



Off Menu – Ep 218 – Jada Pinkett Smith

Ed Gamble

Welcome to the Off Menu podcast, taking the soft boiled egg of conversation, wrapping it in the sausage meat of humour. Rolling it in the breadcrumbs of conversation and deep frying it in the hot oil of the internet. James, it's the scotch egg of podcasts.

James Acaster

That is Ed Gamble. My name is James Acaster. Together we own a dream restaurant and every single week we're inviting a guesk, going to ask them-, a guest? And ask them their favourite ever starter, main course, dessert, side dish and drink. Not in that order. And this week, our guesk is Jada Pinkett Smith.

Ed Gamble

Jada Pinkett Smith, come on.

James Acaster

Needs no introduction. Amazing actor. Author as well. The new book Worthy is out.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

A memoir.

Ed Gamble

A very interesting sounding memoir James. There's a lot of stuff in there. It covers a lot of topics about Jada's life. Some, you know, pretty juicy, juicy chats in there as well, about the slap-heard around the world.

James Acaster

I don't know what you're talking about.

Ed Gamble

You don't know what you're talking about? What that is.

James Acaster

I stay out of that stuff.



Ed Gamble

Okay, cool. But what's really going to annoy people, I'd imagine, in this conversation as it always does when we have big celebs in, is we're not mining for any of that stuff really. We're going to talk to Jada about the book Worthy, which is out now, but we really just want to know Jada's dream menu.

James Acaster

Yes. That's how we properly get to know people.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

And if you don't like that, then fair enough. It's up to you.

Ed Gamble

Yes. It's the first episode of series eleven, James.

James Acaster

Series eleven. Are you kidding me?

Ed Gamble

Nope.

James Acaster

How long has this been going for? Eleven years? The most controversial this podcast could get is if Jada picks the secret ingredient.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

The ingredient that we have deemed to be unacceptable and then, as with all guests we will have to kick her out of the Dream Restaurant.

Ed Gamble

We will indeed. And today the secret ingredient is-

James Acaster

Kinder Bueno Hippo.

Ed Gamble

Kinder Bueno Happy Hippos.



James Acaster

Yes, yes, Kinder Bueno Happy Hippos.

Ed Gamble

Kinder Bueno Happy Hippos. And it's taken us a while to get to that. And here's our thinking.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Jada Pinkett Smith was one of the voices in the hit film Madagascar. Her character was a hippo, Gloria.

James Acaster

Gloria the hippo. Originally I suggest hippo meat.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

And these guys said they don't think that's a thing.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Well I'm sure it is a thing in, maybe in some places, but, it doesn't feel right for the podcast, so we're going to go with Kinder Bueno Hungry Hippos which have been selected on the podcast before. What's the matter?

James Acaster

Happy Hippos. Not hungry hippos. (

Ed Gamble

Argh the hippo one.

James Acaster

Celya AB did choose to have the happy hippo-

Ed Gamble

Kinder Bueno Happy Hippo.

James Acaster

But that wasn't the secret ingredient at the time, so he got to stay in the restaurant.

Ed Gamble

Yes.



James Acaster

But if Jada Pinkett Smith picks it, we will have to kick her out of the Dream Restaurant.

Ed Gamble

Who knows? She's over here in the UK, maybe, you know, she's needed a quick snack and she's run into, like, a corner shop. And she's grabbed the first thing she's seen which is a Kinder Bueno Happy Hippo, and she's taken that back to her taxi, or whatever, and she's eaten it and gone, 'That's the best thing I've ever had.'

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

'I'm going to tell those boys about it.' And if she mentions it, we are kicking her out the restaurant.

James Acaster

This is the Off Menu menu of Jada Pinkett Smith.

Ed Gamble

Welcome, Jada, to the Dream Restaurant.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Thank you.

James Acaster

Welcome, Jada Pinkett Smith, to the Dream Restaurant. We've been expecting you for some time.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Nice.

Ed Gamble

Look, we're very excited to have you here.

James Acaster

So excited.

Ed Gamble

We're over the moon to hear your dream menu and chat to you about your new book.

James Acaster

Worthy.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Worthy. Indeed.



James Acaster

It's a memoir.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes, yes, somewhat of one. Yes, just kind of on one line of my journey from unlovable to lovable. I did leave out a whole lot, you know. But, yes, it's been quite a journey.

James Acaster

How do you decide where to start with a memoir? When you sit down to write something like this, is it easy to find the beginning?

Jada Pinkett Smith

Well, yes, because once you really figure out the theme of the book, right, instead of, like, 'Oh, I'm going to sit down and write about my life,' right? I had a specific theme so I was, like, 'Okay, let's start at the beginning of how you develop these false ideas of feeling unlovable.' and that started with childhood. And then, you know, once I'd decided to write the book, I did a whole outline of what the journey looked like. Because through all the therapy that I've been through, I've been able, you know, I've had to go back and forth through the timeline of my life and kind of pick out certain moments. So, yes. I, you know, that was the easy part. It was actually writing the book that was the most difficult. Having to go back to all of those memories, specifically childhood. I was, like, 'No wonder I dropped out of therapy so many times. Who wants to talk about this?' But, yes, but it's been a-, it was a really-, it was a worthy experience, for sure.

Ed Gamble

Did you find that as you were writing, new memories were coming up that you didn't even know were, sort of, stowed back there? Or were they always at the surface, ready for you to write about?

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes, I think the memories were always there, but I think new perspectives around the memories, right? And then, seeing things differently, like, 'Oh, didn't see that quite that way,' you know. Yes, I had quite a few, 'A-ha,' moments like that, yes, which was really nice.

James Acaster

And in the book, maybe gives you more, when you have those moments, you know, 'Right, I can say that in my next therapy session,' and that fuels the next book.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes, exactly.

James Acaster

And it just keeps going.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Exactly. There you go.



James Acaster

You said that you've been talking to a lot of people about this book and they all, kind of, find different things that they connect to with it as well.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes.

James Acaster

When you wrote it, did you anticipate that? Or did you think this is going to be for a specific type of person, reading about a specific thing?

Jada Pinkett Smith

Well, no, I definitely felt like it was going to have-, different people were going to like different things about it. You know, I mean, my metal journey, you know, the Wild Banshee chapter was all about my metal music journey for six years, and so I knew that there would be certain people that have been on that journey with me, that would be like, 'hey'.

Ed Gamble

Wicked Wisdom.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Wicked Wisdom.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes.

Ed Gamble

I'm a proper like, first wave new metal kid.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Oh okay.

Ed Gamble

So I remember Wicked Wisdom from back in the day, yes absolutely. The US fest and all of that, yes.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes, and so, you know, really what my journey was like doing that. See, there's something in there you-

Ed Gamble

There you go, absolutely. I connect to that for sure, yes.



Jada Pinkett Smith

And that's been really nice. It really has been. And I mean, I would expect you guys would maybe connect to the garden part. I mean that's probably the food, the most food interest.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Absolutely.

James Acaster

Ed loves his garden.

Ed Gamble

You talk about the metal part of the book and then all this stuff, you've had an incredibly varied career.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes, for sure. And that was the one thing that-, I mean because while you're in it, you don't really realise that part. When I was going through my timeline of the journey that I picked and then I was thinking about all the things I was leaving out, I was, like, 'Yo, you have lived a life.' You know, and so I was like, 'Good job.' I mean, you know, and with that comes, comes the sunshine and the rain, that's just part of it and you just learn to love it all and that's what it's about.

James Acaster

It's pretty good to be writing a memoir and going, 'I'm leaving a lot of stuff out.'

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes.

James Acaster

That's great, isn't it?

Jada Pinkett Smith

A whole lot of stuff. I was like, 'Damn, I haven't really scratched the surface, but it's okay, cool.' You know, I mean just like all the great people that I got to meet, like, Mandela. I got to spend so much time with him, he's not even in the book. The Obama's, like, all these, like, great people. You know what I mean? I've spent, like, real time with and I'm like, 'Damn they're not, you know.'

Ed Gamble

Have you sent them a message to let them know they've not made the cut?

