



Off Menu – Ep 243 – Joe Wilkinson

Ed Gamble

Well, just let me check this little calendar I've got. Oh my god, it's Saturday.

James Acaster

Brighton Dome Boulders.

Ed Gamble

It's the Brighton Show. Our one-night residency at the Brighton Dome with our fantastic special guest, Joe Wilkinson.

James Acaster

Joe Wilkinson.

Ed Gamble

Live Off Menu tour show. Can't wait to put this one out. Love this one.

James Acaster

Yes, this is a-, I mean, what's nice about the-, well any of our episodes actually. We're very lucky to do this podcast and had so many different guests bring different energies to the podcast.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

And the live episodes were no exception and it was fun to see how in front of a live audience, different energies changed the whole feel of the room.

Ed Gamble

Yes absolutely.

James Acaster

This audience really delighted in how much Joe loves the, I'd say, the shitter things in life.

Ed Gamble

Yes, absolutely. I don't think-, I think his menu was simultaneously surprising and not surprising at all, so-,

James Acaster

Yes.



Ed Gamble

Let's enjoy listening to that. The secret ingredient as suggested by the audience was 42 Calipos.

James Acaster

Yes, and if you know you know.

Ed Gamble

If you know you know. It's something he did on Taskmaster.

James Acaster

Yes. So, if you don't know you also know now.

Ed Gamble

Yes. It's the Off Menu menu live in Brighton of Joe Wilkinson.

James Acaster

Joe Wilkinson.

Ed Gamble

Welcome to the Off Menu podcast taking the crumble of conversation. Getting another little crumble of humour. Getting another little crumble of friendship, savoury and sweet and selling them to you the listeners from our Benedict's Crumble Hatch. When we put these episodes out, we're not putting the first half out. So, the people listening to this are going to be fucking confused right now. That's for us. That's a joke for us.

James Acaster

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

Ed Gamble

Joe Wilkinson. Very excited to have Joe on the podcast. It's been a long time coming. I'm glad we could do it live in Brighton with Joe. In fact on your dream menus in the, 'Anything else you'd like to tell us,' section, someone had written, 'When's Joe Wilkinson doing an episode?' So, whoever wrote that is going to have the fucking evening of their lives.

James Acaster

We make your wish come true.

Ed Gamble

Wish the yes, the genie.



James Acaster

And you all know what the secret ingredient is. So, keep that in your head just in case Joe says it. I don't think he's going to but who knows he might do.

Ed Gamble

This is the Off Menu menu of Joe Wilkinson.

James Acaster

Joe Wilkinson.

Ed Gamble

What are you doing James? James? James? Now, Joe obviously, James is the genie in this so-,

Joe Wilkinson

What's that thing? Oh that's the pot is it right?

Ed Gamble

The pot, yes. That's it. The pot that's the traditional, yes, the genie. Like a genie in a pot.

Joe Wilkinson

Oh yes. What is the word?

Ed Gamble

What do you reckon it is?

Joe Wilkinson

I'll stay with pot.

Ed Gamble

We're going with pot. The genie's in the pot.

Joe Wilkinson

Pot. Pot.

Ed Gamble

Now obviously to get the genie-, how do you, how do-,

Joe Wilkinson

Lantern.

Ed Gamble

Yes.



Joe Wilkinson

Yes.

Ed Gamble

I said yes half way through that word. And then it took a swerve to turn didn't it?

Joe Wilkinson

Sorry. Alright.

Ed Gamble

In genie law do you remember-, because you think it's called a pot. Do you know how they get the genie out of the pot?

Joe Wilkinson

Kick it. You tantalise the end.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Would you like to tantalise the end live for us to get the genie out of the pot?

James Acaster

Welcome Joe Wilkinson to the dream restaurant I've been expecting you for some time.

Joe Wilkinson

Fucking hell. I don't like that.

Ed Gamble

There we are. There's the genie out the pot finally.

James Acaster

The pot. I couldn't believe it.

Joe Wilkinson

I got it in the end. I got it in the end.

James Acaster

No you didn't. You said, 'Lantern.'

Joe Wilkinson

It is lantern isn't it?

Ed Gamble

No.



Audience

Lamp.

Joe Wilkinson

Oh yes, lamp. Yes.

James Acaster

That's concerning.

Joe Wilkinson

It's hard this pod isn't it?

Ed Gamble

When we were offstage just then Joe just before the show started, I said, 'Have fun out there Joe.' I say that to guests sometimes. And you went, 'I don't have fun. I'm 48.' And then you said, 'I want to go home.'

Joe Wilkinson

But you wouldn't let me.

James Acaster

Joe, did someone once have to do the Heimlich on you because you choked on some beetroot? Sorry, beetroot.

Joe Wilkinson

No. No. Yes, they did.

James Acaster

That man-, it's not the man-, we'll give him a wave.

Joe Wilkinson

Oh hello, yes. He saved my life.

James Acaster

He didn't save your life.

Ed Gamble

It wasn't him.

James Acaster

He didn't save your life his friend Korosh. Korosh.

Joe Wilkinson

Yes, where's Korosh. He's in my-, I can tell you. I've got his phone number here. Is he in?



James Acaster

So, you exchanged-, no he's not in. So, you exchanged numbers after-,

Joe Wilkinson

I can phone him.

James Acaster

After he saved your life. Can we get a bit of background on the story before you phone him? It could be a bit of a weird phone call if we don't know anything about it. Where were you?

Joe Wilkinson

I was in my house and I was-,

Ed Gamble

What? Hang on. I'm glad we got some more background on this story. What are you talking about you were in your house?

Joe Wilkinson

I'm always in my house. What do you mean?

Ed Gamble

Yes, but-, okay keep telling the story.

Joe Wilkinson

Why is me being in my house weird?

Ed Gamble

Because you choked on beetroot and then a man who I presume you didn't know before called Korosh saved your fucking life.

James Acaster

Yes.

Joe Wilkinson

I hardly ever look in the spare room to be fair. But that day I happened to pop in there and there he was. No, what happened? I was cooking and as I was cooking I like to eat beetroot.

James Acaster

Okay, pause before we carry on.

Joe Wilkinson

Okay, there's a lot of pausing and asking-,



Ed Gamble

Yes, yes.

James Acaster

Because the details are weirder than you think.,

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Joe Wilkinson

Okay. Okay.

James Acaster

Why do you eat-, why's it beetroot your snack of choice when you're cooking? Some people drink red wine when they're cooking.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

You eat beetroot.

Joe Wilkinson

Slices of beetroot. Preferably crinkle cut.

Ed Gamble

Well, that turned out to be your downfall on this day didn't it?

Joe Wilkinson

Whoa, yes we'll get there. And I-, because when I'm cooking I'm usually hungry.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

That's unique, yes.

Joe Wilkinson

Yes. I don't know, I've listened to your pod and some people do that as well. They cook when they're hungry. Paul Rudd. That's really nice to follow that little-, what? Shouting. So, I was eating beetroot and quickly because I love the stuff. And it suckered itself into my throat. It went, and I could no longer breathe. So, I ran out into my garden, I looked at my other half and I thought, 'She's not going to help.' Because she absolutely loves the book she was reading at the time. And I thought, 'I doubt she'll put that down.'



Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Do you remember what the book was?

Joe Wilkinson

I think it was a Jackie Collins but I couldn't be sure. Was it Petra? If she's in she'll hate me saying that. So, I thought, 'What do I do?' And I went a bit Matrix, I started to think for the first time in my life.

James Acaster

That's Matrix is it?

Ed Gamble

That's what you call going a bit Matrix?

Joe Wilkinson

Yes.

James Acaster

Suddenly you knew the appropriate term for a lamp, 'Tapped into something higher than myself here.'

Joe Wilkinson

Yes. And I picked up the pace. It was the fastest I've ever gone down my hallway. And I ran outside and-,

Ed Gamble

So, you went into the garden, looked at your partner, ran back inside again and out the front door?

Joe Wilkinson

Yes.

James Acaster

And you've got, like, just red just pouring down your beard I would imagine.

Joe Wilkinson

Well, it wasn't because I'm very-, because I've eaten a lot of beetroot I'm- I tend to be good at it.

Ed Gamble

Yes, it's just this one time was it that it nearly killed you?

Joe Wilkinson

Yes, this was a one-off. To be fair there was not a drop on me. So, I ran out. And this was in COVID as well so no one was about. So, I thought, 'This is probably not the best idea.' But matey here had broken



all the rules and was out. And I was like, 'You can save my life but I'm not happy about it.' I reported him later. He got four months. And I was-, he was a big lad. He's a big lad, isn't he? He's a big lad. He's about six-, well very strong muscular arms if I remember rightly. And I was pointing at my throat. And he, sort of, went. And I was like, 'There's nothing else I can do here.' And then I remember him saying, 'I can't do the-', he said, 'I can't do the Heimlich.' And I was, 'Well, you're going to have to learn.' So, we both Googled. He had better 5G than me so he got the-, no. And he just picked me up like a rag doll. And then shook me and then it shot out and hit the side of a car.

