



Off Menu – Ep 226 – Noel Fielding

Ed Gamble

Welcome to the Off Menu podcast, opening a tin of humour ravioli, pouring it into the pan of friendship, heating it up, and whacking that on some cheeky toast. Tinned Ravioli on Toast podcast. I panicked, James.

James Acaster

That is Ed Gamble, my name is James Acaster, and together we own a dream restaurant, and every single week we invite in a guest and ask them their favourite ever starter, main course, dessert, side dish, and drink, not in that order. And this week our guest is Noel Fielding.

Ed Gamble

Noel Fielding, an amazing comedian, James, of course, legendary. National treas' territory.

James Acaster

Yes, I would say. Obviously we are the age where when The Boosh came out on TV we were watching it, all of our friends were watching it, everyone was obsessed with them, so very formative comedy for us.

Ed Gamble

Absolutely.

James Acaster

And maybe Noel doesn't want to hear that, maybe it makes him sound old, but he's not.

Ed Gamble

No.

James Acaster

He was just doing cool comedy when we were late teens.

Ed Gamble

Yes, very much so. And, look, he's still doing cool comedy, because he's in a brand new comedy series on Apple TV Plus, it's called The Completely Made-Up Adventures of Dick Turpin, and Noel is the lead playing Dick Turpin.

James Acaster

Hugh Bonneville's in it as well, I'm very looking forward to seeing that pairing.

Ed Gamble

I'm very looking forward to seeing it as well. It's an amazing cast, Ellie White's in it, Marc Wootton's in it, Tamsin Greig's in it, Asim Chaudhry's in it, Joe Wilkinson's in it, Mark Heap's-, I mean, it's just-, it's-



James Acaster

Holy shit.

Ed Gamble

It's an absolute cavalcade.

James Acaster

That'll be fantastic. Also, Noel has ties to the food world with Bake Off.

Ed Gamble

Of course, Bake Off.

James Acaster

And, I mean, not many people left now from the tent that day that-, worst day of my life.

Ed Gamble

No.

James Acaster

So, we've had-,

Ed Gamble

I've been on it as well, I had a lovely day.

James Acaster

Yes, you had a nice time.

Ed Gamble

Loved hanging out with Noel.

James Acaster

You had a really nice time.

Ed Gamble

Have you seen Noel since the tent?

James Acaster

This is the first time.

Ed Gamble

Oh, man. So, he's worried about coming in here, that you're still going to be in that mood.

James Acaster

No, he had a good time, he didn't mind. I mean, I'm sure we'll talk about it.



Ed Gamble

I'm sure it'll come up, it normally does, even with people who are completely unconnected to it.

James Acaster

But listen, we love Noel Fielding, but if he mentions the secret ingredient, an ingredient which we deem to be unacceptable, we will kick him out of the dream restaurant.

Ed Gamble

We will.

James Acaster

And this week, the secret ingredient is spicy carrot and coriander.

Ed Gamble

Spicy carrot and coriananander soup. I was trying to say it at the same time, I wasn't sure if we were going with just 'tasty soup' or 'spicy carrot and coriander soup', and then I tried to say coriander at the same time as you, but you'd said it, so I said 'coriananander'.

James Acaster

And we should be saying it at the same time, because that's what they would do, crimping.

Ed Gamble

Yes, that's true.

James Acaster

They would say it at exactly the same time.

Ed Gamble

Yes, too late now. We'll never be The Boosh.

James Acaster

We're not Noel and Julian, and we never will be.

Ed Gamble

No, no, no.

James Acaster

But they did sing 'spicy carrot and coriander' in the Soup Song.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

And so, you know, I would be surprised if Noel picks something that is from his back catalogue.



Ed Gamble

I don't think he will.

James Acaster

But if he does-,

Ed Gamble

He's gone.

James Acaster

We'll kick him out.

Ed Gamble

He's gone, mate. But that'll be a shame. But this is the Off Menu menu of Noel Fielding.

James Acaster

Noel Fielding.

Ed Gamble

Welcome, Noel, to the dream restaurant.

Noel Fielding

Hello.

James Acaster

Pssh! Welcome, Noel Fielding, to the dream restaurant, we've been expecting you for some time.

Noel Fielding

Now, can I just stop you there and say you're the genie and you've just appeared, right?

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Noel Fielding

No-one rubbed the lamp though, did they?

Ed Gamble

It's a very, very good point.

Noel Fielding

You just come out willy-nilly, is that what's happened?



James Acaster

Yes, and do you know what-,

Noel Fielding

Because that's the only rule I remember, is someone's got to rub the lamp.

James Acaster

Yes.

Noel Fielding

But you've just got, like, a door, a cat flap, a genie flap.

James Acaster

Yes.

Noel Fielding

Okay.

James Acaster

Because you know what? We just did a tour, a live tour of this, and we would get the guest to rub the lamp every night.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Noel Fielding

Oh.

James Acaster

And yet, when we put that in I was like, 'We never do this usually.'

Ed Gamble

Yes, it's different-,

James Acaster

'Why are they rubbing the lamp live?'

Ed Gamble

I guess it's different because on the tour we had a big lamp on stage.

Noel Fielding

Oh, you had a big lamp?



Ed Gamble

Yes.

Noel Fielding

I'd have loved to have seen that.

Ed Gamble

So, that's easier to go to a guest, 'Can you rub that lamp that's there?'

Noel Fielding

It's quite dodgy territory these days, isn't it, 'Can you rub my lamp?'

Ed Gamble

Yes, there was a lot of rubbing of the tip of the neck of the lamp and stuff.

Noel Fielding

In 20 years' time, 'Well, they forced me to rub this lamp.'

James Acaster

Yes.

Noel Fielding

'It was a bit weird.'

Ed Gamble

'It was a bit weird.'

James Acaster

It wouldn't age well, I guess.

Ed Gamble

But when it's audio only, at least you're aware of the genie being a thing, right?

Noel Fielding

Yes. I love you do your own sound effects.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes, that's good, right?

Noel Fielding

Yes, that's probably one of the only things you have to be able to do as a genie.



James Acaster

Yes, do your own sound effects like Robin Williams, he'd do all his own sound effects.

Ed Gamble

Because I guess if no-one's rubbing the lamp, you have to do your own sound effects. If you are coming through a cat flap, you're just coming out a cat flap and going, 'Pssh.'

Noel Fielding

Yes.

James Acaster

I like that I've got a little cat flap.

Noel Fielding

Genie flap's lovely.

James Acaster

Yes. Do you think I'm chipped so it knows it's me?

Ed Gamble

Yes, a little magnet round your collar.

James Acaster

Yes, that's important. The first time I saw you do stand-up, Noel, the first thing you said was about a cat.

Noel Fielding

Oh, was it?

James Acaster

I remember it because it was-, like, it was before I did stand-up, so I pretty much-, every gig I went to-,

Ed Gamble

You remembered everything.

James Acaster

I just came away from it and remembered every single line.

Noel Fielding

I think I remember when I was young and starting, and the people I liked I'd go and see, and I'd remember everything they did. And then now when I go to see a gig, people go, 'What did he talk about?' And I go-,



Ed Gamble

Yes, 'No idea.'

Noel Fielding

'Some stuff?'

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Noel Fielding

But I used to be able to do whole Stewart Lee, sort of, routines.

James Acaster

Entire things.

Noel Fielding

Yes. I used to do a lot of animal stuff, basically.

James Acaster

Well, it wasn't a-, you picked up the mic stand, and the legs went-,

Noel Fielding

Oh, yes, and, sort of-,

James Acaster

Just folded in, and you went, 'Oh, it's like when you pick up a cat and it goes all long.' And I still think about it now, if I ever pick up a mic and it does that-,

Ed Gamble

That's great.

James Acaster

I think of Noel going, 'Oh, I've gone all long,' and doing an impression of a cat.

Noel Fielding

Well, you can have it. I used to do so much stuff about animals, and the only other person really that was-, this is when I started, that used to do a lot of animal stuff, was Ross Noble, so we used to sit back stage, and if we were on the same bill-,

Ed Gamble

Just talk about animals.



Noel Fielding

'Okay, well, you can have unicorns, but I'm having monkeys,' and we'd just, sort of, divvy out all the animals, because there's such a crossover.

Ed Gamble

All those stories of, like, old-school, the working men's club comics who had the blackboard of all of the topics and jokes, and they'd cross them off when they came off, but it's just you and Ross Noble with whimsical animals.

Noel Fielding

Yes, exactly. And there'd always be, like, a slightly old-school comedian there just tutting.

James Acaster

Yes.

Noel Fielding

'This won't take off, what these two are doing, this is not real comedy.'

James Acaster

Right, but also, like, imagine how furious those comics were. Because when our generation came, we're the ones who just, like, watched all you guys, but those old-school-, it was still the same old-school comedians on the circuit when we started, they hated us.

Noel Fielding

Oh, my god.

James Acaster

We were even worse, because they were like, 'We thought this was going to get better.'

Ed Gamble

Yes, 'We thought it was a phase.'

James Acaster

'But these guys liked those idiots, and now they're all talking about unicorns and monkeys.'

Ed Gamble

'Where are the guys that liked us?'

James Acaster

Yes, 'What the fuck is this?'

Noel Fielding

I do remember the first time I ever saw Eddie Izzard, and I remember watching, it was on telly I think, and I just caught the end of it, and I remember thinking, 'I've not heard anything like this, this is, like-'



James Acaster

Yes.

Noel Fielding

And then when you go back you go, 'Okay, Richard Pryor, Steve Martin,' some people were doing stuff like that, but mainly Americans. I remember when Izzard did it, and I remember thinking, 'Oh, yes, this is not going to be the same now after this.'

James Acaster

Yes.

Noel Fielding

And there was, like, a period where everyone was doing Izzard.

James Acaster

I'd say there was a period of time where not just comedians but every single student was acting like you.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

There was a point where-

Noel Fielding

I can only apologise.

James Acaster

I knew someone who had consumed so much Mighty Boosh that they basically turned into one of the characters.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

And you'd go, 'Don't talk to that guy at a party. Here they come.'

Noel Fielding

It's a weird thing, isn't it? Because I was the same, I used to watch my favourite shows like Fry and Laurie and stuff, and Blackadder, over and over and over and over and over again, so you knew every single bit, which is such an odd-, for comedy it doesn't really work, it only works because of the element of surprise. But there's something comforting about watching-, and then I would meet people who'd go, 'Oh, my god, I watched The Boosh 1,000 times,' and I'd just think-, and I could never remember



anything that we'd written, and they'd go, 'That bit where you did this,' and I'd be going, 'I don't remember.' I'd go, 'That was Julian, I think. It was nothing to do with me, I don't remember it.'

Ed Gamble

Yes, there are so many people who didn't turn up to lectures at uni because all they did was sit in their room watching The Boosh on LimeWire.

Noel Fielding

It's like a different time though as well, because now I guess-, I'm glad it's got back to stand-up, it feels like it's got back-, well, I mean, podcasts are amazing because they're the new way of-, you can do so much with a podcast, can't you? They're like a, sort of, laid back stand-up, a bit more jazzy stand-up, but I remember there were programmes, people made programmes with scripts and rehearsed.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Noel Fielding

That doesn't seem to be a thing anymore.