Jada Pinkett Smith

No I didn't.

James Acaster

Obama's going to be reading this going, 'Well surly in the next chapter I'm in this'.



Ed Gamble

Flicking to the back, looking in the table of contents going, 'Come on'.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes, so we'll see. Maybe there'll be another one, I don't know. We'll see.

Ed Gamble

I think so, I think so.

James Acaster

Now are you a foodie Jada? Would you call yourself a foodie? Are you into food?

Jada Pinkett Smith

That's why I was like, this is so interesting because I talk about this in the book, where my grandmother was probably the, the only West Indian woman that I know that can't cook. Go down in the kitchen, you know what I mean? And so she would make stuff like cow tongue with cream cheese in the crock pot. Yes, okay. And her whole thing to me was, 'Hey food is not meant to be enjoyed. It is for nutrition.' And that's how I grew up. So I have a very interesting relationship with food.

Ed Gamble

I'm still struggling to connect-, I can understand those two view points of one, being an amazing cook and foods about joy and love and then also I can understand people who are like, 'Foods about nutrition.' I'm still struggling to see where cow tongue and cream cheese fits into either of those.

Jada Pinkett Smith

That part, yes. I'm with you on that because they don't fit either category.

James Acaster

Sure.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes, so that's how I grew up. You know, so, I do like food. I'm starting to enjoy food but I wouldn't say that I'm a foodie. but my daughter is a hard core foodie. And so is Will. Hard core foodies. So I've had to learn how to enjoy meals.

Ed Gamble

So this is almost the start of another journey for you?

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes, exactly.

Ed Gamble

So this is a whole-, you've got about nine books lined up here Jada.



Jada Pinkett Smith

Exactly for sure.

James Acaster

Is Jaden also not a foodie. Maybe the two of you can go on the foodie journey together.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes, Jaden's not really, he's not really a foodie and I'd have to say my bonus son Trey is in-between.

Ed Gamble

So you've got the full range.

Jada Pinkett Smith

I guess we get full range. We've got the full range.

James Acaster

We always start with still or sparkling water?

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes. I'd like still with a twist of lemon.

James Acaster

Nice.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Well when I'm being really fancy, I go for the sparkling.

James Acaster

Yes. I-,

Ed Gamble

When it's a big night.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes, when it's a big night and I'm feeling really good, I go for that sparkling.

James Acaster

Yes. Well look this could be a big fancy-, if your dream meal is on a big fancy night, then we can get out the sparkling for you.



Jada Pinkett Smith

Okay.

James Acaster

Would you still have the twist of lemon in there?

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes I would. I would have the twist of lemon.

James Acaster

That's non negotiable?

Jada Pinkett Smith

That's non negotiable. And a little-, just one cube of ice. That's one thing I do not like, don't fill up my glass with a whole lot of ice.

James Acaster

I'm with you.

Ed Gamble

I don't want to come across as anti-American-,

James Acaster

Here we go. This is early doors for this Ed.

Ed Gamble

You guys are crazy with ice.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes, it's, yes, I agree.

Ed Gamble

You guys go mad with ice.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes, we go mad with it. I'm just like, 'No ice.' I literally have to say, 'Please, no ice.'

Ed Gamble

Yes, but it is like, fill- sorry I've just got to get this off my chest.

James Acaster

Yes, yes.



Ed Gamble

You go to America, it's up to the brim with ice.

Jada Pinkett Smith

It is.

Ed Gamble

And they're pouring in water from a jug that's got ice in it as well often.

James Acaster

Yes, yes, yes.

Ed Gamble

It's madness.

Jada Pinkett Smith

It's very interesting and I really don't know what that's about.

James Acaster

They're being stingy aren't they?

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes.

James Acaster

They're trying to trick you.

Ed Gamble

They're trying to trick you because then they're like, 'Oh America's great because you get free refills.' You're like, 'No you get one drink across the whole day.'

Jada Pinkett Smith

I didn't even think about it like that.

Ed Gamble

Yes, here you ask for a drink, you get the full drink straight away.

Jada Pinkett Smith

I didn't even think about that. Yes, because the ice fills up most of the glass. Yes.

Ed Gamble

It's a capitalist trick, is what it is.



James Acaster

It is a capitalist trick actually. Maybe you can go back and you can start, like, being like, hey I've-

Jada Pinkett Smith

A whole yes-

James Acaster

I've been over there. They do drinks without ice. Let's do it guys. Yes, let's do it guys.

Jada Pinkett Smith

A whole new journey as far as no ice, hashtag, no ice. Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes, nice, we'll get that going.

James Acaster

Do you want refillable throughout the meal? Do you want us to come along and top it up for you?

Jada Pinkett Smith

No. I like to just ask you, like, if I ask you for it, yes.

James Acaster

Oh yes.

Ed Gamble

You don't like over service?

Jada Pinkett Smith

I don't.

Ed Gamble

Yes that's fair enough.

Jada Pinkett Smith

And I don't like, I'm always asking for half orders of everything. Because that's the other thing, we, in America, they give you, there's just tons of food on the plate. I'm like, 'I can't eat all of this. I don't want to waste the food.' So I tell them, 'listen, give me half-, treat me like I'm a twelve year old.'

James Acaster

Yes.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Give me the kid's portion.



James Acaster

Yes, yes.

Jada Pinkett Smith

You know, I can't-,

Ed Gamble

This show how different we are because when you said, you ask for half portions, I was like, that's clever, then you can get more things off the menu.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Right.

Ed Gamble

That's what I'd do, half portions of loads or different things, so I can taste as many different things as possible. But you are just talking about the portion sizes being too big. That's fair enough.

Jada Pinkett Smith

I am. Yes, I am.

Ed Gamble

Fair enough.

James Acaster

Would you also like them to bring over a colouring book? Like, a twelve year old.

Jada Pinkett Smith

I do like colouring books. And I will tell you what I like even more, I like it when it's just the paper on the-, the paper table cloth with the crayons. And then I can just draw what I want.

James Acaster

You can just go for it.

Jada Pinkett Smith

I can go for it.

Ed Gamble

What sort of things would you be drawing on the paper table cloth?

Jada Pinkett Smith

Little hearts. Infinity signs. Eyes. You remember it, like, back in the day, like, in the eighties, I don't know how old you guys are. You guys look like babies. But back in the eighties-,



James Acaster

38. I'm 38. Ed is 37.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Babies. So I won't say that, because I used to hate that when people, when I was in my thirties and people called me a baby. You've lived a lot of life. You guys are grown ass men.

Ed Gamble

Yes that's true actually. I'm a grown-

Jada Pinkett Smith

I recognise that.

Ed Gamble

Thank you Jada.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes. I'm going to take back the baby line because that's not cool. Anyway, so like, you know, I'll draw eyes with, like, these different designs on them, like, you know, doing the eighties, like when Prince would put, like, wear these like, really, these eye shadows. Just really eccentric eyeshadow. I still like making eyes like that. I do stuff like that. That's as artistic as it gets.

James Acaster

I think you've chosen, like, those are definitely the three main things that would come up that people would doodle.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

The heart, the infinity sign and that kind of, eye with the eyeshadow.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes.

James Acaster

That's like the perfect observation of what people end up doodling.

Ed Gamble

Would you not-, I'd practice my autograph. I would do that as well.



Jada Pinkett Smith

Oh yes, no.

Ed Gamble

When I was a kid, that's what I would do.

Jada Pinkett Smith

When I was a kid, that's what I'd do too. I'd practice the autograph.

Ed Gamble

You don't need the practice anymore.

Jada Pinkett Smith

No. People are like, 'Oh she's really arrogant. She just put her autograph all over the-,'

James Acaster

I practice Ed's autograph. So that I can-, I plan to one day steal his identity.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Right.

James Acaster

I know him well enough now, that's what this whole podcast was about. Popadoms or bread?
Popadoms or bread Jada Pinkett Smith? Popadoms or bread?

Jada Pinkett Smith

Poblobs?

Ed Gamble

This, I don't want you to-, this happens every time we speak to an American.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Okay.

