



Off Menu – Ep 256 – Hammed Animashaun

Ed Gamble

Welcome to the Off Menu podcast. Taking the Halloumi of conversation, chopping it up into the fries of friendship. Dipping it in the egg of humour, using the breadcrumbs of the internet, and deep-frying in the oil of content. It's Halloumi fries, James.

James Acaster

I don't think content has made an appearance before.

Ed Gamble

No, it hasn't, and I was really panicking to work out what the oil would be, and I've gone with content.

James Acaster

You've made it.

Ed Gamble

And I suppose this is content, in a way, isn't it?

James Acaster

We're finally people who provide content.

Ed Gamble

Yes. In the way that modern content is just something, isn't it?

James Acaster

Yes. Well, this is a historic day. So, anyone listening to this, make sure you post, 'Congratulations to the Off Menu podcast for finally producing content.' Welcome to the Off Menu podcast. That is Ed Gamble, my name is James Acaster, and together we are an intriguing restaurant, and every single week we invite in a guest. We ask them their favourite ever starter, main course, dessert, side dish, and drink, not in that order, and this week our guest is Hammed Animashaun.

Ed Gamble

Hammed Animashaun. Hammed Animashaun is a wonderful actor, a hugely incredible comic actor. I mean, I've recommended this show to you, Black Ops, that he's in, and it's had one series on the BBC. Him and the rest of the cast are so, so funny, the script is watertight. It is a genuinely exciting action-comedy, and it's made me laugh probably more than any other sitcom in the last five years. I loved it.

James Acaster

And not only is he killing it on the screen, also on the stage at the minute, in Kiss Me, Kate.



Ed Gamble

Yes, he's in the hit musical comedy, Kiss Me, Kate. A new production of that at the Barbican Theatre. It's already started, but it is on until the 14th September. Also starting Adrian Dunbar, Nigel Lindsay, Stephanie J. Block. Do go and see that, I'm sure it's going to be absolutely wonderful, and you can get tickets from kissmekatemusical.com.

James Acaster

Very exciting. However, listen. As always on this podcast, if Hammed chooses the secret ingredient, an ingredient which we deem to be unacceptable, we will have to kick him out of the Dream Restaurant.

Ed Gamble

Yes, it will be less a case of Kiss Me, Kate, or it would be more like don't kiss me, Hammed.

James Acaster

Kick me, Kate.

Ed Gamble

Kick me out-, no, not kick me out, Hammed, because he wouldn't kick me out.

James Acaster

And this week the secret ingredient is tamarind.

Ed Gamble

Tamarind. Now, I don't agree with this, but this was suggested to us by an audience member on the tour, in Manchester. We obviously rejected it out-of-hand in Manchester, because tamarind's a wonderful thing. It's sweet, it's sour, it adds a lot to every single dish that it's in. I normally have it in paste form.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

You normally have it in paste form, but obviously it's, like, a fruit normally.

James Acaster

It's like a what?

Ed Gamble

A fruit.

James Acaster

I've never heard you say it like that.



Ed Gamble

Have you not? I tell you what it is, I've been on tour with Chloe Petts, and we speak to each other in the car by-, every time that we like R words, and we like saying it like that.

James Acaster

So, you were bringing part of your tour persona?

Ed Gamble

Yes, fruit.

James Acaster

And I believe that excuse as well, because it was too pronounced to be a complete accident.

Ed Gamble

Too pronounced and easy. Just, yes, easily rolls off the tongue, and it's really fun.

James Acaster

Yes. Yes, well it is a lovely-, I mean, that's just my voice, fruit. So, we wouldn't choose this, but whoever it was in Manchester, and you know who you are-,

Ed Gamble

Yes, you should be ashamed of yourself.

James Acaster

So, you know, make sure you claim responsibility for this, and Benito will send you a signed chopping board.

Ed Gamble

Yes. So, you know, nothing we can do about it now, the secret ingredient is tamarind.

James Acaster

Yes. Well, this is very exciting. Shall we get to it, Ed?

Ed Gamble

Yes. This is the Off Menu menu of Hammed Animashaun.

James Acaster

Hammed Animashaun.

Ed Gamble

Welcome, Hammed, to the Dream Restaurant.

James Acaster

Welcome, Hammed Animashaun, to the Dream Restaurant. I've been expecting you for some time.



Hammed Animashaun

Thank, man. Thanks for having me, I appreciate it.

Ed Gamble

You are most welcome. So, we're obviously in the Dream Restaurant here.

Hammed Animashaun

Yes.

Ed Gamble

So, you know, it can be any restaurant that you want it to be.

Hammed Animashaun

Cool.

Ed Gamble

How do you think it looks, in your mind? If you're walking into the dream restaurant, what do you reckon it looks like?

Hammed Animashaun

Yes, dream restaurant for me is always quite homey.

Ed Gamble

Yes?

Hammed Animashaun

So, like, couches, and sofas, and stuff, and armchairs, and trays instead of tables. So, like, family-style.

Ed Gamble

Which you rarely get in an actual restaurant.

Hammed Animashaun

Yes, I know, but-,

Ed Gamble

But when you think about. Imagine walking into an actual restaurant, and there's an armchair there, and they bring it you on a tray. That would be amazing.

James Acaster

It would have to be called Trays, the restaurant. So, you've really got to give people a heads-up for that, if it's a restaurant.



Hammed Animashaun

Yes.

James Acaster

I would like that, though.

Hammed Animashaun

I think that's quite cool.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Hammed Animashaun

I think that's quite chill.

Ed Gamble

I think that would be a vibe.

Hammed Animashaun

I'm all about chill, and good vibes.

Ed Gamble

Yes. I definitely have to wear dark-coloured clothing, because if I'm-,

Hammed Animashaun

And Crocs.

Ed Gamble

Yes, and Crocs. Yes, because I'm spilling stuff immediately. If I'm all hunched up on a tray, it's going straight down my front.

James Acaster

Yes, I've never been good at eating with the tray on my lap.

Hammed Animashaun

Very true.

James Acaster

Or the worst is the plate on your lap.

Hammed Animashaun

That's the worst.



James Acaster

If there's no trays available.

Hammed Animashaun

Yes. Or you go to barbecues, and you've got paper plates, and then you've got to sit there like that, knees together, yes.

Ed Gamble

Or being at a barbecue and everyone's standing up, and you've got a paper plate, and then you're trying to fork something, holding onto a paper plate, and it just bends, and everything slides off.

Hammed Animashaun

Everything falls off, yes. Try cut into that hard chicken, it's the worst.

James Acaster

When I was starting out in stand-up, we started out the same time as Josh Widdicombe, and Josh and I were trying to write routines together. And one of the routines we tried to make work, and we could never make work, and both of us tried it in our set, was a routine about laps, and how the lap is the only part of the body that only exists when you're sitting down.

Ed Gamble

I mean, it's a good observation, but also where do you go from there?

James Acaster

Well, we tried all sorts of things. Obviously the classic act-out of sitting down, then standing up and going, 'Where the hell's my lap gone?'

Ed Gamble

That's funny, man.

James Acaster

Yes. Well, it's probably-,

Ed Gamble

Bring it back.

Hammed Animashaun

You've got to bring it back. You've got to bring that back.

James Acaster

Laps could work these days?

Hammed Animashaun

Yes.



Ed Gamble

If you don't do it, Hammed's going to do it. It's going to be in the next series of Black Ops.

Hammed Animashaun

Yes.

James Acaster

Hammed, put it in Black Ops.

Hammed Animashaun

I'll put it in there, yes.

James Acaster

It'd be an honour.

Hammed Animashaun

Yes, I'll give you a credit.

Ed Gamble

I feel like your character in that show would say something like that.

Hammed Animashaun

Probably.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Hammed Animashaun

Yes, he would say stuff like that, 100%.

Ed Gamble

In the middle of a high-speed chase, or something.

Hammed Animashaun

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Or a life-threatening-,

Hammed Animashaun

Or in the middle of a fight, or something. About to get shot, and he was like, 'Oh, yes, the thing about laps-'



James Acaster

I do like that we've got the-, well, I don't think we've talked about the trays on the laps before.

Ed Gamble

No.

James Acaster

And especially if we do make that the dream restaurant, that's going to be quite a unique episode.

Ed Gamble

Yes. I think that's great, I think that's really nice.

James Acaster

What's the tray made of? Plastic? Metal?

Hammed Animashaun

No, it will be recyclable plastic.

James Acaster

Yes.

Hammed Animashaun

Just, you know, for the environment.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Hammed Animashaun

We've got to take care of our planet, you know?

Ed Gamble

Good. Yes, shout out to the environment.

James Acaster

Shout out to the environment this episode.

Hammed Animashaun

Yes. Paper plates, wooden cutlery. Rah, this is sounding more like a barbecue.

James Acaster

Before we do get into the menu, congratulations on Kiss Me, Kate.

Hammed Animashaun

Thank you.



James Acaster

It's opened to rave reviews, it's going great. How's it been?

