



Off Menu – Ep 247 – Rhys Nicholson

Ed Gamble

Welcome to the Off Menu podcast, putting the lemon of humour up the chicken's butt of the internet.

James Acaster

Short and sweet, that's Ed Gamble, my name is James Acaster. We own a dream restaurant and every single week we invite a guest in and ask them their favourite ever starter, main course, dessert, side dish and drink, not in that order. This week our guest is Rhys Nicholson.

Ed Gamble

Rhys is a wonderful comedian, television host as well. Drag Race Down Under.

James Acaster

Yes, Drag Race Down Under.

Ed Gamble

I love how we've said it at the same-

James Acaster

Rhys has a fantastic comedy special on Netflix but I can't pronounce the name of the theatre. It's live at the Athenaeum.

Ed Gamble

Athenaeum.

James Acaster

Athenaeum Theatre. It's one of my favourite comedy specials, full stop. Athenaeum.

Ed Gamble

I only know that it's called The Athenaeum because that is where I did my shows in Australia, not in that room, but in the smaller room upstairs.

James Acaster

Congratulations.

Ed Gamble

Yes, Live at the Athenaeum is the name of the special, they are a wonderful comedian. They've also got a book out called Dish which is a food based book James.

James Acaster

A food based memoir so come on, this is a comedian writing a food based memoir that is right up all of your alleys, you have no excuse not to buy it.



Ed Gamble

We're very excited to have him here, we've been trying for a while.

James Acaster

Trying for quite a while to get Rhys on so we finally did it coppers, this is it.

Ed Gamble

Yes, we did it coppers, well done to you.

James Acaster

Well done to all the coppers out there. That's something that I won't, Ed and I sometimes have to do adverts on Off Menu just for the Australian listeners and we always say coppers all the way through and we get, I think it's fair to say, complaints.

Ed Gamble

No, I don't think we do get complaints, I think they quite like it actually.

James Acaster

Yes, yes, they do like it but some people are confused and say, 'Why do you keep saying coppers?' Because they don't know it's just for the Australian audience.

Ed Gamble

The great thing about James is he came off social media because it made him feel quite negative and he didn't enjoy the process of being on social media so now what he does, which is very James Acaster, is rather than being on social media, he imagines that all of the feedback is negative on social media.

James Acaster

Keeps me off of it, it works.

Ed Gamble

Of course, if Rhys has a secret ingredient on which we have pre-agreed, we will have to remove them from the restaurant.

James Acaster

Yes, sorry Rhys, this week the secret ingredient is sesame snaps.

Ed Gamble

Sesame snaps.

James Acaster

Now, this has been suggested by Liv on Twitter, so probably quite a negative tweet that she sent us. Liv has chosen sesame snaps, I'm going to go along with it but I love sesame snaps.



Ed Gamble

Why? You're the only person who eats them.

James Acaster

I'm currently going through a big sesame snap phase and I really get excited when I remember, I bought, there are sesame snaps in the cupboard and I can eat them, they're delicious.

Ed Gamble

One of the things in newsagents where there is dust on top of them because no one buys them.

James Acaster

Yes, yes, yes but there's a nice little healthy greengrocery type place near me, I go there and there is a whole bunch of stuff that I like to buy from there, vegetables and fruit and some really good juices, kombuchas and then as I'm tilling it up I always look and I'll see the sesame snaps and I go, 'I'll chuck them in as well.' Then I forget that I've got them and then I remember in the house, I want like a sweet treat but I don't want anything too big and heavy. I remember there are sesame snaps in the cupboard and every time I eat them I'll be, 'I forget how good these are, they're delicious.'

Ed Gamble

It's not a life.

James Acaster

They're delicious. The sesame flavour, the snap.

Ed Gamble

It does what it says on the tin really doesn't it?

James Acaster

There is a sweetness to them, you get three of them as well. I always think there is two.

Ed Gamble

James, this is not a life man.

James Acaster

I always think there is two and then the third one is a nice little bonus surprise.

Ed Gamble

Are you surprising yourself by buying sesame snaps and then remembering that you've got them in the house and then remembering there is three in a packet?

James Acaster

Yes.



Ed Gamble

Do you just talk to yourself while you're in the house? Like, 'Oh, there is three.'

James Acaster

Lately I've got cats now so I can talk to them and tell them. 'Oh, I always forget the third one don't I?'

Ed Gamble

Why didn't you call your cats sesame and snap, they're great names for cats.

James Acaster

Maybe they can be their surnames, Terry Sesame and Ruth Snap.

Ed Gamble

Perfect. Hopefully, even though James love sesame snaps, we hope that Rhys does not say that. Right, let's get on with it. This is the Off Menu menu of Rhys Nicholson. Welcome Rhys to the dream restaurant.

James Acaster

Welcome Rhys Nicholson to the dream restaurant but it's been here for some time.

Rhys Nicholson

Because I listen to this podcast, so I'm a fan of the podcast but I'm also friends with you so there are a few layers of weirdness with this and I've thought about, like, I've thought about my menu before. It's like similar when you watch a game show on TV, you're like, 'I could do this.' Now I'm doing it and I do not feel confident.

Ed Gamble

Have you had that before with a game show that you've watched on TV and then you had to do it?

Rhys Nicholson

No, it's not going very well for me at home.

James Acaster

What are the big Australian game shows?

Rhys Nicholson

The news, that feels like a game show from time to time. No, we have like all of the Price is Right and all those types. There was the Wheel of Fortune for a while. There was this one guy called John Burgess who was like a big, like, he was the big game show host and I did that sad thing where he's not really in show business any more but he would come back to do little comedy sketches for things and just watching a man in his eighties who was the height of comedy-, I did a weird thing with him once, it was like the Australian version of Balls of Steel.



Ed Gamble

Oh wow.

Rhys Nicholson

I was nineteen, I didn't have an agent. He was on it and he was playing himself, like, a kind of crazy version of a game show host and we were doing a promo for it and he wouldn't sit down and he was like eighty something. It was like, 'Sit down, John.' He went, 'No, no, it will crease the suit.' It's like, 'Oh, it's this era of show business, it's like, you are-,'

Ed Gamble

That is very old school.

James Acaster

How is The Chase doing in Australia? Is that still going well? I remember when that launched I was quite excited that you were getting The Chase.

Rhys Nicholson

Yes, people love it.

Ed Gamble

Because you've got the UK version of The Chase as well because when I came to Australia recently, I landed and was really jet-lagged and then I walked into the hotel on the TV in the reception of the hotel was Paul Sinha doing The Chase.

Rhys Nicholson

It's tragic because then we're constantly comparing and it's shit, like, ours is shit compared to that. I'm sorry. I think we've done a few good things, like, we've just got Taskmaster and I think it is as good.

Ed Gamble

Yes, it's very good, I watched the whole thing.

Rhys Nicholson

Yes, it's good. I mean, this comes out in a long time, I'm on the latest season, and a similar thing to this actually where, like, I thought, 'I could do this.' Then you're in it and you're like, 'Hmm, I'm losing my mind.'

James Acaster

That's the one where you watch it and you think, 'I'd find all the loopholes.' Then you turn up on the day and go, 'Oh, I think I'm an idiot.'

Rhys Nicholson

Yes, we were doing ten tasks a day.



Ed Gamble

Wow.

James Acaster

Ridiculous.

Rhys Nicholson

Yes, I talk to you guys now, we were talking about it at dinner, you did five a day.

Ed Gamble

Five or six, yes.

Rhys Nicholson

At the studio, at the house at 6am, start the task.

Ed Gamble

Oh my god.

Rhys Nicholson

Yes, wild. Lost of my fucking mind.

James Acaster

It's like an actual job.

Ed Gamble

I can't believe James that you ever looked at Taskmaster and thought, 'I'm going to find all the loopholes.'

James Acaster

I thought I could find all the loopholes.

Ed Gamble

You?

James Acaster

Yes, yes, because I'd seen Richard Osman do them and go, 'Yes, that's what I'd do.

Ed Gamble

Richard Osman is a very clever man.

James Acaster

Yes, but what you don't understand is, I'd just seen him do the loophole so I knew the loophole so I was like, 'I would do that.' We should really ask you if you like food though?



Rhys Nicholson

Oh yes, that's right. Is this not Ed's podcast about Taskmaster? I do, I do really like food. I'm always nervous to call myself a foodie. One, because it doesn't sound good and I also play video games and I love video games but I would never call myself a gamer to a gamer because they are scary virgins that will kill you. But you know what I mean? There's a kind that I think would be offended by how I-, but I think in another universe, I would have liked to have been a chef maybe. I'm not saying I had the skills of it but I thought of this before where I think it's a similar conceit in a way, comedy and being a chef, because you're trying to deliver relatability in a way, do you know what I mean? You want people to be like, oh, this feels like, but you want to surprise them at the same time.

Ed Gamble

Yes, and you want to put some of yourself into it.

Rhys Nicholson

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Whilst also be universal.

Rhys Nicholson

What, cum in the food? Is that what you meant?

Ed Gamble

Is that not what-, oh god, never come to my house for dinner.

James Acaster

I've been several of times, I've been 27 times. Always ask about the secret ingredient.

Rhys Nicholson

Do you know what I mean? I think it's like a similar want of people to like you by a thing that you produce but also want to rattle them a little bit.

James Acaster

Yes, it's like when I watched season one of Chef's Table, I was not prepared for how much I was going to cry. It's because I related far too much to every time they were talking about the actual, like, creative process of making the food. I just kept on crying. I was, 'Mate, he's just talking about a souffle, I'm in tears because he's talking about how much he wants it to represent himself and other people to get it and afraid because people weren't.'

Rhys Nicholson

There's like an intensity about it. I've recently in the last kind of year or so become friends with Ben Shewry who is from-, is he from season one?



James Acaster

Season one, final episode of season one, I cried during that. I think he was talking about the pit, talking about digging the pit.

Rhys Nicholson

He loved comedy and so he comes to this comedy club that I did in Melbourne and there is an intensity about him but he's also very funny but in a way that it takes you a minute. I think comedians are the same. If you don't have the context that someone is a comedian and they try to be funny you're like, 'What's wrong with this person? He has a similar thing where he is so intense but very, like, I don't know. I think you've got to an editorial kind of brain to be a chef.

Ed Gamble

Also shit hours and there is a lot of nutcases in the industry.

Rhys Nicholson

Yes, and you're either cokey or not cokey at all.

James Acaster

I'm quite jealous that you're friends with Ben Shewry.

Rhys Nicholson

I'm nervous now that I've said friends, like, we've been to his house a lot of times.

Ed Gamble

Did he know that you were there?

Rhys Nicholson

Nope.

Ed Gamble

Right, okay. Not necessarily a friend.

Rhys Nicholson

Heavy sleeper.

James Acaster

Just spying on him going, 'They do cum in the food.'

Rhys Nicholson

He does this thing that I think, it's what I've always dreamed of being able to do, he lives in this really beautiful, and I hope this isn't too private, but he lives in this really beautiful frozen in time mid-century house in the suburbs of Melbourne and he invites over, we've been to a couple of them now, where he'll invite over ten or twelve people of all varying backgrounds and job descriptions and we have a six hour



dinner that he cooks. Do you know what I mean? It's like what you would want in a movie to be your life, like, it's a proper dinner party that you feel like celebrities have.

Ed Gamble

It feels like an F.Scott Fitzgerald novel or something.

Rhys Nicholson

Yes and he'll disappear to be making the food for a little while and you just see everyone quietly trying not to, like, just keep your shit together. The food is so good.

Ed Gamble

I'm similar apart from the fact I live in a small messy house in east London and I only ever invite James and Nish.

James Acaster

Never together.

We always start with still or sparkling water, Rhys, do you have a preference?

Rhys Nicholson

Sparkling.

James Acaster

Like it's obvious.

