



Off Menu – Ep 241 – Mike Wozniak (Live)

Ed Gamble

Oh ding-a-ling, it's Saturday.

James Acaster

B, b, b, bonus.

Ed Gamble

It's a bonus episode, a live Off Menu tour show, our second and final night in London, it was at the Palladium, and our special guest is the wonderful Mike Wozniak.

James Acaster

Everyone's favourite Taskmaster contestant.

Ed Gamble

Third.

James Acaster

Yes. Third.

Ed Gamble

Judy Love.

James Acaster

Judy Love, Fern Britton.

Ed Gamble

Mike Wozniak.

James Acaster

Now, there will be some the first half, it might not make sense. But listen, the secret ingredient, and this definitely won't make sense, the weird little milks in hotels.

Ed Gamble

Yes, UHT milks. That's the secret ingredient.

James Acaster

Little peel back lids.



Ed Gamble

It doesn't have to make sense because I think that would be a brilliant secret ingredient for a regular episode, we wouldn't need to explain it really.

James Acaster

There were some nights on this tour where the audience would suggest a secret ingredient and I'd think, 'Surely we've already done that,' and we hadn't, and I almost felt ashamed, like, 'What's the matter with us that we haven't done the little UHT milks from hotels?' I mean, they're so awful.

Ed Gamble

So awful. But I'll tell you what's not awful, Mike Wozniak.

James Acaster

Mike Wozniak is fantastic, we love Mike, and it was a joy to be able to talk to him at the Palladium.

Ed Gamble

It was a joy.

James Acaster

Finally do an episode with him, but happy to have it in front of such a lovely audience.

Ed Gamble

Yes. So, here it is, let's just get on with it, it's the Off Menu menu live of Mike Wozniak.

James Acaster

Mike Wozniak.

Ed Gamble

Welcome to the Off Menu podcast, taking the ice cubes of conversation, pouring in the cream of humour. Adding the vanilla extract of friendship, and blitzing in the blender of the internet, it's a classic vanilla ice cream podcast. It's the better than pineapple pod.

James Acaster

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

Ed Gamble

Mike Wozniak. Long time coming James.

James Acaster

Long time coming. We've been big fans of Mike from day one. We're so glad that everyone is here to see Mike Wozniak, hear his brilliant food choices, and just very conscious after how tired out I got on my health, so I'm just checking how much.



Ed Gamble

The old pinch test.

James Acaster

I'm just doing a little pinch of the hips. But it's not about me Ed.

Ed Gamble

No. If there's anyone who I've ever met that less needs a pinch test. Treat yourself like you're an overbearing mother in the '70s.

James Acaster

Yes, that's true actually.

Ed Gamble

Pinch test man, you're all good.

James Acaster

Thank you man.

Ed Gamble

This is the Off Menu menu of Mike Wozniak. Come and take a seat Mike, right there in the middle. Thank you.

Mike Wozniak

Lovely.

James Acaster

Thank you Mike.

Ed Gamble

James, what are you doing?

James Acaster

Sorry?

Ed Gamble

We've got to do this properly, Mike, got to do it properly.

Mike Wozniak

Okay. So, I haven't seen James yet, is that correct?

Ed Gamble

Yes, that's correct, yes, you've not seen the genie yet. Now, at this point, well, normally we invite the guest to rub the lamp at this point, and you can, but also, knowing that James has just pulled a muscle,



I think it's quite funny to leave him squatting there for a while. But if you would like to get up and rub the lamp, you're very welcome to, Mike.

Mike Wozniak

Yes, I wouldn't mind.

Ed Gamble

You go for it.

Mike Wozniak

Is there anywhere in particular that is most effective, or-

Ed Gamble

It depends on which genie law you subscribe to, Mike.

Mike Wozniak

Okay. It feels like-, you don't cup it do you?

Ed Gamble

You don't normally rub the lamp's undercarriage.

Mike Wozniak

It seems indecent to go for this end, the sort of prong.

Ed Gamble

Jess Knappet did rub the tip, but you do what you want.

Mike Wozniak

Okay. No, let's not-, I'll go for the bulbar, fleshy mass.

James Acaster

Welcome, Mike Wozniak to the Dream Restaurant, we've been expecting you for some time.

Mike Wozniak

Thank you.

Ed Gamble

I mean, I've seen that maybe twelve times now, and it's always impressive.

James Acaster

I think it's quite impressive. I've only ever seen it from that side, but.

Mike Wozniak

You appeared to come directly out of the nozzle, you've lined it up perfectly.



James Acaster

Yes. That took a lot of practice. Lead with this part of where your forehead meets your scalp, you've got to lead with that.

Mike Wozniak

Okay. That's the pathfinder, is it?

James Acaster

Yes.

Mike Wozniak

Okay.

James Acaster

What would be your-, if you had to jump out of a lamp, what would be your technique, Mike?

Mike Wozniak

Probably go breach, and see if anyone came to assist. That's the sort of test of friendship I think, early doors, see if you're going to.

Ed Gamble

I'd be gutted if I found a genie lamp and it was a breached genie.

Mike Wozniak

You've got to act fast.

Ed Gamble

The old medical background coming into play straight away there Mike.

Mike Wozniak

It kicks in, I try and ignore it, it kicks in now and again.

James Acaster

When you were a doctor, did you have to give a lot of patients dietary advice? It's a food podcast.

Mike Wozniak

Oh I see.

Ed Gamble

We've jumped from genies into the food quicker than normal.

James Acaster

Apologies Mike.



Mike Wozniak

Yes. It's a long time ago, and that would probably be more pertinent for stoma care, something like that. It just doesn't tend to get most people's juices flowing.

James Acaster

You'd be surprised.

Mike Wozniak

Okay.

James Acaster

This crowd might like it here.

Mike Wozniak

Oh yes.

James Acaster

Some of the things you've told people not to eat.

Mike Wozniak

What happens now?

James Acaster

Did you ever have someone come to you who ate so many carrots they turned orange? That happens.

Mike Wozniak

I haven't had that, no. But is that a real thing? I mean, I think technically it might be a real thing.

James Acaster

I think so.

Mike Wozniak

I think they'd be turned away at the door wouldn't they?

James Acaster

What of the hospital?

Mike Wozniak

I think so.

Ed Gamble

So, if an orange man came to-,



Mike Wozniak

No, not if an orange man, an orange man is more than welcome, they see orange people all the time right, they're two a penny.

Ed Gamble

Okay. So, if an orange man came.

Mike Wozniak

It's very rarely because of carrots.

Ed Gamble

So, at what point are you turning this person away then?

Mike Wozniak

Well, if they're carrying a wheelbarrow full of half-eaten carrots.

Ed Gamble

See, it's your imagination that's added that bit.

Mike Wozniak

Okay. But I think that will be a reasonable move in the triage. It depends how busy it is, if there have been any major disasters.

James Acaster

As a rule, if the person shows up with a wheelbarrow full of the things that have caused them their illness, would they get turned away?

Mike Wozniak

Well, it depends, not if it's shrapnel, something like that. It's a case-by-case basis. I haven't done this for a long time, do you know what I mean, but, yes, that's what I seem to recall.

Ed Gamble

Yes. You've not been a doctor since the time of shrapnel injury.

Mike Wozniak

Shrapnel and-, it was very much a wheelbarrow-based car park in those days, yes. If you were well enough to operate the barrow you were sent home immediately, that was rule number one, that was the big test.

James Acaster

Would you call yourself a foodie Mike? Are you a foodie?



Mike Wozniak

I'd like to think of myself as a foodie, but I don't know what qualifies me to say that. I mean, for example, I'm not a very good cook. I don't eat out very much.

Ed Gamble

So, what are you eating, Mike?

Mike Wozniak

I get through a lot of cereal.

Ed Gamble

I know you like cereal bars.

Mike Wozniak

Yes, in any form. Yes. Bars, spheres, bowls, you know, I'll take it however it comes.

Ed Gamble

When we were writing on the sitcom Man Down together. Thank you, that represents the listener figures.

James Acaster

Alex and no one else.

Ed Gamble

It did quite well actually. When we were writing Man Down at Greg Davis' flat because it was a very professional occasion, once you turned up very hungover, but you didn't want Greg to know, and the way you tried to keep it a secret is you ate five cereal bars in a row and for the rest of the day you walked around the flat and for the rest of the day you went, 'I feel so weird.'

Mike Wozniak

I think I got away with it. Little life hack there.

James Acaster

What's the life hack? Eat five cereal bars until you feel weird.

Mike Wozniak

Yes, to the wind the night before a big day at work, you know, five is the number.

James Acaster

What was your go-to cereal bar at the time?



Mike Wozniak

I mixed it up, that's absolutely pivotal guys. You've got to mix it up. I think there was just a jumble of whatever I got free from various backstage areas in the preceding few months, sort of, dug out of the soggy hole at the bottom of a backup basically.

James Acaster

what are we talking? is there a Trek in there?

Mike Wozniak

There might have been. I mean, there probably would have been a Naked bar.

