancelled, and then you got a season two, it would've been very fitting.

Paapa Essiedu

If it got-

James Acaster

Lazarus.

Ed Gamble

Yes, true.

Paapa Essiedu

Come back from the dead.

James Acaster

Yes, pretty good.

Ed Gamble

Yes, that's pretty good actually.

James Acaster

Ben, if you could like plug in like a laugh or an applause after I said that.

Ed Gamble

Well, it's not a laugh, it's more of a thinker.



James Acaster

An applause.

Paapa Essiedu

More of an, 'Ah.'

James Acaster

Yes. It was right there, I couldn't resist it.

Ed Gamble

I love time loop stuff, but I often find I will watch it and have absolutely no idea what is going on, quite often. But that's what I like, I like being outfoxed.

James Acaster

You like being confused.

Ed Gamble

I like being confused, yes, and then doing some research into it and working out what has happened.

James Acaster

Do you just get ahead of it now? If you're watching something, there's time loop and so you're like, 'I know what's going on here.'

Paapa Essiedu

Well, I mean, no, I kind of lean into it, Because I also get confused watching and doing time loop. So, you know, so like I spend a lot of my time when we're shooting being like, 'Where are we? Has it happened yet?' You'd expect there to be a greater level of control exerted over performance and the creative process, but alas, we are mere mortals and we're struggling out here.

Ed Gamble

I guess, like, you're shooting everything out of order anyway? So, it's probably even more confusing?

Paapa Essiedu

Yes, so you've got to lean into the chaos, don't come to me asking for questions to be answered.

James Acaster

Are you allowed to say anything about what people can expect from this, or is it all super hush-hush.

Paapa Essiedu

Yes, no spoilers. I suppose it kind of picks up immediately after where the first season ends. I don't know what I'm allowed to say, shall I just say more of the same?



James Acaster

Who was it who started spoilers, I think everything is so spoiler free these days. Actually, I think if you really want to get me to watch something just go, 'Look, there's a scene in it where we fire a massive thing and it kills everybody, basically everyone dies in this series.' Then that would get me to watch it, that would be way more, it would leap up my priorities.

Paapa Essiedu

Would that get you to watch it?

James Acaster

It would, because everything else now is just like, 'Hmm, you'll have to wait and see.' And then you watch it-

Ed Gamble

Trailers now just spoil loads of stuff, and that annoys me.

Paapa Essiedu

Yes.

James Acaster

They trick you trailers, a lot of the time.

Paapa Essiedu

Do they?

James Acaster

Yes, there are loads of marvel trailers and stuff where they're like, CGI someone out of the frame so they're not in there, or they've replaced a light, or they show it in a different context, so everyone thinks it's about something else. Then you watch it and it's like, 'No, it was just a trick, they changed it.' They're mugging us off.

Paapa Essiedu

They're making mugs of you, and we shouldn't have it.

James Acaster

No.

Paapa Essiedu

But yes, more of the same, I would same.

James Acaster

More of the same, a lovely project.



Ed Gamble

That would be a great trailer, just you click play and it just says, 'More of the same.'

James Acaster

Still or sparkling water?

Paapa Essiedu

Absolutely still water.

James Acaster

Yes?

Paapa Essiedu

No conversation about it, move on, next.

James Acaster

Was this another decision that got made when you were six?

Paapa Essiedu

Yes, I think the thing about sparkling water that I've always found disappointing, is it has got the texture of Fanta, or of Lilt, but nothing else.

James Acaster

Yes.

Paapa Essiedu

It hasn't got the flavour, hasn't got the exhilaration, it hasn't got the dopamine hit. And to be honest, like, being honest, I don't really love water. I'm not here for water in a huge way, I'm not one of those people who is gasping-, this water here in front of me, is probably going to remain undrunk for the whole thing. But I look at water and I was like, 'That would be so much better if it was juice.' Or, 'That would be so much better if it was beer.' But necessity dictates that I've got to drink it. So, if I'm going to drink it, keep it as plain and easily drinkable as possible. Get it down you. Do you know what I mean? I don't want to be sipping it, I don't want to be thinking about it, I just want it to be there and then gone.

Ed Gamble

Glug it, would you glug it?

Paapa Essiedu

It's downed. What is a glug?

James Acaster

Go on?



Ed Gamble

Well, I guess downing comes under the umbrella of glugging, or glugging comes under the umbrella of downing, right?

James Acaster

Well, that depends how quickly you down it, if you down it in one, that's not glugging it. But glugging is like, to me, it's an audible thing, isn't it?

Paapa Essiedu

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Like a big sip, that is so big that it makes a sound when you push it down your neck.

Paapa Essiedu

So, is the sound coming out of your mouth, or through-

Ed Gamble

I think it's through the throat, yes.

James Acaster

From the throat.

Paapa Essiedu

Yes, I'd be glugging, I'd be glugging hard, yes. What, are you sipping?

Ed Gamble

I mean, I'm a glugger.

Paapa Essiedu

You're a glugger?

Ed Gamble

Yes, even in company, even in, you know-

James Acaster

His nickname is big sips.

Ed Gamble

James gave me the nickname Big Sips and I can't stress enough, it has not taken off. No one calls me Big Sips socially. I take big sips though.

Paapa Essiedu

You do take big sips?



Ed Gamble

I do take big sips, yes. It's an accurate nickname, but I do take big sips.

James Acaster

He doesn't look like he has.

Ed Gamble

Always have.

James Acaster

You watch him, and it looks like he has taken a little sip and then he puts the glass back down, half of it has gone, it's amazing. Poppadums or bread? Poppadums or bread, Paapa Essiedu, Poppadums or bread?

Paapa Essiedu

I think bread. The thing about poppadum's is you've got all the accompanying condiments, right? You've got that mango chutney, you've got those onions, you've got maybe a little bit of chilli sauce, nice. But bread, like I think bread, warm bread, butter, a little bit of salt, what do they put on butter sometimes like rosemary and stuff.

James Acaster

Yes, some herby stuff.

Paapa Essiedu

Yes, some herby stuff, some garlic.

James Acaster

I didn't expect you to like Rosemary.

Paapa Essiedu

I mean, I set my stall out quite intensely to begin with, didn't I? But yes, Rosemary is on the yes list.

Ed Gamble

Now because you said the door shut at six or seven, I'm imagining a six year old you absolutely loving rosemary.

Paapa Essiedu

Focaccia, just everywhere, focaccia, yes.

Ed Gamble

This is interesting, here's an idea if you want to do this, because you like the condiments that come with the poppadums, what about if we let you have-



Paapa Essiedu

Some of the condiments.

Ed Gamble

Of course, what if we let you have bread and then you could put some of the poppadom condiments with it. I don't think we've ever done that before.

James Acaster

No, I don't think we've ever done that before.

Paapa Essiedu

If we've not done that before, what, so like mango chutney on bread.

James Acaster

If you want.

Paapa Essiedu

That sounds insane.

Ed Gamble

It does actually.

James Acaster

It's the most insane thing you've ever said on the podcast.

Ed Gamble

Raw onion on bread.

Paapa Essiedu

Yes, some little cut up raw onion on bread, give me that and then shoot me in the head.

James Acaster

Shortest episode we've ever done. Give someone the bread course, shoot them in the head.

Ed Gamble

For my starter, I would like a bullet to the brain please.

James Acaster

I can't imagine having poppadum condiments with anything else.

Ed Gamble

Mango chutney?



James Acaster

Well, what else you putting that on?

Ed Gamble

Cheese toastie.

James Acaster

Wow, okay. Heston over here.

Ed Gamble

You put it in the middle, mango chutney in a cheese toastie, delicious, right?

James Acaster

I've never had that.

Paapa Essiedu

Is this imaginative or have you done that?

Ed Gamble

I think I've done that.

Paapa Essiedu

So, you have the chutney on hand?

Ed Gamble

Yes, in a jar, they sell it in jars.

Paapa Essiedu

You buy them in jars?

Ed Gamble

Yes, you can buy it in jars.

Paapa Essiedu

Wonderful.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Have you got that at home?

Ed Gamble

Not right now.



James Acaster

But you did have.

Ed Gamble

But I can't have cheese in the house either.

James Acaster

No, he loves cheese, he's the opposite to you.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Paapa Essiedu

Oh no.

Ed Gamble

I love cheese so much, and if I have it in the house, it just gets eaten in one sitting.

Paapa Essiedu

You literally can't be in the presence of it or you're eating it.

Ed Gamble

I can't be in the presence of it, I can't have it at home anyway. I have it when I go out.

Paapa Essiedu

You really are the opposite to me. I used to sell the cheese off my pizza when I was at school.

James Acaster

What? What?

Paapa Essiedu

What do you mean, what? That's it.

Ed Gamble

That's it, that's the end.

James Acaster

It was short for, what do you mean? You would sell the cheese off your pizza?

Paapa Essiedu

Yes, when I was at school, school dinners. You get, like, two slices of, I wouldn't say it was, like, high quality pizza, but it resembles pizza at least. Knife under the cheese, cut it off, who wants some? I'm swapping it for, what? Three Freddos.



James Acaster

Yes.

Paapa Essiedu

I'm swapping it for Wine Gums, I'm swapping it for, maybe even a cookie.

James Acaster

Wow.

Paapa Essiedu

Or money, 50p.

James Acaster

50p for the cheese?

Paapa Essiedu

Yes. That's a good market for it.

Ed Gamble

That's really good, 50p for that cheese.

Paapa Essiedu

Some people love cheese, like you, you'd probably pay for that.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I'd be absolutely snapping that cheese.

Paapa Essiedu

You'd be bankrupt.

Ed Gamble

Yeah.

James Acaster

Who was buying the cheese? Did you have a main customer who would always do it, or were you different people every time?

Ed Gamble

Good question

Paapa Essiedu

Do you know what? It goes to the highest bidder, right?



James Acaster

I would think that you'd established someone, they would always want the cheese.

Paapa Essiedu

You think someone would always be following me in the lunch queue?

James Acaster

You'd have like a mate, who they would always get it from you.

Ed Gamble

Someone who has got a real problem with cheese.

James Acaster

Yes, it's like here you go, it's the standard, it's part of the routine at lunchtime, 50p, gets their cheese.