Ed Gamble

Love that.

Joe Wilkinson

I wasn't expecting to tell that. Is this how the pod should start? I don't know.

James Acaster

And then you exchanged numbers after that?

Joe Wilkinson

Yes, so I've got him down in my phone as, Lifesaver. Yes, I know. What a guy I am. Or him I meant.

Audience: Call him.

Joe Wilkinson

Call him?

Audience

Yes.

Joe Wilkinson

No. Can't be arsed.

Ed Gamble

Do you chat much with Lifesaver?

Joe Wilkinson

Not as much as I should.

James Acaster

Every time you're eating some beetroot just take a selfie of yourself.

Joe Wilkinson

Yes.



Ed Gamble

Yes. Guess what I've-, I hope you're nearby.

Joe Wilkinson

Yes. I've got him as my emergency number now. Because he's-, I've swapped him for my wife. Yes, so, yes, that happened. That's weird isn't it?

Ed Gamble

Do you still eat beetroot?

Joe Wilkinson

Yes. Someone told me-, I was talking to my neighbour about it the following day. And I was telling her and she said that happened to a friend of hers and she had problems eating for months. She had to go and have therapy about it. I was eating a lot of food within four to five minutes. To the point, my Mrs was like, 'Christ, you don't learn.' I was like. So, yes, no I'm fine. I still eat like a pig you'll be pleased to know. Sorry, I'm too low in my chair, that's crass. Sorry. A lot of people. It's overwhelming.

James Acaster

Hello Joe.

Joe Wilkinson

You're the genie.

James Acaster

Huh?

Joe Wilkinson

You're the genie.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Okay.

Joe Wilkinson

That was just from-,

James Acaster

Something has happened?



Joe Wilkinson

No. I just remembered you jumping out again.

James Acaster

Yes. Yes that happened earlier.

Joe Wilkinson

I think I've killed the energy as well.

James Acaster

No, no, no. Everyone's just trying to figure out-

Joe Wilkinson

If I'm going to stop talking?

James Acaster

What has suddenly happened to you? You went. You're the genie.'

Joe Wilkinson

No, I was a bit starstruck.

James Acaster

You jumped out of there. Well, we always start with still or sparkling water Joe Wilkinson. Do you have a preference?

Joe Wilkinson

Tap.

James Acaster

A lot of people fans of tap here.

Joe Wilkinson

Yes, I just, I refuse to-, it's always a bit embarrassing isn't it when they go, 'Sparkling or still?' No that's both-, yes, no anyway. That's both options sorry. And then you have to say, 'Still but I'm not paying.' Just to set the bar out to, you know.

Ed Gamble

Is that how you say it as well?

Joe Wilkinson

Yes, 'I'm not paying,' yes.

Ed Gamble

You go, 'Still but I'm not paying. I'm just setting the bar out early doors.'



Joe Wilkinson

Yes, yes. From a tap. I'm not paying £1.80.

James Acaster

What? £1.80 you've got that figure in your head?

Joe Wilkinson

Yes I'm-, it differs from restaurant to restaurant. Just to be clear.

James Acaster

When you were like regularly on 8 Out of 10 Cats and, saying that to the waiters, did it feel a little bit cheeky? Just going, 'Yes, I'll have still water but I'm not paying even though clearly I'm doing alright for myself.'

Joe Wilkinson

I would say, 'We get paid less than you'd imagine.'

Ed Gamble

Would you say that to the waiter as well?

Joe Wilkinson

Yes, yes. I say, 'Don't-, everyone thinks we get-, I'll show you how much. I'm just-, yes it's alright. It's a good hourly wage but I have to write. There's weeks building up to it. I'm nervous for a couple of days before. So, it's relevant. It's not just two hours there there's like-, I have to travel it's three days in total. So, if you do an hourly rate it's not that great.' I'm clear about that.

James Acaster

Where do you want the tap to be in the world? There are different qualities of tap water.

Ed Gamble

Is Brighton tap water good?

Joe Wilkinson

I've never understood, you know-,

James Acaster

A pretty unanimous, 'No,' there.

Joe Wilkinson

You know when people say, 'Oh, it's hard water or soft water.' I don't-, I can't really tell. I've got no palate. I can't tell when people go, 'Oh the water's a bit-, ' I'm like, 'Oh yes it's horrible'.



James Acaster

Yes, I'd say you're one of the only people I know who I would believe it if someone told me you drank out of the garden tap.

Joe Wilkinson

Thank you. Thank you.

Ed Gamble

You can imagine it can't you.

Joe Wilkinson

Thank you.

James Acaster

And not even, like, filling a glass and then-

Joe Wilkinson

Straight from it.

James Acaster

Like a dog.

Ed Gamble

Yes, lapping away at the garden tap, yes.

Joe Wilkinson

Have you seen those hoses? Sorry, I've just remembered I want to get one of those hoses. They're extendable for about 40 metres but they're like ribbed so they can, kind of, suck-

Ed Gamble

Yes I've got one.

Joe Wilkinson

Have you got one?

Ed Gamble

They're covered in almost like a fabric.

Joe Wilkinson

Yes.

Ed Gamble

And they just go really small like a-, yes and then you pull them right out like a big foreskin.



Joe Wilkinson

Someone's earning. Fucking hell, yes. From your one of those then, I'll have my drink.

Ed Gamble

You want tap water from my big foreskin hose?

Joe Wilkinson

Yes. Yes and I'd like you to drive there and get it.

James Acaster

From the garden tap.

Joe Wilkinson

From the garden-, from Ed's, have you got a garden?

Ed Gamble

Yes, I've got a garden.

Joe Wilkinson

You live in London.

Ed Gamble

Yes. It's a little garden it's pretty small.

Joe Wilkinson

Wow. Wow.

James Acaster

These rooms don't fill themselves.

Joe Wilkinson

What kind of garden?

Ed Gamble

What do you mean what kind of garden?

James Acaster

Oh, we've never heard the tables be turned.

Ed Gamble

So, Joe's using this as a launch for his garden podcast.

Joe Wilkinson

Joe's just had an idea for a garden podcast. Is it like a town garden, is it lawned, is it-,



James Acaster

Spiders.

Ed Gamble

Very small. James, you'll have your turn on garden pod alright.

James Acaster

Sorry, I've got a damn spider's web.

Joe Wilkinson

You'll have your turn on garden pod don't worry.

Ed Gamble

There's a little lawn, a little lawn and a small patio. Couple of little flower beds but it's-

Joe Wilkinson

Big enough to own a lawnmower?

Ed Gamble

Yes, but I'd say on the rare occasion I do mow the lawn, it's such a small lawn that you put it on and go, and then it's down.

Joe Wilkinson

Yes okay. I know the size then.

Ed Gamble

A big BBQ in there though.

Joe Wilkinson

Oh.

Ed Gamble

It's mainly for my barbecuing outside Joe.

James Acaster

Poppadoms or bread? Poppadoms or bread Joe Wilkinson? Poppadoms or bread?

Joe Wilkinson

Jesus wept. Fragile. Bread. Bread please.

Ed Gamble

Let me give that to James.



Joe Wilkinson

There you are James.

James Acaster

Thank you very much.

Audience: What are you drinking.

James Acaster

Some wine. I don't know what kind of wine it is.

Ed Gamble

It's a Riesling.

Joe Wilkinson

White wine.

James Acaster

It's a Riesling apparently.

Ed Gamble

It's a Jim Barry, dry Riesling 2022.

Joe Wilkinson

What a wanky looking-,

James Acaster

A boo from down there.

Ed Gamble

What are you booing that for?

Joe Wilkinson

Oh, it's very wanky looking. What was the-, oh, bread, crusty bread. But can I, because you're a genie, can it be-, because in a restaurant, I fucking love bread, but I fill myself up.

James Acaster

Yes.

Joe Wilkinson

So, could it be bread, like, nice crusty bread that doesn't fill me up and I don't get told to go, 'That's enough bread.' Fucking hell.



Ed Gamble

You're going to have to get used to that. They are really into this.

James Acaster

Yes, one of them asked us what wine we were drinking, then booed it. So, they know their stuff.

Joe Wilkinson

Odd bunch.

Ed Gamble

Dry Riesling. Oh, boo.

James Acaster

Well, that is a shame. They're fully behind this idea that you don't fill up on bread.

Ed Gamble

Yes, so basically like a magical stomach that doesn't fill up on bread.

Joe Wilkinson

Yes because my other half will move the basket away from me. And rightly so but, oh,

Ed Gamble

I'm imagining her now always reading a book as well. So, you're out at a restaurant, she's reading a book and she just goes-

Joe Wilkinson

To be fair if she's not reading a book it's a long old evening for her. I am draining. I sometimes bring a spare in case she finishes that book. And I go, 'There's the follow up.'

James Acaster

I thought you meant you bring a spare partner.

Ed Gamble

Yes, that's what I thought.

James Acaster

To talk to instead.

Joe Wilkinson

Oh, what like a oh, god I wouldn't be that presumptuous. I keep it a secret.

