



Off Menu – Ep 242 – Carrie Brownstein

Ed Gamble

Welcome to the Off Menu podcast, shucking the oyster of conversation, adding the shallot vinaigrette of friendship and maybe a few drops of Tabasco humour.

James Acaster

That is Ed Gamble. My name is James Acaster. Together, we own a dream restaurant and every single week we invite in a different guest. We ask them their favourite ever starter, main course, dessert, side dish and drink, not in that order, and this week our guest is Carrie Brownstein.

Ed Gamble

Carrie Brownstein. Carrie Brownstein, of course, a wonderful musician, part of the band Sleater-Kinney. James.

James Acaster

Amazing band and also, I mean, one of the few people who has straddled both the world of music and sketch comedy.

Ed Gamble

With ease and with great success across both worlds, James.

James Acaster

Yes, with Portlandia.

Ed Gamble

Not easy to straddle with success.

James Acaster

Well, almost impossible, I would say. I can't think of many other people who have done it and definitely, you know, who have done both to such a high standard.

Ed Gamble

I can't think of any comedians who've started doing music, and it's been good.

James Acaster

Well, Portlandia is fantastic, Sleater-Kinney are fantastic and we're very excited to have Carrie on the podcast.

Ed Gamble

We are indeed. Sleater-Kinney's new album is out now. It's called Little Rope. James.



James Acaster

Yes, I'm very excited to hear it. I'm a big fan of The Woods, their album, The Woods, as you know. I was telling you about it the other day.

Ed Gamble

I listened to it yesterday.

James Acaster

Yes?

Ed Gamble

You told me yesterday and I walked to my gig from these very studios and I listened to the album and I absolutely loved it.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Right up my street.

James Acaster

Love recommending Ed stuff and he loves it.

Ed Gamble

I've got many streets, by the way, so if you've not heard them and you're thinking, 'Oh, it's right up Ed's street,' it's going to be some horrible, sort of, screamo/metallic hardcore album, it's not like that, but there's definitely some discordant noise.

James Acaster

It's noisy. Just how we like it here on the Off Menu podcast.

Ed Gamble

We love noise.

James Acaster

Now, even though we love Carrie Brownstein and all of her work, if she says the secret ingredient, an ingredient which we deem to be unacceptable, just like all the other guests, we would have to kick her out the podcast.

Ed Gamble

Very sadly, we would have to do that, as is our duty and today the secret ingredient is a thimble of Italian soda.



James Acaster

A thimble of Italian soda.

Ed Gamble

Very specific Portlandia reference. The cinema concession stand sketch.

James Acaster

Yes. We won't spoil the sketch for you, you have to watch it yourself.

Ed Gamble

Yes, we would never spoil the sketch, but a thimble of Italian soda which, I mean, look, in Portlandia they're skewering some of the more hipster tendencies of people in that area, and with the foodstuff, I do find myself looking at the foods that they mention on Portlandia as a joke and think, 'Oh, I'd order that.'

James Acaster

Yes, you would have those.

Ed Gamble

Probably sums up what sort of person I am.

James Acaster

It does. We all know Ed Gamble but let's get to know Carrie Brownstein. This is the Off Menu menu of Carrie Brownstein.

Ed Gamble

Welcome Carrie to the Dream Restaurant.

Carrie Brownstein

Thank you. Thanks for having me.

James Acaster

Welcome Carrie Brownstein to the Dream Restaurant. We've been expecting you for some time. Really worried I was going to get, like, toast everywhere.

Ed Gamble

Yes. We should say for the listeners shouldn't we that James has just had peanut butter toast.

Carrie Brownstein

Right. And I had pointed out that that's something that I eat for breakfast often.

James Acaster

Yes.



Ed Gamble

There you go.

James Acaster

And I never have it and yet I just felt like there was something inside me today.

Carrie Brownstein

We're very psychically connected already so we could do this show silently.

James Acaster

Yes.

Carrie Brownstein

It would be unfair for the listeners but we would get it.

Ed Gamble

Yes. It would be the best episode ever.

James Acaster

You wouldn't have to talk. You're not connected with us.

Ed Gamble

Oh that's true. I did have some toast this morning. Does that count?

Carrie Brownstein

It does count. What did you have on it?

Ed Gamble

I put some Marmite on it and some fried eggs.

Carrie Brownstein

Oh.

James Acaster

What do you feel about that?

Carrie Brownstein

That's like speaking a different language to me. Marmite, I can't-, no, Marmite. But I will say I prefer it over Vegemite. Both of which I've tried.

Ed Gamble

Yes, Vegemite I can't get on with. Because it's, kind of, close to Marmite but it doesn't represent my childhood in any way. It's too close but that makes it more different.



Carrie Brownstein

I like how you're pronouncing it Vegemite.

Ed Gamble

Vegemite.

Carrie Brownstein

Like it's just full of veg.

Ed Gamble

Yes. You know it's a bit pot of veg.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes a bit pot of veg.

James Acaster

How's it meant to be pronounced? Vegemite.

Carrie Brownstein

I think it might be Vegemite.

James Acaster

Vegemite.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes. I'm sure the Aussies pronounce it very specifically.

James Acaster

Vegemite.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes. There you go.

James Acaster

There we go. Good at impressions.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes great. All the Australian listeners are just giving you a big thumbs up.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Yes.

James Acaster

When were you last in Australia?



Carrie Brownstein

It's been a second. It's been maybe since 2016. What about you?

James Acaster

Good question.

Carrie Brownstein

Great question.

Ed Gamble

May.

James Acaster

Ed was last there in May.

Carrie Brownstein

Oh you were really just there?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Carrie Brownstein

Oh okay.

Ed Gamble

In May, yes. That's why I'm good at the accent, because-

Carrie Brownstein

It's the only reason.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Yes.

Carrie Brownstein

Just the proximity, the amount of time. So recent. Mine has faded since I've been there because obviously when I'm there I try to really immerse myself.

Ed Gamble

Of course.

Carrie Brownstein

People appreciate that. It's like when you go to France you speak French, when you go to Australian-, Australia, and you speak Australia, yes.



James Acaster

2019 for me.

Carrie Brownstein

Oh, okay sorry. I didn't ask you James.

James Acaster

2019.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes.

James Acaster

Also, annoyingly, it was like, maybe I went to Australia and then New Zealand and then came back. And when I came back here, I started playing Pokémon GO and very annoyed that there were regional Pokémon in Australia or New Zealand that I could've caught if I'd started it just a couple of weeks earlier.

Carrie Brownstein

Oh, you should go back.

James Acaster

And then, yes, I had to go back.

Ed Gamble

You had to do a tour.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes, that quick little trip over there.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Carrie Brownstein

How far is it from here on a plane?

Ed Gamble

Takes about 24 hours right?

Carrie Brownstein

Okay yes, It's a little shorter from the US but not much. It's that surreal feeling where you've been in the air too long and it just starts to feel like you might never land.



Ed Gamble

I love that though.

Carrie Brownstein

You do? Okay.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I love being enclosed on a plane watching films.

James Acaster

Drinking wine.

Ed Gamble

Yes, drinking wine.

James Acaster

He gets on the wines immediately this guy.

Carrie Brownstein

Oh, yes I mean, they say that hydration is better but I do understand the inclination to just start drinking pretty quickly on a flight.

Ed Gamble

And then a layover-, I had a layover in Abu Dhabi I think it was.

Carrie Brownstein

Okay.

Ed Gamble

And I was in the airport having a beer and then I looked at the local time and it was 6 am and I thought, 'This has got to stop.'

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Did it stop?

Ed Gamble

No.



James Acaster

No, no.

Ed Gamble

It stopped when I got to Australia. I got back on a normal schedule then. But the 6 am beer in a airport did not feel good.

James Acaster

I don't know, I reckon he felt good. I know that he's just met you Carrie so he's trying to act like he did feel good.

Carrie Brownstein

No. I sensed a smugness too. It feels like you're proud of yourself.

Ed Gamble

Yes I'm proud of myself. Yes, yes.

Carrie Brownstein

I'm fine with it, yes.

James Acaster

He felt good about it. And I bet you're feeling good about the new Sleater-Kinney album New Rope.

Carrie Brownstein

Little Rope.

Ed Gamble

Little Rope.

James Acaster

Fuck off.

Ed Gamble

It was such a good, it was such a good link James.

James Acaster

Fuck off. I was so-,

Carrie Brownstein

It was just, yes.

James Acaster

It said new album Little Rope. And what I've done as well is I've gone, there's a gig called Old Rope in London, a comedy gig that we do. So, then that's got in my head as well.



Carrie Brownstein

Oh, we're still connected. It was a really great transition though.

James Acaster

It was so good.

Carrie Brownstein

It was so smooth.

Ed Gamble

That was the problem he was so proud of the link-,

Carrie Brownstein

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

That he then just completely dropped the ball on the name of the album.

Carrie Brownstein

You were like Icarus there for a moment just-,

James Acaster

Those are my favourite bits right? When people-, not when it happens to me, I hated it. But, like, I love it when other people are really confident and fuck it up.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes.

James Acaster

So, if was you guys I would have really enjoyed that.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Carrie Brownstein

Bit applause here.



James Acaster

Little Rope.

Carrie Brownstein

Little Rope.

James Acaster

And then you can-, what the hell was that? Making fun of my God damn accent?

Carrie Brownstein

Little Rope, yes.

James Acaster

Little Rope. Apologies. And of course its following up your-, I mean, you've had so many greats that albums in the past, The Forest?

Carrie Brownstein

Oh, The Woods, yes.

James Acaster

Oh, shit.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes.

Ed Gamble

You know what the the name of that album is. You were telling me about that album yesterday.

James Acaster

Yes, yes. I did it deliberately that time.

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes.

Carrie Brownstein

That's a good call back.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

A little bit of fun for me.



Carrie Brownstein

Yes. We're excited that it's coming out. Well, we, I have a bandmate Corin but I'm here alone. So, I'm personally excited. I don't want to sound like I split into two or anything. And yes, we'll be back to tour with it.

James Acaster

How are you feeling about that? Do you like being on the road and touring with music?

Carrie Brownstein

I love playing the show. I mean, you guys tour so I'm sure-, I mean you have your own stories. But I don't love sleeping in a different every night. I don't love the, sort of, disorientation of being on tour. I get a little tired from that. But the shows themselves are great. I just wish I could transport myself back to my bed every night.

James Acaster

Oh, yes I'd love it.

Ed Gamble

Yes, that would be amazing. I used to love that. I used to love staying in hotels and being in a new city the whole time. Now, no way. I can't wait to get back home.

James Acaster

I'm opposite.

Carrie Brownstein

Really? You love being on tour?

James Acaster

I love not-,

Carrie Brownstein

Everything but the show.

James Acaster

Yes, basically. Correct. I know you said that as a joke. I hate the shows and love being in the hotel. And I love service stations.

Ed Gamble

I love service stations.

James Acaster

I like being in the car, in airports, all that, I love it. Really wish I didn't have to do the gigs.



Carrie Brownstein

The fans must love that, just knowing that.