Hammed Animashaun

It's been going really well. It's kind of crazy when you're on stage and then you turn to your left or your right and then you've got Ted Hastings stood next to you from Line of Duty. But no, Adrian Dunbar, who's in the show, plays Fred Graham, is amazing. And then Stephanie J. Block who plays Lilli Vanessi, who's come all the way from the US to do this, this is her West End debut, Broadway legend. Yes, it's great, it's so much fun. And then there's Pete Davidson in the show who's played General, and I-,

Ed Gamble

Not that one, James.

James Acaster

Fucking hell. I was literally, like, sorry, what?

Hammed Animashaun

And Nigel Lindsay, who I play, obviously, we both play the gangsters. So, it's just really fun and an amazing ensemble, an amazing band. We got a sixteen-piece orchestra. Yes, it's just great fun.

Ed Gamble

And it's at the Barbican.

Hammed Animashaun

Yes.

Ed Gamble

It's an amazing theatre to be an audience member in, just because it looks like no other theatre as well when you arrive because it's all that Brutalist architecture.

Hammed Animashaun

Yes, yes, yes.

Ed Gamble

It doesn't feel like there could be such a beautiful performance space in there, but it's an incredible place.

Hammed Animashaun

Yes. I mean, I've always wanted to work there. I think one of the first things I saw there-, I can't remember. Oh, gosh. Oh, it was Coriolanus, and I remember thinking, 'Oh, this would be a great place to perform in.' And so, yes, however many years later, I'm now on that stage. It's, kind of, crazy. But yes, it's such a beautiful theatre, and such a great space, and in the middle of the City of London as



well. You wouldn't think that that space would be there, like you said, you know, in the middle of an estate, but it is, and it's amazing. It's great.

James Acaster

Ever had a barbecue at the Barbican?

Hammed Animashaun

I don't think you're allowed to have barbecues at the Barbican, but if I was allowed to have a barbecue at the Barbican I would.

James Acaster

Yes, absolutely. Are you a food fan?

Hammed Animashaun

Depends how hungry I am. Is that a good answer?

Ed Gamble

Yes. I mean-,

James Acaster

And so you become a fan.

Ed Gamble

Yes, it's an answer we don't really get very often. Because I think people say they're foodies, or they're not foodies, but you're saying when you're hungry you're very interested in it, but when you're not, you're like, 'Can't stand the stuff.'

Hammed Animashaun

Whatever, yes.

James Acaster

Don't even think about it.

Hammed Animashaun

I don't really think about it, no. I think I am a bit of a foodie, I don't know. I think my wife is more of a foodie than I am, but if I'm really hungry then I'm like, 'Ooh, okay, I want something that really tastes good.' So, I want to really savour it, and enjoy it. And if I'm not, I'm just like, 'Just get me a meal deal.'

James Acaster

Sure.



Ed Gamble

See, I think I'm the other way round. If I'm really hungry, I'm just like, 'I've got to grab the first thing that's near me,' to deal with that situation. And if I'm not very hungry, then I'll really think about what I want. Opposites.

Hammed Animashaun

No, but that's logical thinking. I'm a bit backwards like that.

James Acaster

I used to be obsessed with-, you're bringing out a lot of stories from me from the early comedy days. I was an open-spot, and M&S had this meal deal on, and because it was in St. Pancras, I was coming from Kettering all the time, I'd just get this meal deal. It was, like, £2. Very cheap for, like, these sandwiches, and crisps, and then you'd get a drink with it.

Ed Gamble

Thanks for explaining what a meal deal is.

James Acaster

No, but some meal deals-,

Hammed Animashaun

They don't do that.

James Acaster

Well actually, to be honest, you can sub the crisps for an item of fruit, if you wanted to.

Hammed Animashaun

Yes, for a fruit bag.

James Acaster

You could do that.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Like a meal deal, yes?

Hammed Animashaun

Yes.

James Acaster

Huh?

Ed Gamble

Like a meal deal?



James Acaster

No, this is M&S meal deal.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Hammed Animashaun

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes, that's what I'm talking about, and you'd go and do it, and the meal deal was great. And then it ended eventually, but then one day I went in and I got it anyway, even though it wasn't meal deal time, and when I was in the queue I thought to myself, 'This is pretty old-school, what I'm doing now. This is back in the meal deal days,' and then I made myself laugh. And then when I was paying for it I was laughing, and I had to explain to the lady at the till why I was laughing. She was like, 'Is there anything funny?' I was like, 'I'm getting the meal deal, it's not even meal deal time any more,' and she was like, 'Okay,' and didn't look impressed, and it didn't do much for my confidence as an open-spot comedian.

Hammed Animashaun

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Because you were trying to work out a bit about that, right?

James Acaster

Yes, I was really-, well, that's what you do, especially when you're an open-spot. You're trying to find what's funny, and I was like, 'That's funny, that's hilarious,' and then I was like, 'If she doesn't get it, and she works in M&S.'

Hammed Animashaun

Yes, then you're, kind of-, yes, I get that.

James Acaster

Yes, it was bad.

Ed Gamble

Do you have a standard go-to meal deal, that you might get?

Hammed Animashaun

A standard go-to? Yes, Ploughman's, cheese and onion crisps, and a bottle of a still water.

Ed Gamble

Nice.



James Acaster

That is-,

Ed Gamble

Well, that might answer our first question then.

James Acaster

We always start with, 'Still or sparkling water?'

Hammed Animashaun

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Is it still water over sparkling for you, every time?

Hammed Animashaun

Always. I can't stand sparkling water.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Why can't you stand sparkling water?

Hammed Animashaun

I feel like sparkling water-, people who have hidden agendas.

James Acaster

Yes, fair enough.

Hammed Animashaun

I don't, man. I don't know how you can drink that stuff.

Ed Gamble

Well, I'm actually drinking a can of Liquid Death sparkling right now.

Hammed Animashaun

Yes, I feel like there's a-, I saw that and I was, like, watching my back, just to see if anyone's going to try and scare me or something.

Ed Gamble

Because I've got a hidden agenda?



Hammed Animashaun

Yes, I don't know. I can't really trust people who drink sparkling water.

Ed Gamble

It's not normal for me, it just Benito's run out of still cans of Liquid Death. So, I thought I'd have the sparkling, to treat myself, but apparently it shows I've got a hidden side.

Hammed Animashaun

That's just my wicked brain.

James Acaster

No, don't let him gaslight you. I think you're right. Has it ever changed your opinion on someone? You've been hanging out with someone, getting on with them, and then they order a sparkling?

Hammed Animashaun

Yes, I stopped talking to someone when I saw them drinking sparkling water one time, but I was much younger then, and I didn't have a filter. I was chatting to someone, and I was like, 'Oh, what drink would you like?' And then they said sparkling water, and I was like, 'Just going to go to the toilet, I'll be right back,' and I never came back.

James Acaster

You never came out from the toilet?

Hammed Animashaun

No. Because that's-,

James Acaster

What was the context of you hanging out with them?

Hammed Animashaun

No, it was just, you know, we were just hanging out.

James Acaster

Wasn't a date?

Ed Gamble

Just chatting.

Hammed Animashaun

No, it wasn't a date. We were just chatting, but I was much younger then. I was probably, like, what? I don't know, eighteen or nineteen. It was like, 'Oh, what do you like?' She said, 'Sparkling water,' and I was like-, because if you drink sparkling water that's just like-,



James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

That's a red flag.

Hammed Animashaun

Yes, carbonated water.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Doesn't sound right, does it?

Hammed Animashaun

No, just no.

James Acaster

You've got a hidden agenda.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I've got a hidden agenda.

James Acaster

I can put my finger on it now.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

I've just got to go to the toilet, I'll be back in a minute.

Ed Gamble

Are you kidding me?

James Acaster

No, but I was doing a bit, that I'm going to go and leave.

Ed Gamble

Right.

James Acaster

Like Hammed did.



Ed Gamble

Just to give you the background on this, Hammed.

Hammed Animashaun

Yes.

Ed Gamble

James also regularly has to go to the toilet during podcasts.

Hammed Animashaun

Cool.

James Acaster

Yes. So, then-,

Ed Gamble

And he's gone to the toilet loads before you arrived, and so when he was doing the bit then, it was a good bit, but unfortunately I thought you meant you were going to go to the toilet.

James Acaster

So, I was doing a call back to you leaving the person, but Ed was like, 'James, you've been for five pisses before Hammed got here, and now we've haven't even got to the starter, and you've just said, "I need to go to the toilet,"' and because I delivered it so convincingly-,

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

As an actor, what did you think of my delivery then?

Hammed Animashaun

I thought it was brilliant.

James Acaster

Because that made Ed believe it.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Hammed Animashaun

Yes, exactly. I thought it was fantastic.



Ed Gamble

Yes. Well, no, I didn't believe it, I thought you were talking about something else. So, if anything, your clarity was dreadful. I didn't get the intention of what you meant, which is surely the basis of acting.

Hammed Animashaun

That's what acting is all about, man. It's all about interpretation.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

So, yes, you've got to be as ambiguous as you can in every single sentence you say.

James Acaster

Can do, absolutely I can do. I've been misunderstood for years. Poppadoms, or bread? Poppadoms, or bread, Hammed Animashaun? Poppadoms, or bread?

Hammed Animashaun

Bread.

James Acaster

Now, A, thank you for parroting my delivery.

Hammed Animashaun

No, it's alright.