James Acaster

Also while I'm here if I'm doing this, if I'm making it so you don't fill up on bread do you want me to make it so you don't choke on beetroot as well?



Joe Wilkinson

No.

James Acaster

No, you love that.

Joe Wilkinson

No, no no. Just don't bother.

James Acaster

Do you want Lifesaver at the meal?

Ed Gamble

Just in case.

Joe Wilkinson

Am I paying for him?

James Acaster

£1.80.

Ed Gamble

I mean, do you think maybe you should buy him a meal or something?

James Acaster

Do you think maybe-,

Joe Wilkinson

Oh, it was-, it was like two years ago.

Ed Gamble

If you took Lifesaver for a meal. Which I think would be a nice thing to do.

Joe Wilkinson

Yes, okay I imagine this, yes.

Ed Gamble

And they came over and said, 'Still or sparkling?' And before you could say tap he said, 'Can I get a bottle of sparkling please?'

Joe Wilkinson

I'd say, 'I think I'll order for us. We're not having starters-,'



James Acaster

'We'll have it out the garden tap please with Ed's hose. Trust me Lifesaver you'll like this.'

Joe Wilkinson

You got lucky. He didn't even know how to do it.

Ed Gamble

He got lucky?

Joe Wilkinson

He did. Well, okay we both got lucky.

Ed Gamble

Lucky day for him.

Joe Wilkinson

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Just going for his hourly sanctioned exercise during COVID, spends half of it trying to stop an idiot choking on beetroot.

James Acaster

Gets spit all over him. Goes home and has to fucking bathe in hand sanitiser because Joe Wilkinson off the telly gobbled beetroot spit all over him, 'Oh, I'm a lucky guy.'

Ed Gamble

Did he get gob on him? Are you-,

Joe Wilkinson

No, the car got gob on it.

Ed Gamble

Do you think the Heimlich is done face to face, James?

James Acaster

I refuse-,

Joe Wilkinson

'Your breath stinks.'

Ed Gamble

That'd be awful.



James Acaster

'I knew the risks going in.'

Ed Gamble

Be awful if you did a front on Heimlich with someone and they gobbled out what they had straight down the back of your throat.

Joe Wilkinson

Back and forth. 'We should stop this.'

James Acaster

It gets smaller every time so-, sorry at one point one of you just swallows it.

Ed Gamble

Yes, and you go, 'Nice to meet you.'

James Acaster

'We got lucky.'

Joe Wilkinson

'We should go for dinner.' 'No, we shouldn't.'

James Acaster

Has Lifesaver saved anyone else's life?

Ed Gamble

No, he did get lucky.

Joe Wilkinson

No. The one time's enough isn't it? He walks past other people now, 'No, done it. Not doing it again.'

James Acaster

Let's get into your dream menu proper Joe Wilkinson.

Joe Wilkinson

Okay.

James Acaster

Your dream starter.

Joe Wilkinson

Okay. I've listened to the pod a lot and these are my genuine ones. Because I was worried you might think, 'Oh,-,' But I would like a prawn cocktail.



Ed Gamble

Popular choice.

Joe Wilkinson

Yes, cool. I thought it might be a laugh, you know, frowned upon to have. Because the last couple, like, the last couple I listened to people were talking about restaurants I hadn't heard of. And so I felt overwhelmed. And I was looking at my answer going, 'Prawn cocktail.' I'll tell you the perfect prawn cocktail.

James Acaster

Yes please.

Ed Gamble

Please.

Joe Wilkinson

It's simple. It's thinly sliced iceberg lettuce, frozen porn-, prawns that have been defrosted for-, did I say porn?

James Acaster

You said porn. You said frozen porn.

Ed Gamble

You said frozen porn.

James Acaster

Which is that's a whole other-,

Joe Wilkinson

Frozen porn, what the animation?

Ed Gamble

Frozen porn. What would that be, frozen porn?

James Acaster

It'd be like the Disney cartoon but a porno version is it?

Joe Wilkinson

No, it's exactly like that but I haven't got any trousers on.

James Acaster

That snowman getting absolutely smashed to shit.



Ed Gamble

Poor old Olaf.

James Acaster

No one touching that carrot for a good long time afterwards. It's been back and forth like some beetroot.

Ed Gamble

People letting it go all over the place I'd imagine.

James Acaster

You're the one who said you like it.

Joe Wilkinson

Sorry.

James Acaster

Just. You like frozen porn. You said you like frozen porn. You can't take that back everyone heard it. You said you love it. You said, 'I like frozen porn.' You came on a podcast and said that.

Audience: Let it go.

James Acaster

Let it go, yes.

Ed Gamble

Very good.

James Acaster

It's good stuff. It's good stuff.

Joe Wilkinson

It's pretty unnerving that voice isn't it?

James Acaster

Yes, it's quite scary.

Joe Wilkinson

I can't be arsed now.

James Acaster

You like frozen prawns, the little frozen prawns.

Ed Gamble

The little frozen prawns.



Joe Wilkinson

The little frozen prawns defrosted, iceberg lettuce thinly cut. Then a combination of tomato puree with mayonnaise whisked together popped on the top. End of.

Ed Gamble

So, like, proper seventies bog standard.

Joe Wilkinson

Yes, yes. Maybe some, is it? I don't know how to say it-

Ed Gamble

Paprika.

Joe Wilkinson

Yes, that word. Paprika.

Ed Gamble

Paprika.

Joe Wilkinson

On the top for no reason.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Joe Wilkinson

And a slice of lemon that you pick up and go-

Ed Gamble

But you want it there even if though you're going to pick it up and go-

Joe Wilkinson

'Do you want that?' 'No.' I'm also-

James Acaster

You've never done that?

Ed Gamble

You've never squeezed?

James Acaster

Squeezed the lemon.



Joe Wilkinson

No. It's there for decoration isn't it?

Ed Gamble

I don't think it is Joe.

James Acaster

That was one person Joe. And I think it's the same person who said, 'Let it go. It's not for decoration it makes it taste really nice. It's great with prawns.

Joe Wilkinson

Well I'd be surprised if it tastes any nicer than the way-, cheers.

Ed Gamble

Do you make this at home Joe?

Joe Wilkinson

My mum makes it when I go over to her house. Fantastic.

Ed Gamble

How often is that happening?

Joe Wilkinson

How often do I go over? About every two or three weeks on the way to football. No, only because I'm going to football.

Ed Gamble

Someone genuinely trying to start a round of applause for Joe visiting his mum.

James Acaster

Yes, here's to visiting the mums guys.

Joe Wilkinson

But-,

Ed Gamble

I'll tell you what that would have been-, that round of applause would have been started by a mum who thinks her kids don't come over enough.

Joe Wilkinson

But to be fair I'm there about 40 minutes.

Ed Gamble

A quick prawn cocktail and out, right?



Joe Wilkinson

Yes, yes.

James Acaster

No time to squeeze the lemon in 40 minutes.

Joe Wilkinson

There's no lemon at mum's.

Ed Gamble

Does she make you a prawn cocktail every time you go over there? Every two or three weeks?

Joe Wilkinson

Not every time but if my other half isn't there, because she doesn't like prawns, mum'll go-

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Joe Wilkinson

And we don't have to say anything there'll be prawn cocktail. And-

Ed Gamble

And I bet every time your mum says when it's just you who goes over she goes, 'I've made you a prawn cocktail because I know she doesn't like them.'

Joe Wilkinson

Yes, yes. And she'll say, 'Well, you're married now.' So, we'll have prawn cocktail and then I'll go to football, yes. So, yes she does a mean prawn cocktail. And it's in a-, it's obviously got to be in a glass that you can no longer buy. I think they're-, what's the garage you used to be able to get old glasses at?

Audience: Esso.

Joe Wilkinson

Esso, yes those. Those-

James Acaster

Amazing how-

Joe Wilkinson

Brothers in arms.

Ed Gamble

In an Esso glass.



Joe Wilkinson

I bet you weren't expecting to shout that tonight, were you? 'If I'm going to shout any garage.'

Ed Gamble

What do you mean you used to get-, I think that's passed me by.

Joe Wilkinson

Oh yes, I forget you're fucking young, yes. In the '80s you used to collect-, it sounds like I'm making this up now. You used to collect vouchers with petrol. And then for some reason randomly they go, 'There's a glass.' 'But it's not really a shape I can use.' 'I know.' 'Alright.' And then for some reason, we never threw them away. Kept them and then, sort of, 40 years later you make prawn cocktails in them and it just works. So, yes my mum's prawn cocktail.

James Acaster

It does sound bad.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I was tiptoeing around that.

James Acaster

And I don't think I'm insulting you by saying that, I think you know that. But what is it about that that makes it better than these la di dah prawn cocktails? Because there was a big cheer when you said, 'Prawn cocktail.' And then when you described it there was a significant drop off.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Ignoring the frozen porn snafu. The frozen little tiny teeny frozen prawns I think is where people may be jumped off.

Joe Wilkinson

No, I don't think so. If I'm honest I don't think there is a fancy prawn cocktail. They're all quite, how do I say it, shit.

