



# Off Menu – Ep 254 – Michelle de Swarte

## Ed Gamble

Welcome to the Off Menu Podcast, taking the prawn of conversation, dunking it in the tempura batter of humor, frying it in the oil of the internet until you get a light and crispy podcast batter.

## James Acaster

That is Ed Gamble, my name is James Acaster, we own a dream restaurant, and every single week, we invite in a guest, and 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 Michelle de Swarte

## Ed Gamble

Michelle de Swarte is an absolutely fantastic standup comedian. She acts as well, James, she writes. She's a multi hyphenate, she used to be a model. She's done it all. Her new series, Spent, is out now on BBC Two, and I'd imagine you can get it on the iPlayer as well.

## James Acaster

Yeah, watch it on both.

## Ed Gamble

Very excited to talk to Michelle about food and what she enjoys. Always liking with Michelle, she is a genuinely brilliant standup comic. She has so many bits that I love, her scented candle bit particularly. Yeah, it's very, very funny.

## James Acaster

Should we perform it now?

## Ed Gamble

No.

## James Acaster

Also, even though we like Michelle, if she says the secret ingredient, an ingredient which we deem to be unacceptable, we will have to kick her out of the dream restaurant. I'm sorry.

## Ed Gamble

I'm sorry. That's just how it's going to go. But I mean, good luck. She's very authoritative.

## James Acaster

Yeah, yeah. I don't know.

## Ed Gamble

She's going to be the alpha today.



**James Acaster**

Really?

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah, yeah, yeah 100%.

**James Acaster**

I'll try. I'm going to try and stick up for myself.

**Ed Gamble**

Do you think you've ever been the alpha in any situation, James? And I say this as someone who probably hasn't either.

**James Acaster**

Yeah, like I feel like every episode of this I am, no?

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah, that's true actually. In your head, you're the alpha and that's all that matters.

**James Acaster**

Yeah, I think that's my whole, if people look at my whole career, they go, go, in his head is the alpha.

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah

**James Acaster**

Which is all that, that means you are the alpha.

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah, that's all that matters really.

**James Acaster**

I think that means you are the alpha.

**Ed Gamble**

So unfortunately, we might have to try and kick Michelle out if she says the secret ingredient, which we have pre decided upon. And we're going with calling it just the shredded white stuff.

**James Acaster**

Shredded white stuff.

**Ed Gamble**

You sometimes get in like a box of sushi.



**James Acaster**

In a box of sushi.

**Ed Gamble**

A box of sushi, yeah. It's to pad it out, I think. I don't know if you're supposed to eat it. It's very tasteless. Sometimes I'll, if I'm, you know, no one's watching, I'll dip it in soy sauce and eat it, but then really I'm just eating soy sauce on some shredded up daikon, I think it is. And I don't mind daikon when it's supposed to be eaten when it's prepared, but when it's just like shredded in sushi, it's getting in the way, man.

**James Acaster**

Yeah, I've had it before and other things. It's nice shredded daikon, daikon alley.

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah.

**James Acaster**

Disgusting.

**Ed Gamble**

Disgusting, absolutely disgusting. So, if Michelle says shredded daikon, she is leaving the dream restaurant.

**James Acaster**

I wonder, I wonder if Michelle will say shredded daikon.

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah, I don't know, man. We'll have to find out.

**James Acaster**

Remember in Willow, did you watch Willow when you were a kid? The film Willow.

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah, I think I did watch Willow when I was a kid.

**James Acaster**

Very cool. I watched it like loads, it's one of the films I watched the most as a kid. I watched it all the time.

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah.

**James Acaster**

And they've called humans daikinis.



**Ed Gamble**

Yeah.

**James Acaster**

And yeah, we used to call each other that.

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah.

**James Acaster**

Me and my brother and sister.

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah, little did you know you were talking about a Japanese radish.

**James Acaster**

Yeah, I didn't know that one day I would hate them. But yeah, and I remember the brownie, like little the brownies, these like tiny, like burrowers. And he's taunting, he's like, 'I stole the baby from you daikini while you were having a pee pee.' And we thought that was so funny .

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah. But now you love brownies and you hate daikini. You hate daikini

**James Acaster**

Yeah, exactly, I love eating a brownie

**Ed Gamble**

So will Michelle say that? It's doubtful, but let's chat to her anyway. Looking forward to this one. This is the Off Menu menu of Michelle de Swarte.

Welcome, Michelle, to the Dream Restaurant

**Michelle de Swarte**

Hiya.

**James Acaster**

Welcome, Michelle de Swarte, to the Dream Restaurant. We've been expecting you for some time.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Thanks

**Ed Gamble**

You look absolutely overawed to be in the Dream Restaurant .



**Michelle de Swarte**

I am, yeah, I'm very happy to be here. Slight, slight energy shift.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, there is, absolutely, yeah, yeah.

**James Acaster**

We went from a chat and then went into this

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah, we have quite, I mean, a lot of podcasts are quite chill, and they wanna be like a sort of regular conversation. What we like to do is shout in our guest's face and put them on edge immediately.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah, I'm into it, energizing.

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah.

**James Acaster**

Well, you've had quite the morning, you lost your AirPods case.

**Michelle de Swarte**

I didn't lose them, I just put the AirPods in and left the case .

**James Acaster**

But that's like throwing you off, fair to say?

**Michelle de Swarte**

It is, yeah, but the thing is I do it a lot. And then I've got two sets of AirPods, and I'll just then I'll pick up the other case and I won't have the pods in it. And yeah, it's a vibe, keeps me on my toes.

**James Acaster**

Why have you got two pairs of AirPods?

**Michelle de Swarte**

Because I got given a pair for free for some promotional BS and so I'm constantly, you know, not charging up the right one.

**James Acaster**

You promoting airpods?



**Michelle de Swarte**

No, I got them from like Warner Brothers. I was doing some like, I did a show ages ago, and then it was like, we were still sort of in lockdown, but not really. And they were just like, we want to do this meeting, but we want to make sure everything is set up for you. So they sent me a light, they sent me AirPods, and they sent me a mic, and they sent me everything.

**Ed Gamble**

You should have asked for more. You'd be like, 'I don't have a flat, I need a laptop'.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah, I should have

**James Acaster**

If Warner brothers are sending out stuff. If one of us are listening, I'd love to have a meeting. Have a meeting with you, send me a bunch of stuff. That'd be great. Have you had a meeting with Warner Brothers, Ed?

**Ed Gamble**

Probably. We've all had those pointless meetings, haven't we?

**James Acaster**

Yeah.

**Michelle de Swarte**

I remember you telling me that you went out to LA and just had loads of really good meetings

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah, yeah, yeah. Loads of good meetings

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah, amazing meetings.

**James Acaster**

It's cool to hear what Ed says to other acts who I've not met .

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah

**James Acaster**

Because me and Michelle met for the first time.

**Michelle de Swarte**

No, we've met before.



**James Acaster**

We haven't met before.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah, we have.

**James Acaster**

I haven't met you.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah, we have. We've met- Do you want me to tell you where? You did Clapham Grand. That's where we met, actually.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, yeah, yeah.

**James Acaster**

Bullshit. I've never met you.

**Michelle de Swarte**

We met at Clapham Grand. Yeah, and we met there probably about a year ago. And I said that I feel like you are the sort of person that like, if- I love Seinfeld, right? And I feel like if there was an episode of Seinfeld where like Kramer was really worried about his cousin coming from England and he didn't think he had anything in common with him. And then the cousin turned up and it was you. And he spent the whole episode being like, 'I just can't relate to him'. And Jerry and George and everyone else was like, 'what do you mean? It's like, that's you. You are the, he's the British you'.

**Ed Gamble**

That is perfect, perfect casting for a start. And an absolutely bang on Seinfeld storyline.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah.

**Ed Gamble**

That would totally happen.

**Michelle de Swarte**

He was also wearing a funky shirt. And then you did, cause we just met, you went, why would you say this to me when I'm about to go on stage? And then that was our meeting.

**James Acaster**

I remember meeting you now.



**Michelle de Swarte**

I said, 'Have a good set.

**Ed Gamble**

The last thing you want to do is a stand up

**James Acaster**

I remember this now.

**Ed Gamble**

You don't want to be compared to Kramer before you go on and do a stand up.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Not Kramer, Kramer's long lost cousin .

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah, but still, that's what's in your head, right?

**James Acaster**

You're about to walk on. And someone who used to be a professional model goes, "you look like Kramer", and then you walk on.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah. Have a good set, doing new material. You're going to crush it

**James Acaster**

Yeah

**Michelle de Swarte**

I'm going to stay and watch. I'm a big fan.

**James Acaster**

Yeah.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Do you know what as well? I think you went straight on stage and then dropped your mic.

**James Acaster**

Yeah.

**James Acaster**

So yeah, it was vibes.





**Ed Gamble**

Deliberately, or?

**Michelle de Swarte**

No, in Kramer fashion. Coming through the door. Yeah, he went to catch it and dropped it,.

**James Acaster**

It got in my head.

**Michelle de Swarte**

It was wicked.

**James Acaster**

Yeah, yeah, yeah. I definitely went on, yeah, threw it in the air.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah, and dropped it.

**James Acaster**

Tried to catch it, dropped it.

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah.

**James Acaster**

Started my set.

**Ed Gamble**

So how do you not remember that you've met Michelle before, because this sounds quite eventful.

