



# Off Menu – Ep 245 – Tommy Tiernan (Live)

**Ed Gamble**

Oh boy, it's not Friday, it's not Sunday, it's somewhere in the middle.

**James Acaster**

Ba ba ba ab bolas!

**Ed Gamble**

I was going to say, it's only Saturday before you do that. It's the first show of our tour that came live from Dublin, our residency at the Board Gais Energy Theatre in Dublin, that means gas board. It was on the 27th of November 2023 and James, we only went and bagged a couple of absolute stunners for Ireland.

**James Acaster**

And the first of which is Tommy Tiernan. Look, we absolutely love being in Dublin, we love the comedy of Tommy Tiernan, he's a comedy icon of mine, if I'm honest.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

So, this was very exciting.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, and we knew it was going to be an interesting episode.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

and I think it is.

**James Acaster**

Yes, it's a fantastic episode, and if you're familiar with Tommy Tiernan, this is for me, like, quintessential.

**Ed Gamble**

Vintage.

**James Acaster**

Tommy Tiernan.



**Ed Gamble**

It's really good stuff, the secret ingredient was Marietta Biscuits, which is a plain Irish biscuit that we were told about from the audience in the first half.

**James Acaster**

The buttery, kind of, thing in between and you push it together and it comes out the holes. I didn't really keep up with it, but, like, the Irish audience, well, one person told us about it.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, we heard a lot about different Irish foods. A lot about spiced bags.

**James Acaster**

Yes. We got quite the education, our wonderful audience to finish the tour on. Obviously, this is the first of two.

**Ed Gamble**

First of two, of a residency. This is the Off Menu Menu, live in Dublin of Tommy Tiernan.

**Ed Gamble**

Welcome to the Off Menu podcast, taking the sausages of conversation, adding the sausages of humour. The sausages of friendship and putting it all in the big sausage of the internet. It's the Off Menu Sausages Podcast.

**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 guest and we ask them their favourite ever starter, main course, dessert, side dish and drink, not in that order. This week, our guest is-, Tommy Tiernan.

**Ed Gamble**

Tommy Tiernan. So, excited to have Tommy. We've got Tommy for the Dublin show James.

**James Acaster**

It's a national treasure episode, we're very excited about it, and it's live.

**Ed Gamble**

We know the secret ingredient already.

**James Acaster**

Keep that in your heads.

**Ed Gamble**

This is the Off Menu Menu of Tommy Tiernan.



**James Acaster**

Tommy Tiernan.

**Ed Gamble**

Welcome Tommy.

**Tommy Tiernan**

You don't get to say welcome when you're in my country. I get to say, 'Welcome Ed and James.'

**James Acaster**

Thank you Tommy.

**Ed Gamble**

And was that you saying it or was that-, are you actually saying it?

**Tommy Tiernan**

No, I am, I mean it yes, totally.

**Ed Gamble**

James, what are you doing?

**James Acaster**

Yes, sorry.

**Ed Gamble**

We've got to kick the show off properly Tommy, because James is a genie now. He's a genie in this. So, I mean, it's up to you whether you want to rub the lamp, or not. Or, whether we can imagine rubbing the lamp if that's easier for you?

**Tommy Tiernan**

Why don't the two of us just have a chat?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. See how long he can squat behind there. Not forgetting he is fully squatting and he does still have an ice cream in his pocket.

**Tommy Tiernan**

That's the pre-prison squat. Do you want me to rub this thing?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, give the lamp a rub.

**Tommy Tiernan**

Where do I rub it?



**Ed Gamble**

You rub it wherever you like.

**Tommy Tiernan**

There we go. Oh my goodness.

**James Acaster**

Welcome Tommy Tiernan to the Dream Restaurant. We've been expecting you for some time. Although you should be welcoming me.

**Tommy Tiernan**

That's almost as amazing as mass. Wouldn't be mass be amazing if it was that simple? Just rub the goblet and out comes God.

**Ed Gamble**

I'd definitely go, for sure.

**James Acaster**

What would you want God to say to you, if he leapt out of the goblet?

**Tommy Tiernan**

Sorry. And we'd ask him for an explanation and he'd say, 'I dunno, I just love drama.'

**Ed Gamble**

God talking like he's on-,

**Tommy Tiernan**

But you think about it, yes, the earth is like God's television, he just-, he loves crime series, true crime series. Murder, war movies, he loves them all, 'Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.' Flicking through reality for his entertainment. I'd want him to say sorry.

**Ed Gamble**

It would be a good explanation if God went, 'Oh, I'm just a messy bitch.'

**James Acaster**

Would you consider yourself a foodie, Tommy Tiernan?

**Tommy Tiernan**

Not really, very simple, very, like, I grew up in a house where my mother really had very little interest in us. Really, no, it's a wonder she fucking gave birth at all. Just, she would stand at the cooker, but just be staring out the window. So, our food was generally heated as opposed to cooked.

**James Acaster**

Yes.



**Tommy Tiernan**

So, we would've had-, do you remember the mash potatoes that the robots made? Smash?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Tommy Tiernan**

That was like water plus baby food, or some weird shit like that. We've have fish fingers, we used to have the saddest fucking dinner, bacon and cabbage but it was boiled to the point of being beyond nutritional. Like, it was the ghost of food. It was the saddest plate I've-, if depression was food it would be-, like, it was just. You know, some food makes you happy, do you know what I mean? You're getting the fizz from fizzy cola bottles, like sucking them is just, 'I'm alive.'

**James Acaster**

Yes, I do know that.

**Ed Gamble**

Fuck he does know that.

**Tommy Tiernan**

Or, you know when you lick Pringles and you're kind of going, 'I'm very bad.'

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

How many times are you licking a Pringle.

**Tommy Tiernan**

I'm a very bad man.

**James Acaster**

I presume when you lick a Pringle, just to be clear, because they're curved, you're licking the dish not the underside.

