



Off Menu – Ep 262 – Joe Locke

Ed Gamble

Welcome to the Off Menu podcast, taking the batter of conversation, pouring it into the waffle iron of the internet, removing it when it's cooked and adding the maple syrup of humour.

James Acaster

We're having waffles for breakfast. That's Ed Gamble, my name is James Acaster and together we own a Dream Restaurant-

Ed Gamble

We are waffly versatile.

James Acaster

Waffly versatile. Is there a little popping sound at the end? Together, we are in our Dream Restaurant and every single week, we invite in a guest and ask them their favourite ever starter, main course, drink, dessert.

Ed Gamble

Side dish.

James Acaster

Side dish. Not in that order.

James Acaster

This week our guest is Joe Locke.

Ed Gamble

Joe Locke. Joe Locke is a fantastic actor. Famous, of course, for Heartstopper, a hugely successful popular Netflix show.

James Acaster

Massive.

Ed Gamble

Based on some really lovely graphic novels actually.

James Acaster

Yes.



Ed Gamble

By Alice Osemon. I met Alice at the GBM Banquet. She was lovely and dealt with a lot of people coming up to her and they saw her doing one, sort of, bespoke drawing for someone and then she had to do about 90 of them and, unfortunately, the last thing I had to do was go and get her to do one for my tour manager, Paul Brown, because he's a huge fan.

James Acaster

Did she draw Paul Brown?

Ed Gamble

No. Quite easy to draw Paul Brown.

James Acaster

Yes. Tell Paul, if he wants me to draw him, I can do it for him.

Ed Gamble

Lovely looking boy.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Gorgeous.

James Acaster

A gorgeous boy. Paul, if you're listening, keep doing you, buddy.

Ed Gamble

But we're not here to talk about Paul Brown, we're here to talk about Joe Locke. Not only is Heartstopper season three coming to Netflix on 3rd October, Joe has also bagged himself a part in Agatha All Along, which is very exciting, which is launching in the UK on Disney+ on 19th September. It is, of course, the spin-off Marvel Disney series from WandaVision following Kathryn Hahn's character and there is a big reveal at the end of WandaVision.

James Acaster

Yes, but we won't spoil it for people.

Ed Gamble

No. It was Agatha all along.

James Acaster

Yes, there's a really cool song about it. You probably saw it if you're on the internet.



Ed Gamble

I'm very excited to watch it. It's the most excited I've been about a Marvel show in a long time, I think.

James Acaster

Yes. It's very exciting but, listen, if Joe says the secret ingredient, an ingredient which we deem to be unacceptable, we will have to kick him out of the Dream Restaurant and lock the door behind him.

Ed Gamble

I love it.

James Acaster

Thank you very much. This week, the secret ingredient is spring onions.

Ed Gamble

Spring onions. It might come up, you never know. It's because his character in Heartstopper is Charlie Spring.

James Acaster

Yes, that's why and, look, we did a little bit of a check, in the past, a secret ingredient was spring onion beard, as in the little bit that comes off the bottom of a spring onion, a horrible little beard, but we've not done just full spring onions before, so this is a new one. We actually like spring onions, it's just because his character is called Charlie Spring.

Ed Gamble

I don't really have them in the house any more because, if you don't use them straight away, the green bit goes all floppy.

James Acaster

Yes, it all turns into one big beard.

Ed Gamble

Yes, it does.

James Acaster

Yes, it's horrible. ZZ Top.

Ed Gamble

They all turn into ZZ Top, mate.

James Acaster

Exactly. No one wants that.

Ed Gamble

Apart from, in ZZ Top, of course, there was one member without a beard. His name was Frank Beard.



James Acaster

It's really good stuff. That's one of those facts that everyone knows, like tomatoes are a fruit, but everyone enjoys hearing it.

Ed Gamble

Yes, exactly. Was it Frank?

James Acaster

It was something Beard. His surname is Beard and he's the one who doesn't have a beard.

Ed Gamble

I remember that. That's the important bit. Frank Beard, it was Frank Beard.

James Acaster

Frank Beard. Frank Beard doesn't have a beard, tomatoes are a fruit.

Ed Gamble

And we hope that Joe Locke is a very open guest. I hope he's not locked down.

James Acaster

He's not locked.

Ed Gamble

I hope he's quite open and chatty.

James Acaster

This is the Off Menu menu of Joe Locke.

Ed Gamble

Of Joe Locke.

Welcome, Joe, to the Dream Restaurant.

Joe Locke

It's good to be here.

James Acaster

Welcome, Joe Locke, to the Dream Restaurant. We've been expecting you for some time.

Joe Locke

I've been waiting outside for quite a while.

James Acaster

Apologies, actually that's on us.



Joe Locke

It was a long queue.

Ed Gamble

Is that something that you would do for a restaurant? Would you queue to get a table?

Joe Locke

No. Normally, I would just DM them and then they would give me a table. It's really good.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Finally, someone using the celebrity status.

Joe Locke

You have to. Sometimes it doesn't work but it works quite a lot.

James Acaster

I respect this honesty.

Joe Locke

I have a fake email that I use as my assistant which is actually me on a different email and I use that to get, like, restaurant things because I realised that if you are pretending to be official, there is more of a chance that people will take you seriously.

Ed Gamble

Yes, it feel like you have a team behind you.

Joe Locke

My assistant is called Lisa Fox. I wanted a name that was slightly maybe porn star but, like, still could be a real name. She got me a free holiday, so that was a great one.

James Acaster

She's a great assistant.

Joe Locke

Yes, Lisa Fox.

Ed Gamble

Lisa Fox is great and you don't have to pay her anything.

Joe Locke

No, I know. It's great.

James Acaster

How does Lisa Fox's email manner differ from your own?



Joe Locke

She says the things that I couldn't say, like, 'Joe is unable to do that, unfortunately, you know, he'll only do one Instagram story,' or, like, really harsh and I'll come in, like, 'Thanks so much, Lisa. I'll take over.'

Ed Gamble

Does Lisa ever say anything about you like, 'Joe, he can be a bit temperamental'?

Joe Locke

No, but maybe I should start doing that.

Ed Gamble

Yes, that's more authentic I think as well.

James Acaster

Eye roll emoji, stuff like that.

Joe Locke

It's been a really hard week with Joe this week.

Ed Gamble

Sorry, Joe's not getting back in contact at the moment.

James Acaster

Are you worried now though that people might hear this and be, like, 'Well, we know who is Lisa Fox is. We're not responding to that.' You're going to have to change it up.

Joe Locke

I'll just change her name. Just think of another slightly porno name.

Ed Gamble

It's not Lisa Fox with three Xs, is it?

Joe Locke

No, but it should be.

James Acaster

That's what you change it to, but that's not the same person.

Joe Locke

Yes, someone else.

James Acaster

I mean, look, what we're very excited about, there are a number of things actually but Agatha All Along, we're all excited about that.



Ed Gamble

Lisa Fox has got you a great job-,

James Acaster

Has Lisa Fox been working hard with this?

Joe Locke

She's been using that to get me some restaurants, yes.

James Acaster

Did she, like, email Kevin Feige?

Joe Locke

You know what, she didn't but she maybe should for future.

James Acaster

I think her and Feige should talk or Feige's assistant, or is Feige pretending to be someone?

Ed Gamble

Yes, definitely.

Joe Locke

Maybe. I feel like Feige probably does have an assistant. No, in fact, I know he has an assistant.

James Acaster

He does?

Joe Locke

Yes.

James Acaster

Have you met them?

Joe Locke

I have.

James Acaster

Is it Feige but with his cap off so you can't recognise him?

Joe Locke

I have actually seen Feige without his cap. That's one of my big things in life. I've seen him without his cap on.



James Acaster

Why did he take it off?

Joe Locke

I don't know, I think maybe because we were at dinner.

Ed Gamble

Respect.

James Acaster

Got to be respectful.

Joe Locke

Yes. He's got a really nice head.

James Acaster

Has he?

Joe Locke

Yes.

James Acaster

Why does he hide it all the time? Under his cap.

Joe Locke

I don't know.

Ed Gamble

It's a power play, clearly. He takes the cap off for, you know, his most valued cast members.

Joe Locke

I would hope so.

James Acaster

Let's just say he goes, 'This is the real me.' Did he stare at you really intensely and say, 'This is the real me, Joe'?

