



# Off Menu – Ep 258 – Phil Dunster

## Ed Gamble

Welcome to the Off Menu podcast. Taking the sausage meat of conversation. Wrapping it in the puff pastry of friendship. Putting it in the humour oven. You've got yourselves a sausage roll, a podcast sausage roll. Sausage podcast roll.

## James Acaster

That is Ed Gamble. My name is James Acaster. Together, we own a dream restaurant. Every single week, we invite in a guest and we ask them their favourite ever starter, main course, dessert, side dish and drink, not in that order, and this week our guest is Phil Dunster.

## Ed Gamble

Phil Dunster, a wonderful actor and, of course, plays Jamie Tartt in Ted Lasso.

## James Acaster

Yes, this is our second Ted-, no, have we had more-, no, Nick Mohamed as well. Nick Mohamed. Toheeb Jimoh. Phil. Is that all we've had on?

## Ed Gamble

That's all we've had.

## James Acaster

Come on, guys.

## Ed Gamble

We've got to do better than that, haven't we?

## James Acaster

We've got to do better than that. How have we only had three of the Ted Lasso bunch on?

## Ed Gamble

Where's Waddingham?

## James Acaster

Where's Waddingham? Ellie Taylor.

## Ed Gamble

Yes, come on.

## James Acaster

Can't think of anyone else who is in it.



**Ed Gamble**

Is that? Is that the cast?

**James Acaster**

We're very, very excited to have Phil Dunster on. We're big fans of Phil's. I've never met him before.

**Ed Gamble**

I've met him once. I played shuffleboard with him at Brett Goldstein's birthday.

**James Acaster**

Were you good at shuffleboard?

**Ed Gamble**

I was alright. I find it is a bit stressful.

**James Acaster**

Was Phil Dunster good at shuffleboard?

**Ed Gamble**

He was quite good at shuffleboard, actually.

**James Acaster**

Maybe he'd be good at picking the right food for his menu.

**Ed Gamble**

Maybe indeed. You've told me you've done some research for this interview, so, I'm looking forward to hearing that.

**James Acaster**

I've done some research, yes. I emailed an unnamed source. I refuse to name him.

**Ed Gamble**

Okay, fair enough.

**James Acaster**

He told me some stuff about Phil Dunster.

**Ed Gamble**

Well, looking forward to you unveiling the information that you've collated. But of course, if Phil Dunster says the secret ingredient on which we have pre-agreed, he will be kicked out of the restaurant and this is your idea, James?

**James Acaster**

Yes, this week, the secret ingredient is jammy tarts.



**Ed Gamble**

Jammy tarts because he played Jamie Tartt and it sounds a bit like that.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Jammy tarts.

**James Acaster**

That's good, if you say it fast enough.

**Ed Gamble**

Rarely do we actually have a food that we think people might pick. He might pick it. People like jam tarts.

**James Acaster**

Yes, no-one's picked jam tarts.

**Ed Gamble**

Jammy tarts.

**James Acaster**

I think jam tarts-,

**Ed Gamble**

Jammy tarts.

**James Acaster**

I think jammy tarts, you forget about them until you see them. If you're not looking at a jammy tart, they're not in your head, really.

**Ed Gamble**

No, not really.

**James Acaster**

No-one's ever craving one.

**Ed Gamble**

No. 'I tell you what I could do with now, a jammy tart.'

**James Acaster**

No-one's ever picked them for their dream menus but this could be the first.



**Ed Gamble**

Yes, could be. We'll see. We'll see what happens. Phil is starring in Oklahoma In Concert. It is the songs from Oklahoma at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane on the 19th and 20th August, so, if you are in London and you fancy going to watch that, I'm sure it's going to be a wonderful show. Very, very soon. It's in just a few days, so, if there are any tickets left, get yourself onto 'oklahomaconcert.co.uk' to buy tickets and I'm sure we'll chat to Phil about that as well.

**James Acaster**

Yes, absolutely, we'll cover all the bases. You watch us cover all the bases.

**Ed Gamble**

For now, this is the Off Menu menu of Phil Dunster.

Welcome, Phil, to the dream restaurant.

**Phil Dunster**

Yay.

**James Acaster**

Welcome, Phil Dunster, to the dream restaurant, we've been expecting you for some time.

**Ed Gamble**

The boy is in the dream restaurant.

**James Acaster**

How's it feel to be in the dream restaurant, Phil Dunster?

**Phil Dunster**

Feels, smells and looks great.

**Ed Gamble**

This is good. When you walk into a restaurant, what smell are you looking for?

**Phil Dunster**

Like, a good-, into the dream restaurant or?

**Ed Gamble**

For the listener, Phil just closed his eyes to imagine the smell.

**James Acaster**

When he made the 'Mm' sound.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, that's what happened.



**Phil Dunster**

The dream restaurant is like, oaky-, there's a fire-, not in a bad-, everyone's fine.

**Ed Gamble**

Everyone get out.

**Phil Dunster**

There's a fireplace that's got an oaky smell to it, maybe that's from the kitchen.

**Ed Gamble**

Nice, but you're not sure when you walk in if it's from the kitchen or not?

**Phil Dunster**

Yes, I like a bit of peril when I-, when I turn up into a dream restaurant.

**James Acaster**

That's fair enough. Big, round tables, long tables? Not wooden tables in this fiery place, hopefully.

**Ed Gamble**

I hope not.

**Phil Dunster**

Yes, it's got to be stainless steel. There's not long tables. I find that quite terrifying when they're like, 'Yes, you know, just take a seat, there's maybe just over there.' Wagamama's does this. All love to Wagamama's but holy hell, when you're like, 'For God's sake,' but then-, obviously, not going-, there's no pressure to talk to anybody but then you're like-, you're, sort of, brushing up against someone that you don't-,

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, it's not good. You feel uncomfortable. You have to eavesdrop. That's the rule.

**Phil Dunster**

(whispering) You start talking like that because you're not-, you're having the most benign conversation but you're like, 'I still don't want you to know about what I'm going to have.'

**Ed Gamble**

Also, it's very-, because it's warm at the moment as we're recording this, that just takes me back to maybe going to Wagamama's in summer where everyone's, you know, wearing cooler clothes and you might accidentally brush up against someone's skin with your skin. Which ruins anyone's ramen.

**James Acaster**

Yes, I don't want to brush against anyone's skin. Not on my skin.



**Phil Dunster**

You start slipping and sliding off them.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, or sticking, that's the worst.

**James Acaster**

Everyone's slipping off the bench at Wagamama's.

**Ed Gamble**

Everyone off the same end.

**Phil Dunster**

No, it's booths. Is it booths? There's booths around the edge and then, of course, there's a few tables scattered around but enough space that you're not having to stand up and, like, smudge your bum against their salt and pepper on their table to get past.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, that's-,

**Phil Dunster**

When it's too crowded, that's a nightmare.

**Ed Gamble**

Have you ever knocked some salt and pepper over with your bum?

**Phil Dunster**

Yes, often.

**James Acaster**

I mean, you've got a muscly bum, so I've heard.

**Phil Dunster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Muscly?

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Or musty?



**Phil Dunster**

I thought you said musty.

**Ed Gamble**

I thought you said musty.

**James Acaster**

No, it's not musty.

**Ed Gamble**

I thought you said musty bum.

**James Acaster**

Muscly.

**Phil Dunster**

In summer at Wagamama's, it's definitely musty.

**James Acaster**

No, muscly.

**Phil Dunster**

It's certainly-,

**James Acaster**

It's muscular.

**Phil Dunster**

It's cumbersome.

**James Acaster**

It's muscular, I've heard.

**Phil Dunster**

Okay.

**Ed Gamble**

You should say who you've heard that from because otherwise Phil-,

**James Acaster**

No. A good interviewer never reveals his sources.

**Phil Dunster**

Twitter.



**James Acaster**

You've got a muscly bum.

**Phil Dunster**

I'd say it's probably, like, 75% of my personality, my bum. I'm very much bum forward as a person.

**Ed Gamble**

Which is odd. Everyone else is bum back.

**Phil Dunster**

Because, you know, in life, I don't want to see what's coming my way. I want to let it all just-,

**James Acaster**

Lead with the bum.

**Phil Dunster**

Just surprise me, yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Lead with the bum.

**James Acaster**

Brett Goldstein told me that.

**Phil Dunster**

Yes, yes, and he's seen a lot of it.

**James Acaster**

He told me it, by the way, because I said you were coming on the podcast, anything I need to know. He didn't drop it in the conversation like some gossip once and say, 'Guess who's got a muscly bum?'

**Phil Dunster**

That's amazing, though.

**James Acaster**

I said, 'Look, Phil Dunster's coming on, what do I need to know, like, food-wise?' He told me some food stuff and then he said, 'Also, he's got a muscly bum.' I didn't expect it to come up. To be honest, Phil, it was the one thing that he told me that I thought, 'Well, I won't bring that up.' But then you were going on about knocking stuff over with your bum.

**Phil Dunster**

It must have just felt like such a strange moment that that's then-, I mean, this is what I mean about 75% of my personality, that, you know, that's-, clearly, you've been told about it in your extensive research.





**Ed Gamble**

That is the most research we've ever done for this podcast, by the way. In fact, the only research we ever do is when someone from Ted Lasso comes on, we ask Brett, and that's only happened once.

**James Acaster**

Hear you come on and I message Brett.

**Phil Dunster**

Yes, he knows but he is also, like, he doesn't really have much of a-, he doesn't really mind about food, he just wants to have, like, cashew nuts.

**James Acaster**

Brett? Yes, that's why we'll never have him on.

**Phil Dunster**

Yes, it's a shame-, it is a shame.

**James Acaster**

We're never going to have him on. There's no point. This won't be a fun listen for anyone, it's never going to happen.

**Phil Dunster**

It's, sort of, like, the anti episode where he just, sort of-, you don't really get onto any food, he's just like, 'What's the-, you know, 'What's the protein levels in it?' He's not as myopic as that but, when it comes to food, maybe.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, when he asks me about food, it's like he's-, it's like an alien asking about food.

**Phil Dunster**

When he asks you?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, when he's going, like, 'So, why do you like this?' I'm like, 'It just tastes nice.' 'Oh, interesting.'

**Phil Dunster**

He's a curious man.

**James Acaster**

'Tastes nice?' Trying to figure it out in his head. You eat a lot of Nando's together, I've heard, from an unnamed source.

**Phil Dunster**

We do, yes.



**Ed Gamble**

This is good journalism, man.

**James Acaster**

Thank you.

**Phil Dunster**

We do, yes. What he does is he orders the roulette wings plate.

**Ed Gamble**

Does he?

**James Acaster**

What?

**Phil Dunster**

Yes. Platter.

**James Acaster**

Crazy, isn't it?

**Phil Dunster**

It's truly insane.

**Ed Gamble**

I don't know anyone who orders that.