**Tommy Tiernan**

As my father said to me as I was leaving the house, 'Always lick the dip, Tom. Always.'

**James Acaster**

Always lick the dip, yes.

**Tommy Tiernan**

Always lick the dip.



**James Acaster**

Very clear.

**Tommy Tiernan**

So, apply that into whatever area of your life you feel inclined, but that's the advice I give, 'Always lick the dip.'

**Ed Gamble**

Was there any dish that you had when you were growing up that you looked forward to? Was there, like, a treat dish that you were like, 'Oh, we're doing that tonight?'

**Tommy Tiernan**

No, well, my father would give us food every Friday evening and his-, there was a chipper in Navan called the Valley Café. It was like being loved. Do you know those places, where you go in and they're not huge and the wood is dark, and everybody-, I never seem to remember it being open during the summer although it must've been. But it was kind of a winter, Friday evening, wintery place. Lots of physical contact, it was like chips in a wardrobe. The smell of vinegar and salt and love and so every Friday my dad used to get us chips. That would've been the thing we looked forward to every week. I did grow up in a strange house, you know, full of-, like, my mother was a very odd woman. Like, we had to take the cat for a drive. Like, women want to be alone sometimes, but my mother couldn't tolerate any living creature being in the house. So, my father used to take us for pointless drives into the fucking-, the countryside with nothing in it, every Sunday. I remember my mother, you know, we're out in the car, the next thing my mother would open the door and say, 'Take that fucking cat with you.'

**Ed Gamble**

So, that was for your mother's benefit, because when you first said it I assumed that you were taking the cat for a drive for the cat's benefit.

**James Acaster**

Yes, that's what it sounded like to me as well.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Tommy Tiernan**

It's very hard to know what cats want. I wouldn't say the cat was ever pleased, or displeased, being in the car. He was just resigned, like the rest of us.

**Ed Gamble**

It's rare that a cat knows what day it is as well, but I bet your cat was like, 'It must be Sunday.'

**Tommy Tiernan**

That's hard to know, but that's the kind of house we grew up in, you know, kind of. And food was never, like, we never came home gladly as children. Do you know what I mean? It was one of those houses



where you just go, 'Oh fuck.' I loved my friends' houses, like we had-, and back in those days, like, we all lived in the same type of house. It's only as you get older that you realise, 'Oh, were some houses bigger than other houses?' Like, we lived in an ordinary estate house, very small and there were about 140 or 150 houses in the estate. And there was an exact opposite of it across the road. There was one row of kind of slightly, not posh, but a row of bungalows near us. They were fucking mad, like, because there was one two-storey house, and they had fucking-, their sitting room was upstairs. Like, who the fuck are these people that have sitting rooms upstairs? And we found out later that the dad was a protestant, and that's the kind of thing that protestant do, they have the sitting room upstairs. Because historically, the Catholics would have slept with the animals downstairs, and the protestants would be up with the furniture. They were slightly better off than we were, and they used to have Sunday dinner every day. The heathens. Every day they'd have a full Sunday roast and sometimes I'd get fed at their house. I looked forward to food there. So, ours was a warring house, so the kitchen was never a place of rest, it was never a place of-, like, I would like to do now with my family. We have a round dinner table, and we all get the phones away while we're eating and no one is allowed on their phone at dinner time.

We try and have conversations, you know? But growing up, like, food was like, a pit-stop at a Formula 1 race. You just fucking pull in, don't speak, shovel it into me as fast as you can and go to bed, that was it. So, yes, I wouldn't say I'm a foodie, I've never been a foodie really. Was that the question?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Tommy Tiernan**

Do I talk too much? Is that the problem?

**Ed Gamble**

No, absolutely not, we are loving this. It's a night off for us, Tommy.

**James Acaster**

You're a guest on our podcast, Tommy. We always start with still or sparkling water for the Dream meal.

**Tommy Tiernan**

I have no fucking time at all for water. I won't be seen near the stuff. Water to me is the liquid equivalent of waiting. Now, having said that, there is a very special place in County Kerry in Ireland called Gleann na nGealt. The literal English translation of it would be, The Valley of the Mad. Historically, if you were suffering from any sort of mental affliction, or-, no, because I think we're all kind of mentally afflicted. But kind of, maybe an antisocial mental affliction. They would send you to the Valley of the Mad to Gleann na nGealt, that's where you'd go.

**Ed Gamble**

Free bus ticket.



**Tommy Tiernan**

You're paying far too much attention to what I'm saying.

**James Acaster**

We test each other afterwards.

**Tommy Tiernan**

And you'd go there to drink the water from the river. And you know, you hear about stuff like that and you think it's just some sort of nonsensical folk tale. But then, in the last twenty years or so, they've done tests on the water and they've found that it has extraordinarily high levels of lithium, natural lithium. Now you see, I'm stunned that you're laughing already, because you're all on tablets, aren't you?

**Ed Gamble**

These are podcast listeners Tommy.

**Tommy Tiernan**

Different, you're a completely different generation to my generation. You take medication to fucking, to cope, right? We took medication because we were bored of coping. We took drugs to fucking, to taste the wind and speak the seven languages of the sun. You fucking take drugs to get you through double maths. So, you're a different generation. Anyway, so lithium is a natural antidepressant, so they were right. This wasn't a, kind of, an invented nonsense. This worked. So, if you could get me a glass of water from the river that flows through the Valley of the Mad, I'd have a glass of that.

**Ed Gamble**

Absolutely can.

**Tommy Tiernan**

To start with.

**Ed Gamble**

Lovely.

**Tommy Tiernan**

To start with.

**Ed Gamble**

Do you want a wedge of lemon in that, or anything?

