



Off Menu – Ep 263 – Josh Widdicombe

Ed Gamble

Welcome to the Off Menu podcast, taking the chips of conversation and adding the cheese of humour, cheesy chips.

James Acaster

That's 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. And this week our guest is Josh Widdicombe.

Ed Gamble

Josh Widdicombe. I could've put some chilli and garlic sauce on the chips I suppose.

James Acaster

There could've been so many things you could've done, but I respect it.

Ed Gamble

Just the purity of cheesy chips.

James Acaster

I respect that it was cheesy chips and that's it.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

You know, maybe that's fitting for this episode, because I imagine Josh Widdicombe, when it comes to food, he's a simple kind of guy.

Ed Gamble

Simple kind of guy.

James Acaster

Straight forward.

Ed Gamble

But a wonderful man and a wonderful comedian.

James Acaster

Wonderful man, wonderful comedian, we've both known him for many, many, many years.

Ed Gamble



Yes.

James Acaster

Worked with him several times, definitely, I mean, you know, thought, 'Well, we'll definitely get Josh on at some point.' From day one we were like, 'He's in the bank, right? He'll do it whenever.'

Ed Gamble

But sometimes you take people for granted.

James Acaster

You do. Not any more.

Ed Gamble

Not any more, he's here. And, look, we'll be talking about his new tour, Not My Cup of Tea.

James Acaster

What, that's what the tour is called?

Ed Gamble

Yes. And also a description of how I feel about Josh-, no, Not My Cup of Tea, it's happening in September 2025, get your tickets early.

James Acaster

And Josh's tour is on sale this Friday, so make sure you go to joshwiddicombe.com and you get yourself some tickets. If you like laughing-,

Ed Gamble

Get to the show.

James Acaster

Get to the show, yes. Listen, we love Josh, but if he says the secret ingredient, an ingredient which we deem to be unacceptable, we will have to kick him out of the dream restaurant, rules are rules.

Ed Gamble

And today the secret ingredient is a goats cheese and caramelised onion tartlet. This is your suggestion, would you please explain why it's such a specific thing for Josh.

James Acaster

It's the last thing he ate before he got Swine Flu, quite a few years ago. I remember him telling me that he can't go near them now, he can't have them. But then, I also have a memory of him telling me that he's starting to be able to eat them again. So, it would be-,

Ed Gamble



Because some people would get annoyed if we're picking something that they definitely won't pick. But maybe, his love for goats cheese and caramelised onion tartlets is back with a vengeance.

James Acaster

Yes, so it would be fun for that to be the thing that gets him kicked out and we ruin it for him again.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

So, then it's like he has got another negative memory attached to it, and therefore he has to stop eating them again. I think that would be funny to do that.

Ed Gamble

Yes, that would be funny to do that. Shall we get on with it?

James Acaster

I think we should get on with it. Everyone wants to hear what Josh Widdicombe's dream memory is, why stand on ceremony.

Ed Gamble

This is the Off Menu menu of Josh Widdicombe.

Welcome Josh to the Dream Restaurant.

Josh Widdicombe

Delighted to be here.

James Acaster

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

Josh Widdicombe

Not as much as I've been expecting me, either.

James Acaster

This has taken a while.

Josh Widdicombe

Do you know what, I've, on more than one occasion been complemented on my appearance on Off Menu by people.

James Acaster

Because they're just assumed.



Josh Widdicombe

They've just assumed they've listened to it.

James Acaster

I wonder who they've confused you with, or have they just-

Josh Widdicombe

I think they've just gone, 'He must've.'

Ed Gamble

I mean, that's true, but I think very early on we were like, 'Look, there are loads of people that we know who would be brilliant on it.'

Josh Widdicombe

So, let's not get them.

Ed Gamble

So, let's book them first. Well, let's not burn out all our brilliant reserves early doors.

Josh Widdicombe

Who's still on the bench? Or, is this it?

James Acaster

A lot of people, Beckett is on the bench. Who's like, you know, obviously fantastic, podcast royalty. And, I think maybe we've been too cocky actually with Beckett.

Ed Gamble

No.

James Acaster

We think we've got Beckett whenever we want, I don't think that is actually true.

Josh Widdicombe

He likes to sell though, doesn't he? If you get him at the right time. I think the thing is, there was a point about a year ago where I thought, 'When they ask me, I'm going to say no.' That's going to show them, and then instantly, 'Yeah, yeah, I'm available, yeah, yeah. 9:30, yeah, yeah, I'll be there.'

Ed Gamble

Beckett is a hard get now, I think.

Josh Widdicombe

He doesn't like to leave his house.

Ed Gamble



He doesn't like to leave his house, we tried to get him to do the Taskmaster podcast that I do once, and he went, 'No, no, no, no.'

James Acaster

I'll do your food one.

Ed Gamble

There you go. Bartering already. But that was about three years ago.

James Acaster

Yes, now we're in trouble.

Josh Widdicombe

You get Rob Beckett when he's contractually obliged to promo, he'll definitely do this over Lorraine.

James Acaster

You know, it's not like he can hold anything over us and go, 'I won't book you for mine.' It's like, 'We're childless.'

Josh Widdicombe

I know, I know, but I'm waiting.

Ed Gamble

Rob does genuinely say that to me, he's like, 'When are you going to have kids?' You two are just ambulance chasers.

James Acaster

Yes, but the good kind of ambulance chasers.

Josh Widdicombe

We go too early now, so you're like, interview Joel, like, even four months into the pregnancy.

Ed Gamble

Get the first one in, because you know you can get another one post birth.

Josh Widdicombe

Exactly.

James Acaster

Same reaction that he got for our podcasts, Joel, from yours?

Josh Widdicombe

What, the protein shake?



James Acaster

Yes, they absolutely hated him, they still hate his guts.

Josh Widdicombe

No, I think we rebooked him, we would, because I saw him the other day and he said how, 'It's just great, it's just easy parenting.' I was like, 'Yeah, we're probably not going to book you in actually Joel.'

Ed Gamble

We don't want people enjoying the process.

James Acaster

Parenting heaven.

Josh Widdicombe

It's not parenting heaven, no.

James Acaster

That's got to have crossed your mind at some point.

Josh Widdicombe

Parenting heaven?

James Acaster

To do another one.

Josh Widdicombe

What do a spin off?

James Acaster

Another podcast, another podcast called parenting heaven.

Josh Widdicombe

Well, I wonder whether we should-, we really missed the opportunity to franchise the hell, like, the rest is. Have you thought about doing Off, Other Things.

Ed Gamble

Well, I'm not sure that we-, we'd have to get other hosts in for those.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes, but you could do a sports one that's like, Off Team Sheet.

James Acaster

Off The Ball.



Josh Widdicombe

Off The Ball, that's much better. Off The Ball, and then it's like your dream-, and you'd be like a genie football manager, or whatever.

James Acaster

Yes, yes, I'd be genie football manager.

Ed Gamble

But the problem with that is-,

Josh Widdicombe

Your dream dressing room.

Ed Gamble

Is the dream concept, and I'm not saying it was necessarily us who started it, but there are a lot of other podcasts that now do the dream thing.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes, yes, yes.

Ed Gamble

So, that football manager one has already happened.

Josh Widdicombe

Right, okay, yes, yes.

Ed Gamble

With some other people.

Josh Widdicombe

And music of course has happened 80 years before you started this with Desert Island Discs.

Ed Gamble

Yes, exactly.

James Acaster

Well, come on.

Ed Gamble

It's different, they're not screaming Elvis or Roy Orbison at the top of their voices, are they?

James Acaster

They're missing a trick. Why is there not a genie on it.



Josh Widdicombe

I'm not into Desert Island Discs.

James Acaster

Are you not? It seems very up your street, I assumed you were, I've known you for a long time.

Josh Widdicombe

Well, you're about to have your assumptions blown today, because they don't talk about the music enough. They'll just choose a song and then they'll talk about-, like,

Ed Gamble

The memories attached to it.

Josh Widdicombe

Well, they won't even do that, they'll just be like, 'That was Oasis.' Or, whatever, and then they'll go, 'Now, let's talk about your mum.' And it's like, it's not connected enough for me.

Ed Gamble

I love the idea of you screaming at your radio going, 'Don't talk about your mum.'

Josh Widdicombe

Ask about why he chose the song more.

James Acaster

Yes, because you'll probably get into that. That's what happens on this one.

Josh Widdicombe

Exactly, yes. Then, when I live to the Graham Coxon one of this, I had the opposite.

James Acaster

You were fuming.

Josh Widdicombe

Stop talking about food, the opportunity you've got here.

Ed Gamble

I don't think anyone has ever been angrier about a podcast than you were-, (A) that we'd got Graham Coxon.

Josh Widdicombe

Furious.

Ed Gamble

Yes, and (B) that we didn't talk to him enough about Blur.



Josh Widdicombe

Barely scratched the surface.

James Acaster

I brought up Blur versus Oasis, what more do you want?

Josh Widdicombe

Exactly, what, my God.

James Acaster

Well, what do you want? That's what everyone wants to know about.

Ed Gamble

That's the hot topic,

Josh Widdicombe

Exactly. Man, just talking to him about some fucking tacos.

James Acaster

This was brought up on a text group that we're on, and you were like, 'I can't believe you interviewed Coxon and all this.' And, I just remember that during that conversation we made a lie up that I still don't think we've cleared up with the person who were duping.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

I think Ellis James might still think that we've interviewed Paul McCartney for this one.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I think he does, yes.

Josh Widdicombe

But, that's not out of the question. He's big on the food scene, he could be promoting-,

James Acaster

He loves Romesh.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Josh Widdicombe

He loves Romesh.



James Acaster

Romesh has been on this podcast.

Josh Widdicombe

Exactly.

James Acaster

Kevin Bacon it.

Josh Widdicombe

Doesn't like bacon.

Ed Gamble

No, neither does Romesh.

Josh Widdicombe

Don't bring up bacon.

James Acaster

Neither do you, of course.

Josh Widdicombe

Neither do I, of course.

James Acaster

If we're talking food.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes, so I've been vegetarian all my life.

James Acaster

Life long veggie.

Josh Widdicombe

Life long veggie.

James Acaster

Haven't even tried it.

Josh Widdicombe

I've had it. I have tried it, and then the last time I ate meat was in Rio, in 2016, at the Paralympics, when I was really drunk and me and Alex Brooker picked up the wrong Subways.



Ed Gamble

Rio 2016. Such a huge-, amazing, Brazil, what a beautiful country. You're getting drunk with Alex Brooker and having a Subway.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes, yes, a 3:00am subway.

James Acaster

You get what you deserve, I think.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes, and I ate a full foot-long steak sub without realising it. Well, the only way I realised was right near the end, so I didn't eat, quite full. I was like, 'I didn't order cheese sauce'. Because it has that cheese, and then Alex was like, 'Oh, wait'. And then we realised we'd got the wrong one, but I thought it was just like a Brazilian, like, veggie pate kind of thing. But then I threw up because I think-, not because my body rejected it, but I think the thought of it.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Especially so much, like a foot-long.