James Acaster

Yes. Pretty much what my entire new show's about as well. So, I'm saying it to their faces. Are there any songs on this new album, Little Rope, that you are excited about performing live? That you're like, 'Oh, that'll be-', or can you even tell before you've done them?

Carrie Brownstein

That's a good question because-

Ed Gamble

It is a good question, thank you.

Carrie Brownstein

So, it used to be before everything was just thrown up on YouTube-, I don't know, do you preview material before you go on the road?

James Acaster

Stand up?

Carrie Brownstein

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes, we have to though. We have to write it on stage, so it's-, yes.

Carrie Brownstein

Right, that's true. Well with music we used to perform all the songs live almost before we went into the studio and there not always done necessarily. They'd be like temp lyrics or maybe you would-, and you'd end up changing like a bridge or a chorus. But you could-, what was great about it is you could test the songs. Like, you test, I guess, your material on stage. Where you can feel the energy of the crown shift, so, you think like, 'Oh, this part is too long,' or, 'This bridge isn't working,' or, 'This chorus isn't strong enough.' So, that was a good way of helping to arrange the songs or know when you had to change something. We don't do that as much any more. So, I don't necessarily know. We will probably test out most of the album live. And then every album has one or two songs that you just realise, 'This is not going to work live.' But I think this one, there's only ten songs on it. We recorded many more but we purposely made it pretty succinct. I think they'll all be good live. They have a lot of energy and restlessness and all things that make for good live music. But, Hunt You Down is a good one that will be-, and Untidy Creature. There's a lot of bangers on this album. Just a lot of things that have, I don't know, feel very explosive and galvanising. And those are my favourite to play.

James Acaster

I think that's like any time I've had to do, I don't know, some, sort of, public speaking that isn't comedy-,



Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

I just feel without the laughs there I don't know if I'm doing a good job or not.

Ed Gamble

Some comedians do shows where there are loads of long bits with no laughs that are really emotional and everyone goes, 'Wow, that was such a great show.' And I think, 'Maybe I should try that.' And then within a minute of being on stage with no laugh, I'm like, armpit farting just desperate to get the audience back onside, 'Guys please I'm so funny.'

James Acaster

That would be good though. I'd really like to see you do that as a routine.

Ed Gamble

Try and do an emotional-

James Acaster

Start a really emotional bit and then start armpit farting because you're panicking.

Ed Gamble

Essentially sums up my shows.

James Acaster

Yes, I'd be up for that.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes, and I think that speaks to something just-, I mean, that's very real. That's so childlike to just be like standing here feeling figuratively very naked and exposed. And just then doing something so base.

James Acaster

Yes.

Carrie Brownstein

That you get some kind of positive reaction.

James Acaster

No dignity whatsoever. It just-,

Carrie Brownstein

Yes. I'll also try arm pit farting during our sets after a slow song.



Ed Gamble

Yes, yes, yes.

James Acaster

Your fans would want a really loud arm pit fart thought.

Carrie Brownstein

Amplified probably through a distortion pedal.

Ed Gamble

Yes, really discordant arm pit fart.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes, something with a lot of delay on it, yes.

James Acaster

Really go for it. So, before we started recording we were talking a little bit about being a foodie. Would you call yourself a foodie? Would you go for the-

Carrie Brownstein

Well, I think what we were talking about is that term feels divisive and something like a misnomer. Because of course, like, if you like eating, I guess you're a foodie. But it has this connotation of suggesting that you only like fancy food or food made by a certain calibre of chef. Or a restaurant that's been rated by a critic or, sort of, collectively named as best of. But yes, I love food. I like checking out new restaurants. One of the reasons I like travelling is to find a local restaurant that-, it doesn't even have to be everyone's, you know, critically acclaimed. Just, 'This is my favourite place to go in this neighbourhood.' Like, I like seeking that out. So, in that sense, I'm a foodie, whatever that means. I like to eat.

James Acaster

Also, like, you did Portlandia, that is a very foodie city. Or is it because it's hipstery, I guess, that you got the foodiness?

Carrie Brownstein

Well, I think one reason Portland has great food is because it was-, it's not as much any more, but relatively affordable. So, you have these chefs that are entrepreneurial and innovative, and they get, kind of, priced out of Los Angeles or New York or Chicago. Where it's just, it's more treacherous to try to start a business there. So they come to Portland and there people really want a new restaurant. They're eager for cuisines that are-, haven't really made their mark there. So, you do get a lot of great restaurants commensurate to the size of the city. Like, I think Portland has as much great food as LA or New York except that there is half or a fourth of the people there.

James Acaster

I had a pasta dish from Portland on my dream menu when we did our 200th episode.



Carrie Brownstein

You did, from what restaurant.

James Acaster

I'm going to say the name wrong probably, Magna Kusina.

Carrie Brownstein

I don't even know that one.

James Acaster

Well there you go. That shows you how much great stuff's in Portland.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes, Magna Kusina. That's down town?

James Acaster

So Good. They did the Mama's Crab Fat Noodles. I don't know who mama is.

Carrie Brownstein

So you like Portland? Or you like their food.

James Acaster

Yes, I liked that. I liked that pasta dish. I wasn't there for very long. I was there for my gig and then out. My experience was I had that meal, the whole meal was amazing, And then I got in an Uber and the Uber driver said to me, 'No alcohol in the car. You can put that on the road. That is not coming in the car.' And I was like, 'This is a Diet Coke.' And he was like, I think he pushed it further and said, 'I can read. I know that isn't-, I know that's a beer.' And I had to show it to him and then he was like, 'Oh.' And then I got in and then we were in silence for a while and then he started being like, 'So, Portland's crazy right?' And I was like, 'Man come on. I'm going to give you five starts either way, but-,'

Ed Gamble

Yes, but that guy must have been through so much if he has to say, 'No alcohol in the car,' immediately as everyone gets in. Think of what that guy's been through.

James Acaster

As soon as he saw the can he was like, 'I know what's going to happen.'

Carrie Brownstein

Do you call those roadies in the UK?

James Acaster

No, but maybe I'll start calling them.



Ed Gamble

Going to start calling them roadies.

James Acaster

I think in the USA I think it's more of a Texan term. You used to be able to have open container, or call it open container. Obviously that's fully illegal now. But as a passenger, you could never drink and drive, but in Texas at least everyone else in the car could be drinking. And you would just call it a roadie. You would take the, you know, as you're leaving the bar, take one for the road.

Ed Gamble

Love it. Bot for the journ.

James Acaster

Bot for the journ, yes. Which one of our previous guests, Emily Attack-,

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

That's what her family who, and we said this to her face, all have a problem call taking a-, when they go somewhere to drink they have to have a bot for the journ, which is a bottle for the journey.

Carrie Brownstein

Oh, so that it's seamless. So that there's never a break in the drinking? You pre-game at home?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Carrie Brownstein

Bot for the journ. And then you get to-,

James Acaster

I'd forgotten completely about bot for the journ until Ed said it.

Ed Gamble

I think about bot for the journ a lot.

James Acaster

And I had to stop and think about what he was talking about. And then realised that's where it was from. We all start with still or sparkling water, do you have a preference Carrie?

Carrie Brownstein

I put still for the sake of this meal. I really think-, I love sparkling water, but I think still is a more neutral water. I think the sparkling water lobby has really done one over on us. I think still water's perfectly fine.



Ed Gamble

It is amazing that they've managed to-, the sparkling water lobby as you say, have managed to wiggle themselves onto the same level as still in a restaurant.

Carrie Brownstein

Oh yes.

Ed Gamble

That you get offered both. Still should be default right?

Carrie Brownstein

Yes.

Ed Gamble

You should have to request sparkling?

Carrie Brownstein

I think so.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Carrie Brownstein

I think it goes better with food too. Not all food, like, Italian, sparkling water is great with Italian food. But I think other foods, like Japanese I would much prefer still water. I don't want sparkling, it does something to the palate I think.

Ed Gamble

Yes, if you've got those more subtle flavours, sparkling water's attacking the palate, isn't it?

Carrie Brownstein

Yes, just a lot of like zings and zaps. I do love sparkling, like a refreshing sparkling water, especially with a lot of bubbles. Like a Topo Chico.

James Acaster

How many bubbles are in Topo Chico?

Carrie Brownstein

That's like a contest for an out of state fair where they-, and the one that comes closest-,

Ed Gamble

How many bubbles in a-,



Carrie Brownstein

And the one that comes closest you would get, like, a pig. I couldn't tell you the actual number but I would say a lot. Millions.

James Acaster

Millions.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes, it's come out that that is unhealthy that there is actually something in there that's not good for you.

Ed Gamble

I don't think I've had Topo Chico before.

James Acaster

I haven't had Topo Chico. I've never heard of it.

Carrie Brownstein

It's quite good. Next time you come to America check it out.

James Acaster

Should I just have it straight away in the airport, when I arrive?

Carrie Brownstein

Yes, right when you land.

James Acaster

Yes, yes.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes.

James Acaster

And then down it in one in the middle of the airport and then shout, 'I love Topo Chico,' really loud. Is that how I should do it?

Carrie Brownstein

Yes that's how they do it there.

James Acaster

What do you imagine, the people of the sparkling water lobby, what do you imagine they look like and how many are there?



Carrie Brownstein

Oh, that's interesting. Well, I think they're well dressed. I feel like the sparkling lobby are well dressed. Like a crisp white shirt, maybe a black blazer, suit jacket. Signature, statement glasses on a few of them.

Ed Gamble

Like really round glasses.

Carrie Brownstein

Round, yes.

James Acaster

Like bubbles.

Carrie Brownstein

Where you're thinking, like-, you're right, shaped like bubbles, yes. Or they could be architects. They want to think of themselves as creatives.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes.

Ed Gamble

I'm imagining loads of them as well.

Carrie Brownstein

Oh, you're imagining loads. I was imagining, like, just five.

Ed Gamble

Oh okay.

Carrie Brownstein

Oh, but you're imagining they're actually, like, bubbles just, kind of, like-,

James Acaster

I wasn't daring imagining anything yet because I wanted-, I know it's come from you. So, I'm putting my imagination on hold.

Carrie Brownstein

Oh yes, I was imagining a small group that has a-,



Ed Gamble

Very powerful.

Carrie Brownstein

An inordinate amount of power.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes we're just thinking, 'Wow these five people have really changed the way that we drink water.'

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Carrie Brownstein

And then there's just one person that's wearing, like, a colourful tie and that's the person that adds the flavour to the sparkling water.

James Acaster

Yes, yes.

Carrie Brownstein

Just a guy with, like, red glasses and some socks that are a little wacky.

James Acaster

Yes, yes.

Carrie Brownstein

And he was the first guy that said, 'What if we added a little raspberry to this?'

James Acaster

He's like-, I see him as the Steve Wozniak of the group.

Carrie Brownstein

He's the Wozniak. Yes.

James Acaster

He's getting screwed.

Carrie Brownstein

He's the Woz. Yes, yes.



James Acaster

Like, he's coming out with a lot of stuff but he's getting screwed. And there's like a lot of other people are taking the credit.