**Tommy Tiernan**

I also like-, I'm on a bit of a tonic water buzz at the minute. I was in Africa last week and I wasn't sure what to eat in Africa, and the part of Africa I was in-, you know when you'll always be worried, especially when you're going on long drives in Africa, or Asia. And just after arriving you'd be worried about getting diarrhoea and stuff and driving through the countryside not knowing how to cope with that. So, I wasn't





sure what to eat, I wanted to give my body a few days. I didn't want to go near any of the juices. I lived in Africa for a little while as well, and we had a mango tree in our back garden. I loved-, I don't think I was ever happier than when I was up the tree, away from my mother, eating mangos.

**James Acaster**

You and the cat.

**Tommy Tiernan**

Just me and the cat. Just sucking mangos. This microphone reminds me of a mango. So, when I was in Africa and I didn't know what to do, recently, and I didn't know what to eat or drink to start off with. I was in a bar and I decided to go for the tonic water, and I love it actually. I know there's quinine, is that the thing that's in tonic water, a lot of people drink gin and tonic and so like the quinine. I love it. So, that's the kind of an answer to your lemon question.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Tommy Tiernan**

Which is a bit like the classical Irish joke about when you ask somebody for directions and they say, 'Well, I wouldn't start from here.'

**James Acaster**

Popadums or Bread, popadums or bread Tommy Tiernan, popadums or bread?

**Tommy Tiernan**

I think I would have to-, I get full very quickly, that might be an Irish thing as well, like, we weren't reared on starters.

**James Acaster**

No.

**Tommy Tiernan**

So, the starters don't make any sense to me.

**Ed Gamble**

We're not even at the starters.

**Tommy Tiernan**

So, I'll eventually get around the popadums and bread thing-, but let's start with the starters.

**Ed Gamble**

You're skipping ahead to slag off starters.



**Tommy Tiernan**

Yes, I'm going ahead. So, an ideal starter for me would just be to be beaten-, can I tell you one of my sexual fantasies just to get that out of the way.

**James Acaster**

Absolutely.

**Ed Gamble**

Please.

**Tommy Tiernan**

I'd love to be alone. That's my sexual fantasy. No, I'd like to be, well, I'd like to be alone in a warehouse, a really, really big warehouse. It's completely dark, but I also have a blindfold on and my hands are behind my back and-

**Ed Gamble**

Tied up, or just behind your back?

**Tommy Tiernan**

Every time-, you're making things awkward.

**Ed Gamble**

I will occasionally ask a question Tommy.

**Tommy Tiernan**

Tied up? Tied up?

**James Acaster**

You could just have your hands behind your back, like a bobby on the beat.

**Tommy Tiernan**

Yes, but my hands are behind my back, and what I would like to be-, what I would like is a naked, angry Serena Williams to run into me. Repeatedly, not just once. Like, she runs into me and I'm fucking knocked down to the ground, I can't see anything. And I can just hear her, furious, somewhere in the warehouse.

**James Acaster**

Serena has got free rein of the whole warehouse, she's running around.

**Tommy Tiernan**

She destroys me, she fucking destroys me.

**Ed Gamble**

Presumably she has got night vision goggles on or something so she can see exactly where you are?



**James Acaster**

Yes, this is like Silence of the Lambs.

**Tommy Tiernan**

You keep dragging me back down to earth with these questions.

**Ed Gamble**

I'm just trying to think about it from Serena's perspective, you know?

**Tommy Tiernan**

There's no point, I don't think she'd be into it.

**Ed Gamble**

She hates being there, right?

**Tommy Tiernan**

She's just annoyed at me for some reason, that's all I know. Me specifically.

**James Acaster**

Probably because she heard about this fantasy.

**Tommy Tiernan**

What was the question? Was it popadums or bread?

**James Acaster**

It was poppadums or bread, but often that gets confused with which tennis player do you want to slam into you in a warehouse constantly while you're blindfolded, with your hands tied behind your back. Often people confuse which one of the Williams' sisters we've asked them to-

**Tommy Tiernan**

It's too easy to eat a load of poppadums, isn't it? It's too easy, like, you're full before you know it. The same with bread, I do like peshwari naan, I'm a big peshwari naan fan. If I was only eating peshwari naan, I'd have that. But I'm conscious of having to finish this fucking four course meal, so I think I'd have maybe, like, the hint of a poppadum, or something. Like, I'd like a plate that a poppadum had been on.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Or, a tiny poppadum.

**Tommy Tiernan**

A crisp, you're thinking of.



**James Acaster**

Are we back in mass now?

**Tommy Tiernan**

Are we?

**James Acaster**

Are we back in mass, are we back at body of Christ?

**Tommy Tiernan**

Back at mass, Body of Christ.

**James Acaster**

A tiny poppadum, if you want to take it like mass.

**Ed Gamble**

Just pop it on your tongue.

**Tommy Tiernan**

Controversial that, James.

**Ed Gamble**

You brought it back around to that as well, I thought we'd wriggled out of that conversation pretty easily.

**Tommy Tiernan**

We've moved on from the blasphemy thing.

**Ed Gamble**

Jesus Christ.

**Tommy Tiernan**

So, I'd say a hint of a poppadum.

**Ed Gamble**

Do you want the smell, sort of like the-,

**Tommy Tiernan**

They don't really smell that good, do they? Poppadums?

**James Acaster**

No?



**Tommy Tiernan**

No one has ever said they love the smell of poppadums. No, there's a kind of a, oh. It's kind of an angry wet bread smell of poppadums, isn't it? If you think about it as kind of, you know, but again, supremely conscious of not eating too much at the start. I'd get a shard, a dust cloud of poppadums. Something vague and tempting, but not filling.

**Ed Gamble**

Do you want all the dips with that?

**Tommy Tiernan**

Yes, I want the dips. Remember what dad said.

**James Acaster**

Let's go on to your dream starter then because, like-,

**Ed Gamble**

Well, I think we've heard it, haven't we?