Ed Gamble

And were loads of people going, 'I'm not sure that's right,' and they had to change it.

Noel Fielding

People would read the script and go, 'What's this bit here?' And we'd go, 'Oh, I don't know, it was quite late when we wrote that,' but now it's like, 'Yes, you'll be fine, come in, just have a chat.'

James Acaster

Oh, but I'm assuming, Noel, there was a script for The Completely Made-Up Adventures of Dick Turpin.

Ed Gamble

Lovely, James.

James Acaster

Which is out on Apple TV Plus.

Ed Gamble

Truly lovely.

James Acaster

Yes? Pretty good, right?

Noel Fielding

That was-, I mean, it was good, wasn't it?



Ed Gamble

It was a good one.

Noel Fielding

He's our genie.

Ed Gamble

Yes, exactly.

Noel Fielding

Straight out the cat flap.

Ed Gamble

He's out his flap, for sure.

James Acaster

'I'm out of my flap, mate.'

Noel Fielding

His segue flap was so smooth. Yes, it was fun actually to do that again. Yes, that is, like, a real programme with scripts, and I did write a bit as well. I forgot how hard it was to write, you can spend all day trying to fix one tiny little thing, and then it's so frustrating. But it is satisfying as well, but it's also very hard. I remember it's like pushing a big boulder up a hill. Julian and I used to get nothing all day, and then we'd leave, and it was something about the act of leaving that we'd get something. So, we'd go, 'Right, well, I'll see you tomorrow.' 'Oh, we could do-,' and then we'd get undressed and go back in and go, 'Alright, let's stay and write that.' But I don't know, it's tricky now that I've got a family and stuff, it's like, can you just write until midnight or 4:00 in the morning? You can't, really.

James Acaster

Is it just you writing on your own?

Noel Fielding

No, there are a couple of other writers, so I will just dip in and out now.

James Acaster

Nice.

Noel Fielding

Yes, I just dip in and out like I'm, sort of, some old-, I'm so old I just come in and go, 'Listen, guys, let me tell you how this scene needs to work-,'

Ed Gamble

It's perfect, because-,



Noel Fielding

And then they ignore me and just re-write it.

Ed Gamble

That's when you get your ideas right, when you're leaving, so if you just keep dipping in and out-

Noel Fielding

Exactly.

Ed Gamble

About five times a day.

Noel Fielding

I'm like the yo-yo, I come in, I've gone out.

James Acaster

Non-stop ideas. Every time he goes to the door, go, 'Oh, oh-,'

Ed Gamble

Yes, 'I'm off again. Oh, hang on.'

Noel Fielding

It was fun actually, because I haven't done that sort of comedy for a long time. I kept trying to do it again, but after The Boosh I was like, 'Oh, this isn't as much fun.' Or, we were all mates, weirdly, so it, sort of, just evolved naturally, The Boosh. And then the problem is you try and manufacture that again and it doesn't quite work, or it's not-, it just doesn't feel-, also it just all happened in the right way. It was, like, Edinburgh, then radio, then telly, then big shows. So, when you do a normal TV show that isn't that, you go, 'Oh, this isn't as much fun. Maybe I should not do this kind of show anymore,' which is why I ended up doing panel shows, and then Bake Off, because I thought, 'Ah, it's something else,' you know?

Ed Gamble

Yes, and it's different every day.

Noel Fielding

Yes. And also, Julian was so funny, Julian was such a strange character because-, it was a bit like a marriage, so once it was over it was like, you can still see each other, but you can't have sex anymore. It was like, 'That's over,' but it's a sacred time that we look back at and go, 'Do you remember when we did that?' It's like a dream. Like your dream restaurant.

James Acaster

Yes, like my dream restaurant.



Ed Gamble

Yes.

Noel Fielding

So, it is a dream restaurant?

James Acaster

Yes.

Noel Fielding

It's not a real restaurant?

James Acaster

No, this is, like, your dream.

Noel Fielding

It's just a dream. Trying to write a joke about a dream. I'm trying to write a joke about leaving my keys in a dream-

James Acaster

Yes.

Noel Fielding

And not being able to get them back. But luckily it's a recurring dream, so I'm waiting for it to come back so I-, I can't quite make it work, but I want to, sort of, write a joke where I leave my keys in my dream, and then I go through all lots of different dreams to get back to the dream where my keys are. Can't make it work.

James Acaster

As soon as you get up to leave, you'll think about it. You'll solve it today, as soon as you're leaving this you'll go, 'Guys-,'

Noel Fielding

'I've got it, guys.'

James Acaster

'I could get a dream-catcher.'

Ed Gamble

It sounds like another TV show to me, I think you'd be back in here next year to talk about the dream keys show.



Noel Fielding

Maybe I should mention that people say, 'Retrace your steps,' you know, people go, 'Retrace your steps, where were you?' You go, 'I was actually having a dream, maybe they're in there.' But there could be a dream guardian, a guardian who keeps the, sort of-,

James Acaster

Paul McCartney?

Noel Fielding

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Like a lost property office?

James Acaster

Yes.

Noel Fielding

Macca?

James Acaster

Yes, I think it'd be Macca.

Noel Fielding

That's definitely who should-, do you think he'll do it?

James Acaster

He wrote a song in a dream.

Ed Gamble

Yes, that's true.

Noel Fielding

Yes.

James Acaster

I reckon he's got a better handle on dreams than anyone else, he's had the most amount of, like, success-,

Noel Fielding

He's had the most dreams of anyone.

James Acaster

Yes, the most successful dreams.



Noel Fielding

I go for quite long periods where I don't have dreams. Do you do that?

James Acaster

Yes, absolutely.

Noel Fielding

It's weird that, isn't it?

James Acaster

Yes. Apparently two nights ago I was talking in my sleep, and my girlfriend was like, 'What were you talking-', I was like, 'I can't remember. I can't remember what is was.' And she was like, 'You were really stressed.'

Noel Fielding

Yes, my girlfriend said I screamed once in my sleep.

Ed Gamble

Wow.

Noel Fielding

'You were screaming last night.' I was like, 'What?'

James Acaster

Stood on your keys.

Noel Fielding

It was my keys! I'll never get them back.

James Acaster

We always start with still or sparkling water, Noel?

Noel Fielding

Well, here's the thing, right? I prefer fizzy water, as I call it, in the childlike way. Waiters don't like to use the word 'fizzy', do they?

James Acaster

No.

Noel Fielding

'Still or sparkling?' 'I'll have fizzy,' and then they're like, 'You mean sparkling?' 'No, fizzy.' I like the bubbles, but I've ruined it for myself. Basically, I got one of those taps where you can have-



James Acaster

Oh, yes.

Ed Gamble

Great.

Noel Fielding

Sparkling water.

James Acaster

Wow.

Noel Fielding

So now I've, sort of, overdosed on it. I just have it all the time, so it's not special anymore.

Ed Gamble

Are you waking up in the morning and having a glass of fizzy water?

Noel Fielding

Just all the time.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Noel Fielding

I'm addicted. But it's like I've had it so much now I'm like Caligula, I'm just, like, I'm bored of orgies. 'This doesn't-,' so now occasionally I have a still water in the way that I used to have a sparkling water.

James Acaster

Oh, wow.

Ed Gamble

That's a treat?

Noel Fielding

Yes, 'Oh, still, that's interesting.'

Ed Gamble

So, if you're out at a restaurant you're like, 'Oh, I'll have a treat, I'm out, I'm going to have a still.'

Noel Fielding

I do like San Pellegrino, is that-,



Ed Gamble

San-,

Noel Fielding

Pellegrino?

James Acaster

No, no, no, I think leave it as San Pellegrino.

Noel Fielding

Oh, it's slightly different to San Pellegrino.

James Acaster

Yes, San Pellegrino's a man who no-one knows.

Noel Fielding

It's just a guy who thought he'd had the idea to make fizzy water and realised it already existed and just put an 'a' in there. San Pellegrino, yes, I like that one. I like the glass ones. I think when you try and put fizzy water in a plastic bottle, that doesn't work, does it?

Ed Gamble

I know what you mean, I had a great fizzy water the other day in a restaurant from a glass bottle-,

Noel Fielding

Yes, I think it's the glass.

Ed Gamble

So I ordered some on Amazon, and it arrived in a plastic bottle and it's completely killed the vibe.

Noel Fielding

And it doesn't taste the same, does it?

Ed Gamble

It doesn't taste the same, no.

James Acaster

Bubbles don't bounce off the walls as-,

Ed Gamble

No.

James Acaster

As vividly, I imagine. I imagine with the glass, they're pinging about all over the place.



Noel Fielding

Yes.

James Acaster

Ding, ding, ding, ding, ding, ding, ding.

Noel Fielding

But also, imagine being a bubble, and then someone says, 'I'm going to put you in a glass container,' you'd feel quite good.

Ed Gamble

Yes, you'd feel special.

Noel Fielding

And then someone goes, 'I'm going to put you in a plastic bottle,' you'd be like, 'What? What's this?'

Ed Gamble

'Come on.'

James Acaster

They can't bounce around that.

Ed Gamble

There's no way.

James Acaster

I don't think that's as fun for them.

Noel Fielding

So, it's difficult because I still love fizzy. I'm going to have to go fizzy over still though, but yes, I've ruined fizzy by having it in taps. It doesn't the same tapped, it's a bit weird.

James Acaster

So, for your dream meal, you probably wouldn't want it out of a tap?

Ed Gamble

No.

Noel Fielding

Also, I heard Bob saying-, Bob Mortimer, saying that it dried his mouth out from fizzy water. And I thought, 'How can water dry your mouth out?' No-one queried him on that, and I was thinking, 'And there's no point, right?'



James Acaster

Yes, 'He won't answer us.'

Ed Gamble

I think we'd already done, like, half an hour before we got to water, so-,

James Acaster

Yes. So, just let him say that.

Ed Gamble

Yes, we've got to get to sugar and tea.

Noel Fielding

So, I think I'm going to go fizzy. But people make quite a big deal now about ordering tap water, don't they, in restaurants? I hate that. It's already arsey, isn't it? It's like, 'I'll have tap water, thanks. I'm not paying for your water.' And you're like, 'You're in Heston Blumenthal's, it's not going to hurt.' 'I'll have tap water, thanks.' Like, really angry.

Ed Gamble

Well, you never know what Blumenthal's going to do to the water though, do you, if you're ordering still-,

Noel Fielding

Also, who orders tap water? It's like, 'Is there a pond round here? Just go and take this ladle and just-,'

James Acaster

Well, for you, if you order tap you could mean fizzy water.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Noel Fielding

Yes.

James Acaster

But that's what you're used to.

Noel Fielding

Yes, it's true. I mean, if you can get fizzy water in your taps, why don't you just get Um Bongo or something?

Ed Gamble

Yes, that's a good point.



Noel Fielding

Cream soda?

Ed Gamble

It feels like the sky's the limit if we're getting sparkling water, yes.

Noel Fielding

I've got sparkles, I mean, imagine that.

Ed Gamble

Would Um Bongo be the dream thing to have out the tap?

Noel Fielding

I think so, that, sort of, dirty, pink, fruity liquid. Purely for the song in the advert.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Would it play the song every time you pour yourself a glass?

Noel Fielding

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes?

