



Off Menu – Ep 253 – Sophie Willan

Ed Gamble

Welcome to the Off Menu Podcast, taking the hard shell tacos of conversation, adding in the seasoned mints of humor, the shredded lettuce of having a great time with your friends, the salsa of the internet, the guacamole of content, and have I done grated cheese? No, the grated cheese of just being such nice chaps, and then whatever else you like, maybe some sour cream, but that doesn't represent anything, it's just sour cream. It's the Off Menu podcast, but taco, hard shell taco, taco night.

James Acaster

It's a new dawn, it's a new day, it's a new life, and a new series of Off Menu.

James Acaster

That is Ed Gamble. My name is James Acaster. Together, we own a dream restaurant. We invite a guest in every single week. We ask them their favorite ever, start a main course, dessert, side dish, and drink. Not in that order. And this week, our guest is Sophie Willan.

Ed Gamble

Sophie Willan, we couldn't think of a better guest to be the first episode of the series. And I mean that in that we really want Sophie to be the first guest of the series, not simply that we couldn't think of anyone better.

James Acaster

Sophie Willan is absolutely fantastic. The whole nation has fallen in love with her. Everyone loves Alma's Not Normal, her sitcom, and she was incredible on Taskmaster. And there's a new series of Alma's Not Normal coming out soon as well. The second series, very much looking forward to that.

Ed Gamble

And the first series is available on iPlayer now, so you can go and catch up, rewatch it if you've seen it already, or go back, watch it, and you'll be ready for the second series to come out soon.

James Acaster

That's a good idea, Ed.

Ed Gamble

We've got some exciting stuff as well coming up, James.

James Acaster

We have. Do you know, have you ever heard of the Palladium?

Ed Gamble

I have, James.



Ed Gamble

We've done the Palladium live, haven't we?

James Acaster

Yes, the London Palladium.

Ed Gamble

And we loved it so much that we are coming back to the London Palladium in March next year.

James Acaster

, which doesn't sound like a real year.

Ed Gamble

No, well, we don't know if it will be yet. Who knows what will happen on New Year's Eve?

James Acaster

Yeah.

Ed Gamble

Maybe they'll change all the dates and stuff.

James Acaster

They could do.

Ed Gamble

Maybe the clocks will go back.

James Acaster

The clocks, the clocks of time.

Ed Gamble

The clocks of time. I don't know any other clocks, mate. The 21st and 22nd of March, Off Menu Live in London at the London Palladium. Tickets go on sale this Friday. If you're listening to this on the day it comes out. But there is a presale. If you go and sign up to our mailing list, offmenupodcast.co.uk, you will get the presale details a.m. on Thursday. General sale on Friday. Gotta be quick with those tickets.

James Acaster

Wow, Ed, you delivered that information brilliantly.

Ed Gamble

Thank you so much.

James Acaster

I admire you a lot.



Ed Gamble

We will have a different special guest for each show.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

We would love you to be there. It's gonna be a lot of fun.

James Acaster

Also, what's gonna be a lot of fun is this episode, but listen, if Sophie says the secret ingredient, an ingredient which we deem to be unacceptable, we will have to kick Sophie out of The Dream Restaurant.

Ed Gamble

We will.

James Acaster

We always do that.

Ed Gamble

We will. We always do that. And the secret ingredient this week is trifle.

James Acaster

Trifle.

Ed Gamble

Trifle is something that Sophie picked to put in a hamper for Nick Mohammed in the later series of Taskmaster. And look, we always scour for foods related to the guests. I think this could be a tricky one because if Sophie picked trifle in Taskmaster, that normally means it's something right at the front of your brain. Maybe she was thinking about trifle that day because she loves it so much. Will it be her dream dessert or even her dream starter?

James Acaster

I feel bad chucking someone out for such a lovely thing. I love trifle.

Ed Gamble

Especially chucking out. We've only ever chucked one person out before, Jade Adams, who's in Alma's Not Normal. So this could be a running theme.

James Acaster

It would make us look bad.



Ed Gamble

It would make us look really bad. But I mean, I would say hopefully that doesn't happen. It'd be funny if it did.

James Acaster

Yeah. Hey, we know what's funny. This is the Off Menu menu.

Ed Gamble

Welcome, Sophie, to The Dream Restaurant.

Sophie Willan

Hello.

James Acaster

Welcome, Sophie Willan, to The Dream Restaurant. We've been expecting you for some time.

Sophie Willan

Yes, I'm glad to be here.

Ed Gamble

We're very glad to have you here.

Ed Gamble

That was a particularly loud genie today, I'd say.

James Acaster

Pretty happy with that.

Sophie Willan

Yeah, very good. Took over the whole room.

James Acaster

Yeah, yeah, it felt like appropriate. I didn't feel like I was overstepping.

Ed Gamble

No.

Sophie Willan

No, on the edge.

James Acaster

Yeah.



Ed Gamble

Geniewise, if you did rob a Lamp and a Genie came out and they were slightly over the edge in terms of volume, would you let the Genie know straight away?

Sophie Willan

I think it'd be good to let him know. You definitely said to Robin Williams, wouldn't you? Just chill out a bit. It's a bit much.

Ed Gamble

It is a bit much, yeah.

James Acaster

Changes the whole tone of the film.

Sophie Willan

Yeah. Clearly, it's like a Genie on drugs, isn't he?

James Acaster

Yeah, yeah, well. Did you like that film when you were a kid?

Sophie Willan

I loved it.

James Acaster

That film was like, that was massive.

Sophie Willan

Me too. It's the music, isn't it?

Sophie Willan

If there's a good soundtrack, what more do you want?

Ed Gamble

I still revisit that film quite a lot. I absolutely love it. I still think it's top, probably my top Disney film. Fair to say?

Sophie Willan

Yeah, it's definitely up there. I like Aristocats.

James Acaster

Oh yeah, yeah, that's good.

Sophie Willan

I was very into that. Again, the music's good. You know, if there's a good song.



Ed Gamble

If you're just listening to this, Sophie mimed being an Aristocat.

James Acaster

Yeah, yeah, a little dance.

Sophie Willan

It's like a jazzy kind of, you know, 'Everybody wants to be a cat'.

Sophie Willan

It's a bit of scatting going on.

Ed Gamble

Bit of scatting. Would you describe yourself, I mean, you seem to get into the cat mode quite there. If you imagine yourself as an animal, are you a cat?

Sophie Willan

No, I mean, everyone says it don't they, but I would be a poodle.

James Acaster

What?

Ed Gamble

I don't think everyone says that.

Sophie Willan

Do they not? Everyone goes for a dog though, don't they?

James Acaster

I always think of myself as a meerkat.

Sophie Willan

Oh, well done. Yeah, no, that feels very accurate for you.

Ed Gamble

Yeah, I think that's very accurate.

Sophie Willan

You nailed yourself very well.

James Acaster

Thank you.



Sophie Willan

Yeah, what about you, Ed?

Ed Gamble

Well, the other day, I think I had this discussion with my wife because I was like, I feel like a cat because I just want to curl up and like in a big ball all day. But she said, no, I'm a Labrador.

Sophie Willan

Oh, right.

Ed Gamble

Yeah.

Sophie Willan

Yeah. So you don't know yourself then?

Ed Gamble

No, but I don't feel I have the energy of a Labrador. So maybe like a very old Labrador, one on death's door basically.

Sophie Willan

Yeah, he's been through a lot.

Ed Gamble

Been through a lot, broken his leg. Probably if I was working on a farm, I'd be put down.

Sophie Willan

Yeah.

Ed Gamble

Yeah, that's how I feel.

Sophie Willan

Yeah, I'd like to be a poodle who's been looked after by like a Duchess or, you know, like in Aristocats actually, you know, that lady who looks after them, that'd be fantastic.

Ed Gamble

The sort of poodle who gets left something in a will.

Sophie Willan

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yeah, yeah.



Sophie Willan

Everything.

Ed Gamble

Yeah, everything.

James Acaster

Yeah, that's very nice.

Sophie Willan

And it's veal.

James Acaster

Do you eat veal? I mean, but now we're getting on to food. Do you eat, it's veal a

Sophie Willan

I actually don't, I've never had it, but I thought it sounds great.

James Acaster

Yeah, yeah. So if you were a poodle, you'd eat it, but not as a human.

Sophie Willan

No, I don't want to take the Mickey, you know. As a poodle of a Duchess, it feels right to eat veal.

Ed Gamble

You can take the Mickey, if you're the poodle of a Duchess. Yeah, definitely.

James Acaster

Actually, I might change my answer to poodle of a Duchess. Sounds better. Meerkat sounds stupid, it's not a nice life. We're very excited that Alma's Not Normal is on iPlayer now, this first series, and the second series is on its way.

Sophie Willan

Yes.

James Acaster

Are you as excited as we are?

Sophie Willan

No, you're just terrified, aren't you, when something's coming out. You wake up in a hot sweat going, shit.

James Acaster

Yes.



Sophie Willan

And it'll be fine when it's out, but you don't know. And I'm in the edit for three months every day. So you get so close to it, you've no idea what's actually happened. But I think once it's out and if it's been a positive response, I'll feel a bit better. But I've done my best. That's all you can do, isn't it?

James Acaster

Yeah, yeah. That's a pretty good press release.

Sophie Willan

Yeah. I thought, yeah, I forgot it's press, isn't it? I'm just doing my actual feelings.

James Acaster

I have no idea if it's good or not, but I've done my best and that's all you can do.

Sophie Willan

It's great.

James Acaster

I'm too close to it.

Sophie Willan

No, I am pleased with that. And we've got new characters now. We've got Steve Pemberton, he's playing Uncle Dickie. We get to know Lorraine Ashbourne's character's family, so grandma in it. We get to meet her siblings, which obviously is chaos and loads of jokes firing at each other and loads of like mean jokes and, you know, trauma, but then also a lot of love and humour. So that's quite nice to see where she came from, Grandma Jo.

James Acaster

So Steve Pemberton, had you, what was first, filming Alma's Not Normal or doing Taskmaster?