Ed Gamble

Firstly James is very difficult to understand.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Secondly the question is popadoms or bread?



Jada Pinkett Smith

Popadom. Okay, now what is that?

Ed Gamble

This is the question, so if you have an Indian meal, before you've ordered really, they'll bring out, like, these big, sort of, crispy crisps. They're sort of big crispy things, like flat bread type things.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Oh yes, yes. You break them off.

James Acaster

You break them up and there's like dips and stuff like that.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Bread.

Ed Gamble

Fair enough, but I'm glad you got the full, you fully appreciated what the question was, but it was always bread.

James Acaster

Yes, it's been a while. We went to LA and New York for a couple of weeks to do these episodes and that was every single episode when I would shout that. People would look at Ed and go, 'What's going off?' And I've missed it. I've missed being able to do that for the listener. We're interviewing two people today who are from America. And I look forward to that happening again later on.

Jada Pinkett Smith

It will. It will, yes.

James Acaster

Is there any particular type of bread that you like pre-meal that comes out?

Jada Pinkett Smith

There's like this sweet buttery pretzel bread. It's called a pretzel bread. But then we also have-, my favourite bread of all, but you never really get this at a restaurant unless you go down south and you go to, like, soul food restaurants. Monkey bread.

Ed Gamble

I don't think we've had monkey bread on before.

Jada Pinkett Smith

It's like really tender and buttery and you pull it apart. It's really soft and sweet. It is yummy.



Ed Gamble

That sounds so good.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes and it's hot.

Ed Gamble

Yes is it stretchy?

Jada Pinkett Smith

It stretches, yes, stretches.

James Acaster

Yes, well I mean, your face has lit up. So it has to be the monkey bread.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes it's the best, it's so good.

Ed Gamble

Sure do you put butter on it as well or it is buttery enough that you can just eat it?

Jada Pinkett Smith

It's buttery enough that you can just eat it, but, if there is melted honey butter that you can then dip it in.

Ed Gamble

Yes, right.

Jada Pinkett Smith

That's it, right there.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes.

James Acaster

Oh we'll definitely do it with the honey butter. And would you maybe keep it for the rest of the meal and dip it, like, in other stuff and combine it with other things? Or do you just-

Jada Pinkett Smith

Absolutely. I'm one of those that likes to combine everything on the plate. You know how some people eat, they're like, 'No, no, no. I have to have this separate from that. Do not have my foods touch.' And



I'm like, I'm one that likes to mash it up. Especially Thanksgiving. I love it. Yes, the yams with the cranberry, with the turkey. You know what I'm saying?

Ed Gamble

Yes, it's like you're cooking a new dish isn't it, every time.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Right. I like that, like, the mixture of those tastes in my mouth.

James Acaster

Yes. I've only done Canadian Thanksgiving, once. And that's the only experience I've had of Thanksgiving. I've never done the-

Jada Pinkett Smith

Got it, yes. That's right. That's something that would be big over here.

Ed Gamble

I did go to Thanksgiving at an American family's house once, but we were filming a TV show where I had to stay in character for the whole thing. And pretend to be a member of the Royal Family. So it was actually a hugely stressful experience for me.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Right, right, right. That's hilarious.

James Acaster

Most of Ed's experiences in America are in character as this Royal Family character as, so it's a nightmare for him really, yes.

Ed Gamble

Very stressful.

James Acaster

All of his anecdotes, because it's playing this very awful human being. And going around-

Ed Gamble

He was lovely.

James Acaster

Yes, but he was unintentionally, you know, rude.

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes.



Jada Pinkett Smith

Oh, got it.

James Acaster

Rude I would say, the character.

Ed Gamble

The character.

Jada Pinkett Smith

The character.

Ed Gamble

(Not me.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Because you're not.

Ed Gamble

I'm not a rude guy.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes, but the character was.

Ed Gamble

The character was and, you know, and some people suggested I was living out some of my social fantasies by being rude to people through the character.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Well I was going to say little shadow play. Little shadow dance, that's what I call that. Thank you very much, be that alter ego, get down. Nothing wrong with that, yes.

James Acaster

Your dream starter.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Green salad with a mango vinaigrette.

James Acaster

Oh.

Ed Gamble

A fresh start to the meal.



Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Jada Pinkett Smith

I like to get the greens going. Get the intestines, you know, moving smoothly. You start with that.

Ed Gamble

Very few of our guests here in the Dream Restaurant talk about getting their intestines moving smoothly.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Well, you know, yes, because you want to just make sure your digestive situation is healthy and on the go.

James Acaster

Yes, so, but you want that peace of mind going into the rest of the meal. Knowing that the intestines are going to be okay.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Because, hey listen, you've got to keep everything moving really nicely through, you know, throughout.

Ed Gamble

I completely agree, you do have to keep everything moving nicely throughout and keep the intestines smooth.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Also I like the idea that you're having this, but after you've had monkey bread with melted honey butter.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes. I know. Right.

Ed Gamble

Which doesn't get the intestines moving smoothly.

Jada Pinkett Smith

That's what I'm saying. So you've got to keep-, you've got to get something in there that's going to keep everything going, going right.



Ed Gamble

A bit of roughage.

Jada Pinkett Smith

A little roughage.

James Acaster

Keeping them on their toes. The intestines, you know.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Exactly. And I'd have to eat fruit every morning before pancakes and waffles because my grandmother was like, so I was kind of brought in salad before, and I should of had it before the monkey bread, but I didn't.

Ed Gamble

That's fine.

James Acaster

You can if you want.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Salad and then fruit before breakfast.

James Acaster

Oh so what was the standard breakfast fruit before you went and had your waffles?

Jada Pinkett Smith

Grapefruit.

James Acaster

Oh.

Ed Gamble

Nice.

James Acaster

As a kid?

Jada Pinkett Smith

As a kid, I had that-,

Ed Gamble

That's a brave kid.



Jada Pinkett Smith

Well half of a grapefruit.

James Acaster

Impressive.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Right.

James Acaster

Yes, yes.

Jada Pinkett Smith

And you just made me realise that. The way you just said that, 'As a kid.?' I'm like, Damn, yes as a kid.

Ed Gamble

That feels like a very grandmother thing to make someone do, because that-, I think my, both my grandmothers were like, yes have grapefruit in the morning.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes.

Ed Gamble

It must have happened, like, maybe in the fifties, there was, like, a big advertising campaign for eat grapefruit in the morning.

Jada Pinkett Smith

But I could have brown sugar on top of it.

Ed Gamble

Nice.

Jada Pinkett Smith

But not a lot. She didn't let me eat pink grapefruit.

James Acaster

I mean, yes you've got to have sugar on it as a kid. I couldn't eat them. I don't know if I could do that now.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes.



James Acaster

But then I do have a very sweet tooth. I'd probably end up pouring the brown sugar directly into my mouth and the grapefruit is just there.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes, exactly.

Ed Gamble

Apparently if you put it in the freezer it's good as well. If you've got half a grapefruit in the freezer it's like having a sorbet.

Jada Pinkett Smith

That's what I heard.

Ed Gamble

Maybe no-one's ever done it. They've just heard it.

Jada Pinkett Smith

I've never done it, but I did hear it.

James Acaster

I'm going to do it.

Ed Gamble

Yes, you're going to do it.

James Acaster

Right up my street, yes.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Tell us about it.

James Acaster

I will tell you about it. Do you have a favourite salad spot to go to for this kind of dish? For your green salad with a mango vinaigrette? Is there a place where you're like, 'That place has the best salads. That's where I want it for my dream meal.'

Jada Pinkett Smith

There is a place in LA called Café Gratitude.

James Acaster

We've been there. Guess who we saw there. We always do this. Whenever anyone brings up Café Gratitude, we always ask them to guess which celeb we saw there. It's like the most Café Gratitude celeb you could probably-,



Ed Gamble

It's the most vegan thing you could have had.

James Acaster

The most vegan thing that could ever have happened to us.

Jada Pinkett Smith

The most vegan thing. Oh man, it's all kinds of layers of vegan. So layers of vegan culture when you're talking about Los Angeles. Okay, so let me think because, hold up, alright, okay, give me a hint.