**James Acaster**

Yeah, I know. Well, clearly what had happened is I'd just got to the venue just in time. I was about to go on. Someone I'd never met absolutely got in my head. I went on and dropped my mic. My brain has clearly tried to wipe this from my mind.

**Michelle de Swarte**

You know what? When I watched it, I went, see, that's a proper Kramer move, that. That's proper.

**James Acaster**

Yeah. Yeah, yeah. I mean, that didn't help

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah.



**James Acaster**

Probably didn't help me figure out if I could just drop the mic just like Kramer. Actually, that's not what Kramer would do on stage, and I'm glad.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah, thank God.

**James Acaster**

I didn't go that way .

**Michelle de Swarte**

Well, this is why I said long lost cousin, long lost cousin.

**James Acaster**

Yeah, yeah .

**Ed Gamble**

That's why I was hinting at earlier, but I just thought I'd let it ride out.

**James Acaster**

Yeah. How did you do at that gig? I got there late.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Oh, it was all right. I was a little bit like, I was in a bit of a weird head space last year because I was writing the show, but I was still at gigs. But so I was like writing in the day and then tanking in night.

**James Acaster**

You were writing Spent.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yes, yes.

**James Acaster**

Your series on BBC, right?

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah, BBC Two.

**James Acaster**

Exciting. What can you tell the listeners about it?

**Michelle de Swarte**

Please watch it.



**Ed Gamble**

Keeping it mysterious. I like that.

**James Acaster**

Very proud about the fictitious Seinfeld storyline, but when it comes to your own real life sitcom, absolutely cards to the vest.

**Michelle de Swarte**

It's a drama comedy about Mia, who's like a model whose career is over and she's like, moved back to London, she's homeless, but she's trying to front it out like she isn't, but she's got all these sort of airs and graces and bougie ways, and so comedy ensues.

**James Acaster**

How much is drawn from your real life?

**Michelle de Swarte**

Very loosely, very loosely, loosely.

**Ed Gamble**

But you were a model, right?

**Michelle de Swarte**

I was a model, and I did move back here in 2019 with a fuck all to show for my years of fashion.

**Ed Gamble**

So quite a lot's gone into it.

**James Acaster**

Yeah, I think it sounds pretty much exactly.

**Ed Gamble**

Is there an episode where you meet a standup comedian who looks a lot like Kramer?

**Michelle de Swarte**

No.

**Ed Gamble**

Maybe, and you get in his head and he drops a microphone? Season two, yeah.

**James Acaster**

If anyone else gets that part, I'm gonna be gutted.

**Ed Gamble**

Please give it to Kramer .



**James Acaster**

Also, we have a description here of the show, and very rare that a description of a show in 2024 has the phrase highfalutin in it. It says, she may have a highfalutin attitude.

**Ed Gamble**

Wow.

**James Acaster**

That makes me want to watch the show immediately.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Does it?

**James Acaster**

If there's language like that knocking around.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah.

**James Acaster**

Highfalutin.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Is highfalutin up there with like zanies? Just in one of them words, you don't hear loads, but like you should.

**Ed Gamble**

Highfalutin to me, I imagine like a cowboy saying it or like someone in the old west being like, highfalutin. 'You come around here with your highfalutin attitude '. Like that.

**James Acaster**

Foghorn Leghorn.

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah, season two. If you want to put an American character into it.

**James Acaster**

Ed Gamble. Might have to change his name a little bit.

**Ed Gamble**

A woman from the old west.

**James Acaster**

Ed's American cousin.



**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah.

**Ed Gamble**

That's good. You could just get loads of comedians playing their own cousins.

**Michelle de Swarte**

I like this.

**James Acaster**

Now you are the first professional model we've had on the podcast and it's a food podcast. So it's quite exciting because we haven't heard someone from that world talk about food. How much, when you're a professional model, are you thinking about what you're eating every day?

**Michelle de Swarte**

Do you know what? I mean, I haven't modeled for nearly a decade now, but a lot.

**James Acaster**

Yeah

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah. Do you know what I mean? Because you can't say that's all you're thinking about. And also like you would do shows, like in, let's say you're in Milan, right? And you're doing Versace. And you're at the Versace house in Milan and they have this amazing spread. And this is like, when I was modeling it was before like the body positivity movement. So you were just, you know what I mean? Two eyeballs floating around. They would do this massive spread and you couldn't touch it. And it was like, it was like some fucked up psychological torture cause you were like hungry. But if you went near the table, someone would look at you like, you really gonna do that? And you'd think, no, I'm not. And you just put the tiny block of cheese back down. And blow back to your sheer dress, hanging up, smoke some fags.

**Ed Gamble**

That does sound like hell. Why would they put it out there?

**James Acaster**

Why would they lay it all out?

**Michelle de Swarte**

Because they want to give the illusion that you can eat

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah.

**Michelle de Swarte**

But you can't really.



**Ed Gamble**

They want to show that they're like, they're like looking after you and putting a spread on and stuff. But the secret rule is no one's eating.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah.

**James Acaster**

It's like how like here about companies who say like, you know what? You can all just go home whenever you like today. And then it's like, 'Oh, going home at four o'clock, are you?'.

**Michelle de Swarte**

'We've got a games room', No, you don't, do you?

**James Acaster**

Yeah. If anyone goes in the games room, they're fired.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah.

**James Acaster**

Yeah. I guess legally they would have to feed you.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah. I mean, you'd sometimes you'd do jobs and they wouldn't feed you at all. And you'd just be, you know, some model would like bring out a couple of fluffy raisins from her pocket and everyone would huzzle around and be like, give me one. Yeah.

**James Acaster**

Have you seen Triangle of Sadness?

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah, spot on.

**James Acaster**

Yeah? How do you think you'd do on the island?

**Ed Gamble**

Are we jumping straight to the island?

**James Acaster**

For people who don't know



**Ed Gamble**

Quite a lot happens in between.

**James Acaster**

What?

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah.

**James Acaster**

We always start with still a spark in water, Michelle.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Oh, is that enough? I thought you was going to give it to me.

**Ed Gamble**

Well, there is some still water.

**James Acaster**

We're going to give you none of this.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Right.

**Ed Gamble**

You'll get none of this. This is like even worse than being at the Versace house. We're going to make you talk about the food and you can't even see it.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Oh no, that's about right. Okay, cool. I mean, I'd have tap water, but I do like sparking water, but I'm trying to sort of phase it out. It erodes your teeth apparently

**Ed Gamble**

I've heard this, but that can't be true, can it?

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah, it's true.

**Ed Gamble**

Well, it erodes your teeth like acid?



**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah.

**Ed Gamble**

Then why aren't they using it in like construction and stuff? Why aren't they pouring-

**Michelle de Swarte**

Because they could just use acid.

**Ed Gamble**

It's cheaper. Evian's, you know, sparkling.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Sparkling water?

**Ed Gamble**

Perrier, if you want to demolish a building. Just pour a Pellegrino around the foundations of a building. You could probably destroy it. Yeah, you know?

**James Acaster**

That's cheaper.

**Michelle de Swarte**

I'd say tap water, please.

**James Acaster**

Which tap?

**Michelle de Swarte**

Well, hot, obviously. Yeah, keep it fun and exciting. No, I'd say tap water if I was like having a dinner. Do you know what I mean? Yeah, still

**James Acaster**

I actually don't know what you mean.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Well, still water, please.

**James Acaster**

But do you want tap or still?

**Michelle de Swarte**

Still water from a bottle, please.





**James Acaster**

Ah, from a bottle.

**Ed Gamble**

Do you have a preferred brand? And don't worry about sounding highfalutin.

**Michelle de Swarte**

No, a glass bottle is nice though. It tastes different, doesn't it?

**Ed Gamble**

It's a lovely thing. It feels fancy having a glass bottle.

**Michelle de Swarte**

It does, right?

**Ed Gamble**

The weight of the glass bottle

**Michelle de Swarte**

But just the water tastes different, doesn't it?

**James Acaster**

Tastes better.

**Ed Gamble**

It does taste better. How do you feel about the new revolution with canned water?

**Michelle de Swarte**

Takes a bit of getting used to.

**Ed Gamble**

It does.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah, but I think there's something nice about being at a festival and having a can that looks like a beer and feeling like you're participating, but you're drinking water.

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah, and you've got a secret that you're actually hydrating.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah.



**Ed Gamble**

Being like, hey, we're all friends, aren't we? And then in the back of mind thinking, 'Your skin is going to look fucked up tomorrow', to all your friends

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. One's like, 'We should we have another one?' You're like, 'Yeah, wool!'

**James Acaster**

I don't like liquid death.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Do you not? Do you not like the concept or do you not like the taste?

**James Acaster**

The taste is fine, but the branding and stuff, I'm like, what are we doing here?

**Michelle de Swarte**

It's to trick the kids into drinking water. It's pretty genius. That's what all the Gen Z's love. They can't get enough of it.

**Ed Gamble**

Well, then call me Gen Z because I love liquid death. It's obviously the branding is so up my street.

**James Acaster**

Yeah, he loves metal.

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah, it's perfect. And they do a sparkling one with lime, a lime flavored sparkling one, which is so good. I love it. And I like that it's the size of cans of lager.

**James Acaster**

Shall we go near that?

**Ed Gamble**

You don't want to go near that?

**James Acaster**

It's sparkling and it's got lime in it.