**James Acaster**

Was that-, what, Serena Williams mowing you down in a fucking warehouse?

**Tommy Tiernan**

No, the starter would be, again, like, what I was going to say about the steak, was just to be beaten across the face with a steak. Or, something, just-, we're not used to starters in Ireland. We weren't reared with starters, like, it's a dinner before your dinner? Like, and in Irish restaurants, we have no clue in terms of, like, the proportionality of portions. We don't have-, we're still stuck in that thing of that more equals better quality. So, you'd be going to a place, and you might say, 'Oh, I'll have the chicken wings to start.' And you get this fucking bucket, and you know, there's no room for anything else. I'd have a sliver of something. Do you know what I'd love, actually?

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Tommy Tiernan**

Do you remember that-, I can't remember what it was called, the fucking, to was after Hannibal Lecter, the screaming of the sheep. It was the sequel to-,

**James Acaster**

Silence of the Lambs.

**Tommy Tiernan**

The sequel, the Screaming of the Sheep.



**James Acaster**

Hannibal and Red Dragon. Are you thinking about, if you're building up towards where Ray Liotta has his brain cut out-

**Tommy Tiernan**

Yes. Yes, okay. That would not be ideal that you're slowly going mad and being fed yourself. Like, I would love to eat-, would you put on weight if you ate yourself? Would you? Like, if you were fed your own brain, would you, 'Oh, uh. I couldn't possibly. I'm stuffed.' What was I thinking about?

**James Acaster**

Starter, possibly being a sliver of your own brain for your starter.

**Tommy Tiernan**

No, what I would love to do, we're probably the only animals that don't do this. I'd love to eat something that was alive.

**James Acaster**

As you're eating, it's alive as you're eating it?

**Tommy Tiernan**

Yes, like, all other animals.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Tommy Tiernan**

Get to do that, like, they get to-

**James Acaster**

They do get to.

**Tommy Tiernan**

Do you remember the little fish that you used to get to clean your feet?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Tommy Tiernan**

Like, did you ever just, fucking-, and they're going mad in your mouth. I think I'd like that, as a starter.



**Ed Gamble**

The feet cleaning fish.

**Tommy Tiernan**

Do you have anything that's-, do you have any vegan options, do you have anything gluten free, anything alive? I'd like that, I'd like something that was alive. Do you think people-, wine people, the wine tasters and stuff like that, they always just rinse their mouths. And then, there must be some way of doing that with a type of food that is, you know, just have a shoal full of these micro sharks. Swim to freedom.

**James Acaster**

Yes, so you get a taste of them.

**Tommy Tiernan**

Yes, the closest we've ever got to that is fizzy cola bottles.

**James Acaster**

Sure.

**Tommy Tiernan**

That's the closest that we've ever come to having something that's alive in our mouths. Certain body fluids that are alive, but I've never had the pleasure.

**James Acaster**

Well, this is the Dream Restaurant.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Anyone can be let into that warehouse Tommy.

**Ed Gamble**

It's dark in there.

**Tommy Tiernan**

I would like to try a breast milk sorbet.

**Ed Gamble**

We're really jumping around here, it's taking a while to decide. We've been through all the classics.

**Tommy Tiernan**

Why is that disgusting to people, when we're born it's the only thing we want, you know? Now look at us, 'Oh, we're so mature.' You know?



**James Acaster**

I haven't developed a taste for sorbet as an infant.

**Ed Gamble**

Body builders drink breast milk, don't they?

**Tommy Tiernan**

Do they?

**Ed Gamble**

Apparently some body builders buy breast milk on the black market and drink breast milk because apparently it's better, like, protein and stuff. What do you think of that?

**Tommy Tiernan**

You have a habit of just stopping this conversation dead.

**Ed Gamble**

I mean I was trying to carry on the conversation, you're the one who threw fucking breast milk sorbet into the mix for me.

**James Acaster**

You can't do that Tommy, you can't go, 'I'd love to eat breast milk sorbet.' Some people do, this guys fucking weird. Who invited the weirdo to dinner? I'm just saying, that I would love to eat it.

**Tommy Tiernan**

The reason that I was stunned by it was because I'm curious as to how they would get it. Like, because, you know, when you're-, a fierce amount doesn't come out. You don't, 'Anybody want to chip in here with some facts?'

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, I guess there are some people who are producing it.

**James Acaster**

Someone put their hand up over there. Yes, that's the bloke.

**Audience Member**

My mum told me that people used to go and actually, like, get paid to pump milk because people were actually buying it. Now, it was usually like fetish people, but like-,

**James Acaster**

Your mum told you, that fetish people used to buy it because people were paid to go and get pumped for those people.





**Audience Member**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

How did your mum happen upon this information?

Audience Member: My dad told me.

**James Acaster**

Your dad told you. Okay, so heh bought it.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

He was buying it, and then said, 'I've heard this happens.' So, there you go.

**Ed Gamble**

There's a market for everything.

**Tommy Tiernan**

Yes, so again, not too much of a starter. Just something to whet the appetite.

**Ed Gamble**

Lovely.

**Tommy Tiernan**

Something, like the smell of something, or like a-

**Ed Gamble**

The smell of something.

**Tommy Tiernan**

The midst, the midst from the kitchen.

**Ed Gamble**

It's the second midst of the menu, Tommy.

**Tommy Tiernan**

Oh, is it really?

**James Acaster**

Do you want the midst to be your own-, the smell of, it doesn't have to happen to you, but the smell of your own brain sizzling in a pan. Because there is that bit in that Hannibal scene, where he starts



sizzling the brain and Ray Liotta is like, 'Oh, that smells good.' And he actually, he performs that bit very convincingly and it makes me think, 'I bet that does smell delicious.' Because he's really selling it. So, would you like that to happen to your own brain?

**Tommy Tiernan**

Sure, I'd try that, yes, the smell of myself.