Paapa Essiedu

Yes, no, I was quite democratic with it, I would say. I would say, there are probably more cheese lovers than cheese haters out there, so you can spread the love, don't you?

Ed Gamble

Well, especially if it's pizza day, right?

Paapa Essiedu

Yes, but I mean, I suppose the sad thing is, on the other side of that, is then you have a cheese less pizza. The bread is not high quality, the tomato sauce is not high quality, there are now no toppings because the toppings were with the cheese.

Ed Gamble

You've put a Freddo on yours.

Paapa Essiedu

It's melting very quickly.

James Acaster

So, you would just have tomato bread.

Paapa Essiedu

Tomato bread, yes. I'm saying it like I wasn't happy about it, I was very happy.

James Acaster

You were happy without the cheese.



Ed Gamble

I genuinely imagined being the kid who bought the extra cheese and got excited about the idea of putting an extra layer of cheese on top of my pizza.

Paapa Essiedu

Cheese on cheese.

Ed Gamble

Being like, 'Oh yeah, this is the best day at school ever.' It's exciting.

James Acaster

Yes, that may be exciting for you.

Ed Gamble

That's why I love pepperoni pizza from Pizza Hut so much, double pepperoni, double cheese.

James Acaster

Is it?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

I didn't know that, I didn't know that about the Pizza Hut pepperoni-

Paapa Essiedu

Peperoni Feast is double cheese as well?

Ed Gamble

Yes, layer of pepperoni on the tomato, then cheese, then pepperoni, then cheese, from memory.

James Acaster

Well, then I would assume it would be tomato, cheese, pepperoni, cheese, pepperoni, that's what I would assume.

Ed Gamble

That is better, actually.

James Acaster

I just assumed that-, mad to put the pepperoni-,

Paapa Essiedu

It's like a pepperoni pizza, with then another layer of cheese.



Ed Gamble

Yes, I think you're both right, why would you put the pepperoni on the bottom, that's absolutely crazy.

James Acaster

Let's say you went to Pizza Hut and you got the pepperoni for yourself, two layers of cheese on there, are you selling that for a quid? Or, are you selling each layer separately?

Paapa Essiedu

Well, first of all, I think what I'm ideally going to try and do. I'm trying to do pepperoni, pepperoni, cheese, cheese, so that I get rid of the cheese in one fowl swoop. I still get the toppings, do you know what I mean? Then yes, it's going for at least a pound.

James Acaster

You want to have a word with the kitchen before they make it? You're going to say, 'Can you please do-'

Paapa Essiedu

Well, I think all of us need to have a word with the kitchen and see what is the technique going on here.

James Acaster

What's the deal.

Paapa Essiedu

What's the deal, but yes, I'd definitely be like, 'I'm trying to get a business out here.'

Ed Gamble

You'd tell Pizza Hut that you're trying to get a business going in the restaurant.

Paapa Essiedu

Yes, I'm trying to make a profit out of what you're doing here. Pizza Hut, is that still a thing?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Paapa Essiedu

Can you still walk into a Pizza Hut?

Ed Gamble

I think you can.

James Acaster

In Kettering you can.

Paapa Essiedu

Yes?



James Acaster

Definitely a Pizza Hut on the roundabout. There's a roundabout in Kettering, a big roundabout, and if you go on it there's a pub, there's Pizza Hut, there's Nando's, there's a McDonald's, and then there's a gym, on this roundabout.

Ed Gamble

You work your way around.

James Acaster

Yes.

Paapa Essiedu

You can see the business sense.

Ed Gamble

Yes, they know what they're doing, absolutely.

Paapa Essiedu

Ice cream factory.

James Acaster

I mean, I think I've spoke about it on the podcast before, but I made myself very sick doing it. Like, me and my friends trying to take each other on, like who could do the most trips to the ice cream factory.

Paapa Essiedu

Yes, did you actually throw up?

James Acaster

No, but I was very close to it. I was laying down on the back of the car. You threw up?

Paapa Essiedu

Because, like, you could get, what is it, like Jelly Tots? That they put on top of it.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Paapa Essiedu

Or, like Fruit Pastilles, or whatever.

Ed Gamble

Things that shouldn't be anywhere near ice cream.



Paapa Essiedu

Near ice cream, right? I'm talking about fruit not being able to be in desserts, but Jelly Tots in strawberry ice cream, yes, yes, I went too hard on the Jelly Tots. You're ten years old, your body is not quite matured enough to be able to take on that challenge.

Ed Gamble

That's it, isn't it, it's the maturing.

Paapa Essiedu

I actually weirdly think it was in two trips. So, it's just like a very, very, very big mountain of Tots. It's like, 'What? You can just take as many Jelly Tots as you want?' I think it was maybe also the first time I encountered the philosophy of the buffet.

Ed Gamble

Yes, that's a mad moment, isn't it?

Paapa Essiedu

It's crazy, right? Because the first time you encounter a buffet, you're like, 'Oh, let me get as much stuff as I can in one sitting.' As we mature, collectively, you realise that you've got to be tactical about it. You've got to take small plates, several times.

Ed Gamble

And also, personally, the tactic is, stick to high quality proteins, don't fill up on carbs.

James Acaster

Interesting.

Ed Gamble

If you're still hungry by the time you've had all of the other stuff, then you go for the carbs.

Paapa Essiedu

It's not going to go too easily in the Pizza Hut though?

Ed Gamble

No, Pizza Hut won't work, yes, I'd just be waiting for you to pick the cheese off.

James Acaster

I think as a kid, when they tell you unlimited trips to the ice cream factory. What do they think is going to happen?

Ed Gamble

Do you remember the feeling of sicking up ice cream?



Paapa Essiedu

I remember the confusion of-, because it was such a fast transition from the elation and the joy and the unbridled, like, possibility.

Ed Gamble

Of life.

Paapa Essiedu

Of life, right? This is the top of the mountain, right? But, like, the decent after that was so swift and clearly executed, it was confusing for me.

Ed Gamble

I bet, that's a horrible moment.

James Acaster

'Do you remember the feeling of sicking up ice cream?'

Ed Gamble

It was a good answer, so?

James Acaster

It was a good answer, but here we are, this is what the podcast is.

Ed Gamble

Well, have you ever sicked up ice cream?

James Acaster

No, never. As soon as I felt it coming up my gullet, I'd swallow it again and say, 'Scrum didiliumptious.'

Ed Gamble

I was just trying to work out if it was cold.

James Acaster

If it came out cold.

Ed Gamble

Came out cold.

James Acaster

Interesting. Did it come out cold?

Paapa Essiedu

That's one thing I can't-, I am committed to the pages of my diary.



James Acaster

Your dream starter.

Paapa Essiedu

Does this menu have to be, like, coherent as an actual meal?

James Acaster

No.

Ed Gamble

Totally up to you, it's your dream menu.

James Acaster

Whatever you want.

Ed Gamble

Whatever you want. No one is watching and going-,

Paapa Essiedu

No it won't be, okay. So, my starter is a taco el pastor, Mexican street vendor.

James Acaster

Yes.

Paapa Essiedu

Mexico City. So, we're talking that corn tortilla, we're talking that pork that is kind of, now you actually think back on it, it's not a natural colour, but it's a very vivid kind of pinky purpley, whatever, reddy. There's coriander, there's a cup, it's the onion from the bread starter, there's hot sauce, there's those little bits of tomato, just guacamole.

James Acaster

That sounds very nice.

Ed Gamble

This has surprised me straight out of the gate, James.

James Acaster

You're surprised?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Paapa Essiedu

Go on.



Ed Gamble

Because all the talk has been about I won't eat things that I didn't eat when I was seven. And I'm really picky, we've seen the appearance of coriander which is probably the ultimately thing that's on people's list if they're a picky eater, that they won't eat.

Paapa Essiedu

Is it?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Paapa Essiedu

But isn't that like an actual condition?

Ed Gamble

There is that, they get weird about it, they say it tastes like soap, there's like a sort of medical thing. But also some people just hate coriander.

Paapa Essiedu

Yes.

Ed Gamble

I just, yes, think you know, you've got some things on there that have surprised me and that I wouldn't expect from a picky eater, and it sounds delicious.

Paapa Essiedu

I love coriander, the more the merrier. I like coriander.

James Acaster

The more the merrier.

Ed Gamble

The more the merrier.

Paapa Essiedu

Not the more the merrier, just the more.

Ed Gamble

You had this in Mexico City?

Paapa Essiedu

Yes, yes, yes. I was in Mexico City, like, last year. Have you been?



Ed Gamble

No.

James Acaster

No.

Paapa Essiedu

Have you been to Mexico at all?

Ed Gamble

Never.

James Acaster

No.

Paapa Essiedu

Do you like Mexican food?

James Acaster

Yes, love it. Really want to go to Mexico.

Paapa Essiedu

You should probably go.

Ed Gamble

That's where it is, I suppose, isn't it?

Paapa Essiedu

Yes, it's everywhere actually, everywhere you look. But yes, they've got kind of like street vendors who play amazing music and I don't actually know what's going on behind the, what do you call that?

Ed Gamble

The stall?

Paapa Essiedu

Well, they're in a thing.

Ed Gamble

They're in the stall right?

James Acaster

In the little truck.



Paapa Essiedu

Let's just say behind the screen. Behind the candelabra, I don't know what's going on, but you make your order and it comes out fully formed and perfect and beautiful and oily and greasy and amazing.

James Acaster

Is there a certain vendor that you're thinking of, that was the best one and you want to go back there?

Paapa Essiedu

We kind of spend one day, because I love tacos, we spent one day walking around Mexico City and getting all the-, we weren't on one of those annoying websites like, 'Best tacos in Mexico City.' And we were like, 'Yes, please.' Yes, there were several on that tour of Mexico City, but what I actually really do remember is the final one that we went to, after having had maybe ten, fifteen tacos over the day. Which sounds better before than after, but the final one was almost like buffet style taco situation. Where they give you the tortillas and then put what looks like a kilogram of pork in front of you and kind of stand there and watch you eat it. It would be the kind of situation where we would've just taken little bits and then bounced. But because it was very, very quiet and very brightly lit, so I was pushed again towards the great sick moment of the ice cream factory. Yes, too many of my stories are edging towards that.