**Michelle de Swarte**

When you start going into like, yes, but you know, like a hint of, I'm like, just have a Coke.



**Ed Gamble**

No, I don't mind it. I need more than a hint, I'll be honest, fruit wise, in sparkling water, because sometimes, my wife brought back a can of La Croix the other day.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah, that's decent.

**Ed Gamble**

No, it's not. There's not enough of this. That's a hint. That's like someone's just whispered the word raspberry into some water.

**Michelle de Swarte**

But it sounds like you just want like a soda, like a fizzy drink, like a Tango.

**Ed Gamble**

I do like Tango, yes. But I do also enjoy something that's clearly sparkling water, but with more than a hint or a whisper of the citrus.

**Michelle de Swarte**

You sound fun.

**Ed Gamble**

Look, I've got to get specific about these things.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah.

**Ed Gamble**

And sometimes the Tango is too much for me.

**James Acaster**

So what level are you talking?

**Ed Gamble**

More than a hint.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah.

**Ed Gamble**

Less than an implication.

**Michelle de Swarte**

A squeeze? Would you add your own like citrus, let's say? Would you add your own lemon?



**Ed Gamble**

I would do if I got time, but I'm a busy guy, you know? Sometimes it's good to just get it in the can already.

**Michelle de Swarte**

On the go.

**Ed Gamble**

Citrus on the go.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah.

**James Acaster**

What are you doing? You're not busy.

**Ed Gamble**

What? I'm busy.

**James Acaster**

What are you doing?

**Ed Gamble**

I'm doing a podcast right now. Do you think I've got time to squeeze a lemon right now? No, I'm talking to Michelle de Swarte.

**James Acaster**

That's a good point. I guess you've not got time to squeeze a lemon right now. Benito's just told us that we've been sent a load of liquid death.

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah, I'll be taking it home.

**James Acaster**

Ed will be taking it home. And I guess I should apologize. Sorry, liquid death, I didn't know you were so generous to us before I slugged you off. Poppadoms or bread? Poppadoms or bread, Michelle de Swarte? Poppadoms or bread?

**Michelle de Swarte**

I think I'll go for a poppadom.

**Ed Gamble**

You thought you were going to scare Michelle?



**James Acaster**

Yeah.

**Ed Gamble**

Honestly, after the first 15 minutes of conversation, you thought Michelle was going to be phased by anything you did?

**James Acaster**

Thought maybe I'd get her.

**Ed Gamble**

Absolutely not.

**James Acaster**

Absolutely, just- didn't even blink, just looked at me. Sorry.

**Michelle de Swarte**

I'll go for a poppadom. I'd get it if it's like a complimentary poppadom, yeah. Or I'd have bread, because that's spread in it, bread with butter? But poppadom's complimentary, yeah

**James Acaster**

Sorry, it's bread in it, bread with butter. What are you talking about?

**Michelle de Swarte**

Bread with butter, isn't it?

**James Acaster**

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah.

**James Acaster**

Fair enough.

**Michelle de Swarte**

If I was going to pay for it and order it, I would order bread, but if poppadom's came to the table complimentary, I'd be like, this is lovely, nice touch. Can I have all the dips, please?

**James Acaster**

In that case, do you want it that poppadom's with all the dips comes complimentary, but you can also buy bread and butter?



**Michelle de Swarte**

Those are my choices. And it's both of them depending on the situation.

**Ed Gamble**

Okay, we'll tell you the situation. You're not paying for this.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Oh, sweet. Can I have both?

**James Acaster**

Yeah.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Cool. Thank you.

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah

**James Acaster**

Yeah, yeah. You can. Yeah, you can have both.

**Ed Gamble**

Do you want us to, do you want loads of sort of new models in the corner when this is all being brought out, having to watch you eat all of it?

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah, yeah. Crush up all the poppadoms in my hand and then just chuck them at them. Make it rain bitches. Yeah. Soon you can start a life of comedy and eat whatever you want, but until then nom nom nom nom.

**Ed Gamble**

When you were screwing it up and throwing it at them, you went with 'make it rain bitches'. I was imagining you like feeding ducks.

**James Acaster**

Yeah

**Ed Gamble**

That's what I went with.

**Michelle de Swarte**

That's nice.



**Ed Gamble**

Yeah. Rather than make it rain bitches.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Cool.

**James Acaster**

I wouldn't imagine them, from what you said earlier about people gathering around the fluffy raisins. I think it'd be more like throwing it into like a cage of wasps, like just them going nuts, trying to eat it all out the sky.

**Ed Gamble**

A cage of wasps?

**James Acaster**

Yeah.

**Ed Gamble**

When have you ever seen a cage of wasps? I'll tell you what the problem is in terms of keeping wasps in a cage.

**Michelle de Swarte**

I thought you said cave and I was like proper. Cage, nah.

**Ed Gamble**

Can you foresee any problems with trying to keep wasps in a cage?

**James Acaster**

You didn't know how close the bars are to each other?

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah, it could be like a teabag, like perforated. It's like a perforated cave.

**Ed Gamble**

That's not a cage, is it? That's a tent.

**James Acaster**

This is like cheese wire, but they're so close together, so we can see into it, but the wasps can't get through it.

**Ed Gamble**

I think if we can see into it, the wasps can get through.



**James Acaster**

No way. They can't.

**Ed Gamble**

I think the cheese wire would have to be so close that it's basically a wall at that point or a fence.

**James Acaster**

Well, the poppadoms can get through it. The poppadom dust can.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Only the smallest fragments, but that's all you need to keep you going, just to tide you over.

**James Acaster**

Do you want a cage of wasps in the corner of your meal, your dream meal?

**Michelle de Swarte**

No, you're alright. Thanks.

**Ed Gamble**

Are you pro wasp, anti wasp or are you sort of neutral about wasps?

**Michelle de Swarte**

I don't mind them at all.

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah.

**Michelle de Swarte**

I just think be chill. I think it's like going somewhere and worrying about getting mugged. So if you do, you're going to get mugged. If you're walking down the road being like, 'I'm going to get mugged. I'm really worried about getting mugged'. You're going to get mugged. But if you just are chill, and that's how I think with wasps and bees, just be chill.

**James Acaster**

You ever been mugged?

**Michelle de Swarte**

No.

**James Acaster**

And you think that's because you've never worried about it?





**Michelle de Swarte**

No, I think it's because I've got an awareness of it, but I'm not fearful to the point of drawing attention to myself and thinking, is that person worried about getting mugged? They look like a great candidate for mugging.

**Ed Gamble**

You don't give off the mug me pheromones because, you know, muggers can smell that, can't they? They can smell the fear.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah.

**Ed Gamble**

Like wasps.

**James Acaster**

Just like wasps .

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah.

**James Acaster**

What's heavier, cage of muggers or cage of wasps?

**Michelle de Swarte**

We need an amount.

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah, we do need an amount of muggers and an amount of wasps.

**James Acaster**

Ten kilograms.

**Ed Gamble**

Well, they weigh the same.

**James Acaster**

It was a trick question.

Your dream started, Michelle.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Because it's my dream, right? So it would be a triple melon, lost Mary vape and a cup of coffee.



**Ed Gamble**

You can take the girl out of modeling.

**James Acaster**

Yeah.

**Michelle de Swarte**

We didn't have vapes in my day. I wish.

**James Acaster**

Rewind to earlier.

**Ed Gamble**

We did.

**James Acaster**

You say, 'I'm a stand up comedian, I can eat whatever you want.' What's your dream starter? A vape and a coffee.

**Ed Gamble**

That is fantastic. It's the first time that vape has been on anyone's dream menu.

**Michelle de Swarte**

I'm not a fan of a starter. Just bring me all the food. It actually does my head in. And if we're at a table and one person orders a starter, piss off. I don't even want to eat with you now because it's so inconsiderate.

**Ed Gamble**

If that was me, because I'd want to start it because I'm a starter boy. I love starters. And if I was at a table of people who didn't want to starter, I would order a starter, but I would ask for my starter to be brought with my main.

**Michelle de Swarte**

That gave me the itch, you know, saying that I'm a starter boy.

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah, yeah, no, it would do. Yeah, my wife says that. So yeah, I would ask for my starter to be brought with the main.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah, that's nice. That's considerate.

**Ed Gamble**

That's considerate. Would you want your vape to be brought with the main or would you?



**Michelle de Swarte**

No, I'd say if let's say I'm with you, a starter boy, I'd say you crack on with that.

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah.

**Michelle de Swarte**

And because you've been inconsiderate, I too am going to match that by vaping by you.

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah, yeah.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Eat your starter.

**Ed Gamble**

But then also I vape. So, you know, maybe I'd just have the same starter as you.

**James Acaster**

You wouldn't do that.

**Ed Gamble**

I wouldn't have triple melon, no.

**James Acaster**

But you would order a starter.

**Ed Gamble**

I would order a starter.

**James Acaster**

You wouldn't just go, yeah, I'll draw you with the vape. And you are now magically holding a vape as well.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah.

**James Acaster**

And it is the triple melon.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah, it is. Yeah.



**Ed Gamble**

And did you stick to that flavor or?

**Michelle de Swarte**

I just started again, because like I stopped, I've been hypnotized multiple times.

**James Acaster**

What?