Rhys Nicholson

Yes, whenever someone says still on this, I'm like, 'Do you not drink?' It feels like an upgrade to me and I know this is even cliché to be saying this because I've also heard it but, like, I drink a lot of water but I know that when I got a SodaStream I drank a lot more water. It's like fun. I like when kids call it spicy water.

James Acaster

What?

Rhys Nicholson

You know when kids don't have words-, I have a friend whose kid doesn't know how to describe sparkling water and it's similar when people say it is crunchy and they say it's spicy water. Yes, you're right.

James Acaster

It is spicy water.

Rhys Nicholson

This is spicy water, this feels spicy.



James Acaster

I have a distinct memory of being a kid and a friend of the, like one of my dad's mates, showing me a card trick and not having the words to describe how it made me feel afterwards.

Ed Gamble

This is vintage James Acaster stuff.

James Acaster

I was like, 'It just made me so careful.' I remember, a distinct memory of saying that to everyone. 'I just felt so careful when he was doing the magic trick.' They were like, 'What are you talking about?'

Ed Gamble

I get that, I totally get it.

James Acaster

Careful, he's trying to trick you.

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes, we're just not sure, yes.

Rhys Nicholson

I was a weird little, like, my mum always says I was very, like, wide eyed when I was a kid and I would try and word things in very strange ways. What was it? There was one where there was a big bowl of grapes on a table at a party and I looked at my mum and said, 'There is a man in my head and he's holding up a picture of grapes and he's holding it up very high.' Which is the scariest way from an eight year old, no, I must have been way younger than that.

Ed Gamble

Straight to the child psychologist.

Rhys Nicholson

I'm trying to say, 'I want these grapes and he's holding it up real high so I want these grapes badly. Yes, they are not for me, they are for the man in my head. They're not for me, the man in my head wants grapes.'

Ed Gamble

He's showing that by holding up a picture very high.

Rhys Nicholson

Very high, give me these grapes. What do we want? Grapes. When do we want them? Now.

Ed Gamble

For this podcast really, are we finding out what you want on your menu or are we finding out what the man in your head wants?



Rhys Nicholson

He's holding a picture up very high.

James Acaster

Very high of sparkling water.

Rhys Nicholson

Of sparkling water, spicy water. I've never thought of spicy- but I guess when you're a kid everything is tactile. It's not about flavours yet, everything is, like-, I love seeing babies in videos eating ice cream for the first time because I think it is probably the cold that they lose their mind about first. There's that one, that famous one of the baby kind of going and then it does that, maybe when they go like, 'Oh!' Like their faces just stretch out as much as possible and it grabs the ice cream and just starts pushing it into its face, like, it wants it to be part of it. I don't even know what eating is but I just want ice cream in my-

Ed Gamble

Because I guess are babies are, like, they get milk for ages, right? Then they have ice cream and they're like, 'Fucking-'

Rhys Nicholson

'Fuck, you can do this with milk. Why haven't you been putting your tits in the freezer this whole time?'

James Acaster

There is a woman in my head and she's holding her tits in a freezer very high.

Ed Gamble

Very high.

Rhys Nicholson

That woman retired for me quite a few years ago.

James Acaster

Anything in the water? Or do you just want it sparkling as is?

Rhys Nicholson

I don't mind a bit of lime in there. There is something, now owning a venue, being able to go in and having access to a bubbly water tap and pint glasses anytime I want is maybe the richest I'll ever feel in my life. Being able to walk around a bar and have no one go, 'What are you doing?' I don't have my RSA, I probably shouldn't go back there. A really big pint glass of very cold spicy water with some lime in it.

James Acaster

We should probably acknowledge that you own a venue. You own-,



Rhys Nicholson

Comedy Republic. I'm not saying-, and anyway come on down. I don't want to Dan Ackroyd it but it is my crystal skull vodka. Yes, I own a comedy club in Melbourne, co-own it with my partner Kyran and our business partner Alex and it's like a little 150 seater kind of thing with a nice bar in it and it's nice.

Ed Gamble

It's a great club.

Rhys Nicholson

Thank you.

Ed Gamble

Great bar.

Rhys Nicholson

The whole thing of it is we wanted, Luca, our hospitality manager, like, our bar manager, we want it to be a good bar. I think comedy clubs don't often have that. It's to the point now that when I come in, one of the bartenders will usually be like, 'Do you want a Riesling or an old fashioned?' Depending on my mood, but just the fact that I get to go in somewhere and I have an order that someone has to make me.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I think there is probably a way of doing that other than buying and running a venue.

Rhys Nicholson

Okay, what would you recommend?

Ed Gamble

Just go to a bar a few times.

James Acaster

Just be Nish. Go anywhere with Nish, everyone knows him. I went round Shepherd's Bush with him once and he had to do a load of errands and everywhere we went they were like, 'Nish.' Getting him ready, plating him up what he wants already.

Ed Gamble

It's like he's Belle in Beauty and the Beast.

James Acaster

Yes and I was like, 'What the hell?'



Rhys Nicholson

I'm staying in his flat at the moment or in his house and it is exactly what you think Nish's house looks like. It's great, it's like Brian Blessed lives there. Do you know what I mean? There's just so much stuff. Like he's got-, it's what I want it to look like. It's not chaotic, it's just got a lot of stuff in there.

Ed Gamble

Then he's tidied up for you.

James Acaster

Yes.

Rhys Nicholson

It's a little bit chaotic.

James Acaster

He's putting the effort in that case.

Rhys Nicholson

You know what I mean, it looks like, 'Yes, this is what Nish's house looks like.'

Ed Gamble

There's books and guitars and comics.

James Acaster

Poppadoms or bread, poppadoms or bread, Rhys Nicholson, poppadoms or bread?

Rhys Nicholson

Every time it went a bit quiet I was like, 'It's coming.'

Ed Gamble

Yes, always tense.

Rhys Nicholson

Bread, bread. As an Australian, you're not getting poppadoms anywhere else, I don't think. I like a poppadom. I learnt from this very podcast, from Jamie Oliver, about the crushing it up and putting it over the top. I'd never thought of that before and that is my whole vibe now. I'm basing my entire personality on it.

Ed Gamble

Do you want to say thank you to Jamie?

Rhys Nicholson

Thank you, Jamie Oliver. I'm sorry that some of the restaurants didn't work out. I want just a classic nice sourdough, I want it warm, not toasted, like very fresh and there is a place in Melbourne called Etta



which is like, my partner Kyran and I go there, any time I've been away for a long time, it's quite near our house and it's a good, it's fine dining but not fine, fine dining and you can just, and the lady there knows us and they have this burnt or browned butter with the salt through it. I think they brown it and then they like aerate it again and then chill it again so it's super light and it just spreads over and it's real good and it's kind of nutty.

Ed Gamble

That does sound good.

James Acaster

Do you find because you live in Melbourne that, you know, you go to other countries and we let you down when it comes to stuff like hipster dining.

Ed Gamble

Now, listen.

Rhys Nicholson

Not let down. I think whenever I'm, say here for example, I realise how lucky we are. There is some incredible food in the UK but Australia, I think we're just are able to grow things more. Our produce is kind of fresher and we have continued relationships with the countries around us so we can get food brought in et cetera, et cetera. You just have to be a little bit more selective here if that makes sense? Do you know what I mean? You have to really-, there are certain places, like, we had an amazing dinner the other night, sorry James.

James Acaster

What the hell?

Rhys Nicholson

We went to St James.

Ed Gamble

St John.

Rhys Nicholson

Ordered the whole menu.

Ed Gamble

That is a great feeling isn't it? It wasn't just the whole menu though because some things we were like, 'Three of those, three of those.'

Rhys Nicholson

Yes, the guy, I'd never had this before, the waiter came to check on us to see if we were still, this was still the plan halfway through. We must have looked unwell.



Ed Gamble

We did cancel one dish I think but I believe that was a salad.

Rhys Nicholson

Yes.

Ed Gamble

He was like, 'Do you still want everything?' We were like, 'No, we don't want the salad any more thank you.'

Rhys Nicholson

We'd like to cancel shitting normally tomorrow. We'd like to remove that from any of our lives. Whether you've got good gut health or not, it's going to be weird tomorrow. I hope you're not staying at a friend's house. Particularly I realised when I was picking the dishes that I want for this, they were all Melbourne places and I've eaten a lot of other places and I like other places but I just notice the comfort dishes that I like are all-

Ed Gamble

That's what I found about Melbourne because I'd never been there before until recently, in the Chinatown bit, you could walk into anywhere and it was going to be good. There was no, like, I wasn't hitting up Google going like, 'This place is supposed to be terrible.' You could literally just walk in anywhere and it was amazing.

Rhys Nicholson

One thing that we don't do that I love that you do here is you franchise nice places. We don't have that. We don't really have- as soon as something has more than three locations you're like, 'Uh-oh.' You know restaurateurs like Andrew McConnell and these kind of guys that own big restaurants in Melbourne, they have three of them but they're not connected by name or anything like that. Things like, I don't know, all your burger places here are all good. We don't really have that. Like, Nando's is good here, Nando's is not good in Australia.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I mean, we've talked about that on the pod before.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

You had an awful experience in-,

James Acaster

Well, in Wellington to be fair, in New Zealand. But, like, yes.



Rhys Nicholson

It's quite grim, Nando's.

James Acaster

I'll never forget it, man. There was a god damn pipe going halfway, just straight down the middle of the Legend of the Barcelos Cockerel. Couldn't even read the whole thing.

Ed Gamble

You love to read it, don't you?

James Acaster

I would like to know that they're honouring the legend like everywhere else does, like we do in this country. But you had to put a god damn pipe halfway through it. You're like, 'Well, now no one knows what happened to the cockerel, so I hope you're fucking happy.'

Ed Gamble

It's not often an Englishman gets annoyed with New Zealand for not honouring cultural traditions.

Rhys Nicholson

Yes. Look, as an Australian, I can't have any point of view. I mean, to be fair, you guys started it, we continued it. But yes, I was talking to someone about this the other day where Melbourne is, like, a very touristy city, but we don't have any touristy things. Like, Sydney, we've clumped them all up really into one view. But Melbourne's tourism is, 'Hey, how good's this?' Like, you just come there because it's nice and the food is so good. But I give a lot of credit to New Zealand as well. Like, New Zealand has some of the best food I've ever eaten, and same thing, you can just walk in anywhere and it'll just be some very intense Kiwi chef that's, like, just scooping shit out of the water and throwing it into a pot and then making you eat it. Okay, that sounds more threatening than I meant it to.

James Acaster

Well, let's get onto your dream starter.

Rhys Nicholson

Yes.

James Acaster

Let's get onto the menu proper.

Ed Gamble

We know it's going to be from Melbourne.

James Acaster

We know it's from Melbourne.



Rhys Nicholson

Spoiler alert.

Ed Gamble

It's all going to be places I didn't go, isn't?

James Acaster

Which funnily, Ed going to Melbourne for the first time, because normally I'm asking him for recommendations, and he'll recommend some real fancy places, really delicious. But Ed was like, 'Where should I go in Melbourne?' I was like, 'You've got to go to Schnitz.'

Ed Gamble

It's the first place James sent me.

Rhys Nicholson

That's an example of a thing that has a lot of franchises that I wouldn't-, yes, sure, like, I mean, I've eaten it. You find Schnitz in, you know, like a mall that has had its hey day?

Ed Gamble

That's where I went, yes.

Rhys Nicholson

Yes, like, a place you're like, 'Oh, I didn't even know there was a mall here.' And there's, like, a nail salon just with one lady standing in there waiting for anyone to come.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Rhys Nicholson

And a bar that no one will ever go to.

Ed Gamble

I went to Schnitz the first day I arrived because I was feeling pretty jet-lagged. And I thought I just need something, don't really know where to go, James told me to go to Schnitz so I'll just get it out of the way early doors. Because I'd seen a few of them around and I was like, 'Well, I'm not going to enjoy this.'