**James Acaster**

No.

**Phil Dunster**

It's such a mad-, but it's fun. I don't like spice. We're really getting into-,

**James Acaster**

He told me as well, so that's my third thing gone.

**Ed Gamble**

You genuinely did find that out, didn't you?

**James Acaster**

Yes. Those are the three things he told me. 'We eat a lot of Nando's, he doesn't like spice, he's got a muscly bum.'



**Phil Dunster**

It is astounding that the bum came up, it really is.

**James Acaster**

Straight away, you're knocking over stuff, salt and pepper pots with your bum. Also, you know, when we asked you to describe your dream restaurant, you said there's some booths and a lot of tables and chairs. That's Nando's. 'I want some booths there, then loads of tables and chairs but not too crowded.' That's every Nando's I've ever been in but I don't want to knock over the stuff on the-, the salt and pepper on the table with my bum.

**Phil Dunster**

The great thing is, they've got all the sauces out of the way. It's all on the side.

**James Acaster**

That's good for you.

**Ed Gamble**

Are you ever tempted to go over to where the sauces are and just drag your bum across the top?

**James Acaster**

Run it across like a stick on a radiator.

**Ed Gamble**

All the sauces fall off.

**Phil Dunster**

Just get the Saka sauce. That's going to be dated because that's now out. Peri-tamer all over my bum.

**James Acaster**

What spice level do you go for in Nando's?

**Phil Dunster**

Peri-tamer. That's maybe a secret but no, it's just a kid's one, basically.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

And it's delicious and barbecue-y and rich but not spicy. Every now and then, I might go for a little medium. The way I see spicy food is like scary movies. I don't like horror films, because if you're watching a horror film, I feel like I can't taste the film underneath. If it's good or not, I don't know. The same thing goes for spice. I'm like, 'This could be a delicious meal, but you're attacking me.'



**James Acaster**

Ah, yes, yes.

**Phil Dunster**

And my head is on fire.

**James Acaster**

That's interesting.

**Phil Dunster**

And I can maybe appreciate, with my most empathetic skills, I could maybe understand that there's, like, a sensation. I've told you about sight, smells, you know, but the sensation, but I just don't have it. I can't understand it. We were talking off air about roller-coasters and how I wish I didn't feel like I was about to throw up every single time I came off one of those because I understand that the sensation of it is a thrill.

**Ed Gamble**

You can't taste the ride underneath?

**Phil Dunster**

I can't taste the ride. So, yes, the spice level is just-, I want to have the tang but none of the bang.

**Ed Gamble**

Great.

**James Acaster**

I think this should be the highest compliment to say to an actor. I would say, out of all the actors we've had on the podcast, you are the furthest from the character that I associate them with, and it's very surreal talking to you because I'm like, 'He should be bullying us or being mean,' and from Manchester, but, like, you know-,

**Phil Dunster**

'He doesn't sound like him.'

**Ed Gamble**

James' main fascination is actors who can do good accents that aren't their own.

**Phil Dunster**

Really? What's another one that you-, that blows your mind?

**James Acaster**

Well, when Martin Freeman was on, I was like, do the Fargo accent all the time.



**Phil Dunster**

That's a tough one.

**James Acaster**

I was like, I couldn't get my head around how he'd done that. Every time I see an actor, they do a really good accent. Obviously, my introduction to you was Ted Lasso and when I discovered you weren't from Manchester, I was like, 'What the fuck?' Like, absolutely blew my head off that that wasn't your actual voice. I was like, 'But he talks like it is.'

**Phil Dunster**

Wait until you see me play football, then you'll really.

**James Acaster**

'What the fuck?'

**Phil Dunster**

He's awful.

**James Acaster**

Then I discovered you got it off Dave Masterman-, no, Elis pretending to be Dave Masterman and that blew my mind even more.

**Phil Dunster**

That is true.

**James Acaster**

We do do impressions of Benito on the podcast but it's usually, it's him as, like, a Demogorgon figure in Stranger Things, so, maybe one day we'll see something that'll be a new hit sitcom and there'll be a character that's like, 'Hi, how's it going? Good to see you guys.' And it'll be like-, then the actor will come on and go, 'Yes, I- ,

**Ed Gamble**

'I based it on the Benogorgon.'

**James Acaster**

'The Benogorgon that you guys did. It was based on the Benogorgon, of course.'

**Phil Dunster**

That's the highest compliment, surely? It's your art creating more art.

**James Acaster**

Yes, exactly. I mean, I don't think I would call Elis and John's podcast art.



**Phil Dunster**

As a retro one myself, I must say it is.

**Ed Gamble**

We're starting beefs over here.

**Phil Dunster**

It actually started off as a take on Elis going, 'Five Euro for a panini? ' and then my step towards it was Liam Gallagher and then H, the rapper. We, sort of, ended up near H the rapper more because he's probably got more street cred then-,

**James Acaster**

Yes, football is pretty cool. No disrespect to Liam Gallagher.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, you definitely went up in street cred from Elis, which is absolute rock bottom.

**James Acaster**

Elis pretending to be an even nerdier man than himself. Full respect to Masterman but come on.

**Phil Dunster**

He's got a big bum.

**James Acaster**

Elis, yes. Huge thighs.

**Phil Dunster**

Yes, Welshman's thighs.

**Ed Gamble**

You two can never go to Nando's together. There'll be sauce all over the joint.

**James Acaster**

You'd need a booth immediately. 'Please, a booth for four.'

**Ed Gamble**

Good luck getting out of the booth.

**Phil Dunster**

Just slap down £500. 'These are for all the compliments that are going to be on the floor. We're just going to get this out the way now.'

**James Acaster**

Whole place is going to be a slip and slide of spice by the end.



**Ed Gamble**

Now, if you would like to see the muscly bum in the flesh-,

**Phil Dunster**

I don't know how much flesh there'll be of that.

**Ed Gamble**

Trying to link to the fact that you're doing Oklahoma In Concert.

**Phil Dunster**

That's very good.

**Ed Gamble**

We do need to talk about it.

**Phil Dunster**

We do.

**Ed Gamble**

It's very exciting. Two nights at Theatre Royal, Drury Lane. This is like when they do musicals but it's not the full, like, set production, right? It's more of a, sort of, concert-, well, it's in concert.

**Phil Dunster**

It's in concert. It's a concert in concert. Yes, so, we're doing Oklahoma In Concert at Theatre Royal, Drury Lane. There's four words in it and I always nearly get them mixed up each time. They're going to have a 28 piece orchestra which is more than a lot of musicals you would see because it would be very expensive to run every single time. It's going to be, like, a huge sound. It's going to be fairly stripped back in terms of the staging of it. I'm playing Curly and Zizi Strallen is playing Laurey Williams who is, for the uninitiated, like, musical theatre royalty. She is unreal and I'm not saying this as a sort of, like, trying to big it up in anyway. She is ridiculously good. In the way that when you go to see musical theatre, I've never really quite understood how people make the hair stand up on the back of your neck and you want to-, like, you get the lump in your throat. Maybe this is just me, over romanticised it, but I found it so powerful when I went to go and see her play-, she was in Pippin In Concert and she was in Mary Poppins recently as well and it's just-, she's so extraordinarily talented. I'm so excited to be doing it with her and with everyone else involved but yes, it's going to be really fun because it's nice also that it's just this, sort of, two nights, three shows, where you can put everything into it and then you're like, great, cheers.

**Ed Gamble**

Go big.

**Phil Dunster**

Yes, go big. Go to Oklahoma. Go home.



**James Acaster**

First musical I ever saw was Oklahoma. My dad was a teacher, a production at his school and we all went along to watch it. My dad in the audience, he wasn't in Oklahoma. I know that's what you thought immediately.

**Ed Gamble**

Well, no, I didn't think it, I was imagining it.

**James Acaster**

Yes, my dad with a cowboy hat on.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, I'd love that.

**James Acaster**

I didn't know what a musical was and I hadn't been told, 'This is a musical.' It was like, 'Do you want to go and see the play?' I remember they opened with the song. I was like, yes, fair enough, they've opened with a song and then-

**Ed Gamble**

How old were you?

**James Acaster**

I'm like, six. Six or seven.

**Ed Gamble**

Of course, even when you were six, you're going, 'Yes, fair enough.'

**James Acaster**

Yes, fair enough. A little song to open, that's nice. Then, like, less than a minute later, there's another song. I was like, 'Are you kidding me? That seems weird.' Like, you didn't do one very long ago and then you've done another song. This is meant to be a play. Why are you- ,

**Phil Dunster**

No-one's stopping them going, 'Sorry, you were talking, why are you singing?'

**Ed Gamble**

'Can we have a bit of dialogue?'

**James Acaster**

'Why are you singing? Why are you doing that?' By the interval, I was like, 'Okay, sorry, what is this? This is insane. They just keep on singing every single five seconds, they're singing the song. No-one gets a word in. It's like, they start having a conversation and then before you know it, someone's singing again. What's going on here? Second half, what happens in the second half? Just tell me now.'





**Ed Gamble**

'Just let me know. Can I be prepped?'

**James Acaster**

'More songs? Some of them again that we've heard in the first half. My God.' Then I remember by the end of it having really enjoyed it and actually, I then looked forward to the school musical every year, we'd go and see it. Then I was like, 'I know the vibe.'

**Phil Dunster**

Yes, one thing that is very fun about this is that Oklahoma, of course, has an exclamation mark in the title.

**James Acaster**

It does.

**Phil Dunster**

Which is incredibly rare. 'Westward Ho' has that. I don't know why that stays in.

**James Acaster**

What, in Westward Ho?

**Phil Dunster**

Westward Ho, Oklahoma. Ho, I guess, there's got to be some element of-

**James Acaster**

I understand Westward Ho more, that someone would shout it out. Oklahoma is a place.

**Phil Dunster**

No, Westward Ho is a place.

**James Acaster**

Is it?

**Phil Dunster**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Oh, I thought they were saying, 'We're going Westward.'

**Ed Gamble**

The actual place name has the exclamation mark in it.

**Phil Dunster**

Yes.



**James Acaster**

What?

**Phil Dunster**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

That's cool. I'm going to pitch that to the people of Kettering, that we do it there.

**Ed Gamble**

I guess it's important that you shout it, right? 'Westward Ho.' Otherwise, if it's no exclamation mark, it does look like the word 'ho', which has other meanings.

**James Acaster**

At least you haven't put a comma in there.

**Phil Dunster**

I feel like any grammar in a place name feels out of place.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, I agree. I can't think of any others right now.

**James Acaster**

Where are you from, Phil?

**Phil Dunster**

Reading.

**Ed Gamble**

That's not worked.

**James Acaster**

Born in Northampton, though.

**Phil Dunster**

One of the finest comedic minds-, even in Reading, and it's like, 'I can't even-,

**James Acaster**

I don't care. I mean, maybe a question mark I'd put on there.