**James Acaster**

The scent of your own brain sizzling in a pan.

**Tommy Tiernan**

Lovely, yes. I'd go for that, totally, yes, yes.

**Ed Gamble**

You're right about the Irish not understanding starters.

**Tommy Tiernan**

Just as a point for information, there never was a famine. Just that other people wanted the food.

**James Acaster**

I like the sound of these other people. Dream main course, Tommy.

**Tommy Tiernan**

I'm not-, interested in that question. My dream main course would be, again, I'm not mad for-, I'm not mad for meat.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Tommy Tiernan**

I prefer not to eat meat, it's not a-, I'm not a vegetarian or anything. I don't think you're actually eating a cow, like, it was a cow, but it's fucking not a cow now. It won't be a cow tomorrow, it won't. It'll be something else tomorrow. I wouldn't eat a cow, I wouldn't have the nerve to go up to a cow and just start eating it. You know, I wouldn't do that, nobody would. I wouldn't even do it to a chicken. But what's on the plate, is not the thing that was in the field. But I still don't-, I would eat a chicken if it was somehow in the shape of a baby. I bet they could do that, I fucking bet they could do that. They could genetically-, it would still taste like chicken, but it would just be to see the other people in the restaurant going, 'What the fuck is he eating?' You imagine that would be quite easily done, like a plump roast chicken lying on its back, would not need that much work to look like a baby. I mean, they'd be going, 'Is he fucking nuts? What the fuck? I think he's eating a baby.' So, let's just park that for the moment.

**James Acaster**

Don't make that weird with any of your questions. Okay?



**Ed Gamble**

Sorry, I've got nothing to add there.

**Tommy Tiernan**

But I would be a big fan of roast potatoes. So, I love roast potatoes and, like I said, a very simple taste when it comes to food. So, roast potatoes, doesn't matter how badly they're roasted, over done, under done, rightly done. It almost even doesn't matter what's on them Rosemary or salt, I was going to say Maura, Sandra, Teresa. I'll have to pull potatoes out of the lady.

**James Acaster**

Who's this guy?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Tommy Tiernan**

Puts them back in the genie bottle.

**Ed Gamble**

I like him, who is he?

**Tommy Tiernan**

He's fucking mad, he is. What was I talk about? Rosemary roast potatoes, yes. So, it doesn't matter.

**James Acaster**

Goodbye to that guy.

**Tommy Tiernan**

It doesn't matter what's on the potatoes as long as they're roasted and I love them. I'd almost eat them all the time as everything, Like, get up in the morning and just, you know, have two.

**Ed Gamble**

Steady on.

**Tommy Tiernan**

And then maybe just fucking skip lunch all together, and then in the evening have about seven, and one going to bed. I fucking love roast potatoes. Like, when parsnips are roasted, little slivery, do you know when they're almost over roasted and they've almost like this tail, a little wisp of something definitively burned, but still parsnippy. Carrots, I do roast carrots, sometimes they put a honey thing on. I fucking discovered this popcorn recently that has blown my mind. Keogh's, have you heard of Keogh's. You have to eat these before you go back. Keogh's, Keogh's. Keogh's.



**James Acaster**

Well, this episode is going to be released audio, I can't wait for all the Tweets that are then like, 'You've done a mad job editing this, because you've clearly missed out a bit.' He was talking about all the roast vegetables he likes, and then you just hard cut him into talking about popcorn.' All of you are going to have to go online, that is what happened in the room.

**Ed Gamble**

What's the popcorn, immediately.

**Tommy Tiernan**

There is a link and the link is that Keogh's do this new popcorn now, I only discovered it, like, two or three weeks ago, it's honey and sea salt fucking popcorn. Like these people have nothing better to be doing, than just thinking of shit to put on popcorn. It is delicious, so the carrots, would have a kind of a-, you know, the carrots that have a honey glaze on them sometimes?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Tommy Tiernan**

I kind of like burned food.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Tommy Tiernan**

I like, you know, food that's just fucking-, it's like, annoyed at you. That's what burned food is, isn't it? Burned food is kind of like, 'Fuck you.' Isn't it?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, yes.

**Tommy Tiernan**

Do you know when you're having rashers, a good bit of the rasher can be alright, and then towards the end it's going, 'No, fuck you.' My main course would be mainly veg, but if possible chicken in the shape of a baby. If it was at all possible.

**James Acaster**

Yes. I think I can do that for you.

**Tommy Tiernan**

Then we would have something to-, a glass of something? Maybe if we'd run out of the lithium water, we'd have a glass-, I tried this whiskey recently and, like, I'm very easily led.



**Ed Gamble**

I don't believe that for a fucking second.

**James Acaster**

There were two of us trying to do it.

**Tommy Tiernan**

I'll be at home, hating myself later. But I was reading, Leonard Cohen was talking about being on tour in Europe in the seventies. We were spending a lot of money on this really expensive red wine that had these extra tannins in them, that were almost-, and I don't really drink red wine and he said there was a euphoric, happy buzz. That wine has different stuff in it that has different effects on your body. I thought, 'Wow.' He said they were spending thousands of pounds on this fucking wine. The idea of drinking something like that would be-, but recently I had a glass of this whiskey that just-, do you know those little, it was like the two sides of my head, where my temples were, turned into wind turbines. It was just-, beautiful.

**Ed Gamble**

Sounds lovely.

**Tommy Tiernan**

Now, whiskey is ridiculous, because I like cigars, but what I can't tolerate is the price of things. Continue.

**James Acaster**

I love that during that, at one point a guy down here went, 'Which whiskey?' Mate, if you think you-, 'Oh, I'll get a straight answer out of Tom.' Fucking second row audience member, which whiskey and Tommy straight away names it for you. There you go, happy to-,

**Ed Gamble**

Instead of which whiskey, 'I like cigars.'