Carrie Brownstein

He's going to write that book though. That we're-,

James Acaster

Yes.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes. He's the disruptor.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

There's going to be an Apple TV series, definitely.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes. Oh the podcast first and then the documentary.

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes.

Carrie Brownstein

And then the limited series. Oh, I cant wait.

James Acaster

Also, I'm a bit tense now for the-, because I don't know if you noticed but there was a point there where Ed said they would have round glasses. And then I said, 'Round like bubbles?' And then Ed was like, 'Yes that's what I meant.' Listen, we're putting a good face on it now but when you leave that's going to be a blazing row. It's going to be really bad.

Ed Gamble

I set them up for the cleverer listeners.

James Acaster

Shouting at me.

Ed Gamble

And then you make it clear for some of the stupider listeners. That's fine.



James Acaster

Poppadoms or bread? Poppadoms or bread Carrie Brownstein? Poppadoms or bread.

Carrie Brownstein

Bread. I lived in Los Angeles for a little while and I was shocked at the lack of bread eating there. I think bread is, it's grains. I mean, how can we be denying ourselves this? If I had to choose a daily choice I would say bread.

James Acaster

And did you try and evangelise about bread in LA?

Carrie Brownstein

No point, no point.

Ed Gamble

I was going to say, I'm not surprised to hear that people aren't eating bread in LA.

Carrie Brownstein

It's just reflexive. I don't even know why they offer it any more. Like, even at a restaurant where you should be getting bread, again Italian food, you know, that's just common. In America at least, I know in, like, proper Italian restaurants-, even actually in proper Italian restaurants you get some bread. They come 'Would you like some bread?', everyone declines and I sit there very hungry. Also croissants and things in the morning, like I know it's not the healthiest thing but coffee and a croissant, or some kind of baked good, it's just, it's shocking to me that people don't eat bread there.

Ed Gamble

Do you think that the restaurants even have any bread or do you think they've learned now that everyone's going to turn it down? If you'd said yes to bread, they'd really panic.

Carrie Brownstein

Running to the store. Yes they just present an entire loaf of sliced bread from the grocery store on a plate and then the whole restaurant turns like a record skipping, and everyone turns to look at me while I eat bread and they're pointing. It's like a horror film. That would be a great horror film for Los Angeles, it's just a woman ordering bread in a restaurant while everyone else throws up. Yes, I loved when I went back to Portland or would travel anywhere outside LA just watching people eat bread.

Ed Gamble

Not even necessarily eating the bread yourself?

Carrie Brownstein

No, just enjoying-, yes the scenery.

James Acaster

You'd already been conditioned, so you couldn't eat it any more, but you could watch people.



Carrie Brownstein

Yes, my bread it had been diminished. I had to work back to bread eating again, yes.

James Acaster

Climb back up.

Ed Gamble

Is there any particular type of bread that you would like for your dream meal?

Carrie Brownstein

There's this bakery in Portland, Dos Hermanos, and they make really amazing bread, and they do, I guess they're buns or rolls, but they come in, I guess it's a round loaf that they've, kind of, scored so you can pull off these little rolls. And with some olive oil, that's a perfect bread to me.

James Acaster

Oh great.

Carrie Brownstein

But their bakery is good overall. I also love, like, a wholegrain or wheat bread, like putting some, like a cheese on top, a Manchego. I wouldn't want burrata. What's the cheese that's-, a soft sheeps cheese on bread is what I eat with, like, some tomatoes.

Ed Gamble

Why aren't you putting burrata on it? You can't dangle burrata in front of us like that.

Carrie Brownstein

I mean, I love burrata but I think you don't really have that with bread though.

Ed Gamble

Yes I guess, yes.

Carrie Brownstein

That's more like basil, tomato, olive oil, maybe some prosciutto.

Ed Gamble

Maybe pop some croutons on there, that might work.

Carrie Brownstein

Oh croutons, yes. Croutons, also a great use for bread.

James Acaster

Yes, although I still get weirded out by the massive croutons. That doesn't make me feel good.



Ed Gamble

Which ones?

James Acaster

The ones that are too big.

Carrie Brownstein

Oh too big, so not copious, not the amount of croutons but the size of the croutons.

James Acaster

I want them, like, to be as bit as a 2p max, even that actually might be a bit too big for me. I like little ones, maybe like a pound coin.

Ed Gamble

Well how does this grab you? When I was growing up my mum used to make a salad, and she would just slice a baguette so it was, like, slices of baguette, and so those as croutons, so.

Carrie Brownstein

That's fancy, that's sort of French. That's just a little fancy and in a good way.

James Acaster

I couldn't do that.

Carrie Brownstein

Really?

James Acaster

Oh, it's nuts. That's nuts. That's too big for a crouton.

Ed Gamble

I'm not asking you to swallow the whole thing.

Carrie Brownstein

But is it just semantics here, if it wasn't called a crouton would you eat it?

Ed Gamble

Yes what if it's called-

Carrie Brownstein

What if it's called bread?

Ed Gamble

Yes, little toasts.



Carrie Brownstein

Li'l toasts. Li'l, just LIL.

Ed Gamble

Lil toasts.

James Acaster

LIL? Yes I'd have lil toasts.

Ed Gamble

Which is also my rap name.

James Acaster

Can you do a rap now?

Ed Gamble

No. I do not know how.

James Acaster

See I wish more people did that.

Carrie Brownstein

Did what?

James Acaster

I wish more celebs who are rappers when asked to do a rap said 'No because I don't know how to do that'. But instead a lot of them just do rap real badly.

Carrie Brownstein

I mean that would be real false advertising if that's what you were known for, have put out records and then when it's called upon to rap you said, 'I actually don't know how.'

Ed Gamble

I cannot do that.

James Acaster

That would be great. If Kendrick said that, I'd be thinking it was the funniest thing ever. He went on a radio show and they said, 'Can you freestyle?' And he said, 'I actually am not very good at that.'

Carrie Brownstein

It's very honest.

James Acaster

'Oh, actually no I can't do that,' would be a really funny thing for him to say.



Carrie Brownstein

Well as a guitarist there are certain things, like, some guitarists-, I'm much more riff based, I can do some solos but I'm not like Stevie Ray Vaughan. So, like, if you said, 'Can you play a Stevie Ray Vaughan solo?' I would have to say, 'No.' But I can see how it would be tricky to just turn down a freestyle. But Ed did. You still have a chance.

James Acaster

Very impressive.

Ed Gamble

To date I have always turned down freestyles. I've never done a freestyle, I don't intend to do one ever.

James Acaster

Good on you.

Ed Gamble

Thanks.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes I also-, good on you.

James Acaster

Like she said about the solos. We should really get into the meal proper, but Benito's going to be amazed by this because it means that I know about another podcast which is-, he thinks it's amazing that I would know. Chris Shiflett from the Foo Fighters has a podcast where he tries to work out solos from songs, and he will often have as a guest, like, the guitarist who played the solo and talk to them.

Ed Gamble

Does he know they put all the tabs online and stuff-, he could just-,

James Acaster

I don't think he does know that. I mean I've seen a couple of them, I watch them on YouTube.

Carrie Brownstein

You're ruining his podcast. Literally just as soon as it airs, his podcast is getting cancelled.

Ed Gamble

Yes, there's no way he can carry on.

James Acaster

He doesn't trust those though.

Ed Gamble

He doesn't trust them?



James Acaster

No.

Carrie Brownstein

I agree, those are often wrong. Because sometimes when you do covers I will go to the tablature, I'll try-, first I'll listen, you can sort it out but often the really complicated ones you think, great I'll go to the tabs. The other thing that you can do though, although usually, you're just staring at someone's crotch, is when people do YouTube videos, like instructional, with instruments, especially guitar, they never think, 'This is just a video of my crotch.' And so I'm really just staring, I mean you're looking at the guitar, but you're thinking-

Ed Gamble

You know it's there.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes, no one thought about the framing here. Anyway, there are a lot of great crotch videos where you can learn guitar.

James Acaster

Is there a particular guitar solo that is, like, your favourite by another musician, by another guitarist who you're like that's my favourite guitar solo, maybe, to play or to listen to?

Carrie Brownstein

Oh to listen to, a lot of the music that inspired me didn't have solos like post punk, like it was so angular, Gang of Four, or Mekons or The Fall, it was just, sort of, purposefully devoid of that, I guess grandiosity. But I really love, like St Vincent's guitar playing. I mean I love Jimmy Page, Prince has some great solos.

James Acaster

I was on a god damn boat once and-, was it Danny Harrison was there? George Harrison's son? And only when I got off the boat, because I had a little brief chat with him, but got off the boat, realise that should have talked to him about when he performed While My Guitar Gently Weeps with Prince.

Carrie Brownstein

Wait, I was literally about to bring up that solo, because that is one of the best solos I've ever seen live. Also the flex of being on stage with all of these guitarists. And it's not even Prince showing off, I mean that is just the soul and genius of Prince is that he cannot help but be brilliant when he plays. But also it's a new way of listening to that song, right, like yes I guess it just transcends what the original song was but also makes you, sort of listen to it in a way really. This is a new meaning to this song, like it's so beautiful and he's one of the best guitarists ever.

Ed Gamble

Do you want another meaning to that song, you should listen to the Spineshank cover of it.



Carrie Brownstein

That's the meaning I've been waiting for.

Ed Gamble

Yes, it's been out for a while, it's their debut but it's good stuff.

James Acaster

Your dream starter.

Carrie Brownstein

Okay, I put the wedge salad.

James Acaster

Right.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes, you have that over here.

Ed Gamble

Talk us through the wedge. I've had a wedge in the past.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes, so the wedge, it feels slightly antiquated. It is iceberg lettuce which probably has the least nutritional value of any lettuce. It's really just a green head of lettuce but it's pale. It looks anaemic lettuce. And you want it really cold for a wedge salad. And then they just, sort of, chop it in half or into quarters and then you add blue cheese dressing or blue cheese crumbles I guess if you were in, sort of, a fancier establishment, little cherry tomatoes and bacon crumbles. And that's, sort of, the classic wedge. And what I really crave often is food that sort of connects to my childhood or this, sort of, rudimentary love of food that just, it's almost a little basic. So I think for this meal I just thought a wedge salad, when you get a good wedge salad, it's perfect. It's like, basically an ice sculpture, just slathered in dressing. The lettuce is just there as just a way to give you the blue cheese dressing. It's from the early 20th century, around 1910, 1916, that's when salad dressings were also coming into vogue in America, probably as a way of drowning out, like, how rotten the lettuce was, when you just pour dressing over this, your chances of, like food poisoning would decrease. Anyway, I do love a good wedge and traditionally served in, like, steakhouses but I feel like with a lot of food like that, like traditional food, they get remade and reconsidered in nicer restaurants where people will do their take on something.

Ed Gamble

Deconstructed wedge, that sort of stuff.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes, I love a deconstructed wedge. In sixteenths instead of half, well if you keep chopping it it's just a regular salad.



Ed Gamble

You've got to crumble your own blue cheese.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes.

James Acaster

I think this is the first wedge salad we've had on.

Ed Gamble

Yes it might be.

James Acaster

The first time the wedge salad has come up.