James Acaster

I remember you used to love Naked bars. You and I really got into them at the same time and we'd talk about them.

Mike Wozniak

Then they discontinued the banana crunch, that was the apex.

James Acaster

Yes, literally the next words out of my mouth were going to be, 'They discontinued the banana crunch,' because it hit us both really hard.

Mike Wozniak

Yes. It's hard to find a platform to talk about that publicly.

Ed Gamble

Welcome apparently to the London Palladium.

Mike Wozniak

We're sitting directly above the ashes of Bruce Forsyth aren't we.

Ed Gamble

Did you guys know this? Because we told the audience last night and they were shocked. The ashes of Bruce Forsyth are underneath this stage.

Mike Wozniak

Yes. I'm sure he'd be thrilled to know what's going on.

James Acaster

There's a small urn next to him that contains the ashes of the banana crunch bar.

Mike Wozniak

A showbiz staple.



James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Correction, it did contain it, unfortunately you two have been down there and snaffled up to the ashes.

James Acaster

Snorted it between us, hoovered it up.

Ed Gamble

I want to know about Mike's cooking quickly.

James Acaster

Sorry, yes.

Ed Gamble

So, you say you're not a very good cook?

Mike Wozniak

I do cook quite regularly. I've got lots of very, very good cooks in my family, so I've been spoilt. There's a family at home, there are people to feed, so I do cook. But if I cook it will be, like, I will cook a piece of meat until it's definitely safe to eat, and there will be some vegetables that are not cooked enough so that the nutritional value has been lost, so there will be, like, broccoli and carrots that are bloody hard work to get through with a bit of, sort of, charred bit of fish or lamb or something like that.

James Acaster

So, you're a fun dad.

Mike Wozniak

A fun dad.

James Acaster

Yes.

Mike Wozniak

All the way.

Ed Gamble

Is that your speciality? Is that your special dish? If you've got people coming over, and it's your job to cook, are you doing the charred meat and hard veg?



Mike Wozniak

Charred meat, hard veg. I mean, I can manage a tuna, pasta bake, a spag bol, I've never moved past the, sort of, student meals. But, for example, when I left home, the first time, I can remember going back from, this was in Tooting, I was walking home-, why not.

James Acaster

Some fans-, not the first time people have been amused by you and tooting is it?

Ed Gamble

Lovely. Lovely.

Mike Wozniak

And I was just walking home to our little halls of residence and just realised that I was hungry and I remember having this thought of, 'I am hungry.' What normally happens now? And realised I had to prepare myself a meal, and went into Depax mini-mark and realised there was nothing stopping me from just buying a jumbo pack of bacon and just cooking that and having that for tea.

Ed Gamble

Pack of bacon.

Mike Wozniak

Pack of bacon.

Ed Gamble

So, is that your answer to what's your speciality?

Mike Wozniak

Yes. A block of bacon, sometimes separated, sometimes just-, sometimes it's nice when it's pink in the middle. There are different ways of serving it.

James Acaster

In a wheelbarrow?

Mike Wozniak

In a wheelbarrow, you know, it's a foodie crowd, you get it.

James Acaster

So, you mentioned cooking for your family and doing the vegetables. One of the things that I found most impressive, like, anywhere in life, in the world, that I've seen ever was that you managed to convince your children somehow that carrots and vegetables were a delicious treat.

Ed Gamble

Your kids are orange now aren't they?



James Acaster

I remember your wife and I picked your children up from school once, I don't know where you were.

Mike Wozniak

Wherever I was, I might have needed some cereal bars afterwards.

Ed Gamble

This is a funny old situation, you and Mike's wife picking up their children from school.

James Acaster

Yes, I was just hanging out and-

Ed Gamble

Did you know about this Mike?

Mike Wozniak

My wife is very gregarious, she's very sociable, she likes a bit of company, do you know what I mean. I wasn't about, I thought, 'I bet James is doing naffle, send him down, send him down to Exeter to walk with my wife and pick my kids up.'

Ed Gamble

Did you have to dress as Mike to make his children feel comfortable?

James Acaster

Yes, I had to put a little moustache on, 'Hi, how was your day?'

Mike Wozniak

They don't know, they can't tell.

James Acaster

They can't tell. I remember walking back home and there was, like, a van that sold fruit and veg that was parked up, like an ice cream van.

Mike Wozniak

Yes, directly outside the school gates.

James Acaster

Yes, it was right near there, it had loads of fruit and veg.

Ed Gamble

It sounds like a really bad paedophile, just completely got the wrong end of the stick.



James Acaster

My kids love carrots I think. Most kids don't. As soon as they saw the veg van they turned to Mike's wife and went, 'Mummy, please can we have a lovely juicy carrot? Please mummy.' Like really begging. And she went, 'Okay.' 'Thank you so much.' And they were going home eating them and asking each other, 'How's your carrot.' 'Oh so delicious, thank you for letting us have it.'

Mike Wozniak

You cannot achieve that without years of neglect, you are really can't. It's a long game. It's only really possible in the south-west as well.

Ed Gamble

Just keep them isolated from all advertising and all children.

Mike Wozniak

Oh god, yes, they've never heard of a Vienetta, no way, it's not happening.

James Acaster

We always start with still or sparkling water, Mike.

Mike Wozniak

Yes.

James Acaster

Do you have a preference?

Mike Wozniak

I do. Is this it? Are we in?

James Acaster

Yes, well, unless you want that to be a forewarning and we can talk about other stuff for a bit and come back to it.

Mike Wozniak

No, yes, I do have a preference, well, I'd always go sparkling.

James Acaster

Always.

Mike Wozniak

If it's going out at a restaurant, I mean, I don't get out much at all. This for me is enormous, getting a bit of an airing, it's lovely. So, it's a treat. Anyway. But we're magical, we're in the magical genie, so can I upgrade sparkling to fizzy lifting water?



James Acaster

Are we going from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory?

Mike Wozniak

Yes, please.

Ed Gamble

Fizzy lifting water.

Mike Wozniak

Because presumably, I'm on my own in the restaurant, it's how I've always imagined-

James Acaster

Whatever you want.

Mike Wozniak

Is that right?

James Acaster

If you want that. If you want to be alone.

Mike Wozniak

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes, yes.

Ed Gamble

So, why does the fizzy lifting water directly tie into the fact you're alone? Because you don't want anyone else to experience the fizzy lifting water?

Mike Wozniak

Well, two reasons, one I've got a bit of time to kill before the food comes, right, so if you've got a bit of time to kill why not kill it flying. And secondly, there's obviously the indignity of how you descend with the fizzy lifting drink and I'd rather that was in private.

Ed Gamble

And we all know what happens when you do things like that, yes.

Mike Wozniak

Exactly, it's a mess, yes.

James Acaster

But they burp don't they?



Ed Gamble

Yes, they burp.

Mike Wozniak

They burp, in the movie, yes. In the book, I think in the book, I think an Oompa Loompa dies during the testing process. Is that correct? I'm pretty sure an Oompa Loompa is accidentally, they haven't got the dose right and they accidentally fire an Oompa Loompa into space. I don't know why all these wokies have edited Roald Dahl, kids would love that stuff.

James Acaster

Is that right?

Mike Wozniak

I may have misremembered that.

James Acaster

So it goes up in space and it dies?

Mike Wozniak

He's, well, I think he's presumed dead. Yes. He's launched, he passes through outer orbit and I think after that your chances after that are slim.

Ed Gamble

And Wonka is a rich guy isn't he, but he's not going to spend any money on trying to get.

Mike Wozniak

Yes, he's got a lot of overheads hasn't he, that's the thing, it stacks up. And he always gives the impression that the Oompa Loompas were willing, but I'd quite like to see the Oompa Loompa's perspective on that situation.

Ed Gamble

Do you think it would be fun flying for the first time completely alone? Do you think it might be more fun to fly with other people?

Mike Wozniak

That's a tricky one.

James Acaster

Your wife and children.

Mike Wozniak

Yes.



Ed Gamble

Because Charlie Bucket is with his grandpa, isn't he?

Mike Wozniak

The problem is, I'm quite risk averse generally in life, so I think if I was with my wife and children I'd be worried about one of them going off into an electricity pylon or something like that, do you know what I mean, or finding their way into the end of a Chinook, kind of, I think for go one I'd go solo. I mean, I trust my wife, that's fine, do you know what I mean.

Ed Gamble

It's nice to flesh out what's in your dream restaurant as well, Mike, we've got electricity pylons and a chinook flying overhead.

Mike Wozniak

Yes. I very much imagined it on the Wiltshire, sort of, armaments testing grounds. But revolving right, it is revolving.

Ed Gamble

Yes, sure, yes.

James Acaster

Of course.

Mike Wozniak

Great.

James Acaster

You wouldn't want your grandfather to fly with you?

Mike Wozniak

What's that?

James Acaster

Well, Charlie Bucket has his grandfather.

Mike Wozniak

Oh right, my grandfather? He's long dead my friend.