James Acaster

Yes, it's-

Jada Pinkett Smith

Because I need to know what lane, vegan culture lane we're in.

James Acaster

Yes, I mean it's basically, if some satirical comedy show was to make, like, you know, some sort of vegan heaven and here's the vegan god, they'd choose this celebrity. We can say it was a musician.

Ed Gamble

Yes I think we can say that.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Vegan musician. Does this vegan musician maybe smoke weed?

Ed Gamble

Oh I don't know, I don't know. I wouldn't like to-, I mean in LA we could chuck around those sorts of things, but here that is an illegal accusation.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Oh that's right. That's right.

James Acaster

The cops are going to be on their way here.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Exnay. Exnay. Cancel, cancel.

Ed Gamble

I'm not sure actually.

James Acaster

I'm not sure.



Jada Pinkett Smith

Oh I don't know.

Ed Gamble

I would say one of the OG vegan musicians. Shall we reveal?

Jada Pinkett Smith

OG, yes please reveal.

James Acaster

We saw Moby in Café Gratitude.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Oh Moby.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Jada Pinkett Smith

We love Moby.

James Acaster

Do you know Moby?

Jada Pinkett Smith

I don't know Moby, but I know of Moby. And every time I've seen Moby, Moby's dope.

Ed Gamble

Got animal rights tattooed, tattooed on his arms.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Absolutely.

James Acaster

That guy's vegan.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes, he's vegan all the way.

James Acaster

Yes, that is funny.

Jada Pinkett Smith

That's what you call true vegan.



James Acaster

Yes.

Jada Pinkett Smith

That's a true vegan.

James Acaster

Yes, the true, 100% we find it very funny to see him. When I ordered my food I said I am amused. That I am finding it funny that Moby is here. That's how I ordered my food.

Ed Gamble

When you go to Café Gratitude, do you order in the way they want you to? You know, you have to say I am the name of the dish.

Jada Pinkett Smith

No.

Ed Gamble

No.

James Acaster

I am humbled. I am Worthy.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes, exactly. No I just go, 'Oh man can I have the Gratitude bowl!'

Ed Gamble

I am green salad and mango vinaigrette.

Jada Pinkett Smith

I think then they give you, like, you know, the word of the day or what have you. Yes.

Ed Gamble

I'd say yes, if you're going there regularly you probably lose patience with that.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes. Just like-,

James Acaster

I bet there is a dish on there called 'worthy'.

Jada Pinkett Smith

I'm trying to remember.



James Acaster

You have to say, I am worthy.

Jada Pinkett Smith

I am worthy.

James Acaster

Imagine if-,

Jada Pinkett Smith

I think there is something on there about worthy. I have to ask. I think there is.

James Acaster

What if we google it now and it turns out it's the green salad. Imagine that.

Jada Pinkett Smith

It would be crazy.

James Acaster

That would be like a David Blane trick.

Jada Pinkett Smith

That would be crazy.

James Acaster

He's done a trick for you, David Blane.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes. David has.

James Acaster

Very jealous of that.

Jada Pinkett Smith

He's done several.

James Acaster

That's the only reason I want to be in this biz.

Jada Pinkett Smith

He's done several.

James Acaster

So that one day David Blane will do a trick for me.



Jada Pinkett Smith

Oh he did something so crazy with Will and I.

James Acaster

Really?

Jada Pinkett Smith

Oh, he touched Will's shoulder and I felt it. But Will didn't.

James Acaster

You cried.

Jada Pinkett Smith

I cried. You saw it.

James Acaster

I saw that. You cried at it. It was emotional.

Jada Pinkett Smith

I cried. Yes, it was emotional because I was like, 'No way. How did you do that?'

Ed Gamble

So he touched Will's shoulder.

Jada Pinkett Smith

But I felt it.

Ed Gamble

And Will didn't?

James Acaster

You had your eyes closed.

Jada Pinkett Smith

And I had my eyes closed and he said something like, you know, 'Do you feel that?' And I'm like, 'Yes.' And he was like, 'I'm not touching your shoulder, I'm touching-,' So he was like, showing the connection between us. And I haven't been able to get away from Will since because of that connection. Like, I blame it on David. We are really connected. But, yes.

Ed Gamble

Through David Blane.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Through David Blane. But yes, it was a crazy experience. He's on a whole other level.



James Acaster

I can't believe you saw him do the spike through the hand stuff. I was obsessed with that for a brief period of time.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes.

James Acaster

He was showing everyone that, where he genuinely just puts a spike through his hand.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes.

Ed Gamble

I don't think he genuinely puts a spike through his hand.

James Acaster

Yes, you know the things that you slam receipts on.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

He just put one of-, no, it was an ice pick, wasn't it? He put an ice pick through his hand. Jada saw it and Jada touched it.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes. I don't even know. I don't. I don't even mess with David because I'm just like, 'You're other worldly man. I don't even know if you can call this magic.'

Ed Gamble

He came to London and he suspended himself in a see through box above Trafalgar Square or above The Thames, wasn't it? And everyone just came and shouted at him and stuff. They threw McDonald's boxes-, Yes, they weren't as impressed as-,

Jada Pinkett Smith

No? how long did he stay up there?

James Acaster

Ages. Like days and days and days. And people just threw their McDonald's at him, in the box.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Really?



Ed Gamble

Yes, 'welcome to London David'.

James Acaster

We didn't represent ourselves very well as a nation. It went bad.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Oh my gosh.

James Acaster

Your dream main course Jada.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Just had this, oh man, so I was in Memphis, and there's this restaurant called Houston's and I got a veggie burger that tastes like a straight up grilled beef burger. Want to talk about magic?

James Acaster

Yes.

Jada Pinkett Smith

How was that even possible?

Ed Gamble

It was a Blane burger.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes, the Blane burger. I'm telling you, I was like, 'No way.' I was like, 'No way. This is like, amazing.'

Ed Gamble

Wow.

Jada Pinkett Smith

You know, because I really wanted that burger taste and I was like, aww, and I couldn't have, like I used to get the Houston's, you know, mesquite barbecue burger and I don't eat meat, right? So I was like, 'Okay let's see what they do with a veggie burger.' Man, they hooked it up. It was crazy.

Ed Gamble

Did you think you'd never be able to taste that again?

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes. It's not a veggie burger. I don't even like, Impossible burgers don't even get down like that. Not with that, like, juicy flavour. I'm talking about that really juicy, really urgh.



Ed Gamble

And the chargrilled flavour as well.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes, I don't know how they did it. I'm excited now. I'm mad you don't have a Houston's here.

James Acaster

Yes.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes.

James Acaster

I'm mad.

Ed Gamble

I'm mad as well, yes.

Jada Pinkett Smith

When you go back to the States, get one.

James Acaster

Straight to Memphis.

Ed Gamble

Straight to Memphis, Tennessee.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Or you can go to-, they have them in Los Angeles. We have two.

Ed Gamble

Lovely.

Jada Pinkett Smith

If you come down to LA, just get it.

James Acaster

Maybe Blane did invent it.

Jada Pinkett Smith

He might have.



James Acaster

Maybe he got the idea when we were throwing the burgers at him. Over the Thames, you know, he was like, 'This gives me an idea.'

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes.

Ed Gamble

How long has it been since you've had meat?

Jada Pinkett Smith

Okay. Okay so let me back track on that, back track on that. So I don't eat beef.

Ed Gamble

Right yes.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Okay, I don't eat beef. I will eat fish and I will have buffalo once in a while. Yes, because I can't not-, people are always like, 'No there's way you can have protein without meat.' I'm like, 'Yes, my particular body type, I have to have meat once in a while.' And so, I'll eat buffalo, yes, I'll eat buffalo once in a while.

James Acaster

Some people have that rule of, like, they'll eat it if they could kill it themselves. I guess for you-, could only confidently kill a buffalo.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Let me tell you I will starve to death if I have to kill a buffalo. Just caught-, I'm done. I will starve to death, yes.