Joe Locke

He didn't. He didn't, no. I'm going to be really careful because I really would like him to give me more jobs.

James Acaster

Yes, because he listens to anything.



Joe Locke

Yes, he'll definitely-

James Acaster

It's, like, no spoilers. You might be in trouble now just for revealing that he's got a head.

Joe Locke

Maybe. I probably will be.

James Acaster

Yes, everyone will know.

Joe Locke

Revealed the Marvel brain.

James Acaster

Feige's got a top of the head. I mean, speaking of spoilers, what can you even tell us about Agatha All Along? Nothing?

Joe Locke

I can tell you it's a show about witches and my character, I can't tell you anything about but he's mysterious and that he has a big mystery that holds a lot of the keys to the show which is great. That's good.

James Acaster

That's cool.

Joe Locke

Yes, and that's, sort of, it. We go on this long road and fight things to get power.

James Acaster

The gymnastics you have to do. I don't envy it. I saw it in your eyes, you were about to say what you fight and you were, like, 'Things.'

Joe Locke

Things, yes. We had our press junket this weekend and it was a long one and so, by the end, me and Kathryn, who plays the lead, were, sort of, helping each other not spoil things. There was one time when she was like, 'And then Joe does-', and I was like, 'I don't think that's on the trailer,' and she was like, 'Things. He does stuff.'

Ed Gamble

You're already better than Tom Holland at this.



Joe Locke

Yes, although I found out all of that was fake.

Ed Gamble

What?

Joe Locke

It was all a press thing, like, a marketing thing. He spoiled one thing and then they were, like, 'We're going to run with this.'

James Acaster

It felt like that you know. After a point, you're like, 'They know it's fun and it's funny,' so they go, 'Okay, you can say this.'

Ed Gamble

Guess what, this will probably have to come out in the edit.

James Acaster

Because Joe's not allowed to spoil the fact that Tom Holland spoiling stuff is fake?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

What if Joe's been told he's allowed to go out and they're, like, 'I tell you what would be a good news story, is if Joe Locke reveals that Tom Holland spoiling stuff is fake and then that will run and then people will watch all of the the Tom interviews again, all of Joe's interviews and we'll get loads of press off it.' Joe could be playing us here.

Joe Locke

I could be completely playing you.

Ed Gamble

I've been fooled.

James Acaster

You're more suckling at the Marvel teat than anyone.

Ed Gamble

Happy to.

James Acaster

Had you auditioned for Marvel stuff in the past?



Joe Locke

I hadn't. When first sent me the audition for this, I didn't have a clue what it was about. The first episode, which I can say because it's in the trailer, is, like, very-, because Agatha is in a spell at the end of WandaVision, she's, like, caught the true crime bug in our show, so my first scene was a scene from episode one which is set in a police drama and I was like, 'What the hell is this? This is not a Marvel series,' because they didn't tell me anything. And then as I got more in the process, they were, like, telling me a bit more and a bit more and a bit more.

James Acaster

We've both auditioned for stuff for Marvel stuff before and it's very-,

Ed Gamble

I don't think I have.

James Acaster

I thought you had.

Ed Gamble

No, I think I did. I can't remember what it was for, though.

James Acaster

But what's fun is then seeing the thing that comes out and spotting the character that you auditioned for.

Ed Gamble

Played by a megastar.

James Acaster

Played by a megastar and you're, like, 'Well, there was no way I was ever going to get that', but also you were given a completely different scene that wasn't even in it in the first place, but you get to piece it together and go, 'Ah, it was the part of Chris Hemsworth.'

Joe Locke

Yes, obviously.

James Acaster

Are you much of a foodie? Do you like food?

Joe Locke

I do like food. I've been able to eat a lot of nice food because of Lisa Fox.

James Acaster

She's absolutely hooked you up every single time.



Joe Locke

She has. She's helped me.

Ed Gamble

What's the best reservation that Lisa Fox has managed to bag you?

Joe Locke

This nice restaurant in Capri when I was on holiday a few weeks ago which I tried and wasn't able to, but Lisa Fox was able to. It was the nicest pizza I've ever had in my life.

James Acaster

They're, like, 'Absolutely no way'.

Joe Locke

They just read my Instagram message and didn't reply.

James Acaster

Did Lisa Fox, like-,?

Joe Locke

You just email them on their normal, like, info @ the restaurant's name.

James Acaster

Did she give info on you? Does she say, 'Hey, have you seen Heartstopper?' Because you can't say that.

Joe Locke

No, but she says who I am then in the next email she'll, like, go into it a bit more. The reason I do it is because she can say things that I can't. If I said them, I'd sound like an arsehole, but she can say it.

James Acaster

She can say, 'This is not good enough'.

Ed Gamble

Well, she's a sassy chick, Lisa Fox.

Joe Locke

Yes, she is. She has a history in the industry.

James Acaster

We always start with still or sparkling water, Joe. Do you have a preference?



Joe Locke

Sparkling. I feel like I'm the only person under 25 who likes sparkling water, but I find water boring, so the sparkling water gives it, like, I don't know, some energy, some fizz.

James Acaster

Yes. Young people today, you've got a shorter attention span.

Joe Locke

Yes, exactly.

James Acaster

So, you need the water to be doing something.

Joe Locke

Exactly, to keep me hooked.

Ed Gamble

You were saying that you think you're the only person under 25 who likes sparkling water. Is it not big with the kids these days?

Joe Locke

No.

James Acaster

Man, we've been telling-

Joe Locke

I feel like flavoured sparkling water is.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Seltzer.

Joe Locke

Seltzer because everyone loves a White Claw, but not normal, like a bottle of San Pellegrino.

Ed Gamble

Does it make you feel, like, older when you drink a San Pellegrino?

James Acaster

An old soul.

Joe Locke

I do. I am an old soul in general though, so yes, it feels very fitting.



James Acaster

Yes, that's why you're able to pretend to be Lisa Fox. I presume she's over 25.

Joe Locke

Yes, in my head, she's, like, mid-30s, had a bit too much filler. This is what I embody, this is what I am inside, really.

James Acaster

That's aspirational.

Ed Gamble

Let's pitch the movie. It's Mrs Doubtfire for the TikTok generation. You get yourself in a situation where you have to dress up as Lisa Fox.

James Acaster

What if that happens? What if-,

Joe Locke

They want to meet her?

James Acaster

You're emailing and they've fallen in love with Lisa Fox?

Joe Locke

I have had people ask me how she is when I've, like, 'How's Lisa? It was really great to email her.' I'm like, 'She's great. She's really good. Yes, you know, she works really hard.'

James Acaster

A bit too much filler again but there you go. She'll get the balance right one day.

Joe Locke

She will.

James Acaster

Poor old Lisa Fox. It's a good film.

Joe Locke

Yes, it's a good film.

James Acaster

We could pitch it.

Joe Locke

I think we should.



James Acaster

We can all get in on this together, I think. It couldn't really fit into the MCU, so probably not-

Joe Locke

No, maybe not.

James Acaster

Probably not pitch it to Feige.

Joe Locke

Maybe not. You never know, they've got a lot of different things now.

James Acaster

When he takes his cap off, is that, like, it's not work now? 'Don't talk to me about work.'

Joe Locke

I don't know. I feel like, for me, it was always still work because, you know, you want to impress him.

James Acaster

Was it just you and him?

Joe Locke

No, there were a few of us which made it way easier.

James Acaster

All of The Avengers?

Joe Locke

He's a very, very lovely man. I'm not an Avenger, unfortunately.

James Acaster

Were The Avengers there though?

Joe Locke

They weren't.

James Acaster

That was like we were trying to catch you out by saying, 'You and the rest of The Avengers?'

Joe Locke

It was, it felt like it. Yes.



James Acaster

You were very quick, 'I'm not an Avenger.' I wasn't really trying to catch you out. Accidentally, I did. Accidentally, I've got you.

Joe Locke

You did get me. You've really gone and put me on a spot.

James Acaster

Joe Locke is an Avenger. We got him.

Ed Gamble

You think you've got him?

James Acaster

I've just got him. This is huge for the pod.

Joe Locke

People keep asking, like, 'Is your character going to come back?' I'm like, 'Obviously I want him to.' It's a stupid question. Of course I want him to but I don't know. People feel like they're going to catch me out and I'm, like, 'I wouldn't say no, obviously.'

James Acaster

That's an awful question as well because it's not like any of them, even if your character died, if.