James Acaster

You not knowing when to stop.

Paapa Essiedu

Yes

Ed Gamble

Putting Jelly Tots on top of the taco.

James Acaster

Yes please, sweet tacos is the dream man.

Paapa Essiedu

Sweet tacos?

James Acaster

There was somewhere, I can't remember where it was now, so this is going to be an awful story, where they did chocolate tacos. I did one of those things, similar to you, Googling something, things that you've got to eat. Like, great, they do chocolate tacos at this place. Had to walk a really long way, got there, it was shut, and I still think about it all the time. Still think how much I wanted those chocolate tacos.

Paapa Essiedu

Is the-,



James Acaster

Shell was chocolate.

Paapa Essiedu

Chocolate inside or the shell chocolate?

James Acaster

Shell was dipped in chocolate.

Ed Gamble

It was like a hard shell?

James Acaster

Hard shell, hard like waffle cone shell, dipped in chocolate and then inside that, like, ice cream and oh my God. I think that might've been actually during the Disney Holiday, and I think it was at Disney Springs. I was like, 'We're going to get these tacos. I can't wait.' Then we got there and it was shut and a little tear rolled down my cheek.

Ed Gamble

I don't know about sweet tacos.

James Acaster

What are you talking about?

Paapa Essiedu

Have you ever had a plantain taco?

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Have I?

James Acaster

Yes, you must've?

Ed Gamble

From Wahaca? Yes.

James Acaster

They do them at Wahaca.

Paapa Essiedu

Yes, thoughts?



Ed Gamble

Fantastic.

Paapa Essiedu

So you like a sweet taco.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I do but I suppose plantain, delicately straddles the sweet and savoury divide, doesn't it?

James Acaster

It's getting invited to both parties. Yes.

Ed Gamble

Very popular guy the plantain. Yes, I think it brings lovely sweetness to savoury things, but I would still consider it a savoury food, but then I guess-,

Paapa Essiedu

Would you? Mmm ok.

Ed Gamble

Yes, but I don't think I've had it in a sweet dessert context, so I'm sure my mind would be changed

James Acaster

Is it a fruit?

Paapa Essiedu

Plantain?

James Acaster

Yes. If it was in a dessert, would you be okay with that?

Paapa Essiedu

Yes, I would.

Ed Gamble

You really went somewhere there.

Paapa Essiedu

Yes, I know.

Ed Gamble

You really had to imagine it.



Paapa Essiedu

I was like, 'Wow, you've really pinned me to the wall.' Yes, I would I'd love it.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Paapa Essiedu

It is a fruit, you're right. Look, when I'm talking about fruits and desserts, don't take me back, but I am thinking like dried fruits in desserts, ergh. Ergh. I don't want a sultana, I don't want a raisin, I don't want a dried cranberry, or whatever, I don't want to see it. And also, just like cherries, whether they're real cherries or those fake cherries that you get on cakes or whatever, both of them. Have them separately, put it in the bowl, eat it, kind of feel like you're being healthy. If you're having your cake, if you're having your biscuit, whatever, allow yourself to give yourself over to the fact that that is an indulgent moment. I don't want it to be interrupted by vitamins and such.

Ed Gamble

Surely the raisin can be an indulgent thing? It can be part of an indulgence, can't it? They're super sweet, there's no vitamins in a raisin.

Paapa Essiedu

Yes, but what are they?

Ed Gamble

Dried grapes.

Paapa Essiedu

Dried grapes. But they look like they're a thousand years old. If you actually think about it as a dried grape, when was that a grape?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes sure, they should let you know on the packet.

Paapa Essiedu

They should show you the journey from like plant, like, delicious grape, to raisin, you'd never eat it.

James Acaster

This is when there should be a date, 'This was last a grape on this day.' And then you can decide if you want to eat it or not.

Paapa Essiedu

Exactly.



James Acaster

I started buying dried sour cherries from the place around the corner from me. And the other day, bought a tub of dark chocolate ice cream and was just freely adding the dried sour cherries to the dark chocolate ice cream, does that make you angry?

Paapa Essiedu

Are you trying to provoke me?

James Acaster

Yes.

Paapa Essiedu

It feels like it.

James Acaster

Yes.

Paapa Essiedu

It feels pointed, like you knew what was going on.

Ed Gamble

Not only was he eating dried fruit in dessert, he was adding it himself.

James Acaster

I was adding it myself.

Paapa Essiedu

I know.

James Acaster

That was me, chucking it in there, getting the sour cherries in with the dark chocolate.

Ed Gamble

Everything alright?

James Acaster

What, you going act like you don't like that flavour combination Ed?

Ed Gamble

No, I do, but just whenever I hear about you buying a big tub of ice cream and then throwing things into it, I'm like, 'James okay?'

James Acaster

Sure. My tour has started. Yes, I'm doing that now.



Ed Gamble

That sounds delicious though, I think. It feels like cooking as well.

Paapa Essiedu

Why the sour cherry?

James Acaster

I quite like sour things, but basically I went into this shop originally just to buy toppings for my Weetabix. Very important and I was like, 'I'm going to try some new toppings.' I've just been chopping up bananas and having raisins on them for ages now.

Paapa Essiedu

Ages as well. Ages.

James Acaster

Ages, yes that has been my go-to.

Paapa Essiedu

Raisins in your Weetabix?

James Acaster

Yes, my go-to Weetabix topping has been chopped up bananas and raisins for years.

Paapa Essiedu

Why? I get the banana, barely.

James Acaster

It tastes so good, it tastes so good.

Paapa Essiedu

The raisins as well?

James Acaster

Yes, because you can get the little mini Weetabix that have raisins in them and stuff, I've always liked those. I was like, 'I'm just going to add the raisins myself.'

Paapa Essiedu

So, what about your Dairy Milk of choice, are you going for a fruit and nut?

James Acaster

I probably would, you know.

Paapa Essiedu

Would you?



James Acaster

Yes, I love fruit and nut Dairy Milk.

Ed Gamble

Yes, that's crazy.

James Acaster

Really?

Ed Gamble

Yes, that's crazy. The Dairy Milk is like maybe top five classic tastes.

James Acaster

On its own.

Ed Gamble

Own its own.

James Acaster

You two like the classic?

Ed Gamble

Pure Dairy Milk.

Paapa Essiedu

I like the pure Dairy-, I mean, I like the old school Dairy Milk, before they made it weird.

Ed Gamble

Did they make it weird?

Paapa Essiedu

They've made it weird, yes.

James Acaster

Because it's soft edges now.

Paapa Essiedu

They've changed the shape of it and they've made it weird. They've changed the shape and the flavour I think, I think it got taken over by Kraft.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I think I'm thinking of the old school, classic Dairy Milk.



Paapa Essiedu

If you're going to stray from that, maybe the whole nut. Whole nut?

Ed Gamble

The whole nut fine, but I wouldn't-, you know.

James Acaster

Bottom of the table of me.

Paapa Essiedu

Bottom?

James Acaster

Bottom of the table, the whole nut. I'd probably go for the fruit and nut first and then the classic and then whole nut is way, way down. Beginning. I'm 38 years old and I've never parted with my money for a whole nut. Still.

Paapa Essiedu

You've never bought one?

James Acaster

Never bought one. Never handed cash over the counter for a fucking whole nut. Never done it.

Ed Gamble

Do you think you will?

James Acaster

No.

Ed Gamble

No?

James Acaster

I can't imagine it, unless I buy one for Paapa and don't want to fucking do it. There's no way. I'll buy you a whole nut if you wanted me to.

Ed Gamble

See, initially you were trying to provoke Paapa into saying something by saying you're adding sour cherries to ice cream, but you've managed to provoke yourself now. You're really angry.

James Acaster

I'm appalled by this whole nut stuff, everyone acting like it's normal, like it should even be on the shelf.



Ed Gamble

I don't see the point of whole nut being on the shelves.

Paapa Essiedu

What?

James Acaster

Take it off the shelves.

Ed Gamble

You've got fruit and nut and you've got the classic Dairy Milk.

Paapa Essiedu

But you know how I feel about fruit and nuts, so don't put that as an alternative option.

James Acaster

Yes, you know how he feels about it.

Dream main course.

Paapa Essiedu

Okay, dream main course. It's called Red Red, have you had that yet?

James Acaster

No.

Paapa Essiedu

Red Red. So, Red Red is a Ghanaian dish, it's black eyed bean stew with a side portion of sweet fried plantain. So, if we're talking about the black eyed bean stew, I mean, you've got black eyed beans, you've got a tomatoey base, kind of like fried in like garlic, ginger, onion, maggi cubes, maybe a bit of smoked fish, slow cooked over a long time. Palm oil, it has got a very red colouring and texture to it. That is kind of like counter balanced by the sweet savoury indescribable perfection of fried sweet plantain.

Ed Gamble

It sounds delicious.

James Acaster

Have you ever considered doing the voice over for a Marks & Spencer's adverts, because you have a very sensual way of talking about food.

Ed Gamble

Yes.



Paapa Essiedu

I was actually really going through the process of both making it and devouring it as I was saying it.

James Acaster

Yes, I mean, that sounds amazing and I like the name.

Paapa Essiedu

Red Red.

James Acaster

Red Red.

Paapa Essiedu

It's what it says on the tin.

James Acaster

Yes, they're not messing around with that.

Paapa Essiedu

It doesn't come in a tin.

Ed Gamble

It will do when it's at Marks & Spencer's and you're doing the voice over.

Paapa Essiedu

Sponsored by. Would that be Uncle Ben? No, who was the person who had the sauce?

James Acaster

Lloyd Grossman.

Paapa Essiedu

Yes. It could be like Paapa Essiedu's Red Red.

James Acaster

Yes, I think so.

Paapa Essiedu

No one is buying it.

Ed Gamble

Someone is going to message you about that.

Paapa Essiedu

How did Lloyd Grossman get that deal?



Ed Gamble

Well, he was the host of the original MasterChef.

Paapa Essiedu

Was he?

Ed Gamble

Yes, for a long time, so a bit of a food icon back in those days. Then started doing his own sauce.

Paapa Essiedu

He's not at all who I thought he was.

Ed Gamble

Who did you think he was?

Paapa Essiedu

I thought he was on, either This is Your Life.