Rhys Nicholson

No.

Ed Gamble

Went into Schnitz, looked at what James told me to order, looked at it on the menu, thought, no fucking way I'm getting that, that looks disgusting. It's got beetroot and egg and pineapple in it.



James Acaster

Yes, it's got egg and pineapple in it. Beetroot it's made up of.

Rhys Nicholson

Egg and pineapple?

James Acaster

OMG Wrap.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Love it from Schnitz any time of day.

Rhys Nicholson

For some reason, Australia has an-, like, there's a type of pizza called the Aussie pizza, and it's just a meat lover's pizza with an egg on it. And I don't know why they've decided egg is Australian. Like, yes, you put an egg on there, Australian.

Ed Gamble

And beetroot.

Rhys Nicholson

Beetroot, we love putting beetroot on things.

Ed Gamble

A gourmet burger kitchen here, like, years and years ago, I think they had one that they said was Australian, and that had beetroot and egg on it.

Rhys Nicholson

We had the McOz and it was a quarter pounder with some beetroot on it.

Ed Gamble

Disgusting.

Rhys Nicholson

Yes, it's weird.

Ed Gamble

I don't mind beetroot, but I don't want it with egg on.

Rhys Nicholson

And then you forget you've eaten it and you think you've got cancer.



Ed Gamble

Yes, every single time.

Rhys Nicholson

Anyway, sorry. And then you ordered Schnitz?

Ed Gamble

So, I ordered a Schnitz. I thought, it's fine, I'll go in there, I'll get it over with, and the rest of the trip will be nice food. But no one has to know I've come to Schnitz. I'm standing there waiting for my Schnitz, someone comes up going, 'Oh, I'm coming to see your show tonight. I love the podcast. Can I have a photo?' Not in Schnitz, not like this.

James Acaster

Didn't you say that they asked if I'd sent you?

Ed Gamble

Yes. 'Has James sent you here?'

James Acaster

Because I've mentioned it on the podcast. I like to say it to Australians because I know it's the worst thing I can say.

Rhys Nicholson

Well, it's not the worst thing you could say.

Ed Gamble

I went to Fishbowl a lot though.

Rhys Nicholson

Oh, yes?

Ed Gamble

I liked that for a chain place.

Rhys Nicholson

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Quick salad, all of that. That was good. But the rest of it, the rest of the meals I had were heavy, multiple course meals.

Rhys Nicholson

It took me a second then to remember that-, because I didn't grow up there, I lived for a while, in my early 20s, in Kings Cross in Sydney, and there was a strip club there called Fishbowl.



Ed Gamble

Oh, yes, that's what I meant. They do a good salad at the strip club Fishbowl.

Rhys Nicholson

Beautiful wings.

James Acaster

Your dream starter.

Rhys Nicholson

My first thought was to just say seafood platter and then covers everything. I think I like good food, but I always find that my tastes fall into, like, what movies have told me fine dining is. Like, things like I usually order a steak tartare because I love it and I do not make it at home. I don't know, I feel like you might be the same way. When I'm at a restaurant, if I enjoy something, I'm like, 'How can I remake this at home somehow? Or make a version of this?' And something like steak tartare feels so out of-, anything raw, you know what I mean.

Ed Gamble

Yes, you're not messing around with that at home.

Rhys Nicholson

No.

Ed Gamble

Yes, you're not doing sashimi at home.

Rhys Nicholson

No. I mean, and if you are, I hope you had a nice life. Like, and especially not giving it to people. Like, I've made some horrible mistakes trying to recreate things, but it's only ever for Kyran and I. Have you ever, like, had a dinner party and someone's trying something for the first time? Like, you are a lunatic. This is insane.

Ed Gamble

I like the way, by the way, you said, 'Oh, I'm not going to cook it for people. I'll just cook it for me and my partner.'

Rhys Nicholson

Cook it for Kyran. Yes, it'll feel like a, kind of, pact we made.

Ed Gamble

Yes.



Rhys Nicholson

I've just noticed, I wrote down steak tartare and it's autocorrected to Jeff Tartare. Beef tartare I guess, but Jeff Tartare.

Ed Gamble

Jeff Tartare.

Rhys Nicholson

Come on down to Jeff Tartare. Bring the truck, bring the trailer, kids get in free.

Ed Gamble

I would go as a Jeff Tartare.

James Acaster

I would.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Rhys Nicholson

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I would definitely go to Jeff Tartare.

Rhys Nicholson

Is it a themed French restaurant?

Ed Gamble

I feel like the way you did the advert there, I feel like-

Rhys Nicholson

Nice dining for the kids.

Ed Gamble

It's like a franchise, like, fast food tartare restaurant where they shovel out the tartare and put it in a bucket.

James Acaster

Yes.

Rhys Nicholson

But yes, then it's just mince, isn't it? A big tub of mine.



James Acaster

Mince tartare.

Ed Gamble

Tub of mince.

Rhys Nicholson

I do like when you go to Paris and they do it at the table. Like, that's the dream. And also, I remember feeling very grown up realising I liked it. I think I can put most moments in my life that I've felt, like, mature because first time I ever ate a whole Big Mac I was like, 'I'm a big kid. I can do it.' You know what I mean? Like, things that your dad used to eat.

Ed Gamble

They should make YouTube videos of that.

Rhys Nicholson

Yes.

James Acaster

Your face stretching out, 'Whoa.' Push it into your face.

Rhys Nicholson

'I'm a big kid. I'm a big boy.'

James Acaster

But, like, the steak tartare, if there were YouTube videos of babies eating steak tartare for the first time, I'd watch them and see how upset they were.

Rhys Nicholson

But I think it would work, because unless, you know, if there was too much Tabasco in there. But, like, it's baby food texture.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Rhys Nicholson

A lot of French food is baby food really. It's a lot of, like, whipped up things. Like, 'We've made this thing that used to be alive into a mush, enjoy.'

Ed Gamble

Snails isn't baby food. Well, I guess sometimes babies might eat a snail by accident.

Rhys Nicholson

Yes.



Ed Gamble

They love it, yes.

Rhys Nicholson

They love it. Kids eat sand, you know what I mean, like.

Ed Gamble

It's good for the immune system.

Rhys Nicholson

Yes. Give them some garlic. I was reading the other day, and I think it's, like, a famous thing, but the ortolan, the bird-,

Ed Gamble

The little bird where you have to put a hood over because you don't want God to see you eating it?

Rhys Nicholson

Just French people, just fucking hell. Like, French food is probably my favourite food I reckon in terms of the big classics, but then you get to a point where you just think, were you guys bored? Just bored and so you're like, 'Let's make this animal as scared as possible near the end of its life.' And then we'll make people hide from God if they eat it.

Ed Gamble

I don't know how much that's going on in France any more.

Rhys Nicholson

Well, it's illegal, they made it illegal.

Ed Gamble

Oh, well there you go.

Rhys Nicholson

That's what I was looking up, I was just like-, I was trying to remember. I had just finished writing a book of essays and I was trying to remember part of an essay whether that was a real thing. You know where you have memories where you're like, 'Is that real or have I made, like, a little Bloom House movie in my head about a chef?' But it does-, because they boil it in Cointreau. Yes or no, what is it? Something like that. And then you put the whole bird in your mouth, gizzards and everything. Beak, you're eating a beak.

Ed Gamble

It can't be nice, can it?

Rhys Nicholson

No.



James Acaster

How do we know? How do we know they're doing that because they're covering up with the thing, they could be doing anything under there.

Ed Gamble

Yes, it might be a magic trick.

Rhys Nicholson

Well, there's the idea-, like, the whole thing, they put a napkin over their head to hide from God, but God sees the bird going under the thing.

Ed Gamble

Well, God can famously see everywhere right?

James Acaster

Yes.

Rhys Nicholson

Yes. No, no.

Ed Gamble

So, it doesn't mean he can't see under a blanket.

Rhys Nicholson

I think it says in Corinthians he can't see under a little napkin.

James Acaster

Unless you have a little napkin. And I said to Moses. I've not read the bible.

Rhys Nicholson

That's why napkins on laps started, it wasn't to get rid of the crumbs or anything like that, it was back in Roman times, everyone was just getting absolutely whacked off.

Ed Gamble

Yes, wanking at the table.

Rhys Nicholson

Stop at the vomitorium, come back to the feast, get jerked off, napkin on the lap.

Ed Gamble

So, God can't see.

James Acaster

God is none the wiser.



Rhys Nicholson

Yes, God said, 'Look at them having a good time down there. Those Romans, good on them.'

James Acaster

Good table manners.

Rhys Nicholson

'Wait, what are you doing to my son?' That's what God said, so- Oh, what a let down. Get to God and he's like, 'Hello.' It's just me. But my actual one after all is-, and it's another kind of grown-up thing. There's this particular thing at this place called, Carlton Wine Room in Melbourne which is an anchovy toast, and it's just very-, but they do this and it was the first time I'd ever eaten anchovy toast when I ate it there and now it's like a main-, when people come over for dinner it's like my main thing that I open with, that I'd make.

It's, like, very thin toasted kind of grilled bread, kind of crispy and then, it's like, there's whipped ricotta on it or something that they pipe on. And then there's-, I think they've got, kind of, thick coins of pickled gherkin, but it's still, like, kind of crunchy. Sorry, I'm getting very emotional. And then the anchovy over the top. And then there's some, sort of, very light spice. That's the thing, I've tried to make it at home and there's something that like-, it was okay at home, but there's something missing. There's something sprinkled over the top.

Ed Gamble

It's that secret spice blend.

Rhys Nicholson

Yes.

Ed Gamble

I mean it sounds amazing.

Rhys Nicholson

And it's just light and-, there's a place in Melbourne called, Bar Margaux that they do, like, half Martinis when you get there and it's just a perfect way to-, with, like, a little entre and maybe like an oyster. Can I have-, maybe I'll have an oyster as well, the anchovy toast and one oyster. I don't want to, like-,

James Acaster

You don't want the half Martini?

Rhys Nicholson

Yes, no, I do want the half Martini and it's just like it's not-, because sometimes a full Martini is the beginning of a meal. If you haven't eaten it's beginning, it's going in hot.

Ed Gamble

Yes, that's my dream.



Rhys Nicholson

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes, full Martini straight away.

Rhys Nicholson

Well, we did-, we went to Gimlet in Melbourne and that was a similar thing and I had to do a gig after that.

Ed Gamble

I don't know how you went and did a gig after that.

Rhys Nicholson

I don't remember too much of it, like, that thing where you're having a nice dinner and then I was like, 'I've got a gig so I better not. I'll order by the glass now, I won't-, let's not get a bottle for the table I'll just have-, ' And I had, like, four glasses of wine during the dinner.

Ed Gamble

After Martinis as well.

Rhys Nicholson

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Rhys Nicholson

Oh boy.

James Acaster

Anytime I've done a gig even vaguely tipsy I've gone in with the game plan of like, 'Just focus, just do your material, you know your material inside out. Just go on, just do it, get off.' And then two seconds in I confess to them that I'm drunk.

Rhys Nicholson

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes. We went to this restaurant Gimlet in Melbourne and Gordon Ramsay was there.

Rhys Nicholson

Yes.



James Acaster

Was he?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Rhys Nicholson

And he walked through the kitchen to go to the toilet.

Ed Gamble

Yes. It's like you walking round the bar.

Rhys Nicholson

Yes.

James Acaster

That's a power move.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Rhys Nicholson

And I don't think he even-, because in my head it was like, 'Oh, he must be walking through going great job guys, great job guys.' No, just walked through.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Rhys Nicholson

'Sorry, got to shit.'

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

it was exciting though, wasn't it?

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

To see Ramsay.