Joe Locke

If.

James Acaster

They all come back, so, you know, that's not-,

Joe Locke

No one ever dies in a Marvel show.

Ed Gamble

They just come back as a different part.

James Acaster

Now they've got frigging Downey Jr back again, you're like, 'Obviously, I don't have to ever get worried if any of them die.' That was the biggest death you ever did and now it's, like, six weeks later, 'Alright. How's it going? I'm back again, are you excited?'

Ed Gamble

Takes his mask off like Feige takes his cap off.



James Acaster

Feige had to teach him how to do that.

Joe Locke

Yes, he did.

James Acaster

'Do it like this. This is the dramatic way of doing it. People go nuts when I take my cap off.' So, you're going to have San Pellegrino?

Joe Locke

Yes. That's my brand of choice.

James Acaster

Do you want any ice and lemon in there?

Joe Locke

Yes, loads of lemon. Maybe some lime. I prefer a lime than a lemon.

James Acaster

Good on you. I prefer it. Let's rank the citrus fruits.

Joe Locke

Lime, grapefruit, lemon, orange.

James Acaster

I would say that's correct.

Ed Gamble

Are we just sticking to those four? The big hitters?

James Acaster

What are you chucking in?

Ed Gamble

I hate to be this guy but where's the old yuzu?

Joe Locke

I do like a yuzu.

Ed Gamble

And yuzu?



James Acaster

Fucking hell. Yes, me too. Where is yuzu going if you're ranking it among those four? Which you did perfectly then, immediately.

Joe Locke

Probably the bottom but only because, you know, it's less common. It's for special occasions.

Ed Gamble

It doesn't pop up as much, does it?

James Acaster

Poppadoms or bread? Poppadoms or bread, Joe Locke? Poppadoms or bread?

Joe Locke

Bread but, like, a focaccia. An oily focaccia, not a bready focaccia.

Ed Gamble

You've just got back from Italy, did you say? You were on holiday.

Joe Locke

I did.

Ed Gamble

So, you're in an Italian mindset?

Joe Locke

I'm always in an Italian mindset. I love Italian food.

Ed Gamble

How oily are we talking?

Joe Locke

Like, really oily. Focaccia needs to, like, juice when you bite into it.

Ed Gamble

Nice.

James Acaster

Yes, that's good.

Joe Locke

Garlic and rosemary on top.



James Acaster

You're saying you've always been in Italy in your mind and in your heart. When did that start?

Joe Locke

My mum only used to be able to make two meals, no offence mum, bolognese and chilli, just bolognese with spices in.

Ed Gamble

I was going to say, two dishes is a real-, that's a lovely compliment to your mum.

James Acaster

Bolognese, chilli or mince?

Joe Locke

Literally, every meal. A very northern mum, every meal had mince in. So, I think probably then but then I found real Italian food and I liked that as well. Again, no offence mum.

James Acaster

No offence.

Joe Locke

I love her bolognese. It's one of my favourites, whenever I go home I always get her to make it for me.

Ed Gamble

That's what you're hoping for when you go home? You're hoping for the bolognese rather than the chilli?

James Acaster

Does Lisa Fox email ahead?

Joe Locke

Yes, but also, because she enjoys when I go home, she'll often say yes to making it. In the same way, whenever I go home, she'll also do all my laundry because she just likes having me home which is mean of me to take advantage of but I definitely do.

Ed Gamble

Yes but if the offer's there right?

Joe Locke

Exactly.

James Acaster

If the offer isn't there, I know who can get it for you. Email your mum. 'Hello.'



Ed Gamble

'Joe would like the bolognese when he returns home.'

Joe Locke

I think she'd actually kill me if I did that.

James Acaster

Still goes out of her way to say who you are at the top. A link to your IMDB and your Insta.

Joe Locke

Yes, in case she's forgotten.

James Acaster

'If you do all of his clothes then he'll do an Insta Tweet.' Insta Tweet? I'm so old. Are you having anything to dip it in or should it be oily enough, the focaccia that it doesn't need it?

Joe Locke

Balsamic. I love vinegary, anything that's vinegary but olive oil and balsamic. Not a sweet balsamic, like, a really-,

James Acaster

Yes, I'm with you. When it's too sweet, actually I get annoyed that I was given it.

Ed Gamble

When it's thick and sweet it's, like, 'No.' It's almost a glaze, I don't want to touch it.

James Acaster

My partner got the glaze during lockdown, ordered it, she absolutely loved it. She was like, 'Have you tried this?' I was like, 'Yes, it's disgusting and it's the worst thing that's happened to me during lockdown. I can't believe you did it. I can't believe you got the balsamic glaze.'

Let's get into your menu proper, your dream starter.

Joe Locke

I had this for the first time a few months ago and I've probably ordered it every week. It's the pav bhaji from Dishoom. I think it's, like, blended vegetables and spices and they give you some bread to dip it in. I don't know what is in the mix but it is the most delicious thing ever and I, luckily, live in the Dishoom delivery radius which is one of my biggest brags in life. I, at least, once a week will order it. Just that.

James Acaster

Listen, to any crazed Joe Locke fans listening to this, there are a number of Dishooms and a number of radii, so you're not going to be able to figure it out from that.



Ed Gamble

Also, I think Dishoom do dark kitchens now as well.

Joe Locke

They do. It really could be anywhere.

Ed Gamble

It could be anywhere.

James Acaster

It could be anywhere, so just don't even bother trying to figure that out. That's great, when you realise that you're in the radius of one of your faves.

Joe Locke

I was in New York for a while at the start of the year and lots of my cast mates, they all kept, like, going on trips and when they'd go to London and going, like, 'I'm going to go Dishoom,' and I was like, 'I live within the Dishoom radius.'

James Acaster

They love Dishoom.

Joe Locke

They do.

James Acaster

Americans absolutely go bananas for it.

Joe Locke

I think they love the queuing aspect and the whole experience.

Ed Gamble

Which, of course, you don't have to deal with.

Joe Locke

You know what, at Dishoom I have never not queued.

Ed Gamble

Really?

Joe Locke

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Are they immune to Lisa's charm?



Joe Locke

I feel like I wouldn't try. I quite enjoy the chai when you're queuing outside and the whole experience.

Ed Gamble

So, for Dishoom, you'll queue. Look, I love Dishoom but the queue, I'm not dealing with it.

Joe Locke

That's why I get it delivered. 25 minutes on Deliveroo.

Ed Gamble

Narrowing it down now.

Joe Locke

Yes. Uh oh.

James Acaster

They're there. Sitting at a map of London with a compass just spinning that, 'Right, he's either here, here or here.' Are there any cast mates who you bonded over going for meals, going for good food?

Joe Locke

Yes, I was in Atlanta for a long time last year and they have, weirdly, really good food in Atlanta, which you wouldn't expect, no offence to Atlanta.

James Acaster

Full offence by the sounds of things.

Joe Locke

Full offence, yes. It's a really foodie city and we'd go for a lot of meals with our cast mates which was fun. Also, then, if you go with Marvel, then you never pay. You can go to really nice restaurants and just eat what you want. 'Yes, I will have a main and a side and two glasses of champagne, thanks.'

James Acaster

Is that why Feige takes his cap off? Because he's got his wallet under there? There's all the money.

Joe Locke

Yes, that's seriously it.

James Acaster

He takes it off and all of the money just falls off. It's all loose change and notes and it just cascades down on to his shoulders and the waiter has to pick it off of his head.

Joe Locke

It's just a really heavy Amex. Just so heavy.



Ed Gamble

Mickey is under there now.

James Acaster

Surgically attached. Can't remove him. They got him.

Joe Locke

I went to Disneyland at the weekend in California which was really fun and I asked them, because we were going to be at Anaheim for the week, I said, 'Can we go?' And they were, like, 'It would be really busy because it's D23,' and I was like, 'I don't expect to queue, you're going to be taking me,' but it was very, very fun.

Ed Gamble

Did you skip lines and stuff? Did you get a little escort?

Joe Locke

Yes. We got through the exit which was great. It's a real power trip.

Ed Gamble

That's the dream. That's your dream.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Being shown around Disney and skipping all of the queues.

James Acaster

I would love it. I mean, obviously, in my head, you're being shown around by one of the characters.

Joe Locke

Yes, it was Mickey with the hat off.

Ed Gamble

Haunting.