**Ed Gamble**

'Reading?'



**James Acaster**

Born in Northampton.

**Phil Dunster**

Born in Northampton.

**Ed Gamble**

What's all this? Did Brett tell you that as well?

**James Acaster**

Wikipedia.

**Ed Gamble**

He's got a muscly bum and he was born in Northampton.

**James Acaster**

Yes. That's all on Wikipedia.

**Phil Dunster**

That's where I get it.

**James Acaster**

Moved to Reading pretty early on.

**Phil Dunster**

Moved to Reading.

**James Acaster**

So, you're not a Northampton boy but you were born in Northampton.

**Phil Dunster**

That's it. Northampton, close to Kettering, right?

**James Acaster**

Yes, very close. We're twenty minutes in the car.

**Phil Dunster**

Famously.

**James Acaster**

I got pushed over in stage in Reading.

**Phil Dunster**

Did you? What?



**James Acaster**

In the arts centre. Man stood up, pushed me over.

**Phil Dunster**

As he didn't like your-,

**James Acaster**

I was singing the football chant over and over again and he stood up, pushed me over.

**Phil Dunster**

The football chant?

**James Acaster**

A football chant. Not a Reading football, a Kettering Town FC football chant. It's a bit I used to do and it went on for ages. That was the whole, kind of, point. He stood up. He was about 50, this guy. Pushed me over, sat down. He was there with his old mum because he's a fucking loser, and I stood up and went, 'What did you do that for? Why did you push me over?' And his mum who was, like, ancient, turned to him and went, 'It's okay, he's a comedian.'

**Phil Dunster**

She justified it to her son, 'It's okay, don't worry'?

**James Acaster**

Yes, so, when I said, 'Why did you do it?' before he could answer why he did it, she said to him, 'You don't have to give him a reason, he's a comedian, you can push him over.' Then, like, it was a mixed bill and I was on second and the headliners were still to come and-,

**Ed Gamble**

Did he push everyone over, just to make it look like that's the thing he does?

**James Acaster**

Well, this was the thing. This was the concern. In the interval, the promoter's come back stage and went, 'Sorry about that. Just so you know, we've told him, if he does it again, he's out.' The compère was like, 'Sorry, are you saying everyone else in that room has two pushes of a comedian and then they're out? The headliners are an improve troupe who do audience participation. Is everyone else allowed to get up, push fucking one of the boys next door over?'

**Ed Gamble**

Well, how many of them were there as well?

**James Acaster**

Four.



**Ed Gamble**

Does that mean he gets to push all over them over?

**James Acaster**

Yes, push them in a domino and then he's out. It was quite the stressful gig.

**Ed Gamble**

Other than that, Reading's lovely.

**Phil Dunster**

Well, I mean, I'm not wholly surprised. Not because of your material but more because of the state of things in Reading but no, it is a lovely place and I would like to say, that sounds like an outlier there.

**James Acaster**

Yes, I think it was.

**Phil Dunster**

That feels like a real shame.

**Ed Gamble**

You've been back to Reading since and no-one's pushed you over, right?

**James Acaster**

Yes, well, another time I went to Reading, supporting Milton Jones on tour in the early days and I thought I'd had quite a good gig, it's quite rare to have a good gig as a support act, so, I was really happy with the fact I finally have had a good one and then my dad at the time used to check my Wikipedia every day and he would update it back then and he phoned me the next day and he went, 'James, I just want to check something with you. Something's been added to your Wikipedia, I just want to verify it. If it's not true, I'll take it off. Were you confronted after your Reading gig by fans who said that your show was rubbish and you cried?' I was like, 'No.' He was like, 'Okay, I'll take that down. 'Someone's added that to your-, someone's said, 'His performance supporting Milton Jones at the Reading Hexagon was so dire that when confronted about his performance after the show, Acaster cried.'

**Ed Gamble**

I mean, I absolutely love that your dad was like, 'Did that happen?' 'No.' 'I'll take it down then.' Rather than just taking it down. 'That did happen, dad. ' 'I'll leave it up there then. Wikipedia is a user-based resource.'

**James Acaster**

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

**Phil Dunster**

I do.



**James Acaster**

That's all we need.

**Ed Gamble**

Excellent, let's move on.

**Phil Dunster**

It's sparkling. I love sparkling but I feel conscious of the fact that often people, they don't hold back in terms of their loathing of people who like sparkling water. People feel very strongly about it and I just like-, well, I'm not going to give away what my drink is going to be, if I may so lucky for you guys to ask me that. I don't want to assume. Yes, I just like a bit of pizazz at the start of the meal. It sets me up right. I like a bit of fizz.

**James Acaster**

Absolute opposite of Jamie Tartt, man. Jamie Tartt would go still water, tap water. He'd think everyone who chooses fizzy water is a snob. Is up themselves. You're an amazing actor.

**Ed Gamble**

It really makes me laugh-,

**James Acaster**

Best actor I've ever met in my life.

**Ed Gamble**

How blown away you are by acting and people not being like their characters.

**James Acaster**

Never to this degree. Never have I seen it to this degree. This is incredible.

**Phil Dunster**

How cool Jamie is and then-,

**Ed Gamble**

Are you having a bit of lemon?

**Phil Dunster**

I don't know. No, I'm not.

**Ed Gamble**

No. It's a bit more Jamie Tartt.

**James Acaster**

I think Jamie Tartt would have lemon.



**Phil Dunster**

That's too much-,

**Ed Gamble**

Do you?

**James Acaster**

Yes, I think Jamie Tartt would have lemon. I think he would think that's proper good that, if you put the lemon in.

**Phil Dunster**

I reckon Jamie Tartt's putting up two fingers to the waiter or waitress and he's going, 'I'm going to have Monster. I know that there's a drink coming but I'm having Monster now.'

**James Acaster**

Yes, he would have Monster.

**Phil Dunster**

He's chaotic.

**James Acaster**

Yes, that's true.

**Ed Gamble**

Monster scares me, man. Not just because it's called monster.

**Phil Dunster**

You don't like horror films either then.

**Ed Gamble**

No, I do, I can taste the film underneath. I get used to them and now I can taste the film but Monster is scary. The cans are too big. It's called Monster.

**Phil Dunster**

I feel like also, there's a real culture around-, they sponsor, like, Monster trucks? Right, okay, well that makes sense.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

But it's, like, very-,



**James Acaster**

Done our job for all of us.

**Ed Gamble**

Poppadoms or bread?

**James Acaster**

Poppadoms or bread, Phil Dunster? Poppadoms or bread?

**Phil Dunster**

Bread.

**James Acaster**

What kind of bread are we talking?

**Phil Dunster**

Well, this is a question that I have for you.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

Sometimes you're going to see garlic-y cheesy bread in the bread section, but then other times you're going to see garlic-y cheesy bread in the starters.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

If this is my dream restaurant, can I have garlic-y cheesy bread with some rosemary on them?

**James Acaster**

Yes, it's your dream.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

Yes, great.

**Ed Gamble**

And that's bread.





**James Acaster**

If it's bread-,

**Ed Gamble**

That's bread, baby.

**Phil Dunster**

I've always said that.

**James Acaster**

That's bread, baby.

**Phil Dunster**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

It usually gets edited out when Ed says that but he has said it every episode.

**Ed Gamble**

I appreciate you trying to stick to the rules but, you know, that's well within the rules.

**Phil Dunster**

Okay, great.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

That felt rogue.

**Ed Gamble**

We've had people have sandwiches for their bread course.

**James Acaster**

Yes. Just, like-,

**Ed Gamble**

We've had people have nachos, we've let people have-,

**James Acaster**

Anything they want, then, that would, like-



**Ed Gamble**

Prawn crackers, you know?

**Phil Dunster**

Prawn crackers I get, nachos-, okay, I guess when it's stepped away from-, I'm not telling you how to your podcast here.

**James Acaster**

Well, you can if you want.

**Phil Dunster**

Every input is needed.

**James Acaster**

You're the greatest actor I've ever met, Phil, you can tell me whatever you want. I've nothing but admiration for you.

**Phil Dunster**

I guess when the accoutrement to base ratio is less bread, slash, carb, that feels like that's then becoming a starter.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. I think we had nachos, we've definitely had, yes, tortilla chips certainly. Tortilla chips-,

**James Acaster**

Yes. With some salsa dip.

**Ed Gamble**

With some salsa dip.

**Phil Dunster**

Have you ever had that but with poppadoms? Because I feel like bread is a higher ratio pick than poppadoms.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, it is certainly.

**James Acaster**

Yes, absolutely.

**Phil Dunster**

If they can just run rough-shot over the bread popadom debate, has anyone done anything particularly interesting with the poppadoms? Are they doing cheesy garlic poppadoms?



**James Acaster**

I think we've had-,

**Ed Gamble**

We've had cheese on them.

**James Acaster**

Melted cheese popadoms sandwich before.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, we have.

**James Acaster**

Someone chose that.

**Ed Gamble**

Because then I promise that I'd eat one in the bath for some reason.

**James Acaster**

Yes, and then he still hasn't done it.

**Ed Gamble**

Still haven't done it.

**James Acaster**

By the way, in the episode where he promised he would do that, absolutely adamant he was going to do it.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

Like, fully-?

**James Acaster**

Me saying, 'You're not going to do that,' him being, like, 'I absolutely guarantee you that I will.' As soon as the episode went out and people were asking for it, he went, 'I'm not doing that.'

**Phil Dunster**

There's no way.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.



**James Acaster**

He went, 'As if I'd do that, why would I do that?'

**Phil Dunster**

That's a Comic Relief-er. That's, like, a bath of baked beans.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Classic.

**Phil Dunster**

What was it? Eating a poppadom in the bath?

**Ed Gamble**

Eating a poppadom cheese sandwich in the bath.

**Phil Dunster**

What? Okay. Yes, right.

**James Acaster**

He was certain he was going to do it. I mean, if Comic Relief get a hold of you and asked you to do it, would you do it?

**Ed Gamble**

I just don't think it'd make a lot of money for them, really.

**Phil Dunster**

I disagree.

**James Acaster**

Well, if they're asking you. They know their stuff.

**Ed Gamble**

Bath of beans, I get it. It's, like, 'Oh gross, I'm sat in a bath of beans,' I understand why that was a thing.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

Yes.



**Ed Gamble**

But just someone having a normal bath eating something-,

**James Acaster**

To be honest, I think Comic Relief would get more people to donate if they said, 'It is this celebrity having a normal bath.' I think a lot of people would be, like, 'Great.'

**Ed Gamble**

Great. Yes.

**James Acaster**

You can see Ed Gamble's dick.

**Ed Gamble**

My dick? I don't bathe with my dick out the bath.

**James Acaster**

I mean, my bath-,

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, but what are you filming it for?