Sophie Willan

Well, Steve had actually said before, oh, I'd love to be in Alma, to Shiv, cause they've worked together. And then on Taskmaster, it came up again. And I was like, well, I'd love him to play this role. So there he was. Nick Mohammed's also in it. But I'd actually already approached Nick before Taskmaster. And then I was like, oh yes, you didn't get back to us, but he was stuck with me then. So I think he did it out of politeness, but he's great.

Ed Gamble

You can always guarantee that with Nick, that you can bully him into something through politeness, cause he's the nicest man. If you corner him, you can probably get him in anything, I reckon.

Sophie Willan

Definitely.



Ed Gamble

Yeah.

James Acaster

No parts for McNally and Robbins?

Sophie Willan

No, I didn't.

Sophie Willan

Yeah, because well, Joanne and me were drinking at the bar afterwards, obviously, which we did quite a lot during the process. But I said, 'Do you' and she said, 'No, I'm shit. I'm shit. I'm shit.' And so I thought, great. Well, I won't be putting you in there. And I don't think John's into acting, is he?

James Acaster

No idea.

Sophie Willan

I don't get the vibe he has.

Ed Gamble

No, I don't get the vibe he has. He's certainly never, I don't think he's acted or given any interest, any vocalized that he likes acting.

Sophie Willan

I think he's into standup and spreadsheets. And Queen.

Ed Gamble

And Queen, yeah. We can only have three things.

Sophie Willan

Yeah.

Ed Gamble

And those are his things. Yeah, definitely.

James Acaster

How was series two different to series one?

Sophie Willan

I think it's better because, well, I don't know. I've gone a bit further with it, I think from the first series. It's got a lot of comedy and drama. This one is comedy drama, but I think I've pushed it a bit further. And also in my head, I'm not doing a third series. I've decided, I feel I've wrapped everything up here.



James Acaster

Wow, do they know that?

Sophie Willan

Yes, I've said it. Like, fuck off, I'm not doing it. I would love to do a Christmas special, because I think care experience at Christmas, we don't see it on our screens. I mean, you do, Oliver Twist and all these bleak stories, but actually a modern care experience where an adult, wreclaims Christmas for themselves, I think would be a great story. So I'd love to do that, and then that would be it. So in a way I've been able to push it as far as I can because I know that this is finito.

Ed Gamble

But then what if you get convinced into another one and you've pushed it so far, you're going to have to push it even further for another series.

Sophie Willan

It sounds knacker, I'll say no.

James Acaster

So did you know that when you started writing the first series where you like, I want to do two and then out?

Sophie Willan

No, I didn't know really, but I kind of knew roughly where I wanted to go. But a lot of what happens in the second series has happened because it's drawn from personal experiences. It's fictional, just to be clear, but it's drawn from personal experiences. So a lot of the things that happen in this second series are closer to what's happened to me over the past few years, because that was very retrospective, the first series. Alma's very, you know, basically a bit like me in my s, even though she's in her s. So I didn't know I was going to write what I've written in this second series, but I thought maybe I would have done three series. But evidently not.

James Acaster

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

Sophie Willan

Sparkling. Love it.

James Acaster

Sparkling.

Ed Gamble

Said definitively.

Sophie Willan

Yeah.



Ed Gamble

Absolutely, no, you're not wavering on that whatsoever.

Sophie Willan

Not wavering, I actually find still water horrible. I only drink it because you have to, but I just, my grandma used to have a bit of water, go, oh, I feel like I'm drowning. And I really relate to her.

Ed Gamble

Yeah.

Sophie Willan

And she always used to carry a little bottle of Tizer or some little bottle of Dandelion and Burdock in her bag. And that's me.

James Acaster

They're pretty extreme flavors of the pop.

Sophie Willan

Yeah.

James Acaster

Tizer. And D&B. Yeah. What flavor is I don't think we've ever talked about Tizer on the podcast.

Ed Gamble

No, I don't think we have really.

James Acaster

I don't think it's really come up.

Sophie Willan

I love Tizer, yeah.

James Acaster

For people who've never tried it, how would you describe it?

Sophie Willan

It's a bit like a Lucozade, like a Lucozade original.

James Acaster

Yeah.

Sophie Willan

And Dandelion and Burdock is like licoricey. And they're both really cheap from Quality Save, which is why grandma, and you can get little ones.



James Acaster

Yeah.

Ed Gamble

They're sort of quite close to medicine, I think.

Sophie Willan

Yeah, they feel like medicine.

Ed Gamble

Tastewise and the old bottles make them feel like medicine as well.

Sophie Willan

Exactly, yeah.

Ed Gamble

Which is why it makes sense for grandma to have one in a handbag.

Sophie Willan

Yeah.

Ed Gamble

Like cough syrup.

Sophie Willan

It is like cough syrup, isn't it? Or if you're on a night out and you've got a bad tummy, I think you can have a shot of tequila rose because it's very like Gaviscon. It's literally the same with tequila in.

James Acaster

It tastes the same or it does the same thing for you?

Sophie Willan

It tastes the same, but I feel it's helped me. If I've had a bad tummy and I've got to have a drink, it's, you know, someone's birthday, something like that. Oh, I have one of those, feel instantly better.

Ed Gamble

Tequila rose is the pink, like it's quite creamy, is that right?

Sophie Willan

Yeah, it looks like Gaviscon.

Ed Gamble

Like Gaviscon or Pepto Bismol, Americans would say, yeah. So, and is that available at most bars?



Sophie Willan

It's available at most bars. It's like yasu, but with tequila in it.

Ed Gamble

Yeah.

Sophie Willan

I feel like now I'm sponsoring them, you know? Or they're sponsoring me.

Ed Gamble

Well, they'll definitely send you some after this.

Sophie Willan

Is that what they do?

Ed Gamble

This is the first time tequila rose has been mentioned on the podcast. It's not the first time, Benito?

Sophie Willan

Oh, she's beat me to it.

Ed Gamble

AnneMarie did it. Okay, fine. But we don't know if AnneMarie was sent any, so maybe this will be the...

Sophie Willan

Yeah.

James Acaster

And what way around, do you want to be sponsored by them or do you want to sponsor them?

Sophie Willan

I don't know. I think really I should want to be sponsored by them because I don't know what I'd offer if I was sponsoring them.

Ed Gamble

Well, you'd have to give them money.

Sophie Willan

I don't want to be doing that. No.

Ed Gamble

I guess you do that anywhere when you buy it, right?



Sophie Willan

Yeah, because I've already given them enough money actually. I've already been sponsoring them. Yeah.

Ed Gamble

How often would you say on a night out you have a poorly tummy?

Sophie Willan

Well, sometimes, you know, alcohol doesn't work for me. Gives me acid reflux. So I do often need a tequila rose just to get going. A tequila rose and an omeprazole.

James Acaster

A what?

Sophie Willan

Together, you know, an omeprazole, like a nexium acid reflux tablet.

James Acaster

I've got you.

Sophie Willan

It's something that happens when you're over , isn't it? When you drink, there's certain things you need, like Gaviscon, I never had in my s.

James Acaster

So how did you discover this? So in your s, it wasn't a thing?

Sophie Willan

Never a thing, never a problem.

James Acaster

But then in your s, did you just come up with the idea one night?

Sophie Willan

Just suddenly felt a burning through my chest. That, you know, it's like I turned , suddenly my chest started to burn.

Ed Gamble

Yeah.

Sophie Willan

It's like a sign, you know.



Ed Gamble

But I love the thought process of alcohol is making my chest burn. I'll tell you what, I'll have this particular alcohol.

Sophie Willan

Yeah.

Ed Gamble

And that's going to sort me out.

Sophie Willan

Wisdom.

James Acaster

Very wise. What types of alcohol do you find don't agree with you then?

Sophie Willan

I mean, all alcohol really.

James Acaster

Ok. That's the problem.

Sophie Willan

Yeah, it is. But apart from the tequila rose, it's fine. But I still carry on drinking. You know, I'm a trooper.

Ed Gamble

I always say that about you, Sophie.

Sophie Willan

Thank you.

Ed Gamble

She's a trooper.

Sophie Willan

Yeah.

James Acaster

So you've got a sparkling water, which you love.

Sophie Willan

I love sparkling water. In fact, that's what I always have instead of a water. I would never, I mean, I know it's there now. I'm thinking, oh, I should drink that, but.



Ed Gamble

We don't want you to feel like you're drowning.

Sophie Willan

Yeah.

Ed Gamble

That's the last thing we want to drown our guests.

James Acaster

So when your nan drank like Tizer, she didn't feel like she was drowning?

Ed Gamble

I was going to say, why when your grandma was drinking Tizer, did that, she didn't feel like she was drowning in Tizer then?

James Acaster

Cause she could drown in Tizer.

Sophie Willan

She could do. I don't know. I think she just likes things that were sugary and sort of fizzy. I don't think she drank water really ever. Yeah. I feel like I'm going into a Northern story, like some sort of Ken Loach film here.

James Acaster

You know, we've got people, plenty of people on here that don't drink water, Claudia Winckelman, Florence Pugh.

James Acaster

Yeah.

Sophie Willan

I mean, if Florence Pugh's not drinking water. I mean, that's quite glamorous, isn't it?

James Acaster

I was worried when she said it, cause I was like, I think a lot of people listen to this are now going to not drink water because Florence Pugh doesn't. And that's not good.

Sophie Willan

A lot of people, I feel inspired not to drink water now.

Ed Gamble

You've got to take your lead from Pugh, really, haven't you?



Sophie Willan

Yeah.

James Acaster

Yeah. When you hear that sort of stuff, oh, let's do what she does then.

Sophie Willan

She looks great.

James Acaster

Popadoms or bread? Popadoms or bread, Sophie Willan? Popadoms or bread?

Sophie Willan

Bread. Very clear.

James Acaster

Yeah.

Ed Gamble

Cause popadoms make you feel like you're drowning?

Sophie Willan

No, they're just not as fun.

James Acaster

Good luck drowning in a popadom.