James Acaster

Yes, but-

Ed Gamble

But this is the dream restaurant, Mike.



James Acaster

The dream restaurant, we can bring him back to life.

Mike Wozniak

I know, but it's not the necromancer's restaurant is it.

Ed Gamble

It can be.

Mike Wozniak

I'm quite happy, I mean, I miss him, but I'm happy to let bygones be bygones.

Ed Gamble

That would be awful if you brought your grandfather back to life and then he went immediately into the blades of a chinook.

Mike Wozniak

It's so great to see you-, 'Grandfather.' It happens twice as well, right, it's two rotor blades, coarse mincing and then a fine mincing immediately afterwards, there's no coming back.

Ed Gamble

Grandpa tartar.

James Acaster

Popadoms or bread? Popadoms or break Mike Wozniak? Poppadoms or bread?

Mike Wozniak

Popadom please. But I've got a request/stipulation if that's okay. So, there was a lad at my school, I group up in Portsmouth. Can I name names?

Ed Gamble

Yes, you can name names.

Mike Wozniak

You don't need to beep it out? I mean, I've lost touch with him, but.

Ed Gamble

It's up to you. I will say we can't beep it out live.

Mike Wozniak

No?

James Acaster

In the recording, when this goes out, we can beep it out.



Mike Wozniak

No? Not even with three of us.

Ed Gamble

Do you want me to try and bleep it for you?

Mike Wozniak

Yes, please. So, there was this guy called Ben.

Ed Gamble

Beep.

Mike Wozniak

Thank you. Thank you. I can relax now. And I think it was him, but I may have got that wrong, my memory is terrible. But I think it was him because he lived in Gosport, and his family were big in the curry scene in Gosport.

Ed Gamble

How were they big in the curry scene?

Mike Wozniak

Well they ate quite a lot of curry. We're talking three times a month, something like that.

Ed Gamble

Woah.

James Acaster

That's a lot.

Mike Wozniak

Yes. So, he knew the scene. Do you know what I mean? Gosport is just across from the Portsmouth, so kind of like Portsmouth's naughty little cousin.

Ed Gamble

My grandparents used to live in Hillhead.

Mike Wozniak

There we go. Another place.

Ed Gamble

Yes, it's quite near by.



Mike Wozniak

Yes. But he told me that there was a restaurant, a curry house in Gosport, I can't remember, I think it was called something like the Maximum Popadom, where you wouldn't just go, 'How many poppadoms shall we have? Shall we get four? Shall we get six?' All that kind of discussion. They completely nixed that argument by the table you were sat at, they're all round tables. Table of four, appropriate size, two little round table, you know, eight, big round table, the poppadom that would arrive if you ordered the maximum poppadom would be the size of the table.

Ed Gamble

Whatever size table you were on.

Mike Wozniak

Yes, yes. But they'd sit you appropriately was the idea, so if it was a table of four, you know, that sort of size or what have you, and that would arrive, and I hunted for this place high and low, I never found it. And it's only since you asked me on this I've been reminded of that and I've got a tiny, niggling suspicion that it might have been bollocks. It's the perfect lie.

James Acaster

How old was, what was his name?

Mike Wozniak

His name was Ben.

Ed Gamble

Beep.

James Acaster

Yes, how old was he?

Mike Wozniak

We would have been, sort of, fourteen, something like that, thirteen.

James Acaster

That's a bit old to be lying about the poppadom isn't it, but not out of the realms of.

Mike Wozniak

Well, they're big curry people, like I say, big, big curry family.

James Acaster

Big in the curry scene.

Ed Gamble

But how do you know he was big in the curry scene because he might have been lying about that as well, right?



James Acaster

Yes. Maybe he didn't have three curries a month, I mean, that is crazy.

Mike Wozniak

He could have me, it's true. I did buy the thing that they were big in curry because I went around his house at least twice, and at least once they did order in curry.

Ed Gamble

But they weren't ordering in the maximum poppadom were they?

Mike Wozniak

Well, no, the takeaway option, that would be crazy.

James Acaster

On the top of the car.

Mike Wozniak

Yes. That's never going to make it.

James Acaster

Yes, yes, fly off.

Mike Wozniak

I think since as we're in a genie staffed restaurant, perhaps we could go.

James Acaster

Behind you, I mean, that's a beyond maximum poppadom.

Mike Wozniak

Oh yes. That's catering sized isn't it, that one.

James Acaster

That's where I'm from.

Ed Gamble

It's the spirit of Brucie, man. So, you would like the maximum poppadom?

Mike Wozniak

Yes please.

James Acaster

Absolutely.



Ed Gamble

Do you want maximum chutneys with it as well?

Mike Wozniak

Oh yes please. Yes. I don't know where they go because the table is full.

Ed Gamble

You could put them on the maximum poppadom, dots of different chutneys around the maximum poppadom and then snap them off and work your way in.

James Acaster

Like injera bread.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Mike Wozniak

Yes. That's quite nice. Or maybe some sort of nozzles.

Ed Gamble

Like a hamster?

Mike Wozniak

Yes. So, nozzles, series of hosepipes.

James Acaster

Coming down from the ceiling.

Mike Wozniak

Yes, or threaded through the pylons. I don't really mind how they get them there.

Ed Gamble

Is the chinook dropping them in?

Mike Wozniak

Yes, or maybe they could be mortared, you could mortar a mango chutney onto the-, that might be quite fun. Sort of, stinger a lime pickle into my gob.

Ed Gamble

So, what speed are these chutneys coming in?

Mike Wozniak

Mach three. They're hard to break the maximum, so you want a bit of force to smash up the poppadom a bit.



James Acaster

That sounds nice. So, you've got the maximum poppadom all to yourself?

Mike Wozniak

Please.

James Acaster

So there's just you, okay. Your dream starter, Mike?

Mike Wozniak

This is quite tricky. I thought about this. Could have the, well, well, it's sort of an invention in a way. Well, I'm calling it the gooduckenouffle, the gooduckenouffle surprise. I mean, you're jumping off point as your turkducken, which you're familiar with?

James Acaster

Okay. Yes, the turducken we know about.

Mike Wozniak

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Duck and a chicken in a turkey.

Mike Wozniak

The sort of stuffing thing, which I've never tried. Turkey for me.

Ed Gamble

You're joking.

Mike Wozniak

I can't eat turkey outside of Christmas. Otherwise I feel like I'm breaking a treaty, so I would replace the turkey with a goose, which I think is an established thing.

Ed Gamble

Yes. So, this is where gooducken.

Mike Wozniak

That's the gooducken bit, so, yes, the chicken and the duck and the goose. And in that process, I'd probably want some assurances from the genie waiter that that stuffing process was post-mortem, please.

Ed Gamble

For all of them. You want them all-



Mike Wozniak

Oh yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

But what if it happened naturally, and we found them like that?

Mike Wozniak

I think that raises more questions than it answers.

Ed Gamble

Really.

Mike Wozniak

Yes, that happens. And then within the initial, the, sort of, vanguard chicken, the surprise, I'd like a toy in it, please.

James Acaster

A toy, like a Kinder Surprise?

Mike Wozniak

Please.

Ed Gamble

I thought you said a toilet for.

Mike Wozniak

Well, I'm on my own, do you know what I mean?

Ed Gamble

You say the chicken is the vanguard?

Mike Wozniak

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Does the chicken go in the duck or does the duck go in the chicken?

Mike Wozniak

Chicken goes in the duck.



Ed Gamble

The duck is smaller than the chicken, is it not?

James Acaster

Yes Mike, have you seen a chicken and a duck?

Mike Wozniak

No, but it goes turkducken doesn't it, or gooducken. So, I don't think it's about size so much as will, really.

Ed Gamble

So, you said they came up with the word first and then they just had to force a chicken into a duck.

Mike Wozniak

I think so, yes. 'Come on.' Can't call it turkchickduck, it doesn't work. And then the ouffle bit, the gooduckenouffle, just soufflé it, please.

Ed Gamble

Okay.

James Acaster

So, a chicken in a duck in a goose. You would like a Kinder Surprise.

Mike Wozniak

Something, yes, it could be a little toy, a little puzzle, anything really, I don't mind.

Ed Gamble

Like a cracker gift.

Mike Wozniak

A tiny little Philips screwdriver would be fine.

Ed Gamble

Is that your favourite cracker gift?

Mike Wozniak

Well, you get a lot of use out of it don't you.

Ed Gamble

Not personally.

Mike Wozniak

No?



Ed Gamble

The little screwdrivers, no.

Mike Wozniak

I use the tiny screwdriver all the time.

Ed Gamble

I'm going to love imaging that.

Mike Wozniak

Yes.

James Acaster

The thing is, if I was you, I would decide, I know it's meant to be a surprise, but if I was you I wouldn't leave it up to us because we're already disappointed that didn't get to use our necromancy earlier.

Ed Gamble

Yes. I see. Are you suggesting the surprise in the chicken is going to be Mike's grandad?

Mike Wozniak

Miniaturised, mummified.