Rhys Nicholson

Well-, and a few weeks before The Obamas had been there and classic hospitality, I found this out and this is all-, we were having dinner at Ben's house and there was some chef there and we found out, it was one of the chefs from Gimlet, and he said, 'Oh yes, the-, ' Halfway through the dinner he mentioned that The Obamas are at his restaurant tonight and the dinner stopped, we were like, 'Excuse me? What are you doing here?' And he was like, 'Oh.' Which I kind of understand, he was a little bit like, 'Why-, ' you know. It's like a hospitality mindset, I love chefs and people that their whole lives are about hospitality because I said, 'Oh, are they in the private dining room?' And he went, 'Oh no, it was booked.' But do you know what I mean? It's like I can't-, I respect it so much more because it was about, 'No, I don't care who you are, it's booked.'

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes.

Rhys Nicholson

And so that was very impressive and apparently yes, they sat-, like, The Obamas just sitting out with secret service at tables around them, eating, having a good time.

James Acaster

Great. I would have wanted to work that night if I was-, I mean, I think that's still pretty bonkers not to be there.

Rhys Nicholson

It would have been a buzz to be there, but what do you actually-, I think I'd prefer the story that I didn't go.

James Acaster

You didn't go.

Rhys Nicholson

I think there's more satisfaction. The pay off you get-,

Ed Gamble

It was busy, I couldn't go.

Rhys Nicholson

To meet a president. I think to decide not to meet a president is pretty fun.

Ed Gamble

If you were working there, James?

James Acaster

Yes.



Ed Gamble

Say you were waiter there and you were assigned to The Obamas table?

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

How are you playing it?

Rhys Nicholson

Full erection the whole time?

James Acaster

Yes, napkins going on.

Ed Gamble

Are you saying anything specific or are you just treating them like normal customers or are you trying any little jokes? Are you asking them any questions?

James Acaster

That's a very good question actually. I think I'd try and play it cool to begin with, definitely. But then, like, I think probably pretty quickly I'd go into asking them questions and-

Ed Gamble

Confess you're drunk within two seconds.

James Acaster

Yes, yes. I mean actually to be honest if I'm going to go by a recent experience when I met-, I met Andrew Garfield the other day.

Rhys Nicholson

Oh my God.

James Acaster

And I did not-,

Rhys Nicholson

He hates Mondays.

James Acaster

I did not play that cool.

Ed Gamble

No?



James Acaster

And he's not The Obama's, so I think-,

Ed Gamble

No, he's not, and that's not an insult to Andrew Garfield I'm sure he'd agree that he's not The Obama's.

James Acaster

I asked him about every film he's ever been in.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes, I was-, he was at a festival and I was drunk.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

My opening line to him-, I'd never met him before and he was chatting to-, Nish Kumar gets another shout out, everyone loves Nish. He was chatting to Nish, I couldn't see who it was and Nish was just chatting to someone at Glastonbury, I walk over, realise who it is, I go, 'Garfield you mother fucker.'

Ed Gamble

Right. Another person we can't have on the podcast.

Rhys Nicholson

Well, lasagna.

James Acaster

His response was pretty good, he goes, 'Acaster, you cunt.' I was like, 'I'm pretty good.' But then me and Nish proceeded to just tell him about all of his films for, like, a very long time.

Ed Gamble

Right, yes, there's no way he's coming on the podcast.

James Acaster

Yes. So, that's ruined and now we've ruined it.

Ed Gamble

Did he have to do make excuses and leave?

James Acaster

Yes, eventually. But, like, we had him there for quite a while.



Ed Gamble

Had him there.

Rhys Nicholson

Had him there, oh.

James Acaster

You know, he was-, he couldn't get away for a bit.

Ed Gamble

Yes, he was in a corner.

James Acaster

Yes.

Rhys Nicholson

I've never understood the concept of just walking up to someone you admire just to meet them. Like, it's like similar-, but you met him in the right way, like, you met him-,

Ed Gamble

No, he didn't. Let's hear the story again.

Rhys Nicholson

Well, no, no, you didn't-,

Ed Gamble

He said, 'Garfield you mother fucker.'

Rhys Nicholson

You didn't handle it well, but you were in the right circumstance.

James Acaster

Yes.

Rhys Nicholson

You could have-

James Acaster

We've got mutual friends, so that's how-, Nish had started talking to him. But also I'd just watched Silence, the Scorsese film he'd done for the first time, I'd never seen it before. So, that's what I said. So, I said-, I called him a mother fucker and then I sat down and it was like, 'I saw Silence the other week, man you telling people to trample all the way through that film, you keep telling them to trample.' Because he's telling people to trample on the bible. And he was like, 'Yes, you like the trampling stuff?' I was like, 'Yes, you just tell them to trample all the time.' Like.



Ed Gamble

Oh my god. So, it wasn't even, 'I loved it.' Or, 'Great performance.'

James Acaster

I said I liked it.

Ed Gamble

It's more, 'Look, these were some of your lines Andrew.'

James Acaster

Yes, but that was my favourite bit, was how much he kept telling the people to trample, so I was like, 'That's great.' I told him I'd seen Spider-Man 2 and just said, 'It was the worst experience I've ever had in the cinema.'

Ed Gamble

Oh mate it's like-,

Rhys Nicholson

Oh no.

James Acaster

Not because of him, not because of him.

Ed Gamble

Honestly, it's like-,

James Acaster

Because of the-, it's just the people in the cinema.

Ed Gamble

Hearing how you talk to people sometimes is just like watching an episode of The Undateables.

James Acaster

I thought it went alright.

Ed Gamble

You said, 'To trample.'

James Acaster

'You told them to trample.'

Rhys Nicholson

'Thing I remember about you.' I once saw David Burn across-, I was at, like-, during Sydney festival at this kind of-, and I was plus one, never a bride. And saw David Burn talking to Nick Zinner, guitarist



from Yeah Yeah Yeahs. And they were chatting and David Burn is my favourite thing, like-, and then just was thinking, 'What's the end goal here? I'm just another random person in his life that says, I love everything about you and then I walk away.' Or I can go, 'I saw him.' You know, like I think-, and I guess what I'm saying is it's similar with The Obama's where it's like, what's the end goal? You're like, 'Hey, I love how you killed Bin Laden.' You know, like, no.

Ed Gamble

I bet they don't get that very often.

Rhys Nicholson

No.

James Acaster

Actually, that's my answer to the waiter thing now.

Rhys Nicholson

As you're putting the check down, 'And by the way, loved how you killed Bin Laden.'

James Acaster

Bin Laden, not yet.

Rhys Nicholson

No.

Ed Gamble

I watched a 40 minute video about the operation to kill Bin Laden the other day.

James Acaster

Oh yes?

Ed Gamble

I love it, it's well exciting.

Rhys Nicholson

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Rhys Nicholson

Your algorithm must be-,

Ed Gamble

Yes, it's fucked.



Rhys Nicholson

All over the place.

Ed Gamble

Yes, absolutely fucked.

Rhys Nicholson

My algorithm I don't know why, it's recently just started showing me pilots very calmly dealing with emergencies on flights and it's just recordings with pictures that-, it's not the plane that they're on, it's just a video of planes flying with, like, 'Controller we've got an engine that is on fire.' And there's no pay off to it, there's no, like-, they land I guess, but there's no-, anyway, so that's my algorithm.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Oh yes, mine's a mess.

James Acaster

Pilots landing a plane.

Rhys Nicholson

Pilots landing planes, drag queens and food. The Rhys Nicholson story.

James Acaster

Man. Someone finds a video of a drag queen calmly landing a plane while eating.

Rhys Nicholson

A burrito.

James Acaster

Some anchovies on toast.

Ed Gamble

Yes, so now I've got, wrestling, food, military operations and reviews of first class cabins in commercial planes.

Rhys Nicholson

Yes, I get that as well. Someone very calmly showing me-,

Ed Gamble

Yes. A seat.

Rhys Nicholson

Yes, or the showers. I saw the one the other day of the-, on one of the big planes the shower upstairs started leaking, so water was pouring into economy and that to me is a perfect metaphor for how-, for,



like, class. Like, it's just a perfect class system of just the dirty water of the rich pouring onto, like, even premium economy.

Ed Gamble

Yes. But there must have been people sat in economy being dripped on going, 'What is dripping on us?' And they go, 'Oh, it's the shower.' 'They've got a fucking shower up there?'

Rhys Nicholson

'Oh, it smells so beautiful, it smells so clean.' There's no clearer class system than a plane, like. You know, like it's such a-, there's no middle class in a plane, they just jump from even premium to a economy is just.

Ed Gamble

And you turn different ways as well.

Rhys Nicholson

Or you walk through the rich people to get to the poor people.

Ed Gamble

You can see, you can touch it.

Rhys Nicholson

And then they make you walk through it again to get off. Just, like, kind of messed up beds in the sky.

Ed Gamble

Everyone looking really refreshed.

Rhys Nicholson

Yes. Empty Martini glasses. Clear evidence of an orgy.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Rhys Nicholson

Okay.

James Acaster

For me, ASMR light triggers, Disney World vloggers and videos of myself on panel shows. Your dream main course?

Rhys Nicholson

Dream main course. The first obvious choice was, like, just a rib-eye, like a big steak. I think a lot of lockdown for me was wanking and 'Kyran's gone for a walk, quick.' The quiet hurried wanks of long term relationships through the lockdown.



James Acaster

Rhys' poetry book.

Rhys Nicholson

Yes. The quiet hurried wanks.

James Acaster

Kyran's gone. This next one is called, 'Kyran's Gone For A Walk'.

Rhys Nicholson

But I wanted to get quite good at cooking a steak, like, properly. I've started now finishing it off in the oven. Hold for applause. And cast iron, we got a barbecue during the lockdown. Like, I feel we were in a very-, obviously had a full down mental breakdown during the lockdown, put on ten kilos, but at the same time was just doing big cooks all the time, just learning. I cooked a lot of fried chicken, I cooked a lot of steaks. I started just making milkshakes with bourbon in them.

James Acaster

Yes, great.

Rhys Nicholson

Like, we'd watch five movies a day sometimes. Do you know how-, that's ten hours of movies.

Ed Gamble

That's bliss, that's absolute heaven though.

James Acaster

This is the kind of, like, like if there was a character called Jeff Tartar that's how I would imagine they're living their life. Milkshakes with bourbon in them, steaks.

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes.

Rhys Nicholson

It was the life that I know would lead to-, you know you see guys just their pores you could go swimming in them, like, their noses seem like something you've put on top of their head. Like, you're just red all the time and just very kind of-, just anytime you move there's like a, 'Huh uh.'

Ed Gamble

They're having big, big dinners every day.

Rhys Nicholson

Yes, big.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, big boozy dinners.

Rhys Nicholson

Ever heard that story about apparently Mel Brooks had dinner with Alfred Hitchcock and they, like, had this big dinner, he's trying to-, I think it was to make High Anxiety he was going to make, like, a Hitchcock parody. And they had had this big dinner and it was full, like, feeling so sick and just trying to pitch, 'And I want to do this and I want to do this.' And when the waiter came at the end to give the cheque and Alfred Hitchcock apparently said, 'We'll go again.' And they just did the whole dinner again.

Ed Gamble

Oh, I love it. 'We'll go again.'

Rhys Nicholson

So, I was thinking steak and then I was thinking lasagna, partly because my dad makes a really good lasagna but in that way that I'm not even sure if it's good, it's just what my dad-, like, it was the-, I don't know if you had this as kids where you could pick what you wanted on your birthday and both my sister and I would always choose lasagna, my dad makes, like, a really great lasagna. And I'm going to bring up Ben again, the last time we went to his restaurant Attica his new kind of main is a lasagna that he spent the better of a year designing. He came past our table, he was working that night and he did that where they kind of crouch down next to the table and it's automatically much more intense. And he explained, like, how he'd gone through with this, how he was designing this and it's took a long time to-, the way that they do it is it's the pasta is, like, big strips of pasta and he pipes on the meat and the béchamel and rolls it up almost like a cinnamon roll.