Sophie Willan

Yeah.

James Acaster

If anything, that might come in handy if you're drowning. It floats.

Sophie Willan

Yeah, it would actually.

Sophie Willan

You could float for a bit, couldn't you?

James Acaster

Get enough of them. Get enough of them, make a door.

Sophie Willan

And then it starts to sog and then you'd be fucked. Oh no.



James Acaster

Yeah, you would be fucked.

Sophie Willan

Yeah.

Ed Gamble

Yeah, it'd be a very different end to the film Titanic.

James Acaster

Oh yeah.

Ed Gamble

Yeah, if she was on a massive popadom.

Sophie Willan

Yeah, if she was on a big popadom, you probably would have got on it with her, wouldn't you?

Ed Gamble

Yeah.

Sophie Willan

She could have given him some room, you know.

Ed Gamble

But if it was a popadom, she could have snapped off a bit and then he could have got on that bit.

Sophie Willan

Or eaten a bit whilst you're there. Yeah. Why not?

James Acaster

Be nice while you're waiting for the life boats or whatever.

Ed Gamble

So bread is more fun than popadoms?

Sophie Willan

I think so. And more practical.

Ed Gamble

Practical?

James Acaster

Practical?



James Acaster

What are you using it for?

Sophie Willan

Well, no, I don't mean I'm going to make a boat out of everything, I think it just keeps you going longer, doesn't it, than a popadom?

Ed Gamble

I guess it fills you up more.

Sophie Willan

Fills you up, yes.

James Acaster

It does. Yeah, yeah. Which is often people's main fear when they come to this podcast. Oh, if I eat bread, I'm going to fill up for the main, but you're like, no, this is great.

Sophie Willan

No, no. Enjoy yourself. Treat yourself to a nice slice of bread. They make crumpet bread. Yeah. Green Olshires Bolton Pastry Shop. They make crumpet bread. So it's a loaf of crumpet and sliced crumpet.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

That's a great idea.

Sophie Willan

It's very good. Very, very good. If you're a bit ill, a bit run down, a slice of crumpet bread.

Ed Gamble

I'm noticing a bit of a theme here, Sophie. A lot of the things you're picking so far, or you're talking about, you're always feeling a bit ill and then you get something to make yourself feel better.

Sophie Willan

Maybe it's just I eat for medicinal purposes. I don't know. But I think it's because the North is cold. You need fattening up, don't you?

Ed Gamble

At the moment, the way you're talking about the North, I'm imagining Game of Thrones.

Sophie Willan

Yeah, I think you should. People say, oh, cosmopolitan, or we'll look like that. But really, they're lying. Everyone's still trying to make fire, speaking in only vowels.



James Acaster

This crumpet bread sounds amazing.

Sophie Willan

Yeah.

James Acaster

It's the size of a normal loaf of bread. So they slice it for you? You slice it when you get home.

Sophie Willan

They slice it for you.

James Acaster

And then you can put that in the toaster?

Sophie Willan

Pop it in the toaster.

James Acaster

Yeah.

Sophie Willan

And it's got a lovely texture to it, because it's obviously like a crumpet, but it's also a loaf. I mean, it's just brilliant, really.

Ed Gamble

Would you ever use it to make a sandwich? So do you get two slices of crumpet loaf and put stuff in between?

Sophie Willan

You can't have it as a sandwich because it has to be toasted. It's like a crumpet. It's weird. You could have a toasted sandwich. I've never done that.

James Acaster

You could toast them and then...

Sophie Willan

You could toast them Yeah all right. Toasted sandwich. But that's a toasty, isn't it? Do you say toasted sandwich?

Ed Gamble

I would say for me, toasty is short of a toasted sandwich.



Sophie Willan

Right.

James Acaster

I wouldn't say that.

Ed Gamble

What would you say?

James Acaster

I would say a toasty is one of those things that's made with proper toasty maker. So it's almost sealed around the outside, for me is a toasty. A toasted sandwich is just the two bits of toast with filling.

Sophie Willan

I think you're right, actually. It's good to clarify. I used to have one of them brevilles and the triangle and, oof.

Ed Gamble

We got one a couple of years ago. Still got one knocking around our house. It is a treat and you do use it more often than you'd think if you've got it in the house because why not?

Sophie Willan

Yeah.

Ed Gamble

Just, you know, put a bit of cheese in there and then you get that pocket of, I mean, unmanageably hot filling once you've done that. But I don't think you could do that with the crumpet bread, could you? Because of holes.

Sophie Willan

Yeah, you'd get a lot. It'd be quite a pickle. It'd be a messy business, actually.

James Acaster

It wouldn't work in the brevile.

Sophie Willan

No.

James Acaster

You couldn't brevile a crumpet. No, no.

Sophie Willan

Yeah. You need to do it in the toaster. It's a whole procedure.



James Acaster

When you had the breville, did you have some signatures? Do you have some gotos that you would make?

Sophie Willan

Just cheese and ham. That was often my cheese and ham.

Ed Gamble

Classic.

Sophie Willan

Really good. But now you've said about the toaster, I think I would invest in one.

Ed Gamble

Yeah.

Sophie Willan

Because it's just great for lunch, that, isn't it?

Ed Gamble

It's so good. Or just like a little snack when you get in after a night out. That's really fun as well.

Sophie Willan

I feel like we're on QVC. This is what a breville can do.

James Acaster

We've gone quite QVC on this episode. I think we've advertised a few things.

Ed Gamble

Order now and you get a free palette knife.

James Acaster

Oh yeah. That sounds good.

Ed Gamble

Yeah, it's good for, with the breville, sometimes if any cheese escapes, you have to leave it to cool down and then you can just chip away what's left on. Because otherwise it's a nightmare to clean.

Sophie Willan

Yeah.

Ed Gamble

You don't want to be cleaning it while it's still hot.



Sophie Willan

No.

James Acaster

Oh, Benito is showing us a crumpet loaf.

Sophie Willan

Oh, crumpet loaf. Yeah, that's it.

Ed Gamble

That is good. It's more loaflike than I imagined it would be. Because when you said the crumpet loaf and you take slices off, I was like, so essentially that's just a long crumpet.

James Acaster

Big wobbly loaf.

Sophie Willan

It's very different, isn't it?

Ed Gamble

But it is different, but it's got the properties of a crumpet, but very much in a loaf format.

Sophie Willan

Yeah. So you get in the best of both.

Ed Gamble

Yeah. You really are.

Sophie Willan

Better than the bread best of both. They should have that instead. Yeah.

Ed Gamble

So is that the dream bread that you want for your dream meal, the crumpet loaf, or is there any other bread that supersedes it?

James Acaster

I think they want you to pick that. The listeners are all hoping you pick it.

Sophie Willan

All right. I'll go with crumpet bread. Yeah. I'll have crumpet loaf.

Ed Gamble

Fantastic.



James Acaster

And butter on it?

Sophie Willan

Has to be. No margarine.

James Acaster

In your house growing up, was it margarine or butter?

Sophie Willan

Always butter. Yeah, never any margarine.

James Acaster

We had margarine growing up.

Sophie Willan

Did you?

Ed Gamble

Yeah, we had marge as well.

Sophie Willan

Did you? Horrible taste.

Ed Gamble

Horrible taste, but I didn't know any different. And then when you discover you can just have butter in the fridge and keep going back for it, what a joy that is.

James Acaster

Yeah.

Ed Gamble

What a joy to work out you're a grown up, you can just have butter whenever you like. So good.

Sophie Willan

Fabulous. It's just nice to discover things, isn't it, when you get older, that you can do yourself.

Ed Gamble

Yeah. And then you go absolutely crazy on it for about five years and then realize you do have to hold back and the people restraining you from that initially were actually doing you good.

Sophie Willan

Yeah. It's like learning.



James Acaster

What other things were you like that you just discovered when you're older that you can just have whenever you want that you just went for?

Sophie Willan

Nutella.

James Acaster

Yeah.

Sophie Willan

Yeah. I used to love it when I was a kid, actually, but you were only allowed one spoon.

James Acaster

Yeah.

Sophie Willan

Whereas now, no one can stop you. You can have a whole jar. It's quite nice, isn't it, being an adult?

Ed Gamble

Yeah.

Sophie Willan

You can do what you want.

James Acaster

Have you seen that? Have you seen the video online of the guy who eats the whole jar of Nutella?

Sophie Willan

No.

James Acaster

Yeah. He just like, you know, they speed it up, so you're not watching it in real time.

Sophie Willan

Yeah.

James Acaster

But he just sits down, eats the whole jar of Nutella, then at the end says, 'I just ate a whole jar of Nutella. What did you do today?'. And then that's the end of the video.

Ed Gamble

How far do you think you could get through a jar of Nutella if you were eating it like a big yogurt?



Sophie Willan

Probably half an hour.

Ed Gamble

Well, you could get through the whole- Oh, my question was how far could you get through the jar? And you've gone with half an hour.

James Acaster

That's a different question.

Sophie Willan

Oh I see. Yeah, yeah.

James Acaster

I guess, I guess it still answers the question.

Ed Gamble

It still answers the question. The whole jar.

James Acaster

The whole jar.

Sophie Willan

And I'm talking that middle one, not the big, not the big one. The one that you get a free glass at the end of it. Which is always a bonus.

James Acaster

You can rinse that, use it again. I could definitely, whatever it is, I could eat all of it. I'm just not doing that because I've been made to feel like I shouldn't be.

Ed Gamble

Preconditioned.

James Acaster

But yeah, when you're talking about realizing you can do whatever you want, absolutely. When I realized I can just go buy a Ben and Jerry's whenever I like and eat the whole thing, that was very liberating. But now I'm having to really make sure I don't eat the whole tub of Ben and Jerry's. Because I could do.

Sophie Willan

Then you become your own parent finally, don't you?

James Acaster

Yeah. I don't know. I don't love that. But you don't have to do it.



Ed Gamble

The problem with Ben and Jerry's is, or any ice cream carton, you think, oh, I've only had half that carton. But you're doing it on the measurement of down to the bottom. And what you're not taking into account is it gets wider. So what you've actually probably done is three quarters because you've only left that much at the bottom. And then you're like, fuck it. I'll just eat the rest of it.