James Acaster

Through the Keyhole.

Paapa Essiedu

Through the Keyhole, yes.

James Acaster

That is him as well.

Paapa Essiedu

Confusing for me.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

That was my introduction to him also. So, I was like you, I was like, 'How has the Through the Keyhole guy got his own sauce?'

Paapa Essiedu

Exactly.

James Acaster

Yes, yes.



Paapa Essiedu

Why am I compulsively buying pasta sauce from the Through the Keyhole guy?

James Acaster

Yes, that was exactly what I was like. I was like, he says, 'Who lives in a house like this?' I don't know why you're selling sauce and then you discover actually, this is his roots. This is who he actually is, it's really weird that he's doing Through the Keyhole.

Paapa Essiedu

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Maybe he had seen inside so many people's houses he worked out what the majority of people like on their pasta.

Paapa Essiedu

Yes.

Ed Gamble

So, he can see that he has seen so many kitchens that he's like, 'I know exactly what's going to sell the best.'

Paapa Essiedu

So, do you think like all the off cuts of what is shot is just him going through kitchen cupboards?

Ed Gamble

Yes, going through cupboards.

Paapa Essiedu

Noting things down.

Ed Gamble

People like tomato.

James Acaster

But then it's like, really just for celebrities. So, yes, he knows what sauces celebrities like.

Ed Gamble

Do you not remember him on MasterChef?

James Acaster

No, no. I've never seen an episode of MasterChef in my life.



Ed Gamble

Right, well that was old school MasterChef and then it went away for a few years and it came back as originally called MasterChef on the Road I believe, with Greg Wallace. Now that has just become MasterChef.

James Acaster

What was On The Road?

Ed Gamble

Maybe it was just like going around the country finding good people. From what I remember.

Paapa Essiedu

What was original MasterChef?

Ed Gamble

It was in a studio but the contestant would only be there for one episode and they'd have to cook a dish within the time of the show. Lloyd Grossman was the host and then that led to the best Vic and Bob sketch, you seen that one?

James Acaster

No.

Ed Gamble

Where Vic Reeves plays Lloyd Grossman, as a sort of horrifying big headed, very pale, vamperic figure, and he floats across the studio.

James Acaster

I have seen that, yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes, you've seen that, well that's Lloyd Grossman.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

That's supposed to be Lloyd Grossman that.

James Acaster

Who do you want to be cooking the Red Red?

Paapa Essiedu

Red Red is being cooked by any aunty. It has got to be anyone who is referred to as an aunty, anyone that I would call an aunty.



Ed Gamble

Anyone that you would call an aunty, not just anyone who would call themselves an aunty?

Paapa Essiedu

Yes, the people that I would call an aunty, aren't limited to my actual aunts.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Paapa Essiedu

I'd probably call you aunty in the right circumstances.

Ed Gamble

Well, I can't cook Red Red, I'd have to really do some research.

Paapa Essiedu

Yes. But no, it has to be cooked by an aunty in a kitchen with a pot that's, like, 30 years old, the music is loud, you can smell it for days, it's in the sofa fabric. You know, it's being carried with you, it's got to have that authentic feeling to it.

James Acaster

I'm always jealous of that, with certain cultures calling people Auntie and Uncle and stuff, I think it's so cool, and I don't have it.

Ed Gamble

Yes, it would be creepy if you did it.

James Acaster

Yes, if I did it, it wouldn't work.

Paapa Essiedu

So, what would you call, like, your mum's mate?

James Acaster

Just whatever her name is, Hillary.

Paapa Essiedu

You just call her Jen?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

I just call her Hillary. If I ever said, 'How's it going, Auntie?' I think Hillary would get very confused.



Ed Gamble

Yes, it doesn't sound good.

James Acaster

It wouldn't work. But then, like, Guz Khan calls my dad Uncle, and my dad absolutely loves that.

Ed Gamble

Yes, of course.

James Acaster

He absolutely loves it, it's his favourite thing that anyone's ever called him, that Guz calls him Uncle every time he sees him. Absolutely loves it.

Paapa Essiedu

What would you call Guz's dad?

James Acaster

Well, I've not been introduced yet, but I would just-, Mr Khan.

Paapa Essiedu

Would you lead with the name, or would you go with-,

James Acaster

Mr Khan.

Ed Gamble

Mr Khan.

James Acaster

'Hello, Mr Khan.'

Paapa Essiedu

Really?

James Acaster

Yes.

Paapa Essiedu

You wouldn't go with Uncle?

James Acaster

To begin with. No, I wouldn't venture that. I think after the first day, maybe I'll see how we're doing, and if I could.



Ed Gamble

I don't think you've got the confidence to get away with it. Guz definitely has.

James Acaster

Oh, yes, Guz, yes.

Ed Gamble

I think that's more about Guz as a person than it being anything cultural at all.

Paapa Essiedu

But the thing is, let's say Guz's mum was called Hillary, right? You couldn't call her Hillary.

James Acaster

I couldn't?

Paapa Essiedu

No.

James Acaster

Oh. Why not?

Paapa Essiedu

You'd have to call her Auntie.

James Acaster

I'd have to call her Auntie?

Paapa Essiedu

I think so.

Ed Gamble

Or Mrs Khan. Mrs Khan, perhaps?

Paapa Essiedu

Or Ms Khan.

Ed Gamble

Ms Khan.

James Acaster

Ms Khan.

Paapa Essiedu

But that feels, like, even more formal to me.



James Acaster

Ms Khan, yes.

Paapa Essiedu

Ms Khan, that feels, like, a bit boarding school.

James Acaster

Yes, it is.

Paapa Essiedu

Whereas Auntie is, like, respectful, but still chill.

James Acaster

Yes, normally I just-, I call your mum Anne.

Ed Gamble

Yes. It's so close to Auntie as well, you way as well-,

James Acaster

May as well add a-,

Ed Gamble

Put a -tie on the end.

James Acaster

Yes. But yes, I'd probably just call her by her first name. But I think it's way cooler to, like, call people Uncle and Auntie. I think it's respectful and affectionate at the same time.

Paapa Essiedu

Right?

Ed Gamble

And also, if you forget someone's name it's really useful.

James Acaster

Don't have to worry about that.

Ed Gamble

Don't have to learn any of the names of your mum's mates.

James Acaster

Yes.



Ed Gamble

Just call everyone Auntie.

Paapa Essiedu

Yes.

James Acaster

And also, there seems to be some clear, kind of like-, like when you say, 'Any auntie could cook that,' because there's a clear skill set already attached to that name.

Ed Gamble

What age does someone become Auntie though?

Paapa Essiedu

It's interesting, I think, like-, I think I'm entering my uncle era.

Ed Gamble

Yes?

James Acaster

Yes?

Paapa Essiedu

People have started Uncle-ing me.

James Acaster

Really?

Paapa Essiedu

In a way that I'm not hugely comfortable with. But, like, I think I'm also exhibiting certain uncle behaviours.

Ed Gamble

Yes, like what? What are uncle behaviours?

Paapa Essiedu

I guess, like, sitting in the sofa in a certain way, do you know what I mean? Once you, kind of, start sitting like that-,

Ed Gamble

Slouching a bit, yes.

Paapa Essiedu

Uncle-ish, you're uncle-ish then.



Ed Gamble

Sort of slouching, but also being like, 'I've sat in this sofa before.'

Paapa Essiedu

Yes.

Ed Gamble

'This is my space on the sofa.'

Paapa Essiedu

Exactly, 'And I'm not going to move.'

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Paapa Essiedu

Yes, uncle, it's a bit of an existential-, it's really confronting, leaving behind the ice cream factory era. Kind of, goes straight from ice cream factory to-,

Ed Gamble

To uncle.

Paapa Essiedu

Sitting like an uncle.

James Acaster

That seems quite early for you to be getting called Uncle. You must have not been expecting it now.

Paapa Essiedu

Like I said, like, it's hard, it's hard to be confronted by, but the proof is in the posture, right? Do you know what I mean?

Ed Gamble

The old phrase.

Paapa Essiedu

Yes, the old adage.

Ed Gamble

'The proof's in the posture.'

Paapa Essiedu

You can't really resist it. And to be fair, like you say, I think there are some plus perks to it, it suggests respect. It's better than being called, like, a prick.



Ed Gamble

Those are the two options?

Paapa Essiedu

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Prick or Uncle.

James Acaster

Yes, fair enough, I know what I'd-, or Uncle Prick, could be called Uncle Prick, that's the sequel to Uncle Buck.

Paapa Essiedu

Have you got nieces and nephews?

James Acaster

Yes, I've got nephews, they call me Uncle James.

Paapa Essiedu

They call you Uncle James? How does that make you feel?

James Acaster

Yes, and they call me it every time they talk to me, every sentence has 'Uncle James' in it. Once they've seen me, for the rest of the day, every sentence starts with, 'Uncle James.' They can't just talk, because they're not at that age yet where they can just go, 'How are you? What are you up to?' They have to go, 'Uncle James,' and then go into it, every time.

Ed Gamble

Yes, and they're not asking how you are.

James Acaster

They don't give a shit how I am. 'Uncle James, can I have this? Can I have that?' Whatever, but, like, yes, so that will always be the top of every-,

Paapa Essiedu

Does it make you feel good?

James Acaster

Yes, love it.

Paapa Essiedu

Yes?



James Acaster

Love being Uncle James, really enjoy it. They're all brilliant as well, so I like hanging out with them. It would be cool if, like, other people who I'm not biologically their uncle was calling me Uncle. I'd love that.

Paapa Essiedu

You would like that?

James Acaster

I'd like it.

Paapa Essiedu

What about if the person was, like, 25?

James Acaster

Yes, well, then we've got a problem, I don't like that.

Ed Gamble

Also, you've just said on our podcast, 'I would like it if people who I'm not related to called me Uncle,' so now everyone who's listening to this is going to call you Uncle, I can see it.

Paapa Essiedu

Uncle James, yes.

James Acaster

I won't mind that.

Ed Gamble

Will you not?

James Acaster

I'd like that. If anyone comes up to me and goes, 'Hey, Uncle, really enjoy the food podcast-,'

Paapa Essiedu

How does it fit as a counterpoint to Big Sips? As you've just taken big sips.