Ed Gamble

Why buffalo in particular?

Jada Pinkett Smith

It's lean.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes, it's lean and it moves through my body nicely. Whereas-,

Ed Gamble

Smooth.



Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes, it's smooth.

James Acaster

Intestines love it.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Even without the greens.

James Acaster

Yes.

Jada Pinkett Smith

But, yes, and beef just, it tears me up.

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes.

Jada Pinkett Smith

It tears me up.

Ed Gamble

I think it probably does with most people right, but I'm still holding on to the beef dream.

James Acaster

Yes, my life is carnage Jada.

Jada Pinkett Smith

I understand. I understand. Listen, look I make no judgement on none of that. I'm not, you know, I get it.

James Acaster

I've got to get on top of it really, because it's not acceptable. Just listening to you talk about, like, you know, things moving through your body, I'm like, yes that is important actually.

Jada Pinkett Smith

It is.

James Acaster

Yes. My minds just like a fucking GTA in there.

Jada Pinkett Smith

No I get it. But I'm going to tell you, you don't stay young forever.



James Acaster

Yes exactly.

Jada Pinkett Smith

I'm going to tell you, I'm 52, okay, so it really starts to count when you get older. You're like, damn, damn if I had just paid attention a little bit more when I was younger, that's all that I'll just tell you as an OG up in here, okay. Well, you know, you're on your food journey, you all just love food just pay attention to how it's rocking with your body.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes, maybe I should get some buffalo in actually. Have you ever had chicken, fried chicken before? That confused me when I went to America.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Chicken, fried chicken.

Ed Gamble

So you know, you can get chicken fried steak.

James Acaster

Is that fried in chicken fat?

Ed Gamble

It's fried like, fried chicken. So it's steak-,

Jada Pinkett Smith

Steak fried like chicken?

Ed Gamble

Yes. Steak fried like chicken.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes, we will do turkey like that as well.

Ed Gamble

Wow.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Fried turkey.



Ed Gamble

Okay. I once saw on a menu, because I think with chicken, fried chicken, they, like, mince the chicken.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Chicken, fried chicken.

Ed Gamble

And then like they do with the-, and turn it into a steak shape. So it's like a steak.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Oh and they open it like-,

Ed Gamble

Chicken fried steak.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes.

Ed Gamble

But they're using chicken so it becomes chicken, fried chicken.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Okay. Alright. Okay.

Ed Gamble

You're looking at me like you think I'm lying. I've just accepted all this buffalo nonsense off you.

James Acaster

Before Jada came in, I sat you down and said, 'No lying to Jada.' No lying to Jada. I was very clear about that. You can lie to other guests.

Ed Gamble

Benito, find chicken fried chicken.

James Acaster

No lying to Jada.

Ed Gamble

I'm sorry.

James Acaster

And now you're lying already about the chicken, fried chicken stuff.



Ed Gamble

Sorry, chicken, fried chicken.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Chicken, fried chicken. Now I've never heard of chicken, fried chicken but what I do know, I will give you that, sometime the chicken will look like-

Ed Gamble

Like a steak sort of thing.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Like a steak sort of thing, yes. Where it's opened up like a-

Ed Gamble

I promise I haven't lied.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes. I believe you. I believe you.

Ed Gamble

Benito?

Jada Pinkett Smith

Wow. Chicken, fried chicken.

Ed Gamble

Chicken, fried chicken.

James Acaster

This week I had Kentucky Fried Mussels.

Ed Gamble

I'm not sure about that.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Kentucky Fried Mussels.

James Acaster

From a place called Ox Club in Leeds in the UK.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Okay.



James Acaster

They were so good. Really crispy mussels. But still flavourful, like, you know, still that seafood flavour that you get from mussels. But like-

Jada Pinkett Smith

But it was really fried crispy.

James Acaster

Yes. It was a nice crispy, I noticed that. In this garlic butter as well.

Jada Pinkett Smith

That sounds good.

James Acaster

Yes.

Jada Pinkett Smith

I like anything with garlic.

James Acaster

Yes.

Jada Pinkett Smith

And it's not supposed to be good for you, like the-, I will, like, I love savoury flavours. Yes.

Ed Gamble

Garlic's the best.

Jada Pinkett Smith

It's the best. I will put garlic on anything.

Ed Gamble

Yes, most foods could be improved by garlic.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Me too. I believe that.

Ed Gamble

Including desserts.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes, I mean, I do like garlic bread, so if you-, I mean, I was just thinking, what of a garlic cake?



James Acaster

I bet someone's done it. I bet someone-,

Jada Pinkett Smith

I bet somebody has.

James Acaster

Someone's done it and-, look, I wouldn't be closed off. I'd try it.

Jada Pinkett Smith

I'd try it, too. That's why I was, like, 'Bah, garlic, yes.'

James Acaster

Some candied garlic.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Candied garlic?

James Acaster

Maybe.

Ed Gamble

That black garlic you get is almost sort of, like, tastes like, sort of molasses sweetness. Yes, it's fantastic. That might work in a cake.

Jada Pinkett Smith

That might work.

Ed Gamble

I know some chefs listen to this so, why don't you go out there and make us a garlic cake?

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes. I can bake. Maybe I'll try. I can't bake that. I can't bake that well, but-,

James Acaster

I think if you made a garlic cake, your grandmother would be proud of you.

Jada Pinkett Smith

I think she would be. I think she would be.

James Acaster

That the kind of cake- she'd try that.



Jada Pinkett Smith

I think she would be. And she said, 'Now you can make the cow tongue with the cream sour-', yes, and put it all together.

James Acaster

Yes. Cow tongue, cream cheese frosting.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Oh, good god.

James Acaster

Your dream side dish, Jada?

Jada Pinkett Smith

I love French fries.

James Acaster

Yes. I mean, you can't really go wrong.

Jada Pinkett Smith

You can't. I don't care where I am in the world. French fries, it's my favourite food.

Ed Gamble

And are they good everywhere in the world, do you think?

Jada Pinkett Smith

I would say they're not bad, but they may not be the best.

Ed Gamble

Do you remember-, I hate to be negative, do you remember where you were in the world when you had the worst French fries you've ever had?

Jada Pinkett Smith

You know what I don't like? When I ask for a French fry and they bring out potato wedges.

Ed Gamble

Yes, oh, yes.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Let me tell you, there's nothing that pisses me off more. I swear, when I'm, like, I'd like this French fry and they bring you out a basket of potato wedges. And that's happened to me, like, in middle America.

Ed Gamble

Yes.



Jada Pinkett Smith

Where it's like, they bring you out these big, thick potato wedges. I'm like, 'That's not a damn French fry. You said French fries.'

James Acaster

Look, if they say that, that is some cheeky-

Jada Pinkett Smith

That's heartbreaking.

James Acaster

They're trying to-,

Ed Gamble

Because I don't mind a potato wedge, right.

Jada Pinkett Smith

I don't mind a potato wedge if you say it's a potato wedge.

Ed Gamble

You need to mentally prepare for the wedge.

Jada Pinkett Smith

But don't tell me it's a French fry and bring out a potato wedge.

Ed Gamble

I agree.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Now I'm pissed.

James Acaster

Yes. Absolutely. Also, it's real cheeky because they're showing you, we had what we needed to make them.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Right, you get this big thick potato, could have just cut it down into a French fry.

James Acaster

Could have done it, didn't. And now we're trying to tell you-,

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes, that it's a French fry. I call that gaslighting.



James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

That is gaslighting. That is 100% gaslighting.

James Acaster

That's what it is. Look it up. Also, like, I feel like, we've only just embraced the term French fry in this country.

Ed Gamble

Do you think?

James Acaster

I think for a long time, a lot of people-

Jada Pinkett Smith

Because you call it chips.

James Acaster

We've only ever called them chips. And in recent years, I think we have accepted that we have to differentiate because they're a different type. There's the thick-cut chips, chip-shop chips and all that stuff, and French fries are their own thing. And we've had to swallow our pride and just go, 'You know what, we'll just say French fry,' even though a lot of people in this country don't like saying Americanisms. Even though it sounds like a French word.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Right, well, I'm going to tell you what, I'm going to tell you a funny. I remember coming here to London when I was really young. I didn't know anything, and fish and chips. And I thought I was going to get chips. Real chips. Like, chips, potato chips.