James Acaster

Yeah, may as well. What's the point? You just leave it there.

Sophie Willan

It's almost offensive, isn't it, to leave a little bit.

Ed Gamble

Leave a little bit. And then you've got to remember you're going to come back to that in the future. Or I'll have some ice cream. And you realize that past you's just left a spoonful, absolutely livid.

Sophie Willan

You'd be furious with past you, wouldn't you?

Ed Gamble

Furious with past me.

James Acaster

I am like, oh, I forgot I've got that ice cream in there. See it. What the fuck? What was I thinking? I've patted myself on the back in the past for being such a good boy. Well done for not eating the whole tub. There's literally a pebble in there left of it. Well, you get to your proper menu now.

So your dream starter. And by the way, it's off to a lovely start. The crumpet bread. I already want crumpets.

Sophie Willan

Oh, that's good.

James Acaster

Now. So like, that's nice. Good start to the menu.

Sophie Willan

Well, I have gone down in Northern stereotype here with all of it, really, I think. But it's because I do think Lancashire have some really great carb based things. Potato cakes.

James Acaster

Yeah.



Sophie Willan

But, you know, not the ones you get in a supermarket, the packet with fresh, homemade potato cakes. You get from Ye Olde Pastry Shop, Green Olde Shares. They're absolutely beautiful. And you put them in the toaster and they're nice and crispy on top, very soft in the middle with loads of butter. And then you stab little holes in it and it melts through. And it's just fabulous. And then I put a little bit of salt and pepper on top.

Ed Gamble

Now, that sounds absolutely delicious. To me, it seems like you've created another crumpet.

Sophie Willan

It's not a crumpet.

Ed Gamble

Yeah but you've put holes in it.

James Acaster

It's like a potato crumpet.

Sophie Willan

I see what you mean actually.

Ed Gamble

You've toasted it as well.

James Acaster

I think you got it from the same place.

Sophie Willan

No, it's from Lancashire. Get a potato cake.

James Acaster

But you got it from whatever was called, Green something.

Sophie Willan

Well, that's because they do the best ones. Yeah. Ye Olde Pasty Shoppe. And I feel like a lot of mine are this base.

Ed Gamble

But that's great. This is your dream menu. This is what we want to hear about. I mean, it does sound absolutely delicious.

Sophie Willan

They are delicious. Let's read about the potato cake. It'll sound better.



James Acaster

It sounds good.

Ed Gamble

But I don't think I've ever had them like proper fresh.

Sophie Willan

It's almost like suet pastry. It's that soft. You know, it's lovely. It's almost like a dumpling.

Ed Gamble

It's proper hearty and filling.

James Acaster

So we appear to be on Potato Cake Wikipedia. It's a name given to various shaped potato dishes around the world, including a patty of hashed potatoes, a fried patty of mashed potato, a fried and battered slice. I mean, there's a lot of different types. In Northern England and some states in Australia, a thin slice of potato that is battered and deep fried may be called a potato scallop.

Sophie Willan

Scallops are all right, but that's not what that is. I feel I need to get on this page and correct them.

James Acaster

Now that it's going on about hash browns as well, it's really not being...

Sophie Willan

Who is this guy? Let's find his name. I feel he's chaotic. Let's tell him now, you're chaotic. You need to go back to the drawing board and do some corrections. Who is it who's written it?

James Acaster

I don't know who's written it. You thought that's what I was about to say. I'd found the person who wrote the Wikipedia. It says Scottish tattie scones and Lancashire potato cakes are made from mashed or reconstituted potato and flour and baked on a griddle. They are typically served fried with a full Scottish or English breakfast.

Sophie Willan

That's it. Yeah, that's a proper one.

Ed Gamble

So you want one of those from this bakery that you also got the crumpet bread from?

Sophie Willan

Well, either that or Ye Olde Pasty shop.

Ed Gamble

Ye Olde Pasty.



Sophie Willan

Which again do the best pasties in the world. I really feel strongly about this. It's been going this business for hundreds of years.

Ed Gamble

You'd hope so if it's called Ye Olde Pasty, right?

Sophie Willan

Ye Olde, yeah. It's in an old Tudor building. It's a listed building in Bolton. So obviously that's been there a long time. And then this pastry business has been going like two hundred and something years. It's called Ye Olde Pasty Shop. The queue goes round the road. It's run at the moment by a woman in her eighties called Mary. She's fabulous. And she's actually got a sculpture of Alma in the window of it. She tried to give me and I was like, oh no, it's great here. Because what do you do with the sculpture of yourself? It's weird. Anyway, she's brilliant, Mary. She's been there years. She's had all sorts. Every time you go in, she goes, oh, Ringo Starr's daughter has been ordering pastys. That's true. She gets them shipped over to Paris, I think she's in. Peter Kay obviously comes in. He parks outside. He won't come out. She comes out for him and brings him loads of pastys. Every time I go, she makes me a pasty with my name on it. It says Sophie on it. It's a really big one. But then she insists that we do a photo shoot. So she gets out this little red carpet and the banner, and I have to hold the pasty like I'm winning a BAFTA.

James Acaster

Yeah. Which you have to be fair.

Sophie Willan

But the pasty is more impressive.

James Acaster

But I say you're qualified to say that it's like winning a BAFTA.

Ed Gamble

Yeah, exactly. Do you have to queue now?

Sophie Willan

I always queue anyway.

Ed Gamble

Even though there's a sculptor of you in the front window, you're still queuing.

Sophie Willan

If you don't queue, you end up chatting to her for like 50 minutes. She's like, 'Sophie, come round the back, come round the back'. And then I sit there with a cup of tea and we go through every ailment.

Ed Gamble

Yours, by the sound of it.



James Acaster

What food remedies each one.

Sophie Willan

But she's quite wild. We went to this charity gig together. She was the first one up to suggest a conga. You know, last one on the dance floor. But anyway, the pastries are brilliant. I'll just tell you about the cheese one. Very thin pastry. You've never known anything like it. It's soft and thin. And then the middle is pureed, is it? Potato, onion and cheese. And then it's just a delicacy. There's no pastys like it.

Ed Gamble

I really want a pasty now. I've not had pasty ages.

James Acaster

I've not eaten today. That's why I'm realising. Every food that you describe, I'm going to have that after the record. I'm going to have a crumpet. No actually I'm going to have a pasty.

Sophie Willan

Well, I'll have to send you some down ye olds.

James Acaster

No, we'll make the trip.

Ed Gamble

I'll walk there.

James Acaster

I'll walk there. I won't pull a Peter Kay and stay in my car.

Ed Gamble

Probably not in Bolton now. He's probably more popular in Bolton than you are.

James Acaster

Peter Kay?

Ed Gamble

Yeah, yeah, probably.

Sophie Willan

Possibly.

James Acaster

He ain't been on Taskmaster. So all that sounds great as well, but you want the potato cake from there or from the other place?



Sophie Willan

Well, do you know what? I think I'll just say in general, we've got a ye olde pasty shop. We'd get a potato cake and a pasty.

Ed Gamble

Look, you could have a little, a potato cake and a pasty for the starter, I think.

James Acaster

Yeah, if you want a ye olde pasty shop-

Sophie Willan

It's going to be very carb of this, isn't it? We're going to be knackered, actually.

James Acaster

Are we eating it as well?

Ed Gamble

Are we with you at the dream meal?

Sophie Willan

Well, yeah, I thought so.

Ed Gamble

Yeah, well, look, we're very, very happy to come with you, but sometimes people don't want us to be there. Some people want to be alone. Some people want to have family members there, loved ones.

Sophie Willan

No, you've just said two things I don't want. Alone or with family.

Ed Gamble

All right, we'll come along, because I do want to try that pasty desperately.

Sophie Willan

Fabulous. It's always nice to take people who have not had one. So on Alma, when we were filming the second series, I know that at 11 o'clock I get hungry, because you set up at a.m. They feed you at like, what, 8 a.m. And then often you don't get food till like 3 p.m. And you don't want to be the difficult diva asking when lunch is, but you can feel that you just... So I thought what I'm going to do is I'm going to make sure I've got my elevensies. So I have my driver, Chris, who I had a specific one, so he's my one. And I gave him a kitty for the two months we were filming. And every day in his little bag, he had a special warming bag for me. He would bring me two pastys, a meat and potato and a cheese potato from Your Pasty Shop. But then all the crew were like, oh, that looks good. So I was like, what do you want one next? Before I knew it, I was getting 60 pastys a day, costing me an absolute fortune. We'd stop at 11 and go, cheese and potato this side, meat and potato. And it was just mad, you know, chaos. Everyone had a pasty by the end. We were all put on loads of weight together.



Ed Gamble

I absolutely love that you're like, well, you don't want to seem like a diva. So I send my driver with a special warming bag.

Sophie Willan

I know it's mixed messages, but you have to do these things.

Ed Gamble

But then if you're buying them for everyone else then as well, you've nailed that.

Sophie Willan

You bring it back around then, don't you?

Ed Gamble

But then surely that's taken up so much time sorting all the pasties out that you may as well just move lunch earlier.

Sophie Willan

Well, no, because Chris is on it.

Ed Gamble

Chris is on it. Chris fucking knackered by the end of it dragging sacks of pasties behind him.

James Acaster

Is he filling the car with them?

Sophie Willan

Well, he came on as, what did they call him? Because he got a good fee. He got a really good fee. In fact, I sent a lot of emails making sure he got paid for going above and beyond. He's not just a driver, he's more like my therapist. He's lovely. And he got a new kitchen. So he did all right.

Ed Gamble

He did alright. Unfortunately, he can't use it because it's just full of fucking pasties.

James Acaster

So we're doing the Ye Olde Pasty Shop tasting menu as your start.

Sophie Willan

That's good. Yeah, I like that.

James Acaster

And one of each pasty. A meat and potato, a cheese and potato.