**Tommy Tiernan**

I'm talking about the price of things.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. Sorry yes, sorry to interrupt Tom.

**Tommy Tiernan**

That sometimes something can be so expensive that it takes the goodness out of it. With food, you know, if you're being taken out to a restaurant, like I was in this place in San Francisco last week.

**James Acaster**

Now, I was pretty sure you were in Africa last week.



**Ed Gamble**

Big week.

**Tommy Tiernan**

And we went to this ridiculous, ridiculous restaurant, and it was too expensive and it kind of took the goodness out of it. So, then the same can happen with cigars, it's like you can get a cigar that costs like, fucking, two grand or something, and your'e thinking, 'This doesn't make any-, why is-, this is not right, like.' And wine is the same, and whiskey, the reason I'm not going to tell you it, is because it's too expensive. So, if stuff is too expensive, it sucks all the goodness out of it, and there is no reason for it to be expensive really, no reason at all. So, poppadums is the answer to your question.

**Ed Gamble**

The main course so far, just a quick catch up, we've got roasted vegetables, so burned they're aggressive towards you.

**Tommy Tiernan**

They're annoyed at you.

**James Acaster**

They're saying, 'Fuck you.' Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

A roast chicken in the shape of a baby if that's possible, and a glass of whiskey that's too expensive and it sucks all the goodness out of it.

**Tommy Tiernan**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

But it made your head feel as though you had two wind turbines either side of you.

**Tommy Tiernan**

Yes, I'd like that. Also, just as a-, I know we're on to sides now.

**James Acaster**

It's hard to come out of a side dish for your main dish that's comprised of sides, but-,

**Tommy Tiernan**

I used to sell mushrooms.

**James Acaster**

This explains everything.



**Tommy Tiernan**

If I was, say, in prison in America for murder.

**James Acaster**

Back to San Francisco.

**Tommy Tiernan**

Yes. Maybe, the chicken shaped like a baby wasn't a chicken at all. It was a fucking baby. An actual fucking baby.

**Ed Gamble**

Oh no, he's back.

**James Acaster**

It's my favourite character I've ever seen.

**Tommy Tiernan**

I ate a fucking baby.

**Ed Gamble**

I don't like the guy, but I do want to hear more from him.

**James Acaster**

Absolutely love it.

**Tommy Tiernan**

Anyway, so.

**Ed Gamble**

He's gone again.

**James Acaster**

He just comes and goes.

**Tommy Tiernan**

Do you remember that movie Ed Norton was in?

**James Acaster**

Okay.

**Ed Gamble**

The Incredible Hulk.



**Tommy Tiernan**

Do you remember the one, it was called Primal something or other.

**Ed Gamble**

Fear.

**Tommy Tiernan**

Was it Primal Fear, where he played the guy that was-, he pretended he had two different personalities. The lawyer defended him. At the end, he showed them that it was only a fucking joke. Anyway, I'm in prison in America.

**Ed Gamble**

For murder.

**Tommy Tiernan**

For eating a baby. It weren't even my own fucking baby, I just picked it up and fucking ate it. Right.

**James Acaster**

You get uncharacteristically excited and giddy as well, when you do it.

**Ed Gamble**

You really come forward on your seat when you're talking about eating a baby.

**James Acaster**

It's so great.

**Tommy Tiernan**

I'm quite shy otherwise, aren't I? Giving me confidence. So, I'm in prison in America for eating a baby. You know you get your last meal?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Tommy Tiernan**

You know? I would love to-, it would be a mushroom based event. If you could get me, like, without the authorities knowing. Like I say, 'My brother was a fucking pizza chef in town.' Even though it's his baby I fucking ate.

**Ed Gamble**

Oh no.





**Tommy Tiernan**

Because you have to have access to a baby if you want to fucking eat it. My brother, who's just as fucking mad as I am, because of the way we were brought up, right? My mother used to make us take the cat for a fucking walk. What's happening? So, I'm in prison in America, right?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Tommy Tiernan**

I've managed, through my contacts, to get magic mushroom pizza, right? They're all there, other relatives or whatever the fuck, you know. My brain is too fast for my mouth. So, anyway. When you're being executed, there's a thing. The family of the people that you've murdered, the person belonging to, they're there because they want to see you die. That's part of thing. So, I would either do one of two things. I'd either have, like, some sort of a poisonous mushroom. I'd be fucking dead already. So, they couldn't get the satisfaction. They'd be just fucking annoyed, after getting the bus out to the prison. 'What do you mean he's fucking dead already?'

**Ed Gamble**

Is that your family?

**James Acaster**

That's the family of the baby.

**Ed Gamble**

That's the family of the baby eater.

**Tommy Tiernan**

Anyway, so. I'm either dead already or-,

**James Acaster**

It's the baby's family, who've come to watch Tommy die.

**Ed Gamble**

His brother's made the pizza, right?

**James Acaster**

His brother made the pizza, but the baby's family have come to watch Tommy die to give them-,

**Ed Gamble**

His brother is the father of the baby.

**James Acaster**

No. I thought the brother knew the family.



**Ed Gamble**

No, it was his baby. I remember that bit.

**James Acaster**

Oh, apologies. Apologies.

**Ed Gamble**

Because you've got to have access to a baby if you want to fucking eat it.

**James Acaster**

Okay, that's true. So, it's Tommy's family who have come to watch Tommy-,

**Tommy Tiernan**

But, they're estranged. They're estranged.

**James Acaster**

Your estranged family. But, they want closure by watching you die.

**Tommy Tiernan**

They want to see me fucking die, don't they? Bastards.

**James Acaster**

Yes. You're denying them that closure.

**Tommy Tiernan**

I'm fucking dead already.

**James Acaster**

Yes, because you've eaten a poisonous mushroom.

**Tommy Tiernan**

Or-,

**James Acaster**

Or.