James Acaster

It's your dream meal Joe.

Joe Wilkinson

Pardon.

James Acaster

It's your dream meal.



Ed Gamble

If it's about the connection with your mother and it's nostalgia and nice memories and-

Joe Wilkinson

Yes, yes. And it tastes excellent.

Ed Gamble

Okay. But fancy prawn cocktails. There are fancier ones with big, like, those big prawns.

Joe Wilkinson

Yes, that annoys me. I don't like any prawn-, it annoys me when they leave it in the shell, 'Fuck you.' I know it tastes nice to cook it in the head and all that. But still take it off for me if I'm paying.

Ed Gamble

Which I mean, you haven't really paid anything so far in the meal.

James Acaster

No.

Joe Wilkinson

No.

James Acaster

Your mum's made this.

Joe Wilkinson

This is becoming my dream meal.

James Acaster

On the way to football.

Ed Gamble

So, you get free water, your mum's made it.

Joe Wilkinson

Oh, yes yes.

Ed Gamble

Crusty bread. I guess you're paying for the crusty bread so far. Right.

Joe Wilkinson

I assumed that was free.



Ed Gamble

Yes, yes.

Joe Wilkinson

But don't bring it over if I haven't asked for it.

Ed Gamble

Yes, fair enough.

Joe Wilkinson

It's a tricky moment where you double check, that's free, right? Continue.

Ed Gamble

I like that you're saying all these things as if they're purely universal.

Joe Wilkinson

I'm so relatable. I'm just checking I don't pay for my mums' prawn cocktails though.

James Acaster

I don't know, you tell us, does she make you pay every time when you visit?

Joe Wilkinson

Rarely. I'm just saying, no, I haven't paid. I've just realised I haven't paid for anything yet, so this is excellent.

James Acaster

Yes. How many prawns do you normally get?

Joe Wilkinson

Too many.

James Acaster

Yes. Too many?

Joe Wilkinson

Yes, and the amount of sauce to prawns must vary every time you have it. You go, 'Fucking hell, that's a lot of sauce.' It's hardly got any this time. There's this excitement when it's brought out, 'Fucking hell, look at the size of that lemon wedge.'

Ed Gamble

What sauce to prawn ratio is your dream ratio?

Joe Wilkinson

A lot of prawns and a lot of sauce.



Ed Gamble

So, sort of 100/100 ratio, yes?

Joe Wilkinson

Yes.

James Acaster

100/100, every prawn perfectly coated with the amount of sauce.

Joe Wilkinson

No, the lettuce is-, have you got a prawn cocktail? Basically, you put the lettuce in there and then you stack the prawns in and then you dollop a bit, like a whippy ice cream. So, it's precarious on the top and then you smear it yourself.

Ed Gamble

Oh, lovely. It's one of the smear it yourself meals.

Joe Wilkinson

Yes, exactly. Like Nobo which I heard about last week. Nay bar, Nobo-, you were talking about a restaurant that you've all heard of. Nobu, yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes, not Nobo.

James Acaster

Well done, who ever got that. You have no idea how much time you just saved us.

Joe Wilkinson

Nobo, Nobu.

Ed Gamble

Nobu, yes.

Joe Wilkinson

Nobu, yes, you've all heard of that, haven't you?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes. Fair enough.

Joe Wilkinson

You'd all been.



James Acaster

So, that's like a smear it yourself, is it? That's what you do.

Joe Wilkinson

Yes, like at Nobu.

James Acaster

So, you think Nobu is it a smear it yourself restaurant.

Joe Wilkinson

Yes, exactly.

Ed Gamble

Yes. They bring it over and go, 'Yes, of course, you can smear this yourself.'

Joe Wilkinson

I think I will.

James Acaster

Your dream main course. What's following up this quite confusing prawn cocktail?

Joe Wilkinson

Chicken Kiev, chips and peas.

Ed Gamble

I knew-, I assumed near the ending.

Joe Wilkinson

Yes.

James Acaster

I think this is the first time on the podcast we've had a meal that is exclusively eaten on your lap.

Ed Gamble

That's if I'm getting the hose through the window.

Joe Wilkinson

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Chicken Kiev chips and peas.

Joe Wilkinson

Yes.



Ed Gamble

Now, I'm going to take a wild swing that you're not paying for either, Joe.

Joe Wilkinson

Well, we're not eating in a restaurant, no.

James Acaster

Who's house is this at?

Joe Wilkinson

Stevens.

James Acaster

Tell us about Steven.

Joe Wilkinson

I went to school with him, and he lives opposite his mum. Bought the house opposite his mum. Do you know what? It's at my house actually. I can't be looking at his mum's house. Yes, it's at my house.

Ed Gamble

I do want to know more about Steven.

Joe Wilkinson

Yes. So, it's probably from Waitrose, yes.

Ed Gamble

You can't do that to him now, go, 'Oh.' After he's picked Chicken Kiev, chips and peas.

Joe Wilkinson

Two, I'm having two Kiev's.

James Acaster

Respect.

Joe Wilkinson

Yes.

James Acaster

It's the only way, it's the only way.

Joe Wilkinson

People are leaving, I'm that controversial. Alright, I'll have one.



James Acaster

It's the double Kiev that pushed him over the edge.

Joe Wilkinson

Some people can't handle the truth.

James Acaster

Gone. Gone forever.

Joe Wilkinson

Do you know what I mean? I'm going to eat all of it mate.

James Acaster

They just looked when does Waitrose shut.

Joe Wilkinson

Yes, shuts at nine, mate.

Ed Gamble

He did have the pace of someone who was rushing to buy a Kiev.

Joe Wilkinson

Oh, get us one while you're there.

Ed Gamble

So, double Kiev.

Joe Wilkinson

Yes, two Kiev's.

James Acaster

And obviously, you can get different Chicken Kiev's sometimes, you know. Yes.

Joe Wilkinson

Also, you can't get different types.

Ed Gamble

Okay. No, Chicken Kiev is garlic butter, right?

Joe Wilkinson

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes, okay. I've just seen them get called Chicken Kiev's but have other stuff in them before.



Ed Gamble

Like what?

Joe Wilkinson

They've got what? Stuffing in them?

James Acaster

Other stuff in there. They'll chuck some ham in there or whatever.

Joe Wilkinson

No, no.

Ed Gamble

That's a Chicken Cordon Bleu with ham-,

Joe Wilkinson

It's amazing what they'll turn-, isn't it?

James Acaster

It's the biggest faux pas I've ever made on the tour.

Joe Wilkinson

Yes, I'm absolutely with them.

Ed Gamble

How much garlic butter do you want in there?

Joe Wilkinson

It doesn't matter. It'll all seep out while it cooks. It doesn't matter. It'll all be coating the bottom and when you cut into it it's completely hollow. Perfect. I've forgotten it's in there, so it's slightly too cooked. Slightly too brown.

Ed Gamble

So, you're making this at home, that's your dream.

Joe Wilkinson

Yes. Well, then I don't have to go out.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes.



Ed Gamble

So, all the garlic butter is just on the baking tray or whatever?

Joe Wilkinson

Yes, but then you pour the butter back over the Kiev's and you'd tell the other person you put an equal amount on both.

James Acaster

Also, though whenever I've made this dish, I'll also pour the garlic butter over the peas at least, most likely also, the chips and just get a little bit of it going on everywhere.

Joe Wilkinson

Yes, you can do that.

James Acaster

Do you?

Joe Wilkinson

You're wrong. It should be soaking into the crust of the Kiev.

James Acaster

Yes, I think people were very happy to hear that.

Joe Wilkinson

I do like the hollowness of it as well.

Ed Gamble

You like the hollowness.

Joe Wilkinson

Yes.

Ed Gamble

So, it would be awful for you if you got the Kiev out of the oven and none of the butter had escaped, that it's all in there?

Joe Wilkinson

Well, I'd cut the side and put it back in.

Ed Gamble

You'd breach, you'd breach the Kiev.

Joe Wilkinson

Yes, definitely. It needs to all be in the pan, yes.



James Acaster

Also, if you're making this yourself, are you gobbling beetroot the whole time? Is there ever some beetroot being eaten the whole time you're making this?

Joe Wilkinson

I've got beetroot in the house at the moment actually. It's a big of a bug bear for Petra, sorry, Petra but you usually have about-,

James Acaster

Okay, it's not even my other half any more, just the first name.

Joe Wilkinson

Petra, she's there.

James Acaster

Yes.

Joe Wilkinson

They'll be about four or five half empty jars in the fridge, and we'll be in Sainsbury's, and I'll pop another one in the basket. That'll be an awkward drive home. 'Are you going to put them all in one jar?' 'Nope.'

Ed Gamble

Are you getting through them eventually or is there just a constant cycle?

Joe Wilkinson

No. Well, there's that awkward moment where you pour it in the sink and there's a few loose one's in the bottom and you think, 'Why not?'

James Acaster

That'll be the worst one to choke on, a sink one.

Joe Wilkinson

Yes. 'Oh, it tastes like toothpaste.'