James Acaster

Not miniaturised, it's more about will than it is.

Mike Wozniak

Okay. I think had the grit where he'd be up for that challenge, yes.

James Acaster

And you want it souffled on the outside like a Baked Alaska?

Mike Wozniak

No, I just want the whole thing to be magically souffled.

Ed Gamble

What do you mean?

Mike Wozniak

Well, I'm not completely sure. I like the texture of a souffle, but I don't want to spoil my appetite, I've already eaten a table-sized poppadum and I'm looking forward to a big, main course.

James Acaster

I forgot this is your starter.



Mike Wozniak

So, I'd quite like it to be made bubbly and light and get the taste and the experience.

Ed Gamble

But you still get the layers.

Mike Wozniak

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Just like a layered souffle, but it's goose, chicken-, no, goose, duck, chicken, all the way down.

Mike Wozniak

Please. Toy.

Mike Wozniak

Yes, a toy. A non-souffle toy.

Ed Gamble

A toy at the bottom of a souffle, yes? Okay.

James Acaster

I can absolutely make that happen for you.

Mike Wozniak

Yes? Great, great.

James Acaster

Yes, yes.

Mike Wozniak

I thought so.

James Acaster

Are you eating the whole thing?

Mike Wozniak

Yes, yes because, I'm assuming in the magical, souffle-ing process, it's going to reduce, to a degree, isn't it?

James Acaster

Oh, that's interesting. So-,



Mike Wozniak

I'm imagining a souffle the size of a, sort of, carpenter's fist. That sort of size.

James Acaster

Yes.

Mike Wozniak

A decent hand.

James Acaster

Healthy.

Mike Wozniak

Yes, yes.

James Acaster

Healthy clump.

Mike Wozniak

Yes, yes.

James Acaster

Have you ever, when you were a doctor, did you have to study a carpenter's fist at any point?

Mike Wozniak

I mean, they very rarely come in, those guys. Hail and hearty, just the odd nick and callous, that's it. So, it's the platonic ideal of a fist, really.

Ed Gamble

Not a phrase I thought we'd hear tonight, platonic ideal of a fist.

James Acaster

Your dream main course, Mike?

Mike Wozniak

This is quite tricky.

James Acaster

Oh, I bet it is.

Mike Wozniak

But, it does need some genie help.



James Acaster

Oh, yes?

Ed Gamble

Be nice for you to finally use the genie in this meal, Mike.

Mike Wozniak

Well, I've got a backup dish, if required. There's a backup dish.

Ed Gamble

Great.

Mike Wozniak

But the main dish is, I want what they're having, please. What I mean by that is when I do, I don't go out to restaurants very often and I do have a nice, old time and I try and be a good boy and I try and be-,

Ed Gamble

You try and be a good boy?

Mike Wozniak

I try and be a good, brave boy and I try and, you know. It's important to try new things, yes?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Mike Wozniak

So, you know, if it's something that I don't know what it is, I'll normally, I'll give it a go and that kind of stuff. And, I'll make the order and I'll think, 'Great, we'll have a little experiment, see what that is,' and you know, we'll just, I'm quite happy to buy a pig in a poke, basically, when it comes to a restaurant.

James Acaster

A what?

Mike Wozniak

I'm quite happy to buy a pig in a poke.

James Acaster

A pig in a poke?

Mike Wozniak

A pig in a poke.



James Acaster

Okay.

Mike Wozniak

Yes?

James Acaster

Yes, yes.

Mike Wozniak

But, I'll order-,

Ed Gamble

Hang on.

James Acaster

Well, I just assume it's a phrase.

Ed Gamble

Well, yes but what? What?

Mike Wozniak

It's a well-established phrase, no?

Thank you.

James Acaster

Well, that's five people in 2,000.

Mike Wozniak

Like, buying a pig in a poke.

Ed Gamble

Just repeat the phrase, by all means, Mike.

Mike Wozniak

So, normally, you don't want to buy a pig in a poke, is how it would normally be used.

James Acaster

Mike, we do not know what a pig in a poke is. What is a pig in a poke?

Mike Wozniak

Well, the pig is a standard pig. A pig is a pig.



James Acaster

Got it.

Mike Wozniak

Not your cat.

Ed Gamble

No, who is called Pig.

Mike Wozniak

Who's called Pig, but a pig.

James Acaster

Yes.

Mike Wozniak

And a poke, I think, was like a sort of bag, or something. So, it would be the idea of buying a pig, so-,

James Acaster

In a bag?

Mike Wozniak

In ye olden times-,

James Acaster

Yes?

Ed Gamble

I see.

Mike Wozniak

It must have been a problem, at some stage, where pig mongers were going around the place.

James Acaster

Yes?

Mike Wozniak

Door to door, and saying, 'Do you want to buy a pig?' 'Yes, I'm interested in a pig, how much for the pig?' '£5' 'Here you go, it's in this poke.' And then, they'd give you the poke, you know, which had some weight to it, and you'd get it in, you'd open up your poke thinking, 'Oh great, we've got a pig now, that's great news,' and there'd just be, you know.

Ed Gamble

Rocks.



Mike Wozniak

Rocks. There's be rocks, there'd be some wet straw.

James Acaster

A third example, please?

Mike Wozniak

A broken pallet of cereal bars, but there would be no pig and the pig salesman would be long gone.

Ed Gamble

So, the advice would be don't buy a pig in a poke?

Mike Wozniak

It's a cautionary tale. It would've been a cautionary tale, then another cautionary tale that, eventually, became you know, an idiom.

Ed Gamble

But you're using the idiom to say you do want to buy a pig in a poke.

Mike Wozniak

I am assuming that advice, yes.

James Acaster

But you're comparing this to being in a restaurant.

Mike Wozniak

Yes.

James Acaster

And, while you're in a restaurant, you will buy a pig in a poke?

Mike Wozniak

Yes.

James Acaster

So, you will order something, knowing that it is not what it says it is on the menu, and then it's a plate of wet straw.

Mike Wozniak

I'm willing to take that risk, yes, and I would also take the risk if there was a main course where it was just, you know, mystery poke, you know?

Ed Gamble

Mike, it's pronounced Poké.



Mike Wozniak

Okay. Mystery bag of food, then I'd probably go, 'I'll go for the mystery bag of food, please.'

James Acaster

So you're just, yes, okay. I get it now. You mean you'll just roll the dice, have whatever comes?

Mike Wozniak

I want to be surprised. I wish to be surprised, normally.

James Acaster

But you don't want to be tricked by the pig monger?

Mike Wozniak

No, I mean in day-to-day life, no. But, I mean, I'm willing to take the risk in a restaurant setting.

James Acaster

Yes.

Mike Wozniak

I'm not going to be presented with a plate of wet straw.

Ed Gamble

So, but the first thing you said was your main course is, you'll have what they're having?

Mike Wozniak

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Even though you did specify at the beginning that you will be alone for this meal?

Mike Wozniak

No, it's true. But, the 'They're,' 'What they're had.'

James Acaster

What they're had.

Mike Wozniak

What they're had.

Ed Gamble

You want what they're had?



Mike Wozniak

I want what they're had, because inevitably, when I do order the thing, whatever the thing may be, like, enough time has passed that you can't change but, then, almost every time I go to a restaurant, 5 minutes after the time has passed to change your order, like, the kitchen doors are booted open, right? All of the staff have been corralled to deliver this dish to another table and there are flames gushing from everywhere, steam, smoke, sirens, everyone's ooh-ing and someone breaks out into the national anthem. It's that level of, like, the fuss. You know, the sort of burning griddle pans, people with special gloves, all this kind of stuff. Trollies, things are on wheels, things are coming down from the ceiling. Space, tables being kicked over to make enough space for this extraordinary dish and everyone's applauding and that's, I want that. What's that?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Mike Wozniak

Please, I've never had that. I've never succeeded. I've never read on the menu, there's no clue on the menu that there will be a fanfare.

James Acaster

Usually, usually fajitas.

Ed Gamble

I think that's normally a safe bet if you want that sort of thing, Mike.

James Acaster

Some fajitas in a poke.

Ed Gamble

Or a birthday cake.

Mike Wozniak

Okay. So, maybe it's fajitas, then.

Ed Gamble

You want what they're had, we know that.

Mike Wozniak

I want, yes. I mean, if it's possible. Uncle Phil does good fajitas. So, shout out to Uncle Phil, there?

James Acaster

From Fresh Prince?

Ed Gamble

Fresh Prince?



James Acaster

You and cousin Carlton enjoy those?

Ed Gamble

You've got quite, when you danced on, you had real Carlton energy, actually.

James Acaster

Yes, you could, yes.

Mike Wozniak

That's a shame.

Ed Gamble

Well, come on Mike, you didn't think you were Will, did you?

Mike Wozniak

No. We all like to think we've got a bit of Will in us, don't we?

James Acaster

Well, he didn't walk on and slap us.

Mike Wozniak

Different Uncle Phil.

Ed Gamble

Different Uncle Phil.