Carrie Brownstein

It's very satisfying, you basically have to cut it with a steak knife. It's a real hearty-, not nutritionally but just it's ample. There's some girth there to that salad, I love a girth, a really heavy girth.

James Acaster

Don't want a shallow salad.

Ed Gamble

I love it, I mean, I love blue cheese on anything.

Carrie Brownstein

You do, but I feel like a lot of people don't like blue cheese. I think it's great, but yes.

James Acaster

I don't respect people who don't like blue cheese. Grown adults who have a problem with it who are like, 'It's mould.' Grow up.

Ed Gamble

Yes, grow up.

Carrie Brownstein

I agree.

James Acaster

You're a grown up. You can't handle the fact there's a bit of mould in that. We all learnt that when we were kids that that's mould in the blue cheese. Everyone knows that.



Ed Gamble

Okay I get it if people don't like something, that's fine but it's people who will see you eating blue cheese and go, 'How can you eat that, it's got mould in it?'

Carrie Brownstein

That's a particularly aggressive kind of person that won't let you enjoy what you're eating because they have a strange relationship to it. That happens, kind of, frequently. Like, people make comments based on their own issues with food.

Ed Gamble

Especially with blue cheese, that really brings them out of the woodwork.

Carrie Brownstein

Like, especially with blue cheese, yes.

James Acaster

My mum's a vegetarian, she's a lovely woman. She listens to every single episode of this podcast. But once I ordered a mixed grill, and she went, 'That will give you bowel cancer.' Ruined it before I even ate it.

Ed Gamble

Spoilt your birthday didn't it?

James Acaster

May as well have been my birthday, I don't even know-, spoilt the meal. I was sharing that with my dad, that's a special moment as a man.

Ed Gamble

Hang on, you were sharing a mixed grill with your dad?

James Acaster

It was a massive mixed grill.

Ed Gamble

Oh, grow up.

James Acaster

He's my hero.

Carrie Brownstein

Are your parents still together or was it, like, a pointed-,

James Acaster

Well as far as I know they are still together. I haven't spoken to them since yesterday, and who knows.



Carrie Brownstein

That would be incredible. I mean, it would be tragic if between yesterday and today, they split.

Ed Gamble

Will you text your mum now and say, 'Are you and dad still together?'

James Acaster

Yes okay.

Carrie Brownstein

I want to confirm this.

James Acaster

I will do it if Ed wants me to.

Carrie Brownstein

Because I want to be able to support you if something has changed, because now that mixed grill is going to have even more meaning for you.

Ed Gamble

The last time you were with your parents when they were together.

James Acaster

'Are you and dad still together?' Is that what I should say?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Okay.

Ed Gamble

And don't say it's for the podcast.

James Acaster

I'm not saying it's for the podcast.

Carrie Brownstein

I hope she calls.

James Acaster

Yes she might do.



Carrie Brownstein

How long have they been together?

James Acaster

40 years.

Carrie Brownstein

That's sweet.

Ed Gamble

That's enough isn't it though?

James Acaster

Maybe just over 40 years now.

Ed Gamble

That'll do, knock it on the head now.

James Acaster

Yes.

Carrie Brownstein

Get out while it still.

James Acaster

Well that's the thing I think, because, like, my whole life they've been together and they've been a very sweet couple, so I think I would find it really funny if they got divorced. It would make me laugh quite a lot. Oh there we go, immediate. 'As far as I'm aware, have you heard otherwise?'

Ed Gamble

That's what you said, 'As far as I'm aware.'

James Acaster

Yes, I think we both said it.

Ed Gamble

Text your dad.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes, is she worried?

James Acaster

We'd be waiting days for that response. 'Ed said you might be divorced.' Just going to tell her that so that she knows that's why I'm asking.



Ed Gamble

She's a lovely woman.

James Acaster

She's a lovely woman.

Carrie Brownstein

I agree, I don't even know her but keep me posted.

Ed Gamble

Terrible cook.

Carrie Brownstein

Apologies to your mum because I feel like I've chosen some fish and meat almost in every course.

Ed Gamble

But you started with a wedge salad.

Carrie Brownstein

Sorry, with the wedge salad-

Ed Gamble

That's got meat.

Carrie Brownstein

But it has bacon.

James Acaster

Oh sorry, I wasn't paying attention to the full-

Carrie Brownstein

No it's fine.

James Acaster

I was thinking too much about the blue cheese.

Carrie Brownstein

There is something in America called Baco Bits and they are vegan, they're actually vegan but they emulate the flavour of bacon. You're making a-, oh you love them.

James Acaster

Ben loves them. Ben's a veggie.



Carrie Brownstein

But Ben your face was telling me you didn't love it. That's your face of love, okay, so when you love something it's that face. Okay.

Ed Gamble

Well if he's in a room with us, that's the most love he can muster.

Carrie Brownstein

Okay well anyway Baco Bits, so for the vegans out there-, well the blue cheese won't be vegan, for the vegetarians out there you can do a wedge salad with Baco Bits.

James Acaster

So, that's a shout-out to Baco Bits and if the people at Baco Bits want to send us some then Benito would love it.

Carrie Brownstein

I will take Baco Bits as a way to just veer me towards vegetarianism, so send them to me too.

James Acaster

To your house okay?

Carrie Brownstein

Yes, let me give my address.

Ed Gamble

You could put them on your rider for your tour.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes, sprinkle them on anything.

Ed Gamble

What is on your rider for your tour? Do you have any outrageous demands?

Carrie Brownstein

We don't really have outrageous demands, first of all you're paying for the rider, you know.

Ed Gamble

People forget that.

Carrie Brownstein

People forget that, so I think there's no reason, there are a lot of gratuitous riders that we've all heard about, but I just think listen, they wanted that and they paid for that. You know one thing that I've heard about that actually sounds amazing are socks. Like, clean socks would be great. I would take a fresh pair of socks on tour, white or black, just some basics because I've been away for about 10 days now. I



only brought one pair of black socks, which was a very amateur move, and I will admit that I've just been re-wearing them. And if someone delivered to me on a backstage rider a fresh pair of black socks, that's a great show, I would throw my others out immediately.

Ed Gamble

'You know what, Carrie's just got a new energy tonight, I don't know what's going on.'

Carrie Brownstein

It's the socks.

Ed Gamble

They were socks on the rider.

James Acaster

Some new socks.

Carrie Brownstein

Some new socks, but no, mostly basics, sandwich-making ingredients, tea. There is some tequila on there. We're not really big drinkers before we play, but it's nice to have a drink afterwards. For a while, I had Vitamix so I could make a smoothie when we got to soundcheck.

James Acaster

How long did you keep that up for?

Ed Gamble

Yes that sounds like-,

Carrie Brownstein

It was disgusting. Also, you cannot guarantee that the fruit was going to be fresh, you know, because it's often a runner basically, that's what they call it, to go shopping for you for your rider, and I can't expect them to spend a lot of time hunting down fresh fruits. So it would be like green bananas and mouldy blackberry, that's not something you want to blend together.

Ed Gamble

In your head I bet it was such a good idea before you went on the tour.

Carrie Brownstein

It was so healthy.

Ed Gamble

It's going to be the best tour ever, I'm going to have a fresh smoothie every time I get to the venue.

Carrie Brownstein

Also no one's cleaned that Vitamix, it's one of those.



James Acaster

May as well make them in your fucking socks. You wear them every day. My mum seems to be fine with all that now.

Ed Gamble

So they're still together?

James Acaster

They're still together.

Carrie Brownstein

Did you think it put an idea in her head?

James Acaster

Yes, maybe.

Carrie Brownstein

I feel closure though, I'm happy for your parents. Are your parents still together Ed?

Ed Gamble

No.

James Acaster

My mum has just texted me asking me if me and my girlfriend are still together. Shall I say no for a laugh?

Carrie Brownstein

First of all that would be so sweet if she thought that was your way of initiating a conversation about a break up, was to say 'Hey, are you guys still together? Because I'm not'.

Ed Gamble

'Got to check to see if we're in the same club'

Carrie Brownstein

Yes, just going through a break up, you and your mum at the same time. Oh and a mother son on a dating app.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Oh yes.



Carrie Brownstein

I'd love that as a dating app that we could create today. It's, kind of, a daddy daughter, mother son.

Ed Gamble

So the picture would be James and his mum, the profile picture.

Carrie Brownstein

Looking for a father daughter.

Ed Gamble

What a specific dating app. Sons and mothers who are looking for father daughter pairs. We're looking to make a new family.

Carrie Brownstein

There's something a little heartbreaking about it but also very sweet.

Ed Gamble

Very sweet and also slightly weird.

Carrie Brownstein

Slightly weird.

James Acaster

Is this weird as well? My conversation with my mum's finished now.

Carrie Brownstein

Because she's just said 'Please don't text me'

James Acaster

Well no it doesn't say typing and with my mum it either says typing or she's not going to text because she's very quick to text back so I know that's over now. So 'Are you and dad still together?', 'As far as I'm aware, have you heard otherwise?', 'Ed said you might be divorced', 'Why might that be?', 'He said if I hadn't checked recently then who's to say', 'Well I guess there's some truth in that', 'Yes I guess so', 'Are you and your girlfriend still together?', and I said 'Yes we're in love'. And she said 'Well that's good isn't it? Dad and I are in love too'. And I said 'Yes that's good' and that's it. The end of my conversation with my mum.

Carrie Brownstein

That's a short story right there.

James Acaster

Yes.



Ed Gamble

James is the perfect product of both of his parents. Like, that conversation with your mum there is like a conversation I would have with you, and then your dad is just chaos.

Carrie Brownstein

Chaos, okay, but in a good way, in a sweet way.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

In a very sweet way.

Carrie Brownstein

Are you in love with your-, is this the first time your girlfriend will hear that?

Ed Gamble

You've been going out for 4 days.

James Acaster

Yes, she doesn't know much about me.

Ed Gamble

We're going to have to release this episode in 2 years time to make it seem okay.

James Acaster

My mum has just texted me asking if Ed and his wife are still together.

Ed Gamble

Yes, we are as far as I'm aware.

James Acaster

In love?

Ed Gamble

Yes, this morning we were in love.

James Acaster

Your dream main course Carrie.

Carrie Brownstein

I apologise, this also a little pedestrian but when I was a kid, my mum got a little fed up with trying to come up with meals. You know, for the family. My dad did not cook-, Well, he barbecued as a lot of



American dads do, you know, but how often do you barbecue? Like, a couple of times in the summer, so-

Ed Gamble

Five times a week.

Carrie Brownstein

Oh really?

Ed Gamble

During lockdown five times a week.

Carrie Brownstein

Okay, yes. Yes, yes, yes. True

James Acaster

It was mad. Everyone was very concerned about it.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I'd lost my mind.

Carrie Brownstein

Okay. Well, these are pre lockdown days by, you know, 30 years. So, my mum came up with the solution that we would put our favourite meals, write them down on a piece of paper, fold them up, put them in a bowl and we would pick it every night.

Ed Gamble

That's fun.

James Acaster

Oh wow.