Ed Gamble

Hold on.

Joe Wilkinson

Yes, I eat them over the bathroom sink.

James Acaster

That's where you pour them out as well.



Joe Wilkinson

Yes-

James Acaster

You go up to the bathroom.

Joe Wilkinson

I go up to the bathroom, check that no one's in there and then if there is I go, 'Do you mind if I quickly eat some beetroot?'

James Acaster

Someone just shouted out the worst pun I've ever heard.

Joe Wilkinson

Oh, what was it? What was it?

James Acaster

They said, 'Beetroot to yourself.'

Joe Wilkinson

Oh, I wish there was a way of deleting that. Oh, edit it out.

Ed Gamble

The issue for beetroot for me is if I eat beetroot and I know you're the same, I tend to set an alarm on my phone to remind me in a few hours' time that I've eaten beetroot so that when I go for a proper toilet, I don't worry that I've got bowel cancer.

Joe Wilkinson

Yes. How do you celebrate a beetroot shit?

Ed Gamble

That's not the response I was expecting to that.

Joe Wilkinson

But you go, 'Fucking hell, I ate beetroot. Shall we go on a bike ride?'

Ed Gamble

But what I'm worried about with you, Joe if you're eating beetroot constantly.

Joe Wilkinson

Just don't ever look behind you.

Ed Gamble

But I'm just worried you're never going to spot the signs if there's something genuinely wrong.



Joe Wilkinson

Oh, yes. Alright, I'll take a week off. I can't say further than that. What was we talking about?

James Acaster

You said Waitrose for your Chicken Kiev.

Joe Wilkinson

Oh, yes, but I will have Sainsbury's. Actually, Sainsbury's is cheaper because if you cook-, a little tip, if you over cook a Chicken Kiev by about fifteen minutes, they all taste the same.

James Acaster

Over cook.

Joe Wilkinson

Yes, but then if you buy a cheap one because it's burnt, it tastes the same.

Ed Gamble

So, I don't understand. This feels like a false economy Joe because you don't have to over cook them.

Joe Wilkinson

What do you mean?

Ed Gamble

If you buy a nice one and cook it right, then it's more delicious than a cheaper one cook right. So, why don't you just do that? Why are you over cooking all of them to make them taste the same?

Joe Wilkinson

Because I'm in the middle of a box set.

Ed Gamble

What's the box set?

Joe Wilkinson

Well, to be honest, I love an ITV drama.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Joe Wilkinson

I never bother learning the names of them. It's a detective in a town up north. That's all I know and that it's very well cast.

Ed Gamble

Yes. So, you're getting into that.



Joe Wilkinson

Yes, and I forget I'm cooking.

Ed Gamble

Can you not set an alarm for when the Kiev's ready?

Joe Wilkinson

What alarm?

Ed Gamble

An oven alarm or a phone alarm or something to remind you.

Joe Wilkinson

Two good answers, to be fair. Two good answers. He's got me there. What?

James Acaster

Would you like to be in an ITV drama one day, Joe? Do you think you would be good in one of those shows?

Joe Wilkinson

No, because I love them too much, I don't want to go, 'Fucking hell, it's me.'

James Acaster

I'm not saying you would watch it and forget you were in it and be taken out of the-,

Ed Gamble

Maybe it would be good if you could get in one, right, even just a walk on part and then at some point go, 'Do you mind if I do a bit of improv?' Look down the camera and go, 'Joe, you've got a Kiev in the oven.'

James Acaster

Perfect.

Joe Wilkinson

I'll probably have to fund the show, wouldn't I?

James Acaster

Worth it.

Joe Wilkinson

Worth it, yes.

Ed Gamble

We know you love spending money, so.



James Acaster

Yes, absolutely the last person fund anything.

Joe Wilkinson

Well, I've actually saved a fortune over the years. So, I'm thinking about that a lot now.

James Acaster

So, far, you've achieved applause for most courses which no one else has on the tour despite having the worst menu.

Joe Wilkinson

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Sorry, but yes.

Joe Wilkinson

It's alright.

Ed Gamble

We've not really talked about the chips and peas.

James Acaster

Oh, yes.

Joe Wilkinson

Oh, yes.

James Acaster

Let's hear how delicious these are. Anyone else, I'd be like, 'Yes, let's hear.' But I think this is going to be, 'Oh, you know those really small peas that are too small? And they're like shrivelled up because they've left them in too long, I want it like that.' You've boiled them for too long and the water's gone all scummy and really low. I want those peas and chips, I want them when they're there too soggy and anaemic looking or you've just got them out when they're perfect but then forgot about them and they're cold now. I want those ones and with ketchup that's still got a weird residue on it. 'I'd like those, please.'

Joe Wilkinson

I'm getting hungry here.

James Acaster

Can I have the wine again, please, Ed?

Ed Gamble

Pass the wine to James, and then pass it back here, please.



Joe Wilkinson

You're getting through it. Well, the one thing I will say, I'm not buying the chips and peas in Waitrose.

Ed Gamble

No?

Joe Wilkinson

Fuck off.

Ed Gamble

Are you going to a different supermarket for chips and peas?

Joe Wilkinson

Yes. A Tesco's or a Sainsbury's or an Aldi or whatever. But yes, whatever oven chips are in there.

James Acaster

What? Sorry, you drifted off there.

Joe Wilkinson

Whatever chips and peas are in there.

Ed Gamble

Whatever oven chips are in there.

Joe Wilkinson

Well, peas are all the same. They are. They are, fuck off, right. You look at them and you go, 'Okay, yes, these ones with a fucking farmer on the front, yes, whatever or the basic green label one, I'll have those, yes.' They're the same, aren't they? They're from the same factory.

Ed Gamble

Factory? Pea factory.

James Acaster

The pea factory.

Ed Gamble

I suppose there is a factory involved at some point, Joe.

Joe Wilkinson

Have you seen the machine that rolls them? Two little fingers. So, yes, any old peas, but I'll be honest, I'll buy some, but I'll have some in the freezer anyway. Probably rolled out the bag.

Ed Gamble

I think it's the first time anyone's picked oven chips for their dream menu, James.



Joe Wilkinson

I really like oven chips.

James Acaster

Maybe it is the first oven chips one we've had. Is it McCain oven chips?

Joe Wilkinson

I've never really taken notice of which ones they are.

James Acaster

Do you like these crinkle cut?

Joe Wilkinson

I like crinkle cut. You know, people go, 'Oh.' Yes, they're all the same, aren't they?

James Acaster

They're all the same.

Ed Gamble

They're all the same.

Joe Wilkinson

Yes, to me, yes.

Ed Gamble

We've talked about oven chips before. Oven chips taste like oven.

Joe Wilkinson

You two seem really weary.

Ed Gamble

Well, we always say Joe, I think what we're good at as podcast hosts is we reflect the energy of the guest.

James Acaster

It's weird if we don't. We have to go with you on your journey and you've dragged us into the, I'm going to say, shit.

Ed Gamble

Is it fair to say, Joe that even when, you know, I think you probably started doing stand-up a little bit before me and James.

Joe Wilkinson

You can't tell though, can you?



Ed Gamble

But we did a lot of gigs together years and years ago. Would you say you've never had a thirst for life performance?

Joe Wilkinson

No, because I've never overrun, have I?

Ed Gamble

No. That's never been-

Joe Wilkinson

No.

Ed Gamble

Never overrun, in fact, you're the proudest you've ever been of a gig. Do you remember the gig that you told me about?

Joe Wilkinson

Oh, the Hastings one?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Joe Wilkinson

I'll be honest, that is amazing. I did a gig in Hastings, I got the train down and I was booked to do a twenty minute set but I was running late, and I got there at one minute to nine and I was on at nine. So, I ran straight in the pub, I did the gig, I got back off the gig, got back on the train, looked at my watch and it was sixteen minutes past nine. I'd been in the town for seventeen minutes.

Ed Gamble

Also, back when we were doing lots of gigs on the circuit, I think you were the only comedian who we'd all get texts off regularly. I think you must've had a list saved on your phone of all the comedians.

Joe Wilkinson

Oh, yes.

Ed Gamble

Like ten minutes before a gig going, 'Can anyone replace me at this gig?'

James Acaster

Every time or some promoter being like, 'Hey everyone, I don't know if you can help us out, Joe Wilkinson's just pulled out. We've got five minutes to do his show.' Like panicking because you've just gone-, also, you told me that you used to accept a gig, so you'd go, 'Yes, I'll do it.' You'd book it, you'd hang up and then you'd set a reminder to cancel it in your phone.



Joe Wilkinson

Yes, I thought, 'Oh, I must cancel that next Thursday.'

James Acaster

Or immediately.

Ed Gamble

The best text I ever got from you was, 'Can anyone replace me in Liverpool tonight? I'm on the train on the way there and I've shit my pants.'

Joe Wilkinson

Yes, I did that deliberately.

James Acaster

Heimlich a bit too hard that time. Let's move onto your dream side dish, Joe.