**Phil Dunster**

You're thinking-, the little bubbles.

**James Acaster**

You've got see-through water.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, but I might have bubbles in it and I might be shooting it from

**James Acaster**

You won't have bubbles in it.

**Ed Gamble**

I'm not getting a drone and shooting it from above.

**James Acaster**

It's not up to you, Comic Relief are filming it and they know-,

**Ed Gamble**

Well, I don't want to do it, I'm out.



**James Acaster**

They know what's going to get people donating money. It's Ed Gamble in the bath, it's a drone shot.

**Phil Dunster**

There's his dick.

**James Acaster**

He's naked.

**Ed Gamble**

There's his dick.

**Phil Dunster**

There's his dick. But with a cheesy popadom over it like a fig leaf of Adam/Eve, so you can.

**Ed Gamble**

But hang on, I'm eating it, though. So, as I take a bite, am I revealing more and more of my dick?

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

It's a you-pay-to-stay situation. The more you pay, you can see more of your dick from under the popadom-,

**James Acaster**

Very generous mind there, Phil. That's good, it's good stuff.

**Ed Gamble**

Well, if Comic Relief get in contact, I'll speak to them.

**James Acaster**

Yes?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

You should speak to them, I think that's good.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.



**James Acaster**

I think you'd get a lot of people donating when they realise that actually the beans were doing them more harm than good for getting people to chip in.

**Phil Dunster**

Or, failing that, just do it on OnlyFans.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, I was going to say, I don't think Comic Relief want to make that, sort of, leap onto OnlyFans content, particularly, do they?

**James Acaster**

Well, they've got to decide how much they want to help people. Like, who cares about dignity at that point? It's making them money. Comic Relief have got to stop worrying about their brand, who gives a shit? There's people worse off in the world, get Ed Gamble's dick on the telly.

**Ed Gamble**

On the telly? I thought this was online content.

**Phil Dunster**

Oh no. Well, hold on a minute, what-?

**James Acaster**

It's-,

**Phil Dunster**

It's Comic Relief.

**James Acaster**

Comic Relief goes all night.

**Ed Gamble**

Okay, so I'm not later? I'm not, like-,

**James Acaster**

You're on late.

**Ed Gamble**

I'm not, like, 7:00pm, Lenny Henry is, 'Welcome to Comic Relief, let's have a look at this guy's dick.'

**James Acaster**

No. No, this is a late-night one, this is when, you know, one of the more edgy Comic's hosts in it.



**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes. Then, going to you in the bath. Bearing in mind, Ed, it's under the water, they're not going to get a good idea of the size. Because it's, like-,

**Phil Dunster**

It magnifies as well.

**James Acaster**

Refraction and all-,

**Phil Dunster**

Refraction, magnification.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes but you can never tell with magnification sometimes, it might do the opposite.

**Phil Dunster**

You reckon? Like a haunted house.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, let me just get my excuses in early.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Like, I'll have a haunted house dick.

**James Acaster**

Also, you've got to make sure that you don't, like, sit too low in the bath so it floats up and it's-, you don't your boy bobbing up and down and-,

**Ed Gamble**

I do, I think-,

**James Acaster**

Peaking out the surface.

**Ed Gamble**

I think I do, like, Nessie.





**James Acaster**

Like, Nessie?

**Phil Dunster**

But that requires up and down. Nessie is three-,

**James Acaster**

He's really boasting. If you got Nessie-,

**Phil Dunster**

Yes, that's incredible. I was right.

**James Acaster**

You should get that on Comic Relief.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

That's incredible.

**Ed Gamble**

It is a bit like Nessie in that only very few people have seen it and they're all mad.

**James Acaster**

Most people don't believe in it.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

It's actually just three tyres that-,

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

Your dream starter?

**Phil Dunster**

Okay. This isn't just because it rhymes but burrata starter.



**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

I went to a wedding in Genoa. Genoa?

**Ed Gamble**

Never met her.

**Phil Dunster**

Nice.

**Ed Gamble**

Thank you.

**James Acaster**

Absolutely love it.

**Ed Gamble**

Got to do it.

**Phil Dunster**

That's great.

**James Acaster**

It's great.

**Phil Dunster**

It's great.

**James Acaster**

That is funny. I'm a bit ashamed I didn't think of it.

**Phil Dunster**

No wonder this is-,

**James Acaster**

I'm a bit ashamed I didn't think of it.

**Ed Gamble**

That's such an old joke, mate.

**James Acaster**

Yes, but that's why I'm, yes, ashamed of it.



**Ed Gamble**

When Phil said Genoa, I was, like, 'Oh, he's pronounced it that way, I'm not going to be able to do the joke.' So, I'm glad you went for another bite of the cherry there.

**James Acaster**

Absolutely.

**Ed Gamble**

Delighted.

**Phil Dunster**

I went-,

**Ed Gamble**

I hope your main course is from Jamaica.

**James Acaster**

'She went over on a corner,' is such a funny response.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Because no one speaks like that.

**Ed Gamble**

No.

**Phil Dunster**

Which one? What?

**Ed Gamble**

So, there's, 'Jamaica? No, she she went of her own accord.'

**James Acaster**

But no one ever says that. I've never said anyone outside of that joke go, 'Oh, they went of their own accord.'

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

So, no one speaks like that ever. So, it makes me laugh double, that joke, because it's just a funny way of speaking.



**Ed Gamble**

Sorry, Genoa. Genoa.

**James Acaster**

Where is Genoa?

**Phil Dunster**

Wait, what are we talking about? It's on the coast in Italy. It's on the west coast of Italy. And Amber and me have-,

**Ed Gamble**

Did you just do never-?

**Phil Dunster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Never eat shredded wheat in your head?

**Phil Dunster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Because I have to do that. Just checking.

**Phil Dunster**

Yes. It's, like, my partner always has to do-, she's driving and he's, like-, I'm, 'Turn left,' and she does the two L signs on left and right hand.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

You're driving, surely you'll know this.

**James Acaster**

Just write on the steering wheel in Tipp-Ex or something.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Like, help us out.



**Phil Dunster**

So, it's up there in the northwest of Italy. It's very, very beautiful. It's very beautiful. Amber and me had a lovely, gorgeous wedding there. One of the things was that they had a dude who was-, I don't know what, making burrata-, you throw pottery, you knead bread. I don't know what you do with burrata but he was bulging burrata.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

He was a bulger.

**Phil Dunster**

He was a bulger.

**James Acaster**

Yes, that's fair enough.

**Phil Dunster**

He was bulging burrata there before your very eyes. And, my oh my, it was creamy, it was milky, it was delicious.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

It was fresh. God it was good, it was so good.

**Ed Gamble**

I love it. Absolutely love burrata.

**James Acaster**

We've sang its praises many a time.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

I know. Here's the thing.



**James Acaster**

It's so good.

**Phil Dunster**

When you're coming on a show like this, you think, 'What's relatable food? What's funny food?' But I can't lie, it would just be burrata.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

All we want is people's genuine answer.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

Genoa-ne answer.

**James Acaster**

Oh, yes.

**Ed Gamble**

We always want people's Genoa-ne answer.

**Phil Dunster**

Oh, yes, that was the thing, in the dream restaurant, you know that Heston Blumenthal would do the whole you listen to something, you feel some sand whilst you're eating a thing. When they order this, you've got, like-, what is it? Like, an LED volume that you're in, or you're in the middle, there's loads of LED screens around you.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

You can see this place where I ate it. It was right in this little cove, there was this, like, beautiful, old bridge with a train going over the top of it, and it was perfect.

**James Acaster**

Lovely.



**Phil Dunster**

And you're immediately transported there.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

There's, like, a drunk auntie dancing because it's a wedding.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

But they're not ruining your time.

**Ed Gamble**

They're keeping their distance.

**Phil Dunster**

They're keeping their distance.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

You can have a little giggle at them at their expense. But you have a burrata and it's lovely.

**James Acaster**

I just love it. It was very, very creamy, right? Are you talking, like, super-duper?

**Phil Dunster**

Yes. I feel milky is-,

**James Acaster**

The fresh thing I'm quite jealous of. Haven't had it bulged in front of me before and then eat it.

**Ed Gamble**

Speaking of which, comic relief.

**Phil Dunster**

How are we feeling about me having cheesy garlic bread and also then cheesy burrata?

**Ed Gamble**

I feel great about it.



**Phil Dunster**

That's okay?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Cheesed out.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

Cheese town.

**Ed Gamble**

Just cheesed town.

**James Acaster**

I mean, are you having the meal alone or with other people?

**Phil Dunster**

I'm having it with my fiancée.

**James Acaster**

Are they fine with you cheesing it up?

**Phil Dunster**

Yes, for the time being. When it's working its way through, that's then an issue, but we're not in the dream restaurant by that point.

**Ed Gamble**

That's tomorrow's problem?

**Phil Dunster**

Yes, we're on our way home.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. You're on the dream toilet.

**Phil Dunster**

Yes.





**Ed Gamble**

Which is another podcast we do. We'll have to get you on that one.

**James Acaster**

That's the after show.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

That we do.

**Ed Gamble**

That's the Patreon extra.

**James Acaster**

Yes, we've got a Patreon for just people going, 'Then I had a shit.'

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, Block Menu.

**James Acaster**

Block Menu.

**Ed Gamble**

This burrata, can I check, what's coming with it?

**Phil Dunster**

Well, I feel like whenever you get any of the bits and bobs with it, there's going to be a, sort of, thick drizzle glazy thing or balsamic-y thing, or rocket. It tends to be rocket, that's quite a favourite. But I just love it straight up. All of that stuff is just in the way.

**James Acaster**

I'm so behind that.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

When you listed those other things, I was, like, 'Yes, they are always there,' and especially rocket.

**Phil Dunster**

Yes.



**James Acaster**

I'm, like, 'Get out of there, man.'

**Phil Dunster**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

What do you think I'm doing? I'm not against rocket, I like rocket in other contexts. With the burrata, I'm, like, this is not your show.

**Phil Dunster**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

You don't go with this very well.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

You're ruining the texture of it.

**Phil Dunster**

The texture is the big thing because you're, like, slopping the burrata on and then the rocket's, 'I'll come as well.'

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

Can you just- This is all about the burrata, it's the burrata show.

**James Acaster**

It's hanging on there.

**Phil Dunster**

Yes, it is.

**James Acaster**

Just dangling off the fork.

**Phil Dunster**

It's-



**James Acaster**

Then, when you put the burrata in your mouth, it makes it messier.

**Phil Dunster**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Because it's, kind of, created this tail.

**Ed Gamble**

And rocket is so peppery as well, rocket pushes itself to the forefront. It's like when you want to meet up with your friend and your friend's quite quiet but they bring another friend with them who's really loud. I'm, like, 'Look, I enjoy you both separately but you're treading on his toes.

**James Acaster**

I won't bring Nish again, okay?