Josh Widdicombe

Full cow, basically.

Ed Gamble

That's it, that's the proportions, I think. They get a whole calf into one of those foot-long subs.

Josh Widdicombe

Exactly, yes. It's actually less cruel to do the foot-long than have half a calf, and then the half of it goes to waste.

Ed Gamble

Yes, you're not wasting anything then. It's nose to tail.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes, exactly.

James Acaster

Use the whole animal. What was Brooker's reaction? Was he like, 'Oh, actually mine was delicious. I might go veggie now?'

Josh Widdicombe

No, it wasn't, he's a committed carnivore. No, I don't remember. It was, like, 3:00am and it was the last night, so we weren't going to go for a Michelin-starred meal. You probably would have.



James Acaster

Yes, immediately.

Ed Gamble

Yes, absolutely.

James Acaster

It's Rio at the Olympics.

Josh Widdicombe

Paralympics, thank you very much.

James Acaster

Yes, even better.

Josh Widdicombe

Why do you hate the disabled.

James Acaster

They ask me that every time I'm on Last Leg. Every time I'm on Last Leg, opening question, 'Oh guys, come on.'

Josh Widdicombe

I' can see two reasons, Serg.'

James Acaster

Yes, this a pre-record, right? Last time I saw Brooker he had to have a word with me, because we were playing the Taskmaster football game, and I kept on passing it to him by-, I wasn't thinking, I was kicking it quite high in the air. And he said, 'Can you stop?' I said, 'Don't stop, I've got one foot.' Can you stop, like, kicking it high in the air for me, so I go after it. Lobbing people, and passing it to me, it's not the best way of doing this.

Ed Gamble

Are you a good enough football player to be under control with the way you pass it?

James Acaster

No, it was just, like, every time, it just happened to be that I was panicking and can't control it very well.

Ed Gamble

And lobbing Brooker.

James Acaster

Yes, and lobbing Brooker every time. He was like, 'With all due respect James, stop doing that.'



Ed Gamble

He's someone else that we've not had that would definitely be great.

James Acaster

Book him.

Josh Widdicombe

Come on.

James Acaster

Absolutely, get the booker for Brooker.

Ed Gamble

You've got to booker for Brooker.

James Acaster

Now, before we get into your food choices Josh, why don't you tell us about, Not My Cup of Tea.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes, I'm on tour.

James Acaster

Yes.

Josh Widdicombe

I'm back.

Ed Gamble

You're back, when was the last tour?

Josh Widdicombe

Well, it straddled COVID, so it was 2019 to 2021.

James Acaster

That's a huge tour.

Josh Widdicombe

It wasn't as huge-, it sounds like a huge tour, but there was a huge gap in the middle.

James Acaster

This guy loves the run. It's relentless.

Ed Gamble

Josh, the only comedian who insisted on touring throughout lockdown.



Josh Widdicombe

I know, no one was allowed to come.

James Acaster

Russel Howard and Josh, like ships in the night. Touring the world.

Josh Widdicombe

Bringing happiness.

Ed Gamble

You'd just go to the empty theatres, wouldn't you, just to soak in the atmosphere.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes, and to be honest, in the second half of the tour, I was still going to quite empty theatres.

James Acaster

This is why we finally had you on the podcast, because you finally named a tour after a drink.

Josh Widdicombe

Exactly, yes.

James Acaster

So, we're like, 'This guy actually gets it.'

Josh Widdicombe

I get it, I get it, yes. I love tea.

James Acaster

You do love tea.

Josh Widdicombe

I love tea.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Josh Widdicombe

And it has got out of control, actually. But, I realised I named the tour, and then I couldn't come up with any stand up about tea. I've been really trying.

Ed Gamble

Well, you're talking to Mr Lasagna over here.



James Acaster

Yes, trust me mate, they don't know. No one is looking at the title.

Ed Gamble

My current show is called Hot Diggity Dog. Not one mention of hot dogs.

Josh Widdicombe

Not one mention of hot dogs?

James Acaster

That's the rules, the comedy rule. If you put a food or a drink in your show title.

Josh Widdicombe

Can't mention it, never mention it. I was thinking of drinking a tea on stage, but I don't know. It's quite late in the evening.

Ed Gamble

Well, you could drink a decaffeinated tea, couldn't you?

Josh Widdicombe

I could drink a decaffeinated-, they're never going to know, are they?

Ed Gamble

No, they're not going to know.

James Acaster

But for how long are you going to be drinking that?

Josh Widdicombe

Exactly.

James Acaster

Is it going to go cold?

Josh Widdicombe

It's going to be like, the second half, I'm going to actually be a bit thirsty, and there's going to be, like, a stewed cold tea.

Ed Gamble

Flask, is it the case of a flask?

Josh Widdicombe

A nice Thermos.



Ed Gamble

Also, you'd definitely tell people it was decaffeinated, that's so in persona to be like, 'Don't worry everyone, it's decaffeinated.'

Josh Widdicombe

Well, you know about my problems with coffee? Do you know about my problems with coffee?

Ed Gamble

Go on.

Josh Widdicombe

So, when I was at university I got really in to coffee. Not in a way where you'd just-, where you knew about it, not like Ellis James, who grinds his own beans. Just I drunk 6 cups a day, maybe. And then I was throwing up every morning.

Ed Gamble

Okay, I suspect this wasn't coffee based?

Josh Widdicombe

No, it was, it was. Because then I cut out the caffeine, and now if I have a coffee, I have such a high and then, like, a come down. Like, if I had a coffee now in the afternoon, I'd think, 'Why am I depressed? Oh yeah, I had a coffee.' It's like, too much for me.

James Acaster

Wow, you're puking constantly.

Josh Widdicombe

No, I'm not any more because I've stopped drinking as well, so I'm just cutting out all the things that make me puke.

James Acaster

That's clever.

Josh Widdicombe

I haven't puked in a year and a half.

James Acaster

Haven't been to Subway any more.

Josh Widdicombe

Haven't been to Subway, that was another one, yes. But, that was alcohol related in a way.

James Acaster

Sure.



Josh Widdicombe

Yes, because I wouldn't have made that mistake.

James Acaster

Yes, a bit of both there, stopped hanging out with Brooker.

Josh Widdicombe

Stopped hanging out with Brooker because he makes me sick.

Ed Gamble

I love that everyone else's uni stories were like, 'I was boozing so much, I got really into drugs when I was at uni.' You're like, 'I had a big coffee problem.'

Josh Widdicombe

I had a big, old coffee problem.

James Acaster

Were you just having normal coffees?

Josh Widdicombe

Lattes.

James Acaster

Lattes all the time.

Josh Widdicombe

Six lattes a day.

James Acaster

A lot of milk, as well.

Josh Widdicombe

Milk, yes, a lot of milk.

James Acaster

So much milk, six of them a day.

Josh Widdicombe

Maybe I was lactose intolerant, looking back.

James Acaster

Well, there's milk in that tea we've given you, right?



Josh Widdicombe

Yes, it's on a smaller scale isn't it-, because they do say you can't drink, is it if you try and drink a certain amount of milk, is it four pints, your body rejects it.

James Acaster

You projectile vomiting, yes, whatever.

Ed Gamble

We could try that at the end of the podcast today.

James Acaster

A little bonus content for online. If people want to sign up for that. Well, that's very exciting, the new Josh Widdicombe tour, and people have to buy tickets to see if you do end up drinking tea on stage.

Josh Widdicombe

Exactly, buy your tickets, you know? I mean, you guys have had to promote stand-up tours where you go. There's never anything to say except, 'This is me doing stand-up. If you like me, you'll enjoy it. If you don't, you don't.'

Ed Gamble

You just need to tell people it's happening.

Josh Widdicombe

It's just happening.

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes.

Josh Widdicombe

It's coming around the country next September to Christmas and then probably again afterwards.

Ed Gamble

I think the main thing to promote with stand-up tours that go on sale a year in advance is, buy your tickets, but then when it comes to next year, don't forget that it's on.

James Acaster

Yes, put a reminder in your phone that you're coming to this. I bump into people all the time who go, 'We had tickets to see you. The next day we were getting ready and then we looked at our phones and realised it was the day before.' You go, 'Oh, thank you'.

Ed Gamble

Cheers, thanks, thanks for the money.

James Acaster



Thanks for the money, I guess.

Josh Widdicombe

When I was doing those COVID gigs, so I did Cardiff re-arranged on St. David's day, re-arranged on St. David's day three years after it had gone on sold. Sold out, less than half full.

Ed Gamble

Oh my God.

James Acaster

Wow.

Josh Widdicombe

Isn't that mad?

Ed Gamble

Yes, that is mad.

James Acaster

That is insane.

Josh Widdicombe

It was also Pancake Day, but I can't imagine that's made that much of an impact. That can't have kept anyone away, can it?

James Acaster

Do you have any idea how rare it is that St. David's day falls on Pancake Day? In Wales, they would go insane.

Ed Gamble

Of course, think of the themed pancakes they could be making.

Josh Widdicombe

Dragon shaped pancakes.

James Acaster

Yes, a rarebit pancake.

Ed Gamble

Welsh cake pancakes.

James Acaster

Dare we mention leeks? They'd be going crazy. Yes, there's no way they would have come to your gig, they're full of St. David's Day pancakes.



Ed Gamble

They're all puking because they've had so many pancakes.

James Acaster

Exactly. 'I think I've got to quit pancakes.'

Josh Widdicombe

Yes, had there's too much milk in my pancakes.

Ed Gamble

'I've had eight pints of milk through pancakes.'

James Acaster

Still or sparkling water, Josh?

Josh Widdicombe

Sparkling water please.

James Acaster

I wouldn't have predicted this.

Ed Gamble

No, me neither.

Josh Widdicombe

Get ready for the ride, because maybe I'm not the person you think I am.

James Acaster

Already I'm thinking, 'Who is this guy?'

Josh Widdicombe

I love sparkling. I've got a thing at home, so that you can have sparkling water without the guilt of the plastics.

James Acaster

Right.

Josh Widdicombe

It's not a Soda Stream, just to be clear, before my tour gets picketed. It's a different make of the same thing.

James Acaster

Yes.



Ed Gamble

A water carbonator.

Josh Widdicombe

A water carbonator, yes. It's difficult because there is a brand name, it's like Hoover, isn't it? Yes, I've got a water carbonator so I'm probably knocking out a litre and a half of fizzy water a day.

Ed Gamble

Is it first thing in the morning, is that how you hydrate when you wake up?

Josh Widdicombe

No, I don't really hydrate when I wake up.

Ed Gamble

When are you having your first sip of water?

Josh Widdicombe

So, I start the day with tea.

James Acaster

Yes. Okay, yes. Obviously.

Josh Widdicombe

Obviously and then I'm probably on four or five teas by lunchtime.

James Acaster

Wow, this guy.

Josh Widdicombe

Is that too many, do you think?

Ed Gamble

It's a lot. I would say it's-, where have you got the time to do that?

Josh Widdicombe

Well I don't just sit and drink the tea. It's-,

Ed Gamble

But you're constantly, like, doing stuff, having tea at the same time.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes, yes, yes. I can multi-task, like this.