Noel Fielding

The only good thing about having it come out of your taps is you go, 'Do you want some water?' When people come round, and you go, 'Sparkling or still?' And they go, 'Oh, this guy's got some quality about him.' But imagine going, 'Um Bongo? Interest you in some Um Bongo? I've got it piped in.' They'd be like, 'Oh, this guy's a serial killer.'

James Acaster

But you're one of the few people that people would go, 'Yes-,'

Noel Fielding

'Of course.'

James Acaster

'He's got Um Bongo coming out of his taps.'

Ed Gamble

'That makes sense, yes, fair enough.'

Noel Fielding

'I went round Noel Fielding's house, he had Um Bongo coming out of his taps. He washes with it.'



James Acaster

Yes, 'He has a full shower.'

Ed Gamble

Full shower.

Noel Fielding

'It's really weird.'

Ed Gamble

'He's one of the stickiest men you could ever meet.'

Noel Fielding

Yes. Is it still a thing, Um Bongo?

Ed Gamble

I think it is.

James Acaster

Is it?

Ed Gamble

I think it is, yes.

James Acaster

I haven't seen it in ages. You can still get it, apparently.

Noel Fielding

Can you still? Is the carton the same? Yes, it's pretty much the same. Have they done that thing though-, this is what I don't really like about-, all those weird things from the '70s and '80s were quite unhealthy, but they were delicious. And then they, sort of, go, 'Hey, we're still Party Rings, but we're pretty healthy now.' And you go, 'You're Party Rings, dude, you don't need to go healthy.'

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Noel Fielding

They've, sort of, gone quite dull.

James Acaster

Have they?

Noel Fielding

Remember Party Rings were luminous almost?



James Acaster

Yes.

Noel Fielding

You could, sort of, see your way through a dark forest with a Party Ring.

James Acaster

Yes, it was like it'd been laminated with plastic.

Noel Fielding

Yes.

James Acaster

Like, a Party Ring was nuts.

Noel Fielding

And, like, Party Rings are now quite dull, they're, sort of, a weird natural colour.

James Acaster

Yes, Google 'Party Rings', Benito, Google Image.

Noel Fielding

They used to be so bright, they were luminous yellow.

James Acaster

Yes.

Noel Fielding

You knew they were bad for you, but they tasted amazing.

James Acaster

Yes, they were the colour of Mr Blobby.

Noel Fielding

Yes, and now-,

Ed Gamble

Do you think they have changed? Because you know how, like, when you're a kid everything seems bigger, do you think it's also a case of when you're a kid everything seems brighter?

James Acaster

Maybe.



Noel Fielding

Maybe.

Ed Gamble

Maybe, yes.

James Acaster

Your eyesight goes as you get older, so your Party Rings are duller. Yes, that's not how I remember it.

Ed Gamble

Yes, that's not the same, is it?

James Acaster

Have you got your screen brightness turned up to max?

Ed Gamble

Yes. They're almost muddy, they're muddy-looking.

Noel Fielding

That's a dark pink, isn't it?

James Acaster

Yes, that's not good.

Noel Fielding

Oh.

James Acaster

That's with the brightness turned up to max, that's-

Noel Fielding

The yellow's still quite good.

James Acaster

It's alright.

Noel Fielding

I'd like to liquefy those and have them come out my taps.

James Acaster

Yes, that'd be good.

Noel Fielding

Liquid Party Rings.



James Acaster

I can make that happen for you as the genie, if you want. Do you want that as your water course?

Noel Fielding

Yes, please.

James Acaster

Liquefied Party Rings, we'll change it to that.

Noel Fielding

Liquefied Party Rings.

James Acaster

Yes, sounds good.

Ed Gamble

But the ones from the '70s and '80s?

Noel Fielding

Yes, the ones that are luminous, something you can use as a flash-light.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

'70s and '80s Party Rings, liquefied, coming out of your tap. Shower in it.

Noel Fielding

For my baths.

James Acaster

Yes, have a bath in it.

Noel Fielding

Because I imagine if you have access to a genie, you could say, 'Would you draw my bath for me, please, while I'm-,'

James Acaster

Yes, but you've got to be careful when wording wishes to genies.

Ed Gamble

Yes.



James Acaster

Because obviously I would draw your bath, like, on a pad.

Noel Fielding

Oh, I see.

James Acaster

And then I would go, 'There you go, that's what you wished for,' and you'd be like, 'You tricky genie.'

Noel Fielding

Yes, 'That's one of my wishes gone. Just a bath.' Oh, wow.

James Acaster

'But there you go, I've drawn you a bath.'

Ed Gamble

You've got a picture of a bath.

Noel Fielding

It was a liquefied Party Ring bath, so it's quite good.

James Acaster

He's got a nice drawing still.

Noel Fielding

I wish I'd got a photo of that now, at least a selfie.

James Acaster

Poppadoms or bread, poppadoms or bread, Noel Fielding? Poppadoms or bread?

Noel Fielding

Oh, my god, poppadoms or bread? Bread.

James Acaster

Got to be for-, you know, Bake Off, you couldn't show your face in that tent again.

Noel Fielding

I'm not allowed to-, contractually, I'm obliged to say bread now.

James Acaster

Yes.



Noel Fielding

I did say on the show-, I said, 'No-one eats bread anymore, do they, under 40?' No-one under 40 eats bread, everyone's terrified of bread, it's like, 'I don't want bread in me! Look at me, if I put bread in me-, ' but, like, Paul Hollywood makes his own bread, obviously, every day, and he always says, 'If you make your own, you don't put any of the bad stuff in it, it's healthy. It's good for you, in fact.' And I'm thinking, 'I'm not 100% sure it's good for you.'

James Acaster

No, I don't believe a word he says.

Ed Gamble

And, I mean, he looks great. He looks great, Hollywood.

James Acaster

Sure, but, you know.

Noel Fielding

That's his blue eyes though, innit?

Ed Gamble

Yes, it's the eyes.

Noel Fielding

You could put those eyes in anything, couldn't you?

James Acaster

Yes.

Noel Fielding

Still be-, they're hypnotising.

James Acaster

Those eyes.

Noel Fielding

They're like Party Rings.

James Acaster

Oh, imagine Paul Hollywood holding two Party Rings over his eyes and looking through them at you.

Ed Gamble

Oh, my god. Like a bush baby?



James Acaster

Yes, like a little bush baby.

Noel Fielding

They're so blue, sometime he catches me looking at them.

James Acaster

Yes, I bet.

Noel Fielding

He's like, 'What?' And I'm like, 'Nothing, just-,' they are blue, I think maybe as blue as Paul Newman's.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes. Oh, easily.

Noel Fielding

It's nuts, they're like a husky's eyes, you know-,

James Acaster

Yes.

Noel Fielding

Game of Thrones style eyes. They're a little bit scary, actually, a little bit zombie.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes, yes.

Noel Fielding

Yes.

James Acaster

They are scary, they are unsettling.

Ed Gamble

Because they're not necessarily kind eyes.

James Acaster

No.



Noel Fielding

No, cold.

Ed Gamble

And we've had him in, he was very lovely.

James Acaster

Yes.

Noel Fielding

Was he?

Ed Gamble

But they're not kind eyes.

James Acaster

Well, he didn't remember me.

Noel Fielding

He didn't remember you? Didn't remember you?

James Acaster

He's like, 'I know you've been on Bake Off, but I can't remember what happened.' I was like, 'You kidding me? I had a fucking meltdown, Paul.' Didn't remember. First thing you said when you got here, you said, 'Last time I saw you was mid-breakdown, wasn't it?' I was like, 'Yes, thank you, Noel, thank you for remembering it. It's nice.'

Noel Fielding

Do you know what? You held it together quite well, because-,

Ed Gamble

What?

Noel Fielding

I knew you were struggling, but I didn't know the full capacity of that breakdown.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

But you were-, I-

Noel Fielding

Was I aggravating the breakdown?



James Acaster

No, it was great, you were the only person who, at least to my face, was constantly finding it funny.

Noel Fielding

Yes.

James Acaster

So, everyone else was kind of like-

Noel Fielding

It was hilarious.

James Acaster

'Right, okay, this guy's not doing great, we maybe need to keep an eye on him.' And every time you came up to me you were just laughing non-stop.

Noel Fielding

It was very entertaining.

James Acaster

Whether it was on camera or off camera.

Ed Gamble

Well, you were using it, you used it well.

James Acaster

Yes, I was leaning into it, and I think you recognised that and were like, 'Well, this is funny.'

Noel Fielding

It was like that thing-, you know when someone's tripping and having a bad trip, and people will say, 'Well, go with whatever they're talking about. Don't start asking them about what meetings they've got tomorrow, because they're going to freak out.' So, they go, 'God, I've got a lion's mane,' and you go, 'You have got a lion's mane, but that's a good thing, you know?' Don't start going, 'What time have you got to be at work tomorrow? Because I'm not sure you're going to make it.'

James Acaster

Yes. I mean, when I was icing eggs and stuff-,

Noel Fielding

Yes, you were icing eggs, I remember that.

James Acaster

Noel was just like, 'Cool, and who's this egg?' 'That's Prue.' 'Yes, it is Prue, that does look like Prue.'



Ed Gamble

Very good.

Noel Fielding

You know what? It was kind of amazing, it was like art, what you were doing.

James Acaster

Yes.

Noel Fielding

It was like performance art, and what you were making was like sculpture, it was like art. And when you've been in the tent as long as I have, seven years, you get less for manslaughter. But when you've been in the tent as long as I have, it's quite interesting when someone just goes, 'No rules, I'm just going to start-,'

Ed Gamble

Yes, icing an egg.

Noel Fielding

'Using this food as my playground.'

James Acaster

Yes.

Noel Fielding

The devil's playground.

James Acaster

That was by the final whatever-, you know, the showstopper. But, I mean, the technical was the peak breakdown.

Noel Fielding

Yes.

James Acaster

When you were coming over and being like, 'So, how many of these have you made?' I was like, 'I've made none of them, Noel. I don't know why anyone would ever fucking bake.' And I went, 'I don't get it,' and you were, 'hahahaha' .

Noel Fielding

You know what? The weird thing about baking is, right, and they keep threatening to do this to me, I don't know anything about baking at all, other than theoretically I probably am quite a powerful baker now, because I know everything, but I've never tried it. So, I think it's one of things that unless you bake a little bit, you can't just come in and completely wing it. But I think comedians know they can wing



things, they're, sort of, quite good at improvising, so they think, 'I can wing baking,' but it's like science, so-

Ed Gamble

Yes, it's impossible to wing it.

Noel Fielding

Every time it's like you just get deeper and deeper into the madness of baking. And so they always go to me, 'You should go on it. You should go on the celeb one just for a joke,' and I'm like, 'That won't be funny, that'll be-, have you seen James' episode? It'll be like that.'

Ed Gamble

Well, when I did it, Matt was on because there were loads of drop-outs.

Noel Fielding

Yes, and he was really having a breakdown again.

Ed Gamble

Yes, he was not happy with what he did.

Noel Fielding

He told me to fuck off at one point because I just came out and was laughing at him, he was like, 'Fuck off.' And then he went, 'I'm really sorry, I'm just really stressed.' I was like, 'Are you joking?' And, like, it really got to him, and I think he felt extra pressure because he was supposed to be good or something, whereas I just literally-, they go, 'You've got to come on the show today as a baker,' and I go, 'Not happening. Not happening. I will make a genie cat flap for James, but I'm not baking for anyone.'