Mike Wozniak

Does a mean fajita, but yes, I mean, if you know what that is, if it's fajitas, it's more interesting. I mean, the fallback, I mean, I'd be quite happy to just have a Lancashire Hotpot with a sparkler in it.

Ed Gamble

But you want that presentation, you want that big fanfare?

Mike Wozniak

Presentation, yes. And, it's not, I don't want this sort of, 'ooh,' I mean, I don't have to have the reaction.

James Acaster

Yes.

Mike Wozniak

Because I'm on my own, that's fine. I'm not trying to, sort of, draw attention. I just want to experience that, 'My God, here it comes,' moment. I want there to be the genuine jeopardy that I could burn myself to the point where I'm unrecognisable, just from the delivery of the dish. Just from judging it wrong, just



from trying to clear that mustard pot out of the way, to be helpful, and 'Aah,' just being sort of seared, stuck to the side of a four-foot griddle pan, you know? Becoming part of the dish, do you know what I mean? I want that, that chance, you know? For someone to have, you know, a scrape of a crispy Mike skin.

Ed Gamble

It is definitely fajitas that you're talking about.

Mike Wozniak

Is it fajitas? It's fajitas.

James Acaster

100%, can't be anything else at this point.

Mike Wozniak

Uncle Phil's fajitas then, please.

Ed Gamble

Where's Uncle Phil's?

Mike Wozniak

What's that?

Ed Gamble

Where's Uncle Phil's?

James Acaster

Bel Air, obviously.

Mike Wozniak

What's Uncle Phil's, that's quite hard to answer.

James Acaster

You know where Uncle Phil lives, Ed.

Ed Gamble

Hang on, is it a restaurant or is it your Uncle Phil?

Mike Wozniak

Neither, but it is a man. It's my brother-in-law.

Ed Gamble

Your brother-in-law, and you call your brother-in-law Uncle Phil?



Mike Wozniak

I've been known to. Sometimes, we squish that into Ph-uncle, for a bit of fun.

Ed Gamble

That is fun.

Mike Wozniak

He is a fun guy.

Ed Gamble

So, when Ph-uncle does his fajitas, is there the fanfare? Does he bring them out on the sizzling platter?

Mike Wozniak

There will be sizzle. I don't know, it's not the level of sizzle and flames and all of that stuff that I'm after. He will, more likely to compensate with the visual fanfare with some choice swearing. So, it's an event, it's definitely an event, but it's not, yes, it's not kicking through the swing doors, kind of.

James Acaster

Bl get what you mean. You want, you're anticipating it. When Ph-uncle bring it out, you know that they're coming out because we're doing fajitas tonight, here they are. 'Fuck, cunt,' whatever he's saying.

Ed Gamble

Beep.

James Acaster

But when you're in the-, sorry, yes. It's really refined.

Ed Gamble

It might work for the guys up there, maybe, if it sort of, depending on the sound trajectory.

James Acaster

But you want to be not expecting it. You're in a restaurant, you hear it and then you see it and you get jealous.

Mike Wozniak

Yes.

James Acaster

Do you want the Chinook pilot to be looking over, being like, 'What's he got?'



Mike Wozniak

I want the Chinook pilot to be on standby because he needs to be, the whole Chinook crew, they need to be carrying a sort of, an 18,000 litre vat of water over the top of the restaurant, in case of a catastrophe.

James Acaster

In case you get stuck to the griddle?

Mike Wozniak

Yes, yes, yes.

James Acaster

If you do get stuck to the griddle?

Mike Wozniak

Yes?

James Acaster

Are you going to carry on with the rest of the meal?

Ed Gamble

Because you seem quite excited by the notion of, I believe your phrase was, 'Becoming part of the dish,'?

Mike Wozniak

Yes. Yes, I'd carry on absolutely, regardless.

Ed Gamble

If you became part of the dish?

Mike Wozniak

Yes, yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Mike Wozniak

Yes.

Ed Gamble

And you said you had a back-up dish? I'm very happy with this.

James Acaster

Lancashire Hotpot with a sparkler in it.



Mike Wozniak

Please.

Ed Gamble

Is that the back-up? That's the back-up.

Mike Wozniak

That's the back-up dish, yes, yes.

Ed Gamble

Lovely.

Mike Wozniak

Yes, a couple of sparklers, get some offal going.

James Acaster

How do you position a sparkler in a Lancashire Hotpot?

Ed Gamble

Good question.

James Acaster

Is that fairly solid? In my mind, it's not.

Mike Wozniak

I think the, and forgive me if I'm wrong but I think, yes, the potato layer is going to handle that. And, you've got, beneath the potato layer you've got, hopefully, a very, very dense, thick collection of lambs, kidneys, other bits of lamb, miscellaneous lamb.

James Acaster

Yes.

Mike Wozniak

With an adhesive gravy and I think that's going to, it's going to plant very nicely in that, I think. I think you could even put a few in and some of them could even be a scance and you'd be okay.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I think so.

James Acaster

Some of them could be a scance.

Ed Gamble

Because if there's so much offal in there.



Mike Wozniak

Yes.

Ed Gamble

The chances of a sparkler going through and not hitting a bit of offal before it hits the bottom, are slim aren't they?

Mike Wozniak

Yes, and I think a kidney would be quite a good little anchor for the-,

Ed Gamble

Good ballast.

Mike Wozniak

Yes, I think so.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

The thing is with sparklers, once they've gone out, you still can't approach it, can you?

Ed Gamble

What?

Mike Wozniak

Then, I-,

James Acaster

Well, you shouldn't go back, what-,

Mike Wozniak

Hang on. Then I'll request, maybe, the genie brings the Lancashire Hotpot with sparklers and, as well as a knife and fork, can I have some sort of gauntlet, please?

James Acaster

Yes.

Mike Wozniak

To remove the, yes.

Ed Gamble

What do you mean, James?



James Acaster

Well, you should never go back to a sparkler, once it's been lit.

Ed Gamble

I believe the phrase is, 'Don't go back to a lit firework,' and I don't think sparklers count.

Mike Wozniak

Yes.

James Acaster

No, you should never go back to them.

Mike Wozniak

In Kettering, all the recreational grounds are just covered in layer upon layer of abandoned sparklers. It's all metal parks now, isn't it?

James Acaster

Yes.

Mike Wozniak

You can't go in.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Never go back to a lit sparkler.

James Acaster

We'll never go back to the lit sparklers.

Ed Gamble

How do you hold a-, aren't you supposed to light a sparkler and then hold it? Are you just lighting a sparkler and then, immediately, throwing it away?

James Acaster

Yes, that's when it becomes dangerous. It's all fine and then someone lights it, and then you've just got to let go and run and never go back to it.

Ed Gamble

I like the fajitas choice, Mike.

Mike Wozniak

Okay.



James Acaster

Lovely choice.

Mike Wozniak

Is what it turned out to be, but are there other things? There's nothing else you recognise as that? Because you eat out a lot don't you, you two?

Ed Gamble

Nothing that I recognise from your exact description.

Mike Wozniak

No?

Ed Gamble

Maybe, like, a dish where, like in a fancy restaurant, they might bring it and there's the cloche.

Mike Wozniak

Oh, yes?

Ed Gamble

There's a cloche or a glass dome or something like that.

Mike Wozniak

Could be, yes.

Ed Gamble

And they'll, together, all of the waiters will do this, and then they'll whip the cloche off and there's smoke. Smoke billows from them.

Mike Wozniak

So, there's like backdraught, is it?

Ed Gamble

It's backdraught, yes.

Mike Wozniak

It sucks in the oxygen and then-,

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes.

Mike Wozniak

Explodes?



Ed Gamble

They'll normally pipe in smoke.

Mike Wozniak

Yes?

Ed Gamble

But in the kitchen.

Mike Wozniak

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Some sort of woody smoke.

Mike Wozniak

Okay.

Ed Gamble

And then they'll lift it up and the smoke dissipates and makes absolutely no difference to the flavour of the dish.

Mike Wozniak

Okay.

James Acaster

Do you know what I enjoyed just then, Mike?

Mike Wozniak

Yes?

James Acaster

Was watching you listening to Ed describe something that is actually real, as if what Ed was saying was fucking bonkers.

Mike Wozniak

So, are you saying that is real?

James Acaster

That's a real thing.

Ed Gamble

Yes.



Mike Wozniak

Is that a real thing?

James Acaster

Yes.

Mike Wozniak

Why?

Ed Gamble

Well, for that theatre that you're talking about, that you enjoy. That's what you wanted, wasn't it? That sort of thing?

Mike Wozniak

I don't know. That seems a bit sneaky, to me.

Ed Gamble

What's sneaky about that?

Mike Wozniak

Well, because I don't think I want to be delivered a cloche of smoke.

Ed Gamble

There's other food in there. They're not going like, 'Enjoy your dinner, fuck you, it's just smoke.'

Mike Wozniak

Okay.

Ed Gamble

There's food in there.

Mike Wozniak

Is there? Okay, fine.