**Tommy Tiernan**

Or, they're like hallucinogenic mushrooms and you're just-, they bring you in and they lay you on the crucifix table. They want to see you apologetic and, 'I'm so sorry for eating your fucking baby. If I could go back in time, I wouldn't eat it. I wouldn't eat it. But, I can't go back in time. Oh, god. Do you forgive me? Do you forgive me? I'm so sorry I ate the baby. I wish I'd never fucking seen that baby. It wasn't even nice.'



**James Acaster**

Fucking hell.

**Tommy Tiernan**

Or, I have this magic mushroom pizza and I'm fucking gone. I'm just-, so, they don't get that thing of me crying. I'm just there going, 'Bendy. Why is everything just all fucking bendy? Look at the walls. They're fucking on the roof and they're bendy. They're bendy walls.'

**James Acaster**

Both good options.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. We'll get you a slice of each, you can decide on the day.

**Tommy Tiernan**

Thank you, thank you.

**James Acaster**

All I'm going to be thinking about when I try and go to sleep tonight is that character, the whole narrative arc of their story.

**Tommy Tiernan**

Call me. Call me, James. Call me. 'Are you asleep? So, am I. I'm going to go to sleep in your brain.' First voice you hear tomorrow morning will be mine going, 'Hello, James.' Anyway.

**James Acaster**

Your dream-, what's your dream side dish, sorry?

**Tommy Tiernan**

The side dish would be some sort of mushroom. I do love mushrooms. I think, didn't they discover a massive mushroom in-, somebody will know this. I think they discovered-, it's like the size of a county. No, really, I did. I think someone will know this. In Oregon, yes.

**James Acaster**

In the Oregon mountains.

**Tommy Tiernan**

We don't know if she's lying or telling the truth.

**Ed Gamble**

No. It's awful that, isn't it?

**James Acaster**

Surely you do know, Tommy. You were in the Oregon mountains last week, weren't you?



**Tommy Tiernan**

Don't get fucking smart now.

**Ed Gamble**

Oh no.

**Tommy Tiernan**

He's gone, he's having a nap. So, yes, that's my side dish. Just mushrooms. We used to have, like, I think-, I did sell them. My father worked for an organisation called Teagasc, which were the farm advisory council of Ireland or something. I was a teenager and I wanted extra money. He used to buy mushrooms off a local farmer for 50 pence a pound, and I would go round the housing estates in our side of Navan, selling the mushrooms for 50 pence a half pound. So, I'd make about twenty quid altogether. I'd give a tenner of that back to my dad, to pay the mushroom farmer for the tenner's worth of mushrooms. I'd have a tenner in Navan on a Saturday. So, I bought Kells. That's a town beside Navan that's-,

**James Acaster**

Your dream drink, Tommy Tiernan.

**Tommy Tiernan**

My?

**James Acaster**

Dream drink.

**Tommy Tiernan**

The blood of Christ.

**James Acaster**

Got to be delicate, Tommy.

**Tommy Tiernan**

Châteauneuf-du-Pape. Again, you know, I like Guinness. I like drinking Guinness. I like drinking whiskey. I'm trying not to drink as much these days. I'm trying to knock back. So, I'm on the tonic water at the minute, which I do like a lot. But, for a treat, I find Guinness gets me drunk kind of slowly. I'm a nice Guinness drunk, in a kind of way. It's kind of an easy, slow-, I'm bendy and friendly on a Guinness drunk. I'm good craic. But, whiskey gets me quite drunk quite rapidly. I get a bit gnarly. I like being on my own when I'm drinking whiskey. So, my ideal drink would probably be some sort of mushroom-y-, a magic mushroom smoothie.

**James Acaster**

A magic mushroom smoothie.



**Tommy Tiernan**

With a hint of death.

**James Acaster**

That's exciting. We made sure we-, it was our first night in Dublin last night. We arrived yesterday. We had a lovely meal at Masa.

**Ed Gamble**

Masa, yes. Good tacos.

**James Acaster**

Went from there over to Whelan's, to get a Guinness. It was a very nice feeling, to arrive in Dublin and have a Guinness.

**Tommy Tiernan**

Yes. It's a bit different to the Guinness in England. Did you notice?

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Tommy Tiernan**

It's a bit more-, they take the time to pour it properly. It is a beautiful, beautiful drink. Have you guys ever had poit ín?

**James Acaster**

I heard about it.

**Ed Gamble**

I heard about it.

**Tommy Tiernan**

I should have brought some. Poit in is this illegal hooch that we have here. It's kind of like, say, you're four or five years of age. You say to your mother, 'I'd really like to spend most of my adult life in and out of psychiatric hospitals.' Then, she'd start giving you poit ín. Even though it's illegally made, there is some amazingly beautiful stuff out there. In the sixties and seventies and eighties, it was kind of harsh. People were just, like, throwing surgical spirits into it and stuff. It was just like an angry drink. But, in the past-, I wouldn't say it's gentrified. But, in the past ten or fifteen years, people have gone to a real-, they put all types of berries in it. If you're lucky enough to get beautiful poit ín-, there's all these designer gins around now. There also is beautiful, beautiful poit ín out there. It's difficult to find. You should never pay for it. Somebody should give it to you, and you just owe them the favour.

**James Acaster**

What's a reasonable favour in return?



**Tommy Tiernan**

Just you fucking wait.

**Ed Gamble**

Oh no. I felt him coming back. I felt his presence.

**Tommy Tiernan**

A favour might be that you might, you know, drive-, say, they had a son in college in another town. You might drive him to college a few times. Just normal human stuff. Somebody might have borrowed your lawnmower a year ago. As way of apologising for the delay in getting it back, say, 'Here's a bottle of madness.' So, a friend of mine-, it's even stronger than whiskey. A friend of mine, we were out and he went drinking. He says, 'Never, never again. The last thing I remember is being at that party on all fours, barking like a dog.' He said, 'I woke up by the side of the road, holding on to a bicycle.' So, it does that to you. A glass of fruity poitín would be my ideal drink.