Ed Gamble

Big Sips.

James Acaster

Oh, yes, look at that.

Ed Gamble

Did you see that?



Paapa Essiedu

Yes, huge.

James Acaster

You heard that, didn't you?

Ed Gamble

Big Sips and Uncle, that's great, what a pair.

Paapa Essiedu

Uncle James.

Ed Gamble

Big Sips and Uncle James.

James Acaster

Big Sips and Uncle James, that's good.

Ed Gamble

Is it too late to change the name of this?

Paapa Essiedu

It sounds like Operation Yewtree.

James Acaster

Off Menu Podcast of Big Sips and Uncle James.

Ed Gamble

So, this is going to be cooked by an auntie, this red red.

Paapa Essiedu

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Would you ever trust an uncle to cook red red?

Paapa Essiedu

Are you crazy? I think it's also, like, it's an attribute of an uncle to literally not even know where the pots are kept in the kitchen. The consternation on the face of the uncle as you ask the question, 'Please can you cook me some red red?' The consternation tells you everything you need to know.

Ed Gamble

Is that going to be your vibe as an uncle then?



Paapa Essiedu

No, I'm trying to usher in a new generation or uncles. Yes, red red cooking uncles, people sitting upright in their sofas, all the rest of it. This is a new generation, it's 2023.

Ed Gamble

So, have you cooked red red before?

Paapa Essiedu

I have, yes. Yes, I actually do love it, I love it. And I was Googling it earlier on to see what other people were saying about it and it's described as a low-calorie, gluten-free, vegan treat.

Ed Gamble

Oh, wow.

Paapa Essiedu

You know? So, yes, when Marks & Spencer come calling, I think there's a revolution coming.

Ed Gamble

Well, it's just going to be, like, on loads of influencers' Instagrams and stuff.

Paapa Essiedu

Yes.

Ed Gamble

'Have you tried red red?'

James Acaster

You could do it on your Insta.

Ed Gamble

I could do it on my Insta.

James Acaster

Ed Ed. Ed Ed making the red red.

Ed Gamble

Big Sips making Ed Ed.

James Acaster

Yes.

Paapa Essiedu

It does make you fart a lot though.



Ed Gamble

Does it?

Paapa Essiedu

Yes, the beans. It makes you fart a lot, so I don't know how that would go with the influencers.

James Acaster

Has an influencer ever farted before on cam?

Ed Gamble

I'm sure.

James Acaster

You're sure?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

That's your answer?

Ed Gamble

Probably not on their public channel.

James Acaster

No.

Ed Gamble

They've probably got a paid for one where they do that.

James Acaster

If you want to see the farts you've got to pay extra.

Paapa Essiedu

Yes, sound on.

Ed Gamble

Yes, that's the problem, no-one's been watching it with the sound.

Paapa Essiedu

Yes, it's actually just, like, a cacophony.



Ed Gamble

Yes, that's why they've got subtitles on, so no-one hits sound, and then you hit the little thing and it's like, 'Brr.'

James Acaster

Just constant farting.

Ed Gamble

Yes, constant farting. 'Sorry, I've just had red red.'

James Acaster

Before we move on to the side dish, ever call anyone Cousin, like in The Bear?

Paapa Essiedu

I love The Bear. Cuz, maybe, not Cousin.

James Acaster

Not Cousin like-

Paapa Essiedu

I mean, like, yes, there is such a-, I don't know, there's something about an Italian American saying 'Cousin' that has got weight to it, do you know what I mean? It's not said by accident, it's not said without intention, 'Cousin.'

Ed Gamble

Yes, I love it. I mean, Nish Kumar tried to get that going between us.

Paapa Essiedu

Cousin?

Ed Gamble

Yes, he called me Cousin for a while.

Paapa Essiedu

Back and forwards?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Paapa Essiedu

Yes?

Ed Gamble

He called me Cousin for a while, but I wasn't sure about it.



James Acaster

He also tried to get people to refer to him as The Bear as well, he was really into it.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Ridiculous.

Ed Gamble

I don't know why he thought he could be referred to as The Bear.

James Acaster

No, he just was sure that-, he watched that show, and of all the characters in it, he saw himself as Carmy. I mean, what the fuck are you on about?

Ed Gamble

I mean, come on, mate. Now, that is delusion to the max.

James Acaster

In your dreams. You are Fak at best. You are Fak if you're lucky, Nish.

Your dream side dish?

Paapa Essiedu

So, this is where the meal becomes a bit incongruous. My dream side dish is patatas bravas, but from a very specific place.

Ed Gamble

Great.

Paapa Essiedu

So, it's a place called Bar Tomas in Barcelona, have you been there?

Ed Gamble

No.

James Acaster

No.

Paapa Essiedu

No? It's a real, kind of like, locally joint, and they make these patatas bravas, and there's no tomato sauce, which I think actually elevates it. It's fried in this, like, chilli, garlicky oil, and you know those French fries you get that are so, so, so crunchy on the outside and so soft and fluffy on the inside? It



manages to do that, right? It costs, like, €3 or something, you can get it with one of those tiny little beers, it's not even a half pint, I don't think.

Ed Gamble

The little, like, stubby bottles?

Paapa Essiedu

Yes, but it comes in, like, a cute little glass, delicious. And yes, if you want you can also have, like, a little chicken breast or little sausage, but that's now become your meal, hasn't it, rather than the side dish?

James Acaster

Well, I don't know.

Paapa Essiedu

Can I have the beer?

James Acaster

I think you can-,

Ed Gamble

Tapas though. Well, yes, I love the idea of adding a little beer, it feels like it should come with that.

James Acaster

Right.

Paapa Essiedu

It should come with a little beer.

Ed Gamble

If every time you've had it you've had the little beer-,

Paapa Essiedu

I've always had the little beer, so, like, it counts as a side dish.

Ed Gamble

Then they come together, you can't tear them apart, so yes.

James Acaster

Yes, definitely add the little beer. Have a little sausage in there.

Paapa Essiedu

Yes?



Ed Gamble

Yes, you could throw a little sausage in.

James Acaster

Throw a little sausage in, I think that sounds nice.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

I mean, definitely patatas bravas, I don't like the tomato sauce in it, so this is great.

Paapa Essiedu

Get rid of it, right?

James Acaster

Yes, it's great that that's not going to be in there.

Paapa Essiedu

Yes. The tomato sauce is actually giving Lloyd Grossman, I feel.

James Acaster

Yes?

Paapa Essiedu

I feel it feels like someone putting pasta sauce on top of your bravas.

James Acaster

Grossman bravas.

Paapa Essiedu

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I know what you mean. Maybe Grossman, sort of, reached his spindly fingers across.

Paapa Essiedu

Do you think he's gone international?

Ed Gamble

He's gone international, and he's infiltrated Spain.

James Acaster

Ed's quite good with voices, can you do, like, Lloyd Grossman saying, 'Patatas bravas'?



Ed Gamble

'Patatas bravas.'

Paapa Essiedu

That's very good.

Ed Gamble

I used to do Lloyd Grossman all the time when I used to watch MasterChef when I was a kid, and then do impressions of Lloyd Grossman afterwards. But I'd be, like-,

James Acaster

Who with?

Ed Gamble

With my mum, me and my mum used to do it. But I'd be, like, making dinner, but doing an impression of Lloyd Grossman like it was on MasterChef. 'I've prepared a cheese sandwich.'

James Acaster

And your mum would be cracking up?

Ed Gamble

Yes, she loved that.

James Acaster

Yes. Love it.

Ed Gamble

Yes, of course you do.

James Acaster

I mean, as an actor, were you growing up doing characters round the house?

Paapa Essiedu

Not really. I didn't really start acting until very late. And also, I sometimes-, yes, I didn't start acting until very late, so it wasn't really something-, what I-, I used to love Stars in Their Eyes, do you remember that one?

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.



Paapa Essiedu

Where, like, it was famous people, right? Or was there a celebrity-,

Ed Gamble

There's a celebrity version, but yes.

Paapa Essiedu

Celebrity version, yes. So, I used to love watching that and, like, trying to do the impressions of-, who sings Lady in Red?

Ed Gamble

Chris de Burgh.

Paapa Essiedu

Chris de Burgh.

James Acaster

Lady in Red Red.

Paapa Essiedu

Lady in Red Red. I literally couldn't tell you what the original of that song was like, but I could tell you what the Stars in Your Eyes-,

Ed Gamble

The guy doing the impression of him was.

Paapa Essiedu

Yes, doing the impression was like. Big banger.

Ed Gamble

Chris de Burgh's a very funny go-to when you imagine-, I think he won actually, didn't he? Because I've seen that clip recently, the guy doing Lady in Red.

Paapa Essiedu

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes? Lady in Red Red.

Paapa Essiedu

Lady Covered in Red Red.



James Acaster

When I was a teenager-, because I was really into-, I still am really into music. And one of my mum's friends-,

Ed Gamble

Auntie.

James Acaster

One of my aunties, I remember she came round once, and she wasn't really a music fan, but she loved Chris de Burgh. She was like, 'Your mum was telling me you really love music, so I thought I'd lend you this to watch,' and it was, like, a video of the making of one of the later Chris de Burgh albums. And I'd sat down to watch it because she'd given it to me, and I was sitting there going, 'I'm pretty sure this album is shit.' And it's a really long documentary about Chris de Burgh.

Ed Gamble

'You like music.'

James Acaster

'You like music so I thought I'd lend you this,' and she's just obsessed with Chris de Burgh. So, like, it was just a bad Chris de Burgh album and how it was made, but being presented like it was a classic.

Paapa Essiedu

Yes, like it's Thriller.

James Acaster

In the documentary. But-

Ed Gamble

But I guess if you're filming a documentary, you're, sort of, just hoping the album's going to be a classic, right? And you do have to film it as if it is.

James Acaster

Yes, you have to film it like it is and like-,

Ed Gamble

Because it's too late if you make a classic and you've not made a documentary about it.

James Acaster

Yes, then you're like, 'Oh, we should have filmed that.'

Paapa Essiedu

Really? So, you think that those documentary maker s think that they're about to witness, like, Get Back.



Ed Gamble

Oh, they're hoping for that, certainly.

Paapa Essiedu

I guess Chris probably was as well.