James Acaster

Wow.

Rhys Nicholson

And then they bake it like that. And so it's presented to you in the middle of the-, and it is-, it was one of those things where you eat it and everyone goes quiet for a little while, like, no one's talking. Similar with the steak, I went on a holiday with some friends in the South of France and it was one of those steak restaurants where you pick, like, 'I'll have 200 grams of that and I'll blah, blah, blah.' And the most expensive one the guy-, and he was taking us through and he went, 'And this one they feed the cows beer and cereal.' And we were like-, we thought it was maybe like a language issue and we thought, 'Maybe they're giving them, like, hops or like-, ' And he went, 'No, no, no. They mix beer with cereal, like, oats and they feed it to the cows and they're drunk and it marbles the beef in a really particular way.' And we were like, 'Okay, well we're going to have to get some of the drunk beef.' And it was the greatest, we all tried it. We were there with someone who had been a vegetarian for a very long time and we were all-, it was like in a movie when you eat something and everything kind of goes blurry around, like. And she tried it and was like, 'Yes, no, this is-, ' And then I think she might not be a vegetarian any more. Anyway, I feel like lasagna is one of those things-, it's still not my main, but it feels strange to make it for a dinner party, but I don't know why you wouldn't. Do you know, it feels homely, but I think it delivers and it feels like the easiest thing to make, make it during the day.



Ed Gamble

I'll make a couple of massive lasagna's a year and then there's no way I'm getting through it, so section it up, freeze it and then-,

Rhys Nicholson

Freeze it and then never eat it.

Ed Gamble

No, any day I'll be like-, if there's no food in I'll be like, 'Fuck, there is though.' Lasagna straight out the freezer.

Rhys Nicholson

Do you microwave or bake?

Ed Gamble

Bake.

Rhys Nicholson

Bake. Yes, got to bake.

Ed Gamble

I don't have a microwave.

James Acaster

I wouldn't be surprised if Ed just licked them like a lollipop getting it out the freezer.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I will do that. The way the weather is at the moment I'd love a lasagna lolly.

James Acaster

Currently hot by the way.

Rhys Nicholson

Yes, guys it's freezing. Your heatwave is adorable.

James Acaster

Oh yes. So, this is exciting now because both of those honourable munchtions sound absolutely delicious, the lasagna, that steak, so.

Rhys Nicholson

I feel like I'm going to-, it's my basic bitch to-, I just want a fried chicken burger.

James Acaster

Wow.



Ed Gamble

Felt like that went off a cliff there.

Rhys Nicholson

Yes, righto. I mean not-, a good one. I think if I'm honest with myself that is what I want to eat, all the time, any time. And it could be the middle of the night and you shake me awake and you go, 'What do you want to eat?' And I go, 'Oh, fried chicken burger.' Kyran and I went on a holiday years ago, we went to Palm Springs and he pointed out to me-,

James Acaster

Also am I right in thinking that Palm Springs is the name of your wanking book?

Rhys Nicholson

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Oh, it's lovely, it's lovely.

Rhys Nicholson

Went to Palm Springs and I did, I probably jerked Kyran off a lot on that holiday as well, so it all comes together. The Kyran weekly, my partner, my fiancée. My partner in life, my partner in business, my partner in cumming. He pointed out to me at the end of the week that we'd been in Palm Springs that I had not noticed I'd eaten a fried chicken burger every single day.

Ed Gamble

That's amazing.

Rhys Nicholson

But had found new ways, like it wasn't like, 'I'll have another fried chicken burger.' It was like we'd be at a different restaurant and I would order it for lunch and just I wasn't making the connection.

Ed Gamble

Wow.

James Acaster

You going, 'Oh, actually I might have the fried chicken burger today.'

Rhys Nicholson

I will always be at a restaurant and be like-, I think if it's just lunch I'll be like, 'I'm just going to get, like, a salad or something.' And then the waiter comes and I just panic and order a fried chicken burger. It needs to be, like, with a slaw on it. Like, I want what they call a chicken sandwich in America, like a potato bun, not a brioche, fried chicken. I've made it at home before where you buttermilk brine and everything with some pickle juice in it and then you put a little bit of that into the flour to make it, like, kind of claggy and that turns into little bits. And, like, some sort of mayo, like a chipotle, but not crazy



spicy, I don't want to shit myself on the street. And, like, a very acidic kind of vinegary coleslaw, and with some curly fries. Like, thick curly fries, to me they're the best chip.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I don't know why-,

Rhys Nicholson

When it's made well.

Ed Gamble

We went to the pub the other night and just ordered some chips and we ordered every type of chip that they had.

Rhys Nicholson

Wow.

James Acaster

Yes, there was a lot of us, it wasn't just me and Ed, but there was a group.

Ed Gamble

But we would do that if it was just me and you.

James Acaster

Yes, I'd do it if Ed suggested it. I do anything he says. But, like, they sent over-,

Rhys Nicholson

Oh, okay, good to know. I'll work on my Ed imitation and give you a call.

James Acaster

Two tickets to Palm Springs, please. But yes, they sent over, like, the French fries.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Thick-cut chips.

James Acaster

Thick cut chips, chip shop chips and curly fries.

Rhys Nicholson

Thick cut chips are not good.

James Acaster

Yes.



Ed Gamble

I was trying to think, I could not get a hold of what I was trying to say then.

James Acaster

How high is the man holding the sign of the-,

Rhys Nicholson

Just get a baked potato. Shake it. Yes, pretty low, I think he's on the ground, he didn't even make it. The thick-cut chips I think are a-, they're a scam.

Ed Gamble

Fish and chips proper thick cut the, like-,

James Acaster

Chip shop chips fair enough, yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes, but I think they're a middle ground and I think they're kind of-, I mean like the kind of almost veering on a wedge type of chip.

Ed Gamble

Yes, no, I agree with you with those, yes.

Rhys Nicholson

Like, just get a-, I think roast potatoes are one of the greatest gifts that our lord has ever given us, don't pop a napkin over them you should be proud. But yes, a thick chip is no. It's like when they-, do you remember there was a while where polenta chips were, like, a big thing?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Rhys Nicholson

And they always came in, like, a little-,

Ed Gamble

Stack.

Rhys Nicholson

Stack, like, as if the restaurant had just thought of this and they were so proud of themselves. I don't know why I'm so angry at polenta chips.

James Acaster

Yes, no, no, the little Jenga stack is not-,



Rhys Nicholson

Yes.

James Acaster

It's like, 'That's not making it better, I can still see there's only six of them.'

Rhys Nicholson

And you're aerating them as well so they're getting colder as you go through. There's a real time-, similar to halloumi, real time limit on halloumi. Soon as it goes down you don't have long and as soon as it's shit it is irreversibly shit.

James Acaster

Yes, there's a deadline.

Rhys Nicholson

Like a polenta chip, like a thick cut chip.

James Acaster

Yes, yes. Yes, obviously the curly fries won when we were doing the taste test of the chips.

Rhys Nicholson

Yes. I think because it's fun, just on kind of a looking level, a baby would love to push it into its face. But just on the little kind of craggy crispy bits that come off it I think are always pretty impressive.

Ed Gamble

Yes, and some bits are soggy in the middle of the spring which I like.

Rhys Nicholson

Yes, and if you're dipping, like, a kind of thick-, like an aioli or something it kind of-, it goes up into them.

James Acaster

Yes, yes, get you, an extra little reservoir.

Rhys Nicholson

A silo.

Ed Gamble

And some of them are so massive.

Rhys Nicholson

Yes.



Ed Gamble

You think, 'What fucking potato did this come from?'

Rhys Nicholson

Yes.

James Acaster

I don't know why that's made me laugh.

Rhys Nicholson

How much waste is there, there must be a lot of potato wastage in curly fries surely. But then are they using that to maybe make the mash? That's what I'd like to think.

Ed Gamble

Maybe. Or do you think if you got a bowl of curly fries that all came from the same potato you could rebuild the full potato.

Rhys Nicholson

The full potato.

Ed Gamble

You'd probably need a screwdriver or something to get it all back in.

James Acaster

That'd be a good Task Master task.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Put together this potato from curly fries.

Rhys Nicholson

I want to buy one of those vegetable sheet cutters that make really thin-, and I want to start making pommies Annas at home, like, the kind of 100-layer. But I just I love a gadget. Are you a gadget-, are you, like, a gadget chef?

Ed Gamble

Yes, but we've run out of space for gadgets now.

Rhys Nicholson

Yes, same.

Ed Gamble

And also they get used, like, twice and then they just sit in a cupboard, so.



Rhys Nicholson

I'm like that with hobbies. Like, any-, like, I recently bought a rug tufting gun.

Ed Gamble

What?

Rhys Nicholson

Like, 'I'm going to start making my own rugs.' And then didn't do that and now I've just got literally 100s to £1,000 worth of rug tufting material just in the house. It felt like the, you know, during lockdown and I was like, 'I'm going to make a quilt.' Bought all the quilt stuff, it arrived, no, I'll draw now.

Ed Gamble

Just stare at a wall instead.

Rhys Nicholson

Yes, yes.

Ed Gamble

You've got a lot of-,

Rhys Nicholson

Yes. A lot, I do. Kind of in the area under the stairs. There's definitely things I've hidden from Kyran that aren't for, like, deep dark shame reasons, they're just, like, 'Oh, he can't know I've bought that, he can't know that I bought that and then wasn't interested in it.;

James Acaster

You'll have to hope he doesn't open that door that's just full of-,

Rhys Nicholson

Yes, just fabric and all my wank poetry.

Ed Gamble

Rug tufting gun.

James Acaster

A rug tufting gun. Wow, you must have been pretty confident when you ordered it that it was going to be a, you know, I mean ordering a rug tufting gun.

Ed Gamble

Well, I think I'm still going to do it, like, it's pretty fun, I have used it and it's pretty enjoyable to do and it's like embroidering but big and it feels quite-, it's a very gay thing to do, but it feels quite straight.

Ed Gamble

I think in terms-,



James Acaster

What other things fall into the category of a very gay thing to do but feels quite straight?

Rhys Nicholson

I don't know. Love women.

James Acaster

Incredibly gay.

Ed Gamble

In terms of the hierarchy of guns it's probably the least threatening I'd say.

Rhys Nicholson

Yes. Although it's pretty-, so, it pushes thread in and then snips it, so it has these, like-, watch clips on YouTube, it's pretty full on.

James Acaster

I'm not sure my algorithm can take that to be honest.

Ed Gamble

They'll go, 'Who the fuck are you? Who's using this YouTube?'

Rhys Nicholson

Yes. 'Did you mean gun?' I didn't mean this type in gun.

Ed Gamble

'You meant big gun, right?'

Rhys Nicholson

But yes, fried chicken burger and just not bonkers, like, I don't want-, you go to those kinds of burger places now and it's, like, 'Back in my day it was just chicken and coleslaw.' But I want some pickles on there.

Ed Gamble

I like that guy.

James Acaster

I love that guy.

Rhys Nicholson

That's Jeff Tartar.

James Acaster

It's got to be Jeff.



Rhys Nicholson

Steak tartar, Jeff Tartar.

James Acaster

I love it.

Rhys Nicholson

His brain's rushing a million miles an hour, but not to get anywhere good. A lot of urgency but nothing's going on. 'Beef, cut of the beef.' 'Oh, beautiful you've brought the kids, beautiful.' 'Beautiful family.'

Ed Gamble

He cares about family, doesn't he?

Rhys Nicholson

Like, just an odd man who is desperately trying to appear normal.

Rhys Nicholson

Yes, yes.

James Acaster

Like that's Jeff Tartar. Like trying to-, he knows that it should be lovely that they've brought their kids, but he can't really say and it in a convincing way.