**Ed Gamble**

Thank you.

**James Acaster**

For the millionth time, just let it go. I thought it'd be okay.

**Ed Gamble**

James is burrata, Nish is rocket.

**James Acaster**

Nish is, like, rocket.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. I love this-,

**James Acaster**

Him and the Guardians of the Galaxy voice.

**Ed Gamble**

Straight up burrata.

**Phil Dunster**

I'd have it like a gobstopper.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.



**James Acaster**

Wow.

**Phil Dunster**

It has been bulged, now getting it in.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

If you'd put a whole burrata in your mouth before you broke the skin and then popped it, I think you could drown.

**James Acaster**

I think so. That's coming out of your nose.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

It's at least coming out your nose.

**Phil Dunster**

Just think how sad that is.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

I loved it so much, at the gates of heaven, 'How'd you go?', 'Right, I did this podcast and then I felt like I had to do it and I love burrata so much,' and they'd be-, is it Gabriel, whoever it is there, he's-,

**James Acaster**

No, he's not bouncing-,

**Ed Gamble**

Peter.

**James Acaster**

Peter is bouncing. Gabriel told Mary she's preggers. That was his only job. He's gone on about it. I bet all the time in heaven, it was, like, 'Gabriel you haven't nothing since that, shut the fuck-, just shut up, mate.' It's, like, 'All I'm saying is I told her.'



**Phil Dunster**

Okay, so I'm telling Peter that I gobbled a burrata.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

And it went really tits-up.

**Ed Gamble**

Then, you drowned in burrata.

**James Acaster**

Internally. From within you drowned.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

But the funny thing is I don't like-, funny is a strong word, I don't like runny eggs. I feel like it's a similar thing, you break into a burrata and it's gushing.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

But-,

**Ed Gamble**

Like a poached egg?

**Phil Dunster**

A poached egg.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

Come on.



**James Acaster**

I mean, I do like runny eggs but I guess it's a bit more snotty than a burrata.

**Phil Dunster**

Yes, a burrata is just, like, pure, milky gold.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

It is, yes. It's just cream and just looks delicious.

**Phil Dunster**

God-damn. God-damn.

**James Acaster**

Another great character.

Dream main course, Phil?

**Phil Dunster**

It's an old Nigella Lawson, it's called Rapid Ragù.

**Ed Gamble**

Love it.

**Phil Dunster**

Yes. It's actually a Pam Dunster, a.k.a. Mum, special. It's one of those real comfort foods. It would be after playing rugby with my big bum. You come home, you're a bit battered, whatever, you've got-, not drunk but you'd be a bit beaten up, you've had a shower and you come downstairs, mum's made a nice Rapid Ragù.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

I don't really eat red meat anymore because I'm such a great guy, but it's lamb, it's pancetta, so a really fatty, oily, lovely meat. Then they put Marsala in it, you put Marsala in it.

**Ed Gamble**

Wow.

**Phil Dunster**

So, it's sweet and tangy but, like, just rich, rich, rich.



**Ed Gamble**

Marsala as in the wine?

**Phil Dunster**

As in the wine.

**Ed Gamble**

Not as in chicken tikka?

**Phil Dunster**

No.

**Ed Gamble**

No, okay.

**Phil Dunster**

Yes, but it's one of those that I try to make now with veggie mince and veggie bacon, which it's great. We've taken a lot of steps forward. I'm not a veggie, but I think it's great that that's a thing, but it just isn't quite the same. It isn't quite the same. Yes, it's going to be one of those, I'm going to delve back into some red meat. And because it's dream restaurant, mummy's going to serve it.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

She'll be, like, 'There you go, love.'

**James Acaster**

Pam Dunster. I used to play rugby until I was thirteen.

**Ed Gamble**

Now, Benito loves this.

**James Acaster**

He rarely laughs.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. That's true, he rarely laughs.

**James Acaster**

He rarely laughs, especially at what we say.



**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Because he's tired of us now. Absolutely losing it that I used to play rugby.

**Ed Gamble**

Surely you've mentioned this on the podcast before.

**James Acaster**

Well, I thought I had, but evidently it's news to this guy.

**Ed Gamble**

But what makes Benito laugh, it's not necessarily that he's heard it the first time, there's just about three things that always tickle him.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

I think this is one of them.

**James Acaster**

One of them is that I used to play rugby. I did until I was thirteen, I played rugby.

**Phil Dunster**

What position did you play?

**James Acaster**

Wing and then I was moved into the scrum.

**Phil Dunster**

Moved into the scrum?

**James Acaster**

I mean, we used to win all of our games.

**Phil Dunster**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

And then, we all hit thirteen. The rest of the country, everyone else was thirteen, got a growth-spurt, turned into full adult men apparently. We didn't, got absolutely just mashed every single Sunday by the





opposition, just fucking plough us into the ground. Learnt the hard way that we had a lot of criers on the team, and I was moved into the scrum as one of the taller ones.

**Phil Dunster**

Right, yes.

**James Acaster**

So, it was, like, 'Anyone who's vaguely tall, get in the scrum,' against these rhinos that we're playing against. It was pretty rough, it was a rough year. I think a rugby game makes every meal taste better. After you've played rugby and had the shower, crucially-,

**Phil Dunster**

The shower.

**James Acaster**

When you mentioned that, I was, like, 'Yes, I'm there.' It's Sunday, I'm knackered from playing rugby, I've had a shower, now it's dinner time and it's going to taste so good. I mean, to be fair, the Mars bar and Mountain Dew at the clubhouse was brilliant but that was pre-shower.

**Phil Dunster**

Mountain Dew?

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

That's proto-Monster, right?

**Phil Dunster**

Yes, that's nigh-on Monster.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes, I was loving it. It was before it, kind of, got taken off the shelves here for a bit.

**Phil Dunster**

I would do cream soda and the-, what were, like, the bacon-, the rashers?

**Ed Gamble**

Frazzles?



**Phil Dunster**

Frazzles.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

What a combo.

**Phil Dunster**

Pork scratching was frankly absurd that that is a snack.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes, it's mad.

**Phil Dunster**

That is mad, isn't it?

**James Acaster**

Maybe in medieval times you can understand it. The fact it's still knocking about now.

**Phil Dunster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

I love it.

**James Acaster**

Of course you love it.

**Ed Gamble**

I love pork scratchings.

**James Acaster**

But you eat like a medieval king.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, that's true.



**Phil Dunster**

It's such a hoggy meal.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, love it. The hairy ones.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

The big fatty ones. Love it. Speaking of which, tune into Comic Relief.

**James Acaster**

You've got the thing for your starter where suddenly they're at the wedding, do you want them to feel physically like they just played a rugby match and had a shower?

**Phil Dunster**

Yes, absolutely. They're maybe got a little graze on their face.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

Because it's just a reminder for the other person as all that, you know-, but both people, I suppose, have just gone through a rugby match.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

Because what is it? You're depleted, that's what it is, isn't it? You're depleted and a bit, like, 'Uh.'

**James Acaster**

You survived. It's-

**Phil Dunster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. So, you think it's specifically rugby that-?

**James Acaster**

I tried playing other sports at school and I actually enjoyed it, I enjoyed some but rugby was different feeling afterwards where going in I felt like I'm actually, like-, I could get proper fucked up here.



**Phil Dunster**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Like, I could get really hurt.

**Phil Dunster**

People do.

**James Acaster**

It is physically, like, exhausting. It would carry on regardless of the weather as well. I played football games and it rains, everyone's, 'Okay, forget it.' Rugby they're, like, 'Yes, we're playing anyway.' It's freezing.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

The most pain ever is when I tried to catch a ball once in the freezing cold and instead of catching it, it just dinged the end of my fingers. I was, like, 'Right, sub me, sub me. Are you fucking kidding me?'

**Ed Gamble**

I didn't know you had so many rugby memories.

**James Acaster**

I've got a lot of rugby memories, man.

**Ed Gamble**

I used to play rugby.

**James Acaster**

He's not laughing at that, look at him.

**Ed Gamble**

No because obviously I used to play rugby.

**James Acaster**

Yes, fair enough.

**Phil Dunster**

Yes, that makes sense.

**Ed Gamble**

I was prop forward, I was about eighteen stone when I was eleven.



**Phil Dunster**

What?

**Ed Gamble**

No, I wasn't really, but, yes, I was a big boy.

**James Acaster**

Yes, he was a big boy.

**Phil Dunster**

Right. You were prop?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

I was hookup.

**Ed Gamble**

Were you?

**Phil Dunster**

Yes, we would have been real up close.

**Ed Gamble**

It's a perfect scrum.

**Phil Dunster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

You'd be up our butts.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

You were second row.



**James Acaster**

Yes, okay, fair enough.

**Ed Gamble**

You were second row? Were you?

**James Acaster**

Yes, I think I was.

**Phil Dunster**

Well, because you're tall, that tends to be-,

**James Acaster**

I was on the left.

**Phil Dunster**

Yes. On the outside?

**James Acaster**

On the outside.

**Phil Dunster**

You're a flanker.

**James Acaster**

Yes, okay. Okay, mate.

**Ed Gamble**

Can you believe, James, that Phil played rugby, but then he played a football player in a TV show?

**James Acaster**

Listen, I'd be lying if I didn't say I was already thinking that. I was thinking, like, man, I wonder if any of your rugby skill informed the character of Jamie Tartt, the athlete?

**Phil Dunster**

When we were playing football in Ted, they were very-,

**James Acaster**

Ted Lasso?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, Ted Lasso. Not the film Ted.



**Phil Dunster**

Not the film Ted.

**James Acaster**

Not with the bear who swears a lot?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. Sorry.

**James Acaster**

That bear swears so much, it's got such a foul mouth for a teddy bear.

**Ed Gamble**

I've just got it. Thanks for explaining that to me, man. I finally understand the film Ted.

**James Acaster**

It shouldn't swear that much.

**Ed Gamble**

No, for a teddy bear.

**James Acaster**

They used to be quite cuddly. When you were playing football with Ted.

**Phil Dunster**

When we were playing football in Ted Lasso-,

**James Acaster**

Ted Lasso.

**Phil Dunster**

They were very open and ready to ask us to try and do the skills, to try and, you know, actually play it. They're not going to use stunt doubles. For the first couple of seasons they didn't really use many stunt doubles for the most parts. There was a free kick that Jamie scores in the second series from, like, 40 yards out, and I was, like, 'Okay, there's a great goal that Cristiano Ronaldo scores,' and I was, 'I'll do that.' He does this knuckle ball in the semi-final of the Champions League against Arsenal, and it's, like, absurd. It defies the laws of physics. I was, like, 'Yes, I've got that in me. I've got that in me-', so, like, by the seventeenth take and I've just been losing my toenails from just trying to boot it, I tried to kick it because the only way I was going to reach the goal was to try and kick it like a penalty. You can, kind of, see when I do it, there's no prowess at all or elan with how I kick the ball. I just try and absolutely bollock it. I just kick it as hard as I can, and it ended up going in. But I know that that was just purely me shutting my eyes and just hoping for the best, which is what I would do when I was playing rugby.