Ed Gamble

Yes, every time.

James Acaster

He was really hoping.

Paapa Essiedu

Has he got any other tunes?

James Acaster

No, I have no idea.

Paapa Essiedu

And you've watched the documentary.

James Acaster

And I've watched the-, I don't remember a single song on that documentary, I couldn't tell you what the album's called. It was so boring, and every song was so bad.

Ed Gamble

If you had to go on Stars in Their Eyes, who would you do?

Paapa Essiedu

You want somebody with a good outfit, don't you?

Ed Gamble

Yes, with a recognisable outfit as well so you get that initial round of applause.

Paapa Essiedu

Right? And the applause really should go to the costume makers, but I think-,

Ed Gamble

Are you stopping the-, 'Can we just stop the song? Just want everyone to know, that applause was for the costume makers.'

Paapa Essiedu

Right?



James Acaster

Yes, a really ethical contestant on Stars in Their Eyes, they've got some morals.

Ed Gamble

Yes, like you're doing an Oscars speech before you're doing your songs.

Paapa Essiedu

Maybe someone like Thundercat.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Oh, yes.

Paapa Essiedu

He's got, like, a real cosmic space age-, I feel like the costume makers could (talking over each other 51.03).

Ed Gamble

I'd love to hear the Stars in Their Eyes audience trying to wrap their head round that. You start singing, they're like, 'I guess we clap but I've got absolutely no idea who he's trying to be.'

Paapa Essiedu

What, because it's the same audience from, like, the '90s.

Ed Gamble

Yes, in my head it's an ITV audience from the '90s.

James Acaster

I mean, it's going to be ITV Saturday teatime, so good luck.

Paapa Essiedu

I love that, comes out to complete silence.

Ed Gamble

Yes, 'This isn't the ThunderCats I remember.'

James Acaster

You'd have to learn to play bass for that as well, surely? You've got to mime.

Paapa Essiedu

Yes, left-handed as well, right?



James Acaster

Is he left-handed?

Paapa Essiedu

I think he plays it in reverse, he's reversed all the strings.

James Acaster

Right. So, you've got to learn at least to mime that. Well, I'd watch that, absolutely.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

It would be great.

Paapa Essiedu

What would you do?

James Acaster

Great question. I would-,

Ed Gamble

Would you go with someone you look like, or someone whose music you wanted to do?

James Acaster

Well, I guess I would not go-, yes, I wouldn't go with someone whose music I like and that I want to do, because I think that would feel too-, because I know what my personality's like, I would get too invested in it and want it to go really well, and would only end up disappointing me. And then I'd take it really personally and it would ruin that artist for me forever. So, I would have to do someone that I think I look like, or something that's just a laugh.

Ed Gamble

Tell you who I get a lot of messages about you looking like.

James Acaster

Well, Jarvis Cocker?

Ed Gamble

No.

James Acaster

I get that a lot.



Ed Gamble

Young Dave Mustaine from Megadeth.

James Acaster

Yes, Dave Mustaine. Or Noddy Holder.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

I get that a lot.

Paapa Essiedu

Noddy Holder.

James Acaster

Noddy Holder. When I was on a Christmas episode of Would I Lie to You, Noddy Holder was on it, and it didn't make the edit, but one of my cards that I had, it was a lie, and it was that I'd done a Noddy Holder impression at school on stage, and I had to, like, riff that on the spot. And they were like, 'What song did you sing?' And I was like, 'You know, the Christmas one.'

Ed Gamble

'The Christmas one.'

James Acaster

Yes, really bad. I was so bad at lying. Like, I'd go on there and just tell the truth every time, and then I had to do a lie as the Christmas one, and they went, 'Sing it for us now, how does it go?' And I was like, 'I don't know.' And they were like-, and very quickly moved us on. Just, 'Move on to the next round. Not only has he ruined this, but he's offending one of the other guests by being like, "I don't know your back catalogue, I can't remember any of it."' But they were like, 'Well, we thought you looked like him and it would be funny.'

Paapa Essiedu

I've just Googled him, MBE.

James Acaster

Yes, MBE, not bad.

Paapa Essiedu

That's what he looks like now.

James Acaster

That's me.



Ed Gamble

That's you.

James Acaster

That's me in the future.

Paapa Essiedu

That's your future.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Ebenezer Scrooge.

Ed Gamble

Yes. So, you'd do Noddy Holder, do you think?

James Acaster

Yes, I'd do Noddy Holder, I'd do the Christmas one, and I mean, then I'd really shout-out the wardrobe, because Slade used to have some pretty mean threads.

Ed Gamble

Yes, that's good.

James Acaster

So, I'd be like, 'This goes out to the wardrobe department.'

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

And I'd sing I Wish it Could Be Christmas Everyday or whatever their one was, Merry Xmas Everybody.

Paapa Essiedu

Yes, it's that one, isn't it?

Ed Gamble

Yes, 'It's Christmas,' that one.

Paapa Essiedu

'It's Christmas.'



James Acaster

Yes, when he shouts, 'It's Christmas,' like that. Every time in that song that he shouts, 'It's Christmas,' I don't think about Noddy Holder shouting it, I think about The Office Christmas special when the guy who works in the office, I think his name is Oliver, shouts it, when everyone's dancing. Because it's so well observed that there's always one person who does the Noddy Holder scream. So, now every time I hear that song I just think about that guy from The Office, and I don't think about Slade anymore.

Ed Gamble

I'd do Crazy Frog.

James Acaster

So, you're going for someone you look like.

Ed Gamble

Recognisable outfit.

Paapa Essiedu

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Banging tune.

Paapa Essiedu

Are you wearing a frog head prosthetic, or have you just got face paint?

Ed Gamble

I think face paint would be the best option.

Paapa Essiedu

Great, love that.

James Acaster

Really?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

I don't think you'd look enough like a frog, Ed.



Ed Gamble

Well, I would wear, like, frog body, and then just face paint. Because people still need to see it's me, right? Otherwise you'd get anyone to do it.

Paapa Essiedu

Yes, Masked Singer.

James Acaster

Well, you've still got to sing it, haven't you?

Ed Gamble

That's Masked Singer, exactly, yes.

James Acaster

That's Masked Singer.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

I mean, could you do Masked Singer as the Crazy Frog, or would that be trademarked? It probably would.

Ed Gamble

I think it would be trademarked.

James Acaster

Probably can't do it. Especially if you did every song just going, 'Bibidi bibidi.'

Ed Gamble

'Ring ding ding ding ding ding.'

Paapa Essiedu

Who is the person who's a millionaire for being the Crazy Frog?

Ed Gamble

Well, the big remix was Axel F, right?

James Acaster

Yes, was it Beverly Hills Cop?

Ed Gamble

Yes. But, I mean, if you go on Spotify there are so many different Crazy Frog songs.



Paapa Essiedu

Really?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Paapa Essiedu

Albums?

Ed Gamble

Albums, like, and they're all big covers of pop tunes with the Crazy Frog doing them.

James Acaster

How do you know that?

Ed Gamble

Well, because when I'm on tour, my favourite thing to do to Paul, my tour manager, is when we go to one of the drive-through Starbucks or something, is as soon as we pull up at the little speaker and the lady says, 'What would you like?' I put on Crazy Frog really loudly, because he gets the giggles and gets really embarrassed. And he goes, 'Sorry, that's not me, I didn't put Crazy Frog on.'

James Acaster

The comedy never stops.

Ed Gamble

So, then I, sort of, started getting back into Crazy Frog.

Paapa Essiedu

Yes.

James Acaster

So, you can see the Spotify.

Ed Gamble

Yes, so I think I'd do Crazy Frog on Stars in Their Eyes.

James Acaster

Your dream drink?

Paapa Essiedu

Okay, so I'm going to say-, this is just the drink to have with the meal, right?

Ed Gamble

Yes.



Paapa Essiedu

It's not like Desert Island Discs, 'What do I want?' It's like the last drink I'll ever have.

Ed Gamble

It is a bit like Desert Island Discs, but we try not to draw attention to that.

James Acaster

Yes.

Paapa Essiedu

I didn't say it.

James Acaster

Then we can make out like all the other podcasts are ripping us off, it's like, 'Actually, we ripped off Desert Island Discs.'

Paapa Essiedu

I would go for a Sgroppino from Forza Wine in Peckham, have you ever been there?

Ed Gamble

We have been there.

James Acaster

We've been there.

Ed Gamble

We have been there.

James Acaster

We have been in Forza Wine.

Ed Gamble

We had a nice time there.

James Acaster

Yes, we had a nice little drink on the rooftop.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Paapa Essiedu

Yes, so, like, it's amazing, isn't it?



James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Paapa Essiedu

It's opposite Frank's, I think, like, that view of London. But yes, so a Sgroppino is basically-, I mean, it's basically a lemon sorbet with vodka and champagne in it.

Ed Gamble

Yes, this sounds incredible.

Paapa Essiedu

Woah, Lord. But, like, I really, really, really would recommend drinking it in moderation because it is a lemon sorbet, and you can drink a lot of those and that can go wrong in this particular instance, and yes, it has done.

Ed Gamble

You've basically picked a grown-up ice cream factory here, right?

James Acaster

Yes.

Paapa Essiedu

And it had exactly the same result.

Ed Gamble

But on a rooftop, which is a terrible idea.

Paapa Essiedu

No, it's awful, yes. To be fair, I do remember going there at one of those, like, sundown meals, so it's five o'clock or whatever, and you're getting on the Sgroppinos. The night out after that, you're not going home at two o'clock in the morning, you're getting put in a cab at, like, 8:30, trust me. You know, because you're like, 'Wow, it's so delicious, it's so refreshing.' You feel luxurious and-, yes, it just looks sophisticated. What doesn't look sophisticated is dry heaving in the Uber, like, whilst people are coming back from rush hour traffic.

Ed Gamble

Like, buzzing with sugar and booze.

Paapa Essiedu

Yes.



James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Like, 'Oh, God.' People going out for dinner, and you're just on the pavement.

Paapa Essiedu

But it is absolutely delicious.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I need to try that. I think we've talked briefly about Sgroppinos before.

James Acaster

Have we?

Ed Gamble

With Paul Feig, I believe.

James Acaster

Oh, right.