James Acaster

And it's Feige under there.

Joe Locke

It is. He actually is Mickey Mouse.



Ed Gamble

If you were being escorted around Disney by one of the characters, which character would you most like to escort you around Disney?

Joe Locke

Goofy.

Ed Gamble

Yeah?

Joe Locke

Yes, I don't know, because he's goofy.

Ed Gamble

He is goofy, but I don't trust his organisational skills.

Joe Locke

That's true.

James Acaster

He's going to get you killed, man.

Joe Locke

He'd be, like, 'It's fine, don't put the seatbelt on.'

James Acaster

Yes, you don't want to be shown around by Goof.

Joe Locke

No, maybe not.

James Acaster

I think Minnie would be responsible.

Joe Locke

She would.

Ed Gamble

Daisy?

James Acaster

Yes, and she's used to dealing with-, she hates her husband.



Joe Locke

They all seem to have dysfunctional marriages.

Ed Gamble

Because they're all clearly related to each other.

Joe Locke

That's true.

James Acaster

Yes, that's not ideal.

Ed Gamble

Daisy Duck is Donald Duck with eyelashes. They're related.

James Acaster

You could really get in trouble for that, man.

Ed Gamble

I'm not.

James Acaster

You could get in deep trouble.

Ed Gamble

I don't work for Disney.

James Acaster

Not with that attitude. You're never working for Disney.

Ed Gamble

Shit.

Joe Locke

I used to have a bus driver that used to do a really good Donald Duck impression. Not related, just thought of it.

Ed Gamble

That is related.

James Acaster

At what point would he do the impression?



Joe Locke

When you were getting on the bus, you'd be like, 'Can I have a child ticket to town, please?' He would be, like, I can't do the impression.

James Acaster

He would say, 'Yes,' in the Donald Duck voice?

Ed Gamble

Like, 'Yes, that's 70p,' or something.

James Acaster

Then, would you still want to get on the bus after that?

Joe Locke

Yes, I mean, in the Isle of Man there's not much choice. It's get on the bus or walk for two hours.

James Acaster

You have to get on the Donald Duck bus.

Joe Locke

You have to get on the Donald Duck bus. I remember when I was like, young it being fun but then I was like, thirteen and he was still doing it.

Ed Gamble

Get a new impression, man.

James Acaster

You've had a long time to work on a new impression and this isn't fun for us. We're all on the Isle of Man.

Joe Locke

Yes, in the loudspeaker.

James Acaster

Your dream main course.

Joe Locke

There's a restaurant in New York called Don Angie and it's, like, Italian American and they do these lasagna rolls. It's, like, a big dish, I don't know why they decided to make them rolls but it's the nicest thing I've ever eaten in my life. I said that about the pav bhaji but I still mean it.

Ed Gamble

It should all be that.



Joe Locke

Exactly. Then, it's the nicest meal I've ever had in my life and that was a Lisa Fox reservation.

Ed Gamble

Well done, Lisa.

Joe Locke

Well done, Lisa.

James Acaster

'Joe will only eat lasagna if it's in rolls. If we see it stacked like a normal lasagna, you are in big trouble.'

Joe Locke

Yes, only in rolls. It's, like, rolled and then they slice.

Ed Gamble

Like a Swiss roll?

Joe Locke

Like a Swiss roll that's, like, cut up and they put it in a dish.

James Acaster

Like an M&S wrap.

Joe Locke

Yes but, like, loads of little M&S wraps in a dish.

Ed Gamble

I think Swiss roll covered it analogy-wise.

James Acaster

Joe said that they cut it diagonally at the top.

Joe Locke

Yes, they do.

Ed Gamble

It's diagonal.

James Acaster

And for me that's like an M&S wrap or even like a Sainsbury's or Tesco wrap, you know, they tend to do a diagonal cut at the top.



Joe Locke

They do.

Ed Gamble

There's something about the diagonal cut that makes everything seem more fancy.

Joe Locke

It is.

Ed Gamble

Because sometimes I'll do that at home with a steak.

Joe Locke

Wow.

Ed Gamble

Let it rest and then, when you're cutting it, just go in diagonally and then put it on a plate and then, for presentation, just, sort of, fan it out and I'll do that at home. Alone.

James Acaster

He does it at home alone and he pretends the steak is his wife and he talks to it.

Ed Gamble

I also have a wife.

James Acaster

Steak was my runner up for my main but lasagna took it.

Ed Gamble

The lasagna rolls sound great. Them putting them in the dish and then, sort of, putting more stuff on top and baking them..

Joe Locke

Yes, more cheese and more sauce. They used to have a Michelin star but they lost it. I don't know why because their food is amazing.

James Acaster

That's weird. Do you think they're trying to get the star back with the diagonal cut?

Joe Locke

This is why I was like, it's probably a good time to go because they just lost the star, so they'll be trying to get it back.



Ed Gamble

Perfect.

Joe Locke

They're working hard.

James Acaster

Did Lisa Fox say that in her email? 'If you want that star back, how about you let the star come and eat in your restaurant.'

Ed Gamble

'I have a star for you.'

James Acaster

Yes. I'd be so tempted. You're very restrained with Lisa Fox. If it was me and I was pretending to be my own assistant, I would go absolutely hog wild with stuff that I said about myself in emails.

Joe Locke

My friends and family keep being like, 'Can I use her email when we're on holiday?' And I'm, like, 'No.' If I expand Lisa Fox to more than just me than who knows what she'll do.

Ed Gamble

Also, here's a thing, I think Lisa Fox works for you because you're you and you're an actor and you're on TV shows.

Joe Locke

Yes, but they'd use it on my name and then I just wouldn't turn up.

Ed Gamble

Yes, you can't do that.

James Acaster

Or even if they're just saying, like, 'Hey, it's Lisa Fox.'

Joe Locke

I mean, after this-,

James Acaster

'I represent Joe Locke. Could his mum come and have a meal soon.' I mean, that's going to start-, and then it's, like, 'This Joe Locke guy, he just tries to get meals for his family.'

Ed Gamble

Surely, one day, you're going to have an actual assistant.



Joe Locke

I mean, hopefully.

Ed Gamble

There's going to be a horrible moment where you're going to have to fire your fake assistant. Will you send out an email from Lisa Fox to everyone saying, 'I'm leaving the current position but here's my replacement if you need anything'?

Joe Locke

Maybe I will but just, like, use the same email.

Ed Gamble

Whoever you hire, you have to say, 'By the way, your name is Lisa Fox now.'

James Acaster

No, I think Lisa Fox has to send out an email letting all the people know, 'It is with a heavy heart.'

Joe Locke

Condolences roll in.

James Acaster

'I am terminating my employment with Joe Locke. It's been fifteen glorious years.'

Joe Locke

'I just can't handle him any more.'

Ed Gamble

I really respect this strategy of booking restaurants though. Not just the Lisa Fox thing.

Joe Locke

I mean, if I can get a reservation on my own, I'll just get a reservation.

James Acaster

But Lisa Fox in plan B.

Joe Locke

Lisa Fox is there if it doesn't because restaurants always have tables. They always do.

Ed Gamble

Yes, they're saving them.

James Acaster

That's the thing that you learn, the deeper you get into this biz. 'Hold on a second, restaurants have always got tables? Are you shitting me?' They're like, 'Yes.'



Joe Locke

Someone tells you.

James Acaster

Every performance, every theatre has seats. They're all there, none of it is sold out. We'll get you in.

Ed Gamble

Speak for yourself.

Joe Locke

I'm going to the Fringe tomorrow and I wanted to get tickets for a show, so I emailed them and they were like, 'No, we're really sold out,' and I was like, 'Actually sold out? Like, really?' And they were like, 'Yes.' I was like, 'Right. That's never happened to me before.'

James Acaster

Maybe you had to go industrial on that. The next day it's like, 'My name is Sam Battersby. I am Joe Locke's lawyer. You had better free up those seats or we're going to take you to court.'

Joe Locke

Maybe I will tomorrow.

James Acaster

Get Sam Battersby off the bench.

Joe Locke

I will.

James Acaster

The lawyer. Have you got a lawyer in real life?

Joe Locke

I do have a lawyer.

James Acaster

Not any more. You've got Sam Battersby.

Joe Locke

Sam will have to fight with my lawyer because she's great and I wouldn't want to be at the other end of-, yes.

Ed Gamble

Perfect filler as well.