James Acaster

Yes, yes, yes. There you go.

Josh Widdicombe

When I got here and Ben offered me a tea, I didn't say, 'Well yes but we should start the podcast.'

Ed Gamble

'You know I can't do anything while I have my tea?'

Josh Widdicombe

Yes, yes.

James Acaster

I remember in the early days of us on the open mic circuit and we would meet up at each other's houses and try and write stuff and work on our material, you would be training the cups of tea.

Josh Widdicombe

Training the tea.

James Acaster

And I remember you saying to me once how you absolutely love it, the more teas you have, because the mug is getting stained with the previous tea and it's all building up and you're getting, like-, it's like each cup of tea is taking on the remnants of the tea before.

Josh Widdicombe

Wow, I've got no memory of this.

James Acaster

I remember you saying it going, 'I love it because, like, look, now it's got-, you can see how the mug is getting just dirtier as the day goes on with all the tea.'

Ed Gamble

And it's like the history of the previous cups of tea.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes it's like cutting the tree and seeing the rings. You can see how many cups you've had by the rings of tea.

James Acaster

Yes, I mean, it was a proper thing.

Josh Widdicombe

But I now drink water in turns with my tea because otherwise you're not enjoying the tea.



Ed Gamble

Oh so you drink water. Not for, like, hydrating purposes.

Josh Widdicombe

No, no, I do. I like to hydrate. I'm big on hydration.

Ed Gamble

But tea is hydrating you as well, right?

Josh Widdicombe

I don't think it is, is it? I still don't know what the truth is of that.

Ed Gamble

Yes well I hear this about coffee as well. Don't drink coffee, it dehydrates you. It's like, 'It's got water in it, of course it doesn't.'

Josh Widdicombe

Yes, it's not the sea, is it?

Ed Gamble

No.

Josh Widdicombe

But it's not. Like-,

James Acaster

The sea's got water in it so that doesn't make sense.

Josh Widdicombe

But what I mean is, I love fizzy water. So if I go out for dinner, I'll have a big water of fizzy water. Lunch, big bottle of fizzy water. It's a good way of getting your water in while-, but normal water is boring.

Ed Gamble

See the thing is-, but I could imagine, if I was doing, like, an AI Josh Widdicombe stand-up set in my head, I could imagine you doing a bit-,

Josh Widdicombe

And that's essentially what I'll be doing from next September.

Ed Gamble

I could imagine you having a routine talking about people who like sparkling water and getting angry at this.

Josh Widdicombe



Yes well don't rule it out. Anything that works. They said to me, 'Do you want sparkling water?' I said, 'No because I'm not livin' la vida loca.' Something like that.

Josh Widdicombe

I should have brought a pen. But I am fun.

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes and you're saying the sparkling water proves that you're fun.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes, I am. Yes, I know how to have a laugh.

Ed Gamble

Sparkling water it is.

James Acaster

Are people surprised when you go out for meals and you order the sparkling? Do people look at you differently and go, 'Woah, I didn't think you'd-,'

Josh Widdicombe

We've got a fun guy in town.

James Acaster

Yes.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes, I don't think-, I didn't realise it was such a statement.

James Acaster

Yes, it's mad. It doesn't add up with you at all.

Josh Widdicombe

But wait until you hear my menu. I'll come to it but, like, I just think it's more fun, it's quite exciting. You can't have too much. Like, it's quite thrilling to try and beat the bubbles.

James Acaster

What?

Ed Gamble

Talk us through it?

Josh Widdicombe

Just see how long you can go. Drinking sparkling water from the bottle.



Ed Gamble

Beat the bubbles.

Josh Widdicombe

Beat the bubbles.

Ed Gamble

Michael McIntyre's The Wheel is a wonderful show but I think when that naturally fades away, I think Josh Widdicombe's Beat the Bubbles is next in line.

James Acaster

Yes, yes. Each celebrity is in a bubble, like one of those big, you know, orbs. Yes, you're all racing to the answer. All the answers are written on the floor and you've got to, like, yes, hamster wheel it over to the right answer.

Josh Widdicombe

I think beat the bubbles, as a round, where you've got fizzy water-, it would be like Who Wants to be a Millionaire, right? So the first round is a one second press on your carbonator up to a fifteen second press and each time you have to down a pint of it. Can you deal with the pain?

James Acaster

The pain. Yes. Beat the bubbles.

Josh Widdicombe

Beat the bubbles.

Ed Gamble

I think James' idea has more longevity as a shiny floor entertainment show than people chugging-,

Josh Widdicombe

Yes but that's the thing with James. He's a populist.

James Acaster

Mine is hosted by Bubble from Big Brother.

Josh Widdicombe

Oh yes, yes. Of course. Is that the one who ran in to the sofa?

Ed Gamble

Yes. The best moment. The best TV moment of all time.

James Acaster

I forgot that one. Run me through it.



Josh Widdicombe

He's called to the garden for some reason-,

Ed Gamble

Yes there was like a task where there was, like, an alarm thing where they all had to go and line up in the garden or something and the alarm went off and he was like, 'Bleurgh,' and, like, panicked and ran top speed but his thigh hit the sofa and he basically did an immediate full flip.

James Acaster

Poppadoms or bread? Poppadoms or bread, Josh Widdicombe? Poppadoms or bread?

Josh Widdicombe

Poppadoms.

James Acaster

Interesting.

Josh Widdicombe

100%.

James Acaster

Yes, love it.

Josh Widdicombe

I have got an AI routine about bread in restaurants. Of course I have. An AI Josh Widdicombe routine but I think it fills you up too much. I love it but it fills you up too much.

Ed Gamble

People say this about sparkling water, you know, as well.

Josh Widdicombe

What?

Ed Gamble

People say sparkling water fills you up too much.

Josh Widdicombe

Who says that?

Ed Gamble

We've had loads of people say that, haven't we?

Josh Widdicombe

It's just air. It's just extra air.



James Acaster

Believe me, we've had every take on sparkling water there is on this show and-

Josh Widdicombe

I bet you have. Ah, you haven't had beat the bubbles until today.

Ed Gamble

That's the first time we've heard beat the bubbles.

Josh Widdicombe

I've been honest, I've not said it until I entered this room.

James Acaster

We've never had beat the bubbles before but we've had a lot of people say it fills them up.

Josh Widdicombe

It fills them up?

Ed Gamble

Yes. Bread I understand more. Of course that fills you up but, you know, personally I just love bread so I'm happy for it to fill me up.

Josh Widdicombe

I love bread but that's the problem, I'll ask for more bread because it's so good. So it's-, I love it. It's the best bit.

Ed Gamble

But you love it too much?

Josh Widdicombe

I love it too much, yes.

Ed Gamble

So you're picking your second favourite out of poppadoms or bread because-

Josh Widdicombe

No I love poppadums as well. Yes, poppadums are incredible. I like M&S mini poppadoms as well.

James Acaster

Yes. Absolutely love them. Do you like the sensations poppadoms? Lime and coriander ones?

Josh Widdicombe

No. I like a plain poppadum.



James Acaster

Oh. This is more the Josh Widdicombe I was expecting. Here he is. He's shown up, he's shown up. Here he is.

Ed Gamble

He's shown up, he's shown up.

James Acaster

I'm glad that that cowboy who was in the water course has gone home.

Josh Widdicombe

So, when I was a kid, my first-, I didn't really realise that poppadoms were good for the first, maybe, thirteen years of my life because we used to get poppadoms from the supermarket which were spicy poppadoms that my dad would put under the-, I think you'd grill them, and they were crap. So, that's what I thought poppadoms were for years. I don't know, are they still available? Are they like Sharwood's or whatever?

Ed Gamble

Yes, I think so. You can buy Sharwood's, things like that, yes.

James Acaster

Sure. I'm familiar with the brand.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes, yes. I don't know why I'm so insistent on all the different brands.

James Acaster

You wouldn't mention your water carbonator brand.

Josh Widdicombe

Aarke.

James Acaster

Oh, there you go.

Josh Widdicombe

I was worried about the pronunciation. Is it Aarke?

Ed Gamble

I don't know. I've never heard of them.

James Acaster

So, you had Sharwood's poppadoms, didn't like them?



Josh Widdicombe

Yes, but now I just love a poppadom from a restaurant. I adore it. I think it's the best bit. John Robins, he won't have poppadoms with a curry because he feels it fills him up which I'm sure you know, but that does my head in.

James Acaster

He won't have rice either.

Josh Widdicombe

I don't have rice.

James Acaster

Yes, I kind of copied that from him and I hate it because the first time he brought that up I really, like, made fun of him for it because it's fun to make fun of Robins but-,

Josh Widdicombe

But it's such a waste of space.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes, no, I completely agree. I don't go for rice but poppadums? Who are they filling up?

Josh Widdicombe

Exactly. Well, I just said the same about sparkling water but apparently, you know, Mariam Margolyes and Steve Coogan have been filled up by it.

James Acaster

Is there a particular restaurant you've had the best poppadoms at that you'd go, 'Oh, I want those ones.'

Josh Widdicombe

I don't like it when they go off the normal. So, if you go to a-,

James Acaster

No, go on. You don't like it when they go off the normal.

Josh Widdicombe

So if you go to a pretentious Indian restaurant that is good-, like, I don't mean pretentious. That's the wrong way of saying it because I go to these places because they're nice but you go to an Indian restaurant that thinks it's more than your average Indian restaurant-,

Ed Gamble



Sure, like a high-end restaurant.

Josh Widdicombe

Like your Dishooms or your Krickets. They don't do poppadoms, they'll do a different type of kind of similar thing and I just think, 'That's a shame.'

Ed Gamble

But you like the straight up plain, sort of, British Indian curry house.

Josh Widdicombe

Exactly.

Ed Gamble

Poppadums, yes.

Josh Widdicombe

The kind you'd get-,

Ed Gamble

1990s poppadoms.

Josh Widdicombe

1990s poppadoms. I'm on Brick Lane. I'm in Birmingham. I'm in the Eastern Eye in Newton Abbot, maybe, in Devon.

James Acaster

Not even going for the Curry Mile on Manchester where you-,

Josh Widdicombe

No, the curry mile. Yes, the curry mile.

James Acaster

Surely you've had many there. You went to uni there.

Josh Widdicombe

It was always a bit expensive for me.

James Acaster

Oh, yes, me too. And you're permanently awake, though.

Ed Gamble

Also, what's the point-,

Josh Widdicombe



The money I was pumping out on lattes, I was pumping out a tenner a day on lattes.

Ed Gamble

What's the point in having a nice dinner if you're just going to throw it up the next morning?

Josh Widdicombe

Exactly.

James Acaster

You drank your bodyweight in milk. There's no way you're going to lay a curry on top of that.

Josh Widdicombe

I won't be having a lassie, I'll tell you that for free.

Ed Gamble

Lessie and a korma, please.

James Acaster

Lassie.

Ed Gamble

Yes Lassie, sorry.