Ed Gamble

Crisps.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Crisps.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Jada Pinkett Smith

And they brought out French fries and I was like, 'Oh. I'm actually happy that they're French fries.' Because I thought that that was all you had available were the chips. I mess with a chip. And then I was



like, 'Oh but it's a French fry.' And I was like, 'Oh, so French fries are called chips here.' I was like, 'Oh okay.' So that was one time that I thought I was going to get something that I didn't get.

Ed Gamble

The opposite.

Jada Pinkett Smith

And I was happy that it was a French fry.

Ed Gamble

Because you're always happy if it's French fries, right?

Jada Pinkett Smith

I'm always happy.

Ed Gamble

Because if you ordered wedges and they brought French fries, you-

Jada Pinkett Smith

I'd still be happy.

Ed Gamble

Yes, exactly. Doesn't work the other way round.

Jada Pinkett Smith

It doesn't work the other way round.

James Acaster

The first time I ordered frickles I didn't know what they were.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Frickles?

James Acaster

I just went for it. I saw frickles on a menu. I was like, 'I'll have the frickles.' And then the person I was with said, 'What are they?' I was like, 'No idea.' Do you know what frickles are?

Jada Pinkett Smith

I have no idea what a frickle is.

Ed Gamble

Fried pickles.



Jada Pinkett Smith

How was that?

James Acaster

Delicious. They had very nice seasoning on it. That's the key.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Wow.

James Acaster

The seasoning has to be good otherwise you're just dealing with something that's absolutely scorching hot when you bit into it.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes. That's the issue with them sometimes. If they're too thick cut, the pickles.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Got it.

Ed Gamble

If they're like long dill pickles that are thick cut, there's so much moisture in them, that when they're in the batter, all of that liquid gets up to, like, a hundred degrees and then you're biting in and it's hot stuff.

James Acaster

Might as well be biting into a glow stick, man.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes. If you dice them up into coins.

Ed Gamble

Yes great.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Got it.

James Acaster

Get loads of seasoning on them. Delicious.

Jada Pinkett Smith

That sounds amazing. I've never even heard of a frickle but I want to try one. Are there any frickles around here that are good?



James Acaster

Not really. I would say the best frickles I've had are in America.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Oh really.

James Acaster

Yes in America.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Okay.

Ed Gamble

MEATliquor do frickles.

James Acaster

Oh no MEATliquor do frickles. MEATliquour. It's a place called MEATliquor. Liquors spelt licq, not-,

Ed Gamble

No just liq.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Thank goodness.

James Acaster

What?

Ed Gamble

Liquor.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Well lets be glad it's not the other way.

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Because that could mean something totally different.

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes, we don't want that.



James Acaster

That buffalo wouldn't know what hit it.

Ed Gamble

Also they'd bring you your food and your like, 'I don't know what people have been doing with this.'

Jada Pinkett Smith

Exactly. Exactly.

Ed Gamble

If you want me to do this and then I'm worried you're going to pass it on the next person.

Jada Pinkett Smith

That part. That part.

James Acaster

There's a lot of fast food chains in America. LA's got some that are just, like, just for LA even. Can you even rank the French fries? Can you do a league table of, like, the best ones are here? People go nuts for In and Out in LA, but I don't know if you subscribe to that.

Jada Pinkett Smith

You know, In and Out, here's the thing about fast food. Fast food has just gotten terrible. It used to be so good. Because I'm going to tell you what, as an OG, back in the day, you couldn't mess with a McDonald's French fry.

James Acaster

Yes, yes.

Jada Pinkett Smith

You just couldn't. Everybody else is trying to compete to what that was. McDonald's doesn't even do their French fries the way they used to. I mean they came down to even, like, the engineering, a specific kind of potato, so I don't even mess with none of those fast food French fries.

James Acaster

No, no. The McDonald thing-,

Jada Pinkett Smith

I'll tell you who's got good French fries, Houston's.

Ed Gamble

Houston's. Back in Houston's. Another shout out for the Houston's. Lovely.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Houston's got some good fries.



James Acaster

For your dream meal then, would you like the Houston's fries? Or would you like McDonald's fries back in the day?

Jada Pinkett Smith

Give me the OG McDonald's French fries any day. I miss them.

James Acaster

Yes, we can bring them back.

Jada Pinkett Smith

I miss them.

James Acaster

Who's your favourite McDonald's mascot?

Jada Pinkett Smith

Ronald.

Ed Gamble

Ronald.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Ronald was the fave, even though I don't like clowns. He was my favourite. And he was my favourite because every time I saw him I was like, 'French fries. That's the French fry guy.'

Ed Gamble

Yes, none of the other clowns have that to recommend it do they?

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes. And then, you know, we got, you know, all the little prizes. And the little kids meals we would get. He was a gangster. I love Ronald.

James Acaster

He was pretty gangster. Those toys were great, yes.

Jada Pinkett Smith

They were great.

James Acaster

I'd really, really want the toys. I mean I didn't get to go to McDonald's very much. My parents, they didn't like McDonald's so they wouldn't take me there. But I'd see the adverts with the Happy Meals and the toys and-



Jada Pinkett Smith

The Happy meals. See I had a teenage mom so she was like, 'You want McDonald's? Cool.' I got McDonald's, you know. It was that or breakfast for dinner.

James Acaster

Brilliant.

Ed Gamble

My most exciting thing as a kid going to McDonald's as a kid would be finding the longest chip in the world. Did you ever do that?

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes.

Ed Gamble

You'd get the fry out and you'd be like, 'Oh my god. It's the longest fry in the world.'

Jada Pinkett Smith

Exactly. Yes. I used to love that.

James Acaster

But then would it maintain its integrity that fry? Would it be as crispy as you wanted it to? Or would it be a bit floppy?

Jada Pinkett Smith

No you had to eat it right away. You had to eat it right away.

James Acaster

Straight in.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Not even the-, it won't even survive the car drive home.

James Acaster

Yes, yes. You've got to get it.

Your dream drink?

Jada Pinkett Smith

Lavender lemonade.

James Acaster

That's a first. We've never had lavender lemonade on the podcast before.



Jada Pinkett Smith

Oh lavender lemonade is so good. Now back in the day, when I was still whiling (ph 40.22) lavender lemonade was some vodka, but these days we do it just straight. Just lavender lemonade.

Ed Gamble

But that's great.

Jada Pinkett Smith

So good, so good.

Ed Gamble

Great because you clearly just love the lavender lemonade right?

Jada Pinkett Smith

I do.

Ed Gamble

So you can take the vodka out, you've still got your dream drink.

Jada Pinkett Smith

I've still got it.

Ed Gamble

Where are you getting lavender lemonade from?

Jada Pinkett Smith

Oh there's a couple of places. I just had a lavender lemonade and I was just going crazy because I used to, there was a restaurant that I used to go to in New Orleans, while Will was shooting there and that's when I got really addicted to the lavender lemonades. Yes, and then I had to learn that I was, like, oh I've got to learn how to make this thing. Which I never did. And I just had it again. I don't want to say it was Houston's.

James Acaster

I mean the whole meal's Houston's.

Jada Pinkett Smith

I know. I know.

Ed Gamble

Houston's are going to be over the moon when they hear this.

Jada Pinkett Smith

I've just had a lavender lemonade and I was like, 'Yo run that lavender lemonade. I can't believe they have it.' And while I was on the book tour, so it was just recently.



Ed Gamble

Oh nice. So I've never had a lavender lemonade. I don't think I've even seen a lavender lemonade anywhere.

James Acaster

What ratios are we talking about lavender to lemonade? Is mainly lavender? Is it mainly the lemonade taste with a little hint of lavender?

Jada Pinkett Smith

It's like you're, I would say that the ratio is probably 60:40. 40% lavender and 60 lemonade.