James Acaster

Your dream side dish, Joe.

Joe Locke

I really thought about this one. I've gone on the same lines of having with the lasagne and not just my, like-, because if it wasn't then I'd just have, like, really vinegary chippy chips. That would be my, but they wouldn't go with a lasagne, so I've gone with really garlicky, citrusy, broccolini. Really so garlicky and citrusy that it hurts when you eat them.

James Acaster

You want to be in pain.

Joe Locke

Yes, I want, like, three whole limes or lemons just to squeeze on top.

James Acaster

We can provide you with all the citruses ranked.

Joe Locke

Yes, okay. Just I can decide what mood I'm in.

James Acaster

Yes, you can just go for it.

Ed Gamble

Are you going to put grapefruit on your broccolini though?

Joe Locke

Maybe not.

Ed Gamble

Maybe not but it will be there just in case.

Joe Locke

You never know.

Ed Gamble

Yes, you never know what sort of mood you're going to be in.

James Acaster

It's an option. That's because people haven't started doing that yet. Maybe if a restaurant started doing grapefruit on the broccolini, everyone would be like, 'Actually, that's awesome,' and copy it.



Joe Locke

At this Don Angie restaurant, they did a chrysanthemum salad out of, like, chrysanthemum leaves from the flower which was weird but delicious.

James Acaster

Sounds like a great place.

Ed Gamble

Yes, this does sound good. I'm just disappointed to hear it's lost its star.

Joe Locke

Hopefully, they'll get it back. Hopefully, this will help them.

Ed Gamble

We are very much part of the decision process in the Michelin organisation.

Joe Locke

I thought as much.

Ed Gamble

We basically decide.

James Acaster

It must have been strange for that restaurant. 'Yes, lost a Michelin star but then we got it back when we were mentioned on a podcast that discusses incest amongst the Disney characters. We're very grateful to them.'

Ed Gamble

Are you such a foodie that you look for the Michelin star places and you're like, 'I would like to tick that off. I'd like to go to that place'?

Joe Locke

You know, I went through a period where I was like, 'I want to try to go to loads of Michelin star restaurants,' and I realised that I just don't have the palate for it. I was in Brazil and me and my friend, Kit, were there for press and Netflix had booked us this, like, really nice restaurant. One of the best in the world, like, fifteen-course tasting menu and the food, it was fine. It got to the dessert and it was, what we thought was this chocolate thing with this white chocolate sauce, it wasn't. It was Gorgonzola sauce and we took a big bite of it and the chef was looking directly at me as I was eating it and I was, like, vomiting in my mouth because it was the most strong-, it was disgusting.

Ed Gamble

But also a surprise, right?



Joe Locke

Yes, I was expecting some really nice white chocolate at the end of this, like, long, posh meal of-, one course they served ants, so yes.

Ed Gamble

How were you with the ants?

Joe Locke

The ant was fine. It tasted like lemons because it was eating lemongrass which was great.

Ed Gamble

Where are you ranking ants in the citrus?

Joe Locke

Above yuzu, below-,

Ed Gamble

Wow. Above yuzu. Poor old yuzu.

James Acaster

That's a bad day for yuzu.

Joe Locke

Poor yuzu.

Ed Gamble

There is that thing though, if you're expecting one thing and it turns out to be another thing, it's almost more disgusting.

Joe Locke

I was trying to, like, tell the others at the table, 'Don't do it,' but I had it in my mouth and I was, like, looking at them and they were both doing it at the same time and we were feeling the same things as the chef was staring at us, like, 'Yes? Good?'

James Acaster

You've got your mouth full as they're going, 'I love white chocolate. Down the hatch,' and you're trying to communicate it with them. 'White chocolate, here I come. Two tickets to chocolate town, please.'

Joe Locke

Trying to swallow it was horrible.

Ed Gamble

What are the Brazilian fans like? Because all I ever hear from people who are in shows that are big in Brazil, they go out there and it's, like, madness.



Joe Locke

Being in Brazil was the only time in my life I've ever felt famous. We had, like, a car and security and there were people outside every restaurant we go to and, I don't know, they have a very fan culture there. I'm not sure I could deal with that every day but it's nice to know people like your work, I guess.

Ed Gamble

So, not only was the chef staring at you, there were people at the window just staring at you, eating the Gorgonzola.

Joe Locke

Literally.

James Acaster

Everyone looking at you. 'He thinks that's white chocolate. We got him with the classic trick. He's falling for it again.' Where are you from up north?

Joe Locke

The Isle of Man, so sort of up north.

James Acaster

That's not up north. That's an island.

Joe Locke

Yes, you're right.

James Acaster

I'm not right.

Joe Locke

It's just easier to describe as up north.

James Acaster

I'm not right, you are because you're from there but when you were saying about Michelin star places, my girlfriend is from Manchester and, rightly, gets very annoyed that often places in London get Michelin stars a lot quicker than places outside of London, especially places up north and, like, I wondered if you find that as well when you're trying this Michelin star food and are you sometimes thinking-,

Joe Locke

There's nowhere in the Isle of Man that deserves a Michelin star, no offence.

James Acaster

Again, full offence. I mean, every time you say, 'No offence-,'



Joe Locke

I do mean it.

James Acaster

You really have fully slammed an entire place.

Joe Locke

There's some great food on the Isle of Man but not good enough to get a Michelin star. Maybe I've just not been to them. There's a lot of fish and I'm not a big fish fan.

James Acaster

There are a lot of fish places on the Isle of Man.

Ed Gamble

Yes, you'd hope so as well.

Joe Locke

You would.

James Acaster

I mean, they're surrounded.

Ed Gamble

I think they should give a Michelin star to the bus driver for the impression.

Joe Locke

Yes.

James Acaster

Michelin should start doing that. Just awarding things that aren't food but that they think are cool and going, 'That gets a Michelin star,' so it's on the bus and it says, 'Michelin,' and they're like, 'What's that for?' And he'll be like, 'What do you think it's for? Quack, quack.' That's dessert. Then really sad when one year he loses a star.

Joe Locke

Yes. His impression's just not good enough any more.

James Acaster

He let it drop.

Joe Locke

He did.



James Acaster

He started and then he's got to try and get it back. He starts, like, wearing no bottoms to be more like Donald Duck, gets fired from the bus.

Joe Locke

I was really confused then.

James Acaster

That would be more like Donald.

Ed Gamble

It would be more like most bus drivers. If you're a bus driver, I don't think I'd wear trousers for most of the day.

Joe Locke

No one can see, surely.

James Acaster

Can't they?

Ed Gamble

No. When have you looked down at a bus driver's crotch?

James Acaster

All the time. Always check. That's the rule, always check. Always check when you get on a bus that they're not Donald Ducking it or Winnie the Poohing it.

Ed Gamble

Yes, Winnie the Pooh's the main culprit.

James Acaster

Is he the main person you think of when you think of someone wearing no trousers or pants, is Winnie the Pooh?

Joe Locke

You know what, he is. I saw someone walking past King's Cross yesterday with no shoes and no trousers on but he had, like, a shirt on. He was on the phone, so he seemed very normal.

Ed Gamble

Hot day.

Joe Locke

It was a warm day. It wasn't, like, shorts though. They were very clearly just underwear.



James Acaster

But shirt and tie, on his mobile phone.

Joe Locke

Pair of Calvin's.

James Acaster

I saw the Olympians at King's Cross the other day. I dropped my friend off at the train station and they were all getting off the Eurostar and they're wearing their medals, Joe.

Joe Locke

Good for them. I mean, I would. Maybe I wouldn't, actually.

James Acaster

Wouldn't you?

Joe Locke

I don't know.

Ed Gamble

If all the other medal winners-,

Joe Locke

If everyone else was then yes.

James Acaster

You don't know if you're ever going to do it again.

Joe Locke

I just would never win a medal.

James Acaster

Come on, mate.

Ed Gamble

Yes, you would. Come on.

James Acaster

You might win an Oscar or something one day.

Joe Locke

Hopefully.



James Acaster

Are you telling me you're not going to land in Heathrow holding the Oscar?

Joe Locke

Then no one else will have won one, so I wouldn't have anyone else to do it with.

Ed Gamble

It depends who you fly home with.

Joe Locke

That's true.

James Acaster

You could say to all the Oscar winners, 'Do you want to come back to the Isle of Man for a party?' As you get off the plane, you just turn and go, 'Everyone hold your Oscars.'