Sophie Willan

Yeah, kind of, you know, pastry tapas.

Ed Gamble

Tapastry.

Sophie Willan

Yeah, I love that.

James Acaster

Your dream main course.

Sophie Willan

Well, obviously, I'm gonna go steak pudding, chips, peas and gravy.

Ed Gamble

Obviously.

Sophie Willan

Yeah, I think so, because I've gone down this northern stereotype, and I just took it with it. It is my favourite meal. It's delicious. You know, a steak pudding?

James Acaster

Yes.

Sophie Willan

You've had one?

James Acaster

The Dome.

Sophie Willan

Yeah, it's like a, you know, not a pie, a suet pastry steamed with steak and kidney and gravy in the middle.

Ed Gamble

Tip it out.

Sophie Willan

Tip them over. Yeah, love them.

Ed Gamble

It's so good. It's proper, like warming.



Sophie Willan

Really joyful food.

Ed Gamble

Hearty comfort food. Yeah, delicious.

Sophie Willan

Yeah.

Ed Gamble

Full of gravy.

Sophie Willan

Full of gravy, and then you add gravy on top and then your mushy peas as you side with the go with it, your mushy peas and your red cabbage. Lovely.

James Acaster

Yeah, does sound good. I mean, I really should have eaten before coming here. This is like, this is way too much, but like I find delicious every now and again, you go to a pub, normally like a chain pub and you really want- You get some bad ones, don't you?

Sophie Willan

Yeah, I would never order it from somewhere that's not a chippy. But in Bolton, you get the best of both because they've got a place called Olympus Chippy, which has a restaurant and it's a chip shop, but a proper chippy chippy. But the restaurant's really weird because it's got a piano and a pianist. And he's in his eighties and everyone else is in their eighties. You can order beers as well. Bit like something out of Cocoon slash David Lynch film. It's really...

Ed Gamble

Can I ask you a question? Is everyone in Bolton in their eighties?

Sophie Willan

Well, just maybe where I went as a child. I don't know. I mean, I lived with my grandmother for a while. So maybe...

Ed Gamble

She was in her eighties, I take it.

Sophie Willan

No, she wasn't in her eighties then, but I suppose she would be in her seventies now.

Ed Gamble

Yeah.



Sophie Willan

But I suppose it's because it's a daytime restaurant.

Ed Gamble

I like the sound of this place though. Everyone's in their eighties and there's an year old pianist.

Sophie Willan

Yeah.

James Acaster

What's he playing?

Sophie Willan

Well, he plays all sorts. When I was last there, he was playing from Brief Encounter. You know, the... What's that? (sings theme) What is it?

James Acaster

I don't know, I have not seen Brief Encounter.

Sophie Willan

Have you not? Celia Johnson?

James Acaster

No I've not seen it.

Sophie Willan

Oh my God. Right, yeah, well, you need to do that then.

James Acaster

Yeah, I need to do that. So I know what he was playing at the chip shop.

Sophie Willan

And just, because it's a bloody great film. Noel Coward.

Ed Gamble

Would you sit in, quite often, to have the Olympus Chip, or do you mainly take out?

Sophie Willan

I sit in. I took me driver, Chris, as a treat, on one of our lunches we went there as a nice treat. We had a Prosecco at lunch as well. We thought, sod it, we're coming to the end of the filming.

Ed Gamble

Nice.



Sophie Willan

Let's have a chippy and a Prosecco. And it was around Christmas at that point. So playing some Christmas tunes. And there was actually a big staff do, I forgot about that, in the corner, which was quite intense. A lot of women were, 'Will you play this for me, love?'. It ruined the ambiance.

Ed Gamble

What were they requesting from the pianist?

Sophie Willan

Just things like, you know, just Christmas songs.

Ed Gamble

Right, okay.

Sophie Willan

Nothing too-

Ed Gamble

They were requesting Snoop Dogg or anything like that.

Sophie Willan

No, that would have been good, wouldn't it?

James Acaster

So would it be from there, Olympus Chippy?

Sophie Willan

I think it would, yeah.

Ed Gamble

So it's the pudding, mushy peas, chips.

Sophie Willan

Yeah.

Ed Gamble

Red cabbage.

Sophie Willan

Red cabbage.

Ed Gamble

And do they do red cabbage at Olympus Chippy?



Sophie Willan

Yeah.

Ed Gamble

Do they?

Sophie Willan

I love red cabbage.

Ed Gamble

You see, that doesn't feel like a normal thing to have on a Chippy menu.

Sophie Willan

Yeah, I think it could- Cause it's quite the sort of Northern thing, isn't it? Bonfire Nights, you have red cabbage. But have you ever had black peas? They're delicious, salty. They're like in a kind of, you get them on Bonfire Night in a cup and they're quite liquidy. So it's more, and you can sip it. It's a bit like a cup of soup, but it's black peas and it's really salty. It's delicious.

James Acaster

What do you mean it's black peas? So what, it's like mushy peas?

Sophie Willan

No, it's not peas. They're called black peas. They're like a, they're a different type of pea.

Ed Gamble

But they are peas, cause you just said they're not peas there.

Sophie Willan

No, but they're not like green peas.

James Acaster

Yeah, they're not garden peas.

Sophie Willan

They're not garden peas.

James Acaster

They're black eyed peas or they're...

Sophie Willan

Let's find out cause I don't know.



Ed Gamble

Okay, so maybe black eyed peas, pigeon peas. You would have a cup of these and drink it like a coffee?

James Acaster

There's a carrot in there, a stick of celery in there, an onion in there.

Sophie Willan

Wow, they're lovely as well. Yeah, I've gone off now.

James Acaster

No, no, it's good to know. Cause like, look, I'll be honest. I'm quite envious a lot of the time of like Northern identity and like that cause I'm from Kettering where we don't really have much of an identity.

Sophie Willan

No, I actually met someone who knows you. This is weird. I was having a massage. It was already weird. And she said, 'Oh, right. So what do you do?' I said, 'Oh, I do comedy.' 'Oh, yes. I went to school with James', but he went on for ages. I was stuck then for 50minutes. I've had to listen to all these anecdotes whilst having a massage.

James Acaster

Yeah. Was that relaxing?

Sophie Willan

Not really. No. It seems like you were a nice lad at school.

James Acaster

Yeah. Was it all positive stories?

Sophie Willan

Yeah.

James Acaster

What was their name? Can you remember who it was?

Sophie Willan

Don't fucking remember. I can't really remember a face. I mean, I mainly saw her feet and heard about you.

Ed Gamble

Sure. Can you describe her feet? Maybe James will remember.

Sophie Willan

She had nice pumps on.



Ed Gamble

Can you think of anyone who might have nice pumps on and who maybe showed signs at school of liking going around rubbing people's shoulders and stuff.

James Acaster

Well, that's good. Where was this? London?

Sophie Willan

No, Kettering.

James Acaster

You went to Kettering and had a massage?

Sophie Willan

Yeah. It's near Nantwich, isn't it? Or where was that? Yeah, it was definitely, it was near Kettering.

James Acaster

Okay, well, it's near Kettering. You went to a spa and got a massage. Well.

Ed Gamble

I think if you go to anywhere near Kettering or in Kettering, most people will have been to school with James.

Sophie Willan

Yeah.

Ed Gamble

Or at least know him. He's a local character.

Sophie Willan

Yeah. Have you got a sculpture in your local chippy though?

James Acaster

No, actually. I used to live around the back of a chippy. So Nick's Fish and Chip Shop in Kettering, which I've shouted out on the podcast before. And I've been there, I went there maybe last year, and they were like telling me loads of stories about me as a kid, which I don't know if it was me. I think they got me confused with another local child. And now they've made it me in the head maybe. But like, yeah, I would have thought there's something. Yeah, I used to go there quite a bit.

Sophie Willan

I'd demand it next time you get back.

Ed Gamble

Where's my sculpture?



Sophie Willan

Where's my sculpture?

James Acaster

Where's my sculpture?

Ed Gamble

Or go and sit outside it in your car and make them bring your fish and chips.

James Acaster

Oh yeah, I haven't tried that yet. Yeah, that'd be great.

Sophie Willan

That's a good one.

James Acaster

Get Nick himself to bring me the fish and chips.

Ed Gamble

You are the Peter Kay of catering, I would say.

James Acaster

So yeah, this sounds great. And what I was saying is I just like, I think when I meet people from the North who have such a strong identity that's connected to the North, I just think, I wish I had that. And you clearly enjoy it as well, that you've got this like...

Sophie Willan

I do and then I also find it irritating with myself. Like, oh, here we go again. Oh, Sophie, come on, you know. But then at the same time, I just do feel really passionately about Lancashire food. So it was quite tricky thinking, be nice to step away from the Mike Leigh anecdotes, but it's quite hard sometimes. Maybe in a few years, you know, I'll have more food to talk about.

Ed Gamble

Yeah, but I think if the more you're not home, when you have a strong connection to it, the more that food draws you back and...

Sophie Willan

Yeah, it's the only thing that draws me back.

Ed Gamble

It just gives you a strong connection to where you're from, right?



Ed Gamble

Whereas, I grew up in London, so when I'm traveling, I'm like, what am I going to have?

Sophie Willan

You could have anything. That's the great thing about London, isn't it?

Ed Gamble

Well, I love- When I'm away from London, I just love connecting with my hometown by having a series of small plates.

James Acaster

Your dream side dish Sophie.

Ed Gamble

Because obviously you've got things all included in the main that could be considered side dishes, but this is good because now you can have a little bonus thing on the side. You know, if you wanted to, you seem quite annoyed that you're sticking to the Northern cuisine, you could throw in a curve ball.

Sophie Willan

Bobin as a cheeky curve. You know what I mean?

James Acaster

Yeah, but aren't you going to like, if you do throw something in that isn't Lancashire, isn't that going to annoy you on the way home? You'll be like ugh.

Sophie Willan

Is it not thematic with the dishes?

James Acaster

You might not want it, but I was just doing that to seem-

Sophie Willan

To seem more sophisticated.

James Acaster

I didn't want that really.