Josh Widdicombe

Sorry, sorry. But, yes, I like a classic, you know, British Indian restaurant poppadom in the classic manner with the dips. Yogurt-y one best. I entertain the other two but really I don't care.

James Acaster

So yogurt-y ones, that's your top?

Josh Widdicombe

The yogurt-y one is just the best one, obviously.

Ed Gamble

Why do you entertain the other two? Is it so the yogurt doesn't get ideas above it's station?

Josh Widdicombe

You've got to keep it on its toes. No because I like to think that I'm not just eating yogurt every time so I'll go in the other two just to convince myself that I'm-,

Ed Gamble

You're mixing it up.

Josh Widdicombe



I'm mixing it up.

James Acaster

What are the other two? Mango chutney?

Josh Widdicombe

Lime pickle and mango chutney and I'm not in to the raw onion.

Ed Gamble

I love the raw onion.

Josh Widdicombe

Do you?

Ed Gamble

Yes, I love the raw onion.

James Acaster

That shouldn't surprise you. It's Ed Gamble.

Josh Widdicombe

Why do you love the raw onion?

James Acaster

Well so mango chutney I feel is too sweet so if I put-,

Josh Widdicombe

Totally agree.

James Acaster

So if I put the onion on top it cuts through the sweetness a bit so-,

Josh Widdicombe

But why don't you just not have it?

James Acaster

Well because I quite like it with the onion. With the onion I think it's perfect. You know, I'm putting all the different dips on, trying-, you know, mixing it up. I'm like a DJ of dips.

Josh Widdicombe

You're a DJ-, you are a DJ of dips. DJ of dips.

Ed Gamble

And the poppadum is my vinyl.



Josh Widdicombe

Let's not rule that out for your next tour poster.

Ed Gamble

Me mixing a poppadum deck.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes. It will be that but it will be photoed so well, like your posters are, the photograph will be done in such high standard that actually you'll get away with it.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes and then we'll put it on the tube, have to replace the poppadom with a bit of lettuce.

James Acaster

Yes and then you've got to have a debate if poppadom is a junk food or not.

Ed Gamble

So you want a pile of poppadoms to arrive?

Josh Widdicombe

I've got an issue with a pile of poppadoms.

Ed Gamble

Please.

James Acaster

Interesting.

Josh Widdicombe

In your publicity photo where you're sat with the poppadoms, I think it's a shame that they're shop bought poppadoms rather than from a takeaway.

James Acaster

Yes, a real shame.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes, it just annoys me.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Josh Widdicombe



Because I don't think that's the question you're asking. The breads are a lovely range and then you've clearly just bought some shit poppadoms from a supermarket.

Ed Gamble

Well the bread probably came from the same shop, to be fair.

James Acaster

Yes, yes. They're probably better at bread than poppadoms. So you would of rather it was, like-, we got it from a curry house and you can tell they're not uniform and we've got some proper delicious looking poppadoms? So you look at those ones and think, 'I bet they don't taste nice.'

Josh Widdicombe

Well it's not a decision that-, I would go bread in that situation, if that's the actual options.

Ed Gamble

But no, it's not-, the options-, when we say to you, 'Poppadoms or bread,' it's not the specific ones from our publicity.

James Acaster

Just so you know. When you saw that poster, did you go, 'Well, I wouldn't go and see that show.'

Josh Widdicombe

And then I went through with it.

Ed Gamble

Yes, to be fair. Stuck to his guns.

Josh Widdicombe

Stuck to my guns. But when you do DJ dips, 2028 tour, make sure it's a good poppadom and I'll come and watch you.

Ed Gamble

Absolutely. Absolutely, I'm going to make sure of it.

James Acaster

So you do want a pile of poppadoms but obviously from a curry with mainly yogurt dip and the other two just to-,

Josh Widdicombe

Just to feel like I'm not boring.

James Acaster

Yes, yes, yes. Let's get into your dream starter.



Josh Widdicombe

Okay so-, oh, do I need to be silent there?

Ed Gamble

No.

James Acaster

No. Are you being silent for the sound effect?

Josh Widdicombe

Yes. Yes, yes, yes.

Ed Gamble

We don't play them in live so-,

Josh Widdicombe

No, no, no but-,

James Acaster

I know that your producer makes you do that. On Parenting Hell the producer is like, 'Moment of silence, please, I'm going to put the jingle in.'

Josh Widdicombe

I thought I got told to be silent on the sparkling water.

Ed Gamble

No.

James Acaster

Did you?

Josh Widdicombe

Oh sorry, sorry, sorry.

James Acaster

We were raging ahead. We hadn't covered the tour but we're keeping all this in because mainly what we want to do on this is make out that we're more professional than you so that we can, like-, you will lose listeners on parenting help. We can climb our way up the charts.

Ed Gamble

Because you have to pause for the sound of effects of, like, a nappy being changed and-,

Josh Widdicombe

Exactly, yes.



James Acaster

And a baby crying.

Ed Gamble

Yes, and someone breast feeding.

James Acaster

I've never listened to it so I don't know.

Ed Gamble

Well that's what happens.

Josh Widdicombe

You've never listened to this.

James Acaster

Not really. I've listened to two or three episodes over the years where I'm like-,

Josh Widdicombe

Did you listen to the Graham Coxon one? I found it very disappointing.

James Acaster

You know, I wish I would have asked more pertinent questions actually. I think of Graham Coxon every time I have Nasi Goreng now because he chose that and he spoke about it so nicely, about his dad, and every time I have it I think about Graham Coxon.

Josh Widdicombe

I think about him once every hour.

Ed Gamble

Whenever you're listening to Blur, basically.

James Acaster

We mentioned you to him.

Josh Widdicombe

I know, yes.

James Acaster

He didn't say, 'Who?'

Josh Widdicombe



No, no, no. I've met him. I've met him on a couple of occasions. He described Keith Richard's fingers to me as looking like Nik-Naks.

James Acaster

Where was that food chat on the pod?

Ed Gamble

Yes, fucking hell Coxon. That's absolute goals.

Josh Widdicombe

I'm having the wrong conversation with him.

James Acaster

So your dream starter, Josh?

Josh Widdicombe

I'll tell you what it is. To use a football analogy, sorry Ed-,

James Acaster

Oh wow. Okay, I'm going to be on this.

Josh Widdicombe

It's a difficult situation. England have got it occasionally where you've got to fit the players in but there's people that-, so you're playing someone out of position. You're playing someone out of position to get them on the team.

Ed Gamble

So I'm on tour with Chloe Pets, I'm well aware that this is happening right now with the Euros squad.

James Acaster

You're making out you're playing Chloe out of position.

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes, yes.

Josh Widdicombe

She should be headlining.

James Acaster

This doesn't make any sense.

Ed Gamble

Some nights. She's playing out of position.



Josh Widdicombe

So, I wanted to fit this in so I've had to put it here as a starter and this does undermine not going for bread. I want toast.

James Acaster

It does undermine-,

Ed Gamble

It does undermine-

James Acaster

Massively undermines it. Yes, yes, yes.

Josh Widdicombe

But now I'm glad I haven't filled up on bread.

Ed Gamble

Because you've got bread coming.

James Acaster

But did you not think you could have had toast as your poppadoms or bread course?

Josh Widdicombe

Well it's poppadoms or bread. If you go to a restaurant and they said, 'Do you want bread?' You can't say, 'Can I have toast?'

Ed Gamble

I love-, of all the guests, of course Josh is absolutely the one who is going to refuse to engage with the dream element of the restaurant.

James Acaster

Dream. It's a dream restaurant. I'm a genie. You can do whatever you like as your dream meal. You could have had-,

Josh Widdicombe

Then could you say, 'Poppadoms or bread?' 'I'll have a chilli.' You can't say that.

James Acaster

But that doesn't really-, do you see how toast is more like bread than chilli is?

Josh Widdicombe

I see the argument but I still think they're both not bread.

Ed Gamble



But then in what real world are you going to a restaurant and they've got toast as a starter?

Josh Widdicombe

Well it's a dream restaurant, Ed.

Ed Gamble

Yes good point actually. Sorry.

James Acaster

If you think this is hard work, try doing a show called Hypothetical with him.

Josh Widdicombe

Right, I just-, I love toast. I adore it. It's just the best thing in the world. So, I did, like, a diet where you're doing your macros, right? And all day, all I'd do is-, because you'd have to log your thing on your phone, and all day all I'd do was leave enough so that I could have a slice of toast as a treat at the end of the day. That's all I thought about was my slice of toast, butter, and marmite at the end of the day.

Ed Gamble

So, is that what you want in the dream restaurant then?

Josh Widdicombe

What I tend to have as toast. I know you don't think I'm fun, but wait until you hear this. Two slices, one with marmite as my main and one with marmalade as my pudding.

James Acaster

I can't slag that off, I think I've said something similar on the podcast before.

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes, yes. I think you have, yes.

James Acaster

So, yes, I've done the triple of, like, butter, marmite, marmalade.

Josh Widdicombe

Oh, yes, please. Inject it into my veins. Well, don't because I want to enjoy it through my mouth.

James Acaster

Yes, and I do get it. It is nice.

Josh Widdicombe

It's so good. Toast is-, I think there's obviously, because I know you guys like the, kind of, what does this mean to you? Obviously, there's a nostalgic-, there's a deeper-,

James Acaster



I'll give you this because I know you guys like this.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes, I know you like this kind of shit. I heard you trying to get Coxon to talk about his tacos and what it meant to him.

James Acaster

What does toast mean to you?

Josh Widdicombe

Well, no, it's just there's a homeliness to it, isn't there? There's a feeling of safety. There's a feeling of security of being at home. I love it.

Ed Gamble

And routine as well, I think, with toast. You grow up having toast before school or whatever. Whenever I have toast now I just feel like-, yes.

Josh Widdicombe

And I don't have it for breakfast now because it's not a great start to the day energy wise. So toast has now moved in to my treat section of my life.

Ed Gamble

And the treat will be in the evening?

Josh Widdicombe

Toast.

Ed Gamble

We've covered that. The treat will be in the evening, will it? And it will be toast?

Josh Widdicombe

And it will be toast. Yes, it will be, like, 'Shall I have a slice of toast at quarter past ten while I-'

James Acaster

Kids have gone to bed, come on.

Josh Widdicombe

Kids have gone to bed. I might tidy up the kitchen, listen to the News Agents with Emily Maitlis and have a slice of toast.

Ed Gamble

Sticking your head around the door to your wife going, 'Shall we have a slice of toast?'

Josh Widdicombe



She doesn't even want a slice of toast. She's on the dark chocolate buttons.

James Acaster

Wow you've married quite the relegate. Toast, there's a biopic pick of Nigel Slater.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes, his book is just called Toast.

James Acaster

There's the bit when he makes toast for the first time and it's basically, like, you know, his first bit of what he sees as cooking and it's filmed really beautifully from, like, inside the grill and the toast going in and it shows the butter melting on the toast and that, like, I'd say, renewed my love-

Ed Gamble

That renewed your love for toast.

James Acaster

That's when that started doing the three courses thing because I was like, 'That is delicious.' It's so good.