Joe Locke

Get them out of your backpacks.

James Acaster

That would be great.

Joe Locke

I mean, you would put it in your hand luggage. I wouldn't trust it in the hold.

Ed Gamble

No, I'd hold on to it for the whole thing. It wouldn't even go in the hand luggage. I'd be gripping on to it for dear life. What's the vibe like on the Isle of Man with you now being successful in Hollywood, etc.? Is it, 'We're so proud of Joe,' or is it, 'Here he comes, Billy big bollocks.'

Joe Locke

'Here he comes, Billy big bollocks.' People don't give a shit, which is great but then it's almost, like, so the opposite that it's almost embarrassing. Getting recognised in the Isle of Man is just the worst thing because it's not, like, 'Here's this actor, I know his stuff,' it's, 'Here he comes. Thinks he's all high and mighty now.'

James Acaster

'Even though we're currently saying that on the Isle of Man which he's returned to and he's still visiting and seeing people, so he clearly doesn't think he's too good for us because he's literally here.'

Joe Locke

I mean, I'm really glad I've left but, like, I love going back. I feel like I've got a new appreciation for it now I've-,



Ed Gamble

Now you've been nice places.

Joe Locke

Yes. Now I can, you know, go for two days and then leave. I enjoy it way more.

James Acaster

Your dream drink.

Joe Locke

Aperol Spritz. I think it's just, like, the classic Italian-, if we're going for an Italian main course, it's just my favourite. I could drink it like juice. I do drink it like juice in the summer.

Ed Gamble

That's Campari.

Joe Locke

Aperol.

Ed Gamble

Aperol, is that the same thing?

Joe Locke

No, different. Very different. Campari is more, like, bitter. Campari is actually orange, whereas Aperol looks orange but isn't orange.

James Acaster

Joe, this is actually a big moment. Ed is the one who knows stuff on the podcast, very rare does he get picked up on stuff and he's got it wrong. You've already established that you're under 25, I'm not going to ask what your exact age is but you just fucking destroyed him.

Joe Locke

Sorry, Ed.

Ed Gamble

I don't feel destroyed.

James Acaster

You look it, mate.

Ed Gamble

I feel educated.



James Acaster

There's smoke going off of you.

Ed Gamble

Also, I feel thick because it's called an Aperol Spritz.

James Acaster

Yes, like, really, really did you on that one. 'So, Campari,' that was you straight out of the gate, real confident.

Ed Gamble

But that's another big, red, Italian drink, right?

Joe Locke

I do like a Campari Spritz as well.

James Acaster

That's like me when I said Tweet an Instagram earlier.

Ed Gamble

Prosecco?

Joe Locke

Prosecco and soda and people who make it without the soda and they're like, 'It's way better.' No, otherwise it's not a spritz. You need to have the soda.

Ed Gamble

Also, then you can make it a much bigger drink, right?

Joe Locke

Yes, and if it's just prosecco and Aperol, you can't, like, glug it. I want to be able to, like, have three in half an hour and it be alright, be acceptable.

James Acaster

Yes, you've got to glug the spritz. Are you quite a burpy boy after that?

Joe Locke

I'm quite a burpy boy anyway. I prefer it coming up this way though than being a farty boy.

James Acaster

We recorded an episode earlier today and I farted during it, Joe.

Joe Locke

Sometimes you can't help it.



James Acaster

I'll open up and tell you that.

Joe Locke

I mean, it's quite a small room.

Ed Gamble

It is. It's a small room, there is no real airflow in here, so, yes, it was unpleasant.

James Acaster

It was a guest that I knew anyway.

Joe Locke

That's good though. At least-,

James Acaster

If I had done it during this episode, I would have just jumped out of the window.

Joe Locke

You know, it would break the ice maybe if you did it at the start.

James Acaster

No, no. If I had done it in front of you, Joe, you would never see me again.

Ed Gamble

How would you have felt?

Joe Locke

I'd have felt, like, you know, you felt comfortable enough to fart in front of me and that's a nice thing. Sometimes, though, when you're, like, really clenching it and you just can't hold it any more.

James Acaster

Exactly. I didn't even do that.

Joe Locke

You just let it go.

James Acaster

I didn't even let it go, I just didn't even know it was going to happen until it happened. I'm 39 now. I shouted too loud and that was it.

Ed Gamble

It was when he was saying, 'Poppadoms or bread,' he shouted and a fart came out.



James Acaster

No one heard it, I had to tell them it happened but I just felt, you know, better be honest.

Joe Locke

Did it smell or did you get away with it?

James Acaster

I don't think it did.

Joe Locke

I'm invested now. That's good.

James Acaster

I don't think it was a smelly one.

Joe Locke

You really could have got away with it.

Ed Gamble

He 100% could have got away with it.

James Acaster

I absolutely, completely got away with it but I thought, you know, this is the first for the podcast. We've been recording these since 2018, I should let them all know that it's finally happened and I've passed wind on the pod.

Joe Locke

It's a long time to not let it happen.

Ed Gamble

Yes, you've done well actually.

James Acaster

Yes. We should have a thing on the wall that says, 'This many days without a fart.' We've got to put it back to zero now.

Ed Gamble

When you meet someone for the first time, when do you feel relaxed enough to fart or burp in front of them?

James Acaster

Sorry that it's come to this, Joe.



Joe Locke

You know what, it really depends.

James Acaster

We try to keep it professional.

Joe Locke

I feel like there's a part of me that wants to do it quite early to, like, break the ice but it depends who it is. Like, I'm not going to fart in front of Kevin Feige.

Ed Gamble

Of course not.

James Acaster

If the hat's off.

Ed Gamble

The danger is if you fart and blow his hat off.

James Acaster

'You blew off my hat. You little punk kid. You'll never work in this town again.'

Ed Gamble

Obviously, when you're doing a long series.

Joe Locke

I mean, within two weeks, you get- You see each other at your worst.

James Acaster

You've never done it on camera by mistake?

Joe Locke

Many times. In Heartstopper, in the last season, me and Kit were filming our first ever sex scene and-

James Acaster

Fartstopper.

Joe Locke

Kit, he farted during the first-, which is really great because it, like, broke-, it's such an awkward thing doing a sex scene but it was, like, mid-kiss and I just heard him fart and I just never-, I think they recorded it. I really hope they make some type of blooper reel because it just broke the ice completely of the awkwardness. So, that was a great fart to happen on set.



Ed Gamble

Yes, that's a wonderful fart.

Joe Locke

I don't know, it wasn't me who actually farted, so I've just told his story. Sorry, Kit.

Ed Gamble

James tried to make the pun 'Fartstopper' there but did it too quietly.

Joe Locke

It's a good one. That's what we call it on our cast group chat. We call it much worse than Fartstopper, but I won't repeat those ones.

James Acaster

Add me to the group chat.

Joe Locke

I will. Any day.

James Acaster

That will be funny if out of nowhere, it's all the cast of Heartstopper-,

Joe Locke

I think they would love that.

James Acaster

And me for no reason and I keep calling it Fartstopper.

Ed Gamble

Just say, 'James Acaster has been added to the group', and then you say-,

Joe Locke

Just FYI. Fartstopper.

Ed Gamble

Fartstopper, and then put it on the pooper reel.

Joe Locke

That's a good one.

James Acaster

Put it on the pooper reel and then I'll do, like, the devil horns hands emoji, and then I'll just wait and just look at it until someone replies.



Joe Locke

See what they say. I wonder what they would reply.

James Acaster

I imagine I'd get ignored for the whole thing.

Ed Gamble

Who do you think would leave the group first if James kept posting?

James Acaster

It's always stuff like that, I'm never, like, changing it up.

Joe Locke

I'll answer who I think would reply first. Toby would reply first and he would love it.

James Acaster

Great. That's good, I'm in with Toby straight away. Every now and again, if someone was opening up about something serious, I would only ever write, 'We're all here for you', so I would do that. I would say, 'We're all here for you', or I would make puns about farts. Those are my only two gears.

Joe Locke

Yes, I mean, it's not a very serious group chat, so I think, you know-

Ed Gamble

No one's really opening up.

Joe Locke

No. Not in that group chat, no.

James Acaster

If I ever get serious, I have that gear that I can shift into, 'We're all here for you', but I'm not allowed to say it twice in a row.