Sophie Willan

Yeah. What would I want on the side with all that that's going on? Because there's a lot in there.

Ed Gamble

Shot of tequila rose. That might help settle the stomach.



Sophie Willan

Yeah, I'll have that to settle my stomach, if I'm allowed.

James Acaster

Yeah, of course you're allowed.

Sophie Willan

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

James Acaster

You want to settle your stomach with a little bottle of little shot of tequila rose. You can have that.

Sophie Willan

A shot, not a bottle.

James Acaster

A shot, yeah. Not a full bottle of it. How long do you think it would take you to drink a bottle of tequila rose?

Sophie Willan

I think three hours and death, probably.

James Acaster

But longer than a Nutella.

Sophie Willan

Yeah.

James Acaster

And just to be clear, black peas aren't on this menu, even though you said that.

Sophie Willan

No, I just threw them at you.

James Acaster

So you wouldn't just like chuck them in as the side dish?

Sophie Willan

I will chuck them in as a side dish, because they are lovely.

James Acaster

Yeah, because I think the tequila rose doesn't seem like a... I think that's just a given that you're going to need that.



Ed Gamble

Yeah. We'll throw that in anyway.

James Acaster

Yeah, I think the black peas should be your side.

Sophie Willan

I agree, because they're lovely.

James Acaster

You mentioned earlier, you clearly really liked them.

Sophie Willan

Yeah.

James Acaster

And you have them on when, Bonfire Night?

Sophie Willan

Bonfire Night.

James Acaster

Is that like your way of sticking it to Guy Fawkes?

Sophie Willan

Yeah, maybe. I do love Bonfire Night, though. It's a lovely celebratory. It's my favorite time of year, that.

James Acaster

What do you think of Guy Fawkes?

Sophie Willan

Well, he did all right, didn't he?

Ed Gamble

Not really.

Sophie Willan

I don't know. I don't know much about him, really.

Ed Gamble

He got caught, and then they tore him apart.

Sophie Willan

Oh, yeah.



James Acaster

Cut his dick off.

Sophie Willan

But he tried something, didn't he? You can't knock him for trying.

James Acaster

Yeah.

Sophie Willan

You know, he tried to be rebellious. He put it out there. Yeah.

Ed Gamble

He gave it a go.

Sophie Willan

He gave it a really good whirl, and then it didn't work, but got other people thinking.

Ed Gamble

He very much took the approach that you're taking to the press for Alma's Not Normal, which is, he was caught, and he went, I tried my best.

James Acaster

You can't get me for that. Tried my best, gave it all I had. And he got other people thinking about what?

Sophie Willan

Well, rebelling against feudalism. You know, so it was, was it?

Ed Gamble

Well, he tried to blow up the houses of parliament.

Sophie Willan

Oh, that was it, yeah. Yeah, no, it was, yeah.

Ed Gamble

Then they chopped his dick off.

Sophie Willan

They chopped his dick off?

James Acaster

That was the first thing they did.



Sophie Willan

Oh, that's horrible. That's mean. Yeah, brutal and painful.

James Acaster

It seems unnecessary to immediately chop his dick off.

Sophie Willan

It's a horrible way to die, I'd imagine that. Not nice. Not nice. Poor thing. But at least he stood for something.

Ed Gamble

Yeah, even though you're not quite sure what it was.

Sophie Willan

I know, I feel awful, because I should know, but I know it's a rebellious, he did something rebellious. He was saying, you know, he was the Sex Pistols of the time.

James Acaster

That Sex Pistols gig was there in Manchester, where like not many people showed up to it.

Ed Gamble

Free trade hall.

Sophie Willan

Oh, I don't know.

Ed Gamble

Yeah.

James Acaster

But everyone who was there went on to form a band and do something. So I guess he was like that.

Sophie Willan

Yeah.

James Acaster

Everyone who liked Guy Fawkes at the time, maybe went on to do something.

Ed Gamble

I don't think they did. I think they probably went, well, I'm not doing that. They chopped his dick off.

James Acaster

They chopped his dick off.



Sophie Willan

Yeah. That's a shame, isn't it?

Ed Gamble

It is a shame, yeah.

James Acaster

Well, your dream drink, then?

Sophie Willan

I always find this a tricky one, because I like most things for different moods. If it's a hot day, I love a beer or a gin and tonic. If it's a wintery day, you want a lovely red wine. You know, if it's a celebration, a champagne. But I suppose if, you know, this is the biggest celebration, I'd go champagne.

Ed Gamble

Nice. Because this doesn't feel, you say, on a hot day or on a cold winter's day, the meal, to me, doesn't scream hot day.

Sophie Willan

No.

Ed Gamble

I don't think if could eat that on a hot day.

Sophie Willan

A fizzy vimto goes perfectly.

Ed Gamble

Does it?

Sophie Willan

Yeah, with that thing.

Sophie Willan

If you go into the chippy, that's normally what you'd order, isn't it?

James Acaster

Stake pudding.

Sophie Willan

Dandelion and burdock or a fizzy vimto. And I've never been a Dandelion and burdock fan, so maybe it'd be fizzy vimto / champagne.



James Acaster

Yeah. Well, you know, we've let people do various hacks on this podcast before, including like choosing drinks for each course. So you can still have the fizzy vimto with that main course, and your dream drink can be champagne.

Sophie Willan

Yeah.

James Acaster

You know.

Sophie Willan

Yeah. Or a margarita. No, I'm going margarita. I love a margarita.

James Acaster

Yep. Tequila margarita?

Sophie Willan

Yeah. Just well, the normal one with the salt around the rim. Not Tommy, not the one on the rocks. I don't want that. I want a proper, lovely glass.

Ed Gamble

Yeah.

Sophie Willan

And then I would need a tequila rose just for the acid reflux that comes afterwards.

Ed Gamble

That's funny, isn't it? That tequila is going to give you acid reflux. So you have a different sort of tequila to sort it out.

Sophie Willan

Exactly.

Ed Gamble

So if you're having a margarita, is there any particular place that you love to go for a margarita that does like the best margarita?

Sophie Willan

There's a place in Majorca. My granddad lives out there and it's really beautiful. It used to be a hotel for boats to come and stay, but they didn't make any money out of that.

James Acaster

Like a Disney film.



Sophie Willan

Yeah, a bit, but then it was like, well, everyone could stay on their boat. So clearly that's not going to work. So they made no money. So they had to open it up as a cocktail bar. But it's set out beautifully. You can see the sunrise. They do great tequilas and margaritas. Fabulous.

Ed Gamble

I think what James was thrown by was you saying, 'It's a hotel that boats could come and stay'. So he was imagining the boats being like the film Cars and they go to the hotel and they have a sleep.

Sophie Willan

Oh, I missed that bit. You bring the boat to the hotel and then the people get off and stay in the hotel.

James Acaster

Yeah got you.

Ed Gamble

It's a hotel with boat parking.

James Acaster

Not where boats can come and stay. I mean, I still like the thought of a boat hotel, so I was against it when you suggested it.

Ed Gamble

A boatel.

James Acaster

A boatel. Yeah, of course. Of course. Every time someone says Mallorca, I think of Timmy Mallett. Every time people say Mallorca. When I was a kid.

Ed Gamble

Okay.

James Acaster

On Wackaday.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

There was a section of it for a while called Mallett in Mallorca. And it go, Mallett in Mallorca. And it was him, he'd gone to Mallorca for a bit. Timmy Mallett. And it was my first time ever hearing about Mallorca. So I didn't know what it was before then. So now every time I- When you said Mallorca just then, in my head, I thought Timmy Mallett.



Sophie Willan

Yeah.

James Acaster

Straight away.

Sophie Willan

Do you want to sing the tune every time?

James Acaster

Mallett in Mallorca. Yeah, I kind of do. In a way, Benito is good at googling that as well now, I think, because he knows he's going to get asked to do it. Yeah. So he might as well just get ahead of us. It is on the website. It is on Timmy Mallett's website. It's just, no, it just won't load. But it says Mallett in Mallorca.

Ed Gamble

We all trusted you. None of us thought you were lying about Mallett in Mallorca.

James Acaster

Yeah, but when it's like childhood memory, you start to doubt it yourself. As you're talking about it. And when no one else knows about it, you're like, oh, did that happen?

Sophie Willan

Yeah.

Ed Gamble

I think of Timmy Mallett every time I see someone wearing an Itsy Witsy Teeny Winny yellow polka dot bikini. Which is often.

James Acaster

Yeah.

Sophie Willan

Yeah, especially in Mallorca.

Ed Gamble

Yeah, especially in Mallorca. Near the boatel.

James Acaster

That's why he asks Benito to Google for him. Ed doesn't Google. He's like Peter Kay. He tells...

Ed Gamble

I sit in my car and get Benito to Google things.



James Acaster

Google, Itsy Bitsy Teeny Weenny yellow polka dot bikini, Benito.

Ed Gamble

And bring me the results.

James Acaster

I saw Timmy Mallett once at a festival, MacFest in Wales. He turned up.

Ed Gamble

What?

James Acaster

Yeah.

Sophie Willan

I didn't know he was still alive actually.

James Acaster

Yeah, he's alive.

Sophie Willan

Good to know.

James Acaster

He was, and here's the thing. He wasn't like intentionally going to the festival. He was on a massive bike ride and it has happened to go past. And then he saw there was a comedy festival and so he decided to stop for a bit and just had a little walk around. Only there for about half an hour. And then he went on his bike ride again. But I saw him in that time and was with Nathaniel Metcalf, who's the perfect person. He's like into all that era of television. So as soon as I saw Timmy Mallett, I was like, Nathaniel, is that Timmy Mallett over there putting his bike in a shed?

Sophie Willan

How random.

James Acaster

And we were pretty sure it was. And then eventually he posted a thing on his Instagram of just him outside the sign for Mach. Thumbs up in it. Looking pretty happy with himself.

Sophie Willan

Did he not fancy doing a bit?

James Acaster

No, straight through. It's not a bike ride.



Sophie Willan

Just whizzing through, yeah.