Ed Gamble

If I have toast, I just can't stop.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Especially when I was a big, fat kid. I used to go over to friends' houses and their mums were not in. James is laughing imagining me being a big, fat kid.

James Acaster

I always think it's funny.

Ed Gamble

Because they don't have to restrict you when you're someone else's kid, they just keep making you toast. I'm like, 'I could go through a loaf, easy.'

Josh Widdicombe

I had a situation at my friends, his mum made us-, I remember having eight slices of white toast on the AGA, a real clash of cultures there.

Ed Gamble

Yes, love it.



Josh Widdicombe

In a row and we were still going, and she was like, 'Guys.' Like a bar man, 'You've had enough.'

Ed Gamble

Yes, this toast in the dream restaurant, white bread?

Josh Widdicombe

Granary, I think.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Josh Widdicombe

Granary.

Ed Gamble

I respect that, yes.

Josh Widdicombe

And I want to cut it myself. I've had enough of going to somewhere, I'll name and shame, Gail's, and them saying, 'Do you want it sliced?' Because I just don't. It's too thin and if I'm going to spend more than I should on bread, I at least want to slice it myself. I don't want to get sliced bread.

Ed Gamble

So, you're annoyed at Gail's for offering you the option?

Josh Widdicombe

Yes.

Ed Gamble

They're not doing it and then giving it to you and you're like, 'I didn't want this.'

Josh Widdicombe

I just don't think it should even be an option.

Ed Gamble

I always get my bread sliced.

Josh Widdicombe

Why?

Ed Gamble

Because it means that I can have a couple of slices of it, and I don't feel awful afterwards. Whereas if I'm cutting it myself, I'm cutting doorstep thick slices.



James Acaster

Yes, I'm not very good at doing them uniform.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Josh Widdicombe

You don't need to do them uniform, live a little.

James Acaster

A wedge shape.

Josh Widdicombe

Just enjoy the difference of life. Look, you two are different.

James Acaster

Yes.

Josh Widdicombe

We still like you.

Ed Gamble

We're different slices.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes, you're different slices. There's a doorstep and there's a wedge.

James Acaster

I'll take that. I'm the doorstep, for the listener.

Ed Gamble

The doorstep and the wedge.

James Acaster

Wedge Gamble.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes.

James Acaster

So, you want to slice it.

Josh Widdicombe



Yes.

James Acaster

How thick are you slicing it then? I thought we were about to move on from this but actually, there's a lot more to take.

Ed Gamble

Yes, we actually haven't got into the nitty gritty bit.

Josh Widdicombe

I'd like to go thick please, yes.

James Acaster

Yes. How many centimetres we talking?

Ed Gamble

It's got to fit in the toaster.

Josh Widdicombe

I don't really know what a centimetre is.

James Acaster

What? You don't know what a centimetre is?

Ed Gamble

Right, sorry, you've buried the lead there.

James Acaster

Yes. Josh Widdicombe doesn't know what a centimetre is.

Josh Widdicombe

Alright. What's a sliced piece of toast? One centimetre?

James Acaster

No, it will be less than a centimetre a slice of toast.

Ed Gamble

Yes, maybe slightly less.

Josh Widdicombe

Okay then, probably 1.3 centimetres.

Ed Gamble

Okay. So, you're not going big, it's got to fit in the toaster.



Josh Widdicombe

No, but I do with sandwiches, I have a big thing about ratios. I think the filling has come to dominate sandwiches in a way that I think is unhealthy.

Ed Gamble

So, hang on, you don't like the filling?

Josh Widdicombe

No.

Ed Gamble

You're the only person-

Josh Widdicombe

It's more like you'd imagine really, isn't it?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes, absolutely perfect.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes.

James Acaster

In my head, I'm just seeing us climbing the charts.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes.

James Acaster

We got him. We absolutely got him. Just let him talk. Yes, you don't like the filling of the sandwich.

Josh Widdicombe

I don't like the filling of a sandwich, the breads the best bit.

James Acaster

Yes.

Josh Widdicombe

I hate it when there's too much filling, when there's a thick gelatinous cheese.



Ed Gamble

Delicious.

Josh Widdicombe

It's awful. Just sticking to your mouth and the bread, it's all about the bread for me.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Look, bread is of course, important in a sandwich, yes, of course, I'm willing to admit that but-,

Josh Widdicombe

That's big of you.

Ed Gamble

So, your dream sandwich is just like butter and marmite or whatever?

Josh Widdicombe

My dream sandwich would probably be-,

Ed Gamble

That's a different podcast, yes.

Josh Widdicombe

That's a different podcast.

James Acaster

Yes, sandwich.

Ed Gamble

Yes, the top sandwich.

James Acaster

Yes, part of our franchise.

Josh Widdicombe

I'd love you to start franchising. My dream sandwich is butter and salt and vinegar Squares.

Ed Gamble

I'm glad I asked that question then.

James Acaster

Had it go, didn't even have to think about it, knew what it was, salt and vinegar Squares on a sandwich. Are you doing it with salt and vinegar Squares because you can fit them perfectly into the sandwich because they're that shape?



Josh Widdicombe

No, I'm not actually, but that is a bonus. Yes.

James Acaster

I imagine also they're not overlapping these salt and vinegar Squares-

Josh Widdicombe

No, actually, I don't mind a little bit of overlap. Like, I take that over the fear that they'll be a bit where they're not overlapping. Like when you do cheese on cheese on toast.

Ed Gamble

Yes, you don't want a gap.

Josh Widdicombe

You don't want a gap.

James Acaster

No.

Josh Widdicombe

I'd rather a bit of an overlap than a gap.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

You'd rather an overlap on cheese on toast where one bit hasn't necessarily melted as much as the others.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes, because there's an overlap.

Josh Widdicombe

Don't get me started on people who grate cheese on toast.

Ed Gamble

If we get you started on every single issue, we're going to be here for eight hours.

Josh Widdicombe

Sorry.



James Acaster

Let's go to your dream main course because that's the very Josh Widdicombe style and it sounded delicious.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes. Franco Manca pizza number five, no anchovy but with chillis instead.

Ed Gamble

I think we both knew this was coming, didn't we?

James Acaster

Yes.

Josh Widdicombe

Love it. Love it.

James Acaster

You introduced me to Franco Manca.

Josh Widdicombe

I did, look at it now.

James Acaster

Yes. It was very, very-, I mean, to be fair, it was very early days. You were a very early adopter.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes.

James Acaster

It was tucked away in the corner of Brixton village.

Josh Widdicombe

It was in Brixton market, and it was just like a small pizza place where the waiters were overburdened and there were only about ten tables and then now it's everywhere. That's capitalism.

Ed Gamble

That's capitalism for you and it was the same with Honest Burgers as well. Started in Brixton village.

Josh Widdicombe

Oh, was it?

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes, and now that's everywhere. How do you feel about that when little restaurants that you like then, sort of, end up going all over the place?



Josh Widdicombe

Initially excited. I mean, the way I suppose the way you compare it to a band, isn't it?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Josh Widdicombe

So, initially, when the band that you like that no one really knows about breaks through, you're quite excited for them and then by the time they're headline in Glastonbury, you're livid.

Ed Gamble

Yes, because everyone's in, yes.

Josh Widdicombe

Everyone's in, they change their sound.

Ed Gamble

The quality's watered down a bit.

Josh Widdicombe

For the stage-

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Franco Manca though, I'd say, still the quality is the same.

Josh Widdicombe

Still the quality is the same.

Ed Gamble

They still play all the hits, they still play number five.

Josh Widdicombe

They still play Mumbo Number Five.

James Acaster

And a little bit of anchovies in your life.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes. Well, no without.



James Acaster

Yes, sorry, yes.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes.

Ed Gamble

So, talk us through the number five for those people who aren't across the full menu.

Josh Widdicombe

Okay. So, the number five is anchovies, which I forgo, olives, capers and garlic.

James Acaster

No cheese and tomato on there?

Josh Widdicombe

Oh, yes, sorry.

James Acaster

Yes, well, not an olive-

Josh Widdicombe

As a base as well, yes.

James Acaster

There are some Franco Manca pizzas that don't have tomato on and things.

Josh Widdicombe

I know.

Ed Gamble

And you get a plate.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes, you get a plate and you get a knife and fork and a bill at the end. Yes, I've got no time for the no-cheese pizza or the no-tomato pizza. I think the no-tomato pizza as well often isn't clear enough about that on a menu.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

I do agree with that because you assume-



Josh Widdicombe

It should be heavily warned.

Ed Gamble

Well, it should be in a separate section on the menu.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes. Yes.

Ed Gamble

It should be in the whatever, like, pizza Bianca because sometimes it's like a white thing or just like a yes, no-tomato pizza. It shouldn't be snuck in with all the other pizzas.

Josh Widdicombe

Exactly, pretending it's normal.

Ed Gamble

And then in the small print being, like, just missing tomato off the list. And you're like, 'Guys, come on'.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes, yes, come on.

Ed Gamble

Tomato's default.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes, exactly. I presumed it was a typo.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Has it always been the number five for you?

Josh Widdicombe

Yes, it has always been the number five. What would be that olive, caper, and I presume the anchovy falls into the same thing, that, kind of, salty-,

Ed Gamble

Very salty. In pasta, that's like a puttanesca, right?

Josh Widdicombe

Yes, I love a puttanesca. I imagine the answer to this is yes, but would you like to hear about my first caper?



Ed Gamble

You do not need to ask in future, Josh, you just go for it.

James Acaster

Also, I'd like to hear about your first caper and I'd like to hear about your first caper, both meanings of the word.

Josh Widdicombe

So, my first caper, the meaning of the word food was when Plymouth Argyle played in the division three play-off final in May 1996.

James Acaster

Pilgrim Pete going crazy.

Josh Widdicombe

Pilgrim Pete was there, We won. One, nil at Wembley.

Ed Gamble

Throwing capers into the crowd.

James Acaster

He was singing one of the football chants, mouth wide open.

Josh Widdicombe

So, I came to London for it because it was at Wembley. I think I'd been to London when I was like seven, but I hadn't really been to London and we went to Pizza Express beforehand and I had a Veneziana and it had capers on it and it blew my mind and I just thought, 'This city. This place is like something else, isn't it?'

Ed Gamble

'One day I've got to live here.'

Josh Widdicombe

The way these people are living their lives is like nothing I've ever experienced.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

I know, so, if you go down to houses of Parliament, around that area you'll often see just people who have just arrived in London, gazing up at Big Ben eating a jar of capers. They can't believe it.

Josh Widdicombe



Yes, exactly.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Josh Widdicombe

Exactly, yes. So, that's what I'd say. Get on the Millennium Eye and eat a caper. The London Eye, it's not called the Millennium Eye any more.

James Acaster

Yes. You've got to drop it at just the right time though, the caper.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes.

James Acaster

Make sure. Number four for me at Franco Manca.

Josh Widdicombe

What's number four?

James Acaster

It's very nice, mushrooms, I think buffalo ricotta cheese or something and ham. Benito's (literally looked it up, I can see it's looked up, he's nodding it as I get them right.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes.