James Acaster

Sandi had to fill in for Big Narstie the series that-, I think, like, the day before I came in to do mine-, yes, they were like, 'Big Narstie did day one, and didn't turn up on day two. And Sandi had to fill in for him.'

Noel Fielding

I mean, if you ever think you're loose, painting, doing comedy, Big Narstie, I don't know how-, he's really funny, but I don't know how he gets from A to B, it's just remarkable. I think he thought I was Neil from The Young Ones. I was like, 'That was, like, in the '80s. I'd be, like, 90 now.' But he was just like, 'You're Neil, aren't you, from The Young Ones?' I was like, 'No. Like, that guy, Nigel Planer, is about 75 now.' But, like, when you say that to him he just goes, 'Yes, yes, Neil.' And that's it,

Ed Gamble

Yes, that's it.

Noel Fielding

And then you're Neil from The Young Ones.



James Acaster

Yes, so that's who you are.

Noel Fielding

So, like, his reality is whatever he says.

Ed Gamble

Yes, it's amazing.

James Acaster

So, what kind of bread are we talking? Do you want it from the Bake Off tent? Do you want Paul Hollywood to bake it?

Noel Fielding

Oh, you know what? He did help me make a loaf once. I've made a loaf once, and he got behind me like in Ghost, you know, it was quite sensual.

James Acaster

That's good.

Noel Fielding

His big hands, like lion's paws, his blue eyes, I could feel them boring into my neck. And I made quite a good loaf, and then I made toast. I love toast.

James Acaster

Yes?

Noel Fielding

It's a thing for me. So, what I'm going to say is garlic bread.

James Acaster

Lovely.

Noel Fielding

This is a bit perverse because everyone thinks I'm a vampire, so it's a bit like an obscure form of self-harming.

James Acaster

Yes.

Noel Fielding

'Yes, I'm a vampire, and I eat garlic bread.' 'Isn't that bad for you?' 'I'll be fine.' But I think-, I really like toast, and I really like garlic. I'm half French, so maybe that's why, but I really like garlic, so I like making my own garlic bread and I make it too strong, definitely. Everyone I've ever made it for is like, 'Oh, my



God.' You know, some people are panicking about, 'Oh, I'm going to smell. My breath's going to smell like garlic,' and some people are just like-, when you have strong garlicks, like ginger sometimes, sort of, can send you into the future for a few seconds.

Ed Gamble

It clears all your pores out and, like, yes, drains your face.

Noel Fielding

Yes, it's like something happens and you go almost into a trance.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Noel Fielding

I imagine, like, when shamans eat roots it's that sort of thing. You, sort of, go, 'Have you ever had Noel's garlic bread?' All the shaman come round for it.

James Acaster

I'd imagine it's, like, probably five minutes into the future, your garlic bread?

Noel Fielding

Yes, 2.5 minutes.

Ed Gamble

It's almost pointless.

James Acaster

You just go forward to when you're finishing the garlic bread.

Noel Fielding

It's like, you just miss the end of the show you're watching, and then you're really annoyed and you can't get back.

Ed Gamble

That is the most annoying amount of time to go into the future.

Noel Fielding

2.5 minutes?

Ed Gamble

Two to four minutes, yes.



Noel Fielding

Two to four-, 'I was boiling an egg, and then I don't know what happened. Now I'm in the future. It's different in the future, isn't it?' 'No, it's 2.5 minutes into the future, it's exactly the same.' 'Noel, I heard you went into the future, what's changed?' 'Well, Party Rings aren't as good, I'll tell you that right now.'

Ed Gamble

How much garlic do you put in then? What's your recipe for your garlic bread?

Noel Fielding

About six.

Ed Gamble

Six garlics?

Noel Fielding

Six chunks.

Ed Gamble

Six chunks, yes.

James Acaster

Six chunks.

Noel Fielding

Well, there's the garlic, isn't there? What are the sections called?

Ed Gamble

Cloves.

Noel Fielding

Cloves, that's it.

Ed Gamble

There's the bulb and the cloves.

Noel Fielding

The bulb.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Noel Fielding

Oh, I like that. The bulb, the garlic bulb. Well, I love breaking the garlic bulb, that's fun.



James Acaster

Yes.

Noel Fielding

It's like a tangerine that won't-, a stubborn tangerine.

James Acaster

Like a savoury Terry's Chocolate Orange.

Noel Fielding

Yes.

Ed Gamble

I like breaking the bulb as well.

Noel Fielding

Yes, I love that.

Ed Gamble

But it's annoying when you're like, 'I've got a good one here,' and it comes out, it's a little baby one.

Noel Fielding

Yes, that's no good, is it?

Ed Gamble

I don't like that.

Noel Fielding

I like that, I like peeling-, it's very satisfying, isn't it?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes.

Noel Fielding

You, sort of, break the bulb, all comes open, and then you select the best chunks, don't you?

Ed Gamble

Yes.



Noel Fielding

The best cloves. And then you think, 'Well, that one'll probably send me two minutes into the future, that one maybe four because it's bigger.' Then you have to peel the actual skin as well, there's all that, sort of, excess weird skin, like dry skin.

James Acaster

Yes, but that's satisfying because it comes off nice and easy.

Ed Gamble

Dandruff, garlic dandruff, yes.

Noel Fielding

Like a, sort of, snake shed its skin.

James Acaster

If they come off like full panels, that's great.

Noel Fielding

Oh, yes.

Ed Gamble

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

James Acaster

But when they've stuck to the actual thing itself and you're having to peel it off shred by shred-,

Noel Fielding

It's not as good, is it, that?

James Acaster

That's upsetting.

Noel Fielding

And what is that? Is that because it's been in the drawer for too long?

James Acaster

Yes, I think you've put it in the drawer for too long.

Noel Fielding

Well, because how long does garlic last?

Ed Gamble

I mean, I'd say I get rid of it when it starts growing the tendrils out the top.



James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

The big green tendrils.

Noel Fielding

Little Shop of Horrors.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes, it's, like, speaking to him and-

Ed Gamble

Yes, when you wake up and the garlic's, like, tickling your chin.

Noel Fielding

When I was a little kid my mum had this really big cheese plant, and it was, sort of, over by one wall, but in time it got so big that it was half over the door. It was like the door frame was here and it was, sort of, edging in, and I was just the right height so that every time I walked past it was like it just touched my bum. It's like I was being molested-,

Ed Gamble

By a cheese plant.

Noel Fielding

By a cheese plant. It was horrible. Yes, it was weird. And then we moved it, and it just died. It was like, we'd had it for ten years, it was amazing, we moved it to a different part of the house, and it just went, 'Right, fuck you,' dead.

Ed Gamble

Your butt was keeping it alive.

Noel Fielding

Yes.

James Acaster

Oh, Noel.

Noel Fielding

'If I can't touch that child, that 12-year-old's butt, I'm out.'



James Acaster

'Life's not worth living anymore, man, without that 12-year-old's butt.'

Noel Fielding

Yes, killed itself. I don't even know how you kill yourself if you're a plant.

Ed Gamble

No.

Noel Fielding

Because you've got no control over your own water intake, or light. 'Well, I'm stopping photosynthesis, that's for sure.'

James Acaster

Maybe that's where it was getting its-, if the sun shone out of your arse, Noel, maybe that's where-,

Ed Gamble

That's nice, yes.

James Acaster

That's where it was getting its vitamin D from, was straight out your butt.

Ed Gamble

Vitamin B.

James Acaster

Vitamin butt.

Noel Fielding

Yes, it's weird. I think about that cheese plant quite a lot. It was my first relationship, really.

James Acaster

Not as much as it used to think about you, I imagine.

Ed Gamble

Yes. That's all.

James Acaster

While you were at school, just sitting there.

Noel Fielding

Yes, 'Where's he gone?'



James Acaster

'I can't wait until he gets back.'

Noel Fielding

'I wonder what he's going to be wearing. Is it the Liverpool shorts, or the Fila tracksuit?'

James Acaster

Well, every tracksuit's a 'feeler' tracksuit for that cheese plant.

Let's start your dream menu proper. Your dream starter, Noel?

Noel Fielding

Okay, well, I thought about this, and you know what? I really like fruit. I don't really like food, I just want to say.

James Acaster

Okay.

Noel Fielding

I'm quite eyes and ears. If you think about the senses, my eyes, I love looking at things, I can hear really well. I can hear, like, someone folding a map in the next street, I've got really weirdly good hearing, it's like super hearing. I don't really like smelling things, and I don't really like putting things in my mouth. It's just I have a bit of a weird thing, I don't like feeling full. I'm waiting for them to invent tablets, you know? I, sort of, can't wait for NASA to start doing pop-up restaurants, you know? So that you can have food in those tubes.

Ed Gamble

Yes, like dried astronaut food, yes.

Noel Fielding

I can't wait for that. Really appeals to me.

Ed Gamble

So, you must love a Frube then, that must be-,

Noel Fielding

Yes.

James Acaster

Surely.



Noel Fielding

Oh, my-, there were these things in the '70s called Swizzle-, Swizzlers? Or Swizzle Sticks, and it was, like, the stick that you could eat, and then the two packets of sherbet. Cherry, I think it was, and lemon, and you would eat the sherbet off the stick, and then eat the stick. Wow.

James Acaster

Yes. It was one of those free with the Beano ones.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Noel Fielding

Oh, my god, I loved those.

James Acaster

Yes, loved them.

Noel Fielding

Little sachets. And, I mean, I used to fantasize about just all food becoming like that.

Ed Gamble

Sachet-based?

Noel Fielding

Yes, or tablet-based. 'That's a scrambled egg, there you go.'

James Acaster

Yes, done.

Noel Fielding

'That's roast dinner.' And I'd be quite happy with that.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Noel Fielding

You know, a lot of my friends are foodies, my wife's a foodie, Julian was a foodie. Julian was almost, like, orgiastic, it's like he'd be going, 'Oh, mmm, oh, mmm, have you tried this? Oh, mmm,' and it's just like almost rolling about the table, just ordering loads of stuff that he couldn't eat, especially in curry houses. Like, just so many dishes, and you know you're not going to get through them. And just almost in a reverie, in a trance, and I'd be like-,

Ed Gamble

And you're just sat there waiting for your pill, yes.



Noel Fielding

I'd have half a korma, 'I'm done now, I need to go away.' So, I thought about starters and I thought, 'I really like fruit,' but people always have fruit at the end of a meal.

James Acaster

Yes, I guess so, but then I'd have it as a starter.

Noel Fielding

And I think it's better for you if you have it at the beginning.

James Acaster

Yes.

Noel Fielding

So, I thought, I'll have some fruit to start me off. And I thought, 'I like lychees,' so I'd like a refreshing bowl of-

James Acaster

Lychees?

Noel Fielding

That sounds absurd now.

Ed Gamble

It's our first. It's our first time that a bowl of lychees has got a shout-out I think in any course, let alone a starter.

James Acaster

Yes, a bowl of lychees.

Ed Gamble

A bowl of lychees.

Noel Fielding

A bowl of peeled lychees.

Ed Gamble

You don't want to peel them?

Noel Fielding

I don't want to peel them, they're quite stubborn, the skin.