Ed Gamble

He mentioned Sgroppinos.

James Acaster

Cocktail king.

Ed Gamble

But I'm surprised you've not had a Sgroppino yet.

James Acaster

Well, I'm thinking now, 'Have I had something like-,' I mean, it obviously does sound delicious, and I'm thinking if I've had any boozy sorbet drinks. But yes, I'd order that in a heartbeat.

Paapa Essiedu

Have you got any feelings about, like, frozen cocktails?

James Acaster

Oh, love them.

Paapa Essiedu

Frogonis.



James Acaster

Absolutely will go for those immediately over-

Paapa Essiedu

Frozen margaritas.

James Acaster

If it's on the menu as a frozen cocktail I'll go for that over the rest of them any day, like, immediately. That one that we had at-, was it Speedboat Bar?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Paapa Essiedu

In Soho?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

That, like-,

Ed Gamble

Mine was, like, the jelly beer thing.

James Acaster

Holy moly. It was this frozen-,

Paapa Essiedu

Jelly beer?

James Acaster

Like, beer, but it also had a spirit in it.

Paapa Essiedu

Oh, yes, it's called, like, a lagerita or something.

James Acaster

I was drinking it all night. Like, I spaced them out with other drinks between just to be smart, but otherwise I would have carried on having those just non-stop because they were so delicious. Any frozen cocktail, I'm going to have that ahead of another one.

Paapa Essiedu

Are you drinking it with a straw?



James Acaster

I'm doing big gulps.

Paapa Essiedu

Are you sipping? Are you-, you're big sipping?

James Acaster

I'm Big Gulps.

Ed Gamble

Are you Big Gulps? Yes.

James Acaster

I drink pretty fast as well, regardless of what the drink-, you know, if it's a soft drink or boozy, because I remember as a kid just really quickly drinking squash all the time like someone was going to take it off me. So, like, yes, I'm still like that now with-, especially cocktails when they're sweet and nice, they're just fucking gone, and then after the first one I'm like, 'Okay, we're in trouble here.'

Paapa Essiedu

'Here we go.'

James Acaster

'Because that tasted really nice you drank it in two seconds, and you're here all evening. And you know what's going to happen if you don't get ahead of this.'

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

But when they're that nice, it's very difficult.

Paapa Essiedu

Is it still a drink if you've got to use a spoon?

James Acaster

Interesting.

Ed Gamble

That's interesting. Are you using a spoon all the way through, or just at the end?

Paapa Essiedu

Yes, no, from the beginning.



Ed Gamble

Yes.

Paapa Essiedu

And assuming it's not melting. If it's melted into a liquid and you're still using the spoon then-

Ed Gamble

I would say it's not a drink anymore.

Paapa Essiedu

Really, is it now a dessert?

Ed Gamble

It's a dessert, or just a little snack, really.

James Acaster

But then you can drink it. So, like, if I was drinking the frozen cocktail and I'm just sipping it out the glass, it's a drink. But if I stop and have it with a spoon, I think it's not a drink anymore, even though it's the same thing. But if you gave me, like, a Coca-Cola, not frozen, and I had that with a spoon, I think it's still a drink.

Ed Gamble

Yes, but also you'd look insane.

James Acaster

Oh, no-one's saying I'd look, like, normal.

Ed Gamble

That's a soup.

James Acaster

Yes, I'd look loco McCoco. But, like, it would definitely still be a drink. Whereas if it's a frozen thing and I'm having it with a spoon, I think I've made it a food now.

Paapa Essiedu

And it's one of those long spoons, right?

James Acaster

Hopefully, yes, with any luck.

Paapa Essiedu

Or a teaspoon.



James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

A tiny little teaspoon.

James Acaster

Those long sundae spoons.

Paapa Essiedu

Yes, that's what I'm thinking.

Ed Gamble

I've got to have the Sgroppino.

Paapa Essiedu

They're delicious.

Ed Gamble

We've got to go back to Forza Wine.

Paapa Essiedu

You know what? I think they might have discontinued them, so-,

Ed Gamble

What?

Paapa Essiedu

Shall we use this as a shout-out for them to, like, bring it back?

Ed Gamble

Yes, bring it back.

James Acaster

Bring it back.

Ed Gamble

Although it feels like they'd be quite easy to make at home as well, right?

Paapa Essiedu

Can you make lemon sorbet?

Ed Gamble

You can buy lemon sorbet.



Paapa Essiedu

That's true.

James Acaster

You can make it as well.

Paapa Essiedu

You can buy lemon sorbet, you can buy vodka.

Ed Gamble

Yes, you can make it. Yes, you can get vodka.

Paapa Essiedu

And you can get a long spoon.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Paapa Essiedu

Wilko's.

Ed Gamble

You just put it in a blender.

James Acaster

Can you get a long-, Wilko's, did you say?

Paapa Essiedu

Yes.

James Acaster

Is that where you can get long spoons from?

Paapa Essiedu

Yes, you can get anything from Wilko's.

Ed Gamble

That's true.

James Acaster

I've never seen a long spoon, you know, for sale before, I've only ever seen it in a restaurant. I've never seen one.



Ed Gamble

You've never seen a long spoon for sale?

James Acaster

No.

Ed Gamble

What are you talking about?

James Acaster

This is true, this is the truth, this is my life, I've never seen a long spoon. Never seen a long spoon for sale.

Paapa Essiedu

So, you're saying you've only seen standard spoons for sale?

James Acaster

Yes, the, kind of, classic spoons.

Ed Gamble

I'd say long spoon is a classic spoon.

James Acaster

No.

Ed Gamble

It would be in the first five spoons that I mentioned.

James Acaster

I didn't see a long spoon until I was twelve.

Ed Gamble

It would be.

James Acaster

I think I was twelve the first time I saw a long spoon. The Red Lion in Welwyn, came out with the sundaes.

Ed Gamble

Yes, okay.

James Acaster

We had a whole chat about it as a family.



Paapa Essiedu

As a family? So, no-one else in the family had seen a long spoon either?

Ed Gamble

So, how old was your dad by the time he saw a long spoon?

James Acaster

Old enough to be blindsided by it. We didn't know we were going to get these long spoons, we were like, 'Look at these, crazy. I guess it's so you can get the sauce at the bottom.'

Ed Gamble

Yes, obviously. What a thick family.

James Acaster

And then we were all really happy about it.

Ed Gamble

All of you were like, 'Well, I suppose it's so you can get the sauce out the bottom,' yes.

James Acaster

Yes. We were like, 'This is good, because otherwise with our sundaes, normally we just eat it all the way down and then-, but now we can get right to the bottom in the first scoop.'

Ed Gamble

Yes, your dad going, 'Normally I'd just eat it with my hands and then smash the glass so I can get to the sauce at the bottom.'

James Acaster

Yes, normally we smash it, and then we drink-, like the bottom of an ice cream cone. Smash it off and then suck it out the bottom. But, yes, you know, definitely I think I was about twelve.

Ed Gamble

Dessert spoon, soup spoon, wooden spoon-, I mean, yes, long spoon would be fourth.

James Acaster

Teaspoon?

Ed Gamble

Teaspoon. Teaspoon, long sundae spoon.

James Acaster

Serving spoon?



Paapa Essiedu

Serving spoon?

James Acaster

Yes, the big ones, big daddy ones.

Ed Gamble

That's true. Maybe sixth, it would be the sixth spoon I think of.

Paapa Essiedu

Well, a serving spoon's kind of a long spoon, isn't it?

Ed Gamble

Yes, but you're not-

Paapa Essiedu

Wait, are you talking about a serving spoon as in, like, a ladle?

James Acaster

No, no, like-

Ed Gamble

Just, like, a slightly bigger dessert spoon, basically, isn't it?

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Paapa Essiedu

Bigger spoon.

James Acaster

But it'd be more just, like, in the bowl of whatever is going on.

Paapa Essiedu

If you were having a Sunday roast, it would be, like, in the bowl with the veg or whatever.

James Acaster

The mash.

Ed Gamble

Yes.



Paapa Essiedu

Gravy spoon.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

You know, and you'd get that and put it on your plate, then put it back in the-, you're not eating-, that's not touching your mouth.

Paapa Essiedu

Sure.

Ed Gamble

Yes. I bet you've used one.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

On a five Weetabix day, then I'm using the big spoon.

Paapa Essiedu

Five Weetabix?

James Acaster

Sometimes if I didn't really eat the night before and I'm really hungry, five Weetabix, and these days the toppings are pecans, sour cherries, and goji berries. Bam, milk, delicious.

Paapa Essiedu

Hold on, before it was, like, bananas and raisins, now you've taken sour cherries from the weird, like, ice cream experiment.

James Acaster

Well, this is how we got onto the Weetabix in the first place, because I was saying-,

Ed Gamble

Goji berries?

James Acaster

Goji berries on there, I'm really into Goji berries now, but only on the 'Bix.



Ed Gamble

Why are you into goji berries?

James Acaster

Just thought I'd chance it one day. I thought, 'I've never eaten these before. Only person I've ever known who eats them is Gina Yashere, she ate them once when I was interviewing her for a different podcast, and she ate them all the way through, into the mic. And I was like-, you know, Gina seemed to be loving those.

Ed Gamble

Yes?

James Acaster

'So I'm going to try them.'

Paapa Essiedu

Alright, Weetabix, is it warm milk or cold milk?

James Acaster

Cold.

Ed Gamble

I'm not going anywhere near Weetabix.

Paapa Essiedu

Oh, not at all?

Ed Gamble

No way.

Paapa Essiedu

Damn.

Ed Gamble

No, because, like, I want to enjoy my life.

James Acaster

What the-, come on.

Ed Gamble

And Weetabix is, like, the sort of thing you'd get at a youth camp, or prison or something.

James Acaster

Wrong.



Paapa Essiedu

Brain fuel. Five is too many, but-,

Ed Gamble

Yes, five's insane.

James Acaster

I'm brainy as hell because of that.

Ed Gamble

You're not.

James Acaster

Really brainy. I figured out what the dessert spoon was for, the one that was long. Me and my family put our heads together and came up with that.

Ed Gamble

No, I'm not a Weetabix fan, I find the taste too boring. And I know that's why you put stuff on top of it, but I just think, 'Why not cut out the middleman and just not have any of it?'