James Acaster

I think there's little tomato on it, it says little tomato but then everyone always goes, 'Can I have extra tomato on it?'

Josh Widdicombe

So, does that mean little tomatoes or not much tomato?

James Acaster

Not much tomato.

Josh Widdicombe

Right.

Ed Gamble

Yes, because I would think that would mean little tomatoes.



Josh Widdicombe

Yes, I'd have thought it meant like a cherry tomato.

Ed Gamble

Yes, one little tomato.

James Acaster

It's three cherry tomatoes spaced very far from each other, just a fair warning.

Ed Gamble

I don't know, I've barely been to Franco Manca. I don't know what my order would be.

Josh Widdicombe

I really like the salad actually as well that you get with the pizza that's got parmesan, olives, sun-dried tomato.

James Acaster

Oh, yes, would you want that with your number five?

Josh Widdicombe

Yes, as long as it doesn't count as my side, I was thinking that on the way, is that going to count as my side dish?

Ed Gamble

No, you can put it all with the main and you can do that.

James Acaster

It's fine.

Josh Widdicombe

Okay, I'd like that, please.

Ed Gamble

Yes, nice.

James Acaster

Are you putting chilli oil on it? I love the chilli oil on the pizza.

Josh Widdicombe

Big time. I love chilli oil. So, this is something interesting about me. Well, you'll be the judge of that.

James Acaster

It's all interesting, Josh. This is all great.



Josh Widdicombe

Well, you won't believe this. I love spice, which is so out of character.

James Acaster

Yes.

Josh Widdicombe

At Nando's I'll go extra hot and then I'll get the black bottle and have that as well.

Ed Gamble

Yes, nice.

James Acaster

I love the black bottle.

Josh Widdicombe

I just love spice.

Ed Gamble

You're just a guy who loves a rush, right?

Josh Widdicombe

I live for the rush.

James Acaster

What, kind of, a rush are we talking though? Because there are certain things you're like, 'That's too adrenaline fuel.' But spice, again, it's quite-,

Josh Widdicombe

Spice, yes. Not the drug, spice the spice, but I don't like-, sorry, Be nito, I don't like roller-coasters, I find them too scary.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

And I mean, there's a load of things that you find quite scary.

Josh Widdicombe

I wouldn't do a skydive.



James Acaster

Yes. I remember you told me you don't like big headphones because it makes you feel sleepy.

Josh Widdicombe

That's true.

James Acaster

They make your ears too warm and then you feel sleepy.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes, that is true.

Ed Gamble

Well, that took me by surprise, I've never heard that.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes, and I think I know why that is. It's because I sleep with the duvet over my head.

Ed Gamble

Oh my God. Oh God.

James Acaster

What? That is something that I think everyone tries when they're a kid. So, when you're a little kid at some point you try sleeping with the duvet over your head, you try sleeping the other way around on your bed and putting your pillows where your feet usually are.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes. I had to do that the other night because my son came and slept on our bed. So, I had to go down the other end. I was horizontal at the feet.

James Acaster

But still head under the duvet?

Josh Widdicombe

No, I couldn't at that point.

James Acaster

You couldn't do that.

Josh Widdicombe

But by that point I was so tired, it didn't matter.

James Acaster

Yes.



Josh Widdicombe

So, I go head under the duvet.

James Acaster

What the fuck is your wife thinking?

Josh Widdicombe

She's asleep. What's wrong with that?

James Acaster

Your head is under the duvet.

Ed Gamble

I have never met anyone who sleeps like that.

Josh Widdicombe

It's snug.

James Acaster

You're a little door mouse.

Josh Widdicombe

Do you not want to be a little door mouse?

Ed Gamble

Yes, I get that. I get the attraction -,

Josh Widdicombe

When you're asleep, would you not like to be a little door mouse?

James Acaster

Yes, okay, fair enough. If they have a good sleep, yes.

Josh Widdicombe

So, duvet over the head, kind of, hook it over and then-, so, I've still got my mouth and nose out for breathing purposes.

Ed Gamble

And do you put fresh straw in every day or? So, putting the big headphones on then makes you feel sleepy like you're under the duvet.

Josh Widdicombe

I've missed train stops because of that.



Ed Gamble

Because chemical memory kicks in and you fall to sleep.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Josh Widdicombe

Oh, woolly hats as well, woolly hats.

Ed Gamble

Yes, you can't do it.

James Acaster

Yes, of course. I've never seen you in a woolly hat.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes, exactly.

James Acaster

Is there spice in your side dish, Josh Widdicombe?

Josh Widdicombe

To an extent, I'd like a saag paneer, please.

Ed Gamble

Nice. Always delighted when saag paneer gets a shout out. It's my go to side, I guess but quite often it comes in main portion size on an Indian takeaway but what a treat.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes. So, I love a saag paneer. I'd say paneer along with halloumi is an absolute relief to a vegetarian. The existence of those two.

James Acaster

Yes.

Josh Widdicombe

Does do a lot of the work for where meat disappears if that makes sense.

James Acaster

Yes.



Ed Gamble

Texture wise?

Josh Widdicombe

Texture wise it's big, it dominates.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

It's a centre piece.

Josh Widdicombe

It's a centre piece. I hate falafel.

James Acaster

Yes, I do know this about you.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes, and I find that annoying that you're offered it as an option so often as a vegetarian because it's crap and it's dry and people are like, 'You haven't tried good falafel.' No, I haven't.

Ed Gamble

Point proven.

Josh Widdicombe

Point proven, yes.

James Acaster

Even good stuff though, you can't have it too much. Like, I've had really good falafel but I wouldn't want it twice in a month.

Josh Widdicombe

No, exactly.

James Acaster

Yes.

Josh Widdicombe



So, I like paneer, it's great. I like tikka paneer as a starter but obviously, I've got toast as my starter, and I thought it would be mad to have a toast as a side with pizza.

Ed Gamble

Yes, it would.

James Acaster

Format where the toast would fit, so you had to have it as a starter.

Josh Widdicombe

Because I presumed rules were there for a reason, but it turns out that poppadom's or bread doesn't mean poppadom's or bread, it means poppadom's or bread or toast.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Or prawn crackers.

Josh Widdicombe

What?

James Acaster

We've let people have pick those before.

Josh Widdicombe

I've never had a prawn cracker, could you have a Quaver?

Ed Gamble

Well, not now, you've picked, yes.

James Acaster

But we would let someone. If someone said they wanted a packet of crisps or a Quaver for that, probably, I think we'd let them have that.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Things of the equivalent of poppadom's or bread.

Josh Widdicombe

Just change your crib sheet that you send out if you would guys.



James Acaster

When you go to a curry house then, what's your order?

Josh Widdicombe

Poppadom's.

James Acaster

Yes.

Josh Widdicombe

Garlic naan, no rice, vegetable dhansak, some paneer of some sort, saag aloo, tarka daal.

James Acaster

Job done.

Josh Widdicombe

Job done.

Ed Gamble

That's a big order as well.

Josh Widdicombe

Well, I like to share. I think it's insane when someone just has one curry.

James Acaster

Yes.

Josh Widdicombe

You're meant to mix and match, right?

Ed Gamble

You're meant to be able to dip in to other people's, yes.

Josh Widdicombe

Exactly.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Josh Widdicombe

I'd prefer a curry in then a curry out because I'm so tired by the end of a curry, I just need to go to bed.

James Acaster

Of course, yes, of course.



Josh Widdicombe

Pop on some headphones. Out like a light.

Ed Gamble

The idea of eating a curry and then getting under your own duvet is terrifying to me.

James Acaster

Yes, Dutch oven yourself.

Josh Widdicombe

What I don't understand, which blows my mind is curry at the start of a night out.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I don't know who's doing that.

Josh Widdicombe

It's mad.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Josh Widdicombe

So full. It's absolutely mad. I just don't want to go out.

Ed Gamble

No. It's the end of a night. If you're out, it's the end of a night or you're eating it when you're in, otherwise I feel like a balloon.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes, I couldn't drink with a curry as well. Like, when I used to drink.

Ed Gamble

Oh, really?

Josh Widdicombe

The pint, it's like those people who feel about sparkling water, I'd feel about a pint.

James Acaster

I love having a Cobra with a curry.

Ed Gamble

Yes. I have a wine with a curry.



Josh Widdicombe

Do you?

James Acaster

Yes, I love it.

Josh Widdicombe

It's just too tiring, how do you get through it?

Ed Gamble

Well, very happy, very happy boy.

James Acaster

Talking to your friends.

Ed Gamble

Yes, talking to your friends.

James Acaster

Having a lovely time.

Josh Widdicombe

It's that moment when you go, 'Oh, for fuck sake. I'm in a restaurant and I don't want to be now. I want to be at home under my duvet like a little door mouse.'

Ed Gamble

This dream meal then, if you're eating saag paneer, are you alright for it to be in a dream restaurant or do you want to be at home next to your bed?

Josh Widdicombe

Well, could I be eating all of this in bed?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Under the duvet.

Josh Widdicombe

Not under the duvet, I'm not an animal.

James Acaster

Well, you are, you're a door mouse.



Josh Widdicombe

Yes, I am. Maybe downstairs. I like eating in front of the TV. I think eating at the dinner table is criminally overrated.

James Acaster

Yes. Well, you famously, like, love television.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes.

James Acaster

Your first book was about it.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes. I hate eating at the dinner table. The thing I hate the most, and this is a real problem in our relationship, is once you've finished, still sitting at the table. I just can't stand it.

Ed Gamble

What, and, like, talking and stuff?

Josh Widdicombe

Like in a restaurant. Let's go, we've eaten. And, like, Rose will be stringing out her tiny bit of wine. You're like, 'Come on, I'm knackered. It's half nine.'

James Acaster

Just always knackered.

Ed Gamble

I'm so tired. It's half nine.

Josh Widdicombe

I've eaten four bits of bread before this even started. I think I'm quite liable to food energy reactions.

Ed Gamble

Yes, it definitely seems that way.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes.

James Acaster

Do you think that's what's doing it? Or do you think it's the fact you're one of the busiest comedians in the country?

Ed Gamble



Yes.

Josh Widdicombe

No, I do think it's I have a mad reaction. I tried to eat a Mars bar the other day.

Ed Gamble

Tried?

Josh Widdicombe

Tried. I had to give up, because it was just too extreme.

James Acaster

How far down the Mars bar did you get? And I know you're not very good with centimetres.

Josh Widdicombe

Half way, and then I put the other half in the fridge. Which is depressing, isn't it? They're too much.

Ed Gamble

Well, they're helping you work, rest, and play, that's the thing.

Josh Widdicombe

I know. They weren't though.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

I get that though, with a Mars bar maybe.

Josh Widdicombe

When was the last time you had a Mars bar?

James Acaster

Ages.

Ed Gamble

Long time ago, to be fair.

Josh Widdicombe

I can't believe they're still a product.

Ed Gamble

Are you going to have to go fun size from now on?



Josh Widdicombe

I think I am fun size.

James Acaster

Do duo and then that's already in the halves for you.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes, I disapprove of that.