We've arrived at your dream dessert. This is very exciting, I'm a sweet tooth boy, so dessert is my favourite course and I know that you were hoping something was going to be white chocolate and was annoyed that it was cheese. So, I know that you're on Team Sweet too.

Joe Locke

I am. I love cakes, but my dessert would be a tiramisu. I love a tiramisu.

Ed Gamble

Almost all Italian.



Joe Locke

I told you, I'm Italian.

Ed Gamble

You stuck to your promise.

Joe Locke

I also love a churro, but I feel like that's a post-dessert.

James Acaster

I had some really good gigs in Truro on my last tour in Cornwall.

Ed Gamble

Where's the best tiramisu you've ever had?

Joe Locke

You know what, I love the M&S tiramisu.

Ed Gamble

Wow. After talking about being on the Amalfi Coast and going to all these restaurants.

Joe Locke

I know, straight to the M&S.

James Acaster

Mediterranean and Sardinia.

Ed Gamble

That was very quick.

James Acaster

That's demeaning, isn't it? When one comedian says to another, 'That was very quick', in a congratulatory tone, but thank you.

Ed Gamble

The one that comes in the big tub?

Joe Locke

The tray one.

Ed Gamble

Yes, the tray one.



Joe Locke

I could eat the whole tray on my own.

James Acaster

Yes, that's good stuff. I don't know if I've had one from M&S. Is it really creamy?

Joe Locke

It's quite creamy and it's very coffee-y as well. Coffee-y?

Ed Gamble

Yes. I'd say coffee-y, yes.

James Acaster

I've found that more and more with tiramisu, the creamier it is the more I go nuts for it. But then other people value the-,

Joe Locke

Same but I'm lactose intolerant, so I just regret it later. I guess also, on my starter, it would be two Lactaids, just to take right at the start.

Ed Gamble

Look, you're in the Dream Restaurant so-,

Joe Locke

Lactose intolerance doesn't exist.

Ed Gamble

Yes. If you want the genie to take away your lactose intolerance-,

James Acaster

Like John Coffey.

Ed Gamble

What?

James Acaster

I'm like John Coffey from the Green Mile, I can take it away from him like John Coffey takes people's pain away from them, I can take the lactose intolerance from him, so I'll be Coffey.

Ed Gamble

Have you seen The Green Mile?

Joe Locke

Yes.



Ed Gamble

Doesn't he take the pain away and it goes through him?

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

So, is he then lactose intolerant? Are you lactose intolerant?

James Acaster

No, he'll always then just spill it out of his mouth like the swarm of flies but, I guess, when I take it in and absorb it, I will have that temporarily within me and I will have to take that from Joe.

Joe Locke

I'll just give you some Lactaid. I always have some with me. I don't today.

Ed Gamble

I know a few lactose intolerant people, do those pills actually work?

Joe Locke

I don't know if it's, like, a placebo or something but most of the time I also just forget. In the moment I'm like, 'It's fine,' and then two hours later I'm just crying over the toilet.

James Acaster

Have you ever had a pill and you're like, 'It's not working. I'm going to take another one.'

Joe Locke

Yes. I mean, it's just Lactaid so I don't think it will do anything to you.

James Acaster

Careful, man. You never know. You take too many, then you can only eat dairy.

Joe Locke

You become dairy.

James Acaster

That's all you can eat. If you eat anything that isn't dairy, you're in trouble. You have to live on a dairy-only diet forever.

Ed Gamble

That would be awful if you became dairy though, wouldn't it?

Joe Locke

Yes, I wouldn't like that. I really like dairy, only in things. People who drink milk I find really weird.



Ed Gamble

It's creepy.

Joe Locke

A glass of milk, it's weird.

Ed Gamble

Unless you're a kid, it's creepy.

James Acaster

Are you familiar with the comedian Josh Widdecombe?

Joe Locke

Yes.

James Acaster

He'll buy just a little pint of milk from the shop and drink it on his way home.

Joe Locke

Grow up. That's what I think to that.

Ed Gamble

Correct. Did you hear that, Josh? Grow up.

Joe Locke

Sorry.

James Acaster

Grow up, you loser.

Joe Locke

I obviously just hate the taste of milk, like, that weird aftertaste that you get and the thought of what it is just, like, creeps me out.

Ed Gamble

But if it's in stuff?

Joe Locke

If it's in stuff, it's fine. I make a mean custard.

Ed Gamble

Talk us through the mean custard recipe.



Joe Locke

It's just cream and egg yolks and vanilla and then you just whisk it but it just tastes really nice.

James Acaster

I've never made my own custard before.

Ed Gamble

Me neither.

Joe Locke

Not for anything, just to have and then you can make it really thick.

Ed Gamble

Eat it with a spoon.

James Acaster

There are loads of people our age or older, I'm talking about mine and Ed's age or older, who are just going, 'Young people these days, they don't do as much. We used to have proper experiences.' We haven't made custard, this guy had made custard so, you know, what are you talking about? If you're listening.

Ed Gamble

Is that your signature dish, would you say? Or are there other things that you can cook?

Joe Locke

My signature dish is a brownie. I can make a really good brownie. Really fudgy. I'm really specific about brownies, they have to be not cakey, really fudgy, almost, like, raw.

James Acaster

Also, I went through a stage I learned to make these brownies and, afterwards, I'd dip them in melted chocolate and let them set, so they had a-

Joe Locke

Yes, a good brownie, you should never be able to have a little square because it's so rich. It should make you feel really sick.

Ed Gamble

It should be the same size as the lactose pill.

James Acaster

There's a new place that's opened up in Hackney called Running Late which is a coffee place which I mainly went in for the first time just to congratulate them that they hadn't gone with the pun Running Latte. I said, 'First of all, congratulations on not calling this place Running Latte.'



Ed Gamble

You didn't open with that, did you?

James Acaster

I did.

Ed Gamble

Oh my god.

James Acaster

I said, 'Congratulations on not calling this place Running Latte,' and they went, 'Thank you. So many people told us to call it Running Latte and we stuck to our guns and called it Running Late,' and I was like, 'You made the right choice.'

Ed Gamble

I feel like they got the ultimate James Acaster experience. 'First of all, congratulations on not calling this Running Latte.' But they've got these little brownie bites, these salted caramel ones that are layered up so it's, like, brownie, salted caramel, brownie but it is very small, like you say, they're good. They're dangerously good.

Joe Locke

I love a bit of caramel.

James Acaster

They were very nice little, like, perfect amount. Each layer is the exact same size, so you've got double the brownie to the salted caramel.

Joe Locke

Nice.

Ed Gamble

You know how everyone is going like, 'Salted caramel is everywhere'?

Joe Locke

I'm not mad about it.

Ed Gamble

I will never get bored of salted caramel.

Joe Locke

No, it's great.

Ed Gamble

I'm done with normal caramel now.



James Acaster

To me, that is normal caramel now.

Joe Locke

Yes, same. I've done down how much of a sweet tooth I had because I feel like it makes me feel like more of a kid. I feel like it's more grown up to say you don't have a sweet tooth any more but I 100% have a sweet tooth.

James Acaster

You're talking to two people who-, we absolutely strong-armed you into a conversation about farts. You were talking about getting into nice Michelin-star restaurants, we were like, 'Who have you ever farted in front of?' So, don't worry about how old you're appearing because we are pathetic, Joe. When we listen back to this, it's just going to be two weird old men saying to a young, talented man, 'What's the worst fart you've ever done?'

Ed Gamble

We haven't asked that.

Joe Locke

Probably after some dairy.

Ed Gamble

Thank you.

James Acaster

I'll be mentioning that in the group chat.

Joe Locke

I was in a theatre once and my stomach. I never leave a theatre during a show, I think it's really rude but I had to. I was like, 'It's me or the chair.'

James Acaster

It's going to be ruder to stay.

Joe Locke

It's going to be really rude to stay to everyone around me. I was, like, right in the middle and I felt like such a wanker.

Ed Gamble

Yes, and you can't explain, can you? That awkward thing of edging down past people.

Joe Locke

I can't be like, 'I'm just about to shit myself. Sorry, can you move?' It just doesn't work.



Ed Gamble

When you left, did you go butt to their face or butt to the stage?

James Acaster

This is not helping us-,

Joe Locke

Butt to their face because I wanted the performer to know that I still wanted to be there with them but I just-,

James Acaster

I'm watching for as long as I can.