Rhys Nicholson

'Beautiful, beautiful, beautiful family.' 'Family never will have for Jeff.' 'Jeff Tartar.' 'Jeff had to say ta-ta to that.'

Ed Gamble

Where's Jeff from?

Rhys Nicholson

'Oh, none of your business.' He doesn't want you to know.

James Acaster

That's one question he'll never answer.

Rhys Nicholson

'Oh no, no, no, no. No, no.'

Ed Gamble

Mysterious Jeff.

Rhys Nicholson

'Oh, ta-ta, ta-ta.'



Ed Gamble

Oh yes, that's his catch phrase.

Rhys Nicholson

'Ta-ta.'

Ed Gamble

Ta-ta.

James Acaster

Doesn't talk about his past Jeff.

Rhys Nicholson

'In Jeff Tartar ta-ta means hello and goodbye.' I don't know where he's from.

Ed Gamble

No.

James Acaster

Needs to be somewhere in the South of America.

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes, like, the deep-, Like, or the shallow South, not the deep South just for kind of-

James Acaster

Yes, the shallow, the paddling end.

Rhys Nicholson

What do you think he looks like? No neck.

James Acaster

Oh, actually I imagined, like, quite a long but horizontal neck.

Rhys Nicholson

Oh, horizontal?

James Acaster

Yes, like, just completely coming out of his body like horizontally with just a-,

Rhys Nicholson

Like a tortoise.



James Acaster

Old potato head on the end. I think he looks like-, I'll tell you who I'm imagining actually, I'm just imagining the-,

Ed Gamble

The food critic from Ratatouille?

James Acaster

No. That would be better actually, let's go with that.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Who were you imagining?

James Acaster

The paedophile from Family Guy.

Rhys Nicholson

Yes. Herbert, Herbert the pervert.

James Acaster

Yes.

Rhys Nicholson

I imagine he looks-, I've started describing a particular type of dad on stage, like, small dads and I think this is what he-, like holding up a frog. Do you know what I mean? Like, that kind of egg body, I think that's what Jeff Tartar-,

Ed Gamble

Little thin long.

Rhys Nicholson

Little legs and their wives dress them.

Ed Gamble

Small dads.

Rhys Nicholson

Little dads.

James Acaster

Jeff Tartar doesn't have a wife though.

Rhys Nicholson

No.



James Acaster

I think Jeff Tartar's single forever.

Rhys Nicholson

There were a lot of people-, there was a lady that owned a flower shop down my street that he was always like, 'Oh, because what do you buy a lady that owns a flower shop?' 'What do you give her? Some Pepsi Max, every day I give her a Pepsi Max.'

Ed Gamble

Aw, I feel sorry for him now.

James Acaster

Your dream side dish?

Rhys Nicholson

Again, had a lot of thoughts-,

Ed Gamble

We've got the curly fries of course.

Rhys Nicholson

Curly fries, but I think-,

James Acaster

They're part of-,

Ed Gamble

They're part of the main.

Rhys Nicholson

Anytime a place sells just burger, fuck off.

James Acaster

Yes, yes, exactly.

Rhys Nicholson

If it doesn't come standard in a, like, add some other sides but chips come with a burger. If you're going to Mackers and just-, McDonald's, sorry. In Australia, we call it Mackers and I didn't know that wasn't a thing here.

Ed Gamble

Yes, and that-,



James Acaster

Paul McCartney here.

Ed Gamble

Blew my mind that it wasn't even-, it's not just a nickname because we call it like 'Maccies' or 'Maccie D's' sometimes.

Rhys Nicholson

Maccies.

Ed Gamble

Maccies.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

But it's on the advert it gets called, 'Maccas'

Rhys Nicholson

Yes, yes. 'We're loving it.'

Ed Gamble

It's a very relaxed culture.

Rhys Nicholson

Maccas. Yes, in most ways and then other ways not so relaxed. Very much not relaxed, very firm views actually. Side things, keeping it-, and it's always the struggle I feel like you must come up against with guests on this thing where, 'Do I pick a thing that's going to go well or is it just my dream?' And I think I've gone with what's going to-, I just want, I went through all the dreamy sides, like, Brussels sprouts having the biggest glow-ups of the mid-2000s or, like. All of those types of, you know broccoli and all those things. But I think I just want a very basic, like, what I would describe as a restaurant-y green salad and maybe, like, a cucumber salad next to it. Because I'm going to be eating the fried chicken, and then the curly fries.

I want-, where was I? I was in Newcastle, just on tour, and I went to an Indian restaurant. I realised I'd never ordered Indian by myself, you know what I mean? It really made me decide what I wanted to get from this experience, and they had a salad. I can't remember the name of the place, I'm sorry. I think it was in Newcastle. It was 100% vegetarian and vegan and kind of trendy. It was, like, a Friday night. I'd had an afternoon show. I was just going to eat and then go back to my hotel room and be sad and lonely. But, everyone's at the beginning of the best night of their life. I'm just alone. But, I ordered a couple of things, but then got chunks of cucumber that were in rice wine vinegar and had some, maybe, sesame seeds or something on it. It was just in between each bite of thing, just cleansed. It's made me go, 'I want that.' Any time I'm eating something heavy now, just to refresh. It's not changing anything



about your mouth. So, I want something like that. Then, just like something that in between big bites of the very heavy chicken burger, I'm eating like a very acidic-, what do I want? Like, a kind of butter lettuce with some parsley in there, some dill, some tarragon, and with a vinaigrette, like a shallot vinaigrette, and heaps of salt.

Ed Gamble

Just, like, resetting your mouth every time.

Rhys Nicholson

Yes, every time. I know it's not the most interesting. But, I think it's what I want from a side dish. It's helping the other dish. Sometimes, a side dish, they step above their means sometimes.

Ed Gamble

They pull focus. You don't want that.

James Acaster

Some people arrange their Off Menu menus to be just like a greatest hits. Some people think of it as a whole meal. You're thinking of it as an entire meal. It does make sense with the burger and the fries.

Rhys Nicholson

I always make a green salad when we eat at home, like, whatever it is. I mean, not, you know-, I make a salad if we're doing a roast. I had someone online really and was like, 'This is madness.' I was like, but you're just eating so much heavy, beige food. You want something that's not going to make you-, a bit of fibre in there, from time to time.

James Acaster

Did you talk them round, the person online?

Rhys Nicholson

Did I talk someone round online? Yes, I think that's famously possible. I think they were probably a drag race fan, so another classic toxic member of society. A particular type of fan. I wish I had something more interesting than that. But, I think it's what I want. I love all the other-, that same Palm Springs time, we were going to a lot of steakhouses for dinner. That, kind of, classic, 'Sinatra went here,' kind of, Musso and Frank's type of place. It was pretty hot weather. You go in there and you eat, like, a big steak. Then, all the macaroni and cheese with the breadcrumbs on top of it and all the things. Then, trying to walk home in, like, the desert.

Ed Gamble

I went to a steakhouse in Palm Springs, and it does feel like you've got to do it. It's, like, a classic.

Rhys Nicholson

100%.



Ed Gamble

You feel so fancy.

Rhys Nicholson

I love a place-, I think this is why I like French food as well. Old wait staff. Very old wait staff. I think you get that a lot more in those kind of steakhouses and stuff. Like, Musso and Frank's particularly, like, 'Oh, this guy has worked here.' They're the same people-, I don't know, you just kind of trust it a bit more. There's a bit more of a respect for hospitality over there.

James Acaster

Well, there's that pride in it as well of, like, the history of the place. Like you say, they'll say such and such ate here. When you're being waited on by someone who clearly thinks the place is lush, it's a lot better.

Rhys Nicholson

Yes. They're very happy to work there. I love getting judgement from a wait staff. I genuinely quite enjoy that. If it's, like, a nice place, because it's like, 'Yes, you think I'm not good enough to be here.' I kind of understand that. It's like being told off by someone who works in a clothes shop. You're like, 'You know I'm buying the clothes, right?' Anyway, class systems. I really thought through a lot of-, I wanted to have a lot of impressive side dishes. Like, you know, obviously I make a lot of things in Ottolenghi and-, You know, have you noticed the big thing in restaurants now of a yogurt sauce on the bottom of a salad now?

Ed Gamble

They put it on the bottom and then the leaves on the top or whatever, yes.

Rhys Nicholson

Yes. Like, is that going to stop, do we think?

Ed Gamble

I think it works for when it's, like, veg, when they put vegetables on top. Because then you get the spoon and you get the whole lot.

Rhys Nicholson

And you can, kind of, turn it a little bit.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Yes, like that. But yes, with the salad, you want to-,

Rhys Nicholson

It's like similarly all new plays involve a camera now, you know? Someone did it well once and, like, this is all of them now, I reckon.



Ed Gamble

What, do you mean and then they project onto the-

Rhys Nicholson

Yes. Did you know you were coming to see Kiss? That's how they do it. Couldn't think of any other band.

James Acaster

Whenever I order, I quite regularly get Sticks and Sushi on Deliveroo and I'll get the cauliflower that has the black truffle. Love it. Sauce on top.

Ed Gamble

Shout out to that dish.

James Acaster

That's a great dish. But they have it that they'll put a little drizzle on the top, but most of it is on the bottom. And when you get it takeaway, it comes in this, like, black container, so I can't see the sauce on the bottom. And I'm having a guess, chasing it around with the cauliflower. And I don't even know how much sauce I've got on there when I pick it-, you know, I'll chase it around the bottom, I'll bring it up. Oh, I've just rubbed it around the plastic again.

Rhys Nicholson

Even God can't see it.

James Acaster

I don't even know where any of it is, it's a nightmare. I do it regularly.

Ed Gamble

Do you like the chase though? I think you like the chase?

James Acaster

Not as much as Australia loves it.

Rhys Nicholson

We're all fighting for it. Yes, I'm trying to get better at that type of-, Kyran is really good at looking at what's in the pantry and going, 'I'm going to make this.' And there's a confidence in that that I don't have. I'm still very recipe based and then I change that recipe over, like, six times of doing it and then it's mine. You know what I mean? I like to work things out and I like to try it, but that involves me looking at other recipes for things.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I need to order in specifically for something that I am going to cook. And then I'll use a teaspoon of some spices, I'll put them on a shelf, and three years later I will throw them away.



Rhys Nicholson

Yes.

Ed Gamble

I had my big clear-out yesterday, actually.

Rhys Nicholson

Yes?

Ed Gamble

My big kitchen clear-out. We didn't have any food in either and I was like, 'I don't know, what am I going to eat? We can't get another delivery.' And very luckily, I'd been sent a big box of stuff from Bellazul who do a lot of olive oils. And I opened the box and there was some pasta and pesto in there. I was like, it's pasta pesto tonight.

James Acaster

Pasta pesto night.

Rhys Nicholson

I almost want to, and I mean, I feel like this is the dream of everyone that likes food, but I want to do, like, a six-week night course and just understand things a little bit more. Yes, I've just finished writing a book of essays that has recipes in it, but it's not, like, a food book. It's, like, there are some bits about food and I'm very open in it about I mainly just want to get into the food. Like, I want to have a TV show where I just eat. You know, that's my dream job, like, just going to another place and eating.

Ed Gamble

I'm living that dream.

James Acaster

Yes, he is.

Rhys Nicholson

Shit. Shit.

Ed Gamble

I also want to do a course. Like, in fact, I think my mum said she'd buy me a course for my birthday three years ago, so I'm going to do it at some point. Do a leiths course. Two years ago, I nearly completely quit comedy to go and do a course for six months.

Rhys Nicholson

Wow.

Ed Gamble

I thought I'd just do, like, a proper everyday.



James Acaster

What was I going to do?

Ed Gamble

Well, yes.

James Acaster

Leaving me high and dry with this prick.

Ed Gamble

That's why I've had to put my-,

Rhys Nicholson

I'd like to make it clear he was pointing to Benito, not me. I'm not the prick in this situation.