James Acaster

It means a lot, because sometimes people talk back to me very chilled, and I feel like I've gone overboard. Any particular type of bread?

Hammed Animashaun

Sourdough bread.

James Acaster

Yes.

Hammed Animashaun

Yes, white sourdough bread.

Ed Gamble

I'm still on the sourdough train. A lot of people are turning against sourdough these days.

Hammed Animashaun

Is it?



Ed Gamble

Yes, and I don't know why. They're saying it's too hard. Maybe it's just because you can find it in more places now, but to me that's a great thing. I love sourdough.

Hammed Animashaun

Sourdough bread's really nice, it's really tasty.

James Acaster

People complain when it's everywhere. Because then if you're not a fan, if it's not your favourite one, then when it's everywhere it does your head in. Where it didn't used to before, you know? It's like Michael McIntyre. Loads of people for ages were like, 'Yes, he's pretty funny,' but then when he was everywhere, everyone's like, 'I fucking hate McIntyre.' Where actually, they don't really hate him.

Hammed Animashaun

He's just everywhere.

James Acaster

Yes, he's just everywhere, because he's funny.

Ed Gamble

Sourdough.

Hammed Animashaun

He is.

James Acaster

He's like sourdough.

Hammed Animashaun

He's like sourdough bread.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Hammed Animashaun

Damn.

Ed Gamble

Delicious with avocados on.



James Acaster

Michael McIntyre is delicious with avocado.

Hammed Animashaun

Yes, that's what I've been told.

James Acaster

That is true.

Ed Gamble

Is there a particular place that you get sourdough bread from, that you absolutely love?

Hammed Animashaun

Sainsbury's.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Hammed Animashaun

Yes, they do great sourdough bread.

James Acaster

I've been there.

Ed Gamble

Sainsbury's?

Hammed Animashaun

To Sainsbury's?

James Acaster

Yes.

Hammed Animashaun

It's good, isn't it?

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Now, you know, James, at Sainsbury's you can probably get a sandwich, a drink, and some crisps, and that's-



James Acaster

M&S meal deal at Sainsbury's?

Hammed Animashaun

Well, it's the Sainsbury's meal deal, but it's not £2.

James Acaster

Hammed, I don't know if you've got that right. I think you should Google that, because that sounds like the M&S meal deal. Maybe the S in M&S stands for Sainsbury's actually.

Ed Gamble

Yes, maybe.

Hammed Animashaun

Maybe.

Ed Gamble

How do you want the sourdough?

Hammed Animashaun

Warm, with butter. Yes, salted.

Ed Gamble

Salted butter?

Hammed Animashaun

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

How do you feel about unsalted butter?

Hammed Animashaun

Again, it's just-, it's fine if you're baking a cake, but why are you putting that on your bread?

James Acaster

Yes.

Hammed Animashaun

Do you know what I mean?



James Acaster

What if someone's got unsalted butter, and sparkling water on the go?

Hammed Animashaun

I'm out.

James Acaster

You're out?

Hammed Animashaun

I'm out, man.

Ed Gamble

Even now, at this age, you're not eighteen or nineteen any more, you're walking out the room if there's unsalted butter?

Hammed Animashaun

Well, I'll ask questions.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Hammed Animashaun

So, like, if I'm sat at a table and I see sparkling water and unsalted butter with sourdough bread and the bread's not even warm or toasted, then I'm like, 'Okay. So, what are you doing with the butter?' 'Oh, I'm just going to spread it on the bread.' 'Ah. Are you going to drink that water too?' 'Oh, yes, I love sparkling water.' 'Ah, just got to make a quick phone call. I'll be right back.'

Ed Gamble

So, I said, 'Are you just going to leave the room?' And you said, 'No, I'm going to ask questions', but the questions are, 'Is that that?' And then you're just leaving anyway.

Hammed Animashaun

Yes, but if I ask questions and the answers are wrong, I'm out.

Ed Gamble

Yes, but I don't see what other answers they would have, right? Because if it's there-

Hammed Animashaun

No, because they could probably be like, 'No, the butter's for a cake I'm baking'. Do you know what I mean?



Ed Gamble

I don't know what situation this is, where you're sat at a table with someone and they're like, 'No, that's for a cake I'm baking'.

James Acaster

'That's for a cake I'm baking. I've just brought it with me.'

Hammed Animashaun

Yes, and then, like, the sparkling water's, 'I'm cleaning something with it'.

James Acaster

Yes.

Hammed Animashaun

Do you know what I mean?

James Acaster

Yes, that's fine.

Ed Gamble

Yes, that's alright. So, you get it straight, and then you leave?

Hammed Animashaun

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Hammed Animashaun

If they were like, 'Oh, I'm using this as a cleaning agent,' then I'm like-, if I'm using the sparkling water as a cleaning agent, I'm like, 'Cool.'

Ed Gamble

How is that not a red flag to you? That would worry me if someone was like, 'Yes, there's sparkling water. I'm using it as a cleaning agent.'

Hammed Animashaun

Yes, because I know you're not going to drink it. You're going to use it to clean the dishes, or you're going to use it to-,

Ed Gamble

But that's weirder.



James Acaster

That's very eccentric.

Hammed Animashaun

No, like, to spit-shine the glasses, or something. Do you know what I mean? Shine the glasses with sparkling water, you're going to bake a cake with the unsalted butter.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes.

Hammed Animashaun

Do you know what I mean? It's like, 'Oh, okay, cool. Fine.'

James Acaster

What if they said they were going to bake a cake with the unsalted butter, and then use the sparkling water to clean the cake?

Hammed Animashaun

To clean the cake?

James Acaster

Yes.

Hammed Animashaun

As in, like, just give it a little dash of-,

James Acaster

Yes, they're going to clean the cake with the sparkling water.

Hammed Animashaun

Yes, that's fine.

James Acaster

Yes, you would be okay with that?

Hammed Animashaun

As long as they don't drink it, I'm bless.

James Acaster

Yes? When you say to them, 'I've just got to go and make a phone call,' is it completely a lie? Or are you going to go and phone maybe the police, or like someone?



Hammed Animashaun

No, it's a lie. I don't think it warrants the police.

James Acaster

Well, next time you can ring us.

Hammed Animashaun

I'll try.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

And just let us know the situation.

Hammed Animashaun

Actually, do you know what? I will do that. I'll ring you man, and then-, I probably won't ring you, because you drink sparkling water.

James Acaster

Yes, don't trust Ed, because he's got-

Ed Gamble

I'll be at home having a bath in it.

James Acaster

Yes.

Your dream starter?

Hammed Animashaun

Okay, yes. So, my dream starter would be chilli-salted corn ribs.

Ed Gamble

Oh, yes.

James Acaster

Lovely.

Ed Gamble

Love corn ribs. When did corn ribs first come into your life?



Hammed Animashaun

Mate, I tried it a couple years ago with my-, me and my wife went out for dinner, and we saw it on the menu, 'Corn ribs,' and we were like, 'Corn ribs? When did that ever come into-, how is that a thing? Yes, let's give it a go.' Mate, we-, it's so good.

James Acaster

Delicious.

Ed Gamble

They're incredible. I think I might have had them for the first time at-, there's a restaurant called Fallow in London, and I had them there. And then I think they-, suddenly they're everywhere as well.

Hammed Animashaun

Yes.

Ed Gamble

I think they started doing them at Wahaca or something as well.

Hammed Animashaun

Yes.

Ed Gamble

You've tried to make them, right?

James Acaster

I've made them loads, and I love making them. Yes.

Ed Gamble

But I don't want to have to chop up a cob.

James Acaster

Chopping up the cob is hard, I will admit, but I've got a good technique now I've had to do it. I get through them a lot quicker. The first time-, anyone listening, if you're planning on chopping up some cobs for the first time, just be careful, because it's very easy to just end up with a knife in yourself, in your belly really, because that's chopping board height. And then when the cob disappears from underneath a knife-, so just take it slow, but now I'm all over that. It's great and you make them really quickly. Toss them in a bowl with all the-, whatever you want, chilli salt in this case. Yes, delicious, love it.

Hammed Animashaun

It's so good. So good.



James Acaster

When it's, like, corn ribs, what creature do you imagine the ribs have come from? I'm imagining Jolly Green Giant.

Hammed Animashaun

Oh, okay.

James Acaster

Yes. It's quite small ribs for the Jolly Green Giant.

Hammed Animashaun

Yes.

James Acaster

He's got a lot of them.

Hammed Animashaun

Oh, is that what you imagine you're eating?

James Acaster

Yes, yes, Jolly Green Giant's ribs.

Hammed Animashaun

Right. Okay, yes, yes.

James Acaster

Someone's caught him and killed him and then I'm eating his ribs now.

Ed Gamble

Do you imagine that they're from a creature?

Hammed Animashaun

No, I've never thought of it that way.

Ed Gamble

No, weird. It's weird actually.

James Acaster

Well, yes, it's the only creature I can think of who would have sweetcorn ribs is the Jolly Green Giant.

Hammed Animashaun

Yes, that's true actually. Yes, I hear that.



James Acaster

I think he would definitely have sweetcorn ribs and maybe a corn-less cob as a penis.

Ed Gamble

A corn-less cob?