Carrie Brownstein

It's fun but it ended up-, I think she was trying to prove a point because we ended up basically with the same, you know, handful of dinners but my sister and I preferred tacos so what we ended up doing, we would just pick tacos every night. And so, I've picked tacos. Just home-made tacos, which are absolutely inauthentic as my main meal. Because I really do love, you have all the ingredients out, again, straying from any authenticity. Lots of sour cream, lots of cheddar cheese, grated. You could do a ground beef or just beans and I would be about eight to ten tacos a night for dinner.

Ed Gamble

Are we talking the hard shell tacos? Are we talking, like, Old El Paso kits?



Carrie Brownstein

We did do, actually yes, hard shell but we also had soft shell. I like to vary it. So, that would be my main meal, but this is, sort of, I guess very non-traditional. The other meal that we would pick out of the bowl was a spaghetti bolognese. So, I would just want a little side of bolognese with these tacos.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Would you be tempted to put the bolognese in a taco, just as an experiment?

Carrie Brownstein

Actually, that is a great use of leftovers. Sometimes when I will make, like, a good meat sauce, the next day for lunch I will reheat the sauce and put it on a corn tortilla.

Ed Gamble

That's fusion cooking.

Carrie Brownstein

It's fusion cooking.

Ed Gamble

Italian and Mexican.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes.

James Acaster

It's great. I'd love a bolognese taco.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes. So, essentially I guess, we've just reduced it to a bolognese taco but I just-, I'm just very fond of that era of my family. Like, it was just was, we still all ate together at a table. I associate it with, you know, coming home from school and looking forward to it and helping my mum. I think she also appreciated the way that we each set out the ingredients and it made her life easier. So, then I think we all just enjoyed dinner a lot more.

Ed Gamble

It is interactive, like, if you've got to build the thing then families have to talk to each other even if they're just saying, 'Can you pass the sour cream?'

Carrie Brownstein

Exactly.



Ed Gamble

That's conversation.

Carrie Brownstein

It's conversation.

James Acaster

Also, at that age, being in charge of your food even in that way-,

Carrie Brownstein

Yes.

James Acaster

And you get to decide how much goes in the-, It feels really liberating.

Carrie Brownstein

It's liberating and you can really mess with proportion. Right. Because if you go to a restaurant, of course, they're going to limit you to a certain amount of sour cream or guacamole or cheese but if you're making your own, it can be disproportionate. You can have a mountain of cheese and no lettuce.

Ed Gamble

Is that what you would do? What are your favourite proportions for the taco?

Carrie Brownstein

Heavy on dairy.

Ed Gamble

Heavy on dairy.

Carrie Brownstein

Heavy on the dairy, yes. Light on protein. I was also the kind of kid when we would go to restaurants and they would have those little, like, pats of butter where I would just eat that-,

Ed Gamble

Straight.

Carrie Brownstein

Straight.

Ed Gamble

Great, straight.



Carrie Brownstein

Yes. I still have quite a high metabolism so I think I just was always just looking for just an injection of fat.

Ed Gamble

Anything you could store on board.

Carrie Brownstein

Anything I could store, yes. Like a bear. Now of course, I mean, this all sounds really terrible for your heart no matter what but I think as a kid you're not worried about heart health.

Ed Gamble

No. I think if I met a kid who was worried about their heart health, I'd be more worried about that.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes.

Ed Gamble

You know, if a kid was going, 'I can't have that. I'm worried about my heart health.'

James Acaster

Woah, where's this kid from?

Ed Gamble

I don't know. Just, the womb. You know. Do kids have nationalities, I don't know.

Carrie Brownstein

Oh, that's interesting.

Ed Gamble

They're just kids.

Carrie Brownstein

They're just kids, yes.

James Acaster

He doesn't know.

Carrie Brownstein

Just kids.

Ed Gamble

I don't know where I'm from.



Carrie Brownstein

It's like-

James Acaster

Funny kid.

Carrie Brownstein

Dickensian adjacent there?

Ed Gamble

Yes, Dickensian adjacent. Yes, yes. He's from the past.

James Acaster

Quite American though.

Ed Gamble

Now and again he is, yes.

James Acaster

Sounds, like, quite American.

Carrie Brownstein

Now and again, yes. An American, Dickensian adjacent.

Ed Gamble

Yes, there's a twang.

James Acaster

Can you put Mr Hankie in there.

Carrie Brownstein

That's kid fusion right there Ed.

Ed Gamble

Yes, it's confusion. He's Mexican and Italian.

James Acaster

That kid.

Carrie Brownstein

It sounded like neither, but.

James Acaster

At least they cancel each other out.



Ed Gamble

Little bolognese taco.

Carrie Brownstein

He's a bolognese taco.

James Acaster

Who would have the most tacos in your family when you did the-,

Carrie Brownstein

Definitely me or my sister. I mean, I think both my mum and dad held back. You know, I think a traditional amount of tacos would be three.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Carrie Brownstein

Tops.

Ed Gamble

But that's not enough though, is it?

Carrie Brownstein

That's not enough.

Ed Gamble

That's not enough.

Carrie Brownstein

That's not enough. I also think, especially in America, there was something. I think you guys don't have this here where, you know, we would have those buffet style restaurants. It's a little grotesque and very indulgent but you would just pile food on your plate. So, I think there was something exciting about just a bottomless, sort of, tortilla. You know, going back into the kitchen for the fifth, sixth, seventh taco.

James Acaster

It's exciting.

Ed Gamble

And doing something different with each one, right. So, you might do, like, a traditional one to start and then by the fourth taco you're, like-,



Carrie Brownstein

Just cheese honestly.

Ed Gamble

It's going to be a remix. I'm remixing it.

Carrie Brownstein

I love remix. Also, what I would often do is, kind of, go quesadilla by the end.

Ed Gamble

Nice.

Carrie Brownstein

You know, so, you have a microwave-, again, not how they're usually made. Just put a little cheese on a tortilla, fold it, put it in the microwave, blast it until it's just, you know, melted and crispy at the same time.

Ed Gamble

You're kidding me? That's not the traditional way of making quesadillas in Wahaca or something?

Carrie Brownstein

Yes, just stems from a microwave. I mean, I wonder, did the microwave invent any food? Did the microwave?

Ed Gamble

Oh, good question.

James Acaster

Pop Tarts.

Ed Gamble

Like mug cake.

Carrie Brownstein

What's monk cake?

Ed Gamble

Mug cake.

Carrie Brownstein

Oh, mug. Oh, the monks used to use microwaves for their cakes.

Ed Gamble

You know, like, you can do microwave cake in a mug.



Carrie Brownstein

Oh, okay, okay. Yes.

Ed Gamble

And, I guess that, yes, that must be because of the microwave. Right.

Carrie Brownstein

Right.

Ed Gamble

And chefs do use that sometimes because you get a weird texture. Like, a very airy light texture on cake-

Carrie Brownstein

Microwave is known for a light, airy texture.

Ed Gamble

Yes, well genuinely and chefs will use that on desserts, yes.

Carrie Brownstein

That makes sense. I associate it with, you know, about 500 degrees in the core.

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes.

Carrie Brownstein

Or the opposite, it's actually, sorry, 500 degrees on the crust and then ice cold in the centre which is what's great about a microwave when you're reheating.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes, so, you get, like, two bites that, like, singe your tongue and then that cold ball of ice in the middle to soothe it.

Ed Gamble

Lovely.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes.

Ed Gamble

And the wettest lasagne, that's what I think of when I think of microwaves.



Carrie Brownstein

Yes, very watery.

Ed Gamble

Yes, watery, wet lasagne with no-, You can't get a crispy top in a microwave. Awful.

Carrie Brownstein

Do you still have a microwave.

James Acaster

Yes, the frigging thing's broke off to it though. The God damn dial.

Carrie Brownstein

I think it is good for a reheat or and thawing.

Ed Gamble

We don't have one. We just don't have room for one. The place we moved into, so, it's just oven or nothing. So, to reheat leftovers it's, like, in a pan or in the oven.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes. It helps me not waste food. Like, especially if I've had take out the night before, you know, because to reheat certain things in an oven or on the stove.

Ed Gamble

Yes, and you get to that point where you're, like, it's going to take half an hour to reheat this now. May as well cook something.

James Acaster

I don't know if this is controversial but, like, I will reheat it in the pan-, I've got the microwave option but I don't trust it. I don't trust it to do a good enough job so I'll go in the pan every time. I get my big wok out. I love my big wok. Shout out to the big wok and, like, I just put it all in there and just do it all in there.

Carrie Brownstein

Okay.

Ed Gamble

I didn't know he had a big wok.

James Acaster

Big wok. Big red wok.



Carrie Brownstein

The way you did the shout out was almost like it was brand but you're just literally talking about you have a big wok.

James Acaster

Yes, yes, yes. But I-,

Ed Gamble

He's just shouting out to his particular big red wok.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes.

Ed Gamble

He's an odd guy.

Carrie Brownstein

I hope it returns the love. It was very earnest. It was like you were shouting out to a pet a little bit.

James Acaster

Well it's one of the few things that's, like, it's come with me from, like, each-, So, I think I was given it as a present one year when I just moved out and it's been with me in every place that I've lived in and it was always, like, everything else that I was taking from flat to flat was pretty rubbish and this big red wok looked badass compared to everything else. It was, like, where has he got that from? Who gave him that? Because everything else he's got is shit. But then I had this big red wok.

Ed Gamble

So, you've had it throughout all this time?

James Acaster

Yes. So, you know, it means a lot to me that big, red wok.

Ed Gamble

But what if the big red wok is responsible for your failed relationships? Think about that. What if it's cursed?

James Acaster

Worth it because I love it. I love that wok.

Carrie Brownstein

This is either-, I feel like I'm trying to help you guys get other ventures but great children's book, big red wok. Or another podcast where you view all of your relationships through the wok.



James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes. I'd love that podcast.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes, so.

James Acaster

I like that.

Carrie Brownstein

I'm happy to step in as a second associate producer if you want, just-,

Ed Gamble

Ben, are you up for doing that?

Carrie Brownstein

No.

Ed Gamble

Ben, are you doing your loving face or your sad face?

James Acaster

He's doing his scared face.

Ben: Big red wok.

James Acaster

He looks quite worried.

Ed Gamble

You know, if this guy's at the helm it's going to do well. Big red wok.

James Acaster

Yes, and some people listen to any shit I do. Your dream side dish Carrie.

Carrie Brownstein

Okay, for my side dish I would go with nigiri, like, a Bluefin Toro nigiri sushi from Nozawa in Los Angeles or Sushi Park. Just something that is clean and perfect and, sort of, melts in your mouth. I definitely need a palette cleanser with this meal. So, I just love the simplicity of nigiri sushi.



James Acaster

Have we had nigiri sushi before? Again, I think we're going a lot of firsts here.

Ed Gamble

My episode 200. Scallop nigiri.

Carrie Brownstein

Oh, also good.

Ed Gamble

Also good and also refreshing.

Carrie Brownstein

It is refreshing.

Ed Gamble

Palette cleanser.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Is it quite a fatty tuna this one?