**James Acaster**

There you go.

**Ed Gamble**

It was a great question, great answer.

**James Acaster**

A great question. This pasta sounds great. I love that your mum's making it and bringing it out.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

Yes, she'll be there. I mean, I don't know how many people are coming into this dream restaurant. I don't want to overwork her.

**James Acaster**

Whatever you want.

**Ed Gamble**

No, I mean, it can just be you and Ellie.

**Phil Dunster**

Okay, great, yes. In that case, yes. Yes, sure.

**Ed Gamble**

Would your mum sit down with you to eat the Rapid Ragù?

**Phil Dunster**

Yes, sure.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

Please. Come and sit down, enjoy your wares, or enjoy your meal, whatever it is that she's-

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

She's done it.





**James Acaster**

The products of your labour.

**Phil Dunster**

That's it, yes.

**James Acaster**

Which you are as well.

**Ed Gamble**

You are as well, yes.

**Phil Dunster**

Which is true.

**James Acaster**

Dream side dish.

**Phil Dunster**

My side dish, to go with this, is one of those squishy taters. Like, roast squishy taters.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

Which is, like, where they've clearly just roasted a potato, put a shitload of salt on it, and then smushed it.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

I like my tater, like, when it's got that crispy crunch. You know, when they-?

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

On Instagram when they do, like, and ASMR.



**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

They scrape a knife over it. That's what I like. Like, it's too oily, but I like that. But it's fluffy on the inside.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. The smush is something I've seen a lot on Instagram and social media.

**Phil Dunster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Like, roast potatoes. They, sort of, power-boil them, get really hot fat, and then they smush.

**Phil Dunster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Then they're in the oven, right?

**Phil Dunster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

So, the smush happens then rather than at the end.

**Phil Dunster**

I guess so, I don't know actually.

**James Acaster**

Yes, I've done it.

**Phil Dunster**

You've done-?

**James Acaster**

It was before I put it in the oven. What?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. Yes, 'I've done it.'



**James Acaster**

I've done it, so you know?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. So, it's fully formed when it comes out as a smush?

**James Acaster**

Yes. Power-boil them, put them on a tray, cover them in olive oil and all the seasoning you want.

**Phil Dunster**

Olive oil?

**James Acaster**

That's what I did.

**Phil Dunster**

Okay, great. No, fine. Then that's fine, that's good.

**James Acaster**

What oil would you-?

**Phil Dunster**

Well, I don't know. If you're roasting potatoes, you want to use something with a higher-,

**Ed Gamble**

Burn point.

**Phil Dunster**

Burn point.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

Is that right?

**James Acaster**

I have no idea.

**Phil Dunster**

But you did it and it was delicious.

**James Acaster**

No idea.



**Phil Dunster**

Yes. I don't know either.

**James Acaster**

I used olive oil.

**Ed Gamble**

You want to use, like-,

**James Acaster**

That's what the internet told me.

**Ed Gamble**

You're the only one who's done them here at this table, as far as I know.

**James Acaster**

But what should I use?

**Ed Gamble**

So, for example, with, like, a steak I wouldn't use olive oil to fry steak because you want something with a higher burning point, so I'd use a rapeseed oil or even a veg oil.

**Phil Dunster**

Yes, I'd say a veggie oil, yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

So, maybe I should try it again.

**Phil Dunster**

Listen, I don't want you rake you over the coals for using olive oil, James, I don't.

**Ed Gamble**

Or fat. Or, like, use a goose fat.

**Phil Dunster**

Use a goose fat. Goose fat is the classic-,



**Ed Gamble**

Or duck fat.

**Phil Dunster**

Did you say dog fat?

**Ed Gamble**

Duck fat.

**Phil Dunster**

Duck fat.

**Ed Gamble**

Or dog fat, use a bit of dog fat.

**Phil Dunster**

If you see that on the internet, don't just do what you see on the internet, that's how we ended up with Trump. I think that's probably fair to say.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

If you're using olive oil on your roast potatoes, you probably voted for Trump.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

I think that's fair-,

**Ed Gamble**

Trump's your fault.

**James Acaster**

I'll take full responsibility. I'm happy to.



**Ed Gamble**

That's why you've been walking around with a cap saying, 'Make taters great again.'

**James Acaster**

MATA. No? I can't even spell.

**Phil Dunster**

MATAG. Mmm-tag. Mmm-tag. That's how I'm going to do Curly, 'Mmm-tag. You want to get some burrata and you want to get some mmm-tag? Get them taters and get them all squishy and they're damn good.'

**James Acaster**

You're a fucking chameleon man.

**Phil Dunster**

On the point of Oklahoma, I was thinking what the state food is there.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

I looked it up and it's just barbecue chicken, barbecue ribs, barbecued beef, barbecued vegetable. Burned tips, spareribs. That-,

**James Acaster**

Burned tits? When you ran the bath a bit too hot.

**Ed Gamble**

I can't believe James is trying to say I run the bath too hot. Tell Phil what you did the other day.

**James Acaster**

What?

**Ed Gamble**

Before you came on a Zoom with me and Benito. Speaking of burned tips.

**James Acaster**

Phil will think is perfectly normal.

**Ed Gamble**

Before he does it, I'll preface it by saying it's the saddest day I've ever heard anyone have.

**James Acaster**

I was in Bristol on tour, so I was in a hotel room.



**Phil Dunster**

Great city as well.

**James Acaster**

I had a facial booked for the weekend.

**Phil Dunster**

Great.

**James Acaster**

So, I wanted to steam building up to it, so that my pores were nice and open and they weren't, like, slaving away trying to dig into all of my pores.

**Phil Dunster**

Great.

**James Acaster**

I was, like, 'I'll make it easy for them, I'll steam every day.' So, that morning I got up, I did all my exercise in the hotel, and then I was, like, 'Oh, I'm going to steam before I fully get ready for the day.' But I couldn't find a bowl that was big enough to steam in the hotel room. All that they had was, like, those coffee cups. So, I filled that with boiling hot water.

**Phil Dunster**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

I put a towel over my head and I was steaming. And because I was hugging the towel and it got really toasty and warm and it was quite early in the morning. I started to doze off. Then, I just-

**Ed Gamble**

Started to doze off, yes.

**James Acaster**

I slowly, like, drifted forwards as I feel asleep. But my nose arced perfectly into the mug. So, I woke up by my nose getting scalded with boiling hot water on the tip of my nose. That startled me awake and killed.

**Phil Dunster**

Unfortunately, you've given yourself way more work that you started off with for the facial.

**James Acaster**

Yes. I cancelled the facial.



**Phil Dunster**

No.

**Ed Gamble**

Because what happened afterwards?

**James Acaster**

Obviously I looked in the mirror, it had already blistered and started to peel.

**Phil Dunster**

Blistered.

**James Acaster**

It was fucked. Had a gig that night as well, I had to go on with, like, a clown's nose. But I Googled-,

**Phil Dunster**

Good for Comic Relief. Red Nose Day.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes, absolutely perfect.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Googled, you know, 'What do you do if you scald any part of your body?' Said, run it under a cold tap for twenty minutes. It's on my nose, Phil.

**Phil Dunster**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

So, I'm running the cold tap, I'm bending down. It's a hotel sink as well, so it's lower than a normal sink.

**Phil Dunster**

Sure.

**James Acaster**

So, I'm properly hunched over.





**Phil Dunster**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

With my nose just under the cold tap, just vibrating, freezing, and watching, like, Jimmy Kimmel interviews on my phone to keep me going for twenty minutes. I was hunched over for twenty minutes, so then I stood up-,

**Phil Dunster**

Back's hurting.

**James Acaster**

Felt okay, then bent down again, pulled my back immediately.

**Phil Dunster**

For God's sake.

**James Acaster**

I'm on the floor, I can't move. I got a text from my tour manager, I'm, like, able to still get my phone, saying to my tour manager, 'I need to go to an osteo-, I'm fucked. I pulled my back.' Didn't even mention my nose, I was, like, what's the point? Takes me to the osteo, all the osteos looks-, the osteo person is talking to me about my back trying to figure out what happened but all he's doing is looking at my nose. Because he's, like, 'How has this happened to this guy on the same day? Clearly something has happened here.' Because he was asking me how I'd done it. I was, like, 'Well, I bent over for twenty minutes, and then I think that's what messed it up.' He was, like, 'Right, why have you bent over?' I was just, 'I don't think that relevant. That's not your job. You have to help me out.' Having to go on stage that night, hobbling on stage with a, like, red sore nose. I think we had the Zoom, like, ten minutes after I got back from the osteopath.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

Do you know what you need?

**James Acaster**

Yes?

**Phil Dunster**

A Rapid Ragù.

**James Acaster**

Yes.



**Ed Gamble**

Yes, that's perfect.

**James Acaster**

That would have made me feel great.

**Ed Gamble**

Get Pam in with a Rapid Ragù.

**Phil Dunster**

There you go.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

That would have been nice.

**Ed Gamble**

Perfect.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

It would sort you right out. My dad is a very ingenious man when it comes to DIY fixes. He gets such bad sunburn. We were on holiday, he'd been on the beach, hadn't slipped, slapped, slopped in the way that maybe he should have done. He had such a bad burned face that he-, it was the end of the day, we, like-, we were about to go out for dinner, he was, 'I can't go out like this, this is insane. Absolutely insane.' So, he filled up, again, a hotel sink with water but got loads of ice and put it in, and he got a snorkel and just plunged his face in and just stayed there for a good twenty minutes. I think it's probably one of the most ingenious things I've even seen.

**Ed Gamble**

Did it work? Did it bring the sunburn down?

**Phil Dunster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Wow.

**Phil Dunster**

Well, he felt better.



**Ed Gamble**

Because I would have thought that would make him even redder.

**James Acaster**

Yes, I follow you. Came out absolutely glowing. If that works, that's amazing, but I still don't respect him for thinking of it. I mean, that's a-,

**Phil Dunster**

It's a dad thing.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, that's a proper dad thing, yes.

**Phil Dunster**

Dads are mad.

**James Acaster**

My dad wouldn't have pulled that off. With all do respect to him. He won't listen to this but my mom will and she'll tell him. If my dad had even have thought about that, he would have drowned himself. He would have tried to do it, wouldn't have thought of the snorkel.

**Phil Dunster**

Yes. I mean, you're under a running tap, but that's hurting because that's friction.

**James Acaster**

Yes, it was bad.

**Phil Dunster**

Yes, God.

**James Acaster**

It was so bad. Every now and again checking it in the mirror and convincing myself that maybe it will be okay, or maybe no one will notice this.