Ed Gamble

I think you go fun size. Fun size out of the fridge, a Mars bar out the fridge.

Josh Widdicombe

Do they still do fun size, or is it just a Celebration, straight up to the Mars bar?

Ed Gamble

Well, that's a good point. I don't think they're allowed to call them fun size any more maybe, probably, knowing this government.

Josh Widdicombe

What, because of the bods at health and safety?

Ed Gamble

Yes. Because they're not fun, because they're destroying your health.

James Acaster

Right, your dream drink then. We touched that you wouldn't have a drink with a curry, but surely for your dream menu.

Josh Widdicombe

Well, I've already got sparkling water.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

We know that you love tea.

Josh Widdicombe

No. Yes, so I'm going to have tea.

Ed Gamble

Yes.



Josh Widdicombe

Because I find it difficult to go a long period without tea. I've genuinely quite-, I've got quite a worrying-, not worrying, because it's tea.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Josh Widdicombe

So, I'm like, 'Fight your battles.'

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Josh Widdicombe

But I can get antsy if I know I haven't got access to tea.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Now, you don't drink alcohol any more.

Josh Widdicombe

No, but I didn't have that relationship with alcohol. I binged on alcohol.

Ed Gamble

Yes. I'm saying, has the tea thing really kicked in since you stopped drinking alcohol?

Josh Widdicombe

Yes, it has.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Well, I remember you being a big-

Josh Widdicombe

I was a big tea-drinker, but now it's, like-,

Ed Gamble

Stains on the cup.

Josh Widdicombe

It's a bit like a relationship someone has with smoking, I suppose. I like the feeling of it, like, the ritual of it. I think it's something for my hands to do.



Ed Gamble

Yes. Because when you used to drink beer, of course, you had it warm, with milk in. So, it's just the perfect-,

Josh Widdicombe

I know. It reminded me of the lattes.

James Acaster

What brand teabag are you going for?

Josh Widdicombe

Yorkshire, or PG Tips, or Twinings. Just something that just-,

James Acaster

What have you got in the cupboard now?

Josh Widdicombe

We have got-, well, we haven't got it in the cupboard, but we've got a lovely glass jar.

James Acaster

Yes.

Josh Widdicombe

So, we've got-, I don't know why that feels like a bit I'm doing, but I'm not. But we have a bag of tea-,

James Acaster

Write it down.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes, it's not bad, is it?

Ed Gamble

Yes, you suddenly might have a tea bit.

James Acaster

Yes, decanting your teabags into a glass jar.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes, we did decant them into the glass jar, so that no one knows that we've got a box in the cupboard. Our dirty little secret.



Ed Gamble

Yes.

Josh Widdicombe

But I might try that.

Ed Gamble

Yes, it's good.

James Acaster

It's pretty good. It is good.

Josh Widdicombe

I used to have a bit, didn't I, about the teabag saucer?

James Acaster

Yes, you did.

Ed Gamble

Yes, you did. Yes.

Josh Widdicombe

Sorry.

Ed Gamble

Bring it back.

James Acaster

Yes, persistence.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes, halfway in between.

James Acaster

Halfway to your bin, from the sink.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Josh Widdicombe



Bit of fun, wasn't it? So, we have a glass jar. So, it's PG Tips, or Yorkshire, or whatever. We're not wedded to a brand, but what I am wedded to, is I don't like it-, I hate Starbucks tea.

James Acaster

Okay.

Josh Widdicombe

I think it's awful, because they've tried to do something with it, and I don't want anyone to try and do something with it.

Ed Gamble

You just want normal tea?

Josh Widdicombe

I just want normal tea.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Because also, I think that makes perfect sense. Because if you're drinking eight cups a day, or whatever, you just want it to be the same thing, very drinkable, you can just knock it back.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes. I do alternate on one thing.

Ed Gamble

Oh, yes?

James Acaster

Okay.

Josh Widdicombe

I swing between milk, and oat milk.

Ed Gamble

Okay.

James Acaster

Okay, yes.

Josh Widdicombe

Depending on mood.



Ed Gamble

Hang on, what's milky mood, and what's oat milk mood?

Josh Widdicombe

Well, there's various variables.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Josh Widdicombe

So, here you've got Minor Figures. Minor Figures makes me feel nauseous for some reason, I don't know what it is, but I can handle the silver Oatly.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Josh Widdicombe

I love a silver Oatly.

James Acaster

Yes.

Josh Widdicombe

I got so into that, that I started taking Oatly to my friend's house, because they had normal milk.

Ed Gamble

I'm so glad you've quit drinking, man.

Josh Widdicombe

But then someone got in my head about ultra-processed foods and that oat milk is a processed food. So, then I tried to wean myself back onto milk, and now I swing between the two depending on what I'm feeling more guilty about, the plight of the cow or ultra-processed foods.

Ed Gamble

You're damned if you do, damned if you don't, basically.

Josh Widdicombe

You're damned if you do, damned if you don't.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster



If your kids are annoying you, you break out the dairy. That's your future. And then you throw it in the normal bin.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Josh Widdicombe

It is weird with tea that everyone has a set way of doing it, but with other things you're allowed to vary it.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Josh Widdicombe

But it's the one thing where it's like, everyone has to do it in one-, 'This is how I have my tea'. Whereas if you said, 'I have the same dinner every day', that would be weird.

Ed Gamble

Yes, that's true.

James Acaster

And I really respect that everyone has a way they have their tea, that's the way they do it every single time. One of the things that really annoys me though is when people pretend to be really up in arms and passionate about stuff that really, no one gives a fuck about, or should give a fuck about. And the same basic arguments that get circulated around society, that we're all meant to care if there's pineapple on a pizza. Whereas, no one gives a fuck.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Milk in first.

James Acaster

Milk in first.

Josh Widdicombe

Don't care.

James Acaster

I am absolutely sick and tired of people pretending that they are passionate about that, and are fucking going on a panel show or something, and then going, 'We're going to do this round, where we bring up if you should have milk in first.' Okay, you should be fired from your job. You shouldn't be allowed to format panel shows, get out of here.



Josh Widdicombe

I lost a point on Taskmaster. It was throw a teabag in a cup, and I made a large cup out of a wheelbarrow, and a handle.

James Acaster

That's great.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes, throw it in, and then Greg cost me the point. He said, 'I'm not doing it for the cup, I'm doing it because you put the milk in first,' and then I heard James think, 'This panel show's not going to work.'

James Acaster

Yes, that's right.

Ed Gamble

Luckily, he still won.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

You still win.

Josh Widdicombe

Well, I still beat Frank Skinner by a point.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

The bean point.

Josh Widdicombe

The bean point.

Ed Gamble

The bean point, yes.

James Acaster

Because you counted your beans.

Josh Widdicombe

Counted my beans. But yes, I don't care about milk in first. I'm constantly dragged into the 'cream or jam' debate, and I just-



James Acaster

They have got to get over that. I mean, I just did a string of gigs in Truro, which I absolutely loved. I won't stop talking about it. However, the one thing that-

Josh Widdicombe

Is it nice that venue?

James Acaster

Yes, absolutely loved it, but they would heckle every night about the 'jam or cream' thing, and it was the one time I said to them, 'Guys, you have really got to move on with your lives. This can't still matter to you.'

Josh Widdicombe

Yes. I'm from Devon, and I prefer cream above, which is the Cornish way, and that's fine.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Also, it makes no difference.

Josh Widdicombe

It doesn't matter. Makes no difference.

James Acaster

Who cares? The fact that they are still arguing about it, we're never going to progress as a country, if we're still stuck on that shit.

Josh Widdicombe

Do you know what? That's how I felt when you were talking to Graham Coxon about his tacos.

James Acaster

We arrive at your dream dessert.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes.

James Acaster

Again, known you for a long time. Not known you to be a massive pudding fan, or have a sweet tooth really.

Josh Widdicombe

I'm not a sweet boy.



Ed Gamble

Not a sweet boy?

James Acaster

So, I'm a bit concerned going into this, that you're going to absolutely-,

Josh Widdicombe

I'm not going to go with cheese and biscuits, or-,

James Acaster

Okay.

Ed Gamble

Okay, fair enough.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes. I'm going to go with Lindt balls.

Ed Gamble

Absolute respect.

James Acaster

Yes, that's so on brand.

Ed Gamble

Huge respect.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

And you know what? I know why you're going with Lindt balls. You're popping one in your mouth, you're having a sip of your tea, and you're melting it in your mouth.

Josh Widdicombe

I wasn't even doing that, but I would. I love a Lindt ball.

Ed Gamble

Yes, Lindt balls are amazing.

Josh Widdicombe

They're so good.



James Acaster

Yes.

Josh Widdicombe

But we only really get them at Christmas, and it's the best bit of Christmas. If I'm allowed to broaden it slightly, I'd broaden it to Christmas chocolates. So, that's your Lindt balls and I'd like some After Eights in there as well.

Ed Gamble

You can have Christmas chocolate.

Josh Widdicombe

And I'd like some Matchmakers as well.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Any Celebrations or Heroes?

Josh Widdicombe

Yes, I'll have some Celebrations as well and maybe a Toblerone.

Ed Gamble

Yeah.

James Acaster

Right, let's get into this. This is one of my favourite dessert courses we've ever had.

Ed Gamble

Yes, this is really good.

James Acaster

Christmas chocolates is absolutely going to be what it is.

Ed Gamble

I want to quickly stick on Lindt balls.

James Acaster

Yes.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Original, or are you branching out into the other colours?



Josh Widdicombe

My favourite is the mixed, but I don't like the dark ones.

Ed Gamble

Right, okay.

James Acaster

I love the dark ones.

Josh Widdicombe

Well, come round.

James Acaster

Surely your better half-,

Josh Widdicombe

Yes, she does.

James Acaster

Because she loves the dark chocolate buttons.

Josh Widdicombe

I love the-, the white one is my favourite.

Ed Gamble

It's so sweet.

Josh Widdicombe

I have seen, but I haven't tried, that they've broadened it.

Ed Gamble

Salted caramel.

James Acaster

Salted caramel, the blue one.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes, there's mint one, isn't there? And there's a strawberry one as well.

Ed Gamble

I think there's, like, a coconut one maybe as well.

James Acaster

Wow, I didn't know about these.



Josh Widdicombe

Yes, there's all kinds of Lindt balls.

Ed Gamble

I'm not interested in coconut or strawberry, but the salted caramel one is good.

James Acaster

Is good, yes? The only person I know who regularly went through a phase of having Lindt balls when it wasn't Christmas was Nish. He'd buy a box every week.

Josh Widdicombe

I would enjoy seeing a graph of the Lindt ball sales throughout the year.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Josh Widdicombe

That would be nice.

James Acaster

It would be nice to see that graph.

Josh Widdicombe

Just to confirm how badly it's going for them eleven months of the year.

Ed Gamble

Easter, they're selling more.

James Acaster

Got to be.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Because Lindt is bigger is Easter, right? Because of the bunny.

Josh Widdicombe

Because Lent.



Ed Gamble

Yes. No, sorry, Lent, that's what I meant.