Ed Gamble

Yes. But garlic, you enjoy the peeling, right?



Noel Fielding

I do. But not, you know-,

Ed Gamble

Not a lychee.

Noel Fielding

A satsuma is so, so satisfying, isn't it? The loose satsuma when it-,

Ed Gamble

The easy peelers, yes.

Noel Fielding

When it takes its jacket off, I love that. But I feel like the lychee, you're getting a tiny bit every time, and you're just thinking, 'This is ridiculous.' But I love the way they look, because I'm all about the eyes, really. And I love the way they smell, it's like perfume, isn't it? Really odd, it's like something almost you shouldn't put in your mouth. They smell like, sort of, rubbers, or erasers, or they smell like some sort of perfume your mum used to wear.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Noel Fielding

And you go, 'This shouldn't go in your mouth, should it?'

Ed Gamble

Funny texture as well.

Noel Fielding

Really weird texture, but satisfying.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Noel Fielding

Weird colour. They're like eyeballs or something, aren't they?

Ed Gamble

They are. The only time I really see them used is when people are, like, making Halloween things where you put your hand in a box and go, 'Oh, this is eyeballs,' and it's just a bowl of lychees.



Noel Fielding

Well, they're really that, sort of, grey colour, really odd. It's fleshy though, isn't it? It's really fleshy, I like that. And I love the smell, I love the taste, and I love it when they've been peeled for you. I think sometimes in an Indian restaurant they'll give you lychees as a dessert, a, sort of, palate cleanser.

Ed Gamble

So, if you were in an Indian restaurant with Julian, you're just watching him eat?

Noel Fielding

I'd have one lychee, and he might be eating 50,000 bhunas.

James Acaster

50,000 bhunas?

Noel Fielding

Yes. This is a true story, I think when me and Serge went to the snooker to watch Ronnie O'Sullivan once-, and he hadn't been playing for a long time, and he came back, and he was winning, he was in the final, and he hadn't done any practice. And I remember at the interval we said to him, 'Alright, Ronnie?' And he went, 'Yes?' He went, 'You sticking around to the interval? I'm going to go for a curry, yes? Going to get a bhuna.' Like, he wasn't even thinking about the match at all, he was just thinking about a bhuna. Hadn't done any practice, and he won. It's, like, so annoying for everyone else.

James Acaster

It's amazing, isn't it?

Noel Fielding

I know, a bhuna with Ronnie O'Sullivan.

James Acaster

Did you have a bhuna with Ronnie O'Sullivan?

Noel Fielding

No, sadly we couldn't, and I think this is because we had to get back because I think it was when Serge's girlfriend was pregnant and was about to give birth any moment, so we wanted to get back in case it happened. So, sadly we couldn't go for a bhuna with Ronnie O'Sullivan, which is one of the biggest regrets of my life.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.



Noel Fielding

I'd love to have a bhuna with Ronnie O'Sullivan. But then I, sort of, got him to read something out for me, did a voice-over for a character that I did on a show called Fantasy Man, and it was one of the funniest readings of all time, because he just did it straight. And he did it, and he read it, it was, like, a paragraph, and it had a few jokes in it. And at the end he, sort of, sighed, he went, 'Haa,' so we kept it in.

Ed Gamble

Great.

Noel Fielding

It was amazing. But yes, so, in an Indian restaurant sometimes you get those lychees-, what I'm saying is it feels clean, that food. I like clean food. Refreshing-, I feel like almost you know when they take the stone out, they've peeled it, it's almost like I want a small gerbil or a mouse to wear those lychees like fists, get inside me, and just wash my organs.

James Acaster

Okay.

Noel Fielding

That sounds really weird, doesn't it?

James Acaster

It's escalated.

Ed Gamble

Do you want that in the dream meal?

James Acaster

Do you want the gerbil or the mouse?

Ed Gamble

Do you want the gerbil wearing the lychee boxing gloves to clean your insides?

Noel Fielding

Yes. Which feels-, do you think the marsupial, or a mouse? Marsupial feels more-, the gerbil-,

James Acaster

I would choose a gerbil over a mouse because I think-,

Noel Fielding

Is a gerbil a marsupial? It is, isn't it?



James Acaster

No.

Noel Fielding

What is it then?

James Acaster

It's not got a pouch, has it?

Noel Fielding

Yes, it's got a pouch, I think.

James Acaster

Has it?

Ed Gamble

Has it?

Noel Fielding

Yes.

James Acaster

Gerbils have pouches? No way.

Noel Fielding

I think a gerbil is a marsupial. Or is it a desert rat?

James Acaster

They're rodents.

Noel Fielding

Rodents. I've got that wrong.

James Acaster

Yes.

Noel Fielding

I've been living a lie.

Ed Gamble

How many people have you told that a gerbil's a marsupial?

James Acaster

Oh, no.



Noel Fielding

Quite a lot. And people have gone, 'I always thought it was a rodent,' and I go, 'No, it's one of those things.'

Ed Gamble

It's got a pouch.

James Acaster

Yes.

Noel Fielding

So, the gerbil wears two lychees on either fist. I don't know how it's getting inside me.

Ed Gamble

Yes, which way is it-

James Acaster

Surely you want it to mask up, right? You want it to have a COVID mask on as well if it's doing this? I would imagine.

Noel Fielding

A tiny COVID mask?

James Acaster

Yes, I'd imagine you'd want that, if he was going to be clean.

Noel Fielding

What, and that hat that doctors with long hair wear?

James Acaster

Yes.

Noel Fielding

Or is that chefs?

James Acaster

Well, both, I think.

Noel Fielding

So, it's wearing a plastic hat and a shower cap.

Ed Gamble

Well, I was imagining it dressed as a boxer because it's-



Noel Fielding

Shorts? Silk shorts?

Ed Gamble

Yes, silk shorts and maybe a headband, and a mouth guard.

Noel Fielding

So, I've got to now make on my sewing machine silk boxer shorts, a tiny COVID mask, shower cap for its hair, because it's got a mullet.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Noel Fielding

It's Australian because it's a marsupial, not a rodent. And then it wears them like fists, it wears them like boxing gloves, gets inside me, we're not sure how yet-,

James Acaster

Yes, well, what do you want? Through the mouth, or the Richard Gere?

Noel Fielding

Oh, man. Let's go up Richard Gere, yes?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes, yes.

Ed Gamble

You have a genie, so you could just-, the genie could just zap it straight into you.

Noel Fielding

Use the genie to zap it into me.

Ed Gamble

Rather than having to insert it into your anus.

Noel Fielding

And then it washes my organs, the way someone would wash a car on a hot summer's day.

James Acaster

Yes.



Noel Fielding

With a bucketful of lychee juice.

James Acaster

Oh, so, it's also dipping the lychee boxing gloves in lychee juice and then just-

Ed Gamble

Using them like squeegees.

James Acaster

Working its way up you. And how long do you think it would take the gerbil to wash-

Ed Gamble

To do all of your organs.

James Acaster

Wash all of your organs?

Noel Fielding

A couple of days.

James Acaster

Yes, so, it's a long starter.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Noel Fielding

So, I'm under.

James Acaster

You're under.

Noel Fielding

Yes, when you come to you feel incredible.

James Acaster

Yes, you'd feel really good.

Ed Gamble

Yes, you would, actually.

Noel Fielding

Yes, that's my kind of starter.



James Acaster

Yes, that's a good starter, you're going to feel great.

Noel Fielding

Yes, refreshed.

James Acaster

Your dream main course, Noel?

Noel Fielding

Dream main course, okay. So, there was a place in Big Sur-, I went to America and I went to Big Sur, and there was a place where all the Beat writers used to eat, used to eat hamburgers there, Kerouac, Richard Brautigan used to go there, who's my favourite writer. And I was very excited about going to eat somewhere where all these Beat writers and cool people had eaten. It's called the Nepenthe, Nepenthe? And basically the view is just mountains, beautiful place, and the hamburger is supposedly-, everyone just would say, 'You've got to go there for a hamburger, it's the greatest hamburger of all time.' And I do quite like hamburgers, but-, so, I went there, and the waiter came over and I said, 'I've heard the hamburger's really good,' and he literally went, 'Well, little brother-, ' this is true, 'We've been making them for 50 years, so it should be.' He was like Shaggy from Scooby Doo. 'Gee, Scoob, you gotta get the burger.' He was amazing. He was animated, I don't know how they did that. So, he was-

Ed Gamble

So, at that point-,

Noel Fielding

I was in.

Ed Gamble

When he suddenly did that, you must have been done by then.

Noel Fielding

I was in, I was like, 'Who's this guy?' And then there were so many people there, and it was just him, he was the only waiter. And he was, sort of, bobbing about, and I just kept saying, 'I don't care about the food, I just want that guy to come back.' Because every time he came back it was the most amazing experience of my life. And then I did have the burger, and it was the greatest burger.

Ed Gamble

Amazing.

Noel Fielding

Well, it was like-, you know, like, nowadays they always have those tall burgers, don't they? You know you go into a burger place, gourmet burgers are very tall. They're almost like-, they have to sometimes put that stick in to keep them so they don't topple over. And how do you eat those? I don't know what-, there's too much stuff in there.



James Acaster

Yes, I'm not a fan of those.

Noel Fielding

So, I quite like the little flat burgers. Who's the fellow in Popeye? Is it Wimpy?

James Acaster

Yes, Wimpy.

Noel Fielding

He used to say, 'I'll gladly pay you Friday for a hamburger today,' do you remember?

James Acaster

Yes. And his hamburgers looked nice.

Noel Fielding

Yes.

James Acaster

He would be putting them away.

Noel Fielding

I really wanted a Wimpy hamburger. Is that-, was Wimpy named after him?

Ed Gamble

It must be.

Noel Fielding

Yes, maybe.

James Acaster

It must be.

Ed Gamble

That can't be a coincidence, can it?

Noel Fielding

He was called Wimpy, wasn't he?

James Acaster

He was.

Ed Gamble

Yes.



James Acaster

Yes, yes, yes.

Noel Fielding

And he looked like W. C. Fields. He looked drunk as well, didn't he?

James Acaster

Yes, I mean-,

Noel Fielding

'I'll gladly pay you Friday.'

James Acaster

Something was going on with him.

Noel Fielding

'Well, my friend-, ' he had a weird way of speaking, didn't he? Like W. C. Fields.

Ed Gamble

Like the waiter.

Noel Fielding

'Well, my friend-, ' oh, the waiter was out of control. 'Well, little brother.'

Ed Gamble

Little brother?

Noel Fielding

'Gee, Scoob.' It's such a good voice. I couldn't believe it.

James Acaster

I feel like UK comedians, we tend to-, like, we go abroad, especially like America, and people don't know who we are over there, and then you get more-, I think you encounter more characters. And I think here, if you went into a restaurant and they've got a weird waiter-,

Ed Gamble

They're not sending that guy.

James Acaster

It's like, 'Do you want to go over to Noel Fielding?' 'No, I'm not doing that. I'm too weird.'

Ed Gamble

You think they're self-aware enough to go, 'I'm too weird. I'm too weird for Fielding'?



James Acaster

'He'll absolutely love it.'

Ed Gamble

'He'll love it, he'll lose his mind.'

Noel Fielding

In America they don't care.