**Michelle de Swarte**

So, I've just, yeah, I just, like, I just started vaping again in March and I was just going to do it for a little while, but I'm in proper now, so there's a shop at the end of my road that does five vapes for 20 pounds, so now I just go in there and I'm like, I was doing a sort of picker mix where I was like, I'll get a grape, I'll get a vimto one, I'll get a mango one, and now I'm like, just I'm having that, thank you.

**Ed Gamble**

Five triple melons.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah, five triple melons. Lets go.

**James Acaster**

Can we go back to you being hypnotized three times?

**Michelle de Swarte**

Well, maybe more actually

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah, you've forgotten some of them

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah, yeah, I've read the Alan Carr book, nah, and it does work.

**Ed Gamble**

Just how he got into comedy and stuff.

**Michelle de Swarte**

The no smoking book, they give up smoking forever and ever.

**James Acaster**

Alan Carr?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, he was a doctor called Alan Carr, and Alan Carr is the easy way to give up smoking.



**James Acaster**

Okay.

**Ed Gamble**

And not that, but also when someone brings up Alan Carr, the doctor who helps you give up smoking, it's a law that you then have to make a joke about Alan Carr, the comedian.

**James Acaster**

Yeah, I imagine. I'm glad I know that law now.

**Ed Gamble**

But I've got the audio book of Easy Way to Give Up Vaping, because I'm going to try and give up vaping, but they have just taken the smoking one and just replaced all of the words cigarette with vape.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah. I mean, there's the Easy Way to Stop Drinking and the Easy Way to Stop Eating Everything. It's the same thing.

**Ed Gamble**

There's a cocaine one as well, you know.

**James Acaster**

Is it?

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah. So I'd be interested to see what that one is just replacing.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah.

**James Acaster**

I mean, that's a bit more extreme.

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah.

**Michelle de Swarte**

I'm sure that's a book you can get through quickly.

**Ed Gamble**

Because the point of the Alan Carr books is you keep doing the thing while you're reading the book, right? They say at the beginning, don't try and stop straight away. Read the book.



**Michelle de Swarte**

And that's the appeal.

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Because you're like, great.

**Ed Gamble**

Especially as I'm listening to the audiobook, I've probably listened to one chapter in about two months.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Oh, really?

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah. Yeah. Taking it slow.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah, yeah, yeah. I've had days where I'm like, today is it. I'm just going to listen to that all day. And then like a packet of fags later, seven hours. I'm like, ah that worked.

**Ed Gamble**

Thank you, Alan. So triple melon and a coffee for the starter.

**James Acaster**

What are the melons?

**Michelle de Swarte**

Do you know what?

**James Acaster**

What kind of melons is it if it's triple melon?

**Michelle de Swarte**

Do you know what? I think it's just one melon three times.

**James Acaster**

It can't be. Michelle, come on. It can't be that in a vape.

**Michelle de Swarte**

I hadn't thought about it. But in my head, I just thought three melons, not three different melons, three of them.



**Ed Gamble**

So they pack three melons worth of flavor into one vape. Is that what it is?

**Michelle de Swarte**

Come on. If you had a double cheeseburger, you wouldn't be like, oh, what's the other burger? It's just another burger. This triple melon is three melons.

**Ed Gamble**

But I think at least you can see the burgers in a double cheeseburger, whereas that you can't see anything, right?

**Michelle de Swarte**

Use your imagination, Ed.

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah. So you're imagining three melons in there, are you?

**Michelle de Swarte**

I'm saying not one, pa pow, two more, melony. Why is it so hard to get your head around?

**James Acaster**

Because it is a vape, so therefore it's just one flavor. So like you just call it melon.

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah. That's a good point.

**James Acaster**

If it's a strong melon flavor, just call it melon. But if it's three different types of melon you've put into it, then fair enough, call it triple melon.

**Michelle de Swarte**

But then wouldn't it be like, I don't know, I'm feeling more of a tri melon or something. But triple melon, it's just like, it's just extra melon. It's two extra melons.

**Ed Gamble**

Well, yeah, I get both of your points. Triple melon does maybe it's like three X melon, like, you know, like triple strength melon.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Well, it is yellow and what's, is their melons this color? I guess it would be watermelon, a cantaloupe. Is it a cantaloupe?

**James Acaster**

Yeah.



**Ed Gamble**

Maybe

**Michelle de Swarte**

And what would that one be?

**James Acaster**

Honeydew.

**Ed Gamble**

Honeydew.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Honeydew.

**James Acaster**

That's the three melons you'd like in your vape?

**Ed Gamble**

Well, let's be honest, it doesn't taste of any of those melons anyway, right?

**Michelle de Swarte**

No.

**Ed Gamble**

It just tastes like chemicals. Yeah.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah. Delicious, delicious, sweet chemicals.

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah. They make you feel nice. What would you, James, if you vaped, what would be your flavor? Your dream flavor?

**James Acaster**

Thank you for asking. Bakewell pudding.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah.

**James Acaster**

I love a Bakewell pudding.





**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Do you eat the cherry on top?

**James Acaster**

That's a Bakewell tart.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Oh, is it a Bakewell tart?

**James Acaster**

That can fuck off.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Wait, what's a Bakewell pudding, then?

**James Acaster**

Yeah. You get it in Bakewell. It's like much more like still almondy, but custardy as well. It's pretty dirty. There's a secret ingredient in it.

**Ed Gamble**

There's no icing on the top either, is there?

**James Acaster**

No icing on the top. It's a proper pudding. Ed and I got one when we were on the run and Ed split it in half of his hands and we sat on a bench and ate it in the sun.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Really? What, just dry? Is there anything creamy in there?

**Ed Gamble**

No, it's quite moist, though.

**James Acaster**

It's very moist.

**Ed Gamble**

It's quite moist.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Is it a Bakewell slice? But round?



**James Acaster**

No, no, no.

**Ed Gamble**

It's thicker than that as well, isn't it? Yeah. It was delicious. But there's so many almonds in it and stuff that it stays really moist.

**Michelle de Swarte**

It's more of a Marzipan vape, then, really?

**James Acaster**

No, no, no. Not a Bakewell pudding.

**Ed Gamble**

It would taste like Marzipan, I think.

**James Acaster**

No, no. It's like almondy and custardy, so there's some vanilla y kind of flavors to it as well.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Do you like a Bakewell tart?

**James Acaster**

That's fine. But once you've had Bakewell pudding, you can't go back to a Bakewell tart.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Bakewell tart's more like a necessity thing. No, not necessity, but like you'd buy it in a shop, in a packet. That's like the low end of things.

**James Acaster**

Anything that Kipling can make, I'm not interested in

**Michelle de Swarte**

Really? Not even a French fancy?

**Ed Gamble**

French fancies are good, though.

**Michelle de Swarte**

They are good.

**James Acaster**

Yeah, yeah.



**James Acaster**

French fancies are pretty good.

**Ed Gamble**

So you're having the vape, you've got the coffee.

**James Acaster**

What kind of coffee?

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah, what kind of coffee?

**Michelle de Swarte**

If it's a dream, it would be like a cappuccino in Rome. And you know they don't like serving it in the afternoon, do they? I'd say, go on, and they'd go, all right then. And that's what I'd have.

**Ed Gamble**

So your dream meal involves an easily convinced Italian man.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah, exactly. And I'd have three of them with the triple melon, because you know they never give you like the size that we want. They give you a little thimble full.

**Ed Gamble**

They don't give you Costa size, do they?

**Michelle de Swarte**

No, I'd say three.

**James Acaster**

Triple coffee, triple melon?

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah

**Michelle de Swarte**

Three cappuccinos and a fat vape, thanks.

**Michelle de Swarte**

And a glass of water

**James Acaster**

Whereabouts in Rome do you want to be?



**Michelle de Swarte**

I reckon right in front of the, I can't remember what it's called.

**James Acaster**

Colosseum?

**Michelle de Swarte**

No, the other thing. Square one. Yeah .

**Ed Gamble**

Trevi Fountain?

**Michelle de Swarte**

No. Oh, actually, yeah. Why not? Yeah, go on

**James Acaster**

Trevi Fountain is cool.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah, in the evening.

**Ed Gamble**

In the evening. And tourists knocking around?

**Michelle de Swarte**

Just me.

**Ed Gamble**

Just you and the man.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah, and the man.

**James Acaster**

Easily convinced man.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Exactly. Yeah, and another older Italian guy who's at a few tables away just for the authenticity. So I feel like I'm proper there.

**James Acaster**

Is he easily convinced or doesn't not matter? He's not involved.



**Michelle de Swarte**

He's not even talking. He just gives me a little nod and a wink.

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah, that's quite weird, Michelle. Actually, I'd be creeped out if it was just me in front of the Trevi Fountain. A man I didn't know sat quite far away and every so often he winks at me.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah.

**Ed Gamble**

I'd be really scared.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

**James Acaster**

It depends how often he's winking. A triple wink.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Exactly. Just not even a wink. Maybe just a little nod and a smile while he lifts up his cup and has a sip of his beverage.

**James Acaster**

Here's the problem with this whole thing. I would find it very hard in your situation because you've got this easily convinced Italian waiter .

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah.

**James Acaster**

At some point, I'd be like, can you please jump in the Trevi Fountain? I was wanting to jump in the Trevi Fountain knowing that he's easily convinced at some point he's going to go, yeah, okay. And he'll jump in it for me for my amusement. And I don't think I should have that power

**Michelle de Swarte**

Wow, that's a really dark thought to have, James. I don't know what to say about that.

**Ed Gamble**

Did your brain not go there? If you have a waiter that you know is easily convinced.