James Acaster

Yes, so all the corn would be off of it. I can't imagine him having-

Ed Gamble

A corny penis.

James Acaster

A corn on the cob penis, but I can imagine him just having a cob penis.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Hammed Animashaun

Yes. I mean, if he had a corn on the cob penis, he'd probably have to see someone.

James Acaster

Yes, yes, he would.

Hammed Animashaun

Nobody wants a corny penis.

James Acaster

No one wants that.

Ed Gamble

No, because no one's penis is made out of the same things their ribs are.

James Acaster

Yes, that would be mad.

Hammed Animashaun

That would be crazy.

James Acaster

Yes, if your ribs and your penis were the same, they'd see a doctor. That's actually a very important message for anyone listening.



Ed Gamble

I heard that the Jolly Green Giant has had one of his corn ribs taken out so he can suck himself off. That's why there's no corn on the cob. He had to go round it sideways like-, he knows what he likes. Where did you have these corn ribs for the first time, Hammed?

Hammed Animashaun

I think it was Wahaca.

James Acaster

Yes, and chilli salt is your preferred-,

Hammed Animashaun

Yes, chilli salt.

James Acaster

When you said chilli salt, because you led with that, I was like, 'This could be a number of things. I'm excited immediately.' Anything that's chilli salt, squid. I had chilli salt cauliflower the other days. It's always good.

Ed Gamble

The other day, because I'm on tour at the moment, we got Nando's and bought peri salt, all the peri salt, on Deliveroo. They send you a jar, so that just comes everywhere with us now. I put it on anything.

Hammed Animashaun

Do they really?

Ed Gamble

Yes. Well, I mean, you have to pay for it but, like, because they'll send sachets of sauces but sometimes they forget so if-, I'll have to order the sauce but then they sell you a bottle of sauce basically so I just take round a bottle of sauce and now we've got peri salt. Basically the whole car is just seasoning.

Hammed Animashaun

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Our friend John Robins carries around, like, a full jiffy bag of condiments just to have with him all the time that he's taken from hotels and whatever. Have you ever done anything like that?



Hammed Animashaun

I don't carry condiments around with me but in my main places that I go to, there are condiments there, if that makes sense, so I've got, like, bases.

James Acaster

So, you've got, like, stashes of condiments?

Hammed Animashaun

Yes, I've got condiment bases, so I've got a whole bunch at the Barbican, obviously got some at home, at my mum's, like a little corner where I've got all my special ones there so that no one-, actually, my mum doesn't even know it's there. Just all my, like, bases. I've got my special condiments there.

Ed Gamble

Take us through what's in the different bases.

Hammed Animashaun

Okay, so at the Barbican in my dressing room, I have-, obviously you've got to have ketchup, but then I do have perinnaise.

James Acaster

Nice.

Ed Gamble

Nice.

Hammed Animashaun

Just to mix things up a bit, do you know what I'm saying? So, I don't have, like, mayonnaise. Perinnaise.

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes.

Hammed Animashaun

Then I've got the chilli salt, then I've got garlic powder, and I've got hot sauce. Wow.

Ed Gamble

Delicious.

James Acaster

Are the other cast members allowed to touch your condiment base?

Hammed Animashaun

Well, they don't know about this unless they listen to this.



James Acaster

Oh, no.

Hammed Animashaun

They'll just have to knock on my door if they want some.

Ed Gamble

Dunbar is going to be all over that chilli salt.

James Acaster

Yes. Don't leave Pete Davidson around that stuff.

Hammed Animashaun

No, no, no, I won't.

James Acaster

That guy can't be trusted.

Hammed Animashaun

No, I won't. He can have some ketchup.

James Acaster

He cannot be trusted, that man. What kind of hot sauce is it?

Hammed Animashaun

It's the scotch bonnet hot sauce.

Ed Gamble

Nice. How close to going onstage would you have scotch bonnet hot sauce?

Hammed Animashaun

Yes, about when you go on.

James Acaster

About to go on.

Hammed Animashaun

Yes. About to go on.

Ed Gamble

You wouldn't risk, sort of, overdoing it and then go on and-, I mean, I, for instance, me personally, if I overdo it on the spice, I get the hiccups.



Hammed Animashaun

Oh. No, no, I would do it and then go straight home. Like a shot.

Ed Gamble

Just to really get yourself pumped up.

Hammed Animashaun

Yes, a shot of hot sauce by myself. Yes, yes.

Ed Gamble

Everyone going, 'Oh, I think Hammed's done a shot of hot sauce before this one. He's absolutely raging.'

James Acaster

Nothing compared to what Pete Davidson's just done.

Ed Gamble

Main course.

Hammed Animashaun

Main course. Okay, I want to switch it up a bit. Beef Wellington.

Ed Gamble

Oh.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

A rare appearance of beef Wellington, I think.

James Acaster

Yes, it is.

Hammed Animashaun

Beef Wellington with potato mash and tender-stem broccoli.

Ed Gamble

Nice.

James Acaster

Yes.



Ed Gamble

Talk us through why beef Wellington.

Hammed Animashaun

Well, I started re-watching Hell's Kitchen on YouTube.

Ed Gamble

I think you're the first person to ever do that.

James Acaster

No, hello.

Ed Gamble

You're re-watching Hell's Kitchen?

James Acaster

Actually, I'm not re-watching it. I'm watching it for the first time but on YouTube in clips.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

I love it.

Hammed Animashaun

I'm re-watching Hell's Kitchen and it's the best bit of television. It's just brilliant. The early seasons of Gordon Ramsey in that kitchen, man, I feel sorry for those chefs.

Ed Gamble

The UK one or the American one?

Hammed Animashaun

American one is much better.

James Acaster

Oh, sorry, actually I think I'm watching Kitchen Nightmares. That's good.

Hammed Animashaun

Kitchen Nightmares is good as well. Kitchen Nightmares is good. Have you seen the one when he went to the mafia restaurant.

James Acaster

I don't think I did see that, no.



Hammed Animashaun

Oh, that one is brilliant.

James Acaster

Going to watch it later today.

Hammed Animashaun

Screaming at a mafia member that your restaurant is shit. He was in the middle of New Jersey and he's gone into an Italian restaurant and the guy who runs it is part of the mafia. He says he's not but he is and then Gordon is like, 'Your restaurant is shit,' and then the guy was like, 'Hey, what? How you talk about my restaurant?' I was just like, 'Oh no, you don't say that to a member of the mafia.'

James Acaster

I think Ramsey is probably the only person who could get away with it, right?

Hammed Animashaun

Oh, yes, yes, absolutely.

James Acaster

They've invited him to come and do their restaurant as a kitchen nightmare.

Hammed Animashaun

Yes, yes.

Ed Gamble

I'd like to see how that continued off-camera, if he kept up that attitude or if he was like, 'Sorry, mate, you've got to understand it's just for the cameras, right?'

Hammed Animashaun

I mean, I wouldn't be surprised but-,

Ed Gamble

What was the problem with the restaurant? Was there, like, all the pots had cash in them and-,

Hammed Animashaun

No, I think it was just the fact that the food was just not great, and also, because the food wasn't great he kept giving away free stuff. So, like, people were complaining, like, 'Oh, my chicken is not cooked', and then he would be, like, 'Oh, well, have this free bottle of champagne on the house,' or like, 'It's on me.' So, every time someone came up, 'There's a hair in my pasta', 'It's on me. Have a free bottle of champagne.' So, he was just giving away free food and drink.

Ed Gamble

I mean, it was probably a front anyway, to be honest. It was probably a money laundering operation.



Hammed Animashaun

Yes, 100%, 100%.

James Acaster

That would have been great, if Ramsey had uncovered that and it just became its own documentary about, like, Ramsey completely rumbling the entire mafia.

Hammed Animashaun

The mafia, yes.

James Acaster

In New Jersey. So, this is exciting because we've done our dream menus on this podcast before and both times I chose beef Wellington as my main course.

Hammed Animashaun

Really?

James Acaster

Yes. I think I'm the only person who's chosen it until now.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I think so.

James Acaster

So, I'm glad that I've got a fellow Wellington head.

Ed Gamble

So, you've been re-watching Hell's Kitchen?

Hammed Animashaun

Yes.

Ed Gamble

And it popped up on there?

Hammed Animashaun

All the time because he sells that a lot. I was just like, 'Ooh', and I just became obsessed with beef Wellington, so I'm going to attempt to try and make one for Christmas.

Ed Gamble

Oh, wow.

Hammed Animashaun

I'm going to start practising, like, relatively soon.



Ed Gamble

How many practice runs do you think you'll do at it before Christmas?

Hammed Animashaun

I think I'm going to need a few. It's not easy.

James Acaster

It is quite hard. What are the things that you've got in your head as, like, the key things you've got to get right in that?

Hammed Animashaun

Well, you've got to get the right cut of beef. If you don't do that, then you're fucked, isn't it?

James Acaster

Yes.

Hammed Animashaun

And then the pastry, right? And then the mushroom. Oh, what do you call it?

Ed Gamble

Sauce.

James Acaster

Duxelles?

Hammed Animashaun

That's it.

Ed Gamble

What?

James Acaster

Duxelles.