James Acaster

Lent balls.

Josh Widdicombe

Lent ball.

James Acaster

You're thinking of lead ball. It's just the wrapper.

Ed Gamble

Because the bunny's big in Easter, right?

Josh Widdicombe

Yes, the Lindt chocolate bunny. Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes, so I think the whole brand probably gets a bit of a spike.

James Acaster

Easter is the Christmas of chocolate.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Josh Widdicombe

Easter's crap.

Ed Gamble

Huh?

Josh Widdicombe

Easter's crap.

Ed Gamble

But Easter's the Christmas of chocolate, Josh.

Josh Widdicombe

Easter's total crap. Hate it.

Ed Gamble

You heard it here first.



James Acaster

Why? Why do you hate it?

Josh Widdicombe

Because there's too much chocolate.

James Acaster

Well, you decide that.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes, but if you're doing an Easter egg hunt, which you've got to, with a child, they've basically got chocolate for the next four weeks.

Ed Gamble

Right.

James Acaster

Okay.

Josh Widdicombe

So, your house is full of chocolate, which is not ideal.

James Acaster

That's nice for them.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes, that's nice for them. Which isn't ideal. And then it moves around.

James Acaster

You mean never knowing what days it's on every year?

Josh Widdicombe

Yes.

Ed Gamble

It's not fixed.

Josh Widdicombe

I think if anything, it's a more important festival. I'd say dying and coming back to life is more important than being born.

James Acaster

Yes.



Ed Gamble

It's more impressive, isn't it?

Josh Widdicombe

More impressive.

James Acaster

Noteworthy.

Josh Widdicombe

So, I'd say Easter should be the better one. So, it's disappointing for that reason.

James Acaster

Yes, but they know that if they make too big a deal of it, people are going to start asking questions. You've got to bury that.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

And also, he came back to life, but let's focus on the fact he was born.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

We can all agree on that.

Ed Gamble

He was born, yes.

Josh Widdicombe

We can all agree on that one.

Ed Gamble

Definitely born.

Josh Widdicombe

I just think it's a bit nothing-y. I think the four-day bank holiday is a bit annoying. I hate bank holidays.

Ed Gamble

You hate bank holidays?



James Acaster

That's off brand.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

I'd say-,

Josh Widdicombe

Don't you hate-, because in our job, I never realise it's going to be a bank holiday, I don't get time off for it being a bank holiday. So, all that happens is I realise two weeks before that I'm working on a bank holiday.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Yes, good point.

James Acaster

That's a shame.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes.

James Acaster

The Matchmakers, I'm assuming they're going to be mint?

Josh Widdicombe

Yes, but I don't mind the orange.

James Acaster

You don't mind the orange?

Josh Widdicombe

They're definitely not the best bit, but if we're having all the Christmas chocolates.

Ed Gamble

Yes, they've got to be in there.

Josh Widdicombe

They've got to be there. I like them with their little, kind of, crunchy thing that goes on top of them.

James Acaster

Yes, the little-,



Ed Gamble

The packaging thing?

Josh Widdicombe

Yes, so you open the lid and then there's a, kind of, crunchy-,

Ed Gamble

And it feels like you're opening a box of cigars, or something.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes, I like that.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes, that's good.

Josh Widdicombe

That's, like, the good version of, you know the piece of paper you get on the top of the marge?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Josh Widdicombe

I hate that.

James Acaster

Yes, that's gross.

Josh Widdicombe

I hate marge paper.

Ed Gamble

Here's a question.

Josh Widdicombe

Throw away.

Ed Gamble

Yes, me too.

Josh Widdicombe

Who's keeping that?



Ed Gamble

Yes. I mean, this might be the new cream and jam.

James Acaster

Some people do. Yes. No, I've been in people's houses before, and they've-

Ed Gamble

My wife. My wife keeps the-, on the Lurpak, and she'll open it, and keep the foil thing on it. It's like, 'Get rid of it. That's the reason the lid's there.'

Josh Widdicombe

You get it on your Greek yogurt as well now.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes.

Josh Widdicombe

You just get a piece of paper on the top.

Ed Gamble

Not even attached to anything, just-,

Josh Widdicombe

No, just a floating piece of paper in your yoghurt.

Ed Gamble

And that's so hard to put in the bin. If you're not opening it over the bin, you've then got to take a.

Josh Widdicombe

Totally agree.

Ed Gamble

And you're always dripping yogurt everywhere.

Josh Widdicombe

If you're enjoying this kind of chat, right, my tour is about 80 minutes of this. It's all this shit.

Ed Gamble

Yes.



James Acaster

And you've got the After Eights.

Josh Widdicombe

I love an After Eight.

Ed Gamble

Toblerone.

James Acaster

Toblerone. How big is the Toblerone?

Josh Widdicombe

Centimetres? Because they're going to struggle with that.

James Acaster

That looked to be about a foot.

Josh Widdicombe

It's about a foot, yes. I'd say a traditional foot Toblerone.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Slightly novelty-sized, but not one of the stupid ones?

Josh Widdicombe

Yes, exactly. I wouldn't go stupid.

James Acaster

Original flavour Toblerone?

Josh Widdicombe

Original flavour Toblerone.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

I loved it. There was a brief period where fruit and nut Toblerones, I really loved them.

Josh Widdicombe

I think fruit and nut chocolate's crap.

James Acaster

Man, this guys is-, how many hot takes have we had now?



Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

This is crazy.

Josh Widdicombe

Well, I've been waiting six years for this.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

He's not taking any prisoners today.

James Acaster

Yes.

Josh Widdicombe

I don't like fruit and nut chocolate because I think my dad had it when I was a kid, and he felt, I think, that it was the healthy option.

Ed Gamble

Yes, it's such a thing a dad would have.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes.

Ed Gamble

And you're like, 'Don't touch my fruit and nut.'

Josh Widdicombe

Yes, I won't.

Ed Gamble

'That's my special chocolate.'

Josh Widdicombe

This feels like another 'cream or jam', but do you leave the After Eight envelopes in the box?

James Acaster

Yes, I don't. I get furious when people do that.



Josh Widdicombe

No, so do I.

Ed Gamble

They're out. I'll pile them up, and then throw them away.

James Acaster

Because then you're like, 'Oh, great. You go for it.' Sometimes, especially when it gets towards the end, or the end, there's none in there.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

'Oh, I've got some After Eights.' No, it's all rubbish, it's all stuff that should be in the bin.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes.

James Acaster

What kind of psycho is doing that?

Josh Widdicombe

Totally agree.

James Acaster

But see, I care about that, because it has real-world implications. I'm going to read your menu back to you now, see how you feel about it.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes.

James Acaster

You would like sparkling water.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Big shock, first twist of the pod.

James Acaster

You would like a pile of '90s poppadoms, with mainly the yogurt dip. The other two, they're to entertain them.



Josh Widdicombe

Yes.

James Acaster

Starter. Two slices of toast, sliced by your own hand. Butter and marmite on one, marmalade on the other. Main course. Franco Manca pizza Number Five, no anchovies, added chilli, and a side salad. Side dish of saag paneer.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes.

James Acaster

Drink. Tea. Dessert. Christmas chocolates. I mean, I love that dessert so much, Josh, and look, I would eat the rest of it.

Josh Widdicombe

But I have two teas at specific moments actually. So, one when I sit down, to get me through, and then another one with pudding. I think that's when I want my teas.

Ed Gamble

Yes, absolutely.

James Acaster

Absolutely, and whenever you want. If you feel like more, just ask us.

Josh Widdicombe

Yes, yes.

Ed Gamble

We can put a tea tap on the table.

James Acaster

A tea tap.

Josh Widdicombe

A tea tap? Oh my God.

James Acaster

Although that gets rid of the ritual for you, and I imagine-

Josh Widdicombe

No, I've spent genuinely the last six years thinking about getting a hot water tap.



Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes.

Josh Widdicombe

And there's a guy that installs hot water taps, that lives across the road, that parks his hot water tap van outside my window, and I see it when I close the curtains every night, and think, 'I really should get one.'

Ed Gamble

Yes. Thank you very much for coming to the Dream Restaurant, Josh.

Josh Widdicombe

Oh, it's been an absolute pleasure.

Ed Gamble

Finally.

James Acaster

Thank you, Josh.

Ed Gamble

Finally, we did it.

James Acaster

Finally.

Josh Widdicombe

I'll give you Rob Beckett's number.

Ed Gamble

There we are. That was everything I'd hoped for, James.

James Acaster

Really delivered. I didn't even get to talk to him about the goat's cheese and caramelised onion tartlet. Which he didn't pick.

Ed Gamble

Yes, he didn't pick it, but I mean, not being able to wear big headphones because it makes him sleepy, because he sleeps under his duvet, is probably-, surely that's going to make the tabloids.

James Acaster



Yes, 'Josh Widdicombe sleeps under his duvet.'

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

It's going to be-, they don't even have to mess with that headline.

Ed Gamble

Yes, not at all.

James Acaster

Just state what he does, everyone will read that article. No one will be surprised by it, but it'll be very funny to learn. I mean, you said he one point near the end there, that he draws the curtains before going to sleep, and I was like, 'What's the point?'

Ed Gamble

Yes, what's the point?

James Acaster

You're under the duvet, brother.

Ed Gamble

You're under the duvet, mate, just sticking your nose and mouth out so you can breathe. Of course, Josh is on tour from September 2025. The show is called Not My Cup of Tea. He claims to not have any tea material, but I think there may have been the genesis of some tea material from our chat there.

James Acaster

Yes, he's underestimating his own talents there.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Do keep an eye out for some tea material, and of course, Josh does the hugely popular and successful podcast, Parenting Hell, with Rob Beckett. Another person that we've taken for granted.

James Acaster

Yes, we have. Sorry, Rob.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Sorry, Rob.

James Acaster

Not that he's listening.

Ed Gamble



No. He'll be on soon, because he's on tour as well, so I'd imagine he'll come and flog some tickets.

James Acaster

Josh has got a whole empire of podcasts of course.

Ed Gamble

Yes, he does.

James Acaster

So, you can listen to all the things that Josh puts out, and go back and listen to all his Quickly Kevin episodes, if you've not done that, about '90s football.

Ed Gamble

And watch The Last Leg.

James Acaster

Watch The Last Leg, of course.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Get yourself onto UKTV website, and watch old episodes of Hypothetical.

James Acaster

Watch all the old episodes of Hypothetical, me and Josh having a laugh.

Ed Gamble

Yes, and me on most of them.

James Acaster

Yes, you're on quite a few episodes. We make you do some awful things.

Ed Gamble

Yes. I made you do some awful things.

James Acaster

Yes. Well, yes, that would be very much your tactic.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Because we'd be thinking we'd stitched you up, and then you'd go, 'Okay, yes, I'm going to need James to do this with me,' and I was like, 'Oh, fuck, I've got to yes and this because it's improv. Over I go to touch Ed's bumhole again.'



Ed Gamble

That's the first time I did it.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Thank you very much for listening to Off Menu again, we will see you again next time. Bye-bye.

James Acaster

Goodbye.