**Michelle de Swarte**

He's done something nice for me. I know. Let me make him my slave. No, I would never think that.



**James Acaster**

Not my slave.

**Michelle de Swarte**

I'd be like, I'm just going to tip you. Thanks for that .

**James Acaster**

I never said he's my slave. I think he's more like a man with a jackass crew. Like, suddenly you realize all you have to do is tell them, do that crazy thing and they'll do it. You know, I find it very hard if I hung out with Danger Erin or someone like that. And I'll be like, Danger Erin, can you jump in the Trevi Fountain, please? I would say that at some point.

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah, you're Knoxville in that situation.

**James Acaster**

I'm Johnny Knoxville.

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah. He's Steve-o.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah.

**James Acaster**

I'm Johnny Knoxville all the way

**Ed Gamble**

I think this is preparing your stomach, appetite wise, getting you ready for it

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah

**Ed Gamble**

But doesn't nicotine stop appetite though? Do you not think it's an appetite suppressant?

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah, but if you do it all the time, you don't notice, do you know what I mean?

**Michelle de Swarte**

I mean, just your base level is nicotine, and you do need to eat eventually.

**James Acaster**

Your dream main course.



**Michelle de Swarte**

Southern mac and cheese.

**Ed Gamble**

Southern mac and cheese, specifically.

**Michelle de Swarte**

American Southern mac and cheese.

**James Acaster**

You lit up when you said mac and cheese.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah, because some of my best mates live in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and they just make banging mac and cheese. And growing up here, and my mom's not a big cooker, I don't really care about cooking, I'm not inspired by making food. And I thought mac and cheese was that nasty shit that you get in a can, and that's what my mom would call. 'Do you want some macaroni, some cheese, macaroni?' And she'd just open up this can, it would flub out into a bowl, she'd chuck it in the microwave until it was steaming hot, and she'd like chuck a bit of pepper on it, and just be like, try not to burn your mouth. And that's what I thought mac and cheese was. And then my Jamaican gran would make mac and cheese, but it was kind of like, Jamaican mac and cheese is quite like pie like, sort of like quiche like in the way that it, it's not like creamy. And then I went to the States, and I had like Southern mac and cheese, and I was like, this is it. This is everything I need in a meal. It's got pasta, and it's got cheese, and it's got like a nice crust. Woo!

**Ed Gamble**

Southern mac and cheese is good, with all the other stuff that comes with it as well, sometimes. But you're just having it straight up, right?

**Michelle de Swarte**

To be honest, it's a standalone meal, and I don't want to fuck it up with adding other things to it. But if we were really gonna go all in, I would have an actual Black Southern Thanksgiving dinner. But there's politics around it. Well, there is, because it's Thanksgiving. But also, just all the different ways people cook it, it's like, do you know what I mean? I had one friend who's from Kentucky, and he made sweet potatoes with marshmallows on them. And I was like, what the fuck is this?

**Ed Gamble**

I've had that, it's awful.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Do you know what I'm saying?

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah, what are they doing?



**Michelle de Swarte**

So, for simplicity, a meal that I would be happy with, stands alone, mac and cheese.

**James Acaster**

That might be my vape flavor, actually. Sweet potato with marshmallow. Yeah, the yams.

**Ed Gamble**

Do you like that sort of stuff?

**James Acaster**

No, I've spoken about it on the podcast before, so I saw a pilot eat that.

**Michelle de Swarte**

How did you see a pilot eat it? Was that at an airport?

**James Acaster**

No, me and him had flown into-

**Ed Gamble**

You got invited to go up to the cockpit for dinner.

**James Acaster**

Me and him had flown somewhere together, and he was like, you want to go to a steak house? And I was like, yeah, all right. And then he ordered that at his side, and I was like, fuck is that? You're a pilot, what are you eating that for? And he was like, I love these. I was like, that's crazy, man .

**Michelle de Swarte**

What does that mean? 'You're a pilot, why are you eating that?'

**James Acaster**

You're responsible for a lot of different people, you just made a bad decision.

**Ed Gamble**

But also, yeah, I mean, I might have said this on the podcast before about this story, but I don't want to see a pilot eat anything that heavy, because if I ate that, it's nap time, right? I want to see a pilot eat light and nutritious. Coffee and vape

**Michelle de Swarte**

I'm like, as long as they're not drinking, I'm fine. I'm like, eat what you want. It goes on like, you just got to get it in the air, isn't it? Then after that, you can have a little sleep.

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah, but it's got to be harder to get in the air when you've had sweet potato.





**James Acaster**

He was just flying like a little plane

**Michelle de Swarte**

Oh.

**James Acaster**

It's just me, him and his buddy. Wow.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah

**Ed Gamble**

It's a PJ. James was on a PJ.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Oh, baby.

**James Acaster**

A what? A PJ?

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah, a little private jet.

**James Acaster**

No, no, if only. I'm not that cool. It was a mix up.

**Ed Gamble**

They thought he was Kramer.

**James Acaster**

When we landed, he was like, would I get a steak? Yeah.

**Ed Gamble**

I can't believe you said yes, of all people to say yes to a pilot asking you if you want to go and get a steak.

**James Acaster**

I thought, what am I going to do this again? You know?

**Ed Gamble**

But that's not your attitude. That is true, but also that's not James Acaster.



**James Acaster**

What are you talking about?

**Ed Gamble**

When am I going to do this again? You're a man who regularly throws away unique experiences.

**James Acaster**

As if when? Name one.

**Ed Gamble**

I can't because you never had them.

**James Acaster**

I always embrace new stuff.

**Ed Gamble**

No, that's absolute bullshit. Yeah, thank you, Benito has given me the look I was hoping for.

**James Acaster**

What are you talking about? What's Benito nodding for? Look, I'd like to hear one example, Michelle, of any time I've turned down a unique opportunity.

**Michelle de Swarte**

How was the stake?

**James Acaster**

I can't remember. I was too busy looking at the pie that been like, is that marshmallows?

**Michelle de Swarte**

Especially if you're invited over to someone's house and they're like bigging something up and you're like, oh yeah, great. And then it's like something like marshmallows on yams or potatoes. You're just like, what the fuck is this?

**Ed Gamble**

It's very rare that I'll be introduced to another culture's food and think this is absolute trash. Normally, I think this is better than the UK. Everyone's got a better food culture than the UK. But then when I saw the yams or whatever they were with marshmallow on them, I was like, America's fucked it, man

**Michelle de Swarte**

But then there's always something next to that that is delicious

**Ed Gamble**

That's good. Yeah, yeah. Like mac and cheese.



**Michelle de Swarte**

Like mac and cheese, man. Yeah.

**Ed Gamble**

How cheesy are we talking? Do you want to see that stretch?

**Michelle de Swarte**

A hundred percent. I want it to be creamy, but also stringy. I want like five different types of cheese. And then I want like a cheese sauce to be made. And then just more cheese and pasta and stuff added. I want to be like losing my mind at every stage that I see it being cooked. And then I want it to come out and I want it to be like crispy brown on the top.

**Ed Gamble**

Bubbling?

**Michelle de Swarte**

Bubbling.

**James Acaster**

Bubbling hot.

**Ed Gamble**

How much of that do you reckon you could eat? Because I think with mac and cheese and things like that now, I'd be like, if it was that rich, I'd be maybe halfway through. I'd be like, I've got to go and have a nap.

**Michelle de Swarte**

I reckon I could get through one serving, then have a little break, and then I could do slivers that would amount to another serving over the course of an hour and a half.

**Ed Gamble**

Are you reheating or are you just?

**Michelle de Swarte**

Nah, room temperature.

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah, room temperature. The cheese has coagulated a little bit, so you can slice it, you can take slices off.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Drop it on my lap, outfit's still fine, pick that up, pop it in.



**Ed Gamble**

That's a good metric to judge food by, I think. Can you drop it on your lap? I don't know, man, I'm getting messier and messier as I get older. I drop more and more on my lap.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Why? Because you're not worried about how you're eating it?

**Ed Gamble**

Just sloppy, no attention to detail.

**Michelle de Swarte**

So you're just shoveling it in?

**Ed Gamble**

Shoveling it in. I'm on tour at the moment, so I'm mainly eating in dressing rooms and it's mainly Nando's.

**Michelle de Swarte**

How do you eat when you're on your own, right? Because I've noticed that there's times when, if no one's there, I just think, if someone could fucking see, if someone could see the way I'm boshing this meal, it's disgusting. I feel like I used to, when I was eating on my own, still had some sort of decorum or standard, do you know what I mean? But now I'm just like-

**Ed Gamble**

Self respect.

**Michelle de Swarte**

I want to celebrate that I'm on my own and no one can see.

**Ed Gamble**

Talk us through the situation.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Just putting way more on a fork than any one person can fit in their mouth.

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Do you know what I mean? It's ridiculous. But because I insist on having a bit of everything in one mouthful, but I just get really excited because I'm like, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. And by the time it's ready to come to my mouth, I'm like, what are you doing?



**Ed Gamble**

Are you worried that if you eat like that by yourself, that one day you're going to choke and no one's going to be around to save you?

**Michelle de Swarte**

No, just you're disgusting.

**Ed Gamble**

That would be awful though if you choked to death and that's how you were found with the mouth full of mac and cheese, wouldn't it?

**Michelle de Swarte**

You're dead. Who cares? You can't be thinking about shame when you're not alive and in a form to experience it.