Ed Gamble

And the smoke's been piped in and it's just like a magical way of presenting it.

Mike Wozniak

Okay, fair, fair play.

James Acaster

So, the smoke can affect the flavour sometimes.



Ed Gamble

The smoke can affect the flavour sometimes, yes. It's normally just for showmanship. It would be bad if, I agree.

Mike Wozniak

I think I want the journey, I think I want to see them coming.

Ed Gamble

Yes?

Mike Wozniak

That feels, that feels like an ambush. Do you know what I mean?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Mike Wozniak

I want to see the whites of their eyes. I don't know, it's not the right phrase. Well, you know.

Ed Gamble

It's quite a, sort of, military meal generally, so far, isn't it?

Mike Wozniak

It's turning out that was, isn't it?

James Acaster

I'm worried that the Chinook person, when someone suddenly bursts out of the kitchen, is basically attacking, some old training might kick in.

Mike Wozniak

It's a risk, isn't it? But then, he thought I was being attacked, I was actually just being served some fajitas and a very badly damaged Chinook pilot attacked one of the waiters. You know, it's a bit of chat fuel, isn't it?

James Acaster

That is good chat fuel.

Ed Gamble

RIP Uncle Phil.

James Acaster

Your dream side dish, Mike?



Mike Wozniak

Alphabites, please.

James Acaster

We have a lot of fans of Alphabites in.

Mike Wozniak

Never allowed them.

James Acaster

To this day?

Mike Wozniak

Well, still never quite dared to pick them out of the old freezer. It was deeply ingrained.

James Acaster

Yes.

Mike Wozniak

Taboo. So, yes, I think tonight's the night.

James Acaster

So, I've never had Alphabites either but I have requested them. Are they potato?

Mike Wozniak

Yes, yes, they're basically chips, alphabet-shaped chips.

Ed Gamble

I've never had them either.

Mike Wozniak

Have you not?

Ed Gamble

No.

Mike Wozniak

Who's had Alphabites?

Crowd: They're not as good as chips though.

James Acaster

They're not as good as chips?



Crowd

They're shit.

James Acaster

They're shit? Pretty adamant.

Mike Wozniak

I didn't think it was that sort of gig.

Ed Gamble

Our listeners get pretty rowdy, Mike.

Mike Wozniak

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Especially when it comes to Alphabites.

Mike Wozniak

It turns out, yes. I do apologise but I'm going to stick to my guns.

Ed Gamble

Would you spell some things out with the Alphabites before you ate them? Would you have fun with them, or-

Mike Wozniak

I think there's great fun to be had, isn't there? Yes, absolutely.

Ed Gamble

What sort of things would you spell?

Mike Wozniak

Maybe some rude words.

James Acaster

Yes, go on. Or, do you want to spell it out, one letter at a time, so we can visualise it on the plate?

Mike Wozniak

Do you want to beep it out?

Ed Gamble

Letter by letter?



Mike Wozniak

Like, bum.

Ed Gamble

Beep.

Mike Wozniak

Do you know what I mean? I mean, there's options.

Ed Gamble

Would you start with bum, would you?

Mike Wozniak

Start with bum and work my way up.

Ed Gamble

Every so often, Mike, I remember that you're having this meal alone. Bum, looking around, dead waiter on the floor.

James Acaster

With his one good eye, the rest was-, Bum?

Ed Gamble

Chinook helicopter pilot having a panic attack in the corner. Are you dipping it in anything, the Alphabites?

Mike Wozniak

Oh, yes. Yes, very much the, well, it depends what the dish is. Like, if it's back-up Lancashire Hotpot, then I'll be dipping it in the old, sort of, gravy.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Mike Wozniak

Big time. If it's the, well, is it fajitas?

Ed Gamble

Fajitas was the other choice, I think Uncle Phil's fajitas.

James Acaster

It's what they're having.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Or, yes, what they're having.



Mike Wozniak

I'd probably risk popping the letter C in a bit of Guac, see what happens.

James Acaster

Is that the best to dip with, do you reckon? The letter C?

Mike Wozniak

I think so, because you've got a good hook with it, do you know what I mean?

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Do you think, in the Alphabites, because none of us have had them, do you think they include the letter L? Or, is that just too similar to a chip?

James Acaster

The lower-case L?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Mike Wozniak

Lower-case L? No these are capitals, are you mad? It's capitals.

Ed Gamble

Well, I've never had them.

Mike Wozniak

How, in the name of God, are they going to do a lower-case I?

Ed Gamble

Well, they just chuck it all in.

Mike Wozniak

Madness, madness.

James Acaster

He got you, man. You've been mirked.

Ed Gamble

I'm happy to learn.



James Acaster

You just got mirked by Wozniak at the Palladium, mate.

Ed Gamble

I got burned by the most burned man we've ever had on the podcast.

James Acaster

Well, I guess, same question with a capital I, right?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Or, does that just look like a normal chip? Or are they putting those bits at the top and bottom?

Mike Wozniak

Oh, yes. They're putting the bits on.

Ed Gamble

Fucking do him, Mike. He thought it was just going to be straight I, fucking have him.

James Acaster

I'm trying to help you.

Ed Gamble

It's going to be like that, fucking idiot. Look at this cunt.

Mike Wozniak

Beep. He's just got into some bad fonts, do you know what I mean? That's all that's, it's not his fault. Wrong crowd, wrong fonts. He didn't know any better.

James Acaster

So, it doesn't bother you that they're shit, apparently?

Mike Wozniak

No, I don't mind eating shit from time to time. I think there's, sometimes, great comfort from eating total crap and I think, in a way, the fact that they'd been, well, for want of a better term, a lust object. No, there are better terms.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes.



Ed Gamble

I think we can definitely find better terms.

James Acaster

I'm sure the letter O is feeling nervous, right about now.

Mike Wozniak

It's more a matter of will, isn't it?

James Acaster

Yes. Oh, he will.

Mike Wozniak

I think there's something fundamentally wrong with them, I think, yes. I think it'll feel like it's a vice. It'll feel all the more exciting if they're a bit of work. If they need a lot of sour cream or guac or if I've got to re-activate the, you know, the nozzles from earlier on. If I'm firing everything at it.

James Acaster

Yes.

Mike Wozniak

Then I'll be like, 'Okay mum, you were right.'

James Acaster

Are you going to rub it in your parents' faces that you're eating them? Are you going to be like-,

Mike Wozniak

No, they've got enough on their plate. I mean, they worry enough, do you know what I mean?

Ed Gamble

Where do you stand on potato smileys? Because, they're essentially the same thing I guess, right?

Mike Wozniak

Yes. For reasons that aren't clear to me, I realise now they didn't cross the line of the, sort of, forbidden potato products line.

Ed Gamble

So, you used to have potato smileys?

Mike Wozniak

Rarely, but it did come up.

Ed Gamble

So, your parents sound-,



Mike Wozniak

If anything, I'm wondering why they were allowed, whereas the letters were viewed as obscene.

James Acaster

The letters, you're going to get distracted. You'll start spelling words, doing stuff. The smiley faces, once you've seen one, that's it, isn't it?

Mike Wozniak

Maybe, yes.

Ed Gamble

Your parents should be encouraging literacy, shouldn't they?

Mike Wozniak

It's true, unless yes, I can't really think what the scenario would be. I mean, yes, if there was a necromancy-based restaurant, yes, then you don't want people to be able to conjure certain, like, letters and you don't want to be able to Ouija board your side plate, do you?

Ed Gamble

Potato smiley Ouija board.

Mike Wozniak

Yes, but that wasn't happening. So, I don't know, I don't know what the explanation is. But yes, I'm on my todd so I'll go for the letters. A bit more diverting.

Ed Gamble

One of every letter?

Mike Wozniak

No, I think I'm going to want a few spare vowels, please. I'm happy to go with just one of, you know, J, X, Y and so on because I'm going to want to Bananagram it, at some point. Do you know what I mean? I don't want to rush the evening, and I'm hoping, because there's the genie element, they're not going to go cold.

James Acaster

No.

Mike Wozniak

You can serve them on a hot plate at the very least, can't you?

Ed Gamble

Another hot plate.



James Acaster

Well, yes, you've got previous. I mean, do you want me to sit this course out and Rachel Riley can serve these to you? You can ask for consonants and vowels to your heart's content.

Mike Wozniak

I'll stick with the genie.

James Acaster

You don't want Riley anywhere near this.

Ed Gamble

Also come on man, Vorderman every time.

James Acaster

Sorry. Of course, Vorderman.

Ed Gamble

We're getting Vorderman in for this.

Mike Wozniak

Yes, okay, alright, we'll Vorderman it. Well, the option of Vorderman if I'm feeling tasty. If I'm on good form with the letters, then we can conjure Vorderman to throw down the gauntlet. But otherwise, yes, I think I'll just carry on, just playing with the hot, salty fat.

James Acaster

Your dream drink, Mike?

Mike Wozniak

That's tricky. Well, it depends, this depends again.