Hammed Animashaun

Duxelles, the mushroom duxelles, which you've got to, like, grind. Not into a sauce but, like, into the minuscule of pieces that goes over the beef and then the, what do you call it, ham.

James Acaster

Yes, yes, the prosciutto.

Hammed Animashaun

Prosciutto and that, yes. It's a thing.



James Acaster

There's a lot. There's a lot going on in there, yes.

Ed Gamble

It's fantastic. If you can get it right Christmas Day, you're going to be a hero.

Hammed Animashaun

Mate.

Ed Gamble

When you cut through a beef Wellington and it's, like, perfectly pink inside.

Hammed Animashaun

Do you know what I mean? If I don't get it right, I'm-,

Ed Gamble

You can be king of Christmas.

James Acaster

I mean, how many people are you making it for? Your wife?

Hammed Animashaun

Yes, it'll be my wife and then my family, my mum and my two brothers.

Ed Gamble

Who are you most worried about the reaction from? Who do you want to impress the most?

Hammed Animashaun

My mum.

Ed Gamble

Yes?

Hammed Animashaun

Yes.

Ed Gamble

And will your mum tell you if it's not up to scratch?

Hammed Animashaun

Oh, 100%, yes, yes. Oh, yes, she won't hold back.



Ed Gamble

So, is that the one you want for your dream meal? Do you want it to be the one you're going to make on Christmas or do you want it to be one of Gordon Ramsey's ones?

Hammed Animashaun

I want it to be my one.

Ed Gamble

Your one.

Hammed Animashaun

My one.

Ed Gamble

Yes. That's good. Back yourself.

Hammed Animashaun

Yes.

Ed Gamble

But that will be, and I'll say it now, as good, if not better, than Gordon Ramsey's one.

Hammed Animashaun

Oh, you said it here first.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

You know sometimes on beef Wellington they do the thing where they'll put another pastry, like little design, on top?

Hammed Animashaun

On top, yes, I'm going to do that.

James Acaster

Yes, are you going to do all of that? The latticing thing.

Hammed Animashaun

Yes, yes, I'm going to try and do all of that stuff.

James Acaster

And you want mash and tender-stem broccoli?



Hammed Animashaun

Yes.

James Acaster

Any particular reason? Is that what Gordon always goes with or is this just your-

Hammed Animashaun

I don't know if that's what he goes with but I feel like that will be nice to go with, like, a red wine gravy or something. Do you know what I mean?

James Acaster

Yes, yes.

Hammed Animashaun

Something, you know, simple. Well, not simple but, you know-,

Ed Gamble

Really complicated.

James Acaster

You know what I learned today, is that Ed once ordered a tender-stem broccoli from Nando's and guess what showed up?

Ed Gamble

Normal broccoli.

Hammed Animashaun

Normal broccoli?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Hammed Animashaun

Nando's are failing. What branch was it?

Ed Gamble

I can't remember. I've been all over the place recently so I've got Nando's in most towns in the UK, but it was a real shock, Hammed, honestly. Like, I was more shocked opening that than I would've been if I'd opened it up and there was a live rat in it. Like, if there was a live rat, I would've been like, 'Fuck, there's a rat in this box,' but you're expecting tender-stem and you get normal broccoli, blew my mind. Yes. I mean, I still ate it. Still got to get my vitamins in, you know?



Hammed Animashaun

Yes, it was still disrespectful though. You asked for a certain type of broccoli and they gave you just broccoli.

James Acaster

I'd be worried that I'd switched timelines if that happened. Yes. I'd think, 'Oh, fuck, somewhere in between me ordering this and it arriving I've switched timelines,' because it's just that tiny bit different.

Hammed Animashaun

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Like, Everything Everywhere All At Once, but less, sort of, fun.

James Acaster

Yes.

Hammed Animashaun

But with broccoli.

Ed Gamble

So, it probably wouldn't win an Oscar.

James Acaster

Yes.

Hammed Animashaun

You never know.

Ed Gamble

Yes, that's true.

Hammed Animashaun

You never know. Anything is possible these days.

James Acaster

The film where the broccoli is different. That's what it's called.

Hammed Animashaun

Yes, the film where the broccoli is different. That's a great name for a film.

James Acaster

So, your dream side dish, is it going to be different to those ones? Is it going to be an additional side dish to the ones you've got? That can be just your main course, is those things you mentioned there.



Hammed Animashaun

I think that would be my main course. Maybe, like, a side salad.

James Acaster

So, what's in the salad?

Hammed Animashaun

Egg.

James Acaster

Wow.

Ed Gamble

Leading with egg. Wasn't expecting that.

Hammed Animashaun

No, joking. It's not egg. It's not egg. So, it would be, like, a mango salad, right? So, you've got mango, pomegranate, lettuce, red onion with, like, an olive oil dressing.

Ed Gamble

Nice. So, something quite fresh and fruity and a little bit sweet?

Hammed Animashaun

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Because it's quite a rich main course, right?

Hammed Animashaun

Yes, yes,

Ed Gamble

And then you've got that to, sort of, balance it a little bit.

Hammed Animashaun

Yes, exactly.

Ed Gamble

I liked when we started with egg, as well, to be honest.

James Acaster

Oh yes. Neither of us thought, 'No, not in a salad,' but we did think odd place to start. Starting with egg. What else is going in this salad? Where's the best place you've had, like, a mango salad? Like a really refreshing-,



Hammed Animashaun

The Barbican bar and grill. They have a kale salad. It's called a Kiss Me Kale salad.

Ed Gamble

They've named a salad after the show.

Hammed Animashaun

After the show.

James Acaster

It's a coincidence.

Hammed Animashaun

I'm plugging proper right now but they've got this amazing salad with, like, mango and it's just-, yes, it's great, it's so nice.

James Acaster

If people did order the Kiss Me Kale salad and kissed the kale-,

Ed Gamble

And kissed the kale?

James Acaster

As in they get the salad and they kiss the kale-,

Hammed Animashaun

What, they pulled it out of the salad and they kissed it?

James Acaster

Yes, or they leant down into the bowl and kissed it while it was still in the bowl, so it's up to them. They can either pick up the bowl with both hands and bring it to their mouth and get off, like fully get off, with the kale.

Hammed Animashaun

What, tongue the kale?

James Acaster

Yes.

Hammed Animashaun

Yes.

James Acaster

Or they can pick it out of the bowl and then kiss it.



Ed Gamble

And then tongue it.

Hammed Animashaun

And then tongue the kale.

James Acaster

Yes. Like, would they be allowed to stay in the Barbican, do you think, or, what's the policy there? Because technically that's not their fault. It's called Kiss Me Kale salad.

Hammed Animashaun

Yes. I feel like you've got to express yourself how you want to express yourself. I don't think you should be punished for that, so if you want to tongue the kale then you absolutely should.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

The kissing, I think, is fine. I think when you said they get off with it, I think that's maybe the line. Are they, like, shutting their eyes as well?

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

And they, kind of, may be mumbling words.

Hammed Animashaun

Hang on. Words like what?

James Acaster

'I love it so much.'

Ed Gamble

Is that what you do while you're kissing someone, James?

James Acaster

'Oh babe.' Yes. I go, 'Oh babe.'



Hammed Animashaun

Yes, yes. No, that's cool. I think it will only upset people who don't really like, you know, public displays of affection.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Hammed Animashaun

But it's not your business. If you want to tongue the kale, then you have to just-, actually, you should go and tongue the kale, man. Tell it how you feel.

James Acaster

So, going back to your salad, though, you've got the mango, the pomegranate, the red onion and-,

Hammed Animashaun

Yes. The lettuce.

James Acaster

The lettuce. What part of they are of the Jolly Green Giant each? Like, what body part is each of those ingredients of the salad?

Hammed Animashaun

So, the lettuce would be hair.

James Acaster

Standard, definitely.

Hammed Animashaun

Red onion-,

Ed Gamble

Say what you feel.

James Acaster

Say what your heart is telling you.

Ed Gamble

Yes, express yourself.

Hammed Animashaun

I would say, like, red onion would be leg hair. So, the lettuce would be hair on his head, red onion will be, like, leg hair. Pomegranates would be like-, you know, like, moles? And then the mango would be his fingernails.



Ed Gamble

I love that. You focussed on extremities, which I wasn't expecting. I wasn't expecting to go straight to leg hair. Yes, that's even more interesting than going straight to egg.

James Acaster

I like that. I like the thought of the leg hair especially. This red onion leg hair.

Hammed Animashaun

Yes.

Ed Gamble

So, his hair colour on his head is different to his leg hair colour? Interesting. The curtains don't match the drapes with the Jolly Green Giant.

Hammed Animashaun

No, he has red onion drapes.

James Acaster

Yes.

Hammed Animashaun

He's got red onion.

James Acaster

That sounds delicious. The Jolly Green Giant is getting more and more tasty as we go through the episode.

Hammed Animashaun

It'll be tough to give himself a-, with red onion. That would sting the eyes.

Ed Gamble

Yes it would. Shaving his legs crying.

James Acaster

Oh, yes. That would be really bad for the Jolly Green Giant. He'd have to run his wrists under cold water first.

Ed Gamble

That's a secret anyone who's worked in kitchens knows.