**Ed Gamble**

That's true, actually. Cool, I'll start putting more in my mouth when I'm alone.

**James Acaster**

That's one of the first singles I bought was Bubbling Hot by Pat Abanton and Rankin Roger.

**Ed Gamble**

Can I just talk you through what I do now to stop me dropping stuff on my trousers before I do a show?

**James Acaster**

Yeah.

**Ed Gamble**

So I buy a Nando's and then it comes with napkins. They're very generous with the napkins and Nando's. Not with the sachets of sauce anymore when you get a delivery? I'd say eight out of ten times they don't put the sachets in.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah, but

**Ed Gamble**

Because they're disgraced because they're trying to push you towards buying a bottle which costs extra. But they normally throw the sachets in for free, but that stops in the last couple of months.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah, because they just live in your drawer. The sachets never get used.



**Ed Gamble**

I use them straight away, yeah, because I'm on the road, so I'm not at home. So the sachets now, I had to buy a glass bottle and I got to carry it around with me in my tote bag. All right. So system the other day, and I'm not by myself because my support acts in there, napkin in the top, napkin tucked into the top of the trousers.

**James Acaster**

What the fuck?

**Ed Gamble**

And then try and lay a napkin here. So I've got straight napkins all the way down here. Weird feeling tucking a napkin into the top of your trousers. Or the other day, napkin in the top, paper bag that Nando's came in, lay that fully across the lap and put the plate on top of that. How are we feeling about that?

**James Acaster**

Well, I mean, just wave goodbye to all your dignities on tour at this point.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Isn't there a table?

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah, sometimes, but also me and my support act want to have the laptop on. And sometimes there's a sofa. So I'd like to sit on the sofa and eat with the laptop showing whatever we're watching. And then my support act, she likes to sit on the floor.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Well, I would say that's necessary. Do you know what I mean?

**Ed Gamble**

I think it's a good system. It doesn't look great.

**Michelle de Swarte**

I would be scared that there's some like stuff on the paper bag already. That's what I'd be worried about.

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah, I've done that.

**Michelle de Swarte**

But I think that sounds legit. Solid.

**James Acaster**

I think maybe you're right. And I do say no to unique experiences because I wouldn't do any of that.



**Michelle de Swarte**

What would you do?

**James Acaster**

I'd find a table. Eat at that.

**Michelle de Swarte**

That's what I mean. If you're in a dressing room, there's a table. Also, what are you doing eating before a gig, you absolute mentalist?

**Ed Gamble**

It's normally like an hour and a half before the gig. So I need a clear hour and a half.

**James Acaster**

You got to remember as well, Ed and I, we're old men in the game at this point. We don't give a shit about our gigs.

**Ed Gamble**

I do need like 90 minutes. James will eat like a full three course meal, leave the restaurant and walk straight on stage.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Really? That's wild.

**James Acaster**

At the end of the day, that's going to be the best part of my day is eating the meal.

**Ed Gamble**

Genuinely what he thinks.

**James Acaster**

I don't want to let this gig, we're just going to suck ass.

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah. Embracing new experiences as always.

**James Acaster**

Getting away from it and it's not new at this point. That's the problem.

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah, but it could be.

**James Acaster**

The meal is a new experience. I'm in a new city, eating at a new place. That's a new experience.



**Ed Gamble**

In a new city, performing to a new audience.

**James Acaster**

No, every audience is the same.

Your dream side dish, now, your main course is what a lot of people would choose as their side. Yeah. I'm not calling you out or anything. So your side dish for this big side is gonna be interesting.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Chips.

**Ed Gamble**

This is more what I was hoping for from the statement at the beginning of, I used to be a model, and now I'm a comedian, I can eat what I want. I was hoping for pasta and chips.

**James Acaster**

Pasta and chips, Carb Town.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah, chips

**James Acaster**

Chip shop chips, fries?

**Michelle de Swarte**

Well, not skinny fries. It would be like a decent American diner style chip. Definitely not chip shop chips. Although I love chip shop chips, but I have chip chop, chip, chip, chip.

**Ed Gamble**

That was always gonna happen.

**Michelle de Swarte**

With Savaloy and salad cream, and that lives in its own world over there.

**Ed Gamble**

Chip shop chips with Savaloy, fine. That's all available.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah

**Ed Gamble**

Salad cream





**Michelle de Swarte**

Salad cream. For the tanginess.

**Ed Gamble**

My initial reaction was disgust, but then I remember that I like to embrace new experiences. So I'm gonna try that one day. I like salad cream. I've just never had it with chips and Savaloy, you know?

**Michelle de Swarte**

It's proper nice. Yeah.

**James Acaster**

Yeah. Well, make sure you cover your whole body in crepe paper or whatever the fuck you do these days if you're gonna have that salad cream.

**Ed Gamble**

I just wear a white outfit for that one.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Well, if it's like a dream meal, then that's what I'd have. I'd have chips.

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah, you got to go for it. This is your dream. What do you mean by the diner style? Are they like fries?

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah, they're like fries, but they've got bits of skin on them. You know what I mean, innit?

**Ed Gamble**

I love it. Skin on, baby.

**James Acaster**

Skin on, but they're not like big skin on chips. They're like, yeah-

**Michelle de Swarte**

Medium.

**James Acaster**

I know what you mean. I know what you mean.

**Ed Gamble**

Like a sort of Five Guys style

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah, but not those ones. But not those ones.



**James Acaster**

Because you just go to a place and you hate them.

**Michelle de Swarte**

They're all right.

**James Acaster**

I like them.

**Michelle de Swarte**

I mean, I love a Five Guys burger. You're on a bit of a Five Guys train at the moment because I only discovered it like a year ago.

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah, so you've got to get it all in now.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah, now I'm like, what the fuck? I did a gig with Felicity Ward. She was like, we've got to go Five Guys. We've got to go Five Guys. And I was like, do we? And then I was like, fucking hell, yeah, we do. This is delicious.

**James Acaster**

I didn't know that about Felicity Ward. I spoke to someone yesterday who once brought an entire Five Guys into the cinema with them.

**Michelle de Swarte**

What? Don't get me upset because I would, that is the sensory, I don't give a fuck about you lot. Abuse of that, is outrageous.

**James Acaster**

She did say, she did pause.

**Michelle de Swarte**

I don't give a fuck about anyone.

**James Acaster**

No, she told us that and then she paused and she went, that was bad.

**Michelle de Swarte**

That's beyond bad.

**James Acaster**

Your dream drink, Michelle.



**Michelle de Swarte**

A orange Lucozade.

**James Acaster**

Whoa, we have never had this before.

**Ed Gamble**

We've never had Lucozade before.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah, orange Lucozade. It's just so delicious and lovely and refreshing.

**Ed Gamble**

Old recipe or new recipe?

**Michelle de Swarte**

What do you mean?

**Ed Gamble**

Well, it's been a big controversy in my community, the type one diabetes community, because Lucozade is often used as a hypo or low blood glucose treatment, because it's got so much sugar in it. You can down like three.

**Michelle de Swarte**

It's a healthy hydrating drink that helps you run.

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah, it's a sports drink, right?

**Michelle de Swarte**

And it's really good if you're sick as well. It brings your health back.

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah, well, it brings type one diabetics health back, because if you've got a low blood glucose, you have like three sips of it, and you're absolutely buzzing off it.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Exactly. That's my drink.

**James Acaster**

It's not what Ed was saying.



**Ed Gamble**

So for a lot of people, that was their go to thing in that situation. And then, Lucozade reduced the sugar across the board. So type one diabetics who used to use it, then were trying to use it, and it wasn't hitting the same way.

**Michelle de Swarte**

So it's even healthier now than it was before.

**Ed Gamble**

It's even healthier now than it was before, yeah.

**James Acaster**

It wasn't ever healthy, was it?

**Michelle de Swarte**

I don't drink it all the time, but if I'm hungover, I think, oh, I'm gonna have an orange Lucozade.

**Ed Gamble**

So you hungover for your dream meal?

**Michelle de Swarte**

Oh, yeah, that's a good point. I guess it would be a glass of white wine then.

**James Acaster**

Okay, that's changed pretty quickly.

**Ed Gamble**

So far, your meal to me does seem like a hangover meal, because you're vaping and having coffee, then you're having a big mac and cheese and chips, and then a lucozade, it really feels like you've been out the night before.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Not a big mac, mac and cheese.

**Ed Gamble**

Big mac, a big mac.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Oh, right, a big mac and cheese.

**Ed Gamble**

A big mac, yeah, that is confusing, actually. A big mac and cheese, big mac and cheese.



**James Acaster**

Yeah, that is confusing.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Now you're saying it all like that, it does seem like a ridiculous meal.

**James Acaster**

I'll tell you what it seems like. It does seem like someone who professionally was not allowed to eat for years and doesn't really know how to do it still.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah.

**James Acaster**

You're like the food equivalent of Kimmy Schmidt.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah.

**James Acaster**

You've been let out of the cave and now you're learning how to do life. Yeah. And you think that a vape is a starter.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah.

**James Acaster**

Mac and cheese is a main course, and Lucozade is healthy.

**Michelle de Swarte**

You're gonna lose your mind when you hear what I want for dessert.

**James Acaster**

Yeah. Yeah.

**Ed Gamble**

A prawn cocktail.