James Acaster

Yes?

Mike Wozniak

What did we settle on? Did we settle on the griddle? If it was the back-up Lancashire Hotpot, I'd go for a pint of Old Thumper, no? Is that not allowed?

James Acaster

I'm not shaking my head because you can't have it. I'm shaking my head because I've never heard of a pint of Old Thumper before.

Ed Gamble

And it sounds like the sort of thing you would make up, Mike.



James Acaster

We're now in a world where we accept these things. At the start of the gig, I was questioning stuff like a pig in a poke and, now, I'm just accepting that a pint of Old Thumper is a thing.

Mike Wozniak

Ringwood Breweries.

James Acaster

Yes?

Mike Wozniak

I think it was the first kind of pint of bitter that I had, really, in that little pub that we used to go to where, in that era when you're trying to get, sort of, served and all that kind of stuff. People were going for ales because they thought it seemed more convincing that they were older. Yes, they wanted the ice-cold lager, but they were like, 'I'll have a pint of the Old Thumper,' because they thought it was credible, therefore, that they were 52 years old and didn't need to be ID'd.

Ed Gamble

Wearing a cardigan going in.

Mike Wozniak

Yes. On the few occasions we were served, everyone else would be like 'Eww, Ahhh,' trying to get through it. I was sitting there going, 'I think this is delicious,' and I think, even as a 17-year-old boy, I didn't realise at the time, I realise now, I was already inhabited by the spirit of a middle-aged man.

James Acaster

Yes.

Mike Wozniak

So that's, and it would go very well with the Hotpot, if that's happening. I mean, if it's the flambé spectacular, just give me an Ouzo, please.

Ed Gamble

Literally chucking fuel on the fire.

Mike Wozniak

Taste of holiday, isn't it?

James Acaster

Ouzo?

Ed Gamble

It is, yes, I guess so, very specific.



James Acaster

I've never had it.

Mike Wozniak

No?

James Acaster

No. I remember the Insane Clown Posse used to drink it.

Mike Wozniak

Did they?

James Acaster

That's all I know about Ouzo.

Ed Gamble

Don't they have their own drink, though, the Insane Clown Posse?

James Acaster

Maybe, now.

Ed Gamble

Called Fago?

Mike Wozniak

What is that?

Ed Gamble

It's their own, is it a soda? What is it?

James Acaster

Jugalo in the audience saying, 'Yes.'

Ed Gamble

What is it?

Crowd: It's like pure, sugary filth.

Ed Gamble

Pure sugary filth. I think it's a very, very sugary alcoholic drink. It's called Fago. Do you know the Insane Clown Posse, Mike?

Mike Wozniak

Yes.



Ed Gamble

I'd be very surprised if you did, to be honest. I can't imagine you and the Posse ever crossing paths.

Mike Wozniak

What kind of act are we talking?

James Acaster

Guess. Guess what the Insane Clown Posse is.

Mike Wozniak

I'm going to say, neo-folk, punk fusion. Electric accordion, they probably do that, no?

Ed Gamble

They're a white rap group, but they paint their faces like, sort of, evil clowns.

Mike Wozniak

Okay.

Ed Gamble

And all of their fans are called Jugalos and they just get quite drunk and violent. They don't drink, as far as I'm aware, Ouzo.

James Acaster

Well, that's what I knew about them when I was a teenager. I read an interview with the Insane Clown Posse and they said that they drank Ouzo a lot.

Ed Gamble

Okay.

James Acaster

Then, I was quite surprised when I was older and they released a song about how lovely miracles are and how they believe in God.

Ed Gamble

Yes. They had a swerve later on in their career.

Mike Wozniak

It does sound like a swerve, doesn't it?

Ed Gamble

It's a rap about all of the-,

Mike Wozniak

But still doing the fancy-dressed rap?



Ed Gamble

Yes, yes, but rapping about how amazing all the things in the world are.

Mike Wozniak

They sound like a lovely bunch of boys.

James Acaster

It's a really funny song.

Mike Wozniak

Yes?

James Acaster

Yes, they say how they-

Mike Wozniak

I'm looking forward to this.

James Acaster

They say how they see miracles every day.

Ed Gamble

It's really good.

James Acaster

And they have like, the miracle of a rainbow and stuff. Are those the miracles? No they're not.

Ed Gamble

You know about Ouzo? Apparently, Ouzo, when you drink it, it crystallizes in your stomach. So, the next day, you drink water and it re-dilutes it, and you get drunk again the next day.

Mike Wozniak

Definitely bollocks.

James Acaster

What's the name of the boy who told you that?

Ed Gamble

Why is that bollocks, Mike?

Mike Wozniak

Because it's just absolutely, iron-clad bollocks. It's not just going to sit in your, how is it going to do that? You're in a state of constant sloughing.



James Acaster

What?

Ed Gamble

I beg your pardon?

James Acaster

Speak for yourself, mate. A state of constant sloughing?

Mike Wozniak

Yes.

James Acaster

Is that another beer?

Mike Wozniak

Boiling away, roiling acids and sloughed linings. It doesn't stand a chance.

Ed Gamble

Sloughed linings?

Mike Wozniak

Yes.

Ed Gamble

I've never felt more uncomfortable about my own body, ever.

Mike Wozniak

I could've broken that more gently, couldn't I?

James Acaster

How was your bedside manner when you were a doctor?

Mike Wozniak

Well, I did have to leave the profession.

James Acaster

Yes, because you kept on bringing up sloughing every time people came in?

Mike Wozniak

It wasn't appropriate.

James Acaster

Yes, this is difficult now because I want you to have the pint of Old Thumper.



Mike Wozniak

Yes.

James Acaster

But that would mean that you would have to have the Lancashire Hotpot and I want you to have what they're having.

Mike Wozniak

Well, fine, okay. Let's settle it, I'll lock it in. I'll have what they're having and I'll risk sinking it down with a little Ouzo, despite the naked flames.

James Acaster

Do you want the Insane Clown Posse to be with you, drinking the Ouzo?

Mike Wozniak

I'm happy for them to be coming through the speakers. That sounds unfriendly, doesn't it? And you've described, they do sound like a lovely group of boys.

James Acaster

Yes.

Mike Wozniak

No, I'm being very selfish. They can join me for the main course. It's a, yes, it's a group. It's a group meal, isn't it? What we're talking about, that amount of smoke, you can't eat that on your own.

Ed Gamble

You can't have fajitas by yourself.

Mike Wozniak

There's going to be a poppadom left over, yes, yes, bring them in. Bring them in.

James Acaster

Actually, it would blow their mind because they love miracles. If they came in, they see the giant poppadom, they see you fizzy lifting drink flying round the air, you've somehow got a chicken in a duck.

Mike Wozniak

Yes, it's all revolving.

James Acaster

They're going to be like, 'So many miracles.'

Mike Wozniak

Yes. One of them is bound to need a mini screwdriver.



Ed Gamble

I do feel like you should have a pint of Old Thumper though, because it was a lovely story. Shall we chuck in a pint of Old Thumper, as well?

James Acaster

We arrive at your dream dessert, Mike. It's very exciting. I'm kind of anticipating more genie magic, here. Am I right?

Mike Wozniak

Yes. For pudding please, could I have, I would like, well, it goes by many names.

James Acaster

Okay.

Mike Wozniak

But some people would call it the piece of shame.

Ed Gamble

Some people?

Mike Wozniak

Yes. Some people would call it the decency slice. Are you familiar with this, any of you?

James Acaster

Oh, one person.

Mike Wozniak

I think the Germans would call it, something like that. Dutch, something very similar. I think in the Philippines, it's the piece of shame.

James Acaster

Piece of shame?

Mike Wozniak

It's the last bit of the cake.

Ed Gamble

We're all very relieved that that's what they call it in the Philippines.

Mike Wozniak

It's the last bit of cake, or whatever it is. It's the last bit on the table, on the plate, whatever it may be, that everyone wants but no one, you know, it feels shameful. It has a name, we don't have that here, a name for it, but there are many nations where they have a name for it, because it's a thing, because it's so alluring and I understand that allure.



James Acaster

Yes.

Mike Wozniak

And, because I can be quite buttoned-up, unless I've had a bit too much post-crystallized Ouzo. I will never go for the piece of shame and, just once, I don't mind what it is, particularly. It could be any kind of, it will require the genie to take the revolving restaurant somewhere where, I mean, it's a bit intrusive, it does require us to, sort of, tractor-beam out someone's cake from a sort of family occasion, anniversary, wedding, something. If we could do that discreetly, I don't think that's a job for the Chinook, I think that's one for the genie.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

I can do that. I mean, is it, so the shame in this sense is coming from the fact that you've tractor-beamed it away from a family? Because, obviously, it's not, if there's not people around, then there's not the shame of taking that last piece?

Mike Wozniak

Oh, it needs to be active. It can't be, the event still needs to be ongoing.

James Acaster

Yes.

Mike Wozniak

For the piece of shame to have its allure, three need to be people almost, sort of, hovering around, licking their lips.