**Ed Gamble**

I've got a picture of it, I'll show you after.

**James Acaster**

As soon as the Zoom started, 'What have you done to your nose?'

**Phil Dunster**

No. Straight off the bat.



**James Acaster**

'What did you do to your nose?' Told them, both fucking laughing.

**Ed Gamble**

All I could imagine was the thing from the Simpsons, the-,

**James Acaster**

Drinking bird?

**Ed Gamble**

The drinking bird that Homer set up on the phone. That's all I could think of.

**James Acaster**

Yes. That's exactly what it was.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

I arced into it exactly like the drinking bird from the Simpsons that Homer puts in charge of the power plant.

Your dream drink?

**Phil Dunster**

It's going to be Coke Zero.

**James Acaster**

Hold on a second, earlier on-,

**Phil Dunster**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

You said-,

**Phil Dunster**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

'I don't want to give my dream drink away but I like a bit of pizazz.'

**Ed Gamble**

That's true, you did say that.



**James Acaster**

Now you've gone for Coke Zero.

**Phil Dunster**

There's a bit in Peep Show when Jeremy's on a date with Big Suze and he's like, 'What do you want to drink?' And she's like, 'I'll have the Barolo,' a fancy drink. He's like, 'I don't know what the Barolo-, what is a wine?' While he's looking through it, and he's, like, desperately trying to see what the prices are of these wines. And then he finds the Barolo and it was, like, the most expensive wine on the menu, and he's like, 'Fucking hell, God.' But he's got to really, like, make it feel like this is good. And he sips his wine, he's like, 'Yes, that's good, that's really good. I mean, it's not really delicious like hot chocolate or Coke, but for wine, that's great.' That brain work.

**Ed Gamble**

That's how you feel about-, yes.

**Phil Dunster**

If ever people go, 'Do you want wine?' I'm, like, 'But it's not really delicious like hot chocolate or Coke.'

**James Acaster**

Yes. Do you know what, Phil? I think that as well, but I'd forgotten the Coke bit because I'm so focused on hot chocolate.

**Ed Gamble**

When you were talking about wine in Peep Show, I thought you were going to go-, I think it's a Big Suze line as well, where she pours them wine and then gets a hip flask out and goes, 'Shall we make these wines Irish?'

**James Acaster**

It's a good joke. It's a good show.

**Phil Dunster**

Yes, it's a good show. It's funny.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, it's a funny show.

**Phil Dunster**

Turns out it's good.

**Ed Gamble**

So, yes, you're just thinking, 'Why have a wine when I can have a Coke Zero?'



**Phil Dunster**

There's a elderflower fizz, sure, there's margarita, okay, there's home-made lemonade, it's just not as good as Coke Zero. Every time it's, like, 'That is so refreshing and delicious.'

**James Acaster**

Specifically Coke Zero, not Diet Coke?

**Phil Dunster**

Coke Zero.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

Not Coke, normal Coke, not Diet Coke, but I'm pouring it. Bloody hell, when somebody pours it for you and they're pouring it from a height and there's no leaning of the glass, you're an animal.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

You're an animal, what do you think you're doing?

**James Acaster**

Yes. Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

You've ruined my meal. Mum's not serving anymore, mum-,

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, you're not serving this to your mum.

**Phil Dunster**

Yes, that's right. Yes, she would know.

**James Acaster**

She could-,

**Phil Dunster**

But also, there is a phenomenon with Diet Coke and, like, fake cokes that there is far more fizz from the ice because there is-, I believe that this is right-, this is real pseudo-science, much more service area,



because it's all jagged-y and, you know-, on the service of the ice the-, as I'm saying this, this feels so not right.

**Ed Gamble**

Follow it through.

**Phil Dunster**

Yes. When the Diet Coke, for some reason, hits the ice-, or the Coke Zero hits the ice, it fizzes, froths a lot, you lose that pizazz, the pizazz I'm looking for from a drink. So, it's going to be ice that you have poured water over and then you drain the water out, because that sorts it out, you pour the Coke on-, a good angle, and gently, gently so it retains its pizazz.

**James Acaster**

Wow.

**Ed Gamble**

So, for you, frothing does not equal pizazz?

**Phil Dunster**

Big time no.

**Ed Gamble**

Because to me, a bit of froth, we're in pizazz town.

**James Acaster**

Tune into Comic Relief.

**Ed Gamble**

It doesn't work for everything but-,

**James Acaster**

Froth the bath up.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes tune into to Comic Relief, 'I'll froth the bath up, and you can have a look at my pizazz.'

**James Acaster**

It works. Okay, the froth question first-,

**Phil Dunster**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Why is froth not pizazz?



**Phil Dunster**

Because to me it just looks like a wasted Coke Zero.

**Ed Gamble**

Right.

**Phil Dunster**

Because I just know I'm going to taste that and it's going to be just that little bit too flat. I'm, like, 'I wish I hadn't got that now.' But for me the pizazz comes from, like, the fireworks of the carbon nature of the drink.

**Ed Gamble**

We can see the little ones flying off everywhere. Yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

It's funky, it's a giggling drink.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

You can get that with other drinks, sure, you can get it with other drinks. But if we're talking, you know, the sensation, you can get that from others, but the taste, God-damn.

**Ed Gamble**

So, Curly likes Coke Zero as well, right?

**James Acaster**

Curly is so present in this podcast.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

You can tell that this is the production you've currently got your head in.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.





**James Acaster**

Curly keeps popping up.

**Phil Dunster**

That's how you do it, that's how you make a character, what would they drink, what would they, you know-, what would they eat?

**Ed Gamble**

But on this occasion-,

**Phil Dunster**

This is perfect.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

On this occasion, the character likes exactly what you like? This is less transformative, this character.

**Phil Dunster**

He's from 1906 of the American Frontier and he's, like, 'I want me some burrata. Give me that creamy, milky burrata.'

**James Acaster**

With some Rapid Ragù. That's such a specific way that you want it to be poured, bottled, can, draft? You must be very specific about that as well?

**Phil Dunster**

To go back to rugby days, there was nothing like draft coke.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

Man, I don't know whatever secret sauce they had going on there at the clubhouse, that-, in the glass, just that beautiful mash-up of syrup and water or whatever it is.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

That's class. Here, it's probably going to be a can. So, maybe it's not so refined.



**James Acaster**

I don't like the little bottles.

**Phil Dunster**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

When they bring those out-,

**Phil Dunster**

Get a grip.

**James Acaster**

It doesn't look as much as a can.

**Phil Dunster**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

I do get annoyed when they then, without asking me, immediately pour that into my glass of ice because that's-, I just feel, like-,

**Phil Dunster**

But why is it?

**James Acaster**

Sometimes I don't want it as cold as that straight away, and I'd like to make that decision myself.

**Phil Dunster**

Okay.

**James Acaster**

So, it's more like that. I prefer to just drink it out the bottle. It already looks like I'm not looking much, I'd like to just have it just straight out the bottle and drink it that way.

**Phil Dunster**

Do you think it tastes better out of the bottle?

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

It definitely does. If it's, like, a hot day and it's straight out of the bottle, and you're holding the bottle, and you feel like you're in an advert.



**Phil Dunster**

Yes. Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, I like that.

**Phil Dunster**

See the sweat dripping down the sides.

**Ed Gamble**

But also the pouring, like, especially with the bottle, they don't have time to pour everyone's properly and pour the full bottle out into the glass and wait for the froth to subside. So, they just pour it in a bit as a gesture and then fuck off.

**Phil Dunster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

You're, like, 'That's half a job done here.'

**James Acaster**

Yes, 'What am I doing now?'

**Ed Gamble**

Just leave it to me.

**James Acaster**

I shot that, do I?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Straight up with the ice in it. Yes, I don't like that at all.

**Phil Dunster**

Listen, your preachings are converted here, 'Let me pour my own Coke the way I want it poured.'

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

'Don't come along, yes, half-hearted and frothed up when I don't want it frothed.'



**James Acaster**

Just jump in there sometimes, 'No, I'll do it.'

**Phil Dunster**

Yes, okay, 'Just fuck off, I-'

**Ed Gamble**

I just knock the glass out of the way while they're doing it, so they're just pouring it all over the table. Stand up, turn round, use your arse to knock everything off the table and leave.

**James Acaster**

Everything is just demolished because you didn't want frothy Coke.

**Phil Dunster**

Absolute carnage.

**James Acaster**

Your dream dessert.

**Phil Dunster**

There's a pub near where my mum lived in Reading. It's out in the countryside, it's a country pub, sticky toffee pud. It's got dates in. It's got that almost, like, tangy metallic-y taste that you get from the drizzle-y stuff.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

There's cucky for days.

**James Acaster**

Sorry?

**Phil Dunster**

There's cucky-,

**Ed Gamble**

Cucky?

**Phil Dunster**

Custard. Of course.

**Ed Gamble**

I don't think cucky is an acceptable shortening of the word custard.



**James Acaster**

I thought you'd been given diarrhoea by the-,

**Phil Dunster**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

I thought you'd eat the sticky toffee pud and now you have got diarrhoea for the rest of the week.

**Phil Dunster**

Cucky-,

**James Acaster**

Cucky for days.

**Phil Dunster**

Cucky.

**Ed Gamble**

It's so delicious but you get cucky for days.

**Phil Dunster**

Yes, I'm going to get some cucky on there with the-,

**James Acaster**

You've got, like, a little bit-,

**Phil Dunster**

Now-,

**James Acaster**

I don't usually give life advice to the guests, you've got to stop calling it that outside of this podcast and-

**Phil Dunster**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

I mean, in it it's fine, we know what it means now, but don't-,

**Phil Dunster**

This feels like-,

**Ed Gamble**

Do you regularly call-,



**James Acaster**

Call it cucky?

**Ed Gamble**

Call custard cucky?

**Phil Dunster**

I do, I do.

**Ed Gamble**

Do you? Does anyone else join in?

**Phil Dunster**

Do you know who else calls it that?

**James Acaster**

Who?

**Phil Dunster**

Curly from Oklahoma.

**Ed Gamble**

Of course he does.

**James Acaster**

Yes. Of course he does.

**Ed Gamble**

Curly loves cucky.

**James Acaster**

Curly loves cucky sure. I mean, it sounds cucky should mean something else. Can we call each other cucks all the time now and stuff?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, I mean, that's a Shakespearean word, that's not-,

**Phil Dunster**

Yes, sure.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.



**James Acaster**

Yes. So, if you say to the waiter-,

**Phil Dunster**

Well, they know, they're serving it. It's my-,

**Ed Gamble**

They don't know it's called cuckoo though.

**Phil Dunster**

Hold on a minute, whose dream restaurant is this? Because I'm taking flak from-,

**James Acaster**

Okay, so hang on, they know the lingo. So, if you're pointing at the sticky toffee pudding, you go, 'Cuck me.'