Joe Locke

Yes, and then I waited outside for the interval even though it was, like, ten minutes into the show because I was, like, I can't walk back in.

Ed Gamble

What was the show?

Joe Locke

I'm not going to tell you that.

James Acaster

The Gruffalo live?

Joe Locke

Yes, it actually was the Gruffalo live. It's my favourite one. Best thing I've ever seen.

James Acaster

I'm going to read your menu back to you now, see how you feel about it. You would like sparkling San Pellegrino water with every single citrus fruit at your disposal. Poppadoms or bread, you want oily focaccia with garlic and rosemary, olive oil that oozes out of there and balsamic vinegar. Starter, you want the pau bhaji from Dishoom, main course the lasagna rolls from Don Angie.

Ed Gamble

I'm going to go and find them.

James Acaster

I want those lasagna rolls big time. Side dish, the garlicky, citrusy broccolini. Drink, an Aperol Spritz, which has what in it, Ed?

Ed Gamble

Aperol.



James Acaster

Dessert, you would like the M&S tiramisu.

Joe Locke

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Fantastic.

James Acaster

That does sound very nice, Joe. That's a delicious menu I think and nice to have a new thing that has made both of our food bucket lists there.

Joe Locke

Yes, it's in New York.

Ed Gamble

It rarely happens. We do have to go to New York for it. Do you know anyone who can hook me up with first-class tickets?

Joe Locke

Lisa Fox might.

James Acaster

Yes Lisa Fox.

Joe Locke

She's yet to get me-, airlines, they don't do it.

Ed Gamble

No? I love that you've tried though.

Joe Locke

I have. I have tried and I will try again.

James Acaster

'Dear Ms Fox, for the millionth time-,'

Joe Locke

'Leave us alone.'

James Acaster

'We are not putting this guy in first class. We do not care.'



Ed Gamble

Has Lisa Fox been emailing Benito? That's what I want to know.

James Acaster

Yes, maybe Benito has been speaking to Lisa Fox. That's quite exciting.

Joe Locke

Maybe. Maybe Rosie out there is just, like-

Ed Gamble

We're going to go, just not there.

Joe Locke

Just hired her to make me seem professional.

James Acaster

How about this scenario? Lisa Fox gets you first-class on a plane and you sit down and the stewardess comes up to you and says, 'Mr Locke, please, we'd like to treat everyone in first class amazingly. Would you like to come to the cockpit?' You go in and then the pilot turns around and goes, 'What's up Doc?'

Joe Locke

It's the bus driver.

James Acaster

And he's doing a Bugs Bunny impression. It's the bus driver, he's gone up in the world in order to get his Michelin star back.

Joe Locke

I think I would probably get off the plane.

Ed Gamble

Even if it's mid-air.

Joe Locke

I'm not sure. I don't know, some of his driving was very Isle of Man where there are no speed limits.

Ed Gamble

Are there not?

Joe Locke

There are some but there are no national speed limits. You can drive as fast as you want on some roads.



James Acaster

Really? That's GTA.

Ed Gamble

That's pretty cool.

Joe Locke

It's cool but, like, so dangerous.

Ed Gamble

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

Joe Locke

It's been a pleasure.

James Acaster

See you on the group chat, buddy.

Joe Locke

Yes. Fartstopper.

James Acaster

Fartstopper.

Ed Gamble

The wonderful Joe Locke there, James.

James Acaster

Thank you so much, Joe, for coming in. What a lovely menu.

Ed Gamble

What a lovely menu, what a lovely man and thank you for putting up with all of our shit.

James Acaster

Yes, we're very, very sorry and this may improve our chances of having our apology accepted, we'd like to encourage everyone to watch Agatha All Along which is out on 19th September here in the UK. I'm told it's out on the 18th in the US.

Ed Gamble

We know we've got some US listeners.

James Acaster

You're getting it a day earlier than us. What's this?



Ed Gamble

Maybe it's timings because it's a few hours later, so we'll just get it after midnight here?

James Acaster

Also, Heartstopper.

Ed Gamble

Series three.

James Acaster

Series three is on Netflix on 3rd October in whatever country you're in. Thank you, Netflix, for not screwing us over like Disney have done.

Ed Gamble

You are going to have an absolute Joe Locke fest in September and October.

James Acaster

Yes, and there is no excuses for not having a Joe Locke fest. Shout out to the Donald Duck bus driver if you're listening, buddy. We're sorry that we razzed you but we hope you're having a great time.

Ed Gamble

I now want to go to the Isle of Man and just get every bus I see.

James Acaster

Absolutely, until we see him. Also, thank you to Joe Locke for not saying the secret ingredient, which I have now forgotten. I've literally forgotten it.

Ed Gamble

He didn't say it though.

James Acaster

He didn't say it, right? Did he? Imagine if we remember it now and it's like, 'Fuck, he said it,' and we should have chucked him out.

Ed Gamble

It was lasagna rolls.

James Acaster

It was lasagna rolls, oh man. Cut diagonally. It was, of course, spring onion.

Ed Gamble

I wasn't listening out for it.



James Acaster

Did he say it?

Ed Gamble

Hang on, let's go through his menu again.

James Acaster

Pau bhaji.

Ed Gamble

There might have been spring onion in that.

James Acaster

Yes, you never know. Lasagna rolls. The side dish was-,

Ed Gamble

Broccolini.

James Acaster

That's alright. Obviously, tiramisu.

Ed Gamble

It's not going to be sticking out of an Aperol Spritz, although it might be. I don't fucking know anything about it.

James Acaster

I don't think that was in an Aperol Spritz but you didn't think Aperol was in it. You got absolutely owned.

Ed Gamble

I didn't feel owned, I'll be honest, until you said I'd been owned. He could have gone a lot harder on me.

James Acaster

You wait until you listen back.

Ed Gamble

I'm not listening back, I got owned.

James Acaster

You wouldn't want to hear that again. Look, maybe we have missed it out. Maybe it's in a pau bhaji and we should have kicked Joe Locke out. Listen, everybody, this is very exciting because we'd like to announce a competition. There's a new competition that Benito would like you all to know about. All you have to do is you have to tweet the Great Benito and you have to tell him all the ingredients of an Aperol Spritz and get them all completely right and everyone who gets it right, will get a signed



chopping board. You have to send them in the order that Joe Locke said them in, that's very important, and then you will get the signed chopping board sent directly to your house.

Ed Gamble

We might make chopping boards.

James Acaster

This is something that Benito has found recently today for merch that we actually can get chopping boards and we're saying can we get them with your signature on them, you know, pre-signed? Not him doing them by hand.

Ed Gamble

Hang on, but when you've been offering a signed chopping board, in your mind, have you been offering a chopping board signed by the Great Benito?

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Because I assumed we were offering a chopping board signed by me and you.

James Acaster

No, I've always imagined it's signed by Ben.

Ed Gamble

But do you not remember when we actually had to send someone a signed chopping board, we both signed it.

James Acaster

I thought Ben signed it.

Ed Gamble

What?

James Acaster

Ben signed it.

James Acaster

The first time, we did it, we said it was signed by Ben and Ben did it, so that's a false memory you've got of signing a chopping board.

Ed Gamble

Mandela syndrome.



James Acaster

Mandela. But maybe Mandela should have-,

Ed Gamble

If you list all of the ingredients in the Aperol Spritz in the order that Joe did them, the Great Benito will send you a chopping board signed by Nelson Mandela.

James Acaster

That is our promise.

Ed Gamble

Benito has just told us that only one person has ever received one, even though we must have done this competition 80 or 90 times by now.

James Acaster

If you are due one and you haven't yet received it, please Tweet a screen grab of the DM that you sent to the Off Menu account, or whatever, going, 'I am owed this. Pony up.'

Ed Gamble

Also, I'm adding apricots to the fruit salad.

James Acaster

If you've got the full fruit salad, Tweet OffMenuOfficial, say all of the ingredients in the fruit salad, and then you will get a signed chopping board and that will either be from Great Benito or Nelson Mandela.

Ed Gamble

That's our promise and we will keep it.

James Acaster

We will keep it because we care about you. We care about our listeners and, listen, it's an honour hosting this podcast for you every week and we don't take you for granted.

Ed Gamble

Enjoy your chopping boards.

James Acaster

Enjoy your chopping boards, look after each other.

Ed Gamble

Bye-bye.

James Acaster

Bye.