James Acaster

How does it go?

Mike Wozniak

Sort of like this.

James Acaster

Yes.

Mike Wozniak

Sort of stalking it, a little bit. Sort of, maybe, approaching it and then noticing that, you know, Uncle Dilbert is also stalking it and Marjorie is also interested, you know. Kathy is picking off a couple of crumbs, here and there.



Ed Gamble

So, we're not just bringing the cake in from another occasion, we're bringing some of the guests as well?

Mike Wozniak

The guests are pivotal and we need to see the guests. I don't want to intrude.

Ed Gamble

But you need to intrude for this to be the piece of shame, don't you?

Mike Wozniak

Yes, okay. So, well, the restaurant, we'll backtrack a little bit, then. so, the restaurant is going to need to be in a, sort of, mobile, sort of translucent orb. If that is alright?

James Acaster

Yes.

Mike Wozniak

Yes? If we can retrofit that?

James Acaster

Yes, absolutely.

Mike Wozniak

It's all glass-bottomed. We then need to be able to see through the roof and the ceiling and whichever bedrooms or bathrooms are, sort of, impeding the view into the kitchen or the dining area.

Ed Gamble

So, you're sort of floating over a village?

Mike Wozniak

Floating over a village.

Ed Gamble

You're sort of in a glass elevator, really.

Mike Wozniak

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Back to Wonka.

Mike Wozniak

We're Wonka-ing again, yes.



James Acaster

Also, a bit Giant Peach-y. It's very Dahl, the whole thing is very Dahl.

Mike Wozniak

And we need to be able to, sort of, yes. We need to make that, I mean, it would be ideal to be able to, I don't want to, sort of, blast a hole through these people's, like they've worked hard for their house, do you know what I mean?

James Acaster

It's important to bear in mind.

Mike Wozniak

And getting labourers out to fix it is always, they might be waiting for months. They'll be having a bit of tarp over the roof and it's not going to do in this weather.

Ed Gamble

Do you know what house you're going to, or are you just floating over a village hoping that some people are eating a cake and there's one slice left?

Mike Wozniak

The second one.

James Acaster

Because we could make it easier for you because you're getting tied up in that they've worked hard for their house. But, we could choose, like, a horrible family, who you won't feel bad about doing this to.

Ed Gamble

But then it's not a piece of shame.

Mike Wozniak

No, exactly, then what is that?

James Acaster

Then it's not shameful, they have to be good people.

Mike Wozniak

It's not a piece of retribution, yes, they've got to be the best people.

James Acaster

Okay.

Mike Wozniak

They've got to be absolute salt of the bloody earth, these guys.



Ed Gamble

So, when we find the house or the church hall or whatever is happening. Say, a wedding, I think the wedding was-,

Mike Wozniak

Yes, a wedding is quite good, yes. I'd go for the wedding cake, sure.

Ed Gamble

So, there's one slice of wedding cake left.

Mike Wozniak

Although, no, because they're going to want to freeze that. No, it can't be a wedding cake. Sorry, that's probably the only one that, yes.

Ed Gamble

Funeral?

Mike Wozniak

Funeral cake? What was your funeral cake? I'm trying to think, what was their funeral cake like? Is there a funeral cake?

Ed Gamble

I don't think so.

Mike Wozniak

It's not a thing, is it?

James Acaster

At a wake, maybe. A wake cake.

Ed Gamble

Christening?

Mike Wozniak

Christening, again, is complicated isn't it? Let's say Ruby Anniversary. You can always find one of them.

James Acaster

How many years is that, Ruby?

Mike Wozniak

50? 40, even easier.



James Acaster

Even easier, yes.

Mike Wozniak

What's 50? Silver, Gold?

Ed Gamble

So, you're floating over a Ruby anniversary in a village.

Mike Wozniak

Yes.

Ed Gamble

And you can see through the roof of the venue.

Mike Wozniak

And, they got married young. I don't want to be taking it off a couple of nonagenarians or anything like that.

Ed Gamble

Yes. So, they're 60, maybe.

Mike Wozniak

Yes, if that. Late 50s, maybe. We might be talking about a sort of Gretna Green job, here.

James Acaster

A Gretna Green wedding.

Mike Wozniak

Yes.

James Acaster

So, they eloped to Gretna Green, they got married and now they're late 50s, celebrating their Ruby Wedding.

Mike Wozniak

Yes, it's worked, they've proved everyone wrong. It's an absolute triumph.

James Acaster

Yes, it's lovely really. It's a lovely story.

Ed Gamble

There's one slice of cake left at the Ruby anniversary.



James Acaster

And, I bet, I'm going to say, they are not expecting what's about to happen next.

Mike Wozniak

And the thing is about those two, they plan everything very carefully.

James Acaster

Yes.

Mike Wozniak

And they feel that they are people that expect the unexpected, but no. This is coming from the blind spot.

Ed Gamble

So, now I'm just trying to imagine how, then, you go about this heist.

Mike Wozniak

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Are you being teleported from the orb into the event?

Mike Wozniak

No, no. I'm going to stay in the orb.

Ed Gamble

Right.

Mike Wozniak

But, the orb is going to, sort of, beam it through the house. First of all, so that we can see what's going on, and then it's going to tractor-beam, suck up the last bit of cake. The only person who is going to witness that is the 10-year-old grandson, who everyone will think is lying.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Mike Wozniak

Thus, making it the perfect crime.

Ed Gamble

Does that make it the piece of shame, if no one else sees you do it? Surely, the piece of shame, if there's one-



Mike Wozniak

They don't have to see it, they just want it. They all want it.

Ed Gamble

So, is the shame all on you? It's all internal shame?

Mike Wozniak

Yes, yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes. It's internal shame cake.

Mike Wozniak

It's internal shame, which brings out the acidity of the blueberry, I don't know. Ganache, apricot, cheesecake?

Ed Gamble

Apricot cheesecake?

Mike Wozniak

The crunch of the fris and so on.

James Acaster

I'm going to read your menu back to you, now. See how you feel about it. IS there anything else you want to add, Mike, before we read your menu back to you?

Mike Wozniak

No. I think I'm going to be absolutely stuffed after that, thank you.

Ed Gamble

Enjoy reading this one back, James.

James Acaster

Yes. There's not an iPad in here.

Ed Gamble

James had a little problem with the iPad in Glasgow and, accidentally, loaded up a Lewis Capaldi video on YouTube. I don't know how he managed it.

Mike Wozniak

When in Rome.

James Acaster

You would like fizzy lifting water.



Mike Wozniak

Please.

James Acaster

You would like the maximum poppadom with maximum chutneys. You would like a gooducken ouf fle, with a toy. You want 'What they're had.'

Mike Wozniak

Yes. Gooducken ouf fle surprise, I think would be quite, but you know, yes. But, you're right, yes. I beg your pardon.

James Acaster

Apologies. What they're had, in brackets, Uncle Phil's Fajitas.

Mike Wozniak

As it turns out, yes.

James Acaster

Back-up Lancashire Hotpot with a sparkler. Alphabites.

Mike Wozniak

Please.

James Acaster

Ouzo, and a pint of Old Thumper, Dessert, the piece of shame.

Mike Wozniak

Thank you.

Ed Gamble

The Off Menu Menu of Mike Wozniak.

Mike Wozniak

Thank you.

Ed Gamble

Once more for the brilliant Mike Wozniak.

Mike Wozniak

Thank you.

James Acaster

Mike Wozniak.



Ed Gamble

Thank you very much for coming, bye bye.

Well, there we go. The lovely Mike.

James Acaster

Mike was fantastic.

Ed Gamble

Magic Mike.

James Acaster

Yes, a lot of magic got used there.

Ed Gamble

We didn't even say Magic Mike.

James Acaster

We should've called him Magic Make, but if we do that live, they're going to start demanding that he does a striptease.

Ed Gamble

And do you know what? He'd do it.

James Acaster

He'd do it. So, we're lucky in a way, that that didn't happen.

Ed Gamble

Do listen to Mike's podcast, Three Bean Salad, wherever you listen to your podcasts. It is fantastic.

James Acaster

And St Elwicks, as well.

Ed Gamble

And St Elwicks, as well.

James Acaster

I think that's stopped, but go back and listen to all of those episodes.

Ed Gamble

Yes, do. With Three Bean Salad, I would say, really ration out. If you've never listened to it before, ration it out because I listened to five in a day once and my brain went really bendy.



James Acaster

Yes, that can happen.

Ed Gamble

Yes. It's a very dense podcast, there's a lot of stuff going on in there.

James Acaster

Yes, in our one, there's not much really.

Ed Gamble

No, there's not. It's baggy.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Mike, Henry and Ben. They're great guys but there's just a lot going on.

James Acaster

Yes, with all three of them.

Ed Gamble

There's more beans than three.

James Acaster

Yes, there's a lot of beans knocking round in there.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Or, one bean between the three of them.

Ed Gamble

Yes, bye.

James Acaster

Bye.