Paapa Essiedu

Yes, I mean, it is a wartime breakfast, right?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes, well, you know-,

Paapa Essiedu

It's like, 'Are you rationing?'

James Acaster

In Kettering it's always wartime.

Ed Gamble

Especially in the Blitz café.

James Acaster

Yes. There is a Blitz café in Kettering.

Paapa Essiedu

Is there? Blitz themed?



James Acaster

Yes, a Blitz themed café. The ceiling is painted so it looks like there's a hole on it.

Paapa Essiedu

Love that. What are they serving?

James Acaster

You can get the Churchill, which is, like, a high tea kind of thing, a lot of corned beef sandwiches, stuff like that.

Paapa Essiedu

Bet they're flying off the shelves.

James Acaster

Yes, I mean, a lot of people love it in there. We voted for Brexit, Kettering. Benito's got a question for me, which is why am I eating five Weetabix but using a massive spoon?

Ed Gamble

Time?

James Acaster

Because there are loads of them.

Ed Gamble

Yes, time.

James Acaster

It's a big bowl, so I've got to use a big spoon.

Paapa Essiedu

But your mouth's the same size.

James Acaster

Yes, but I can still get my mouth around that spoon, it's great. You get a big- right in there, I'm so hungry. I've never questioned it, really.

Paapa Essiedu

So, it's the equivalent of the big sip?

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.



Paapa Essiedu

But with-,

Ed Gamble

With Weetabix.

Paapa Essiedu

Weetabix, yes.

Ed Gamble

Big crunch.

James Acaster

It is, yes, a big crunch. But I don't like them too crunchy.

Paapa Essiedu

It's interesting, crunch, because it's crunch because the milk's cold though, right? Because I have it with warm milk, and it becomes like a-,

Ed Gamble

Like mush.

Paapa Essiedu

It's kind of like someone's already chewed it for you.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes. And you like that, right?

Paapa Essiedu

Love it.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Paapa Essiedu

Absolutely love it.

James Acaster

Your dream dessert?



Paapa Essiedu

Weetabix with warm milk. Dream dessert, okay, so, it's actually, like, a combination dessert. It is a freshly made Percy Ingles sugar ring doughnut.

James Acaster

Ooh.

Paapa Essiedu

So, Percy Ingles, like, old-school baker, East London, there's one in Broadway Market, used to be one in Walthamstow, very un-pretentious, the people who work behind the till dress like dinner ladies generally. What you see is what you get, but perfect. So, one sugar ring doughnut, I don't want any toppings on the doughnut, I don't want anything inside the doughnut. Also jam on that list earlier on, jam.

Ed Gamble

Oh, really? A jam.

Paapa Essiedu

And anything in that world-, what do you call that?

James Acaster

Preserves?

Paapa Essiedu

Preserves. Marmalade, jam, would you put Marmite in that?

Ed Gamble

Wouldn't put it in the preserves, but I guess breakfast spreads.

Paapa Essiedu

Yes, maybe in the same cupboard.

James Acaster

I'd put chutneys in there.

Paapa Essiedu

Yes, I mean, we've already been through mango chutney.

James Acaster

Yes, you seemed alright with that.



Paapa Essiedu

Jars of mango chutney. Anyway, so, it's a sugar ring doughnut from Percy Ingles on a bed of Biscock rock ice cream from a place called Romeo & Giulietta, there's one in Stoke Newington, there's one in Leyton. Biscock rock is a, kind of like, hazelnut, chocolate, vanilla, Biscoff megamix with biscuit bits in it.

Ed Gamble

Wow.

James Acaster

Now-,

Paapa Essiedu

The texture-,

James Acaster

Have you ever done this combination before?

Paapa Essiedu

No.

James Acaster

So, these are two separate-

Paapa Essiedu

This is a real, like, dream restaurant.

James Acaster

Yes, okay.

Ed Gamble

But you know that'd work together, right? How's that not going to work?

Paapa Essiedu

100%.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Paapa Essiedu

You know? So, like, the ice cream would start melting a little bit from the warmth of the freshly-made doughnut, but yes, you've got the crunch of the biscuit y ice cream going with the absolute smooth softness of that freshly made doughnut. Are you joking? It's perfect.



Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

It does sound very good.

Paapa Essiedu

Yes.

Ed Gamble

I want to hear more about Romeo & Giulietta.

Paapa Essiedu

Romeo & Giulietta, a gelateria, both of them in, like, quite surprising locations, I would say. They're not surrounded by-, I mean, what would you expect to see in a gelateria? Maybe, like, a beautiful beach or-

Ed Gamble

A, sort of, piazza.

Paapa Essiedu

A sun.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Paapa Essiedu

One of them is really on the high roads, really on one of those high roads that's got-, like, next door is a carpet factory or something like that.

Ed Gamble

Great.

Paapa Essiedu

But I think that adds to the charm of it. And the ice cream is, like, I would say the best in London, it's amazing.

Ed Gamble

Wow.

James Acaster

I've not even been in this place, I've not even heard of it, and ice cream's my favourite thing.



Paapa Essiedu

You've not heard of it? The thing about Romeo & Julietta, obviously they've got a wide range of different flavours, lots of them have got, like, fruit in ice cream again, but you'd love it. I think they've got a cherry one.

James Acaster

I'd love a cherry ice cream.

Paapa Essiedu

Yes. Strawberry cheesecake.

James Acaster

Great.

Paapa Essiedu

Do you like that?

James Acaster

Yes, if it's got little biscuit bits in it as well.

Paapa Essiedu

Black Forest?

James Acaster

Yes, delicious. I mean, when it comes to ice cream, there are very few flavours that I'd turn down, to be honest.

Paapa Essiedu

Yes. Mint?

James Acaster

Yes, love mint ice cream. Do you not like mint ice cream?

Paapa Essiedu

No. Pistachio?

James Acaster

Yes, but it's not my go-to, I'm not going for that, Ed probably prefers that.

Ed Gamble

I like pistachio.

James Acaster

Likes it more than I do.



Ed Gamble

Yes. But it wouldn't be my go-to in a gelateria, no.

Paapa Essiedu

When there's gelato and then there's, like, I guess sorbet, are you going for one or the other, or both?

James Acaster

Sometimes I go for both. If they've got, like, a dark chocolate sorbet-,

Paapa Essiedu

Damn.

James Acaster

I'd get that with, like, a-

Ed Gamble

That's basically ice cream though.

James Acaster

Which is basically ice cream, but then that's nice to have with the-, but yes, otherwise, sorbets, yes, I love the citrusy ones, but I'm having them on their own, I'm not having them with-, or maybe a coconut sorbet with an ice cream.

Paapa Essiedu

It's all a bit too much like fruit in dessert to me.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes, sorbet-wise, I'm not touching sorbet unless it's annihilated in a blender with loads of vodka in it. That's what's getting me on board with sorbet, for sure.

Paapa Essiedu

And a long spoon.

James Acaster

I want to read your menu back to you now, see how you feel about it.

Paapa Essiedu

Wow.



James Acaster

You want still water, you want warm bread with a herby salted butter. Starter, taco El Al Pastor from a Mexico City street vendor. Main course, red red cooked by any auntie. Side dish, patatas bravas and a little beer, and a little sausage, from Bar Tomas in Barcelona. Drink, Sgroppino from Forza Wine. Dessert, freshly-made Percy Ingle sugar ring doughnut on a bed of Biscock rock ice cream from Romeo & Giulietta.

Paapa Essiedu

Can that be improved?

Ed Gamble

I mean, that is a foodie's menu.

Paapa Essiedu

Do you know what I mean?

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

That's 100% a foodie's menu.

Paapa Essiedu

Do you think so?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

I'd eat all of that.

Ed Gamble

Because I didn't know what to expect when you were talking about being fussy, but that doesn't read to me like a fussy person's menu.

Paapa Essiedu

Yes. But it is also a bit of a child's menu, right?

Ed Gamble

Well, the dessert, definitely. Because you got excited and put a doughnut on top of some ice cream, that definitely is that. But taco-,

Paapa Essiedu

Maybe not the Sgroppino.



Ed Gamble

Yes, taco, Sgroppino.

James Acaster

I love it.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Like, there are very few-, it's nice when you get a menu where you go, 'I'd eat every single thing on that menu.'

Paapa Essiedu

Would you?

James Acaster

Yes, I'd be quite excited to try all of that.

Paapa Essiedu

Yes.

James Acaster

I think that's a proper foodie menu.

Ed Gamble

Thank you very much for coming to the dream restaurant, Paapa.

Paapa Essiedu

Thanks for having me.

James Acaster

Thank you.

Ed Gamble

Well, there we are, James, great menu from Paapa there.

James Acaster

Such a good menu, I'd like to try all of that right now, please.

Ed Gamble

Yes, yum, yum, yum, yum, yum. And also, no sachets of pepper.



James Acaster

No sachets of pepper anywhere near that.

Ed Gamble

No.

James Acaster

I mean, were we ever going to be in a world where that came up?

Ed Gamble

Yes. Well, we'd have to really pin him down, going, 'This red red, where's the pepper coming from?' And then he might have smelled a rat there.

James Acaster

Yes. And even then, it seems like a home-cooked thing.

Ed Gamble

Yes, you're not putting sachets of-, auntie doesn't have a big bag of sachets of peppers.

James Acaster

There's no way.

Ed Gamble

No, no way at all. So, very happy we didn't have to kick him out.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Which means we can also say go and watch The Lazarus Project.

James Acaster

Yes, go and watch The-, series two, but then, you know, watch series one first.

Ed Gamble

Watch series one, it's a Sky original. Series two is coming soon to Sky Max.

James Acaster

Get it done. And watch all of Paapa's entire filmography.

Ed Gamble

Yes, do.



James Acaster

TV-ography.

Ed Gamble

Yes. I mean-,

James Acaster

TV-ography?

Ed Gamble

I think filmography, it comes under.

James Acaster

Does it?

Ed Gamble

Certainly does on Wikipedia. There'll be two separate sections for film and TV, but it's all under the filmography drop-down box. So, thank you very much for coming in, absolutely lovely menu. Thank you very much for listening, we will see you again sometime soon, goodbye.

James Acaster

Goodbye.