Carrie Brownstein

Yes, because it's the belly.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Oh, so, good.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes, and if it's fresh which hopefully it is if you're on the west coast, yes, it's just, sort of, buttery. And very smooth. I think, sushi to me is just a perfect food no matter which variety or fish it is. I could eat sushi every day probably.

Ed Gamble

What's your soy and wasabi set up for this? For this course.

Carrie Brownstein

Okay, so, at Sushi Park in Los Angeles they will tell you, if you get omakase, you know, which is where the chef just basically chooses the sushi for you until you're full, the staff there as they present it to you will say, 'No soy sauce.' Depending, and I think with tuna you can do soy. So, I would do a little bit of soy, maybe no wasabi. Sometimes they will put a little wasabi between the rice and the piece of fish



and that's all I would need but when you eat omakase what I like learning is that, you know, soy sauce is unnecessary for a lot of this fish.

Ed Gamble

It totally is and you eat nice sushi and you realise that but you learn about all the rules as well of, like, if you do have soy sauce it goes on the fish not on the rice because it's going to mess the rice up and that little bit of wasabi and all of that and if I'm out and about and I see people eating sushi I love telling them that.

Carrie Brownstein

Oh, I love interrupting a meal.

Ed Gamble

Yes, excuse me, you're doing that wrong.

Carrie Brownstein

I will come in from outside if I see someone dining in a restaurant. Yes.

Ed Gamble

Some sushi places they, like, put it in your hand directly.

Carrie Brownstein

Oh, I've never had that.

Ed Gamble

Like, warm rice, put it in your hand and then you just eat it with your hands. So, there's all these amazing traditions and stuff and the correct way to eat sushi but if I'm at home and I order sushi, I'm getting the bottle of soy sauce out and I'm going crazy with it.

James Acaster

Oh, I see.

Ed Gamble

I'm basically filling a cereal bowl up with soy sauce and just pouring all the sushi in.

James Acaster

Like the little-, like it's a cereal?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes, yes.



Carrie Brownstein

Yes, I think Western cultures in particular we love our sauces and dips. You know, like, I love, like, with French fries, lots of ketchup and I think we do the same thing with soy sauce but I do like learning that it's unnecessary in a lot of ways and I love the ritual of eating Japanese food. Like, also it's the right size. And I feel like everything else I've put in this meal, is just heavy and-

Ed Gamble

You've just had eight tacos, so.

Carrie Brownstein

I just had eight tacos. Before that I had a wedge salad.

James Acaster

So, how many pieces of this sushi have you got?

Carrie Brownstein

Probably two.

James Acaster

Two little bits as a side-

Carrie Brownstein

Actually, in these restaurants probably just one. Just one perfect piece of nigiri.

Ed Gamble

Wow.

Carrie Brownstein

Which, I would want more but in this case it would probably just be that perfect little palette cleanser.

James Acaster

I'm no soy sauce.

Carrie Brownstein

None, ever?

James Acaster

No, no. I used to-

Ed Gamble

Even with, like, shit sushi?

James Acaster

I'm not eating the shit stuff.



Ed Gamble

If you go into Itsu or something, then, yes, it's fine-,

Carrie Brownstein

That's a fancy place.

Ed Gamble

No, Itsu's, like, a chain, sort of, it's all, you know, in the fridges and stuff and you just go and grab it quickly. I mean, it's fine. It's good for a quick lunch.

James Acaster

Good chain sushi.

Ed Gamble

But, would you not use soy sauce for that?

James Acaster

Yes, probably.

Ed Gamble

There you go.

James Acaster

Actually, no, even now I probably wouldn't with that, Itsu sushi, I just go for it as it is. I used to. I used to put loads on it. On the Itsu one.

Carrie Brownstein

I think with, like, store bought sushi or, like, a sushi chain-, Like, we have a couple in Portland, also in Los Angeles where it's a train, do you have these?

James Acaster

Oh yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes.

Carrie Brownstein

Where you're just picking sushi off the little conveyor belt. That sushi I would definitely do soy sauce.

Ed Gamble

Because that's been there for a bit.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes, it's been there for a bit. Like, a California roll. Anything that has that, sort of, generic quality.



Ed Gamble

You almost need it to, sort of, moisten up the rice-

Carrie Brownstein

Yes, you have to re-moisten.

Ed Gamble

I went to one of those sushi train places in Japan a couple of years ago. It was called Genki Sushi, but apparently it's shut now. I'm gutted because I really wanted to go again. And you're sat next to the conveyor belt but there's not stuff going around all the time. You order on an iPad and then, like, three minutes later it just comes shooting down the conveyor belt and stops in front of you and it's fresh, delicious, warm sushi.

Carrie Brownstein

This is making me hungry for sushi.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Carrie Brownstein

I will say, this is the first thing I've mentioned that's actually made me hungry.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Makes you want to eat it.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Would you like it to come on a conveyor belt?

Carrie Brownstein

If you can make that happen.

Ed Gamble

Yes, of course we can.

James Acaster

If you could be in one of those restaurants and put anything on that conveyor belt for a laugh, what would you put on there that would amuse you? Send it around the conveyor belt.

Carrie Brownstein

I mean, I'd love to see a kitten come by.



James Acaster

Yes, yes. A little kitten on there. Yes, that would be good.

Carrie Brownstein

What about you?

Ed Gamble

I like that it just goes by as well. You're not interacting with the kitten.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes.

Ed Gamble

It just goes past you.

Carrie Brownstein

I would love that. If it was all edible and then just a little kitten-,

James Acaster

Looking at you. Making eye contact with you.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes, a little wink. Daring me to eat it.

James Acaster

Yes, yes.

Carrie Brownstein

No buddy.

James Acaster

Don't know how much you cost.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes, only based on the cost I would be worried. Like, I don't want to eat you, this would be thousands of dollars.

Ed Gamble

In the horror film about LA that we're writing, the one with the bread.

Carrie Brownstein

Oh, the kitten comes down and someone eats it.



Ed Gamble

Someone eats the kitten.

Carrie Brownstein

Right because it's all protein. It's, like, a Mediterranean diet.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I'm thinking of, like, there's a woman there and it's, like, an Instagram model, and she just unhinges her jaw and pushes the whole kitten in.

James Acaster

Woah, woah, this guy.

Ed Gamble

Good film though, right?

Carrie Brownstein

If there's any producers listening, any studio execs listening, we have a great idea for a horror script.

James Acaster

It's called Hell A.

Ed Gamble

This is great.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes.

James Acaster

The whole thing's like hell.

Ed Gamble

You've got the pitch sorted and everything.

James Acaster

Yes.

Carrie Brownstein

I mean, that's the elevator pitch but wait until we have our full deck.

James Acaster

Yes.



Carrie Brownstein

Yes, all the references and then Ed does the jaw.

James Acaster

Yes, you've got to learn to do that mate. You can't just describe that.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Creep myself out.

Carrie Brownstein

And we put a little kitten on the table in the board room and people are, like, a little shocked by it. Like, no, we're here to be controversial. This is not for the faint of heart.

Ed Gamble

This has got A24 written all over it.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes. Call us A24.

James Acaster

Oh, love it. You're dream drink.

Carrie Brownstein

Old fashioned. I love an old fashioned, especially in the fall and winter. I usually have it with rye. It's just a little spicier and a I also like making Old fashioned. I started making them in the pandemic which feels, sort of, shameful to be talking about, just the-, I feel like it was very common during the pandemic that people drank more. I don't think I drank more actual drinks but I started making drinks for the first time. I never used to make mixed drinks at home but we needed something to do.

Ed Gamble

I feel like old fashioned is a completely respectable thing to make a home as well.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes, it's not like I was making a pitcher of mojitos. I mean, right. You know, and it's very, like, spirit forward. There's something, kind of, pure and simple about it. But I love, there's a bar in Portland called the Pacific Standard and a bartender, he's also one of the co-owners. His name is Banjo which is also the name of my dog. It's really weird when you meet someone that has your dog's name.

James Acaster

Yes.



Carrie Brownstein

Well, first of all, it's not like my dog's name is, like, Mick or John. Like, this is-, Banjo-,

Ed Gamble

The bartender's got a dog's name, not the other way round.

Carrie Brownstein

I agree. I used to have a dog, he's since passed away, his name was Toby and that's on me. That's on me. I'm going to run into a Toby out there but when you name your dog Banjo, you expect only to be communicating with either the instrument or other animals. You don't expect to walk into a bar and meet a man named Banjo.

James Acaster

Yes.

Carrie Brownstein

Anyway, he makes a mean old fashioned.

James Acaster

Yes.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes.

James Acaster

I think, you know, anyone who didn't do that during the lockdown's got to be feeling pretty gutted now that they missed out.

Ed Gamble

It's not acceptable any more.

James Acaster

Yes, they missed out on this period where-,

Carrie Brownstein

It was absolutely acceptable to be drinking at any time during the day. Although I always waited. I would just wait until five o'clock and five o'clock was so arbitrary. Truly, truly arbitrary but it would come around and I would start at the drink making. And also, remember, now I think of it as very silly when you would meet up with other people on Zoom to drink together. It feels very depressing.

Ed Gamble

I was making espresso martinis. That felt like a step too far. I mean, espresso martinis, just buzzing in my own house. There's nothing to do.



Carrie Brownstein

For no reason.

Ed Gamble

Nothing to do, nowhere to go. Just, up all night.

James Acaster

Barbecuing.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Carrie Brownstein

Barbecuing and espresso martini. What a combo.

Ed Gamble

We did Scroobius Pip's drunk podcast. We had to do that on Zoom as, like, a drunk podcast and we got drunk together on that, didn't we?

James Acaster

It was one of the worst nights of my life. Horrible.

Carrie Brownstein

That's, like, that TV show Drunk History, you know, where people drink-,

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

We've also done-,

Ed Gamble

We've done that as well.

Carrie Brownstein

You've done that.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

One of the worst nights of my life. Actually, Drunk History was fine. See, Drunk History, the thing with that is that, you know, because it's, like, for a TV show. Have you done it?



Carrie Brownstein

No.

James Acaster

The thing with that, because they're doing it for a TV show, they've got to, like, be responsible. So they're like, 'Okay, you know, here's all the health and safety stuff,' and all the-, so they're like, 'Okay, make sure he's eaten something and, like, we've got someone on standby, like first-aider, doing breathalyser and all of this. So they actually get you hammered, but in a way where you still feel quite, 'Good time for getting home.' I mean the only confusing thing was that the washing machine was just on a timer came on, and I was like-, I literally phoned my girlfriend at the time and was like, 'There's a ghost in the house.' But, like, that's the only thing that was confusing for me. But, like, I didn't at any point didn't get upset or angry or scared only of the ghost. And then I went to sleep, I actually didn't feel that bad the next day.

Carrie Brownstein

So, it's physician assisted drunkenness?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes.

Carrie Brownstein

Okay.

James Acaster

Which, you know-,

Ed Gamble

That would be a lovely privilege if we could all do that every time.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes. Like, if there was a club, like a bar with a membership.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes.

Carrie Brownstein

A republican membership and what you were paying for was this doctor to be there to help administer the alcohol, so you're having really bespoke inebriation.



Ed Gamble

I tell you where they'd have that. In Hell A.