Joe Wilkinson

More peas. Well, I'll be honest, Chicken Kiev, chips and peas doesn't need any-

James Acaster

Of course, not, why would it?

Ed Gamble

No, why would it need anything else?

Joe Wilkinson

Alright, put the peas in a pot.

Ed Gamble

Do you mean like that?

Joe Wilkinson

That would be quite good, pouring out one at a time. Yes, stick them in a tub or something, yes. A ramekin, I've learnt that word recently.

James Acaster

Oh, yes? Like the word lamp, but ramekin's in your rotation.

Joe Wilkinson

One week at a time.

Ed Gamble

What I really like this about Joe, backstage Joe was going, 'I just want to let you know, I've picked genuinely what I want and it's going to sound like I'm joking, but it's genuinely my dream meal.'



Joe Wilkinson

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes, which I believe because I mean, you won't take this badly, but you're a man, you enjoy disappointment.

Joe Wilkinson

You learn to love it.

James Acaster

Yes. Like, specifying that you want the Kiev to already have had all the garlic butter and be hollow, which is offering you, what if it could retain it all and it's all in there? And you were like, 'Well, I would just cut it and put it back in.' And sabotage yourself.

Ed Gamble

You threw that back in my face, Joe is what.

Joe Wilkinson

I'm sorry if I did that.

James Acaster

But I don't doubt for a second that's genuinely what you want.

Joe Wilkinson

I love them.

James Acaster

It might seem to people like, 'Oh, he's just winding them up.'

Joe Wilkinson

No.

James Acaster

You genuinely, when you said more peas, that's not a joke.

Joe Wilkinson

No. When we have them, my other half doesn't really like peas.

James Acaster

We know her name.

Joe Wilkinson

Petra doesn't really like peas, but I do loads.



James Acaster

You do loads of peas.

Joe Wilkinson

And sometimes at the end, I drink them out of the sieve when she's not in the kitchen. You had Paul Rudd on last week, didn't you?

James Acaster

He said the same stuff, but we edited that out.

Joe Wilkinson

Fucking hell.

Ed Gamble

We were like, 'We've got Joe on next week.'

James Acaster

Yes, we don't want an overlap.

James Acaster

Is there going to be ketchup and stuff with the chips?

Joe Wilkinson

Yes, loads.

James Acaster

Loads.

Joe Wilkinson

Yes, and I'll take the ketchup into the lounge with me.

Ed Gamble

So, you're eating in the lounge, right?

Joe Wilkinson

Yes.

James Acaster

A picture of your dream lounge, Joe.

Joe Wilkinson

It's my lounge, where I live. It's really nice out there, pea.



James Acaster

What we talking?

Joe Wilkinson

We have got a nice lounge, haven't we?

James Acaster

Yes.

Joe Wilkinson

Everything towards the telly.

Ed Gamble

So, you take the ketchup through with you to the lounge.

Joe Wilkinson

Yes, because I'll eat a lot of ketchup with it.

Ed Gamble

How much we talking?

Joe Wilkinson

What? A percentage of a bottle?

Ed Gamble

Yes, I guess so or how long is the initial squeeze?

Joe Wilkinson

Well, it won't be a big squeeze to begin with because I don't want to look, you know, rough round the edges.

James Acaster

Joe, you have a plate on your lap, a hollow Kiev and the worst peas I've ever seen. What are you talking about?

Joe Wilkinson

But I am in a tuxedo.

James Acaster

We should have known.

Joe Wilkinson

It's Kiev night. We dress up. We dress up.



James Acaster

Of course.

Joe Wilkinson

so, I'll do a normal amount of squeeze, you know, like a third of a bottle and then add to it every four to five minutes.

Ed Gamble

And are you just dipping chips in that or is the Kiev going in that? Are the peas?

Joe Wilkinson

It's everywhere. We've paused the telly at this point as well to be clear because we don't know who's murdered who and I fell asleep last night. So, we're rewatching the episode that Petra has already seen. So, she's on her phone.

Ed Gamble

You've got the plate directly on your lap?

Joe Wilkinson

No, it's on a-, what are these called? A coffee table. It's on a cloud coffee table.

James Acaster

Sorry, I know it's not a common word like ramekin.

Joe Wilkinson

It's a good word ramekin but the coffee table is quite low.

Ed Gamble

So, you're hunched over, are you?

Joe Wilkinson

Yes, and it's grotesque to watch.

James Acaster

Also, with the ketchup, I would imagine, tell me if I'm wrong Joe because it was a big day, some of you might be too young to remember this day, but it was quite a big day when Heinz decided to flip the bottle upside down, or basically turn the label upside down, I guess.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Joe Wilkinson

Oh, yes, that's a good day.



James Acaster

And then we were all like, 'Oh, yes, fuck, that's a good idea.'

Joe Wilkinson

Yes, it was good.

Ed Gamble

And of course, a wider lid for ballast, yes.

James Acaster

A wider lid, yes. So, that you have it like that.

Joe Wilkinson

Yes, wow.

James Acaster

Because for ages, we'd all just been going like that because that was the way you read the label and then they went, 'If we turn this that way. Look, you put it like that and then all the sauce is there.'

Joe Wilkinson

That's brilliant, isn't it?

James Acaster

I imagine though that you still have it that way with the label upside down and all the sauce there and the lid up top.

Joe Wilkinson

Yes, I use it so much it never has time to settle.

James Acaster

It's back.

Joe Wilkinson

Yes, it's always moving.

Ed Gamble

You've invented perpetual motion, haven't you?

Joe Wilkinson

Yes, ketchup perpetual motion. Yes, and all ketchup's the same as well.

Ed Gamble

Oh, okay. That's the first time you've said something controversial for this crowd. All ketchup's the same?



James Acaster

Looks like the old feeling of tiring is catching.

Ed Gamble

So, all ketchup's the same?

Joe Wilkinson

Yes, it's all the same factory. No, it isn't, I just don't care. I just like something red on my plate.

Ed Gamble

It's all about the colour?

Joe Wilkinson

Yes, whatever. Ketchup, I know it tastes different, but it doesn't matter is what I'm saying. Just as long as I have ketchup. Some people say, 'Oh, it has to be Heinz or whatever.' I don't care.

Ed Gamble

So, you don't have a favourite ketchup?

Joe Wilkinson

No, as long as there's some. I bought one of those tomatoes that you.

James Acaster

The plastic tomatoes that you squeeze.

Joe Wilkinson

Yes, not a tomato.

James Acaster

Because you knew what everyone thought then. Everyone thought that you just discovered-

Joe Wilkinson

The one that they grow for you to squeeze. No, but I never had time to put it in there.

James Acaster

What?

Joe Wilkinson

Well, I've never had a bottle that's had enough to fill the tomato, so I've never bothered. I don't know where it is now.

James Acaster

So, you've just got an empty tomato.



Joe Wilkinson
Somewhere in the house.

James Acaster
Yes.

Joe Wilkinson
I assume the kitchen.

James Acaster
So, you brought one of those. How quickly was it before you looked at it, and thought, 'I'm never fucking putting anything in there?'

Joe Wilkinson
Yes, immediately I think, but it's nice to have, isn't it? It's kookie.

James Acaster
I'd say if you're going sieve to mouth with the peas, getting one of those plastic tomatoes is ambitious.

Joe Wilkinson
Yes. Yes, it's a bit showy, isn't it?

James Acaster
Yes. Your dream drink, Joe Wilkinson? What are we imagining this is going to be? Tap water.

Ed Gamble
Well, remember you've got the water coming out my hose already.

James Acaster
Yes, so you've already got that, Joe.

Ed Gamble
This isn't normally an audience suggestion.

James Acaster
That was my fault.

Ed Gamble
I do agree, Joe is leaving a very long pause.

Joe Wilkinson
I think I'll go for a Mango Magic.



Ed Gamble

Now, Joe.

Joe Wilkinson

Don't give me that look, Edward. You ever had a Mango Magic?

Ed Gamble

That was my next question. What's a Mango Magic?

Joe Wilkinson

I don't know. I had one on holiday, it was delicious.

Ed Gamble

This is good, this is more traditional off menu fare. Whereabouts were you on holiday? Okay.

Joe Wilkinson

Spain, I think.

James Acaster

He's literally looking at Petra.

Joe Wilkinson

Where was it, Pete? Oh, she's gone home, fair enough.

James Acaster

To be fair, it's not been the best night out for her.

Joe Wilkinson

Fair play, love. Just don't watch an episode of that, before I get in.

Ed Gamble

She's gone home to put the Kiev's in the oven.

Joe Wilkinson

Well, wouldn't that be amazing?

Ed Gamble

You'll be back in an hour and a half, they'll be ready by then.

Joe Wilkinson

It's like a mango drink.

Ed Gamble

Yes. So, you're in Spain?



James Acaster

Is it alcoholic?

Joe Wilkinson

No.

James Acaster

No?

Joe Wilkinson

No.

James Acaster

Is it like a smoothie?

Ed Gamble

Joe, you know what a smoothie is. Is it like a smoothie?

James Acaster

You know what a fucking smoothie is, Joe.