Ed Gamble

It's lavender, it can be a strong sort of-

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes, lavender can be strong, you know what I mean? So it's a nice little, like it's, like a beautiful soft covering of the lemon.

James Acaster

Yes.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes, it's really gentle. And then you've got to have the right amount of sugar too. Because then, yes, when it's done well, man. I haven't had a bad one.

James Acaster

Never?

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes, never. So I think people know you better get that one right or no-one will be ordering it. Yes, so. But it's pretty yummy.

Ed Gamble

It sounds refreshing as well.

Jada Pinkett Smith

It's really refreshing. I love it.

James Acaster

Would you like a New Orleans's one for your dream meal?

Jada Pinkett Smith

I would take the New Orleans one with the vodka, just for-, if it's a dream.



Ed Gamble

That vodka snuck back in very quickly. Yes.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes, the lemon to lavender, the lavender lemonade with the vodka in a dream, all day. And just it line up. Just get me ten of them.

James Acaster

Yes. Keep them coming.

Ed Gamble

One ice cube or multiple ice cubes in this?

Jada Pinkett Smith

One.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Jada Pinkett Smith

In each.

James Acaster

One single ice cube.

Jada Pinkett Smith

One single ice cube because it needs to have a little chill to it but don't, yes, don't load me up.

Ed Gamble

You don't want to kill the taste, do you?

Jada Pinkett Smith

I don't want to kill the taste. I don't want it watered down with ice.

James Acaster

This is something that we don't have here, but, like, I only know about through watching American TV shows or films, is kids with their lemonade stands.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes that's a real thing.

James Acaster

I've never seen it.



Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes, it's a real thing. I see it all the time.

James Acaster

Do you think any of them would attempt lavender lemonade?

Ed Gamble

Ideally not with vodka.

Jada Pinkett Smith

No I don't. I don't. I mean, listen at the lemonade stands we'd be lucky to just get a decent glass of lemonade. Listen, lemonade itself, really think about this, lemonade itself is really an art form. Good lemonade with that nice balance of lemon, water and sugar.

Ed Gamble

Because it is easy to mess up.

Jada Pinkett Smith

It's, like, most of the time lemonade is too tart. Like when I order lemonade I'm scared to order lemonade in restaurants because I'm like, 'Oh this is going to be crap.' It's either going to be watered down, you know, or it's going to be too tart. It's not going to have enough sugar.

Ed Gamble

Well here, I mean I think I only heard about lemonade in the American sense, like, a lot later in life. Because here, growing up, lemonade would mean like, Sprite or 7Up, right?

James Acaster

Sure.

Ed Gamble

If you order some lemonade in a restaurant you're getting fizzy.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Fizzy.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Got it.

Ed Gamble

But that proper home-made lemonade. It's so good.



Jada Pinkett Smith

Is it Sprite or 7Up for you guys?

James Acaster

I'd go 7Up.

Ed Gamble

I think I'd go Sprite.

James Acaster

This is why we work well as hosts.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes, yes. I think I'm 7Up too. I think 7Up is a tad sweeter, I think, yes, I think.

Ed Gamble

With a bit of vodka in.

James Acaster

I would bet there's less bubbles.

Jada Pinkett Smith

In a dream for sure. Listen, I'll take vodka in any drink. It's my favourite. I love vodka.

James Acaster

If I may just roll back to the lemonade stands, if you're walking down a street, how good would a kid's lemonade stand have to be for you to accept that they might be able to do lavender lemonade? Just say there's a little kid and they've got a load of lavender and they've got all the other stuff for lemonade and they're, like, 'Jada Pinkett Smith, would you like a lavender lemonade?' How good does the set up have to be? What are you looking for?

Ed Gamble

And they're calling Jada by her full name as well.

James Acaster

They're calling you by your full name.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Let me tell you what, if I go to a lemonade stand and they're like, 'Jada Pinkett Smith.' First for a kid to even know who the hell I am, okay. Because most of the time I'll be, Jaden's mum, Willow's mum, and they even know anything about a lavender lemonade. They won. I'm like, 'Run it.' I don't even care what it tastes like, run that lavender lemonade. The fact that you even know that a lavender lemonade exists and you know my full name, you win.



James Acaster

We arrive at your dream dessert, my favourite course. I know you said you're mainly a savoury person.

Jada Pinkett Smith

This is a good one.

James Acaster

But yes, I am excited about this.

Ed Gamble

What have we got?

Jada Pinkett Smith

Taiwanese pineapple cake ice cream. Vegan, but it tastes just like regular ice cream.

James Acaster

This sounds great.

Ed Gamble

Yes, this is incredible.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Let me tell you-, I'm going to tell you like this. When you get to LA, when you guys come back to California, go to Los Angeles, you've got to go to Dear Bella. Best, let me just calm down, the best ice cream. It's vegan but it tastes just like-, you would never know that it's vegan. And they have the best flavours. Taiwanese pineapple cake ice cream.

James Acaster

Any ice cream flavour that has the word cake in it-,

Ed Gamble

Yes, I agree. I'm on board.

James Acaster

I don't even know what Taiwanese pineapple cake is.

Ed Gamble

I don't even know what it is, but I would love the Taiwanese pineapple cake but-,

Jada Pinkett Smith

It just tastes like a pineapple cake but it's-,

James Acaster

Pineapples and cakes.



Jada Pinkett Smith

Pineapple and cake, I mean come on we all know that's like, that's the real deal, right? In ice cream.

James Acaster

Yes.

Jada Pinkett Smith

It's so creamy and they have so many flavours. Like, I have ice cream parties.

James Acaster

Yes. Dear Bella ice cream parties?

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes, me and Will just have ice cream parties at the house.

James Acaster

Oh yes.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Oh yes. Cookies and cream. They have one of them that I've just got right, Vietnamese coffee.

Ed Gamble

Oh yes.

Jada Pinkett Smith

The gingerbread ice cream. It's like a gingerbread cookie ice cream. It's like the, you know, during the holiday season, which is my-, I keep it all year round.

Ed Gamble

Amazing.

Jada Pinkett Smith

I'm like, 'Hey can y'all make me some of that gingerbread? I know it's summertime. I know y'all don't usually make it until, you know, Thanksgiving. Can you run that for me?'

James Acaster

Love an ice cream party man, this is exactly what-, I don't know how many episodes, we've done over 200 episodes of this god-damn podcast and I've been waiting for someone to mention, even mention the idea of an ice cream party.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Ice cream party.



James Acaster

And finally I'm here.

Ed Gamble

Are you inviting lots of people over for the ice cream party?

Jada Pinkett Smith

I just had an ice cream party to pick names for Christmas. We pick names, because listen, there's a lot of adults. We get all the kids gifts. Like, kids get gifts, but adults-, my mom this year was like, 'I'm not buying nobody nothing unless we pick names.' She was like, 'I just don't feel like it. And Christmas is not for us in that way.' I'm like, 'You don't want to get gifts? Like I love getting gifts.' She's like, 'Look we're adults, pick a name.' So I was like, instead of having, you know, dinner or that, I was like, 'Okay everybody come over, we'll have an ice cream party.' And I just had, like, twelve different, like, versions of different flavours.

James Acaster

Is it too late to get in on your family Christmas? Or I could go to that ice cream party, and put my name in the hat?

Jada Pinkett Smith

No, you guys, listen, you're invited.

James Acaster

Thank you.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Come on through.

James Acaster

Love the thought of this ice cream party man. You have no idea Jada, the amount of episodes I've had to sit through with guests who have had, like, unimaginative desserts, or they've had like, savoury things. Some of them have chosen cheese boards for desserts and I've had to sit here and take it. And finally get into a place where there's twelve different flavours of ice cream. And they all sound amazing. There's, like, that coffee one sounds insane. The gingerbread one, I'm a huge gingerbread ice cream fan. This Taiwanese pineapple cake one, are there chunks of cake in the-,

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes. And I'm going to tell you something else, this is the kicker, okay, it's handmade.

James Acaster

Oh, yes, yes, yes.

Jada Pinkett Smith

It's handmade.