Ed Gamble

So, I'll go and do, like, a week course.

Rhys Nicholson

Sorry.

Ed Gamble

Just to be able to be like, 'Oh, I can cook sauces.' Like, I could whack up a sauce. Stop it. I could whack up a sauce now and again, you know.

James Acaster

I have to whack up a sauce.

Ed Gamble

Without thinking about it, you know.

James Acaster

Try and rhyme that sentence with something, you've got yourself a poem.

Your dream drink?

Rhys Nicholson

Dream drink?

James Acaster

This is someone who owns a bar. This is someone who owns a bar choosing their dream drink.



Rhys Nicholson

I mean, I'm not good at it but, like, when we have dinner parties, this happened just before lockdown actually. My friend Luca Marla and Alex Ward and her partner Hannah, we have, like, a little dinner club. We have, like, a group text and mainly during lockdown, we just sent picture of our dinners to each other. And then that turned into, like, we were on a constant pilgrimage where we go to nice restaurants together. And Kyran, when we had them over for dinner, he usually takes care of the bar. Like, when I've stayed up late trying to get good at cooking, he's getting good at making drinks.

Ed Gamble

It's perfect. The perfect household.

Rhys Nicholson

It's pretty good, yes. I mean, with the burger, I'm not a beer drinker, but I feel like the burger wants a beer with it.

Ed Gamble

Sure.

Rhys Nicholson

Like, I will only ever drink a pale ale or something with Korean fried chicken or something like that. But then, like, my favourite thing is a Riesling. Like, a very cold Austrian Riesling. We went to a restaurant once when we got a Magnum Riesling, which is very funny.

Ed Gamble

They look mad. They are very funny.

Rhys Nicholson

And especially, like, a little wait staff person trying to-, you know what it looks like? You know the Galliano bottles but huge.

Ed Gamble

So long.

Rhys Nicholson

And just trying to pour it into these teeny, tiny little white wine glasses. Very funny. Very, very funny. Yes, I think my actual dream drink is a very cold Austrian, like, a bitey Riesling to cut through whatever really. Because I think-,

Ed Gamble

So, like, acidic? A drier Riesling?

Rhys Nicholson

Yes, not sweet. And I think Riesling similarly is having a bit of a glow upaaa and, like, when I think Riesling, I used to think sack wine. Or as we call it in Australia, Goon. That's what you call it.



Ed Gamble

Goon?

Rhys Nicholson

Goon. I think Australia, we invented the sack wine.

Ed Gamble

Do you mean, like, the box wine?

Rhys Nicholson

Box wine, yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes, but it is in a sack within the box.

Rhys Nicholson

It's in the sack inside the box. Yes, so we have a thing in Australia when you're a kid, it's called Goon of Fortune, where you hang sacks of box wine, the silver sacks, on, like, a clothes line, we call them Hills Hoist, and you spin it. And someone is standing on each point of the clothes line, and when it stops at you, you have to, like, guzzle it.

James Acaster

Did you say when you were kids?

Rhys Nicholson

Well, like, teenagers.

James Acaster

Okay.

Rhys Nicholson

Cool kids. The coolest kids in town.

James Acaster

Coolest kids in town.

Rhys Nicholson

And no one wins.

Ed Gamble

No. Does one of the bags have something disgusting in it?

Rhys Nicholson

No.



Ed Gamble

No.

Rhys Nicholson

It's just, 'And now you're drinking this Goon. And now you're drinking this Goon.' I think maybe sometimes you play it with one of them missing, it's opposite Russian roulette.

Ed Gamble

Yes. So, you lose by not getting one?

James Acaster

One of you each turn doesn't get a drink?

Rhys Nicholson

I guess, yes. One of you doesn't get some. I mean, is there anything worse?

Ed Gamble

So, the guy who doesn't get one every time, you're like, 'Fuck you.'

Rhys Nicholson

Yes, you're sober, you, Jeff.

Ed Gamble

Oh, not Jeff Tartare, oh no. So, you want to go Austrian Riesling? Do you not feel like you're betraying your countryfolk by not having Australian Riesling? Because there are some fantastic-,

Rhys Nicholson

I'll just say it fast and they won't know. 'What did you say?' 'Austrian, Austrian beer.' It is Austrian that I'm thinking of, right? They make good Riesling?

Ed Gamble

Yes, 100%, yes.

Rhys Nicholson

Very delicious. I think also, I've noticed as I've gotten older, you know when you first start drinking wine as an adult, you automatically go to very heavy. Like, I remember wanting Cab Savs all the time and just a lot of tannin talk, a lot of big chat about tannin. And now, I'm only 33, which is not old, but I just want Pinot all the time, Pinot Noir. Like, just a very light, like, a whisper of red. Something veering to it, like a natural fit. Something veering towards a rose, but it's not sweet.

Ed Gamble

I find myself in a similar situation, but then also, if you're eating, like, a big meal, something heavy, I do want, like, that proper blood wine.



Rhys Nicholson

Yes.

James Acaster

Thick, blood wine.

Ed Gamble

Proper, like, blood wine. You know when you get it out of-

Rhys Nicholson

Okay, well, this has been fun, guys.

Ed Gamble

When you get it out of the bag, it's like you've gone into a hospital and taken a donation bag.

Rhys Nicholson

That's quite often how I want it. I will order a glass of that by the glass after. That kind of bit where you're waiting for the cheque and someone's still finishing their drink, and you go, 'You know what, I'm going to have-,' and then you're fine because drunk you is like, 'This is the best time to drink the heavy red wine.'

Ed Gamble

I'm only on stage in eight minutes.

Rhys Nicholson

Yes. Four-thirty? I think I want the Riesling. I think I want a nice, cold glass of Riesling.

Ed Gamble

Lovely.

James Acaster

That sounds good. Also, you know, you've got the salad there in between each bite of the burger.

Rhys Nicholson

It's all, kind of, mixing together.

James Acaster

What order are you doing the bites in? Are you doing burger, salad, Riesling? I think that's a gulp.

Rhys Nicholson

God, this is like Star Wars. Trying to decide which one to-,

James Acaster

Is that-,



Rhys Nicholson

That's a thing. Isn't it, like, they have nine of them.

Ed Gamble

Yes, what order do you watch them?

James Acaster

What order do you watch them in?

Rhys Nicholson

Like, nerds are always like, bleugh. That's what they're always like.

James Acaster

Yes.

Rhys Nicholson

But what order do you show your kids Star Wars?

James Acaster

Oh, yes, they've got to decide that now. All the nerds, all the dad nerds.

Ed Gamble

It's a bit different because you're then going back to it. That would be like showing them a bit at the start, the first one, a bit of the next one, a bit of the second one, and then going back again.

James Acaster

Yes, and seeing them each until they're all done.

Rhys Nicholson

But I think now that they have all the other, like, all the little Han Solo-, I mean, don't show them Han Solo, I guess.

Ed Gamble

I think just let them find it by themselves when they're teenagers.

Rhys Nicholson

Yes. And let's be honest, do they even have kids?

Ed Gamble

Who?

Rhys Nicholson

The nerds.



Ed Gamble

The nerds, yes.

James Acaster

That's a point. Good point.

Rhys Nicholson

Jeff likes Star Wars.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Of course he does.

James Acaster

Of course he does.

Rhys Nicholson

Wanted to show it to the flower girl. He'd made a whole little list, how they're going to view it. 'Oh, we won't show her.'

Ed Gamble

And then he went to the flower shop one day and it had shut.

Rhys Nicholson

Yes, turned out it was a drug front.

James Acaster

He got killed by the mafia. She's suddenly the more interesting character. Can't believe we spent all our time on Jeff Tartare with her down the street. That's incredible.

Ed Gamble

So, lovely class of cold Riesling.

Rhys Nicholson

Yes. Burger, salad, curly fries.

Ed Gamble

Curly fries.



Rhys Nicholson

Yes, and, like, a Riesling, I think you can go the whole time with a Riesling pretty lightly. Like, you can decide whether you're sipping that Riesling. It's pretty gulpable and you can get absolutely-, you know that feeling when you're so drunk at a dinner it feels like you're day drunk?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Rhys Nicholson

Like, there's a giddiness to the sugariness of it and it feels like, 'I could be at an outdoor daytime party right now, but it's 11:00PM.'

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Rhys Nicholson

'My heart is racing. I haven't wanted to do drugs in years, but we should get some ketamine. That would really lighten tonight up.' There's always someone at a dinner that wants the night to not end, you know. They're always like, 'Let's do another round,' and there's someone, like, throwing up next to them. And it's always the partner of the person who's way too drunk that needs to be taken home, does that make sense? Do you know what I mean?

James Acaster

Yes, sure.

We've arrived at your dessert.

Rhys Nicholson

Yes.

James Acaster

Very excited about this obviously.

Rhys Nicholson

Okay.

James Acaster

I'm always excited about the desserts.

Rhys Nicholson

Yes, I know.

James Acaster

I'm pretty sure that you like desserts.



Rhys Nicholson

Okay.

James Acaster

Where are we going with this?

Ed Gamble

Interesting.

James Acaster

Okay.

Rhys Nicholson

I think I've maybe found a way though to help out with the constant struggle of this podcast of the cheese and the dessert thing. First of all, let me say, I'm not a very desserty person. Usually desserts for me at a restaurant, if I was true to my heart, I think I just want a spoon and I just want little bits of everyone else's, whatever else they've ordered. That is my perfect dessert. Like crème brulee, I like crème brulee. I like a rum baba, like, there's a really good one at Carlton Wine Room. But I went to a restaurant in London recently. It was an Italian restaurant. We ordered pecorino, big slices of pecorino that they had put brown sugar on top and blow torched.

James Acaster

Wow.

Ed Gamble

Oh my God. Right, I don't know what that restaurant is, because I'd remember that.

Rhys Nicholson

So, it was, like, a pecorino brulee type of thing and it was wildly good. And it was as simple as that. Like, they hadn't gone anything else to it.

Ed Gamble

Was it Brutto?

James Acaster

I'll accept that.

Ed Gamble

Was it Brutto?

Rhys Nicholson

It was.



Ed Gamble

I've still not been, but yes.

James Acaster

Wow. This is how good Ed Gamble is. Wild that you did that. He hasn't even been, he doesn't even know that's on the menu of Brutto, but he was able to guess it sounds about that ballpark and he got it.

Ed Gamble

Yes, it sounds like that sort of place.

Rhys Nicholson

Like, is that a famous-, because we were staying around there once, Kyran and I, and we just went in. We were, like, looking for somewhere to dinner.

Ed Gamble

Yes. So, it's a Russel Norman place who had Spuntino but he's got Polpo.

Rhys Nicholson

Pol Pot?

Ed Gamble

Polpo. Polpo.

Rhys Nicholson

Wow, gosh.

Ed Gamble

He's got a Cambodian restaurant called Pol Pot, it's very controversial.

Rhys Nicholson

It's, kind of like, you cook your own thing. It's, like, cook Pol Pot. I mean, this isn't helpful for the-, it looked like that.

Ed Gamble

Oh, I love it.

James Acaster

Zoom that in. Oh, it's going on, like, a sideshow. I've got to be quick. So, it looks like a slice of pizza, but crème brulee on the top.

Rhys Nicholson

Yes, but the next famous actor you see-,



Ed Gamble

You were trying to get all the description out before the picture moved on as if the picture went, you'd forget immediately what it looked like.

James Acaster

Yes, that's how I felt. That's what happened to Rhys. I felt like-

Ed Gamble

'Okay, it's going to move on in a second. It's like a slice of pizza with a brulee on the top.' Phew. Because if the picture had gone, I would have lost all my words about what that was.

James Acaster

That was how I felt. Also, I didn't know what the next picture was going to be. It's always a worry.

Rhys Nicholson

Yes. I've been in a relationship for long enough, it's not ever going to be a dick pick.