Joe Wilkinson

It was ages ago.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Because it was on your dream menu remember, you brought it up. We didn't say, 'Joe, tell us what a Mango Magic is.' Is it a juice, is it more of a mango juice?

Joe Wilkinson

I'd say it was a bit of both.

Ed Gamble

Smoothie and a juice?

Joe Wilkinson

Yes.

James Acaster

Not really though. Because that doesn't-, that's not real.



Joe Wilkinson

But it was-, all I can tell you, it was lovely.

James Acaster

Right, okay.

Ed Gamble

Do you remember-, so you were in Spain, you think, it was a mixture of a smoothie and a juice, you think.

Joe Wilkinson

Where's near Tenerife?

Ed Gamble

Spain.

James Acaster

We're past that, we're past that. I don't care where you were. I'd like to know what the drink is first, and then we can figure out geographically where you were when you had this.

Joe Wilkinson

About three and a half hours from Gatwick.

James Acaster

Okay.

Joe Wilkinson

I couldn't tell you if it was north, south, east, or west though. I was not at the front.

Ed Gamble

Was it Tenerife you were in?

Joe Wilkinson

No, it was near Tenerife.

Ed Gamble

Right. So, I think, yes, it's probably Spanish-owned, wherever you were.

Joe Wilkinson

Yes, I didn't understand a word they were saying.

James Acaster

Okay. You understand 'Mango' and 'Magic' though.



Joe Wilkinson

Yes. Well, luckily, everything was in English.

Ed Gamble

So, was this on a beach, was this in a bar, in your room?

Joe Wilkinson

It was in a Chinese restaurant, and it was on Christmas Day.

James Acaster

What? No, it wasn't Christmas Day.

Joe Wilkinson

Yes, it was.

James Acaster

It was on Christmas Day, in a Chinese restaurant, in a Spanish island you don't know what it is?

Ed Gamble

Joe, what the fuck are you on about?

Joe Wilkinson

Yes.

James Acaster

And you had a Mango Magic?

Joe Wilkinson

Yes. It's why it's so memorable.

Ed Gamble

Why were you on a Spanish island, in a Chinese restaurant, on Christmas Day?

Joe Wilkinson

Because we fancied a Chinese. Paul Rudd was on last week.

Ed Gamble

So, what do you have at a Chinese restaurant?

Joe Wilkinson

Well, noodles, rice.

Ed Gamble

Yes? You like those things?



Joe Wilkinson

Yes. Oh, shit, I should have had them. Can we start again?

James Acaster

What was it about the Mango Magic, that was so delicious?

Joe Wilkinson

Well, it was ice cold.

James Acaster

It was ice cold. You liked that?

Joe Wilkinson

Yes.

James Acaster

Did it have ice in it? I swear to high Christ.

Ed Gamble

It was amazing what you did there, because James regained some hope in his eyes, because there was a bit of momentum. There was a back and forth, wasn't there?

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

It was ice cold. James went, 'Yes.' Did it have ice in it? And then-,

Joe Wilkinson

No, I just think they kept it somewhere cold.

Ed Gamble

Where do you think that might have been, Joe?

Joe Wilkinson

Well, not Tenerife. It was boiling, even on Christmas Day, but it wasn't Tenerife, you know what I mean.

Ed Gamble

Near Tenerife.

Joe Wilkinson

One of the other islands.



Ed Gamble

Cold Mango Magic.

Joe Wilkinson

Cold Mango Magic.

Ed Gamble

So, it was in the fridge. We imagine it was in the fridge, it was a mixture between a smoothie and a juice.

Joe Wilkinson

Yes. It was hard to suck.

Ed Gamble

Okay, so it's a smoothie.

James Acaster

A straw?

Joe Wilkinson

Yes.

James Acaster

Straw.

Ed Gamble

It's a smoothie or a shake then, if it's hard to suck.

Joe Wilkinson

Yes.

James Acaster

I think it might even be approaching a sorbet, but I don't want to open that. I feel like it was like a mango sorbet-type drink.

Ed Gamble

And Joe's tried to suck it up with a straw.

James Acaster

And he tried to suck it up with a straw, but I don't want to ask him if it was a sorbet. There's no way.

Joe Wilkinson

But I can hear you though.



James Acaster

Right. Hello, Joe.

Joe Wilkinson

So, I don't think it was sorbet.

James Acaster

Yes. No?

Joe Wilkinson

No. Because I had it early in the meal, and you have sorbet at the end, don't you?

Ed Gamble

Yes. Traditionally, Joe, yes.

James Acaster

Yes, but it could have been one.

Ed Gamble

But you eat beetroot while you're cooking, so you flip things on its head sometimes.

James Acaster

And sometimes you get drinks that are frozen, like a frozen margarita or something, which is, kind of, like a sorbet-type melted situation. So, like, maybe you'd got a melted sorbet mango drink, and it is in the drinks section, and you got it. It is possible, but we will never know.

Ed Gamble

It tasted really mango-y, did it?

Joe Wilkinson

Yes, it was bright yellow, like a mango.

James Acaster

That's not really mango, is it? Orange is what.

Joe Wilkinson

Mangoes are yellow, aren't they?

Ed Gamble

I'm willing to admit that-,

James Acaster

Yes, okay. Hey, look, I pick my battles at this point.



Joe Wilkinson

Well, I'm having a lovely time.

Ed Gamble

Umbrella, did it have an umbrella in it?

Joe Wilkinson

No, it wasn't that kind of restaurant.

Ed Gamble

Sorry, I've never been to a Chinese restaurant in Tenerife, on Christmas Day, mate.

Joe Wilkinson

No. Hard to eat Chinese outside, it turns out.

James Acaster

Yes? Why?

Joe Wilkinson

Because you just sweat a lot.

James Acaster

Merry Christmas, man.

Joe Wilkinson

Yes. No, that was a good Christmas.

James Acaster

How busy was the restaurant that day?

Joe Wilkinson

Oh, almost empty. Yes.

James Acaster

Just you and your other half, having a Chinese meal on Christmas day together?

Joe Wilkinson

Reading a good book, while I talked at her. There's not big gaps in the other reps, is there?

Ed Gamble

We'll edit all this out, Joe.

Joe Wilkinson

Cool, thanks. I'll sound like-,



Ed Gamble

Actually, we can't edit them out for you, because it really, you know, it's why it's the way this is.

James Acaster

Yes. Now you can hear the audience in between, so it would be weird, because it would be suddenly we're cutting off.

Joe Wilkinson

You can hear their eyes rolling.

James Acaster

I guess, I mean, it feels like we should ask you why you were in a Chinese restaurant in Tenerife, on Christmas Day, but-

Ed Gamble

Well, last time I asked that, he said, 'We fancied a Chinese.'

James Acaster

Yes. Yes, I know. Sorry, yes, you fancied a Chinese.

Joe Wilkinson

Yes. So, I think I've answered it.

James Acaster

That's probably the same-, yes.

Joe Wilkinson

I don't know what more I can say. It took some doing to find one, actually, but then where we found one, there was two.

Ed Gamble

How did you pick between the two?

Joe Wilkinson

The other one looked a lot fancier.

James Acaster

That would have been too nice?

Joe Wilkinson

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes, it's not like it's Christmas, or anything.



Joe Wilkinson

No.

James Acaster

Straight into the scummy one, to eat a drink you don't even know what it is. We arrive at your dream dessert, Joe. Normally I'm excited for this.

Joe Wilkinson

You ever seen a Viennetta being made? Have you ever seen a Viennetta?

James Acaster

I've not seen one being being made.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I've watched a lot of videos of Viennettas being made.

James Acaster

I like Viennetta, but I've not seen them being made.

Joe Wilkinson

Fucking hell, it's quick.

James Acaster

That's what you want.

Joe Wilkinson

They make, I'd say-, what would you say? About 500 a minute.

Ed Gamble

Don't think I would say that actually, Joe.

Joe Wilkinson

Well, you're watching a different video from me.

Ed Gamble

They make one long Viennetta, and then chop it up, right?

Joe Wilkinson

Yes, and then they chop it up, and it's fucking incredible. I was going to say Viennetta anyway, but after seeing the video.

Ed Gamble

Oh, did the video put you off?



Joe Wilkinson

No, it's impressive.

Ed Gamble

Cemented it?

Joe Wilkinson

Cemented it, yes. We love Viennetta, don't we, P?

Ed Gamble

She's gone.

James Acaster

She's not here, mate.

Joe Wilkinson

She's gone, yes. Georgia, can you text Petra, and tell her, 'We love Viennetta, don't we?' So, Viennetta, which I would have had anyway, but because it's Off Menu, I'll say mint Viennetta, but I don't mean it.

James Acaster

No?

Ed Gamble

Because it's Off Menu, you'll say mint Viennetta?

Joe Wilkinson

Yes, you know, fancy it up a bit.

James Acaster

What do you think this podcast is? This podcast isn't people choosing fancy stuff, Joe. It's choosing stuff, and this will surprise you even more, they genuinely like.