**James Acaster**

Lovely.

**Ed Gamble**

Lovely.

**James Acaster**

Now, I'll tell you what. We're okay. But, every episode, we have a secret ingredient that if the guest picks it, we-, this will sound aggressive. But, kick them out of the dream restaurant and they don't get any dinner. On the tour, we get the audience to help us choose what the secret ingredient will be. That was one of the candidates. It was nearly that. It wasn't that. It was something else in the end.

**Ed Gamble**

It felt a bit harsh to pick that, because the reason for the guy picking that was that he knew you loved it.

**James Acaster**

Yes. He called it, yes. He said, 'Tommy loves it.'

**Tommy Tiernan**

Beautiful drink though, beautiful.

**James Acaster**

We arrived at your dream dessert, Tommy.

**Tommy Tiernan**

Now, there is a space between-, I have a shed, down the bottom of my garden. I don't know much about, like, reality. I really don't. So, in terms of things, I'm not really clued into what a thing would be, or-,



**Ed Gamble**

What a thing would be?

**Tommy Tiernan**

Yes. I just don't know stuff. I've lived in the same house now for 21 years. My daughter had to tell me last week where the utility room was. I just don't-, part of my brain is not engaged on that level. So, when the shed was being built, I said I wanted a toilet in the shed, because it's about 30 or 40 seconds walk from the house. You know, because you'll be down there, drinking coffee and stuff like that, and you don't want to walk up to the house. Everybody knows why you're there.

**Ed Gamble**

Does that embarrass you? Your own family knowing you go to the toilet?

**Tommy Tiernan**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

In his own house.

**Tommy Tiernan**

But, the man who was building the shed said that it would be too hard work to get-, because, the shed is at the bottom of the hill. The septic tank was up the top of the hill. It would be too expensive to get something that would drive the effluent from the-, he persuaded my wife not to build me a toilet.

**James Acaster**

He wasn't wasting his time persuading you. Straight to your wife. 'You're going to have to talk to him, I've been out there for five hours. He wanted me to build him a toilet, he's not having any of it. He's threatened to eat my baby. Please. He's doing a character.'

**Tommy Tiernan**

So, there's a gap of, say, the size of this table. What's that? Maybe four feet, between the back of the shed and the back wall. There's these, kind of, strange-, it's not cabbage. But, it's kind of some weird-, I don't know what the fuck it is. I didn't know. So, I used to piss on it, right? He needs something like, Off Menu, who edited this?'

**Ed Gamble**

This is round the back of the shed, right?

**Tommy Tiernan**

So, no one could see me. I go round the back of the shed and I piss on this stuff, right? Now, my son then-,

**Ed Gamble**

This is dessert.



**Tommy Tiernan**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

But, you have.

**Tommy Tiernan**

My son then made dessert for us.

**Ed Gamble**

Oh no.

**Tommy Tiernan**

From rhubarb growing down the bottom of the garden. It used to be my favourite dessert. I used to love rhubarb. I remember going to my granny's house in Athlone, and she would make us rhubarb tarts. I used to love it. But, I can't eat that now.

**James Acaster**

I bet your family can't either. Did you tell them? Did they all find out?

**Tommy Tiernan**

They will when they listen to this.

**James Acaster**

That they ate your piss.

**Ed Gamble**

Piss rhubarb.

**Tommy Tiernan**

So, I would-, in my memory, rhubarb was always lovely. But, I can't go near it now. So, I would have to-, I'm real normal. I'm real normal. I would say that I love ice cream. I think it's honey with caramel in it. It's just one or two bowls of that now, with the little hard chunks of honey in it. Honey's, like, a bit of a Crunchie bar or something. Whatever it is. Honey-,

**Ed Gamble**

Honeycomb.

**Tommy Tiernan**

Thank you. I love honeycomb ice cream. I'd be really boring and just have a bowl of honeycomb ice cream, please.

**James Acaster**

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





**Ed Gamble**

Good luck, James

**James Acaster**

Thank you, Ed. You would like a glass of water from the river in the valley of the mad.

**Tommy Tiernan**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

You would like a hint of a poppadom, with all the dips. You would like the smell of your own brain, sizzling in a pan. You would like roast potatoes, roast parsnips, honey glazed carrots. So, burnt that they're annoyed at you. But, if possible, with a chicken in the shape of a baby. A whiskey that's too expensive and makes your head feel like a wind turbine. You would like a side dish of a poisonous slash magic mushroom pizza. Drink, a glass of fruity poitín. Dessert, a bowl of honeycomb ice cream.

**Ed Gamble**

The Off menu menu of Tommy Tiernan.

**James Acaster**

Tommy Tiernan, everybody.

**Ed Gamble**

Fantastic, Tommy. Give it up once again for the brilliant Tommy Tiernan. Thank you very much guys, goodnight.

**James Acaster**

Bye.

**Ed Gamble**

There we are. Don't forget, Tommy is on tour with Tommedian. How has he got this far into his career and not called a show that?

**James Acaster**

Amazing. That's really funny. I think a lot of comedians, if their name was Tom, that would be your debut Edinburgh show. It'd be called Tommedian, in like a 50 seater, playing to ten people everyday.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. His debut show is called. He's gutted he didn't spot Tommedian.

**James Acaster**

I love that Tommy's done it now.



**Ed Gamble**

It's at the Hammersmith Apollo in London this Tuesday, the 30th April. So, if there are tickets left, go and grab them with both hands. Go to [tommytiernan.ie](http://tommytiernan.ie) for tickets.

**James Acaster**

Thank you again, Tommy, for doing the show. We massively appreciate it. We'll be back next Saturday, with our final bonus episode. Bye.