James Acaster

Oh yes, the doctor of-

Ed Gamble

That would be just not part of the story.

Carrie Brownstein

Oh, that's a scene, that's just something takes place.

Ed Gamble

It's texture.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes, it's texture yes.

James Acaster

Be one of those crazy doctors though. You know, with the, who wears that metallic disc on their head.

Carrie Brownstein

Oh yes. Yes.

James Acaster

An evil doctor. I've never actually seen a doctor who'd wear those, but you know, in the films they were them don't they? They have a CD on their heads.

Carrie Brownstein

Something from, like, a David Cronenberg film or Kubric, yes. Where it's just, sort of, a demonic doctor.

James Acaster

Yes.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes. We could have that character in the film.

Ed Gamble

I think we should.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes.



James Acaster

I guess, like, if you did have a bar, where there was yes, we have doctors on standby who basically just help you get the right amount of drunk, and all this. Those doctors would be the dodgiest doctors, right?

Carrie Brownstein

Oh yes, they would've, this is post-medical licence revoking, right. This is after they've been barred from practising elsewhere, yes, and now they're working in a bar.

James Acaster

Yes.

Carrie Brownstein

But doctor basically, in quotes at this point.

Ed Gamble

Yes, because they're drunk as well obviously.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes.

Ed Gamble

They work in a bar every night.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes, we're just talking about bartenders right, now?

Ed Gamble

Oh yes, we are, yes, yes. Doctors of bars, yes.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes, yes.

James Acaster

I'm imagining, you know, Peter Stormez character in Minority Report, where he goes to get the new eyes and he's yes, a disgraced-

Ed Gamble

Your references are so modern and cutting edge James.

James Acaster

Oh, listen, Minority Report's set in the future so-



Ed Gamble

Fair enough.

James Acaster

But like, he's nuts that doctor.

Carrie Brownstein

I would love to see Minority Report top the streaming charts after people listen to this podcast.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes, yes. That's when we know we've got influence.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes.

Ed Gamble

When Minority Report gets re-released in cinemas.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes, when Tom Cruise is thanking you guys personally.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes.

Carrie Brownstein

And producing Hell A for us.

James Acaster

Yes, he would do that.

Carrie Brownstein

Oh he would.

James Acaster

He'd be really-,

Ed Gamble

Little cameo in Hell A as well.



James Acaster

Get him to do a massive stunt, film that, get that going viral.

Ed Gamble

But just in the background through a window.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

You just see, if you pause it, you can just see him on a motorbike, flying off the top of a crane.

James Acaster

You hardly see it in the film but the whole, like, video that we make, the behind the scenes one, that goes viral.

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes.

James Acaster

Going like-,

Carrie Brownstein

No one sees the movie but everyone sees-,

James Acaster

Everyone sees that. Just him doing the jump.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes.

James Acaster

We're all celebrating, he gets on the walkie talkie, 'I think I can do another one, it wasn't perfect.' Why are the cameras so far away?

Carrie Brownstein

Yes, I want to make a \$40 million movie that tanks, only so we can get some ten second VTS footage of Tom Cruise that goes viral.

Ed Gamble

Yes.



James Acaster

Yes. Well, this old fashioned sounds delicious and we love old fashioned. We were in a bar recently with old fashioned month.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

We took advantage of that.

Ed Gamble

There was a promo on for old fashioned month.

Carrie Brownstein

Oh okay, I thought you said old fashioned Mumford.

James Acaster

Oh yes.

Ed Gamble

Old fashioned, well that guy's pretty old fashioned anyway.

Carrie Brownstein

He is old fashioned, and I thought, oh, you were doing a promo for Marcus Mumford.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes.

Carrie Brownstein

This is why I need the captions. I need close captions here, just little subtitles sometimes.

Ed Gamble

God, old fashioned Mumford.

James Acaster

He is so old fashioned.



Ed Gamble

Pre dust bowl era.

James Acaster

Yes. Apart from-,

Carrie Brownstein

So, you were just drinking old fashioned?

James Acaster

Yes, yes.

Carrie Brownstein

So, you would drink them in earnest, you would drink them.

Ed Gamble

Yes, love old fashioned. Nearly ruined old fashioned for myself a couple of years ago. Had my friend, and our friend, Nish Kumar over to the house, we'd just moved into the house, and we thought, 'Oh, we're going to make our own old fashioned.' We had a bottle of Bourbon and all the stuff for old fashioned and we had a couple of them and we were like, 'Great, this is really nice.' Kept on making them, got through a bottle of Bourbon and then we'd run out of the orange peel, but I had some satsumas, so I was just, like, dunking half a satsuma in there. Just, sugar cube, not even crushing it up, bitters just necking, basically the entire bottle of whisky and that was a bad night.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes, that is a bad night. Do you have spodies?

Ed Gamble

Spodies?

Carrie Brownstein

When you were saying dunking satsumas, I was thinking of in high school and university, I didn't actually drink in high school or university, people would fill a bath tub with alcohol and put fruit in it, and then you would just take a ladle and pour it into a cup from a bath of college students.

James Acaster

Yes, yes.

Ed Gamble

It wasn't a new bath that they'd bought specifically for-,

Carrie Brownstein

Oh, absolutely not. I mean, if you were lucky, sure, someone would bring, like, a bucket. But if you were unlucky and didn't care, it would just be a bathtub. And if it was cleaned, that's almost worse



because then you're just also drinking whatever terrible, cheap cleaning product they've used. But anyway.

Ed Gamble

I've not heard of the alcohol directly into the bathtub. Obviously, at parties, I remember at student parties when you'd fill up the bath with ice and put cans in it and stuff.

Carrie Brownstein

Well, that's safer. That's safer.

Ed Gamble

That's way safer.

James Acaster

Enough of that. I think that's how that crazy doctor keeps things in Minority Report. He's got a bathtub full of ice.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Carrie Brownstein

Oh, okay.

James Acaster

And he has Tom Cruise in there. But like, all I know about American university parties is from films. Obviously, I've never been to one. I wasn't a student in America and nowadays it would be inappropriate.

Carrie Brownstein

Well, I didn't go to those-, you mean if you went now, it would be inappropriate.

James Acaster

It'd be bad. But like, I'd see it from films, they've all got the red cups and stuff.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes, the solo cups. Yes.

James Acaster

Yes.

Carrie Brownstein

I didn't go to that kind of university.



James Acaster

Right.

Carrie Brownstein

Like, a big party university, but I think in different regions of America, what I've just described has a different name. You know, like, Spodie would be, maybe that was West Coast, it would probably be called something else in the South or on the East Coast or Midwest. Maybe people will call in. Call into the show-

Ed Gamble

People call in.

James Acaster

Yes, yes.

Ed Gamble

We've not had any callers yet.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes. It's so.

James Acaster

Haven't lit a branch yet.

Carrie Brownstein

Well, call in and tell us what you call a Spodie.

James Acaster

Your dream dessert, Carrie.

Carrie Brownstein

I do have a sweet tooth, so this was difficult, but I went with something very simple and something that I eat quite often. There is an Oregon based, Oregon meaning the state of Oregon, not human organs. But in this-

Ed Gamble

What a twist that would be.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes. There are, in the state of Oregon, maybe actually specifically from Portland, there is an ice cream sandwich company called Ruby Jewel, and they have very, very delicious ice cream sandwiches. And I really like their mint sandwich. So, it's mint ice cream with chocolate cookies, a soft cookie, and then it's just the perfect dessert. You can split it in half if you just want a little bit of sweetness, or you can just go



full cookie. But I really like the simplicity of that. I really like ice cream. But I feel like it's the perfect amount and it's not too sweet and it's not too indulgent, but I do like a little sugar after a meal.

Ed Gamble

I mean, I know James is a massive ice cream sandwich fan, and so am I. I feel like they're a relatively late arrival to this country, ice cream sandwiches.

James Acaster

Relatively yes.

Ed Gamble

I don't remember growing up with ice cream sandwiches.

James Acaster

Sure, I remember hearing about, maybe seeing it in an episode of Boy Meets World or something.

Ed Gamble

Topanga chugging down an ice cream sandwich.

James Acaster

Yes, yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes, maybe even Mr Feeny.

Carrie Brownstein

You sound so wistful talking about Boy Meets World. I can now picture your childhood a little bit more clearly.

James Acaster

Yes. Yes.

Carrie Brownstein

We always had ice cream sandwiches in America. Much simpler, I feel like the classic clondyke, or a few brands, just a very thin chocolate cookie, often rectangle. But now these are circular. These are round. And I do, they're very popular, there are so many different flavours. Ruby Jewel just introduced an espresso chocolate one, which I want to try. They also have a really good butterscotch one with an oatmeal cookie, which is I think, also-,

James Acaster

Very important, yes, I like the changing up of the cookies like that, that's essential, you've got to get the right combo.



Carrie Brownstein

Yes, they have a lemon cookie with strawberry ice cream.

Ed Gamble

Wow.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

I can tell James is excited about this, but also annoyed that last time he was in Portland he didn't have Ruby Jewel.

James Acaster

No, I'm trying to think what I had, I mean, I must've had a dessert.

Ed Gamble

Oh yes.

James Acaster

Because I was in each city for a day, so I had to, like, properly take it in and try stuff. But like, I can't think if I had an ice cream sandwich. I definitely didn't go to Ruby Jewel, so got to go back. I went out with someone once and they did not like mint choc chip ice cream, they thought it was disgusting.

Carrie Brownstein

Deal breaker for you.

James Acaster

I was like, I know it shouldn't have been. I was like, it shouldn't be a thing. But I was like, realistically.

Ed Gamble

So, how did it go? They said, 'I don't like mint choc chip ice cream.' And then you said goodbye, you picked up your big red wok and you left.

James Acaster

Yes.

Carrie Brownstein

Oh you were living together at this point.



James Acaster

Yes. I was making mint choc ice cream in the big red wok. It was like-

Ed Gamble

I don't like that, goodbye.

James Acaster

Oh, well see you later, I'll eat this in the elevator on the way out.

Carrie Brownstein

What do you think is, in all honesty though, the hardest combination, like, when you're with someone that doesn't like something, what's the food that makes it difficult if they don't like it?

James Acaster

I mean, definitely ice cream, to be honest I love ice cream so much, get such joy from it, and what we were talking about earlier, people saying stuff that can ruin a meal for you. Often if people don't like ice cream, they can say stuff that is a bit like, you don't want to be reminded that something's not very good for you when you're eating it and it's delicious. So, when they're just like, 'Are you going to eat all of that?' And, 'Imagine the amount of calories in that? That's nuts.' And it's their problem.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes, it's a projection. I will zoom out from that. I just think in general when people say, 'I don't eat dessert.'

James Acaster

Yes.

Carrie Brownstein

It's like, a rule. I don't think anyone needs to eat dessert every night, I'm not saying, like, it's a necessary part of a meal. But to just ban it, sort of, globally in your life and to make a statement like that, I find, it's almost like someone doesn't know how to have fun or allow pleasure in their life. Like, 'I don't eat dessert,' just that phrase to me is so off-putting.