Joe Wilkinson

Yes, I like Viennetta. If you gave me-, if there were two Viennettas on the table, and most people wanted the normal one, not the mint one, I'd go, 'I'll have the mint one.'

Ed Gamble

But this is your dream meal, Joe. Why are you inventing these people coming in, and going, 'Oh, I want that actually,' and you go, 'Yes, fucking have it then.'

James Acaster

'I'll have my second choice then, fine.'



Joe Wilkinson

Well, what I'm saying is, I wouldn't be that disappointed if there was only mint.

Ed Gamble

But imagine-, this is your dream, you can abolish all disappointment. You don't need to be that, 'Oh, I won't be that disappointed.' Imagine not being disappointed at all, Joe, in your dream. Have you ever had a nice dream, Joe?

James Acaster

Imagine getting the thing that you want. That's all we're asking you, Buddy.

Ed Gamble

Have you ever had a dream where it's gone well, beginning to end, without anyone interrupting it?

Joe Wilkinson

No, I've always got my trousers and pants down, outside my old school.

Ed Gamble

Right, and so you've got no time to sleep?

Joe Wilkinson

Wonderful. That's called a bit of business. How happy are you now?

Ed Gamble

Ah, chuffed.

James Acaster

Deserved, you should be happy. Good stuff.

Joe Wilkinson

What was the question? Yes, Viennetta.

James Acaster

Have you been to The Windmill in Brighton?

Joe Wilkinson

Have I been to the what?

James Acaster

The Windmill.

Joe Wilkinson

What, the pub, or the actual windmill?



James Acaster

It's a-, fucking, why would I be asking you-,

Joe Wilkinson

There's a windmill.

James Acaster

Okay.

Joe Wilkinson

There's a couple actually, and both are excellent.

James Acaster

The pub.

Joe Wilkinson

Yes.

James Acaster

So, one of their new things on the menu, is they do a Viennetta Affogato. Where they-,

Joe Wilkinson

A what? What's an Affogato?

James Acaster

Okay, yes. I knew it as soon as I said it.

Joe Wilkinson

Whatever it is, they just ballsed up a Viennetta, haven't they?

James Acaster

Just means they put a shot of espresso over it.

Joe Wilkinson

Yes, fuck off. Take that off. Take that off.

James Acaster

Genuinely a delicious thing, that I've had in this town, that involves Viennetta.

Joe Wilkinson

Get it off. Get that off.



James Acaster

But it's good. If you haven't been to The Windmill and you live round here, go there, and at the very least, get that Viennetta Affogato.

Ed Gamble

That sounds absolutely amazing.

Joe Wilkinson

Can you get it without the Affo-whatever?

James Acaster

Yes, I'm sure you can go and say to them, 'I've noticed here, it says you have a Viennetta Affogato, where you get Viennetta and you pour a shot of espresso over it, and also it says here on the menu that there's some hazelnut praline on the bottom of the glass as well. Can I have that, without the praline, or the shot of espresso, please? I would just like a block of Viennetta, like I could get at home. Is that okay? My name is Joe Wilkinson.'

Joe Wilkinson

Can I bring my own? Do you know what? I'll leave it, I'll have it at home.

James Acaster

'We like Viennetta, don't we, though? Oh, she doesn't talk to me. Yes, we'll have-,'

Joe Wilkinson

'I'll answer for her, she's in the middle of chapter two. She's bedded into the characters now.' I love Viennetta, genuinely.

Ed Gamble

I mean, look, Viennetta's fucking amazing.

Joe Wilkinson

Yes.

Ed Gamble

It is an incredible.

James Acaster

It is great. Richard Osman chose Viennetta.

Joe Wilkinson

Oh, well that makes me feel good.

James Acaster

You like Richard Osman?



Joe Wilkinson

Yes, he's a clever clogs, isn't he? He's written loads of books. How do you write books?

Ed Gamble

I'd imagine you've seen the cover of his book quite a lot, across a meal in a restaurant.

Joe Wilkinson

Yes, 'Is it good?'

James Acaster

While you're pointing at your larynx. All you can see is, like, 'The donkey who died twice,' or whatever the fucking book's called.

Ed Gamble

It's a good one, that.

Joe Wilkinson

Just thinking about me and Osman having the same dessert.

James Acaster

Yes, feels good?

Joe Wilkinson

Yes. I'll have the mint one, if he wants the normal one.

Ed Gamble

He's not-, this is not-, with Off Menu we don't go, 'Well, you've had the same thing as them, so you'll need to share.'

Joe Wilkinson

Oh, okay. I'll have half his then.

Ed Gamble

Joe, will you pass the wine to James Acaster? Thank you.

Joe Wilkinson

Absolutely, my pleasure.

James Acaster

Thank you, Joe.

Ed Gamble

We've just been told by the great Benito, that Richard Osman chose mint Viennetta.



Joe Wilkinson

Oh, so I can have the normal one, I can have the plain one?

Ed Gamble

Yes, but I can't stress enough, even if he hadn't, you could have still had the normal one.

James Acaster

Yes, no matter what, you can have what-,

Joe Wilkinson

You've got more than one?

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Actually, yes, and you can have whatever you like in the whole world, Joe.

Joe Wilkinson

Yes, I'll have a Viennetta, please.

James Acaster

Plain?

Joe Wilkinson

Plain, yes.

James Acaster

At home?

Joe Wilkinson

Yes.

Ed Gamble

I just realised, 80% of your meal has come from your own freezer.

James Acaster

The freezer, Joe.

Joe Wilkinson

Yes, I've got a freezer. What about it?



Ed Gamble

How long before you eat it, are you getting the Viennetta out the freezer?

Joe Wilkinson

That's a bloody good question. I have never been able to wait longer enough, for it to be soft and better.

James Acaster

Yes, okay.

Joe Wilkinson

So, it's always too hard, but I'm in now.

James Acaster

That's one of the lines from Frozen porn, I think.

Joe Wilkinson

I love a cool back.

Ed Gamble

That was a beautiful moment.

James Acaster

First guest to join in with it.

Joe Wilkinson

Oh, was I not meant to? Do it again.

James Acaster

No, that was great.

Ed Gamble

No, it was perfect.

Joe Wilkinson

There's so many rules.

James Acaster

It's made my day, Joe.

Ed Gamble

Yes, it's made my day.

James Acaster

And I can't exaggerate enough, until now it was one of the worst days I've ever had.



Ed Gamble

So, with the Kiev, you're forgetting about the Kiev, leaving it in the oven, watching your show. With the Viennetta, it's so on your mind all of the time, that you can't leave it to defrost?

Joe Wilkinson

No, I just won't-, I'll have forgot-, I'll have-, I'll be slightly feeling slightly sick from how much Kiev and chips I've had, but I will go, 'Ah,' I'll go, 'Come on, let's get on with it. Get the Viennetta out,' but you'll probably know this, you're meant to let Viennetta rest.

Ed Gamble

That is the term that's on the box.

Joe Wilkinson

But I'll be honest, we don't, we eat it straight away.

Ed Gamble

How are you hacking into?

Joe Wilkinson

Oh, we've got a special knife, a Viennetta knife.

James Acaster

What garage did you get that from?

Joe Wilkinson

Got a cake slice I use.

James Acaster

Nice.

Joe Wilkinson

Yes, this is a lovely meal I've made, isn't it?

James Acaster

Well, I'm going to read that meal back to you now, Joe, and see how you feel about it. You would like tap water from Ed's garden tap. You want nice crusty bread, that doesn't fill you up. You want your mum's prawn cocktail. You want two chick Kievs from Waitrose, with chips and peas not from Waitrose, and loads of ketchup. You want more peas in a ramekin. You want a Mango Magic from a Chinese restaurant near Tenerife, on Christmas Day, and for dessert, you want a plain Viennetta. Joe Wilkinson.

Ed Gamble

The Off Menu menu, and Joe Wilkinson. Thank you very much, Brighton.



James Acaster

Joe Wilkinson, everybody.

Ed Gamble

Give it up for Joe.

James Acaster

Thank you so much for coming.

Ed Gamble

Thank you so much for coming, you've been absolutely brilliant. Thank you very much. Don't forget that. Goodbye, Brighton. There we are, fantastic episode. We love being in Brighton, it was a great show.

James Acaster

It was so good.

Ed Gamble

Only one night in Brighton.

James Acaster

Residency though.

Ed Gamble

It's a residency still. Do listen to Joe's podcast with David Earl, Chatabix, wherever you listen to your podcasts. We've both been guests on it, James.

James Acaster

Don't remind me.

Ed Gamble

That's the vibe of Chatabix, James. That's a compliment to Chatabix, the way James said that there.

James Acaster

Yes, those twisted fucks, they'll like like.

Ed Gamble

I think there's also some episodes of Joe, talking about coming to do the show you just listened to as well. So, you can get the full, complete history of the evening. When Joe was booked for it, what he was going to do, him coming to the show, how he feels about it afterwards. So, yes, you can really delve into everything that happened, but is is, it's a very funny podcast. Bye-bye.

James Acaster

Bye.