James Acaster

Yes, 'He'll use it, he'll talk about it on a podcast, I'm not going over there.' Whereas that guy's just like, 'Who's this? I don't know who this bloke is. Well, brother-,' and you get to have that treat again, like before you were famous. You're like, 'Oh, this is great. I get the weird guy.'

Noel Fielding

There was a guy in a restaurant called The Gay Hussar, I think it's closed down now, that was in Soho, and lots of politicians used to go there, and I think they did some deal where if you were in a theatre show in Soho, or in London, you could get a cheap meal before, if you were an actor. So, it was a '60s thing, and they were famous in the '60s and '70s, and it was called the The Gay Hussar, and it was Polish food, I think. And the guy who ran it, the, sort of, maître d', was one of the weirdest people of all time. We used to go there just for him, and he would just say obscure things like a stand-up, and then just leave, and just hover over to your table and go, 'Excuse me, it says you can get baked beans here. What's that about?' And he'd go, 'Well, if you're interested in the greatest baked beans of all time, then this is definitely a dish that I would recommend.' And then he'd just leave. And then he'd say really weird stuff like, 'John Major was in here a few months ago, and I saw him enjoying the beans.' And then he'd, sort of, be gone. Like, he'd come over, and then he'd be gone. And then he started talking about- he found a card on the floor, a kidney donor card, and he went, 'I could never give my organs away.'

James Acaster

I'm going to list a bunch of people that you've worked with, and you've got to tell me who's met the man, who's met him.

Noel Fielding

Oh, okay.

James Acaster

Fulcher.

Noel Fielding

Yes, Fulcher's definitely met him.

James Acaster

Berry.



Noel Fielding

He's a bit like Fulcher, weirdly.

James Acaster

Both Berrys.

Ed Gamble

I was going to say, he sounds like a Fulcher character.

Noel Fielding

He's a Fulcher character.

James Acaster

Yes.

Noel Fielding

Julian definitely, don't think Matt Berry ever-, oh, but I think Matt Berry might have-, he's quite a Soho character, Matt Berry, I think he might have known about him. I don't think he ever went with me.

James Acaster

Farnaby?

Noel Fielding

Definitely.

James Acaster

Yes?

Noel Fielding

Farnaby and Julian were quite tight.

James Acaster

Yes, so Farnaby would have met him at some point.

Noel Fielding

Interchangeable. Tall Northern men with small eyes. They were very tight.

James Acaster

Alice Lowe. Alice Lowe ever met him, ever met the man?

Noel Fielding

I'm gonna say yes, Weirdly, the Garth Merenghi's and The Boosh-



James Acaster

Yes, that whole crew.

Noel Fielding

It was like we were MC5 and they were the stooges, and they got a record deal for what we did. And we were furious.

James Acaster

It's like, 'Hey, these young guys are amazing' and the channel went, 'Yes, we'll have them, not you.' We were, like, 'Wait and second, that's not what we meant.'

Noel Fielding

We used to play the Helen Chickens and Matt Berry would come along and do a weird act. Then Garth would open for us. Yes, that was a strange old night. You can imagine it either was amazing or the worst thing anyone's ever seen, because if people weren't into it then there was nothing else coming on the bill.

Ed Gamble

Yes, it's, like, the man who owns The Gay Husaar, isn't it?

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

It's the same.

Noel Fielding

And now, the guy from Big Sur, 'Hey, little brother.' Not this guy.

James Acaster

I've just been shown here, the famous Ambrosia Burger.

Noel Fielding

Yes, that's it, yes.

James Acaster

The famous Ambrosia Burger.

Noel Fielding

It is absolutely incredible.

Ed Gamble

Is it like a smashed patty?



Noel Fielding

Yes.

Ed Gamble

See, that's in now, that's back in.

Noel Fielding

Is it? The smashed patty?

Ed Gamble

Yes, because for a while it was, like you say, the big thick burgers.

Noel Fielding

Yes, the tall burgers.

Ed Gamble

The tall burgers. Putting an onion ring in, all that stuff.

Noel Fielding

Yes, too much stuff.

Ed Gamble

Now it's back to smash.

Noel Fielding

I love the little-

Ed Gamble

It's back to the smashed patty.

Noel Fielding

I like the Wimpy Burger.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Noel Fielding

And they're quite cheap in America, those burgers but they still taste quite good.

James Acaster

There's a lot more pride in their burgers there. In making a good burger.

Noel Fielding

Yes.



James Acaster

And there's, you know, there's places here that get that now.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

There's some really good burgers now in the UK.

Noel Fielding

There are, aren't there?

James Acaster

But for a while it was just, like, Byron Burger or whatever-

Noel Fielding

Yes.

James Acaster

Was seen as, like, they're the best burgers.

Noel Fielding

The pinnacle.

James Acaster

I couldn't get on board.

Noel Fielding

No, I couldn't get on board. Weird.

James Acaster

Should go to Black Bear in Brixton.

Noel Fielding

Black Bear.

James Acaster

Their miso burger.

Ed Gamble

Yes, that's insane, that thing.

Noel Fielding

Miso burger?



Ed Gamble

Yes.

Noel Fielding

What? This is witchcraft, what's that? A miso burger?

James Acaster

It might be the best burger I've ever had.

Ed Gamble

Yes, it's incredible.

Noel Fielding

That sounds like one of my jokes. There's a black bear in South London who's handing out miso burgers. I could close with that.

James Acaster

At the end, it gives you keys.

Noel Fielding

Yes.

James Acaster

The perfect closer.

Noel Fielding

'Ouch. Oh, it's like key.'

James Acaster

What is your dream side, if it's not the baked beans then?

Noel Fielding

Well, I mean, I'm thinking, now it should be the baked beans. I really like mashed potato. Babyfood Stildon, my ex-girlfriend used to call me. I used to like Farley's Rusks.

James Acaster

Really? Oh, yes.

Noel Fielding

Yes, they're still quite amazing.

James Acaster

Are they?



Noel Fielding

Yes, have you ever had one, recently?

James Acaster

No.

Ed Gamble

Not recently.

James Acaster

Not recently.

Noel Fielding

They're still good. And they've got a bit of NASA in them. They're in, like, a foil.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Noel Fielding

There's a cardboard packet and then there's a foil protective.

Ed Gamble

To make them keep for ages, right? I guess, you can just-, yes.

Noel Fielding

Yes, and they're still quite malty. They've got, like, a nice, sort of-, I like that malty. I'm a sucker for malt.

James Acaster

Yes.

Noel Fielding

I like a malt milkshake. I love a chocolate-malt milkshake. I mean, in a way, I haven't included that but it's one of my favourite things. But I like mashed potato. My dad makes really good mashed potato. It's the best mashed potato, really, and whenever we're at a restaurant, it's like a family thing where we'd always go, 'Let's see if the mash is as good as Dad's.' And it never would be.

James Acaster

Yes.

Noel Fielding

Occasionally it would but we'd always say his was better, 'It's not as good as yours, Dad,' thinking, 'This is much better, actually.' I had really good Gordon Ramsay mashed potato once.



James Acaster

Yes?

Noel Fielding

In Claridge's, or somewhere and I remember thinking, 'Oh, Ramsay's nailed the mashed here.' He wasn't in, obviously, it was his staff.

James Acaster

Well, you don't know, he could just be doing the mash.

Noel Fielding

He might've been in.

Ed Gamble

He might've been in, sometimes he's in.

James Acaster

Yes.

Noel Fielding

It's definitely his recipe, though.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Noel Fielding

I've had, you know, obscene mash. You know, mash that's so runny, you're just going, 'This is a drink, you need a hip flask for this.'

Ed Gamble

That's bad.

Noel Fielding

Is it puree? I don't know what that is. It's, like, 'What's this? I need a pint of mash.'

James Acaster

Yes, no thank you.

Noel Fielding

It's too much.

Ed Gamble

See, I don't mind the runny mash.



Noel Fielding

You like the runny mash?

Ed Gamble

I quite like a potato puree.

Noel Fielding

It's more like a sauce.

Ed Gamble

Yes, and also the French one where they put, I can't remember what it's called now, where they put, like, so much cheese in it, it almost becomes, like, a potato fondue.

Noel Fielding

Yes, cheesy mash.

Ed Gamble

I love that, sticky potato cheese glue. I love it.

Noel Fielding

Chives, onion mash.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Noel Fielding

I do like the mashes, but I think the puree one's a little bit too runny for me, it's like soup. But, maybe, a hip flask of mash.

James Acaster

You'd like a hip flask of mash?

Noel Fielding

Maybe a hip flask.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

But if it's not a runny mash, how are you going to get the mash out? You're going to take a swig and nothing's going to-

Noel Fielding

It's going to have to be the runny mash, isn't it? Who would do a good runny mash, Heston?



Ed Gamble

Heston'd do a runny mash.

Noel Fielding

I went to a pop-up restaurant of Heston's once.

James Acaster

Yes?

Noel Fielding

It was eighteen courses, I was done after three. I was so angry. I went through such a series of emotions, I think I cried at one point, it was like torture. I went with loads of my friends who are real foodies, and they were loving it, and me and my other one friend were going, 'Oh, no, please no more.' There was, like, four deserts and at that point, you were so full and you hated yourself.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Noel Fielding

At one point they brought a mirror and you just looked at yourself and reassessed, reevaluated your life on this planet. This is you, now, on course fifteen. And you're like, you used to get naked and just look at yourself in the mirror. The palette cleansers were like courses in themselves.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Noel Fielding

There were, like, four palette cleansers and seventeen courses. The deserts were, like, ridiculous. They were, like, gold leaf, sort of, you know, I don't even know what they were. There was some bell that was made out of gold leaf. It was insane.

James Acaster

Yes.

Noel Fielding

But, I remember, just at the end I was so angry with Heston because I just was, like, 'This is horrible,' and then I saw him about a week later at Jimmy Carr's party and I couldn't look him in the eye. I was, like, 'I can't even look at this guy.' It ruined me because I really don't like feeling full.

Ed Gamble

Yes. I mean, that story was told to the wrong guys, that sounded like absolute heaven.



Noel Fielding

Does that sound like your heaven?

James Acaster

Yes, apart from being at Jimmy Carr's party, everything else sounds great. But you think he'd be able to nail the-

Ed Gamble

Runny mash.

James Acaster

The hip flask of mash?

Noel Fielding

Yes, I think he had good mash though, so I think we should whack that in a hip flask.

Ed Gamble

Yes, nice.

James Acaster

You could probably say to Heston, 'I want it to taste exactly like my dad's mash.'

Noel Fielding

Yes.

James Acaster

But be runny.

Ed Gamble

Runny enough to drink.

Noel Fielding

Yes, like, let's purify my dad's -

James Acaster

But he could probably figure out a way of doing that with science.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Noel Fielding

He probably could, couldn't he? And then, get a little hip flask made of merengue or fondant.



Ed Gamble

That's good.

James Acaster

Oh, you'd like to eat that at the end, as well?

Noel Fielding

Yes, you've got to eat the hip flask.

Ed Gamble

A merengue's going to disintegrate, isn't it?

Noel Fielding

When you open it, that's where dry ice comes out.

Ed Gamble

Yes, you'd need a bit of that.

James Acaster

Maybe it's made of rusks, the hip flask?

Noel Fielding

Oh, rusks. A rusky hip flask.