James Acaster

Yes. I mean, for me, it's such a source of pleasure, joy, happiness, that if someone is just like, 'Well I don't do that,' it's like, 'Well, how's this going to work?' Because, I can't just, like, what? I'm meant to just enjoy this thing on my own?

Ed Gamble

You're perfectly happy to do that, I don't know what you're talking about. You will always eat dessert on your own if you have to.



James Acaster

It's fine if they would just, like, not say anything about it, but they're always going to say something about it, because anyone who doesn't like desserts, they're never just secure in that.

Ed Gamble

Well also, they'll be like, at the end of a restaurant meal, they'll be the ones going, 'Oh, let's go.' You're like, 'No.'

James Acaster

Oh, the worst-,

Ed Gamble

Here we go, this is bringing up a lot of stuff great question Carrie.

James Acaster

This is the worst thing. And it's not even people, like, talking about dessert guilt. At a restaurant, you've got to the end of the meal, you're all thinking, 'Should we have dessert? I'm not sure.' Maybe you're all like, you know-,

Ed Gamble

You're terrible at acting that bit in a restaurant, by the way. Where you go, 'Oh, I'm not sure if I want dessert.' Really bad acting.

James Acaster

Yes, yes, I'm not, I don't really convincingly say that.

Carrie Brownstein

That is a weird routine that we all do.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Carrie Brownstein

Oh, I don't know. You're looking at like, five amazing desserts you actually want all five on the table.

James Acaster

Yes.

Carrie Brownstein

But we're all humming and hahing, like, maybe not. Anyway, it's sort of, performing.

James Acaster

It's very performance.



Ed Gamble

Or going, 'Yes, we'll have a look at the menu.' We'll have a look at the dessert menu.'

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Knowing full well you've already looked at the desserts and you know exactly what you're having.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes, it's why you chose the restaurant.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

You put it in your head, I'm going to get that one. But I think once you've ordered the desserts, and in between ordering them and the desserts coming, don't talk about desserts in anything other than a positive way. Don't sit there talking to each other, because then it's almost like the guilt sets in as soon as everyone's ordered the desserts. They all think, 'Oh, I shouldn't have done that. We had a massive meal, we shouldn't be eating this much more.' And when people start throwing anecdotes about, 'Oh yes, because I had this once and I'm trying not to now, and now I've found that if you just have a little bit of something and then you just put it back in the fridge.' And then you start talking about those kind of things with one another, so you're already, like, basically making yourself feel bad about getting a dessert.

Ed Gamble

Talking yourself out of it, yes.

James Acaster

And then the desserts turn up and you're like, 'Well I already hate myself for having this now.' Whereas we should've all just gone, 'You know what, I love ice cream so much, I can't wait for this.' That would be a much better chat, but instead, you have this, like, diplomatic conversation about desserts, which just ruins it. Ruins the fun.

Carrie Brownstein

So, you want those five minutes in between ordering and the arrival of the desserts to be more hype oriented.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.



Carrie Brownstein

Like, really just getting everyone extra excited about what's about to happen. I also get annoyed by the person or people who claim that they don't want the dessert, they're just going to have a bite, and then they eat half of it.

Ed Gamble

Yes, even having a bite's annoying isn't it?

Carrie Brownstein

I think, yes, if you're opting out, opt out fully. I need you to commit to this hatred of dessert, because now I feel like the dynamic, there's something just really complicated there.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes, yes.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes. And then they're bringing their issues to me.

Ed Gamble

And you've got that in the back of your mind, like, how much are they going to have, and then that stresses you out and then you can't enjoy the dessert.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

I love the idea of hyping the dessert. Is it possible, do you think, to have a restaurant where there's a dessert hype man, and that's his only job.

James Acaster

Maybe not his only job.

Ed Gamble

Someone's ordered dessert, and he comes out.

James Acaster

Maybe he's the doctor again.



Ed Gamble

No, he's not the doctor, he's the dessert hype man. He's very specific. He's learnt his craft.

Carrie Brownstein

I love that he, sort of, shows up in a cape, at the table, the second you order a dessert. It's almost like he magically appears and he's just, like, leading you in little cheers and little songs.

Ed Gamble

I'm imagining Paul Shea for some reason.

Carrie Brownstein

Oh yes, that could work.

James Acaster

I was thinking about Paul Shea earlier in this episode.

Ed Gamble

Where you?

Carrie Brownstein

Really?

James Acaster

Yes, because I think Carrie mentioned the sushi.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Every time people mention sushi on the podcast, it reminds me of Paul Shea and I think about Paul Shea because I remember him telling us that he would go into a place and get this sushi that he loved, and this man, he was such a regular and the man loved him so much that he gave him a saki cup that he'd written Paul's name on it in, I think it was Japanese, and Paul was like, 'That means a lot to me that cup.' And we said, 'Do you know that it says Paul Shea? It might say Paul Shea drinks piss.'

Ed Gamble

And Paul Shea was a wonderful guest and we had a lot of fun with Paul, but when we made fun of his saki cup, he did not like it.

James Acaster

It ruined his day. We spoilt a nice thing.

Ed Gamble

He was so proud of that saki cup.



James Acaster

We spoilt a nice thing in his life, and so, it always reminds me of him when people choose sushi, I just think, Paul Shea drinks piss. But like, I like him, nice man.

Ed Gamble

But definitely, yes, he'd be a great dessert hype man.

James Acaster

He'd be great. You ready for dessert? Yes, yes. Also, like, because what you don't want, Paul Shea, I'd say, looks like someone who I'd be like, 'Yes, that guy, believably, does like dessert, but also it's not taken any toll on him. He looks healthy, but he doesn't look too healthy.' Do you know what I mean? I wouldn't want frigging Mario Lopez coming out and telling me this dessert's going to be great. Like, how the fuck do you know?

Ed Gamble

I'd love Mario Lopez.

James Acaster

Yes, eat desserts.

Carrie Brownstein

I would love if that's what Mario Lopez was doing these days.

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes, yes.

James Acaster

Yes, yes.

Carrie Brownstein

What a joy to go to a restaurant, maybe you go specifically for their dessert hype person, you know, it becomes like, 'Oh, this restaurant has a great dessert hype person.'

Ed Gamble

It's got Mario Lopez.

Carrie Brownstein

It's got Mario Lopez hype machine.

Ed Gamble

He comes out, flips his chair the other way around, sits on it.



Carrie Brownstein

Oh yes. Little massage, get you ready for eating. Get a hand massage so that you're ready to really use that spoon.

James Acaster

Maybe that'd be nice, or maybe-

Ed Gamble

Ready for dessert preppy.

James Acaster

Yes, yes.

Carrie Brownstein

Oh yes, you have a nickname, and like, yes, 'Come on Brownstein,' yes.

James Acaster

I guess that is a different kind of hyping you up. He's getting you physically-, I was thinking someone coming out going, 'This dessert's going to be so great, we all love dessert, it's brilliant,' which I wouldn't believe from him, because I would be like-

Ed Gamble

From Lopez.

James Acaster

Yes, Lopez doesn't eat enough desserts, I don't think. But if he was training me up like he's a boxing coach then fair enough, I'd be like, 'Yes, this is going to be great.'

Carrie Brownstein

I think we're each imagining something slightly different but I feel like each hype person would have a different technique.

Ed Gamble

Their own thing.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes, you go to a restaurant and you would know that this one was more like a coach, another one was just more like singing the praises of the dessert portion of the meal.

Ed Gamble

Yes.



James Acaster

Yes. I guess, I want someone who's like, 'We all made a great decision here today, this is so great. Like, you guys are all, for making this decision to order the dessert.'

Carrie Brownstein

You want a life coach, basically.

James Acaster

Yes. This is so great. I want Paul Shea to be like, 'Who's idea was it to get desserts? This guy, fucking round of applause for this guy. This is so great.'

Ed Gamble

You just want to be popular.

Carrie Brownstein

But you want to be that guy, clearly.

James Acaster

Yes.

Carrie Brownstein

You basically want to be validated in your decision.

James Acaster

Yes.

Carrie Brownstein

You should just bring Paul Shea with you to every restaurant you go to.

James Acaster

Yes, but he hates us because we said he drinks piss. So, we ruined that.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes but after he's had a few shots of piss he's good.

James Acaster

I'm going to read your menu back to you now, see how you feel about it. You would like still water. You would like bread from Dos Hermanos in Portland. Starter, a wedge salad. Main course, eight to ten home made tacos, heavy on dairy and a little bowl of spaghetti bolognese. Side dish, blue fin toro nigiri from Sushi Park in LA. Drink, an old fashioned with rye from the Pacific Standard in Portland.

Ed Gamble

Banjo.



James Acaster

From Banjo, shout out Banjo. Dessert, Ruby Jewel mint ice cream sandwich. That's pretty great.

Ed Gamble

That's delicious.

James Acaster

And you're repping Portland pretty heavily there.

Carrie Brownstein

I like to rep the city I live in. It's good to like the food in the city you live in. I think it's-,

Ed Gamble

It's important.

Carrie Brownstein

It's important.

James Acaster

It's in Portland. You just said-,

Carrie Brownstein

You should work with the tourism board because that's in Portland.

Ed Gamble

It's important in Portland.

Carrie Brownstein

We have so many businesses that we formed from-, this was basically a think tank.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Carrie Brownstein

Of an episode. I mean, we have a film, we have a book, you have three or four extra podcasts at this point.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes. A dessert hype man agency.



James Acaster

Doctors who get you the right amount of drunk.

Carrie Brownstein

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Carrie Brownstein

And the big red wok.

Ed Gamble

Well, Carrie, it's been a pleasure doing business with you.

Carrie Brownstein

Let's shake on it. Actually yes, it has been wonderful to be your guest today, thank you.

Ed Gamble

Thank you very much for coming to the dream restaurant.

James Acaster

Thank you Carrie.

Ed Gamble

There we are, a great chat with Carrie there James.

James Acaster

I enjoyed that so much.

Ed Gamble

Yes. She's great.

James Acaster

Brilliant, funny, great food choices.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

And then an impeccable musician.

Ed Gamble

Yes.



James Acaster

The new album Little Rope.

Ed Gamble

Well done.

James Acaster

Is out now.

Ed Gamble

I loved watching you screw that up man.

James Acaster

I loved it. You know, it didn't feel good but I still in my head had the awareness to know, like, I would love this if it happened to someone else. So, just deal with the fact it's happening to you now and to everyone else you are someone else so it's okay.

Ed Gamble

You were riding so high on the smooth link and the drop was sharp. The downfall was immediate.

James Acaster

Straight off the cliff.

Ed Gamble

And may I say he deserved.

James Acaster

Yes. Oh, fully deserved the rake in the face.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Carrie of course did not say a thimble of Italian soda, I would've been very surprised if she had, so we can tell you that the new Sleater-Kinney album Little Rope is out now and they are touring later in the year.

James Acaster

Yes, and you should listen to Sleater-Kinney's entire back catalogue and catch up and watch all of Portland yes, if you have not done so.

Ed Gamble

Absolutely you should. Thank you very much to Carrie for coming in. We will see you again sometime soon, goodbye.

James Acaster

Goodbye.