James Acaster

Yes, that's what you're meant to do.



Hammed Animashaun

Is it run your wrists?

James Acaster

Run your wrists under cold water before you chop an onion.

Ed Gamble

I don't think any of that stuff works.

Hammed Animashaun

Is it really?

James Acaster

And it works, yes. It draws all of the stuff that makes you cry, that rises out of the onion, it means it goes to your wrists instead.

Ed Gamble

So, if you start crying after you've done that, you know that there's another emotional problem that you've got to deal with.

James Acaster

Yes, or there's a second onion somewhere in the room.

Hammed Animashaun

Or there's a second onion that's been chopped.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Somewhere. A secret onion. Your dream drink?

Hammed Animashaun

Oh, Guinness.

Ed Gamble

Oh, Guinness. Yes please.

James Acaster

Ed loves Guinness.

Ed Gamble

I love Guinness. Always lovely to welcome another guest to the exclusive list of Guinness Club members.



Hammed Animashaun

Yes?

James Acaster

Yes. Are you a very particular Guinness drinker who's like, 'It has to be poured like this, has to sit for this long, you've got to draw this in the foam'?

Hammed Animashaun

Yes. No, you don't need to draw anything in the foam but you need to pour it properly otherwise I do get a bit upset.

James Acaster

What is the proper way to pour?

Hammed Animashaun

Listen, with Guinness you've got to take your time. It's a slow drink, you know what I mean? It's not wham, bam, thank you ma'am, do you know what I'm saying? You've got to take your time when you pour it and then you've got to let it settle. Can't just drink it straight away. This is not, you know, the Grand Prix.

Ed Gamble

This is not hot sauce before you go onstage. This isn't-

Hammed Animashaun

It's not a 100-metre race. This is a marathon. You've got to let it settle. You've got to get into the groove, let it get into the groove and then once you know it's ready, you know it's ready.

Ed Gamble

Also it's beautiful to watch, isn't it?

Hammed Animashaun

Yes, it's really nice to see it just-, see it rise and then transform.

James Acaster

Can you remember when you first started having Guinness?

Hammed Animashaun

I remember the first time I ever had one and I was sick.

James Acaster

Wow. It's amazing that you're still alive.



Hammed Animashaun

Do you know what it was? I think my taste buds changed but I think I was eighteen and I was in Manchester. I was doing a play in Manchester and I really wanted to try one so I ordered one and I remember I took my first sip and I just went, 'Ugh,' and I ran to the toilet.

Ed Gamble

Hang on, I thought you meant you had, like, loads of pints of it.

Hammed Animashaun

It was a sip and I never drank it again until maybe ten years later, because I had such a bad experience with it and I was like, 'No, I can't, not-, and also, there was a point where I was having a conversation with my mate and he was like, 'You know taste buds change,' and I was like, 'Oh, alright. Whatever you say.' And he was like, 'No, you can't. You've got to try again. Try again.' And I got one and I was like, 'Ooh.' I think I had, like, way too many. It was like, 'Oh, this is the best drink ever.' Now it's all I drink. No, that and an Old Fashioned, so if I had to pick a cocktail it would be an Old Fashioned and, like, a drink would be a Guinness.

James Acaster

We can use the cocktail after the meal, if you like.

Hammed Animashaun

Oh, yes. So, yes, I'll have a Guinness and then after that Guinness I'll have that Old Fashioned.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Because I know James so well, I know that he'll want to know more about your friend who told you that taste buds change.

James Acaster

Yes. What's his name?

Hammed Animashaun

His name is Cordell.

James Acaster

Cordell.

Hammed Animashaun

Yes.



Ed Gamble

And is that the sort of thing he says quite a lot, where he'll just, like, give you a fact and say, 'Taste buds change,' and things like that?

Hammed Animashaun

No. I think he was having olives or something and I remember, 'You don't like olives.' And it was like, 'Oh, you're eating olives?' He was like, 'Yes, taste buds change.' I was like, 'What?' He was like, 'Yes, the way you taste things just changes.' I was like, 'Oh, okay.'

Ed Gamble

Do you think you're going to enjoy sparkling water at some point?

Hammed Animashaun

Never enjoy a sparkling water because sparkling water is-

Ed Gamble

Call up Cordell right now. He'll tell you. Taste buds change.

Hammed Animashaun

Sparkling water is its own thing.

Ed Gamble

But you used to think that about Guinness, it made you sick.

Hammed Animashaun

No, no, it's different. It's different.

James Acaster

See, we're not convincing you of it, because we're not Cordell, but I think he could-,

Ed Gamble

Yes, I follow the Cordell principle.

Hammed Animashaun

I don't think he'll be able to convince me either. As much as I love him, I don't think he'll be able to convince me either.

James Acaster

He's a convincing sort of guy.

Hammed Animashaun

Sparkling water is the devil, man.



James Acaster

Is he older than you, younger than you?

Hammed Animashaun

He's older than me.

James Acaster

How long have you known him for?

Hammed Animashaun

Since we ten.

James Acaster

Can you remember when you first met Cordell?

Hammed Animashaun

Yes, at school. I think it was one of my first days in school, secondary school. We met and I remember thinking, 'He's really cool'. He turned out to be one of, like, the most popular kids in school, and I was just in the background. I wasn't very popular back then. And then we became friends, like, randomly, as we got older. I think around year eight or year nine we started hanging out a bit more. Yes, then we just became super-close. We're also in a steel band together.

Ed Gamble

Really?

Hammed Animashaun

Yes, yes, yes.

Ed Gamble

That's cool.

Hammed Animashaun

Yes, there's three of us, me, Cordell, Vivian. We're all in a steel band together.

Ed Gamble

What's the name of the steel band?

Hammed Animashaun

Metronome Steel Orchestra. They're based in Ladbroke Grove, Westfield Park. So, they'll be at Notting Hill Carnival this year, so make sure to check them out.

James Acaster

I used to live on Ladbroke Grove, and I'd go to Edinburgh for the festival in August, and then often get back-, like, I've missed the carnival by a couple of days, and I got back one year the day after the



carnival, and the guy who drove me from the station had to drop me off a long way from my house because there was a lot of debris around. I was wheeling a massive wheeled suitcase through the remnants of-

Hammed Animashaun

Cans of Red Stripe, plastic cups.

James Acaster

It was a long journey home.

Hammed Animashaun

Yes. I'm really sorry about that.

James Acaster

Mate, this is why me and my mates protest it every year. Well, I love Cordell, obviously, from the sound of him. Love the sound of the steel band as well. I was in a café yesterday, and they started playing the-, you know the steel band cover of motherfucking P-I-M-P song?

Ed Gamble

What, from-

James Acaster

From Anatomy of a Fall. They started playing that in-

Ed Gamble

It's not café music.

James Acaster

Well, I said to my girlfriend, I said, 'What the fuck are they doing?' And I was sitting next to the window. I was like, 'Turn this off.' I'm sitting opposite my girlfriend. The window's open. Love the sound of the Guinness. Can Cordell please be there for you drinking the Guinness, at least for a little bit.

Hammed Animashaun

Yes.

James Acaster

During the dream meal.

Ed Gamble

When you have a pint of Guinness, do you split the G? Do you know this?

Hammed Animashaun

No. What's that?



Ed Gamble

It's where-, I think it's relatively recent. I only hear about it now. When people-, their first sip, they have to-, well, some people they either get it right down halfway, where the G is, so 'split the G', or get it in between the-, I think the logo and the writing. I don't see the point, because you have to take a really big first sip, but I do quite like that.

Hammed Animashaun

Yes. I do take quite a big sip. My first sip is quite big.

Ed Gamble

How big would you say?

Hammed Animashaun

Not nearly halfway, but almost

Ed Gamble

That's a massive first sip. I love it. Well, I'm a big sipper, as well, aren't I?

James Acaster

He's a big sipper. You ain't never seen nothing like it. You'd think someone's done some sort of magic trick. It looks like he's taking a tiny sip, but he doesn't, like, really go for it, like someone who's showing off. He just, like, have a little gentleman's sip, and then he puts it down, and you're like, 'Where's your drink gone? What's happened?'

Ed Gamble

Especially with Guinness as well, because there is something about having that massive first sip, and you're like, 'I'm drinking Guinness.'

Hammed Animashaun

Yes, especially after a long day as well. I usually have one-,

James Acaster

Man, I want one now.

Hammed Animashaun

I like to have one, like, right at the end of the week. After an eight-show week, it's like-,

Ed Gamble

I bet. I bet that feels amazing.

James Acaster

What about a 10 to 1 on a Monday?



Hammed Animashaun

That also works as well.

James Acaster

That would be nice, wouldn't it?

Ed Gamble

That is good.

James Acaster

Shall we have one now?

Ed Gamble

Shall we go for a Guinness later?

James Acaster

Let's go for a Guinness now. People can guess what your dessert is. We'll go for a Guinness. Get Cordell on the phone.

Ed Gamble

Get him on FaceTime.

James Acaster

Just text him, 'Taste buds change.' He'll know what you mean. Do you like desserts? Is it your favourite course?

Hammed Animashaun

I'm not a big dessert person.

James Acaster

Okay, I'm a little nervous now.