James Acaster

Farley's Rusk hip flask filled with runny Heston mash.

Noel Fielding

Containing runny Heston-slash-my-dad's-mash.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Your dream drink, Noel. Even though you just had a hip flask full of runny mash, so it's, kind of-

Noel Fielding

I mean, that is my dream drink, isn't it? You know, what, when I was a little kid you could get these 10p ice poles. They were cheap as chips. In any newsagent you would open, you know that?

Ed Gamble

Yes.



Noel Fielding

And you could get these, quite fat ice poles.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Noel Fielding

Either ice pops or ice poles.

James Acaster

Poles.

Noel Fielding

Poles, I think.

James Acaster

Poles. Well, that's what we called them, Ice Poles.

Ed Gamble

The really long ones.

Noel Fielding

There were long ones. They were really bright colours.

Ed Gamble

Yes, like, blue, the bright blue one.

Noel Fielding

The bright blue one, that looked like, it was quite space-foody.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Noel Fielding

It was like NASA's pop-up restaurant. And so, basically, there were these fat ones that were 10p, so we used to go and play-, in the summer holidays when we were young, we used to go on our BMX's to-, this is how old I am, and then we'd go and play tennis. We'd get the tennis court early, so we'd go to this park where there was a tennis court and you had to get in there quick otherwise you wouldn't get the court. So there'd be, like, five of us playing all day and we'd have, like, a £1 for lunch so, like, you'd have some crisps and a Mars Bar, and the rest of it you'd just spend-, oh, and maybe a Tango or a Fanta, probably, in those days.



Ed Gamble

Yes.

Noel Fielding

And then you'd have, like, 20p left and you'd get two ice poles. And they were, I don't know what they were, they were probably just all food colouring.

Ed Gamble

Chemicals and stuff, yes.

Noel Fielding

Chemicals.

James Acaster

Yes, absolutely chemicals. Water with chemicals.

Ed Gamble

Yes, Toilet Duck.

Noel Fielding

There was the lemonade one.

James Acaster

Oh, yes.

Noel Fielding

It was so good, the juice from that, and I always used to think, 'Why can't you just get this as a drink?' I mean, you can, but it's just that little bit at the end of the bag.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes.

Noel Fielding

A see-through sleeping bag with the juice at the end, so you save that for the end and then you drink it. I guess, like, a pint of that.

Ed Gamble

Would it work, to let them melt and then just swig the whole thing.

Noel Fielding

I don't know about that.



James Acaster

The problem is, okay.

Noel Fielding

The genie knows.

James Acaster

Is that-

Ed Gamble

It's almost as if someone's tried this.

James Acaster

Is that, when you want to do that.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

You're not old enough to have the discipline.

Ed Gamble

To let it.

James Acaster

To let it melt.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Noel Fielding

Right.

James Acaster

So we all think-, maybe as a kid we think, 'They should just sell this as a drink.'

Noel Fielding

As a drink.

James Acaster

'Because this bit at the end is my favourite bit.'

Noel Fielding

Yes.



James Acaster

And then, you know, I remember buying an ice pole and being, like, 'This one, I'm going to let it melt all the way.'

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Noel Fielding

Yes.

James Acaster

'This is when I do it.'

Noel Fielding

Because this is the best.

James Acaster

And then it'll melt.

Noel Fielding

Yes.

James Acaster

And then I'd cave and start-

Noel Fielding

Eating it.

James Acaster

Having it when it was solid.

Noel Fielding

Well, also, there's no information on those packets.

James Acaster

No.

Noel Fielding

Nothing. There's no ingredients, there's no name.

Ed Gamble

Yes.



Noel Fielding

Just anonymous fat ice poles. 10p. Don't know if the guy in the shop had made them, or his wife had made them. They're just colourful liquids.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Noel Fielding

Frozen in a see-through sheath.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Do you think that element of mystery was quite attractive to you, as well? In terms of, like-, yes.

Noel Fielding

Yes, and also quite hard to get into.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Noel Fielding

You could take out a filling to rip that thing open.

James Acaster

To rip that open, yes, with your teeth, yes.

Noel Fielding

There was a technique to it, wasn't there? Sort of, like, you, sort of, push it up and then you'd let the juice go into the bottom of it.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

They do look a bit like, especially in those freezers, look a bit like, sort of, frozen lab samples.



Noel Fielding

Yes, which they could've been.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Noel Fielding

Maybe that's what was going on.

James Acaster

People started buying them, like, 'Okay, fair enough.'

Noel Fielding

And he was just-

James Acaster

I mean, I didn't say they were for sale.

Noel Fielding

He was just having a Berocca for colour. Pissing into-

James Acaster

Trying different things.

Noel Fielding

Plastic bags.

James Acaster

See how this turns out.

Noel Fielding

'I tell you, some kids who've got a tennis court all day are going to come in here on their BMX's, they're going to love these.' So that, I think, again, it might be that you were a little child and that it tasted-, it was summer, you were-,

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Also, you know, to go out with a £1 on your BMX, you were really thirsty because you'd been playing tennis for four hours so, maybe, there was an element of.

Ed Gamble

Dehydration.



Noel Fielding

You were really dehydrated and that was keeping you alive.

James Acaster

Are we melting them down or do you just want the ends of loads of frozen ones?

Noel Fielding

The ends.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Noel Fielding

I think, if you melt them down, maybe something happens.

Ed Gamble

Yes, it's not the same.

Noel Fielding

Chemically, it's not the same. I think you have to let it happen naturally. Probably take a long time, because there's not much juice at the bottom of the bag.

James Acaster

Yes, we can do that for you.

Noel Fielding

Maybe, there's never enough and that's, probably, what you love about it. It's never quite enough.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

No, you'd love a big swig of that from a pint glass, wouldn't you?

Noel Fielding

Yes, but you never get it and that's what makes you think you need it, but if you had a pint of it, maybe you'd go, 'This is horrible.'

James Acaster

Were you a fan of a Calippo, as well?

Noel Fielding

Yes, love a Calippo.



James Acaster

So good.

Noel Fielding

I would always get a lolly over an ice cream.

James Acaster

Right, yes.

Noel Fielding

I do like ice cream. I like gelatos. I like the, sort of, the ice-cream-man ice cream.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Noel Fielding

You used to work in an ice cream van, didn't you?

James Acaster

Yes, I used to sell ice creams at a theme park, in a little hatch.

Noel Fielding

Are you, like, Caligula? Me, with the water, you've probably had way too many.

Ed Gamble

No, I don't think you could.

James Acaster

No, I had them all the time but I still love them.

Noel Fielding

Never got bored.

James Acaster

Still my favourite food.

Noel Fielding

Really, ice cream?

James Acaster

Yes, still my favourite food.

Noel Fielding

That's amazing.



James Acaster

But, I did have the keys to the mansion. Weirdly, I always go to say I worked in this theme park for one summer, but I didn't, I worked there for one autumn, which is ridiculous.

Noel Fielding

You still work there, don't you? One autumn.

James Acaster

Yes, one autumn I worked at a theme park.

Ed Gamble

Ice cream season.

James Acaster

No one came, so I was, basically, kicking about all day helping myself to ice creams.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Noel Fielding

So, you were just the kid in the sweet shop?

James Acaster

But the thing was, is that the place where I worked was, like, it was a little building and there was three hatches in there. One was ice creams, and then round the corner was drinks, then round the corner, again, was the hot food, or the fried food, but the ice cream hatch looked directly onto the offices where the bosses were.

Noel Fielding

Right.

James Acaster

So they could see into you.

Ed Gamble

Right, they knew what they were doing.

James Acaster

I would have to, sneakily, get some ice cream then go round to the drinks hatch, eat it there.

Ed Gamble

Yes.



James Acaster

And then go back to ice cream like I hadn't just been eating an ice cream.

Ed Gamble

All around your mouth.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

'I've just been doing some business round there.'

James Acaster

'Been doing some stock-taking back there.' But that autumn.

Noel Fielding

Cleaning the drinks hatch. Wow, that autumn.

James Acaster

It was the only year, I think, I don't remember seeing it anywhere, before or since, and I think it was Cornetto who brought it out, but it might've been someone else. It was like a soft serve, so it was, like, these, kind of, cylinders of ice cream and you put it in this machine and then pull it down like a one-armed bandit, and it'd come out soft serve and it was like a strawberry cornetto flavour.

Noel Fielding

Wow, magic.

James Acaster

A chocolate one. Never seen them again anywhere.

Noel Fielding

Alchemy, basically.

James Acaster

Yes, so I was able to make my own, like, Mr Whippy Cornetto's just for myself, all the time.

Noel Fielding

And how old were you?

James Acaster

I was fifteen.

Ed Gamble

That's it, isn't it?



Noel Fielding

Sweet spot.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes.

Noel Fielding

That's all you care about when you're fifteen.

James Acaster

Yes.

Noel Fielding

Not interested in girls, cars, you're just interested in sugar, sweets, ice cream.

Ed Gamble

Cornetto soft serve.

James Acaster

Yes.

Noel Fielding

I mean, you were Mr Whippy. You were your own Mr Whippy.

James Acaster

Master Whippy.

Noel Fielding

That's incredible. Master Whippy.

James Acaster

Yes, I think.

Noel Fielding

The chewing gum in the, sort of, little balls of bubblegum.

James Acaster

Oh, yes.



Noel Fielding

That you used to get in the Mr Whippy, they were unusual, weren't they? They lose their flavour pretty quick.

James Acaster

I think they were called Screwballs, weren't they?

Noel Fielding

Screwballs.

James Acaster

The first time I ordered that, I didn't know there was chewing gum at the end.

Noel Fielding

No.

James Acaster

And that surprised me.

Ed Gamble

Yes, it's a real shock.

Noel Fielding

Yes, you choked. You were rushed to hospital.

James Acaster

What the fuck? What is this? Like, I'm going for it anyway, not checking if any of that's supposed to be there.

Noel Fielding

Both my ice cream men were two characters. One was called George and he was Italian, he looked like the guy out of Starsky and Hutch. He had, sort of, a perm. We used to take the piss out of him. Kids just rip ice cream men, don't they? And the other guy was called Ronaldi, and he had quite, sort of, blonde hair, mod-ish hair, and he used to call me Marianne Faithfull. I had no clue who that was.

James Acaster

Yes, you're like, 'Well, thank you, Ronaldi.'

Noel Fielding

I'd go, 'Mum, the ice cream man calls me Marianne Faithfull,' and she'd laugh, and I'd think, 'That's a bit weird. What's this joke?'

James Acaster

And the cheese plant would explain it to you?



Noel Fielding

Yes, he was really rude. He was, kind of, evil. He'd often just, like, go, 'That's enough,' and he'd just drive off.

Ed Gamble

'Don't be upset now.'

Noel Fielding

He was just quite nuts, but I liked it. As I got older I, sort of, appreciated that he was actually just really funny.

James Acaster

Yes.

Noel Fielding

But as kids, we were mortally offended by his, sort of, rudeness.

James Acaster

Is Marianne Faithfull still going? She's still going, Benito's nodding.

Noel Fielding

Is she still going?

James Acaster

Because I want to pitch this, so we've got a way in here, she should go on The Traitors, Marianne Faithfull.

Ed Gamble

100% faithful.