James Acaster

Yes, they know what-, that's made with love.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Okay, it's handmade. Like, it's not factory made.

James Acaster

They care.

Ed Gamble

The guys at Dear Bella, they're doing it.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Dear Bella, they care. And it's only one. There's only one Dear Bella in the world.

James Acaster

Wow. Great.

Jada Pinkett Smith

And they love ice cream

Ed Gamble

Whereabouts in LA is it?

Jada Pinkett Smith

I believe it's not-, it's close to down town.

Ed Gamble

Okay, well because next time I'm going to-,

Jada Pinkett Smith

I think it's, like, on Vine.

Ed Gamble

I'm going to book my Airbnb based on where Dear Bella is.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes, but I mean, you Google Dear Bella, it's right there isn't it?

James Acaster

I'm going to stay in Dear Bella.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Where's the other one?



James Acaster

There are two now.

Ed Gamble

Bonito's just revealed there's two. And Jada is-

Jada Pinkett Smith

There's two? Where's the other one? Hollywood and Costa Mesa. They're both in LA. We have two locations guys.

James Acaster

Means you can have double ice cream parties.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes. That means I'm going to be checking out that location to see if they have different.

Ed Gamble

Oh if they have different flavours.

Jada Pinkett Smith

If they have different flavours.

Ed Gamble

Wow I love this. This is very exciting.

Jada Pinkett Smith

I'm online as soon as I get in that car.

James Acaster

I imagine you get in the car, you look at this new one to see if there's new flavours and imagine this, they've got lavender lemonade flavour ice cream.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Don't.

James Acaster

You imagine it.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Okay, you just, you know what?

Ed Gamble

That might be too, that might be too much.



Jada Pinkett Smith

No. Now you're going to have me going there and I'm going to be going like, 'Is there any way possible you guys could make a lavender lemonade ice cream?'

James Acaster

And listen, I warn you now, that originally they'll try and fob you off and make you turn it into a sorbet. Yes.

Jada Pinkett Smith

That's what I was just thinking.

James Acaster

That's what they'll do.

Jada Pinkett Smith

They're probably going to have to because I don't know how you can do it any other way.

James Acaster

I don't know.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Because I don't know if-,

Ed Gamble

If anyone can, the Dear Bella guys can.

Jada Pinkett Smith

They can. I am going to try. I'm going to ask them. But I wouldn't mind trying it in a sorbet. Now listen, I'm with you on the sorbet. Like, sorbets always, like, alright you don't have that ice cream I love and rock the sorbet. Because I really love ice cream, but I wouldn't mind the lavender lemonade in a sorbet.

James Acaster

Yes, I've had some very good sorbets.

Jada Pinkett Smith

I've had some great sorbets, I have, but it's not like, my like-

James Acaster

Yes, citrusy ones are the way to go with them, you know, like lime ones. Grapefruit maybe? Remind you of-,

Jada Pinkett Smith

I've had grapefruit sorbet. Never turned out well but, I've had it, yes.



James Acaster

Well it's flashbacks for you.

Ed Gamble

It might be a nice addition to the ice cream party just to have a nice little sorbet in there.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Well they do sorbet.

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes.

Jada Pinkett Smith

They don't do a lot of sorbet. Dear Bella doesn't do a lot of sorbet. But they do-, like I had a guava sorbet with-, it was okay. Yes.

James Acaster

Clean the palate between ice creams.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes. True.

James Acaster

You just have a little sorbet as a palate cleanser. Then have another cake ice cream. Oh man. I've never wanted to go somewhere immediately so badly.

Jada Pinkett Smith

I swear Dear Bella will not disappoint.

James Acaster

I'm going to read your menu back to you now. See how you feel about it.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Okay.

James Acaster

You want still water with a twist of lemon and one ice cube in it. But if we're going fancy it's a sparkling water. Popadoms or bread? Monkey bread with melted honey butter. Starter, green salad with a mango vinaigrette from Café Gratitude. Main course, veggie burger from Houston's in Memphis. Side, OG McDonald's French fries. Drink, ten lavender lemonades with vodka. Line them up in New Orleans. Dessert, Taiwanese pineapple cake vegan ice cream from Dear Bella.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes.



James Acaster

That sounds great Jada.

Ed Gamble

That's a great menu.

Jada Pinkett Smith

That's a great menu.

Ed Gamble

Yes, it's a very, very good menu.

Jada Pinkett Smith

That's a good time.

Ed Gamble

And you've thought about the balance of it as well because you're getting everything moving at the top.

Jada Pinkett Smith

That's right.

Ed Gamble

And then it builds to that ice cream I think.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes. And then to me, like, smashed under the table after the dinner. Yes.

James Acaster

Like I'm definitely, as the genie waiter, I'm just going to turn that last course into an ice cream party.

Jada Pinkett Smith

There you go.

James Acaster

I'm having all of those flavours there.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes.

James Acaster

I'm having everyone round. We can pick names, whatever. I don't care what the event is, what the occasion is.



Jada Pinkett Smith

Listen, the next time I come back, that's what we're going to talk-, the episode is going to be called ice cream party and we're going to go through, we are going to go through all the different flavours. And I'm going to get it shipped out here.

James Acaster

Yes.

Jada Pinkett Smith

We're going to sit here and we're going to do our ice cream party.

Ed Gamble

I'm not sure how the recording will come out. Having eaten ice cream with James before, it's not, like, sort of, the audio wouldn't be pleasant.

James Acaster

Doesn't matter.

Jada Pinkett Smith

No.

James Acaster

I do not care. How the audio comes out. That's the last part, I don't care.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Let me tell you and it's got to be vegan because if it's not vegan I'll shoot off like a rocket.

James Acaster

It'll be vegan. If it's as good as you say.

Jada Pinkett Smith

It's got to be vegan.

Ed Gamble

Things can move too smooth down there.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes. Through this roof yes.

James Acaster

Those buffaloes.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Yes.



Ed Gamble

I mean that would be quite the end to the podcast. Jada thank you so much for coming to the Dream Restaurant.

Jada Pinkett Smith

Thank you. Thanks for such a good time.

Ed Gamble

Well there we are. That was a great chat, James.

James Acaster

Yes. I'm still riding high on the ice cream party man.

Ed Gamble

She was a proper laugh, James.

James Acaster

She was a laugh. Excellent food choices. Didn't say Kinder Bueno Happy Hippo.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

So got to stay in the restaurant, which is good because that meant we got the ice cream party.

Ed Gamble

Enjoy the ice cream party, yes.

James Acaster

I can't wait to go there. I'm going to have my own ice cream party.

Ed Gamble

I mean what I'd say as well, is when someone picks a veggie burger on paper I'm like, 'Oh no, that's a boring choice.' But Jada was so excited about it.

James Acaster

Her description of it.

Ed Gamble

The way she described the veggie burger, I've got to go to Houston's.

James Acaster

Yes. The burger sounds amazing. The ice cream party sounds amazing. And the book Worthy sounds fantastic.



Ed Gamble

Absolutely. Worthy by Jada Pinkett Smith is out now on 4th Estate. That's the publishers. Go get it baby. It's available in hardback and audio book.

James Acaster

Fantastic. Ed and I have both written books as well that you can get.

Ed Gamble

Yes. We have actually. I've written a book called Glutton: The Multi-Course Life of a Very Greedy Boy is available now.

James Acaster

James Acaster's Guide To Quitting Social Media is available now.

Ed Gamble

Both of those bad boys on audio book read by ourselves, as in I read mine, James read his. Although we should have done the switcheroo really.

James Acaster

We should have done the switcheroo. I'm gutted now we didn't think of that.

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes. Bad luck mate.

James Acaster

Oh well. First of all read Worthy by Jada Pinkett Smith.

Ed Gamble

Do it. Thank you very much to you, James.

James Acaster

Thank you to you Ed. It's been a fantastic day.

Ed Gamble

It has been. Thank you to you Bonito.

James Acaster

Thank you Bonito.

Ed Gamble

Double thumbs up from Bonito. Thank you very much, we'll see you again soon. Bye, bye.

James Acaster

Bye, bye.