James Acaster

Yeah, imagine that.

Sophie Willan

Yeah.

James Acaster

That'd be nice to get to that point one day.

Sophie Willan

Yeah, well, people go, I saw James Acaster riding a bike for a comedy festival. That could happen.

James Acaster

Rode it right through. I saw that as I was in between, I went to see Oppenheimer and then I went to see Barbie on the same day. And as I was walking between cinemas, I went through Trafalgar Square. There was a busker playing, it was a guitar and a circle of people around him, watching him. And then right through the middle of the circle, right through the busker's patch on a bicycle, Owen Wilson. Just cycled right through it, head high. Everyone could see it was him.

Sophie Willan

Through the circle?

James Acaster

Just through it, through the busker's patch. There's a big circle. Right the way through the middle of it. Owen Wilson on a bicycle.

Ed Gamble

Yeah.

James Acaster

Carried on going through Trafalgar Square.

Sophie Willan

Did everyone go, oh, fuck, that's Owen Wilson?

James Acaster

Yeah, everyone was like stunned for a bit. And the busker had to carry on playing, but clearly in his eyes was like, did that just happen? You know, and we were, yeah, me and my friend were like, well, that's odd to see on Barbenheim a day.



Sophie Willan

Yeah, it'd be fun to do things like that if you were really famous. Just turn up in really weird places. Just freak people out in a fun way.

James Acaster

Where would you like?

Sophie Willan

I don't know. Just something like, you know, the freezer section of Iceland or something like that.

Ed Gamble

Well, get in the freezer and then like

Sophie Willan

Hold it to your fish fingers.

Ed Gamble

I imagine you getting into one of the freezer cabinets.

Sophie Willan

That'd be fun.

Ed Gamble

And like it all steaming over and then someone like rubs it to see what's inside and then it's just your face up in there.

Ed Gamble

Yeah, yeah. And you have to make that noise as well.

Sophie Willan

Yeah, or knocking on someone's door with their post.

Ed Gamble

Dressed as a post person.

Sophie Willan

Dressed as a postman.

Ed Gamble

Yeah.

Sophie Willan

You go, nice to meet you, Alex.



Sophie Willan

I'll then give them their post.

Ed Gamble

That'd be creepy, that one, I think.

Sophie Willan

It was a bit too much, yeah, too far.

James Acaster

Yeah, cause obviously Jason Manford did that during lockdown, didn't he? He was like delivering for Iceland. So he kind of did both of those suggestions. He was going around delivering people shopping for Iceland.

Sophie Willan

God, really, which is a nice idea. But you know, cause we're just talking like this, but in reality it would be a bit much, wouldn't it?

Ed Gamble

A bit, a bit much, especially maybe during the pandemic when there's a lot of stuff flying around your head and then you're like, I don't know how I'm supposed to react to Jason Manford being out here holding my fish fingers.

Sophie Willan

Yeah. I bet a lot of people loved him popping up at the door, though, cause it'd be local in the area.

James Acaster

Yeah.

Sophie Willan

In Manchester, wouldn't it?

James Acaster

But then I bet he would have been like, I can't stop and chat to all these people.

Sophie Willan

Well, you can't do selfies, can you, in a lockdown?

James Acaster

Yeah. So he would have delivered them.

Sophie Willan

And be like, don't touch me, but here's your fish fingers.



James Acaster

Yeah. Let's keep this boundary. But here's your stuff. Yeah, I don't know. I mean, that should have been what the pandemic was. It's just celebs delivering everyone's food.

Sophie Willan

Yeah, that would have been good, actually.

Ed Gamble

Everyone getting their Ben and Jerry's with a pebble left in it. James delivered this one.

Sophie Willan

Yeah.

James Acaster

Your dream dessert, Sophie Willan?

Sophie Willan

Well, I'd go bread and butter pudding.

James Acaster

Oh yeah.

Sophie Willan

Because I'm sticking with a very carb heavy theme here.

James Acaster

Yeah.

Sophie Willan

Love a bread and butter pudding. My granddad is a really good cook and he used to make bread and butter puddings when I was little.

James Acaster

Yeah.

Sophie Willan

So it's a nice memory there with that.

James Acaster

It is nice.

Sophie Willan

And it's just lovely.



James Acaster

Did he have any particular like, way of doing it?

Ed Gamble

A little signature twist?

Sophie Willan

Some you have with liquor in, don't you, or something? He did it like that and, but you weren't allowed to go near him in the kitchen. He's still like that now. If you go near, 'Get out, get out!' He's quite Gordon Ramsay with the Bolton accent and no neck. You know, he's just quite an intense personality.

Ed Gamble

So much respect for that though.

Sophie Willan

Yeah.

Ed Gamble

I'm like that when I'm cooking.

Sophie Willan

Are you?

Ed Gamble

Yeah, don't come near me.

Ed Gamble

I'm cooking so I don't have to talk to people.

Sophie Willan

Yeah. I think it's that, isn't it? And then also if you try and help, oh my God, everything you're doing is wrong. You've never felt more that you're a bad human being. So I just have to leave the vicinity. And then at the end I'll say like, do you want me involved in plates? And he's like, 'Get out!' So I'm like, fine. But I think especially if it's like, that's like his signature dish, right?

Ed Gamble

But I think especially if that's like his signature dish, right?

Sophie Willan

Yeah.

Ed Gamble

And that's what he's really good at. He's made it so many times before. He doesn't need help.



Sophie Willan

Doesn't need help. Well, he's good at everything, my Grandad, he's a really, really good cook.

Ed Gamble

Oh, fantastic.

Sophie Willan

He did cooking. He went down to London for six months and cooked in a restaurant in London. And then they moved back to Bolton. But for that six months, he was a saucier.

Ed Gamble

Oh, lovely.

Sophie Willan

I know.

James Acaster

Was he? Just did the sauces.

Sophie Willan

Yeah.

Sophie Willan

So he's very talented, but very grumpish. I just leave him to it. We get all this lovely food. You know, if you go visit him.

Ed Gamble

But the price you pay is sometimes you might get shouted at if you go into the kitchen.

Sophie Willan

Yeah, definitely.

Ed Gamble

Yeah.

James Acaster

I feel like we've had quite a few really good bread and butter pudding recipes on this podcast.

Ed Gamble

Yeah.



James Acaster

And now I want a bread and butter pudding as well. Here's what's going on in my head is that I remember that last time someone came on and they said their own bread and butter pudding recipe and it sounded easy and delicious. And I thought to myself, I'm gonna do that. And then I didn't do it. And now I've forgotten what the recipe was.

Ed Gamble

Was it the one with croissants in it?

James Acaster

Yeah, it must have been.

Ed Gamble

Yeah.

Sophie Willan

Croissants, that's really good. Another one you mean, they do a really good one in Cumbria with leftover croissants and different things. It's like, and raisins and that's delicious.

Ed Gamble

And you know what occurred to me when you said bread and butter pudding? Imagine making bread and butter pudding with the crumpet bread.

James Acaster

Oh, wow.

Sophie Willan

Bread and butter pudding with crumpet. That would be very good.

Ed Gamble

Cause that's soaking up anything you pour on it, right?

James Acaster

Whoa, mama.

Sophie Willan

Yeah, you've thrown something quite fabulous.

James Acaster

That would be good.

Sophie Willan

I think I'd do that then. Yeah. A bread and butter pudding with the crumpet bread.



James Acaster

Made by your granddad?

Sophie Willan

Made by granddad, but not in his vicinity.

Ed Gamble

How's he gonna react though, if you say, I want your bread and butter pudding, but can you replace it with crumpet bread? What's he gonna say to that?

James Acaster

Can you text him now?

Sophie Willan

God only knows. I could do. I could get him on FaceTime.

James Acaster

FaceTime him now and pitch it to him.

Sophie Willan

Yeah, I don't think he'd be going for it.

James Acaster

No?

Sophie Willan

Do you want me to phone him?

James Acaster

You can do.

Ed Gamble

Yeah, you can do.

James Acaster

You can do it. Just see what he thinks of the suggestions. I don't want...

Sophie Willan

He might be dead confused. Like, what, where are you?

James Acaster

Yeah.



Ed Gamble

Oh, he almost certainly will be.

James Acaster

Tell him he's on Off Menu.

Sophie Willan

He was quite shocked to see himself pop up on Taskmaster. He never answers the calls, but let's give him a call. GDog.

James Acaster

Is that what he is in your phone? GDog.

Sophie Willan

GDog.

James Acaster

Yeah, cool.

Sophie Willan

He won't answer.

Ed Gamble

Come on, GDog.

Sophie Willan

Come on, GDog.

James Acaster

It's worth it just to find out that your granddad saved his GDog in your phone, to be fair.

Sophie Willan

I could try Maggie May, his wife.

Ed Gamble

GDog and Maggie May. And they live in Majorca, right?

Sophie Willan

They live in Majorca. They've been there years, like 25 years now.

James Acaster

Maggie May, try Maggie May now.



Sophie Willan

Come on, Maggie.

Ed Gamble

Because Maggie might know if you'd be up for doing the crumpet bread, bread and butter pudding.

James Acaster

See if they remember Malett in Majorca.

Sophie Willan

Yeah, I'll ask. Not gonna happen.

James Acaster

What time is it in Majorca?

Sophie Willan

Oh, hello. Maggie? Oh, you there? Listen, I'm live on the podcast. I need to speak to granddad.

Ed Gamble and James Acaster

Not live.

Sophie Willan

No, we're not live, but to him he is. Hello, granddad.

GDog

Hi There.

Sophie Willan

I just want to ask you about bread and butter pudding. The best way to make it.

GDog

Bread and butter pudding?

Sophie Willan

Yeah.

GDog

Let's think, bread, butter, white bread, butter, full cream milk.

Sophie Willan

Yeah. Well, how would you feel if I put crumpet bread in it?

GDog

Not very- It won't work.



Sophie Willan

Why would it not work?

GDog

Because it's too spongy, that. You want sliced white bread.

Sophie Willan

Right.