**James Acaster**

Yeah. A picture of a prawn cocktail. But like, I want you to have the Lucozade more than the wine, because we never had Lucozade chose before.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah. Can I have Lucozade, please?



**James Acaster**

So it's quite exciting that someone's chose it.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Even though you just tried to piss on my chips.

**Ed Gamble**

I didn't piss on your chips.

**Michelle de Swarte**

You changed your recipe.

**Ed Gamble**

I was asking a follow up question. I've got to say something, Michelle. It can't just be you listing things you want and then we go, you know, if I got a question, I'm going to ask the question.

**James Acaster**

As much as we would like that to be the, you have no idea how much we would love it if every episode was the guest just bangs off the, here's what I want and then we go.

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah, that's only happened once. That's only happened once with Dan Aykroyd and it was the best day of my life.

**James Acaster**

Yeah, and the people still come up to me and ask me about that episode. But what do you think of all the other Lucozade flavors?

**Michelle de Swarte**

Not fussed.

**Ed Gamble**

No.

**James Acaster**

Not into it.

**Michelle de Swarte**

No, original.

**James Acaster**

Pink Lemonade?



**Michelle de Swarte**

No, no, no. I do the original like maybe once a year, just to remind myself that I really like the orange one.

**Ed Gamble**

That's amazing.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah.

**James Acaster**

Yeah, yeah. Gotta keep the orange one in perspective.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah, exactly.

**James Acaster**

All I remember is that it shouldn't be used to replace the fluids lost when you have diarrhea.

**Ed Gamble**

What?

**James Acaster**

It says it on the bottle. I remember as a kid reading it and me and my friends thinking it was the funniest thing in the world.

**Ed Gamble**

And what they had to warn you that it was, was there a rumor that it helps you rehydrate after diarrhea?

**James Acaster**

As kids, none of us like even like that, they had no concept of any of that anyway. So it's hilarious to us.

**Ed Gamble**

You didn't know what diarrhea was?

**James Acaster**

We knew diarrhea, but we didn't know that people were trying to replace fluids lost. We didn't know any of that. So we just thought every now and again, you get the shits, so it's the funniest thing in the world. That's all we knew.

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah, man, diarrhea song.



**James Acaster**

Yeah, yeah. 'When you're sitting on the grass and it comes out your ass. Diarrhea, diarrhea.'

**Michelle de Swarte**

No.

**Ed Gamble**

Do you not remember the diarrhea song? 'Comes at your bum like a bullet from a gun.'

**James Acaster**

'Diarrhea, diarrhea.'

**Michelle de Swarte**

What?

**James Acaster**

We've never spoke about this before.

**Ed Gamble**

No, we genuinely haven't.

**James Acaster**

And we grew up in different boroughs.

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah.

**Michelle de Swarte**

What? No.

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah. I assumed that was a UK wide, the diarrhea song.

**Michelle de Swarte**

No, I feel cheated. Maybe I've forgotten it. Maybe this is like.

**Ed Gamble**

You don't forget the diarrhea song.

**James Acaster**

If you've heard the diarrhea song, you do not forget it. That sticks in your head.

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah.





**Michelle de Swarte**

Shit.

**James Acaster**

I remember that, Bubbling Hot.

**Ed Gamble**

They're not dissimilar.

**James Acaster**

They're very similar songs. 'Like a soup in a pot, we are what, Bubbling Hot?'

**Ed Gamble**

'Diarrhea, diarrhea', 'like a soup in a pot, it's Bubbling Hot.'

**James Acaster**

'Diarrhea, diarrhea', always ends up back here. Every single episode.

**Ed Gamble**

So don't try and do that with a Lucas Ed basically, but that is a delicious drink that you enjoy.

**James Acaster**

Yeah.

**Ed Gamble**

Do you remember, this is very London specific, the old Lucozade sign, as you came into Hammersmith on the fly over, it was a neon sign. It was a moving neon sign. I think it was an absolute icon and they got rid of it and replaced it with a video screen.

**James Acaster**

Moving, emotionally.

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah, emotionally moving and also like this neon LED sign that was like a-

**Michelle de Swarte**

Where, Hammersmith where? Like when you was.

**Ed Gamble**

When you come in off the-

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah, yeah, yeah.



**Ed Gamble**

If you were coming off the M4 and then going into Hammersmith.

**Michelle de Swarte**

No, because I grew up in London.

**Ed Gamble**

Well, clearly not.

**James Acaster**

You were never coming in off the M4.

**Michelle de Swarte**

No, I don't remember.

**Ed Gamble**

Ben remembers, but he's the only one who can't talk on this, so I seem like an absolute nutcase now

**James Acaster**

Yeah, yeah. Because you can remember specifically where a certain sign was.

**Ed Gamble**

It's a London icon. It's like, you know, changing the towers of London to a AI tower.

**James Acaster**

What?

**Ed Gamble**

Never mind.

**James Acaster**

Your dream dessert, Michelle. Now you say we're going to lose our minds.

**Michelle de Swarte**

I didn't mean lose your minds in excitement, but I'd get like a cheese board.

**James Acaster**

Fuck you.

**Ed Gamble**

This is huge.

**James Acaster**

Fuck you.



**Michelle de Swarte**

I would get a cheese board.

**James Acaster**

Fuck yourself.

**Ed Gamble**

And thank you for that, Michelle.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah, because you know when they're like, oh, do you want it? I'm like, I don't want dessert. I don't care about dessert.

**James Acaster**

I've sat here and put up with all this bullshit. I was polite throughout this whole stupid menu .

**Ed Gamble**

I'm so happy.

**James Acaster**

The whole menu, I was trying to be as polite as possible.

**Ed Gamble**

I'm a starter boy. James is a dessert boy. And you've thrown it both back in our faces.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah, cheese board. But before it comes, I'd like to thank you. I would like to take my glass of wine. I've necked my orange Lucozade. I said, thanks. That was delicious. Can I have a cheese board with some crackers and maybe a bit of bread, actually, as well? Go on, fuck it. And I'll get a glass of wine. And while I'm waiting for you lot to chop that up, I'm going to stand outside and have a little vape and drink some wine and just take in the outside.

**Ed Gamble**

Lovely.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah.

**Ed Gamble**

Admire the view, have a little vape.

**James Acaster**

Not lovely. You stink. You stink.



**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah, of delicious cheeses.

**Ed Gamble**

What would you like on your cheese board?

**Michelle de Swarte**

I don't care. I love all the cheeses.

**James Acaster**

Doesn't even care.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Give me all the cheeses.

**James Acaster**

Doesn't even care.

**Ed Gamble**

That does annoy me a bit, actually.

**Michelle de Swarte**

I like the soft cheeses and I like the hard cheeses. Do you know what, actually, when I first went to Paris to do the shows, I was staying in this French guy's house and he came back and I cleared out the whole fridge and just cleaned everything. He was like, what? I was like, something fucking stinks in there and I don't know what it is, but I've cleaned everything and I chucked away some really expensive cheese because I thought it had gone off. Just a humble girl from South London. I'd never seen, I didn't know, the cheese smell, I thought anything smells, I thought, that's gone off.

**Ed Gamble**

I mean, that is a good point, isn't it? If something stinks.

**James Acaster**

Yeah.

**Michelle de Swarte**

I opened up the fridge and I was like, fucking hell, something here is bad.

**Ed Gamble**

Did the, did the French man get angry with you?

**Michelle de Swarte**

He looked at me like you ignorant British peasant.



**James Acaster**

Well, that's how I'm looking at you like that. What the fuck is this?

**Michelle de Swarte**

I remember staying at someone's house who had a ham hanging up and they was like, do you want some? And I was like, you just got meat just hanging up, but that's not even in the fridge. And you're like, oh, do you want some? And everyone was like, oh no, this is delicious. And I just sat there thinking, you lot are fucking mental.

**Ed Gamble**

That sounds great. Whose house was that? I'd love a bit of ham hanging up.

**James Acaster**

Where you get the-

**Michelle de Swarte**

But I'd never seen, I didn't know that ham was like aged like out like that. I thought ham, you just got it, the pig and then it's in a packet.

**Ed Gamble**

It would be confusing if you've never seen that before.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah. And I hadn't seen cheese like that either. I hadn't had smelly cheese and now you love smelly cheese. I love ham that's been left out and I love a smelly cheese. Am I specific about it? No, it all looks good to me. I have a mini baby belt and I have that bit of stinky brie.

**Ed Gamble**

Crackers with that?

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah.

**James Acaster**

Yeah, she said crackers earlier.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah, little crostini's or whatever they're called. Yeah, a couple of them, a little bit of jammy stuff. Yeah.

**James Acaster**

All this is horrible.



**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah. Yeah, that and a big glass of white wine. And also I'm just nipping out for a second and I'm going to have a little vape. Or if it's a really busy restaurant and there's like vibes, I might just look at you and vape right there and just sort of think on it. You know, sometimes, you know, like how like sometimes if you're trying to be too discreet about passing someone drugs, you just think that, look, I'm just going to put it on the table. You take it because then otherwise it makes it weird, doesn't it? And then people are going to look. And that's how I treat vaping.

**Ed Gamble**

I love that you're doing all of this to me as if I know anything about discreetly giving people drugs.

**James Acaster**

But that's because this often happens on the podcast. They go, well, obviously not him. They look at me and go, well, obviously not him. So then by default, they assume that you know about that sort of stuff.

**Michelle de Swarte**

No, no, I'm just, you're just closer to me on this table. That's all I'm just saying.