James Acaster

Should we just tell everyone she's 100% faithful.

Ed Gamble

Or 100% Marianne. Go, 'I'm 100% Marianne.'

Noel Fielding

You know, the first time I saw The Traitors trailer, the advert, I thought it was me. 'I don't remember filming that,' and then, like, my wife asked Claudia Winkleman and I was, like, 'Oh, yes, it was a quick clip.'

James Acaster

Your dream desert, Noel, we've arrived at your dream desert.



Noel Fielding

Well, this is tricky. I found this the hardest. I've got a sweet tooth, I'm not a savoury dude. I do remember the first time I had Angel Delight.

James Acaster

Baby food.

Noel Fielding

Yes, I loved it.

James Acaster

Yes.

Noel Fielding

But also, for some reason, there was a day where I bunked off school and started making my own Angel Delight at home, so I associate it with being, sort of, naughty.

James Acaster

Yes.

Noel Fielding

And I put the telly on and there was some weird programme about Big Foot on, and I freaked myself out. It was like, he looked really scary. It was that, sort of, weird footage of Big Foot. I think it's called The Patterson Footage, where it, sort of, looks round. You know, the one where it's walking and it, sort of, looks round to the camera?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Noel Fielding

I remember thinking, 'This is terrifying,' I was probably about seven or something, 'Well, this is terrifying.'

Ed Gamble

You bunked off school when you were seven?

Noel Fielding

Maybe I was twelve.

Ed Gamble

Yes.



James Acaster

Oh, well if you were twelve, I bet I know who loved it that you had bunked off school. 'Home so early? I won't tell no one, your secret's safe with me. How about you go and put on those jimjams.'

Noel Fielding

'Oh, eating the Angel Delight.'

James Acaster

'That Big Foot looks like a scary fella, why don't you come over here? I'll protect you.'

Noel Fielding

'Let me reassure you a little.'

James Acaster

'I'll tell you what really delights the angels.'

Noel Fielding

And, so I was bunking off school, I was helping myself to butterscotch, I think I had a butterscotch and a strawberry Angel Delight. I was out of my mind on E-numbers, and Big Foot came on and it really scared me. I couldn't look at that footage for a long time, and then when I looked at it when I was older, I just was, like, 'This is a guy in a suit. You can see the zip.'

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Noel Fielding

Sort of, just, like, a South London dude from Sutton, just walking down the road, 'Alright, mate.' Didn't look anything like Big Foot, but as a kid I was like, 'Oh, my, wow,' so I, sort of, think of Angel Delight and I think of bunking off, the cheese plant times, but I'm not sure about Angel Delight. There were two things at school, I loved those school dinners, I'm a '70s child, '80s child, so there was school dinners that were-, there were these tarts that they used to make and one was called a Gypsy tart, I think, which probably won't be called that anymore.

James Acaster

Josie Long also brought this up and it was the same qualifier.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Noel Fielding

The Gypsy tart?

James Acaster

Yes.



Noel Fielding

She likes the Gypsy tart?

James Acaster

She loved it. She also wasn't sure if it should be called that anymore.

Noel Fielding

Well, I don't know what it was. It had, like, a topping, a sort of, beige topping that was chewy but a bit crunchy.

James Acaster

Yes.

Noel Fielding

Unbelievable, and then they made Gypsy tarts on Bake Off. Prue knew about them, Prue knows everything, and it wasn't as good, so I was wondering if, again, my child-like taste buds tricked me in some way. The problem with the school deserts were, in a week you would get a Gypsy tart once but you'd also get rice pudding and that used to make me feel sick. And there was a weird dinner lady who used to make-, you'd have to eat your desert, and I couldn't eat rice pudding and so she said, 'You're not leaving,' one day she took a stand so, 'You're not leaving until you've eaten it.' I just said, 'I'm not going to eat it,' so we sat there, opposite each other for, like, an hour and a half. The problem with that was it got cold so it was even worse. She said, 'You're not leaving,' and it was just awful. I was young as well, man, that was my primary school.

James Acaster

Yes.

Noel Fielding

And so she, sort of-, this is a true story, she tried to force rice pudding into me and I puked on her hand.

Ed Gamble

New one. New one, that one.

Noel Fielding

Next day, Gypsy tart. Everything was fine.

James Acaster

Yes.

Noel Fielding

Yes, she forced-, and the texture of rice pudding, the lumps, or whatever it is in that, and I just went, uhh and puked.



James Acaster

Stories like that, you kind of go, like, from your perspective, you telling that story, it's a perfectly reasonable story for you to go around telling, everyone understands your stance in it. I just can't imagine her going around telling people that story. How can she even tell even tell that, that makes her sound good in any way?

Noel Fielding

Yes, she sounds mad, right?

James Acaster

'I had a stand-off with him, it was desert as well, which isn't even good for him.'

Ed Gamble

And it's not something you force kids to eat, desert, right?

Noel Fielding

Rice pudding.

James Acaster

'I sat there for an hour and a half with him and then I tried to force it down him and he was sick on my hand.' What, of her friends, is sympathising with her, at any point, is on her side?

Ed Gamble

Yes, 'Oh, no. I hope you washed your hands.'

Noel Fielding

'You should be expelled.'

James Acaster

Yes.

Noel Fielding

'He's a bad seed.'

James Acaster

So what is, out of all them then-

Noel Fielding

Right, so Gypsy tart, I loved.

James Acaster

That's what you would like.



Noel Fielding

Maybe with Angel Delight as a sauce.

Ed Gamble

Yes, nice.

Noel Fielding

Is that okay?

James Acaster

Well, butterscotch Angel Delight?

Noel Fielding

Yes, it's got to be, I'm not an idiot.

Ed Gamble

Yes, that would go nice with that.

James Acaster

Well, I'll read your menu back to you now and see how you feel about it. Your water, you would like liquefied party rings from the 80's. Poppadoms and bread.

Ed Gamble

Noel already looks disappointed in himself, by the way, when you said that.

James Acaster

You want your own home-made garlic bread.

Noel Fielding

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Nice.

James Acaster

And you want to travel into the future, two to four minutes. Starter, a bowl of peeled lychees. Main course, the famous Ambrosia burger.

Ed Gamble

I feel like we missed a major detail with the lychees.

James Acaster

Oh, yes, you would like the gerbil to wash your insides with it.



Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

And then you come out. Yes, sorry.

Ed Gamble

That's part of the order, isn't it?

James Acaster

Thanks for picking me up on that.

Noel Fielding

Yes.

James Acaster

Main course, the famous Ambrosia burger. Side dish, Dad's runny mash in a rusk hip flask.

Noel Fielding

But made by Heston Blumenthal.

James Acaster

Made by Heston. Drink, a pint of the ends of 10p ice poles. Lemonade ice poles, from when you were a kid. Desert, the school Gypsy tart with butterscotch Angel Delight as a sauce.

Noel Fielding

Yes.

James Acaster

Feel good?

Noel Fielding

Feels amazing.

Ed Gamble

Very 70's. I'd say the 70's pops up in almost every course.

Noel Fielding

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

James Acaster

You seem to be really, seriously reflecting on that, and what it says about you.



Noel Fielding

And I'd like to have that meal with the dinner lady who forced me.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Do you want to be sick on her hand at the end?

Ed Gamble

Are you going to force her to eat it?

Noel Fielding

Well, I'd like her to be sick on my hand so that we could just even things out. Then James goes back into his cat flap.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Noel Fielding

And I go, 'Was that a dream?' And then I feel my pocket and my keys are there.

Ed Gamble

Perfect. Thank you so much, Noel.

Noel Fielding

Beautiful.

Ed Gamble

Thank you, Noel.

Noel Fielding

Well, that was a treat.

Ed Gamble

Well, there we are, a great episode with Noel, I thought.

James Acaster

Exactly the kind of menu you'd hope for.

Ed Gamble

Shit.



James Acaster

Liquidised party rings.

Ed Gamble

The menu was shit.

James Acaster

What?

Ed Gamble

The menu was horrible.

James Acaster

Most of it was liquid and just, like, sweets.

Ed Gamble

The menu was horrible but I didn't mind because it was such a fun chat.

James Acaster

Yes, lovely chat. A lot of laughter to be had.

Ed Gamble

Also, Noel told us after, that we're, like, the third podcast he's ever done.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

So, that's pretty cool.

James Acaster

Yes, I think he's doing well, actually.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

You wouldn't know.

Ed Gamble

Imagine if he never does another one.

James Acaster

That's it, just the golden three.



Ed Gamble

Would you take that as a compliment or an insult?

James Acaster

Insult.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes, for sure, of course. But listen, I tell you what you should all watch is, on Apple TV+, the completely made-up adventures of Dick Turpin, which Noel is in and is fantastic, and we're very much looking forward to seeing the whole thing.

Ed Gamble

And it's coming out on the 1st of March, so very soon indeed. Make sure you watch that. Noel, of course, did not say 'spicy corrat and cariander soup,' did I say corrat and cariander?

James Acaster

You can't say it.

Ed Gamble

I can't say it.

James Acaster

You can't say 'spicy carrot and coriander?'

Ed Gamble

I said 'corrat and cariander'.

James Acaster

If you were in the Boosh.

Ed Gamble

I wouldn't last long, mate. First writing session, I'd go, 'Guys, can we just be sensible here.'

James Acaster

'This is too weird.'

Ed Gamble

'None of this makes sense.'

James Acaster

No, you're used to doing wacky stuff with Nish, and Tom Neenan and Jay Sharf.



Ed Gamble

It wasn't that wacky though, man.

James Acaster

You would write wacky stuff and Nish, kind of, leaves the gig and then comes back in dressed as a Scottish person called, Haggis McNish.

Ed Gamble

That's true.

James Acaster

That's Boosh territory.

Ed Gamble

Yes, we did do Haggis McNish. I forget about Haggis McNish.

James Acaster

Yes, and he'd come back in and just sit in the audience and pretend to be an audience member and you'd talk to him.

Ed Gamble

Then he'd take his wig off and I'd be really surprised.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

That was in a stand-up show. That was a mixed-bill stand-up show that Haggis McNish would pop up in.

James Acaster

Cool Fun.

Ed Gamble

Cool Fun, is what the show was called.

James Acaster

So, I think you would fit in the Boosh writer's room.

Ed Gamble

Yes, but my first idea, I'd go, 'Right, I've got this idea. He's called Haggis McNish,' and then they'd say something else and I'd go, 'Guys, come one, corrat and carlander.'



James Acaster

Hey, Ed, aren't you on tour soon?

Ed Gamble

I am. I'm on tour, starting in March, actually, so starting on March 12th, I'm on tour all over the UK and Ireland. The show's called Hot Diggety Dog, edgamble.co.uk for tickets and maybe, if you come to one of the London shows, there might be an appearance from a little guy called Haggis McNish.

James Acaster

Also, I would encourage people to listen to Spring Leaf, my audio sitcom. All ten episodes are out wherever you get your podcasts. I'm very proud of it and, yes, I'm very happy that all of it is out now.

Ed Gamble

And who's in it?

James Acaster

So many people, including yourself.

Ed Gamble

And?

James Acaster

Haggis McNish.

Ed Gamble

Thank you. Thank you very much for listening to Off Menu. We will see you again soon, bye bye.

James Acaster

Goodbye.