Hammed Animashaun

I do have a dream dessert.

James Acaster

Okay.

Ed Gamble

Let's hear it.

Hammed Animashaun

It's very simple. It's apple pie and custard.



James Acaster

Food, Glorious Food. I don't think that it is apple pie and custard, is it?

Ed Gamble

No, I don't think it is. Hang on. (Humming 'Food, Glorious Food').

James Acaster

What is it? You're in the biz. You're in the stage biz. You're in the theatre biz. You must know.

Hammed Animashaun

(Humming 'Food, Glorious Food') I don't know what it is.

Ed Gamble

It's 'Food, glorious food. Hot sausage and mustard. Food, glorious food-,'

James Acaster

'Cold jelly and custard'? No, surely not.

Ed Gamble

I think it's jelly. Have you ever been in a production of Oliver?

Hammed Animashaun

No, never.

James Acaster

Clearly. Otherwise, you'd know all the words to it.

Ed Gamble

I've been in a production of Oliver, but I wasn't one of the kids. I wasn't one of the workhouse kids, so you don't sing it.

Hammed Animashaun

Who did you play?

Ed Gamble

Charlotte, the undertaker's daughter. What? I did. It was a boys school. What are you supposed to do? It was a boys school. I had a blonde, ringlet wig. Marcus Mumford was the Artful Dodger.

Hammed Animashaun

That's wicked.

James Acaster

Marcus Mumford was the Artful Dodger?



Ed Gamble

Yes. Ask me who played all the adult parts, Bill Sikes, and Nancy, Fagin.

Hammed Animashaun

Who?

Ed Gamble

Our teachers. They took those parts.

James Acaster

Yes, of course.

Ed Gamble

Yes. I played Charlotte, the underkeeper's daughter. Underkeeper? Undertaker.

Hammed Animashaun

Is that an actual character in the show?

Ed Gamble

It is now.

Hammed Animashaun

Was it a created one? Was it created just for you?

Ed Gamble

I don't know. She wasn't in the film, I don't think.

James Acaster

Google that Benito. Google 'Charlotte, the undertaker's daughter, Oliver'.

Ed Gamble

So, I remember one of my lines. I had to flirt with Noah, who was played by my friend Henry, and I said, 'Oh, Noah, you are a one,' like that. I got a big laugh, and that's when I knew I wanted to be an undertaker's daughter.

James Acaster

Were you in any school musicals?

Hammed Animashaun

No, none.

James Acaster

School plays?



Hammed Animashaun

None.

James Acaster

You didn't do any of that?

Hammed Animashaun

No.

James Acaster

When did you start acting?

Hammed Animashaun

I was probably about sixteen or seventeen when I started. I was in a school talent show. We didn't do plays, or anything like that. It was, like, school talent shows.

Ed Gamble

What was your talent in the school talent show?

Hammed Animashaun

Shit.

Ed Gamble

You were really hoping no one was going to ask that.

Hammed Animashaun

Yes. So, I was, like, a dance troupe. So, we did, like, dance numbers. That's it.

Ed Gamble

That's all you're willing to tell us.

Hammed Animashaun

It was a dance piece.

Ed Gamble

I will have to know more, though, because it feels like more that-,

James Acaster

Clearly, it's an embarrassing song, or-,

Hammed Animashaun

No, it was, like, a megamix of songs that I did in the school, which was really fun, okay? I did it twice, and it was fun.



Ed Gamble

What are you not telling us, Hammed?

James Acaster

What are you not telling us right now? We are absolute wolves, mate. If you think you're going to move on from this story-,

Hammed Animashaun

No, do you know what? Because it was such a long time ago, when I think back on it, I was just like, 'I can't believe I did that'. Do you know what I mean? I was only, like, sixteen, fifteen, or whatever. But no, it was, like, a megamix. It was, like, a mega mix of all these different songs and then we did this choreography, and it was back then. It was fun.

Ed Gamble

I don't feel like you're giving a satisfactory answer because we're like, 'Tell us more,' and you've said, 'Yes, it was back then.'

Hammed Animashaun

It was. It was back then. Do you know what it is? It's because I don't dance any more, so it's just like when I watch it back, because you can watch it-,

James Acaster

We can?

Ed Gamble

We can watch it?

Hammed Animashaun

No, no, no, I can.

Ed Gamble

Right. It's not on YouTube or anything?

Hammed Animashaun

No.

James Acaster

No? Sure?

Hammed Animashaun

Yes.

James Acaster

Sure it's not on YouTube?



Hammed Animashaun

No, you can't find it. When I watch it back, it's just nice memories.

Ed Gamble

It doesn't seem like they're nice memories. It seems like you're really embarrassed by it.

Hammed Animashaun

No, I'm not embarrassed. Maybe I am, but it's just, yes-, it's like when you try to watch-, yes.

Ed Gamble

I love watching that production of Oliver back.

Hammed Animashaun

Do you have video footage?

Ed Gamble

I've got a video of it. My mum's got a video of it.

James Acaster

Well, obviously I'm going to have to see that.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Hammed Animashaun

Yes, I can't watch-, do you know what it is? I feel like it's a weird actor thing. I hate watching myself back. I think that's what it is. It's like when I watch it, I'm like-, I just can't watch it, if that makes sense.

Ed Gamble

That still goes for everything now?

Hammed Animashaun

Everything I've done I can't watch back. I mean, I can, but it-,

Ed Gamble

That's a shame. You're missing out on Black Ops. It's very good.

Hammed Animashaun

No, I've seen Black Ops, but it's just weird watching yourself back, because it's like, 'Oh, is that what I-, first of all, it's like, 'Is that what I look like? Is that what I sound like? Oh shit, I sound like that, and I look like that, yuck.'



Ed Gamble

Yes, I totally understand that. I can't watch myself do comedy, really. Even if I walk past, like, a highly polished window, I'm like, 'Is that how I walk? The worst posture I've ever seen in my life.'

Hammed Animashaun

That's what I did before. I walked past the window, I was like, 'Oh no.'

Ed Gamble

Yes, but have you tried walking with good posture? You look mad. As you walk along naturally, it looks all hunched over, and then I'll actively walk down the street, and try and have good posture. I look like a twat.

James Acaster

Yes, it looks like something's wrong with you. Whenever you see someone walking with really good posture, it's just like, 'What the hell?'

Hammed Animashaun

You don't trust them.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Sparkling water people.

James Acaster

Exactly. Was Cordell in the dance troupe?

Hammed Animashaun

Yes.

James Acaster

Too right. Let's get into this apple pie. Is it a particular apple pie?

Hammed Animashaun

Yes, Mr Kipling's.

James Acaster

I don't think-, have people chosen Kipling before?

Ed Gamble

He's definitely come up now and again.

James Acaster

It's come up. When you imagine Mr Kipling, what do you imagine he's-, is he made of cake, like the Jolly Green Giant's made of vegetables?



Ed Gamble

He's got a apple core dick.

James Acaster

Just the apple core?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

No, not Kipling. He'd have to have, like, a Swiss roll, or something like that.

Hammed Animashaun

Yes, that's true.

James Acaster

It would have to be a-,

Hammed Animashaun

A mini roll.

James Acaster

It would have to be something like that.

Ed Gamble

All the chocolate's been eaten off.

James Acaster

It was exceedingly good.

Hammed Animashaun

I always imagined Mr Kipling as, like, Colonel Sanders' cousin, or something.

Ed Gamble

His English cousin.

Hammed Animashaun

Yes. Not the white hair and the white beard, but a brunette.

Ed Gamble

So, like, a brunette Colonel Sanders, a little bit younger, but they're cousins.

Hammed Animashaun

A little bit younger, yes. They're cousins.



James Acaster

Do they keep in touch?

Hammed Animashaun

Yes, from, like, Cornwall or something.

James Acaster

What's their opinion of each other, do you think? What does Kipling think of Sanders, and vice versa?

Hammed Animashaun

I think they get on. Yes, I think they get on. I think they're like, 'I'm glad you're doing well.' It's like you two.

Ed Gamble

I guess there's no competition between them, right?

Hammed Animashaun

No, because they're in different-, as much as they're in the same industry, it's different. He's doing fried chicken, and he's doing cakes.

James Acaster

Sanders is a veteran, as well.

Hammed Animashaun

Yes, he's been around for a long time.

James Acaster

Yes, but he's served in wars. He's a colonel.

Hammed Animashaun

Yes, Colonel Sanders.

James Acaster

So, like, Kipling is just a bloke. It's just Mr Kipling.

Ed Gamble

Yes, but Kipling's age-, I'd imagine he was maybe in world war two, maybe. Do you think?

James Acaster

Well, then I think it would be called something like Captain Kipling's Cakes, but it's not. It's called Mr Kipling. He hasn't got a title. I think he was a conscientious objector.

Ed Gamble

Oh really?



James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

See, I've just realised that, when I imagine Mr Kipling, I imagine David Attenborough.

Hammed Animashaun

Okay.

Ed Gamble

That's mad, isn't it? I do just imagine David Attenborough.

James Acaster

Yes. So, that is what you think of when you think of Kipling?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Hammed Animashaun

When you think of Mr Kipling?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Hammed Animashaun

Yes.