**James Acaster**

You directed all of that towards Ed and you were like, Ed knows about drugs.

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah. I think it was more than you.

**James Acaster**

Kramer won't know what I'm on about.

**Michelle de Swarte**

But also you've given me a bit of a cold shoulder now with the cheese suggestion.

**James Acaster**

I hate your guts.

**Michelle de Swarte**

I sense it.

**James Acaster**

I'm very annoyed. I can't believe it. I chuck all of that cheese board in the Trevi Fountain. I bring it out. I go, who ordered the cheese board? Well, it's either me or that old man who's nodding. Yeah. And I'll be like, here you go. And as I'm about to put it on the table, I go, and I'll hoik it all and go and splat into the Trevi Fountain. I'll be like, you go and get that in the Trevi Fountain if you want it.



**Ed Gamble**

Michelle doesn't need to. She's got someone who'll do that for her.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah.

**James Acaster**

The waiter?

**Ed Gamble**

The suggestible Italian man.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah.

**James Acaster**

Go and retrieve my cheese board.

**Michelle de Swarte**

No, listen, that's you who said that that's what you would be up for doing. I think that's fucking dark to be honest. I think it's fucking dark that you're like, oh, you're going to give me a cappuccino. You seem like someone who's suggestible. How about getting in the fountain? I'll just be like, oh, thanks for the coffee. This place is lovely. You're like, how can I push it one step further?

**James Acaster**

I would be like that. That is me.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Same with like, I don't like this. I'm chucking your cheese in the fountain, which is outrageous.

**James Acaster**

I saw someone do that once.

**Michelle de Swarte**

No, you didn't.

**James Acaster**

Well, it wasn't a cheese board, but I saw someone-

**Michelle de Swarte**

Chuck cheese in a fountain. Did you really, James?

**James Acaster**

It was a coffee. It was a coffee in a river.



**Michelle de Swarte**

A coffee in a river.

**James Acaster**

Yeah.

**Michelle de Swarte**

That's like saying it rained one day. What do you mean? A coffee in a river is like throwing cheese in a fountain.

**James Acaster**

Well, the guy was like, we're in a beer garden in Ireland. And the guy was like-

**Michelle de Swarte**

You are pulling this story out of your-

**Ed Gamble**

No, I've heard this story before.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Oh, really?

**James Acaster**

It's like, was everyone, we were having Guinness and one of the comics, it was all comedians, went 'I just want a coffee.' And he was like, right, okay. He came back, put all the Guinness down. He went, got your coffee here? It was like on a board because it had all the sugar and everything. And he went, here you go, and then throw it in the river. We all really laughed and he went, sorry, I'll get you another one. He did it again. It was really good when he did it again. I really loved it when he threw the coffee in the river.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Do you know what though, that's such a, like, I'd be scared that if I did that, no one would laugh. And then you would just-

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah, that's big. You have to know that that's your personality.

**Michelle de Swarte**

You know what I mean?

**James Acaster**

Yeah, yeah, yeah





**James Acaster**

I'm gonna read your menu back to you now, see how you feel about it

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah.

**James Acaster**

You want a glass bottle of still water. You would like poppadoms and bread. You would like, for start, triple melon, vape, Lost Mary vape with three cappuccinos. In Rome, in the evening, in front of the Trevi Fountain with a glass of water. Main course, American Southern Mac and Cheese. Side dish, skin on, diner style chips. Drink orange lucozade. And for dessert, a cheese board with crackers.

**Ed Gamble**

It's been a while since we've had a cheese ball. This is exciting.

**Michelle de Swarte**

This sounds decent. If I put all of this on the table, we would be like, come on.

**James Acaster**

What are you talking about? If you put all of this on a table, it would barely fill the space in front of you.

**Michelle de Swarte**

No, no, we don't know about size. We haven't spoken about a mac and cheese. Look, that, this bit, that in the middle, that's a mac and cheese.

**Ed Gamble**

Big mac and cheese.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah, we've got some little fries around the side. How many fries do you want when you're eating mac and cheese anyway? And then I'm like, don't worry about that. Just we got a little cheese board coming for after.

**Ed Gamble**

A lot of cheese knocking around in this meal.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah, there's a lot of cheese knocking around. Cheese is delicious.

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah.

**James Acaster**

It's an awful menu.



**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah, but it's my menu, isn't it? I'm not saying come over to my house for a dinner party. You said, what is my dream menu? That's it for me.

**James Acaster**

I know, but this is so bad that even though I'm not eating it, I find it offensive. I find it offensive that you're eating it.

**Ed Gamble**

This is basically, if you pick a cheese board, unfortunately, Michelle, you're tainted in James' mind. You're done.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Well, you don't have repeat guests, do you? So it doesn't matter does it? This is a fucking banging menu for me, for my palate. You make up your menu, it's not going to be that, is it?

**James Acaster**

Damn right.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah.

**James Acaster**

None of this is showing up on my menu at all, especially this cheese board.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah.

**James Acaster**

And I'm not vaping.

**Ed Gamble**

It's a good point.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Cool. All right, then.

**James Acaster**

This is, this is.

**Michelle de Swarte**

It's delicious.



**Ed Gamble**

I love the mac and cheese. It sounds really nice.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Do you not like cheese?

**James Acaster**

Mac and cheese is a side, sure.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Do you like mac and cheese?

**James Acaster**

Yeah .

**Michelle de Swarte**

Do you like chips?

**James Acaster**

Yeah.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Obviously you like chips.

**James Acaster**

Yeah.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Don't be difficult. Do you like a cheese board?

**James Acaster**

No. Yeah.

**Michelle de Swarte**

You do. But do you like those things?

**James Acaster**

I would not like any of this. I like loads of stuff, but not together. None of this together. This is a sad-

**Ed Gamble**

I think a lot of the sweetness in the meal is coming from the vape.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah, exactly. You don't need. And the orange Lucozade.



**Ed Gamble**

Yeah

**Michelle de Swarte**

Not sweet anymore.

**Ed Gamble**

Not sweet anymore.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah, not sweet anymore. But still delicious.

**James Acaster**

Orange Lucozade is not delicious. I'm not getting that.

**Michelle de Swarte**

I feel like you are just giving me a lot of resistance now. I think you have to remember I'm your guest.

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah.

**Michelle de Swarte**

All right. You asked me to come. I pulled this menu out of my arse.

**James Acaster**

I was against it. We had a fight and I was out voting.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Yeah, that's my menu. Cheese. Don't you love cheese?

**Ed Gamble**

Look, I famously love cheese. I think it's delicious. Thank you so much, Michelle.

**Michelle de Swarte**

Thank you.

**Ed Gamble**

We didn't even talk about when you met Jeffrey Epstein.

**James Acaster**

What? What? Well, that explains it. That explains how bad that meal is. Some of it, the evil rubbed off on you.



**Ed Gamble**

Thank you so much. Coming to the dream restaurant, Michelle

**Michelle de Swarte**

Thank you for having me, Ed. James.

**James Acaster**

Get lost Michelle.

**Ed Gamble**

Well, there we are. The wonderful Michelle de Swarte nearly came to blows with you at the end there, James.

**James Acaster**

Horrible menu.

**Ed Gamble**

Look, it was very beige.

**James Acaster**

That's at least some of my complaints. And that would usually be bad. So imagine that. So bad, I'd even get to the fact that it's incredibly beige.

**Ed Gamble**

I like mac and cheese. Sometimes it can be disappointing, but the one she was describing was very, very good. So I was into that. I wouldn't be having chips with mac and cheese personally. To be honest, she was eating like she was running a marathon two days later. She was carbing up. You alright, man?

**James Acaster**

I mean, the cheese board is the least of them all. It's not even the least of them all. Obviously, the cheese board just tipped it over the edge. But normally I'm fine with people skipping the start. I love it. I mean, you know, listeners will have heard it.

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah.

**James Acaster**

When Michelle said no start, I was really loving it.

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah. Yeah.

**James Acaster**

Looking at your face. Little did I know.



**Ed Gamble**

But then she picked a vape, so I was into that.

**James Acaster**

Yeah.

**Ed Gamble**

Vape and coffee. That was quite a good idea, really.

**James Acaster**

And then she didn't really know any cheeses or even what the quince jelly was called. So like, you know, that must have rubbed you up the wrong way.

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah. But I wasn't going to take her on at that point because she had a sort of laser vision set on you. So, I was enjoying that. Yeah. Yeah.

**James Acaster**

So, you know, I guess another episode that we won't be releasing. I don't know why we're bothering doing this outro because we're not going to release this episode.

**Ed Gamble**

This episode is going out definitely.

**James Acaster**

There's loads that we haven't put out.

**Ed Gamble**

Thank you so much to Michelle as well for not saying shredded daikon or the white stuff you find in a box of sushi sometimes.

**James Acaster**

I'd have loved it if she said that.

**Ed Gamble**

Not the rice.

**James Acaster**

Would have made the menu better. Very rare that the secret ingredient would improve the menu.

**Ed Gamble**

Well, she didn't say it. So we should let you know that Spent, Michelle's new show, is on BBC Two now and also on iPlayer. So do make sure you go and watch that. She is brilliant.



**James Acaster**

Fair enough. Do watch that.

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah, do watch that. Thank you so much for listening. We will be back next week with another episode of the Off Menu podcast with Ed Gamble and James Acaster.

**James Acaster**

That's us.