Sophie Willan

All right, thanks granddad. I love you.

GDog

Don't forget the currants and the raisins.

Sophie Willan

I won't forget the currants and the raisins. This is why I couldn't cook with them because it'd be over your shoulder.

James Acaster

I like all of this detail.

Sophie Willan

This is James, this is Ed, this is Ben. They're doing a food podcast and I was telling them about your culinary skills, but how you're also quite sss in the kitchen.

GDog

I'm just doing it now, the culinary skills.

Sophie Willan

What are you doing?

GDog

Jointed roast chicken on peppers, potatoes, red onions, garlic.

James Acaster

Delicious.

GDog

Rosemary, veg.

Ed Gamble

That sounds absolutely delicious.



Sophie Willan

Yeah, they're a lot more impressed with your recipes than what I've done for the past hour.

GDog

Small potatoes.

Ed Gamble

Beautiful.

Sophie Willan

Yeah, he's very good. I better go, granddad. Love you.

GDog

Love you too.

Sophie Willan

See you soon. Speak to you soon. Adios. Hasta luego. Right.

Ed Gamble

Love that, love him.

Sophie Willan

He definitely did a lot better on this than I did.

James Acaster

Yeah, we'll have him on another episode. Yeah. So I think we've got to not do the crumpet bread then.

Ed Gamble

The expert GDog's told us it's not a good idea.

James Acaster

Yeah. It won't work.

Sophie Willan

He did seem quite already a bit pissed off. We don't do that.

Ed Gamble

My favorite bit was you saying, how'd you make your bread and butter pudding? What do you need? And you went, 'Well, bread.'

Sophie Willan

Yeah.



James Acaster

He went, let's see.

Sophie Willan

Let's see, bread.

James Acaster

Butter. Well, that was before he knew you were on a podcast.

Sophie Willan

Yeah.

James Acaster

It was absolutely trashing you. I'm gonna read your menu back to you now, see how you feel about it. You want sparkling water.

Sophie Willan

Yeah.

James Acaster

You would like the crumpet loaf with butter from?

Sophie Willan

Greenhalgh's.

James Acaster

Starter, you want a potato cake from Ye Old Pasty Shop with the cheese and potato pasty and the meat and potato pasty.

Ed Gamble

Yeah, a selection.

James Acaster

Tapas. Main course, the steak pudding and chips and mushy peas, red cabbage and gravy from Olympus Chippy with a fizzy vimto. Side dish, black peas. Drink, you would like a margarita from Mallorca, from the Boatel in Mallorca. And on the side, you want the tequila rosé there.

Sophie Willan

Great.

James Acaster

And dessert, you want bread and butter pudding made by your granddad without crumpet loaf.

Sophie Willan

Yeah, and without being in his vicinity.



James Acaster

Yeah, yeah, while being completely as far away from him as possible. That sounds great.

Ed Gamble

So delicious.

Sophie Willan

Fabulous.

Ed Gamble

And yeah, it's also, I'd say, it'd have to be a cold day for me to eat that. And I would have to hibernate after that for about six months.

Sophie Willan

So a lot of carbs there, isn't there?

Ed Gamble

That's big, heavy, serious stuff.

James Acaster

Yeah, yeah. You're not messing around.

Sophie Willan

Not leaving the couch.

Ed Gamble

No, no way.

James Acaster

The tequila rose is doing a lot of work.

Ed Gamble

And also, God bless, I'm going to be farting a lot after that.

Sophie Willan

Yeah, it's better to be alone, actually, maybe.

Ed Gamble

Think so. But you don't want to be alone.

Sophie Willan

I don't want to be alone. Have the meal together and then leave.



Ed Gamble

And the meal could be outside, maybe.

Sophie Willan

Yeah.

James Acaster

Peter Kay could be outside.

Sophie Willan

Brilliant. We're getting in Peter Kay's car.

Ed Gamble

Yeah.

Sophie Willan

And then go with him.

Ed Gamble

Oh, he'd be absolutely gutted if we all got in his car after eating that.

James Acaster

Yeah, he'd hate it. Do the old, what's it, the car share?

Sophie Willan

Yeah. Yeah, wee.

Ed Gamble

An episode of car share where everyone's just farting the whole time.

Sophie Willan

Yeah.

James Acaster

That'd be good. He hasn't done that for car shares. Pulled up outside the pasty shop and stayed in his car and ordered a- Is that why he stays in the car, do you think? Is he filming an episode?

Sophie Willan

Maybe that's it.

James Acaster

That's a whole new series.



Sophie Willan

Can't get out, we're on the clock.

Ed Gamble

Yeah. Sophie, thank you so much for coming to The Dream Restaurant.

Sophie Willan

Thanks for having me.

James Acaster

Thank you, Sophie.

Sophie Willan

It's been fabulous.

Ed Gamble

Sophie Willan there with a cameo.

James Acaster

Is that recording?

Ed Gamble

Okay.

James Acaster

It's red when it records.

Ed Gamble

Yeah.

James Acaster

I thought it was green.

Ed Gamble

No. Did we record that episode? Were you looking at it and it was green and you thought we were recording?

James Acaster

I don't know, man.

Ed Gamble

Oh man.



James Acaster

I just thought red meant stop.

Ed Gamble

Yeah, but it also means record, doesn't it? Like on an old tape player, it's a red circle, isn't it?

James Acaster

Yeah. That's true.

Ed Gamble

That's true. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

James Acaster

You're bang to rights.

Ed Gamble

Well, look, great to speak to Sophie Willan with a wonderful guest rap from GDog.

James Acaster

Loved it from GDog.

Ed Gamble

Little feature.

James Acaster

And Maggie May.

Ed Gamble

And Maggie May, don't forget.

James Acaster

Thanks for picking up, Maggie May.

Ed Gamble

Thank you, Maggie May. Thank you, GDog. Thank you to Sophie Willan. Thank you for not saying trifle. Although we have bread and butter pudding. It's not a million miles away from trifle.

James Acaster

Sure.

James Acaster

Yeah, it's layered. It's a layered dessert.



Ed Gamble

It's like a traditional British dessert. And it was quite a traditional northern menu, as Sophie said. It was very traditionally British, it felt. So trifle would have rounded that off lovely.

James Acaster

Oh yeah. We could have been headed there.

Ed Gamble

We could have been headed there and it would have been awful to kick out Sophie. And then we never would have spoken to GDog and Maggie May.

James Acaster

Yeah. So, you know, thank you, Sophie.

Ed Gamble

Yeah. And obviously James, you went on a bit of a wander through your brain there when bread and butter pudding was brought up. Cause we've had three fantastic bread and butter puddings in the past on this show. We've had CMAT's Christmas bread and butter pudding, which sounded amazing. Ainsley Harriot chose Gary Rhodes' bread and butter pudding. And of course, Peter Capaldi chose a Panettone bread and butter pudding. Although I think if he suggested that's a GDog, GDog is laughing in his face because, I mean, if crumpets are soaking it up too much, too spongy, Panettone is definitely too spongy.

James Acaster

Well, I'll tell you what, as we're recording this, I've got five dates left on my tour and then I'm kicking them out for the rest of the year.

Ed Gamble

Yeah.

James Acaster

I'll happily make those four bread and butter puddings.

Ed Gamble

Yeah.

James Acaster

Before New Year's Eve.

Ed Gamble

And you promise, will you take photos of them?

James Acaster

I promise.



Ed Gamble

A little video and then Ben can put it on the off menu social media.

James Acaster

I promise.

Ed Gamble

In the bath, eat them in the bath.

James Acaster

I will not eat them in the bath. I didn't agree to that when I said I promise. You got to eat your popadom sandwich in the bath and then I'll eat the bread and butter puddings in the bath.

Ed Gamble

I'll do my poppadum sandwich in the bath when you do the four different bread and butter puddings in the bath.

James Acaster

Forget it. You just say no again.

Ed Gamble

Well, if you want to back out the agreement.

James Acaster

Well, you're the one backing out the agreement. You backed out the first agreement.

Ed Gamble

I'm saying, I will do it if you do what you've agreed, which is eat four different bread and butter puddings in the bath.

James Acaster

I know that you will back out the agreement. I will do it and then you will back out. I am going to film myself making them and I'm going to eat them and I'm going to say which is the best of the four. So I'm going to make Gary Rhodes' one.

Ed Gamble

Yeah.

James Acaster

I'm going to make CMAT's one, which is a Nigella recipe. I'm going to make Peter Capaldi's Panettone one.

Ed Gamble

Yeah.



James Acaster

And I'll make GDog's one.

Ed Gamble

Okay. And are you going to make each one, then have a bath for each one or are you

James Acaster

I'm not having a bath.

Ed Gamble

All in the bath.

James Acaster

I'm not having a bath. That's you.

Ed Gamble

Dirty boy, not having a bath. Gross.

James Acaster

That is you have a bath with your poppadom sandwich.

Ed Gamble

Why don't you have baths?

James Acaster

I do have baths normally. What? This is like arguing with a kid in school.

Ed Gamble

I'm a pleasure to live with. So if you want to watch James have a bath live, come to the London Palladium in March next year.

James Acaster

I'm not going to have a bath live.

Ed Gamble

Like Tim Key. There's going to be a bath on stage. James is going to have a bath. He's going to eat four different bread and butter puddings. So remember tickets go on general sale on Friday. If you're listening to this on the day it comes out, happy new series, by the way, or the presale is tomorrow at 10 a.m. But you'll find out about that if you join the mailing list, offmenu.podcast.co.uk for details on that.

James Acaster

Watch Alma's Not Normal Series 1 on iPlayer and get ready for Series 2 coming soon.



Ed Gamble

Get ready for James in the Bath.

James Acaster

I'm not going to be in the bath.

Ed Gamble

We'll see you next week for Episode 2 of this most recent series, which is a number.

James Acaster

Goodbye.

Ed Gamble

12? It's Series 12. Of course it is. I knew that off the top of my head. Bye Bye.

James Acaster

So you want to press stop now. It's going to go green.

Ed Gamble

Yeah.