James Acaster

I heard how many times you jacked him off at palms springs.

Rhys Nicholson

Hey, that was five years ago. I think that is a thing about, like, getting into your thirties, it's all just picture of, if it's a bit of skin, it's for medical reasons. It's like, 'Does it look bad? Does it look bad to you, do you think?'

Ed Gamble

'Can't see this bit of my neck, can you take a picture of it and show me?'

Rhys Nicholson

Or screenshots of things fucked people have said on the internet that you screenshot. Like, that's the only thing that'll ever get me cancelled properly, I think. It's, like, not dick pics being release, it's someone just releasing all the screenshots I've taken from people's Instagram. Just, 'Why are you doing it? Stop getting a Patreon.'

James Acaster

Is this what you want for your dessert?

Rhys Nicholson

I think I want everyone else to get stuff and me to just, usually I get a drink for dessert. Like, I will get a digestif, an Amaro of some sort, maybe a Fernet-Branca with a little bit of ice in it. Maybe an Amaro-Montenegro, which is, like, so old but it's so good. Like, that's something that's happened in the last couple of years of realising how good digestifs are after a dish, after a meal. Like, they properly work. I was a smoker for years and that was my digestif, but now I need to rely on vivacious Italian liqueurs.



Ed Gamble

Have you had the mint Fernet-Branca?

Rhys Nicholson

No.

Ed Gamble

I had it in Australia for the first time, actually. In Sydney, and I love it.

Rhys Nicholson

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Oh, it's just, like, super lovely mouthwash.

Rhys Nicholson

Yes, and it's like-,

James Acaster

Super lovely mouthwash.

Rhys Nicholson

Like, if we've had dinner, maybe we've had a glass of wine, during dinner, and then maybe we go watch a movie, we'll just bring a little Fernet-Branca or something in there. Because you're not getting pissed on it, but it feels nice to drink something.

Ed Gamble

It does settle your stomach. And chefs love it, right. Like, they'll drink it if they're having a massive meal to be able to eat more.

Rhys Nicholson

And it feels grown-up to order it. I don't know, it's, like, knowing about things like that is very satisfying to me. But usually I will get an old fashioned or a Manhattan. I've gotten very into Manhattans. I think we had Manhattans at-, or I might have had a Manhattan at-,

Ed Gamble

I think you had a Manhattan.

Rhys Nicholson

Like, they fuck you up.

Ed Gamble

I think I had a Negroni at the end of the night, yes.



Rhys Nicholson

Yes. Negroni, again, I love Negroni at the start. Negronis are having their moment. Like, the Aperol Spritz moment. Anytime just a traditional drink is on a bus stop, you're like, 'Oh, look who's back.' You know what I mean? Like, suddenly Aperol Spritz is everywhere.

James Acaster

On all the bus stops, yes.

Rhys Nicholson

Yes. Suddenly, like, Negronis are on bus stops now. Like, really? Good on you.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I had a Negroni that night. You went to do a gig, which is mad because we'd had, like, a three and a half hour, four hour meal.

Rhys Nicholson

We'd had a big steak dinner.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Really big steak dinner.

Rhys Nicholson

It was a charity event as well. I was doing a comedy at a charity event.

Ed Gamble

Yes, you even had a cocktail when the bill had come already, I think. And then, even madder than that, I just went home and went straight to bed. Negroni, good night.

Rhys Nicholson

And I'd forgotten, I think it might have been not a grim charity, but it was, like, a very good cause. And just that classic thing of walking out and just being like, 'Great job everyone for coming and supporting-', having no fucking clue what I was saying.

James Acaster

Yes.

Rhys Nicholson

Like, yes, no, we're raising money for cancelled white men. Alright, that's cool.

James Acaster

They need it.



Rhys Nicholson

What is it, like, a legal fund? That's cool. So, I think what I actually want my dessert to be is a little bit of everyone else's dessert, and I'm having-

Ed Gamble

Do you want a long spoon?

Rhys Nicholson

Yes, a very long spoon. Or, can I, just for this, can we use the magic of the genie? Can I have a very long tongue?

James Acaster

Yes, absolutely.

Rhys Nicholson

Like, for an anteater's head like in Beetlejuice when they pull out their faces.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Do you want the anteater's head, or do you want the chameleon tongue or whatever?

Rhys Nicholson

A bit of both.

James Acaster

Yes, okay.

Rhys Nicholson

And so, I lean over and just go, like, glug, glug.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Rhys Nicholson

And it's quite a strong tongue and it breaks through the brulee. And it just, kind of, scoops little bits out and then takes it back in.

Ed Gamble

Can the tongue go all the way to the kitchen?

Rhys Nicholson

Yes.



Ed Gamble

So you can taste everything that they're cooking?

Rhys Nicholson

Yes, and they don't know.

Ed Gamble

No.

Rhys Nicholson

They don't know.

James Acaster

I think your tongue and Gordon Ramsey both walking through the kitchen.

Ed Gamble

You can sneak your tongue in behind Ramsay every time he goes to the toilet.

James Acaster

Yes.

Rhys Nicholson

The worst sentence anyone's ever said. You can sneak you tongue in behind Ramsay before he goes to the toilet.

Ed Gamble

We've not had Gordon Ramsay on this podcast, but it's not going to happen now, is it?

James Acaster

I think you might have upped our chances actually.

Rhys Nicholson

And he knew all about it and he remembered that night.

James Acaster

But you are having the bruleed pecorino?

Rhys Nicholson

I think, like, that to me, I guess I'm just offering that as a potential middle ground.

James Acaster

I think that sounds like a good bridge from the main course to the dessert. Like, a little extra course in between, bring that out and then the desserts.



Rhys Nicholson

Little something. It was a lot. Like, I would say there were two big chunks of it there and that was too many. We could have had one together. Like, it was delicious for that kind of thing where you're like, 'Oh, this is a lot of pecorino.'

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

I'm booking that place straight after we've finished recording.

James Acaster

Yes, I want to eat that.

Rhys Nicholson

And I think you could potentially make it at home as well in a very impressive pop it down type of way.

Ed Gamble

It sounds like it would end in tragedy if I tried that.

Rhys Nicholson

Yes, that's life, baby.

James Acaster

Sure you've ordered a blowtorch that's sitting unused in your house, but.

Ed Gamble

Oh, I've got a blowtorch at home.

Rhys Nicholson

Should I call Kyran? He never comes off in the well in the work they do apparently. He's the best person I've ever met in my whole life, but he's always just like, 'I fucking him'. completely changed my life for the better. But, like, no, in comedy he will always just be the guy making cum and making, making-,

James Acaster

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

Rhys Nicholson

Yes.

James Acaster

You would like a pint of very cold sparkling water with some lime. You would like warm sourdough with brown butter. Starter, anchovy toast from the Carlton Wine Room and oyster and a half Martini from Bar



Margaux. Main course, fried chicken burger with slaw, chipotle mayo in a potato bun with curly fries. Side dish, restaurant-y green salad and a cucumber salad, cleansing the palate in between bites. Drink, a very cold, dry Austrian Riesling. Riesling?

Rhys Nicholson

Riesling, yes.

James Acaster

Dessert-,

Rhys Nicholson

It's my show title next year, Austrian Riesling.

James Acaster

Then of course, before the dessert, the brulee pecorino. And then dessert, a mouthful of everyone else's and a digestif, which we landed on?

Rhys Nicholson

I'll try the mint Fernet-Branca.

James Acaster

And also obviously you would like an anteater's tongue.

Rhys Nicholson

Yes, please.

James Acaster

Got to have that, of course.

Rhys Nicholson

Please.

Ed Gamble

And a long face.

Rhys Nicholson

And a long face. Why the long face? For all the dessert.

James Acaster

We finally know. How do you feel about that menu?

Rhys Nicholson

It feels good. It feels good. And I've been thinking this whole time, like, I don't know who I want to have it with. I had to very recently, for the book, write the acknowledgements, and I was like, 'I don't know



how to, what are you meant to-, ' and so I just wrote every name I could remember of people I've had nice dinners with. Like, you guys are in the acknowledgements for my book, right. But it is quite funny, I'm using no last names, so I know a lot of James's and a lot of Eds. But I think I just want, like, a rolling-, somehow, if we could use the magic for me to experience dinner with every single one of those people equally. Do you know what I mean?

James Acaster

Yes, sure.

Rhys Nicholson

Sort of, multiverse situation and that would feel good. But no, I feel good about that meal. I think I would enjoy that.

Ed Gamble

So, we need to make sure your tongue can travel across multiverses?

Rhys Nicholson

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes, okay.

James Acaster

We can do that.

Rhys Nicholson

Yes, thanks man. I appreciate that.

James Acaster

For sure.

Rhys Nicholson

Are you a sit at the bar type of person?

Ed Gamble

Yes, if I'm alone, definitely.

Rhys Nicholson

If it's just you and Charlie?

Ed Gamble

Yes, actually, yes. If I'm with Charlie as well.



Rhys Nicholson

It feels nice to be-, again, I'm talking about the feeling growing up, but, like, yes, if it's just the two of us, if we go to Etta, that place that we always go to when I get back, we always sit at the bar. It's, like, there's something to look at when you run out of conversation.

Ed Gamble

Sure.

Rhys Nicholson

Do you know what I mean? Like, 'Oh, what's he doing?'

Ed Gamble

And you're sat side by side.

Rhys Nicholson

Yes, it feels a bit more intimate.

Ed Gamble

So, if you want to pretend you're not together, that's fun as well.

Rhys Nicholson

Okay.

Ed Gamble

Yes. I don't like it though when they bring the food from behind you.

Rhys Nicholson

No.

Ed Gamble

And you're sat at the bar.

Rhys Nicholson

Oh, no.

Ed Gamble

I like to be able to see the food coming and get excited rather than suddenly it's there.

Rhys Nicholson

I can imagine, yes. Does it make you feel careful?

Ed Gamble

Very careful. Thank you very much, Rhys.



Rhys Nicholson

Thanks for having me.

Ed Gamble

There we are, great episode. I knew it would be a great episode.

James Acaster

Yes. Rhys's food.

Ed Gamble

Rhys loves food.

James Acaster

Rhys loves food.

Ed Gamble

Rhys loves food.

James Acaster

We knew that menu would be good and the whole thing was delicious.

Ed Gamble

Yes, absolutely.

James Acaster

Detailed descriptions of the food. We very much appreciate that.

Ed Gamble

And didn't say sesame snaps.

James Acaster

And didn't say sesame snaps, which is good, because it would have broken my heart to kick them out for that, because I love sesame snaps.

Ed Gamble

Yes, you love sesame snaps, you love Rhys Nicholson.

James Acaster

Yes. Rhys Nicholson is like the third sesame snap that I've forgotten about. Me, you and Rhys.

Ed Gamble

Oh, that's lovely. They'll be chuffed to hear that.



James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Slash confused. Don't forget to watch Rhys's special Live at the Athenaeum on Netflix, Drag Race Down Under. I think they're also-, there's a book out called Dish.

James Acaster

Which is food related.

Ed Gamble

Food related.

James Acaster

So, come on people.

Ed Gamble

Wrote, sort of, a food based memoir/essay type thing. If you only buy one food based memoir published by Penguin, make it Rhys's.

James Acaster

Ah, that's good of you. But if you buy two-,

Ed Gamble

Yes, do buy Glutton: The multi course Life of a Very Greedy Boy by Ed Gamble.

James Acaster

But only if you but two.

Ed Gamble

Only if you buy two.

James Acaster

You'll probably just buy one, so buy Rhys's book.

Ed Gamble

Rhys should have called their book Rhys's Pieces.

James Acaster

And release it one chapter at a time.

Ed Gamble

Yes, it's great. We'll go and tell little sesame snap that now. Thank you very much for listening. We will see you next week. Goodbye.



James Acaster

Goodbye, coppers.