James Acaster

I think of more of an over the shoulder shot of, like, his hands, and stuff, but I can't ever see his face. I can just see him maybe, like, making some cake, or writing a letter, actually, to Colonel Sanders maybe, but I can't really picture-, every time I try and get round and see his face, I can't really see it.

Hammed Animashaun

I can see his face so clearly. He's standing-, he's standing on the edge-, you know those white cliffs in Devon?

James Acaster

Yes. In Devon?

Hammed Animashaun

Is it Devon?

Ed Gamble

Dover.



Hammed Animashaun

Dover. I think it's Dover. He's standing there, and he has, like, long-, up to his shoulders. So, it's quite long brown hair, with, like, a goatee, and a cigar, and a monocle, with a three-piece suit, and he's just going, 'Hmm.' I don't know.

Ed Gamble

I'm really glad you asked the question, 'How do you imagine Mr Kipling?' because that was all ready to go. You've thought about that.

James Acaster

He knew what he looked like.

Hammed Animashaun

It's just, 'What cake should I bake today?'

Ed Gamble

That's what the 'hmm' is.

Hammed Animashaun

Yes.

James Acaster

He sounds like another gangster that Gordon Ramsay would have. It feels like the cakes were a front for something else.

Ed Gamble

So, do you want, like, the little apple pies you get?

Hammed Animashaun

Yes, the little ones, and you have maybe, like, two, and you warm them up, and some custard on top.

Ed Gamble

Hot custard or cold custard?

Hammed Animashaun

Hot. Come on.

James Acaster

You don't like if it's cold custard on the hot apple pie?

Hammed Animashaun

Come on. That's-



Ed Gamble

I would have cold custard.

Hammed Animashaun

See, that's why we-, I don't think we can be friends any more. Why?

Ed Gamble

Well, I'll say one thing to you. Taste buds change.

Hammed Animashaun

No, do you really have cold custard?

Ed Gamble

Yes, I love cold custard. I like contrasting temperatures. So, if I had a hot apple pie, cold custard. If I had cold apple pie, hot custard. Hot apple pie, ice cream, yes. You see it?

Hammed Animashaun

Yes, I see it.

Ed Gamble

So, that's what I-, when I stand on the cliffs of Dover, when I go, 'Hmm,' when I think about what dessert I want, I'm always having cold custard.

Hammed Animashaun

Wow.

James Acaster

Why is he on the cliffs of Dover?

Hammed Animashaun

I don't know. It's quite a beautiful-,

James Acaster

Yes, it is.

Ed Gamble

It's a good view.

Hammed Animashaun

Yes. It's quite a beautiful image.

James Acaster

A 'Welcome to England' type thing.



Ed Gamble

Yes, it's a very dramatic image. Maybe he's waiting for a lost love to return, or something.

Hammed Animashaun

Yes, someone with that apple pie recipe.

James Acaster

Aunt Bessie Aunt Bessie Aunt Bessie.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Hammed Animashaun

I reckon they did a thing, back in the day.

Ed Gamble

About eight things went through my head to say about Aunt Bessie there, and I just left them all.

James Acaster

Yes?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Well done.

Ed Gamble

Thanks.

James Acaster

I guess. Are they not ideal for the podcast?

Ed Gamble

He'd cut it anyway.

James Acaster

He'd cut it anyway. We'll be lucky if that Green Giant dick stuff sees the light of day. I'm going to read your menu back to you now. See how you feel about it.

Hammed Animashaun

Okay.



James Acaster

You want still water, very, very clear about that. You would like warm white sourdough bread with salted butter. You want chill salted corn ribs as your starter. Beef Wellington with potato mash, tenderstem broccoli, and red wine gravy. Side dish of mango salad. Drink, Guinness, poured properly, taste buds change. For dessert, you would like Mr Kipling's apple pies, two apple pies, and hot custard. Then, afterwards, we'll send you over an old fashioned.

Hammed Animashaun

Yes, that's ideal.

James Acaster

It does sound nice.

Ed Gamble

You can be sat on a sofa as well, and getting all that on a tray.

Hammed Animashaun

Yes, all of that on a tray.

Ed Gamble

I think the overriding image for me is going to be Mr Kipling, because now every time I hear about Mr Kipling, I'm going to think of what you think about when you think about Mr Kipling. So, he's not Attenborough any more. He's a man with long hair and a goatee stood on white cliffs of Dover going, 'Hmm.'

James Acaster

The way you described-, I just pictured Bill Oddie, as well, when you said it. Bill Oddie back in the Funky Gibbons days. So, that's what I was imagining when you were describing him like that. So, now I'm imagining him like Bill Oddie, but with a monocle and a cigar, and the three-piece suit, on the white cliffs of Dover. 'Hmm.' Like that, thinking about his cakes.

Ed Gamble

Thank you so much for coming to the dream restaurant, Hammed.

Hammed Animashaun

Thanks for having me.

James Acaster

Thank you Hammed.

Ed Gamble

Well, there were are James. Lovely to chat to Hammed. What a lovely man.



James Acaster

What a lovely conversation. We learnt so much, so many characters along the way, and a very nice meal as well.

Ed Gamble

Very nice meal. Always love to hear corn ribs come back up on the podcast.

James Acaster

Also, you know, as a beef Wellington boy myself, nice to hear it. I actually, kind of, regret-, now Hammed's gone, I should have told him about my beef Wellington that I love so much, the Amsterdam one. I really do regret not saying that.

Ed Gamble

Well, the info's out there. If he wants to go digging through the episode archive, I'm sure he can find out about Bistro Bar.

James Acaster

Hammed, we know you don't like to watch your performances back, but if you're listening to this, please listen to episode 100, or 200, of the Off Menu podcast, and you'll hear me talk about that beef Wellington. I believe it got received better when I told Claudia about it.

Ed Gamble

Yes, Rylan wasn't interested, was he?

James Acaster

No, Rylan only was happy with my starter, which was the cheeseburger spring rolls. Everything else he thought was absolutely revolting.

Ed Gamble

Don't forget that Hammed is in Kiss Me Kate at the Barbican at the moment. It's on until 14th September, so be quick. Get your tickets from KissMeKateMusical.com. Of course, Hammed did not say tamarind.

James Acaster

Good, because I wouldn't have wanted to kick someone out for something that I actually like.

Ed Gamble

No. Also, he was much taller than us.

James Acaster

He's much taller, but not-, me on your shoulders.



Ed Gamble

That's true. Well, just about. We were doing the photo-, we did a photo after the episode, and I was crouching down, because I normally just-, I normally pop a little squat next to the guest, to be, like, more on-, I'd say probably, on average, the guests are shorter than us.

James Acaster

Yes, on average, absolutely.

Ed Gamble

Did it with Hammed.

James Acaster

You were going to look like a titch, man.

Ed Gamble

I felt like a tiddler.

James Acaster

Well, enjoy it.

Ed Gamble

Yes, thanks man.

James Acaster

Would you ever crouch next to the Jolly Green Giant.

Ed Gamble

No way man. I wouldn't go near that gnarled old thing.

James Acaster

I bet it is disgusting actually. He's old, the Jolly Green Giant, been around for a long time. We're going to do some food shout-outs as well.

Ed Gamble

Thanks for the beers we've been sent from Siren Craft I like Siren Craft, always have.

James Acaster

Cheers for the beers.

Ed Gamble

Cheers for the beers Siren Craft, and you're suckers because I like it anyway.

James Acaster

Of course, Full Circle, Beer Brew Co. Cheers for the beers.



Ed Gamble

Cheers for the beers. They're in the fridge, ready for the Christmas party. We got some sauces sent to us. Firstly, from Jim Karner, still one of my favourite restaurants in London. If I could get a bloody booking, I would go.

James Acaster

Yes, can't believe we got sent the sauces though. What a treat.

Ed Gamble

I love Jim Karner. Two Michelin stars now, that place has got.

James Acaster

Congratulations Jim Karner, well deserved.

Ed Gamble

Well deserved, but it makes it bloody hard to get a booking. So, if you send us the sauces, why don't you just let me-, why don't you tell me when I can book in?

James Acaster

Send you a little note with the sauces to say you can book in-,

Ed Gamble

Just book me in or something.

James Acaster

Yes, you're right.

Ed Gamble

I'm not worried about, 'Isn't Ed fancy? He gets bookings at restaurants that are all booked up.' I like that. I like to feel special.

James Acaster

Yes, absolutely.

Ed Gamble

So, come on.

James Acaster

Yes, come on Jim Karner. Do Ed a favour.

Ed Gamble

Thank you. Also, thank you to Kebab Club who sent us some sauces as well. They sent us some Turkish garlic sauce, some Turkish chilli sauce, proper, like, the stuff you want in the house.



James Acaster

Yummy, yummy, yummy.

Ed Gamble

I love Turkish chilli sauce and Turkish garlic sauce. When I order Turkish sauce, it comes in tiny little pots, and you're like, 'Guys, come on.'

James Acaster

'Do you not know who I am? I'm Ed Gamble.'

Ed Gamble

'I'm Ed Gamble. Just send me some more sauce.' Thank you very much for listening to Off Menu. We will see you again next time.

James Acaster

Yum, yum, yum.