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

They're not going to serve me Ed's diarrhoea. They're going to know exactly what it is. It's creamy-,

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

It's sweet.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

It's, I guess, eggy because of egg custard.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

It's just right-,

**Ed Gamble**

Hot or cold?



**Phil Dunster**

Hot.

**Ed Gamble**

Hot cucky?

**Phil Dunster**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Hot cucky, man. Fucking hell. How have you never thought it was weird until now?

**Phil Dunster**

I know it's weird, I know, but, you know, it's who I am, it's my cross and I shall bear it.

**James Acaster**

You said hot cucky, to Brett Goldstein before?

**Ed Gamble**

I don't think he said it.

**James Acaster**

Brett heard you say hot cucky?

**Phil Dunster**

This is probably the highest profile outing that cucky's had.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

For me so far.

**Ed Gamble**

Also, you're not going to be anywhere with Brett where cucky is on the menu, are you?

**James Acaster**

No. To be honest, you could convince him, it's called that, he's never seen it before. It's just cucky, 'Okay, thank you.'





**Phil Dunster**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

'Thank you for telling me that, Phil.'

**Ed Gamble**

'I'm going to try cucky another time.'

**James Acaster**

'I'm going to tell people that I've cucky with Phil Dunster. This is called cucky.' No, it's not, Brett, that's custard.

**Ed Gamble**

'You can have it hold or cold, cucky.'

**James Acaster**

'Phil likes hot cucky.'

**Ed Gamble**

I mean, it does sound like a delicious dessert, however much you've tried to make it sound absolutely disgusting.

**James Acaster**

Yes. I've never seen someone do so much legwork to make an objectively delicious dessert sound gross.

**Phil Dunster**

You can have it on the side. You can have the cucky on the side. You can have your hot cucky on the side.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

You don't need to put your cucky all over your lovely sticky toffee pud.

**James Acaster**

Yes.



**Phil Dunster**

I'll have your cucku. Get us a-

**James Acaster**

What?

**Phil Dunster**

James, are you having any cucku?

**James Acaster**

No, I'm not. I'm not having it.

**Phil Dunster**

Listen, if you want to drizzle it all over your pud, get your cucku on your pud.

**James Acaster**

No, I'm was to leave it, I'm going to leave it, I'm not going to have my cucku.

**Phil Dunster**

Alright. Do you mind if I have your cucku?

**James Acaster**

Yes, if you want to have my cucku, you can.

**Phil Dunster**

I'm going to spoon your cucku.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

Ed, is that cucku-

**Ed Gamble**

Sorry, I was so turned on. Get your hands off my cucku, Phil.

**James Acaster**

But you're having it all over your pud?

**Phil Dunster**

Yes. I'm not ashamed.



**James Acaster**

Most likely, like, one of those sticky toffee puds that's, like, out of a plastic cup with the film lid, or do you think it was made on premises?

**Phil Dunster**

It was one of those where I think it was probably an inner tray, it was, like, made in a big silver tray.

**Ed Gamble**

Nice.

**Phil Dunster**

It was a proper legit one.

**James Acaster**

Good.

**Phil Dunster**

The cucky had, like, those vanilla pods in there.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

They just, like, put vanilla pods in there.

**James Acaster**

Again, I mean, absolute legit nice custard should not be called cucky. Such a disrespectful term.

**Phil Dunster**

It's delicious. It was delicious cucky.

**James Acaster**

Is this a family thing? Does your whole family call it cucky?

**Phil Dunster**

I think it is, yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes. So, the Dunsters all say cucky?

**Phil Dunster**

Dad's-,



**Ed Gamble**

So, Pam's not going to bat an eyelid when cucky comes up at the dream restaurant?

**James Acaster**

Ellie's used to it by now?

**Phil Dunster**

Ellie, I think probably still shirks it slightly. Dad, he's got his snorkel and he's, like-,

**Ed Gamble**

He's not face-down in some cucky with a snorkel sticking out, is he?

**James Acaster**

His bird face straight in the cucky. The snorkel.

**Ed Gamble**

'I love cucky.'

**Phil Dunster**

I mean, yes, the man loves cucky as well. Yes, I guess we're a cucky family.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

Yes. Do you know what, here's what I'm hoping, one day you'll be out having some delicious food-,

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

The waiter will be, 'Would you like any desserts?' 'I'll have the chocolate cake-, ' you'd have chocolate cake?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

Yes.



**James Acaster**

Yes, I'd order chocolate.

**Phil Dunster**

Yes. 'Did you want any cucku with that?'

**Ed Gamble**

What? Hang on, so you're hoping that-,

**Phil Dunster**

It's going to disseminate across all restaurants.

**James Acaster**

So, are you hoping that it becomes so commonplace-,

**Phil Dunster**

Cucky.

**James Acaster**

That one day it, you know, will happen to us. What's happened to both of us many times is someone who works in the service industry and has heard this podcast remembers something like that that we've long since forgotten. Not that we will ever forget this conversation, Phil. Then, we're at a restaurant and the waiter or waitress will do an in-joke to us like that, and we won't know what they're talking about. Is that what you mean? Because I hope that never happens.

**Phil Dunster**

Well, I-,

**James Acaster**

If anyone's listening, if you come up to me in a restaurant and say, 'Would you like cucku with that?' I'm leaving your restaurant.

**Ed Gamble**

I will say that this will not be one of the things I forget.

**Phil Dunster**

I hope that's-,

**Ed Gamble**

Every time I see custard I'm going to go, 'Oh, cucku.' I'll feel a bit sick.

**James Acaster**

It's cucku.



**Phil Dunster**

I can't ever ruin delicious cucky for you, surely.

**Ed Gamble**

Well, it's custard, and yes.

**James Acaster**

I mean, yes, it's not getting any better each time you say it.

**Phil Dunster**

I'll tell you what, well, it's not just chicken that Brett has had with me, it's one of the cucky tarts in Nandos.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

A pastel de nata.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

They-,

**Ed Gamble**

As the Portuguese insist on calling them, pastel de nata.

**James Acaster**

No, they call it pucky de nucky. Everyone knows that. Brett's had one of those? You watched him eat it?

**Phil Dunster**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

What does that do to his brain?

**Phil Dunster**

Well, he was like, 'I don't know about this,' and I as, 'It's delish, you've just got to try one. It's delish.' Yes, there was a little bit of cajoling but, yes, he went in there in the end and he liked it. He probably wouldn't have another one because maybe I overused the term cucky.



**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Is it difficult for you ordering that sort of stuff when you play Jaime Tartt and you say, 'Can I have a custard tart?'

**Phil Dunster**

I quite like it.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

But do they go, 'Oh-,'

**Ed Gamble**

Tart for Tartt?

**James Acaster**

'Oh, hello.'

**Ed Gamble**

Or are they mainly focused on the fact you've used the word cucky?

**James Acaster**

Yes, that'll distract them I guess.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Man, well, you would like sparkling water, garlic-y cheesy bread with rosemary for popadoms or bread. Your starter, straight-up with nothing on it, fresh burrata from Genoa?

**Phil Dunster**

No, I never met her.

**James Acaster**

Main course, mum's Rapid Ragù after a rugby match, with a cut on the face.



**Phil Dunster**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Side dish, roast squishy potatoes.

**Phil Dunster**

I'd say mashed, but, yes, smushed.

**Ed Gamble**

Smushed.

**James Acaster**

Smushed.

**Phil Dunster**

Smushed tater.

**James Acaster**

Drink, a can of Coke Zero poured by yourself. Dessert, country pub sticky toffee pudding with hot cucky.

**Ed Gamble**

That was a very nice menu.

**Phil Dunster**

Thanks.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

It's very nice, yes.

**Ed Gamble**

It's really good. Love burrata.

**Phil Dunster**

I'm not going off-piste that much, I guess.

**Ed Gamble**

It's classics.

**Phil Dunster**

Yes, straight down the line.





**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Phil Dunster**

It's on menu, it's not Off Menu.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, it's very on menu.

**James Acaster**

Yes, very on menu.

**Phil Dunster**

So, thanks. Thanks so much for facilitating that.

**Ed Gamble**

Of course. Is that what you always say when you leave a restaurant?

**James Acaster**

Thank you for facilitating that, I'll be going now.

**Phil Dunster**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes, thanks for facilitating that.

**Phil Dunster**

I never tip, but I just give them a good, big, hearty thank you.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. Well, thank you for allowing us to facilitate you. Thank you. Thank you so much to Phil. That was a fun one, James.

**James Acaster**

That was a lot of fun. We learned so much about Phil, we learned words we never thought we'd hear.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, I'm not going to get cucky out of my head for a long time.

**James Acaster**

Man. Even as you say it there, sends a shiver down my spine.



**Ed Gamble**

Yes. Thank you so much to Phil for coming on, that was a great time. He didn't say the secret ingredient, no jammy tarts.

**James Acaster**

Didn't say jammy tarts, mentioned the Portuguese tart, the pastel de nata at the end there.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

If he had chosen that, we wouldn't have kicked him out, it's not a jammy tart.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, absolutely not, no, it's a cucky tart.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Phil is of course in Oklahoma in Concert, pop along to go and see him play Curly with some new character additions after today. If he does mention burrata, let us know. Monday 19th August and Tuesday 20th August. But on Tuesday 20th August, there's a matinee as well, so he'll be doing three shows at 2:30pm, and then 7:30 on Tuesday, and 7:30pm on the Monday. [OklahomaConcert.co.uk](http://OklahomaConcert.co.uk) for tickets. That's going to be a lot of fun.

**James Acaster**

I love going to see a matinee.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes?

**James Acaster**

Yes. It's better than going in the evening.

**Ed Gamble**

It is, because you're out and you're, 'I've got the evening now.'

**James Acaster**

Yes, it's so-,

**Ed Gamble**

To go and see another show.



**James Acaster**

Yes. Same one again if you want.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

You can go see Phil Dunster do Oklahoma twice in a day.

**Ed Gamble**

Do the double.

**James Acaster**

Yes, do the double, that's what we say.

**Ed Gamble**

I'm going back on tour. My tour Hot Diggity Dog is, of course, starting again in September through to November. Check out the dates on [EdGamble.co.uk](http://EdGamble.co.uk) if you want to come along.

**James Acaster**

Will do, Ed.

**Ed Gamble**

Thanks, baby.

**James Acaster**

I saw it in Hackney at it was stupendous.

**Ed Gamble**

Thanks, man.

**James Acaster**

It was the best show I've ever seen, I loved it so much, and I had the night of my life.

**Ed Gamble**

Just to let you know, we're recording this before James has seen the show.

**James Acaster**

Exquisite comedy.

**Ed Gamble**

Thank you very much for listening, we'll see you next week.



**James Acaster**

See you next week. Thank you for listening to the Off Menu podcast.

**Ed Gamble**

Bye bye.